




ECI Deletes 59 Lakh Voters in West Bengal, Flags Major Discrepancies

2



Jagannath Temple's Meghanad Prachira Faces Water Leakage Issue Again, SJTA Seeks ASI's Help

3



GOAT India Tour: Messi Leaves Fans, Celebrities Mesmerised; Gets Signed India Jersey From Tendulkar

7



Sonali Bendre Shares Her Book Pick For The Month Of December

8

12 Killed In Shooting Near Jewish Gathering In Australia's Sydney

Canberra: At least 12 people were shot dead and several others were injured after two gunmen opened fire at Bondi Beach in Sydney, Australia, on Sunday.

The firing incident triggered panic and chaos in the popular seaside area following which the vicinity was sealed for public. The harrowing incident took place amid a crowd while people gathered to celebrate Jewish festival on the seaside.

According to report, two gunmen in black clothing were seen on a bridge and reportedly fired several rounds towards the crowd. At least a dozen to 50 shots were heard after which



people were seen fleeing the beach. On being informed, security forces rushed to the spot and were seen taking control of the area. Several visuals captured scenes of fear and confusion, with people seeking cover and authorities working to secure the location.

New South Wales Police later appealed to people to stay away

from the area and to take shelter if they were already there. Police later confirmed that two people had been taken into custody, but the operation was still ongoing.

Police said two people have been arrested after reports that multiple people were shot at Sydney's Bondi Beach.

Rescue operations

at the scene & investigation into the case are yet underway to ascertain the reason behind the massacre.

In a statement, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has termed the scenes in Bondi "shocking and distressing." He stated that he has spoken to the Australian Federal Police (AFP) Commissioner and New South Wales (NSW) Premier and urged people to follow information shared by NSW police. In a statement shared on X, Albanese stated, "The scenes in Bondi are shocking and distressing.

Odisha Plans 15 Iconic Tourism Destinations, 15 Lakh Jobs Under Viksit Odisha 2036: CM Majhi

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent) :The Odisha government has unveiled an ambitious tourism expansion plan aimed at developing 15 iconic tourism destinations and generating nearly 15 lakh livelihood opportunities across the state. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi announced the initiative on Saturday while inaugurating the seventh edition of the Konark Eco Retreat at Ramchandi along the Puri-Konark marine drive. Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister said the plan is part of the state's long-term development vision, Viksit Odisha



2036, which places tourism as a key driver of economic growth and employment generation. He added that Odisha aims to position itself as a leading eco-cultural tourism destination in Asia. CM Majhi said the tourism roadmap focuses on both destination development and large-scale job creation. He highlighted tourism's potential to provide employment opportunities,

particularly for rural communities and economically weaker sections, while also promoting Odisha's rich cultural heritage, traditional art forms and local cuisine. He stressed that the government's approach is to move beyond isolated tourism projects and instead develop integrated, high-capacity destinations that can support sustained growth in tourist footfall

over the coming years. Highlighting the success of eco-retreats across the state, the Chief Minister referred to destinations such as Satkosia, Bhitarkanika, Daringbadi, Sonapur and Konark. He said these initiatives have boosted local economies, created employment and encouraged environmental awareness, while ensuring that natural ecosystems remain protected. CM Majhi described eco-retreats as one of the state's most impactful tourism initiatives and said similar models could be replicated at other suitable locations.

PM Modi, Amit Shah, JP Nadda congratulate Nitin Nabin

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah, along with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP National President JP Nadda, congratulated Bihar Minister Nitin Nabin on his appointment as the BJP's National Working President. Shah hailed the appointment as a significant moment for the party and its workers, acknowledging Nabin's unwavering dedication. The BJP Parliamentary Board has named Nabin as the new National Working President, succeeding Union Minister JP Nadda, who has led the party since January 2020. In his message on X (formerly Twitter), Amit Shah expressed, "I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Nitin Nabin ji on his appointment as the National Working President by the BJP Parliamentary Board. Under the guidance of PM Modi, Nadda ji, and senior party leaders, Nabin has fulfilled various responsibilities with

great success. His previous roles—such as National General Secretary of the BJP Yuva Morcha, State President of Bihar's Youth Wing, and State In-Charge for Chhattisgarh—have shown his commitment to the party." Shah also highlighted Nabin's extensive experience as a five-time MLA in Bihar. "With his long track record of public service and governance, Nabin is well-equipped for his new role. His elevation to National Working President is a tribute to every BJP worker's hard work," said Shah, offering his best wishes for Nabin's tenure. JP Nadda also congratulated Nabin, emphasizing his leadership qualities. "Nitin Nabin ji, hailing from the intellectual and cultural hub of Bihar, is a dynamic leader who brings years of experience to the BJP. Under the leadership of PM Modi and Nabin, I am confident that the party will scale new heights in its mission of nation-building and public service.

Bihar Minister Nitin Nabin Appointed BJP's National Working President

Patna: Making a major organisational change, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Sunday appointed Bihar cabinet minister Nitin Nabin as the party's National Working President. The decision was approved by the BJP Parliamentary Board. The term of the current BJP National President JP Nadda has ended, and the party has been deliberating on his successor for some time. In the meantime, the top leadership has entrusted the responsibility of National Working President to Nitin



Nabin. According to a letter issued by BJP National General Secretary Arun Singh, the Parliamentary Board has appointed Nitin Nabin as the National Working President of the party with immediate effect. The notification clarified that the order has been communicated to the National

President, all state in-charges, state presidents, and organisation general secretaries. Nitin Nabin is an MLA from the Bankipur constituency in Patna. In the Assembly elections held last month, he defeated RJD candidate Rekha Kumari. He is a four-time MLA and is regarded as a

disciplined and committed party worker. Coming from a political background, Nitin Nabin is the son of Naveen Kishore Prasad Sinha, a senior and prominent BJP leader in Bihar. From student politics to holding key organisational and ministerial roles, Nitin Nabin has steadily risen through the ranks of the party. His appointment is being seen as a significant move by the BJP leadership, reflecting confidence in his organisational skills and political experience. At 45, Nitin Nabin has

established himself as an effective Road Construction Minister in the Bihar government. He is widely regarded as a young, energetic leader with a modern outlook, and his administrative style has earned him recognition within the party. Earlier, the BJP had also announced a key organisational change in Uttar Pradesh, where Union Minister Pankaj Chaudhary was appointed as the new president of the state unit, as part of the party's broader organisational restructuring ahead of upcoming political challenges.

Thailand rejects Trump's claim of peace deal, says Thailand-Cambodia ceasefire not agreed yet amid border clashes

NEWDELHI: The geopolitical situation in Southeast Asia remains volatile as Thailand has firmly dismissed reports of a truce with neighboring Cambodia. On Saturday, Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul publicly contradicted recent statements made by US President Donald Trump, clarifying that military operations along the disputed border are set to continue. The confusion stems from an announcement made by Donald Trump late

Friday on his Truth Social platform. The US President claimed to have brokered a deal, stating that leaders from both nations had agreed to "cease all shooting" following his personal intervention. This sentiment was echoed earlier by Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, who had urged a halt to hostilities. However, the reality on the ground appears starkly different. Prime Minister Anutin addressed the media amidst ongoing



violence, asserting that no such agreement exists. He labeled the US President's announcement as likely being a "misunderstanding." "At this time, there are no ceasefire negotiations,

and it is not yet the time for that," Anutin stated, emphasizing that listening to military reports is currently more reliable than external political statements. He insisted that a genuine

Thailand-Cambodia ceasefire would require a formal, written proposal from Phnom Penh and a total cessation of aggression, rather than just verbal promises. The humanitarian crisis continues to escalate while diplomatic wires remain crossed. The renewed conflict over the ownership of ancient temples along the 800-kilometer border has already claimed more than 20 lives and left nearly

200 people wounded. The violence has forced the displacement of approximately 600,000 civilians on both sides of the border. Thai Defence Minister Gen Nattaphon Narkphanit supported the Prime Minister's stance, confirming that the armed forces have received no orders to stand down. He reiterated that Thailand would maintain its defensive operations until Cambodia demonstrates a clear end to hostilities.

Six Peacekeepers Killed In Drone Attack On UN Base In Sudan Were Bangladeshis

United Nations: Six Bangladeshi peacekeepers were killed in a drone attack on a UN logistics base in Sudan, according to Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. The attack on Saturday was carried out in the Abeyi region by the Rapid Support Forces, a rebel militant group battling Sudan's defence forces, according to the Khartoum government of President Abdel Fattah Abdelrahman al-Burha, an Army general. Guterres condemned the killings, which he said may be war crimes under international law. "Attacks as the one today in South Kordofan against peacekeepers, are unjustifiable," he said. "There will need to be accountability." The head of UN Peacekeeping, Jean-Pierre Lacroix, said eight Bangladeshi peacekeepers, who are among the 512 from that country deployed in Abeyi, were injured. There were no reports of casualties among the 596 Indians deployed in the UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA), which has a multi-national contingent of 3,002 troops.

Purvodaya Perspectives International Conference Day 2 Highlights Youth Leadership, Blue Economy and Frontier Technologies

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent): The second day of the Purvodaya Perspectives International Conference in Bhubaneswar underscored the pivotal role of youth engagement, regional cooperation, the Blue Economy, and frontier technologies in driving the growth of Eastern India and advancing India's broader Indo-Pacific vision. Day 2 commenced with the Purvodaya 1.5 Dialogue - First Youth Forum, which brought together young innovators and entrepreneurs from across the country. The interactive session was mentored by eminent



leaders including Padma Vibhushan Dr Anil Kakodkar, Shri Siddharth Pradhan, Shri Sabyasachi Patnaik, and Shri Priyadarshi Mohapatra. The mentors engaged with participants on themes of innovation, leadership, and India's evolving economic and technological landscape, encouraging young

minds to contribute to national and regional development. A key highlight of the day was the Plenary Session on "Purvodaya: Advancing Cooperation for Blue Economy and Sustainability." The session emphasised India's strategic advantage as a maritime gateway to

Southeast Asia and the BIMSTEC region. Speakers highlighted the importance of maritime security, port governance, maritime corridors, and people-to-people connectivity, while also addressing environmental challenges in the Bay of Bengal, including the sustainability of marine resources. The post-

break session on "Frontier Technologies in Shaping the Purvodaya Vision" focused on how emerging technologies can accelerate regional transformation. Discussions covered fintech innovation, digital public infrastructure, cybersecurity challenges, drone technologies for last-mile delivery, and the potential of nuclear energy as a source of clean, reliable, round-the-clock baseload power. Panelists stressed the need to create an enabling ecosystem for startups and young innovators to scale alongside large institutions.

Railways to Introduce Regional Cuisine in Vande Bharat, Cracks Down on Fake Ticket Accounts

NEWDELHI: In a significant push towards improving passenger experience and ensuring fair access to train tickets, Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting, and Electronics & Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw, conducted a high-level review meeting with railway officials at Rail Bhawan today. Minister of State for Railways and Food Processing Industries, Ravneet Singh Bittu, was also present. The Minister directed officials to introduce local and regional cuisine in Vande Bharat Express trains, emphasising that this move will enrich the

travel experience by offering meals reflective of the cultural and culinary diversity of the regions the trains pass through. "Introducing local cuisine will significantly enhance the passenger experience by offering food that reflects the culture and tastes of the regions being traversed," the Ministry stated. This facility is set to be progressively expanded to all trains in the future, promising a more personalised and authentic dining option for millions of rail travellers. On the ticketing front, the Minister highlighted the positive outcomes of the ongoing crackdown on fake user identities used

for fraudulent ticket bookings on the IRCTC platform. Thanks to a stringent identity verification system, the daily creation of new user IDs has plummeted from nearly one lakh to as low as 5,000. This reform has already led to the deactivation of 3.03 crore fake accounts. Additionally, another 2.70 crore user IDs have been temporarily suspended or flagged for suspension due to suspicious activities. Shri Vaishnaw and Shri Bittu instructed officials to further reform the ticketing ecosystem, ensuring that every traveller can easily book tickets using a genuine and verified user ID.

Mamata Banerjee Apologises to Lionel Messi After Chaos

NEWDELHI: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has expressed regret and apologised to Lionel Messi and his fans following the disruption at his event in Kolkata this morning. The incident took place at Salt Lake Stadium, where large crowds and organisational issues led to confusion and disorder. "I am deeply disturbed and shocked by the mismanagement witnessed today at Salt Lake Stadium. I sincerely apologise to Lionel Messi, as well as to all sports lovers and his fans, for the unfortunate incident," Banerjee stated.

PM Modi Pays Tribute to Martyrs of 2001 Parliament Attack

NEWDELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid heartfelt tribute today to the brave security personnel who sacrificed their lives while defending India's Parliament during the heinous terrorist attack on December 13, 2001. The Prime Minister stated that the nation remembers with reverence those who laid down their lives in the line of duty. He emphasised that their courage, vigilance, and unwavering commitment during moments of grave danger continue to inspire every citizen. Sharing his thoughts on X, Modi wrote: "On this day, our nation remembers those who sacrificed their lives in the heinous attack on our Parliament in 2001. Despite grave danger, their courage, vigilance, and dedication were commendable. India will remain forever grateful for their supreme sacrifice." On this day, our nation

remembers those who laid down their lives during the heinous attack on our Parliament in 2001. In the face of grave danger, their courage, alertness and unwavering sense of duty were remarkable. India will forever remain grateful for their supreme sacrifice. The Parliament attack of 2001 remains one of the darkest chapters in India's democratic history. Armed terrorists stormed the complex, but the alertness and bravery of security personnel prevented a larger tragedy. Their sacrifice ensured the safety of lawmakers and safeguarded the sanctity of the nation's highest democratic institution. Every year, December 13 serves as a solemn reminder of the courage displayed by those who defended Parliament. The tributes reaffirm the country's collective gratitude and highlight the enduring inspiration drawn from their supreme sacrifice

ECI Deletes 59 Lakh Voters in West Bengal, Flags Major Discrepancies

NEWDELHI: The Election Commission of India (ECI) deleted nearly 59 lakh names from West Bengal's electoral rolls during its Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise, citing dead, duplicate, permanently shifted, and absent voters. The massive clean-up has sparked political chatter across the state. According to the poll panel, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's Bhawanipore Assembly constituency recorded 44,788 "uncollectable" enumeration forms (EFs). Bhawanipore had 1,61,509 voters in January 2025, but 44,787 names were



removed in the latest revision. Meanwhile, Chowringhee constituency in Kolkata reported the highest number of uncollectable EFs at 74,505, followed by Jorasanko with 67,578. Other constituencies such as Kolkata Port, Ballygunj, and Bhawanipore also showed abnormally high deletions, raising concerns among

Commission officials. In Nandigram, Suwendu Adhikari's seat recorded 10,599 deletions out of 2,78,212 voters. The ECI categorised the deletions under ASDD (absent, shifted, dead, duplicate). Officials explained that these included individuals who had permanently relocated, were untraceable, deceased,

or enrolled multiple times. Additionally, the Chief Electoral Officer's office flagged serious irregularities in the data. Around 12 lakh EFs showed an abnormal age gap of only 15 years between parents and children. Commission officials questioned the credibility of such entries, noting that while possible in isolated cases, the scale appeared highly suspicious. The constituency-wise deletions, released after the December 11 deadline for EF submissions, have intensified political debate in West Bengal ahead of future elections.

Congress stages rally against 'Vote Chori' in Delhi; Rahul Gandhi vows to oust BJP Govt

New Delhi, : The Congress party staged a major rally at Ramlila Maidan, New Delhi, on Sunday, accusing the BJP of electoral malpractice under the banner "Vote Chor, Gaddi Chhod." The event was attended by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Sonia Gandhi, and other senior leaders. Rahul Gandhi led the charge, alleging that the Election Commission (EC) was colluding with the BJP



government to manipulate electoral rolls and cover up irregularities. He specifically named Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and others, claiming they were "working for the

BJP." Gandhi promised to remove the Modi-RSS government by upholding the truth. The rally is part of Congress's broader campaign against "vote theft," which gained traction during Gandhi's

earlier "Voter Adhikar Yatra." Despite the party's poor performance in the Bihar elections, the slogan "Vote Chor, Gaddi Chhod" continues to be central to their strategy. Congress aims to rally support on this issue, highlighting concerns about alleged voter fraud and manipulation. With upcoming elections in key states like Assam and Kerala, Gandhi hopes to rally widespread public support for his cause.

Delhi chokes as AQI slips into 'Severe' category

New Delhi, : Delhi woke up to dense smog on Sunday morning, with air quality plunging into the 'severe' category despite the implementation of Stage-IV measures under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) across the National Capital Region (NCR). According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the average Air Quality Index (AQI) stood at 461 at 7 am.

A thick blanket of smog covered the city overnight, significantly reducing visibility and leaving residents struggling to breathe. By Sunday, the AQI in several areas had surged further, touching 497, triggering widespread concern among locals. Many residents complained of breathing difficulties, eye irritation and other pollution-related health problems as air quality continued to deteriorate.

President Murmu presents National Energy Conservation Awards

NEWDELHI: President of India, Droupadi Murmu, presented the National Energy Conservation Awards 2025 and National Painting Competition on Energy Conservation prizes in New Delhi on Sunday on the occasion of National Energy Conservation Day. Addressing the gathering, the President said that energy conservation is the most environmentally friendly and reliable source of energy. Energy conservation is not just an option, but the most crucial need of today. She underlined that saving energy doesn't simply mean using less, but rather utilising energy wisely, responsibly, and efficiently. She said that when we avoid unnecessary use of electrical appliances, adopt energy-efficient devices, utilise natural



light and ventilation in our homes and workplaces, or embrace solar and renewable energy options, we not only save energy but also reduce carbon emissions. Energy conservation is also important for maintaining clean air and safe water sources, and a balanced ecosystem. She stated that every unit of energy we save will be a symbol of our responsibility towards nature and our sensitivity towards future generations.

The President emphasised that if the

youth and children are aware about energy conservation and make efforts in this direction, then the goals in this area can be achieved and the sustainable development of the country can be ensured. The President said that access to affordable and clean energy empowers communities. It stimulates the local economy and creates new growth opportunities. Therefore, green energy is not limited to electricity generation; it is a powerful means of empowerment and inclusive development.

K'taka Congress Veteran Shamanur Shivashankarappa Passes Away At 94

Bengaluru: Veteran politician and six-time Congress MLA Shamanur Shivashankarappa, who also served as the National President of the Akhil Bharatiya Veerashaiva Lingayat Mahasabha, passed away at a private hospital in Bengaluru on Sunday evening. He was

94. According to Dr. Sharan Patil, Shivashankarappa's son-in-law, the veteran leader had been admitted to the hospital on October 23 and was suffering from age-related ailments. He passed away at around 6.30 p.m. Shivashankarappa represented the Davanagere

South Assembly constituency at the time of his death and had also served one term as a Lok Sabha member from the Davanagere Parliamentary constituency. He was a towering figure in Karnataka politics, known for his long public life and grassroots connect.

NIC-Odisha Receives “Excellence in Digital Governance” Award

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent): The National Informatics Centre (NIC) of Odisha has been honoured with the “Excellence in Digital Governance” award for the DEPMOS project, which stands for Directorate of Export Promotion and Marketing – Online Services. DEPMOS is an e-Governance initiative launched by the Government of Odisha, developed and implemented by NIC to digitise and streamline the services provided by



the Directorate of Export Promotion and Marketing (DEPM) under the MSME Department. This project aims to support Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) by automating crucial processes such as registration, rate

contracts, and inspections. As a result, DEPMOS has significantly improved service delivery, reduced turnaround times, and enhanced transparency in government procurement and marketing for MSMEs in Odisha. The award

was presented at the 19th Digital Transformation Conclave & Awards by Major General Shri Manjeet Singh, SM, Joint Secretary (Cyber) at the National Security Council Secretariat, Government of India, and Manas Ranjan Panda, Managing Director of OCAC and Special Secretary of the Electronics & IT Department, Government of Odisha. Mohammed Mojibullah Khan, Director of IT at NIC Odisha, accepted the award.

National Energy Conservation Day 2025 Observed in Odisha

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent): On the occasion of National Energy Conservation Day 2025, Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo, Deputy Chief Minister for Agriculture, Farmers’ Empowerment, and Energy, attended a grand event held at Lok Seva Bhawan in Bhubaneswar. The event highlighted the importance of energy conservation and celebrated significant contributions to energy efficiency. The celebration began in the morning with the Hon’ble Deputy Chief Minister flagging off an



energy conservation awareness rally. The rally, which included students, teachers, and officials from the Energy Department, started from Gate No. 3 of Kalinga Stadium and concluded at Lok Seva Bhawan. In his address, Deputy CM KV Singh Deo emphasised that

energy conservation should be embraced not just as a habit, but as a national duty. He stressed the importance of implementing earthing in every home and the widespread adoption of smart meters, which have the potential to reduce energy losses. Singh Deo further reiterated the

Government of Odisha’s commitment to promoting energy efficiency and environmental stewardship, aligning with national missions focused on climate resilience and sustainable development. The event also featured several distinguished guests, including Vishal Kumar Dev, Principal Secretary of Energy, who stated that while it is essential to increase energy generation, equal focus must be placed on energy conservation, which is the most economical and environmentally friendly approach.

Jagannath Temple’s Meghanad Prachira Faces Water Leakage Issue Again, SJTA Seeks ASI’s Help

Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent): The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) has urged the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to conduct a thorough scientific investigation into the recurring water leakage issue at the Meghanad Prachira of the 12th-century temple in Puri. The SJTA chief administrator, Dr. Arabinda Kumar Padhee, wrote a letter to the ASI, highlighting the issue and seeking their expertise to identify the root cause and implement permanent conservation solutions. According to the letter, water leakage was first noticed at the Meghanad Prachira last



year, and despite repair works done by the SJTA with ASI’s guidance, the issue has recurred. Fresh seepage has been noticed on the eastern side of the Meghanad Prachira, accompanied by moss growth, indicating persistent moisture ingress. The SJTA has expressed concern over the issue, stating that it poses a potential risk to the long-term structural

health of the wall. They have requested the ASI to undertake a thorough scientific investigation, including structural and material diagnostics, to identify the root cause and implement permanent conservation solutions. In the meantime, the SJTA proposes to undertake temporary repair works with technical guidance and supervision from the Puri Circle of ASI.

Reduce Pressure On Common Man, Remove Uncertainty: CJI At Orissa High Court Bar Seminar

Cuttack, (Correspondent): The Orissa High Court Bar Association organised a seminar on strategies to reduce the cost and delay of cases, ensuring justice for the common man, at Shaheed Bhawan, Cuttack, today. The event aimed to discuss practical strategies to make justice more accessible and affordable for the common man. Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Justice Surya Kant, inaugurated the seminar, highlighting Odisha’s rich heritage and the importance of such events. He expressed concern over delayed justice, stating that it affects the



financial status and dignity of people, and emphasised the need to reduce pressure on the common man, remove uncertainty, and protect their dignity. Justice Surya Kant suggested mediation as a means to resolve disputes, reducing the number of cases and enabling the

common man to access justice. He identified two major obstacles to justice: the money spent on litigation and the time spent on it. Chief Justice of Orissa High Court, Justice Harish Tandon, emphasised the judiciary’s crucial role in providing justice, while senior

lawyers and Advocate General Pitambar Acharya and Sitansu Mohan Dwivedi stressed the importance of speedy disposal of cases. The seminar honoured senior lawyers with over 50 years of experience, winners and participants of the All-India Judges Badminton

Championship, and lawyer Sanjay Kumar Mahapatra for his outstanding contribution to law. President of the Odisha High Court Bar Association, Manoj Mishra, presided over the program, while Secretary Abhijit Patnaik introduced the guests and highlighted the Bar Association’s initiatives. Vice President Siddhartha Das proposed the vote of thanks. The event was attended by many eminent personalities, including senior lawyers, who emphasised making justice accessible and affordable for all.

NIT Rourkela Student Swept Away In IB River, Search On

Bhubaneswar: A student of the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Rourkela, was swept away by a strong current while bathing in the IB River at Kanhakund in Sundargarh district on Saturday, triggering a massive search and rescue operation that continued for over 19 hours. The missing student has been identified as Deepesh Pradhan, a native of the Dunguri area in Bargarh district. He had gone to the popular natural canyon along with four friends for an outing. According to reports, the group entered the stone-bed stretch of the river to bathe when Deepesh reportedly lost his grip on a rock and was pulled into deeper waters by the swift current. His friends immediately raised an alarm and alerted the local authorities.

150 Bars, Pubs Raided In Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent): The Excise Department on Saturday late night conducted raids on 150 bars, pubs, clubs, and beer parlours across Bhubaneswar. During one of the inspections in the Chandrasekharapur area, an excise officer was allegedly assaulted by a group of individuals resisting the raid. Following the incident, police detained two persons in connection with the attack. Efforts are ongoing to identify and apprehend others involved. According to reports, the raids were prompted by reports that several establishments were operating beyond permitted hours and violating licensing and safety norms. Teams from the Excise Department conducted simultaneous inspections across the city to enforce compliance. During the Chandrasekharapur bar inspection a group of individuals allegedly obstructed the officers and attacked the excise personnel despite them being in uniform. The situation escalated into a physical confrontation before reinforcements arrived.

Sai Kids Annual Day Celebration

Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent): Sai Kids Play School & Day Care celebrated its Annual Day with great joy at Bhanja Kala Mandap. “The event was graced by Hon’ble Mayor Smt. Sulochana Das, Sri Prithviraj Harichandan, and Sri Babu Singh as esteemed guests. “little children mesmerized the audience with cultural performances, showcasing confidence, talent, and joyful learning. “The celebration reflected Sai Kids’ commitment to holistic early childhood education and values.



Moquim’s Letter to Sonia Gandhi Sparks Congress Rift in Odisha; OPCC Chief Bhakta Das Defends Kharge

Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent): The internal discord within the Odisha Congress has intensified following a letter written by former Barabati-Cuttack MLA Mohammed Moquim to senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi. Responding to the controversy, Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) President Bhakta Das strongly defended party president Mallikarjun Kharge and questioned Moquim’s political intent. Speaking to ANI, Bhakta Das said individuals “associated with the BJP should go to the BJP,” while underlining Kharge’s long political experience

and contributions to the party. He added that Kharge’s political journey and struggles far exceeded the experiences of those currently questioning his leadership. The remarks come amid growing concerns within the Odisha Congress over Moquim’s public statements. Sources said the OPCC has submitted a detailed report to the party’s high command outlining Moquim’s comments and internal communications, which allegedly harmed the party’s image and organisational unity. According to party sources, the report highlights that Moquim’s

statements created confusion among party workers and weakened internal cohesion. While no formal decision has been announced, discussions are underway on whether Moquim should be asked to clarify his position or face disciplinary action. The controversy began with Moquim’s December 10 letter to Sonia Gandhi, in which he criticised Bhakta Das’s appointment as OPCC president. He cited three consecutive Lok Sabha election defeats and pointed to setbacks such as the loss of the Nuapada by-election. Moquim also raised ideological concerns,

alleging that Das’s political views differed from those of the Congress. In the letter, Moquim referred to past political positions taken during the Jayaprakash movement and described it as concerning that Das and his son were allegedly linked to the Koshal movement. Moquim later broadened his criticism to include the party’s national leadership. He expressed dissatisfaction with organisational functioning, leadership accessibility, and internal communication. His reference to Mallikarjun Kharge’s age drew sharp criticism from senior Congress leaders.

Amar Satpathy and Prabhat Tripathy Clarify Delhi Visit, Dismiss BJP Switch Rumours

Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent) Senior Odisha politicians Amar Satpathy and Prabhat Tripathy returned to Bhubaneswar from New Delhi on Saturday, putting an end to widespread political speculation surrounding their recent visit to the

national capital. Speaking to the media after their arrival, both leaders clarified that their trip to Delhi was undertaken for personal reasons and was not linked to any political discussions or realignments.

Accused Dies In Police Custody In Banpur; Kin Cry Foul Play

Bhubaneswar: A grave allegation of custodial death has emerged in Khordha district after an accused died while in police custody at Banpur police station. Chhabindra Nayak, a resident of Dasarathipur village, was reportedly detained late last night by Banpur police for interrogation in connection with an alleged illegal liquor trade case. Sources indicate that his condition suddenly worsened during custody and police shifted him to Capital Hospital in Bhubaneswar. Notably, he was taken in a police vehicle rather than an ambulance, fueling questions about the adequacy of the emergency response. Upon arrival at the hospital, doctors pronounced him dead, intensifying suspicions regarding the events inside the police station.

EDITORIAL

Uranium Contamination Crisis in Punjab Groundwater: 62.5% of Samples Exceed Safe Limit

Punjab is facing an alarming public health emergency as recent data from the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) reveals unprecedented levels of uranium contamination in its groundwater. According to the latest Annual Ground Water Report 2025, the state has recorded the highest intensity of uranium contamination in the entire country.

Key Findings from the CGWB Report (2025)
Contamination Rate: A staggering 62.5% of groundwater samples collected in Punjab after the monsoon season exceeded the permissible safe limit for uranium. This is a sharp rise from 53.04% of samples before the monsoon.
Comparison to Previous Year: The situation has worsened dramatically, with the proportion of samples breaching the safe limit jumping from 32.6% in 2024—a spike of over 91.7%.
Safe Limit Breached: The permissible limit for uranium in drinking water, set by both the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), is 30 parts per billion (ppb) or 0.03 mg/L. Contaminated Zones: As many as 16 out of Punjab's 23 districts have been categorized as contaminated zones. Worst-affected areas like Sangrur and Bathinda have recorded uranium concentrations exceeding 200 ppb, which is nearly seven times the safe limit.
Affected Districts: The contaminated zones include Tarn Taran, Patiala, Sangrur, Moga, Mansa, Barnala, Ludhiana, Jalandhar, Kapurthala, Ferozepur, Fazilka, Fatehgarh Sahib, Faridkot, Amritsar, Muktsar, and Bathinda. The high concentration of uranium poses a severe threat to public health and the state's agriculture.
Public Health Emergency: Long-term ingestion of water with elevated uranium levels is primarily linked to its chemical toxicity, which can cause kidney disorders, cancer, and other chronic health problems. Previous studies in the Malwa region have also linked contamination to neurological disorders like autism and cerebral palsy.

Progressing from formal to pure devotion

Ajaya Kumar Behera

Cultivated devotion is called vaedhi bhakti, formal devotion. With this, a person can approach Parama Purusha, Supreme Consciousness, but cannot become one with Him. To attain oneness, a sadhaka, requires raganuga bhakti or ragatmika bhakti, that is, ardent devotion that comes from within. Unless a sadhaka has ardent devotion for Parama Purusha, it is not possible to become one with Him.

When a sadhaka performs action, devotion awakens. This is the beginning of vaedhi bhakti. For example, some people pray, “O Parama Purusha, my neighbour’s child has passed the school examination, but my child has failed. The teacher has made my child fail intentionally. Let that teacher

be destroyed.” This is tamasic, static bhakti. With this kind of bhakti you will attain neither liberation nor salvation because you did not want either one.

In rajasic devotion one does not think of harming anyone, but asks for a mundane favour for oneself. For example, one may pray to the Lord, “O Lord, please bless me so that I can score high marks in my exams and thereby procure a good job.” To ask for worldly favours as a result of one’s crude devotion to the Lord is not at all desirable. The Lord may or may not fulfill your desires, but one thing is certain: you will never attain liberation or salvation because you did not desire it. All of this comes within the scope of vaedhi bhakti. There is a lack of genuine love for Parama Purusha in all these types of formal devotion. Shudda bhakti, pure devotion, is para bhakti, the highest devotion

for the Lord. The first stage of shuddha bhakti is raganuga bhakti. Now the devotee says, “I love Parama Purusha. This is nothing to hide, nor is it anything to brag and boast about. I love Him because it makes me happy.” This is raganuga bhakti. “I don’t ask for anything, not even liberation or salvation. I love Him because that brings me joy.”

In the highest stage of devotion, the ideation is, “I love Parama Purusha because it makes Him happy. I meditate on Him thinking that my meditation will bring joy to Him. This is my sole intention.” This is ragatmika bhakti. When a devotee moves towards Parama Purusha with intense yearning for Him, it is called radha bhava. When a devotee finally reaches Parama Purusha by virtue of this intense radha bhava, it is called the union between Radha and Krishna.

Five Steps to Clean Delhi’s Air

Narvijay Yadav

Every winter, Delhi gasps for air. And every year, we act surprised. Schools shut down. Hospitals fill up. Children cough. Elderly people struggle. Masks return. Air purifiers sell out. And yet, once the season changes, the urgency fades. The crisis is treated like a temporary inconvenience instead of a permanent public health emergency. Delhi’s air pollution is not mysterious. It is the result of many small failures adding up to one big disaster.

The main causes are clear and well known. Vehicular emissions remain the biggest contributor. Too many cars, too many diesel vehicles, and too little control. Add to this construction dust that floats freely because rules are ignored. Industries in and around Delhi still burn dirty fuel. Crop burning in neighboring states pushes smoke into the city. Garbage burning continues in many areas. Firecrackers worsen an already toxic mix. Weather conditions trap all this pollution close to the ground during winter, making it deadly. None of this is new.

What makes Delhi’s situation worse is not the lack of information, but the lack of sustained action. Other countries have faced similar crises and acted decisively. China once had cities that looked like Delhi does today. But it treated pollution as a national emergency. It shut down dirty plants, shifted to clean energy, controlled vehicles, and enforced rules

strictly. The air did not improve overnight, but it improved steadily because the intent was serious.

Delhi, unfortunately, keeps postponing hard decisions. The cost of delay is enormous. Children are growing up with damaged lungs. Studies show that long-term exposure affects brain development, learning ability, and overall health. Adults face higher risks of heart disease, asthma, and early death. Pollution is silently reducing life expectancy in the capital. This is no longer just an environmental issue. It is a human crisis. So what needs to be done? First, reduce the number of private vehicles on the road. This is unavoidable. Better public transport, affordable electric buses, last-mile connectivity, and safe walking paths must be expanded rapidly. Owning multiple cars must become expensive, not convenient. Pollution does not reduce unless traffic is reduced. Second, strict control on construction and dust. This is the easiest problem to fix but the most poorly enforced. Construction sites must be covered. Roads must be cleaned properly. Penalties for violations should be real, not symbolic. Temporary bans during high-pollution days should be enforced without exceptions. Third, end garbage burning completely. This is not a complex issue. It is a governance issue. Waste collection, segregation, and local accountability can eliminate this source if municipal systems work honestly and efficiently. Fourth, support farmers with real alternatives to crop burning. Blaming farmers will

not solve the problem. Providing affordable machines, financial incentives, and clear timelines will. Crop burning is a regional issue and needs coordinated action between states and the central government.

Fifth, treat pollution like a health emergency, not a seasonal problem. Policies should not change every winter. Air quality targets must be year-round. Schools, offices, and industries should follow pollution-linked protocols automatically, not after public outrage.

In the long term, Delhi must rethink how it grows. Cities cannot expand endlessly without green spaces. Trees, urban forests, and green belts are not decorative luxuries. They are survival tools. Clean energy must replace coal and diesel at every level. Monitoring systems must be transparent so people know the truth, not filtered versions of it. Most importantly, leadership must stop playing blame games. Pollution does not belong to one party, one government, or one season. It belongs to decades of short-term thinking. Until air quality becomes a non-negotiable priority, Delhi will keep choking.

The real tragedy is that we already know the solutions. What we lack is courage. Delhi does not need more reports. It needs execution. It needs coordination. It needs accountability. Clean air is not a privilege. It is a basic right. And if Delhi cannot guarantee that, it risks becoming a city people leave, not a city people dream of living in. Let’s make Earth a kinder, healthier place to live.

Reducing inequality is not an idealistic dream, but the result of political will and sound policies.

Kishan Bhawnani

Globally, the 21st century is known as the century of technological progress, globalization, and economic development, but simultaneously, it is also becoming the century of unprecedented economic inequality. While development figures may be impressive, the underlying truth is that the distribution of income, wealth, opportunities, and resources is increasingly concentrated in the hands of a select few. The World Inequality Report 2026 exposes this reality at both the global and national levels and demonstrates that economic development in itself does not guarantee equality. I, Advocate Kishan Sanmukdas Bhawnani, Gondia, Maharashtra, believe that the World Inequality Report 2026 clearly shows that the widening gap in income and wealth is not an accidental or natural process, but a direct consequence of policy choices. The neoliberal economic policies adopted worldwide over the past four decades, such as tax cuts, shrinking of the public sector, deregulation of the labor market, and prioritizing capital, have structurally increased inequality. India is a strong example of this, where despite rapid economic growth, socio-economic justice has consistently weakened. The World Inequality Report 2026 was prepared under the auspices of the World Inequality Lab. This lab is an independent academic platform that conducts research on income and wealth inequality at the global level, and was founded by economists associated with the Paris School of Economics. Its objective is to explain to policymakers, governments, and the general public how economic inequality is increasing and what its social, political, and environmental impacts are. This report is prepared not by any government or international financial institution, but by independent researchers and economists, which maintains its credibility and impartiality. The global process of report preparation is transparent. More than 200 researchers, data scientists, economists, and social experts were involved in preparing the World Inequality Report 2026. The lead editors of the

report are Lucas Chancel, Ricardo Gómez Carrera, Rowayda Moshrif, and Thomas Piketty. These researchers collected and analyzed tax data, national accounts, household surveys, and historical records from more than 180 countries. This report is not limited to current data, but also reflects long-term trends from 1980 to 2025.

Friends, if we try to understand the findings of this report from India’s perspective, (1) Income inequality in India is at a record high. According to the World Inequality Report 2026, income inequality in India has now reached a historically high level. The report states that (a) 58 percent of India’s national income goes to only the top 10 percent of the population, (b) while the bottom 50 percent of the population receives only 15 percent of the income. This situation has worsened compared to 2021, when the income share of the top 10 percent was 57 percent. This means that instead of the benefits of economic growth trickling down, they are becoming even more concentrated at the top. (2) The Illusion and Reality of Per Capita Income: According to the report, the average annual per capita income in India (on a PPP basis) is approximately Rs. 6.56 lakh. However, this average figure is extremely misleading because: (a) The top 10 percent receive 58 percent of this total income, (b) The remaining 90 percent of the population has to be content with only 42 percent. This clearly shows that the average income does not reflect the true socio-economic situation of India. (3) Wealth Inequality: A Crisis Even More Serious Than Income Inequality If income inequality is alarming, then wealth inequality is even more frightening. According to the report: (a) The top 10 percent own 65 percent of India’s total wealth. (b) The top 1 percent alone hold nearly 40 percent of the wealth. Wealth inequality is more dangerous because it is transferred from generation to generation and almost eliminates social mobility. (3) Female Labor Participation: India’s Biggest Failure: The World Inequality Report 2026 also highlights India’s female labor participation rate, which is only 15.7 percent. This means that: (1) Only 15.7 women are employed for every 100 men. (2) This situation has remained almost stagnant over the last decade.

Globally, women earn only 25 percent of the total labor income, but India is even below the global average in this regard. India’s Social Decline: From the Middle Class to the Bottom 50 Percent: One of the most shocking conclusions of the report is that (1) in 1980, a large part of India’s population was included in the global middle 40 percent, (2) but by 2025, it has almost entirely shifted to the bottom 50 percent. In contrast, China has moved a large part of its population upwards during the same period. This shows that India’s development model has not been inclusive.

Friends, if we talk about taking steps towards reforms in India based on this global report, the World Inequality Report 2026 sends the message that reducing inequality is not an idealistic dream, but rather the result of political will and sound policies. If India wants to become a stable, just, and prosperous nation in the 21st century, it must take bold decisions instead of postponing policy reforms. These include: (1) The necessity of a progressive tax system (2) Wealth redistribution and social investment (3) Labor market reforms: a labor-centric, not capital-centric, policy (4) Policies to increase women’s labor force participation (5) Education policy: the key to equal opportunities (6) Health policy: the biggest trigger of poverty (7) Regional inequality and federal finance reforms (8) Climate policy and carbon justice (9) Democracy, transparency, and policy-making (10) A holistic policy vision for India.

Friends, if we talk about understanding global inequality: the picture of the whole world, the report shows that (a) globally, the top 10 percent of people own 75 percent of the wealth, (b) while the bottom 50 percent of the population owns only 2 percent of the wealth. In terms of income, too, (a) the top 10 percent take 53 percent of global income, (b) while the bottom 50 percent receive only 8 percent. This shows that inequality is not just a problem of developing countries, but a global structural crisis. India’s situation: Second most unequal after South Africa (1) According to the report, India is one of the most unequal countries in the world - (2) Only South Africa is ahead of India, where (3) the top 10 percent receive 66

percent of the income (4) and 85 percent of the wealth. In Latin American countries like Brazil and Mexico, the top 10 percent also control approximately 60 percent of the income. In contrast, (1) in European countries like Sweden and Norway, (2) the bottom 50 percent receive up to 25 percent of the income (3) This shows that inequality can be controlled through policy-making.

Friends, if we talk about understanding regional inequality: North vs. South, the report shows that (1) North America and Oceania have 338 percent more wealth than the global average (2) while South Asia (including India) is significantly below the global average. (3) This inequality is not only within countries but also between countries and is constantly increasing. (4) The relationship between carbon emissions and inequality (5) The World Inequality Report 2026 for the first time clearly brings out the relationship between economic inequality and carbon emissions. The top 10 percent of people are responsible for 77 percent of total global carbon emissions, while the bottom 50 percent emit only 3 percent. Despite this, the greatest burden of climate change falls on the poor and vulnerable sections of society. Friends, if we talk about drawing policy implications and global lessons from this report, the report clearly states that inequality is not a natural phenomenon, but rather a result of policy choices. Inequality can be reduced through a progressive tax system, social security, investment in public health and education, and promoting women’s employment. The examples of European countries show that a strong welfare state and a just tax system can control inequality.

Therefore, if we study and analyze the entire description above, we will find that in the decisive battle of development versus justice, the World Inequality Report 2026 sends a clear message: if India and the world do not change their economic policies, development will become a threat to social stability and democracy. Inequality is not just an economic issue, but also a political, social, and environmental crisis. For India, this report is a warning that if the benefits of development do not reach the wider population, the economic growth figures will become meaningless.

35th South Asian Friendship Festival Dr. Chittaranjan's dance captivates the audience

Berhampur : (Correspondent):- The three-day 35th National Conference of South Asian Nations concluded with a grand celebration at the Sea Beach in Gopalpur, Ganjam. More than two hundred delegates from 18 states of India participated and performed special cultural programs. Meanwhile, from Odisha, Dr. Chittaranjan Sahani, founder president of the "NrityaShala" Sanskriti



Kendra Cuttack, and a senior professor of Odia language literature, mesmerized the hundreds of Gopalpur residents at the beach area with his spiritual Odissi dance based on the Ramayana and Mahabharata. MP Dr. Pradeep Panigrahi,

Chancellor of Berhampur University Dr. Gitanjali Das felicitated dancer Dr. Chittaranjan, while President Deepak Malviya, Editor Ravinarayan Mohanty and Editor of SAMAJA Rajendra Kumar Jena praised him.

Odisha Red Cross Branch distributes relief material to MV-26 affect people

Malkangiri, correspondent :The Odisha Red Cross Branch has distributed relief materials to the affected people of MV 26 village on behalf of the district administration. Today, a truck carrying relief materials from Bhubaneswar has reached MV 26 village in a special truck. Under the direct supervision of District Magistrate Somesh Kumar Upadhyay, Additional District Magistrate Revenue Vedavara Pradhan and



District Council Chief Development Officer & Executive Officer Naresh Chandra Shabar were present and distributed various relief materials to the affected people of MV 26 village. Today, this relief material has been distributed to a total of 198 families of MV 26 village. Today,

District Red Cross branch members were also present and helped in the distribution of relief materials. Earlier, the district administration had provided blankets, sarees, lungis, gamuchas, beds and polythene to the victims. Today too, cooked food has been provided to everyone. Similarly, a flag march was held by the RF police force in MV 26. Peace has returned to the village. The villagers have returned to their homes. Today, Lok

Sabha MP Balabhadra Majhi visited Malkangiri. At the Circuit House, in the presence of the District Collector and SP, the MP held separate discussions with the tribal community and the Bengali community. Keeping in view the current situation, the district administration has suspended the purchase of rice for 7 days. The District Collector has informed that the process of purchasing rice in the district will start from December 24.

District Level Fisheries and Livestock Fair - 2025 held in Subarnapur

SUBARNAPUR,(Correspondent) --- District Level Fisheries and Livestock Fair - 2025 was held at Subarnapur Royal Field under the presidency of Collector, Subarnapur Dr. Nruparaj Sahu. Honorable MLA Birmaharajpur Er. Raghunath Jagdala participated in this fair as the chief guest, while Supdt. Of Police Narayan Nayak and Additional District Chief Medical Officer Dr. Durgadatta Dash participated as the guests of honor. While the Chief District Livestock Officer welcomed all the guests, District Fisheries Officer Bijaya Kumar Sahu proposed a vote of thanks at the end of the meeting. The video greetings and speech



sent by the Honorable Minister of Fisheries and Livestock Department and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Department, Odisha Gokulananda Mallik, who could not attend the meeting today due to unavoidable reasons, were presented through LED screens for public awareness. The guests at the fair said that Subarnapur district has secured the first place in the state in the field of fish and livestock development. Therefore, they advised and encouraged the fish and livestock farmers of

the district to continue and maintain this development trend. A total of 30 stalls have been set up in this fair. Out of which, 08 stalls were used by the Livestock Department to display various types of equipment and various types of cattle, buffaloes, chickens, and other livestock, while 06 stalls were used by the Fisheries Department to display various activities of its department. The remaining stalls were used by various departments to display the plans and activities

of their respective departments. Before the start of this fair, the guests visited various stalls. On this occasion, the President and guests awarded and honored the successful farmer Mukesh Pradhan of Birmaharajpur for the Gopalan Yojana of the Animal Resources Development Department, Gitanjali Panigrahi Binika for pig farming, and Bilei Nanda of Tarbha for the Fish Pond Yojana of the Fisheries Department, and Maa Jagat Janani Women Self-Help Group of Sonepur Block for fish farming in the Panchayat Pond. After the meeting, cultural programs were presented by Maa Maheshwari Sanskrutika Sansad of Binika Block, Odisha

Adarsh Vidyalaya, Pipilipalli and other institutions. A large number of fish farmers and livestock farmers from 06 Panchayat Samiti of the district, along with the public and various district level officers and employees including District Panchayat Officer cum District Information and Public Relations Officer Arjun Majhi, Sub-Divisional Information and Public Relations Officer, Sonepur Ms. Preeti Suna, journalists of various newspapers and representatives of various electronic media were present in this district-level fish and livestock fair. Officers and employees of both the main district animal resources office and district fisheries office cooperated in organizing and holding this fair.

CBSE Capacity Building Programme Hosted by DAV Public School, PPL, Paradeep.

Paradeep.(Correspondent) : DAV Public School, PPL, Paradeep hosted the CBSE Capacity Building Programme on December 12 and 13, 2025 on the theme "Critical and Creative Thinking." The two-day programme was organized by COE, CBSE, Bhubaneswar and attended by around 35 registered teacher participants from the host school and nearby CBSE schools. The resource persons allotted by CBSE were Dr. Alka Mohanty, Principal, Gurunanak English Medium Public School, Gudia Pokhari, Puri, and Dr. Chandrakanta Nayak, Principal, Zenith International School, Samagudia, Kendrapara. The Venue Director, Sri Sanjeeb Kumar Sahu, Principal of DAV Public School, PPL, Paradeep presented the welcome address in the Inaugural Ceremony.

Each day comprised six engaging and interactive sessions that enriched the participants' understanding of critical and creative thinking in classroom practices. The sessions successfully fostered a collaborative environment among educators, encouraging reflection and innovation in pedagogical strategies. The successful organization of the programme garnered appreciation from stakeholders, parents, the Regional Officer, and the Assistant Regional Officer, DAV Institutions, Odisha, reinforcing DAV Public School, PPL, Paradeep's growing reputation as a center of academic excellence and teacher empowerment.

Youth Injured Hand by Paddy Procurement Machine

Paralakhemundi,(Correspondent)-At Nijama village of Pindiki Panchayat of Mohana block of Gajapati district, a youth Abhimanyu Mallick while procuring paddy in machine incidentally injured in his hand. Immediately he had taken to Chandragiri PHC by ambulance. There Dr. Simran Bisoyi after treatment, being the case is serious referred to Brahmapur.

Saishree Pandit of SSVSVM Selected to Visit ISRO

Paralakhemundi,(Correspondent)-Saishree Pandit of class 9th of Saraswati Sishu Vidya Mandir (SSVM) of Paralakhemundi has been selected to visit ISRO (Indian Space Research Organization). Her Space Mission Project has been lauded by judges. Among 60 participants she qualified for her presentation of her project on state level & honored by Food, Civil Supplies & Science Jayanarayan Patra. Pradhanacharya Saroj Kumar Panda & all teachers of SSVSVM complimented Saishree Pandit.

Fourth phase National LokAdalat held, 2911 cases settled

Bhawanipatna: (Correspondent) With a move to speedier settlement of cases of the region of Kalahandi district the fourth phase National LokAdalat the year ending drive 2025 was held under the proper guidance of both Chairperson & Secretary of District Legal Service Authority the District & Session Judge Anup Ranjan Pattanik and Snigdha Panda Secretary of Kalahandi District Legal Service Authority, of this district headquarter Bhawanipatna on Saturday and different categories, a total number of 2911 cases have been resolved in this LokAdalat. In that, fourth phase drive with providing compensation and collecting revenue in shape of fines. CJM-Cum-Asst Session Judge Padma Lochan Badajena, Special Judge Vigilance Badri Narayan Nanda, Judge of Family Court Rajashree Mohapatra with leading the last phase NLA, they have adjudicated different types of cases, the source confirmed.

UAIL Hosts Mega Health Camp at Nuagaon Village in Rayagada; Remote Residents Get Free Check-ups

Kashipur, (Correspondent): Utkal Alumina International Limited (UAIL), a Hindalco Industries Limited subsidiary under the Aditya Birla Group, organized a mega health camp at Nuagaon village under Kashipur Block in Rayagada district as part of its Mines CSR initiative for community welfare. The camp was inaugurated in the presence of the local Sarpanch and Samiti members, along with UAIL Unit Head Rabi Narayan Mishra; AVP, Corporate Affairs,



Suparna Nanda; Baphlimali Mines Head Vijay Chauhan; Chief Medical Officer of Utkal Hospital, Dr. Rajendra Lenka; Head of Utkal Hospital, Nuapada, Dr. Rajendra Mandal; and Mines CSR Head Manoj

Das. Residents from 39 villages under Maikanch and Kodipari Panchayats in the Nuagaon area, plus students from two nearby schools, attended for comprehensive health check-ups. Specialist

doctors in general medicine, dermatology, pediatrics, and gynecology provided consultations, distributed free medicines, and referred critical cases for advanced treatment. Nuagaon and

surrounding areas lack adequate healthcare infrastructure, leaving residents to suffer prolonged illnesses without timely care. UAIL stepped in with this mega camp to bridge the gap and boost access to essential services. Specialist doctors and free medicines brought major relief to locals, who praised UAIL's proactive role in extending healthcare to remote and mostly accessible regions. The event saw active support from Project

Head M. Devi Priya, Nirupama Barik, Dillip Nayak, and all Punarathan Project members, ensuring smooth execution. It is worth mentioning that UAIL previously held a 2023 camp in Kodipari Panchayat serving over 1,500 from 25 villages; a 2024 mega camp in Maikanch and Nuagaon with pediatrics and gynecology focus (2,000+ patients); and an early 2025 diabetes and dermatology screening camp in Rayagada Block, benefiting thousands of rural residents.

17 Labourers, Including Four Children, Rescued in Turekela; Two Arrested

Kantabanji, correspondence : The Turekela police on Friday rescued 17 labourers, including four children, from near Mahulbahali village under Komna police station. Acting on

information, the police conducted a raid on December 13 and safely rescued the labourers, who were allegedly being taken for work in violation of labour laws. Following the

operation, a case was registered at Turekela police station vide Case No. 341 dated December 13, 2025, under Sections 318(2), 143(3), 146 and 3(5) of the

Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), read with Section 25 of the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (ISMW) Act. Two accused persons Pitabasa Tandi (48), son of Budu Tandi, and

Ghana Tandi (32), son of Tanka Tandi, both residents of Nuapada village under Turekela police station were arrested in connection with the case. They were later produced before the court.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. ST-OT-SIG-ZONAL-KUR-525, Dt : 05.12.2025
NAME OF WORK : SIGNALLING ZONAL WORK EACH COSTING Rs.5,00,000/- OR LESS IN THE SECTION UNDER JURISDICTION OF SSES/SOUTH/KHURDA ROAD OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION, EAST COAST RAILWAY FOR ONE YEAR.
Tender Value : ₹ 89,39,558.82, EMD : ₹ 1,78,800/-
Bidding Start Date : 15.12.2025.
Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1100 Hrs. of 29.12.2025.
No manual offers sent by Post/ Courier/ Fax or in person accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : www.ireps.gov.in
Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigendum issued for this tender.
Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer, PR-895/Q/25-26 Khurda Road

Sonali Bendre Shares Her Book Pick For The Month Of December

Actress Sonali Bendre has shared her book picks for December, giving a festive dose of literary inspiration. Calling it the SBC Book(s) of the Month – December Edition, the actress recommended three captivating titles: Hercule Poirot’s “Christmas by Agatha Christie,” “We Do Not Part” by Han Kang, and “The Wood at Midwinter” by Susanna Clarke. Sonali also invited readers to join online discussions for one, two, or all three books, encouraging everyone to end the year immersed in stories, magic, and wonder. Sharing her photo, Sonali Bendre wrote, “SBC BOOK(S) OF THE MONTH – DECEMBER EDITION We’re ending the year with a bang... and a bundle of books! Because it’s the holidays (and we couldn’t pick just one!), we’re reading three incredible titles this month: Hercule Poirot’s Christmas by Agatha Christie – a perfectly twisty, snow-dusted murder mystery starring everyone’s favourite detective. We Do Not Part by Han Kang – a haunting, dreamlike story of friendship, memory, and a forgotten chapter of Korean history.” She added, “The Wood at Midwinter by Susanna Clarke – a magical, illustrated winter tale from the author of Piranesi, filled with woods, creatures, and wonder. We’ll be hosting three separate online textual discussions, so you can read one, two, or all three. Let’s end the year on a strong, story-filled note together. Which BCBookOfTheMonth are you picking up first?.” Sonali, known for her striking presence on social media, has often expressed her love for books. She regularly shares her literary picks and recommendations with her followers.

Nutritionist shares easy recipe for morning anti-inflammatory drink that eases your gut and reduces bloating



Some kind of drink or beverage is often a constant in many morning routines. After all, an entire night of fasting leaves the body dehydrated and in need of nourishment to begin digestion and metabolism for the day. The drink of your choice also plays a pivotal role in sustaining your energy in the morning. So, are you looking for a go-to morning drink that can help tackle common concerns like bloating and digestive issues? Recipe The drink she shared has anti-inflammatory properties. It contains key ingredients like ginger, turmeric powder and lemon. All of them have good anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties, supporting digestion and reducing issues like bloating and nausea. Together, they are a power trio that promotes good gut health, perfect for your early morning drink!

“Take two oranges, one inch of ginger, a quarter teaspoon of turmeric powder, squeeze some lemon and water and blend it well. And you made yourself a very powerful anti-inflammation shot,” Shalini added. If you are looking to address gut issues and want a realistic timeline to see results, Shalini suggested drinking the shot for three days, early in the morning on an empty stomach.

How is this drink beneficial? According to the nutritionist, the drink contains key nutrients and properties such as vitamin C and antioxidants. It is especially suitable for those who often complain of gut-related discomfort, as it helps target inflammation and may subsequently support gut healing. The recipe is simple, and the ingredients are all

staples found in most Indian kitchens, making this drink both accessible and easy to prepare. With minimal efforts and no fancy equipment required, it can be easily added to a daily routine, particularly for those looking for a natural way to support gut health and lower the inflammation levels.



Superfoods to boost memory and focus after age 30: Berries, fish, eggs and more



As we age, our brains naturally change. After the age of 30, the brain can lose grey matter, which is responsible for thinking and memory, and white matter, which helps different parts of the brain communicate. But what we eat can play a big role in keeping our minds healthy. Experts say including certain superfoods in your diet can improve brain function and memory. Brain-boosting diets The Mediterranean diet, rich in vegetables, whole grains, fish, and olive oil, is known for heart health

and brain health too. Dr. Babak Tousi, a memory and brain health specialist, told Health Cleaveland and Clinic that this diet can slow down brain degeneration and even increase grey matter in the brain’s cortex, the area responsible for thinking. The MIND diet, which combines the Mediterranean diet with the DASH diet, focuses on foods that protect the brain, like fish and berries, while reducing red meat, fried foods, and sweets. Research shows the MIND diet may help increase brain volume and reduce the risk of dementia.

Top superfoods for your brain

Fish: Salmon, tuna, sardines, and herring are rich in omega-3 fatty acids, which support memory and learning. Regular consumption may also slow age-related brain decline. Berries: Blueberries, strawberries, and blackberries contain antioxidants that may protect the brain and improve memory. Studies suggest that eating berries can help reduce age-related cognitive decline. Whole grains: Brown rice, quinoa, oatmeal, and whole-grain bread release sugar slowly in the body, providing steady energy for brain function and protecting against cognitive decline caused by high sugar intake. Dark chocolate: Flavonoids and antioxidants in dark chocolate enhance memory, focus, and mood. Choose chocolate with at least 70% cocoa for the best benefits. Turmeric: The curcumin in turmeric reduces inflammation and may improve memory over time. Nuts and seeds: Walnuts, almonds, and pumpkin seeds contain omega-3s, vitamin E, and zinc, which support memory and protect brain cells. Broccoli and eggs: Rich in vitamin K, choline, and B vitamins, these foods help maintain memory and slow brain degeneration. Even small changes in your diet can make a big difference for your brain. Including these superfoods regularly can help improve memory, focus, and overall cognitive health as you age.

a need for more fluids. Diet focus for the non-thirsty For those who simply don’t feel thirsty, both doctors advocate for a strategy focused on incorporating water-rich foods and beverages:

Fluid target: Dr Mathur suggested adults should consume 2–2.5 litres/day, including fluids from soups and fruits. Elderly individuals or those with specific conditions (like heart or kidney disease) should seek personalised medical advice.

Warm options: Warm water, clear soups, and herbal teas (like chamomile or ginger) are excellent, comforting options that aid hydration, Dr Mathur added.

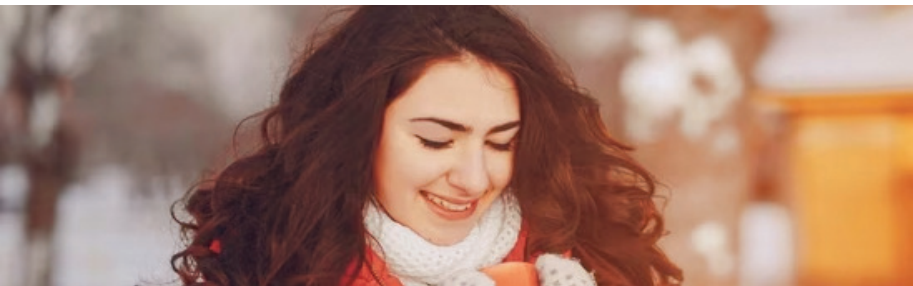
Fruit and vegetable power: Dr Mathur recommended fruits like oranges, kiwi, apples, and pomegranates, and vegetables like cucumbers,

tomatoes, and bottle gourds. Dr Patil added watermelon, celery, and leafy greens to the list.

Strategic habits: Dr Mathur suggested keeping a timed water bottle or drinking a glass of water before every meal.

Dr Patil said that to stay hydrated this winter, try these simple diet tips:

1. Water-rich foods: Include foods like watermelon, cucumbers, oranges, and leafy greens in your diet.
2. Herbal teas: Enjoy warm herbal teas like chamomile, peppermint, or ginger tea.
3. Smoothies: Blend hydrating fruits and veggies with coconut water or yogurt.



How much water should you drink in winter?



As temperatures fall, a silent health risk looms: winter dehydration. Contrary to the common assumption that dehydration is primarily a problem associated with hot weather, doctors warn that the colder months can lead to even greater fluid loss, significantly impacting the body’s major systems In an interview with HT Lifestyle, Dr Rahul Mathur, department of internal medicine at CK Birla Hospitals, Jaipur, highlighted the paradox. “People assume dehydration happens only in hot weather, but winters silently dehydrate us even more,” he said, adding, “Low temperatures reduce our thirst response by up to 40 percent, even when our body needs water. Simultaneously, we lose fluids through dry indoor heating, faster breathing in cold air, and increased urination.” The body-wide impact of low fluid intake He cautioned that even mild dehydration — just 1–2 percent — can have a cascading negative effect on health. The brain is highly sensitive, and dehydration can lead to fatigue, headaches, and impaired concentration. Moreover, Dr Mathur said that low fluid intake “thickens blood, increasing risks of hypertension, clotting, and cardiac strain, especially in older adults.” Concentrated urine due to dehydration can result in kidney stones and UTIs, which are common during colder months, he shared, adding that dehydration can stiffen joints and

reduce workout performance. Dr Mathur said, “Kidneys are similarly affected since concentrated urine leads to kidney stones and UTIs, which are common during colder months. Skin and mucosa suffer as reduced hydration compromises the skin barrier, causing dryness, cracked lips, and weakening immunity in the nose and throat. Joints and muscles can also feel the strain because dehydration stiffens joints and reduces workout performance.” Hydration goals and strategies Dr Sandeep Patil, chief intensivist at Fortis Hospital, Kalyan, shared with HT Lifestyle that the fundamental role of water, which makes up 60 percent of the body: “Water is essential for the daily functioning of the body. All body fluids contain water. Along with water, waste material is excreted through the kidneys. For the digestion and absorption of nutrients, water is essential in the gut.” He recommended a daily water requirement of around 13 cups for men and 9 cups for women, and around 3 to 4 cups per day for children. “In cold weather, people tend to wear layers of clothing, which leads to overheating and perspiration, and fluid loss, which is not recognised,” Dr Patil explained. A simple check for dehydration, he suggested, is to look at your urine: dark colour and less quantity indicate

Subarnapur District Sports Association Annual Sports Competition concludes

SUBARNAPUR ,(Correspondent)--- The two-day Subarnapur District Sports Association Annual Sports Competition, which began on Saturday, concluded on Sunday. Subarnapur Additional District Magistrate Anjalina Pradhan attended the event as the chief guest, while DSP Renuka Suna attended as the guest of honor and felicitated the participants with trophies and certificates. District Sports Association Vice President Chittaranjan Tarasia coordinated the meeting while Digambara Satpathy proposed the vote of



thanks. Kalim Mohammed, Sanjaya Sahu, Bipra Charan Pera, Chaitanya Naik, Govinda Naik, Nepal Dandia, Somnath Sahu, Bira Pratap Dash, Sarita Mishra, Pratibha Bhui, and Anita Mahanand were the main participants of the PET. All the sports competitions were organized for two days

while the District Sports Association The annual sports competition was organized under the supervision of the Association Secretary Piyush Kumar Panda. Active members of the Sports Association Rajib Sahu, Subash Biswal, Hrushikesh Panda, Bikash Panda, Bikash Padhi, Bala Gopal Mishra, Ripun Naik, Raj Kumar Naik and all the prominent members cooperated. Today, on the closing day, the men's 5000 meter race competition, 3000 meter women's race competition, 200 meter, 100 meter race competition, under 14 years javelin throw, under 16 and 20 years men's and women's relay race competition were organized. This year, a record number of 1270 competitors participated in this district-level competition. The efforts of Sports Secretary Piyush Kumar Panda and the efforts of the Association were appreciated by the Collector Subarnapur,

SP and all the guests of today. The men and women of this sport will participate in the state-level sports competition to be held in Bhubaneswar on the 27th, said the vice-president of the association, Shri Tarasia, and the secretary, Shri Panda. District sports officer Chittaranjan Mishra, association advisor Kairu Swain, Dilip Guru, Purushottam Panigrahi, Nanda Kishore Tripathy, executive member B. Satya Narayan Rao, member Raj Kishore Tripathy, Mahadeb Mallik, Kamalakant Sahu, all the prominent members participated in this event.

Volleyball Mahakumbh Concludes at KIIT & KISS;FIVB Announces Beach Pro Tour in Odisha from 2026

Bhubaneswar ,(Correspondent): The four-day Volleyball Mahakumbh concluded at KIIT and KISS here today, marking a significant milestone for the promotion of volleyball and women's empowerment in Odisha. Organised jointly by KIIT-KISS and the Fédération Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB), the mega event was inaugurated on Saturday in a colourful ceremony witnessed by nearly 40,000 students. The event was graced by FIVB President Fabio Azevedo, whose presence underscored the global importance of the initiative. Volleyball Mahakumbh, held from December 11 to 14, was



organised as part of KIIT & KISS's flagship Kanya Kiran initiative, aimed at empowering women and strengthening grassroots sports development. Addressing a press conference here today, Azevedo said the initiative reflects FIVB's commitment to inclusive growth and gender equity through sport. He announced that the prestigious FIVB Beach

Pro Tour will be hosted in Odisha for three consecutive years— 2026, 2027 and 2028—in partnership with KIIT and KISS. He noted that Odisha's conducive sporting environment and the extensive infrastructure developed by KIIT & KISS make it an ideal destination for international volleyball events.

India Dominate with Ball to Bundle South Africa for 117 in Dharamsala Thriller

NEW DELHI : Kuldeep Yadav's clever wrong'un sealed the deal in dramatic fashion as India bowled out South Africa for a paltry 117 in the third T20I at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium, capping off a commanding bowling display amid chilly conditions and heavy dew. The decisive wicket came off the final ball of the 20th over when Ottneil Baartman (1) skewed a lofted drive straight to captain Suryakumar Yadav at extra cover, triggering jubilant celebrations from the Men in Blue. Kuldeep finished with impressive figures,



picking up crucial breakthroughs in the death overs, including a sharp stumping earlier in the spell. India, who won the toss and elected to field in the series decider with the scores level at 1-1, wasted no time asserting dominance. Arshdeep Singh struck early, removing Reeza Hendricks for a duck, while Harshit Rana chipped in with key

scalps during the powerplay, reducing the Proteas to a precarious 25/3. Captain Aiden Markram waged a lone battle, top-scoring with a resilient knock (reports vary between 60* and 61 off around 46 balls), but received little support as the middle order crumbled. Hardik Pandya marked his return with a milestone, claiming his 100th T20I wicket by dismissing Tristan Stubbs, while spinners Varun Chakaravarthy and Kuldeep applied relentless pressure. Despite the low total, dew factored heavily, making grip challenging for the bowlers, yet India's attack – featuring replacements Kuldeep Yadav (for the unwell Axar Patel) and Harshit Rana (for Jasprit Bumrah, absent due to personal reasons) – proved too potent. South Africa's innings never recovered from the early blows, folding in exactly 20 overs for their second-lowest total in recent memory against India.

40th Annual Sports Meet Celebrated at Shivananda Centenary Boys' School”

Bhubaneswar ,(Correspondent): The 40th Annual Sports Meet of Shivananda Centenary Boys' School was officially inaugurated on 9 December 2025 by Haraprasad Mahapatra, Additional District Magistrate of Malkangiri and an alumnus of the school. Over the span of three days, 26 events such as 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m races, high jump, long jump, shot put, discus throw and others were conducted. Dr. Tapan Kumar Chand, former Director of Vedanta, attended the celebration as the Chief Guest and spoke about



sports being an important part of education, helping students become disciplined, of good character, and patriotic citizens. As the Honoured Guest, Rakesh Kumar Patra, Zonal Commissioner of Bhubaneswar Municipality and an alumnus of the school,

shared how the school played a major role in shaping him. In his presidential address, the school secretary Jayachandra Nayak encouraged students to become disciplined and responsible. In the Senior Category, Omanath Charatee became the champion; in the Junior Category,

Sujit Kumar Nayak secured the championship; and in the Sub-Junior Category, Akash Nayak emerged as champion. The event was coordinated by the school's Physical Education Teacher, Ashok Kumar Rautaray, with the support of other teachers. Members of the school management committee and parents also attended, contributing to the success of the programme. The sports festival concluded with a prize distribution ceremony followed by colourful cultural performances.

Teen Prodigy Shane Chandaria Clinches Formula 4 Indian Championship Title

Chennai: Shane Chandaria won the third season of the FIA-certified Formula 4 Indian Championship, which is part of the Indian Racing Festival, and became the youngest title winner at the age of 15, here at the Madras International Circuit. Having entered the 2025 season as a fresh-faced rookie, Kenya's Chandaria finished it as the indisputable champion. It was the first championship win of his young career. The Chennai Turbo Riders carried a 24-point lead at the top going into the fifth and final round this weekend. However, he had a challenge on his hands as his more experienced rivals were closing in, and a tricky track and trying conditions awaited at the Madras International Circuit. But Chandaria, nicknamed 'Baby Samurai', was up to the task and made the most

of the head start to clinch the championship in race 1 itself. Starting the first race of the day in pole position, the teenager completed 23 laps in 26 minutes, 23.059 seconds. Though he finished second behind Kichcha's Kings Bengaluru's Sachel Rotge, who clocked 26:22.674, the top 2 finish was enough to seal the title. Even after the championship was wrapped up, Frenchman Rotge and Chandaria, as they so often have this season, were once again locked in battle in race 2 and despite the reverse grid pushing them at the back of the track, they fought off the competition and staged some daring overtaking moves towards the end to finish on the podium. While 16-year-old Luviwe Sambudla of Goa Aces JA Racing won the race, Rotge, who pulled off a double

overtake in the last lap, finished second and Chandaria third to leave their indelible mark on the season. Chandaria and Rotge dominated the 2025 Indian F4 Championship, finishing first and second, respectively. The third position was taken up by seven-time Indian National Karting Champion Ishaan Madesh. Chandaria's team, Chennai Turbo Riders, meanwhile, won the Teams' Championship. The F4 championship confirmed Chandaria's status as one of the more exciting driving talents. The Kenyan, with an Indian heritage, started in the sport at the tender age of five. Since then, he has gone from strength to strength. He dominated the Kenya National Karting Championship, earning Rookie of the Year honours in 2021 and the National Championship title in 2022.

GOAT India Tour: Messi Leaves Fans, Celebrities Mesmerised; Gets Signed India Jersey From Tendulkar

Mumbai: He came, he saw, and he conquered hearts — all in one hour. In one Messi-mesmerising hour spent at the iconic Wankhede Stadium as part of his GOAT India Tour 2025, Lionel Messi interacted with cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, some current India and former football players, film stars, celebrities and politicians. By the time he left, exactly one hour after making a grand entry into the stadium at 5.30 pm, the crowd was satisfied, unlike his 20-odd-minute appearance in Kolkata, which left ardent fans fuming and led to chaotic scenes, including rioting by some angry fans and forced the West Bengal government to initiate a judicial inquiry. Mumbai was the third stop on his GOAT India Tour



2025, and the Argentine World Cup winner spent the most time with the fans after making a brief appearance at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata and a slightly longer stay at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Uppal. He spent some time talking to Tendulkar with the help of his translator. Tendulkar presented his signed India jersey and was seen pointing to the No 10 on the back, a number he shared with the Argentine great.

Tendulkar also addressed the gathering, talking to them initially in Marathi and then switching to English, telling them that his meeting with Messi would be among the memorable moments he spent at the Wankhede. In an iconic moment, the crowd chanted for Messi's name alongside that of Tendulkar and Luis Suarez, who, along with Rodrigo, are accompanying Messi on this GOAT India Tour

2025. Through Messi, the crowd also tried to send a message to FC Barcelona for a visit to Mumbai, chanting 'Barca, Barca'. On the occasion, Chief Minister Fadnavis officially launched the Project Maha-deva, of which Bollywood star Tiger Shroff is a mentor and brand ambassador. Project Maha-deva plans to provide transformative support for school-going boys and girls players from the state and help them

realise their football dreams. The Chief Minister, in his address, informed Messi & Co, the details of the project and hoped that one day players from this project would rule the football world just like the Argentine legend has done. The Maharashtra government has picked 16 players as an initial intake in the Maha-deva project. Messi reached the Wankhede at around 5.30 pm, around 30 minutes later than what was scheduled. But he looked more relaxed and ready to mingle, at times pointing out to the security personnel and officials the areas of the ground he would like to go to. He came from the nearby Cricket Club of India (CCI) where he participated in a programme promoting Padel and reportedly played some time with businessman Parth Jindal of JSW Sport.

JSW Steel, Odisha conducts awareness program on New Labour Codes

Barbil :-(Correspondent):- JSW Steel Ltd, Odisha Mining Division hosted an extensive awareness session on the New Labour Codes at its Narayanposhi Iron & Manganese Mines. The initiative aimed to enhance employees' understanding of the latest labour law reforms introduced by the Government of India. The session was led by the Regional Labour Commissioner (Central), Rourkela, and the Labour Enforcement Officer (Central), Rourkela. Over 200 participants—including workers, staff members, and associated personnel—attended the programme, which



focused on the practical implications of the four key labour codes. These included: Code on Wages, Social Security Code, Industrial Relations Code and Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code. The officials provided in-depth explanations on each code, highlighting critical aspects such as standardized wage definitions, timely salary payments, mechanisms

for dispute resolution, employee rights, and the importance of workplace safety and welfare. The Regional Labour Commissioner underscored the mutual advantages of adhering to the new codes and cautioned against non-compliance, noting that implementation guidelines would be released shortly. The session also covered essential statutory requirements, including the issuance of

appointment letters, identity cards, and proper maintenance of employment records. Special emphasis was placed on promoting gender equality, empowering women in the workforce, and ensuring compliance with industry-specific regulations, such as the applicability of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) in mining operations. Prominent JSW Steel representatives in attendance included Mr. Chitaranjan Bahinipati (HR Head, Odisha), Mr. Tapan Kumar Rath (Mines Manager, Narayanposhi), and Mr. Prakash Hati (Welfare Officer).

Tata Power-Led Odisha Discoms Accelerate Rooftop Solar Adoption Under ULA Model; 70% Consumers Achieve 90% reduction in bills

Bhubaneswar, :-(Correspondent):- Tata Power-led electricity distribution companies in Odisha have witnessed a sharp acceleration in rooftop solar adoption under the Utility-Led Aggregation (ULA) model, with total rooftop solar connections crossing 2100 across the state. Early consumer outcomes indicate that 70% of participating households recorded 90% reduction in bills with ~300 consumers getting zero electricity bills within the first month of implementation, underscoring the immediate financial impact of the



initiative. Launched exclusively in Odisha under the guidance of the Government of Odisha, the ULA model represents a structural shift in the delivery of residential rooftop solar. Now, the payable entry cost has been further brought down from ₹5,000 earlier to ₹1,875, significantly lowering adoption barriers by reducing the consumer's upfront

contribution by 62.5%. This reduction in upfront cost will be central to enabling widespread participation across urban, semi-urban and rural areas of the state. A key enabler of the ULA model's success has been the integration of rooftop solar systems with smart meters, which allows consumers to seamlessly export surplus power back to

the grid. This integration ensures accurate energy accounting, faster settlement and improved consumer confidence, while also strengthening grid efficiency and supporting decentralised power generation. The discom-led aggregation approach simplifies the entire rooftop solar journey by centralising vendor selection, installation, quality assurance and maintenance. This has addressed long-standing concerns related to cost, complexity and service reliability, resulting in strong consumer response within a short period of launch.

Jasprit Bumrah backs Streax's "Main Fast, Streax Superfast" campaign

Mumbai - Streax, one of India's leading hair colour and care brands from Hygienic Research Institute (HRI), proudly announces the appointment of Jasprit Bumrah, India's premier fast bowler, as the product ambassador for its disruptive innovation, Streax Shampoo Hair Colour. The partnership is being unveiled through a dynamic new campaign, "Main Fast, Streax Super-Fast," celebrating confidence, speed, and effortless style. Jasprit Bumrah - known for his speed,

high class performance, and consistency - mirrors Streax Shampoo Hair Colour's core promise: speed & quality performance. His disciplined persona and mass appeal make him the ideal voice for a product built on quick, effective, high-quality results. The new TVC, led by the campaign thought "Main Fast, Streax Superfast," brings this philosophy to life through a sharp, performance-led story. With him, then arative moves beyond just convenience to smart grooming superiority -

a new benchmark for modern, effortless style. With a price point starting at Rs.15 and a unique shampoo-like application that colours hair in just 5 minutes, Streax Shampoo Hair Colour is redefining what quick grooming looks like for Indian consumers. Holding leadership strength across West, North, and East India, the brand is on a mission to democratise hair colouring - making it quicker, more convenient, and accessible to millions.

IIM Sambalpur Hosts POMS India International Conference 2025 on Operations and Supply Chain Management

Sambalpur, :-(Correspondent) ::IIM Sambalpur, one of India's premier management institutions, hosted the Production and Operations Management Society (POMS) India International Conference 2025. The four-day conference, organised in collaboration with the POMS India Chapter, brought together leading global scholars, industry leaders and academicians, reaffirming the institute's commitment to shaping the future of operations and supply-chain



management in India and beyond. The Production and Operations Management Society (POMS)US based is an international professional organisation representing

disruptions are fundamentally reshaping global supply chains, making resilience, digital integration and sustainability critical priorities for businesses across sectors. The inaugural conference was graced by Prof. Mahadeo Jaiswal, Director, IIM Sambalpur, Mr. Sashi Shekhar Mohanty, MD&CEO Essar Minmet Ltd, Chief Guest, Dr. Anil Sahasrabudhe, Chairman, National Educational Technology Forum

(NETF)& Chairman NBA, Prof. Subodha Kumar, President, POMS, & FOX school Of Business, Prof. Sajeew A. George, President, POMS India Chapter, Prof. Chandan Chowdhury, Executive Director and, Indian School of Business (ISB), Prof. Nagesh Murthy, Associate Executive Director, POMS, Prof. Kaustov Chakraborty, Conference Chair, and Prof. Sandip Mukhopadhyay, Conference Co-Chair, IIM Sambalpur.

Odisha Science and Technology Minister Felicitates Tata Steel Young Astronomer Talent Search Winners 2025

Bhubaneswar (Correspondent) Shri Krushna Chandra Patra, Hon'ble Minister, Food Suppliers and Consumer Welfare and Science and Technology, Government of Odisha, felicitated top 30 winners of 19th edition of the Tata Steel Young Astronomer Talent Search (YATS) 2025 at the Grand Finale on Saturday. Organised by Tata Steel in collaboration with the Pathani Samanta Planetarium, Bhubaneswar, under Department of Science and Technology, this flagship initiative celebrates the legacy of Odisha's legendary astronomer Pathani Samanta. It also aims to nurture young talent and inspire school children across the state to explore science, astronomy, and space research. 30 winners were announced, out of 60 finalists, for across the



state. More than 76,700 students participated in the programme this year. Since the inception of the programme in 2007, YATS has reached more than 4.7 lakh students of the state. The event witnessed the presence of several senior dignitaries, including Shri Dusmanta Kumar Swain, Hon'ble MLA, Khandapada, Smt. Chithra Arumugam (IAS) Additional Chief Secretary, Science and Technology, Government of Odisha & Chairperson, Pathani Samanta Planetarium (PSP), Smt. Urmiprava Maharana, Deputy Secretary, Science and

Technology, Government of Odisha & Director In-charge, PSP, D B Sundara Ramam, Vice President, Corporate Services, Tata Steel, and many other officials of the government and Tata Steel. Felicitating the winners, Hon'ble Minister said, "I congratulate all the winners of the Young Astronomer Talent Search and wish them luck to carry forward the legacy of the great mathematician and astronomer Pathani Samanta. I thank Tata Steel for organising such programme and instilling confidence among the students to

explore the space. I believe, these young talents will surely make a mark in the field of space science and make Odisha and India proud. Smt. Chithra Arumugam, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Science and Technology, Government of Odisha, said, "The Young Astronomer Talent Search programme is a vibrant testament to the collaborative spirit between the Government of Odisha and our committed corporate partner Tata Steel. This is an opportunity to celebrate the young students who have a

natural curiosity and interest in science. I am sure, whatever field the winners of today's Grand Finale choose to go, they will shine for sure. And, that's what makes YATS so special and relevant in our times. I believe it will carry forward the spirit of scientific enquiry." DB Sundara Ramam, Vice President, Corporate Services, Tata Steel, underlined the Company's long-standing commitment to building scientific curiosity among young learners. He said, "YATS is not just a competition—it is a tribute to the legacy of Pathani Samanta and a celebration of Odisha's scientific spirit. By encouraging young minds to explore the universe with curiosity and courage, we are investing in a future where innovation, discovery and human potential shine brighter than ever."

Adani Foundation Organizes Multi-Specialty Health Camp

Dhamra, (Correspondent): Adani Foundation, the CSR arm of Dhamra Port Company Limited, successfully conducted a Multi-Specialty Health Camp at APSPS High School, Kamaria. The camp provided free medical consultation and medicines to 332 patients from five villages of Mangalpur Gram Panchayat. The event was graced by Smt. Puspanjali Lenka, Sarpanch of Mangalpur Gram Panchayat, along with local dignitaries and officials from Adani Foundation. A team of specialist doctors, including Dr. Arjun Panda (Medicine), Dr.



B P Sahoo (Medicine), Dr. Tapas Nayak (Pediatrics), Dr. Sayan Nayak (Skin), and Dr. Saswata Kumar Samal (Orthopedics), attended to patients and provided comprehensive medical care. The health camp witnessed significant participation, with 104 males, 162 females, and

66 children benefiting from the health check-ups and receiving free medicines. This initiative underscores Adani Foundation's commitment to improving healthcare accessibility in the region and its ongoing efforts to support the community's well-being.

Gold, Silver Prices Jump Sharply This Week

New Delhi: Gold and silver prices witnessed a sharp surge in the domestic market this week, tracking strong gains in global bullion markets. Gold prices rose by around Rs

4,000 per 10 grams, while silver prices jumped by nearly Rs 17,000 per kilogram. According to data from the India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA), the

price of 24-karat gold increased by Rs 4,188 to Rs 1,32,710 per 10 grams, compared to Rs 1,28,592 a week ago. The price of 22-karat gold climbed to Rs 1,21,562 per 10 grams