



Trinamool Set To Win Four Of Five Rajya Sabha Seats In Bengal, BJP Likely To Secure One



Woman Arrested With 186gm Heroine Worth Rs 18.60 Lakh In Cuttack



Spinners shine bright during Pakistan vs Namibia T20 World Cup match to secure Super Eight



7 habits to quit to improve oral health



## Groundbreaking India sovereign AI models launch with fresh multilingual tools for everyday use

NEWDELHI: India is stepping firmly into the future with its latest technological leap. During the recent AI Impact Summit in New Delhi, the nation proudly introduced three advanced India sovereign AI models. This bold move signals a strong shift toward relying on domestic tech startups in India rather than depending solely on international technology giants. Backed by the massive Rs 10,000 crore India AI Mission, these fresh digital systems aim to transform how citizens interact with public services. This national initiative is particularly exciting for regional development, as it promises to accelerate



digital growth in Odisha and improve digital governance tools across the entire country. The government has already provided over Rs 100 crore to support high-performance computing for selected homegrown tech companies. Bengaluru-based Sarvam AI made massive waves at the summit by releasing two large language systems built entirely from the ground up. Their largest platform reportedly beats

popular global alternatives like DeepSeek R1 and Google Gemini Flash in several testing benchmarks. The company founders emphasized that having total control over native technology is far more important than simply creating the biggest digital brain. For regions focusing heavily on native dialects, Gnanai introduced a remarkable voice-cloning platform called Vachana TTS.

## Transformational Moment For India': Sundar Pichai On AI, Innovation, And Decade Ahead

New Delhi: India is standing at the start of a major technological transformation, and artificial intelligence will play a central role in shaping the country's future, Alphabet and Google CEO Sundar Pichai said on Wednesday. Speaking at an event here, Pichai described the current phase as a "transformational moment". "It feels like the beginning of a decade-long change driven by technology, innovation and large-scale adoption of AI," he stated. Pichai said India is uniquely positioned to benefit from artificial intelligence, but stressed that this opportunity comes with



responsibility. "The country must ensure strong investments go into AI research and into spreading the use of AI across all sectors," he noted. He highlighted the importance of building the foundational layers of AI so that its benefits reach every part of the economy and society. Highlighting

India's rapid digital progress, Pichai said the country has undergone an incredible transformation in recent years. "Indian users are among the highest global adopters of voice-based and image-based search, showing how quickly people in the country embrace new

technologies," he noted. He also said India has emerged as one of the largest markets for Gemini — reflecting the growing role of AI tools among Indian users. Pichai also spoke about the need to prepare young students for a technology-driven future. He said Alphabet is partnering with Atal Tinkering Labs to bring robotics and coding into classrooms. The initiative aims to encourage innovation, creativity and problem-solving skills among school students at an early age. Pichai said India's scale, talent, and digital adoption make it a key player in the global AI journey. "If the right investments and policies are put in place, AI can

become a powerful tool for inclusive growth and long-term transformation in the country," he said. Earlier on Wednesday, Pichai said Google is infusing AI at all levels in India to improve healthcare, support startups, agriculture and more. He met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and discussed India's growing work in AI and how Google can collaborate with the country's talented students and professionals. PM Modi said the conversation with Pichai focused on India's rapid progress in AI and opportunities for deeper cooperation between the government and Google in the field.

## Supreme Court Indicates It Will Soon Examine Validity of Places of Worship Act

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday indicated that it would soon hear and adjudicate a series of petitions challenging the validity of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991. The Act, which prohibits changing the religious character of any place of worship from what it was on August 15, 1947, mandates the preservation of that character. Any violations of this provision are deemed unlawful. The verbal observation came from a bench comprising Chief Justice of India



(CJI) Surya Kant, Justices Joymalya Bagchi, and Vipul M. Pancholi. This was made while the Court declined to entertain a plea filed by one Imran A., which challenged the decision of an Ajmer court to proceed with a lawsuit seeking an Archaeological Survey

of India (ASI) survey of the Ajmer Sharif Dargah. The petition claimed that the Dargah was built over an ancient Shiva temple. In December 2024, the Supreme Court passed an order directing that no court in the country should register or entertain any lawsuits or

pass any orders related to the Places of Worship Act until the matter is resolved by the apex court. Based on this order, the counsel for the petitioner argued that the Ajmer court should be restrained from taking any action that contradicted the Supreme Court's earlier directive. However, the Supreme Court dismissed the plea, which had been filed as an intervention application in the ongoing batch of petitions challenging the Places of Worship Act. The Court emphasized that if any court were to pass orders in defiance of its earlier direction, it

would certainly review the matter. "We have passed an order, and it is binding on all. If someone issues an order in defiance of that, we will examine it, and consequences will follow," stated the CJI. During the proceedings, Advocate Vishnu Shankar Jain requested that his plea, seeking the vacation of the Supreme Court's December 2024 direction, be listed for hearing. The Court assured him that his request would be considered and advised him to check with the Court's registry for further updates.

## Tamil Nadu Native Enters Washington DC Mayor Race

Washington: Rini Sampath, a 31-year-old government contractor born in Tamil Nadu, on Wednesday announced her candidacy in the Democratic primary for Mayor of Washington, DC, pledging to "fix the basics" and restore confidence in city governance. Sampath, who immigrated to the United States at age seven and has lived in the US capital for more than a decade, launched her campaign with a sharp critique of the city's political establishment and a focus on infrastructure and essential services. "As Mayor, my priority will be

to make sure our city lives up to its basic commitments to our residents: Fill the potholes. Stop the catastrophic wastewater spill in the Potomac. Lower prices. Improve 911 wait times," she said. Her campaign slogan underscores that theme: "ACITY WHERE WE FIX THE BASICS, STRENGTHEN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS, AND LOWER THE COST OF LIVING. IT'S TIME FOR SOMETHING NEW." In her launch video, Sampath draws a contrast with what she calls entrenched leadership in City Hall. "Why would you give a promotion to someone who has failed

at the basic functions of their job?" she says, referring to the "current front runners in the DC Mayors race" as "political insiders who have served on the city council for years." "We all know DC government is broken," she adds, citing recent snowstorms that left "streets and sidewalks... unpassable and dangerous," with "trash piled up" and "waterlines burst because of aging infrastructure." "People lost income because they couldn't get to work, and businesses suffered because their customers couldn't get around the city," she says in the video.

## PMs Of Kazakhstan, Netherlands Arrive In Delhi For AI Impact Summit

New Delhi: Prime Ministers of Kazakhstan and the Netherlands arrived in New Delhi on Wednesday to attend the India-AI Impact Summit 2026, being held in the national capital, aimed at exploring the transformative potential of Artificial Intelligence. Kazakhstan PM Olzhas Bektenov was received by Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh at the airport. Following his arrival, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said, "The visit of PM Olzhas Bektenov and his participation at the



India-AI Impact Summit will give a fillip to the robust partnership between both countries." Meanwhile,

Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh welcomed Dick Schoof, Prime

Minister of the Netherlands, as he arrived in New Delhi for the AI Impact Summit.

## Odisha RS Elections: BJP poised for two seats, BJD to secure one; Political maneuvering intensifies for fourth seat

Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent): As the much-anticipated Rajya Sabha elections draw closer, Odisha's political landscape is bracing for a strategic showdown. The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Odisha is set to secure two seats, while the opposition Biju Janata Dal (BJD) is expected to bag one. However, the battle for the fourth seat remains wide open, with no single party holding a clear majority to claim victory outright,



triggering a wave of political maneuvering in the state. The Election Commission announced on Wednesday that the biennial elections will take place on March 16 across ten states,

including Odisha. This crucial election will witness the contest for four Rajya Sabha seats from Odisha, which will fall vacant on April 2, following the completion of the

current tenure of the sitting members—Niranjan Bishi and Munna Khan from the BJD, along with Sujet Kumar and Mamata Mohanta from the BJP. Both the BJP and the BJD, the two dominant political forces in the state, are confident of securing a share of the vacant seats. The BJP, which has made significant inroads in Odisha in recent years, is poised to win two seats in the upcoming elections.

# Supreme Court Witnesses Fiery Clash Over ED's I-PAC Raid Petition

New Delhi, : The Supreme Court of India observed a heated exchange on Wednesday during the hearing of a petition filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) regarding raids at the I-PAC office in West Bengal. The West Bengal government argued that the ED was being armed with excessive powers, while the ED countered that attempts were being made to intimidate its officers. A bench presided over by Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra scheduled the next hearing for March 18. Senior advocate Siddharth Luthra, representing the West Bengal government,



asserted that the ED must explain how it acquired such extensive authority. ASG SV Raju, for the ED, reacted sharply, claiming efforts to frighten the agency. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, for the Centre, stated he would argue whether the ED has the right to file a petition under Article 32. Senior advocate Abhishek

Manu Singhvi, for West Bengal, noted that they had already raised the issue of the petition's maintainability, which the court had recorded. Senior advocates Menka Guruswamy and Siddharth Luthra opposed issuing notice on a petition by an individual named Nishant, pointing out that several of his prior petitions had been

dismissed. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has urged the Supreme Court to dismiss the ED's petition. The state's affidavit argues that parallel proceedings cannot occur when a similar petition is pending in the Calcutta High Court, and the ED lacks authority to file a writ petition directly in the Supreme Court. It further claims no prior notice was issued before the I-PAC office search and accuses the ED of violating privileged communications. On January 15, the court had issued notices to Mamata Banerjee and senior state police officers over their

alleged interference in the ED raids, while staying FIRs against ED officials. The bench emphasized the need for independent functioning of democratic institutions and ruled that central agencies cannot interfere in political activities but cannot be obstructed under the guise of politics if acting lawfully. Prior to the ED petition, West Bengal filed a caveat. On January 8, the ED raided the I-PAC office—which handles Trinamool Congress promotions—and director Prateek Jain's residence in a probe linked to the alleged coal scam.

# No, Ashwini Vaishnaw Did Not Call Chinese Robot 'Indian': PIB Fact Check

New Delhi: The Press Information Bureau's Fact Check unit on Wednesday dismissed as false a viral claim circulating on social media that Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw described a Chinese robot showcased at Galgotias University as an Indian robot. The clarification came after a post by a handle named "China Pulse" alleged that Union Minister Vaishnaw had stated that a robot presented at Galgotias University was Indian, even though it was Chinese. The post claimed that the Minister for Railways, Information and Broadcasting, and Electronics and



Information Technology made the remark during a public event. However, the government's official fact-checking body, Press Information Bureau Fact Check, said the claim is false. In its response, PIB Fact Check clearly stated that the Union Minister has nowhere said that the robot presented by Galgotias University is an Indian robot. The viral claim was shared by the account "China

P u l s e " (@Eng\_china5), which alleged that the Minister had misrepresented the origin of the robot. The PIB's clarification aims to stop the spread of misinformation and ensure accurate reporting of statements made by public officials. The fact check comes amid growing concerns over misleading content on social media platforms.

# Trinamool Set To Win Four Of Five Rajya Sabha Seats In Bengal, BJP Likely To Secure One

Kolkata, : The ruling All India Trinamool Congress is poised to secure four out of the five Rajya Sabha seats from West Bengal that are scheduled to go to polls on March 16, while the Bharatiya Janata Party is expected to win the remaining one, based on the current numerical strength of parties in the state Assembly. Of the five seats, three will fall vacant following the completion of the terms of sitting Trinamool Congress members Subrata Bakshi, Ritabrata Banerjee, and Saket Gokhale. The fourth vacancy has arisen after former Trinamool MP Mausam Benazir Noor resigned



from the Rajya Sabha and recently joined the Congress. Given the Trinamool Congress's comfortable majority in the West Bengal Assembly, the party is widely expected to ensure the election of its nominees to these four seats without difficulty. The fifth seat is becoming vacant with the end of the term of senior CPI(M) leader and Rajya Sabha MP

Bikas Ranjan Bhattacharya. With the Left parties currently lacking effective strength in the Assembly, the BJP is likely to secure this seat. The Trinamool Congress has not yet formally announced its candidates for the four seats and has maintained silence on its choices so far. In the BJP camp, discussions are underway regarding

potential nominees. Among the names being considered are former actress-turned-politician and ex-MP Locket Chatterjee, veteran actor Mithun Chakraborty, who had earlier served as a Rajya Sabha member from the Trinamool Congress, and Balurghat MLA and former Chief Economic Adviser to the Union government Ashok Kumar Lahiri. According to a notification issued by the Election Commission of India, elections will be held for 37 Rajya Sabha seats across 19 states, including five from West Bengal.

# AI Impact Summit: After Holding Nine Bilateral Meetings, PM Modi Joins World Leaders At Bharat Mandapam

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi engaged with several world leaders, holding as many as nine bilateral meetings before wrapping up a hectic Wednesday by hosting a banquet for the visiting dignitaries attending India-AI Impact Summit 2026 in New Delhi. PM Modi held meetings with the leaders of Spain, Finland, Serbia, Croatia, Estonia, Kazakhstan and Bhutan. He also met the CEO of Google and co-founder of Sun Microsystems. The informal interactions with global leaders continued till late evening as PM Modi warmly welcomed the

world leaders at the official banquet held at the Bharat Mandapam. Earlier in the day, PM Modi held bilateral meetings with Pedro Sanchez (President of Spain), Petteri Orpo (Prime Minister of Finland), Aleksandar Vucic (President of Serbia), Andrej Plenkovic (Prime Minister of Croatia), Alar Karis (President of Estonia), Olzhas Bektenov (Prime Minister of Kazakhstan) and Prime Minister of Bhutan Tshering Tobgay on the margins of the AI Impact Summit. Prime Minister Modi also met Google CEO Sundar Pichai and Vinod Khosla, the founder of



Sun Microsystems, at the Hyderabad House. On Thursday, PM Modi will participate in the opening ceremony of the India AI Impact Summit 2026 at the Bharat Mandapam. The gathering will also be addressed by the President of France,

Secretary-General of the United Nations as well as various top industry leaders from across the world. This will be followed by a visit to the India AI Impact Expo 2026 along with other leaders where they will visit various country pavilions.

# Seychelles VP and Mauritius PM Land in Delhi to Power Up India's AI Diplomacy



New Delhi, : Seychelles Vice President Sebastian Pillay and Mauritius Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam arrived in India on Wednesday to participate in the India AI Impact Summit. Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti Dr. Raj Bhushan Choudhary extended a warm welcome to them at the airport. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Randeep Jaiswal shared this update via a post on X. He stated that Mauritius Prime Minister Ramgoolam and Seychelles Vice President Sebastian had arrived in India to take part in the AI summit. The Foreign Ministry spokesperson further noted that the presence of Seychelles Vice President—as a close and long-standing maritime partner—will impart fresh momentum to the ongoing joint bilateral year events through his participation in the India-AI Impact Summit. Digital cooperation remains a key pillar of the advanced strategic partnership between India and Mauritius, grounded in deep people-to-people and historical ties.

# India-Serbia Strengthen Enduring Bilateral Bonds

New Delhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi engaged in bilateral discussions on Wednesday with Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic on the sidelines of the India AI Impact Summit. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Randeep Jaiswal shared details of the meeting via an X post, confirming that President Vucic, who arrived in New Delhi on Tuesday to attend the summit, held talks with Prime Minister Modi. The leaders focused on deepening cooperation



in trade and investment, artificial intelligence (AI), financial technology, education, agriculture, tourism, and people-to-people ties. They also addressed regional and global issues of mutual interest. Jaiswal noted

the longstanding bilateral relations anchored in close people-to-people connections, with both sides holding extensive deliberations to further consolidate these bonds. President Vucic

arrived on Tuesday for the summit, which commenced on February 16 and stands as the world's fourth major AI conclave. Positioned as a pivotal global platform, it seeks to shape an inclusive and transformative AI future, guided by the three pillars of People, Planet, and Progress. Prior events include the 2023 Bletchley Park AI Safety Summit (UK), 2024 AI Seoul Summit (South Korea), and 2025 AI Implementation Summit (Paris, France).

# BJP Slams Karnataka Congress Over Massive Land Grab Scam

New Delhi, (H.S.): The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) accused the Congress-led Karnataka government of usurping government property on Wednesday, alleging widespread corruption across the state and vowing to ensure that those involved face imprisonment. During a press conference at BJP headquarters, party spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia claimed that the Karnataka Congress government, under Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, is converting 24 plots originally allocated for civic amenities into a Congress party headquarters. These 24 plots have been

transferred to the Congress Bhavan Trust at a nominal value of approximately 2 crore rupees, despite their market worth of around 50 crore rupees, exposing a clear corruption of 48 crore rupees. Bhatia drew parallels to the National Herald case, where Congress allegedly converted government assets into personal property. He further accused Robert Vadra of grabbing farmers' land for private business and criticized the current misuse of power to hand over public land meant for Karnataka citizens' civic amenities to build the 'Congress Bhavan'.

# Indian Navy Showcases Maritime Might with Global Partners at Historic Visakhapatnam Review

New Delhi: At the very spot in Visakhapatnam where the Indian Navy sank Pakistan's submarine Ghazi during the 1971 war, echoes of history resounded once again on Wednesday as the force demonstrated its maritime strength, professionalism, and global partnerships. President Droupadi Murmu, Supreme Commander of the Indian Armed Forces, witnessed the International Fleet Review and expressed confidence that all participating navies would collectively advance the oceans as pathways for worldwide development, prosperity, and well-being. President Murmu stated that the International Fleet Review exemplifies unity, trust, and respect among nations' maritime traditions. She emphasized India's deep and enduring bond with the seas, which have served for centuries as routes for commerce, connectivity, and cultural exchange. The President highlighted that India's maritime outlook, including international relations, reflects the philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'—the world is one family. Extending congratulations on behalf of all Indians to the officers and sailors of friendly nations' navies, she commended their service in upholding their countries' finest traditions. Navy Captain Vivek Madhwal noted that this marks the third International Fleet Review hosted in India. The review featured over 70 platforms, including 19 ships from 18 foreign nations alongside vessels from the Indian Coast Guard and Shipping Corporation of India. For the first time, India's indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant participated in the review, joined in the mobile column by the homegrown Kalvari-class submarine. Additional indigenously designed and built platforms included destroyers, frigates, ASW shallow water crafts, survey vessels, and diving support vessels. 72 countries participating.

## Aditya Aluminium, Lapanga Organises Senior Citizen Meet 2026

**Sambalpur (Correspondent):** Aditya Aluminium, Lapanga organised Senior Citizen Meet 2026, bringing together 85 elderly citizens from five Gram Panchayats in the plant periphery under its Community Development Programme. The meet aimed to understand the thoughts, concerns, and expectations of senior community members and to gather feedback

on ongoing development initiatives. Senior leadership including Unit Head Mr. Jagannath Prasad Nayak, Cluster HR Head Dr. Krishna Padhi, HR Head Mr. Vinoda Nand Thakur, CPP Head Mr. Gulshan Tiwari, Smelter Head Mr. Sandip Singh, Mr. Sukanta Mohapatra, CSR Head Mr. Ravi Niwas, and Cluster CSR Head Mr. Siba Mohapatra were

present. Cluster CSR Head Mr. Siba Mohapatra shared an overview of key initiatives across Gram Panchayats covering infrastructure, healthcare, and social welfare. Participating senior citizens were felicitated as a gesture of respect. Aditya Aluminium continues to strengthen community partnerships through inclusive and sustainable development efforts.

## Eight Milk Samples Found Sub-Standard In Odisha, None Unsafe: Minister

**Bhubaneswar:** Eight samples of milk and milk products were found to be of sub-standard quality in Odisha during the last year, the State Assembly was informed on Wednesday. Replying in writing to a query raised by BJP MLA Tankadhar Tripathy, Animal Resources Development Minister Gokulananda Mallik said that a total of 88 samples of milk and milk products available in

the market were tested at the State Food Testing Laboratory in Bhubaneswar. Out of these, eight samples were found to be sub-standard, while the remaining 80 samples conformed to prescribed quality standards. The minister clarified that none of the tested samples was found to be unsafe for consumption. Mallik informed the House that apart from Omfed, 22 companies are currently engaged in the sale of milk and milk products in the state.

# Chief Secretary Reviews Viksit Odisha Roadmap, Stresses Time-Bound Development

**Bhubaneswar (Correspondent):** A high-level secretaries' meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Anu Garg was held at Kharavela Bhawan on Wednesday to review the implementation roadmap for Viksit Odisha 2036 and 2047, the state's long-term development vision. Stressing the importance of sustained monitoring, the Chief Secretary directed all departments to regularly review the two-year Action Plan prepared to achieve the vision's objectives and to simplify the designated Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to ensure faster and measurable progress. The preparation and execution of the vision document, she noted,



remains one of the top priorities under the 15-point agenda set by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi. Garg advised departments to accord due importance to the initiative and align their strategies with the broader goal of transforming Odisha by 2036 and 2047. She also emphasized balanced and time-bound development

across districts under the "36 for 36" major initiatives, calling for special attention to the implementation and review of key projects to ensure equitable growth. The meeting placed significant focus on recruitment and filling up vacant government posts. Reiterating the government's commitment, the Chief Secretary said the state

has set a target of 65,000 appointments by June 2026. Since the formation of the new government, 39,500 individuals have already been appointed through various departmental recruitment processes and job melas. A review of proposals from departments indicated that requisitions have been submitted for 34,641 additional

appointments over the next three months to the Odisha Public Service Commission, the Odisha Staff Selection Commission and the Odisha Subordinate Staff Selection Commission. Garg directed departments to expedite the recruitment process through continuous review and necessary administrative measures, and to regularly furnish updated data to the General Administration and Public Grievances Department. Discussions were also held on ensuring full utilisation of budget allocations for the 2025-26 financial year by March and achieving departmental revenue collection targets. The Chief Secretary further advised secretaries to examine important proposals and suggestions received from MPs and MLAs from time to time and take appropriate steps for their implementation. The meeting was attended by Development Commissioner-cum-Additional Chief Secretary Deorajan Kumar Singh, along with Additional Chief Secretaries, Principal Secretaries and Commissioners-cum-Secretaries of various departments, who participated in the deliberations.

## COMMUNITY AWARENESS PROGRAMME CONDUCTED BY IFFCO PARADEEP UNIT

**Bhubaneswar (Correspondent):** IFFCO Paradeep Unit always takes initiatives to aware & educate its own employees, contractor workers as well as public living in nearby villages. IFFCO conducted awareness programme on disaster management, hazards associated & particularly precautions to be taken during emergency i.e. the leakage of ammonia gas at the nearest villages. As per the directive of the District Administration, IFFCO Paradeep Unit conducted a Community Awareness Programme on "Disaster Management in case of Ammonia



Leakage, LPG Safety, Fire Safety, and Road Safety Awareness" at the school premises of Village Barei, Bhutamundai Gram Panchayat on 11th February 2026 (Wednesday) at 11:00 AM. The programme was conducted in the presence of the Sarpanch, Krushak Sathi, villagers, SHG members, health workers, Anganwadi workers, and other community members.

More than 300 participants attended the programme with great enthusiasm. During the programme, leaflets on Do's and Don'ts during ammonia leakage were distributed among the participants. A live demonstration on the use of fire extinguishers and breathing apparatus sets was also conducted to provide practical knowledge on

emergency response. The main objective of the programme was to create awareness among villagers and familiarize them with safety measures to protect themselves and others during emergencies. The villagers appreciated the initiative, and the programme was successfully conducted. Shri Kulamani Majhi, Sri M. Nayak, Shri P.C. Biswal, Shri R.K. Ranjan & Shri A.K. Jena explained to the gathering the precautions to be taken during the emergency and also delivered various tips and Do's & Don'ts during toxic gas leakage in Odia language.

## Woman Arrested With 186gm Heroin Worth Rs 18.60 Lakh In Cuttack



**Bhubaneswar (Correspondent):** A 20-year-old woman, Rubi Begam, was arrested today, February 18, 2026, by the Excise Inspector & Enforcement Branch, Unit-I, Cuttack [Flying Squad], for possession of 186gm of Heroin valued at approximately Rs 18.60 lakh. The operation was conducted under the direction of Excise Commissioner and supervision of Sri Samrjit Dash (SE) and Roshan Isu Hasda

(DSE) at Satichaura near Ashwin Hospital Road side. Rubi Begam, a resident of Cuttack district, has been forwarded to judicial custody for commission of offence under NDPS Act, 1985. The raiding team consisted of Hira Dalpati, SK Sakir Ulla, AR Mallik, Alok Khatua, Karna Oram, Sovita Mallik, Arnapurna Ganda, Gaurang Nayak, Debasish Behera, Sumit Naik, Ranjit Sahoo, Pabitra Dash, and Jagannath Sahoo.

## Woman Jumps Into Mahanadi In Sambalpur, Dies

**Sambalpur (Correspondent):** A young woman died after jumping into the Mahanadi River in Sambalpur today. The incident occurred near the Burla police station. The deceased has been identified as Anju Kumbhar. Eyewitnesses said Anju was seen standing on the bridge's sidewall before jumping into the river. Despite attempts to stop her, she jumped after speaking to someone on her mobile phone. Police retrieved her body from the water and rushed her to the hospital, where she was pronounced dead. The reason behind her actions is unclear, and police are investigating the incident.

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**  
Tender No. 61-KUR-TRD-OT-2025-26  
**NAME OF WORK : PROVISION OF CATENARY WIRE AS ANTI CREEP WIRE IN PLACE OF GALVANIZED STEEL WIRE IN KHURDA ROAD (KUR) DIVISION.**  
Advertised Value: ₹ 79,10,763.04, EMD: ₹ 1,58,200/-, Period of Completion: 365 Days.  
Bidding Start Date: 19.02.2026  
Tender Closing Date and Time: At 1300 Hrs. of 05.03.2026.  
Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.  
Complete information including e-Tender documents and corrigendum is available in website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)  
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD),  
PR-1130/Q/25-26 Khurda Road

## 3 ORPHANED SIBLINGS FIND NEW DAWN

**Paralakhemundi (Correspondent):** -In a heartening gesture of compassion and responsibility, the Gajapati district administration has extended its protective embrace to three orphaned siblings of Luduru village under Meraparli panchayat in Mohana block, scripting a story of hope where despair once lingered. The children — the eldest daughter aged 15, a 14-year-old son, and the youngest daughter aged 9 — are the offspring of late Marshal Nayak, who passed away in 2022, leaving behind a fragile household and uncertain futures.

## District-level workshop on witchcraft and its prevention held

**Cuttack (Correspondent):** I: With the aim of preventing inhumane practices like witchcraft and creating awareness in the society, a workshop was held today at the Sadbhavana Hall of the District Collector's office under the chairmanship of Additional District Collector Dr. Ipsita Priyadarshini Mishra. This is a good step to prevent inhumane acts like witchcraft, especially torture of innocent people, especially women, social exclusion and violence, murder and the district administration is trying to completely eradicate it, he said. Witchcraft is a delusion,



a multi-faceted nature, it is a mental illness, instead of going to a fortune teller, it is a mental illness, he attended the workshop and gave advice to expert Shri. Devendra Suta and explained his experience regarding witchcraft incidents that have occurred in different areas. Expert Smt. Sharmistha Nath said,

even though we are living in the age of science, the evil practice of witchcraft has not completely disappeared from the society. It is a kind of domestic violence, it starts from home and spreads to the society, so awareness about it needs to start from the family itself. DSP Shri Sunil Kumar Behera discussed

about the Odisha Witchcraft Prevention Act 2013 and informed the participants about various legal penalties. Witchcraft violates 3 fundamental rights of a citizen, which are Article-15 Gender Discrimination, Article-14 Violation of Legal Rights, and Article-21 Right to Live with Dignity

in Society. The workshop called for a complete end to the evil practice of witchcraft. On this occasion, a question and answer program was organized among Anganwadi workers, ASHA, Sarpanch, teenage girls, workers of voluntary organizations and experts who came from different blocks. District Social Welfare Officer Smt. Rashmita Mohanty, Additional District Education Officer Smt. Monalisa Dhal and staff of the District Social Welfare Office were present in the workshop. Additional District Social Welfare Officer Smt. Babita Jena proposed the vote of thanks.

34001/95/2526  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PURI (R&B) DIVISION, PURI**  
Phone/Fax: (06752) 296839 (E-mail: [eerbpuri@yahoo.co.in](mailto:eerbpuri@yahoo.co.in))  
1ST. CORRIGENDUM TO TENDER CALL NOTICE NO. 62 OF 2025-26  
The tender called vide this office tender call notice No. 62 of 2025-26 is here by modified as follows.  
1. Clause No. 2 - The Bid documents will be available in the website: [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in) from dt. 20.02.2026 at 10 AM to 5.00 PM of dt 27.02.2026.  
2. Clause No-5- The Bids received on line shall be opened on dt. 02.03.2026 at 11.00 AM.  
All Other terms and conditions as mentioned in the DTCN will remain unchanged  
remain unchanged. farse 17.2-26  
**Superintending Engineer, Puri (R&B) Division, Puri**  
OIPR-34001/34064/1/25-26/0003

MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE LIMITED		MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE LIMITED		
FORWARDERS		FORWARDERS		
REGD OFFICE: 8/596 A, Padmaprabha Building, Near Sreerama Swami Temple, Cherpura - Thripuraya Road, Thripuraya, Thiruvananthapuram - 720004. Phone No: 0477-2620504. Website: <a href="http://www.manappuramhomefinance.com">www.manappuramhomefinance.com</a>		REGD OFFICE: 8/596 A, Padmaprabha Building, Near Sreerama Swami Temple, Cherpura - Thripuraya Road, Thripuraya, Thiruvananthapuram - 720004. Phone No: 0477-2620504. Website: <a href="http://www.manappuramhomefinance.com">www.manappuramhomefinance.com</a>		
POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)				
Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of Manappuram Home Finance Ltd ("MANHF") under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest ("SARFAESI") Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(1)(c) read with rule 9 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice calling upon the borrowers and co-borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice and interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbiotic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(1)(c) of the said "Act" read with rule 9 of the said rules. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Manappuram Home Finance Ltd as mentioned below for each of the respective properties:				
No.	Name of Borrower and Co-borrower / Loan account number / Branch	Description of Secured Asset in Respect of Which Interest Has Been Created	Date of Demand Notice sent & Outstanding Amount	Date of Possession
1	Bharati Barik, Amarendra Barik, Subasini Barik, ANIL/0000023578/Balasore	Settlement Khata No. 25, Plot No. 224, Area AC 0.040 Dec. Mouza Dhanahanda, Tahsil Basta, Balasore, Odisha - 756029, East-Private Road, Plot No. 225 West-Public Road, South-Jagadish Behara, North-Barendra Barik	07-11-2025 & Rs.460334/-	14-02-2026
2	Hrushikesh Saha, Priyambada Penthoi, Mini Saha, ANIL/000001917/Khurda	Plot No. 1150/4/784 (Adm) AG 023(Dcm), Plot No. 2995, 3050 (AG 030 Dcm), Plot No. 2996/3081 (AG 010 Dcm), Khata No. 105/7/205, Kurubana Gada, Nyagadh, Odisha, Pin 752004, East-Salt, West-Salt, South-Salt, Krupasinthu Setha, North-Salt/Jaykrushna Mishra	12-11-2025 & Rs.1675083/-	14-02-2026
3	Turi Maharana, Sarbeswar Moharana, Sarat Maharana, ANIL/0000222881/Khurda	Khata No. 466, Plot No. 866, Area Ac 0.06 Dec. Mouza Sundarada Tahsil Naik, Cuttack, Odisha, Pin 754004, East-Plot No. 891 (Road), West-Plot No. 863, South-Plot No. 867, North-Plot No. 885	13-11-2025 & Rs.538265/-	14-02-2026

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> February 2026 | Place: ODISHA | Sd/- Authorised Officer Manappuram Home Finance Ltd

## EDITORIAL

## The Best Way to Train Your Brain

In an age where information flows endlessly and distractions are only a click away, maintaining a sharp and agile mind has become more important than ever. Just like muscles in the body, the brain requires regular exercise, proper nourishment, and healthy habits to perform at its best. Training the brain is not about memorizing facts alone; it involves strengthening attention, creativity, emotional balance, and problem-solving abilities.

## 1. Engage in Lifelong Learning

Learning new skills stimulates neural connections and keeps the brain flexible. Reading books, learning a new language, studying science, or exploring history strengthens memory and comprehension. Activities such as solving puzzles, playing chess, or engaging in strategy games enhance reasoning skills and cognitive agility.

## 2. Practice Mindfulness and Meditation

Mindfulness practices help improve focus, emotional stability, and clarity of thought. Research, including studies from Harvard Medical School, suggests that meditation can improve attention span and reduce stress. Spending even 10 minutes a day in quiet reflection or deep breathing can calm the mind and sharpen concentration.

## 3. Exercise for Brain Power

Physical activity increases blood flow to the brain and supports the growth of new brain cells. Walking, yoga, cycling, or stretching exercises enhance mood and cognitive function. Regular movement also reduces stress hormones that negatively affect memory and learning.

## 4. Nourish the Brain with Healthy Food

A balanced diet plays a vital role in brain health. Foods rich in omega-3 fatty acids (like walnuts and flaxseeds), antioxidants (fruits and vegetables), and whole grains support memory and concentration. Staying hydrated is equally important, as dehydration can reduce focus and mental clarity.

## 5. Sleep: The Brain's Reset Button

Quality sleep is essential for memory consolidation and mental recovery. During sleep, the brain processes information and strengthens learning pathways. Adults and students alike benefit from maintaining a consistent sleep routine.

## Religion, Tradition, and Power: Where Does the Line of Limits Draw?



## Debashis Purohit

The dialogue between religion and politics is not new in Indian public life. But when this dialogue

escalates into controversy—as recently witnessed in the context of statements related to the Shankaracharya tradition and the comments of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath—then the question is not merely about individuals, but about institutions and norms.

In the Sanatan tradition, Shankaracharya is not merely a position but a representative of a philosophical and spiritual tradition. The four major monastic orders established by Adi Shankaracharya have for centuries shouldered the responsibility of interpreting Vedanta, scriptures, and religious conduct. In this sense, Shankaracharya's opinions are based on the criteria of religious law and tradition. This is his jurisdiction, and ignoring it would be denying the history of the tradition.

On the other hand, in a democratic system, the

elected government—regardless of party affiliation—fulfills the responsibility of public representation. Its priorities are administration, law and order, and development. If a religious event or decision involves public order, security, or constitutional values, the government's role naturally comes into play. This is equally true.

This is where the crux of the controversy arises—when religious beliefs and political statements seem to cross boundaries. Should politics interpret religious law? Or should religious leaders refrain from publicly commenting on political decisions? The answer to these questions lies in balance. Articles 25 and 26 of the Indian Constitution guarantee religious freedom. Religious institutions have the right to manage their religious affairs. However, the same Constitution also grants the state the right to intervene as necessary to protect public peace, morality, and fundamental rights. That is, the rights of religion and the state are not completely separate, but rather limited and defined. It is important to understand that courts and governments are not institutions meant to interpret scriptures. Their role is to interpret the law and the

Constitution. Judicial intervention is justified only if a religious practice directly affects a citizen's fundamental rights or public order. Otherwise, scriptural discussions should take place only among religious leaders and scholars. In the current context, the greatest need is for dialogue, not conflict. India's strength lies in its diversity—where both the saintly tradition and the democratic system coexist. If the religious leadership respects its spiritual dignity and the political leadership respects its constitutional limits, disputes can be resolved automatically. Society must also understand that not every disagreement is a conflict. Differences are natural in democracy, but crossing the limits can be harmful to both sides. The relationship between religion and politics should be one of balance, not competition. Ultimately, the question is not who is completely right or who is completely wrong. The question is whether we are able to respect our respective institutional limits. If both the scriptures and the Constitution remain upheld in their respective dignity, India's social structure will be even stronger. This is the true maturity of democracy.

## The Fading Roots Between Cities and Soil



## Narvijay Yadav

India's land crisis reflects difficulties between cities and ancestral soil. As Delhi introduces the Land Aadhaar system, the transition

explored in *The Fading Roots* signals hope for clarity. Land touches the deepest roots of human life. It is identity, memory, inheritance, shelter, and livelihood. But across India, land is also confusion, dispute, bureaucracy, and loss. For millions, owning land should provide security. Yet in practice, it often creates stress, legal entanglement, and generational disconnect. The Delhi government is working on a long-awaited land modernisation initiative. Every land parcel in the capital will soon receive a unique Land Aadhaar, a 14-digit identification code for deeds, rights, and records. The aim is to reduce disputes, clarify ownership, and make the land marketplace transparent. If this system works as designed, it will become a model for other states struggling with old records and protracted litigation. The initiative is a needed step toward clarity and confidence in property transactions. The very idea of a universal identifier for land speaks to the core problem. India's land records have never been fully reconciled with human mobility. For decades, paper deeds, inconsistent surveys, missing maps, unclear boundaries, and overlapping claims have made land one of the most contested assets in the country. This issue becomes more

acute when we look at migration patterns. Millions of Indians born in villages have moved to cities, towns, or even abroad for education, employment, and business opportunities. These are often well-educated, skilled individuals. They have earned diplomas, degrees, and global exposure. But they also carry ancestral lands in villages that remain opaque in terms of ownership and rights. Outdated Terminology: For the migrant, maintaining ancestral land turns into a logistical nightmare. One generation works far from the village. Another generation inherits documents that are misfiled, shared in portions, or written in outdated terminology. The physical proximity needed to manage, survey, or regularize land never existed. Resolving disputes requires frequent travel, money, and time; commodities that migrants seldom have in abundance. Many have to rely on agents, acquaintances, or intermediaries whose motivations may not align with the family's best interests. Land in rural India is not just property. It is emotional capital. Scaling that emotional asset into a functional financial asset has always been difficult. Land markets, unlike digital or paper assets, are illiquid. They are slow to transact. They require physical verification and countless checks. Even today, buying or selling a property often feels more complicated than trading shares or digital currencies. The friction lies not only in legal systems, but in human systems: trust, documentation, accessibility, and interpretation. Real estate has long been marketed as one of the "solid" investments, a benchmark of stability. But when markets

aren't transparent, and records aren't cohesive, this belief becomes questionable. A land parcel without a clear title is not an asset, but a potential liability. The migrant who left the village to improve life for the next generation often finds that the very piece of land meant to be safety becomes a source of worry instead. A Game Changer: The "Land Aadhaar" plan in Delhi is not a silver bullet. It does not instantly resolve fractured documentation practices across states. It does not replace the need for legal reforms or timely adjudication. But it does signal a shift, that is, digital clarity over paper clutter, transparency over opacity, accessibility over exclusion. A unique identifier makes land records searchable, traceable, and easier to litigate or verify. This is the kind of structural change that can ease the burden on families who live far from their ancestral homes. My upcoming book, *The Fading Roots—Between Cities and Confusing Rural Lands*, examines exactly this tension; the push and pull between the mobility of modern life and the fixed identity of rural land. Throughout this narrative, one thread becomes clear—rootedness without clarity becomes a burden, not a blessing. If future generations are to live with confidence about their inherited assets, India needs a nationwide approach to land records that combines modern technology, legal harmonisation, and inclusive access. The goal must be to let land serve its purpose—security, not stress. Land is memory. Clear records build confidence. Clarity creates choice. Modernisation of land documentation can turn confusion into possibility. Bliss On.

## Traffic Laws vs. Negligence on Indian Roads



## Kishan Bhawnani

Globally, India is the world's largest democratic country with a population of over 1.426 billion. Smooth enforcement of law and order amidst such a vast population, diverse socio-economic conditions, rapid urbanization, and a rapidly increasing number of motor vehicles poses an extraordinary challenge for any government. Thousands of central and state laws are in place in India, and they are followed satisfactorily in most areas. But implementation of road transport and traffic laws is one area where there is a serious gap between the system and reality. I, Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhawnani, Gondia, Maharashtra, would like to state that the following are the major road transport laws and rules applicable to the public: (1) Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019: This law aims to enhance road safety and imposes heavy penalties for violations (e.g., driving without a helmet/seatbelt, driving under the influence of alcohol). (2) Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989: It prescribes vehicle technical standards (e.g., pollution, lights, safety equipment). (3) National Highways Control (Land and Traffic) Act, 2002: It regulates the removal of encroachments on highways and the smooth flow of traffic. (4) Carriage by Road Act, 2007: It deals with the rules and obligations of carriers transporting goods. (5) Transport Permits (Sections 66-70): A valid permit is mandatory for commercial vehicles. The failure to strictly enforce these laws is not merely a matter of administrative laxity, but also reflects social mindset, technical framework, and political. There is also the issue of willpower and moral discipline. The basic legal framework for road safety in India is based on the Motor Vehicles Act, which has been amended from time to time. These Acts aim to ensure vehicle registration, driving licenses, insurance, fitness, pollution control, and road safety standards. In 2019, extensive amendments were made to this Act, increasing penalties, encouraging digital enforcement, and delegating greater responsibilities to states. Despite this, the situation on the ground remains worrisome. According to recent data from the Union

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, more than 70 percent of the approximately 407 million vehicles registered in the country are not complying with one statutory requirement or another. These include mandatory conditions such as pollution control certificates, valid insurance, fitness certificates, and timely registration renewals. Only about 80 million vehicles fall into the fully compliant category, while over 300 million vehicles ply on the roads with incomplete documents. Furthermore, over 20 million vehicles whose registrations have already been cancelled remain in the database. This situation is not merely a problem of administrative data; it poses a serious challenge to road safety, environmental protection, and the rule of law. The biggest concern in India is two-wheeler. Non-compliant vehicles include approximately 235 million two-wheelers. Non-use of helmets, triple-occupancy, minors driving, and lack of insurance or fitness standards have become commonplace in every city, big or small, across the country. From the small town of Gondia in Maharashtra to the metropolitan cities, a lack of traffic discipline is evident. Jumping signals, driving in the wrong direction, talking while driving, and performing stunts to create social media reels are no longer exceptions but are becoming a widespread social trend. The statement made by the mother of the deceased in the Dwarka incident, that this was not just an accident but a question of mentality, is central to India's road safety debate. The race for fame on social media, the perception of speeding as a status symbol, and the tendency to challenge the law appear to be emerging within a new generation. The virality of dangerous stunts on digital platforms increases the tendency to take risks among youth. To curb this trend, punishment alone is not enough; education, awareness, and accountability of digital platforms are also essential.

Friends, if we consider how recent events have made this crisis even more apparent, the incident of a 17-year-old minor hitting a young man on a bike with a speeding Scorpio in Delhi's Dwarka area in February 2026 shocked the entire nation. The incident occurred while the accused was allegedly driving to create a reel for social media. The deceased youth's mother's public statement describes this incident as

not merely an accident but the result of a criminal mindset. Her pain was not merely a personal grief; it questioned a system where some people seem to consider themselves above the law. The minor accused in this incident was presented under the juvenile justice system. In India, cases involving minors are handled under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act. This law aims to emphasize the rehabilitation and reform of children, not punitive retribution. But when the crime is serious, especially when it involves loss of life, it sparks a widespread debate in society about the balance between justice and mercy. In the Dwarka incident, the accused was granted interim bail on the basis of his board exams, which sparked mixed reactions from the victim's family and the general public. Previously, the infamous Porsche accident in Pune shocked the nation. There, too, a serious accident was caused by a minor driving at high speed, and allegations of destruction of evidence surfaced. In such cases, the question is not only about individual guilt, but also about parental responsibility, social standing, the misuse of wealth and influence. When families allow their minor children to drive high-powered vehicles, it is not only a legal violation but also a moral failure.

Friends, if we consider the millions of road accidents that occur in India every year, thousands of people lose their lives. Internationally, World Health Organization reports indicate that road accidents are one of the leading causes of death in low- and middle-income countries. India, which boasts one of the world's longest road networks, still lags far behind developed countries in road safety. Developed nations have higher compliance rates due to strict enforcement, automated camera systems, high penalties, and a speedy judicial process. The Indian government's recent proposal in a meeting with states and union territories to clean up vehicle databases and automatically deregister non-compliant vehicles in a phased manner could be an important step in this direction. A system for automatically deactivating such vehicles could be implemented if insurance, fitness, and pollution certificates are not submitted within stipulated deadlines. This step would not be merely a technical improvement; it would also be a test of administrative will. The issue of road safety is not limited to the law or

the police; it is also a question of social culture. Many people in India consider traffic fines a minor expense or an opportunity for compromise. The perception that enforcement is not transparent and impartial is the reason why the traffic department is often labeled a lucrative department in some places. When trust in the law enforcement system itself is lost, civic discipline also weakens.

Friends, even if we consider this issue from an environmental perspective, the presence of over 300 million non-compliant vehicles is a matter of serious concern. Vehicles without valid PUC certificates contribute to air pollution, which is already at dangerous levels in many Indian cities. Both pollution and road safety are issues linked to the Sustainable Development Goals. If India is to emerge as a responsible global power in the 21st century, road safety and environmental compliance must be prioritized. It's also worth noting that the number of laws is sufficient; the problem is implementation. A shortage of police force, judicial backlogs, uneven availability of technical resources, and political interference all impact enforcement. If traffic violation cases are not resolved promptly in a state, the deterrent effect of penalties is diminished.

Friends, if we consider some concrete solutions, first, mandatory provisions for strict penalties for parents for minor driving and their actual enforcement. Second, digital compliance tracking for all vehicles and automatic fines for non-compliance. Third, road safety education should be included in the compulsory curriculum from the school level. Fourth, coordination with social media platforms should be stopped from promoting dangerous stunts. Fifth, independent monitoring mechanisms should be established to ensure accountability and transparency of traffic police. India's democracy is vast and vibrant. But democracy is not just about the right to vote; it is also about equality before the law and civic responsibility. When someone breaks the rules on the road, they not only take personal risks; they also endanger the lives of others. The outrage of a mother in the Dwarka incident reminds us that behind every accident lies a family that has been shattered. If 70 percent of vehicles are not following the rules, it represents not just an administrative failure but a crisis of collective consciousness.

## Single Contact Campaign in Subarnapur District Today

SUBARNAPUR. (Correspondent)---On the third day of the Odisha Sahitya Anusthan, a single contact campaign was held in Subarnapur district. First, Hemant Sahu, the secretary of the Yugayatri Sahitya Sansad, met Subarnapur Collector Dr. Nruparaj Sahu, and then went to the Saptadeepa Sahitya Sansad in Birmaharajpur and met and discussed with the president of the said institution, Dwiti Krishna Panda. After welcoming Dr. Sourabh Ranjan Khamari, the president of Mahanadi Sahitya Sansad, the leading literary institution in Subarnapur district, and secretary



Laxmi Narayan Sahu with flowers and Uttariya, Mr. Sahu discussed in detail about the goals and objectives of the campaign. Later, President Mr. Khamari said that this is a welcome step and for the first time in Odisha, Yugayatri Sahitya Sansad is conducting a contact campaign with literary institutions in thirty districts. He also mentioned that this will

create a close relationship between the literary institutions of Odisha and the writers. Later, the President and secretary gave all the information about this institution in written form to Shri Sahu. The secretary of the institution, Shri Sahu, expressed his views on various unique programs of Mahanadi Sahitya Sansad. Pradyumna Kumar Sahu, former president

and secretary of Mahanadi Sahitya Sansad, made constructive suggestions on how this campaign can be more beautiful and organized in the future. Poet Narendra Kumar Bhoi and Yuva Galpapak Abakash Pradhan collaborated in organizing all the programs. In this campaign, there is an effort to connect the literary institutions in thirty districts of Odisha

with a thread of harmonious relations and by collecting information from the literary institutions, there is a plan to publish a book titled "Odisha Literary Institutions: (Odisha Sahitya Anusthan) Contribution to the Odia Language Literary Culture", said Hemant Sahu, secretary of the one-time traveler Yuga Yatri Sahitya Sansad. The campaign is planned to start from M.Rampur and start from Kandhamal district, travel through Boudh district today to Subarnapur district, visit all the districts in stages and end in Kalahandi on March 18. It seems that the editor has done this campaign on his own initiative

## Matric Examination of Board of Secondary Education from 19th

JAJPUR (Correspondent) : The Matric Examination conducted by the Board of Secondary Education, Odisha will commence from the 19th of this month. In Jajpur district, preparations for the examination have reached the final stage. A total of 27,685 students from the district will appear for the examination this year. For the smooth conduct of the examination, 148 examination centres have been set up across the district. Out of the total candidates, 27,716 students belong to regular and ex-regular categories. To ensure safe storage and dispatch of question

papers, 10 nodal centres have been established and 34 question paper storage and dispatch teams have been formed. The Madhyama and Open School examinations will be conducted at three centres in the district, where 596 regular and ex-regular students will appear. Similarly, 373 candidates will take the State Open School Certificate (SOSC) examination, according to information from the district education department. Block-wise arrangements have been made, with examination centres set up in Jajpur town and 10 block headquarters. In Binjharpur block,

2,740 students will appear at 15 centres; in Badachana block, 3,129 students at 21 centres; in Bari block, 2,312 students at 16 centres; in Danagadi block, 1,817 students at 10 centres; in Dasarathpur block, 2,844 students at 16 centres; in Dharmasala block, 3,422 students at 22 centres; in Jajpur block, 2,711 students at 17 centres; in Korei block, 3,177 students at 18 centres; in Rasulpur block, 3,418 students at 20 centres; and in Sukinda block, 2,095 students at 10 centres. This year, the highest number of candidates is in Dharmasala block (3,442), while the lowest is in Danagadi block (1,817).

## Kalahandi: A digital governance 'AmarSahayak' launched



Bhawanipatna: (Correspondent) In a major step towards to provide smart service to the citizen, the Kalahandi District Administration has launched an online digital platform "AmarSahayak" a state-of-the-art AI-powered chatbot in a 'special Workshop-cum-Launching ceremony' which was held at Bhawanipatna's Zilla Parishad Conference Hall on Wednesday. Gracing the launching ceremony the collector Sachin Pawar has laid emphasis on the merit of smart features of digital platform "AmarSahayak" an whatsapp enabled by mobile phone and urged the all officers to integrate their services with the platform to assist the public more efficiently in this regard, in his address. Notably, Kalahandi by emerging as a pioneer in AI-driven governance in the region has moved forward to provide a seamless experience for citizens in both language Odia and English about instant information on various services with an hassle free mode.

## Police court case against farmers protesting against mandi corruption, court grants bail

SUBARNAPUR. (Correspondent) --- Today, the honorable court granted bail to the farmers who protested against the corruption in the paddy market in front of the Legislative Assembly building yesterday, breaking the conspiracy of the police to send them to jail at the behest of the government. Akshaya Kumar, founder and national coordinator of the Navnirman Krushak Sangathan, said that this is a victory of truth and justice. Where F.A. Q is used to cut 5 kg to 15 kg per quintal, how can the farmer who works hard and produces survive there? Till now, people have not received tokens, even if they get tokens, 10 quintals are coming



in 40/80 quintals. When asked, the officials said, we cannot do anything. A survey has been done from above (via satellite), let's run it this year, let's see next year. If this year the farmer loses 50,000 or 1 lakh rupees, then suicide will be the only option. Have the government officials thought that he might not see it next year? And then when he comes to protest

with paddy, the government does not hesitate to send the farmer to jail. Akshaya Kumar announced that the people will give a reply to such an undemocratic and tyrannical government in the Kisan Ekta Gana Padyatra and Satyagraha to be held from Ghatgaon, Keonjhar to Bhubaneswar from March 22 to March 31. The Satyagraha is

aimed at proving the rights of the original inhabitants over land, water, forests and mines with the demands of farmers' prices, prestige and pensions etc. The sangathans state coordinator, Seshadeb Nanda, and Navnirman Yuvachhatra state coordinator, Manawar Alli, were prominently present at today's press conference.

## Rayagada Municipality Organizes "Safai Karmachari Samman Utsav"

Rayagada, (Correspondent) : The Rayagada Municipality organized a grand "Safai Karmachari Samman Utsav" at the municipal auditorium to honour sanitation workers who play a vital role in maintaining cleanliness in the town. Selected sanitation workers were felicitated and awarded for their dedicated and remarkable service. More than 400 sanitation workers participated in a special health check-up camp organized on the occasion. Their health examinations were conducted and necessary medical advice was provided. Each worker was also provided with a personal health booklet to maintain complete medical records, ensuring regular monitoring and better healthcare support in the future. The programme concluded with a community feast ('Bada Khana'), where dignitaries personally served food to the sanitation workers as a gesture of respect and appreciation. The District Collector of Rayagada, Ashutosh Kulkarni, attended as the Chief Guest. Project Director, DRDA, Akshaya Kumar Khemundu, was present as Guest of Honour. Chairperson P. Mahesh Patnaik, Vice-Chairperson, councillors, sanitation experts, Swachh Sathis and supervisors were also present. Addressing the gathering, the Collector appreciated the initiative and urged collective efforts to improve Rayagada's position at the national level in Swachh Survekshan 2026. He further assured that accumulated waste in the town would soon be processed through bio-mining and that a modern Solid Waste Management Centre would be established in Ward No. 03 with advanced mechanized systems.

## Inmate Itishree Mohanty's gold missing in Chaudwar Jail, Senior Superintendent gives Rs 1 lakh 90 thousand instead of gold

Cuttack, (Correspondent) : The incident of missing jewellery of prisoner Itishree Mohanty in Chaudhary Circle Jail has taken a controversial turn. Senior Superintendent Sujit Kumar Rawal today returned Rs 1 lakh 90 thousand to Itishree instead of gold. This is said to be a complete violation of Rule-834(12) of the 2020 Odisha Model Jail Manual. As per the rules, if any prisoner's belongings are lost in the jail, the jail superintendent will investigate it and take departmental action against the guilty jail staff. This money will be recovered from the salary of the concerned guilty staff. But the incident of giving money to Itishree by the Senior



Superintendent of Chaudhary Circle Jail, Shri Rawal, has created a stir. Questions have been raised about the source from which Shri Rawal got such a large amount of money and gave it to an accused. Itishree Mohanty of Mahanga, Cuttack district was arrested on September 22, 2025 in a case and went to Chaudhary Circle Jail on the 23rd. On reaching Chaudhary Jail

in the afternoon that day, the security personnel removed her earrings, necklace, and nose ring. After spending 3 months in jail, Itishree was released on bail on December 23rd. When she was released, she was told to come later, saying that the jewelry was not found. Later, she went to the jail about 5 times, but the jewelry was not found. On the other hand, the

Senior Superintendent of Olta Circle Jail, Shri Rawal, had promised to give her money by filing a false case against Santoshini Das, a former jailer, for stealing gold. Itishree had filed a complaint with the Chaudwar police station on the 8th of this month alleging that she was tortured when she did not agree to this. While the police have registered a case and are investigating the incident, on Tuesday, Itishree has informed the Chaudwar police station IIC Rajnikant Das in writing that Jail Superintendent Mr. Rawal had given the cash to Itishree. A photo of the money transaction taking place inside the superintendent's office has also been taken. Therefore, Itishree has

informed the IIC in writing that she is withdrawing the case against the Jail Superintendent, which she had earlier filed against the Chaudwar police station for missing jewelry. Earlier, on January 17, former jail inmate Dash had filed a complaint against Jail Superintendent Mr. Rawal for forging documents. In this regard, in the complaint filed by Shri Raul Chaudhary at the police station on the 18th, he blamed Shrimati Das for the disappearance of the gold ornaments of the deceased. The question arises as to why departmental action will not be taken against the superintendent in such an incident.

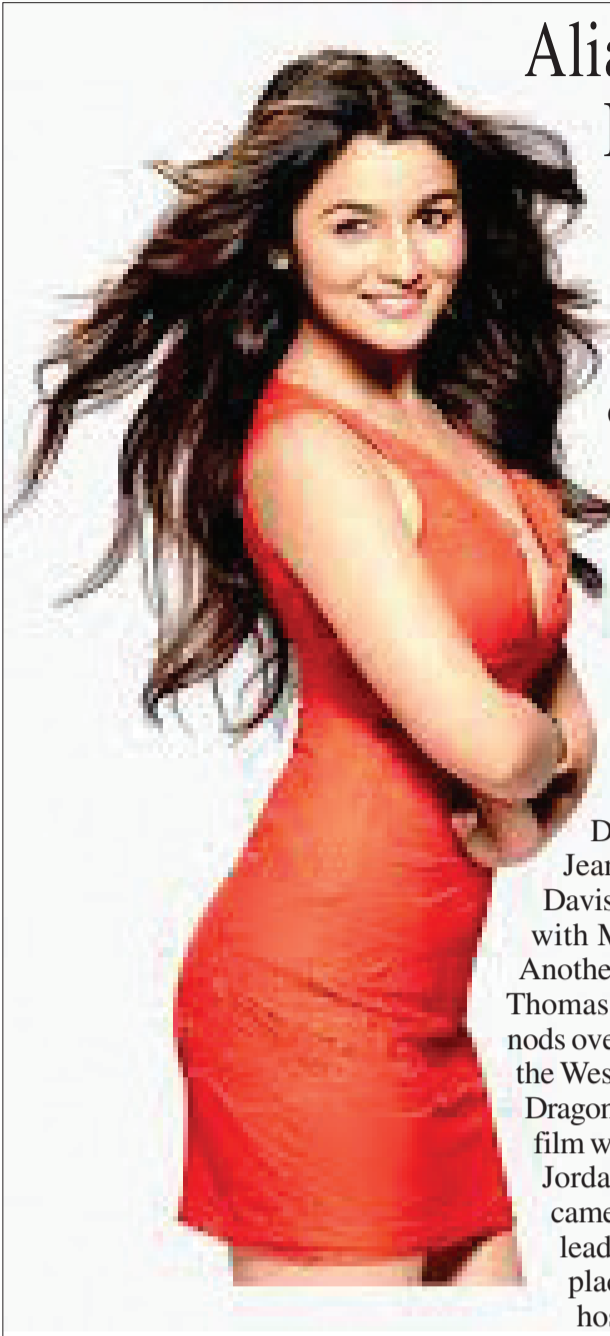
## TPSODL Launches 'Gaja Sanrakshana Project' to Mitigate Human-Elephant Conflict in Southern Odisha



Berhampur, (Correspondent) : TP Southern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPSODL), a joint venture of Tata Power and the Government of Odisha, has launched the 'Gaja Sanrakshana Project' to mitigate human-elephant conflict through structured collaboration and preventive infrastructure measures. The pilot initiative is being implemented in the Ghumsur North Forest

Division, Bhanjanagar, in partnership with SNEHA NGO. The project aims to reduce elephant electrocution incidents, strengthen community awareness, and enhance coordination between the Forest Department and the power utility. It reinforces TPSODL's continued commitment to biodiversity conservation and community safety in Southern Odisha. The project covers four forest ranges under the Ghumsur North

Forest Division—Majhagada, Tarasing, Gallery and Jagannathprasad—areas that witness frequent elephant movement and associated risks. Designed as a convergence model, the initiative integrates community participation with technical interventions to prevent accidents and create a responsive safety mechanism in vulnerable pockets.



## Alia Bhatt to take stage as presenter at BAFTA 2026 alongside Cillian Murphy, Michael B Jordan, Ethan Hawke

Bollywood star Alia Bhatt is set to take the stage as a presenter at the British Academy Film Awards (BAFTAs) 2026 - one of the most prestigious celebrations of excellence in international cinema. At this year's ceremony, Alia will be joining an illustrious line-up of global talent including Bryan Cranston, Cillian Murphy, Ethan Hawke, Kate Hudson, Michael B. Jordan and others. Notably, this is not the first time that the 'Jigra' star has represented India globally. Her previous stints were at the iconic Met Gala and the prestigious Cannes Film Festival, further cementing her position as a powerful global voice from Indian cinema. The BAFTA Awards 2026 will bring together an exceptional roster of presenters and nominees from around the world, according to a release. Presenters confirmed to date include Aaron Pierre, Aimee Lou Wood, Alicia Vikander, Alia Bhatt, Bryan Cranston, Cillian Murphy, David Jonsson, Delroy Lindo, Emily Watson, Erin Doherty, Ethan Hawke, Gillian Anderson, Glenn Close, Hannah Waddingham, Kate Hudson, Kathryn Hahn, Kerry Washington, Little Simz, Maggie Gyllenhaal, Mia McKenna-Bruce, Michael B. Jordan, Miles Caton, Milly Alcock, Minnie Driver, Monica Bellucci, Noah Jupe, Olivia Cooke, Patrick Dempsey, Rege-Jean Page, Riz Ahmed, Sadie Sink, Stellan Skarsgard, Stormzy, and Warwick Davis. The nominations for the BAFTAs 2026 were announced in January this year, with Michael B Jordan's 'Sinners' and Leonardo DiCaprio's 'One Battle After Another' leading the race followed by Timothee Chalamet's 'Marty Supreme'. Paul Thomas Anderson directorial political satire 'One Battle After Another' bagged 14 nods overall, just two shy of the record set by 'Gandhi' and leveling with 'All Quiet on the Western Front', 'Atonement', 'The King's Speech' and 'Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon,' reported Variety. Ryan Coogler directorial 'Sinners' closely follows Leonardo's film with 13 nominations providing the first trip for the director and actor Michael B Jordan to BAFTA's as nominees. Just below, 'Hamnet' and 'Marty Supreme' both came away with 11 nominations, with Timothee Chalamet returning to BAFTA's leading actor race for a second year in a row. The BAFTA Film Awards will take place on February 22 at London's Royal Festival Hall, with Alan Cumming on hosting duties, reported Variety.

## Feeling tired and overwhelmed? Mental health counsellor reveals 3 signs of emotional fatigue

Sometimes, you feel a deep-rooted emotional fatigue that you can't seem to shake off, even when you are getting through your day just fine and showing up for all your commitments, both at work and in your personal life. But beneath that functional exterior, there's a dull exhaustion and heaviness.

Instead of continuing to push forward on autopilot, it is important to take time to pause, reevaluate and take a closer look at what this emotional fatigue is trying to tell you. This is not entirely silent, as there are signs your mind and body send when they need you to stop and rest.

To understand more about these signs, HT Lifestyle reached out to Aanandita Vaghani, founder and mental health counsellor at UnFix Your Feelings, who revealed the key signs for you to identify.

"Your nervous system communicates in subtle ways when you're moving too fast," she noted, suggesting that the nervous system lets you know in its own way, urging you to return to balance by addressing the emotional fatigue.

Next, the counsellor noted that even small, regular tasks can start to feel like a lot of work. Tasks that once felt like routine, such as replying to texts, planning a day out, concentrating at work, may suddenly feel emotionally overwhelming, even though one continues to power through and complete them.

One may confuse them with a sign of demotivation or laziness, but Aanandita clarified that they are actually signs that cognitive and emotional capacity has been stretched thin. In fact, it does not only stay emotional, but translates physically as well. She described some signs like muscle tension, headaches, gut issues, frequent illnesses, or a general sense of clumsiness.

"From a therapeutic lens, these are cues of overload. Listening means reducing stimulation where possible, simplifying routines, and letting go of the belief that growth has to feel uncomfortable to be valid," Aanandita explained.

3. Functioning on the outside, disconnected on the inside

The counsellor shared that while everything may appear fine on the surface, with a person staying productive and showing up to work,

## 7 habits to quit to improve oral health



Taking care of dental and overall oral health is not limited to brushing twice a day. According to Dr Mark Burhenne, California-based dentist with nearly 40 years of experience, there are nuances to it that many people are not often aware of.

### 1. Quit using antibacterial mouthwash

While many consider using an anti-bacterial mouthwash a healthy habit, that is simply not true. According to Dr Burhenne, the substance destroys the oral microbiome, as well as raises the blood pressure by attacking the healthy bacteria. Instead, the dentist suggests oil pulling, which involves swishing edible oil in the mouth.

### 2. Quit brushing immediately after eating

Brushing right after eating results in scrubbing away the enamel coating of our teeth. Dr Burhenne suggests waiting for 30 to 45 minutes before brushing.

### 3. Quit ignoring your kid's mouth breathing

If a child keeps his mouth open at rest, has a forward head posture and dark circles under the eyes, it should not be ignored as "just a phase." Instead, they should be considered as airway red flags.

### 4. Quit whitening the teeth every few months

Whitening the teeth may look like an attractive

prospect, but it should not be done frequently, shared Dr Burhenne. This is because tooth enamel does not grow back. Gaining peroxide sensitivity over time is a warning sign of irreversible damage to the teeth, and not a side effect to push through.

### 5. Quit assuming snoring is normal

While snoring is a very common phenomenon and often associated with quality sleep, it is not a normal phenomenon, according to Dr Burhenne. "It's a sign your airway is obstructed," he explained, adding that snoring has been linked to "heart disease, cognitive decline, and metabolic dysfunction."

### 6. Quit rinsing after brushing

Rinsing the mouth with water is an extremely common practice after brushing the teeth. However, according to Dr Burhenne, we should only spit out the foam after brushing and never rinse. This is because the fluoride (or hydroxyapatite) present in toothpaste needs time to work, and rinsing it away defeats the entire purpose.

### 7. Quit waiting until it hurts to go to the dentist

It does not do well to be late to the dentist. By the time a tooth hurts, an individual has lost the window in which a likely cavity could have been reversed. "Pain is late-stage," explained Dr Burhenne. "Prevention is the whole game."

doesn't seem to work

Aanandita shared instances from her clinic, "One of the most common things I hear at the start of a new year is, 'I'm tired, but I don't know why.' People are sleeping, taking breaks, even planning holidays, and yet their energy doesn't return. This usually points to nervous system fatigue rather than physical tiredness." She further noted that when the body remains in a prolonged state of urgency or high alert, it adapts to stress as its default mode. And because of external circumstances, like work or social life, slowing down does not always happen easily. But it is critical to adjust your body to a slower rhythm; you may experience burnout.

2. Everyday tasks feel heavier than they should

they may feel distressed internally.

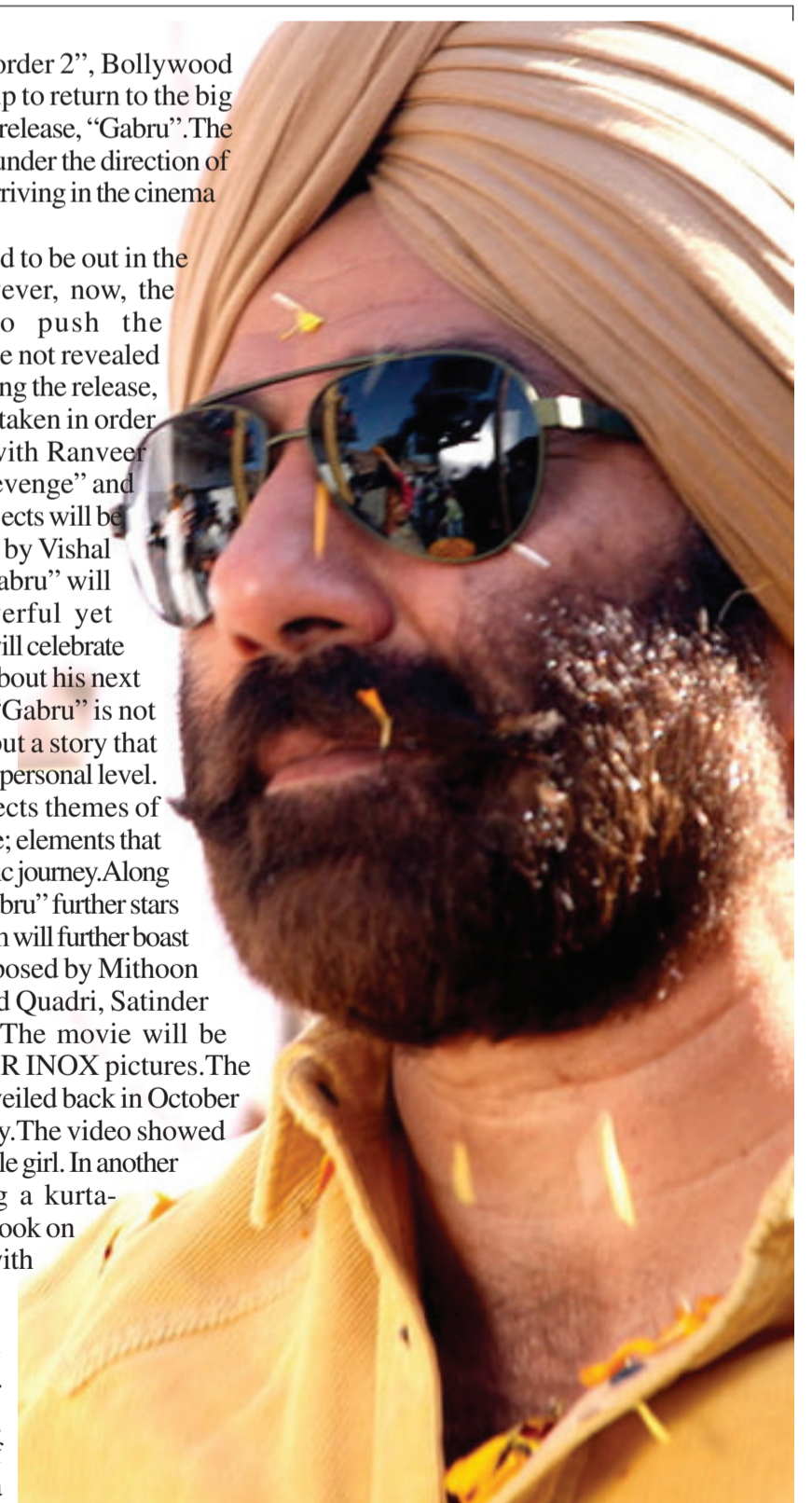
She described this state as feeling emotionally flat or unusually irritable. Elaborating further, she said, "This is often a sign of dysregulation, where speed has replaced presence. The body copes by numbing out or becoming reactive."

The counsellor shared that while everything may appear fine on the surface, with a person staying productive and showing up to work, they may feel distressed internally. She described this state as feeling emotionally flat or unusually irritable. Elaborating further, she said, "This is often a sign of dysregulation, where speed has replaced presence. The body copes by numbing out or becoming reactive."

Basking in the success of "Border 2", Bollywood actor Sunny Deol is gearing up to return to the big screen with another promising release, "Gabru". The project, which has been made under the direction of Shashank Udaypurkar, will be arriving in the cinema halls on 8th May this year.

"Gabru" was previously slated to be out in the theatres on March 13. However, now, the makers have decided to push the release. While the makers have not revealed the exact reason behind delaying the release, the decision might have been taken in order to avoid a box office clash with Ranveer Singh's "Dhurandhar: The Revenge" and Yash's "Toxic". Both these projects will be released on March 19. Backed by Vishal Rana and Om Chhangani, "Gabru" will showcase Sunny in a powerful yet emotionally resonant role that will celebrate strength and spirit. Speaking about his next project, Sunny revealed that "Gabru" is not just another project for him, but a story that resonates with him on a deeply personal level. He added that the movie reflects themes of courage, identity, and resilience; elements that have always defined his cinematic journey. Along with Sunny, the core cast of "Gabru" further stars Simran and Prit Kamani. The film will further boast some noteworthy tracks composed by Mithoon and lyrics provided by Sayeed Quadri, Satinder Sartaj, and Anurag Saikya. The movie will be distributed nationwide by PVR INOX pictures. The first look of the drama was unveiled back in October 2025 on Sunny's 68th birthday. The video showed Sunny carrying the body of a little girl. In another scene, he was seen wearing a kurta-pajama, sitting with a serious look on his face. The clip concluded with the text, "Sunny Deol in and as Gabru."

In addition to "Gabru", Sunny will also lead Rajkumar Santoshi's "Lahore 1947?", which will mark the return of Bollywood beauty Preity Zinta to the big screen.



Sunny Deol's 'Gabru' Release Pushed; Film To Be Out On May 8

# T20 WC: Shivam Dube's Career Best 66 Helps India Post 193/6 Against Netherlands

Ahmedabad: Shivam Dube's 66 and Suryakumar Yadav's 34 helped India reach 193/6 against the Netherlands in the 36th match of the T20 World Cup 2026 at the Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad, on Wednesday. Shivam Dube's 66 against the Netherlands now stands as his highest T20I score, surpassing his 65 against New Zealand in Visakhapatnam earlier in 2026 and the unbeaten 63 against Afghanistan in Indore in 2024. After electing to bat on a red soil wicket, India lost out-of-form Abhishek Sharma early as he departed for his third consecutive duck of the tournament. Aryan Dutt struck twice early to shake India during the



Power-play. He dismissed both Sharma and Ishan Kishan (18 off 17) with three excellent overs of off-spin with the new ball. Ishan showed promise with a few solid hits and added 39 runs with Tilak Varma (31) before he got bowled in an unfortunate dismissal. Varma and

skipper Suryakumar Yadav took hold of the Indian innings and then added 30-odd runs. Suryakumar was dropped by Michael Levitt off Logan van Beek, but ultimately, the Netherlands all-rounder got rid of Varma with a slower delivery bowled outside off. Varma, looking to go big over

long-off, placed it beside 41-year-old Roelof van der Merwe, who attempted a full-stretched dive to complete the wicket. Skipper Suryakumar then opened his hand with a signature style 'Supla' shot off de Leede in the 12th over, and then all-rounder Shivam Dube took charge of power-hitting in

the very next over. Colin Ackermann, bowling the 13th over, was taken down by Dube with two maximums on the leg side and a boundary, carving the covers as 19 runs came off the over. Just when it seemed like the hosts were gaining momentum with Suryakumar and Dube launching a counterattack, the Netherlands responded fiercely with the wicket of the skipper, who departed on 34 off 28. The visitors struck at a key moment, stopping the charge and bringing the game back into balance. India changed their approach dramatically in the middle-overs. They scored 15 runs off the 16th over and hit another 20 in the next.

The decision to bowl spin did not work out. Van der Merwe couldn't stop the attack, so Bas de Leede had to return to the bowling lineup as India raced past 150 in 17 overs. Dube led the way, blasting both spin and pace on his way to an explosive half-century off just 25 balls, featuring two fours and five sixes. Dube's explosive innings ended as he left the field after scoring a career-best 66 off just 31 balls. This performance helped drive India's strong showing. Fourteen runs came from the final over, with Rinku Singh making his mark by hitting a six on just his second ball. India finished with a commanding total of 193/6.

## AFI Names 12-Member Indian Team For Asian Cross-Country Championships

New Delhi: Army's Harmanjot Singh will be among the 12-member Indian team that will compete in the 18th Asian Cross-Country Championships scheduled for February 21 in Fukuoka, Japan. The Indian team will leave Wednesday for Japan, said Bahadur Singh Sagoo, president of AFI (Athletics Federation of India). The Indian athletes will compete in the senior men's, women's, and U20 groups. Harmanjot Singh will compete in the men's 10km. Aditya Gurjar, Abhinandan Suryavanshi and Karan Ramesh Saranade will represent India in the men's U20 category. The distance for the men's U20 event is 8km. The members of the women's 10km team are Nandani Gupta, Ujala, Soniya and Munni Devi. Versha, Mani Yadav, Sonam Kumari and Aarju will compete in the women's U20 group. The AFI selected the national team based on the athletes' performance during the 60th National Cross-Country Championships held last month in Ranchi, Jharkhand, where 35 teams, including affiliated state units, participated. Athletes from Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) had clinched senior men and women team titles at the National Cross Country Championships. Harmanjot Singh representing SSCB (Services Sports Control Board) was the winner of the men's individual 10km event with a time of 30:33. The winner in the women's individual 10km event was Nandani Gupta of RSPB, clocking 35:42.28.

## Proteas Dominate South Africa vs UAE T20 World Cup Match to Enter Super Eight Undefeated

NEWDELHI: South Africa booked their spot in the next round without losing a single game. They easily chased down a modest target in the South Africa vs UAE T20 World Cup match held in Delhi. Winning by six wickets with 40 deliveries remaining, the Proteas showed massive strength before the Super Eight phase begins. Fans following cricket news Odisha will notice that this dominant win keeps their perfect tournament record totally intact. Opting to rest star bowlers like Marco Jansen and Keshav Maharaj, the latest SA cricket team updates showed a fresh bowling attack stepping up perfectly. Corbin

Bosch bowling was truly exceptional, claiming three crucial wickets while giving away just 12 runs. He led the aggressive charge on a tricky surface, forcing batters into very uncomfortable positions using well-directed short-pitched deliveries. George Linde also bowled brilliantly, tying down the batsmen to slow down the overall scoring rate. For the opposition, Alishan Sharafu tried his absolute best with a fighting 45 off 38 balls. However, most of his teammates struggled, meaning they could only post a highly disappointing score of 122 for 6 in their final tournament appearance. Despite this

incredibly comfortable victory, fielding remains a major concern for the winning side. The team shockingly dropped four easy catches during the first innings. Experienced players like Quinton de Kock and Anrich Nortje failed to hold onto routine chances in the outfield. This sloppy effort highlights a vital area they must quickly fix before facing much tougher opponents in the ongoing T20 World Cup 2026. The run chase was an explosive affair right from the very beginning. Aiden Markram batting was highly aggressive, as he smashed multiple boundaries during the early powerplay to completely crush any hopes of a surprise upset.

## Spinners shine bright during Pakistan vs Namibia T20 World Cup match to secure Super Eight

NEWDELHI: Pakistan booked their ticket to the Super Eight stage of the tournament with a crushing 102-run victory over Namibia in Colombo. This massive win completely ended any hopes the USA had of advancing further in the tournament. Sahibzada Farhan was the undisputed star of the Pakistan vs Namibia T20 World Cup match. He smashed a brilliant, unbeaten century to calm his team's early nerves. Farhan scored exactly 100 runs off just 58 balls, hitting 11 boundaries and four massive sixes. His late acceleration was incredible, as he scored his second fifty from a mere 20 deliveries.



Impressively, his individual score was higher than the entire Namibian team total. Pakistan needed a strong win to safely secure their Super Eight spot. They posted a daunting total of 199 for

3. Salman Agha provided crucial support with a quick 38 from 23 balls. Shadab Khan was promoted up the batting order and helped push the run rate higher in the final

overs alongside Farhan. Chasing 200, Namibia started with aggressive intent during the powerplay. Louren Steenkamp looked dangerous early on, scoring a quick 23. However, the Pakistani

spin bowlers soon took complete control of the game. Mohammad Nawaz started the collapse by taking a crucial wicket and slowing down the run rate. Then, the magic of Usman Tariq spin completely destroyed the lower order. Tariq bowled brilliantly to claim his career-best figures of 4 for 16. His tricky deliveries were simply too difficult for the batters to read. Shadab Khan also delivered a stellar all-round performance, taking 3 wickets for just 19 runs and grabbing two spectacular catches. Namibia completely collapsed under the pressure and were bowled out for just 97 runs.

## Three Odisha players named in Indian Men's Hockey Team

Bhubaneswar: Odisha's three players named in the 24-member Indian Men's Hockey Team, which announced on Tuesday by hockey India, the tea, will take part in the Hobart leg of the FIH Men's Pro League 2025-26, scheduled to take place from 20th to 25th February at the Tasmania Hockey Centre in Hobart. Odisha defenders Amit Rohidas, Amandeep Lakra and forward Shilananda Lakra placed in the national squad. The upcoming leg of the tournament will feature India alongside Spain and hosts Australia, promising high-octane and competitive hockey action. Experienced campaigner Hardik



Singh, who is a two-time Olympic Bronze Medallist in Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024, has been appointed as the captain of the side. The Hobart leg of the FIH Men's Pro League 2025-26 will offer the squad an opportunity to regroup as they look to build towards the Men's FIH Hockey World Cup and

Asian Games later this year. India - 24-member squad: Goalkeepers: Suraj Karkera, Mohith Honnaha, Shashikumar, Defenders: Amit Rohidas, Jarmanpreet Singh, Jugraj Singh, Sanjay, Sumit, Amandeep Lakra, Yashdeep Siwach, Poovanna Chandura Bobby, Midfielders:

Rajinder Singh, Manmeet Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Hardik Singh, Moirangthem Rabichandra Singh, Vishnu Kant Singh, Raj Kumar Pal, Forwards: Abhishek, Shilanand Lakra, Mandeep Singh, Arajjeet Singh Hundal, Aditya Arjun Lalage, Angad Bir Singh, Maninder Singh

## Airee And Kami Shine As Nepal Beats Scotland By Seven Wickets In High Scoring T20 World Cup Encounter

NEWDELHI: Nepal has finally ended a long 12-year wait for a victory on the global stage. In a thrilling Nepal vs Scotland T20 World Cup encounter at the Wankhede Stadium, the Rhinos chased down a tricky target to defeat Scotland by seven wickets. This victory marks their first win in the tournament since their debut back in 2014, bringing immense joy to their passionate supporters. The match was a rollercoaster of emotions, true to Nepal's reputation as the "Cardiac Kids" of cricket. Scotland batted first and looked set for a massive total. Scottish opener Michael Jones was in fine form, scoring



a solid 71 runs. At one stage, Scotland was cruising comfortably with the scoreboard reading 131 for 1. However, the game turned on its head thanks to veteran bowler Sompal Kami. Kami, the only player remaining from Nepal's 2014

squad, delivered a stunning spell. He took three crucial wickets for just 25 runs, including a spectacular return catch to dismiss Brandon McMullen. His bowling sparked a collapse, restricting Scotland to 170 for 7 when a score of 200 looked

possible. Chasing 171, Nepal started strong but soon found themselves in trouble. Scottish spinner Michael Leask picked up three quick wickets, reducing Nepal to 98 for 3. The required run rate began to climb, and tension filled the stadium.

# Howrah–Junagarh Road Ispat Express Extension to Boost Connectivity in Western Odisha

Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent): In a significant step towards strengthening rail connectivity in Western Odisha, the Howrah–Titlagarh–Howrah Ispat Express has been extended up to Junagarh Road. The extension is set to bring greater convenience, improved accessibility, and new opportunities for the people of Balangir and Kalahandi districts. The inaugural run of the extended portion between Junagarh Road and Titlagarh will take place on 19th February 2026, marking an important milestone in enhancing rail services in the



region. Regular Services • Train No. 12871 (Howrah–Titlagarh Express) will now run up to Junagarh Road, originating from Howrah with effect from 21.02.2026. • Train No. 12872 (Titlagarh–Howrah Express) will originate from Junagarh Road with effect from 22.02.2026. • The extended Howrah–Titlagarh – Junagarh

Road Express will have stoppages at Kesinga, Lanjigarh Road and Bhawanipatna between Titlagarh and Junagarh Road: All existing stoppages and timings between Howrah and Titlagarh will remain unchanged. The train will continue to operate as a Superfast Express between Howrah and Titlagarh and as a Mail/Express service

between Titlagarh and Junagarh Road. Public Benefit & Regional Impact The extension of the Ispat Express up to Junagarh Road is a major boost for Western Odisha. It provides direct and reliable connectivity to people of Kalahandi and adjoining areas, reducing dependence on connecting trains and easing travel for daily passengers. The

enhanced service will benefit students, patients seeking medical care, traders, government employees, and working professionals. It is also expected to promote tourism and facilitate smoother movement of goods and small-scale trade, thereby contributing to local economic growth. Overall, the extension reflects a continued commitment to inclusive and balanced regional development, ensuring that improved rail infrastructure supports the aspirations and progress of Western Odisha.

# Aditya Aluminium Organized a Sports Kit Distribution Programme under its CSR initiative, Project Lakshya



Sambalpur: (Correspondent): The event was organized for community sports and youth clubs, covering 18 groups comprising 143 members from six Gram Panchayats in the plant vicinity area. The initiative aimed to motivate youth towards sports for improved health and to create awareness about sports as a potential career opportunity. Sports kits containing football kits, cricket kits, badminton sets, and volleyball sets

were distributed. Special encouragement was extended to girls' football teams to support their participation in matches at different locations. The programme was attended by senior leadership including Cluster HR Head Dr. Krishna Padhi, Unit Head Jagannath Prasad Nayak, Unit HR Head Vinoda Nand Thakur, Mr. Kiran Behera Samiti member Lapanga, Mr. Sesadev Padhan Ex Sarpanch Bomaloi, CSR

Cluster Head Siba Mahapatra, Mr. Amit Panda Commercial Head and Environment Head Ranjan Jena. Addressing the gathering, Mr. Siba Mahapatra emphasized the importance of community development through sports promotion. The initiative reflects the organization's continued commitment towards youth empowerment, community development, and promotion of healthy lifestyles through sports.

# Adani Foundation Organizes Health Camp at Multipurpose Cyclone Centre

Dhamra, (Correspondent): Adani Foundation, the CSR arm of Dhamra Port Company Limited, successfully conducted a Multi-speciality Health camp at Multipurpose Cyclone Centre, Kanakprasad. The camp provided free medical consultation and medicines to 407 patients from the peripheral villages Kanakprasad, Satarprasad, Balisahi, Gourprasad. The event was graced by the PS members of Kaithkhola GP and officials of



Adani Foundation. A team of specialist doctors from various departments such as Medicine, Orthopaedic and Skin consulted to patients and suggested the required

medication. This initiative underscores Adani Foundation's commitment to improving healthcare accessibility in the region and its ongoing efforts to support the community's well-being.

# Sensex Surges 283 Points for Third Straight Day Amid Global Rally

New Delhi: Indian stock markets closed higher for the third consecutive session on Wednesday, buoyed by robust global cues on the third trading day of the week. The BSE Sensex, comprising 30 shares, jumped 283.29 points or 0.34 percent to settle at 83,734.25. Meanwhile, the NSE Nifty, tracking 50 shares, rose 93.95 points or 0.37 percent, ending at 25,819.35. At the close of trading, the total market capitalization of BSE-listed companies climbed to 471.89 lakh



crore rupees from 470.11 lakh crore rupees in the previous session. This marked an increase of nearly 1.78 lakh crore rupees in market cap,

boosting investors' wealth by approximately 1.80 lakh crore rupees. Among Sensex's 30 constituents, 19 shares advanced, while

31 out of Nifty's 50 stocks posted gains. Tata Steel led with a 2.90 percent surge, followed by ITC, Axis Bank, Reliance Industries, and Mahindra & Mahindra, which closed up between 1.18 percent and 2.21 percent. Metal, banking, and FMCG sectors drove gains, though IT shares declined. Notably, on Tuesday, the Sensex had risen 173.81 points or 0.21 percent to 83,450.96, with the Nifty gaining 42.65 points or 0.17 percent to 25,725.40.

# Digital Energy Leap: P2P Energy Trading Platform Launched At AI Summit

New Delhi: A significant milestone in the country's energy sector was marked on Wednesday as the PowerXchange App was showcased live and the Interstate Peer-to-Peer (P2P) Energy Trading Platform was officially launched at the India Energy Stack Pavilion during the Global AI Summit. Union Power Minister Manohar Lal was shown the app, demonstrating how consumers and prosumers can trade surplus solar energy seamlessly. Earlier, the platform was demonstrated live before Prime Minister Narendra Modi, highlighting its potential to help farmers and electricity users generate additional income while promoting energy self-reliance. The initiative, under the India Energy Stack, selected PowerXchange as one of only two platforms nationwide for advancing P2P energy trading. Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (UPPCL) facilitated the development of the technology and registration of users on the platform. During the live demo, beneficiary Lakshmi Gaba, a small boutique owner, used the app's AI voice agent to purchase electricity, showcasing its simplicity and usability.

# Sitharaman Charts India-Norway Growth Path in Key Oslo Summit

Oslo (H.S.): Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman met Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre on Wednesday to discuss the implementation of India-EFTA and TEPA agreements while exploring expanded collaboration across priority sectors. The leaders deliberated extensively on enhancing partnerships between the two nations. A Finance Ministry statement posted on X highlighted emphasis on high-tech manufacturing, carbon capture and storage, startups, semiconductors, renewable energy, and waste management as promising areas for deepened cooperation. Prime Minister Støre



expressed enthusiasm for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's planned Norway visit later this year, confident it would further strengthen India-Norway ties. Earlier, Sitharaman participated in a roundtable with over 35 prominent Norwegian CEOs and top-level investors, joined by the CEO of India's National Investment and

Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) and CII President. She described her official Norway visit as featuring engaging and positive discussions positioning India as a compelling investment destination and the world's fastest-growing major economy. Sitharaman noted that the Union Budget 2026-27 exemplifies the government's reform

focus on easing regulatory and compliance burdens for citizens and companies. The NIIF CEO delivered a presentation illuminating India's growth narrative, reforms, and investment prospects in specific sectors between the two countries. The roundtable addressed existing and potential business-investment opportunities across renewables, carbon capture, rare earths, financial services, advanced engineering and manufacturing, and maritime ecosystems including shipbuilding and repair. Participants commended India's predictable policies and macroeconomic stability while acknowledging the government's reform momentum.

# India's Non-Fossil Power Capacity Surpasses 272 GW Milestone

New Delhi, : Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi announced on Wednesday that India's non-fossil fuel-based electricity generation capacity has exceeded 272 gigawatts, including 141 GW from solar and 55 GW from wind energy. India and the United Kingdom launched the India-UK Offshore Wind Taskforce on Wednesday under Vision 2035 to accelerate collaboration in offshore wind development as part of their expansive clean energy partnership. UK Deputy Prime Minister David Lammy and British High Commissioner to India Lindy Cameron were present at the event. At the launch of the India-UK Offshore Wind Taskforce, Joshi emphasized that offshore wind energy can become a robust



pillar of India's clean and self-reliant energy future. He revealed that India added over 35 GW of solar capacity and 4.61 GW of wind capacity in the current financial year 2025-26. Joshi highlighted that India achieved 50 percent of its total installed electricity capacity from non-fossil sources last year—five years ahead of its Nationally Determined Contribution target. These figures reflect clear policy frameworks, institutional coordination, and investor-industry

confidence, marking a crucial step toward 500 GW renewable energy by 2030 and net-zero emissions by 2070. The minister elaborated that India's current non-fossil capacity exceeds 272 GW, with solar contributing over 141 GW and wind 55 GW. He cited the scale through initiatives like PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, providing rooftop solar to nearly 30 lakh households in under two years, and PM Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthan Mahabhiyan, solarizing 21 lakh pumps.