



सोमनाथ  
अरि कर्म का अन्त

15001/37/2627

ସୋମଲିଙ୍ଗମ୍ ନରୋ ଦୃଷ୍ଟା ସର୍ବପାପେଃ ପ୍ରମୁକ୍ୟତେ ।  
ଲଭତେ ଫଳମ୍, ମନୋବାଞ୍ଛିତମ୍ ମୃତଃ ସ୍ୱର୍ଗ ସମାଶ୍ରୟେତ୍ ॥



# ସୋମନାଥ

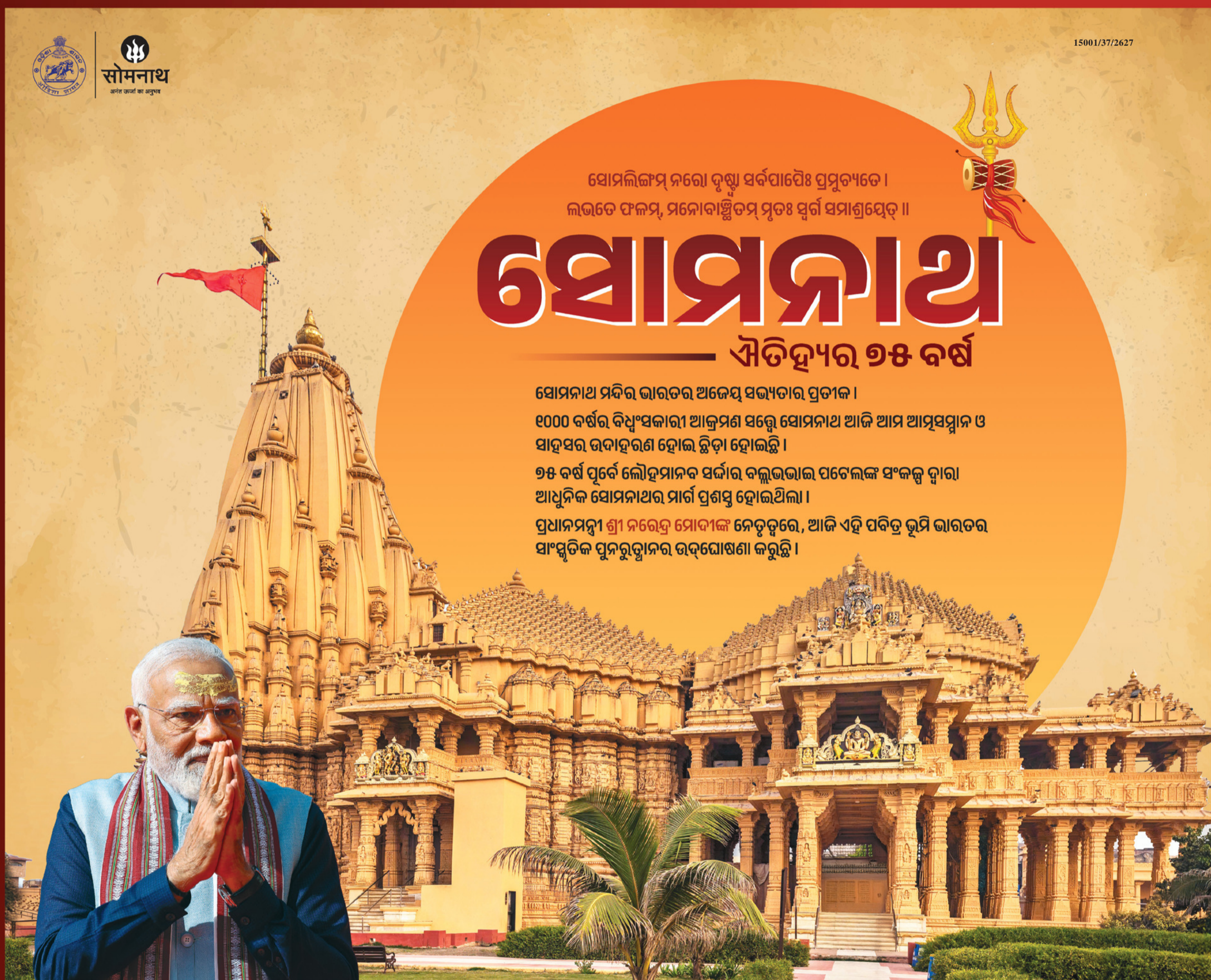
## — ଐତିହ୍ୟର ୭୫ ବର୍ଷ

ସୋମନାଥ ମନ୍ଦିର ଭାରତର ଅଜେୟ ସଭ୍ୟତାର ପ୍ରତୀକ ।

୧୦୦୦ ବର୍ଷର ବିଧ୍ୱଂସକାରୀ ଆକ୍ରମଣ ସତ୍ତ୍ୱେ ସୋମନାଥ ଆଜି ଆମ ଆତ୍ମସମ୍ମାନ ଓ ସାହିସର ଉଦାହରଣ ହୋଇ ଛିଡ଼ା ହୋଇଛି ।

୭୫ ବର୍ଷ ପୂର୍ବେ ଲୌହମାନବ ସର୍ଦ୍ଦାର ବଳଭଦ୍ରାଲ ପଟେଲଙ୍କ ସଂକଳ୍ପ ଦ୍ୱାରା ଆଧୁନିକ ସୋମନାଥର ମାର୍ଗ ପ୍ରଣୟ ହୋଇଥିଲା ।

ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଶ୍ରୀ ନରେନ୍ଦ୍ର ମୋଦୀଙ୍କ ନେତୃତ୍ୱରେ, ଆଜି ଏହି ପବିତ୍ର ଭୂମି ଭାରତର ସାଂସ୍କୃତିକ ପୁନରୁଦ୍ଧାନର ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟ ଲାଭ କରୁଛି ।



ଏହି ସ୍ୱର୍ଣ୍ଣମ ଅବସରର ସାକ୍ଷୀ ହୁଅନ୍ତୁ ।

### ମୁଖ୍ୟ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ

କଳସଯାତ୍ରା | ଭଜନ ସନ୍ଧ୍ୟା | ଓଁକାର ମନ୍ତ୍ରଜପ | ସୋମନାଥ ପୁସ୍ତିକାରେ ମନ୍ତ୍ର ଲିଖନ  
ସୋମନାଥ ସହ ଜଡ଼ିତ କଥା-ପ୍ରବଚନ

ଶ୍ରୀ ସୋମନାଥ ମନ୍ଦିର ପରିସର, ପ୍ରଭାସ ପାଟନ | ୮ ରୁ ୧୧ ମଇ, ୨୦୨୬

“ ସୋମନାଥ ମନ୍ଦିର ହେଉଛି ଏକ ଆଶାର ଗୀତ ଯାହା ଆମକୁ ଶିକ୍ଷା ଦିଏ ଯେ ସୃଜନର ଶକ୍ତି ବିନାଶ ଅପେକ୍ଷା ଅଧିକ ଶକ୍ତିଶାଳୀ । ”

- ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଶ୍ରୀ ନରେନ୍ଦ୍ର ମୋଦୀ (ଅଧ୍ୟକ୍ଷ, ଶ୍ରୀ ସୋମନାଥ ଟ୍ରଷ୍ଟ)

ସ୍କାନ କରନ୍ତୁ



ସୋମନାଥ ମନ୍ଦିରର ଦିବ୍ୟତା ଏବଂ ଭବ୍ୟତାରେ ଯୋଗ ଦିଅନ୍ତୁ ଏବଂ ଏହାର ଗୌରବମୟ ଇତିହାସର ଅଂଶ ହୁଅନ୍ତୁ ।

## Meeting between EPFO officials and Pensioners Association held at Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar (Correspondent): State leaders of All Odisha EPF Pensioners Association had a meeting with Sri Rajarshi Chakama Regional P F Commissioner -1 yesterday at EPFO Bhubaneswar office on various long pending issues which includes reconsideration of rejection cases of higher pension applications of Lift Irrigation Corporation and others, pending cases of Agro industries corporation, United Puri Niapada Cooperative Bank and others, refund of deposits made by Puri Bank, refund of deposits made by



Cashew Corporation to its 40 retired employees and few other individuals issues regarding PF and pension matter. Sri Abesh Mishra RPF-11, Sri Kashinath Saboo RPF-11 were also present in the meeting and participated in the discussion. Bijaya Kumar Jena, President Bhagyadhar Brahma

National Vice president and State General Secretary Natabara Acharya, Advisor Prafulla Kumar Das, working President Sachidanand Samantaray and Geetanjali Patra Vice president were present in the meeting. Sri Brahma presented a brief note containing seven point grievances to RPF-1

and point wise discussions were held. After detailed deliberations Regional Commissioner assured the delegation to take appropriate lawful action early in all issues and also assured to extend all cooperation to settle the pending issues of AOEPPFA as early as possible.

## B'uru: Probe Launched After Gelatin Sticks Found Near PM Modi's Programme Venue

Bengaluru: Karnataka Police recovered two gelatin sticks near the Art of Living Ashram in Bengaluru's Kaggalipura-Tataguni area ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit on Sunday. Police sources said the gelatin sticks were found around one-and-a-half hours before the Prime Minister's scheduled programme in the area. According to police, a constable deployed on duty noticed a suspicious packet lying near a compound wall situated around 20 to 25 feet away from the roadside and nearly one kilometre from the NICE Road

junction. Upon inspection, the packet was found to contain two gelatin sticks. Police immediately secured the spot, removed the gelatin sticks and initiated precautionary measures to avoid any untoward incident. Following the recovery, Bengaluru City Police and Ramanagara Police jointly launched an investigation into the matter. Central Range Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Girish said an intensive inquiry was under way to ascertain how the gelatin sticks reached the spot and who had placed them there. "The police have done a good job. The Anti-Sabotage

Team and a local police constable found the gelatin sticks. They were not found on the exact road used by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. They were found away from the road beyond the footpath. The investigation will reveal further details. At present, we are trying to ascertain who threw them at that location," DIG Girish said.

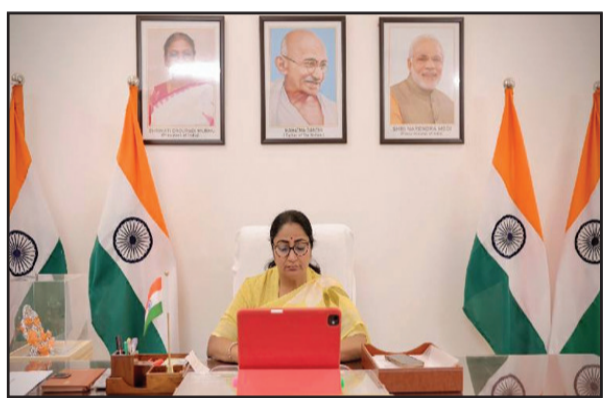
The recovery of gelatin sticks ahead of the Prime Minister's visit triggered political reactions, with the Bharatiya Janata Party terming the incident a serious security concern. Karnataka BJP president and MLA B.Y. Vijayendra

expressed concern over the development and alleged that the discovery of gelatin sticks on the route designated for the Prime Minister's movement reflected a major lapse in security arrangements. In a social media post, Vijayendra said the incident was an unpardonable failure on the part of the Congress-led state government, which is responsible for maintaining law and order in Karnataka.

He further alleged that law and order and public safety had deteriorated in the state, particularly in Bengaluru, under the present dispensation.

## Delhi CM Rekha Gupta Approves Scheme To Support Orphans Even After 18

New Delhi: Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said on Sunday that the state government will continue supporting orphaned children even after they turn 18, offering assistance in college education and job search.



The launch of the Aftercare Scheme for Young Persons on the occasion of Mother's Day reflects that the Delhi government's belief that its responsibility does not end with providing shelter and protection to children. "The aim is to ensure that every child and young adult gets the opportunity to build a safe, dignified and self-reliant future without ever feeling abandoned or unsupported," Chief Minister Gupta added. The Delhi government has earmarked Rs 3.5 crore for the scheme in the

current financial year, a statement said. Under the scheme, eligible beneficiaries will receive assistance for higher education and college studies, along with access to skill development and vocational training programmes. "The Delhi government will also focus on connecting young people with internships and employment opportunities. Financial support and a monthly stipend have also been included in the scheme," the statement

added. Marking the occasion of Mother's Day, the Chief Minister visited the Village Cottage Home in Lajpat Nagar, where she spent time interacting warmly with children living at the facility run by the Women and Child Development Department. During the interaction, Chief Minister Gupta shared details of the new aftercare initiative and said that Delhi currently has 88 Child Care Institutions, operated jointly by the government and various NGOs.

## Hope For Justice Among Citizens Is Reflection Of Nation's Character & Social Balance: HM Amit Shah

New Delhi: Union Home Minister and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Sunday released a new book titled "The Bench, the Bar, and the Bizarre" and "The Lawful and the Awful" authored by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta during a ceremony in New Delhi. The event was attended by several distinguished guests, including the Chief Justice of India Justice Surya Kant. During his address, Home Minister Amit Shah highlighted that India has significantly strengthened the roots of its democracy throughout the seventy-six-year journey of the Constitution. He noted that the country has reinforced its multi-party democratic Parliamentary system, emphasising that every legislative change introduced since 1947



has been accepted by the public. This acceptance, he said, reflects the deep contributions of the Constitution, the citizens, and the Judiciary. The Home Minister remarked that people maintain a firm belief that the Constitution remains a vigilant protector against injustice. He asserted that the doors of justice stay open for those whose rights are

violated, ensuring that even the weakest voices are heard in court. According to Home Minister Shah, the hope for justice among common citizens is a vital reflection of the nation's character and social balance. He called upon both the Judiciary and the Executive to work together to identify and rectify existing loopholes in the system through a concrete and time-bound

roadmap. Highlighting the unique structure of Indian governance, Home Minister Shah noted that the Constitution created institutions to maintain balance rather than to oppose one another. He described how the Executive takes decisions while the Judiciary performs Constitutional reviews, a process preserved through dialogue and propriety. He expressed

satisfaction that these Constitutional conventions have remained largely intact and have been further strengthened by traditions over the decades. Turning his attention to the book, the Home Minister praised Tushar Mehta's work for providing an impartial analysis that allows for introspection. The book captures the human side of the legal profession, featuring anecdotes about poetry in courtrooms, the unique styles of judges, and even the challenges posed by artificial intelligence and modern technology. Home Minister Shah noted that the release was particularly special as it coincided with Mother's Day, resonating with the author's dedication of the book to his mother.

## Space Labs, Advanced Research Infrastructure Expanding India's Scientific Outreach: Dr Jitendra Singh

New Delhi: India is rapidly widening access to advanced scientific infrastructure, space-related laboratories and cutting-edge research facilities across universities and institutions to strengthen innovation-driven learning and emerging technology capabilities among students and researchers, Union Minister of State Dr. Jitendra Singh said on Sunday. Dr. Singh visited Banaras Hindu University and reviewed the Sophisticated Analytical & Technical Help Institute (SATHI), a national-level interdisciplinary research facility established with the support of the Department of Science & Technology (DST). During the visit, the Minister said the DST is expanding scientific infrastructure and research support systems across universities and higher

educational institutions to democratise access to advanced technology, innovation and scientific facilities across the country. "Initiatives such as SATHI, FIST, ARRF-linked research support mechanisms and other institutional programmes are helping build a strong ecosystem for research, innovation, start-ups and industry-academia collaboration, particularly for young researchers, MSMEs and emerging enterprises," he stated. He added that several universities and colleges are being connected through space-related laboratories and research programmes to promote scientific temper, research-oriented learning and emerging technology capabilities among students and young researchers. "Several universities and colleges are also being

connected through space-related laboratories and research programmes to promote scientific temper, innovation-driven learning and emerging technology capabilities among students and young researchers," Dr Singh mentioned. The Minister complimented Vice Chancellor Prof A.K. Chaturvedi and the faculty members of BHU for building a successful model that other institutions can emulate. He also reviewed the infrastructure, analytical capabilities, achievements and future roadmap of the SATHI facility and inspected several high-end scientific instruments installed at the centre. The ministry informed the Minister that SATHI-BHU has been established with financial support of nearly Rs 72 crore from the DST as a shared scientific infrastructure facility offering advanced

instrumentation, analytical services and technical expertise to academia, research institutions, industries, MSMEs and start-ups. Functioning through a Section 8 company model within the university ecosystem, the centre has emerged as a multidisciplinary analytical and research support hub. The facility houses advanced technologies including Super Resolution Confocal Microscopy with Live Cell Imaging, high-end NMR spectroscopy systems, High Resolution Accurate Mass Spectrometry, clean room facilities, chromatography platforms, electrochemical workstations and isotope analysis systems. These are supporting research in pharmaceuticals, healthcare, semiconductors, life sciences, biotechnology, food sciences, environmental sciences and advanced materials.

## Bengal Minister Dilip Ghosh's Mother, Sister Appeal For Justice In RG Kar Rape Case

Kolkata: A day after Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Dilip Ghosh took oath as a Minister in the new Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in West Bengal, his mother and sister on Sunday appealed the state government to ensure justice to the post-graduate trainee doctor who was raped and murdered in the state-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in 2024. Speaking to IANS, Ghosh's sister Subhashini Paria said: "I am hoping that my brother will look after the state, especially the Jungle Mahal area."


Sitting at their residence in Kharagpur, she added: "I also appeal to the new (BJP) government in West Bengal that justice should be delivered to 'Abhaya'." The victim in

the RG Kar rape-murder case is often referred to as 'Abhaya' in West Bengal. Dilip Ghosh's mother Pushpalata Ghosh expressed happiness on her son being inducted into the state's first BJP Cabinet. She was optimistic about the BJP leader Dilip Ghosh delivering on his responsibilities. "He (her son) is diligent enough. He will certainly work to fulfill the promises that have been made to the people," she told IANS. While mentioning that she has got nothing to ask for herself from her son, Pushpalata Ghosh said: "I will ask him (Dilip Ghosh) to look after the state and work towards ensuring justice to 'Abhaya' and her family." She also urged the newly sworn-in West Bengal government to fulfill their promise of providing safety and security to women. "Women need safety in the state," she asserted. Minister Dilip Ghosh was welcomed with garlands during a visit at his Kharagpur residence. BJP's Suwendu Adhikari took oath as the ninth Chief Minister of West Bengal on Saturday. Along with him, five more Ministers — Dilip Ghosh, Agnimitra Paul, Ashok Kirtania, Nisith Pramanik and Khudiram Tudu also took oath. On Monday, Suwendu Adhikari will first hold a meeting with the top officials of the state administration.

However, not only the administrative review, he is scheduled to hold two more meetings on Monday. The Chief Minister is likely to hold a meeting with the District Magistrates on Monday afternoon.

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Hope For Justice Among Citizens Is Reflection Of Nation's Character & Social Balance: HM Amit Shah




**3**

Nepal Government, Judiciary Clash Over Chief Justice Nomination




**7**

IPL 2026 Points Table Update: Gujarat Titans Go 2nd, Gill Shines, Rabada Leads Purple Cap



**6**

Carrot Kosamba IPL 2026 Points Table Update: Gujarat Titans Go 2nd, Gill Shines, Rabada Leads Purple Cap



## Vijay Appoints Key Personnel In TN Chief Minister's Office After Taking Charge

Chennai: Hours after assuming office as the 13th Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) President C. Joseph Vijay on Sunday initiated key administrative appointments in the Chief Minister's Office (CMO), naming senior IAS officers P. Senthil Kumar and G. Lakshmi Priya as his principal aides. Senthil Kumar, who previously served as Secretary of the Health Department, has been appointed as the Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister, also designated as Special Secretary-1 in the Chief Minister's Office.

Senior IAS officer Lakshmi Priya, who was serving as Secretary of the Adi Dravidar Welfare Department, has been appointed as Special Secretary-2 to the Chief Minister. Sources said the appointment of a

third Special Secretary is expected in the coming days. Traditionally, Tamil Nadu Chief Ministers are assisted by three Special Secretaries along with a Joint Secretary in the CMO, with specific departmental responsibilities allocated among them. The appointments come shortly after Vijay formally took charge at the Tamil Nadu Secretariat following his swearing-in ceremony at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium here earlier in the day. After arriving at the Secretariat, Vijay was accorded a ceremonial guard of honour by the police. He later proceeded to the Chief Minister's chamber, where senior officials welcomed him and briefed him on administrative formalities. Officials present at the

Secretariat said Vijay appeared visibly emotional and pleasantly surprised before occupying the Chief Minister's chair for the first time. Senior minister K. A. Sengottaiyan was seen encouraging him to take his seat, following which Vijay smiled shyly before formally assuming office. Assembly Secretary Srinivasan congratulated the new Chief Minister, while senior IAS and IPS officers met him personally and extended their greetings. Several officials also introduced themselves to the newly elected Chief Minister during the interaction at the Secretariat. The new appointments are also being viewed as part of the administrative transition from the previous DMK government led by M.K. Stalin.

## Vijay Sworn In As Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, Ends Six-Decade Dravidian Parties Dominance

Chennai: Actor-cum-Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) President C. Joseph Vijay was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on Sunday, marking a historic political shift in the state, which saw an end to nearly six decades of alternating rule by the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK). Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar administered the oath of office and secrecy to Vijay at a grand ceremony held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium here. Nine ministers were also sworn in alongside him as part of the new council of ministers. The event was attended by several national and regional political leaders, including Leader of



Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, film personalities, party workers, and thousands of supporters, prompting authorities to enforce massive security arrangements in and around the venue. Chennai city police deployed heavy security, intensified vehicle checks and imposed strict access control measures ahead of the

ceremony. Special seating arrangements were made for prominent guests attending the swearing-in function.

In the front row, seats were reserved for Vijay's parents, veteran filmmaker S. A. Chandrasekhar and Shobha Chandrasekhar. Actor Trisha Krishnan and her mother were also allotted seats in the same row, drawing

considerable attention from the media and fans gathered at the venue. Vijay assumes office after the TVK-led alliance secured the support of 120 MLAs in the 234-member Tamil Nadu Assembly, comfortably crossing the majority mark of 118 required to form the government. While the TVK emerged as the single largest party in the recently concluded Assembly elections, it

fell short of an outright majority, triggering intense political negotiations over the last few days. The uncertainty finally ended on Saturday evening after the Viduthala Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) and the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) extended their support to the Vijay-led formation. Earlier, the Congress, the Communist Party of India (CPI), and the Communist Party of India-Marxist had also backed the TVK, enabling the actor-turned-politician to stake claim to form the government. Following the securing of support, Vijay met Governor Arlekar at Lok Bhavan in Chennai on Saturday night and submitted letters of support from all five allies – the Congress, the CPI, the CPI-M, the VCK, and the IUML.

## Nepal Government, Judiciary Clash Over Chief Justice Nomination

Kathmandu: Nepal's government and judiciary have come into open conflict following the Constitutional Council's recommendation of a Supreme Court judge, who ranks fourth in seniority, for the post of Chief Justice. On May 7, the council, headed by Prime Minister Balendra Shah, recommended Justice Manoj Sharma to President Ram Chandra Poudel for appointment to the post of Chief Justice, despite Sharma being fourth in seniority among Supreme Court justices, thereby breaking the decades-long tradition of appointing the senior-most justice to the position. National Assembly Chairperson



Narayan Dahal and Leader of Opposition in the House of Representatives Bhisma Raj Angdembe wrote notes of dissent against the recommendation, stressing that the long-standing tradition should not be broken. On Saturday, acting Chief Justice Sapana Pradhan Malla reacted strongly to the Constitutional Council's decision,

saying efforts were being made to bring the judiciary under the government's control. Following the conclusion of an event marking 74th National Law Day, Malla, the senior-most justice of the Supreme Court, said: "It is an attempt to turn the judiciary into an institution that surrenders and compromises with the executive body." She

said the long-held tradition of seniority had been broken. "It is not important who has been affected, but it is an attempt to control the judiciary through the discretionary power of the government," she told journalists. With the government saying that Sharma, who was recommended for chief justice, had demonstrated greater capability than other senior judges, Malla remarked: "On what basis capability was tested, I do not know. Capability can be tested through competition and work. Whatever details about capability have been presented are not correct. The question of how you judge capability as a whole is important.

## Twelve Policemen Killed In Suicide Attack In Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Islamabad: At least 12 police personnel were killed and several others injured after a suicide bomber rammed an explosive-laden vehicle into a police installation in Pakistan's northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, official sources said on Sunday. The attack targeted the installation in Bannu district of the province at 8:55 p.m. local time on Saturday, causing massive destruction to the facility, the sources told Xinhua news agency on condition of anonymity.

## Himanta Biswa Sarma Elected BJP Legislature Party Leader in Assam

NEW DELHI: Himanta Biswa Sarma has been unanimously elected as the leader of the BJP Legislature Party and the NDA Legislature Party in Assam, paving the way for his swearing-in as Chief Minister on May 12. The announcement followed a meeting of newly elected BJP MLAs at the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Bhawan in Guwahati, where the decision was celebrated as a "joyous day for Assam." The NDA alliance, which secured a decisive mandate in the Assembly elections, confirmed Sarma's leadership as the

coalition prepares to form its third consecutive government in the state. Assam BJP president Dilip Saikia said the party would meet Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya later in the day to stake a claim to form the government. Preparations for the oath-taking ceremony are underway at full pace. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend as the chief guest, joined by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, senior Union Ministers, and Chief Ministers from BJP-ruled states. Sarma expressed gratitude to party leaders and supporters, stating, "On

May 12, the NDA Council of Ministers will take oath in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. I request the people of Assam to continue blessing us in the future as well. We aim to take Assam forward and make it one of the most developed states in the country." The election of Sarma as the BJP Legislature Party leader marks a significant moment in Assam politics, reinforcing the NDA's dominance and setting the stage for a new government focused on development and governance.

## Balianta Mob Lynching: Post-Mortem Report of Constable Soumya Ranjan Swain Released

Bhubaneswar: The post-mortem report of GRP constable Soumya Ranjan Swain, who lost his life in the recent Balianta mob lynching incident, has been officially submitted to the Balianta Police by the authorities of Capital Hospital on Sunday. The release of the post-mortem findings is expected to provide critical insights into the circumstances surrounding the tragic death and is likely to be a key element in the ongoing investigation. The report will help investigators ascertain the exact cause and manner of death, thereby guiding legal proceedings and potential charges against those involved. The incident, which has sent shockwaves across Odisha, has drawn widespread attention and concern from both the public and political circles. The brutal nature of the lynching has sparked intense debate over law and order in the state, prompting calls for swift justice.

## PM Modi Unveils Major Projects For T'gana In Economic Package Worth Rs 9,400cr

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday laid the foundation stone, inaugurated and dedicated to the nation multiple development projects worth around Rs 9,400 crore for Telangana aimed at creating large scale employment and better connectivity in the state. Addressing the gathering via video conferencing, the Prime Minister highlighted Hyderabad's transformational



significance as a centre of both national and global importance and outlined how multiple

large-scale projects launched today would establish Telangana as a major manufacturing

hub. Emphasising India's progress on the Reforms Express while building modern infrastructure

across sectors, the Prime Minister identified the Zaheerabad Industrial Area as a cornerstone of this transformation, representing the Government of India's national mission to develop industrial corridors. The Prime Minister observed that thousands of crores of rupees from the Union Government will fund these facilities, creating employment pathways for thousands of young citizens in Telangana and

Hyderabad. Highlighting the multiplier effect, PM Modi emphasised, "vehicles, machinery manufactured here, and food processing industries established in the zone will empower Telangana's workers and farmers alike". He underscored how the PM MITRA Park in Warangal will catalyse a national textile revolution while providing participating units with comprehensive benefits from Union Government schemes including the PLI scheme.

## EDITORIAL

### Studying in the Midst of Hot Winds: The Unseen Problem of Children and Teachers

Every year, summer arrives with rising temperatures, scorching sunlight, and hot winds that make daily life difficult for millions of people. In many parts of India, temperatures cross 45 degrees Celsius during the peak summer months. While people working in offices or staying at home may find relief through fans, coolers, or air conditioners, millions of school children and teachers continue to spend long hours in classrooms that often lack even the most basic facilities. For many schools, especially in rural and economically weaker regions, summer is not just a season—it becomes a challenge to survival, concentration, and health. Children sit in overcrowded classrooms with poor ventilation, broken fans, inadequate drinking water, and unbearable heat. Teachers struggle to conduct lessons while dealing with exhaustion, dehydration, and discomfort themselves.

Despite affecting the physical and mental well-being of both students and educators, this issue rarely receives the attention it deserves. It appears briefly in discussions during heatwaves, but long-term solutions remain limited. The problem of studying in extreme heat has silently become one of the overlooked crises within the education system.

Rising Temperatures and Changing Climate  
Climate change has intensified weather conditions across the world, and India is among the countries facing severe heat-related challenges. Summers are becoming longer, hotter, and more dangerous. Heatwaves that were once occasional are now frequent. Rapid urbanization, deforestation, pollution, and the increasing use of concrete structures have contributed to the “urban heat island” effect, making cities even hotter. Rural regions are also experiencing changes in weather patterns. Schools, especially government institutions with limited resources, are highly vulnerable to these conditions. Many school buildings were constructed years ago without considering extreme heat conditions. As temperatures rise year after year, classrooms become increasingly unsafe and uncomfortable. The Reality of Overheated Classrooms For countless students, the classroom during summer feels more like a furnace than a place of learning.

Many schools face problems such as:  
Insufficient or non-functioning fans  
Frequent electricity cuts  
Poor ventilation systems  
Overcrowded classrooms



**Bijaya Kumar Parhi**

The Indian Premier League- IPL matches of the 19th edition are under way and the fans are getting their money's worth, letting their hair

down and dancing to the tune celebrating the victories of their respective supporting teams. The fixture of the cricket carnival and the outcomes of each match is the focal point of discussion among every cricket loving soul in every nook and corner of the nation. The baby born on 18 April, 2008 is fully now an adult and casting a magical spell all around the world. At the beginning of the 21st century the T20 cricket has evolved in the transition period when there was a hot discussion about the growing popularity of one day international cricket and the uncertainty of test cricket. The shortest version of this cricket was the brain child of Stuart Robertson. He mooted the proposal of the idea of playing this format in 2003, but it was launched in 2003, expediting a gargantuan success in England before expanding across the globe and creating the cash reach tournament like IPL. Initially, many eyebrows were raised casting aspersions of the future of this format. But now it's already ahead of the above two formats and ten editions of world cup in this format have already been played so far since its inception. The game of cricket in IPL itself, in terms of quality, has gone up several notches

Although this shortest format was born in England, later it was well fostered by Asian countries in general and Indian subcontinent is reaping its rich dividend in particular. Team India under the captaincy of Mahendra Singh Dhoni won the world cup at the inaugural season in 2007 and later the names of Rohit Sharma and Surya Kumar Yadav have been added to the coveted list in 2024 and 2026 respectively. When India won the T20 World in 2007, BCCI showed its inclination towards this format. The IPL, the blue-eyed boy

of the BCCI, started in 2008 amid debates, contention, dissension, hiccups like match fixing, slap gate issue and controversies, created an ecosystem of such astounding fiscal rewards that India has become cricketing cynosure. Today India is recognized as the powerhouse of cricket for fan following, financial muscle and the reservoir of talent. The grandeur of IPL lies in three core features- "Talent meets opportunities, catch them young and horses for courses". Many a flower is born to blush unseen. But IPL has brought that raw talent into the limelight- the unsung heroes of untrodden places have found their way to display their talent and charisma. The IPL has been a primary catalyst for national team selection, transforming standout domestic performers into international cricketers. A good number of players like Jasprit Bumrah, Hardik Pandya, Risabh Pant, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shivam Dube, Ishan Kishan, Tilak Verma, Axar Patel, Abhishek Sharma, Manish Pandey, Yuzvendra Chahal, Ruturaj Gaikward, Sai Sudharshan, Arshdeep Singh, Prasad Krishna, Venketesh Iyer, Krunal Pandya, Dhruv Jurel, Varun Chakravarthy, Rinku Singh and many more have appeared in the international cricket through IPL. These raw talents are shining in the national side having been polished in IPL matches. T20 cricket is about instincts where talent, temperament and tactics matter in this shortest version and those have really revolutionized the T20 cricket of India. The child prodigy Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, who is another new-fashioned cricketing success story, has been making headlines in each match since last year IPL. The other uncapped players like Mukul Choudhury, Sashank Singh, Sameer Rizvi, Raghuvanshi and Salil Arora, Priyansh Arya have outshone in this season so far.

The USP of this IPL is that all Indians are captaining all ten franchise teams with an exception when Pat Cummins took the reins from Ishan Kishan in the halfway of cricket caravan. All the overseas high profiled players like Travis

Head, Mitchel Marsh, Josh Hazlewood, Cameron Green, Mitchel Stark, Jason Holder and Tim David etc. are playing under Indian captains. Even the all-time Indian Greats Virat Kohli and Rabinra Jadeja are playing under two uncapped players like Rajat Patidar and Riyan Parag respectively. In India cricket has long transcended the boundaries of sport. It has become a shared emotion that unites millions. The modern era of T20 cricket celebrates boldness and innovation. Cricket, like life itself, rewards those who combine courage with patience and individual brilliance with team work.

Cricket has turned out to be an outdoor movie of every cricket loving individual. They watch cricket both for entertainment and lessons required for coping with everyday stress. Every Indian cricketer today makes it to the Indian team purely on merit. As every cricketer is born in a poor or middle-class family, they reach the pinnacle by honing their talent with hours and hours of unsparing hard work. Many cricketers have risen to the prominence through skills and gumption. The youngsters of coming generations learn that failure is just an event that can lead to success when one takes the right lessons. Cricket is played not by the motivation of money, but by the desire to leave an unmatched legacy- a motivation common across all professions. In the words of a renowned author- "The way our cricket team has dominated the world cup, it should inspire the concerted pursuit of excellence in other fields too". A moment on a cricket ground can mirror the journey of human courage, faith and aspiration. When IPL succinctly sums up the manifesto "Work hard, train hard and play hard, India have redefined this finicky format of cricket with muscular power-hitters and robust all-rounders and impact substitutes. The world is changing fast and thankfully the Indian cricket power house is keeping pace with changing times. IPL will be entertaining and producing many cerebral and dexterous cricketers in the days to come, knock on wood.

## The silence of Energy at Jagannath

**Bikram Mohapatra**

Ratna Singhasana is the lotus shaped rostrum at the innermost chamber of Puri Jagannath temple. This is also called Ratna Vedi and is the seat of the Lord – the three deities Jagannath, Balabhadra & Subhadra who are accompanied by Shree Sudarshana, Shree Devi, Bhu Devi and Lord Madhava, making it “the Sapta vigrahas” or the seven deities. The chamber of the Lord is not a mere seat of resting but is believed to be the dynamic energy field of the universe from where the Supreme bestows blessings through diverse shapes, geometric patterns, ‘blueprints’ and ‘reactors’ – the divine energy sources. And this chamber of energy is also the ‘zone of silence’, the place of no-thought or shunya.

The Skanda Purana in the fourth chapter mentions that the angels, the celestial bodies, the devatas (the Lords) love to be at Ratna Singhasana to pay obeisance to Lord Jagannath & His company.

Such is the magnetism of the Lord on the Ratna Singhasana. The benediction from Ratna Singhasana reaches every soul, matter and place in the cosmos in utter and blissful silence. I have myself experienced an eternal silence inside the sanctum sanctorum. He is Silence.

Aste yatra svayamdevomuktida purushottamam dhanyastevibudhiprakasya yevasanti kulenarah, In the place the Lord Himself, the Supreme identity and the most worship able figure, awards liberation to the very fortunate souls who live there under His protection.” bharate cot kaledese bhusvarge purushottamedaru rupi jagannatha bhaktanam abhaya pradaha, and protects His devotees from all fears.”

The Lord is the epicentre and he rests at the navel of the Conch, the Sankha Khetra or the conch shaped location. The central area of Purushottama khetra is called Nilachala or Sankha khetra, described as a daksinavarta sankha (a special Lakshmi conch shell with the hollow part on the right side) having an area of 16 square km

(the original area including the periphery) of which some part is submerged under the sea. The Lord being at the navel is meaningful.

This invisible energy, called Prana, is vital life force, which keeps us vibrant, healthy, and alive. The navel or the Manipura chakra functions as an Auric energy generator. Shakti in this chakra is Lakshmi and She is the goddess of spiritual prosperity and of wealth. This chakra through the power of Lord Karthikeya represents the power of youth. The Lord being at the navel of Sankha khetra which is the Ratna Singhasana bestows on humanity, the source of personal power and governs self-esteem, the base life energy, and the power of transformation for the Universe. The element of this Chakra is fire and the colour are yellow, bright like the sun. And hence the Beshas (the attire of the Lord) has colours which are in sync with the energy colours or nuances. The multi coloured appliques which are tied with the Kanka mundi over the deities on the Ratna Singhasana bear colours which are earth colours, and which radiate energies, unimaginable.

## India Becoming a Technical Superpower in the Digital Age



**Yogesh Kumar Goyal**

National Technology Day is celebrated in India on May 11 to commemorate the nation's scientific progress. This is the historic date

when, in the year 1998, India conducted successful nuclear tests on the soil of Pokhran, Rajasthan, introducing its scientific capability, strategic power, and technical self-reliance to the entire world. This achievement not only established India in the category of nuclear-weapon-state nations but also proved that despite limited resources, Indian scientists and engineers are capable of achieving world-class technical milestones. In honor of this proud achievement, the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee announced in 1999 that May 11 would be celebrated as 'National Technology Day.'

National Technology Day is a celebration of India's scientific consciousness, technical self-confidence, and culture of innovation. This year, it is being celebrated with the theme 'Responsible Innovation for Inclusive Development.' This theme emphasizes that the objective of technology should not just be development, but a balanced and ethical development whose benefits reach every section of society. Today's era is one of technology-based transformation. Modern achievements like Artificial Intelligence, Quantum Computing, Supercomputers, Space Science, Biotechnology, digital payment systems, and defense technology are rapidly changing human life. By making remarkable progress in all these fields, India has proved that it is not merely a consumer of technology but a nation moving toward global technical leadership.

The most significant foundation of National Technology Day is 'Operation Shakti,' i.e., the Pokhran-II nuclear tests. India successfully

completed three nuclear tests on May 11, 1998, and two on May 13. These tests made India the world's sixth nuclear power. The original name of this campaign was 'Operation Shakti-98.' In this, five nuclear devices were tested, from Shakti-1 to Shakti-5. Behind this success lay years of hard work by Indian scientists and defense experts. The Pokhran test was not just a demonstration of military power but also a symbol of technical self-reliance. Despite international pressures and sanctions, India achieved this milestone based on indigenous scientific capability. This is why National Technology Day inspires us to strengthen the spirit of Self-Reliant India (Atmanirbhar Bharat). On this same day, India achieved several other important technical successes. On May 11, 1998, the successful test flight of the indigenous aircraft 'Hansa-3' took place, and the test of the 'Trishul' missile was also successful. These achievements made it clear that India is rapidly becoming self-reliant in the fields of defense, aviation, and space technology.

Today, the influence of India's technical power is visible all over the world. The digital revolution is the biggest example of this. Until a few years ago, banking and payment processes were complex and time-consuming, but today, transactions are possible in a few seconds through mobile phones. UPI developed by India has redefined digital payments at a global level. Many countries around the world are now showing interest in adopting the Indian digital payment model. Along with this, Aadhaar made the identification system digital and secure. It is the world's largest biometric identification system, which has connected millions of people to government schemes, banking services, and digital facilities. This technology is an excellent example of inclusive development because it ensured digital access even to rural and remote areas. India's space achievements also take the spirit of National Technology Day to new heights. Chandrayaan-3, operated by ISRO, created history by making a

successful landing on the South Pole of the Moon. India became the fourth country in the world to do so. Before this, Mangalyaan had surprised the whole world by reaching Mars at a very low cost. These missions proved that India can achieve world-class scientific milestones even with limited resources.

Artificial Intelligence, or AI, is counted among the most transformative technologies in the world today. The theme for the year 2026 also places special emphasis on AI-based responsible innovation. AI is creating new possibilities in fields such as healthcare, education, agriculture, weather forecasting, and disaster management. During the Covid pandemic, technology played a vital role in saving human lives. Systems like vaccine research, digital health platforms, oxygen management, and online education proved that modern technology can be humanity's greatest ally in times of crisis. India has also made remarkable technical progress in the defense sector. The Akash missile developed by DRDO has become a symbol of India's modern security power. This missile is capable of destroying enemy fighter planes and missiles in the air. Additionally, indigenous drones, missile defense systems, and modern warfare techniques are establishing India as a global defense power.

Science and technology are not limited to laboratories; they are a means to improve general life. Today, digital education is reaching villages, farmers are using drones and AI-based agricultural techniques, health services are becoming available in remote areas through telemedicine, and e-governance has made administrative processes transparent. However, along with technical development, many challenges are also emerging. Issues such as cybersecurity, data privacy, digital inequality, and the ethical use of AI have become subjects of global concern today. If technology is not used responsibly, it can also increase problems like social inequality and unemployment. Technical

progress should be such that it remains balanced with human values, ethics, and social justice.

India is moving rapidly today toward the goal of 'Self-Reliant India' and 'Developed India 2047.' Science and technology will play the most important role in achieving this goal. India is rapidly promoting investment and research in fields like semiconductor manufacturing, green energy, quantum technology, 6G communication, space research, and biotechnology. The government is running various schemes to encourage young scientists and the startup culture. National Technology Day is also a day of inspiration for the younger generation. This day sends them the message that science and technology are not just careers but a means of nation-building. Science exhibitions, technical competitions, and innovation programs organized in schools and colleges develop a scientific temper in students. A scientific perspective in the new generation is absolutely essential to making India a global technical superpower in the future.

India's scientific journey is a story of continuous progress from 'Smiling Buddha' to 'Chandrayaan-3' and 'Digital India.' This journey is not just about achievements but also about confidence, self-reliance, and innovation. National Technology Day gives us an opportunity to think about how the right use of technology can be employed for the welfare of humanity, social equality, and sustainable development. Today, the need is for India not just to remain limited to becoming a technical power, but also to present an example of responsible, humane, and inclusive technical leadership. When science works for the benefit of humanity, when technology bridges the distance between village and city, and when the benefits of AI and the digital revolution reach the last person in society, only then will the true spirit of National Technology Day be realized. This very responsible innovation will prove to be the greatest power in making India a developed nation.

# 7 FAMILIES DEFY ODISHA CENSUS DRIVE IN MANIKAPATNA

Paralakhemundi, (Correspondent): Fresh tension surfaced in Manikapatna village under Gangabada Panchayat of Rayagada block in Gajapati district after seven families allegedly refused to cooperate with the Odisha government's census exercise in the disputed Andhra-Odisha border area. According to reports, officials of the Gajapati district administration visited the village on Saturday to carry out the census and assess the prevailing situation. While 15 families extended



cooperation with the Odisha census team after discussions, seven families opposed the process, reportedly supporting Andhra Pradesh's claim over the area. The disagreement triggered

a tense atmosphere in the village, leading to a face-to-face situation between pro-Andhra and pro-Odisha groups. Earlier, Andhra Pradesh officials were accused of erasing Odisha census

markings and replacing them with Andhra-related entries, further intensifying the dispute. Senior officials, including Rayagada Additional Tahsildar Jagamohan Padhi and district census nodal officer Sujit Pradhan, visited the village to monitor the situation and restore normalcy.

Paralakhemundi Sub-Collector Anup Panda warned that strict action would be taken against those attempting to obstruct the national census programme or create unrest in the area.

# IPL betting crackdown continues in Berhampur: Badabazar police raid, one arrested

Gopalpur (correspondent): As the police campaign continues against IPL online betting in Berhampur, Badabazar police have succeeded in busting a big online betting racket. One accused has been arrested in this incident. A case has been registered under various sections under Badabazar Police Station Case No. 297 dated 10.05.2026. The arrested accused has been identified as Rajni Ranjan Raut (27), of Shanti Nagar 4th Lane, Badabazar police station area,



Berhampur. The police have seized two mobile phones along with Rs 50,200 collected from illegal betting. According to information, on 09.05.2026 at around

9:30 pm, SI Deepak Kumar Das and his team were patrolling in the First Gate area and received a tip-off about online betting going on near Auto Nagar. Later, they raided the place

and arrested the accused. Investigation revealed that the accused was conducting betting transactions by providing ID and password to the customers through WhatsApp. The police said that he had brought the betting panel from another accused and made it look legal. The accused has been produced in court today. While the process of freezing the relevant bank accounts is underway, the police is continuing the investigation to arrest others involved in this racket.

## Sohala Prahar Namayagna ends

Patnagarh - (Correspondent) The Sohala Prahar Namayagna organized in Kapsipali village of Balangir district Khaprakhol block ended on Sunday. While 14 groups of Sankirtans participated in the Akhand Naam Yagna held for three days, a Kalash procession was held on the first day. In the procession, the organizing committee members, including hundreds of women from the village, first filled water in Kalash from the village pond and reached the Yagna site in a Kalash procession. Later, the Naam Sankirtan began and continued for three days. The Naam Sankirtan ended with the Purnahuti on Sunday noon. Later, Nagar Kirtan and baithaki Kirtan were organized. On this occasion, Pandits Sahadeva Mishra and Santosh Mishra performed as worshippers, while seven couples of Yagna Karta participated, while the villagers cooperated.

## Repeated violation of High Court order

CUTTACK, (Correspondent): In the incident of repeated violation of the court order, the High Court had ordered the Police DG to arrest and produce School and Public Education Secretary N. Thirumala Nayak. But after the request of the government lawyers, the High Court has withdrawn its decision. The hearing of the case has been fixed for next Monday. On that day, a report related to the court order will be submitted to the High Court. If the court order is not implemented within this time, then the violator is likely to be arrested, the High Court has clarified in its order. Hearing the case filed by Deepak Kumar Behera, High Court Judge Justice Krishna S. Dixit gave this order.

## Rangeilunda Block Congress Workers' Meeting

Gopalpur, (correspondent): Rangeilunda Block Congress workers' meeting held at the Kanishi Shiva Temple premises. Senior party leader and former MLA of Gopalpur, Dr. Trinath Behera, presided over the meeting while Block Congress President Gokul Kar conducted the meeting. It was discussed to strengthen the party's organization at the grassroots level and to take the party forward by forming a committee with new and old workers. Full attention was paid to the National Census Program SIR (Voter List Revision) program started by the Government of India. It



was discussed to oppose the policy of in-depth analysis of the development work being carried out in various panchayats by the block. Among others, Congress leaders Nalu Sasmal, Prabir Sawat, Ganesh Sahu, Para Rama Rao, Tripathi Pradhan, Ayodhya Swain, Suresh Maharana Rajendra Khuntia, Ayyanandra Patra, Shiva Samanta B Suri Narayana Reddy, Tuna Behera,

Dholakanda Dalai, Ganesh Chandra Sahu, Arun Behera Kuna Dalai, Harekrushna, Vasudev Patra, Shiva Prasad Samanta, Harihar Behera, Reddy, Balamram Tiadi, Niranjan Panda, Ramakant, Suresh Chandra Maharana, Niranjan Nayak, Ramachandra Pradhan, Basu Pradhan, Sarat Chandra Patra, Rajiv Raman Khuntia, Prafulla Mandal were prominent participants in the meeting.

# Vasudha Scheme in Turikela Block Loses Direction Drinking Water Projects Remain Incomplete for Years, Residents Suffer Acute Water Crisis

Kantabanji, correspondence: The much-publicized Vasudha drinking water scheme in Turikela Block of Balangir district has allegedly lost its direction, leaving thousands of residents struggling for basic drinking water facilities. Despite the passage of several years, many projects under the scheme are yet to be completed, causing widespread dissatisfaction among the local people. Villagers



from different panchayats of the block have alleged that pipelines remain unfinished, water tanks are lying incomplete, and several villages are still dependent on tube wells and other unreliable water sources. During the summer season, the crisis has intensified, forcing residents to

travel long distances to collect drinking water. Local residents have further alleged that a nexus between political leaders, government officials, and contractors is responsible for the prolonged delay in completing the projects. People claim that despite repeated complaints and

demands, no concrete steps have been taken to ensure timely completion of the schemes. The ongoing delay has triggered resentment among villagers, who accuse the authorities of neglecting rural drinking water problems. Residents have demanded an immediate investigation into the alleged irregularities and urged the administration to complete the pending projects at the earliest to provide relief to the people of the area.

## A Different Message for Today's Society Service to Mother River on Mother's Day

Nimapada, (Correspondent): A unique scene was witnessed on Mother's Day. An innovative initiative was taken to save the mother river. Students, teachers, journalists, and social workers came together to clean the Kushabhada River. They also appealed to keep the river flowing forever. The river-cleaning drive was organized jointly by the "Kushabhada Kanduchi Paribar" and the Department of Geology of Nimapada



Autonomous College. Everyone entered the water, removed weeds, and collected garbage from the river. They also cleaned the cremation ground road of Gopinathpatna

village, known for its unique heritage in Nimapada. Such social awareness activities by students pursuing education have become an inspiration for society as a whole.

Advisor of Kushabhada Kanduchi Paribar, Bikash Chandra Barik; convener Nigamananda Sahu; senior member Niranjan Sahu; geologist Manas Ranjan Swain; senior journalist Sarat Senapati; lecturers Mamatarani Swain and Rituparna Sahu; member Abhishek Sahu; along with more than 40 students, participated in the program. Everyone gave the message: "The river is our mother. If the mother survives, we will survive."

## Youth's dead body recovered in farmland

Nabarangpur (Correspondent): -The bloodied body of Jagannath Gouda of Biriguda village under Dengaguda Gram Panchayat of Kodinga police station in Nabarangpur district has been recovered. According to information, Jagannath Gouda of Biriguda village had left his house for a walk around 10 pm on Saturday night. When he did not return home at night, his family members searched for him but no news was found. Jagannath's dead body was found in a farmland in a bloodied state this morning. After coming to know about this, the family members informed the Kodinga police. The Kodinga police reached the spot, seized the body and started investigation. The body was handed over to the family after the autopsy, informed the investigation officer Deepak Kumar Jena.

## Balianta Lynching Case: IIC Transferred, Four Police Personnel Suspended

Bhubaneswar: Odisha Police on Sunday initiated disciplinary action in connection with the Balianta mob lynching case, transferring the Inspector-in-Charge (IIC) of Balianta Police Station and suspending four police personnel over alleged negligence in duty. The action follows the killing of 32-year-old GRP constable Soumya Ranjan Swain, who was allegedly beaten to death by a mob near Ramchandrapur under Balianta police limits on May 7 (Thursday). The incident occurred after Swain was accused of attempting to rape a woman in Khordha district.

# Car seized with huge quantity of Ganja, 3 arrested

SUBARNAPUR (Correspondent) --- Subarnapur district Tarbha and Dunguripali police have seized a huge quantity of ganja. Tarbha police and Dunguripali police have seized a huge quantity of ganja in two separate incidents. Tarbha police have succeeded in seizing a huge quantity of ganja from a car and arresting three people. Similarly, Dunguripali police have also seized a car with a huge quantity of ganja. However, they have not been able to catch the ganja mafia. The incident revealed that 2 quintals 72 kg 200

grams of ganja were seized from the road of Langalakata village of Dunguripali police station Beheramal Gram Panchayat at 7 am on Saturday and a Cetra car loaded with ganja was seized. Dunguripali police have seized vehicle number OD 17X 7127. The gang members have fled the scene after abandoning the vehicle. Information has been received that ganja is being smuggled from Odisha to Chhattisgarh. Police had received information from some sources that ganja was being smuggled from Odisha to Chhattisgarh

in cars. Police sources said that on Saturday, a white car was being smuggled from Boudh site to Chhattisgarh and a white car was seen coming from some source. The Sonepur police team chased the car and informed the Binika and Rampur police. The police teams of Sonepur, Binika and Rampur police stations joined hands and chased the car at 5 am. However, the ganja mafia could not cross the border and left a white car full of ganja on the farmland road near Langalakata village of Beheramaal Gram Panchayat of



Dunguripali police station. The ganja mafia fled. Rabintra of Langalakata village saw a white car on the farmland road at 7 am.

informed the Dunguripali police. Dunguripali police reached the spot at 7 am. Later at 11 am, Rampur Additional

Tahsildar Rohit Kumar Bagh, who was in charge of the magistrate, was present. The police took out the ganja from the car. A total of 270 packets of ganja were found from the car. It was weighed in the presence of Magistrate Bagh. After weighing, it was found to be 2 quintals 72 kg 200 grams. The weight of the ganja was filled in 12 big packets and sealed and seized by the police. While the ganja mafia was smuggling ganja, the police seized two number plates of Odisha and Chhattisgarh states and a car. The official

value of the seized ganja is Rs. 27 lakh, according to police sources. In this regard, the Dunguripali Police Station has received information from the investigating officer SI Amit Kumar Dhal, who has registered a case no. 115/26/318 / (4) BNS under Sections 20 (b) c 25/29, 20 (b)(ii) c 25/29 of the Excise Act. Similarly, the police conducted a raid on Badamal road at Tarbha police station and seized 106.972 kg of ganja from a four-wheeler, arrested 3 mafia members and seized 2 mobile phones.

## Shilpa Shetty to host new comedy cooking show 'Maa Hai Na'

Shilpa Shetty Kundra will host 'Maa Hai Na,' a new Hindi comedy cooking show, ZEE5 announced on Sunday. The 10-episode non-fiction series will bring together six Gen Z celebrities and their mothers for a mix of cooking challenges, emotional conversations and family bonding moments. Produced by Lil Frodo Productions House, 'Maa Hai' Na explores the clash and connection between modern Gen Z lifestyles and traditional maternal wisdom through the setting of a kitchen. According to the makers, the show focuses on "what happens when two generations are forced to truly listen to each other one recipe at a time." The series will feature mother-child pairs navigating "miscommunication, pressure, affection, and rediscovered comfort" while cooking together. The platform described the kitchen as a space where "memories, nostalgia, laughter, arguments, and emotions" unfold beyond food. The contestants announced for the show include Sunita Ahuja with daughter Tina Ahuja, Urvashi Dholakia with son Kshitij Dholakia, Tanya Mittal with mother Sunita Mittal, Gullu with mother Munesh Tanwar, Shahida Ansari with nephew Afghan, and Bhagyashree E Sharma with mother Rinju Sharma. Speaking about the show, Kaveri Das, Chief Channel Officer, & TV and Business Head, Hindi ZEE5, said, "No matter how independent or fast-paced our lives become, there are certain relationships that continue to ground us, and the bond we share with our mothers is one of them. At Hindi ZEE5, we wanted to create a format that reflects this emotion through a lens that feels fresh, entertaining, and deeply relatable for younger audiences today," in a press note. She added, "Maa Hai Na brings together the energy, humour, and everyday chaos of Gen Zs with the warmth, instincts, and life lessons that only a mother can bring. As we continue to experiment with newer non-fiction formats on the platform, the idea was to create a show that feels authentic to modern family dynamics while reminding audiences that no matter how much life changes, Maa Hai Na." Producers Neeti and Preeti from Lil Frodo Productions House said, "At Lil Frodo Productions, we are always looking to tell stories that feel deeply personal yet universally relatable. With Maa Hai Na, we wanted to go beyond a conventional cooking format and create something that captures the emotional fabric of Indian households," in a press note. They further said, "The kitchen is often where the most honest conversations happen, and this show uses that space to explore the evolving dynamic between Gen Z and their mothers. Working with Shilpa Shetty Kundra as the host brought the perfect balance of warmth, relatability, and energy to the format." Described as heartwarming, funny and emotionally rich, 'Maa Hai Na' is set to stream soon on Hindi ZEE5.



## Trisha Krishnan arrives for Vijay's Tamil Nadu CM swearing-in ceremony in Chennai

Actor Trisha Krishnan arrived at Chennai's Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on Sunday ahead of Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) chief C. Joseph Vijay's swearing-in ceremony as the next Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. The actor was seen leaving her residence in Chennai earlier in the day when reporters asked her about the significance of the occasion. Responding briefly, Trisha said, "Thank you, looking forward," before heading to the venue. Trisha appeared in a seafoam-green saree paired with a golden-motif blouse for the ceremony. She completed her traditional look with a neatly tied bun adorned with a white gajra and accessorised with jewellery featuring red stones. Her appearance was complemented by subtle makeup. The oath-taking ceremony is scheduled to begin at 10 am at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium amid heightened security arrangements. Vijay is set to assume office after TVK secured 118 seats in the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections, achieving the majority mark with additional support from Congress, CPI, CPI(M), VCK and IUML. Tamil Nadu Governor Rajendra Arlekar formally appointed Vijay as Chief Minister on Saturday and asked him to prove his majority in the Assembly before May 13. Vijay's parents also expressed happiness at the milestone. Director SA Chandrasekhar said he was looking forward to witnessing his son take oath as Chief Minister, while Vijay's mother Sobha described the occasion as especially emotional as it coincides with Mother's Day. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is also expected to attend the swearing-in ceremony. With the formation of TVK's first government, Vijay will become the first leader outside the DMK and AIADMK formations to head the Tamil Nadu government since 1967.



## 5 signs that your relationship needs work

A relationship requires constant effort and understanding to make it a healthy one. However, both partners need to be equally invested in making things work out for a longer time. Often, we may come across situations in the relationship where we feel frustrated with the partner. Those are the times we need to identify the work that is required for us to make things better. Couples Therapist Jordan Dann shared a few signs. With certain topics like parenting style, sex, emotional needs and intimacy, we feel that we have reached a stage where we are not able to find a common



ground to agree about things. We feel dissatisfied with the relationship and start to question ourselves if this is what we are looking for in a relationship. When the relationship has a history of past harm and betrayal, it is difficult to trust the partner again and start to feel that they are loyal to us.

Even though we know what we should be doing to make things better, we need some concrete behavioural practices to give ourselves a map to greater relationship health. We may start to feel that we are not on the same page as our partner. In fact, we start to disagree on everything, leading to conflicts.

## 6 sun protection tips for eyes in summers for eye patients



With the summer season fast approaching, many tend to overlook the importance of eye care, particularly those with existing eye conditions however, the rising temperatures can pose significant risks to eye health, leading to discomfort and potentially serious complications if neglected. According to the World Health Organization, there are 15 million people in the world who are blind from cataracts and for up to 10% of these individuals, the cause of their condition may have been exposure to ultraviolet radiation. She highlighted the eye issues frequently encountered during the summer season - Dry Eyes: Hot and dry weather can lead to increased evaporation of tears, resulting in dry eyes and discomfort. Sunburn of the Cornea (Photokeratitis): Excessive exposure to UV radiation from sunlight, especially during outdoor activities, can cause sunburn on the cornea, leading to pain, redness and sensitivity to light.

Allergic Conjunctivitis: Pollen, dust, and other allergens are more prevalent during the summer months, triggering allergic reactions in the eyes, such as itching, redness and watering. Increased Risk of Cataracts and Macular Degeneration: Prolonged exposure to UV rays without adequate protection can contribute to the development of cataracts and macular degeneration, leading to vision loss over time. Contact Lens-Related Issues: Heat and humidity can affect the comfort and fit of contact lenses, increasing the risk of dryness, irritation, and bacterial infections. Shielding the Eyes from Summer Sun: Essential Protection Tips

## Are vitamin E capsules effective for skin, hair and eye health? Expert shares insights

The search for the next game-changer in the pursuit of healthy, strong hair led to the utilisation of vitamin E for improving hair and skin health. Vitamin E capsules have long been hailed as a powerful remedy for a variety of beauty and health issues, from enhancing skin radiance to promoting hair growth and improving eye health. With numerous claims about their benefits, it can be challenging to discern fact from fiction. Let's delve into the science behind vitamin E, its potential advantages, and any drawbacks you should be aware of before incorporating these capsules into your beauty and health routine.

### What is vitamin E?

"Vitamin E, also known as alpha-tocopherol, is a fat-soluble vitamin noted for its powerful antioxidant qualities, which play an important role in preventing free radical damage and protecting the body's cells. Beyond its antioxidant properties, Vitamin E is essential for maintaining skin health, notably by retaining the natural lipids beneath the skin's surface, which prevents the appearance of fine lines and delays the indications of ageing with continuous use," says Dr. Madhu Chopra, MBBS, DORL, Cosmetologist and Managing Director of Studio Aesthetique, Mumbai.

### Benefits of vitamin E for skin health

Dr. Madhu further shared with HT Lifestyle, "When you consume Vitamin E, its antioxidant qualities diminish the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles,



battle oxidative stress, a major cause of premature ageing, and promote a more radiant and youthful skin. Furthermore, Vitamin E actively participates in collagen synthesis, which strengthens the protein responsible for skin structure, elasticity, and firmness, adding to its anti-ageing qualities."

### Benefits of vitamin E for hair health

Talking about hair health, Dr. Madhu said, "Vitamin E's antioxidant properties have a positive impact on hair care, promoting damage-free, lustrous locks while preventing hair loss and aiding rapid repair of damaged strands. Vitamin E promotes hair growth by reducing oxidative stress and protecting hair follicles from free radical damage, creating an ideal environment for strong hair growth." "Notably, Vitamin E's antioxidant qualities promote blood circulation throughout the body and scalp, strengthening hair strands from root to tip. Additionally, Vitamin E helps to restore dry, damaged hair follicles, promoting the creation of tough, healthy hair. However, pure Vitamin E may cause irritation, thus direct application is advised with caution. To optimise its benefits while reducing the risk of irritation, dilute Vitamin E with a moisturiser or coconut oil before application. Consistency in usage is essential for best outcomes," concludes Dr. Madhu.

## Carrot Kosambari

### Ingredients:

Carrots - 2, grated  
Coconut oil - 1 tbsp  
Mustard seeds - 1/2 tsp  
Urad dal - 1 tsp  
Dry red chilli - 1 whole  
Curry leaves - 2 sprigs  
Grated coconut - 2 tbsp  
Salt - to taste  
Method:  
Begin by heating coconut oil in a

pan over medium heat. Once the oil is hot, add mustard seeds and allow them to splutter. Next, add urad dal, whole dry red chilli, and curry leaves to the pan. Add in the grated carrots and salt, mixing everything well. Sprinkle grated coconut over the mixture and give it a thorough mix. Your delectable Carrot Kosambari is now ready to be served!



Dr Shefali Mazumdar assured that individuals can ensure their eyes remain safe and comfortable under the blazing summer sun by adopting the following protective measures - Sunglass Selection: Sunglasses serve as both a fashion accessory and a protective measure for the eyes. Opt for sunglasses that offer complete UVA and UVB protection and ensure they cover the entire eye area.

Seeking Shade: When outdoors during peak sunlight hours, individuals should seek shade whenever possible to minimize direct exposure to harmful UV rays and reduce the risk of vision-related issues.

## Cricket for Environment and Community Bonding at Angul

Angul, (Correspondent): A friendly Day-Night T20 cricket match was organized between the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB), Odisha and Jindal Steel, Angul, with the objective of promoting sportsmanship, spreading awareness on environmental responsibility and community bonding. The exciting match witnessed enthusiastic participation from officials, employees, and members of the local community, reflecting the spirit of teamwork and collaboration beyond the workplace. Captained by Sitakantha Sahu, the SPCB team posted a competitive total of 136 runs in 18.4 overs. In reply, the Jindal Steel team, led by Dhananjay Kumar Singh, successfully chased the



target with 140/5 in 12.4 overs, securing a five-wicket victory. The SPCB team displayed remarkable fighting spirit and commendable performance throughout the match. Dibyaranjan Pradhan was declared "Man of the Match" for his explosive innings of 52 runs off just 21 balls. Senior dignitaries present on the occasion included Executive Director Angul ++, Mr. P. K. Biju Nair,

Executive Director (Iron Zone), Mr. Damodar Mittal, and Vice President, EMD, Mr. Alok Kumar Sahu from Jindal Steel, along with senior officials from the State Pollution Control Board. Welcoming the players, Mr. P. K. Biju Nair and Mr. Damodar Mittal encouraged the spirit of sportsmanship and teamwork. Mr. Biju Nair stated that the State Pollution Control Board has been

partnering with Jindal Steel in promoting environmental responsibility and creating a better future for coming generations. The event carried a strong message on environmental awareness in the local eco system and emphasizing the importance of continuing to maintain excellent housekeeping and nourish greenery across the plant premises.

## 17TH KIIT INTERNATIONAL CHESS FESTIVAL 2026 TO OFFER INDIA'S HIGHEST PRIZE POOL OF RS. 1.31 CRORE

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent): KIIT Deemed to be University is all set to host the prestigious 17th KIIT International Chess Festival 2026 from 23rd to 30th May 2026 at the iconic Viswanathan Anand International Chess Hall, Campus-10, KIIT University, Bhubaneswar. Organized under the aegis of the International Chess Federation (FIDE) and the All India Chess Federation (AICF), the mega chess festival has emerged as one of the most celebrated international chess events in India and Asia. This year, the tournament will create history with a record prize pool of Rs. 1.31 Crore, making it the highest prize money chess festival in India. The event is expected to witness participation from nearly 40 countries,

featuring more than 85 international title holders. With the support and cooperation of the FIDE Headquarters, Switzerland, several top-seeded international players rated above 2600 are also participating in the tournament, significantly enhancing the competitive strength and global stature of the championship. KIIT expressed its sincere gratitude to FIDE Headquarters, Switzerland, for its support in facilitating participation of elite international players in the event. Their participation is expected to inspire a large number of young chess players from the state and further strengthen Odisha's growing prominence in Indian chess. The championship will provide a world-class competitive platform for emerging Indian chess

talents, especially players from Odisha, to compete against highly rated international players and significantly improve their international ratings and rankings. The 2026 edition will feature multiple categories with a massive prize distribution structure. Significantly, the combined prize pool for Category 'B' and Category 'C' tournaments is Rs. 72 Lakhs, a major boost for budding and intermediate players. This initiative is expected to benefit a large number of Odia chess players by giving them greater opportunities to compete at the international level, win substantial prize money, and gain exposure against titled players from across the world. Hosted at the renowned Viswanathan Anand International

Chess Hall, widely regarded as one of India's finest chess venues, the festival will provide exceptional facilities to players, including air-conditioned accommodation, nutritious three-course meals, and local transportation, ensuring a professional and comfortable environment throughout the tournament. The remarkable growth of the KIIT International Chess Festival over the last 16 years reflects the visionary leadership and unwavering commitment of Prof. (Dr.) Achyuta Samanta, Hon'ble Founder of KIIT, KISS & KIMS. His continuous efforts towards the promotion of sports, particularly chess, have transformed KIIT into a globally recognized hub for sporting excellence.

## IPL 2026: Bhuvneshwar Picks 4-23, But Tilak's Fifty Takes MI To 166/7 Against RCB

Raipur: A vintage new-ball spell from Bhuvneshwar Kumar and a composed half-century by Tilak Varma defined contrasting phases of the Mumbai Indians' innings as they posted 166/7 against the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) in their Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 clash at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium in Raipur on Sunday. After RCB skipper Rajat Patidar opted to bowl first on a surface with visible cracks and uneven bounce, Bhuvneshwar exploited the conditions brilliantly to leave Mumbai reeling inside the Power-play. The veteran seamer struck in the very first over when Ryan Rickelton miscued an attempted lofted drive to mid-off, setting the tone

for a disciplined opening burst. Mumbai briefly counterattacked through Rohit Sharma, who took on Josh Hazlewood with two sixes and a boundary in an 18-run second over. Rohit looked intent on disrupting RCB's lengths, but Bhuvneshwar responded with experience and variation. A clever knuckleball induced a thick edge from Rohit for 22, before Suryakumar Yadav's much-anticipated return lasted just one ball as he edged to Virat Kohli at first slip. From 22/1, MI suddenly slipped to 28/3, with Bhuvneshwar narrowly missing out on a hat-trick. On a tricky batting surface where stroke-making never appeared straightforward, Tilak Varma and Naman Dhir steadied the innings with a valuable rebuilding partnership. The pair



rotated strike smartly through the middle overs while punishing the occasional loose delivery. Tilak looked assured against spin, especially while taking on Krunal Pandya and Suyash Sharma, while Naman used the pace of the ball effectively, square of the wicket. RCB's fielding, however, briefly let Mumbai off the hook.

Tilak survived a regulation chance at mid-wicket when Suyash Sharma failed to hold onto a top edge, and a misfield from Romario Shepherd handed away another boundary. The missed opportunities allowed MI to gradually regain momentum. Naman, who mixed innovation with controlled aggression,

appeared set for a half-century before Rasikh Salam Dar produced a crucial breakthrough in the 13th over. The pacer deceived him with a skiddy back-of-a-length delivery that crashed into the stumps, ending a fighting 47 off 32 balls. Tilak continued to anchor the innings from the other end and brought up a well-crafted fifty with a late cut off Rasikh. He accelerated effectively in the death overs, including a towering slog sweep against Suyash and a straight boundary off Bhuvneshwar, but his dismissal in the 18th over proved a major turning point. Attempting a scoop against Bhuvneshwar, Tilak dragged the ball back onto his stumps for a 42-ball 57.

## IPL 2026 Points Table Update: Gujarat Titans Go 2nd, Gill Shines, Rabada Leads Purple Cap

Gujarat: Titans stormed to second place in the IPL 2026 points table after a commanding 77-run victory over Rajasthan Royals in match number 52. Shubman Gill led from the front with a sparkling 84 off 44 balls, while Sai Sudharsan added a steady 55 to power Gujarat to 229/4, their highest total of the season. Rajasthan's chase never gained momentum. Vaibhav Sooryavanshi managed a brisk 36 but failed to convert it into a big score. Rashid Khan dismantled the middle order with 4/33, and Jason Holder cleaned up the tail with three wickets. Rajasthan folded for 152 in 16.3 overs. This win pushed Gujarat level on points



with Sunrisers Hyderabad, who remain top due to a superior net run rate. The race for the fourth playoff spot has intensified, with RCB, RR, CSK, and KKR all in contention. Gill's knock propelled him to fourth in the Orange Cap standings with 462 runs. Sudharsan and Sooryavanshi are tied at 440 runs, just behind Gill. Heinrich Klaasen (494), Abhishek Sharma (475),

and KL Rahul (468) continue to lead the pack. In the Purple Cap race, Kagiso Rabada extended his lead with 18 wickets from 11 matches. Bhuvaneshwar Kumar and Anshul Kamboj follow with 17 wickets each, while Prince Yadav and Eshan Malinga sit at 16. With two matches scheduled today—CSK vs LSG and RCB vs MI—the points table and cap races could see further dramatic shifts.

## Aryna Sabalenka Faces Fitness Scare Ahead of French Open

NEW DELHI: Aryna Sabalenka revealed that a lower back and hip issue affected her performance during her Italian Open third-round loss to Sorana Cirstea in Rome. The World No. 1 took a medical timeout in the deciding set after struggling with movement and rotation. Sabalenka admitted that the discomfort limited her ability to play at full strength. "It's probably my lower back connected to the hip, which is limiting my full rotation. I'll take a



few days off and focus on recovery," she said after the match. The Belarusian started strongly, winning the first set 6-2 and leading 2-0 in the second, but her

rhythm faded as errors mounted. Cirstea capitalised on the momentum shift to claim a 2-6, 6-3, 7-5 victory. Sabalenka's defeat marked her second consecutive

early exit following her loss to Hailey Baptiste at the Madrid Open. She acknowledged that physical limitations and frustration affected her focus, saying her body "was limiting" her from performing at her best. Despite the setback, Sabalenka praised Cirstea's aggressive play and called the match a learning experience. She plans to rest and recover before the French Open later this month, where she will aim to regain form and chase her maiden Roland Garros title.

## 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.

## Shubman Gill Suffers Injury Scare During Gujarat Titans' Big Win

NEW DELHI: Shubman Gill gave Gujarat Titans fans a brief scare during the IPL 2026 match against Rajasthan Royals at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium on Saturday. The Gujarat Titans captain appeared to be in discomfort while batting and was seen struggling with his foot during the innings. However, after the match, Gill reassured fans that the issue was not serious and confirmed that he had only twisted his ankle while running between the wickets. Speaking after Gujarat Titans' commanding 77-run victory, Gill explained that the injury was



painful initially but improved after some time. "It twisted my ankle a little while taking a run. It was quite painful, but after around half an hour, it settled down." The update came as a relief for Gujarat Titans supporters, especially considering Gill's recent injury concerns. Over the past few months, the Indian

batter has dealt with neck sprains that forced him to miss international matches, including the ODI series and a Test against South Africa. He had also missed one IPL 2026 game earlier in the season, during which Rashid Khan led the team. Despite the ankle discomfort, Gill delivered a match-winning performance with the bat.

## Hyatt Introduces Special Offer with Up to 25% Off on Stays Across Asia Pacific

**NEW DELHI:** World of Hyatt has announced a limited-period offer for travellers across Asia Pacific, giving every guest access to meaningful savings at participating Hyatt hotels in the region. Available through its global loyalty programme, World of Hyatt, the offer is open to both members and non-members for bookings made until 1 June 2026, with travel valid through 31 October 2026. Offer at a Glance -Booking window: By 1 June 2026, Stay dates-Before 31 October 2026. Non-members-10% - 15% off Best Available Rate, Enrol free at World of Hyatt to unlock member benefits. World of Hyatt Members-Additional



5% - 10% discount on top of the non-member rate. Members save up to 25% in total. The offer is valid across a wide portfolio of Hyatt hotels in Asia Pacific, covering both business hubs and leisure destinations. In India, participating properties include Grand Hyatt Mumbai, Park Hyatt Hyderabad, Hyatt Regency Dehradun, Hyatt Centric Goa, and Alila Fort Bishangarh, while international options include Park Hyatt Tokyo, Grand

Hyatt Singapore, Hyatt Regency Yokohama, Thompson Shanghai, Alila Villas Uluwatu, Andaz Bangkok, and The Standard Pattaya Na Jomtien. Timed around peak summer and upcoming travel periods, the offer caters to both leisure and business travellers, with non-members able to enrol in the World of Hyatt program at no cost to access these benefits.

## 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 modernisedanganwadis 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.

## EARLY DIAGNOSIS CAN HELP BATTLE LUPUS: EXPERT

**Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent):** Not known to many, Lupus is an autoimmune disease which usually affects women in the age group of 20 to 50 years but can be treated to ensure the patient led a normal life. Prof. (Dr.) Pradipta Sekhar Patro, Head of Department of Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology at the Institute of Medical Sciences and SUM Hospital here said on Sunday. The immune system in the human body comprises a huge network of cells which is designed to protect humans from the environment and guard against any damage to the body's own cells. But sometimes the system sends out



confusing signals causing the body defenses to attack its own cells. Prof. (Dr.) Patro said at a news conference organised to mark the World Lupus Day. This leads to autoimmune diseases of which Lupus, also known as 'Systemic Lupus Erythematosus', is one. Lupus is difficult to diagnose as different patients may display different symptoms, he said adding it can affect the patient's skin, joints,

blood, heart, kidney and even brain. To mark the day, a rally was organised in the city by IMS and SUM Hospital with around 200 persons including doctors, nurses and healthcare personnel marching from the busy Master Canteen square to the Ram Mandir square to spread awareness about Lupus and how to fight the disease. Ms. Surama Padhi, Speaker of the Odisha Legislative

Assembly, and Mr. Babu Singh, local BJP legislator, joined the rally in which Prof. (Dr.) Puspाराज Samantasinghar, Medical Superintendent of the hospital and Prof. (Dr.) Patro was present. Ms. Padhi said that Lupus mostly affected young girls and there was need for spread of awareness about the illness to fight this menace. Mr. Singh complimented IMS and SUM Hospital for organizing the awareness program against Lupus and providing the treatment against the disease. Prof. (Dr.) Patro told the press conference, which was also attended by Prof. (Dr.) Sanghamitra Mishra,

Dean of IMS and SUM Hospital, that the disease often manifested itself with the appearance of reddish malar rash, flat or raised over the cheek bones and known as 'butterfly rash' due to its shape, which is a classical symptom of Lupus. Lupus is also called the 'great imitator' because its symptoms mimic many other diseases causing confusion and making it difficult to diagnose the ailment, he said. The disease, however, is not contagious. But the patients should avoid sunlight which is known to aggravate Lupus, Prof. (Dr.) Patro said adding in about 60 to 70 per cent of the patients, the disease affects the kidney.

## Sensex, Nifty Outlook Remains Positive Despite Iran-US Tensions: Analysts

**Mumbai:** Indian equity benchmarks ended lower on Friday amid rising geopolitical tensions after reported clashes between Iran and the US near the Strait of Hormuz dampened investor sentiment. Despite the weakness, market experts believe the broader trend for both the Sensex and Nifty remains positive, although volatility could persist in the near term. The Nifty declined 0.55 per cent to settle at 24,193, while the Sensex fell 0.67 per cent to close at 77,321. However, both benchmark indices

managed to end the week with gains of more than 0.70 per cent despite sharp intra-day swings. In the broader market, the Nifty Smallcap 100 rose 0.22 per cent, while the Nifty Midcap 100 slipped 0.15 per cent. According to market experts, the Sensex continues to show strength from a technical perspective despite Friday's correction. "In the near term, immediate downside support is placed in the 54,600-54,200 zone in case selling pressure re-emerges," an analyst stated. "On the upside,

56,400 acts as immediate resistance, while 56,800 stands as the next key supply zone," the analyst added. Traders are advised to remain cautious and follow disciplined risk management while closely tracking key levels for the next directional move, market experts said. On the Nifty, the index ended the week at 24,176.15, gaining 178.60 points or 0.74 per cent on a weekly basis. "On the upside, resistance levels are placed at 24,500 and 24,600.

## Veg, Non-Veg Thali Costs Rise In April As Tomato, LPG Prices Spike: Crisil

**New Delhi:** The cost of preparing both vegetarian and non-vegetarian thalis at home increased 2 per cent year-on-year in April, mainly due to a sharp rise in tomato prices and higher cooking fuel costs, according to the latest Roti Rice Rate (RRR) report released by Crisil Intelligence. The report noted that tomato prices jumped 38 per cent compared to the same period last year following lower production caused by a reduction in acreage across southern states. At the same time, prices of vegetable oil and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinders rose 7 per cent each amid global supply-related pressures. "The cost of both home-cooked vegetarian and non-vegetarian thalis rose 2 per cent on-year in April as tomato, vegetable oil and LPG cylinders became expensive," said Pushan Sharma, Crisil Intelligence. Crisil warned that tomato prices could remain elevated in the coming months and may rise further during July and August. The report attributed the expected pressure to lower summer sowing, weak price sentiment among farmers and the possibility of heatwaves affecting key tomato-growing regions in northern India. The report also highlighted concerns over onion and potato prices. Onion prices are expected to remain high due to an estimated 4-6 per cent decline in rabi crop production this year. Potato prices may also move upward as harvesting season concludes and stored supplies from cold storages start entering the market. According to the report, vegetable oil prices are likely to stay firm in the near term because of continued geopolitical uncertainty in West Asia, which has impacted global supply conditions. However, the report offered some relief on pulses prices. Crisil said pulses are expected to remain soft due to adequate supply and subdued demand. It added that favourable import parity, release of government buffer stocks and steady domestic arrivals are likely to keep markets well supplied despite lower domestic production levels.



## Demographic Change Increasingly Reshaping Legal Systems in Odisha: Reflective Compendium

**Bhubaneswar (Correspondent):** In a first-of-its-kind initiative examining the interaction between demographic transition and legal systems in Odisha, the Department of Law, Government of Odisha, in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), has released a reflective compendium titled "Law in a Changing Society: Demographic Transition and Legal Frameworks in Odisha." The compendium presents an extensive analysis of nearly 400 judicial decisions and adjudications to understand how changing demographic realities are increasingly influencing legal systems, governance institutions and social



welfare frameworks in the state. The report highlights that Odisha is currently undergoing a rapid demographic transition characterised by declining fertility, increasing life expectancy, changing family structures and a steadily rising elderly population. With fertility levels declining to around 1.7 and the elderly population projected to rise significantly in the coming decades, the state is witnessing important

structural shifts in age composition, caregiving systems and social relationships. The analysis draws upon demographic projections, judicial trends and evolving institutional responses to argue that demographic transition is no longer merely a population issue, but increasingly a governance, legal and social justice issue. One of the central observations emerging from the report is that courts are increasingly

becoming sites where tensions between changing demographic realities and existing legal frameworks become visible. While laws are often framed around past and present realities, demographic transition gradually reshapes the contexts within which those laws operate. The report highlights that courts and institutions are increasingly encountering disputes

arising out of changing family forms, ageing, infertility, adolescent relationships, migration, reproductive technologies and evolving caregiving responsibilities. A major section of the report examines how demographic transition is influencing emerging legal questions relating to ageing and care systems. With rising longevity, shrinking family sizes and migration, traditional systems of familial support are increasingly coming under pressure. Judicial trends analysed in the report indicate growing disputes relating to maintenance, abandonment, caregiving responsibilities and property involving elderly persons.