



Farmers blocked Boriguma to Bragarh NH-26 to sell paddy **2**



Forest Land Diversion for Koraput-Rayagada Rail Line Doubling Inspected by DFO Rayagada **3**



IPL 2026: Allen's Unbeaten 47-Ball Hundred Takes KKR To A Clinical Eight-Wicket Win Over DC **7**



7 Summer Fruits That Diabetics Can Safely Enjoy **6**



Vijay Stakes Claim To Form Govt In Tamil Nadu After Securing Majority Support

Chennai: Actor-politician and Tamilaga Vetti Kazhagam (TVK) chief C. Joseph Vijay on Friday formally staked claim to form the government in Tamil Nadu after securing the backing of several opposition parties, taking the strength of his alliance beyond the majority mark in the 234-member Assembly. Vijay met Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi at Raj Bhavan in Chennai and



submitted letters of support from allied parties and independent supporters. The development comes amid days of intense political uncertainty following the fractured

mandate delivered in the April 23 Assembly elections, the results of which were declared on May 4. According to sources, the Governor is expected to formally invite Vijay to form the government later on Friday or early Saturday. The swearing-in ceremony is likely to take place at 11 a.m. on Saturday in Chennai. TVK emerged as the single largest party in the Assembly elections by winning 108 seats.

Balianta Lynching Case: Women's Commission Meets Victim's Friend

Bhubaneswar: Odisha State Women's Commission Chairperson Shobhana Mohanty on Thursday visited the crime scene in Balianta and recorded the statement of the friend of the victim woman who

was allegedly involved in the incident that led to the lynching of a youth by a mob following accusations of sexual assault. After meeting the victim's friend, Mohanty said both women were stable and assured that a fair

investigation would be conducted into the incident. Director General of Police (DGP) and the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) also visited the spot and reviewed the investigation into the death of the youth

BJP Gets First-Ever CM In Bengal Suvendu Adhikari To Take Oath Today

Kolkata: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday officially announced Suvendu Adhikari as the next Chief Minister of West Bengal, marking the beginning of the state's first-ever Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led government since Independence. The decision was taken at a meeting chaired by Shah with newly elected BJP legislators following the recently concluded West Bengal Assembly elections, the results of which were declared on May 4. The oath-taking ceremony will be held on Saturday, HM Shah said. In the meeting, Adhikari's name was officially endorsed as the leader of the BJP's legislature party in the West Bengal Assembly,



which means that he will be the next Chief Minister of the state. "The process of selecting the leader of the party's legislative party in the state assembly has been completed. A total of eight proposals were received. In all the proposals, there was just

one name. Enough time was given for any proposal for a second name. But no second name was proposed. So, I proposed the name of Suvendu Adhikari as the next Chief Minister of West Bengal," HM Shah said in the meeting. Adhikari, as the leader of the BJP's legislature party

in the state assembly, will go to the Lok Sabha this evening, meet the Governor, R.N. Ravi, and stake the claim to form the next government in West Bengal. The oath ceremony of the new cabinet administered by the Governor will be conducted at 10 a.m. on Saturday.



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Healthcare | Education | Women Empowerment
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Over **Rs. 1 lakh crore** invested in Odisha

Over **5 lakh** job opportunities created

Over **20,000** MSMEs benefited

DESH KI ZAROORATON KE LIYE



Shri Sambheet Saurav Nayak assumes charge as CVO, MCL

Sambalpur: (Correspondent):- Shri Sambheet Saurav Nayak (IRTS), assumed charge as Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) on Thursday. Shri Nayak is 2012 batch Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS) officer and has held key operational, commercial, and safety roles in East Coast Railways serving as Senior Divisional



Commercial Manager (Sr DCM), Khurda Road; Senior Divisional Commercial Manager (Sr DCM), Sambalpur; and Senior Divisional Safety Officer (Sr DSO), Sambalpur. He has been instrumental in executing Public-Private

Partnership (PPP) projects including both greenfield and brownfield infrastructure projects in Sambalpur Division. Team MCL looks forward to his diverse field experience, leadership and administrative expertise to further strengthen vigilance administration, transparency and ethical governance in the company towards ensuring the nation's energy security.

MAHENDRA MELA PREPARATIONS GAIN MOMENTUM AT MAHENDRAGIRI

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



arrangements. Commerce and Transport Minister Bibhuti Bhushan Jena visited Mahendragiri to inspect preparations and review facilities. Lakhs of devotees from Odisha and outside the state, along with saints

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

Ashok Kumar Lahiri Takes Charge As NITI Aayog Vice Chairman

New Delhi: Ashok Kumar Lahiri has taken charge as Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog, the government think tank said on Friday. Lahiri brings extensive experience in economic policy and public finance, having previously served as Chief Economic Adviser to the government and as a member of the 15th Finance Commission.

Forest Land Diversion for Koraput-Rayagada Rail Line Doubling Inspected by DFO Rayagada

Rayagada, (Correspondent): In a significant step towards strengthening railway infrastructure in the tribal-dominated region of southern Odisha, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Rayagada, Sachin Anna Saheb Ohol, along with the Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF), forest field staff, and representatives of East Coast Railway, conducted a detailed site inspection regarding the proposed diversion of forest land for the doubling of the Koraput-Rayagada Railway Line. The inspection was carried



out in the railway stretch between Tikiri and Bhalumaska stations, where additional land has been proposed for expansion works under the railway line doubling project. The joint field visit aimed to assess the extent of forest land involved, environmental

considerations, and the feasibility of the proposed alignment. Officials examined the forest areas likely to be affected by the project and reviewed ground-level conditions to ensure that the railway expansion work

complies with environmental and forest conservation norms. Discussions were also held on minimizing ecological impact while facilitating infrastructure development in the region. The Koraput-Rayagada railway route is considered strategically important for passenger movement and mineral transportation in southern Odisha. Railway doubling on this route is expected to improve train operations, reduce congestion, and enhance connectivity between Koraput, Rayagada, and adjoining districts. Forest

department officials emphasized the importance of balancing developmental activities with environmental protection. Necessary recommendations and observations from the inspection are expected to be submitted to higher authorities as part of the forest clearance process. Local residents and railway users have welcomed the proposed doubling project, expressing hope that the development will lead to better transportation facilities, economic growth, and faster movement of goods and passengers in the region.

TPCODL Organises National Lok Adalat across Central Odisha

Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent): TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL), a joint venture of Tata Power and the Government of Odisha, organises the 2nd National Lok Adalat and Settlement Camp on May 9, 2026 across its operational areas to enable speedy resolution of cases related to unauthorised electricity usage and power theft. The initiative, being conducted under the framework of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), aims to provide consumers with an accessible and time-bound platform for settlement of pending enforcement-related cases. The Lok Adalat is being held from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM at all Division, Sub-Division and Section Offices under TPCODL's jurisdiction. Consumers can avail on-the-spot assistance for settlement of eligible cases and regularisation of electricity connections. TPCODL has urged consumers with pending enforcement cases to utilise the opportunity to resolve disputes

amicably and avoid future legal or financial complications. To ensure smooth facilitation, dedicated teams comprising enforcement officials, legal professionals and trained support staff have been deployed at all designated locations. The teams are assisting consumers with documentation, eligibility criteria and settlement procedures. District-wise arrangements and detailed settlement guidelines have been made available at all TPCODL offices. Consumers may also contact their nearest Customer Care Centre or Fuse Call Centre (FCC) for assistance. Organised in coordination with legal authorities, the National Lok Adalat is expected to help reduce long-pending enforcement disputes, strengthen consumer grievance redressal and encourage wider public participation in transparent power governance. TPCODL has appealed to all eligible consumers to participate in the above Lok Adalat and avail the benefits of the single-window settlement mechanism.

SC Flags Delay In Lakhimpur Kheri Trial, Directs Trial Court To Ensure Witness Presence

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday expressed disappointment over the slow pace of trial in the 2021 Lakhimpur Kheri violence case and directed the trial court to take lawful measures to secure the presence of witnesses while ensuring compliance with the witness protection scheme. A Bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justice Joy Malya Bagchi highlighted with concern that no prosecution witness had been examined during the last two months despite the issuance of bailable and non-bailable warrants. "We are disappointed to note that the so-called status report does not assign any reason for the non-production of witnesses on previous dates. No witness appears to have been examined for two months," the CJI-led bench observed. During the hearing, the state government informed the apex court that in the principal trial relating to the deaths of protesting farmers, 44 prosecution witnesses have been examined and 15 witnesses discharged, while 72 witnesses still



remain to be examined. In the connected trial relating to the subsequent mob violence, 26 out of 35 witnesses had already deposed, and nine witnesses remained pending for examination. Senior advocate Siddharth Dave, appearing for Ashish Mishra — the prime accused in the case and son of former Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Ajay Mishra Teni — submitted that no witness examination had taken place in the recent past despite coercive processes being issued by the trial court. "No witness has been examined for the last two months. Bailable warrants issued, even non-bailable warrants

issued, but no one has appeared," he told the top court. Questioning the prosecution over the delay, the bench remarked: "What have you done from March till today? Instead of summoning three-four witnesses, summon seven-eight witnesses. At least those who are present can be examined." Referring to an earlier status report, the apex court recorded that despite a witness appearing before the trial court on one occasion, the prosecution chose not to examine the witness, resulting in further delay. Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for the victims' families, alleged before the Supreme Court that witnesses

were being intimidated. "Police are threatening witnesses before the date of hearing, that is why they are not coming," Bhushan submitted. Recording its dissatisfaction with the status report filed by the state authorities, the apex court directed the presiding judge conducting both trials to take lawful measures for securing witness attendance and to ensure compliance with the witness protection mechanism. It further directed the trial court to endeavour to conclude both criminal trials in a time-bound manner. The apex court also took note of the third connected criminal proceeding concerning allegations

of witness intimidation. Referring to the status report stating that the investigation against one accused was still pending despite the filing of the charge sheet, the bench directed the investigating officer to conclude the remaining probe and submit the final report before the competent trial court within four weeks. In its earlier orders, the apex court had flagged the slow pace of the trial, asking the prosecution to drop unnecessary formal witnesses to expedite proceedings. It had also considered a status report from the Lakhimpur Kheri police regarding an FIR lodged against Mishra and his father for alleged witness intimidation, directing that the matter be probed by an officer of DSP rank. In October 2021, eight people were killed in Lakhimpur Kheri District's Tikunia in violence that erupted when farmers were protesting against UP Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya's visit to the area.

PARALA MLA RUSHES TO AID ACCIDENT VICTIMS

Paralakhemundi: (Correspondent):- Displaying prompt humanitarian concern, Paralakhemundi MLA Rupesh Panigrahi came to the rescue of two persons injured in a road accident near Singipur village under Sitapur Panchayat on Wednesday. The MLA, who was travelling to Khandava village in Kashinagar block to attend an inaugural function, noticed a motorcycle colliding head-on with a car. The motorcyclist and

his son sustained serious injuries in the mishap. Rupesh Panigrahi immediately stopped his vehicle, provided primary treatment to the injured, cleaned their wounds with water and arranged an ambulance to shift them to the district headquarters hospital for treatment. Local Sarpanch Tejeswar Rao also assisted in rescue efforts and contacted the 108 ambulance service.

Bullet Bikers Face Music In Jeypore

Jeypore: In a major drive against noise pollution and reckless driving, Jeypore Town Police have seized 85 Bullet motorcycles and destroyed their silencers that were creating excessive noise.

13001/405/2627
CUTTACK MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
"e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Tender Call Notice No. 4874 (PW) Date. 08.05.2026
Tender ID : 2026_ORULB_127820
Bid Value : Rs. 2.16 Lakhs to Rs. 42.01 Lakhs
Date and Time schedule: One Calendar Month to Three Calendar Month

Start	End	Opening
11.00 AM on dt. 12.05.2026	5.00 PM on dt. 22.05.2026	11.00 A.M. on dt. 28.05.2026

Tender Details : can be seen from the procurement portal : www.tendersorissa.gov.in
OIPR-13001/13031/1/26-27/0020
Execulive Engineer
City Division-111,CMC

13001/402/2627
BARBIL MUNICIPALITY
P.O.: Barbil, District : Keonjhar, Odisha, PIN : 758035
Ph.: (06767) 275278, Fax: (06767) 275278, 275759
e-mail: eobbilmnc@yahoo.com

Notice No -1813 Date -08.05.2026
Barbil Municipality invites bids from experienced service provider/Agencies under Two Bid System (Technical Bid & Financial Bid) for "Comprehensive Operation & Maintenance of 01 (one) Single Engine Truck Mounted Road Sweeping Machine for 2 (Two) years under Barbil Municipality". The details of tender document may be seen/ download from <https://www.barbilmunicipality.in>. Any changes, corrigendum etc. will be updated at the mentioned portal only. For further queries/comments, please contact to e-mail ID of eobbilmnc@yahoo.com.
Bids are to be submitted through sealed cover envelope containing two separate sealed envelopes for Technical and Financial Bids. The interested bidders should submit the complete tender in the sealed cover addressed to Executive Officer, Barbil Municipality, Barbil, Dist-Keonjhar, PIN-758035 (Odisha) under scribing as "Tender for Comprehensive Operation & Maintenance of 01 (one) Single Engine Truck Mounted Road Sweeping Machine for Two years" through speed post/Registered Post/Courier or by hand on or before 22.05.2026 up to 05.00 PM. The Tender will be opened on 25.05.2026 at 11.00 AM in presence of the bidders who wish to attend. If the last date of submission and opening of bid happens to be a holiday, the next working day will be treated as the submission and opening of bid respectively. Authority reserves the right to accept/reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
Sd/-
Executive Officer,
Barbil Municipality
OIPR-13001/13108/1/26-27/0004

High Court orders SP to produce Tahsildar in court

Cuttak (Correspondent): The Khurda Tahsildar has been hit hard by his negligence in following the High Court's order. The High Court has directed the Khurda SP to produce the Tahsildar on May 14. The bench comprising Justice B.P. Rautraya, headed by Pramod Kumar Patnaik, heard the contempt case and issued such orders. It is worth mentioning here that the High Court had ordered on March 12 that a show

cause reply be filed in the case by May 7 or the Tahsildar should be present in person. During the hearing, it was clear that the order issued on March 12 in the contempt case was not followed. It was found that the Tahsildar has not filed a reply so far. In such a situation, the Tahsildar should have appeared in person. But the Tahsildar did not appear during the hearing of the case. Along with this, it was

clarified that there was no response from the Khurda Tahsildar's office to the phone calls made from the Advocate General's office. Taking such an incident seriously, the High Court directed the Khurda SP to summon the Tahsildar on May 14. The details of the case reveal that the High Court had directed the Khurda Tahsildar on January 3, 2024, to decide a Revenue Misdemeanor case pending since 2021 within 6 months as per

the Act. Alleging that this order was not implemented, the above contempt of court case was filed against the Tahsildar in November 2024. On December 20, 2024, the High Court heard the case and directed the respondent Tahsildar to file a reply or affidavit related to the implementation of the previous order, citing reasons. After this, the case was heard on various dates, but the Tahsildar did not submit a reply stating the reasons.

Koya Samaj meet District Collector with various demands

Malkangiri correspondent: The workers of Koya Samaj today met the District Collector to discuss issues of the residents living in Malkangiri district. They also submitted a memorandum. The local Koya community, along with other tribal communities living in the district, had been presenting various demands many times for the rights of the residents, but the Koya community complained that no progress was being made. Therefore, despite the demands presented by the Koya community, non-tribals have forcibly occupied forest land from Motu to Govindpalli and from Chitrakonda Swabhimana area to



Burudi. An investigation should be conducted in this regard and the land should be handed over to the real beneficiaries and the non-tribals should be evicted from there. Tribals are not being given employment in banks, school. After the Rakhalguda incident, government employees should be appointed to implement the announcement of tribal welfare schemes by the Chief Minister. The

funds coming for the welfare of the tribals in the Integrated Tribal Development Agency are being given to non-tribal and voluntary organizations. It is demanded that the annual work drafts of the ITDA be prepared and displayed in front of the office through a plaque. The traders have been collecting kendu leaf from the local kendu leaf tollers for the last 6 to 7 years,

but the amount due for it is not being paid. During the discussion with the district collector, Koya Samaj President Bhima Barase, Secy Adama Raba, Vice President Sukdev Kabasi, Kush Tati, Samari Madkani, former MLA and BJD District President Manas Madkani, Advisors Ghanashyam Madkani, Mala Madhi, Dasarath Padiami, Gangadhar Sodi were present.

Farmers blocked Boriguma to Bragarh NH-26 to sell paddy

Bhabanipatna (Correspondent): Despite the repeated request to Odisha government, the paddy growers under Indravati Mega Lift Canal their demand "sell rabi crop paddy through mandi system" in standstill mode, this situation converted ashuge demonstration on Friday. Blocking, Boriguma to Bragarh National Highway-26 dawn to dusk the livid farmers under Indravati Mega Lift Canal held demonstration, which disrupted vehicular movement and seen long queues of vehicles on both sides of the highway. Around thousand of farmers demanding to sell their



produce through Mandi system flung to there under the leadership of Koksara bock Vice-Chairman Rajiv Kumar Agrawal. Including Shri Agrawal, sharpening, their demand as legitimate several top leader of political parties across the district, Puspendra Singh Deo, Dibya

Shankar Mishra, Gobardhan Dash, Mousadhi Bag, Digambar Duria, Gupta, Badri Narayan Patnaik came down heavily to BJP government led by CM Mohan Charan Majhi and they warned to face consequences. While Madhumohanty appealed the rulling

government to allow the farmers to sell their produce in fair way. According to information in recent past their submitted memorandum to CM Mohan Charan Majhi to sell rabi crop paddy went vain, the agitated farmers came to highway to show their resentment. In this Rabi season around 18000 farmers spending at the cost of nearly 150 crore rupees has grown corn approximately in the area of 18,855 hectare land. If government will not allow them to sell their hard earned paddy in fair manner, their financial condition will ruin, the analyst said.

Sonepur Samaleswari Nursing Home Seal Case:- Court directs administration not to disrupt healthcare services

Subarnapur (Correspondent) --- Senior Civil Judge Sonepur Shri Gagan Sahu has issued an important order regarding the sealing of Samaleswari Nursing Home in Sonepur. The case is being handled by Senior Advocate of Subarnapur District Shri Baladeb Prasad Bedbak, and due to his strong reasoning, a new twist has come in the case. According to the petition filed by the owner of Samaleswari Nursing Home, Subhashish Rath, the administration was trying to seal the institution by citing the fire certificate. Senior Advocate of the district Shri Bedbak made an effective argument in the court that the institution has got legal exemption under the Odisha Fire Safety Rules 2019. He also stated that the administrative action is against the law when the registration of the nursing home is valid till 2030. And now 21 patients are being treated there. He strongly argued that the Zilla Parishad is not above the law of the Government of Odisha and that such action of the CDM&PHO is illegal

and under political pressure. Accepting the argument of Shri Bedbak, the Hon'ble Court has directed that keeping in mind the convenience of the patients being treated in the nursing home, the District Administration and the CDM&PHO shall take such steps that the healthcare services will not be hampered. The Court has issued notice to the opposing parties and asked them to file their side by 12.05.2026. If the petitioner is eligible for exemption under the Fire Act, then the opposing parties, the CDM&PHO and the Collector & District Magistrate shall be responsible for any coercive action by the administration, the Court has clarified. The Hon'ble Court's intervention and prompt decision have given great relief to the nursing home authorities and the patients being treated there. Meanwhile, it was alleged that a district level officer of the CDM & PHO office was demanding huge donations from the owners of the Sonepur nursing home, asking them to give it to a leader.

Elderly Woman Walks Next Day After Bilateral Robotic Knee Replacement at KIMS Super Speciality Hospital

Bhubaneswar, Correspondent) :- A 67-year-old woman suffering from severe osteoarthritis in both knees underwent a successful bilateral robotic-assisted Total Knee Replacement (TKR) surgery at KIMS Super Speciality Hospital in a single sitting, walking from the next day itself. The successful robotic-assisted surgery on both knees in a single sitting demonstrates the advanced level of treatment offered at KIMS by doctors with decades of experience. The patient, who had been experiencing severe



pain, limping, and difficulty in walking, was discharged from the hospital within five days. The surgery was performed by Prof. Dr. Basanta Kumar Behera and his team without any complications. The patient had earlier consulted several

surgeons at different hospitals for robotic-assisted bilateral knee replacement, but many were reluctant to perform both surgeries together as robotic-assisted TKR generally takes longer than the conventional method. "Robotic-

assisted knee replacement ensures highly accurate surgical planning and better patient satisfaction, enabling patients to regain mobility early and recover faster," Dr. Behera said. The successful outcome was made possible with the installation of the advanced robotic-assisted TKR system by Smith & Nephew at KIMS Super Speciality Hospital. The state-of-the-art robotic technology enables precise bone cuts, accurate implant positioning, and better restoration of the natural knee anatomy. It also minimizes ligament and

soft tissue release, resulting in reduced post-operative pain, faster recovery, improved early knee function, and a longer lifespan of the knee prosthesis. Unlike many robotic systems, the Smith & Nephew technology does not require pre-operative CT scans or extensive pre-surgical planning. The entire planning process is carried out inside the operating theatre, where the system provides real-time, accurate feedback during surgery. The technology significantly reduces the risk of ligament or neurovascular injury and is especially beneficial for patients with severely damaged or deformed knees.

District Council meeting boycotted by members, meeting did not end amid chaos

Nabarangpur (Correspondent) - The ninth general meeting of the sixth District Council was held at the Nabarangpur District Council Conference. While the meeting was going on, in the middle of the meeting, the District Council members raised complaints about the undue interference of the ruling party workers in various development works at the block level. Along with this, the Block Level District Council complained about the undue interference of the ruling party workers in its own funds. The District Council members complained that the amount was especially

high in Umerkot Block. The ruling party workers complained that they were trying to take over the special District Council development funds like CFC, FFC, BGVO, BKBK funds and MVTEX and keep them under their control. The district MP, the only minister of the district, all the MLAs of the district and the District Collector were present, and since the videos of all the blocks of the district were not available, they were also included in the meeting and the meeting was postponed to the next meeting. Otherwise, they warned that no one would come to the next meeting. On the other hand, Dabuga MLA

Manohar Ranadhari, accusing the ruling party workers of interfering in the special funds of the District Council and whose rights were being violated by the local videos, demanded that the district level officials resolve this and restore the rights of those who have them and organize the meeting. Currently, such a situation has arisen due to the lack of coordination among them at the block level and in the coming days, everyone will be discussed and everyone's demands will be accepted and steps will be taken, said Nabarangpur District Planning Board Chairperson and MLA Gauri Shankar Majhi.

Electricity Reaches at Khadigrapada, MP Malvika Devi

Nuapada, (Correspondent): Happiness and celebration filled Khadigrapada, a small hamlet of Kishna Village under Komna Block in Nuapada district, as electricity reached the village and illuminated homes for the first time. In a significant step towards rural development and inclusive growth, TP Western Odisha Distribution Limited (TPWODL), with

support from the State Government, successfully extended electricity supply to the remote hamlet by laying a 1.15-km low-tension line within just one month. The total project cost is around Rs. 16 lakhs. At present, eight households, which recently received homes under the PM Awas Yojana, have been electrified under the project. The electrification work was officially



inaugurated today by Hon'ble MLA, Nuapada, Shri Jay Dholkia. The occasion turned emotional as electric bulbs glowed inside

the homes, bringing visible joy among villagers. For the residents, electricity is not just a utility service but the beginning of a better and safer life. Children can now continue their studies after sunset, families feel more secure during the night, and the village has taken its first step towards modern connectivity and development. Speaking on the occasion, the Hon'ble MP

appreciated TPWODL's commitment and timely execution of the project. She expressed satisfaction over the successful electrification of the hamlet and conveyed her gratitude to the CEO and the entire TPWODL team for bringing electricity to the Pada. Villagers also expressed their happiness and relief, calling the development the fulfilment of a long-

awaited dream. "This is a new life for us," said one resident, reflecting the emotions shared by the entire community. With electricity now becoming a reality in Khadigrapada, the hamlet is expected to witness positive transformation through improved education opportunities, better healthcare access and enhanced livelihood prospects for local residents.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
Tender Notice No.: SBP-ELECT-2026-T-277
NAME OF WORK: ELECTRICAL WORKS IN CONNECTION WITH AUGMENTATION OF ART & SPARME SIDING & RELEVANT FACILITIES AT SAMBALPUR COACHING DEPOT.
Approx. cost of the work: ₹ 11,03,227.61, EMD: ₹ 22,100.00, Completion Period of the Work: 06 Months from the date of issue of LOA.
Tender Closing Date and Time: At 1530 hrs. of 27.05.2026.
No manual offers sent by Post / Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be rejected summarily without any consideration. Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website: www.ireps.gov.in
Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website fifteen (15) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender. The tenders/bidders must have Class-II Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering.
Divisional Railway Manager (Elect-G)/ PR-128/R/26-27 Sambalpur

EDITORIAL

India's shadow classrooms: Who gets to learn after school?

Every evening, across India, millions of students leave school only to head to another classroom, whether a tuition centre, a coaching institute, or a private tutor's home. What was once a supplement to formal schooling has evolved into a widespread, unequal parallel system. New data from the Comprehensive Modular Survey on Education (2025), released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), offers a clear picture of how entrenched this "shadow education" system has become and who it leaves behind.

Nationally, 27% of students are enrolled in private coaching. But this headline figure masks stark disparities across regions and social groups that raise deeper questions about access, equity, and the role of the state.

The most striking pattern is geographic. A cluster of eastern states, including West Bengal, Odisha, Bihar, and Jharkhand, forms what might be called India's "coaching belt", where private tutoring has shifted from optional to near-essential.

West Bengal stands out: 74.6% of its students take private coaching. In Odisha, the figure is 57.1%; in Bihar, 52.5%; and in Jharkhand, 39.7%. All are well above the national average of 27%. Several northeastern states, including Tripura and Manipur, show similarly high participation rates, gesting a broader regional pattern rather than isolated anomalies.

What is striking is that many of these states are among India's poorer regions. This is not simply a story of affluent households purchasing an advantage, but a wider phenomenon: families across the income distribution are paying for tutoring because they do not trust the formal school system to deliver adequate learning outcomes.

The contrast with other parts of the country is stark. In Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan, participation is in single digits, with similarly low levels in parts of southern India. In these states, coaching remains selective. In the eastern belt, it is close to unavoidable.

Expenditure patterns reinforce this divide. Households in West Bengal spend an average of Rs 7,878 per student annually on coaching—more than three times the national average of Rs 2,409. Odisha (Rs 5,074) and Bihar (Rs 3,221) also exceed the national average by a wide margin. That Bihar and Odisha, among the poorest states in India, record such high spending underscores how deeply embedded coaching has become, even at significant financial cost.

Digital Influence and Social Responsibility: The Power of Social Media in an Age of Division

Insha Warsi

In the digital age, influence no longer belongs only to political leaders, scholars, or traditional media institutions. Today, a person with a smartphone, internet access, and a large online following can shape conversations, define trends, and influence public thinking within minutes. Social media influencers have become one of the most powerful forces in modern communication. Their growing role in shaping public opinion is undeniable. However, with this rising power comes a serious responsibility, one that is not always exercised wisely. When influence is misused, it can threaten communal harmony, deepen divisions, and disturb the social fabric of a nation. "Social media influencers command attention because they appear accessible and relatable. Unlike formal institutions, they communicate in everyday language, engage directly with followers, and often build emotional trust. This connection gives their words unusual weight. A recommendation, opinion, or reaction shared online can influence the choices and beliefs of thousands, and sometimes millions, of people. Whether discussing social issues, lifestyle trends, public policies, or cultural values, influencers now help shape the mindset of a generation. "This influence can be a force for progress. Many creators have used their platforms to promote education, environmental awareness, health campaigns, disaster relief, and support for marginalized communities. During times of crisis, online voices have

encouraged blood donation drives, raised funds for relief efforts, and spread life-saving information. Campaigns promoting mental health awareness and gender equality have also gained strength through digital advocacy. Such examples show that influence, when guided by responsibility, can become a valuable instrument of social good. "Yet the darker side of this phenomenon cannot be ignored. In the competition for visibility, engagement, and revenue, some individuals resort to sensationalism. They share half-truths, edited clips, inflammatory remarks, or unverified claims simply because controversy attracts attention. Outrage has become profitable, and algorithms often reward content that provokes emotional reactions; resulting faster spreads of misinformation. "The danger becomes far greater when religious, regional, linguistic, or cultural identities are exploited for personal gain. Posts designed to insult beliefs, mock traditions, or spread suspicion among communities can ignite tensions far beyond the digital world. A manipulated video, a misleading caption, or a fabricated story can create anger overnight. In several instances across different societies, online rumours have led to protests, clashes, and breakdowns in trust between communities. The screen may be virtual, but the consequences are painfully real. "What makes the issue more alarming is the speed and scale of social media. A divisive message can travel across cities and borders before authorities or fact-checkers respond. By the time truth emerges, damage may already be done. Corrections rarely

receive the same attention as the original falsehood. This imbalance allows hatred and fear to travel faster than reason. The responsibility, therefore, lies first with influencers themselves. Those who command audiences must verify facts, avoid reckless commentary, and understand that words can heal or harm. Freedom of expression is a democratic right, but it does not include the freedom to incite hostility or endanger peace. "Social media platforms must also accept their share of accountability. Stronger systems are needed to identify coordinated misinformation, hate speech, and content intended to provoke violence. Transparency in algorithms and quicker responses to harmful material are essential. At the same time, governments must ensure that regulation protects harmony without suppressing legitimate criticism or free debate. Equally important is the role of citizens. A digitally literate society is the strongest defence against manipulation. Users must learn to question viral claims, verify sources, and resist the temptation to share provocative content blindly. Every forward, repost, or comment contributes either to social peace or social discord. "The rise of social media influencers reflects the changing nature of power in the 21st century. Influence today is decentralized, immediate, and deeply personal. Used ethically, it can educate, unite, and inspire millions. Misused irresponsibly, it can divide communities and poison public discourse. The choice before society is clear, whether it becomes a bridge between people or a weapon against harmony. The answer will shape not only online culture, but also the moral character of our times.

Education increased... but why did skills not increase?



Dr Satywan Saurabh

Today's society is experiencing a strange paradox. On the one hand, the level of education seems higher than ever—children in every

household are studying, attending coaching classes, online classes, and preparing for competitive exams, and as a result, their grades are steadily improving. But on the other hand, a question constantly arises—are we truly learning, or are we just collecting marks? This irony isn't limited to the individual level, but rather questions the direction of the entire education system. From school to college, children are drawn into a race where the goal is simply to score good marks, achieve high rankings, and accumulate as many certificates as possible. In this process, "learning" is left behind. Children begin to believe that success means writing correct answers on exams, not applying that knowledge to life.

This is why today we see young people who are highly successful on paper, but struggle with real-life challenges. They can solve complex problems, but stumble over practical solutions to simple ones. Lack of confidence, hesitation in decision-making, and a lack of ability to adapt to new situations—all these are the results of an education that relies more on "memorization" and less on "understanding." Our education system has long relied on a culture of

rote learning. Children are taught what questions will be asked and how to write their answers. In this process, their curiosity gradually fades. They become reluctant to ask questions, fearing they might be proven "wrong." Creativity and independent thinking, essential for the development of any society, are stifled under this pressure.

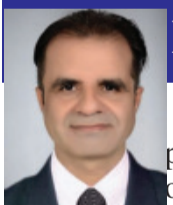
When these same children complete higher education and enter the working world, reality sets in. Companies don't just want degrees, but skills—the ability to understand problems, work in teams, communicate, and adapt to changing circumstances. But the education system hasn't prepared them for these. This is why, despite increasing degrees, young people lag behind in taking advantage of employment opportunities. This isn't just a crisis of unemployment, but a "skills gap." Another serious aspect of this process is mental pressure. Today's students are burdened with immense expectations. Family, society, and competition all exert constant pressure on them to perform well at all costs. But when the purpose of their studies is unclear, this pressure gradually turns into stress and confusion. Children are unable to understand how what they are studying is relevant to their lives. In fact, the purpose of education was never merely to pass exams. Education is meant to prepare a person for life—to give them the ability to think, understand, and make decisions. It teaches them not just information, but how to use that information. But when education is reduced to just marks, it loses sight of its original purpose.

The solution to the problem lies in this understanding. As long as we view education solely as an "outcome," the problem will persist. We need to focus on the process—how children are learning, whether they truly understand, and whether they are able to apply their knowledge. Curricula must be designed to inspire children to think and experiment. The examination system must be changed to assess understanding and application, not just memorization.

The role of teachers is also crucial in this transformation. They must become not just teachers but guides, encouraging children to ask questions, make mistakes, and learn from them. Parents must also change their mindset. Children's success must be measured not just by their grades, but by their skills, confidence, and understanding.

The digital age has opened up new avenues for learning, but their true use is only possible if we have the right vision for learning. Simply having access to information isn't enough; understanding and using it is what truly matters. Ultimately, the most important thing is that grades reflect how much you've memorized, but knowledge and skills reflect what you can do. If our education system succeeds in understanding this difference, not only will students' futures be better, but society will also become more capable and aware. Today, we need to seriously ask this question—are we truly becoming educated, or are we just trying to appear educated? Because until we find an honest answer to this question, education will continue to grow, but skills will not.

Suvendu Adhikari's election as Chief Minister marks a historic turning point in Indian politics



Kishan Bhawnani

May 8, 2026, marked a major political turning point in the history of Indian democracy globally. In

West Bengal, the Bharatiya Janata Party elected Suvendu Adhikari as the leader of its legislative party. Senior BJP leader Dilip Ghosh proposed Suvendu Adhikari's name. The MLAs were given a full opportunity to propose, and no other names were proposed, an observer told the press. More than eight MLAs supported the proposal, and he was unanimously elected leader, which was announced by Observer Amit Shah, who garlanded him and embraced him. He can retain the Home portfolio. The BJP may possibly adopt a model of two deputy chief ministers, one likely to be Roopa Ganguly and the other from the Darjeeling region, and attempt to maintain social balance. I. Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhawnani, Gondia, Maharashtra believe that by electing a chief minister, a political chapter has begun that was considered impossible until a few years ago. The BJP's rise to power in Bengal, dominated for decades by the Left and then the Trinamool Congress, is not just an electoral victory, but a new story of India's changing political landscape, the rebalancing of regional politics, and the expansion of national parties. The BJP legislative party meeting, held at the Vishwa Bangla Convention Center in Kolkata, was closely watched not only by Indian but also by international

political analysts, as it was to determine who would lead the historic mandate that completely transformed Bengal's politics. Finally, what had long been discussed in political circles happened: Suvendu Adhikari was elected leader of the legislative party, formally paving the way for him to become Chief Minister.

Friends, if we consider this historic moment, this decision is not simply the story of one person becoming Chief Minister; rather, it is the result of a political journey in which the people of Bengal challenged the long-established power structure and expressed their trust in a new alternative. The BJP's clear majority of 207 out of 293 seats indicates a widespread public opinion shift in the state's politics. This victory cannot be considered a simple electoral success, as Bengal was long considered one of the most difficult political regions for the BJP. In such a situation, Suvendu Adhikari's election as Chief Minister is being seen as a result of the BJP's strategic politics, organizational expansion, and ability to understand regional sentiments in Bengal.

Friends, if we consider the political journey of Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari, this historic moment becomes even more significant. Once one of Mamata Banerjee's most trusted aides, Adhikari left the Trinamool Congress and joined the BJP, sparking a major ideological struggle in Bengal politics. After defeating Mamata Banerjee in Nandigram, his political stature steadily grew. Defeating Mamata Banerjee in the Bhawanipur seat by over 15,000 votes in the 2026 elections, which were declared on December 4, 2026, was not just an electoral victory but also a symbolic political

message. It signaled a leadership change in which the people of Bengal decided to give a new direction to the state's politics.

Friends From a political perspective, this election, which saw a landslide victory, employed a crucial strategy. For a long time, it had been alleged that the BJP relied on outside leadership in Bengal and lacked a local Bengali face. However, in this election, the party clearly placed local leadership at the center. Making Suvendu Adhikari the main face of the election campaign was part of this strategy. The BJP understood that in a culturally sensitive state like Bengal, it would not be possible to gain power solely on the basis of national issues. Therefore, Bengali identity, regional pride and local leadership were given prominence. Subhendu Adhikari proved to be the most suitable face of this strategy.

Friends, if we consider the process of selecting the legislative party leader, the Union Home Minister's presence as an observer at the legislative party meeting made this decision even more significant. This was not merely a ceremonial presence, but rather conveyed the message that the BJP leadership considers the transition of power in Bengal to be crucial for national politics. Amit Shah has long been a key strategist for the expansion of the Bengal BJP. Under his leadership, the BJP strengthened the organization down to the booth level and attempted to shift the political polarization in the state in its favor. His presence at the legislative party meeting made it clear that the government formed in Bengal would not only be a state government but a crucial part of the

BJP's national political project. Friends, if we consider the many political reasons behind Suvendu Adhikari's becoming Chief Minister, the primary reason is his strong support base. He has long been considered one of the BJP's most aggressive leaders in Bengal. His political style is known for direct public relations and sharp political attacks. His influence is considered particularly strong in rural Bengal. The BJP realized that a politically complex state like Bengal would require a leader who would be equally influential within the organization and with the public. Adhikari fully met this criterion. Another important reason is his political experience and administrative understanding. While in the Trinamool Congress, he played important roles in both the organization and the government for a long time. He has a deep understanding of Bengal's administrative structure, local power dynamics, and regional social structure. This experience was considered extremely useful for the BJP, as the biggest challenge after the change of power will be maintaining administrative stability. The third major reason is his strong rapport with the central leadership. Political analysts believe that Adhikari has extremely strong relations with Amit Shah and the BJP's top leadership. The BJP is taking power in a state where it may face intense challenges at both the administrative and political levels. Therefore, the party wanted a Chief Minister who could establish strong coordination between the center and the state. Friends, if we consider an emotional aspect of this political development, the recent murder of his close associate had affected the entire election atmosphere. The BJP presented this as political violence and an attack on democracy.

Khaprakhol, DGP gave awareness message to teenage girls



Patnagarh - (Correspondent) An awareness program for teenage girls was held on Friday at the local police station premises under the chairmanship of Police Station Officer Narendra Chhatar in a joint initiative of the State Police and UNICEF. On this occasion, State Police DGP YB Khurania gave

awareness messages on cyber crime, mental health, digital safety, child safety to teenage girls through live media. On this occasion, teenage girls visited the police station. On this occasion, ASI Ravindra Kumbar, Naveen Bhoi, Narayan Sahu and Anganwadi workers, teenage girls were present.

Tree branch breaks, leaving nail stuck in child's head

Gopalpur (correspondent): After a tree branch broke on the head of a three-year-old child in Umarmkot village of Nabarangpur district, a wooden nail about four inches long was stuck in the upper middle of the child's head. The child was first taken to Umarmkot, then to Nabarangpur and from there to Koraput Main Hospital. But since the child's condition was very critical, he was later shifted to MKCG Medical College, Berhampur. Since immediate surgery was required, the child was admitted to the Neurosurgery Department and surgery



was started on the 1st on an emergency and wartime basis. In the presence of the Head of the Department, Dr. Sanjeev Patra, Dr. Nivedita Sahu and colleagues, the medical team, including Dr. Ravi Narayan Panda, Assistant Professor Dr. Devadatta Senapati, Dr. Tushar Kant Rath, Dr. Debashree

Maharana, Dr. P. Hari Prasad, were able to successfully remove the wooden nail stuck in the child's head after four hours of tireless efforts. As a result, the child was saved from imminent death and is now completely healthy, said Dr. Panda, Head of the Neurosurgery Department. On the

other hand, the child's father Sanjit Harijan has expressed his gratitude to all the members of the medical team who saved the child's life and brought smiles to the family's faces. Prakash Thakur said that on April 28, a stormy wind occurred while the child named Om Harijan (3) was playing under a tree in front of the house.

World Red Cross Day Celebrated by Subarnapur District Junior Red Cross



SUBARNAPUR (correspondent): ---The birthday of the founder of the Red Cross, Sir John Henry Dunant, is celebrated as World Red Cross Day on May 8th all over the world. Today, on this occasion, yogurt was distributed at Hikudi Bridge Chhak by the Subarnapur District Junior Red Cross. The program was organized under the guidance of District Education Officer Minarani Mangal and former JRCO Rabichandra Pasayat. Junior Red Cross Officer Chandramani Bagh was the president. Additional District Education Officer Ghanashyam Meher was the chief guest, Ulunda Block Education Officer Ajaya Kumar Luha was the guest of honor, District Science Inspector Amlan Kumar Pandia, Head master of Parameswari High

School Keshab Kumar Dash, Retired Headmaster of Murshundi High School Kalia Karmi were the main participants and the Red Cross flag was hoisted. inaugurated the program with. After this, Red Cross workers and consultants distributed yogurt to the passers-by on the road. To encourage the organizers, Subarnapur Collector Dr. Nruparaj Sahu and Additional District Magistrate (General) Anjalina Pradhan participated in the program. On this occasion, Gopesh Panda, Chandrasekhar Mohapatra, Jagdish Dash, Bratananda Bhoi and Additional District Education Officer Ghanashyam Meher donated blood in the blood donation camp held at the District Headquarters Hospital. Among others, Junior

Malicious Attitude Towards the Success of Kharasrota College is Condemnable

JAJPUR (Correspondent): Kharasrota College, located at Singhpur under Binjharpur Block of Jajpur district, is the oldest institution of higher education in the block. Many talented students who graduated from this college have established their excellence in various fields. It is noteworthy that Mrs. Pramila Mallik, a six-time MLA of the Odisha Government, former Cabinet Minister of several departments, and the first woman Speaker of Odisha Legislative Assembly, as well as Mrs. Sulochana Das, the first woman Mayor of Bhubaneswar, were students of this institution. Situated in a beautiful natural environment, this temple of education has



earned pride by receiving the "Prakruti Mitra Award" from the Government of Odisha during the current academic year. Attracted by its academic atmosphere, a large number of students are pursuing studies here in both Higher Secondary and Undergraduate Commerce streams, surpassing even Jajpur Government College in student enrollment. Strict discipline is maintained in the conduct of classes and examinations, due to which the institution has been selected as a hub

centre for Higher Secondary examinations. The Undergraduate examination evaluation centre has also been functioning here for many years. The highest number of Higher Secondary students at the block level have been receiving government laptops from this college. This year, two students from the Undergraduate Mathematics Department have achieved success in an all-India competitive examination and have been selected for admission to IITs. The

college is also preparing to celebrate its Golden Jubilee this year. At different times, the students of this college have earned recognition through activities such as sports, voluntary blood donation camps, disaster management programmes, free health camps, National Service Scheme camps, and cultural events. Thus, the college carries a long record of achievements and accomplishments.

Several teachers have been residing in the college hostel with their families for many years. Therefore, the security system and discipline within the campus remain well-organized and systematic. However, it is unfortunate that a particular electronic media outlet, driven by vested interests, has been spreading

baseless and false allegations against the college in an attempt to defame the institution.

Since the appointment of Dr. Brajakishore Sahu as the permanent Principal, continuous efforts have been made for the overall development of the college with the cooperation of all teaching and non-teaching staff members. Dr. Sahoo is a dynamic and resourceful administrator. He has brought name and fame to the college by dint of his hard labour and foresighted vision.

Despite this, attempts to malign the reputation of the college are highly condemnable and deeply painful, stated the Principal, teachers, lecturers, and employees of the institution.

Bullet Bikers Face Music In Jeypore: 85 Bikes Seized, Silencers Destroyed

Jeypore (Correspondent): In a major drive against noise pollution and reckless driving, Jeypore Town Police have seized 85 Bullet motorcycles and destroyed their silencers that were creating excessive noise.

HP LPG Consumers Face Acute Supply Problems in Kashipur Block of Rayagada

Kashipur, (correspondent): Residents of Kashipur block in Rayagada district are reportedly facing severe difficulties in obtaining HP domestic LPG cylinders, causing widespread inconvenience and frustration among consumers. Despite completing the mandatory mobile-based booking process and receiving OTP confirmations, many consumers allege that

cylinders are not being delivered within the stipulated time. Several residents have also complained that they are being asked to share their booking OTPs with distributors, yet deliveries continue to be delayed. According to local consumers, even after waiting for more than 48 days after booking, cylinders often fail to arrive, forcing families to repeatedly reapply for gas supply. Allegations have also

surfaced against certain local distributors for charging higher prices and remaining unreachable when consumers seek clarification or support. The recurring supply disruptions and booking irregularities have created growing resentment among residents, who claim that the ground reality sharply contradicts official assurances regarding adequate LPG stock and smooth distribution in the region.

Minor detained in police station

Cuttack correspondence: The High Court has taken serious note of the case of a minor who was called to the police station for investigation and detained for hours and interrogated. A bench comprising Chief Justice Harish Tandon and Justice M.S. Raman heard the case and directed the Bhadrak SP to appear in person on a later date. The High Court said that the SP will appear and explain whether there is a child-friendly corner in the police station or any other police station where the minor was detained. The next hearing of the case has been fixed for May 18. During the hearing of the case, it was alleged that a minor was called to a police station in Bhadrak for investigation in a criminal case and was kept in custody for hours and interrogated. The investigating police officer asked the minor a lot of questions. On the other hand, it was alleged that there was no child-friendly system in the concerned police station.

JUVENTIKA Awareness Programme Held at Muribahal Police Station

Kantabanji, correspondence: Muribahal Police Station recently hosted the "JUVENTIKA" awareness programme organized by the Government of Odisha with the aim of empowering women and children through awareness and education. The programme witnessed participation from girl students of various Anganwadi schools who attended the event along with their teachers and didis. The initiative focused on educating women and children about the social challenges they commonly face and the



ways to seek protection and solutions. A major highlight of the programme was an extensive awareness session on rising cyber crimes and online frauds taking place across the country. Through audio-visual presentations and videos, students were informed about different forms of online scams, cyber fraud, and digital safety measures. Officials also explained preventive steps and

methods for reporting cyber-related offences. During the event, participants were encouraged to interact with police personnel without fear or hesitation. Police officials emphasized that women and children should freely approach the police whenever they face any form of problem or harassment. The programme began with a virtual address by the

Director General of Police (DGP), Odisha, who delivered an awareness message through video conferencing and thanked all participants for joining the initiative. Later, the students were taken on a guided visit of the police station to familiarize them with police functioning and public support systems. Officials from the Balangir Cyber Police Station also addressed the gathering and provided detailed information regarding cyber crimes, their impact, and available remedies.

Juvenantika Cell launched at Gopalpur Police Station

Gopalpur (correspondent) A cell was launched at Gopalpur police station under the chairmanship of Odisha Director General of Police Yogesh Bahadur Khurania in collaboration with UNICEF. The program was organized by the Women and Child Branch, CID and Crime Branch at police station meeting Hall. Juvenile Cell has been launched in every police station to make the youth between the ages of 10 and 19 aware of their rights. The officers present were made aware of cyber security, awareness about child abuse, their digital rights, safe online use, and the safety and rights of victims and children in conflict with the law, and were informed about the mistreatment being done to them at the police station. Gopalpur Police Station Officer Satya Ranjan Lenka, SI Dushmanta Pradhan, Bhavani Shankar Nayak, ASI V. Tirupati Rao, Biranchi Narayan Chowdhury, Meghnad Sahu, Sameer Rana, Manoj Jena, ASI Jaharana Jena conducted the program. School, college students, and Anganwadi workers participated in it.

International Red Cross Day Observes by Montessori Public School

Bolangir, correspondence: International Red Cross Day was observed at Montessori Public School, Malpada, Bolangir, with enthusiasm and active participation from students, teachers and Red Cross volunteers. The programme was organised under the guidance of school

Chairman Birendra Kumar Udgata. Chairing the meeting, Principal Rabichandra Udgata urged students and Youth Red Cross volunteers to dedicate themselves to humanitarian service by following the ideals of Red Cross founder Jean Henry Dunant. He highlighted the

importance of compassion, unity and voluntary service in society. Nursery Section Principal Abhismita Das conducted the programme, while the school's Academic Head and Governor Award-winning Red Cross Counsellor, Dr Rabichandra Pashayat, coordinated the event.

He administered the Red Cross pledge to the volunteers and explained this year's theme, "Unity in Humanity." Journalist Akul Behera attended as the guest of honour and shared his views on the role of humanitarian service in society. The programme began with an inaugural song

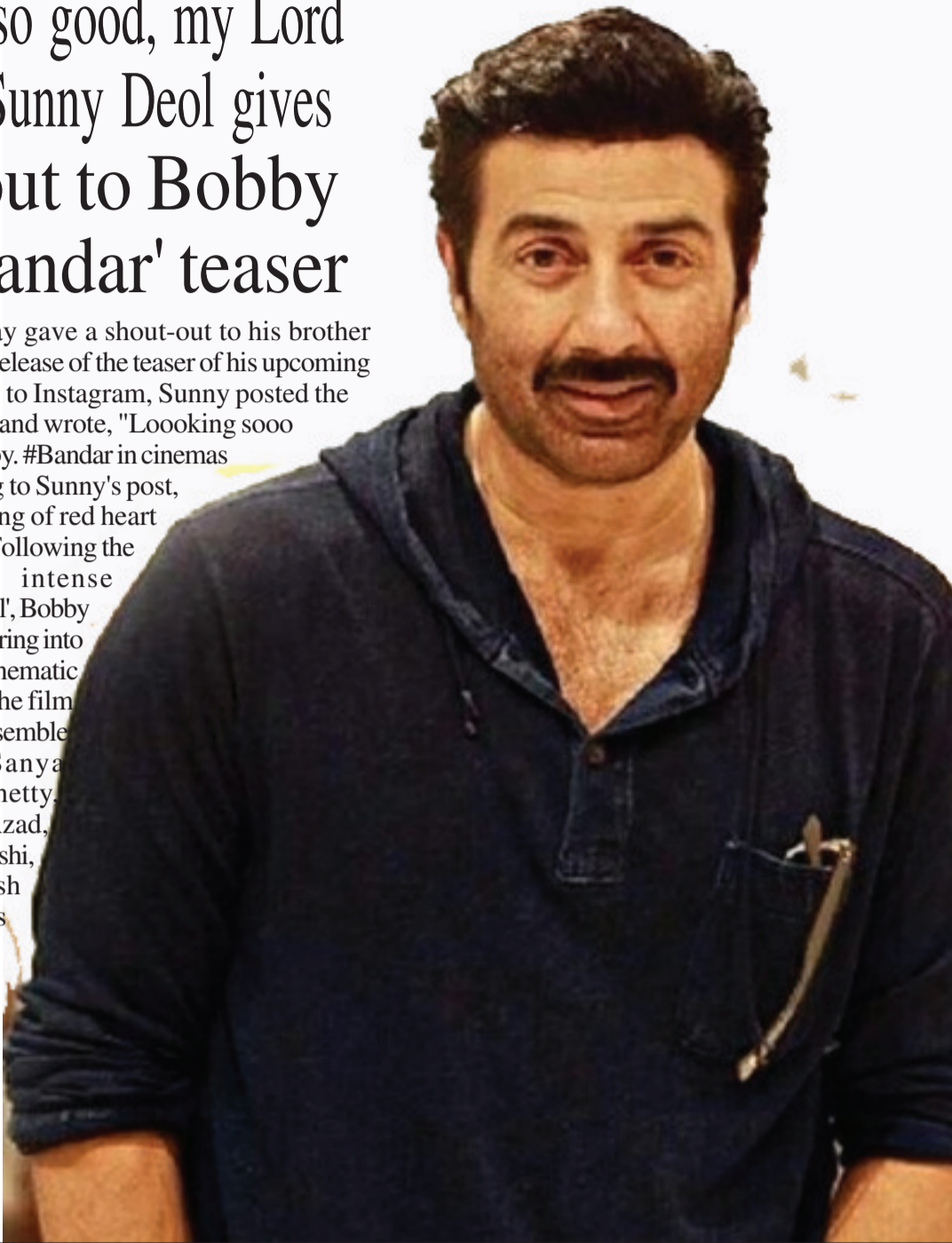
presented by Aarti Madam and Jasmin Madam. Youth Red Cross and Junior Red Cross volunteers also spoke on the significance of the day and various humanitarian activities carried out by the organisation. During the event, plans were discussed to strengthen and expand the activities

of Youth Red Cross and Junior Red Cross in the 2026-27 academic session. Student Saransh Meheta proposed the vote of thanks. Teachers, staff members and students of the school were present and extended their cooperation for the successful conduct of the programme.

EAST COAST RAILWAY	
File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/26-27/ E-Tender/14, Dt. 05.05.2026	
(1) Tender No. e-Tender-CENTKUR-42-2026, Dtd.: 24.04.2026	
DESCRIPTION: NEW WORKS, ADDITIONS AND ALTERATIONS TO THE EXISTING STRUCTURES, ALL ORDINARY REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE WORKS OF MISCELLANEOUS NATURE AND SUPPLIES EACH COSTING RS.5,00,000/- OR LESS IN THE SECTION BARANG (IN) TO RAJAHAGARH (EX) UNDER SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER (WORKS) / BARANG FOR THE PERIOD UPTO 30.06.2027.	
Approx. Cost of the Work: ₹ 95.10 Lakh, EMD: ₹ 1,90,200/-	
(2) Tender No. e-Tender-CENTKUR-49-2026, Dtd.: 29.04.2026	
DESCRIPTION: NEW WORKS, ADDITIONS AND ALTERATIONS TO THE EXISTING STRUCTURES, ALL ORDINARY REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE WORKS OF MISCELLANEOUS NATURE AND SUPPLIES EACH COSTING RS.5,00,000/- OR LESS IN THE SECTION SADASIBPUR-TALCHER AND TALCHER-SAMALPUR UNDER SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER (WORKS) / TALCHER FOR THE PERIOD UPTO 30.06.2027.	
Approx. Cost of the Work: ₹ 113.62 Lakh, EMD: ₹ 2,27,300/-	
(3) Tender No. e-Tender-CENTKUR-51-2026, Dtd.: 29.04.2026	
DESCRIPTION: EXECUTION OF PWAY RELATED WORK FOR PROPOSED RAISING OF SPEED FROM 30 KMPH TO 50 KMPH IN LOOP LINES FROM BUDHAPANK TO HINDOL ROAD OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION	
Approx. Cost of the Work: ₹ 49.95 Lakh, EMD: ₹ 99,900/-	
Completion Period: 12 (Twelve) Months (for SI. No. 1 & 2) and 10 (Ten) Months (for SI. No. 3).	
Tender Closing Date and Time: At 1500 Hrs. of 20.05.2026 (for all the Tenders).	
No manual offers sent by Post / Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.	
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-Tender is available in website: www.ireps.gov.in	
Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigenda issued for this tender. The tenders/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/ bidder can participate on e-tendering.	
Divisional Railway Manager (Engg) / PR-129/R/26-27	Khurda Road

"Looking so good, my Lord Bobby": Sunny Deol gives shout out to Bobby over 'Bandar' teaser

Sunny Deol on Friday gave a shout-out to his brother Bobby Deol after the release of the teaser of his upcoming film, 'Bandar'. Taking to Instagram, Sunny posted the teaser link of the film and wrote, "Looking sooo goood my Lord Bobby. #Bandar in cinemas on 5th June." Reacting to Sunny's post, Bobby dropped a string of red heart emojis in the section. Following the success of his intense performance in 'Animal', Bobby Deol seems to be venturing into an entirely different cinematic space with 'Bandar'. The film also boasts a strong ensemble cast featuring Sanya Malhotra, Raj B Shetty, Sapna Pabbi, Saba Azad, Riddhi Sen, Jitendra Joshi, Indrajeet and Nagesh Bhonsle. 'Bandar' has been penned by Sudip Sharma and Abhishek Banerjee, known for acclaimed titles such as 'Paatal Lok', 'Kohrra' and 'Udta Punjab'. Directed by Anurag



Shakira returns to football stage with new 2026 FIFA World Cup anthem Dai Dai

Shakira returns to football stage with new 2026 FIFA World Cup anthem Dai Dai. Shakira has officially returned to the football spotlight by revealing a teaser for 'Dai Dai', her newest anthem for the 2026 FIFA World Cup. This upcoming track features Nigerian superstar Burna Boy and is scheduled for a full release on May 14. Fans received a first look through a one-minute video filmed at the historic Maracana Stadium in Brazil, signaling the singer's first official tournament song since her 2010 global sensation. Teaming up with Burna Boy brings an Afrobeat influence to the tournament, reflecting the diverse culture of the host nations. This partnership follows her legendary success with 'Waka Waka (This Time for Africa)', which dominated music charts for nearly a year. While she has performed at multiple closing ceremonies, this marks her formal return as the voice of the world's biggest sporting event. Hosting duties for 2026 will be shared across the United States, Canada, and Mexico, making it the most geographically vast competition in football history. With 104 matches scheduled, the energy of 'Dai Dai' will need to resonate across sixteen different host cities. Historically, World Cup anthems serve as vital cultural bridges, often becoming more memorable than the matches themselves, much like the 1998 hit by Ricky Martin. Opening ceremonies begin in Mexico City, while the final showdown will take place in New Jersey.



Black Pepper Chicken Curry Recipe

Ingredients of Black Pepper Chicken Curry
500 gms boneless chicken, cut into bite-sized pieces
2 tsp black pepper, freshly ground
1 tsp turmeric powder
Salt to taste
3 tsp mustard oil or ghee
1 tsp cumin seeds
3-4 cardamom pods
3-4 cloves
1 large onion, finely chopped
1 tsp ginger, minced
1 tsp garlic, minced
1 cup tomato puree
1 cup water or chicken broth
Fresh coriander leaves for garnish (optional)

How to Make Black Pepper Chicken Curry

1. In a bowl, combine the chicken pieces with freshly ground black pepper, turmeric powder, and salt.
2. Let the chicken marinate for at least 30 minutes.
3. Heat mustard oil or ghee in a pan over medium heat.
4. Add cumin seeds, cardamom pods, and cloves. Let them sizzle for a few seconds, releasing their aroma.
5. Add finely chopped onions to the pan. Sauté until they turn golden brown.
6. Add minced ginger and garlic, continuing to sauté until the raw smell disappears.
7. Add the marinated chicken pieces to the pan. Cook until the chicken turns golden brown on all sides.
8. Pour in the tomato puree and mix well, ensuring the chicken is coated evenly.
9. Let the mixture cook for a few minutes until the oil starts to separate.
10. Add water or chicken broth to achieve the desired consistency for the curry.
11. Allow the curry to simmer on low heat. Stir occasionally.
12. Taste the curry and adjust salt and black pepper according to your preference.
13. Garnish with fresh coriander leaves and serve hot with steamed rice or naan.



7 Summer Fruits That Diabetics Can Safely Enjoy

As temperatures soar, so does our craving for juicy, refreshing fruits. But for people with diabetes, the sweet world of fruits often comes with caution. While many fruits contain natural sugars, not all of them are off-limits. In fact, several summer-special fruits offer hydration, fibre, and antioxidants without causing blood sugar spikes—if eaten in moderation. Nutritionist Shilpa Arora explains that diabetics need to be careful with fruit choices. She suggests going for fruits with a low glycaemic index and high fibre content. Here's a list of diabetic-friendly summer fruits that check all the right boxes.

Here Are 7 Summer Fruits For Diabetes Diet

1. **Jamun (Indian Blackberry):** Jamun is a classic Indian summer fruit that's a favourite among diabetics. With a glycaemic index of just 25 and rich in compounds like jamboline, jamun helps convert starch into energy, potentially regulating blood sugar levels. Its seed powder is also used in Ayurvedic formulations for managing diabetes. Here's how to add jamun to a diabetes diet.
2. **Guava:** Crunchy and mildly sweet, guavas are low in calories and rich in dietary fibre, making them ideal for blood sugar management. The vitamin C content also helps reduce oxidative stress, which is higher in diabetics. Prefer the fruit whole rather than in juice form to retain the fibre.
3. **Papaya:** This tropical fruit is not only light on the stomach but also low on the glycaemic scale. It contains antioxidants like flavonoids that may



improve insulin sensitivity. A small bowl of ripe papaya can help satisfy your sweet cravings without guilt.

4. **Watermelon (In Moderation):** Yes, diabetics can eat watermelon but in small amounts. While it's high in sugar, it's also about 90% water, which helps with hydration. Pairing it with protein or fat (like a handful of nuts) can help stabilise blood sugar levels.
5. **Plums:** Plums are a juicy summer treat that offers fibre and antioxidants. Their glycaemic load is low when eaten in moderation. Plus, the skin contains polyphenols that may support better insulin response.
6. **Peaches:** Fresh peaches are a fragrant, nutrient-rich option with vitamin A, C, and potassium. Go for whole fruit rather than canned versions in syrup. They're hydrating and help boost immunity while being kind to your sugar levels.
7. **Apples (Yes, They're in Season Too):** Though not exclusive to summer, apples are available year-round and are a safe choice. Their soluble fibre (pectin) helps slow down sugar absorption and keeps you full for longer.

Breaking taboos on women's wellness: Fertility health as key to women's Empowerment

Age and Fertility:

It is important for women to know that they are born with a finite number of eggs that decline in both quantity and quality with age, particularly after the age of 35. As women are delaying marriage and childbirth for various reasons, they may face challenges in conceiving naturally due to age-related fertility decline. Add to that is the myth that with in vitro fertilization (IVF) technique it is possible to become a mother at any age. This is not true. The success rate of any fertility treatment including IVF, depends heavily on a woman's age. Here comes the role of Social Egg

Freezing which allows women to preserve their eggs when they are younger and typically have better egg quality. ith HT Lifestyle, Dr Shanujeet Kaur, associate director – Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and fertility specialist at Cloudnine Group of Hospitals in Chandigarh, explained the journey to empower women on their fertility health - This option gives women more control over their reproductive timelines and can mitigate some of the fertility issues associated with ageing. The best age to get social egg freezing done is 30 to 37 years. At age 38 years and beyond the quality and quantity of eggs goes down significantly and the

carry home baby rates with frozen eggs is around 20% which is quite low. At age 44 years and above, egg donation may be the only option to achieve a pregnancy. Incorporating social egg freezing in discussions on women's health can empower women to make informed decisions about their reproductive health, especially in the context of changing societal norms and delayed family planning.

2. **Early detection of conditions such as endometriosis and PCOS (Polycystic Ovary Syndrome):**

These conditions can significantly impact reproductive health and fertility outcomes and identifying them early allows for timely intervention and management. a. **Endometriosis:** Endometriosis is a condition where tissue similar to the lining inside the uterus (endometrium), starts growing abnormally outside the uterus too. e.g on or inside the ovaries, fallopian tubes, abdominal organs, lungs etc. It can cause pelvic pain,

irregular periods, and in severe cases, infertility. It is a progressive disease as it is linked to the monthly menstrual cycle. Early detection helps in: Improved Management Options: Early diagnosis allows for the implementation of appropriate treatment plans, which may include pain management strategies, hormonal therapies that temporarily stop the progression of disease or in some cases surgical interventions to remove endometrial implants.

Preservation of Fertility: Endometriosis can lead to the formation of adhesions or scar tissue that may affect fertility by interfering with the function of the ovaries, fallopian tubes, or uterus. Early intervention can help preserve fertility potential and improve the chances of successful conception. International guidelines advocate egg freezing in women diagnosed with moderate to severe endometriosis who wish to postpone pregnancy by a few years.

IPL 2026: Allen's Unbeaten 47-Ball Hundred Takes KKR To A Clinical Eight-Wicket Win Over DC

New Delhi: Big-hitting opener Finn Allen produced a stunning unbeaten century off just 47 balls to power Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) to a clinical eight-wicket victory over Delhi Capitals in their Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 clash at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi on Friday. Allen's superb knock, laced with five fours and ten sixes, ensured KKR completed a chase of 143 with 34 balls to spare and helped the three-time champions seal their fourth consecutive win of the season. He was ably supported by Cameron Green, who hit 33 not out off 27 balls, as the duo shared an unbroken 116-run stand off 64 balls. Where KKR's spinners had suffocated Delhi's batters into



submission and kept them to 142/8, Allen ensured no such misery awaited his side by launching a ferocious assault on DC's bowling attack that rendered the target an afterthought. KKR began positively from the first ball, as Allen drove and whipped Mitchell Starc for boundaries. Though DC briefly halted KKR's charge –

captain Ajinkya Rahane's stay ended with a freak run-out at the non-striker's end as Mitchell Starc's outstretched hand touched the ball before rolling onto the stumps, while Angkrish Raghuvanshi attempted a sweep off Axar Patel, but the ball rolled off his gloves to hit the stumps. Allen had other plans entirely. Once Cameron

Green arrived to steady the innings, Allen simply refused to be contained – cutting, sweeping and thumping with authority to bring up his fifty off 32 balls via a scoop off Starc over fine leg – which was both effortless and imperious. The middle overs belonged emphatically to KKR, as Kuldeep Yadav was dispatched repeatedly.

Allen pulled him over deep mid-wicket and then thumped him straight down the ground, while Green launched a monstrous six off the same bowler over deep mid-wicket. Leg-spinner Vipraj Nigam bore the heaviest punishment as Allen smashed three consecutive sixes off the leg-spinner in the 13th over – twice over long-off and once with a ferocious pull through deep mid-wicket – before moving into the nineties with another towering maximum off Kuldeep. Allen fittingly finished off the chase and got his century in style by dispatching Mukesh Kumar into the stands over mid-wicket for six. DC's spinners conceded 102 runs from nine overs for just one wicket, as Allen made merry to get at thumping win for KKR.

ISL 2025-26: Early Goals Help Odisha FC Edge SC Delhi

New Delhi: Early goals by Suhair Vadakkepeedika and Lalrinfela (Mafela) helped Odisha FC secure a hard-fought 2-1 victory over Sporting Club Delhi in their Indian Super League (ISL) 2025-26 encounter at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi on Friday. Early first-half strikes from Suhair and Lalrinfela (Mafela) gave Odisha FC a commanding lead, rendering Matija Babovic's second-half penalty for SC Delhi a mere consolation. Suhair VP had a wonderful game alongside K Lalrinfela, who was deservedly awarded the Player of the Match for his outstanding overall performance in midfield. With this vital win, Odisha FC moved into 11th place, leapfrogging Chennaiyin FC and NorthEast United FC.

They now have 10 points from 11 matches, while SC Delhi remain in 10th place with the same number of points from 11 matches, staying ahead courtesy of goal difference. The victory provides a massive boost to Odisha FC's survival hopes as they continue to fight their way out of the looming relegation battle. Meanwhile, SC Delhi were left to rue their missed opportunities after completely dominating possession but failing to capitalise on their attacking metrics. The match began with Odisha FC catching the hosts completely off guard in the opening exchanges. The Juggernauts broke the deadlock in just four minutes when an unmarked Suhair VP met a perfect cross from Sanathoi Singh Heikrujam and found

the back of the net with a header to go 1-0 up. SC Delhi slowly began to claw their way back into the game, but the visitors struck again in the 13th minute after Delhi gave the ball away. Odisha midfielder Lalrathanga Khawlhing (Puitea) delivered a spot-on assist for Mafela, who produced a strong right-footed finish with a grounded shot that rolled into the bottom corner. The strike went past a diving Nora Fernandes to give Odisha FC a 2-0 lead. Trailing by two goals early on, SC Delhi gradually found their footing and began dictating the tempo. The hosts created several chances before the interval, with Lamgoulen Gou and Matija Babovic both registering shots on target, but the Odisha FC defence held firm.

New Rules Are Introduced To Maintain The IPL's Transparency: BCCI Vice President Rajeev Shukla

Lucknow: BCCI vice president Rajeev Shukla said the governing body is rolling out stricter regulations for all IPL players to improve transparency and strengthen security arrangements during the tournament. Shukla stated that fans and outsiders will no longer be allowed to meet players inside team hotels or buses, with the new rules expected to be implemented in the coming days to ensure tighter protocols and better protection for cricketers throughout the league. "New rules are in the works, and, according to the new directives, player access will be regulated. Unauthorised individuals will not be allowed to approach players, whether at the hotel or on the team bus.

These rules are expected to be implemented within the next few days to ensure that the transparency of the IPL is maintained completely," Shukla said. Earlier on Friday, the BCCI issued seven pages of guidelines for the 10 IPL franchises, warning them about the potential dangers of targeted honey-trapping during the league. The board said it will conduct unannounced "surprise checks" to ensure strict adherence to the league's extensive regulatory framework and operational guidelines. According to the directive, Saikia noted that no one is permitted to enter a team member's room, regardless of their relationship with the player or official, without the prior knowledge and approval of the team

manager. In his communication to all the franchises, Saikia has noted that "The BCCI/IPL Operations Team may conduct periodic checks to assess adherence to the directives set forth in this Advisory. Team Managers are required to maintain records of all approved guest visits and hotel movements." Last month, Rajasthan Royals skipper Riyan Parag was reportedly seen vaping inside the dressing room during the game against Punjab Kings in New Chandigarh. The BCCI has come down heavily on the offenders, saying whoever found engaging in such conduct will be liable to a cognisable offence under the applicable statutory framework. "Instances of vaping within the dressing room and other

restricted areas of tournament venues have been brought to the BCCI's attention. It is pertinent to note that the use of vapes and electronic cigarettes is prohibited under applicable Indian law. Any individual found engaging in such conduct within tournament premises is not only violating BCCI and IPL regulations but may also be committing a cognisable offence under the applicable statutory framework," Saikia stated in the directive. The BCCI has asked the owners to refrain from communicating with players/managers in the dugout during the course of the match. The BCCI has instructed franchise owners to avoid any communication with players or coaching staff in the dugout while a match is in progress.

Global Chess League Returns To India For Season 4

New Delhi: The Global Chess League (GCL) and FIDE on Friday announced that season 4 will take place in India, a country where chess is not just played, but lived, followed, and celebrated like never before, with the host city to be announced in the coming days. The last edition of the Global Chess League took place in Mumbai in December 2025. Alpine SG Pipers won the title after a strong campaign. Since it started, the league has aimed to change the game with a fast-paced franchise-based format. It features rapid matches and mixed-gender teams, hoping to make chess a popular spectator sport worldwide. Across previous seasons, India has delivered packed arenas, electric fan zones, and a surge of digital engagement that



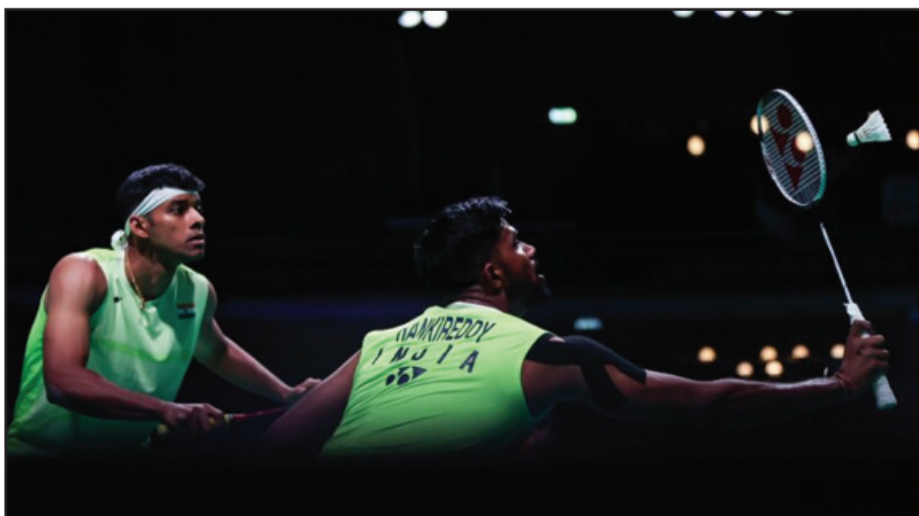
has reshaped how chess connects with audiences. Season 4 will once again bring together the world's leading players in a team-based format that blends elite competition with high-intensity storytelling. Arkady Dvorkovich, president, FIDE, said, "India continues to play a defining role in the global growth of chess, both through its exceptional talent and the passion of its fans. The Global

Chess League has introduced a new energy to the sport by combining world-class competition with an engaging team format that appeals to new and existing audiences alike. We are excited to bring Season 4 to India and look forward to celebrating the game with millions of fans who are helping shape the future of chess worldwide." Gourav Rakshit, Commissioner, Tech Mahindra Global

Chess League, said, "The Global Chess League has played a pivotal role in transforming chess into a more dynamic and spectator-friendly sport. India's passion for the game and its rapidly growing chess ecosystem make it a natural destination for the league. We look forward to another exciting season that brings together the world's best players and a global fanbase."

'Not About Fame Or Money...': Satwik Hits Back At 'Misinterpretation' Of His Remark On Silent Reception After Thomas Cup

New Delhi: Indian star shuttler and Khel Ratna awardee Satwiksairaj Rankireddy has hit back to those who had misinterpreted his recent comments on the lack of public reception for the Thomas Cup bronze medal-winning team, saying his disappointment did not come from a desire for personal glory or financial gain but was about the emotional impact of "silence" following major international milestones. The 2022 champions, India, returned to the podium in 2026 Thomas Cup



and returned with a bronze medal. But when the team returned to India, the lack of a celebratory homecoming said a lot more than the medal itself. Satwik had shared two pictures of

the squad that travelled to Horsens to compete for the Thomas Cup and their return to home, with a cryptic caption, "How it started, how it's going". It was seen that there was no grand

departure or welcome for the team. Taking to social media, Satwik clarified that his intent was to "foster a culture that encourages and celebrates" rather than seek personal fame. "The last few

days have brought a lot of attention to my recent comments regarding the lack of a reception for our Thomas Cup bronze medal. While I am grateful for the overwhelming support and encouragement, I want to clarify my intent because I see many people deviating from the original point. "My words did not come from a place of wanting personal fame or taking credit away from anyone else's achievements. I have the utmost respect for every athlete who brings glory to India, regardless of the

sport," Satwik wrote in a lengthy social media post. "My message was simple: we need to foster a culture that encourages and celebrate every win, big or small. Whether it is a World Cup medal or a podium finish in global championship like the Thomas Cup, these moments represent years of sacrifice and hard work. When such milestones are met with silence, it feels disheartening not just for us, but for the future generations of Indian athletes who are watching," he added. The world no.

3 doubles players pointed out that while athletes don't necessarily crave financial rewards, the "silence" following such global achievements can be disheartening. "We don't want money or grand parades; we just want to know that our country is watching and that our efforts are seen. Let's come together to support all sports with the same passion and "angle." Next time, let it not be about who won more or less, but about celebrating everyone who wears the India jersey. Thank you for

standing by me. Let's keep playing for India," he said. Earlier, in a press conference felicitated by SAI, Satwik's doubles partner Chirag Shetty had said, "I feel the way it should have been celebrated (India's Thomas Cup bronze), it didn't get celebrated as much. The fans who actually follow badminton and understand the sport knew how big the tournament was, but the general public still didn't really know the magnitude of the result. That sometimes makes me sad."

IIM Sambalpur Partners with MCL to Train 500 Officers in AI to Improve the Core Business of Coal

Sambalpur (Correspondent): The Indian Institute of Management Sambalpur, one of India's premier management institutions, in a landmark move towards digital transformation, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) to train 500 officers from diverse disciplines on Artificial Intelligence (AI) to improve and innovate the core business of coal, business development and process management. The MoU was signed by Shri Keshav Rao, Director (HR), MCL and Prof.



Mahadeo Jaiswal, Director, IIM Sambalpur. During the MoU signing ceremony, Shri Uday Anant Kaole, CMD, MCL, Prof. Shikha Bhardwaj, Chairperson, Executive MBA, IIM Sambalpur

and senior leadership of MCL were also present. The collaboration marks a significant milestone towards building future-ready and tech savvy leadership in the era of digital transformation. Speaking on the

collaboration, Prof. Mahadeo Jaiswal, Director, IIM Sambalpur, said, "IIM Sambalpur is committed to driving innovation-led management education and building future-

ready leaders for the AI era. This partnership with MCL reflects our shared vision of leveraging AI and Machine Learning to transform organisations through knowledge, technology-driven growth, and strategic capability building." IIM Sambalpur is the first institute in the world to implement AI education for its entire batch of students across all functional areas of management. This collaboration marks a significant leap for MCL, a subsidiary of Coal India Limited, as it seeks to integrate cutting-edge technology into its operational and administrative frameworks.

Himalaya BabyCare Unveils Heartfelt Mother's Day DVC Celebrating the 'Mumma Waali Feeling' through a Baby's Firsts

Mumbai: Himalaya BabyCare, one of India's most trusted baby care brands, loved by babies, has launched a heartfelt DVC this Mother's Day, celebrating the always evolving journey of motherhood. The campaign highlights this journey through a series of a baby's 'firsts' and the warm emotions they bring forward. At its core is the thought that while these milestones celebrate a baby's growth, these moments are just as important and emotional for the mother. In today's evolving journey of parenthood, many such moments pass quietly, often going unacknowledged. With this DVC, Himalaya

BabyCare centers the narrative on the mother's experience - celebrating the instinctive bond that deepens with every 'first'. Inspired by the timeless lullaby "Chanda Hai Tu", the film unfolds as a reflective narrative that traces the emotional journey of motherhood through the baby's first milestones, evoking a sense of warmth, nostalgia, and cultural familiarity. The film opens with a flashback, showing a mother getting her little girl ready for the very first day of school. It's a big milestone, and one that feels just as emotional for the mom as it does for the child. Watching her daughter stand there in the uniform triggers a

wave of memories. One by one, the past years unfold, reminding the mother of all those quiet, everyday moments they shared. From the first gentle massages and splashy bath times to playing on the floor and simple moments of care - these weren't just routines, but the little moments that wove their bond together. As the film returns to the present day, the little girl stops to give her mom one, tight hug before heading out for school. It is a beautiful reminder that while every "first" marks a step forward in a child's life, it also marks a new chapter for a mother - one of pride, change, and growing with her child.

TPNODL Holds 2nd National Lok Adalat to Resolve Power Theft and Enforcement Cases

Baleswar, (Correspondent): TP Northern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPNODL), is organising the 2nd National Lok Adalat and Settlement Camp today across its operational areas to facilitate speedy resolution of cases related to unauthorised electricity usage and power theft. The Lok Adalat is being conducted at Division and Sub-Division offices, as well as designated court premises across the Balasore, Keonjhar,

Jajpur, Bhadrak and Baripada circles under TPNODL's jurisdiction. Organised under the framework of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), the initiative aims to provide consumers with an accessible, transparent and time-bound platform for settlement of pending enforcement-related cases. The settlement camp is being held from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, enabling consumers to avail on-the-spot assistance for dispute resolution and

regularisation of electricity usage. Dedicated teams comprising enforcement officials, legal professionals and support staff have been deployed at all designated locations to assist consumers with documentation, eligibility criteria and settlement procedures. Organised in coordination with legal authorities, the National Lok Adalat is expected to help reduce long-pending enforcement disputes, strengthen consumer grievance redressal and

encourage wider public participation in transparent power governance. TPNODL has urged consumers with pending enforcement cases to make use of the opportunity to resolve disputes amicably and avoid future legal or financial complications. Detailed information regarding the Lok Adalat is available at respective Division and Sub-Division offices, while consumers may also contact their nearest TPNODL office for guidance and support.

From Awareness to Impact: TPSODL Accelerates Rooftop Solar Adoption Across 8 Districts with 8,955 Installations

Berhampur, (Correspondent): TP Southern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPSODL), a joint venture between Tata Power & Odisha Government, is accelerating the transition to clean and affordable energy across Southern Odisha through large-scale rooftop solar adoption. With focused awareness campaigns, consumer-centric models, and government-backed incentives, TPSODL is enabling households to significantly reduce electricity costs. The initiative is delivering tangible impact, with thousands of consumers already benefiting from solar energy. Notably, a large number of households are now experiencing zero electricity bills, marking a major milestone in sustainable energy adoption. TPSODL has successfully installed solar rooftop systems for 2,741 consumers



under the Utility Led Aggregation (ULA) model across eight districts of Southern Odisha. With the district-wise distribution including Ganjam (1,565), Gajapati (152), Kandhamal (161), Rayagada (96), Koraput (61), Nabarangpur (260), Malkangiri (239), and Boudh (207). In parallel, under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana (PMSGMBY), a total of 6,214 rooftop solar systems have been installed across the region. The installations are spread across Ganjam (3,822), Gajapati (230),

Kandhamal (115), Rayagada (695), Malkangiri (142), Nabarangpur (211), Boudh (408), and Koraput (591). Out of a total of 8,955 solar consumers, 4,850 households enjoyed zero electricity bills in April, a direct outcome of TPSODL's combined efforts and a clear reflection of how solar adoption is steadily reducing energy expenses for families across Southern Odisha. TPSODL has been actively promoting solar energy through door-to-door awareness campaigns, block-level outreach,

and Gram Panchayat meetings, ensuring deeper penetration and informed participation among consumers. The ULA model offers an affordable pathway, where consumers can install solar systems at a minimal cost of ₹1,875 for 1 kW, supported by DISCOM facilitation. Consumers benefit from approximately 100 units of electricity generation per month, resulting in savings of around ₹5,000 annually, along with 25 years warranty on solar panels and up to 5 years of free maintenance provided by TPSODL. Additionally, under PMSGMBY, consumers receive significant financial support, with ₹55,000 subsidy for 1 kW systems, ₹1,10,000 for 2 kW, and up to ₹1,38,000 for 3 kW and above, jointly supported by the Central and State Governments.

SOA HOSTS ONE-DAY THE ODISHA REGIONAL CONCLAVE

Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent): Vice-Chancellors, administrators and academics from 37 different universities and institutions in Odisha exchanged ideas about ways to improve higher education so as to be noticed globally at a day-long conclave organised by the Biju Patnaik University of Technology (BPUT) and hosted by the SOA. Deemed to be University here on Friday. Speakers who addressed the Times Higher Education (THE) Odisha Regional Conclave stressed on the need for building up a culture to excel in academics and research so as to shine on the global stage. Prof. Amiya Kumar Rath, Vice-Chancellor of BPUT, said that the focus should be on quality and representatives of different universities had



been invited to the event to know what was needed to be counted as a top-notch institution. Prof. Pradipta Kumar Nanda, Vice-Chancellor of SOA and Prof. Bibhuti Bhushan Biswal, Vice-Chancellor of Odisha University of Technology and Research (OUTR) also addressed the conclave. Prof. Nanda said there had been a paradigm shift in university education because of technological advances and the challenges being encountered. Universities are not stand alone entities and

should connect with the society, he said. Prof. Biswal said that rankings like THE and QS were important to focus the institute outside the country. Mr. Ritin Malhotra, General Manager and Senior Regional Director (Asia), THE, spoke on the global perspectives on evaluating excellence in academic and research parameters. Prof. Jyoti Ranjan Das, Dean (Students' Welfare) proposed the vote of thanks. The conclave had two different sessions and a panel discussion on

international collaborations and exploring the potential partnership in the field of quality education, technology and research exchange with the world's top universities and fraternity. Prof. Satya Narayan Acharya, Vice-Chancellor of Odia University, Prof. Kumarbar Das, former Vice-Chancellor, Central University, Jharkhand and Prof. Bibhu Prasad Panigrahi, Director, Indira Gandhi Institute of Technology, Sarang, also attended the event.

Aditya Aluminium Promotes Sustainable Farming Under Project Unnati

Sambalpur (Correspondent): As part of its ongoing community development initiatives, Aditya Aluminium, Lapanga is actively promoting sustainable agriculture under Project Unnati with the objective of enhancing farmers' productivity and improving their livelihoods in nearby villages. With the upcoming Kharif season, okra seeds along with vermicompost were distributed among selected farmers. The programme also focused on creating awareness about high-yielding and YVMV-resistant okra varieties suitable for Odisha's agro-climatic conditions along with the benefits of vermicompost to



reduce dependency on chemical fertilizers. A total of 100 farmers from Katarbaga, Bomaloi, and Ghichamura Panchayats benefited from the initiative. The participating farmers expressed their gratitude towards

Aditya Aluminium for extending continuous support to the farming community. The programme was attended by Mr. Ravi Niwash, CSR Head, Aditya Aluminium; Mr. Jyoti Muduli, Assistant General Manager, CPP; Mr. Suresh Dash,

Unit HR; and Mr. Rajib Kisan, Sarpanch of Ghichamura Panchayat. The dignitaries encouraged farmers to adopt commercial vegetable cultivation and assured them of continued guidance and support for sustainable livelihood enhancement.