Truth in true form

AROUND ODISHA

RNI Regd No: ODIENG/2019/77780 BHUBANESWAR www.aroundodisha.com VOLUME - 7 ISSUE - 195 Rs-2/- PAGES - 8 FRIDAY 23 JANUARY 2026



India To Become 3rd Largest Economy Soon: MP CM In Davos 2



H&UD Mini... Conducts Surpri... Inspection Of IG Park 3



Sindhu, Lakshya Enter Indonesia Masters' Quarterfinals 7



Bhumi Pednekar stuns in Crime Drama 'Daldal' trailer 8

Trump Launches 'Board Of Peace', Outlines Gaza Push



Washington: President Donald J. Trump on Thursday launched the Board of Peace at Davos, outlining a US-backed effort to lock in peace, open crossings, demilitarise armed groups, and begin a long-term reconstruction and economic revival in Gaza."This is a very exciting day," Trump said as he described the initiative as a shift from war to rebuilding.Trump later framed Gaza's future in economic terms, arguing that redevelopment and geography could reshape the territory's prospects."I'm a real estate person at heart, and it's all about location," Trump said. "Look at this location on the sea. Look at this beautiful piece of property, what it could be for so many people."The launch followed the signing of the Board of Peace charter. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the Gaza effort reflected what he called a decisive shift in U.S. diplomacy under Trump.Rubio said many believed the Gaza conflict could not be resolved.

"If we go back just a few months ago, people thought what was happening in Gaza was impossible to solve," he said. "No one thought that that would ever come to a resolution without more fighting and more bloodshed along the way."

CM Majhi Disburses Rs 315 Cr To 4.57 Lakh Women Under Subhadra Yojana



Bhubaneswar,(Correspondent): Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Thursday distributed benefits under the state's flagship women-centric welfare programme, Subhadra Yojana, to more than 4.57 lakh eligible beneficiaries, reaffirming the government's commitment to women's empowerment and economic self-reliance.The benefit distribution programme was held at Krushi Sikshya Sadan on the OUAT campus, where assistance amounting to over ?315 crore was transferred directly to beneficiaries' bank accounts through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).The assistance covered women who had not received the first, second, or remaining third instalments under the scheme, along with newly registered beneficiaries for the financial year 2025–26.Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister Majhi described Subhadra Yojana as the largest women-centric welfare initiative in post-independence Odisha, with an annual budget allocation of ?11,000 crore. Under the scheme, over one crore eligible women aged between 21 and 60 years are entitled to receive ?10,000 annually in two instalments for five years, amounting to ?50,000 per beneficiary.Calling Subhadra a "shining example" of the government's respect and commitment towards the mothers and sisters of Odisha, the Chief Minister recalled that the Cabinet approved the scheme on the very first day after the formation of the government. The first instalment was disbursed on September 17, 2024, following the formal launch of the scheme in Bhubaneswar in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.He informed that, so far, over ?15,000 crore has been disbursed to more than one crore beneficiaries across three instalments. The two annual instalments are scheduled to be released every year on the occasions of Raksha Bandhan (Rakhi Purnima) and International Women's Day.Highlighting the broader impact of the scheme, Majhi said economic independence brings self-confidence and strengthens a woman's voice within the family and society.

10 Soldiers Killed In J&K Road Accident



Jammu: At least 10 soldiers were killed, and 10 others were injured in a road accident in J&K's Doda district on Thursday as they were on their way to a high-altitude post, officials said.Officials said that the accident occurred when an army vehicle went out of the driver's control and dropped into a deep gorge in Doda."The accident took place on the Bhaderwah-Chamba road at Khanni Top. The bulletproof army vehicle was carrying around 20 personnel when its driver lost control of the wheel, and it dropped nearly 200 ft deep into a gorge," an official said."The vehicle was carrying army personnel to a high-altitude post when it met with the accident.""A joint rescue operation by the army and police was immediately launched, and four of the soldiers were found dead on the spot. The injured were airlifted to the army's Northern Command Hospital in Udhampur for treatment," the official added.

Subsequently, some of the injured personnel succumbed to their injuries en route or in the hospital.J&K Lt Governor Manoj Sinha expressed his grief at the incident."Deeply saddened at the loss of lives of 10 of our brave Indian Army soldiers in an unfortunate road accident in Doda. We will always remember the outstanding service and supreme sacrifice of our brave soldiers. My deepest condolences to the grieving families," the Office of the LG posted on X."In this moment of profound sorrow, the entire nation stands united with the bereaved families in solidarity and support. 10 Injured soldiers have been airlifted to the hospital. Directed the Senior officials to ensure best possible treatment. Praying for their speedy recovery," it said in another post.Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also expressed his deep grief."Chief Minister has expressed deep grief over the tragic accident involving an Army vehicle at Khannitop on the Bhaderwah–Chamba road. He conveyed heartfelt condolences to the families of the soldiers who lost their lives and wished a speedy recovery to those injured, lauding the swift rescue and evacuation efforts", the Office of the Chief Minister posted on its X handle.

Odisha Tableau To Showcase 'Viksit Bharat, Viksit Odisha' Theme On Kartavya Path On R-Day



Bhubaneswar(Correspondent): Odia art and culture are set to shine on the Kartavya Path in Delhi on Republic Day, January 26.Odisha's tableau will showcase the theme "Viksit Bharat, Viksit Odisha", highlighting the state's rich cultural heritage, including the iconic Konark Sun Temple, its intricate paintings, and famous Silver filigree work.The tableau will feature Odisha's popular folk dance form, Chaiti Ghoda Nacha, along with craftsmen demonstrating stone-carving and the weaving of Pipili applique and Sabai grass baskets on the tableau.The tableau will also feature a chariot symbolizing developed India, accompanied by the energetic Chaiti Ghoda nacha.Additionally, Operation Sindoor, India's strategic response to Pakistan's aggression, will be showcased, demonstrating India's military prowess.The 77th Republic Day Parade will also honor distinguished guests, including European Council President Antonio Costa and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen

Heavy Snowfall And Rains Kill 11, Injure Three In Afghanistan

Kabul: At least 11 people have been killed and three others injured amid heavy snowfall and rains lashing multiple provinces in Afghanistan, according to a spokesperson for the National Disaster Management Authority on Thursday.According to the spokesperson, initial reports from provincial authorities indicate that severe weather has affected residents in the provinces of eastern Parwan, Wardak, southern Kandahar, northern Jawzjan, Faryab, and central Bamiyan, Xinhua News Agency reported.The storms have partially destroyed nine homes and led to the loss of 530 livestock, severely affecting local livelihoods in these agrarian regions, said the spokesperson, adding that the snow accumulation has blocked key roads, prompting urgent clearance operations by authorities to restore connectivity and facilitate aid delivery.

Most areas of Afghanistan have experienced continuous rain and snowfall since Wednesday. The country's meteorological department forecasts that the precipitation will continue across much of the nation in the coming days.Earlier this month, Doctors Without Borders, also known as Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) offering medical humanitarian assistance to people, had warned that the expulsion of Afghan refugees from Pakistan is causing a serious humanitarian crisis, especially during winter season, endangering the lives of people, local media reported.In a report released on January 7, MSF stated that many of the expelled refugees are being placed in temporary camps which do not have proper shelter while access to healthcare, clean water and food remains extremely limited, Afghanistan's leading news agency Khaama Press reported.The organisation further stated that forced deportations impact undocumented migrants, Afghan citizenship cards holders and temporary registration cards (POC) holders, making situation dangerous as winter increases across the region.Xu Weibing, the head of MSF mission in Pakistan, stated that Afghan families face fear of deportation and returning to Afghanistan.

Pakistan Becoming Safe Haven For Hamas Poses Threat To West: Report



Washington: The threat of Hamas gaining an ideological and logistical foothold in Pakistan, particularly in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), is genuine and credible. While the global community focuses on demilitarising Hamas in Gaza, it must recognise that Pakistan is becoming the next fertile ground for Hamas to reorganise, posing a risk to the West and its interests in the region, a report said on Thursday.

"On January 15, 2026, the US-led intergovernmental organisation Board of Peace, whose stated purpose is to 'promote stability, restore dependable and lawful governance, and secure enduring peace in areas affected or threatened by conflict' in Gaza, was established. On January 18, US President Donald Trump, acting as chair of the organisation, invited Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to join it. However, Pakistan allows Hamas representatives to operate freely on its soil, participate in public events, and forge alliances with local militant groups," a report in US-based Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI) detailed."This conduct undermines Western efforts to diplomatically isolate Hamas and raises serious questions about whether the United States should continue to regard Pakistan as a major non-NATO ally," it addedAccording to the report, soon after the brutal Hamas attack on October 7, 2023, against Israel, the political activities of Naji Zaheer, the current special representative to Hamas leader Khaled Mashal in Pakistan, to gather legitimacy and support for Hamas's terrorist activities, escalated."Zaheer has been invited to participate in major events as a guest of honour and has become a fixture at anti-Israel rallies and conferences in Pakistan. Often, Zaheer shared stages with figures linked to U.S.-designated terrorist organisations like Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM)," it mentioned.

Aditya Aluminium organised the inauguration of the SHG Centre "SUBHADRA Centre" in collaboration with Mission Shakti, Sambalpur

Sambalpur:(Correspondent):- As a part of the initiative to strengthen Project Basketry (Bamboo Crafts) and support local artisans, the SUBHADRA Centre has been renovated. The centre will function as a common production and marketing facility, enabling SHG members and local entrepreneurs to enhance their livelihood opportunities through improved infrastructure and collective working space. The SUBHADRA Centre was inaugurated by Shri Prasanna Kumar Patra,



Chief Development Officer, Sambalpur, along with Shri Vinoda Nand Thakur, HR Head, Aditya Aluminium, Lapanga, in the presence of Odisha Livelihood Mission BPM, Rengali, Shri Arabind Naik and Shri Japmali. The programme was also attended by Shri Ranjit Kumar, Civil Head; Shri Manoj Sharma and Shri Nil Madhab from the Civil Department; Shri Ravi Niwas, Head – CSR; Shri Manoranjan Behera, Deputy Manager – CSR; Shri Sukant Mahapatra; and Shri Anand Chakravarty. Around 50 women SHG members and villagers participated in the programme. Discussions were held on further enhancement of Project Basketry and effective utilisation of the community centre. The SHG members expressed their happiness and gratitude to Aditya Aluminium, Lapanga, for strengthening the initiative and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities, with support from project partner NGO Uphold Earth.

TPCODL wins AIDA Gold Award at EDICON 2026

Bhubaneswar,Correspondent):: TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL) has been conferred with the AIDA Gold Award for "Improved Revenue Recovery in a Rural Area" at the EDICON 2026, held in New Delhi. The recognition underscores TPCODL's sustained efforts to strengthen rural power distribution and deepen consumer engagement across Central Odisha.The award was conferred by Shri Manohar Lal Khattar, Hon'ble Minister of Power and Housing & Urban Affairs, at the maiden annual conference of the All-India Discoms



Association (AIDA). It acknowledges TPCODL's focused approach towards operational discipline, technology adoption and community-centric reforms aimed at improving service delivery and financial sustainability in rural areas.Commenting on the achievement, Arvind Singh, CEO, TPCODL, said, "This Award from AIDA reflects the commitment of our teams working across rural Central Odisha. Through operational discipline, technology adoption and active consumer engagement, we are strengthening power distribution while ensuring reliable and sustainable electricity services for our communities,"The AIDA Awards saw participation from 29 DISCOMs across India, with 78 nominations evaluated by an independent jury of industry experts. Utilities from both public and private sectors were recognised across multiple categories. Organised over two days, EDICON 2026 brought together policymakers, regulators and power sector leaders to deliberate on key issues such as DISCOM viability, utilisation of smart meter data, renewable energy integration and improvement in the quality and reliability of electricity supply.

2000 Red Fort attack: SC seeks Delhi govt's response to death-row convicts' curative petition

New Delhi,: The Supreme Court has issued notice to the Delhi government seeking a response on a curative petition (last resort remedy) filed by Pakistani terrorist and death row convict Mohammad Arif alias Ashfaq, who was convicted for his role in the 2000 Red Fort attack.The Court had, in November 2022, affirmed the convict's death sentence by rejecting a review plea filed by him. Subsequently, in 2024, the convicts' mercy plea was rejected by President Droupadi Murmu. Today, a three-judge bench headed by the Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant accepted the convicts' plea by seeking a response from the State of Delhi.Arif was convicted in connection with the attack which took place at the Red Fort on the night of December 22, 2000, at about 9 pm. Terrorists belonging to Lashkar-e-Toiba, armed with AK-56 rifles and hand grenades, entered the Red Fort and started firing indiscriminately, and gunned down three Army jawans of 7 Rajputana Rifles. When the personnel of the Quick Army Reaction Team returned the fire, the intruders made good their escape by scaling the rear side boundary wall of the Lal Quila towards the Ring Road side.

Commemorating 30 Years of the Legal Victory that Democratised the Tiranga;Foundation Proposes January 23rd as 'National Flag Day'

IMPHAL, MANIPUR — Marking a historic convergence of heritage and patriotism, the Flag Foundation of India (FFOI) today installed its 200th monumental national flag at the historic Kangla Fort in Imphal. The installation serves as the centrepiece of a dual anniversary: 30 years since the landmark Delhi High Court judgment and 22 years since the Supreme Court of India recognized flying the National Flag as a protected fundamental freedom under Article 19(1)(a), subject to constitutional guidelines.The choice of Kangla Fort for the 200th installation is



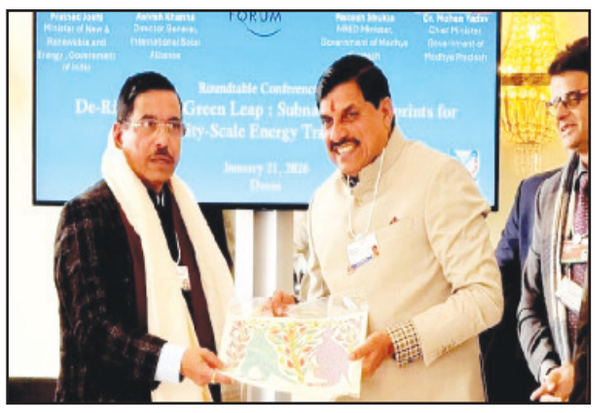
deeply symbolic, as Manipur attained its Statehood in 1972 on 21st Jan. As the ancient seat of Manipur's monarchs and a spiritual heart for the Meitei identity, the Fort now hosts the Tricolour as a beacon of national unity. This installation ensures that the thousands of tourists and locals who visit the site daily are met with a towering reminder of India's shared democratic values.Today's celebrations honour the perseverance of Mr Naveen Jindal, Founder and President of FFOI. Upon returning to India from the United States, Mr Jindal challenged the then-restrictive Flag Code of India, which prohibited private citizens from flying the flag except on specific holidays. His decade-long legal crusade resulted in the Supreme Court's historic January 23, 2004, ruling, which declared that flying the Tiranga with dignity is a form of "freedom of expression" under Article 19(1)(a) of the Indian Constitution."The Tricolour is a symbol of India's success and unity. I have an emotionalconnection with the flag. Every morning while pinning the flag on my jacket, I am reminded of my responsibility with a sense of dedication to the country.We want to ensure the Tiranga is not just a symbol for holidays, but a living inspiration for the youth to uphold their rights and duties every single day,"said Mr Naveen Jindal in a statement.

Chhattisgarh: Mother, Newborn Die In Indravati Boat Mishap; Two Still Missing

Raipur: Two persons remained missing even after 18 hours of the tragic boat accident in the Indravati river that claimed the lives of a mother and her newborn child in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district.Two others remained missing after a small boat capsized in strong currents in Bhairamgarh region of Bastar division on Wednesday evening. Two survivors were rescued alive with assistance from local villagers and safely taken back to Bodga village.The woman's husband and a child from the group are still missing, with search operations continuing. Health teams have been kept on alert for any related medical needs.The incident occurred around 5 p.m. at Uspari Jhilli ghat when six residents of Bodga village — located on the opposite bank — were returning home from a weekly market.

India To Become 3rd Largest Economy Soon: MP CM In Davos

Bhopal: Addressing the World Economic Forum in Davos on Thursday, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav stated that India is progressing rapidly across all sectors and is poised to move from the fourth position to become the world's third-largest economy within the next one to one-and-a-half years.The Chief Minister said that under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has sent its largest-ever delegation to the World Economic Forum for this year in Davos.He said that a series of meaningful meetings and discussions were held with leading industrialists and business representatives from various sectors.The Chief Minister said that in this phase of transformation, Madhya Pradesh offers immense growth potential across sectors such as solar



energy, information technology and tourism, with the state government's initiatives delivering encouraging results."Madhya Pradesh holds strong potential in agriculture and poultry, and the state will further expand trade in these areas with other states in the future. The state has a substantial land bank, ample power availability, and a strategic central location that makes transportation highly advantageous," he said, according to a statement issued by the government. Yadav claimed that due to sustained government efforts over the past two years, Madhya Pradesh's unem ployment rate has declined to around 1 per cent. He noted that the state holds strong potential in agriculture and poultry, and the state will further expand trade in these areas with other states in the future."Due to sustained government efforts over the past two years, the state's unemployment rate has declined to around 1 per cent. Initiatives aimed at connecting youth with employment and self-employment opportunities are delivering positive and visible outcomes," he added.

RDC 2026: DRDO to showcase its path-breaking innovations at Kartavya Path & Bharat Parv

Delhi, : The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) will showcase some of its path-breaking innovations for national security during the 77th Republic Day Parade at Kartavya Path and Bharat Parv 2026.The DRDO will showcase LR-AShM with launcher during the parade. This weapon system is designed to meet the coastal battery requirements of the Indian Navy. The LR-AShM is a Hypersonic Glide Missile capable of engaging static and moving targets and is designed to carry various payloads. The missile is a first-of-its-kind with indigenous avionics systems and high accuracy sensor packages. This hypersonic missile follows a quasi-ballistic trajectory with hypersonic speeds starting at Mach 10 and maintaining average Mach 5.0 with multiple skips. Indigenously developed sensors are provided for engaging the moving targets in the terminal phase. As this missile flies in low altitude with high speed and manoeuvrability, enemy ground and ship based radars cannot detect this missile during most of its trajectory.

Aditya Alumina Refinery Observes National Road Safety Week

Bhubaneswar (Correspondent):Aditya Alumina Refinery, a unit of Hindalco Industries Limited of Aditya Birla Group, observed National Road Safety Week at its upcoming plant near Kansariguda under Laxmipur block, with a series of road safety awareness initiatives involving employees, workmen, business partners, and the local community.The week featured road safety quizzes for school children and workmen, distribution of reflective safety jackets, defensive driving training sessions by CEAT, Shell, and SANY, and a



"Suraksha Rath" that carried road safety messages to 15–20 nearby villages. A key highlight was the "Raahgiri" initiative, promoting responsible road behaviour through positive engagement with road users.The program was inaugurated by Mr. Mazhar Beg, Unit Head & President, in the presence of senior leadership including ; Mr. Ramesh Chandra Duvvada, Head Construction, Mr. P.K. Padhi, Admin & Security Head, Mr. Basudev Rao Ghanta, AVP – Process & Project, Mr. Deepak Mohanty, HR Head – CSR, IR & OHC, Mr. Madhumalaya Dwibedy, Safety Head & Fire Head, Representatives from PMC TCE, L&T, Essar, ISGEC, and Mythri also attended the inaugural ceremony.Delivering his message, Mr. Mazhar Beg emphasized, "Road safety is a shared responsibility and must be practiced every day, not only during awareness weeks. For two-wheeler riders, wearing a helmet with proper fastening, maintaining safe speed, and following lane discipline are non-negotiable habits. Every journey should begin with safety."The program concluded with a valedictory ceremony where competition winners were felicitated, and crash helmets were distributed to community members. The initiative was successfully executed by the Safety Department of Aditya Alumina Refinery with strong support from the TCE Safety Team & Unit CSR Team reinforcing the refinery's commitment to building a safer and more responsible community.

Rayagada Hosts District-Level National Girl Child Day 2026



Rayagada, (Correspondent): The district-level National Girl Child Day 2026 was celebrated at the Rayagada Women's College premises. The program was presided over by Smt. Pratima Rani Das, Protection Officer. Smt. Minati Deo, District Social Welfare Officer, attended as the chief guest, while Dr. Archana Pattnaik, Principal of Women's College; Dr. K. Swadharani, Political Science Lecturer at Rayagada Autonomous College; Sri Kailash Chandra Sahu, Lecturer; and Sri Balram Tul, History Lecturer at Women's College, were honored guests on the dais. Sri Divakar Parichcha, District Convener of Sankalp Hub, conducted the proceedings. Students from Rayagada Autonomous College, Women's College, and various higher secondary schools participated actively.In her address, Dr. Archana Pattnaik, Principal of Women's College, emphasized that character-building education surpasses general education, and practical education exceeds even that. She stressed the importance of knowing which places to visit and which to avoid.Dr. K. Swadharani advised the girls to educate and empower themselves. Smt. Pratima Rani Das clearly explained women-centric schemes and relevant legal provisions.Three meritorious girl students each from arts, sports, and education fields were awarded certificates and trophies. The program concluded with Smt. Pratima Rani Das administering a pledge to eliminate gender bias. Sri Balram Tul, History Lecturer at Women's College, extended thanks to all guests and students.

Reservation system should be abolished in jobs and politics: Arvind Dhali



Malkangiri, correspondent Reservation should be given only to economically backward people, while reservation in government jobs and political fields should be completely abolished, said former MLA and minister of Malkangiri Arvind Dhali. On the basis of the reservation system, people from the Scheduled Castes and Tribes have become many high-ranking officials. They have even been appointed in the Indian Civil Service and Odisha Administrative Services. As a result, people from the general category are deprived of this despite their qualifications. On the other hand, after one generation of backward people is appointed to high posts under the reservation system, the next generation should not be given the benefits of reservation, said Mr.Dhali. In this regard, the central and state gover nments have conducted a survey to identify the real people who are economically backward and appealed to the government to provide special assistance to their children in the field of education. Discrimination is increasing due to the existence of the reservation system. Former minister Dhali has said that abolishing the reservation system will increase the competitive spirit among students and create a very conducive environment for the education sector.

Chief Secretary Anu Garg Reviews Odisha Discoms' Performance, Emphasizes Reliability And Service



Bhubaneswar correspondent:: Chief Secretary Anu Garg, chairperson of Odisha Discoms, reviewed the performance of TPCODL, TPNODL, TPSODL, and TPWODL at a board meeting. The meeting focused on strengthening power distribution infrastructure and enhancing consumer experience.Key areas of focus include capital investment in network modernization, reliability improvement, and technology-led initiatives. The Discoms are prioritizing timely execution of government-funded projects, smart metering, and rooftop solar adoption through PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana.Operational performance was reviewed, with emphasis on reliability enhancement and use of Surakhya Kavach App for real-time safety and emergency response. The Discoms were encouraged to strengthen customer care and leverage technology for superior outcomes.

Bhubaneswar Airport Issues Advisory For Republic Day Rush

Bhubaneswar: The Biju Patnaik International Airport authorities have issued an advisory for passengers traveling during the Republic Day celebrations, anticipating a large influx of travellers. With January 26 being a public holiday, many are expected to travel, leading to increased footfall at the airport.

Paddy Procurement In Full Pace In Odisha

Bhubaneswar, correspondent: The Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2025–26 is progressing smoothly across all 30 districts of the State, with paddy procurement gaining strong momentum. As on date, the State has procured 30,49,560 LMT of paddy from 6,93,097 farmers which depicts robust participation with efficient procurement operations.Districts like Sambalpur, Subarnapur, Bargarh, Bolangir and Jharsuguda have already procured more than 60% of their target. In case of Sambalpur, 96% of the Paddy Procurement is completed against it target with 61,650 number of farmers are able to sell their paddy on 22nd Jan 2026 in comparison to 56,831 Farmers as on 22nd Jan 2025.Similarly, in Subarnapur district 77% of Paddy has been procured against the target and about 57,217 no of Farmers have been able to sell their paddy compared to 51,500 no of Farmers in the previous year.In Ganjam, Total 476 number of Mandis are operational with 45,255 farmers being able to sell paddy in comparison to 18,121 farmers last year on the same date. In case of Rayagada 10,490 farmers are able to sell their paddy against 9655 farmers participating in the last KMS.Till today, the State Government has made payment ?7,914.15 crore towards Minimum Support Price (MSP) and Input Assistance. In a major reform initiative, the Government has implemented e-KYC Aadhaar-based payment systems for the first time, ensuring that payments are made directly to genuine farmers registered on the P-PAS (Paddy Procurement Automation System) portal, thereby strengthening transparency.Procurement operations have just begun in Balasore, Bhadrak, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Jajpur & Kendrapra and is slowly gaining pace.A round-the-clock Control Room has been operationalized at the OSCSC Headqu arters to closely monitor paddy arrivals and procurement progress, facilitate planning of lifting schedules, and ensure seamless movement of foodgrains from mandis.

Traffic Advisory Issued For Vice-President's Visit To Cuttack

Cuttackcorrespondent : The Commissionerate Police has issued a traffic advisory for the visit of the Vice-President of India to Cuttack on January 23. Significant traffic congestion is expected in and around the Twin Cities, affecting traffic movement from 8:00 AM to 9:30 AM and 12 Noon to 2:15 PM.

H&UD Minister Conducts Surprise Inspection Of IG Park



Bhubaneswar correspondent: Minister for Housing and Urban Development (H&UD), Krushna Chandra Mahapatra, conducted a surprise visit to IG Park today to review the condition of public amenities and overall maintenance of the park.Located in a prime area of Bhubaneswar city and frequented daily by a large number of visitors, IG Park requires special attention in terms of upkeep and cleanliness. During the inspection, the Minister interacted with visitors and enquired about the facilities available for the public.

Mahapatra expressed serious displeasure over the inadequate maintenance of the park, particularly the poor condition of urinals and toilet facilities. He directed the concerned authorities to take immediate corrective measures and ensure proper hygiene, regular maintenance, and improved service standards. The Minister warned that strict action would be taken against officials responsible for negligence if lapses continue.Deputy Commissioner, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation, N. Ganesh Babu, accompanied the Minister during the visit. Officials and maintenance staff of the park were present and were instructed to strengthen monitoring mechanisms to ensure that the park remains clean, safe, and visitor-friendly at all times.

CM Grievance Cell To Remain Closed On Jan 26

Bhubaneswarcorrespondent: The Chief Minister's public grievance hearing, Jan Abhiyog Sunani, scheduled for Monday, January 26, will not be held due to the Republic Day holiday.The General Administration and Public Grievances Department informed that since January 26 is a declared government holiday, the weekly grievance redressal programme will remain closed on that day.Officials further stated that the date for the next Jan Abhiyog Sunani will be announced in due course through newspapers and other media platforms, ensuring that citizens are informed well in advance.

The Chief Minister's public grievance hearing is a key platform for direct interaction between the government and citizens, enabling people to place their complaints and concerns before the highest executive authority of the state.

Nimapada BJD Without a Guardian : Workers Confused, BJP Ready to Take Advantage

Nimapada, (Correspondent): The three-tier Panchayat elections may be held in February 2027. Preparations for this have already begun. While reviews are underway at the administrative level, political parties have also started gearing up. However, in the current situation, winning the Panchayat battle has become a major challenge for all parties. Learning from past mistakes, the BJP has adopted a new strategy to ensure victory. On the other hand, the condition of the BJD and Congress appears more discouraging than before. Once again, the politics of Nimapada in Puri district is in discussion. The BJD ruled the state for 24 years. Former Ex- minister Samir Ranjan Dash won three times from the Nimapada Assembly constituency on a BJD ticket, but despite being a minister, he did not get a party ticket in the last election. While Dilip Nayak was expecting a BJP ticket, he did not receive one. Instead, senior BJP woman leader Pravati Parida secured the BJP ticket and won from the Nimapada Assembly constituency. She has now become the state's first woman Deputy Chief Minister from Nimapada. However, at present, the condition of the Biju Janata Dal in Nimapada is pitiable. BJD MLA candidate Dilip Nayak is in jail following an ED raid in connection with allegations, and the party has no strong guardian or leader. Another self-proclaimed strongman leader, Subrat Chhatoi, had camped in Nimapada with hopes of becoming an MLA. Recently, during the statewide controversy over irregularities in the Police SI examination, allegations surfaced that some students from Subrat's institution were involved. Subsequently, the ED also conducted raids on him. This news was widely reported in various media outlets. It appears that the BJD has suffered a severe setback in the Nimapada constituency.At present, neither Dilip Nayak nor Subrat Chhatoi is active in the BJD. After losing in most areas except Puri and Kakatpur, the party is facing a leadership crisis in the district. Most defeated leaders are rarely seen in public. While district BJD president Umashankar Samantaray remains active, it feels as though others have retired from politics altogether. Dilip Nayak has not been granted bail in his case. Meanwhile, although Subrat Chhatoi continues to promote himself on social media through his institution, he is no longer visible in the area. BJD leaders who are businessmen and contractors seem to be under scrutiny. One after another, block chairpersons, councillors, sarpanches, and samiti members are turning towards the BJP. The BJP is making strong efforts to take advantage of this situation. Although the political winds for Panchayat and municipal elections have not yet fully begun, the turbulence within the BJD has not subsided. Leaders are silent, and workers are confused. Discussions within party circles suggest that the supreme leader is not visiting villages, Panchayats, or blocks, nor is there any program planned for such visits at present. As a result, the biggest question now is who will rescue the party from this crisis. Meanwhile, the BJP has prepared its strategy to capitalize on the situation.

Workshop on Safe Livelihoods and Sustainable Rural Environment Held in Rayagada

Rayagada,(Correspondent): : A workshop on safe livelihoods and a sustainable rural environment was held on Thursday at the Sadbhavana Hall of Rayagada Block.The workshop focused on promoting environmentally responsible livelihood practices in rural areas. ABDO Kalu Charan Nayak, along with National Resource Persons Naresh Sharma and Sangeeta, and Technical Coordinator Yogendra Nayak, participated in the programme and provided training to the attendees.Discussions were held on various methods and strategies to ensure that people in rural areas can access safe and sustainable employment opportunities, adopt better livelihood practices, and encourage rural institutions to take responsibility for environmental protection.Around 50 participants, including Gram Panchayat-level functionaries, MBKs, CRPs, and Anganwadi workers, took part in the workshop.Speaking on the occasion, BDO Sujit Kumar Mishra said that such innovative initiatives by the government are being undertaken to improve the standard of living of rural people and promote sustainable development.

EDITORIAL



Goddess Saraswati & Basanta Panchami

Goddess Saraswati is known as the symbol of education, art, culture and music. Goddess Saraswati is known to be the archive of knowledge. Human beings are bestowed with speech, wisdom and learning by Goddess Saraswati. Vasant Panchami also called as Basant Panchami in India is celebrated as the festival of Goddess Saraswati. Vasant Panchami is celebrated on the 5th day of the bright fortnight of the lunar month of Magha. It is also considered as the first day of spring. Goddess Saraswati is worshipped on Vasant Panchami. As per Hindu scriptures, Basant Panchami is believed to be the birthday day of Goddess Saraswati. Part of the trinity of Goddesses in Hinduism i.e. Laxmi, Parvati and Saraswati, Goddess Saraswati is also addressed as Goddess Savatri or Goddess Gayatri. It's considered extremely scared and godly to perform Saraswati Puja on the day of Vasant Panchami.

Goddess Saraswati is worshipped mostly on the following days since the following are the major occasions to perform Saraswati Puja. Performing Saraswati Puja helps one to invoke blessings of Goddess Saraswati. As she represents the accord of intelligence, art, music, fortune and power, by praying to her one can invoke all these in one's life. Saraswati Puja performed during Navratri holds a special significance. Knowledge seekers across the country believe that worshiping the Goddess of wisdom, she can endow upon a lot of talents and eternal understanding.

Saraswati puja is held with devotion and the atmosphere is discreet and gloomy. Simplicity and poise are important aspects of the Saraswati Puja. The color yellow is quite significant on this day and is given due importance as well. Devotion and dedication is through which Devi Saraswati's Puja is to be celebrated.

One can associate with her through hymn "Om Aim Saraswatyai Swaha" – to excel in arts, dance and music. Saraswati Puja is specially performed on the below given occasions. The Muhurat for Saraswati Puja is usually on the following days but since these days are among the Abhuja Days it's considered to be auspicious to perform Saraswati Puja at any time in the day. Chogadiyas do tend to play an important role herein and it's recommended to perform the Saraswati Puja in amrit, shubh, labh and char Chogadiya as they're the auspicious ones. Saraswati Puja Mantras and Hymns. The main Satyanarayan katha has five sections. Each one of them should begin and end with the following Mantra: Saare bolo "Shri Satyanarayan Swami ki Jai, Shree Narayan, Narayan, Narayan, Swami Narayan, Narayan, Narayan."

Vasantostava and Shri Panchami" - A Transitional Celebration from Winter to Spring

Shyam Sundar Sahoo

"If winter comes can spring be far behind?"- is the concluding lines of the poem "Ode to the West Wind" by romantic English poet P B Shelly during 18th century. When the earth is gripped with untold miseries of unbearable cold in winter ,the people anxiously await for thearrival of spring - a period of joy, jubilation and creativity.Hence, with the gradual retreat of cruel winter , the creative spring creeps in adorning the entire earth with luxuriant flora and fauna. The importance and value of the season is described in Hindu scripture Shrimad Bhagwat Gita where in Lord Krishna spoke to Arjuna in the Kurukhetra battle field - "Masanam Margasiroham , Ritunam Kusumakara" - of the months I'm Margashir , Of the seasons I'm Kushumakara (Spring). As such , the Lord declares spring as the most prominent and auspicious manifestation among all seasons of the year.

With the onset of Vasantostava , a 40-day spring festival commences which culminates on the day of Holi. Vaishnavites consider "Vasanta Panchami" as the propitious day when the season of love commences. Mythological evidence and specifically poet Jayadeva's"Gita Govinda" vindicate the veracity of the fact. Legend has it that some 5000 years ago , Lord Krishna performed the celestial Rasalila (the divine Dance) with Radha Rani accompanied by the Gopis during the spring season, justifying the name"Vasanta Rasa". It symbolizes the rejuvenation of nature with blossoming of lofty flowers.River Jamuna stands as a silent witness with its waves whispering the hoary tales of the Divine "Vasanta Rasa".The flowery arches of Vrindavan, the murmuring sound of the flowing river along with the blossoming Kadama flowers sings the melodious songs of "Vasanta Rasa" with the sweet breeze that passes by. Vrindavan , with the advent of Spring , evokes yellow tradition i.e everything in the temples starting from the clothes of the deities to prasad (Bhog) are yellow including decoration of idols with marigold and other yellow flowers. Vasanta Arati is also commenced during the period.

In Puri , the seat of Lord Jagannath , the entire rituals and attires are subjected to a complete changefrom the "Vasanta Panchami" day marking the transition from winter to spring. The deities wear specific costumes known as Jamalagi Besha from Ghodalagi Besha. The deities are dressed with four pieces of yellow silk clothes (called Vasanti Pata) embellished with 30 pieces of gold ornaments. Special type of mandua is offered to the Lord. To add to this , an unique and royal ritual popularly known as "Benta Bindha" (hunting niti) is performed on this day. In addition to this, "Ratha Katha Anukula" (the Chariot wood ritual) begins on this auspicious day. Moreover , special chapter of poet Jayadeva's Gita Govinda depicting the spring pastime of Radha and Krishna i.e "Vasanta Rasa", is recited in Shri mandir and many other monasteries and mathas. The mundane world rejoices Vasantostava starting from Vasanata Panchami heralding the worship of Goddess Saraswati , the goddess of wisdom , voice and intellect. In the state of Odisha , Saraswati puja is observed with utmost fanfare on Shri Panchami day ,i.e the 5th day of Magha Sukla Pakshya , which falls on 23rd Jan this year (Friday). As per puranic texts , the birth of Goddess Saraswati is quite fascinating. "Brahma Purana"cites that Lord Brahma after creating physical universe also created Goddess Saraswati to bring order and vibration into the silent and unmanifested atmosphere of the Universe. "Brahma Vaibarta Purana " reveals that Lord Krishna pleased with the purity of Goddess Saraswati granted her a boon that she would be worshipped by the whole world on the 5th day of bright fortnight of Magha which is called "Vasanta Panchami".

Saraswati Puja as we see it is not merely a religious ritual, but is closely associated with the ardent devotion and deep rooted homage of the state for education , art and culture justifying its other name Utkala i.e superior in Art and Architecture. Different districts celebrate the festival differently in their own ways. Bhubaneswar, the capital city , otherwise known as the Education Hub of the State , witness widespread celebration of Saraswati Puja with much pomp and gaiety mostly across educational institutions . Residential locations like Sahid Nagar , Rasulgarh and Nayapalli install massive artistic pendals for the worship of Goddess Saraswati which reflects with resplendent lights creating the illusion of Durga Puja attracting thousands of visitors. On this day , it is felt favourable for "Akshyara Abhyasa" or "Vidyarambha". The tradition of Pustaka Puja is keenly observed in the costal belt of the state. In Cuttack , keeping up the legacy of the Silver filigree works , the pendals for worship of goddess Saraswati are embellished with Chandi Medha . Western Odisha also witness a more traditional and rural puja ritual emphasizing upon "Khadi Chuan" and "Vidyarambha" before Goddess Saraswati. In Sambalpur , Maa Samleswari is worshipped as Maha Saraswati on this day.

We in Hindu culture are abided by the entire rituals of the seasonal festivals well versed in the Hindu Scripture , Mythology and traditional concepts. Be is large or small , we don't let the occasion slip from our hand and observe it for the welfare and wellbeing of one and all .The culture of our country is paramount, predominant and above everything which is unseen and unheard of anywhere in the world. That is why our country India is named as "Dev Bhumi", a land where God has chosen to take incarnationsand where the saints and sages go on meditating for World peace and Vedas and Upanishads have emerged to lead the people in the right path.

Significance of Saraswati Puja

Er. Prabhat Kishore

Bharatvarsha is a country of religions, faiths and festivals. There are more festivals celebrated in Bharat than anywhere else in the world. Each festival has its own customs, occasions and importance. Saraswati Puja, having great spiritual and cultural significance, is one of the eminent festival heralding the arrival of spring, which is the season of renewal and blossoming.

Saraswati Pujais celebrated every year on the Panchami Tithi of Magha Shukla Paksh of BharatiyaPanchang (calendar). Hence it is also termed as Vasant Panchami, Sri Panchami, Saraswati Panchami in some parts of the country.The festival usually falls in the last month of January or February of the Gregorian calendar. In south Bharat, Saraswati Puja is also celebrated as "Aayudha Puja" during Navratri festival (which usually falls in October/November month).

Saraswati Puja has its own significance as the young children start their first step in the field of education by writing the letters of alphabet with a ritual known as "Akshar Abhyasam", "Vidya Arambham" or "Patti Pujan". People celebrate this day whole heartedly. On this day, Goddess Saraswati is worshipped in Mandirs, schools, colleges, educational institutions, Music & cultural houses as well as other public places, especially by students and teachers.

This day is considered an auspicious day for starting new ventures, projects or even moving into new homes. The positive energy of spring coupled with the blessings of Maa Saraswati brings progress, success and prosperity in the life of the devotee. For farmers, this day symbolizes the preparation and readiness of the harvest crops.

Yellow and white colours have their own importance in Saraswati puja. According to religious belief, yellow colour is auspicious and represents energy, knowledge, learning and prosperity, while white colour symbolizes light, knowledge and truth. Maa Saraswati is adorned with yellow or white cloths and traditionally devotees themselves dress up in yellow or white cloths. According to scientists, when we see yellow colour, our body emits a special harmone called serotonin, which is helpful in reducing stress and strengthens brain.

Goddess Sarasvati is known by several names such as, Vageshwari (Goddess of Speech), Veenapani (Goddess holding Veena in her hands), Pustakdharani (Goddess carrying books), Veenavadini (Goddess playing the Veena), Hansvahini (Goddess sitting on swan), Varneshwari (Goddess of letters), Maa Sharade (who loves Sharad i.e. Autumn season), Bharati (Goddess of history), Vani (melodious speech), etc. by her devotees. Maa Saraswati holds Pustak (book), Mala (Rosary), Jalpatra (Water pot) and Veena in her four arms, which has symbolic meaning of importance. The book symbolizes the Veda or learning, the Rosary represents a meditation and spirituality, the Water pot signifies the purifying power to separate right from wrong and the Veena symbolizes all creative arts & sciences. Her four arms denote the four sides as well as the four aspects of human personality in learning, namely- Manas (mind), Buddhi (intellect), Chitta (alertness), and Ahankar (ego). Her vehicle is Hansa (Swan), a sacred bird, which if offered a mixture of milk & water, drink the milk alone and thus symbolises the ability to distinguish between good & evil. Sometimes Mayur (peacock) is also shown sitting near her feet, which symbolisescolourful splendor & prosperity. Maa Saraswati is a part ofTridevi - Sarasvati, Lakshmi, and Parvati, who are associated with the almighty Tridev - Brahma, Vishnu and Mahesh. During Navratri, on the seventh day, theGoddess is worshipped in the form of MahaSarasvati, in honour of the Goddess of learning & knowledge.

Goddess Saraswati is mentioned in the Rigved, Upnishad and other Dharmashashtra and has remained significant from the Vedic period to modern times. In Shanti Parva of Mahabharat, Shehas been called the mother of the Vedas. Rigved signifises her both as a holy river as well as a deity. As per Rigveda-2.041.16, "AmbitameNaditameDevitame Sarasvati", i.e. Saraswati is the best of mothers, mightiest of rivers, and the supreme among Goddesses. Mythologically, She is one of the holy rivers of Triveni Sangam at Prayag in an invisible form. Shrishti Khand of Padma Puran as well as Skand Puran have detailed mention of Saraswati becoming a river on earth.

The Goddess is referred as MahaSarasvati in Kashmir Shakti Peeth, and as Shardamba in Sringeri. The ancient Sharda Peeth, located on the bank of river Kishanganga (now renamed as Neelam in Pak-captured portion of Northern Kashmir), is one of the oldest survivingtemple of Saraswati. As one of the ancient MahashaktiPeeths, Sharda Peeth is the spiritual location of the fallen right hand of Goddess Sati.

In Sikhism, Vasant Panchami marks the occasion of the marriage of Guru Govind Singh ji Maharaj. In Harmandir Sahib Amritsar, musician stats the Basant Rag, which continue till the first day of Baisakh. In Jainism faith also, Saraswati is revered as the Goddess of the source of learning and responsible for the dissemination of Thirthnkars. In Buddhism sect, Saraswati is considered as the consort of Manjushree- the knowledge of Bodhisatwa.

Saraswati Puja is celebrated in a large number of countries such as Bharat, Nepal, Bali (Indonesia), Thailand (earlier Siam), Myanmar (earlier Burma or Brahma Desh), Pakistan, BangalaDesh, Bhutan, Mauritius, Surinam, Fiji, Japan, and Tibet as per their own custom.

Maa Saraswati is the deity of language, music, arts and wisdom. She represents Sattwa Guna and Gyan Shakti. She is the possessor of knowledge and protector of the universe. It is believed that every intellectual endeavor should begin with Saraswati Vandana.

RESPECTED LEADER SUBASH BOSE

Bruhaspati Samal

Subash Chandra Bose our respected leader was a great freedom fighter whose role in India's Independence is instrumental. By name Nataji who was born on January 23, 1897,at Cuttack , sacred soil of Orissa in the lap of pravabati & Renewed Barrister Janaki nath Bose. Being a wealthy and prominent Bengli lawyer Subash studied at Presidency college Kolkata. His mind blowing voice attracted every Indians " Tum Mujhe Khoon do main tumhe Ajadi dunge". From the very beginning he was a brilliant student who had deserved second 2nd position in matriculation exam. He was spelled by his mother and an early age he started reading about Swami Vivekananda & Ramakrishna and was impressed by their teaching and advice. He also influenced by his mother and his Head master Beni Madhav Das who taught him to learn about the ancient heritage of his mother land and to love India more than anything else in his life. After completion of his school carrier he studied at Presidency College Calcutta. Due to his national activities he was expelled in 1916. After some interval he admitted in the Scottish Churches College and graduating in 1919. He left India for England on 15 September, 1919 to appear at the Indian Civil Service Examination, as desired by his Father Janaki Bose. He passed the Examination by coming out "4th" among the successful candidates, but he did not want to stay in England and served the British Government. So he resigned from his Civil Service job in1921. He returned to India and joined the National Congress to fight for Independence of India.

From a young age, subash Chandra bose had the nationalist temperament and Britishers' discrimination towards Indians would fill him with rage. Subash was sent to jail about eleven times in his life for the shake of country. He became the President ofthe Congress Party, but later rsigned due to his differences of opinion with Gandhiji. Bose was a revolutionary Freedom Fighter who was known to have founded the ' Azad Hind Army or Fauja' or Indian National Army. For his revolutionary movements he had been to jail several times. When the World War ii nd broke in 1941, Subash was interned in his Calcutta home under constant police guard. He did not come out of his house for 40 days, nor did he see anyone during that period. And on the 41st midnight , he escaped in the disguise of a Maulaviand reached Germany under the Italian diplomatic passport with an Italian name of Oriando Mazzota. In Berlin , he formed the first Indian National Army (I.N.A) with the 'prisoners of war' who were Indian soldiers serving the British Army. Now he came to know be known as " Netaji" . He also founded an Indian Radio Station called Azad Hind Radio in Berlin, from where he had very often to broadcast for his countrymen suggesting about their political activities during war. From Berlin, Subhash went to Japan, where the I. N. A was enlarged with the addition of more soldiers and civilians. The I.N.A was now a large Army and Netaji, as the chief commander of the I.N.A, declared war against the British. The I.N.A fought tooth and nail in the Burma Front, as hoisted Indian National flag in Imphal at Manipur. The war took suddenly a strange turn, because the Japanese who were I.N.A.' ALLIED FORCES SURRENDERED. So Netaji had to order retreat of his I.N.A. Despite his failure at leading a military revolt against the British Occupation, Bose was extremely successful in another area. He was such a veteran leader who succeeded in generating a wave of support for the Indian Freedom Movement. He believed that the National Socialist Model adopted by Soviet Russia would be the best model to implement in India. His life was filled with respect for his action as a freedom fighter.

Four-member Quality Control team of the Works Department conducts inspection



Nimapada,(Correspondent):Since the beginning of the construction work on the Balanga–Nimapada main road by the Works Department, people from various sections of the area have been alleging that the work is of poor quality. Amid these complaints, a four-member Quality Control team from the Works Department visited the site this morning and carried out an inspection. According to information, while allegations were being raised that the construction of the Balanga–Nimapada main road was of substandard quality from the very start, on Thursday morning a four-member Quality Control team of the Works Department, led by the department's Bhubaneswar-based chief Pallabi Ojha, along with officials Rabinarayan Sethi, Biranchi Kumar Sahu, Sunil Sahu, and others, reached the spot. The team examined the newly constructed concrete road at various locations using machines, and it is reported that the contracting agency has come under scrutiny. It remains to be seen how much corruption has taken place in the execution of this road project.

Jagatsinghpur book fair concludes



Jagatsinghpur (Correspondent): The 27th edition of Jagatsinghpur Book fair, organized by Jagatsinghpur Sanskrutika Parishad, was concluded after hosting a closing day function held in the book fair ground in front of the collector's office here on Wednesday. Parishad chairman cum collector J Sonal presided over the valedictory function accompnied chief guest, state industries and skill development minister Sampad Chandra Swain, MP Bibhuprasad Tarai, Zilla Parishad president Manoj Bhoi, Paradeep municipality chairman Basanta Kumar Biswal, SP Ankit Burma, and Mahendra Acharya.Parishad general secretary Sarada Prasana Das read the annual report, Parishad, working Chairman Biplaba Choudhury coordinated the meeting. . The closing day function was dedicated to the late advocate Sangran Keshari Mohanty. Parishad's annual souvenir was inaugurated by Minister Swain on the stage in the presence of attending guests. .According to organizer sources informed that the 27th edition of the Book Fair was fully successful, the printers, publishers, book sellers, and visitors who participated in this week-long fair have made brisk business and expressed satisfaction, said organization office bearers Sudhir Mohanty, Bijaya Kumar Rout, Pradipta Choudhury, Susama Pradhan

RI caught in vigilance net while taking bribe

Cuttack, (Correspondence): RI Janki Ranjan Malik of Cuttack district, Kakhadi was caught today while taking a bribe of Rs 10,000. According to the information received, the vigilance officials caught him while taking a bribe of Rs 10,000 for mutation of a land. Information received revealed that a landowner had applied online for the mutation of his land. After that, the RI asked the landowner to come and meet him on the 20th. After the landowner met the RI, he demanded a bribe of Rs 10,000. The landowner said that he could not pay such a sum and expressed his inability. The RI did not listen to this. He clearly told him that the work would not be done without paying the bribe. After that, the landowner, unable to find any other way, approached the vigilance department. Then, as per the previous plan, today the landowner reached the RI with the bribe money (chemical mixture) and was about to give it to him when the vigilance officers intercepted him. Currently, vigilance raids are continuing at three more addresses of RI Janaki.

Illegal Mining Case at Bajbati Hill, Dharmasala

JAJPUR (Correspondent):The case related to large-scale irregularities in two quarries at Bajbati Hill under Dharmasala Tahasil is continuing before the National Green Tribunal (NGT). Allegations range from excessive mining to environmental pollution. The NGT had sought several factual reports from the district administration in this connection.Expressing dissatisfaction over the delay in submission of the report, the NGT directed the Jajpur District Collector to recover a fine of Rs 10,000 each in two cases. Subsequently, the district administration submitted an interim report to the NGT, stating that action is being taken whenever complaints of irregularities in the Dharmasala Tahasil area are received.However, the administration has landed in controversy after informing the NGT that the disputed Bajbati Hill area was already about six metres deep earlier. This has raised serious questions as to how and under what circumstances permission was again granted for mining in the same area, if such deep excavation had already existed earlier.The NGT has directed both the district administratio and the State Impact Assessment Authority (SIAA) to clarify what action was taken earlier regarding the previous mining activities. The Tribunal has also expressed concern over excessive mining in the area, absence of a safety zone and lack of a green belt zone. It has instructed the SIAA to immediately inform the steps taken in this regard.It is learnt that the next hearing in the Bajbati Hill matter is scheduled for March 17. The complainant in the case is being represented by advocate Shankar Pani.

EAST COAST RAILWAY INTRODUCES HUMANOID ROBOT 'ASC ARJUN' AT VISAKHAPATNAM RAILWAY STATION



BHUBANESWAR: In a significant step towards leveraging advanced technology for enhancing passenger safety, security and service delivery, East Coast Railway has introduced a humanoid robot "ASC ARJUN" at Visakhapatnam Railway Station under the aegis of the Railway Protection Force (RPF). This is the first of its kind in Indian Railways.The Humanoid was unveiled by the Inspector General (RPF) Shri Alok Bohra and Divisional Railway Manager Shri Lalit Bohra in presence of the Senior Divisional Security Commandant (RPF) Shri AK Dubey at Visakhapatnam railway station.The humanoid robot, deployed as part of the RPF's modernization and digital transformation initiatives, is designed to supplement various railway operations, particularly in the areas of security, passenger assistance, crowd management, cleanliness monitoring and safety awareness.The robot has been entirely designed and developed in Visakhapatnam, incorporating state-of-the-art technology through indigenous innovation. Under the guidance of Shri Alok Bohra, Inspector General, RPF, and Shri Lalit Bohra, Divisional Railway Manager, the team led by Shri A. K. Dubey worked diligently for over one year to successfully develop this advanced technology.

Orientation Programme on Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act Held at Jajpur

JAJPUR (Correspondent):A one-day orientation and training programme on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act was organised on Wednesday at the Mission Shakti Conference Hall, Jajpur. The programme was jointly conducted by the District Administration (DCPU), Police Administration and Ruchika Social Welfare Organisation.Additional District Magistrate Shri Yudhisthir Nayak attended the programme as the Chief Guest, while Additional Superintendent of Police Shri Shitikanta Kanungo, Sub-Divisional Police Officer Shri Prashant Kumar Majhi, Special Public Prosecutor Shri Pratap Ray, District Social Welfare Officer Ms Parbati Sahu, Chairperson of Child Welfare Committee Ms Reksona Jena, and Member of Juvenile Justice Board Ms Pritilata Samantaray participated as honoured guests and shared their valuable views.The programme was presided over by District Child Protection Officer Shri Niranjan Kar. Ms Rozalin Panda introduced the guests, while officials of Ruchika Organisation welcomed them with saplings.Addressing the gathering, Chief Guest Shri Nayak emphasized the need for widespread awareness of the law and urged all stakeholders to understand their responsibilities. He also stressed the importance of inter-departmental coordination and quality education for children.Retired District Judge Shri Gayadhar Panda and NGO Coordination Director Shri Prashant Palatasingh participated as subject experts and highlighted various legal aspects of the Act and child rehabilitation procedures.During the discussion session, Dr Benudhar Senapati, officials of Ruchika Organisation and Ms Reksona Jena advised that understanding a child's psychology is essential to ensure proper justice and protection.Officials from various departments including Block Education Office, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Police, Women and Child Welfare Department, Children Helpline, Child Care Institutions, One Stop Centre, Legal Services Authority, Child Welfare Committee and Juvenile Justice Board participated in the programme.District Child Protection Unit officials Shri Tapan Kumar Patra and Shri Kali Prasad Sahu, along with Ruchika Organisation members Shri Manoranjan Sahu, Ms Sasmita Sahu and Shri Tapan Kumar Panda, assisted in organizing the programme. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Ruchika Organisation Secretary Shri Umashankar Sadangi.

Kalahandi: district level " PMShriUtsav" inaugurated



Bhawanipatna: (Correspondent) In a bid-to up-skill with latest know-how of 21st century to the students as well as with National Education's (NEP) policy "the PM SHRI (Prime Minister Schools for Rising India) initiative has been organizing across the country, in this row the administration of Kalahandi has kicked off district level " PM ShriUtsav". The two days long program at the premises of Bhawanipatna'sBrajamohan High School and was inaugurated on Wednesday. Where the parliamentarian Malabika Devi was chief guest as well as the enthusiasts and educationists were also remained present-among them Dr shiv Prasad Behera, DayamayaPadhi, RadhakantaChhatri, AnimeshPradhan, Pabitra Mohan Sahu, IndrajitMahakud, TapimaniJani, HemsagarMahanand and others. The various play like song, ghumura of student has gained the momentum in 1stday PM ShriMela.

Contempt of court case, 2 senior IAS officers of the state acquitted

Cuttack, (Correspondence): Two senior IAS officers of the state have been acquitted of contempt of court cases. The High Court had issued arrest warrants against both the Higher Education Secretary and the Public Education Secretary on the 16th. The court had ordered to arrest both of them as the order had not been implemented by the 22nd. However, affidavits have been filed by both the officers stating that the order had been implemented. After both the secretaries offered unconditional apologies, the High Court has quashed the contempt of court case. Tapan Patnaik, a retired reader of Kujang College, and Benudhar Das, a government employee, had filed two separate cases against both the Higher Education Secretary and the Public Education Secretary. Similarly, an arrest warrant was also issued against the Dhenkanal DEO. However, he has sought time to implement the order, which has been granted by the High Court. The contempt of court case filed against the DEO will be heard on the 30th.

MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE LIMITED
FORMERLY MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE PVT LTD
CIN : U65923KL2010PLC033179
Regd Office: 8/596 A, Padmaprabha Building, Near Sreerama Swami Temple, Cherppu - Thriprayar Road, Thriprayar, Thrissur, Kerala 680567 | Phone No.: 0487-3520504, Website: www.manappuramhomefin.com

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of Manappuram Home Finance Ltd ("MAHOFIN") under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest *[Act], 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 9 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice calling upon the borrowers and co-borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice and interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said *[Act] read with rule 9 of the said rules. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Manappuram Home Finance Ltd as mentioned below for each of the respective properties:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower and Co-borrower / Loan account number/ Branch	Description Of Secured Asset In Respect Of Which Interest Has Been Created	Date of Demand Notice sent & Outstanding Amount	Date of Possession
1	Sandhyarani Mandal, Uttam Pandurang Tawade, /MHL00TE0003587/ Bhadrak	Land Bearing Mutation Ror No. 1153 / 1163, Pkot No. 4703 / 6771 / 8129, Area: A0.400dec. Kissam / Type: Homestead Lying, Being And Situate At Vill Sanakrushnapur, PS. Basudevpur, PS. No.125, Dist. Bhadrak, Tehsil Basudevpur Within The Jurisdiction of Bhadrak And Within The Limits of Sub-Registrar, Basudevpur Near Temple Basudebpur Bhadrak Odisha Pin: 756125 PO. Sanakrishnapur. East-Seller, West-Adhar Maity, South-Amulya Mandal, North-Seller	20-10-2025 & Rs.554529/-	20-01-2026
2	Manwara Khatun, Mulla Golam MD Shwaleh, /MHL00TE0003995/ Bhadrak	Land Bearing Mutation Ror No. 336/546, Plot No. 254, Area: A0.020dec. & Plot No. 255, Area: A0.020dec. Kissam / Type: Homestead Lying, Being And Situate At Vill Balisrada, PS. Bhadrak, PS. No. 94, Dist - Bhadrak, Tehsil - Bhadrak Within The Jurisdiction of Bhadrak And Within The Limits of Dist. Sub-Registrar, Bhadrak, Odisha Pin: 756100. East-Plot No. 276, West-Road, South-Plot No. 278, North-Plot No. 253	20-10-2025 & Rs.402023/-	20-01-2026
3	Swarnalata Jena, Kisan Jena, /MHL00TE0004017/ Bhadrak	Land Bearing Consolidation Ror No. 1428, Plot No. 4825, Area: A0.040dec. Kissam /Type: Homestead Lying, Being And Situate At Vill Deula, PS. - Tihidi, No. 19, Tahasil, Tihidi, Dist - Bhadrak, Within The Jurisdiction of Bhadrak And Within The Limits of Sub-Registrar, Tihidi Near Temple, Tihidi Bhadrak Odisha Pin: 756163 PO. Guamal. East-Plot No. 4824 & 4825, West-Plot No. 4826, South-Plot No. 4823, North-Plot No. 4831	20-10-2025 & Rs.245114/-	20-01-2026
4	Shakuntala Nayak, Hemanta Nayak, /MHL00TE0004882/ Bhadrak	Land Bearing Mutation Ror No./69 / 2046, Plot No. 1/0/4090, &Plot No. 170/4360/4851, Area :A0.050 dec. Kissam / Type: Homestead Lying, Being And Situate At Vill - Radhanathpur, PS. - Basudevpur, PS. No.72, Dist - Bhadrak, Tehsil- Basudevpur Within The Jurisdiction of Bhadrak And Within The Limits of Sub-Registrar, Basudevpurnear Dhaneswar Shiv Temple Basudebpur Bhadrak Odisha Pin: 756125 PO. Basudevpur. East Ananta Nayak, West-SrikantaMohapatra, South-Road, North-Dusasan Nayak	20-10-2025 & Rs.350918/-	20-01-2026
5	Binapani Behera, Bimal Behera, /Mhl00780004718/ Khurda	KhataNo.843/383A, PlotNo. 1995/2380, AreaA0.022 Dcml, Mouza- Sorana 42, Tahasil. Chilika, Sro. Tangi/ Dist. Khurda, Near Kalijai Temple Khordha Khordha Odisha Pin: 752027 P.O. Soran. East-Raghunath Sundary, West-Pandab Behera, South-Village Road, North-Kothaghara	20-10-2025 & Rs.284269/-	20-01-2026
6	Rathi Nandan Sahoo, Sita Sahoo, Ramchandra Sahoo, /MHL00TE0023843/ Khurda	To All That Piece And Parcel of Land Situated At Mouza-Alarpur, PS. No.175, Tahasil No. 307 In Under Khata No. 498/371, Sthitiban, Plot No. 1161/1724, A0.075 Dcml (0.0304 Hector), Kisam. Gharabari Within The Limits of Ps/Tahasil Brahmagiri In The District. Puri, Odisha-752011. East-Sandhyarani Patra & Suprava Patra, West-Laxman Kumar Sahoo, South-Goudio Matha, North-Danda	21-10-2025 & Rs.1219331/-	20-01-2026

Date: 23rd January 2026 | Place: ODISHA Sd/- Authorised Officer Manappuram Home Finance Ltd

Youth Dinesh Patnaik starts Ekta Yatra on bicycle with message of unity

Malkangiri correspondent, :In Malkangiri district, youth Dinesh Kumar Patnaik started Ekta Yatra on bicycle with message of peace, friendship and goodwill. He started this yatra from Bhairavi Temple established at the entrance of Malkangiri city on the 17th. After visiting all the seven blocks of Malkangiri district, he met the youth and gave the message of peace.He reached Malkangiri MV 2 village on Wednesday. After reaching each block headquarters of his bicycle journey in Malkangiri district, he was given a grand welcome at all places. Dinesh said that his aim is to spread the message of peace, friendship and goodwill through this Ekta Yatra. Dinesh had previously successfully traveled to Ayodhya, Prayag, Puri, Banaras by bicycle. The people of the district have welcomed his visit and wished him success.

Bhumi Pednekar stuns in Crime Drama 'Daldal' trailer



The highly anticipated crime drama 'Daldal', starring Bhumi Pednekar, has dropped its gripping trailer, offering a glimpse into the intense world of police investigation and psychological turmoil. Set in the bustling city of Mumbai, the series follows a determined police officer, DCP Rita Ferreira (played by Bhumi), as she chases down a calculating serial killer.In the two-minute trailer, Bhumi showcases a complex character balancing ambition, doubt, and personal struggles, as the murders begin to take a toll on her professional and private life. The trailer hints at a high-stakes, emotional journey for Rita, as the investigation threatens to unravel her carefully constructed world.Speaking about her role, Bhumi shared, "Playing Rita Ferreira has been one of the most intense and creatively fulfilling experiences of my career. She is a woman forged by ambition, haunted by doubt, and burdened by the weight of her past - a character who demanded that I explore the delicate balance between vulnerability and strength in ways I had never done before."Directed by Amrit Raj Gupta, 'Daldal' is produced by Vikram Malhotra and Suresh Triveni under Abundantia Entertainment. The series is based on Vish Dhamija's book Bhendi Bazaar, which unravels the eticulous planning of a killer, leaving only few traces behind. The script has been penned by Sreekanth Agneeswaran, Rohan D'Souza, Priya Saggi, and Hussain Haidry.In addition to Bhumi, the series stars Samara Tijori and Aditya Rawal in key roles. 'Daldal' is set to premiere on Prime Video on January 30.Watch the trailer now for a first look at the dark and intense world of 'Daldal'.

Shahid Kapoor turns ruthless gangster in O'Romeo trailer with Triptii Dimri



: The trailer of Shahid Kapoor and Triptii Dimri's much-anticipated dark romance O'Romeo is out, plunging viewers into a brutal, blood-soaked world where love and violence collide.Directed by Vishal Bhardwaj and inspired by true events, the film presents Shahid in a never-seen-before avatar as Ustara — a ferocious, emotionally scarred gangster driven as much by passion as by brutality.Shahid Kapoor as the lead protagonist appears on a murderous rampage as Ustara - "a raw, untamed, and deeply conflicted gangster shaped by love and violence."The trailer opens to show a glimpse of a world driven by passion, power, and survival against the shadowy underbelly of Mumbai. Said to be inspired by true events, the Vishal Bhardwaj directorial presents Triptii as a woman in distress who seeks help from Ustara, only for things to go south over their feelings.Their compelling chemistry takes centre-stage in the trailer, with their relationship expressed through silences, restrained emotions, and unspoken longing.

vinash Tiwary, who appears as the villain, fights and kills bulls in an arena, suggesting the savage tone of his character. Nana Patekar also makes a striking appearance alongside the likes of Farida Jalal, Tamannaah Bhatia, and Disha Patani.

why chasing super low body fat percentage can be harmful for women

In a culture that glorifies ultra-slim bodies and equates thinness with fitness, many women push to lose as much weight and body fat as possible - often at the cost of their health. But being leaner doesn't automatically mean being healthier. Women need a certain amount of body fat for hormonal balance, energy, mood, and overall physiological function, and dropping below that threshold can quietly trigger a cascade of physical and mental health issues.

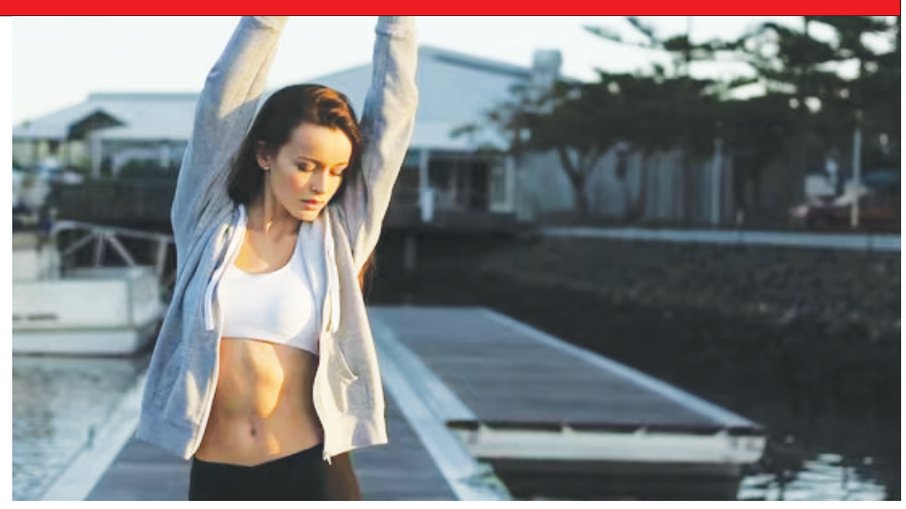
In a culture that glorifies ultra-slim bodies and equates thinness with fitness, many women push to lose as much weight and body fat as possible - often at the cost of their health. But being leaner doesn't automatically mean being healthier. Women need a certain amount of body fat for hormonal balance, energy, mood, and overall physiological function, and dropping below that threshold can quietly trigger a cascade of physical and mental health issues.

Khushi Chhabra, a holistic health nutritionist and wellness content creator, is breaking down what an ideal body fat percentage looks like for women to function optimally. In an Instagram video shared on January 18, the nutritionist explains why chasing super lean bodies is not worthwhile, highlighting the harmful effects that follow.

Ideal body fat percentage for women

If your idea of peak fitness is 18 percent body fat - a super-flat belly and an ultra-lean look - it may actually be far from ideal for most women. Khushi highlights that an extremely low body fat percentage - particularly below 20 percent - can be highly stressful for women's physical, mental, and hormonal health and should not be treated as an ideal goal.

She explains, "While we often see 'fit' defined by one specific look, the truth is that your ideal body fat percentage is wherever you feel your absolute best! For some women, that's between 24 to 30 percent, while others may thrive between 20 to 23 percent."



What happens when you drop lower than 20%?

The nutritionist emphasises that fitness is deeply personal, and the real goal is to reach a state where you both look and feel good - with high energy levels, a stable mood, and optimal body function. Being too lean can backfire by disrupting hormones and other vital body functions, ultimately taking a toll on both physical and mental health.

Khushi explains, "With this level of fitness, super flat belly, 18% body fat, come loss or irregular periods, extreme hairfall, constant hunger and cravings, low energy levels and weird mood swings. Overall, this kind of body is extremely stressful for a woman's system hormonally, physically and mentally."

What is the ideal range?

Khushi highlights that most women function best at around 24 to 30 percent body fat, and in some cases between 20 and 23 percent. Only genetically gifted women function optimally below 20 percent body fat, which is very rare.

The nutritionist stresses, "The ideal body fat percentage for a woman isn't just where she looks good, it's where her energy is high, her mood is stable, periods are regular, her hair is healthy and she feels her best. So being leaner than where your body functions optimally doesn't make sense. Remember, fitness isn't about suffering to look a certain way; it's about thriving and feeling strong in your own skin!"

9 signs of iron deficiency in women: From hair fall to chalk cravings, expert explains unique symptoms



Low iron levels in women can lead to a range of symptoms, from hair loss and hair thinning to frequent dizziness, headaches, and constant fatigue. Iron deficiency is common in women due to factors such as menstruation, pregnancy, breastfeeding, and dietary gaps. Maintaining adequate iron levels is essential because iron is needed to produce haemoglobin, the protein in red blood cells that carries oxygen from the lungs to the rest of the body. Sufficient iron supports proper muscle function, helps prevent weakness and breathlessness, and plays a key role in brain health and mental well-being.

Common symptoms of low iron level in women

As per the gynaecologist, these are some of the key symptoms of low iron levels in women:

Persistent fatigue and weakness, even after adequate rest

Pale or dull skin and worsening dark circles

Shortness of breath and palpitations, especially during mild exertion

Headaches, dizziness, poor concentration, and memory lapses

Excessive hair fall, thinning hair, and brittle or spoon-shaped nails

Cold hands and feet due to reduced oxygen circulation

Frequent infections linked to weakened immunity

Unusual cravings for things like ice, chalk, or clay

Restless leg syndrome, particularly noticeable at nightSince a lot of these symptoms often overlap with daily fatigue, many women delay diagnosis until iron deficiency becomes more severe.

Common symptoms of low iron level in women

As per the gynaecologist, these are some of the key symptoms of low iron levels in women:

Persistent fatigue and weakness, even after adequate rest

Pale or dull skin and worsening dark circles

Shortness of breath and palpitations, especially during mild exertion

Headaches, dizziness, poor concentration, and memory lapses

Excessive hair fall, thinning hair, and brittle or spoon-shaped nails

Cold hands and feet due to reduced oxygen circulation

5 early signs of insulin resistance that show up long before lab results turn abnormal



Insulin resistance doesn't appear overnight, nor does it begin with a diabetes diagnosis. It is often fuelled quietly by everyday habits - from how we eat and move to how we sleep and manage stress - and can build for years before blood tests raise red flags. Long before glucose levels or HbA1c numbers turn abnormal, the body often sends subtle warning signs that something is off metabolically. Recognising these early signals can open the door to timely lifestyle changes and help prevent insulin resistance from progressing to type 2 diabetes.

Getting hungry soon after eating

According to Dr Sood, insulin normally plays a key role in signalling fullness and satiety after meals. However, in individuals with insulin resistance, these signals become blunted, causing hunger to return much sooner. He explains, "Disrupted post-meal glucose and insulin responses and impaired ghrelin suppression contribute to early appetite return."

Afternoon energy crashes

That familiar post-lunch 3pm drowsiness may be the result of an energy crash caused by impaired glucose uptake linked to insulin resistance. Dr Sood explains, "When muscle cells respond poorly to insulin, glucose uptake is inefficient despite normal or high blood sugar. The pancreas compensates with higher insulin release, which can overshoot and cause a rapid relative glucose drop, leading to fatigue, brain fog, and post-meal sleepiness."

Strong sugar cravings

The physician highlights that insulin resistance is also associated with disrupted appetite regulation, which can trigger strong cravings for carbohydrates or sweets. He elaborates, "Chronic hyperinsulinemia alters appetite regulation and promotes carbohydrate cravings. Research links reduced insulin sensitivity with increased preference for sugary and high-carbohydrate foods."

Stubborn belly fat despite eating clean

Stubborn belly fat that refuses to budge despite healthy eating may be driven by visceral abdominal fat, which is strongly linked to insulin resistance. According to Dr Sood, "Visceral abdominal fat is strongly linked to insulin resistance, independent of overall body weight. This fat depot releases inflammatory signals and free fatty acids that directly impair insulin signaling."

Skin tags or darkened skin folds

Insulin resistance can also show up on the skin as dark, velvety patches, often appearing long before lab tests confirm the condition. The physician explains, "Skin tags and acanthosis nigricans are early cutaneous signs of insulin resistance. Chronically high insulin activates growth pathways in the skin, causing excess skin growth and darkened, velvety patches, often before labs turn abnormal."

KIIT University Men's Hockey Team Begins National Campaign with Winning Start



BHUBANESWAR, (Correspondent)The Men's Hockey Team of KIIT University made an impressive start at the National University Hockey (Men) Tournament 2025–26, currently being conducted at Sambalpur University from 22nd to 27th January 2026, under the aegis of the Association of Indian Universities, New Delhi.The KIIT University Men's Hockey Team from Odisha displayed excellent teamwork and discipline to secure a hard-fought 1–0 victory against Bengaluru City University in their opening league match. The closely contested encounter witnessed high-quality hockey, with KIIT players maintaining strong defensive structure and capitalising on a crucial scoring opportunity to seal the win.In another match the host Sambalpur University also from Odisha registered a dominant performance, defeating Manonmaniam Sundaranar University by an emphatic 5–1 margin, further strengthening Odisha's presence in the national tournament.Congratulating the KIIT University Men's Hockey Team on their winning start, Prof. (Dr.) Achyuta Samanta, Founder of KIIT, KISS and KIMS, applauded the players for their dedication, discipline and competitive spirit on the national stage. He wished the team continued success in the remaining matches of the tournament. He also extended his warm congratulations to Sambalpur University for their emphatic victory and for hosting the national tournament with excellence.The players of the KIIT University Men's Hockey Team expressed their heartfelt gratitude to Prof. Samanta for his constant encouragement, continuous support and the world-class sports infrastructure and facilities provided by KIIT University, which have played a pivotal role in their preparation and performance.With this confident start, the KIIT University Men's Hockey Team looks forward to carrying forward the momentum and making Odisha proud at the National University Hockey Tournament 2025–26.

MARRIOTT BONVOY BRINGS MEMBERS CLOSER TO CRICKET WITH EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCES



NEWDELHI: Marriott Bonvoy, Marriott International's award-winning travel platform, is bringing members closer to the game of cricket starting this February, giving them access to exclusive experiences for the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026. As part of Marriott Bonvoy's global partnership with the International Cricket Council (ICC), members can access over500 bespoke Marriott Bonvoy Moments specially created for the event held in India and Sri Lanka. Two lucky members will win the ultimate experience with the Marriott Bonvoy Golden Ticket - a trip for two to catch all the action of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 Finals in style. One Golden Ticket will go to the highest bidder with Marriott Bonvoy points, and another will go to the winner of a global Marriott Bonvoy sweepstake. Non-members can simply sign up to become a member for free to stand a chance to win the Marriott Bonvoy Golden Ticket here.Members can also choose to use their Marriott Bonvoy points to bid or redeem for more than 500Marriott Bonvoy Moments including Matchday Marriott Bonvoy Hospitality Experiences, pre-match Beyond the Boundary experiences or Marriott Bonvoy Anthem Kids Experienceswhere they can create core memories with their child, walking out to the field with match players during the national anthem segment.

Heartbreak For JSW Soorma As 6-1 Win Over SG Pipers Falls Short In Hero Hockey India League



Bhubaneswar,(Correspondent): Hockey fans witnessed a rollercoaster of emotions in Bhubaneswar today as JSW Soorma Hockey Club delivered a stunning performance but still found themselves out of the title race. In the final group stage match of the Hero Hockey India League, Soorma thrashed SG Pipers with a massive 6-1 scoreline. However, due to goal difference calculations, they fell agonizingly short of the seven-goal victory margin needed to secure a spot in Qualifier 2.From the very first whistle, Soorma played with a clear mission: attack at all costs. They pushed the Pipers back into their own half immediately. Jeremy Hayward became the star of the show early on. He converted a penalty corner in the opening minutes with a powerful flick to the right corner. Before the Pipers could recover, Hayward struck again, beating goalkeeper Tomas Santiago to double the lead.The pressure was relentless. With five minutes left in the first quarter, Gurjant Singh set up Lucas Martinez, who calmly slotted the ball into an empty net. At 3-0 within 15 minutes, hopes of qualification were high.SG Pipers realized the danger and shifted to a defensive strategy in the second quarter to stop the flow of goals.

Sindhu, Lakshya Enter Indonesia Masters' Quarterfinals



Jakarta: Former world champion PV Sindhu and Paris Olympic semi-finalist Lakshya Sen reached the quarter-finals of the Indonesia Masters after securing easy wins in their respective second-round matches here on Thursday.While Sindhu clinched a 21-19, 21-18 win over Line Kjaerfeldt of Denmark in her pre-quarterfinal in 43 minutes, Lakshya secured a 21-10, 21-11 win over Hong Kong's Jason Gunawan in a match that lasted over half an hour.This was Sindhu's sixth win over Kjaerfeldt in seven meetings, with the only loss coming in last year's Sudirman Cup.Sindhu will next face tournament top seed and world No. 4 Chen Yu Fei of China. The duo have met 13 times so far, with the Chinese holding a slight edge at 7-6 in the overall record.On Wednesday, two-time Olympic medallist Sindhu, India's highest-ranked women's singles player at 13th, beat Japan's world No. 35 Manami Suizu 22-20, 21-18 in 53 minutes to reach the pre-quarterfinals.On the other hand, Lakshya, who registered a 21-13, 16-21, 21-14 win over world No. 23 Wang Tzu Wei of Chinese Taipei in his opening-round match on Wednesday, will next face Panitchaphon Teeraratsakul of Thailand, who upset 2024 Paris Olympics Lee Zii Jia 15-21, 21-17, 21-8 in the quarter-finals on Friday.Former world No. 1 Kidambi Srikanth, who reached the round of 16 with a 21-15, 21-23, 24-22 victory over Japan's Koki Watanabe, will be in action later in the day against Chou Tien Chen of Taipie. Anmol Kharb, meanwhile, takes on Nozomi Okuhara of Japan in the women's singles second round.World Championships bronze medallist HS Prannoy and rising star Tanvi Sharma crashed out of the BWF Super tournament after losing their first-round matches on Wednesday.Kiran George also lost his men's singles opener in straight games to Indonesia's Moh. Zaki Ubaidillah, 21-17, 21-14. India's mixed doubles pairs Dhruv Kapila/Tanisha Crasto and Rohan Kapoor/ Ruthvika Shivani Gadde also lost their opening-round matches.

Bihar Boys emerges champion of the Sub-Junior National Rugby 7's Championship



Bhubaneswar(Correspondent): Bihar were crowned champions of the Boys' Under-15 category at the 10th Sub-Junior National Rugby Sevens Championship after defeating Odisha in the final at the Kalinga Stadium on Wednesday. The reigning champions overcame hosts Odisha, winning 25-5. Last year's runners-up Rajasthan finished the tournament on the podium with a dominant 38-7 victory over Maharashtra, bringing the two-day championship to a competitive close.The decisive day began with the quarterfinals, where the top contenders stamped their authority. Rajasthan powered past Uttarakhand with a commanding 41-0 win, while hosts Odisha overcame Delhi 17-5 to keep their title hopes alive. Maharashtra edged West Bengal 17-5 in a controlled performance, and defending champions Bihar delivered a clinical display to defeat Uttar Pradesh 46-7.The semifinal encounters delivered contrasting narratives. Odisha produced one of the standout moments of the tournament, rallying from a 5-0 halftime deficit to defeat Rajasthan 12-5, sealing victory with a dramatic last-gasp score that sent the home crowd into celebration. In the other semifinal, Bihar showcased their composure and knockout pedigree, overcoming Maharashtra 15-7 to book their place in the final.Rajasthan bounced back emphatically in the third-place playoff, defeating Maharashtra 38-7. The runners-up from last year closed their campaign on a high note, combining speed and physicality to secure the bronze medal.The final saw Bihar and Odisha face off under lights at the Kalinga Stadium, with Bihar proving decisive in the title clash. The defending champions held their nerve and executed their game plan to emerge victorious by a scoreline of 38-7, clinching the Boys' U15 title once again and reaffirming their status as one of the most consistent age-group rugby programmes in the country.Maharashtra's Atharv Vilas Indulkar topped the scoring charts with 91 points, that featured 15 tries and 8 conversions while Rajasthan duo Priyanshu Mishra & Anuj Kumar finished second and third with 79 and 71 points respectively. The 10th Sub-Junior National Rugby Sevens Championship was successfully hosted by the Government of Odisha in association with Rugby India and the Odisha Rugby Football Association.

ICC Rejects Venue Shift Plea And Bangladesh Risks T20 World Cup 2026 Spot



NEWDELHI: Uncertainty looms over the upcoming T20 World Cup 2026 as the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has requested a critical 48-hour window from the International Cricket Council (ICC). The board needs this time to consult with its government regarding the national team's participation in matches scheduled to be held in India.This development comes after the ICC firmly rejected Bangladesh's request to shift their matches out of India. BCB officials had cited safety concerns and political tensions as the primary reasons for seeking a venue change to Sri Lanka or another neutral country. However, the global cricket body turned down the plea, leaving the BCB in a tough spot.Sources indicate that the ICC has issued a strict ultimatum. If Bangladesh does not confirm its travel plans within the stipulated time, they could be replaced by Scotland in the marquee tournament. The event is set to kick off on February 7, 2026."Our players want to play, and the government is keen too, but we are worried about safety in India," a BCB official stated. The board is now looking for a final directive from the Bangladesh government before responding to the ICC.Meanwhile, the situation has drawn a sharp reaction from neighboring Pakistan. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) expressed disappointment over the ICC's refusal to accommodate Bangladesh's concerns. Former Pakistani cricketer Kamran Akmal criticised the decision, suggesting that the global body often favors India due to revenue factors.Despite the dissatisfaction, sources confirm that Pakistan will not withdraw from the tournament. They are reportedly comfortable playing at their designated neutral venues and will continue to support Bangladesh morally without boycotting the event.As the clock ticks, all eyes are now on Dhaka for a final decision that could reshape the lineup of the T20 World Cup 2026.

Vedanta Aluminium Strengthens Quality Leadership with 18 BIS Certifications



Bhubaneswar, (Correspondent): Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest aluminium producer, announced that it has cumulatively secured a total of 18 BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards) certifications across its smelter operations at Jharsuguda, Odisha, home to the world's largest aluminium plant, and Korba, Chhattisgarh, where Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO), India's iconic aluminium producer, is located. These certifications, earned progressively over time reaffirm Vedanta Aluminium's position at the forefront of quality, reliability, and regulatory compliance in the industry.Vedanta Aluminium was the first in the Indian aluminium industry to secure certification for its large range of aluminium products as per available BIS quality standards. The most recent certification has been achieved by its unit BALCO and covers Aluminium Alloy Wire Rods under IS 9997:2023. This strengthens Vedanta Aluminium's ability to supply high-performance materials for India's power grids, automotive sectors, and advanced engineering applications.These Alloy Redraw Rods are engineered for demanding applications where strength, conductivity, and durability are critical. Certified under IS 9997:2023, they are purpose-built for overhead transmission lines, automotive wiring systems, and welding wires, supporting industries that power India's growth and modernization. Commenting on this achievement, Rajiv Kumar, CEO, Vedanta Aluminium, said, "Quality and innovation are the twin pillars of Vedanta Aluminium's growth strategy. Our goal is to achieve 90% share of value-added products in our portfolio, and we are investing significantly in capacity expansions and technology upgrades to make this a reality. These BIS certifications are a testament to our focus on delivering products that meet the highest standards of reliability and performance, supporting India's journey towards advanced infrastructure and sustainable manufacturing."Rajesh Kumar, CEO & Director, BALCO, said, "At BALCO, we remain committed to delivering high-quality products that not only drive the nation's progress but also build a stronger and sustainable future for all. This new BIS certification reflects our holistic approach to quality, where rigorous checks, disciplined processes and a culture of excellence, ensuring that every product we deliver contributes to building a stronger, sustainable future for India."

Experimental Stoppage of Visakha and Falaknuma Express at Khallikot Station



Bhubaneswar,(Correspondent):In a significant move aimed at enhancing passenger convenience and improving rail connectivity in the region, East Coast Railway has introduced an experimental stoppage of Train No. 17015/17016 Bhubaneswar New–Secunderabad–Bhubaneswar New Visakha Express and Train No. 12703/12704 Howrah–Secunderabad–Howrah Falaknuma Express at Khallikot railway station under Khurda Road Division of East Coast Railway.
Train No. 17015 Bhubaneswar New–Secunderabad Visakha Express will halt at Khallikot at 10:12 hrs and depart at 10:14 hrs, effective from 27th January 2026.Similarly, Train No. 17016 Secunderabad–Bhubaneswar New Visakha Express will halt at Khallikot at 12:45 hrs and depart at 12:47 hrs, effective from 26th January 2026.Train No. 12703 Howrah–Secunderabad Falaknuma Express will halt at Khallikot at 16:50 hrs and depart at 16:52 hrs, effective from 27th January 2026.Likewise, Train No. 12704 Secunderabad–Howrah Falaknuma Express will halt at Khallikot at 08:15 hrs and depart at 08:17 hrs, effective from 26th January 2026.

Palli Sabha Conducted for NTPC Darlipali Expansion Project



Darlipali, Sundargarh | Correspondent):A Palli Sabha was successfully conducted on 22nd January 2026 at Darlipali Gram Panchayat, Sundargarh district, Odisha, in connection with the Forest Diversion proposal for the NTPC Darlipali Expansion Project involving the setting up of an additional unit of 1×800 MW capacity.The meeting was held as part of the statutory requirements under the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006. The Palli Sabha was chaired by Sarpanch, Darlipali Gram Panchayat, and was attended by Block Development Officer, Lephripara, Tahasildar, Lephripara, Forester - Nuadihi, Darlipali Forest Right Committee members, NTPC officials and villagers of Darlipali.During the meeting, NTPC representatives provided detailed information about the proposed expansion project and the requirement for forest land diversion. The villagers participated actively in the proceedings and shared their views and suggestions, including requests for additional developmental initiatives under NTPC's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programmes.NTPC officials apprised the gathering of the various developmental and welfare activities already undertaken by the company in Darlipali and surrounding villages. They reiterated NTPC's commitment to inclusive growth and assured the community that such initiatives would continue in the future, in line with the company's philosophy of sustainable development.The Palli Sabha was conducted in a transparent and orderly manner, adhering to all applicable statutory guidelines.

JSW Sambalpur Hosts Workshop on Water Sustainability with UNGCNI



Sambalpur, Correspondent):JSW BPSL Sambalpur, in association with the United Nations Global Compact Network India (UNGCNI), organised a one-day corporate training programme on "Achieving Sustainability through Water Conservation" at its Sambalpur Works under the SPEED initiative.Held under the guidance of Shri Anil Kumar Singh, President & Whole Time Director, JSW BPSL, and the leadership of Shri Umesh Rai, Chief Operating Officer, and Shri Prakash Sapa, Senior Vice President (Operations), the programme reaffirmed JSW's commitment to water stewardship and climate resilience.Dr. Satya Narayan Nanda, Regional Officer, Odisha State Pollution Control Board, Sambalpur, attended as Chief Guest and administered a collective Oath for Water Stewardship. Shri Prabodh Acharya, Chief Sustainability Officer, JSW Group, highlighted the importance of water security and ESG integration in JSW's Net Zero roadmap.The technical sessions were conducted by Mr. Ratnesh Jha, Executive Director, UNGCNI; Mr. Nitin Bassi, Fellow, Council on Energy, Environment and Water; Mr. Sai Bhaskar Veluri, Executive Director, B.S. Envi-Tech Pvt. Ltd.; and Mr. Shyamalendu Mahapatra, Lead - Biodiversity Management, Aditya Aluminium. The speakers deliberated on decarbonisation pathways, water stewardship in stressed river basins, biodiversity conservation and nature-based solutions.Senior leadership from JSW Sambalpur, including Shri Manoj Kumar Patwari, Vice President & Zonal Head (Power, Utilities, Energy & Environment, Mining Business) and Shri B. D. Pawar, Vice President & Head (CRM), participated in the inaugural session.Over 65 participants from JSW Steel units at Salem, Raigarh and Dolvi, the JSW Corporate Sustainability team and organisations such as NTPC GE Power Services, Geo Climate Risk Solutions Pvt. Ltd., and the Odisha State Pollution Control Board. took part in the program, which concluded with an interactive group exercise on integrated water and biodiversity action planning.

Tata Power-Led Odisha Discoms Launch Second Edition

Bhubaneswar,Correspondent) : Building on the encouraging success of last year's women career comeback programme, Tata Power-led Odisha Discoms, today announced the launch of " (Nua Aarambha - A New Beginning), a dedicated initiative designed to help women professionals on a career break restart their professional journey.The initiative reaffirms Tata Power's long-standing commitment to diversity, inclusion and gender equity, while creating meaningful, future-ready career opportunities for women across the power distribution ecosystem in Odisha." invites applications from eligible women candidates for roles across all four Tata Power-led Odisha DISCOMs-TPCODL, TPNODL, TPSODL and TPWODL-which together manage electricity distribution across the state under a joint venture between Tata Power and the Government of Odisha. The programme aims to enable women to return to the workforce with confidence and renewed purpose.In its previous edition, the initiative received an overwhelming response, with 8 women professionals successfully onboarded across functions in the Odisha DISCOMs. Encouraged by this outcome, the 2026 cohort will be selected through a structured and transparent screening process aligned with the recruitment policy, based on eligibility, relevant experience, and suitability for the identified roles. Selected candidates will be offered opportunities across diverse functions, including Operations & Maintenance, Commercial and Customer Services, Information Technology, etc.Eligible candidates can apply online through the official link: [https://forms.gle/a7Y6uj16HyZ gR48n9], and shortlisted applicants will be taken forward through the next stages of evaluation as per the defined process.Sharing her experience from the first edition, Subhadini Oram, who was selected last year and is currently working with the CCG and Engineering department at TPCODL, said, "" gave me an opportunity not just to return, but to grow. From the very beginning, the process was structured and encouraging. Working in the CCG and Engineering department has helped me sharpen my skills and re-build my professional identity with renewed energy."

RESEARCHERS FROM SOUTH EAST ASIAN COUNTRIES ATTEND SEMINAR ON LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN TRANSDERMAL CARE AT SOA



Bhubaneswar, Correspondent) : Researchers, clinicians and industry experts from several South East Asian countries came together to discuss cutting-edge developments in smart biomaterials, nanotechnology and digital sensing for transdermal therapeutics and advanced wound management at a day-long seminar held at the SOA Deemed to be University here on Wednesday.The Indo-ASEAN International Seminar (IAIS-2026), which focused on the theme 'Engineering the Next Generation of Transdermal Care', was organised by the School of Pharmaceutical Sciences (SPS), SOA's faculty of pharmaceutical sciences. The discussion centered on smart transdermal systems which have marked a major advancement in modern healthcare. "Today, we are moving beyond traditional wound dressing and simple drug delivery methods toward intelligent, responsive and multifunctional biomaterials," Prof. A. Bose, Convenor of the event, said. These advanced systems support faster wound healing, better infection control, reduced inflammation and improved pain management by combining treatment with real-time sensing and diagnosis, he said.
Prof. Bose said this integration had given rise to a new class of theranostic transdermal systems. "A key focus of this seminar is the development of intelligent biomaterials designed to respond to changes in the body and deliver drugs in a controlled and timely manner improving treatment accuracy, safety and patient comfort," he said.Researchers and technocrats from several ASEAN countries including Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore and Brunei attended the seminar which was presided over by SOA Vice-Chancellor Prof. Pradipta Kumar Nanda.Prof. Santanu Dhara, Professor, School of Medical Science and Technology, IIT Kharagpur, and Dr. Orawan Suwantong, Associate Professor, Mae Fah Luang University, Chiang Rai, Thailand addressed two scientific sessions.

Sensex, Nifty Snap Three-Day Losing Streak

Mumbai: Indian stock markets ended higher on Thursday, snapping a three-day losing streak, as positive global cues and easing geopolitical tensions boosted investor confidence. Market sentiment improved after US President Donald Trump said he would not impose tariffs on European Union nations on February 1.He mentioned that a 'framework for a future deal' had been reached with NATO on Greenland.His remarks about a 'great' trade deal between the US and India further encouraged buying across the markets.At the close of trade, the Sensex rose 397.74 points, or 0.49 per cent, to settle at 82,307.37.The Nifty also ended higher, gaining 132.4 points, or 0.53 per cent, to close at 25,289.9."As long as the index holds above 25,120, the broader setup remains stable with scope for a gradual push toward 25,400–25,500," an expert said.

Published by Banabihari Sarangi On behalf of Around Odisha Publications Pvt. Ltd., Plot No. 499/4262, Saktinagar, Sisupalgarh , Bhubaneswar-751002, Dist Khordha(Odisha), Printed At Mahesh Printing Press, 30,Industrial Colony, Kharavela Nagar, Bhubaneswar- 751001, Khordha Phone: 9439094123, Email:aroundodisha@gmail.com, E-paper: www.aroundodisha.com.
Editor: Bansidhar Das