Truth in true form

AROUND ODISHA

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MESSAGE OF HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF ODISHA ON THE OCCASION OF 'NEW YEAR-2026'

On the joyous occasion of New Year-2026, I extend my heartfelt greetings to the people of the state. May the New Year fill everyone's life with smiles, joy, peace and prosperity. I call upon all to continue striving with dedication in their respective spheres to help make Odisha one of the finest states in the country.

(Hari Babu Kambhampati)

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ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା

ନୂଆବର୍ଷ ୨୦୨୬ ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ ମୁଁ ରାଜ୍ୟବାସୀ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ଆନ୍ତରିକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଓ ଅଭିନନ ଜଣାଉଛି ।

ମହାପ୍ରଭୁ ଶ୍ରୀଜଗନ୍ନାଥଙ୍କ ଆଶୀର୍ବାଦରୁ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କ ଜୀବନ ସୁଖମୟ ହେଉ । ୨୦୨୬ ବର୍ଷ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ପାଇଁ ଶାନ୍ତି, ପ୍ରଗତି ଓ ସମୃଦ୍ଧିର ବର୍ଷ ହେଉ । ଆସନ୍ତୁ, ଏକ ସମୃଦ୍ଧ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଗଠନ ପାଇଁ ଆମେ ସମସ୍ତେ ସଂକଳ୍ପବଦ୍ଧ ହୋଇ କାମ କରିବା ।

(ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀ)
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

Cabinet Nod For Rs 1,526 Cr NH-326 Upgrade In Odisha

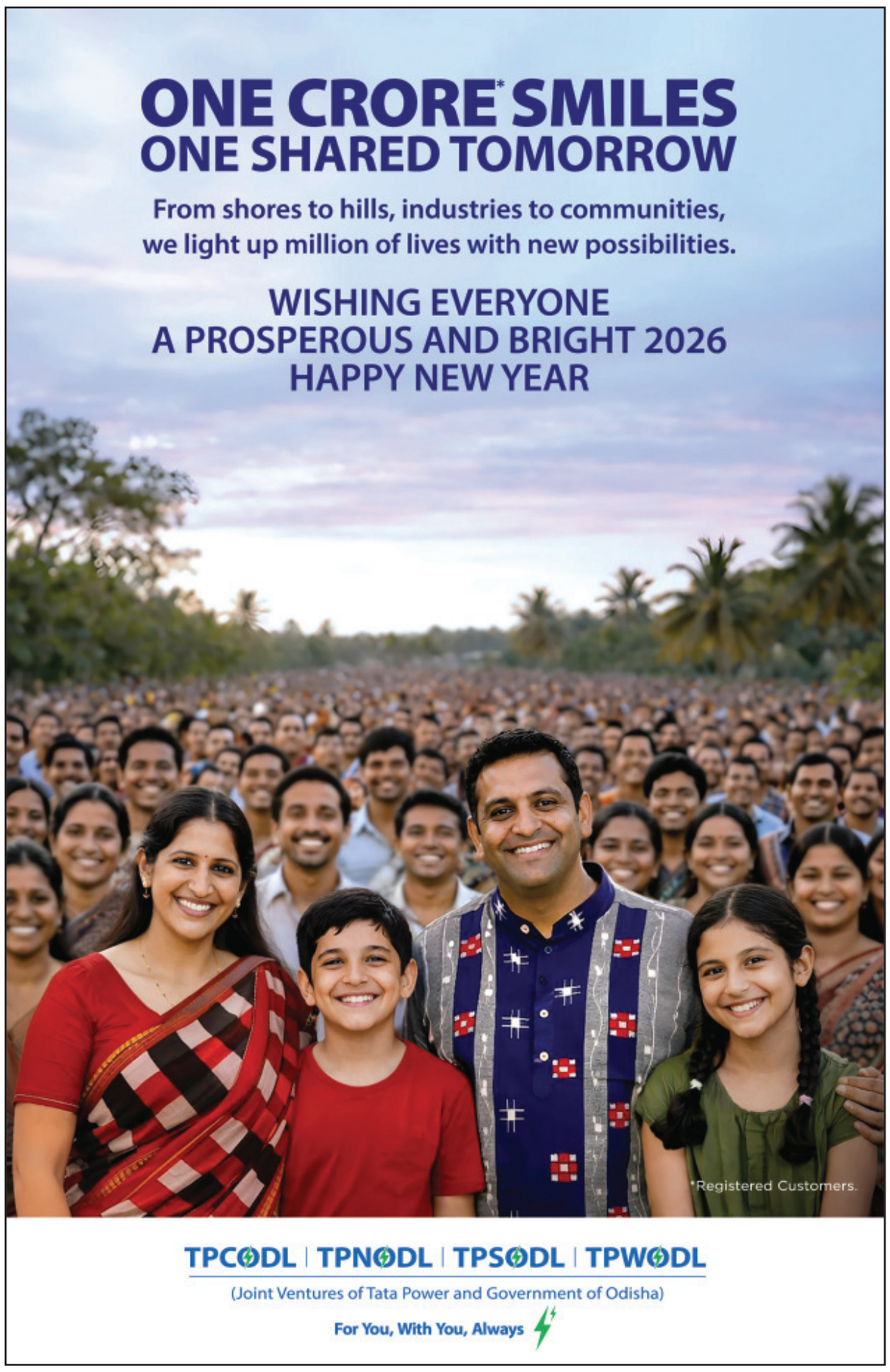
New Delhi: The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved the widening and strengthening of the existing 2-lane to 2-lane with paved shoulder in Odisha — from "km 68.600 km to km 311.700 of NH-326" — on an EPC (engineering, procurement, and construction) mode with Rs 1,526.21 crore outlay. The project lies in southern Odisha (Gajapati, Rayagada, and Koraput districts) and will significantly improve intra-state and inter-state connectivity by making vehicle movement faster and safer, stimulating industrial and tourism growth and improving access to services in aspirational and tribal areas. The total capital cost for the project is Rs 1,526.21 crore, which includes a civil construction cost of Rs 966.79 crore, according to the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA).

"The upgradation of NH-326 will make travel faster, safer, and more reliable, resulting in overall development of southern Odisha, particularly benefiting the districts of Gajapati, Rayagada, and Koraput," it noted. Improved road connectivity will directly benefit local communities, industries, educational institutions, and tourism centres by enhancing access to markets, healthcare, and employment opportunities, thereby contributing to the region's inclusive growth. The section of Mohana–Koraput of the National Highway (NH-326) at present has sub-standard geometry (intermediate lane/2-lane, many deficient curves and steep gradients); the existing road alignment, carriageway width and geometric deficiencies constrain safe, efficient movement of heavy vehicles and reduce freight throughput to coastal ports and industrial centres.



DRDO Successfully Conducts User Trials of Pralay Short-Range Ballistic Missile off Odisha Coast

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent): The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on Wednesday successfully conducted a series of user trials of the Pralay short-range ballistic missile from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island, located off the coast of Odisha. The trials mark a significant milestone in the operational evaluation of India's indigenously developed surface-to-surface missile system. According to defence officials, two Pralay missiles were test-fired at approximately 10:00 am, followed by another launch shortly thereafter. The trials were carried out as part of a scheduled user-level assessment to evaluate the missile's performance under defined operational parameters. All launches met the stated objectives, with no deviations reported during the testing process.



New Year's Eve Security Alert: Two Arrested With 150 kg Explosives in Rajasthan's Tonk



NEWDELHI: A major security alert ahead of New Year celebrations was reported in Rajasthan's Tonk district after police arrested two individuals and seized around 150 kg of explosive material from their vehicle on Wednesday.According to officials, the operation was carried out by the District Special Team (DST) of Tonk police following specific intelligence inputs.The arrested persons have been identified as Surendra Patwa and Surendra Mochi, both residents of Bundi district. Police said the suspects were intercepted in the Baroni police station area, where a search of their car led to the recovery of ammonium nitrate concealed in sacks of urea fertiliser.Deputy Superintendent of Police Mrityunjay Mishra said the accused were allegedly transporting the explosive material from Bundi to Tonk for supply.Additional Seizures Raise ConcernApart from ammonium nitrate, police also seized:200 cartridgesSix bundles of safety fuse wire, measuring approximately 1,100 metresThe vehicle used for transportationOfficials said the swift action helped prevent a potential threat during the sensitive New Year period.Investigation UnderwayPolice are currently questioning the accused and conducting a detailed investigation to determine the source, intended use, and possible links of the seized explosive materials. Authorities are also examining whether the consignment was meant for illegal activities, including unlawful mining or other criminal operations.

CBI busts bribery racket: One IRS-C&IT Officer, 2 Superintendents of CGST Jhansi held



Delhi,: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Wednesday busted a bribery racket in the office of Central Goods & Services Tax, (CGST) Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh during an operation.A Deputy Commissioner(IRS-C&IT 2016); Two Superintendents, an Advocate and and a private company owner, were arrested in this connection, said a release issued by the CBI.The release read, the CBI registered a case on 30.12.2025 against the Deputy Commissioner (IRS-C&IT 2016); Two Superintendents, all posted at CGST, Jhansi;an Advocate; Owners of private companies and unknown others on the allegation of demand of undue advantage of Rs. 1.5 crore for favouring the private firms in GST evasion matters. The accused have been identified as Prabha Bhandari (IRS-C&IT 2016), Deputy Commissioner; CGST, Jhansi; Anil Tiwari, Superintendent, CGST, Jhansi; Ajay Kumar Sharma, Superintendent, CGST, Jhansi; Raju Mangtani, owner of M/s Jai Durga Hardware and Naresh Kumar Gupta, an Advocate.The CBI laid a trap and caught two accused Superintendents red-handed while accepting the Bribe amount of Rs. 70 lakh at the behest of the accused Deputy Commissioner, CGST Jhansi.

Nitin Nabin Vows Father's Legacy: 'Available to All' as BJP Leaders Unite in Patna Tribute

Patna, (H.S.): BJP National Working President Nitin Nabin affirmed on Wednesday his commitment to emulating his late father Naveen Kishore Prasad Sinha—former BJP MLA from Patna West who died of cardiac arrest in 2006 at age 52—by remaining "available to all" and forging familial bonds with party karyakartas, during emotional tributes at Naveen Sinha Park in Rajvanshi Nagar.The gathering, timed for Sinha's 19th death anniversary, drew Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Deputy CM Samrat Chaudhary, BJP State President Sanjay Saraogi, Union Minister Nityanand Rai, Assembly Speaker Nand Kishor Yadav, and Health Minister Mangal Pandey, who offered floral wreaths at Sinha's statue without any procedural delays or incidents.Nabin, 45, who entered politics at 26 via the 2006 Patna West by-election victory and now represents Bankipur after four straight wins, credited Sinha—a Jayaprakash Movement veteran and BJP pillar who elevated the party in Bihar—for instilling nation-first ethos, treating the organisation as "mother" above self.

CI Chairman meets Law Minister to discuss Advocates' Welfare, Insurance, and Protection Act



New Delhi: The Bar Council of India (BCI) Chairman, Manan Kumar Mishra, met with Union Law and Justice Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal on Wednesday to address several critical issues affecting the legal community. The discussions centered on welfare programs, statutory protections, and potential reforms designed to enhance the conditions for advocates nationwide.ishra described the meeting as constructive, highlighting the positive direction of the talks. Key topics included the introduction of insurance and mediclaim facilities for advocates and their families, the progress of the proposed Advocates Protection Act, and proposed amendments to the Advocates Act. Mishra noted that the Centre had already acted on the Bar's previous concerns by removing controversial provisions, showing a willingness to collaborate with stakeholders.As a Rajya Sabha MP, Mishra also emphasized the importance of revising the enrolment fee structure, strengthening Bar Councils and Associations, and expanding the Legal Education Committee to adapt to the evolving needs of the profession. He reiterated the Modi government's commitment to launching structured welfare schemes for advocates and their families.To facilitate the implementation of insurance and mediclaim benefits, advocates have been asked to submit their personal and dependent information to the BCI through their Bar Associations or State Bar Councils within 15 days, using the circulated Google Forms.On the legislative front, Mishra confirmed that the Advocates Protection Act is in its final stages with the Law Commission of India and is expected to be presented in Parliament during the upcoming session. This proposed legislation is a crucial step toward ensuring the safety and dignity of legal professionals.

uttarakhand Tunnel Horror: 60 Workers Injured in Loco Train Smash During Shift Change

Gopeshwar, (H.S.): Approximately 60 workers sustained injuries late Tuesday when a loco train ferrying personnel rammed into a stationary goods train deep inside the Pipalkoti tunnel of the under-construction Vishnugad-Pipalkoti Hydroelectric Project in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district.The collision, occurring around 9:30 p.m. during a routine shift change at the TVM site roughly 4.5 kilometers within the tunnel, involved 109 passengers aboard the worker train; two coaches derailed amid the narrow, darkened confines, hurling occupants off balance without fatalities or fires.All victims received prompt evacuation and treatment, with conditions reported stable—no secondary accidents ensued during rescue amid the 444-megawatt THDC India Limited venture on the Alaknanda River.District Magistrate Gaurav Kumar confirmed the impact stemmed from one personnel-carrying loco overtaking or rear-ending the materials-laden counterpart on a single track, a standard internal transport mechanism in hydroelectric tunnels.Chamoli Superintendent of Police Surjeet Singh detailed 42 admissions to Gopeshwar District Hospital—including four to five with fractures—and 17 at Pipalkoti's Vivekananda Hospital, where Kumar and Singh personally oversaw care post-incident.

S Jaishankar visits Dhaka for Khaleda Zia funeral and meets Tarique Rahman with Modi's letter



NEWDELHI: India extended its heartfelt sympathies to Bangladesh following the demise of former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. Representing the Indian government, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar arrived in Dhaka on Wednesday to attend the final rites and offer direct condolences to the bereaved family.During his visit, the External Affairs Minister held a significant meeting with Tarique Rahman, the son of the late leader and current acting chairman of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). Jaishankar handed over a personal condolence letter from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, expressing India's solidarity with the people of Bangladesh during this period of national mourning.The three-time former Prime Minister, who was 80 years old, breathed her last at Evercare Hospital in Dhaka early Tuesday morning after battling prolonged health issues. As the first woman to lead the nation, her death marks the end of a major era in South Asian politics.Bangladesh's High Commissioner to India, Riaz Hamidullah, highlighted the importance of the visit on social media. He noted that Jaishankar's presence reflects the respect India holds for Zia's contributions to democracy. The atmosphere in Dhaka was one of deep solemnity as thousands of citizens and BNP supporters gathered at Manik Mia Avenue to pay their final respects.For decades, Khaleda Zia remained a titan of Bangladeshi politics. Her leadership shaped the democratic framework of the country and influenced the trajectory of India-Bangladesh relations. By sending a high-level representative for the S Jaishankar Khaleda Zia funeral visit, New Delhi has signaled its continued commitment to maintaining strong ties with its neighbor during this transition.The state funeral saw a massive outpouring of emotion from the public, reflecting her enduring legacy. As the funeral ceremonies concluded, the diplomatic gesture by India was seen as a vital step in reinforcing regional stability and mutual respect between the two nations.

PM Modi to inaugurate cultural exposition of Sacred Piprahwa Relics on Jan 3

New Delhi,: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the cultural exposition titled "Lotus Light: Relics of the Awakened One," showcasing the revered Sacred Piprahwa Relics along with significant associated antiquities on January 3.The Ministry of Culture is organising a landmark cultural exposition titled "Lotus Light: Relics of the Awakened One," showcasing the revered Sacred Piprahwa Relics along with significant associated antiquities. The exposition underscores India's enduring civilizational connection with the teachings of the Buddha and its commitment to preserving and presenting its rich spiritual heritage.The prestigious exposition will be inaugurated by the Prime Minister on January 3, 2026 at Rai Pithora Cultural Complex, New Delhi.The event marks an important moment in India's cultural and diplomatic history, as the relics on display include repatriated sacred relics of immense historical, archaeological, and spiritual significance, revered by Buddhist communities across the world.The Piprahwa Relics, discovered in the late 19th century, are widely believed to be associated with the mortal remains of Gautama Buddha, enshrined by the Shakya clan.

Sabarimala gold smuggling case : SIT probes Dindigul native's role

Thiruvananthapuram, (H.S.):The investigation into the Sabarimala gold smuggling case has taken a crucial turn, with the Special Investigation Team (SIT) suspecting a wider conspiracy behind the crime.Dindigul native D. Mani, who was questioned in connection with the case, has told investigators that he has no involvement in the smuggling operation and that he does not know Unnikrishnan Potti or the expatriate businessman linked to the case. However, the SIT has found several inconsistencies in his statements.Investigators believe that Mani may be linked to a larger iridium scam network. His close associate, Sreekrishna of Virudhunagar, is a known accused in an iridium fraud case and had previously served a jail term in Tamil Nadu.The SIT has also gathered information suggesting that several prominent individuals from Kerala and Tamil Nadu may have fallen victim to this alleged fraud network. According to the investigation team, Mani's statements are riddled with contradictions, raising strong suspicions that crucial facts are being deliberately concealed. As a result, the SIT has decided to conduct a detailed probe into Mani's financial dealings over the past ten years, including scrutiny of his bank accounts, property transactions, and business links.Investigators have confirmed that Mani had visited Thiruvanant hapuram on at least two occasions. The purpose of these visits and the individuals he met during those trips are now under close examination. Technical evidence, including call data records and digital footprints, is also being analysed to establish links between the accused persons.Meanwhile, the SIT plans to intensify questioning of the three arrested accused in the case — Unnikrishnan Potti, Smart Creations owner Pankaj Bhandari, and jewellery businessman Govardhan.

Chief Secretary Anu Garg Pledges Collective Efforts for 'Dream Odisha' Vision

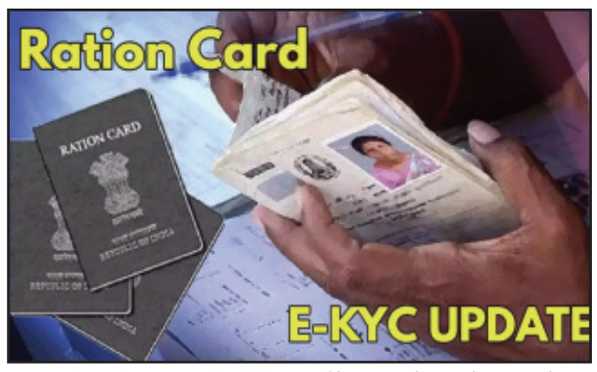
BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent): In a landmark moment for Odisha's administration, senior IAS officer Anu Garg formally took charge as the state's first woman Chief Secretary on Tuesday evening.The 1991-batch officer received the responsibilities in a traditional handover ceremony from outgoing Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja, who retired after a distinguished tenure.Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi congratulated Garg, calling her appointment a "historic milestone" reflecting commitment



to excellence and empowerment.Garg, who has served in key roles including Development Commissioner and Additional Chief Secretary (Water Resources), succeeds Ahuja, a 1990-batch IAS officer whose term was extended to December 31, 2025. Her tenure as Chief Secretary is set to run until March 31, 2029 — one of the longest in the state's history for this top post.Speaking after assuming charge, Garg described the role as both a "great responsibility and opportunity." She emphasised collective efforts to realise a "Dream Odisha", stating:The progress of the state is the government's primary goal. We will implement the 2036 Vision Document while aligning with national targets for 2047. There are many challenges ahead, but by working together, we can overcome them.She highlighted priorities including ease of doing business, youth empowerment, tourism development, and continued focus on women's empowerment. Under her previous leadership in the Water Resources Department, Odisha secured second place nationally in water management, earning a Vice-President's award.Garg's illustrious career spans grassroots to central government postings. Born on March 1, 1969, she cleared the IAS exam at age 22. Her early assignments included Sub-Collector in Jharsuguda and District Collector roles in Kalahandi, Bargarh, and Sambalpur. She later served as Deputy Secretary in Health and held central deputation as Joint Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (2012-2015).

Big Relief for Ration Card Holders: Odisha Extends e-KYC Deadline by 2 Months

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent): In a significant relief for ration card holders across the state, the Odisha government has extended the deadline for completing the e-KYC process by an additional two months.The previous deadline, set to expire today on December 31, 2025, will now continue until the end of February 2026.Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Krushna Chandra Patra announced the extension, emphasising the government's commitment to



ensuring that no eligible beneficiary is deprived of essential food security benefits. "As of now, 96 per cent of the beneficiaries in the state have completed their e-KYC," the minister stated. "Only 4 per cent remain, and we want to give them ample time to finish the process without any disruption in ration supply."According to the minister, the pending cases are relatively higher in Cuttack and certain coastal districts. He urged all remaining beneficiaries to complete the e-KYC at the earliest through fair price shops or designated centres.

Odisha IAS Promotions 2026: Dr. Arabinda Padhee and Sushil Lohani Elevated to Apex Grade

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent): The Government of Odisha has announced promotions for two senior Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers to the Apex Grade, effective from the start of the new year.The notification, issued by the General Administration & Public Grievance Department, highlights the state's commitment to recognising exemplary service in its bureaucracy.Dr. Arabinda Kumar Padhee, a 1996-batch IAS officer from the Regular Recruitment (RR) cadre, has been promoted to the Apex Grade under Level-17 of the Pay Matrix in the IAS, as per sub-rule (2)(i) of Rule 3 of the IAS (Pay) Rules, 2016. This promotion takes effect from January 1, 2026. Upon elevation, Dr. Padhee has been appointed in the rank of Additional Chief Secretary and will continue in his current position (in situ) until further orders are issued.In a parallel development, Sushil Kumar Lohani, a 1995-batch IAS officer (RR cadre), has been granted proforma promotion to the same Apex Grade under sub-rule 5 of Rule 8 of the IAS (Pay) Rules, 2016.

Odisha Extends PUCC Deadline to March

BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent):The Odisha government extends the Pollution Under Control Certificate (PUCC) deadline until March, giving vehicle owners more time to comply with emission norms.Transport Minister Bibhuti Jena announced the decision, stressing the importance of reducing vehicular pollution across the state. He explained that the extension aims to ease



the burden on citizens who face long queues at testing centres. The government wants to ensure that every vehicle owner has a fair chance to obtain the certificate without unnecessary penalties.The extension comes after widespread demand from motorists who struggled to renew their PUCC due to heavy rush and technical delays. Many vehicle owners expressed concern about fines and fuel restrictions linked to expired certificates. The government responded by granting additional time, reinforcing its commitment to both environmental safety and public convenience.Officials confirmed that enforcement will continue after the new deadline. Vehicle owners must secure valid PUCCs to avoid fines and restrictions on fuel purchase. The Transport Department also plans to increase testing facilities in major cities to handle the growing demand.Bibhuti Jena urged citizens to act responsibly and not wait until the last moment. He emphasised that controlling pollution remains a collective responsibility. The government expects the extension to encourage compliance and reduce vehicular emissions across Odisha.



Study materials are regularly distributed across nearby schools by NTPC Dulanga Coal Mining Project (DLCMP) to help children realise their dreams and aspirations and to support quality education in the region.



Glimpses of Nukkad Natak regularly organises by NTPC Dulanga on several themes to impart learning with education.



Skill Development and Livelihood creation workshops.

एनटीपीसी NTPC
दुलंगा Dulanga
एन टी पी सी खनन NML NTPC Mining Limited

Dulanga Coal Mining Project (DLCMP)
wishes you and your family a
Happy New Year 2026



Mining for आत्मनिर्भरता



Several interschool competitions are regularly partnered in by NTPC Dulanga to promote healthy school learning among children.



Skill development and livelihood creation workshop to support women empowerment.

EDITORIAL

Community service for self-realisation

Continuing the tradition set by his preceptor Sivananda, Chidananda to serve found the perfect outlet in working for the welfare of the residents at the lepers' colony in Rishikesh His teachings and messages are suffused by ideals which exemplify his work. He was a practical Vedantist who believed that service alone can purify and prepare the soul for contemplation on the deeper aspects of life The story is often recounted of how Chidananda found a leprosy-afflicted person on.the Haridwar-Rishikesh road and carried him all the way to the ashram.

He served him and took care of him as a mother would, her child His untiring zeal in this regard resulted in the establishment of a lepers' colony in Rishikesh, which Swami Chidananda saw as a means of instilling self-respect and dignity among those suffering not just from the disease but also the stigma and ostracisation that went with it This mission has become the core of his own teachings on sadhana When once asked as to what was necessary to obtain the guru's grace, Chidananda.immediately pointed out that path of selfless service or seva is what should be valued as the perfect sadhana.

Chidananda would say that love is the law of life and that to love is to fulfil the law To live is to love You live that you may learn to love, you love so that you may learn to live in the Eternal Emphasising that true religion is not about ritualistic observances, baths or pilgrimages, Swami Chidananda called on us to heed the universal psychological law, where "hatred breeds hatred, love begets love, and fear breeds fear" In his morning meditation talks at Sivananda Ashram, he drew attention.to the fact that the key to blessedness is to be aware of that blessedness, that the path beyond sorrow leads through "compassion to all, which is the key of blessedness, humility which is the highest virtue, truthfulness which is the greatest treasure, and self-control which is the supreme wealth to possess".

Chidananda has always held that yoga cannot stop at the psycho-physical level the body itself has to transform into a vehicle of sattva or purity through paropkara or selfless service. While ostensibly in the ancient tradition of Sankara asceticism, Swami Chidananda was a living metaphor of the immortal prayer of St Francis of Assisi "Lord, make me an instrument of Thy Peace, Where there is hatred, let me sow Thy love"His message was a call to the fundamentals of human life of love and compassion beyond borders, which alone can sustain and bond communities His teachings have embodied the ancient Vedantic truths in the simplest and most endearing way possible as he says, "Let.your example speak more than your words.

Odisha and India 2026: Confronting Crises for Viksit Renewal

Dr SIMANT KUMAR NANDA

Odisha and India step boldly into 2026 confronting a storm of entrenched challenges that expose deep governance fractures, economic vulnerabilities, and social unrest, from skyrocketing youth unemployment and explosive recruitment scams to teacher agitations crippling schools, agricultural betrayals, utility outrages, and border infiltrations, all validated by recent crises demanding immediate, accountable reforms to rescue the Viksit Odisha and Viksit Bharat dreams.

Youth joblessness ravages the state, with the 2024,25 Economic Survey exposing a dismal 3 lakh jobs created yearly over six years for a 60 lakh workforce, stranding over 1 crore educated youth in despair, starkly proven by 4,000 applicants battling for 102 Home Guard posts in Jharsuguda. The Sub Inspector scam shatters trust further, with the CBI charging 16 individuals including mastermind Sankar Prusty in a Rs 1,000 crore racket that leaked question papers through fake centers, extorting Rs 20,25 lakh per victim and forcing cancellation of the October examination, reviving memories of entrenched political era networks. This systemic corruption mirrors startup suffocation, where over 3,200 firms grapple with compliance labyrinths and land delays, blocking agri tech and tourism growth vital for a 12 percent GSDP leap to Rs 10.63 lakh crore, much like how Gujarat's job portals sharply reduced youth unemployment through streamlined hiring.

Agricultural despair deepens the wound as PACS mandi delays unleash illegal paddy trade and furious protests in Rayagada and Pattamundai over token irregularities and secretary level graft involving fake loans. Nearly 60 percent of the workforce, the real farmers, are forced to sell below MSP to private traders during bumper harvests, fuelling debt traps and food insecurity. This persists despite proven System of Rice Intensification potential delivering 60,80 percent yield increases, 25,50 percent water savings, and reduced chemical dependence in tribal Sundargarh. Labour shortages and weak mechanisation continue to block scale, even as transparent digital mandis elsewhere have sharply reduced corruption. Boundary reorganisation mandated by December 2025 for districts and tahsils aims administrative efficiency before the 2027 census, but without digitisation, rural economies risk further fragmentation.

Teacher agitations amplify education chaos as thousands of primary educators under the Prathamika Shikshyak Mahasangha continue relentless protests before the Bhubaneswar Assembly, braving winter nights since early December. Their demands include Level 2 upgrades, Rs 35,400 salaries with Rs 4,200 grade pay, pension security, and service regularisation. Despite 22 states offering higher pay scales, assurances remain verbal, disrupting over 20,000 schools. Parallel protests by college lecturers and junior staff unions reflect a widening trust deficit between educators and the state.

Meanwhile, law enforcement strains under pressure, with intensified anti social crackdowns in Cuttack and heightened vigilance in Puri during the New Year amid approaching 2026 electoral tensions. Cabinet approvals and welfare measures such as free student bus travel under Mukhyamantri Bus Seva offer limited relief, while proposals to create new NACs threaten to overstretch urban infrastructure.

Utility and mobility anger simmers as sudden electricity security deposit demands flood regulatory offices with complaints, squeezing households already burdened by tariff hikes. Electric vehicle adoption surges, yet inadequate charging infrastructure, only 12 functional stations out of 21 in Bhubaneswar, stalls clean mobility ambitions and green startup growth essential for tourism and coastal sustainability.

Security concerns escalate as thousands of undocumented foreign nationals are deported from coastal employment zones, heightening public vigilance amid regional migration pressures and geopolitical tensions along national borders.

For Odisha's 4.5 crore citizens and India's 1.4 billion people, 2026 renewal demands decisive action, a De Regulation Cell to unlock startups, expanded SRI subsidies, recruitment reform, time bound teacher settlements, transparent mandi apps, resilient EV networks, and fortified coastal security. Neighbouring state successes prove these solutions workable. As a new year dawns, leaders must replace rhetoric with data driven resolve, forging trust, dignity, and inclusive prosperity from Bhubaneswar's streets to Bharat's frontiers.

Welcoming the New Year

Dr. Umesh Chandra Patra

Most of us start the New Year with the greatest of energy, enthusiasm, intentions. But some people cannot follow their resolutions from January itself. We might go back to old ways and methods and punish ourselves up for not following the resolutions we planned. Visualize yourself as powerful, resourceful as you can Visualizing yourself as a powerful person can boost your confidence. Though it is a mental attribution, it can definitely transcend into your actions. You will find yourself more engaged in the goal-oriented, mindful dimension. Once you define your goal, you can continue to practice visualization regularly. Sometimes we are entangled in thoughts, images, and emotions which are not helpful for our physical and mental health. But a better self knows how to train your subconscious mind to manifest a successful person. Visualization helps us to get rid of negativity from thought, emotion, behavior. It will help us to focus more on actions that will enable us to achieve personal success. But it needs faith in the process. Keep faith and rest will fall in line. Some of the greatest battles are not won overnight. It takes time and patience. A fruitful visualization takes a lot more than just positive thinking. You have to have faith in the process and know that what you're manifesting will be yours. Visualization is more to do with your consciousness. The more you are aware, the more you get rid of unnecessary elements of your old self. It can bring harmony with the divine element in yourself, and you can clearly use the power that is being available by the cosmos.

Create a subtle imagination, but very forceful. It will guide your actions. Visualization can improve in karma Our mental limitations limit our daily actions. Sometimes we refrain from engaging in correct actions. This spiral of thought and action can be broken by creating a powerful visualization of what you want to be. This is the opportunity to transcend all your limitations of thought, emotion, and action. If you act as if you're already where you want to be, the universe will respond to those vibrations.

Forgive others and heal your past If you are writing a diary, try to use the corner end of your paper to forgive yourself and others. It will give you closure of thoughts. We can end our dualities in relation to family or society on paper. We can start on a positive note. It can cleanse your heart from negative emotions. Sometimes, you flush or burn the paper as a symbolic way to release all of those negative feelings from your heart and mind. The universe will answer back. Whatever you give your positive energy and the same or more will come back to you. So, meanwhile, stay focused on the good and positive things in your life, you will automatically attract positive things into your life. In Bhagavad Gita, God himself proved that he is part of the cosmos and he lives among us. So sending out positive affirmation can definitely reach the god himself. All it takes is a positive attitude and faith.

Relief or Politics?-Is Government Relief Actually Reaching the Deserving? Or is the System Being Undermined by Political Competition?

Kishan Bhawnani

Globally, the New Year 2026 is not merely a change of calendar, but also a historic opportunity for introspection, self-acknowledgment, and self-improvement for central and state governments.In a democracy, while a change of power is important, far more crucial is the resolve to acknowledge and rectify one's shortcomings, flaws, and policy imbalances while in power. Today, not only India, but most democratic countries in the world are grappling with the question of whether their governments are succeeding in providing assistance to the truly needy. I,Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhawnani from Gondia, Maharashtra, believe that in the current competitive political era, free or subsidized facilities, cash transfers, subsidies, and special concessions offered by governments and political parties have become a central theme of democratic discourse. In electoral democracies, relief schemes are no longer merely tools of social justice, but have become effective weapons of political competition.In India, as well as in many other democratic countries, the question is being seriously raised whether these relief measures are actually reaching their intended beneficiaries, or whether ineligible groups are exploiting systemic flaws on a large scale.This situation not only points to the misuse of public resources but also raises questions about the ethics of governance and financial stability.

Friends, if we consider the need for governments to pay special attention to their shortcomings in the new year 2026, it's important to understand that in a democracy, governments are not infallible. Flaws are inherent at many levels, from policy formulation to implementation. However, the problem arises when these shortcomings are not acknowledged but instead are masked by claims of political success.The biggest challenge facing the central and state governments in India today is to focus on the quality transparency and effectiveness of their schemes rather than simply increasing their number. Internationally, in OECD countries, Scandinavian nations, and East Asian economies, the core principle of governance reform has been policy review and course correction. In India too, in the new year 2026,governments must acknowledge that many schemes have deviated from their objectives, many subsidies are reaching ineligible recipients, and inequalities are increasing in many services. The expansion of competitive politics and the 'freebie culture' in the current political era has transformed public welfare into populism. Free electricity, free water, free travel, cash transfers, and various types of concessions – their purpose seems to be more about political gain than social security. International experience shows that populist welfare in many countries of Latin America, Africa, and South Asia has created long-term economic imbalances. In India too, the question is highly relevant: are freebies actually reaching those for whom they were intended, or are the middle and upper classes also unfairly benefiting from them?

Friends, if we consider the issue of entitled versus ineligible recipients: the biggest challenge for welfare schemes, the fundamental principle of government schemes is targeted delivery, but in practice, this principle seems to be weakening.Numerous reports and social audits indicate that ineligible people are benefiting from many government concessions, while the truly needy are either deprived or receive only partial benefits. This situation is not only a waste of resources but also a violation of the principle of social justice. Internationally, the World Bank and the IMF have repeatedly stated that leakages in welfare schemes are one of the biggest problems facing developing countries, and India is no exception. Electricity, water, healthcare, education, and transportation are the backbone of any modern state. In India, governments claim to provide subsidies for these services, but the reality on the ground is that inequalities persist between urban and rural areas, rich and poor, and the organized and unorganized sectors.In international comparisons, Europe has adopted a model of universal basic services, where services are affordable but not free. In India, free services are announced, but quality, continuity, and equitable access are not guaranteed.

Friends, if we consider the issue of misuse of government services by ineligible beneficiaries and the necessity of audits, the most immediate need in the new year 2026 is a comprehensive, impartial, and technology-based audit of public schemes and services.Many ineligible individuals are simultaneously benefiting from multiple schemes-this situation not only causes financial losses but also erodes public trust. Internationally, social audits, outcome audits, and performance reviews are considered an essential part of governance reform. In India too, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), state auditors, and independent institutions need to be further empowered. In many government departments, including the railways, employees are provided with free or subsidized services in their area of ??service. This system has been historical and part of the service conditions, but in changing times, it is natural to question whether these facilities are still justified. When an ordinary citizen pays for every service, providing unlimited free services to government employees creates social imbalance. In many developed countries, government employees are given competitive salaries, but the tradition of free public services is limited.

Friends, if we consider the issue of free facilities versus an accountable state: a global perspective, successful democracies around the world have proven that free facilities are not a sustainable solution. In countries like Germany, Japan, and South Korea, the user-pays principle has been balanced with social security. India also needs to think in this direction. In the new year 2026, we must decide whether we want a state that distributes resources for short-term popularity, or a state that promotes long-term self-reliance and responsible citizenship. India today has robust systems like Aadhaar, DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer), and digital public infrastructure.Despite this, if ineligible beneficiaries are still benefiting from schemes, it reflects a lack of administrative will. International experience shows that data integration and real-time monitoring can significantly increase the effectiveness of welfare schemes. In the new year 2026, governments must take decisive steps in this direction.

Friends, if we talk about the role of political parties: understanding self-restraint and policy-based politics, then not only governments but also political parties must understand that the culture of freebies weakens democracy.India is emerging as a responsible democracy on international platforms, and therefore, the same maturity is needed in internal policy-making. Election manifestos should focus on concrete agendas like education, skills, health, and job creation instead of freebies.Therefore, if we study and analyze the entire description above, we will find that the New Year 2026 - from introspection to reform, should be a year not only of development for India but also of improving the quality of governance. The central and state governments must acknowledge their shortcomings, reconsider the culture of freebies, curb ineligible beneficiaries, and review governmental privileges to move towards a balanced, just, and accountable governance model.This is the path that can make India not only a strong economy but also a globally exemplary democracy.

Paradip Mahotsav 2025 Concludes Successfully; Industries Minister Attends the Closing Ceremony



Paradip:(Correspondent) – The week-long Paradip Mahotsav 2025, which commenced on the occasion of the birth anniversary of late Atal Bihari Vajpayee at the Jayadev Sadan premises in Paradip, concluded successfully on Wednesday evening.Organised by the Atal Memorial Trust, the festival began with a grand procession from Thana Chhak to the event venue, in which Industries Minister Sampad Swain and other distinguished guests participated.On the concluding evening, Minister for Industries, Skill Development and Technical Education, Sampad Chandra Swain, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while Jagatsinghpur MLA Amarendra Das attended as the Key Speaker. Among other dignitaries present were Paradip Municipality Chairperson Basanta Biswal, BJP State Executive Committee Members Satyasarathi Mahanti and Rajkishore Behera, who attended as honoured guests.On this occasion, several talented individuals and institutions from Paradip were felicitated by the guests. The closing ceremony was coordinated by Executive President of the Trust, Subrat Pradhan, and Secretary Sarbeswar Baliarsingh.Members including Bajrang Swain, Arjil Shiva, Sarbeswar Jena, Dillip Behera, Jitendra Sahu, Gobinda Nayak, Dillip Baliarsingh, Kedar Behera, Yeesukhrist Pradhan, Hrushikesh Das, Krishna Chandra Jena, Manoranjan Sahu, Gouranga Mandal, Pradeep Mallik, Mamata Swain, Nandini Parida, and Minakshi Behera, among others, actively contributed to the successful conduct of the event.The celebrations concluded with a Zero Night Celebration, during which a cake was cut to welcome the New Year. Addressing the gathering, Minister Sampad Swain extended New Year greetings to all and expressed his hope that 2026 would be a year of happiness and prosperity for everyone.The week-long festival featured a variety of cultural programmes, including captivating musical performances by renowned singers of Odisha, which drew widespread appreciation and enthusiasm from the audience.

Subarnapur District Rogi Kalyan Samiti Executive Committee Meeting held

SUBARNAPUR --- The Rogi Kalyan Samiti (RKS) Executive Committee meeting was held at the Subarnapur Collectorate Conference hall. The meeting was presided over by Subarnapur Collector Dr. Nruparaj Sahu. In this, the problems faced by the hospital such as proper treatment of patients, cleanliness of the hospital premises and facilities of all patient treatment equipment and preventing relatives of alcoholic patients from entering the hospital were discussed. The meeting was attended by Additional District Magistrate (General) Anjalina Pradhan, Additional District Magistrate (Revenue) Rajendra Majhi, CDM &PHO Smt. Usharani Das and officers of all departments of the district. The Collector reviewed the meeting held last month and informed about what can be done new. At this time, the Collector gave instructions on how to provide funds for the Red Cross. The Red Cross helps the helpless and suffering families, but since the Red Cross is not receiving funds, the Collector gave importance to this. The Collector instructed that everyone should try their best to get funds for the Red Cross at their own level. How to clean the hospital premises regularly every day was also discussed. Apart from this, the Collector has ordered the employees to pay attention to how to make all the patient cabins functional. In addition, the Collector is approving the arrangement of another hydraulic labor table for the labor room. In this meeting, the Task Force for the treatment and prevention of Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) in the district was reviewed. The CDM & PHO is directly inspecting the villages affected by kidney disease in the district. It has been informed that arrangements will be made for kidney disease testing in the coming days. If there are more than 3 patients in a village, that village will be under active surveillance, said Dr. Usharani Dash informed.

Tribal Museum inaugurated at Bharatiya Vidya Niketan

Malkangiri correspondent : With an aim to preserve the heritage of tribal culture and tradition in the area, a tribal museum was inaugurated on Tuesday at the Bharatiya Vidya Niketan (Gurukula) Vidyalaya campus in Kalimela block headquarters of Malkangiri district with the financial support of the India Foundation of Art Bangalore. It was inaugurated by T. N. Krishnamurthy, Program Officer of India Foundation of Art Bangalore, as the chief guest. He was accompanied by social worker Sukanta Kumar Panda, who came from Bhubaneswar. Other guests included former Kalimela block chairmen Mala Madhi and Gangadhar Sodhi, National General Secretary of DLO Lalit Madkami, Kalimela Block Tribal Mahasangh President Waga Madkami, Kalimela District Council Member Mamata Podiami, Kalimela Lamps President Budra Kabashi, Materu Panchayat Sarpanch, Laxman Madkami, Social Worker Deba Madkami, Gurukul Vidyalaya secy Jivankrishna Das, Principal Vijay Kumar Das, as the chief guests of honour. Social worker of Kalimela area Saratchandra Biswal conducted the stage with the guest of honour. On this occasion, the guests were welcomed with lion dance and traditional tribal dance. First, the tribal museum was inaugurated by the guests. The guests visited the museum and saw the ornaments, handlooms, traditional musical instruments, their household items, agricultural implements, weapons used for hunting, traditional machines, which were beautifully displayed with information boards. From this, people can get the opportunity to know many things related to the culture of the tribals of this region. Keeping the tribal museum built here alive and learning about the language, education, customs, culture and various types of equipment and clothes used by the tribals .

District Administration Emphasises Systematic Paddy Procurement at Mandis



JAJPUR (Correspondent) : With the objective of ensuring smooth and systematic paddy procurement during the ensuing Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2025–26, a meeting was organised by the district administration at the local Gautam Buddha Cultural Hall.The meeting was attended by District Collector Shri Ambar Kumar Kar; Additional District Magistrate (Revenue) and Chairman, Regulated Market Committee, Shri Shibananda Swain; Sub-Collector Shri Tapas Ranjan Dehuri; District Supply Officer Shri Dillip Kumar Panigrahi; DRCS Shri Amulya Kumar Sethi; and District Social Welfare Officer, among others.The District Collector discussed various aspects of paddy procurement at mandis with the attending officers, secretaries of Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS), and members of Women Self-Help Groups. He directed that all paddy mandis must ensure basic facilities for farmers and that farmer brothers and sisters should be treated with due respect. He also instructed that block-level meetings be conducted involving nodal officers and mandi supervisors.The Collector warned that strict action would be taken if any negligence or mismanagement is noticed during the paddy procurement process.Addressing the meeting, Additional District Magistrate (Revenue) Shri Shibananda Swain stated that paddy procurement is a flagship programme of the Government of Odisha. He informed that the district administration has decided to commence paddy procurement in Jajpur district from January 7. Last year, more than 20,54,305 quintals of paddy were procured from around 56,000 farmers.During the current year, a target has been set to procure more than 14,00,300 quintals of paddy in the first phase from approximately 59,960 registered farmers. He further directed that procurement centres must be equipped with drinking water, lighting, CCTV cameras, tarpaulin sheets, moisture meters, and seating arrangements. It was also clarified that paddy will be procured only in jute bags this year.The district administration is giving special emphasis to ensuring orderly and transparent paddy procurement at mandis in Jajpur. The procurement process will also be monitored by a Central Monitoring Unit.The meeting was attended by secretaries of 139 Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies, representatives from 42 Women Self-Help Groups, and marketing inspectors. At the conclusion of the programme, Secretary of the Regulated Market Committee Shri Krishna Chandra Nayak proposed the vote of thanks.

Ghess Erupts in Rebel Glory: CM Majhi's Fiery Veerata Divas Oath Revives Madho Singh's 1857 Inferno!



BARGARH,correspondent :- Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi stormed into Ghess village on December 31, transforming the quiet Binjhal heartland into a vibrant tribute arena for Veerata Divas. He honoured freedom fighter Madho Singh, who was hanged by British butchers at Sambalpur Jail Chowk exactly 167 years ago, for fueling Surendra Sai's 1857 uprising against colonial rule. Fresh from unveiling ?1,362 crore projects in Kansa's mythic darbar during Dhanu Jatra's Day 7, Majhi fused ancient valour with modern vows, drawing emotional roars from descendants and tribals who see their zamindar's blood as Bargarh's unquenchable spirit—Martyr's Bloodline Bursts with Pride. Madho Singh, one of four lion-hearted sons of Paika rebel Surendra Sai, ruled 25 Ghess villages as a Binjhal zamindar. He trained Kondh warriors in guerrilla warfare before his capture and public execution at age 72. His brothers Hatee, Kunjel, Bairi, and Airi faced slaughter or exile, with granddaughter Purnima's suicide sealing the family's defiant saga. Great-grandson Lokeshwar Singh Bariha declared: "Majhi's footsteps on our soil validate Madho's defiance; linking it to Madho Singh Haath Kharcha for 2 lakh tribals turns history into hope." Ex-sarpanch Mamata Singh Bariha added, "Our kin endured Cellular Jail horrors—Majhi's welfare programs honour that unbowed spirit." During the wreath-laying under tricolour banners, CM Majhi—hailed as "Kalinga Samrat" just yesterday—pledged district-wide industrial revolutions while spotlighting initiatives like Subhadra Yojana's ?10,000 grants to 3.41 lakh women and ?4,338 crore in paddy payouts to 2.41 lakh farmers. He declared, "Veerata Divas isn't just ritual—it's rocket fuel for Odia asmita." Echoing PM Modi's message of development and heritage, he emphasised that the National School of Drama is seeking UNESCO recognition for Dhanu Jatra and Paika epics. State leaders, including Bargarh MP Pradeep Purohit, MLAs Ashwini Sarangi and Nihar Mahanand, Collector Aditya Goyal, and SP Prahlad Meena, joined him, amplifying tribal pride akin to Birsa Munda's ?1,345 crore development push. As Day 8 of Dhanu Jatra ignites, 8 km of mythic streets pulse with Krishna Leela and Rajdarbar celebrations—Ghess's patriotic fire blazes into festival frenzy. Rangamahal's ?12.8 crore foundation and pledges worth ?380 crore channel rebel energy into urban growth, with youth rallies, drummers, saffron flags, and Madho's portrait soaring skyward. Eyewitnesses and gazetteers depict a village reborn: a spirited youth rally, vibrant drummers, waving saffron flags, as Majhi's bold visit cements Ghess as Odisha's dual forge of cultural thunder and freedom's relentless spirit—where Kansa's stage transforms into a true darbar of rebellion.

Malkangiri District BJP District Committee Announced

Malkangiri, correspondent With the approval of State President Manmohan Samal, the much-awaited Malkangiri District Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) District Committee was announced yesterday evening. Malkangiri District President Ashok Kumar Parida informed this through a press release. Ashok Kumar Parida was earlier announced as the district president, while yesterday Sameer Kumar Mistry, Bhavani Mukherjee, Ashok Kumar Charki were elected as vice presidents, Sulata Mandal, Savitri Podiami, Pramila Das as women vice presidents, and Ganga Sodi, Dambaru Sisa, Manik Lal Chakraborty and Nabaghan Lokei (Malkangiri city president) as general secretaries, Ashok Kumar Biswal (Balimela city president), Narayan Sarkar (Mala Bharam), Nihar Roy, (Padia) Ghana Nayak and R Satyanarayan Rao (Mathili), Muni Madkami (Kiang), Devi Madi (Shikpalli), Sabita Mishra (Malkangiri Women's City), E Venkat Rao (Kalimela) as secretary, Sanjay Sarkar as district treasurer. Similarly, B Srinivas Patra, Social media Cell representative, Deepak Saha as the media chief and Kuna Ram Besra as the office secretary have been announced. District President Shri Parida said that he will take the BJP party forward by running the district BJP organization smoothly.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

May this year bring everyone new opportunities, success and endless joy. May everybody be blessed with wonderful health and prosperity.



2026

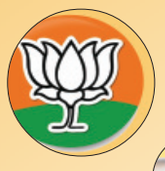
Sri Sanatan Jali (OES)

Block Education Officer
Banpur
Dist- Khurdha



HAPPY NEW YEAR





Wishing all the people of Banpur A Joyful New Year 2026



Sri Amarendra Ranasingh

Banpur Block Chairman, Khordha



HAPPY NEW YEAR





"As we step into a brand new year, I extend my warmest wishes to all citizens of Balugaon. "May 2026 bring health, happiness, and prosperity to you all.



Santosh Paikray

ବାଲୁଗାଁ ବିଜେପି ନଗର ମଣ୍ଡଳ ସଭାପତି, ଚିଲିକା ନିର୍ବାଚନ ମଣ୍ଡଳୀ

HAPPY NEW YEAR

"Wishing you all A joyful New Year 2026 May this year bring joy, prosperity, and unity for all.







Sri Hari Sahoo

Dhenkanal

Tips for clean and glowing skin

STEP-1
Clean hands are a must for proper makeup removal. Before touching your face, wash your hands with soap and water to avoid transferring bacteria and dirt to your skin. This step prevents unnecessary irritation and ensures your cleansing products work more effectively.
Step 2: Use a makeup remover that suits your skin
First things first, always use a makeup remover to remove all the dirt, grime, and makeup residues. A dedicated makeup remover helps break down stubborn products more efficiently than a regular face wash. As per Chakravarthy, "Never use makeup wipes alone to clean your makeup. Wipes drag makeup across your skin, instead of removing it. They also leave behind a film that can clog pores. I only recommend them in emergencies, never as a replacement for cleansing."
Step 3: Pay special attention to the eyes and lips
Eye makeup, especially mascara or eyeliner, tends to be more resistant and requires extra care. As per Chakravarthy, "You should remove eye makeup with a separate remover, specifically formulated for the eyes, as this delicate area is prone to irritation". She further recommends using a bi-phase remover for removing mascara and kajal. You should also not scrub your eyes, as tugging here may lead to fine lines much earlier.
Step 4: Follow up with a second cleanser (Double Cleansing)
Double cleansing is one of the most effective methods to ensure every trace of makeup is removed. Chakravarthy mentions that it is crucial to double cleanse your makeup. "After your makeup remover, use a gentle water-based facial cleanser. Double cleansing removes leftover residue, clears pores, and prepares the skin for serums and sunscreens or moisturisers".
Step 5: Pat dry and refresh your skin
After cleansing, gently pat your skin dry with a clean towel. Avoid rubbing, which can irritate the skin. Chakravarthy says, "Use a microfiber towel or soft cotton pads to pat your skin dry. Avoid rough towels that cause micro-tears."

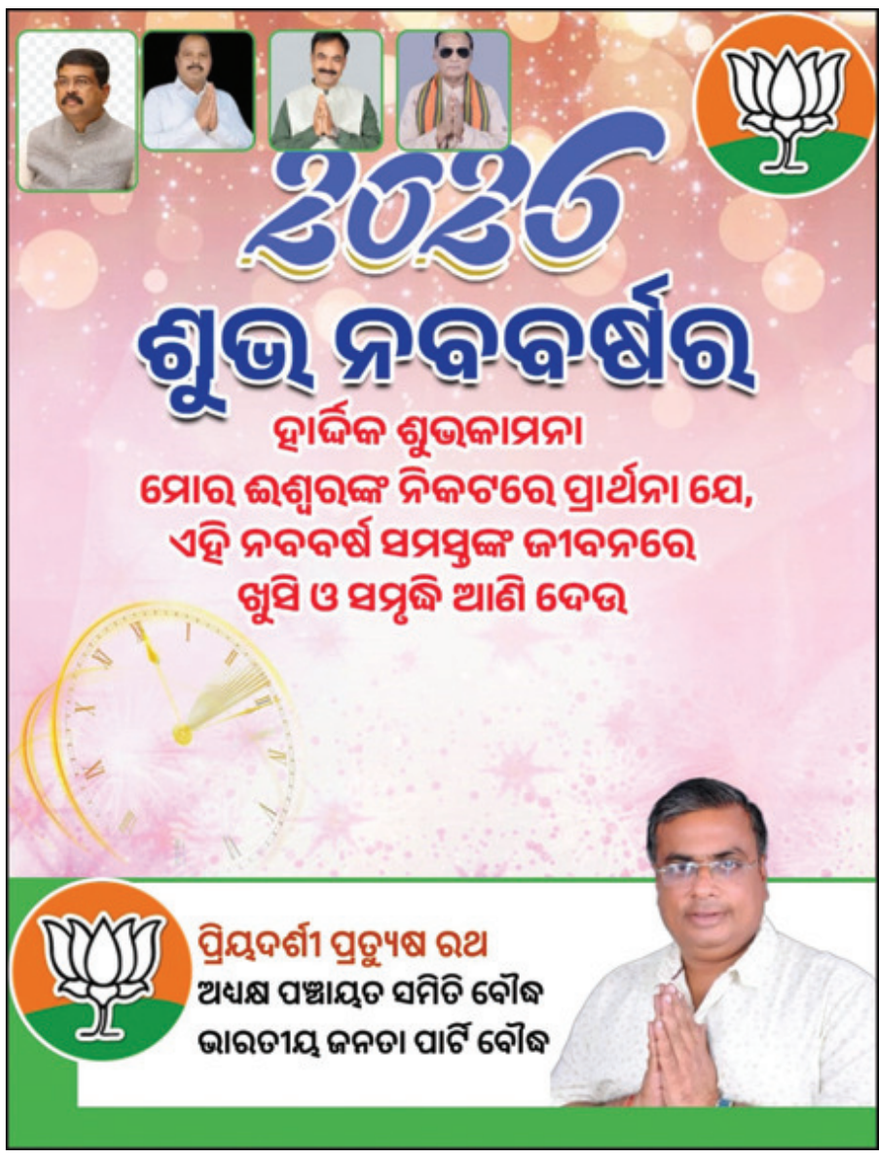


Amitabh Bachchan Sings Non-Stop For 32 Minutes At The Age Of 83

With the quiz reality show Kaun Banega Crorepati moving towards its season finale, the host of the show and megastar Amitabh Bachchan will be seen singing for over 32 minutes straight.He sang some of his timeless favourites like "Hori Khele Raghuveera"* from Baghban, "Rang Barse Bheege Chunarwali" from Silsila, "Chalat Musafir" from Teesri Kasam, and "Mere Angne Mein" from Laawaris, and also a few special traditional songs.The rare and moving gesture will further be seen lifting the spirit of the entire studio, further turning the finale into a massive celebration of the show. The moment will be seen unfolding after a specially curated AV is played on the set, capturing the journey, stories, and emotional highs of the season. The film leaves contestants, audiences, and even Mr Bachchan visibly moved and extremely emotional.To lift everyone's spirits, Big B took it on himself with an impressive 32-minute impromptu singing performance. Amitabh Bachchan will be seen singing continuously as the audience rise to their feet, clapping, cheering, and singing along with him.Talking about Kaun Banega Crorepati, the show, apart from imparting knowledge, also became a hotspot for filmmakers to promote their upcoming movies and projects. The show in its run this year saw actors like Manoj Bajpayee, Pankaj Tripathi, Jaideep Ahlawat, Sharib Hashmi, Ananya Panday, Kartik Aaryan and many more take to the hot seat of the show to promote their respective movies and series.In the upcoming days, Amitabh Bachchan's own grandson, Agastya Nanda, will be seen appearing on the show to promote his upcoming movie, Ikkis. He will be seen accompanied by the team of the movie, along with his mother Shweta Bachchan and sister, Navya Naveli Nanda.The audiences will surely have a ball of a time to see the grandson-grandfather duo at their candid best, and the promos of the episode speak volumes of the same.

Subhash Ghai Remembers Dharmendra After Witnessing HisLast Performance In 'Ikkis

Veteran filmmaker Subhash Ghai got a little emotional after witnessing the overwhelming response received by Dharmendra's last release "Ikkis" during a special screening.Ghai expressed his delight that everyone loved the movie and also applauded the performances by the core cast, comprising Jaideep Ahlawat and Agasta Nanda.Congratulating the Deol family and the makers of "Ikkis", Ghai wrote on his Instagram, "My heart goes for DHARAM pa ji last film IKKIS which got a warming applause YESTERDAY AT ITS PREMIER in Mumbai. (sic).""I m so glad that everyone praised the movie s emotional drama n performances. I must watch this. Sure…My hearty congratulations to dear deol family n team of maddock films with special compliments for jaideep alahwat n Agastya nanda fot their brilliant performances. Stay blessed always (Folded hands emoji) love," the 'Taal' maker added.



Five Indians Join FIFA List Of Match Officials For Year 2026



New Delhi: Five more Indian match officials have been added to the FIFA International List of Match Officials for 2026. Rachana Kamani (Gujarat), along with Ashwin Kumar (Puducherry) and Aditya Purkayastha (Delhi), have been added to the FIFA list of women and men referees, respectively.Meanwhile, Muralitharan Pandurangan (Puducherry) and Peter Christopher (Maharashtra) have been inducted as Assistant Referees. Ashwin Kumar and Aditya Purkayestha, along with making the FIFA list, have also completed their AFC Referee Academy course in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.Rachana Kamani is currently undergoing the same course. As many as 19 match officials from India are a part of the FIFA list for 2026.The draw for the 2026 FIFA World Cup was conducted at the John F. Kennedy Center, setting the stage for the first 48-team edition of football's biggest tournament. With expanded group formats and an unprecedented number of matches across Canada, Mexico, and the United States, the draw ceremony delivered several headline-grabbing clashes.Morocco, the surprise package of the last World Cup, has been drawn with Brazil in Group C, putting Scotland and Haiti in the group under significant pressure.England and Croatia find themselves together in Group L, a pairing of two sides widely considered capable of challenging for the title. For Ghana and Panama, progressing from this group will be a major challenge.If Italy advances through the European play-offs, it will join Canada, Qatar, and Switzerland in Group B. Which teams will advance from this group remains highly uncertain.In the opening match of the tournament, Mexico will face South Africa on home soil. South Korea is also in Group A, alongside the winner of the play-off between Denmark, North Macedonia, the Czech Republic, and Ireland.Referees: Venkatesh R., Harish Kundu, Senthil Nathan Sekaran, Crystal John, Ashwin Kumar, Aditya Purkayastha, Ranjita Devi Tekcham, Rachana Hasmukhbhai Kamani.Assistant referees: Vairamuthu Parasuraman, Sumanta Dutta, Arun Sasidharan Pillai, Ujjal Halder, Muralitharan Pandurangan, Dipesh Manohar Sawant, Sourav Sarkar, Christopher Peter, Riiohlang Dhar, and Elangbam Debala Devi.

WPL 2026: DC Will Win Title, Mandhana Might Win Orange Cap, Says Chopra



New Delhi: Former India opener Aakash Chopra has tipped Delhi Capitals (DC) to clinch the 2026 Women's Premier League (WPL) and suggested Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) skipper Smriti Mandhana could emerge as the tournament's leading run-scorer.DC are three-time runners-up in the WPL and are eyeing to break their title jinx under new skipper Jemimah Rodrigues. "I think Delhi Capitals will win, this time around. They have put together a very good squad and they have reached the finals all three times. Let them win it once," said Chopra on JioStar.He also felt that apart from Smriti, her opening partner Shafali Verma could be an orange cap contender. "I think it could be RCB captain, Smriti Mandhana, to score the most number of runs this WPL season. Smriti Mandhana might be the frontrunner in the race to win the Orange Cap and she might even win it. Alongside her, I feel, Shafali Verma, who will open for the Delhi Capitals, could be a strong contender as well."Chopra further felt both Deepti Sharma and Sree Charani can bag big awards in WPL 2026. "I think Deepti Sharma can register a hat-trick of winning the Player of the Tournament award. The form she is in currently, she has been unstoppable and I also think that since she has started doing well in the WPL, there has been a significant improvement in her overall game."So, this could be her season again. I think Shree Charani might win the Emerging Player of the Season award. She had a fantastic World Cup and I feel she will be the tournament's best spinner."Chopra signed off by saying who could win the MI-RCB opening game at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai on January 9.

Odisha FC CEO Raj Athwal Steps Down Days After Head Coach Sergio Lobera's Exit

New Delhi: Top domestic football club, Odisha FC, is undergoing a period of transition at the top, with CEO Raj Athwal stepping down from his role just four days after the club mutually parted ways with head coach Sergio Lobera.

The club confirmed Athwal's departure in an official statement, noting that the decision was communicated by the CEO and accepted by the management."Odisha FC can confirm that CEO Raj Athwal has informed the club management of his decision to move on, and the club has accepted the same. The club would like to thank Raj for his leadership, professionalism, and contributions during his tenure with the club."Under his stewardship, Odisha FC secured its first-ever silverware with the Super Cup triumph, followed by the Indian Women's League 2023-24 and achieved qualification for the AFC competition knockout stages by both the men's & women's teams of Odisha FC," the statement, shared on X, read.The club also outlined interim administrative arrangements as it navigates the transition period."As we move forward and await further clarity regarding the league, our General Manager, Ravi Khedar, will serve as the primary Point of Contact (POC) for all club communications and matters during this transition period," the statement added.

Reacting to Athwal's exit, club owner Rohan Sharma expressed his appreciation for the outgoing CEO's contributions over the past five years."Having known and worked with Raj for 5 years, I'm sad to see him go. I know he will always be a well-wisher for the club. He knows he's always welcome back, and I wish him nothing but the best for him and his family," Sharma said.Athwal's departure comes shortly after Odisha FC announced the end of their association with head coach Lobera on December 26, with both parties agreeing to part ways.

5th T20I: Harmanpreet's 68 And Late Blitz From Arundhati Help India Post 175/7



Thiruvananthapuram: Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur led from the front and scored a brilliant 68 off 43 deliveries as India Women, helped by a late blitz from Arundhati Reddy (27 off 11 balls), managed to post 175/7 in 20 overs against Sri Lanka in the fifth and final T20I match of the series at the Greenfield International Stadium in Thiruvananthapuram on Tuesday.Struggling at 77 for 5, skipper Kaur added 61 runs in 38 deliveries with Amanjot Kaur (21) to help India reach a respectable total.Earlier, India were dealt with early blows as opener Shafali Varma's dream runs of form came to an end. Coming off three successive fifty-plus scores, Varma got caught at long-on for a score of 1 in the second over. Making her international debut, Gunalan Kamalini looked confident with early boundaries, but her innings came short with 12 runs. She, with Harleen Deol, who herself scored 13, including two boundaries, added 22 runs for the second wicket.India's late surge ensured they posted a competitive 175 for 7, riding on a powerful finish after appearing in danger of falling well short. The final four overs yielded 51 runs, a phase that transformed the innings, especially considering that Kavisha Dilhari slipped in a tight four-run over, leaving India to smash 47 off the remaining three.Harmanpreet Kaur anchored the recovery with an innings that never allowed the momentum to dip, even as wickets kept tumbling at the other end. It was a knock reminiscent of her Mumbai Indians template — fearless, proactive, and unrelenting. Amanjot Kaur provided crucial support, hanging in long enough to stitch a vital 61-run stand for the sixth wicket, which stabilised the innings before the final assault.At 142 for 7 in the 18th over, with dew expected later in the evening, India looked set to finish below par. But Arundhati Reddy's explosive cameo of 27 off 11 balls proved the perfect finishing touch, lifting the total to a far healthier mark. Sri Lanka captain Chamari Athapaththu may rue a few tactical calls, particularly not completing Dilhari's quota despite her being the standout bowler with 2-11 in two overs.India found the seam easier to negotiate, yet they were offered eight overs of it. While Shafali, Kamalini, Deol, Ghosh, and Deepti fell to poorly executed shots, India's captain ensured the innings stayed alive — and the late burst ensured it ended strongly.

Sri Lanka Appoint Lasith Malinga As Fast Bowling Consultant To Aid T20 World Cup Preparations



Mumbai: Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) has appointed Lasith Malinga, one of their greatest bowlers in white-ball cricket, as Consultant- Fast Bowling Coach for the national men's team on a short one-month term to support their preparations for the upcoming Men's T20 World Cup 2026 to be jointly hosted with India.Malinga, one of the few sling bowlers, has represented Sri Lanka in 30 Tests, 226 One-Day Internationals, and 84 Twenty20 Internationals, claiming 101, 338, and 107 wickets, respectively, in each category. He was a key member of the Sri Lanka team that won the ICC T20 World Cup in 2014 in Bangladesh and finished as runners-up twice — in 2009 in England and 2012 at home. He had also finished as a runner-up twice in the 50-over World Cup — in 2007 and 2011."Sri Lanka Cricket wishes to announce the appointment of Lasith Malinga as the Consultant – Fast Bowling Coach for the National Men's Team. His appointment is on a short-term basis for a period of one month, effective from December 15 to January 25, 2026."Malinga will support the preparation and development of Sri Lanka's national fast bowlers as part of the build-up to the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026," the SLC informed in a release on Tuesday.The Sri Lanka Cricket aims to leverage Malinga's vast international experience and renowned expertise in death bowling, particularly in the shortest format of the game, to strengthen Sri Lanka's preparations for the upcoming World Cup, the release said.The ICC Men's T20 World Cup, co-hosted by Sri Lanka and India, will commence on February 7, 2026, with the opening match scheduled to be played at the SSC, Colombo.The 42-year-old Malinga has vast experience in T20 cricket, having played franchise cricket all over the world besides international matches in the shortest format.

Malinga has played for Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise Mumbai Indians from 2008 till 2017 and then from 2019-2020, Besides, he has represented Melbourne Stars in the Big Bash League, Guyana Amazon Warriors in Caribbean Premier League (CPL), Dhaka Gladiators, Rangapur Riders and Khulna Titans in Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) and Ruhana Royals and Southern Express in the domestic Sri Lanka Premier League.

Abhinav Bindra-Led Task Force Recommends Creation Of NCSECB Under MYAS To Accredit, Certify Sports Admin Training

New Delhi: As India sets its sights on becoming one of the top 10 sporting nations by 2036, the government has outlined a bold plan to transform the country's sports ecosystem. In a significant move to professionalise sports administration, the Department of Sports has taken steps to strengthen the administrative framework that will be pivotal in realising this ambitious goal.

To achieve this vision, the Department of Sports established a Task Force on Capacity Building for Sports Administrators, chaired by Olympic gold medallist Abhinav Bindra.The Task Force recently submitted its detailed report, emphasising the need for professional, accountable, and forward-looking sports administrators to bring about a paradigm shift in India's sporting infrastructure. The report's recommendations are expected to accelerate India's rise in global sports.The Task Force has inter-alia, recommended establishing the National Council for Sports Education & Capacity Building (NCSECB) as an autonomous statutory body under Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports to regulate, accredit, and certify sports administration training.The Task Force in its report calls for introducing a five-level Capability Maturity Model (CMM) as a diagnostic and planning tool for strengthening the capacity of sports administrators. This is aimed to enable SAI, NSFs, and State Departments to assess institutional maturity across cadre structure, curriculum adoption, digital enablement, and athlete pathways. It shall further support evidence-based monitoring and targeted interventions.

Indian steel import duty hiked to protect local manufacturers from cheap Chinese shipments



NEWDELHI: India has officially stepped up its trade defenses by implementing a fresh tax on specific steel imports. This move, announced on Tuesday, introduces a three-year tariff structure ranging from 11% to 12%. The primary goal is to shield local manufacturers from an influx of low-priced steel, particularly coming from China.This decision follows a detailed investigation by the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR). The agency found that a sudden and sharp increase in foreign shipments was threatening the health of India's domestic steel industry. By making foreign steel more expensive, the government aims to level the playing field for local giants and smaller producers alike. This is particularly significant for Odisha, which serves as the steel heartland of India. Large hubs like Kalinga Nagar and the Rourkela Steel Plant stand to benefit from reduced competition against undervalued foreign goods.The Indian steel import duty is designed to be a gradual measure. In the first year, a 12% levy will be applied. This will decrease slightly to 11.5% in the second year and finally settle at 11% in the third year. While the duty targets major exporters like China, Vietnam, and Nepal, certain developing nations are exempt. It is also important to note that specialty products, such as stainless steel, are not covered under this specific new order.India's policy shift does not happen in a vacuum. The global trade landscape has been volatile ever since the US introduced heavy tariffs on Chinese steel. This forced Chinese exporters to find new markets, leading to "dumping" concerns in countries like India, South Korea, and Vietnam. After a temporary 200-day tariff expired in November 2025, the Indian Stainless Steel Development Association and other industry bodies pushed for a more permanent solution to ensure long-term stability for the nation's workforce and industrial growth.



Indian Stock Markets End 2025 On Strong Note, Nifty Logs 10th Consecutive Year Of Gains

Mumbai: Indian equity markets ended the final trading session of the calendar year on a strong note, supported by broad-based buying across most sectors, even as information technology stocks remained under pressure.At the close of trade, the Sensex settled at 85,220.6, gaining 545.52 points or 0.64 per cent.The Nifty also finished higher at 26,129.6, up 190.75 points or 0.74 per cent. "Holding above the 26,000 mark remains crucial to sustain the ongoing uptrend and keep the possibility of a retest of the all-time high at 26,320 intact," analysts said."A decisive breakout above 26,200–26,230 could open the door for a sharper move toward the 26,300–26,500 zone," market watchers stated.With this, the Nifty marked its tenth consecutive calendar year of gains, rising 10.5 per cent in 2025.The Sensex also posted a solid performance, ending the year with a gain of 9.06 per cent.Buying interest was seen in several heavyweight stocks on the BSE. Shares of Tata Steel, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Titan, and Axis Bank ended among the top gainers.On the other hand, technology stocks such as TCS, Tech Mahindra, and Infosys saw selling pressure, while Bajaj Finance, Sun Pharma, and ICICI Bank also closed in the red.The broader market outperformed the benchmark indices during the session.

Silver Futures Drop 4.6 Pc After Record Rally This Year

Mumbai: Precious metals, especially silver, took a breather on the final trading day of the year on Wednesday, after a run-up to record high followed by aggressive profit-booking.Silver futures for March 2026 on MCX tumbled 4.63 per cent to Rs 2,39,395 per kg and gold futures for February 2026 slipped 0.51 per cent to Rs 1,35,973 per 10 grams in morning trade.Volatility remained elevated amid geopolitical tensions such as US strikes on Venezuela's dock facilities and Chinese naval exercises that bolstered safe-haven demand earlier in the week.The retreat came after sharp gains through most of 2025. Silver has gained 24 per cent in December and 135 per cent year-over-year, reflecting tight supply-demand fundamentals and robust safe-haven flows, said analysts.







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