

BJP GOVT CELEBRATES TWO YEAR COMPLETION OF ITS REIGN IN ODISHA

2



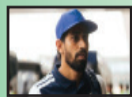
A woman was injured in an elephant attack

3



2nd ODI: Prince Yadav Debuts As Afghanistan Ask India To Bat First

7



Drink ajwain tea on empty stomach in summer for these wonderful benefits

6



## Trump's 'I'm The Boss' Comment To World Leaders At G7 Summit In France Goes Viral

Evian (France): US President Donald Trump jokingly told top world leaders attending the G7 Summit in France that he is "the boss", marking a light moment amid the ongoing tense geopolitical situation. "I'm the boss," said Trump as he arrived at an outreach session of the summit which was also attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Trump's comment drew laughter from the attending leaders with the host and French President Emmanuel Macron asking the US President replying "How are you?". "Good, thank you," replied Trump. The brief interaction has taken social media by storm. Wednesday is the final day of the G7 Summit at Evian and Trump is scheduled to hold a series of meetings, including with PM Modi. According to the

White House, both leaders are set to take India-US relations to "new highs" during their bilateral talks in France, with trade, technology, investment and global security expected to top the agenda. "President Trump and Prime Minister Modi have a close friendship, and under their leadership, the Trump administration and Indian government are set to take our two countries to new highs," White House spokesman Kush Desai told IANS. The meeting in Evian, on the sidelines of the G7 Summit, will be the first in-person meeting between the two leaders since their summit meeting last February. It comes amid discussions on a possible trade agreement and as diplomatic efforts continue to address the crisis in West Asia. According to the White House, the two leaders will discuss

economic growth, supply chains, artificial intelligence, investment partnerships and a range of global security challenges. "President Trump has consistently underscored his support for America's strategic partnership with India," Desai told IANS adding that Secretary of State Marco Rubio's recent visit to India built on Trump's efforts to deepen cooperation between the two countries on trade and national security. "Secretary Rubio's landmark visit to India built on the President's push to expand bilateral ties and cooperation on trade and national security, including with the signing of a historic MOU on critical minerals," he said. Experts say both sides are looking for tangible outcomes as well as strong political messaging.

## Odisha HLCA Clears Rs 76,612 Cr Investment Proposals, Over 50,000 Jobs Expected

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent) The High-Level Clearance Authority (HLCA), chaired by Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, on Wednesday approved 20 major investment proposals worth ₹76,611.86 crore that are expected to generate 50,517 employment opportunities across nine districts of the state. The approvals were granted during the 45th meeting of the HLCA and cover a diverse range of sectors, including gemstone manufacturing, green energy equipment, aerospace and defence, rare earth minerals-based value-added products, pharmaceuticals, capital goods, chemicals, steel, iron



and ferro alloys, and power and renewable energy. Highlighting Odisha's growing industrial appeal, Chief Minister Majhi said the state's progressive policies, improved ease of doing business, robust infrastructure and proactive investor facilitation efforts have helped attract investments across both

traditional and emerging sectors. "Today's approvals reflect growing investor confidence in Odisha and our commitment to creating employment opportunities, promoting industrial growth and ensuring balanced development," he said. Among the major proposals, Kira Diam LLP, Anjali

Labtech Limited and Grow Magnificent Private Limited will establish lab-grown diamond manufacturing units in Khordha with a combined investment of ₹9,817.50 crore. The projects are expected to create 8,100 jobs and strengthen Odisha's position in the gemstone manufacturing sector. In

the renewable energy segment, Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited will invest ₹10,000 crore to set up an ingot and wafer facility along with a solar photovoltaic (PV) cell manufacturing unit in Ganjam, generating 5,000 jobs. Saatvik Solar Industries Private Limited will invest ₹1,709.81 crore in a solar PV cell manufacturing facility in the district, creating 519 employment opportunities. The HLCA also approved key projects in the advanced materials and rare earth sector. N.A.N. Magnetech Private Limited will invest ₹1,250 crore to establish a high-performance EV-grade NdFeB magnet manufacturing unit in Khordha or Cuttack, creating 2,000 jobs.

## Trump Praises PM Modi, Calls Him One Of The 'Toughest Negotiators'

Evian (France): US President Donald Trump on Wednesday lavished praise on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, describing him as "one of the world's toughest negotiators" and saying "India would continue to play a major role on the global stage under his leadership". Speaking alongside PM Modi after their bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the G7 summit in France, Trump repeatedly highlighted his personal rapport with the Indian Prime Minister and the strength of the relationship between the two countries. "We had, in particular, some very good conversations with Prime Minister Modi of



India," the US President said. "A lot of things are happening between the United States and India." Asked about ongoing trade negotiations, Trump praised PM Modi's negotiating skills and suggested a bilateral

trade agreement was nearing completion. "We're very close," the US President said. "He's (PM Modi) a very tough negotiator. He's one of the toughest, actually." Trump then offered a colourful assessment of the Indian

leader. "You look at this man (PM Modi). I'll give you a lesson. He's the most beautiful-looking man. He looks so nice. He's like an angel." "But actually, he's a killer. He's as tough as they come," the US President said. Trump said PM

Modi's personality often led people to underestimate him. "He gets you by surprise," he added. "People say he's such a nice man. I said he's very tough. He's a tough negotiator." The US President also praised PM Modi's commitment to both India and the bilateral relationship. "He loves the Indian people, but he also loves the US," Trump said. Recalling their joint appearances before large crowds, Trump referred to the "Howdy Modi" event in Houston and his visit to India during his first term. "We had a great time in India," the US President said, describing the massive turnout at a stadium event attended by the two leaders.

## G7 Summit Evian Backs Historic US-Iran Peace Accord And Pledges Advanced Air Defences For Kyiv

NEW DELHI: Group of Seven leaders concluded their annual gathering in Evian, France, by signing a joint declaration that endorses a framework peace pact between the United States and Iran while cementing long-term military support for Ukraine. Meeting for the 52nd G7 Summit, the heads of state collectively embraced the diplomatic breakthrough negotiated under the Trump administration, framing it as a critical opening to halt Iranian nuclear weapons development and curb volatile ballistic activities across West Asia. Turning to Eastern Europe, the member nations promised a

significant expansion of Ukraine's defensive posture. The coalition committed to transferring more sophisticated air defence networks, interceptor missiles, and extended-range strike systems. To ensure sustainability ahead of the freezing winter months, the declaration details plans for licensing arrangements to scale up domestic military manufacturing directly inside Ukrainian borders. Simultaneously, economic restrictions will tighten on Russia's financial networks, explicitly squeezing its oil and gas export revenues. International focus remains fixed on

the upcoming formalization of the Washington-Tehran memorandum of understanding, scheduled for a signing ceremony in Switzerland later this week. Western powers expressed deep interest in shielding critical shipping corridors, endorsing a joint naval initiative by France and the United Kingdom to maintain unhindered commercial transit across the Strait of Hormuz. This maritime choke point recently suffered severe disruptions, prompting the G7 to accelerate global energy supply diversification, aided by projected fuel export increases from Canada.

## From Tussar Silk To Kalakand, 11 Jharkhand Products Get GI Recognition

Ranchi: Jharkhand's traditional arts, handicrafts, textiles and food items have received a major boost to their recognition after 11 products from the state were granted Geographical Indication (GI) tags, taking the total number of GI-tagged items to 12. This achievement is being seen as a significant step towards giving national and international visibility to the state's cultural heritage, tribal traditions, and the craftsmanship of local artisans. The 11 products that have received GI tags are

Kuchai silk saree and fabrics, Bhagaiya saree and fabrics, Dumka chadars, Panchi parhan-Panchi saree and fabrics, Jharkhand Tussar silk saree and fabrics, Jharkhand Dokra craft, tribal jewellery of Jharkhand, bamboo craft, Koderma (Jhumri Tilaiya) kesariya kalakand, Jharkhand Benu, and Jadopatia painting. Chief Minister Hemant Soren termed the development a matter of pride for the state, saying the recognition reflects the years of effort, skill and traditional knowledge of artisans,

weavers, farmers and tribal communities. He noted that in 2019, only one product from Jharkhand had a GI tag, while the number has now increased to 12. He said the GI tag would provide legal protection to these products, help them gain wider market recognition at the national and international levels, and enhance the income of local communities. The Chief Minister also said efforts are underway to secure GI tags for several other products, including traditional instruments like mandar, Paithkar painting, Nimucha shawl,

Deoghar peda, Kusumi lac, lac bangles, sal seeds, mahua flowers, karanj seeds, ragi, rugra, and dhuska. A GI tag provides legal protection to a product's geographical uniqueness and authenticity. It helps prevent duplication and establishes a distinct market identity. Experts believe that this recognition will help artisans, weavers, craftsmen and farmers secure better prices and open new export opportunities.

## Strong Earthquakes Hit Indonesia's Sulawesi and China's Qinghai

NEW DELHI: A 6.7 magnitude earthquake struck Sulawesi Island in Indonesia, shaking Palu city for more than a minute and triggering strong aftershocks. The tremors forced hospitals to evacuate patients, some with IV drips, outside as a precaution. Guests at a hotel in Palu were also evacuated after the building shook, though damage remained minimal. Authorities reported scattered damage but

no confirmed casualties. Meanwhile, a 6.3 magnitude earthquake hit Haixi prefecture in Qinghai province, China, at 5:06 pm local time on Tuesday. The shallow quake, at a depth of 10 kilometres, caused at least one death and injured four others. Chinese media reported eight tremors within 40 minutes, with aftershocks including one of around magnitude 5. The epicentre lay near

salt lakes and mining sites, prompting the evacuation of a coal mine. China's earthquake administration activated a Level III emergency response, deploying rescue teams and coordinating with local authorities. Preliminary estimates suggested that 8,660 people were exposed to the tremors. The Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System

(GDACS) assigned the quake a score of 2, indicating limited impact, though shaking ranged from moderate to severe in parts of the region. Western provinces such as Qinghai, Sichuan, and Tibet remain highly vulnerable due to tectonic activity along the collision zone of the Indian and Eurasian plates. Both incidents highlight the persistent seismic risks across Asia's fault lines.

# Krishna Vikas Group's Annual Teacher Training Camp, Gurukul- 2026, Officially Inaugurated

**Bargarh, (Correspondent):** The esteemed Teacher Training Camp "Gurukul- 2026" was ceremoniously inaugurated on Wednesday at the auditorium of Krishna Vikas Vidyalaya. This important training program is scheduled to last four days at Krishna Vikas Vidyalaya in Barahgoda. Over 300 educators from various schools affiliated with Krishna Vikas Educational Institution participated in this major event. The program was officially inaugurated by the Vice President of Vikas Awasik Vidyalaya, Bargarh, Dr Manoj Kumar Tripathi, who started the proceedings by lighting



the lamp and offering a garland. Afterwards, Shri Shishir Prasad Raul, the Executive Principal of Vikas Awasik Vidyalaya, Bargarh, extended a warm welcome and introduced the distinguished guests. Shri D. Murali Krishna, Chairman of Krishna Vikas Group, had the honour of felicitating the chief guest and the

instructor, Shri Keshav Jain, with a garland and a gift. The auditorium was energised with renewed enthusiasm, further boosted by the students' welcoming speech. Shri D. Murali Krishna expressed his appreciation, emphasising that the ethos and vision of Krishna Vikas Educational Institution often go beyond

conventional standards and highlighting that education is the foundation of all progress. The renowned instructor, Shri Keshav Jain, shared valuable insights on how to effectively educate students to meet the challenges of the 21st century in a transformative way. The inauguration ceremony was attended by distinguished dignitaries including Dr. Samarendra Nath Panda, Director of Krishna Vikas Educational Institutions; Shri Chittaranjan Pati, Chairman of Vikas Residential School, Bargarh Senior Secondary; Shri Narayan Rath, Chairman of Higher

Secondary School, Bargarh; Shri Ashwini Nayak, Head of People and Culture at Krishna Vikas Educational Institutions; Shri Pradeep Kumar Sahu, Chairman of Cement Nagar English Medium School, Bargarh; Shri Sanatan Mohapatra, Chairman of Vikas Institute for Social Welfare, Bargarh; Shri Pushpalta Mohapatra, Chairman of Krishna Vikas First Step, Bargarh; Shri Sanuj Satpathy, Chairman of Krishna Vikas Techno School, Angul; Shri Ajit Nayak, Chairman of Krishna Vikas Gadodia Global School, Rajgangpur; and Harish Agarwal, among other esteemed

# Jindal Foundation Celebrates Raja with Community at Angul

**Angul, (Correspondent):** Jindal Foundation, the social arm of Jindal Steel, celebrated the vibrant Raja Festival with great enthusiasm at Jan-Jeevika Kendra (JJK) and Jamunali Village, bringing together more than 1,000 women and girls from local villages. The event celebrated Odisha's rich cultural heritage, the spirit of womanhood, and the fertility of Mother Earth, while fostering unity, empowerment, and community pride. Women and girls of all ages participated in colourful traditional attire and festive jewellery. The celebrations featured the traditional delicacy Poda Pitha, beautifully decorated Raja swings, and a joyful festive atmosphere. Cultural and recreational competitions such as



Raja Paan Making, Musical Chair, Puchi Dance, and Solo Dance added excitement and encouraged active community participation. The programme was graced by Swami Satyabindu Saraswati; Mrs. Mini Nair and Mrs. Anita Mittal from Jindal Mahila Samiti (JMS); Mrs. Shila Pradhan, Sarpanch of Jamunali Gram Panchayat; Mr. Dhurba Charan Dehury, President, Kuo; Mr. P.K. Panda, EVP-Liaison & PR; Mr. Rishi Pathania, Head-CSR, Jindal Steel; Mrs. Seema Verma, Nutritionist, OHC; Mrs. Sasmita Rani Das, AGM,

Safety Department; Mrs. Anita Mohanty, Special Guest; and employees from various departments of Jindal Steel. Welcoming the gathering, Mrs. Shila Pradhan appreciated Jindal Foundation's efforts in preserving local traditions and supporting rural development through livelihood initiatives that have strengthened the socio-economic status of women. Mr. Jayanta Kumar Mohanty, General Manager and Head of CSR, Angul, thanked the Gram Panchayat representatives and community members for their support.

# ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India launches Zagnelis® Protect - world class, patented steel for next generation automotive manufacturing

**Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent):** Strengthening its technology leadership, ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India) today launched Zagnelis® Protect, a premium Zinc-Aluminium-Magnesium coated steel brand designed for high performance automotive applications. Proven across European markets, ArcelorMittal's patented Zagnelis® Protect coatings mark a first of its-kind manufacturing capability in India, which is the world's third largest automotive producer. The initial application of Zagnelis® Protect will be in motor cups - critical



enclosures for direct-current motors used in windows, mirrors, wipers, and seats. With each car deploying 20-30 such motors, this product delivers immediate value through improved performance. While it has been launched with an initial focus on motor cups, Zagnelis® Protect is engineered for a broad spectrum of automotive applications as well, including chassis parts,

door inner panels, hood/bonnet inner panels, and decklid/tailgate inner panels. Globally, Zagnelis® Protect coatings are recognised for delivering significantly higher corrosion resistance than conventional galvanised (GI) coatings. The new brand also offers exceptional corrosion resistance, self-healing protection, outstanding drawability, and reliable weldability.

# Commissioner-cum-Secretary of Women & Child Development Department Visits Jharsuguda District

**Jharsuguda, (Correspondent):** Dr. Mrinalini Darswal, Commissioner-cum-Secretary of the Women & Child Development Department, Government of Odisha, visited Jharsuguda district today and conducted field inspections of various developmental programmes and service centres. She also visited the Jaybudia and Bartap Anganwadi Centres under the Lakhapur ICDS Project. During the visit, Jharsuguda Collector Kunal Motiram Chavan, District Social Welfare Officer Jayanti Gadia, District Child Protection Officer Sunanda Maharana, the Executive Officer of



Brajaraj Nagar Municipality, and other departmental officials were present. During her visit, the Secretary interacted directly with mothers of children attending the Anganwadi Centres. She inquired whether cooked meals, morning snacks, and Take Home Rations (THR) were being provided regularly and properly. She also advised mothers of children suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition

(SAM) and Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) to utilize Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres and avail themselves of the free medical treatment and nutritional support provided there. She directed the concerned officials to identify adolescent girls who had dropped out of school and connect them with skill development training and employment opportunities. She also visited the Panchpada

THR Unit and the Maa Mangala THR Unit in Brajaraj Nagar, where she inspected the packaging and storage processes of food materials and instructed staff to maintain proper hygiene, sanitation, and CCTV surveillance. Thereafter, Dr. Darswal visited "Shakti Sadan," a women's shelter home managed by SEHADA. She interacted with the women residing there about their well-being and reviewed the services being provided by the institution. Later, she held discussions with SEHADA Director Anandini Padhi regarding the categories of women seeking shelter there and the rehabilitation measures being undertaken for them. On this occasion,

the Director presented a detailed plan on vocational skill development training, a jute bag manufacturing unit, and livelihood opportunities being provided to the women, while also sharing the success stories of several beneficiaries. The Secretary highly appreciated SEHADA's efforts towards the rehabilitation of women and their integration into mainstream society. Keeping the best interests of the affected women in mind, she requested the District Collector to ensure necessary support and coordination for reuniting them with their families and in-laws wherever possible through counseling and mutual understanding.

# Vedanta Aluminium Provides Learning Kits to 2,300+ Children in Jharsuguda

**Jharsuguda, (Correspondent):** Reinforcing its commitment to advancing early childhood education and development, Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, undertook a large-scale distribution drive of school bags and water bottles across 175 Vedanta Nand Ghars in Jharsuguda district. As part of the initiative, company leadership visited villages across the district to distribute learning kits to more than 2,300 children, aged between two to six years old, equipping them with essential resources to support their educational journey while also encouraging greater school participation. Deployed under the aegis of the Anil Agarwal Foundation



and undertaken in collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Nand Ghar is the flagship community development project of the Vedanta Group. It reimagines anganwadis as modernized hubs of women and child development equipped with smart learning tools and sustainable infrastructure. Vedanta Aluminium has established 250 Nand Ghars in Jharsuguda district, supporting over 4,000 children

with enhanced access to early learning, nutrition and basic care. Powered by solar energy, they are equipped with smart TVs, interactive learning modules and BaLA (Building as Learning Aid) features where walls, floors and spaces are designed to support activity-based learning. Regular interventions such as immunization support, health awareness sessions and caregiver engagement help strengthen early

childhood development. Speaking on the initiative, C Chandru, CEO - Vedanta Aluminium, Jharsuguda, said, "At Vedanta Aluminium, we believe that meaningful progress begins with investing in our communities. Through Vedanta's Nand Ghar project, we are strengthening the foundations of learning and development for young children to facilitate their long-term success." Vedanta Aluminium continues to support these centers through school readiness initiatives, and periodic health and nutrition campaigns, along with regular outreach efforts to maximize community participation. These efforts help build strong learning foundations, while also supporting women's

direct participation in the development of their families and communities. In FY26, Vedanta Aluminium's community development efforts in Jharsuguda positively impacted the lives of more than 7 lakh people across 61 villages, ensuring sustainable, inclusive growth. Through targeted interventions in education, healthcare, livelihoods, women's empowerment, rural infrastructure, and grassroots arts and sports, the company is working to improve the quality of life of local communities. These initiatives are guided by a commitment to shared value creation, ensuring that development is both meaningful and enduring.

# Visit of Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Women & Child Development Department to Jharsuguda District

**Jharsuguda, (Correspondent):** Dr. Mrinalini Darswal, Commissioner-cum-Secretary of the Women & Child Development Department, Government of Odisha, visited Jharsuguda district today and conducted field inspections of various development programmes and service centres. She visited the Jaybudia and Bartap Anganwadi Centres under the Lakhapur ICDS Project. During the visit, she was accompanied by Jharsuguda Collector Kunal Motiram Chavan, District Social Welfare Officer Jayanti Gadia, District Child Protection Officer Sunanda Maharana, the Executive Officer of Brajaraj Nagar Municipality, and other departmental officials. The Secretary

interacted directly with mothers of children attending the Anganwadi centres. She inquired whether cooked meals, morning snacks, and Take Home Rations (THR) were being provided regularly and properly. She also advised mothers of SAM (Severe Acute Malnutrition) and MAM (Moderate Acute Malnutrition) children to utilize Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres for free treatment and nutritional support. She directed officials to identify adolescent girls who had dropped out of school and connect them with skill development training and employment opportunities. She also visited the Panchpada THR Unit and the Maa Mangala THR Unit in Brajaraj Nagar, where she inspected food packaging and storage processes and instructed staff to maintain proper

hygiene, sanitation, and CCTV surveillance. Later, Dr. Darswal visited "Shakti Sadan," a women's shelter home managed by SEHADA. She interacted with the resident women about their well-being and reviewed the services being provided. She discussed with SEHADA Director Anandini Padhi the types of women seeking shelter there and the rehabilitation measures being undertaken for them. The Director presented details of vocational skill development programmes, a jute bag manufacturing unit, and livelihood opportunities available to the women, along with several success stories. The Secretary highly appreciated SEHADA's efforts in rehabilitating women and reintegrating them into mainstream society.

## A woman was injured in an elephant attack

HINDOL,(Correspondent): woman was seriously injured in an elephant attack in Hindol-Dhenkanal district. According to the news, Janhvi Behera (30), wife of Bhaskar Behera of N a g a o n P a n c h a y a t B a s u b a h a l village under Karnpur Bit of Hinduol Forest, went to the field near her house at 5 o'clock this morning, she was seriously injured due to a wild elephant attack. On hearing the news of the elephant attack, the family members rescued her and took her to the forest department. He is being treated at the hospital and the family has assured that she will provide medical care in the presence of the ranger himself. However, Hindol Ranger Trilochan Dehuri has expressed that efforts are being made to provide government assistance to the injured Janhvi from the forest department and to provide the necessary advanced medical care.



## Special Intensive Revision (SIR) Process in Subarnapur

SUBARNAPUR(Correspondent): --- The work of digitising the enumeration form of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process is going on at a fast pace in Subarnapur. While the BLOs in the two assembly constituencies in the district have completed 99.85 percent of the form distribution work, they are also collecting the forms and conducting the digitisation process at a fast pace.

According to the data of the District Election Department, till today (17/06/26), 2,18,592 forms have been distributed in the Birmaharajpur assembly constituency, while 2,53,713 forms were distributed in the Sonepur assembly constituency. A total of 4,73,011 forms have been distributed. Out of which, 1,72,197 forms have been digitised in Birmaharajpur while 1,52,648 forms have been digitised in Sonepur. A total of 3,24,845 forms have been digitized, which indicates 68.68 percent form digitisation in the district. It is worth noting that in the two assembly constituencies of Subarnapur, Birmaharajpur-64 and Sonepur-65, both the Sub Collector are working as Election Registration Officers (EROs). There are 6 Assistant Election Registration Officers (AEROs) in Birmaharajpur while there are 7 Assistant Election Registration Officers in Sonepur. After the completion of this digitisation process, the names of deceased and transferred voters will be removed from the voter list. After this, a final error-free voter list will be published. The target is to complete the distribution, collection and digitization of the counting forms before 28th June 2026.

## Two died due to electric shock

HINDOL,(Correspondent): In a tragic incident in Hindol Dhenkanal district, two persons died due to electric shock. According to the news, Manisha Dehuri (45), wife of Gaur Dehuri (45) and Ranju Dehuri (47), wife of Vibhuti Dehuri, of Ranjagol village, Balimithana, Hindol. Ranju Dehuri first got electrocuted due to coming in contact with a broken power line during Kala Baisakhi cloud storm last night and Manisha went to save her as she screamed and both were seriously electrocuted. However, the family members first cut the electricnd brought them to Hindol Upkhand Hospital by ambulance. Doctors declared death them there?

## Free Bus Service Arranged for NEET (UG) Re-Examination Candidates

Rayagada,(Correspondent):: To facilitate candidates appearing for the NEET (UG) Re-Examination 2026 scheduled on June 21, the Rayagada district administration has arranged free bus services from various parts of the district. The initiative has been undertaken under the direction of Rayagada Collector Ashutosh Kulkarni. A large number of students from remote areas, blocks and gram panchayats across the district are expected to appear for the examination. The designated examination centre for all candidates is Kendriya Vidyalaya (KV), Rayagada. According to the route plan issued by the administration, buses will operate from Gunupur, Padmapur, Kolnara, Kashipur, Muniguda and Rayagada town. The buses will start early in the morning to ensure that candidates reach the examination centre on time. Return bus services will also be provided approximately 30 minutes after the examination concludes. As per the schedule, buses from Gunupur, Padmapur, Kolnara, Kashipur and Muniguda will depart between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. and reach the examination centre between 10 a.m. and 11.30 a.m. From Gunupur, one bus will leave via Ramanaguda at 7 a.m. and another via Gumuda at 8 a.m., reaching Kendriya Vidyalaya at 10.30 a.m. and 11.30 a.m., respectively. A bus from Padmapur via Gumuda will depart at 7 a.m. and reach the centre at 10.30 a.m.

# VISL Debuts as India's Next Integrated Iron Ore and Steel Growth Platform

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent)Vedanta Iron And Steel Limited (VISL/Company) announced the listing of its equity shares on BSE Limited (BSE) and National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE), marking the beginning of a new chapter as an independent, resource-backed iron ore and steel Company. The listing provides exposure to one of India's emerging integrated iron ore and steel platforms at a time when the country's steel sector is entering a phase of unprecedented expansion. India's steelmaking capacity is expected to increase to 300 million tonnes (MT)

by 2030 against current installed capacity of ~200 MT presently, supported by sustained investments in infrastructure, railways, energy, defence and urbanisation. With domestic steel demand projected to grow at over 6-8% annually, significantly ahead of global growth rates, the sector is expected to play a central role in India's economic development over the c o m i n g decade. Positioned at the intersection of this opportunity, VISL combines long-life iron ore resources, integrated operations and a significant expansion pipeline. Supported by approximately 4 billion

tonnes of iron ore reserves and resources, providing more than 50 years of raw material security, the Company is building a platform designed to create long-term value across the iron ore and steel value chain. VISL has outlined a clear roadmap for growth and value creation, backed by a planned capex programme, the Company is focused on expanding value-added product capacity across High Silicon Iron, DI Pipes, Wire Rods and Rebars. Already among India's largest iron ore producers and exporters, VISL benefits from a diversified portfolio of

mining, processing and steelmaking assets across Odisha, Jharkhand, Goa, Karnataka and Liberia. The Company's integrated value chain is supported by strategic logistics infrastructure, including dedicated railway sidings, port access, barge fleets & facilities and captive power assets, enabling efficient operations and market access across key regions.

Trading under the scrip code '544784' in BSE and 'VISL' in NSE, the Company's shares were listed at INR 22.25 per share at the BSE and INR 20.00 at NSE. Commenting on the listing, Mr. Pankaj Kumar Sharma, CEO and Whole Time

Director, VISL, said: "VISL' listing marks the beginning of a new growth phase for the Company. We are building one of India's most integrated resource-backed iron ore and steel growth platform, supported by long-life reserves, operational integration and a clearly defined expansion roadmap. As India enters a new cycle of industrial and infrastructure-led growth, we believe VISL is uniquely positioned to participate in and contribute to this transformation. Our focus remains on disciplined execution, responsible growth and creating sustainable long-term value for all stakeholders."

## complaint Filed Against Kantabanji MLA Over Alleged Remarks on Tribal Community

Kantabanji, correspondence : A written complaint has been lodged at Kantabanji Police Station against Kantabanji MLA Lakshman Bag over his alleged remarks about the tribal community. The complaint was submitted by the District Tribal Welfare Association, Balangir, under the leadership of tribal youth leader Giriraj Singh Majhi. According to the complaint filed by Govinda Barge, President of the Kantabanji Town Unit of the association, the MLA allegedly used the term "polluted" while referring to tribal people during a televised discussion programme on June 4. The complainants alleged that the remark was derogatory and deeply hurt the sentiments, dignity, and honour of the entire tribal community. The association stated that the comment, aired on a widely viewed television platform, amounted to an insult to the tribal society and caused social and cultural harm to the community. The complaint further alleged that the MLA's statement was unconstitutional in nature and had the potential to disturb social harmony.

## STATE SARPANCH BODY CONDEMNS ATTACK ON CHAMELIOJHA

Paralakhemundi, (Correspondent): The National Panchayati Raj Gram Pradhan Sarpanch Organization on Wednesday condemned the alleged attack and harassment of Chameli Ojha, Sarpanch of Tikhiri Gram Panchayat in Kendrapara district, and demanded action against those responsible. At an emergency meeting at Naveen Bhavan, presided over by Rabi Rath, General Secretary Ramakanta Sahu alleged that local officials and police had misbehaved with the sarpanch. Rath termed the State Government's silence on the issue unfortunate and called upon sarpanches across Odisha to unite.

## REGULATION OF TRAIN SERVICES DUE TO SAFETY RELATED MODERNISATION WORKS AT PURI RAILWAY STATION

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent): In connection with the ongoing safety related modernisation works at Puri Railway Station, East Coast Railway has announced temporary changes in the operation of certain train services to facilitate infrastructure upgradation, improve operational efficiency and ensure enhanced safety in train operations.

**Cancellation of Trains**  
The following train services will remain cancelled due to the ongoing modernisation works:  
\* 18415 Barbil-Puri Express commencing its journey from Barbil on 19th June 2026.  
\* 18416 Puri-Barbil Express commencing its journey from Puri on 18th June 2026.  
\* 18413/18414 Puri-Paradeep-Puri Intercity Express for journeys commencing on 18th and 19th June 2026.  
**Short-Termination/Short-Origination of Trains**  
In addition, the following trains will be short terminated and short originated at Khurda Road Railway Station on 18th and 19th June 2026  
\* 68421 Angul-Puri MEMU will be short terminated at Khurda Road instead of Puri.  
\* 68422 Puri-Angul MEMU will originate from Khurda Road instead of Puri.  
\* 12821 Shalimar-Puri Express will be short

terminated at Khurda Road instead of Puri.  
\* 12822 Puri-Shalimar Express will originate from Khurda Road instead of Puri on 19th and 20th June 2026.  
**Rescheduling of Trains**  
The following train services have been rescheduled on nominated dates:  
\* 20861 Puri-Ahmedabad Express scheduled to depart from Puri at 19:10 hrs on 17th June 2026 will now leave at 23:30 hrs on the same day.  
\* 18452 Puri-Hatia Tapaswini Express scheduled to leave Puri at 20:00 hrs on 18th June 2026 will now depart at 00:45 hrs on 19th June 2026.  
\* 12801 Puri Anand Vihar Terminal Purushottam Express scheduled to depart from Puri at 21:55 hrs on 18th June 2026 will now leave at 00:15 hrs on 19th June 2026.  
\* 18477 Puri-Yog Nagari Rishikesh Utkal Express scheduled to leave Puri at 20:45 hrs on 18th June 2026 will now depart at 01:00 hrs on 19th June 2026. Passengers are advised to take note of the above changes and plan journeys accordingly. For updated train information, passengers may visit the National Train Enquiry System (NTES) or use official railway enquiry services before commencing their journey.

## Odisha Janata Congress Demands Forest Land Rights and Revenue Village Status for Turekela Residents

Kantabanji, correspondence The Odisha Janata Congress (OJC), Kantabanji unit, has submitted a memorandum to the Tahsildar of Kantabanji demanding immediate implementation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006, for tribal and non-tribal traditional forest dwellers of Turekela block. According to the memorandum, thousands of tribal and non-tribal families in Turekela have been cultivating forest land for generations and depend on it for their livelihood. Although many beneficiaries received recognition of their forest land claims after the implementation of the Forest Rights Act, 2006, a large number are yet to receive official land pattas. The organization also pointed out that several forest habitations have not been converted into revenue villages, while the inactivity of the FRA Cell has delayed the settlement of forest rights-related issues. The Odisha Janata Congress urged the administration to take immediate action on its seven-point charter of demands. These include the issuance of land pattas to all eligible tribal and non-tribal traditional forest dwellers, distribution of pattas to beneficiaries who have held title recognition since 2006, conversion of all eligible forest settlements into revenue villages, and the reactivation of the FRA Cell with adequate staff. The memorandum further called for the speedy disposal of all pending Individual Forest Rights (IFR) and Community Forest Rights (CFR) claims, completion of land surveys and boundary demarcation of recognized forest lands, and inclusion of such lands in revenue records. It also demanded the provision of essential development facilities such as irrigation, roads, electricity, drinking water, housing, and other government welfare schemes to families granted forest rights.

ଅଧ୍ୟକ୍ଷ ଯତ୍ନାକ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ କ୍ଷୁଦ୍ର ଜଳସେଚନ ବିଭାଜନ, ଆନନ୍ଦପୁର  
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER M.I. DIVISION  
AT/PO:- SalaPada, Dist- Keonjhar, Pin Code- 758020  
e-Procurement Notice 32001/405/2627  
Bid Identification No.- 03/MIDA / 2026-27  
email ID: mianandapur@yahoo.co.in  
No 394 Date:10/06/2026

The Superintending Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division AnandaPur on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites online percentage rate tender through "e" Procurement for the works as detailed in the Annexure to this bid notice.

Name of the work:	IMPROVEMENTS OF scheme of 19 nos of Check Dams under MATY
No. of Works:	19 Nos only
Estimated Cost:	6.30 to 12.70 lakh (Approximately)
Cost of Tender Paper:	4000/- and 6000/- (Non-refundable)
Period of Completion:	4 (Four) calendar months
Availability of bid documents for sale and receipt through on-line:	From dt. 18.06.2026, 10 00 A.M, to dt.25.06.2026, up to 5. 00 P.M
Last date/time of receipt of bids in the Portal	25.06.2026 (5.30 PM)
Date of Technical bid opening through online	on dt.25.06.2026 at 5.30 P.M in the Office of the S.E, M.I Division, Anandapur
Mode of payment of Bid Cost	Online
Digital Signature Certificate of Bidder:	The Bidder must Possess compatible digital signature certificate(DSC)
The detail tender call notice can also be seen in the DOWR web site <a href="http://dowrorissa.gov.in">http://dowrorissa.gov.in</a>	
Name & Address of the OIT:	Superintending Engineer, Minor irrigation Division, nandaPur At/P.O/Districtgineer,Keonjhar. Email ID: mainandapur@yahoo.co.in
Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement market place: <a href="http://tenderorissa.gov.in">http://tenderorissa.gov.in</a>	

OIPR.:32001/32250/1/26-27/0001  
Superintending Engineer  
M.I/ Division, Anandpur

## EDITORIAL

### Numbers, Land and Leadership: The Jat Sikh Influence in Punjab

Punjab's political landscape has long been shaped by a remarkable reality: despite being only one segment of the state's diverse population, Jat Sikhs have remained the most influential political community for decades. Since the reorganization of Punjab in 1966, the overwhelming majority of chief ministers have belonged to the Jat Sikh community. This phenomenon often raises questions: Why do Jat Sikhs dominate Punjab politics? Is it merely a matter of numbers, or are there deeper historical, economic, and social reasons behind their influence?

The answer lies in a combination of demographics, land ownership, agricultural dominance, political organization, and historical developments that have made Jat Sikhs the most influential political force in the state. While numbers alone do not explain everything, they provide an important starting point for understanding Punjab's political dynamics.

#### The Demographic Factor

Although there has been no caste census in India since 1931 (except for Scheduled Castes), most studies and political analyses estimate that Jat Sikhs constitute roughly one-fifth to one-third of Punjab's population, making them one of the largest single caste-community groups in the state. Estimates vary, but many analysts place their share at around 20–30% of Punjab's population.

What makes this significant is that Punjab's other large communities are often divided across multiple caste, regional, and religious identities. Scheduled Castes form nearly one-third of Punjab's population, but they are internally diverse and politically fragmented. As a result, no other single community matches the numerical concentration and cohesion of Jat Sikhs.

In electoral politics, being the largest organized social group often translates into greater influence over candidate selection, party leadership, and policy priorities.

#### Historical Roots of Political Influence

The roots of Jat Sikh political influence go back to the colonial era. During British rule, many Jat Sikh farmers benefited from canal colonization projects, military recruitment, and agricultural expansion. Over time, they emerged as a prosperous agrarian community with substantial landholdings.

Agriculture became the backbone of Punjab's economy, and Jat Sikhs occupied a dominant position within the agricultural sector. Because rural Punjab formed the core of the state's political structure, agricultural leadership often translated into political leadership.

After Independence and the creation of the Punjabi-speaking state in 1966, political parties increasingly relied on rural constituencies where Jat Sikhs exercised considerable social and economic influence. This strengthened their role in state politics. Land Ownership and Economic Power Political influence often follows economic influence. In Punjab, land ownership has historically been one of the most important sources of social prestige and political authority.

Jat Sikhs have traditionally been associated with farming and own a significant share of agricultural land in many regions of Punjab. Their presence is especially strong in the state's rural belt, where electoral mobilization is often linked to village networks, farmer organizations, and local leadership structures. The Green Revolution of the 1960s and 1970s further strengthened this position. Punjab became India's leading agricultural state, and many Jat Sikh farmers benefited from increased productivity, mechanization, and market access. Economic prosperity translated into greater social influence and stronger political representation.

## When the Sky Turned Dark: A Story of Life's Storms



Dr. Annada Tripathy

Life is not always a garden filled with flowers and sweet fragrance. Sometimes, it becomes a terrible storm that destroys

peace, breaks dreams and leaves painful memories behind. Nobody asks for such storms, but they arrive silently and change everything. There was a time when life seemed beautiful. The mornings were bright, laughter filled the home and the future looked full of hope. Family members sat together, friends shared happiness and every small thing brought joy. But life never remains the same forever. One day, without warning, dark clouds gathered and the storm began. A life storm does not announce its arrival. It comes unexpectedly. It may come through the death of a loved one, through betrayal, through illness, through poverty or through loneliness. Sometimes, the people whom we trust most become strangers. Those who once promised to stay forever slowly disappear when difficulties arrive. At such moments, the heart feels abandoned and helpless. Some people lose their parents and become orphans in spirit. Some parents lose their children and spend the rest of their lives carrying silent tears. Some elderly fathers and mothers, who once sacrificed everything for their children, spend their old age waiting for a phone call that never comes. Their eyes become wet, but their voices remain silent. Their pain is invisible to the world.

The greatest wounds are often hidden. Broken bones can heal, but broken hearts take years to recover. A person may smile in front of others and speak kindly, while deep inside, they are drowning in sorrow. Many people cry only when nobody is watching. Their pillows know the tears that their eyes cannot show before the world. There are nights when sleep refuses to come. Memories knock on the door of the heart again and again. The voices of departed loved ones echo in the mind. Old photographs become treasures. Empty chairs remind

us of those who once sat there. Festivals lose their joy, and celebrations become silent. Everything remains the same, yet nothing feels the same anymore.

Life storms also come in the form of betrayal. Sometimes, the very people for whom we sacrificed our happiness forget us. Friends leave. Relationships lose their meaning. Love turns into misunderstanding. Promises are broken. Words that once brought comfort begin to cause pain. Such wounds cannot be seen, but they slowly break the soul. In today's world, people are becoming busy and distant. Technology has connected phones, but many hearts have become disconnected. Families live under one roof, yet they hardly speak to one another. Parents and children sit together, but each is lost in a separate world. Love is becoming weaker, while selfishness is becoming stronger. Human beings are surrounded by people, yet many are suffering from loneliness.

Sometimes, life becomes so unbearable that people begin to question everything. They ask, "Why did this happen to me?" "Why did God take away my happiness?" "Why do good people suffer?" But life does not always provide answers. Silence itself becomes the answer. Pain becomes the teacher. Suffering becomes the lesson. Storms reveal the true faces of people. During happy days, many walk beside us. But when darkness comes, only a few remain. Difficult times separate genuine love from false affection. They teach us that not everyone who smiles with us truly cares for us. They also teach us to value those rare souls who stand beside us even when the world turns away. There are moments when the burden becomes too heavy to carry. The heart becomes tired. Tears become endless. A person may feel completely broken. Yet, somehow, life continues. Even after losing everything, the sun rises again. Birds sing again. Seasons change again. Nature silently teaches us that nothing remains forever—not even sorrow.

The strongest people are not those who have never cried. They are those who have cried countless times and still found the courage to stand again. Their smiles are not signs of a painless life but symbols of silent victories over countless storms. Every scar tells a story. Every tear carries a memory. Every pain leaves behind a lesson. People who have suffered deeply understand the suffering of others. They become kinder, more compassionate, and more humble. They know the value of love because they have experienced loss. They know the importance of kindness because they have faced cruelty.

Even in the darkest night, a tiny lamp can give light. Even in the middle of a terrible storm, hope can survive. God may appear silent, but His silence is not absence. He watches every tear and understands every pain. Sometimes, He does not remove the storm immediately because He is teaching us how to survive it. No storm lasts forever. Heavy rain eventually stops. Dark clouds slowly disappear. The sun shines again. Wounded hearts may never forget their pain, but they learn how to live with it. Life may never become exactly as it once was, but new strength grows from old sorrows. Perhaps the greatest victory in life is not living without difficulties. The greatest victory is standing firm when everything around us is falling apart. It is continuing to walk when the road becomes painful. It is keeping faith when hope seems lost. It is choosing kindness when bitterness tries to enter the heart. Life is indeed a storm. It shakes us, tests us and sometimes brings us to our knees. Yet, it also teaches us patience, faith and the value of love. Storms may break our plans, but they cannot destroy the human spirit unless we allow them to do so. And perhaps one day, after passing through many storms, we will look back with tears in our eyes and realize that the very pain we once hated had quietly transformed us into stronger, wiser and more compassionate human beings. For life is not measured by how many storms we escape, but by how bravely we continue to walk through them.

## Love, Conversion and Culture: The Uncomfortable Questions Society Must Ask



Arun Kumar Tripathy

Marriage is one of the oldest and most respected social institutions in human civilization. It is not merely a legal contract

between two individuals but a union that connects families, traditions, cultures, and generations. In countries like India, where religion continues to play a significant role in social life, marriage has traditionally been viewed as a sacred bond extending beyond the husband and wife. However, increasing urbanization, modernization, migration, higher education, and the influence of social media have led to a noticeable rise in interfaith marriages. While many celebrate this trend as a sign of social progress and individual freedom, others express concerns regarding family stability, cultural continuity, and social harmony.

The debate becomes even more intense when discussions arise around alleged cases of deception, coercive religious conversion, or relationships formed with hidden intentions. Whether one supports or opposes interfaith marriages, it is undeniable that the issue has become one of the most discussed social questions of the twenty-first century.

#### Marriage: More Than a Relationship Between Two Individuals

In traditional societies, marriage is not viewed as an isolated personal decision. It represents the joining of two families with common cultural values, customs, and expectations. Shared festivals, rituals, dietary habits, social obligations, and family traditions often contribute to long-term marital stability.

When both spouses belong to the same religious and cultural background, many of these issues are naturally understood. In contrast, interfaith marriages may require continuous negotiation on matters such as religious observances, children's upbringing, inheritance customs, funeral rites, and family responsibilities.

While some couples successfully navigate these differences through mutual understanding and compromise, others may encounter difficulties when fundamental beliefs clash. Problems that appear minor during courtship may become significant after marriage, especially when children enter the family.

#### Religion as Identity

One reason interfaith marriages generate debate is that religion is not merely a matter of worship. For millions of people across the world, religion influences daily life, moral values, social relationships, dietary practices, and cultural identity.

For some individuals, religion may be a personal spiritual choice. For others, it constitutes a complete way of life governing social conduct, marriage, inheritance, and family relations. Consequently, conflicts may arise when spouses enter marriage with vastly different expectations regarding the role religion should play within the household.

The challenge becomes more pronounced when one partner expects the other to adopt certain religious practices after marriage. Such expectations can create tension and misunderstanding, particularly when these matters were not openly discussed beforehand.

Global Experience with Interfaith Marriages Interfaith marriages are not unique to India. They occur throughout the world, including in North America, Europe, Africa, and Asia.

Research conducted in several Western countries suggests that interfaith marriages often face additional pressures compared to marriages between individuals sharing the same religious background. The reasons are varied:

- \* Differences regarding religious observance.
- \* Questions concerning children's faith.
- \* Pressure from extended family members.
- \* Social acceptance within communities.
- \* Cultural differences extending beyond religion.

Studies from the United States have shown

that interfaith couples often spend considerable effort negotiating religious traditions within the household. While many marriages succeed, sociologists generally acknowledge that greater differences in beliefs and cultural expectations can increase the likelihood of marital conflict.

This does not imply that interfaith marriages are destined to fail. Rather, it highlights the importance of communication, transparency, and mutual respect before marriage.

#### The Indian Context

India presents a unique situation due to its extraordinary religious diversity. Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, and followers of other faiths have coexisted for centuries.

According to data from various national surveys, interfaith marriages remain relatively uncommon in India compared to marriages within the same religion. Most Indians continue to marry within their own religious communities. This reflects not only religious preferences but also cultural traditions, family expectations, and social networks.

The relative rarity of interfaith marriages explains why they often attract significant public attention. Since such marriages remain outside the social norm for many communities, they frequently become subjects of intense debate and scrutiny.

#### Family Concerns and Social Realities

Many parents oppose interfaith marriages not necessarily because of hostility toward another religion but because of concerns regarding future compatibility.

#### Common concerns include:

- \* Preservation of cultural traditions.
  - \* Religious upbringing of children.
  - \* Social acceptance within the community.
  - \* Potential pressure for religious conversion.
  - \* Long-term family harmony.
- Parents often fear that differences ignored during the early stages of a relationship may emerge later as serious conflicts. Whether these fears are justified in every case is debatable, but they remain genuine concerns for many families.

## VRATA AND OUR DAY TO DAY LIFE



Jyotsna Mohapatra

Vrata has played a unique role in our present society. Vrata is a Sanskrit word which means devotion. It is directly connected

with the ritualistic observances that the devotees have taken such as fasting, performing prayers, sustaining from special types of food and drink and visiting pilgrimage and so on. The Vratas accomplish an unbelievable duty to establish unity and fidelity among the people. There are various types of Vrata which are performed in our society in honour of different deities in different seasons. The Vratas are the important aspect of Hinduism. The Vratas perform an incredible duty to establish unity and

fidelity among the general masses. India has recognized the geographical land of festivals. The people of India celebrate so many festivals every month of the year. The word 'Vrata' is a Sanskrit word, which means 'Vow', 'Devotion' and 'resolve'. It is directly connected with the ritualistic observances that the devotees have taken such as fasting, performing prayers, sustaining from special types of food and drink and visiting pilgrimage and so on. The Vrata is supposed to be the main sacrifice performed by every religion. Basically, the Vrata means the complete dedication of the soul and mind to God. Etymologically, the term 'Vrata' is a Sanskrit word, which indicates a 'Vow' religious rites and customs which all sacred religious texts are elaborated as the practice of austerity. The Vratas have displayed a dynamic role in Indian society. The general masses are performed different

kinds of Vratas or fasts in honour of different deities for the welfare of their lives and societies. In each part of India, the people observe Vratas or fasts as an important festival. Each and every community has its own culture and customs. Based on that culture and customs, they practice Vratas in different periods of the season. From the Vedic periods, the Vratas have been performed greatly in different seasons by the devotees for the welfare of mankind. Similarly, in the medieval and modern digests, the Vratas have been observed hugely and recognized as holy sacrifices. The people are benefitted both physically and spiritually to perform the Vrata. We have observed different kinds of Vratas performed in our society. The Vratas which are performed in our society have their own significance and values. The important thing is that the Vratas play a vigorous

role to bring unity and honesty among the people. It has delivered the opportunity to the people to gather love and affection among each other. The Vrata has attained a unique significance in society as similar to festivals. The Vratas are recognized as the soul of Hinduism. In the Hindu community, each and every person has performed the Vratas in different festivals in different seasons. From the above mentioned discussion, we may say that Vrata has played a vital role in our present society. Vrata is performed in various countries of the world. The people of the world have known the scientific value and the spiritual values of the Vrata. Modern generations are very conscious about their health. It has played a vital role to bring unanimity and veracity among the people. So modern generation have known the great value of the vrata and performed these in their day-to-day life for welfare.

## MLA HEARS 23 GRIEVANCES AT BUDURA VILLAGE

Paralakhemundi: (Correspondent): - Residents of Budura village under Budura Gram Panchayat in Kashinagar block of Gajapati district placed a host of civic and welfare-related issues before Paralakhemundi MLA Rupesh Panigrahi during a public grievance hearing held on Wednesday. The MLA assured prompt action and directed officials to address the complaints without delay. A total of 23 grievances were received during the hearing, covering issues such as ration cards,



housing assistance, education, irrigation, roads, drainage, healthcare and other village development concerns. Taking immediate cognisance of the complaints, the MLA contacted Block Development Officer

Damburudhara Mallick over the phone and instructed him to expedite necessary measures for their resolution. The programme was attended by Gajapati Zilla Parishad President G. Tirupati Rao,

Kashinagar Block Chairperson Bala Saamma, the local Sarpanch, Samiti members and other public representatives. Residents welcomed the initiative, expressing hope for early redressal of their long-pending issues.

## Rayagada Block-Level SC-ST Dialogue Meeting Held

Rayagada, (Correspondent) : A Block-Level Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (SC-ST) Dialogue Meeting was held at the Rayagada Block premises on Wednesday, bringing together community leaders, officials, and stakeholders to discuss tribal development, welfare initiatives, and inclusive growth. SDC Vice-Chairperson Manjula Kadra attended the programme as the chief guest, while ITDA Rayagada Project Administrator Chandrakanta Majhi, tribal leaders and social activists Kaliram Majhi and Chakradhar Bidika, MLA's representative Satyaban Mandangi, and Rayagada BDO Sujit Kumar Mishra were present as guests. Addressing the gathering, Kadra highlighted the unique identity of Rayagada's tribal population and stressed that the district's progress is closely linked to the development of its indigenous communities. She said that while Odisha is advancing on the path of development, Rayagada would not be left behind and that preserving tribal culture alongside economic prosperity remains a collective commitment. Project Administrator

Chandrakanta Majhi outlined various welfare schemes being implemented by the ITDA and emphasized that the progress of indigenous communities is essential for building a prosperous society. In his introductory address, BDO Sujit Kumar Mishra presented an overview of the developmental achievements and implementation of various government schemes in Rayagada Block over the past two years. Speakers including Tarun Garadia, Santosh Tandi, Sarpanch Ramarao Bidika, Nilambar Bidika, Chakradhar Bidika, and Satyaban Mandangi shared their views on the developmental progress of the block. Earlier, the dignitaries inaugurated and visited awareness stalls set up by various departments, including Health, Agriculture, Fisheries, Animal Resources, Swachh Bharat Mission, Livelihood Mission, Women and Child Development, and Mission Shakti. The programme began with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp before an idol of Lord Jagannath. Students of Gandhi Nagar Upper Primary School presented Bande Utkala Janani and patriotic cultural performances.

## Negligence in Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of Voters' List: 2 BLOs suspended

SUBARNAPUR/BOUDH - Two Booth Level Officers (BLOs) of 86-Boudh Assembly Constituency have been suspended from duty with immediate effect for gross negligence in discharging their duties and absenteeism in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of Voters' List conducted as per the directions of the Election Commission of India. The suspended officers are Birendra Behera, Assistant Teacher, Government Upper Primary School, Gandisar and Shib Chandra Gaana, Assistant Teacher, Government Upper Primary School, Kharbhui. Both the officers were appointed

as Booth Level Officers (BLO) of 176-Gandisar and 169-Kharbhui polling booth. However, despite repeated instructions and show cause notices, they did not attend the SIR work. During the field visit, the Assistant Electoral Registration Officer (AERO) noticed their absence. According to the district administration, such unauthorized absence and dereliction of duty is creating obstacles in maintaining the accuracy, purity and reliability of the electoral roll. This is a clear violation of Section 32 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and is considered as

grave dereliction of duty. In this context, Bibhuti Bhusan Nayak, District Election Officer cum Collector, Boudh has ordered immediate suspension of both the officers and initiation of departmental disciplinary action against them as per the Odisha Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules. The district administration has advised all the BLOs, Supervisors and officers involved in election work to strictly follow the instructions of the Election Commission and work with full determination and responsibility to make the SIR programme a success.

## Press Conference of Minister Suryabanshi Suraj Held

JAJPUR (Correspondent) : The government is giving importance to placing the rich heritage of Jajpur on the global map. Jajpur has immense potential for the tourism industry. The government has been making efforts to include the district's Buddhist heritage sites in the UNESCO World Heritage list, said Minister for Higher Education, Sports and Youth Services, Odia Language, Literature and Culture, Suryabanshi Suraj, during a press conference held in Jajpur. The press conference titled



"Bikashara Dhara, Odisha Sara" was organized at the Zilla Parishad Conference Hall. Along with Minister Suryabanshi Suraj, Badachana MLA Amar Nayak, Dharmasala MLA Himanshu Sekhar Sahoo, Collector Ambar Kumar Kar, and Additional District Magistrate Yudhisthira Nayak were present. On the occasion of the completion of 12 years of the Central

Government and two years of the State Government, Minister Suraj elaborately presented details of various developmental schemes and achievements accomplished during the last two years. He also highlighted significant initiatives and projects undertaken at both the state and district levels in areas such as economic growth, education, healthcare, heritage conservation, and

infrastructure development. The Minister stated that Odisha's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) growth rate and per capita income have increased significantly and are higher than the national average. He emphasized the need to develop heritage alongside industrial growth and modern infrastructure. Referring to the Science Academy project, the Minister informed that only about 10 percent of the work remains pending and that it will be completed soon. He also spoke about the importance of establishing a Kalagram in Jajpur district in the future.

## OTET exam on 28, admit card on board website from today

Cuttack (Correspondent): The Odisha Teacher Eligibility Test (OTET)-2026 called by the Secondary Education Council (Board) will be held on the 28th. A total of 97,151 candidates, including in-service teachers and new candidates, have applied for this exam. This includes 84,625 regular and 13,584 in-service teachers. The applicants can get their admit cards from the board website from today, said Board President Srikanth Tarai. The applicants can get the admit card using the mobile number and password provided while filling the form. The board has selected a total of 311 centers in 30 districts for the exam. Each examination center will be under closed circuit camera (CCTV). To ensure the security of the question paper and prevent the question paper from going viral before the examination, the question papers will be sent to the center from the board office in digital lockers. Of the two papers to be held on the 28th, Paper-1 will start from 9 am and will continue till 11:30 pm. Similarly, the second paper will continue from 2 pm to 4:30 pm. This 150-mark exam will be on OMR sheet.

## Sarpanch Chameli Ojha case reaches High Court: Demand for thorough investigation of the incident

Cuttack (Correspondent) : A public interest litigation (PIL) has been filed in the High Court regarding the arrest of Tikhiri Sarpanch Chameli Ojha under Mahakalapada block of Kendrapara district on false charges and fatal attack at the police station. This PIL has been filed by the Bharatiya Vikas Parishad. It has been stated that a special team should be formed and a thorough investigation should be conducted into the incident. The Chief Secretary, Home Secretary, DG of Police, Kendrapara SP and IIC, Kendrapara District Collector have been made parties in this PIL. Earlier, Sarpanch Chameli Ojha wrote a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He has written this letter in Odia regarding the mistreatment and attack on him. He has demanded immediate intervention and justice. Earlier, he had written a letter to the Chief Minister for intervention. Chameli was granted bail by the local SDJM court yesterday after much controversy. It is worth noting that the SDJM court granted bail to Chameli yesterday. Chameli was granted bail on charges of assaulting a Mahakalapada police SI and a home guard. Chameli is still undergoing treatment at the Kendrapara Medical. Yesterday, the Mahakalapada police returned the phones of Chameli and his brother to his father. Meanwhile, Chameli alleged that while one person was arrested on the basis of Chameli's information, the main accused was not arrested.

## BJP GOVT CELEBRATES TWO YEAR COMPLETION OF ITS REIGN IN ODISHA

Bhabanipatna (Correspondent) In successful completion of its reign in Odisha for two years the BJP government conveying the achievement- messages before the community, has been celebrating "BikashDharaOdishaSaara" as it the parameter of milestone across the district. Attending the two year completion reign celebration- the Dharamgarh segment debut MLA SudhirRanjanPattajoshi addressed the gatherings in Koksara. In his speech said safeguarding the public interest the double engine government always has been keeping its promises. The government always working for the sake farmer's interest giving incentives money. In the previous days, the farmer's impediment-paddy slow lifting in the various Mandis reason of previous BJD government short



sightedness -lack of arrangement storage facilities for procured paddy, he said in his clarification. Introducing several benevolent schemes like Mukhyamantri Annapurna Yojana, availing food, fodder and shelter to needy person, free education for student KG standard to PG, introduction of quota system for OBC community (first in Odisha) up-to 11.25% and increasing the volumes of quota for Scheduled Tribe 8-16.25, Scheduled Caste 11 to 22 % in education sector, free ration rises to 10 kgs, all these will be beneficial, our government

has been working towards the progress, he reiterated in his speeches. Especially, effort has been made for better connectivity in the hinterland of Kalahandi, sanctioning a number of 90 new roads, again the MLA ShriPattajoshi emphasized in his speeches. On this occasion beneficiaries were felicitated with landpatta, pension and other benefits. In the two year reign complete celebration, he was accompanied with Vice-Chairman Rajiv KumarAgrawal and Block Development Officer-HimanchalMajhi and others with huge gatherings.

## Negligence in treatment alleged : Protest over death of pregnant woman, doctor beaten up

Malkangiri, correspondent: A protest has erupted at the Malkangiri district headquarters hospital over the death of a pregnant woman. Alleging that the woman died due to medical negligence, the agitated people beat up the working doctor, and the medical premises turned into a battlefield. Finally, the police arrived and brought the situation under control. According to information, a pregnant woman named Vandana Mandal of MV-43 village under Malkangiri block was bitten by a snake last night. Her family admitted her to the district headquarters hospital in a critical condition. There, Dr. Siddhartha treated the woman. Allegation of delay in treatment: According to the family, the doctor initially only gave anti-vomiting

medicine as there were no obvious signs of snakebite on the woman's body. But after the patient repeatedly said that she had been bitten by a snake, the doctor gave him anti-snake venom (snake bite injection). However, the pregnant woman died shortly after taking the injection. After the news of the woman's death spread, The agitated villagers and family members attacked and beat up the doctor Siddhartha. On receiving the information, Sadar police immediately reached the spot, rescued the doctor. The villagers have demanded a high-level investigation and strict action against the culprits. On the other hand, the police have sent for an autopsy and started an investigation into the incident.

## Police arrest 7 gamblers while gambling

Cuttack (Correspondent): Choudwar police have arrested 7 gamblers while gambling in Badapadagan village under Choudwar police station in Cuttack. Choudwar police station officer Rajnikant Das conducted a raid after receiving information

that some people were gambling near Badapadagan crematorium. In the raid, seven gamblers were arrested and Rs 22,230 in cash, a deck of cards, a jari pal and two mobile phones were seized from them. The arrested accused are Sukant

Jena, Kahnu Behera, Kalandi Rout, Narayan Pradhan, Golakh Bastia, Pramod Rout and Dibakar Mohanty. The Choudwar police have registered a case number 392 against them and are conducting further investigation.

4001/362/2627

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER  
JAGATSINGHPUR (R&B) DIVISION, JAGATSINGHPUR  
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA  
("e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE)  
Bid Identification No. S.E. JSR(R&B)-4 of 2026-27  
TENDER CALL NOTICE**

1. The Superintending Engineer, Jagatsinghpur (R&B) Division, Jagatsinghpur on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites on Percentage rate basis bid in Single cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractor for Building works as mentioned below.

2. No. of Work :- 01 No.  
3. Nature of work :- Civil  
4. Class of Contractor - "B & C" Class  
5. Tender Paper Cost :- Rs. 6,000.00/- (Online)  
6. Available of bid documents in the website :- From 23.06.2026 05.00 PM of 29/06/2026  
7. Date of Opening of Bid :- 11.00 AM of 30/06/2026

The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum/ corrigendum/ cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Addl. Chief Engineer.  
Jagatsinghpur (R&B) Division

OIPR-34001/34093/1/26-27/0005

**CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TELEMATICS**

Advt. No. C-DOT/HR/REC/2026/05/01 Date: 18th June 2026

**VACANCY NOTICE**

**NOTICE FOR THE VACANCIES OF THE FOLLOWING POSTS AT C-DOT**

Applicants are invited from the eligible candidates for filling up the below mentioned posts at C-DOT:

SL.	Name of Post	CTC/Pay Level as per 7 CPC	No. of Vacancy	Location	Mode
1.	Artificial Intelligence Expert	CTC upto 60 Lacs/annum	1	Delhi/Bengaluru	On Fixed Term Contract
2.	Scientist-B/C/D	Level 10/11/12	4	Delhi/Bengaluru	On Direct Recruitment
3.	Manager-Administration	Level 11	1	Bengaluru	
4.	Hindi Officer	Level 08	1	Delhi	
5.	Executive Assistant (Finance)	Level 06	3	Bengaluru	
6.	Hindi Translator	Level 04	1	Delhi	
7.	Associate (Administration)	Level 04	3	Delhi	

Interested & Eligible Candidates may apply and submit their applications in online mode only. For detailed information including the Job description and application process, please visit the 'Careers' section of the C-DOT website: [https://www.cdotechweb/web/careers.php?lang=en&current\\_openings](https://www.cdotechweb/web/careers.php?lang=en&current_openings)

Last date of application is 30 days from the date of publication in Employment News (English). All Government candidates are to route their application through proper channel as per details given in the website.

Sd./-  
CBC 06268/12/0003/2627  
Head-P&HR and Legal

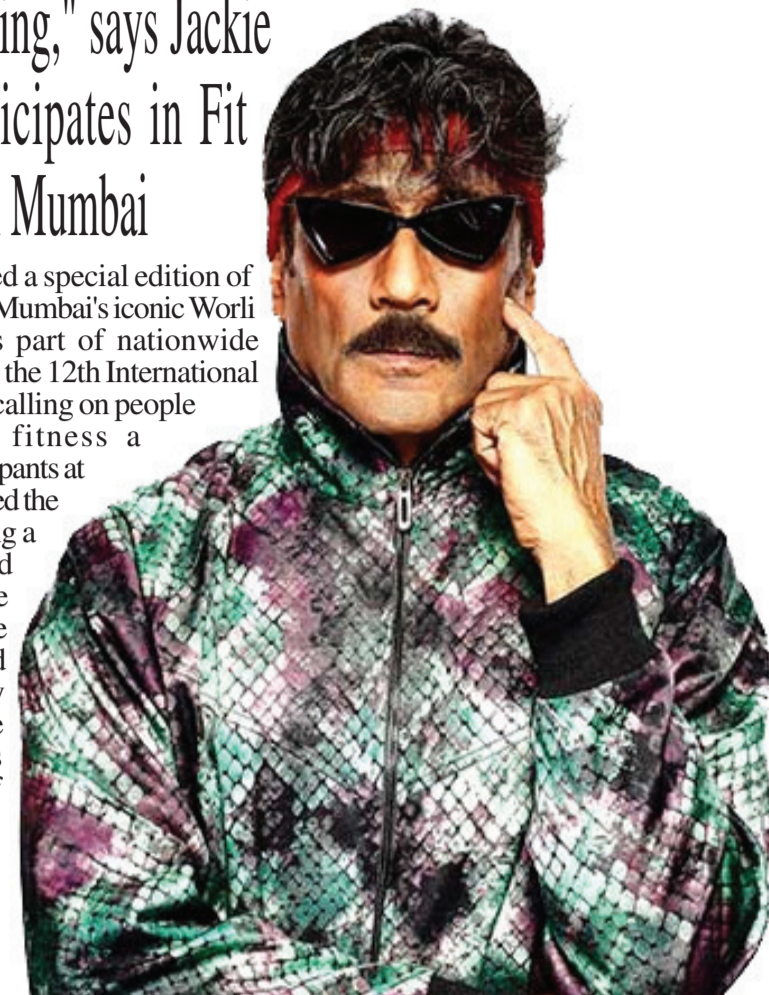


## 'Alpha' trailer out: Alia Bhatt, Sharvari go up against Bobby Deol, Hrithik Roshan surprise at the end?

Actors Alia Bhatt and Sharvari have raised excitement around 'Alpha' after the makers finally unveiled the official trailer of the upcoming action thriller, offering a deeper look into the film's story and introducing fans to the journey of a young assassin in the YRF Spy Universe. The two-minute-and-thirty-four-second film opens with Bobby Deol's character naming Alia Bhatt's character Sita after her mother, Janaki. Through Sita's voiceover, the narrative draws on the tale of a princess who was abducted by a demon, only to rewrite her own destiny by fighting back instead of waiting to be rescued. As the trailer progresses, it shifts into high-octane action with Alia leading several combat sequences and chase scenes. Sharvari makes a striking entry as a woman Sita initially struggles to trust, but the two gradually join forces as they take on a dangerous mission. The preview hints at a growing partnership between the characters as they confront a powerful enemy. Anil Kapoor also appears in a major role, adding another layer to the story, while Bobby Deol is seen as the film's chief antagonist. The trailer builds towards what appears to be a grim climax before ending on a cliffhanger with the reveal of a mysterious man whose identity has been deliberately kept under wraps. Fans speculate that the character may be portrayed by Hrithik Roshan. However, the trailer offers only a fleeting glimpse of the enigmatic figure, revealing nothing more than his striking green eyes in the final shot. The movie has been made under the direction of Shiv Rawail, who is best known for his work in 'The Railway Men' series. The intense action-packed drama, 'Alpha,' is set to release worldwide in theatres on July 3, 2026. Directed by Shiv Rawail, the film marks the first female-led instalment in the YRF Spy Universe, which includes blockbuster titles such as 'Ek Tha Tiger,' 'Tiger Zinda Hai,' 'War,' 'Pathaan,' 'Tiger 3' and 'War 2.' The film has witnessed multiple release date changes during production. Initially planned for a 2025 release, 'Alpha' was later shifted to April before Yash Raj Films announced July 10 as its release date.

## "Fitness is everything," says Jackie Shroff as he participates in Fit India Cyclothon in Mumbai

Actor Jackie Shroff joined a special edition of the Fit India Cyclothon at Mumbai's iconic Worli Coastal Cycle Track as part of nationwide celebrations leading up to the 12th International Day of Yoga on June 21, calling on people to make health and fitness a priority. Addressing participants at the event, Shroff highlighted the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle and expressed happiness at the public response to the initiative. "One should prioritise health... I am very happy to see people coming in large numbers and becoming a part of this initiative... The Prime Minister is also spreading the message of staying healthy and we will also celebrate International Day of Yoga," he said. The actor also praised the cycling infrastructure at the venue and underscored the significance of fitness. "Minister Mansukh Madaviya has arrived here on a cycle... Fitness is everything... The cycling track in Mumbai is very beautiful," Shroff said. Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya participated in the cyclothon and linked public health to the vision of a developed India. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has spoken about building a Viksit Bharat (Developed India), but if we want to achieve that vision, it is essential for citizens to remain healthy. A healthy society is the foundation of a prosperous nation. Therefore, for the last two years, a massive fitness campaign has been run through the Sunday Cycle initiative to contribute towards a developed India," Mandaviya said. He also stressed the environmental and health benefits of cycling. "Cycling is a mantra for fitness. Cycling is a solution to pollution. It helps reduce pollution and contributes to a cleaner and healthier nation. It is one simple activity that offers multiple benefits," the minister added. Actor Taha Shah Badusha also took part in the event and encouraged people to embrace fitness and community participation.



## Aloe vera for weight loss

### 1. Aloe vera helps aid digestion

Aloe vera has laxative properties and when consumed in small quantities may aid in digestion. An unhealthy gut is generally linked to weight gain. A healthy digestive system translates to proper metabolism of food and an optimal expulsion of waste from the body that helps in losing weight.

### 2. Aloe Vera helps in improving and controlling blood sugar

Aloe vera juice keeps the blood sugar level in check by stimulating the secretion of insulin. By preventing sudden rises and falls in blood sugar levels, aloe vera also helps to control food cravings and keeps hunger pangs away.

### 3. Combats water retention

Water retention is one of the main conditions that can lead to weight gain. Due to it being a laxative, aloe vera juice is ideal for fighting water weight. However, it is important to keep in mind that one should not over exceed the consumption of aloe vera juice.

### 4. Boosts metabolism

Aloe vera is said to help in boosting metabolism, which further enables the body to burn fat. Aloe vera's fat burning abilities are credited to the presence of vitamin B, which converts the fat stored in the body into energy and aids weight loss.

## Drink ajwain tea on empty stomach in summer for these wonderful benefits



Ajwain, the age-old spice, has multitude of benefits in summer season. A cup of ajwain tea in morning can ease digestion, boost appetite and work wonders for your metabolism, aiding in weight loss. Ayurveda considers ajwain or carom seeds as a powerful cleanser. The potent spice can help relieve bloating, acidity, constipation and promote gut health. Ajwain tea can be brewed by adding a teaspoon of carom seeds in a cup of hot water. After steeping it for few minutes, it is strained and poured in a cup to be enjoyed as your first morning drink. Sweetening it with honey, black salt and a dash of lemon can improve its flavour.

Ajwain tea, the herbal cure

"In summer's ajwain tea can prove beneficial if taken on empty stomach, it is a traditional herbal treatment and has several health benefits. This drink has been valued for its medicinal qualities for generations, helping with indigestion to body detoxification," says Dr. Rohini Patil, MBBS & Nutritionist Founder Of Nutracy Lifestyle.

### Many benefits of ajwain tea on empty stomach

#### 1. Boosts digestion

Ajwain tea is better known to enhance digestion of individuals and promote good gut health. Thymol and other active ingredients in ajwain aid in stimulating the secretion of gastric juices, which improves digestion and relieves symptoms

**4. Granola bars:** Although promoted as healthy snacks, granola bars may contain a lot of sugar, especially high-fructose corn syrup and other sweeteners. Choose items that are handmade or well chosen, with few added sweets and healthy components.

**5. Condiments:** A lot of added sugar is frequently found in ketchup, barbecue sauce, and other condiments. Look for products that emphasize natural ingredients on product labels or think about preparing your own healthier substitutes at home.

like indigestion and acidity. It's a great option for people who have difficulty with digestive problems or stomach-ache after meals because it has a calming effect on the stomach.

#### 2. Improves appetite

Ajwain tea is also known to stimulate appetite, which is beneficial in the summer when the heat tends to suppress hunger. Ajwain tea stimulates the digestive system, which promotes a healthy appetite and makes sure you get the nutrients you need to be energized and feel good all around.

#### 3. Relieves bloating

Ajwain tea is best to get rid of bloating and flatulence. Bloating and excessive flatulence symptoms are relieved by the carminative qualities of ajwain, also reducing the problem of gas and digestive discomfort. Providing more comfort and relief throughout the day.

#### 4. Helps in detox

An additional advantage of drinking ajwain tea is detoxification. Ajwain include diuretic qualities that encourage the body to flush out waste and other toxins through urination. Ajwain tea helps support the body's natural detoxification processes, which helps to clear the system and enhance general health and energy.

#### 5. Boosts metabolism

Ajwain tea can boost metabolism, which helps with weight management. When paired with a healthy diet and regular exercise, a higher metabolism aids in the body's ability to burn calories more effectively, aiding in weight loss and maintenance. Ajwain tea enhances overall metabolic health and may help with weight management by encouraging a healthy metabolism.

Overall, there are a lot of health benefits to drinking ajwain tea first thing in the morning in the summer. Ajwain tea offers an easy and natural solution to improve digestive and general health, cleansing the body, and boosting metabolism.



## 6 foods with hidden sugar that can damage your kid's health

Bournvita and similar drinks have come under the scanner ever since Ministry of Commerce asked for their removal from the category or health drinks. This has also shined spotlight on an array of processed beverages and foods be it breakfast cereals, granola bars, fruit juices or flavoured yoghurt that are touted as nutritional products but may not be an ideal snacking or breakfast choice for your children. These seemingly harmless foods are laden with high amount of sugar and artificial colouring or chemicals that can have a detrimental effect on children, raising their risk of obesity, diabetes and other lifestyle diseases.

### 6 sneaky sugar sources that could be harming your child's health.

**1. Breakfast cereals:** Despite their eye-catching hues and attractive designs, a lot of breakfast cereals marketed towards youngsters include a lot of added sugar. Carefully read the labels and select products with less added sugar, or even better, go for whole-grain options.

**2. Flavoured yoghurts:** Despite its reputation as a nutritious snack, flavoured yoghurts can be very high in sugar. Yogurts with fruit flavours should be avoided because they often

**3. Fruit juice:** Fruit juice might contain hidden sugar sources despite its seemingly healthy look. Naturally occurring sugars, even in 100% fruit juice, can lead to overconsumption if consumed in high amounts. Encourage the consumption of whole fruits and limit juice drinking.

**6. Packaged foods:** A lot of child-friendly packaged foods, like fruit snacks, crackers, and certain savoury snacks, include sugars that are disguised. Spend some time reading labels and choosing foods that have the most whole ingredients and the least amount of added sugar. Promote a diet low in sugar and high in nutrition for your kid's holistic health and preventing them from chronic diseases that can shorten their life span and quality.

## Women's T20 WC: Charani Picks 4-19 As India Register Comprehensive 95-Run Win Over Netherlands

Leeds: India's bowlers, led by N Sree Charani's 4-19, delivered a ruthless performance to seal a 95 run victory over the Netherlands in their 2026 ICC Women's T20 World Cup group clash at Headingley on Wednesday. With the win, India are now on top of the Group A table, with a net run rate of 3.98, which is 0.10 more than that of Australia. Half centuries from Smriti Mandhana (74) and Shafali Verma (55), followed by late fireworks from Richa Ghosh and Deepti Sharma, carried India to 209/5, their highest in Women's T20 World Cup history. The bowlers, led by Charani's four-for and



Shafali Verma's 3-20, ensured it was never threatened as they bowled out the Netherlands for 114 in 17.3 overs. India will also hope that nothing is too serious with off-spin bowling all-

rounder Shreyanka Patil, who was stretched off the field after twisting her right ankle. Defending a massive 209, India had to bide their time for a breakthrough as Heather Siegers and

Phebe Moleknboer hit six boundaries between themselves. They finally got a breakthrough via Nandni Sharma, who had Heather chipping to extra cover for 21. Deepti Sharma

followed up with the dismissal of Phebe, who sliced to mid-off, while Shafali castled Sterre Kalis to leave the Netherlands reeling at 77/3. Babette de Leede offered resistance with 28, but her stumping off Nandni triggered a collapse. From 96/4, the Netherlands lost four wickets in the space of 12 balls, as Charani was the chief destroyer, with Robine Rijke, Frederique Overdijk, Myrthe van den Raad, and Iris Zwilling all falling to her guile. Shafali returned to add two more scalps as India's spinners accounted for nine wickets to take the ODI World Cup holders to the top of Group A.

## 2026 FIFA WC: 'Don't Have To Be An Argentina Fan To Admire Him', Scaloni Marvels At Messi After Record-Breaking Hat-Trick

Kansas City: Argentina manager Lionel Scaloni said Lionel Messi still amazes his teammates after the captain scored a hat-trick in a 3-0 win over Algeria in their World Cup Group J opener on Tuesday. With a spectacular hat-trick against Algeria, Messi also equalled Germany's Miroslav Klose for the most goals in World Cup history (16), surpassing Brazilian legend Ronaldo (15) to become the highest-scoring South American at the global showpiece.

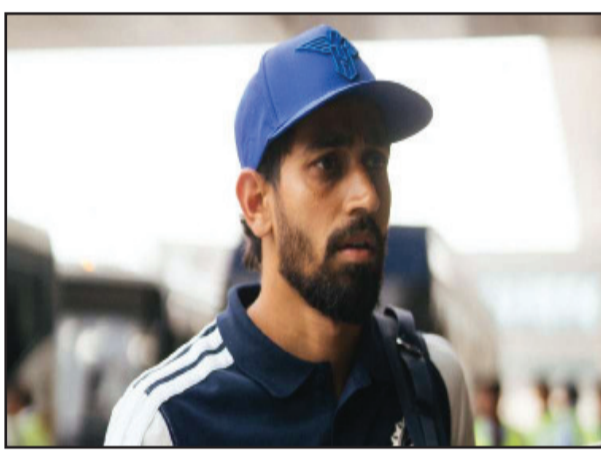
"It's hard to explain. We're still amazed by him, even though we see him every day. He's been the best for 20 years, and he still delivers in every match. You don't have to be an Argentina fan to admire what he's done at his age," Scaloni told

reporters after the match, as per a report in Xinhua. Scaloni said Messi's influence extended beyond his performances on the pitch, creating a unique atmosphere around the squad. "I could stay here talking about him for an hour, but you have to be there to understand the atmosphere he creates," Scaloni said. "One day it [his career] will come to an end, so we have to enjoy it while we can," he added. Additionally, at 38 years and 357 days old, Messi has become the oldest hat-trick scorer in World Cup history. He broke the previous record held by Cristiano Ronaldo, who was 33 years and 130 days old when he scored a treble against Spain in 2018. Messi is the first

footballer in history to play in six editions of the FIFA World Cup. Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo is poised to share this record later on Wednesday. Previously, the record was co-owned by Antonio Carbajal, Lothar Matthäus, Rafa Márquez, and Andrés Guardado. The coach also praised his team's adaptability after Algeria's high intensity troubled Argentina in the first half. "Algeria caused us problems today," Scaloni said. "They counterattacked, and we had to do the same. That's not usually our trademark, but we managed to do it and come through." Scaloni warned against complacency despite Argentina's convincing start to the tournament.

## 2nd ODI: Prince Yadav Debuts As Afghanistan Ask India To Bat First

Lucknow: Afghanistan won the toss and elected to bowl against India in the second ODI of the three-match series here at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium. The hosts have handed Prince Yadav a debut cap, making him the third debutant in this series after Harsh Dubey and Gurnoor Brar, who earned their caps in the 1st ODI. Nitish Kumar Reddy, meanwhile, was unavailable for selection due to quad issues. The series began with India drawing first blood in Dharamsala, sealing a convincing seven-wicket victory in a rain-shortened 25-overs-a-side contest. With several senior players unavailable, the opening ODI also served as an important audition for India's emerging talent, who grabbed the



opportunity and gave the hosts an early 1-0 lead in the three-match series. Winning the toss, Afghan skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi said, "Wicket looks fresh. I think it'll be spinning in the first innings. In the last game, we played really well, we missed the partnerships. We had one partnership and then threw away our wickets. Hopefully we come back stronger. Our boys have a lot of passion of cricket. We have three changes.

Nabi is sick, Azmat got injured and Zia Ur Rahman Sharifi isn't playing. Bilal, Darwish Rasooli and one more." Meanwhile, India captain Shubman Gill said, "We'd have bowled as well as we're forced to play with five bowlers. All about being in difficult situations and being able to chase down big scores and how we can be clinical with out bowling. Three changes. Prince makes his debut. We've got Kuldeep and Jaiswal in."

## 2nd ODI: India Crush Afghanistan By 170 Runs To Take Unassailable 2-0 Lead

Lucknow: India clinched the three-match ODI series with an unassailable 2-0 lead after defeating Afghanistan by 170 runs in the second match at the Ekana Cricket Stadium in Lucknow on Wednesday. The hosts combined a batting masterclass led by captain Shubman Gill and Ishan Kishan with a disciplined bowling display to overpower Afghanistan despite a spirited fight from Rahmat Shah. Chasing 403, Afghanistan needed a flying start but never truly threatened the target. India's pace attack struck regularly, preventing the visitors from building meaningful partnerships. Arshdeep Singh led the charge with three wickets, while debutant Prince Yadav claimed his maiden ODI wicket and Gurnoor Brar impressed with three



wickets of his own. Amid the collapse around him, Rahmat Shah stood tall with a determined innings of 79 from 89 deliveries. Displaying excellent technique and resilience, he battled through cramps and found regular boundaries to keep Afghanistan's hopes alive, albeit faintly. Rashid Khan provided some

entertainment with a quickfire cameo, but the required rate continued to climb beyond reach. The end came in the 45th over when Brar and Prince Yadav cleaned up the tail. Rahmat's valiant resistance was finally ended when he pulled Prince Yadav to fine leg, where Brar completed an excellent catch. Afghanistan were

bowled out for 232 in 44.3 overs, handing India a comprehensive 170-run victory. The result underlined India's dominance throughout the contest. Gill's captain's knock and Kishan's explosive century laid the platform for a massive total, while the bowlers completed the job clinically to secure the series with

a game to spare. Earlier in the day, India made a steady start but were briefly checked by Afghanistan's disciplined new-ball bowling. The visitors even opened with off-spinner AM Ghazanfar in a surprise move, and Yashasvi Jaiswal struggled to find fluency before falling early. Rohit Sharma looked in sublime touch, peppering the boundary ropes with elegant strokes, but narrowly missed a half-century when he was dismissed for 48, leaving India at 80/2. What followed was the defining phase of the match. Gill and Kishan joined forces to produce a breathtaking third-wicket partnership that completely shifted momentum in India's favour.

## FIFA WC 2026: Record-Equaling Messi Fires Hat-Trick As Argentina Brush Past Algeria 3-0

Kansas City: Lionel Messi celebrated his record-breaking sixth World Cup appearance with a hat-trick, powering defending champions Argentina to a comfortable 3-0 win over Algeria in a FIFA World Cup 2026 Group J opener at the Kansas City Stadium on Wednesday. In the process, Messi equalled the all-time FIFA World Cup goalscoring record with his 16 World Cup goals, tying Miroslav Klose of Germany. He also notably holds the records for most caps (199) and most goals (117) for Argentina, while also holding the international record for most World Cup match appearances (26) and being the only player to score in the World Cup group stage, round of

16, quarterfinals, semifinals and final. Messi started the day three adrift of Miroslav Klose's mark of 16 goals on the global stage, but within 76 minutes of this match he was on level terms with the former Germany international. Messi and Algeria's Fares Chaibi both had efforts ruled out for offside in a breathless opening, but Argentina's captain fantastic soon made his mark. Picking up possession 30 yards from goal, he expertly rolled his marker, surged forward and curled a superb finish beyond the grasp of Luca Zidane. Algeria largely kept the reigning champions at arm's length for the rest of the half, with an Alexis Mac Allister header over the

crossbar Argentina's only real chance. Anis Hadj Moussa carved out one of the Fennec Foxes' better opening moments earlier, but a deflection took the sting out of his low effort and Emiliano Martinez gathered comfortably. Messi was once again at the heart of Argentina's brightest attacking moments after the break. He first flashed a 20-yard effort over the bar before slipping in Lautaro Martinez, whose dangerous cross was cut out by Zidane. The Argentina talisman's second goal soon followed, with Zidane unable to hold Mac Allister's powerful strike, allowing Messi to pounce on the rebound and finish coolly with his right foot.

## Mexico To Host LA28 Women's Basketball Pre-Qualifier

Mies (Switzerland): The women's basketball pre-qualifying tournament for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games will be held in Guadalajara, Mexico, the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) said. Eight teams that failed to qualify for the 2026 FIBA Women's Basketball World Cup in Berlin in September will compete in the Olympic pre-qualifier from August 17 to 23. Only the winner of the tournament will qualify for the FIBA Women's Olympic Qualifying Tournaments set for February 2028. Argentina, Brazil, Canada, New Zealand, the Philippines, Senegal, South Sudan and



Mexico, which replaces Colombia, will have another chance to pursue their Olympic dreams. Mexico, as the best non-qualified team in the FIBA World Ranking for Women from the same continent, will replace Colombia, who are unable to

participate. The 16 participating teams for the Olympic qualifiers will include the top two teams from Africa, the top four each from the Americas and Asia, and the top six from Europe, excluding from the relevant region the winner of the pre-

qualifying tournament. Host United States, pending approval by the FIBA Central Board, and the winner of the 2026 World Cup, along with the other 10 best teams from the 2028 qualifying tournaments, will compete at LA28. The

draw for the pre-qualifier will be held at FIBA headquarters on Friday here at the Patrick Baumann House of Basketball on Friday. The eight FIBA Women's Olympic Pre-Qualifying Tournament nations will be drawn into two groups of four. Each team will play against the other opponents in their group in a single round-robin format, meaning at least three games for every country heading to Guadalajara. The top two teams from each group will advance to the Semi-Finals, with the winner of the subsequent Final taking the ticket to the FIBA Women's Olympic Qualifying Tournaments 2028.

# Vedanta Creates History; Lists Four Independent Companies at BSE and NSE

Mumbai: Vedanta Group today marked a defining milestone in Indian corporate history with the listing of four newly demerged companies on the BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange) and NSE (National Stock Exchange). The landmark listing creates a portfolio of focused, world-class businesses spanning strategic metals, critical minerals, aluminium, oil & gas, power, and iron & steel sectors. These businesses sit at the centre of India's long-term industrial, infrastructure and self-reliance ambitions. The listing of Vedanta Aluminium, Vedanta Oil & Gas, Vedanta Iron & Steel and Vedanta Power, represents the culmination of a future-ready transformation



designed to unlock value, sharpen business focus and create sector leaders aligned with India's emergence as a global economic and manufacturing powerhouse. These newly listed entities begin trading today alongside Vedanta Limited, the Group's flagship listed entity anchored by Hindustan Zinc and a globally significant portfolio of critical minerals businesses. Speaking at the listing ceremony, Mr. Anil Agarwal,

Chairman, Vedanta Group, said: "Today is a historic day for Vedanta, and a deeply emotional one for me. 24 years ago, Vedanta became the first Indian company to list on the London Stock Exchange and went on to become a FTSE100 company. The seed we sowed that day has grown into a vast banyan tree, and the saplings nurtured under it are now ready to become giants in key sectors and contribute significantly to India's growth and self-reliance ambitions. I am delighted that while the first seed was sown in London, this next stage of unprecedented growth is being unveiled here in Mumbai, the city where my own business journey began. Throughout our journey, we have been deeply

committed to our shareholders. Over the last five years, we have delivered a total shareholder return of more than 300 per cent, nearly five times the return of the Nifty, while also providing a cumulative dividend yield of over 70 per cent. Tomorrow's economy, with AI and energy transition at the forefront, is going to be highly mineral, metals and energy intensive. These are precisely the sectors in which we operate. Today, India imports 50 percent of its requirements. Tomorrow we must be self-sufficient. These companies have been built to serve the nation for generations, create long-term value for shareholders, strengthen India's self-reliance and support its ambition of becoming a developed nation.

# Baleswar Leads Odisha's Energy Transition with Over 10,000 Rooftop Solar Installations

Balasure, (Correspondent): - Baleswar has become the second district in Odisha, after Khordha, to surpass 10,000 rooftop solar installations under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, marking a significant milestone in the state's clean energy journey. With 10,052 installations and an installed capacity of nearly 22 MW, the district continues to lead Odisha in rooftop solar adoption. Within the Balasure Electrical Circle, all five divisions have demonstrated strong participation. Soro Division recorded 3,089 installations, followed by Central Division with 2,175, Jaleswar with 1,840, Basta with 1,601, and Balasure Division with 1,347. The installations include both ULA and Non-ULA categories under the



scheme. Odisha has emerged as one of the leading states in rooftop solar deployment, supported by one of the country's most attractive subsidy structures. Eligible consumers can avail combined Central and State Government subsidies of up to ₹1,38,000, depending on installed capacity and applicable guidelines. This has significantly lowered upfront costs and made clean energy adoption more accessible for households across urban and rural areas. To facilitate adoption,

TPNODL has implemented consumer-friendly measures under the scheme, including timely availability of net meters, streamlined inspections and commissioning, simplified vendor registration and inter-departmental convergence for the solarization of consumer households. "Mo Chhata, Mo Sanchaya" campaign has further strengthened outreach, raising awareness and encouraging consumers to adopt solar energy to reduce electricity costs while contributing to a greener future.

# Paradip Port Authority Organizes Special Yoga Session with Indian Coast Guard Ahead of International Day of Yoga 2026

PARADIP, (Correspondent): In the run-up to the International Day of Yoga 2026 (#IDY2026), Paradip Port Authority (PPA), in collaboration with the Indian Coast Guard and Art of Living, Paradip Unit, organized a special yoga session aboard Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Varad at Paradip. The session was conducted by Yoga Guru Shri Tapas Ranjan Pati of Art of Living, Paradip Unit, and witnessed enthusiastic participation from officers and personnel from both organizations. Shri P. L. Haranadh, Chairman, Paradip Port Authority, graced the occasion along with DIG Shri Sanjay Negi, Commander of the Coast Guard District in



Paradip. Heads of Departments and senior officers of Paradip Port Authority, Coast Guard officials and yoga enthusiasts also participated in the programme, underscoring the shared commitment towards promoting holistic health, well-being and a culture of fitness. Addressing the gathering, Shri P. L. Haranadh highlighted the importance of yoga in enhancing physical and mental well-being and emphasized that such initiatives

strengthen inter-agency cooperation while fostering a healthy and productive workforce. He noted that wellness-oriented activities contribute significantly to building stronger institutional relationships and promoting harmony among maritime stakeholders. DIG Shri Sanjay Negi appreciated the collaborative initiative and stressed the role of yoga in maintaining physical fitness, mental resilience and operational readiness among personnel.

# GIET University Successfully Concludes Three-Day FDP on Outcome-Based Education

Gunupur: (Correspondent): - Gandhi Institute of Engineering and Technology University (GIET University), Odisha, Gunupur, successfully concluded a Three-Day Faculty Development Programme (FDP) on "Outcome-Based Education (OBE): Assessment and Evaluation", organized by the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) in association with the National Institute of Technical Teachers' Training and Research (NITTTR), Kolkata. The FDP, conducted from June 15 to 17, brought together 101 faculty members from various Schools and Departments of the University for an intensive academic engagement focused on



strengthening outcome-oriented teaching, learning, and assessment practices. The programme was designed to equip faculty members with the knowledge and practical skills required for the effective implementation of Outcome-Based Education in alignment with the objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and contemporary quality assurance frameworks in higher education. Over the course of three days, participants underwent comprehensive training

on key aspects of OBE, including Vision and Mission formulation, Programme Educational Objectives (PEOs), Course Outcomes (COs), Programme Outcomes (POs), Programme Specific Outcomes (PSOs), CO-PO-PSO Mapping, lesson plan preparation, assessment and evaluation methodologies, attainment calculations, and quality assurance mechanisms. The sessions were conducted by Dr. Rayapati

Subbarao, Associate Professor, NITTTR Kolkata, who provided valuable insights into the practical implementation of OBE through interactive discussions, hands-on exercises, and real-world academic applications. The programme received an enthusiastic response from participants, who appreciated its relevance and practical orientation. During the valedictory session, faculty members shared their feedback and highlighted the programme's effectiveness in enhancing their understanding of curriculum design, assessment strategies, and outcome attainment processes. Addressing the gathering, Dr. K. Murli Gopal, Principal, School of Engineering

and Technology, emphasized the importance of continuous faculty development in maintaining academic quality and institutional excellence. Prof. (Dr.) A. V. N. L. Sharma, Vice-Chancellor, GIET University, lauded the efforts of IQAC and NITTTR Kolkata in organizing the programme and encouraged faculty members to incorporate the principles of Outcome-Based Education into their academic practices. In his valedictory address, Dr. Rayapati Subbarao observed that Outcome-Based Education is not merely an accreditation requirement but a transformative educational philosophy that promotes meaningful learning, accountability, and continuous improvement.

# MCL commences Swachhta Pakhwada-2026 across all operational areas

Sambalpur: (Correspondent) :- Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) today commenced the fortnight-long Swachhta Pakhwada-2026 across its headquarters and all operational areas, reaffirming its commitment towards cleanliness, environmental sustainability and community participation. The campaign will be observed till 30th June 2026. Shri Uday Anant Kaole, Chairman-cum-Managing Director, formally inaugurated the campaign and administered the Swachhata Pledge to employees at the company headquarters in the presence of Functional Directors and the CVO. On this occasion, a Swachhata Rath was also flagged off, which will travel



through peripheral areas spreading awareness on cleanliness, sanitation and responsible waste management practices among local communities. CMD Shri

Kaole also unveiled a display model of MCL's flagship CSR project - Comprehensive Community Development Programme (CCDP-UTTAN). The model

highlights various sustainable livelihood initiatives implemented by the company across its operational districts, including agro-horticulture, animal husbandry, livestock development, artificial insemination, water resource development and other community development interventions. The campaign is being organised under the aegis of the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India and various awareness activities will be organised during the fortnight-long campaign at company headquarters and operational areas including street plays, cleanliness drives at public places, competitions, felicitation of sanitation workers and plantation under the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" initiative.

# Odisha's First Solar Didi Training Batch Successfully Completes Training Under PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent): TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL), a joint venture of Tata Power and the Government of Odisha, marked the successful completion of the first batch of Solar Helper Training in Odisha under the Solar Didi Initiative of PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana at the Tata Power Skill Development Institute (TPSDI), Cuttack. The Solar Didi Initiative is a joint programme of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India, implemented under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Urban



Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM). A total of 29 women representatives from Self Help Groups (SHGs) under DAY-NULM, identified by Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC), successfully completed the training programme. The participants were equipped with technical knowledge on rooftop solar systems, including installation processes, operation and

maintenance, consumer awareness and promotion of solar energy adoption. The initiative was facilitated by the City Accelerator Program (CAP) Team, supported by MNRE, with Tata Power Skill Development Institute (TPSDI) serving as the training partner for the Solar Didi programme. The successful completion of the first batch marks an important milestone in empowering women as Solar Didis and

strengthening grassroots participation in the implementation of PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana. In collaboration with TPCODL, the trained Solar Didis will be engaged in promoting the Utility-Led Aggregation (ULA) model and the PM Surya Ghar scheme across Cuttack city. They will support citizen outreach, beneficiary mobilisation and facilitate rooftop solar adoption at the community level. Speaking on the occasion, Gajanan S. Kale, CEO, TPCODL, said, "The successful completion of Odisha's first Solar Didi training batch is a significant step towards empowering women and accelerating the adoption of rooftop solar energy."