


2

Kiren Rijju Assures Sustained Efforts To Address Decline In Parsi Population




3

BC Jindal Group Strengthens Educational Equity Through Scholarship Initiative




7

NADA Issues Notice To Cricketers Yashasvi, Shafali For Whereabouts Failure: Report



6

Is Date (Khajoor) Sugar Better Than White Sugar? Here's What You Need To Know



Son Of The Soil Adhikari Takes Oath As First BJP Chief Minister Of Bengal; Five Other Ministers Sworn In

Kolkata: Suvendu Adhikari on Saturday took oath as the Chief Minister of the first BJP-ruled West Bengal government, along with four other members of the state Council of Ministers led by him. The other five members of the state Council of Ministers who were sworn in on Saturday include the former national vice-president and former state president of the BJP in West Bengal, Dilip Ghosh, fashion-designer-turned politician and two-time BJP legislator, Agnimitra Paul, former BJP Lok Sabha member and the former Union Minister of state for Home, Nisith Pramanik, Ashok Kirtania and Khudiram Tudu. Ghosh was the



second person after Adhikari to take oath, followed by Paul, Kritania, Tudu and Pramanik. However, at the time the report was filed, the portfolios of the five other members of the state's Council of Ministers were not announced. While Kirtania represents the Matua community, Tudu represents the tribal community. In the recently

concluded Assembly elections in West Bengal, the BJP candidates virtually swept almost all the Assembly constituencies where Matua and tribal voters were in majority. While Ghosh represents the other backward class (OBC) community, Paul hails from Kayastha background. Pramanik is the representative of the Rajbanshi community, a

predominant sect of people in North Bengal, where the BJP this time had almost demolished Trinamool Congress in the recently concluded Assembly polls. Adhikari himself is a Brahmin. Political observers feel that selection of the first six ministers from different caste-backgrounds is a subtle signal sent by the BJP that the new state government will consider people from all caste-backgrounds with equality without any bias towards anybody. To recall, whenever Union Home Minister, Amit Shah went to Bengal for election campaigns, he was asked who the Chief Minister of the first BJP-ruled government in West Bengal would be.

CM Majhi Orders Crime Branch Probe Into Baliana Mob Lynching

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent): Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has directed the Crime Branch to conduct a thorough and impartial investigation into the mob lynching incident in Baliana area of Bhubaneswar.

A high-level meeting was convened at Lok Seva Bhavan today under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Majhi to review the sensitive case. After detailed deliberations, the Chief Minister instructed the Crime Branch to carry out a proper and comprehensive probe and ensure strict action against those found guilty. Expressing serious concern over



the incident, Majhi urged the Director General of Police (DGP) to remain highly alert and vigilant so that such unfortunate incidents do not recur in the state. He also directed the police administration to take stringent measures to strengthen the law and

order situation. The meeting was attended by Chief Minister's Advisor Prakash Mishra, Chief Secretary Anu Garg, Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Hemant Sharma, Director General of Police Y.B. Khurania, Additional Chief

Secretary to CM Shashwat Mishra, Director of Intelligence R.P. Koche, Additional Director General (Law & Order) Sanjay Kumar, ADG (Crime Branch) Binaytosh Mishra, Commissioner of Police S. Devdutta Singh and DCP Jagmohan Meena

Delhi on High Alert After Intel Warns of IED Threats at Key Sites

NEW DELHI: Delhi has been placed on high alert following intelligence inputs warning of potential terror attacks using improvised explosive devices (IEDs) at key installations across the national capital. Security agencies have launched extensive checking drives and tightened surveillance at sensitive and high-footfall areas. According to reports, intelligence agencies cautioned that terrorists could target important locations, prompting the Delhi Police to deploy additional forces and install barricades at strategic points. Security has also been strengthened outside the Delhi BJP state office and the BJP national headquarters, where inspections and anti-sabotage measures are underway.

Vijay Stakes Claim To Form Govt After Securing Support Of 120 MLAs In Tamil Nadu

Chennai: Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) chief C. Joseph Vijay on Saturday moved closer to becoming the next Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu after securing the support of 120 MLAs, comfortably crossing the majority mark required to form the government in the 234-member Assembly. The latest boost to TVK came after the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) formally extended support to Vijay. IUML legislative party leader SSB Syed Farook Basha and deputy leader A.M. Shahjahan submitted a signed letter to Governor-in-charge Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar expressing the party's



support for the TVK-led government. Earlier, the Viduthala Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) also announced its support to TVK, paving the way for Vijay to consolidate the numbers needed to stake a claim before the Governor. According to the latest tally, TVK has the backing of 120 MLAs, including 107 from TVK, five from the Congress, two each from the CPI, CPI(M), VCK, and

IUML. Tamil Nadu went to the polls for all 234 Assembly constituencies in a single phase on April 23. The election witnessed a fierce four-cornered contest involving the DMK, AIADMK, Naam Tamilar Katchi (NTK), and TVK. The results declared on May 4 saw TVK emerge as the single-largest party with 108 seats. However, after Vijay decided to retain only one of the two seats

he had won, the party's effective strength came down to 107. Following the results, hectic political activity unfolded in Chennai, with TVK opening channels of communication with several parties to gather support for government formation. The CPI and CPI(M) were among the first parties to publicly extend support to Vijay, followed by the Congress. With VCK and IUML now joining the alliance, Vijay has comfortably crossed the halfway mark required to form the government. Sources said Vijay sought an urgent appointment with Governor Arlekar before the latter's scheduled departure to Kerala.

ED Arrests Punjab Industry Minister Sanjeev Arora

Chandigarh: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Saturday arrested Sanjeev Arora, one of the powerful Cabinet ministers in the Bhagwant Mann-led Punjab government, from his official residence in Sector 2 here. The action came after the ED carried out extensive search operations on Sanjeev Arora's residences and offices under the Prevention of Money

Laundering Act (PMLA) of 2002. However, there is no official statement from the ED on his arrest. Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader Bikram Singh Majithia claimed that Arora has been arrested for alleged GST fraud. Since Saturday morning, the ED has been conducting searches at four premises linked to Arora and this is the third raid in a year.

Social Security, Pension Schemes Show Our Commitment To Bring Dignity, Financial Security To People: PM Modi

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said that key Jan Suraksha Schemes, which completed 11 years of providing social security cover, reflect the government's commitment to bring dignity, assurance and financial security into the lives of the people of India. Launched on May 9, 2015, by PM Modi, the schemes — Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), and Atal Pension Yojana (APY) — were

envisioned to provide affordable financial protection to all, particularly underserved and vulnerable sections of society. "On this day, 11 years ago, key social security and pension schemes were launched by the NDA Government. They reflect our commitment to bring dignity, assurance and financial security into the lives of the people of India," the Prime Minister said in a post on X. Sharing a MyGovIndia thread, PM Modi said that "This thread highlights that the PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and PM Suraksha Bima


Yojana have had a positive impact at the grassroots". PM Modi further stated that the Atal Pension Yojana has been highly beneficial for many people, enabling them to lead a more secure life in their old age. "The scheme reflects our commitment to making social security accessible and inclusive. It is gladdening to see our Nari Shakti in particular benefit from this scheme," he mentioned. The three Jan Suraksha Schemes have reached 94.5 crore in cumulative enrolments. The enrolments under PMJJBY have exceeded 27.43 crore; under

PMSBY, more than 58.09 crore people have enrolled; and more than 9.04 crore individuals have enrolled in the APY scheme (till April 30). The PMJJBY scheme has settled claims worth more than Rs 21,500 crore for over 10.7 lakh families. Notably, the PMSBY scheme has settled claims worth more than Rs 3,660 crore for over 1.84 lakh families. These flagship schemes aim to broaden the insurance and pension landscape by shielding citizens against life's uncertainties and fostering long-term financial resilience.

MY ROOF MY SAVINGS

1 kW Solar only at ₹ 1,875*

For 1 kW Domestic Consumers* under PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana - ULA Model
(Saves over 100 units every month)



#MoChhataMoSanchaya *T&Cs apply

24x7 Toll-Free Call Centre: 1912

TPC|ODL | TPN|ODL | TPS|ODL | TPW|ODL
(Joint Ventures of Tata Power and Government of Odisha)

For You, With You, Always

TN: Rahul Gandhi To Attend Vijay's Swearing-In Ceremony ToDAY

Chennai: Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition and senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will arrive in Chennai on May 10 to attend the swearing-in ceremony of C. Joseph Vijay as the new Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. According to official sources, Rahul Gandhi is scheduled to land in Chennai by flight at around 8.40 a.m. Heavy security arrangements have been put in place across key locations in the city in view of his visit and the high-profile political event. Vijay will take oath as the Chief Minister at 10 a.m. at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Chennai. Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar will

administer the oath of office to him. Several senior national and regional political leaders, film personalities and party workers are expected to attend the ceremony. The development comes after the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam, which emerged as the single largest party in the 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections, secured the support of multiple parties to cross the majority mark in the 234-member Assembly. Though TVK fell short of a simple majority on its own, the Indian National Congress soon after the election results extended support to Vijay. The Communist parties,



Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi, and Indian Union Muslim League also announced unconditional support to the Vijay-led formation. With the backing of

alliance partners and supporting parties, the TVK-led bloc has secured the support of 120 Members of the Legislative Assembly, comfortably crossing the majority mark of

118 required to form the government in Tamil Nadu. Governor Arlekar formally invited Vijay to form the government after the alliance partners submitted letters of support to the Raj Bhavan.

Vijay is expected to take the oath along with a few members of his Cabinet, while the full ministry is likely to be expanded later.

Political observers view Vijay's rise as one of the most significant political developments in Tamil Nadu in recent years, with the actor-turned-politician set to begin his first term as Chief Minister amid heightened public and political interest across the state.

Bengal: Trinamool Announces LoP, Deputy LoPs And Chief Whip

Kolkata: Trinamool Congress, on Saturday, announced veteran party leader Sovande Chattopadhyay as the Leader of the Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly. He was elected this time from the Ballygunge Assembly constituency in south Kolkata. Trinamool Congress General Secretary and party Lok Sabha member Abhishek Banerjee, who is also the nephew of former Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, issued a statement on Saturday night announcing the name of Chattopadhyay as the Leader of the Opposition in the 18th West Bengal Assembly. Incidentally,

the Leader of the House, by virtue of being the Chief Minister of West Bengal, is Suwendu Adhikari. Adhikari was sworn in on Saturday morning as the ninth Chief Minister of West Bengal and the first Chief Minister of a Bharatiya Janata Party-led state government in the state since Independence. Chattopadhyay was the state Agriculture Minister as well as the Parliamentary Affairs Minister in the last Trinamool Congress-ruled and Mamata Banerjee-led West Bengal Cabinet from 2021 to 2026.

Earlier, he had also served as the state Power Minister. In the statement issued by the

Trinamool Congress, two women have been named as Deputy Leaders of the Opposition. One of them is actress-turned-politician Nayna Bandyopadhyay, the Trinamool Congress legislator from Chowringhee Assembly constituency in north Kolkata, who is also the wife of veteran Trinamool Congress Lok Sabha member from Kolkata Uttar constituency, Sudip Bandopadhyay. The second Deputy Leader of the Opposition, as announced by the Trinamool Congress, is Asima Patra, the party's elected legislator from Dhaniakhali Assembly constituency in Hooghly district.

Chandan Yatra in Sri Kshetra

Dancer and dancer Dr. Chittaranjan Sahani captivates the mind with dance

Bhubaneswar (Correspondent) :- The Chandan Yatra, one of the twelfth Yatras of Lord Mahaprabhu in Sri Sri Jagannath Dham, is being celebrated in a very spiritual atmosphere for twenty-one days. In Maniviman, Lord Madanmohan is accompanied by Bhudevi Sri Devi or Mahamayi Lakshmi and Mother Saraswati, in five other planes, Panchu Pandavas or Panchamahadev, and in Palinki, Ramakrishna is taking a bath in the Nanda Bhadra Chapa in the Narendra Sarovar. On this occasion, from Sri Mandir to Narendra Chakra, senior lecturer of the Department of Odia Language and Literature and international Odissi dance artist Dr. Chittaranjan Sahani, prominent Jagannath culture researcher and lecturer Pandit Surya Narayan are entertaining Shri Jiu with dance and music. During the Chandan Yatra of Rathsharma, the dance performance



especially in Chandan Sangeet is very pleasant and emotional. Purushottam Kshetra. In the presence of thousands of devotees, from the Sri Mandir through the Singh Dwar, from the Bada Dand to the Narendra Pond, in front of the Mani Vibhana, on the Chandan Chakra and on the banks of the Narendra Pond, Dr. Chittaranjan Atib is captivating the hearts of Mahaprabhu with his emotional, elegant dance and entertaining thousands of devotees. For more than three decades, Sri Kshetra has provided dance services for Mahaprabhu in various festivals such as Chandan, Sanban,

Gundicha, Bahuda, Niladri Bije, Thangana and Dola Yatra in the Sri Mandir. In the last two Nava Kalevar, he has created a unique example as a dance service provider from Daru Khilti to Koili Baikuntha. As an Odia teacher, he has been in contact with the protagonist of poetry in the class. "While teaching students, I find it very enjoyable to dance on stage in the character of the protagonist and heroine with kohl on my eyes in the evening, and the experience of seeing Mahaprabhu before my eyes and dancing in front of him cannot be expressed in words," says Dr. Chittaranjan Sahani.

Kiren Rijiju Assures Sustained Efforts To Address Decline In Parsi Population

Mumbai: Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Saturday lauded the Parsi community's contribution to the national development, reiterating the government's commitment to preserve the minority community's heritage, promote socio-economic welfare and support efforts to revive its population. Speaking at a National Seminar on "Parsis in Modern India: Navigating Cultural and Socio-Economic Pathways" at the Yashwantrao Chavan Centre, Rijiju elaborated on the government's efforts towards rejuvenation of the Avestan language



and measures to address the issue of declining Parsi population. "I want to tell Parsi community that India is the safest country for the minorities. And we (India) are growing faster and becoming the third largest economy... we are going towards 'Aatmanirbharta'. I want to tell you that

minorities are safe in the country," the Union Minister said. He lauded the achievements of the Parsi community, recalling how the Tata family sponsored India's 1920 Olympic teams and how Parsis fielded the first Indian cricket team in the 1880s. He also praised the community's immense contribution in building

India's industrial and economic foundations. "It is not just about numbers; it is the impact that matters. The government values every community and follows the dictum of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas', which, in the third term, has been further strengthened with 'Sabka Vishwas' and 'Sabka Prayas'," Rijiju said. He also invited community suggestions on the Jiyo Parsi scheme.

demographic sustainability. "Recent discussions at the national level have drawn attention to concerns such as declining population trends and changing social patterns. These are complex issues that call for a thoughtful and coordinated response, involving both policy support and active community participation," he said. Alka Upadhyaya, Secretary, National Commission for Minorities, highlighted the valuable contribution of the Parsi community to nation-building and underlined the importance of preserving the country's pluralistic cultural ethos.

Lok Adalat settles 1100 cases out of 1882 in Jagatsinghpur district

Jagatsinghpur. The 2nd National Lok Adalat of the year 2026 was held in the District Judicial Court Complex here on Saturday. As many as 1100 civil and criminal, traffic violation, cheque bounce, and matrimonial dispute cases were disposed of, and a sum of Rs 1.14

Lakh in fines was collected from the litigants and parties. Besides, about 3155 cases of bank debt were taken up in the Lok Adalat; from them, 87 cases were disposed of, and an amount of Rs 18 Lakh was collected from several debtors. District Legal Services Authority

[DLSA] Chairman cum District Session Judge Pradyumana Kumar Nayak inaugurated the Lok Adalat and spoke about the necessity of Lok Adalat for the speedy disposal of rising cases pending in several courts across the district. Among others, DLSA

secretary Biswa Kalpita Mohanty, family court judge Rashmita Dalei, ADJ Har Prasad Patnaik, CJM Narotam Sethy, sub judge Rakesh Kumar Muduli. And SDJM P K Chand was present in the Lok Adalat and conducted cases.

Tripartite MoU Signing between SMC, Hindalco, Hirakud and Feedback Foundation for achieving Garbage Free City Status

Sambalpur (Correspondent) Under the C.S.R initiative and In a significant move towards achieving "Garbage Free City" status, the Sambalpur Municipal Corporation has officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding with HINDALCO Industries Limited Hirakud and Feedback Foundation Charitable Trust. The MoU was officially exchanged between Shri Rehan Khatri, IAS Commissioner, Sambalpur Municipal Corporation, Shri Sumit Mukherjee - Unit Head Hindalco Industries

Limited and Sr Manager Feedback foundation Shri Prakash Chandra Pani, Shri Sushant Sahu Dy. Commissioner and enforcement officer, Shri Hariom Bhoi Deputy Commissioner in the presence of Unit Head - Hirakud complex - Shri Sumit Mukherjee, HR Head Hirakud complex - Shri Vishwas Shinde, Plant Head Smelter - Shri Pratap Sahu, Senior delegates of Hindalco SMC Commissioner Shri Rehan Khatri, Commissioner praised the efforts of Hindalco and Feedback



foundation to contribute towards the mission of Swachha Bharat Abhiyaan and was assertive about improving the star rating of Sambalpur

Municipal Corporation towards achieving garbage free city through proper sensitization of people. This tripartite partnership is designed

to provide a strategic and technical backbone for Sambalpur's performance in the upcoming 10th edition of the national sanitation survey, Swachh

Survekshan 2025-26. Feedback Foundation, a national-level organization identified as a Swachhta Knowledge Partner by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, will serve as the technical lead. The organization will deploy dedicated experts to provide end-to-end performance assessment and capacity building for Municipal Corporation staff and citizen representatives. HINDALCO Industries will play a pivotal role by providing the necessary funding support to drive these

transformative sanitation activities. A key feature of this intervention is the "No Open Waste" approach, a participatory model that prioritizes behavior change through citizen self-action. This methodology emphasizes 100% source segregation across four categories—wet, dry, domestic hazardous, and domestic bio-medical waste—to ensure that maximum waste is scientifically processed and less than 10% reaches landfills. Beyond technical monitoring, the

partnership aims to strengthen the local sanitation ecosystem by mainstreaming informal waste pickers and ensuring the overall welfare of Safai Mitras through safety protocols. By integrating high-level technical expertise from Feedback Foundation with robust corporate backing from HINDALCO, Sambalpur Municipal Corporation is well-positioned to achieve a "Star" rating and set a benchmark for urban cleanliness in Odisha

Agriculture department has opened the door for the contractor to build the wall

Jajpur road (Correspondent)
The government has looted millions of liters of water and it has been seen that billions of rupees from the government fund are going to be burnt in water due to the government's bigotry towards the developers who are doing low quality work. It is worth noting that the Sukinda Seed Farm of Jajpur district has been working on the construction of the fence after receiving the order from the contractor of Bhadrak region. It is alleged that the departmental executive officer came to the scene and completed his duties. The developer has assigned responsibility to a supervisor and has



completed his responsibility. It is seen that the developer who got the job is using the office house of Sukinda seed Farm to keep the family of a supervisor. It seems that the seed farm is using the electricity that the government has connected to it during the day and night. The

local people have complained that all the materials are being prepared for the construction of cement piles and fences in the Sukinda Seed Farm ditch by using millions of liters of water from the water tap in the premises of the seed farm. It is alleged that

the executive officer is using cheap cement in the premises of the seed farm without testing the quality of the cement as the executive officer (JE) and cdao jajpur does not step foot on the work site. Apart from the cement piles tendered for the construction of the wall,

other things are being done in a substandard manner. From the local executive officer to the high-ranking officials of the agriculture department, water, lines, and office buildings have been provided without cost. It is alleged that the developers and the officials of the agriculture department are sitting to pass the bill on the basis of secret understanding without checking whether the necessary raw materials for the construction of the wall are being calculated or not. Total gives permission. As a result, the residents of the region have accused the government of losing billions of rupees in the name of construction of a wall due to the low quality work of the agriculture department.

MASSIVE PUBLIC RALLY BY ODISHA JANATA CONGRESS ON MAY 12

KANTABANJI, correspondence : The Odisha Janata Congress will hold a "Maha Ganasamabesh" at GR Place on May 12, 2026. The public rally is expected to draw large crowds of party workers, supporters, and residents from across the region. Party supremo Mohammad Mukim will attend the rally and address the gathering on political, social, and developmental issues concerning the state. Party insiders said the event is a major



mobilisation drive ahead of upcoming political activities. An emergency press conference was convened at 5 PM on Friday at the party office in Kantabanji to review preparations. Senior leaders directed cadre to ensure the programme's success and appealed for

participation. Odisha Janata Congress Bolangir district secretary Rupesh Behera, along with party leaders Arun Tandi and Guptaeswar Behera, are overseeing arrangements. They have called upon the public to make the "Maha Ganasamabesh" a grand success.

Major Forest Department Raid in Kalyansinghpur: Sal Timber Worth Lakhs Seized, 3 Detained



Rayagada, correspondence: In a major crackdown against illegal timber smuggling, the Forest Department carried out a special raid in Kalyansinghpur block of Rayagada district and seized valuable sal timber worth lakhs of rupees. During the operation conducted near Siripur, forest officials confiscated 80 pieces of sal wood along with a Max pickup vehicle. According to the department, the estimated value of the seized timber is over ₹1 lakh. Sources said the Forest Department had

received reliable information about illegal transportation of sal timber from Bijepur area of Kalahandi district to JK Pur in Rayagada district. Acting on the tip-off, a team led by Range Officer Sachchidananda Parida conducted a planned raid and intercepted the vehicle carrying the timber. Three persons have been detained in connection with the incident, and they are reportedly from the Kalyansinghpur area. Forest officials are interrogating them to ascertain whether more people are involved in the

timber smuggling network. Range Officer Sachchidananda Parida stated that the operation became successful due to the alertness, cooperation, and smart strategy of the forest staff. He further informed that strict action and similar raids against illegal timber transportation will continue in the coming days. The incident has sparked discussion in the area regarding the activities of timber mafias, while locals have appreciated the Forest Department for taking prompt action against illegal forest produce smuggling.

BC Jindal Group Strengthens Educational Equity Through Scholarship Initiative

BHUBANESWAR, correspondence: BC Jindal Foundation, the CSR wing of India's leading business conglomerate, the BC Jindal Group, has announced that it has extended support directly to more than 500 children across 4 districts in 4 states by committing Rs 192 lakh. Through its foundation's initiative, the BC Jindal Scholarship, the group continues to support talented children to pursue higher education in Angul, Nashik, Ernakulam and Varanasi across the states of Odisha, Maharashtra, Kerala and Uttar Pradesh, respectively. The BC Jindal Group, led by



Shyam Sunder Jindal, Promoter, BC Jindal Group has been working toward enabling education in India's remote areas through various social initiatives of the BC Jindal Foundation. The education program has become a cornerstone of the group's commitment to social upliftment, specifically targeting children from economically

disadvantaged backgrounds. "Low family incomes and deep-rooted societal biases against girls' education often prevent talented youth from reaching their full potential. Through targeted financial aid, we are empowering academically bright, underprivileged students to access higher education and build brighter futures. We aim to create opportunities

for children to pursue education beyond primary school," said a BC Jindal Group spokesperson. In Odisha's Angul district, the foundation's BC Jindal Vidya Scholarship initiative focuses on a transparent, merit-based system across four government high schools, directly impacting 20 villages in the Kaniha block. The rural-centric scholarship model empowers financially disadvantaged yet academically meritorious girl students to excel in higher education. In Nashik, Maharashtra, the BC Jindal Foundation-supported Udayan Shalini Fellowship (USF)

initiative offers financial assistance to deserving girl students over five years from government and government aided schools, ensuring economic barriers do not disrupt their education. The unique academic excellence and personality development program for deserving, talented girls from disadvantaged socio economic backgrounds aims to transform students into empowered and dignified women - "Shalinis." Unlike atypical scholarship, it supports higher education while providing sustained mentoring, leadership development, and a strong sense of social responsibility.

MLA INSPECTS DAMAGED ROAD, ASSURES EARLY REPAIR

Paralakhemundi, correspondence: Following complaints from villagers, Paralakhemundi MLA Rupesh Panigrahi visited Dhansara village under Kharada Panchayat in Kashinagar block of Gajapati district to inspect the damaged main road and adjoining retaining wall. The issue was brought to his notice by local Sarpanch Akhil Patra and residents. The MLA assured villagers that repair work would be taken up soon and said he would write to the concerned department for immediate action. Villagers alleged that the damaged road has caused serious inconvenience for students, patients, and daily commuters.

Odisha, Chhattisgarh Renew Efforts For Amicable Resolution Of Mahanadi Water Dispute

Bhubaneswar correspondence: Fresh efforts are underway to resolve the long-pending Mahanadi water dispute through an amicable settlement between Odisha and Chhattisgarh while fully safeguarding Odisha's interests, Odisha Advocate General Pitambar Acharya said on Saturday. Addressing media persons, Acharya said a comprehensive report assessing the total water availability in the Mahanadi river basin has already been prepared ahead of any



decision on water sharing between the two states. He informed that the report was compiled after extensive deliberations and technical consultations, with engineers from Odisha and Chhattisgarh holding around 15 meetings to

prepare the data-based assessment. The Advocate General said experience from across the country shows that water disputes are rarely resolved entirely through tribunals and courts alone. Instead, he said, negotiations and mutual understanding

have often emerged as the most effective mechanism for settlement. Acharya asserted that while some degree of adjustment may be required during discussions, Odisha's core interests would not be compromised under any circumstances. Referring to earlier developments in the dispute, he alleged that certain stakeholders, driven by political interests, had opposed the Centre's proposal for a negotiated settlement and instead chose to pursue legal remedies. However,

he noted that judicial proceedings over the last seven years had made little headway in achieving a practical resolution to the dispute. In a significant development, Acharya said the tribunal has now accepted proposals submitted by both Odisha and Chhattisgarh and has expressed willingness to facilitate a mutually agreed settlement, raising hopes for a breakthrough in the long-standing interstate river water dispute.

Odisha To Establish 5 Special Cyber Courts For Swift Justice

Bhubaneswar correspondence: The Odisha government has announced plans to set up five special cyber courts across the state to ensure speedy trials in rising cases of cyber crimes. Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan shared the details, stating that these dedicated courts aim to deliver prompt justice to victims of digital offences. The minister emphasized that strict action will be taken against cyber criminals. Judges appointed to these courts will possess specialized knowledge of cyber laws and technology, enabling them to better understand and evaluate complex digital evidence. In addition, the government is planning to establish seven special courts for women to address cases related to crimes against them more efficiently.



Ratna Bhandar Inventory At Shree Jagannath Temple To Resume From May 11

PURI correspondence: After a brief suspension owing to ongoing rituals, the counting and verification of precious ornaments stored inside the inner Ratna Bhandar of the temple will resume from May 11, officials said on Saturday. According to

Chief Administrator of Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) Dr Arabinda Padhee, the inventory process will continue for two days on May 11 and 12. The verification work had earlier been paused due to the Bahara Chandan Yatra

rituals of the deities. While Saturday marks the final day of the Bahara Chandan Yatra on the occasion of Bhaunri, the Haladi Pani ritual is scheduled to be observed on Sunday. Temple authorities said the counting process had been

temporarily halted to ensure that the daily nityakanti and other temple rituals were not disrupted. However, in accordance with the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) issued by the Odisha Government, the inventory work will resume

from May 11. Further dates for the verification exercise will be announced later, officials added. The counting and verification of ornaments inside the Ratna Bhandar had commenced on April 14, and more than 100 ornaments have already been verified so

far. During the process, Bania servitors, gem experts and officials from the Reserve Bank of India remain present. The entire procedure is being conducted under CCTV surveillance, with complete videography and

photography of the ornaments also being carried out. Padhee further informed that devotees are being allowed darshan of the deities from near the Bahara Katha while the counting process is underway.

EDITORIAL

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

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

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

Water: Nature's Most Precious Gift

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

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

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

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

Humanity descending into the gutter



Priyanka Saurabh

Indian cities today appear divided into two images. One is of gleaming roads, smart city projects, sprawling malls, and cleanliness campaigns, while the other is of heaps of garbage, stinking drains, overflowing sewers, and people wading through them. Unfortunately, society often avoids seeing the second image, because it reveals not just filth but also the truth about our social character. The very people who are responsible for cleaning cities are still facing the most humiliation, insecurity, and neglect. This is not just an administrative failure, but the result of a casteist mentality that has, for thousands of years, considered certain people to be "cleaners of dirt."

It's ironic that in a society where cleanliness is equated with God, the very same person who cleans doesn't receive equal status. The very hands that keep cities clean are not respected by people at the doorsteps of their homes. The Constitution guaranteed equality, laws criminalized untouchability, but the filth of caste, deeply embedded in society's minds, remains ingrained. This is why sanitation workers still overwhelmingly belong to a single caste. It's the biggest social paradox of modern India that a country that reached the moon still forces its own citizens to clean gutters with their bare hands. Every year, news comes from different parts of the country about the deaths of sanitation workers due to toxic gas while cleaning sewers. The media briefly discusses the matter, the administration expresses grief, politicians announce compensation, and then the matter is over. But life never returns to normal for those families. The death of a worker is not just the death of one person, but the end of an entire family's hopes, their children's future, and their livelihood. The saddest thing is that society has almost accepted these deaths as "normal," as if they are not accidents but their predestined fate.

The question is, why do humans still have to descend into sewers? Can't machines do this work in this age of technology? The truth is that machines exist, technology exists, and resources exist, but the lives of sanitation workers have never been considered a priority. The lives of poor laborers are cheap for this system. This is why people are forced into toxic sewers without safety equipment. Often, contractors and officials know this is illegal, yet it continues because the victims are not influential individuals.

If a senior official, doctor, or government employee dies prematurely, the entire system swings into action. Financial assistance is provided to the family, government jobs are provided, messages from leaders arrive, and condolences are expressed. This should be the case, because every human life is precious. But why does this same sensitivity disappear when a sanitation worker dies in a sewer? Why are the tears of his wife and children considered less precious? Why is society not as disturbed by his death? The answer isn't merely economic or administrative, but social. The casteist mindset ingrained in our minds for centuries has "normalized" the suffering of sanitation workers.

In fact, the filth in our minds is more dangerous than the filth on the streets. The municipal corporation can remove the garbage from the streets, but mental garbage will only be removed by changing the mindset of generations. We have turned cleanliness into a caste, not a job. We have convinced some people that they were born to clean up filth. This thinking is the biggest threat to both democracy and humanity. In any civilized society, no profession is determined by birth, but in India, caste has determined a person's identity, respect, and even employment.

It's also ironic that a country that has launched campaigns like "Clean India" has failed to ensure the safety of sanitation workers. It's easy to grab a broom for a photo op, but it takes serious political will to change the lives of those who descend into sewers. Even today, in many municipalities, sewer cleaning is entirely dependent on contractors. To save costs, contractors don't provide safety equipment, forcing workers into the pit of death. When accidents occur, the blame is passed on to others. Rarely does any official or contractor face severe punishment. This impunity perpetuates these deaths.

It's also worth noting that sanitation workers face not only economic injustice but also social humiliation. They clean cities, but are often forced to live in slums. Their children face discrimination in schools. In many places, people still hesitate to eat with them. What kind of society is this that wants cleanliness but refuses to respect the people who do it?

We must understand that sanitation is no small task. Doctors save bodies, teachers build futures, and sanitation workers protect society from disease. If sanitation workers stopped working one day, life in cities would come to a standstill.

Epidemics would spread, and stench and infection would make life difficult. Yet, the lowest respect and highest risk are associated with that very profession. This is not only a social failure, but also a moral bankruptcy.

The problem won't be solved by mere speeches. First and foremost, complete mechanization of sewer and gutter cleaning is essential. Forcing any human being to expose themselves to toxic gases is a direct violation of human rights. Governments must seriously invest in modern machinery, robotic technology, and safety equipment. Furthermore, if a sanitation worker dies, the relevant officials and contractors should be charged with culpable homicide. This cycle will not stop until accountability is established.

Additionally, the families of sanitation workers must receive respectable compensation. The government cannot absolve itself of its responsibility by simply handing out a few lakh rupees. Assistance of at least one crore rupees, a government job for one family member, and a guarantee of education and housing for the children should be provided. Because those who lost their lives were not just laborers, but a vital part of the system that keeps society healthy.

But even laws and compensation will remain incomplete until society changes its mindset. Schools, universities, and social organizations must launch serious awareness campaigns against casteism. Children must be taught that no work is small, and a person's dignity is not diminished by their profession. Until sanitation workers receive equal respect, the dream of a "Clean India" will remain unfulfilled.

Today, the need is not just to clean cities, but to cleanse the soul of society. We must look within ourselves and ask why the death of a sanitation worker doesn't disturb us as much as the death of a senior official does. Why are jobs still divided on the basis of caste? And why, despite claiming modernity, we remain mentally centuries behind.

The true identity of a nation isn't determined by its tall buildings, wide roads, and economic growth, but by how it treats its most vulnerable and hardworking citizens. If sanitation workers continue to die in sewers and society remains silent, it's not just their defeat, but the defeat of democracy as a whole. We must acknowledge that the real filth lies not in the garbage heaps, but in the mindset that divides people along caste lines. The day this mental filth is cleared, India will truly be worthy of being called a clean, civilized, and humane nation.

The Consumer Grievance Redressal (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2026



Kishan Bhawnani

In the 21st-century global economy, consumers are no longer just the ultimate buyer in the market, but have become the central pillar of the economic structure. Digital commerce, e-commerce, online banking, fintech, mobile app-based services, artificial intelligence-based business models, and global consumer networks have provided unprecedented convenience to citizens, but at the same time, consumers' lives have also become increasingly vulnerable. Problems such as exploitation, fraud, incorrect billing, data misuse, service negligence, and unresolved complaints have also increased rapidly. This is why governments worldwide are now restructuring their laws and regulatory frameworks towards consumer-centric governance. Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhawnani, Gondia, Maharashtra, believe that against this backdrop, two important draft regulations issued by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in April 2026 are considered steps that will shape India's digital future. The first draft, the Telecom Consumer Protection (Thirteenth Amendment) Regulations, 2026, with a May 5, 2026, deadline for suggestions, includes proposals such as mandatory availability of voice and SMS packs. The second draft relates to the fourth amendment modernizing the consumer grievance redressal system, with a June 5, 2026, deadline for public suggestions. These proposals have sparked widespread debate among telecom companies, digital policy experts, consumer organizations, and ordinary citizens. This represents a major reform step towards making the Indian consumer protection system digital, transparent, timely, and accountable. India is rapidly emerging as one of the world's largest digital economies. The explosive expansion of the Unified Payment Interface, online shopping, digital banking, telecom services, and mobile internet has completely transformed consumer behavior. Millions of Indians now shop at home, make online payments, purchase insurance, obtain loans, and access government services digitally. However, this digital expansion has also led to an unprecedented increase in consumer complaints. Bank accounts are being compromised by cyber fraud, incorrect electricity bills are being sent, e-commerce companies are taking months to provide refunds, and mobile companies are failing to resolve consumer complaints in a timely manner. Traditional consumer grievance redressal

mechanisms were proving weak and slow in the face of these challenges. In response to this need, the Fourth Amendment Regulation has emerged, with the primary objective of providing consumers with "speedy, transparent, and technology-enabled justice."

The most significant aspect of this amendment is that it appears to be a step toward fully digitizing the consumer grievance redressal system. Previously, consumers had to visit departmental offices to file complaints, endure lengthy filing processes, and even minor complaints often languished for months. The new regulation promotes online portals, mobile apps, email-based complaint systems, and digital document uploading. This means that any citizen will now be able to file a complaint from their mobile phone, track its status, and receive hearing information digitally. This change is not merely a technological convenience, but a historic shift toward administrative democratization, reducing the need for citizens to rely on government offices.

This regulation is not limited to filing complaints but also seeks to ensure administrative accountability by setting time limits for complaint resolution.

Friends, if we consider the long-standing delay in resolving consumer complaints in India, it has been a serious problem. In many cases, complaints languished for years, causing consumers to lose faith in the judicial system. The proposed amendment places special emphasis on setting timelines for accepting complaints, conducting preliminary investigations, and providing final resolution. If implemented effectively, this system will mark a significant change in Indian consumer governance history. This will also increase pressure on companies and service providers to resolve consumer issues in a timely manner, otherwise they may face fines, penalties, or compensation. In fact, this amendment is not merely an administrative reform but also a necessity for India's changing economic structure. Today, India is becoming a major hub for global investment. Foreign companies are rapidly entering the Indian market. International investors also prefer to invest in countries with strong consumer protections and transparent legal frameworks. In developed countries like the European Union, the United States, Japan, and Australia, consumer rights are taken extremely seriously. Companies there face penalties of up to billions of dollars for misconduct. India also appears to be moving in this direction. The Consumer Grievances Redressal (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2026, can play a crucial role in establishing India as a responsible economy, where consumer rights are implemented in practice, not just on paper.

Friends, if we consider a crucial aspect of this regulation, it aims to strengthen control over e-commerce and digital platforms. Online shopping has grown explosively in India in the past few years. However, problems such as counterfeit products, incorrect deliveries, delayed refunds, fraudulent discounts, and misuse of consumer data have also increased rapidly. Consumers often file complaints, but companies entangle them in lengthy processes and fail to resolve them. The proposed amendment's provisions for fixing accountability for e-commerce companies, appointing a grievance officer, and regularly monitoring complaints are considered crucial. If implemented effectively, India's digital marketplace could become more secure and transparent. Today, consumers don't just buy products, they also buy digital trust. If consumers lack confidence that their complaints will be heard, the entire economic structure can be weakened. This is why global institutions like the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development consider a strong consumer protection system a crucial foundation for economic stability. This new regulation in India provides a positive signal towards developing a consumer governance system in line with global standards.

Friends, another important aspect of this amendment is the strengthening of the compensation system. For a long time, consumers in the Indian system had to fight separate legal battles to obtain justice. The proposed regulation emphasizes the concept of automatically compensating consumers in cases of incorrect billing, service negligence, unfair charges, digital fraud, and misleading advertisements. If implemented effectively, this provision could play a major role in making companies more accountable. This will save consumers both time and resources and reduce the burden on the judicial system. In India, incorrect billing and service disputes are continuously increasing in the power telecommunications banking, and insurance sectors. Consumers are often sent bills that are many times higher than the average and are threatened with service disconnection if they don't pay. Considered crucial in the new regulation is the proposal that if a consumer's bill increases abnormally, the service provider will be required to investigate automatically and service cannot be disconnected until the investigation is complete. This is a major step toward protecting consumer interests, as millions of consumers in a vast country like India have been victims of technical errors and administrative negligence.

Friends, if we consider the current overburden

of courts and commissions in consumer cases, this slows down the disposal of cases. If systems like regional ombudsman offices, online appeals, and video hearings are effectively implemented, consumers can receive quick relief. This system can prove particularly beneficial for citizens in rural and remote areas, who previously had to travel to larger cities to seek justice. The digitization of consumer commissions is also a significant feature of this amendment. Systems like e-courts, video conferencing, online case filing, and digital record management can make the judicial process more modern and transparent. After the COVID-19 pandemic, the entire world realized that digital justice systems are not just a convenience, but a necessity. In India, if consumer commissions are technologically empowered, it could help reduce the number of pending cases.

Friends, if we consider that this regulation will also face many challenges, in a country as vast and diverse as India, lawmaking is relatively easy, but its uniform and effective implementation is extremely difficult. Digital literacy is still limited in rural areas. Many consumers are unaware of the online complaint process. Consumer commissions in many states face severe staff and infrastructure shortages. If the government simply creates a digital platform but fails to provide adequate training, technical support, and public awareness campaigns, this reform may prove to be of limited impact. Furthermore, data security and cybersecurity are also significant concerns. When the complaint system is fully digital, the personal information of millions of consumers will be stored online. If cybersecurity is not strengthened, the risk of consumer data theft and digital fraud may increase. Therefore, it will be essential to develop a robust data protection policy and cybersecurity framework alongside this regulation. If we consider this issue from a global perspective, India's move is considered extremely significant. The European Union's General Data Protection Regulation and various consumer protection laws in the United States have already proven that a strong consumer rights system is the cornerstone of any modern economy. To strengthen its position in the global economy, India is now considering consumer rights not just a social issue but a matter of economic credibility. This change could establish India as a more accountable and investment-friendly nation. The social impact of this regulation could also be widespread. Poor and middle-class consumers in India often feel helpless in the face of companies and institutions. If the complaint system is truly simplified, affordable, and expedited, ordinary citizens' trust in democratic institutions will be strengthened. This will be an important step towards not only economic reform but also social justice.

47 grams of heroin seized: A youth arrested at Bramhapur

Goplapur (correspondent): The Excise Department of Bramhapur has arrested a youth near the MKCG medical College playground in Berhampur on charges of heroin trafficking. The arrested accused is Tanmay Kumar Behera (31) of Akamara Nagar area of Chhatrapur. According to information, during a raid by EI and EB Unit-2 (SD), Berhampur, the accused was caught while transporting illegal heroin in a brown colored TVS Jupiter



scooty (No. OD 07 W 0814). During the search, 47 grams of heroin kept in a polythene pouch was seized from his pant pocket. The Excise officials have also seized

the said scooty and a Galaxy A17 mobile phone along with the heroin. A case under Section 21(b) and Section 8(c) of the NDPS Act, 1985 has been registered in this regard. The accused was arrested and produced before the District and Sessions Judge's Court, Berhampur. The department have informed that the accused has been remanded in jail for 15 days while the investigation into the incident is ongoing.

Summer Camp 2026 at DAV Public School, PPL, Paradeep

PARADEEP, correspondent: DAV Public School, PPL, Paradeep successfully organized its Summer Camp 2026 from 5 May to 9 May 2026 on the school campus from 6:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. The camp aimed to provide students with a joyful learning experience beyond academics.

Students of Classes III to VIII participated enthusiastically in activities such as Yoga, Art & Craft, Music, Dance, Grooming, Dramatics, Spoken English, and Circuitrix. The camp was inaugurated by the Academic Co-ordinators of both the mediums, Mr. Brundaban Rout and Mr. Maheswar Panigrahi, and was conducted under the guidance of Mr. Sanjeeb Kumar Sahu, Principal.

The final day featured group presentations by the students, followed by a Valedictory Ceremony. Mr. Subash Kumar Dash proposed the vote of thanks. The camp reflected the school's commitment to holistic development and left the students with joyful and memorable experiences.

Memorial Temples of Saheed Laxman Nayak Inaugurated in Malkangiri

Malkangiri, correspondent: In a unique tribute to the legendary freedom fighter Saheed Laxman Nayak, two memorial temples dedicated to him were inaugurated in Malkangiri district today. The shrines were consecrated under the guidance and vision of renowned social reformer and Viswa premi Padmashree Paramhans Baba Balia. One temple has been established within the campus of the Women's College in Malkangiri,



while the other is located at the Jagannath Temple premises in Mathili. Built by the followers of Baba Balia, these structures are designed to foster a deep emotional and spiritual

connection between the public and the national hero. Addressing the gathering via video conferencing, Padmashree Baba Balia expressed his concern over the often-neglected state of statues of great personalities installed on public streets. The ceremony was graced by the presence of ADM (General) Somnath Pradhan and Sri Mukund Nayak, the grandson of Saheed Laxman Nayak, along with several other dignitaries and locals.

New President of Marwari Yuva Manch

Bhubaneswar correspondent: Yesterday, at the local La Fiesta Convention Hall in Mancheswar, Vineet Agarwal—a dedicated and energetic young member—was sworn in as the new President of the Marwari Yuva Manch, Bhubaneswar, for the 2026-2027 term. Vineet Agarwal is the younger son of the late Shri Nanuram Agarwal, a senior member of the Marwari community. Along with Vineet Agarwal, the Youth Secretary Sheetal Singhania, Youth Treasurer Anish Agarwal, and the entire team also took their oaths of office. Mr.



Suresh Jain, President of the All India Marwari Yuva Manch and the Chief Guest of the event, administered the oath. Mr. Jagmohan Periwal, the then-President of the Marwari Yuva Manch, Bhubaneswar, presented a report detailing the activities undertaken during his brief tenure; notably, the "Marwari Urja" program held in Jagannath Puri garnered immense acclaim and became a topic of

widespread discussion, drawing praise from people across India. This women-centric event witnessed the participation of over 400 young Marwari women members from all corners of the country. Following the immense success of this program, the Bhubaneswar Yuva Manch—along with its President, Yuva Jagmohan Periwal—began to be widely discussed across India.

Preparatory Meeting Held for Majhighariani Chaitra Festival at Saipriya Nagar, Rayagada

Rayagada (Correspondent): A preparatory meeting for the upcoming Maa Majhighariani Chaitra Festival was organized by the Majhighariani Puja Committee of Saipriya Nagar at the local Majhighariani Puja Mandap in Rayagada. The meeting focused on the smooth and disciplined conduct of the five-day annual religious festival, which is scheduled to be held from June 23, 2026 to June 27, 2026. Members of the committee discussed various important arrangements related to the celebration, including decoration and lighting facilities, musical and cultural



arrangements, crowd management, sanitation, and maintenance of law and order during the festival period. Special emphasis was laid on ensuring the safety and convenience of devotees who are expected to visit the puja mandap in large numbers during the Chaitra celebrations. The committee members also

discussed coordination with local administration and volunteers for proper management of traffic and public movement around the venue. The meeting was attended by Puja Committee President Chinna Rao, Treasurer Babuji, along with several committee members and local residents who actively participated in the

discussions and shared suggestions for the successful organization of the festival. The Majhighariani Chaitra Festival is considered one of the important religious celebrations in the area and is observed every year with great devotion and enthusiasm by devotees and residents of Rayagada.

Juventika Awareness Program Held at Sonepur Police Station

SUBARNAPUR (correspondent): -- A Juventika Awareness Program was held at Sonepur Police Station premises in collaboration with Odisha Police Sangathan and UNICEF. Its main objective is to create awareness among the youth about cyber security and social media. The program organized by the Police Investigation Department and Crime Branch to control crimes against adolescents and women was inaugurated by Director General of Police (DG) Dr. Yogesh Bahadur Khurania



through virtual mode and interacted with adolescents from various districts. In this context, DSP Renuka Suna, District Child Protection Officer Chaturbhuj Das, Social Worker and (UNICEF) Advisor Ghasiram Panda participated in the program organized under the supervision of Sonepur Police Station Officer Yadab Bagh.

Teenage girls, Anganwadi workers and para-legal volunteers participated in the program. In the current situation, the police have a key role to play in controlling visible and organized cyber crimes in the society. In such a situation, the Juventika awareness program is indispensable to ensure the safety of teenage boys, girls and women.

The officers were informed about the lucrative promises of employment through mobile phones, marriage at the right age, avoiding the wrong path during adolescence and how to protect themselves according to their own conscience before facing some unpleasant situations. Later, the youth were made aware through various awareness videos. On this occasion, Police Station Officer Shri Bagh interacted with the youth and girls and asked many questions to make them aware and the girls also answered them.

National Level Lok Adalats held in Malkangiri, 13615 cases decided

Malkangiri, correspondent: Malkangiri District Legal Services Authority has held National Level Lok Adalats in various courts of the district under the directions of the State Legal Services Authority. Malkangiri District Legal Service Authority, Taluk Legal Service Authority, Motu JMFC, Maithili JMFC, Kudumullugumma, Village Court, Korukonda, Malkangiri The first national level Lok Adalat has been held in all the courts of Malkangiri Giri and also in Maithili, Motu, K Gumma. The Lok Adalat was attended by, among others, Malkangiri District Judge and Chairman of Legal Service Authority Rajalakshmi Patnaik, Additional District Judge Santanu Kumar



Das, Chief Judicial Divisional Judge Dr. Pradeep Kumar Pradhan, District Legal Service Authority Secretary and Senior Civil Judge Ms. Sangita Patra, Senior Civil Judge Lopamudra Prakash, Sub-Divisional Judges Pratima Sahu and Grama Nayakari Parinita Nayak, First Class Judge Malkangiri Aditya Kumar. The District Magistrate, First Class, Mathili Rahul Kumar Jena, the District Magistrate, First Class, Mr. Anshuman Das, the

District Magistrate, First Class, K Gumma Judge Smt. Bimal Laxmi Chowdhury were present and decided various cases. A total of thirteen thousand six and fifteen cases were decided in this District Level Lok Adalat and Rs. 46 lakh 77 thousand 225 were fixed. In this Lok Adalat, all the employees of the District Court, and all the members of the Bar Association of Malkangiri and Motu were present and fully cooperated in the court work.

Supreme Court unhappy with High Court's approach, prisoner gets bail after 22 years

CUTTACK correspondent: The Supreme Court has termed an old appeal order of the Orissa High Court as "very disturbing" and granted bail to a prisoner who has been serving a jail sentence for 22 years. The Supreme Court said that it was not right to dismiss the appeal on the basis of delay alone. In this context, the Supreme Court has granted bail to Arjun Jani alias Tuntun of Nabarangpur district of Odisha. Justice J.B. Pardiwala and Justice Ujjwal Bhuyan passed this order after hearing the case. Arjun Jani of Nabarangpur district was arrested in 2004 in a murder case.

Youth and Good People Should Join Politics": Goutam Ray

JAJPUR (Correspondent): Senior BJP leader and Balasore district in-charge Goutam Ray has said that good people, especially the younger generation, should come into politics. According to him, both politics and social service are important challenges and responsibilities for today's youth. Goutam Ray has efficiently handled several important positions during his political career, including Panchayat Samiti Chairman, Zilla Parishad President, and District President of

both the BJD and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Jajpur. Even after returning a BJD ticket and facing several political challenges, he continued to stand firm on his principles and ideals. Though he contested as an MLA candidate and faced defeat, he never compromised with his political ethics. With patience and determination, he has created a distinct identity for himself in Odisha politics. Goutam Ray is widely known as an active and dedicated BJP leader. He has consistently worked

towards strengthening the party organization, increasing public outreach, and participating in various social welfare activities. In the political field, he is recognized as a calm, approachable, and hard working personality. He is also known for his constant efforts to solve the problems of the people in his region. Goutam Ray gives special importance to rural development and basic facilities such as roads, drinking water, education, and healthcare services. He actively takes part in

party programs, awareness campaigns, and social service initiatives. His contribution in spreading the ideology and principles of the BJP among the people is considered significant. Goutam Ray regularly organizes meetings, public interactions, and awareness programs to inspire the younger generation towards social service and politics. His leadership qualities and simple connection with the common people have made him a popular leader.

Second National Lok Adalat in Nabarangpur

Nabarangpur (Correspondent): The Second National Lok Adalat 2026 has been established in the District Court premises by the Nabarangpur District Legal Services Authority on the instructions of District Magistrate and Chairman of District Legal Services Authority, Nabarangpur, Prasad Keshari Patnaik. Family Law Division Judge George Lilita Pasayat has resolved 10 family dispute cases. Senior Civil Judge George Anusarani Chowdhury has resolved 01 civil

cases and collected Rs. 51,000/- in fine. Similarly, Sub-Divisional Judicial Division Judge, Nabarangpur Soumya Shankar Mahant has resolved 02 criminal cases and collected Rs. 4,09,000/- in fine. A total of 58 court cases and 34968 revenue cases have been decided in this National Lok Adalat and a revenue of Rs. 38,16,710/- has been collected. Similarly, 09 pre-trial cases of banks have also been decided and a sum of Rs. 3,44,700/- has been collected. Similarly, 22 pre-trial cases

of TPSODL have also been decided and a sum of Rs. 2,14,796/- has been collected. Additional District Judge George Vishnu Prasad Mishra, Chief Judicial Divisional Judge Seema Tripathi and Registrar District Court Shaswati Mishra attended the National Lok Adalat as other guests. District Legal Services Authority Secretary Mrs. Sai Abhispa Gochayat conducted this National Lok Adalat while the lawyers and staff of the court cooperated.

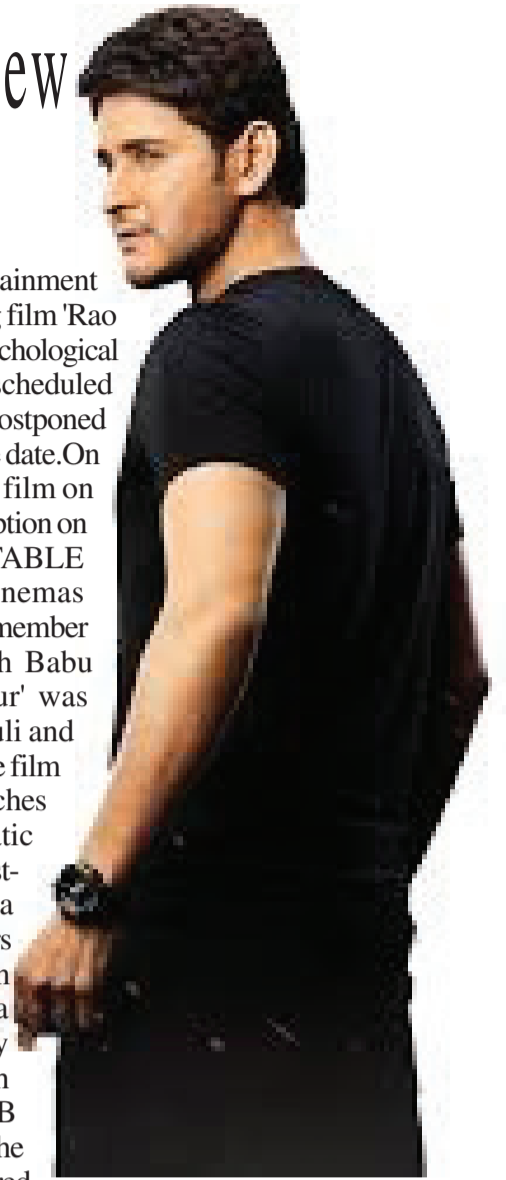
Nora Fatehi set to perform at FIFA World Cup 2026 opening ceremony in Toronto

Bollywood star and dance sensation Nora Fatehi has been confirmed to perform at the FIFA World Cup 2026 opening ceremony on June 12 at BMO Field in Toronto, Canada, making her one of the most prominent Indian performers on a global stage. She will join a star-studded lineup of Canadian and international artists, including Michael Bublé, Alanis Morissette, Alessia Cara, Elyanna, Jessie Reyez, Sanjoy, Vegedream, and William Prince. The opening ceremony in the USA will feature global music icons Anitta, Future, Katy Perry, Lisa, Rema, and Tyla, highlighting the World Cup's celebration of international music, culture, and entertainment across the three co-hosting nations. FIFA President Gianni Infantino described the Toronto event as "a powerful reflection of Canada's identity," adding that it would welcome the world through music and culture in a celebration that is "uniquely Canadian while also connected to a larger story unfolding across Mexico and the United States." The FIFA World Cup 2026 is set to be the largest tournament in history, with 104 matches across 16 host cities. The opening match will take place on June 11 in Mexico City, while the grand final is scheduled for July 19 at the New York New Jersey Stadium. Nora Fatehi, 34, made her acting debut in the 2014 Hindi film Roar: Tigers of the Sundarbans and rose to fame through special appearances in Telugu blockbusters like Temper, Baahubali: The Beginning, and Kick 2. She has since built a versatile career spanning Bollywood films such as Street Dancer 3D and Bhuj: The Pride of India, reality TV appearances on Bigg Boss and Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa, and judging roles on Dance Deewane Juniors and Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa 10, establishing herself as one of India's most internationally recognized entertainers.



Mahesh Babu production 'Rao Bahadur' postponed, new release date announced

Mahesh Babu's production house GMB Entertainment has announced a new release date for its upcoming film 'Rao Bahadur', starring Satya Dev in the lead role. The psychological thriller, directed by Venkatesh Maha, was earlier scheduled to release on June 5, 2026. The makers have now postponed the film and locked July 3, 2026, as the new release date. On Saturday, the makers shared a new poster of the film on social media along with the announcement. The caption on the post read, "A nEW DATE. An UnORgETTABLE CInEMA ExPERIEncE. #RaoBahadur in cinemas worldwide from rd JULY. RAO BAHADUR / Remember - 'Doubt is a Demon.'" The teaser for Mahesh Babu Productions' much-awaited film 'Rao Bahadur' was unveiled last year. It was shared by SS Rajamouli and gives a glimpse into a dark and mystical world. The film is described as a "psychological drama" with touches of mystical realism, promising a unique cinematic journey. Earlier, the makers had also unveiled the first-look poster of the film. The poster featured Satya Dev in a royal look, surrounded by peacock feathers and decorative elements. It also showed children hanging onto his outfit and moustache, adding a quirky touch to the visuals. The movie is directed by Venkatesh Maha and presented by Mahesh Babu. Mahesh Babu and Namrata Shirodkar's GMB Entertainment are backing the project. Before this, the first look at the film was unveiled. The poster featured Satyadev in the ensemble of a king, surrounded by peacock feathers and ornate details. It also depicts kids hanging onto Satyadev's attire and moustache, offering a humorous touch to the narrative.



7 Surprising Benefits Of Vitamin D

1. **Healthy Bones and Muscles** As we know Vitamin D is known to boost bone health. But how? Vitamin D helps with the absorption of both calcium and phosphorus, both critical for bone health and growth. Moreover, it maintains the proper balance between Calcium and Phosphorus. 2. **Keeps You Happy (Helps Manage Depression)** While Vitamin D is an important nutrient for overall health, it is also known to uplift mood. As per a recent study, vitamin D helps the production of serotonin and melatonin, which are known to manage our mood and sleep cycle. Vitamin D supplementation has shown an improvement in some symptoms of depression but not to the extent of making it a treatment. 3. **Boosts Immunity** The active form of vitamin D helps improve immunity. It modulates innate immunity and thus protects against infections. During the COVID pan-

demie, we have seen the role of vitamin D to protect and aid treatment. Various studies have pointed to the protective effects of Vitamin D and respiratory functions.

4. **Control Diabetes** Vitamin D is associated with maintaining the adequate function of the insulin-producing beta cells of the pancreas and also improving insulin sensitivity. In deficiency the opposite happens, increasing the risk of type-2 diabetes. 5. **Manages Blood Pressure** Unstable blood pressure levels are a major risk factor for CVD. Recent clinical and observational studies have shown that Vitamin D has a positive role in managing blood pressure levels through metabolic pathways. 6. **Healthy Heart** Our heart is a muscular organ. Vitamin D, as we know, keeps our muscles healthy and strong. A new study conducted by international researchers found that a diet rich in vitamin D may help improve heart health.

This Spicy And Flavourful Curry Leaves Rasam Will Become Your New Favourite

Rasam holds a special place in South Indian cuisine. Loved for its tangy flavour, it's a go-to for many when they're craving something comforting. Not just South India, but the love for rasam also extends to other parts of the country. Now, you'll come across several versions of rasam, including jasmine rasam, pachai puli rasam, coconut rasam, garlic rasam, and more. Adding to the list, we bring you another delightful recipe that will instantly get you hooked. We are talking about curry leaves rasam! The recipe for this flavourful rasam was shared by the Instagram page @thespicystory.



What Is Curry Leaves Rasam? Curry leaves rasam is a traditional South Indian recipe made with a mixture of curry leaves, spices, tamarind, and tomatoes. This flavourful and aromatic dish is often served as a soup or a side dish, and is known for its delicious taste. **Is Curry Leaves Rasam Healthy?** Curry leaves rasam is not only delicious but also packed with nutrients. The curry leaves offer numerous health benefits, including reducing inflammation and improving digestion. Additionally, the inclusion of tamarind, tomatoes and spices adds to the nutritional value of this dish.

What Pairs Well With Curry Leaves Rasam? Curry leaves rasam is a versatile dish that can be paired with a variety of foods. Try serving it with steaming hot rice, idlis, or dosas for a comforting meal. You can also pair it with some crispy vada for a satisfying snack. **How To Make Curry Leaves Rasam | Rasam Recipes** To make curry leaves rasam, follow these simple steps: Crush black pepper, cumin seeds, dried red chillies, garlic, and curry leaves using a silbatta (mortar and pestle). Then, add tamarind water to a pan along with chopped tomatoes, the ground paste, salt, turmeric, coriander, and water. Let it simmer for about 8 to 10 minutes.

Is Date (Khajoor) Sugar Better Than White Sugar? Here's What You Need To Know



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

What Are The Health Benefits Of Dates?

- Great for Digestion:** Dates are packed with fibre, which keeps your digestion smooth and prevents bloating or constipation.
- Rich in Nutrients:** They are loaded with vitamins and minerals like potassium, magnesium, and B vitamins that keep your energy levels up and your body healthy.
- Natural Energy Booster:** Thanks to its nutrient-rich profile, dates provide a quick and steady energy release. This makes them a great pre-workout or mid-day snack.
- Improves Skin:** The vitamins C and D work on your skin like wonders. These nutrients help recover your skin if you are suffering from any problems.
- Supports Bone Health:** With minerals like calcium and magnesium, dates help keep bones strong and reduce the risk of osteoporosis. **What Is Date Sugar?** Date sugar is exactly what it sounds like - powdered dried dates. It is made with dehydrated dates and unlike refined sugar, isn't exactly stripped of nutrients. It uses whole, pitted dates,

so you might also feel the taste of fibre as it won't dissolve in your hot beverages or baked goods. Plus, the caramel-like flavour makes it perfect for baking, sprinkling on breakfast cereals, or sweetening smoothies.

Can Diabetics Have Dates? As per Dr. Mukta Vasistha, H.O.D, Nutrition and Dietetics, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, everyone can eat dates. Not one but at least two to three, depending on your blood sugar levels. The reason why diabetics are asked to avoid high-sugar foods is because it might shoot their blood sugar levels. In fact, diabetics can benefit from dates since they are high in fibre. However, make sure to consume it in moderation. **So, Is Date Sugar Healthier Than White Sugar?** To understand whether or not regular white sugar is healthier than date sugar, let's first find out the calorie content in each. As per nutritionist Amita Gadre, nine grams of regular table sugar gives us about 20 calories - a high glycemic index of around 65 and spikes blood sugar quickly.

Butterfly Chicken Recipe



Ingredients : 800 gms boneless chicken cut into small pieces 3 medium potatoes thinly sliced 2 eggs, whisked 2 tsp Ginger Garlic paste 2 tsp vinegar 1 tsp red chilli powder 1 tsp chaat masala 1 ½ tsp soy sauce 1 tbsp red chilli paste 1 tsp salt (as per taste levels) 1 tsp Black pepper 2 tsp lemon juice 3 tbsp corn flour 3 tbsp all-purpose flour (maida) Sesame seeds Oil for frying

How to Make Butterfly Chicken

- In a big bowl, take chicken pieces and marinate them with ginger garlic paste and spices - red chilli powder, chaat, salt, and pepper. To this, add eggs, soy sauce, red chilli sauce, red chilli paste, vinegar, corn flour and maida. Mix it well with the chicken pieces so that they are well coated. Cover the bowl with a lid and keep it aside for 3-4 hours to marinate.
- In the meantime, slice medium-sized potatoes into thin layers and rinse them. Now take two tablespoons of corn flour and add water to it to make it slurry. Add the sliced potato pieces to the corn

- flour slurry and let it soak for 10 minutes.
- After the potato slices have been soaked, take them out. Now take one slice, gently place the marinated chicken in between, fold it and keep it together by inserting a toothpick in between.
- Repeat the same process with other chicken pieces and potato slices. Make sure the toothpick holds the meat and vegetables properly and does not just pierce them.
- In a frying pan, heat some oil or ghee on a high flame. After the oil has become hot, reduce the flame and gently place the butterfly chicken in it. Deep fry the butterfly chicken until it's crisp to perfection. Garnish with sesame seeds and voila! Your butterfly chicken is ready to serve!

RR vs GT IPL 2026 Match 52 Preview as Playoff Battle Intensifies in Jaipur

NEW DELHI: Rajasthan Royals aim to protect their top-four standing against an surging Gujarat Titans unit at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium this Saturday. Both squads enter this 52nd fixture of the season tied on 12 points, making this encounter a virtual four-pointer for postseason qualification. While the hosts recently suffered a setback against Delhi, the visitors arrive in Jaipur carrying the momentum of a three-match winning streak. Skipper Riyan Parag remains the central figure for the home side after his valiant 90-run effort in the previous outing. His leadership faces a stern



test against a Gujarat bowling attack led by a disciplined Jason Holder and the pace of Mohammed Siraj. The Royals will rely heavily on their young opening pair, Yashasvi Jaiswal and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, to set a high tempo during the

powerplay overs. Jaipur's surface traditionally offers a balanced contest, though recent games suggest a high-scoring trend with averages crossing 210 runs. Boundary dimensions here are larger than most Indian venues, which

might bring veteran spinners like Ravindra Jadeja into play during the middle phase. Dew is expected to influence the second innings, often prompting captains to choose chasing upon winning the toss. Historically, Gujarat Titans have held

a dominant grip on this rivalry, winning six out of their last eight meetings. However, the Royals can take confidence from their narrow six-run victory against the Titans earlier this April. This venue holds deep significance for local fans, as it was the fortress that helped Rajasthan secure the inaugural title back in 2008. Gujarat's resurgence is largely credited to the consistency of Sai Sudharsan and the tactical calm of Shubman Gill. With both teams desperate to avoid the mid-table scramble, tonight's result could dictate the final composition of the 2026 knockout bracket.

My Achievement Doesn't Change If Airport Is Empty': Sumit Rathi On Athlete Recognition Debate

New Delhi: Indian footballer Sumit Rathi has shared a different perspective on the debate surrounding Indian athletes, other than cricketers, not getting enough recognition, arguing that an achievement's value remains unchanged whether or not a crowd is waiting at the airport. His comments came after Indian badminton star Satwiksai Raj Rankireddy expressed disappointment over the lack of recognition for athletes from non-cricket sports in India, recalling how members of the historic Thomas Cup bronze-winning team returned quietly from Denmark without much public attention, and no one was there to receive them at the airport. Satwik had said

that despite wearing India jerseys and achieving one of the country's biggest badminton milestones, most people at the airport were more focused on IPL and politics. He added that winning bronze in the Thomas Cup was extremely difficult and felt such historic moments should have been celebrated more across the country. Reacting to those concerns, Rathi said public attention and airport crowds do not define an athlete's achievement. "I feel that the game I am playing, I am not competing with 10 or 12 countries. I am competing with 200-plus countries. The whole world plays football," Rathi told IANS. "So even if the airport is empty, it doesn't matter. Because my achievement is neither

less nor more by filling the airport or being empty. That achievement remains an achievement," he added. The defender said footballers should focus on their performances and taking Indian football to a higher level instead of comparing popularity with athletes from other sports. "I just want to do my work for my country with good intent and good effort. If we don't do it today, we will do it tomorrow. But if achievements reach people, then support will definitely come," he said. Rathi also stressed that even limited recognition matters because football in India is still growing. "Right now, maybe one million people don't know you, but at least ten thousand people know you.

NADA Issues Notice To Cricketers Yashasvi, Shafali For Whereabouts Failure: Report

New Delhi: The National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) has reportedly issued notices to Indian cricketers Yashasvi Jaiswal and Shafali Verma for a whereabouts failure under anti-doping regulations. Both players are currently part of the NADA's Registered Testing Pool (RTP) and are subject to regular testing and must provide their whereabouts information so they can be located for no-advance-notice testing. Athletes in NADA's Registered Testing Pool are required to provide whereabouts information every quarter, which includes home address, email address and phone number, an address for overnight accommodations; competition schedules and locations, including when they are taking place and where; and a 60-minute time slot

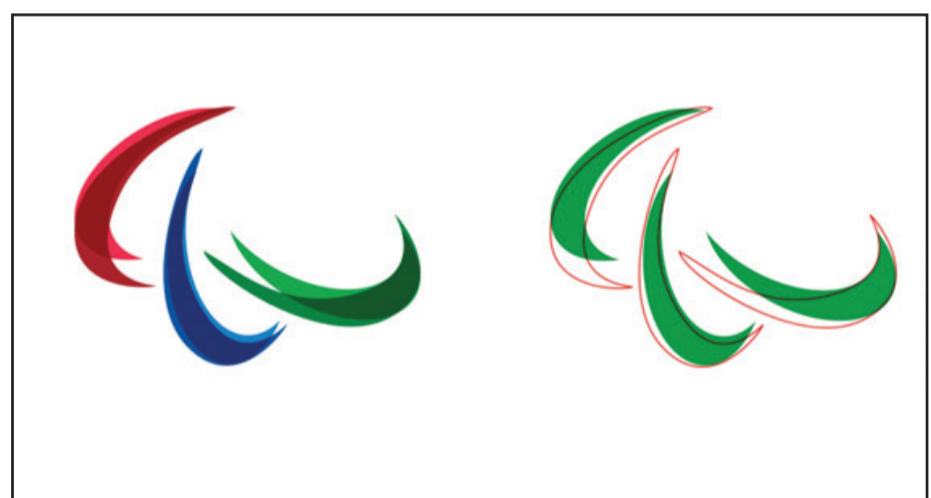


for each day where they'll be available and accessible for testing and liable for a potential 'missed test'. As per Amar Ujala report, Dope Control Officer (DCO) arrived to conduct tests on Yashasvi Jaiswal on December 17 of last year and on Shafali Verma on November 7 of last year, but both were not found at their specified locations. NADA sought explanations from both cricketers on February 18 and 20 of this year, but neither provided a response. Consequently, NADA has officially recorded a "first missed test" for both players. The report further said both

cricketers have been given seven days to provide an explanation. Information regarding the missed tests of both players has also been shared with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and the ICC. Now, both cricketers will have to be extremely cautious, as any combination of three Whereabouts Failures (filing failures and/or missed tests) within a 12-month period constitutes an anti-doping rule violation under NADA anti-doping rules - Article 2.4, which may lead to the imposition of a sanction for up to 4 years.

Para Armwrestling Meets IPC's Worldwide Reach Requirement For Brisbane 2032

Mumbai: The People's Armwrestling Federation India (PAFI) has expressed its delight over Para Armwrestling officially meeting the worldwide reach requirement set by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) for inclusion of the sport in the Brisbane 2032 Paralympic Games. The PAFI said the news has been confirmed by the World Armwrestling Federation (WAF). Following the submission of additional participation data by WAF, the IPC confirmed that Para Armwrestling now exceeds the minimum benchmark of 32 countries with regular and widespread participation, marking a significant milestone in the sport's journey towards potential Paralympic inclusion. The development is being seen as a major boost



for India's medal prospects at future Paralympic Games, with the country already possessing a strong and growing talent pool in Para Armwrestling. Over the last few years, PAFI and the Pro Panja League have consistently worked towards creating a professional platform for Para Athletes by including dedicated Para Armwrestling categories across both seasons of the Pro Panja League, as well as during Mega

Matches conducted in different regions of India. Through these initiatives, several talented Para Armwrestlers, including Chandan Kumar Behera, Butta Singh, Srinivas BV, Mohan Sharma, Arvind Rajak, and others, have been identified and given opportunities to compete on a national stage, helping expand the ecosystem and visibility of the sport in India. Speaking on the development, Parvinn

Dabass, Co-Founder of Pro Panja League, said, "This is a landmark moment not just for global armwrestling, but especially for India. We have seen tremendous talent emerge in the Para category through the Pro Panja League and our Mega Matches across the country. From the very beginning, we believed Para Armwrestling deserved equal visibility and opportunity, which is why we ensured its inclusion in every season of the league. If

Para Armwrestling becomes part of the Paralympics in Brisbane 2032, India will certainly have a strong chance of winning multiple medals." Preeti Jhangiani, President of the People's Armwrestling Federation India, Vice President of Asian Armwrestling Federation (AAF), added, "India has always been home to incredible Para sporting talent, and arm wrestling is no different. The response we have received from Paralympic athletes across the states has been extremely encouraging. This recognition from the IPC showcases the growth of the sport globally and motivates us to continue building more opportunities for Para armwrestlers in India. We are confident that with the right support and exposure, Indian athletes can become global champions in the sport."

Sahil Jadhav Wins Maiden Archery World Cup Bronze in Shanghai

NEW DELHI: Sahil Jadhav clinched his first Archery World Cup medal in Shanghai, winning bronze in the compound men's event and delivering India's opening medal of the tournament. The 25-year-old from Maharashtra defeated Denmark's veteran Martin Damsbo 147-144 in the bronze playoff, showcasing composure and precision under pressure. Jadhav, reigning World University Games champion, made only his second World Cup appearance and produced a



breakthrough run. He began by defeating India's senior compound star Abhishek Verma, then overcame Germany's Ruven Fluss, and edged past 2022 world champion Nico Wiener of Austria in a tense

shoot-off. His semifinal clash against France's world No. 3 Nicolas Girard ended in heartbreak, as Girard sealed a narrow one-point win despite Jadhav's consistent shooting. The bronze medal marks India's

only podium finish in the compound section, with other team entries bowing out early. India now looks to add medals in the recurve category, where the women's team will compete for gold, and Simranjeet Kaur begins her semifinal campaign. Jadhav's performance highlights India's rising talent in compound archery and strengthens hopes for future global success. His ability to recover from early setbacks and maintain accuracy against seasoned opponents reflects a promising trajectory for Indian archery.

Veer Chotrani Stuns Abhay Singh in All-Indian Squash Worlds Clash

NEW DELHI: India's Veer Chotrani scripted a remarkable comeback to defeat compatriot Abhay Singh in a five-game thriller at the 2026 World Squash Championships in Giza, Egypt. World No. 45 Chotrani overcame a 2-1 deficit to beat India's top-ranked player and World No. 22 Abhay Singh 3-2 (14-12, 8-11, 5-11, 11-7, 11-2) at the Palm Hills Club and PGC Golf Central Mall. The victory marked Chotrani's second win over Abhay in three meetings and earned him a spot in the second round against defending champion and World No. 1 Mostafa Asal of Egypt. The match began



with Chotrani edging a tense first game 14-12. Abhay responded strongly, taking the next two games 11-8 and 11-5. Chotrani then shifted gears, tightening his control and forcing errors to win the fourth

game 11-7. In the decider, he dominated from start to finish, closing the match 11-2 to complete a stunning turnaround. India's four-member contingent in Giza includes Ramit

Tandon, Velavan Senthilkumar, Abhay Singh, and Chotrani. Velavan will face World No. 5 Victor Crouin of France, while Tandon meets Egypt's Kareem El Torkey in his opening match.

Vedanta Aluminium expands NandGhar footprint in Odisha with new centre in Gunpur, Kalahandi

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent)—NandGhar, the flagship social impact initiative of Vedanta under the aegis of the Anil Agarwal Foundation, has marked a key milestone with the inauguration of a new centre at Saisurni village in Gunpurgram panchayat, Kalahandi district by Sarpanch Sujata Majhi. It is set to further strengthen the last-mile delivery of early childhood care and women-centric services in a remote tribal region of Odisha, while adding to the company's growing network of 631 NandGhars across the state. NandGhars are modernised anganwadis developed by Vedanta, which have emerged as crucial hubs of women and child development across rural

India. Designed to enhance service delivery under the national Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) framework, the NandGhar in Saisurni is equipped with child-friendly infrastructure including Building as Learning Aid (BaLA) walls, LED-enabled smart learning tools, hygienic kitchens and sanitation facilities, solar power, safe drinking water systems, and age-appropriate furniture. The model combines improved infrastructure with programme support through implementation partners, enabling access to millet-based nutrition, regular health check-ups, immunisation, and community-led interventions focused on behavioural change. Women from the village are also engaged in the

project through self-help groups, supporting skilling and livelihood opportunities that contribute to greater financial independence. The new centre was launched under a MoU signed with the District Social Welfare Offices of Rayagada and Kalahandi to modernize 100 Anganwadis into NandGhars in each district. Aligned with national priorities such as Poshan 2.0, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, and Digital India, the initiative complements government efforts to address malnutrition, strengthen early childhood education, and expand access to primary healthcare services in underserved areas. Speaking at the inauguration, Sarpanch Sujata Majhi said, "Vedanta's NandGhar is a blessing for

Saisurni. The facility, and the infrastructure and education support for our children will be good. This will help improve our block and support its development. We are thankful for this initiative." NandGhar is a nationwide network of modernised Anganwadi centres delivering integrated services across nutrition, early childhood education, healthcare, and women's empowerment. With over 13,000 centres across 17 states in India, the initiative is envisioned to impact 7 crore children and 2 crore women. The Saisurni centre represents a scalable model of community development in Odisha, anchored in strong institutional partnerships and designed to deepen impact across tribal districts.

International Nurses Day celebrated

Gunpur (Correspondent) :- The School of GIET Nursing at GIET University celebrated International Nurses Day with great enthusiasm and reverence on the university campus today. The programme commenced with floral tributes to Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing, in recognition of her invaluable contribution to the healthcare profession. Addressing the gathering as the chief guest, Vice President of the University, Dr. Chandra Dhvaj Panda emphasized the importance of patience and perseverance in achieving one's goals in life. He advised students to remain dedicated and compassionate in their professional journey. Highlighting the noble role of nurses, he stated that a nurse's kind behaviour and simplicity can significantly ease a patient's suffering and provide emotional comfort during difficult times. Principal of the School of Nursing, K.



Jayashree spoke about the vital role and contribution of nurses in the present-day healthcare sector and appreciated the relentless service rendered by nurses towards society. Vice-Chancellor of the University, Dr. A. V. N. L. Sharma highlighted the unparalleled contribution of nurses in daily life and encouraged students to uphold professional ethics and strive for excellence in various dimensions of the nursing profession. Controller of Examinations, Dr. P. Vijay Kumar was also present on the dais during the programme. Assistant Professor of the School

of Nursing, Ratan Kumar delivered the welcome address, while faculty member Pratiksha Padhi proposed the vote of thanks. The programme was completed by student Ipsita Padhi. The celebration concluded with colourful cultural performances presented by the students. As part of the International Nurses Day celebrations, various competitions had been organised throughout the week, and meritorious students were felicitated with mementoes by the guests. All faculty members of the School of Nursing were present on the occasion.

SEBI Mulls Additional Changes To Strengthen Buyback Framework

Mumbai: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed additional measures to its plan to reintroduce open-market buybacks through stock exchanges, including a shortened completion timeline and new safeguards for minority shareholders. SEBI, after consultation with the Primary Market Advisory Committee (PMAC), said companies would be allowed to undertake open-market buybacks which must be completed within 66 working days from the offer opening, and must use at least 40 per cent of the buyback size within the first half of the offer period. The regulator said a 66-day timeline is warranted due to recent changes under the Finance Act, 2026 to the Companies Act, with respect to the permissible gap between two buyback offers, which necessitates a balanced approach. The regulator said that a six-month-long period proposed by PMAC may make buybacks irrelevant in the context of market developments and could prove difficult for shareholders to track. As an additional safeguard, SEBI may direct freezing of shares and other specified securities held by promoters and their associates at the ISIN level during the buyback period. Existing rules bar promoters from dealing or transferring company shares from the board decision until the buyback closes. The regulator has proposed removing the requirement for a separate trading window for buyback transactions and conducting such trades through the normal market mechanism.

Ankura Hospital, Bhubaneswar Organised Awareness Program on World Lupus Day 2026

Bhubaneswar (Correspondent) On the occasion of World Lupus Day 2026, Ankura Hospital for Women & Children, Bhubaneswar, organized a special awareness program for children affected by lupus and other autoimmune diseases along with their parents and caregivers. The event was led by Dr. Debasis Patro, Consultant Pediatric Rheumatologist, who emphasized the importance of early diagnosis, timely treatment, emotional support, and long-term care in managing childhood lupus. Lupus is a chronic autoimmune disease in which the body's immune system attacks its own healthy tissues and organs. Childhood lupus is often



more aggressive and, if not treated early, can affect the kidneys, growth, emotional well-being, and overall quality of life of children. More than 20 children affected by autoimmune diseases participated in the program along with their parents. Despite facing medical challenges, the children showcased remarkable confidence and talent through singing, dancing, artwork, and sharing

their inspiring personal journeys. One of the highlights of the event was the participation of young India Book of Records Achiever Amav Pattnaik from Bhubaneswar, who completed a round-trip motorcycle expedition from Noida to Khardung La Pass at the age of 18 and is also recognized for a 48-hour skating achievement. His story inspired everyone present and reflected

the strength and determination of children battling chronic illnesses. Parents emotionally shared their experiences, struggles, and hopes while interacting with specialists and other families, creating a supportive and encouraging environment. The program concluded with a strong message that lupus patients can lead normal and successful lives with early diagnosis, regular treatment, emotional support, and proper lifestyle management. Ankura Hospital remains committed to spreading awareness and supporting families affected by childhood lupus and autoimmune diseases.

Nifty, Sensex Rise Notably This Week As Crude Prices Ease, Rupee Strengthens

Mumbai: The Indian equity benchmarks posted notable gains during the week over easing crude prices, a firmer rupee and softer 10-year bond yields despite lingering geopolitical tensions. Nifty gained 0.76 per cent during the week and dipped 0.60 per cent on the last trading day to reach 24,180. At close, Sensex was down 516 points or 0.66 per cent at 77,328. It advanced 0.54 per cent during the week. "The improvement in macro conditions shifted sentiment from early-

week caution to a more constructive stance, allowing markets to absorb profit booking triggered by fresh headlines towards the end of the week," an analyst said. Investor confidence was further supported by favourable state election outcomes and Q4 earnings that came in better than cautious expectations. Midcap and smallcap indices outperformed benchmark indices, while sectors such as autos, defence, realty, and pharma witnessed strong buying interest. Nifty Midcap100 added 3.49

per cent, while Nifty Smallcap100 gained 4.05 per cent during the week. While stable crude prices and rupee recovery offer near-term support, any renewed escalation in West Asia remains a key risk, particularly for commodity-sensitive sectors, they added. The markets ended lower on the last day of the trading week as the United States and Iran exchanged fire which prompted investors to reassess expectations of a near-term peace deal and rekindled energy supply chain concerns.

CBDT Plans Recovery Drive For Rs 2.57 Lakh Crore Tax Arrears: Report

New Delhi: The Central Board of Direct Taxes is stepping up efforts to recover Rs 2.57 lakh crore in confirmed tax demands in the current fiscal year, a report has said. Under the enforcement drive, special teams will track the top 10,000 high value arrear cases nationwide in FY27, the tax department officials told NDTV Profit. Tax recovery and compliance monitoring will see a technology-driven push from artificial intelligence, data analytics and digital forensics, they said. The CBDT officials said recovery teams may also use the CERSAI mortgage and asset database to trace properties and secured assets linked to defaulters. The tax department will monitor top advanced tax payers and identify misuse of exemptions and deductions, it added. In FY26, the board disposed of 2.24 lakh appeals involving disputed demand of Rs 8.27 lakh crore. Pending appeals have declined from 5.40 lakh to 4.95 lakh during FY26, the department officials said, adding that directions have been provided to officers to focus on recovery from non-compliant taxpayers. FY27 direct tax collection target stood at 26.97 lakh crore as per the Budget 2026. Moreover, India's direct tax collections inched up moderately in FY26 on an annual basis but missed the government's revised estimates, due to evolving macro-economic conditions. Net direct tax collections rose 5.1 per cent year-on-year to Rs 23.4 lakh crore in FY26 as per provisional data, short of the Revised Estimate (RE) of Rs 24.21 lakh crore by approximately Rs 81,000 crore, highlighting weaker-than-anticipated buoyancy in tax revenues.

Project "Kaushal 2.0" Launched at Aditya Alumina Refinery Project to Empower Local Youth

Rayagada (Correspondent) : Aditya Alumina Refinery Project, Kansariguda, has successfully launched Project Kaushal 2.0, its flagship Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative aimed at enhancing skill development and employability among local youth. The onboarding programme for the second batch of ITI trainees & First batch of Diploma trainees was organized at the project office premises, witnessing participation from over 700 community members, including local leaders, opinion makers, youth, and parents from Kasipur and Laxmipur. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Mazhar Beig, Unit



Head & President, in the presence of senior leadership including Mr. Basudev Khuntia (Head F&C), Mr. Ramesh Chandra Duvvada (Head Construction), Brig. Pratap Padhi (Head Admin & Security), Mr. Mrutunjaya Lenka (Head Mines - Bauxite Coordination), Mr. Deepak Mohanty (Head HR, IR & CSR), and Mr. Tanmay Mohanty (Department

Head CSR & R&R). Under Project Kaushal 2.0, local youth have been inducted into the second batch and will undergo ITI training at KIIT, Bhubaneswar, along with the first batch of diploma trainees who have been enrolled at CV Raman Global University, Bhubaneswar. This initiative aims to equip participants with industry-relevant skills and enhance their

livelihood opportunities. Building upon the success of the program, 46 students from the first ITI batch are already undergoing training, while 90 young women are pursuing apparel training at ABLBL, Bhubaneswar. These trainees are being groomed as master trainers for the upcoming apparel unit at Phuljoba. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Mazhar Beig stated, "Project

Kaushal 2.0 reflects our continued commitment to empowering local youth through structured skill development and industry-oriented training. We aim to build a confident, skilled, and self-reliant workforce that contributes to regional growth." He also announced the introduction of diploma training opportunities to further strengthen long-term career pathways for local youth. The initiative received widespread appreciation from the community. Beneficiaries and parents expressed gratitude for the opportunities provided, highlighting the positive impact of the company's CSR interventions in improving livelihoods and shaping a better future for the region.