

# Jagannath temple treasure chamber safe, repairs almost over: Puri king

**Puri(KCN):** The ‘Ratna Bhandar’ (treasure chest) of Lord Jagannath Temple is safe, and the repair work of the chamber is almost complete, Puri’s titular king, Gajapati Maharaja Dibyasingha Deb, said Thursday.

The Gajapati Maharaja inspected the Ratna Bhandar repair work being carried out by the Archaeological Survey of India, the custodian of the 12th-century shrine, for 11 months.

Besides him, Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) Chief Administrator Arabinda Padhee and



technical team members of the ASI entered the Ratna Bhandar and supervised both the outer and inner chambers of the treasury, which were in a dilapidated state.

Deb said the structural revamp and aesthetics of the Ratna Bhandar reflect Odisha’s timeless temple architecture. Around 600 stone slabs

were replaced with new ones, replicating traditional design while reinforcing safety, the titular king told reporters outside the 65-metre tall imposing temple.

“Whatever little work is left is expected to be completed by Niladri Bije (return of the deities to the temple after Rath yatra) July 8,” he said.

Deb said that after completion of the repair work, the SJTA, with permission of the state government, would undertake an inventory of valuables.

The Ratna Bhandar was reopened Sunday after 46 years for an inventory of valuables and the repair of its structure, officials said.

The ASI began working inside the Ratna Bhandar in July 2024, when it was reopened after 46 years to prepare an inventory of valuables and repair its structure.

Sources said that a total of 14 beams have been repaired. More than 80

skilled craftsmen are engaged in the repair work of the Ratna Bhandar.

Padhee said that interior repairs are nearly complete, with final touches to the outer treasury expected within the next two days.

The outer and inner parts of Ratna Bhandar are being preserved by applying chemical coatings, he said while replying to a question.

He said there have been additions like new stainless-steel and Burma Teak wood security gates. The gate will have silver cladding later on, he said.

# Dy CM Pravati Parida Visits Flood-Affected Baliapal, Assures Action

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Odisha’s Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida on Thursday visited the flood-affected areas of Baliapal in Balasore district and assured the people that the government will take necessary steps to address their concerns.

She travelled by powerboat from Bhograi to Baliapal and reached Chaudhuri Kud village under Madhupura Panchayat, where she visited the Chaudhuri Kud Primary School, currently functioning as a flood relief shelter.

During her visit, local residents spoke to the Deputy Chief Minister about their problems. They demanded the construction of a flyover bridge on the Chaudhuri Kud–Panchurukhi road, compensation for farmers who lost their crops, and the repair of



damaged roads and embankments. Parida assured them that these issues would be taken seriously and that the government would look into them once the flood situation improves. Speaking to reporters, Parida said that floodwaters have entered the area twice in the last ten days, and people have reported heavy losses in vegetable cultivation.

# School education: Odisha secures 5th rank, Patnaik hails 5T initiative

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Odisha has achieved a tangible change in the school education system and ranked 5th in the country as per the Performance Grading Index (PGI-2.) between 2019-20 and 2023-2024 when BJD president Naveen Patnaik was the chief minister, officials said Thursday.

The state was ranked 14th in 2019-2020.

The PGI 2.0 evaluates school education through 73 indicators across two categories: Outcomes and Governance & Management.

BJD president Naveen Patnaik posted on X: “Glad to share that #Odisha has earned 5th rank nationally in School Grading System, as per Performance Grading Index (PGI-2.0) Report released by Government of India. Odisha has achieved a score of 595.6 and secured PRACHESTA-3 grade for the academic year 2023-24, up from 14th in 2019. The PGI 2.0 evaluates school



education through 73 indicators across two categories: Outcomes and Governance & Management.”

Patnaik was the chief minister of Odisha between 2000 and 2024. He is now the Leader of Opposition in the Odisha Assembly after the BJD lost the Assembly elections to the BJP in 2024.

“Under our #5T initiative, we transformed about 7,000 schools to unleash new aspirations and open new horizons for school students. We always believed that #NewOdisha would be built by empowering every child with the

power of education. Glad that the robust foundation for government school education is helping students excel. Thank all the teachers, parents, administrators and support staff for the huge transformation,” Patnaik said.

The report released by the Ministry of Education shows that Odisha also topped the “access” domain, achieving the highest grade, with a score range of 941-1000. The PGI evaluates school education across two categories: Outcomes and Governance and Management, using 73 indicators.

# Intense talks continue to reach interim India-US trade deal ahead of deadline

**New Delhi/ Washington(KCN):** As the US reciprocal tariffs deadline looms, hectic parleys are currently underway in Washington, DC, between officials of India and the US on finalising the proposed interim trade deal in the next couple of days.

While New Delhi is seeking greater market access for its labour-intensive goods such as garments, footwear, and leather — which are major job creators — Washington wants duty concessions for its agricultural and daily products, according to officials.

The Indian trade negotiators have extended their stay in US, signalling a last-minute push to iron out key differences. They have maintained that broader tariff cuts, especially on high-employment goods, are needed to reach the goal of doubling bilateral trade to \$500 billion by 2030.

The focus of the India-



US interim trade deal has narrowed down to reciprocal tariff reductions or removals. India’s negotiating team, led by Special Secretary Rajesh Agarwal, is engaged in high-level talks in Washington to conclude the bilateral trade agreement.

Indian and US negotiators are aiming to finalise an interim trade deal ahead of the July 9 deadline that has been fixed by US President Donald Trump for the 90-

day pause on new tariffs that were to be levied on Indian products. Negotiations are expected to continue after that for a bigger trade deal to be signed in September-October.

However, as a quid pro quo, India is likely to press for improved access to the US market for seafood products like shrimp and fish, as well as spices, coffee, and rubber- segments where Indian exporters are globally competitive but

face tariff competition in the American market, according to earlier reports. India has already started buying more oil and gas from the US to reduce the trade surplus and has offered to increase these purchases. India has proposed significant tariff reductions, potentially lowering average duties from 13 per cent to 4 per cent, in exchange for exemptions from US tariff hikes imposed during the Trump administration.

# Odisha Vigilance raids six locations linked to engineer’s properties

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** The Odisha Vigilance Department Thursday launched simultaneous raids on the properties and office of a government engineer at six locations in three districts in connection with its probe into a disproportionate assets case, an official said.

The Vigilance sleuths launched the search operations on the properties of the assistant executive engineer (AAE), Roads and Buildings (R&B), Titlagarh, following allegations that he amassed wealth disproportionate to his



# ECRICC Odisha Wins First Prize In Govt Sector At Seafood Expo Bharat 2025

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** The Enhancing Climate Resilience of India’s Coastal Communities (ECRICC) Project in Odisha has been awarded the First Prize in the Government Sector at the prestigious Seafood Expo Bharat 2025 (SEB-25), held from 1st to 3rd July 2025 at the Chennai Trade Centre, Chennai.

This recognition highlights ECRICC Odisha’s outstanding efforts in promoting climate-resilient aquaculture and inclusive community-based development.

“It was an excellent opportunity for our last-mile cadre to represent the state on a national platform”—one of the



women climate champions confidently shared her journey on stage, inspiring many. Organized by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, SEB-25 is one of the country’s largest platforms for

stakeholders across the fisheries and aquaculture value chain. The ECRICC Project is implemented nationally by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), with support from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the United Nations Development

Programme (UNDP), and in Odisha by the Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department, Government of Odisha. The project promotes ecosystem-based adaptation and climate-resilient livelihoods in coastal communities. Odisha, as one of the key implementing states, is

pioneering scientific mud crab farming, ornamental fisheries, and sustainable aquaculture practices, strengthened by empowered local institutions and climate champions. This initiative supports the Government of Odisha’s commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and contributes toward building a Vikshit Odisha by 2036, aligning with the Honourable Prime Minister’s vision of a Vikshit Bharat by 2047. ECRICC Odisha showcased its achievements through a dedicated stall and actively participated in technical sessions covering seafood trade, shrimp aquaculture, value addition, and more.

# Heavy Rain Expected In Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Kendrapara In Next 24 Hrs



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast isolated heavy rain in several districts of Odisha, including Khurda (covering Bhubaneswar city), Cuttack, and Kendrapara, over the next 24 hours. Residents are advised to stay alert and prepare for potential disruptions. The IMD’s warnings are based on a weather pattern that is likely to bring heavy rain to multiple districts in Odisha. Bhubaneswar and Cuttack, twin cities, experienced heavy rain on Wednesday evening. Many low-lying areas were inundated due to incessant downpours. The temperature in Bhubaneswar is around 26 degrees Celsius with 93% humidity and an 80% chance of precipitation. Wind speeds are expected to be around 30-40 kmph. The IMD has issued a warning for these districts, indicating a high likelihood of severe weather conditions.

known sources of income.

The raids are being conducted by five deputy superintendents of police, eight inspectors, two ASIs, and other supporting staff on the strength of search warrants issued by, Special Judge, Vigilance, Bolangir, at six places in Sambalpur, Jharsuguda, and Bolangir districts, a Vigilance officer said.

During the raids conducted till 12.30 pm, the Anti-corruption Department detected four buildings, a market complex, nine high-value plots, Rs 6.57 lakh in cash, 300 grams of gold, bank deposits worth Rs 20 lakh, a car and two motorcycles in his possession, he informed. The officer said that the raids are continuing, and it was expected that more properties would be detected.



# Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan to Visit Central University of Odisha on July 5

**Koraput, (KCN):** The Central University of Odisha (CUO), Koraput, is set to host a momentous event on Saturday, 05 July 2025, with the visit of the Hon'ble Union Minister of Education, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan. During the visit, Shri Pradhan will lay the foundation stone for a major infrastructure development project and inaugurate several newly constructed facilities including the Academic Building, Health Centre, Vice-Chancellor's

residence, Officers' Quarters, and Staff Quarters. Marking a significant milestone in the academic collaboration landscape of Odisha, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will also be signed among six prominent centrally funded Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the state—Central University of Odisha, IIT Bhubaneswar, IIM Sambalpur, NIT Rourkela, IISER Berhampur, and National Sanskrit University, Puri. This

initiative is aligned with the goals of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, aiming to foster multidisciplinary education, research collaboration, and inclusive development across the region. The MoU outlines objectives such as: Promoting multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research and learning. Facilitating resource sharing, credit transfer, faculty and student exchange, and joint initiatives.

Empowering tribal and local communities through innovation, sustainability, and inclusive growth. Enhancing digital education, entrepreneurship, and Indian knowledge systems. Building institutional capacities and raising the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER). A host of dignitaries from both the central and state governments are expected to attend the programme, including: Shri Nityananda Gond, Cabinet Minister (SSEPD,



ST & SC Development, Minorities & Backward Classes Welfare, School & Mass Education, Odisha) Shri Gokulananda Mallik, Minister of State (Ind. Charge), Fisheries & Animal Resources Dev., MSME, Odisha Shri Suryabanshi Suraj, Minister of State (Ind. Charge), Odia Language, Higher Education, Sports, Odisha Shri Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka, Hon'ble MP, Koraput Shri Balabhadra Majhi, Hon'ble MP, Nawarangpur Hon'ble MLAs from across undivided Koraput District, including Shri Rama Chandra Kadam, Shri Raghuram Machha, Shri Tara Prasad Bahinipati, Shri Pabitra Sounta, Shri Rupa Bhatra, Shri Gouri Shankar Majhi, Shri Manohar Randhari, Shri Narasing

Bhatra, Shri Narasinga Madkani, Shri Kadraka Appalaswamy, Shri Satyajeet Gomango, Shri Nilamadhab Hikaka, and Shri Mangu Khilla Sh. Vineet Joshi, IAS, Secretary, Ministry of Education and Chairman, UGC Sh. S.K. Barnwal, IAS, Additional Secretary, MoE, Govt. of India This visit is expected to significantly boost the visibility and academic engagement of the Central University of Odisha and further strengthen the educational ecosystem of the region.

## Annual Festival by 'Samayara Chakra' Held in Balasore: Poetry Recital Celebrates Voices of 80+ Poets

**Balasore, 3/07 (Krushna Kumar Mohanty):** Despite inclement weather, the 14th Annual Festival of Samayara Chakra, a monthly socio-literary magazine published from Balasore, was held successfully at the Gandhi Smruti Bhavan premises. The celebration featured a vibrant poetry recital and a felicitation ceremony recognising local talents. Speakers emphasized that Samayara Chakra has evolved beyond the boundaries of a publication, emerging as a platform that actively contributes to social awareness, cultural engagement, and regional development. The event, convened by editor Sarbeshwar Jena and presided over by poet and social activist Abhaya Das, was inaugurated by Aparahna editor Bansidhar Jena. Key guests included Balasore Sadar MLA Manas Kumar Dutta as Chief Guest, Basta MLA Smt. Subasini Jena as Chief Speaker, youth leader Bikram Panda, environmentalist Sumanta Kumar Jena, academician Sumanta Kumar Sahu, senior journalist Shashiranjan Mallik, youth leader



Bikash Kumar Padhi, Nutana Barta editor Vibhupada Das, and Yatra Singhavahini founder Sanjeeb Padhi, who all addressed the gathering. Editor Satyabhama Jena delivered the editorial note and introduced the guests. On this occasion, several individuals were felicitated for their notable contributions, and the Samayara Chakra annual special edition was unveiled. Suhranglina Nayak presented a devotional song titled "Ratha Chale Ghai Ghai", recently released on Siddharth TV. Poet Nityananda Panigrahi's poetry collection Prathama Pakhuda Golapi Golapara was also launched. In the first session of poetry recital and discussion, chaired by poet Brajendranath Giri

and moderated by fiction writer Shantanu Pattnaik, speakers included academician and social activist Purnachandra Bugudei, main speaker Dr. Ratnakar Singh, senior poets Kalikingkar Das and Dr. Kumar Babuli, poets Anjali Panda and Hadibandhu Patra, Acharya Bijaya Ji, Dr. Sharatchandra Mishra, and Amar Kumar Pal. All praised the growing literary relevance of Samayara Chakra and wished for its wider outreach in the future. Over 40 poets recited their self-composed poems. The session was coordinated by poet Prabhat Kumar Acharya. The concluding celebrations and cultural events were conducted under the direction of Prachi Creations' Manoj Kumar Nayak. In the second session, presided over by Editor

Sarbeshwar Jena, the Chief Guest was Remuna Block Chairman Rajendra Kumar Raut, Chief Speaker social worker Shradhanjali Ray, and notable guests included social worker Samonath Bishwal, Utpal Kumar Kar, Mita Pattnaik, Ritika Ji, Yashoda Nandan Ash, Kalyani Nanda, Sushanta Kumar Behera, Amaresh Patra, and Ratikanta Das. All commended and awarded young children for their talent and spirit. The programme saw active participation and support from Susangama Jena, Santosh Pattnaik, Priyanshu Behera, and poet Ramesh Behera. Child artist Suhani Sai Jena performed a welcome song, while the event concluded with a melodious musical performance by singer Kalyani Mandal, enchanting the audience. More than 500 readers, well-wishers, and talented individuals attended the event, making it a grand success.

## Fakir Mohan University Secures Third Place in National Hackathon on Biodiversity and Climate Change

**Balasore, 3/7 (Krushna Kumar Mohanty)** — A research team from the Indian Horseshoe Crab Research and Conservation Centre at Fakir Mohan University has proudly secured third place in the final round of a national-level hackathon focused on biodiversity conservation and climate change. The grand finale of the event was held on June 30, 2025, at the Biswa Bangla Convention Centre in Kolkata, as part of the 110th Foundation Day celebrations of the Zoological Survey of India. The Honourable Union Minister for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Mr. Bhupender Yadav, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and felicitated the winners. The participating team of



students from Fakir Mohan University, led by Mr. Soumyaranjan Dash, presented a research-based model titled "Captive Breeding of Indian Horseshoe Crabs in Coastal Odisha." Their project highlighted scientific observation, community involvement, and education-driven conservation efforts. This remarkable achievement was made

possible through the guidance and support of Professor Santosh Kumar Tripathy, Vice Chancellor of Fakir Mohan University; Professor Bhaskar Behera, Chairperson of the Postgraduate Council; Professor Bishnu Prasad Das, Director of the Indian Horseshoe Crab Research and Conservation Centre; Dr.

Bharat Bhushan Pattnayak, Deputy Director; and Dr. Niladri Bhushan Kar, Assistant Professor in the Department of Biosciences. The university expressed pride in this rare accomplishment, calling it a matter of honour for Odisha's research and conservation community, and a powerful example of collective conservation efforts for the endangered Horseshoe Crab.

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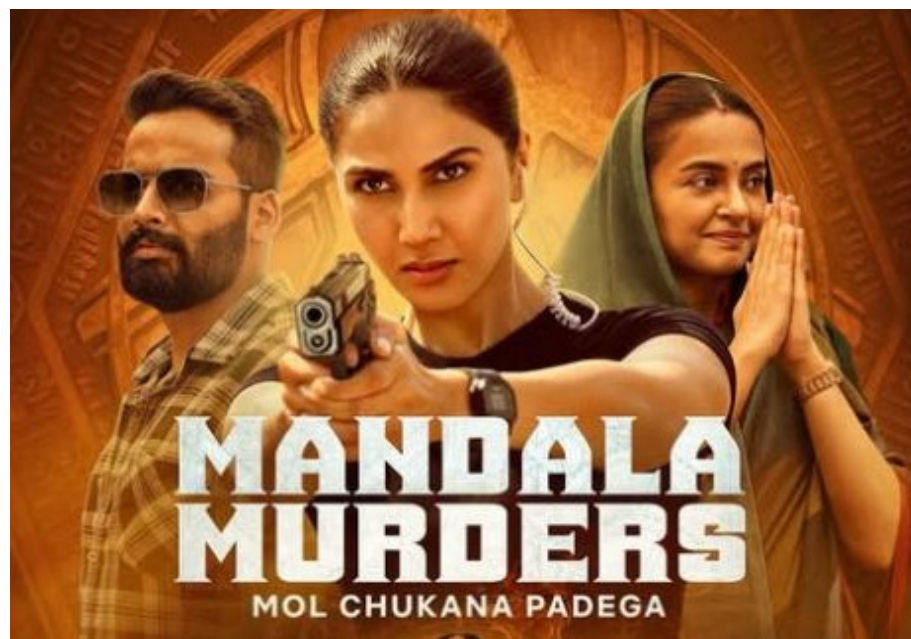
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# Vaani Kapoor's debut series 'Mandala Murders' locks July 25 release on Netflix

Streaming platform Netflix and production banner Yash Raj Films (YRF) Monday announced that their upcoming series 'Mandala Murders', headlined by Vaani Kapoor, will premiere July 25. The show is the second series from Netflix and YRF's creative partnership, following the success of 'The Railway Men' in 2023. 'Mandala Murders', which marks Kapoor's series debut, is a mythological-crime thriller series that delves into ancient secrets, eerie symbols, and a trail

of ritualistic killings. It is created and directed by Gopi Puthran, known for his work on the Mardaani franchise. Manan Rawat serves as the co-director. "In the eerie stillness of a town called Charandaspur, an unheard, sinister pattern of crime emerges. A series of ritualistic killings linked to a centuries-old secret society sets the stage for a conspiracy driven by fate," the makers said in a press statement. The story follows detectives Rea Thomas



(Kapoor) and Vikram Singh (played by 'Gullak' actor Vaibhav Raj Gupta), as they are drawn into a web of secrets "as intricate as

a mandala," uncovering layers of buried prophecies and

dangerous beliefs. "As they decode mysterious symbols and hidden motives, they confront a secret society that has dangerously blurred the line between faith and madness," read the official synopsis. The cast also includes Surveen Chawla and Shriya Pilgaokar in pivotal roles. 'Mandala Murders' is produced by YRF Entertainment, with Aditya Chopra, Uday Chopra, Yogendra Mogre and Akshaye Widhani serving as executive producers.

## Aamir Khan defends romancing Fatima Sana Shaikh in Thugs after playing her father

Actor Aamir Khan shared that he had no issues playing the role of a lover in 'Thugs Of Hindostan' opposite his co-star Fatima Sana

'Dangal'. How can she play your girlfriend here? Audience will reject this." To this, the actor responded, "I don't believe in all of this. Main asal

The actor also shared that Fatima was signed for the film after all the top female actors refused. "When we were casting for it, no other female

understand it and, at first, they thought I was joking. I told them this wouldn't work for a day," he said. The actor added that he



Shaikh. The actor was speaking in an interview when he said Vijay Krishna Acharya (the director) offered to remove the romantic angle between them since Shaikh had played his daughter in 'Dangal'. However, the 60-year-old said he didn't mind playing Shaikh's lover because he only played her father in a film, not in real-life. In a conversation with Lallantop, Khan revealed that the director had said, "We won't have a romantic track between you and her because she was your daughter in

mein thode uska baap hun, aur na asal mein main uska boyfriend hun. Hum log film bana rahe hain bhai (I am not her father in real life, and neither am I her boyfriend in real life. We are making a movie)." The 'Thugs of Hindostan' actor further gave the example of veteran actors Amitabh Bachchan and Waheeda Rehman, who have played mother-son and lovers in films. He also said, "The audience is not this stupid that they will think that he is the actual father. We are underestimating our audience if we say that."

actor said yes to this part. Deepika, Alia, Shraddha - they all refused. That film was offered to the entire industry but no one wanted to do it," he said, further admitting that a weak script could have been the reason for their refusal. Khan also said the original script never got made as the film kept changing. He recalled being shocked after getting a call from film producer Aditya Chopra, stating that it was a brilliant film. "I told them I didn't

would fight with them every day that they have made the film all wrong, feeling them that it was structurally incorrect. 'Thugs of Hindostan' opened with a thunderous response at the box office on the first day of its release. However, it struggled to find audiences after receiving poor reviews. Aamir Khan was recently seen in the film 'Sitaare Zameen Par' alongside actor Genelia Deshmukh. The film has crossed Rs 100 crore mark at the box office.

## Akshay Kumar's 'Housefull 5' earns over Rs 300 crore at box office



Housefull 5, starring Akshay Kumar, Nana Patekar and Jacqueline Fernandez among others, has crossed Rs 300 crore at its worldwide box office. Produced under Sajid Nadiadwala's production banner, Nadiadwala Grandson Entertainment, the film has been directed by Tarun Mansukhani of Dostana fame. It released in theatres worldwide June 6 in two parts Housefull 5A and Housefull 5B. While both versions have the same beginnings, the last 20 minutes of the climax differ. The total domestic box office collection of the film has crossed Rs 200 crore, with the worldwide gross box office collection reaching over Rs 300 crore, according to a press note. Housefull 5 is the fifth installment of the Housefull franchise, which began in 2010. Following, the films released in 2012, 2016, and 2019, respectively. The film also stars Nargis Fakhri, Soundarya Sharma, Jackie Shroff, Riteish Deshmukh, Fardeen Khan, Sanjay Dutt and Punjabi actor Sonam Bajwa, who made her Hindi film debut with it.

# Wamiqa Gabbi says she picks films that excite her, add value

Actress Wamiqa Gabbi has said she chooses projects that feel meaningful both creatively and professionally. If a role excites her and adds value to her work, that's what drives her to say yes. When asked how she chooses films—whether based on the value they add to her life or the value she brings to them—Wamiqa told IANS: "I think it's both. If you feel that you're contributing something, that your character is adding something to the story, then of course it feels interesting." She added: "And if the project also adds value to your work — because you want to do good work — then it's the same thing, I'm just saying it in a different way. It all

comes down to the same thing. When you feel like doing it will be exciting or fulfilling, that's when you say yes." The actress' latest release is Bhool Chuk Maaf with Rajkumar Rao. The film was released May 23, which was earlier scheduled to release digitally May 16. Talking about Bhool Chuk Maaf, directed by Karan Sharma, the film revolves around Ranjan, a small-town romantic boy from Banaras, who lands a government job to marry Titi but forgets his vow to Lord Shiva—only to be trapped until he fulfills his promise. A hilarious tale of love, fate, and redemption unfolds. She will next be seen alongside actor Akshay Kumar in Bhoot Bangla. May 19, after the wrap up of the film, the actress



called being part of the film, directed by Priyadarshan, "a childhood dream." "From hysterically enjoying all "Akshay

Kumar Priyadarshan' movies all my life to now being part of their world. This had been a childhood dream. Thank you to the coolest @ektarkapoor

ma'am, the most amazing @akshaykumar sir & the sweetest @priyadarshan.official sir." She described the experience as fun and

fantastic. "It was a FUNtastic experience Cannot wait for you to experience #Bhoot Bangla Aaaaand my second film with my most favourite @tabutiful ji," Added Wamiqa. Co-produced by Faara Sheikh and Vedant Baali, the story for "Bhoot Bangla" has been penned by Akash A Kaushik with a screenplay by Rohan Shankar, Abilash Nair, and Priyadarshan. The dialogues for the much-awaited drama have been provided by Rohan Shankar. Along with Akshay and Wamiqa, the project also has Tabu, Paresh Rawal, Sharman Joshi, Mithila Palkar, and Jaaved Jaaferi in prominent roles, along with others. "Bhoot Bangla" is slated to reach the cinema halls April 2, 2026.



# Defeating Epilepsy: A Holistic Approach

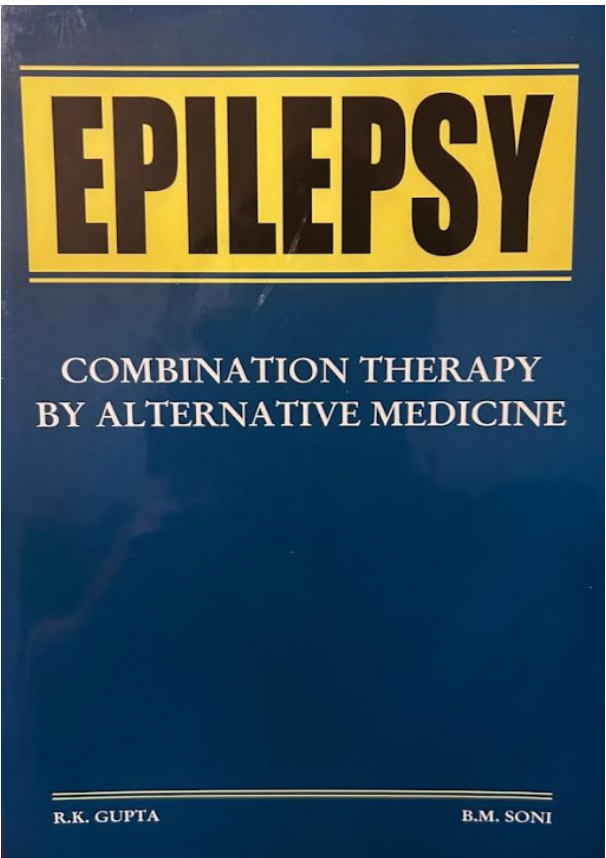
Vivek Shukla



South African cricket icon Jonty Rhodes, despite being diagnosed with epilepsy, is remembered as one of the finest fielders in the sport. His story proves that epilepsy does not have to limit one's potential. Epilepsy is a neurological disorder characterized by abnormal electrical activity in brain cells, leading to seizures. These seizures can manifest as temporary confusion, uncontrolled muscle movements, loss of consciousness, or unusual behavior. Seizures are classified into two types: generalized (affecting both sides of the brain) and focal (affecting a specific brain region). Research at institutions like AIIMS in Delhi is advancing treatment options for this condition.

According to the World Health Organization, approximately 50 million people worldwide live with epilepsy. Modern medicine (allopathy) uses medications to control seizures in 70-80% of cases, but side effects and drug-resistant epilepsy (where medications fail) have driven interest in alternative therapies like Ayurveda. Dr. R.K. Gupta's recent book, **Epilepsy - Combination Therapy by Alternative Medicine**, introduces a novel approach combining Ayurveda, naturopathy, and counseling. This method not only controls symptoms but also enhances overall health, offering hope to those seeking alternatives to allopathic treatments or struggling with drug-resistant epilepsy. However, more scientific research is needed to validate Ayurveda's efficacy globally. In Ayurveda, epilepsy is termed Apasmara,

meaning a sudden loss of consciousness or memory. Ancient texts like the Charaka Samhita and Sushruta Samhita attribute it to an imbalance of Vata, Pitta, and Kapha doshas, with Vata playing a dominant role. **Ayurveda identifies four types of epilepsy: Vataja Apasmara:** Frequent seizures, rapid breathing, frothing at the mouth, and erratic movements. **Pittaja Apasmara:** Thirst, frequent seizures, and prolonged recovery. **Kaphaja Apasmara:** Longer intervals between seizures, excessive salivation, and slow recovery. **Sannipataja Apasmara:** A complex mix of all three doshas, the most challenging to treat. Ayurveda attributes epilepsy to poor diet, stress, anger, anxiety, and unhealthy lifestyles, which disrupt dosha balance, affecting the brain and nervous system. Treatment focuses on restoring balance, clearing mental and emotional pathways, and strengthening the nervous



system. Experts recommend a light, easily digestible diet of whole grains, fresh fruits, and vegetables while avoiding coffee, alcohol, and spicy foods. Regular sleep, stress-reducing practices like meditation, and light exercise are crucial. Practices such as Hatha Yoga, Surya Namaskar, and Anulom-Vilom pranayama calm the

mind. A study found that 40% of epilepsy patients practicing yoga became seizure-free within six months. Like Jonty Rhodes, many notable figures, including Vincent van Gogh, Leonardo da Vinci, and Julius Caesar, reportedly lived with epilepsy yet achieved extraordinary success. Their lives demonstrate that with proper

management, epilepsy does not hinder a fulfilling life. Epilepsy may have genetic roots, especially with a family history, or be triggered by head injuries, brain tumors, strokes, infections, or developmental issues during birth. Irregular sleep, stress, excessive alcohol, or certain medications can also provoke seizures. Dr. Gupta's book highlights Ayurveda's potential in epilepsy treatment, marking a significant step toward integrating it with modern medicine. This holistic approach offers a promising path for those seeking comprehensive care. Meanwhile, the neurologists at the All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS) are now providing a new kind of treatment to control seizures of people who have drug-resistant epilepsy. The therapy - Vagus Nerve Stimulation (VNS) - helps to reduce recurrent seizures or fits in cases where patients do not get better after taking

medication. "This new treatment is done through a small pacemaker-shaped device fixed under the chest-skin, which is connected to the left vagus nerve of the brain by a lead. This is how the recurrent seizures are suppressed," doctors said. Patient Ajay Gupta (name changed) was advised a surgical procedure to remove the brain-part which generates the recurrent seizures. But, when he reached AIIMS, the doctors found out that multiple areas of his brain were responsible for generating the recurrent seizures and the surgical procedure was not possible in his case. Treatment at AIIMS is comparatively cheaper than other hospitals and it also avails a complete testing. Finally, it is important for doctors to understand the cause of your seizures so they can identify the type of epilepsy you have and the best treatment for you. Be sure to talk with

your health care provider, who will: Look for the causes. Prescribe anti-seizure medicine or other treatment, if needed. Answer your questions about epilepsy. The most common treatments for epilepsy are medicine, surgical procedures, seizure devices, and a special diet. Anti-seizure medicines limit the spread of seizures in the brain. It may take time to find the right medicine. Sometimes you'll need a combination of medicines. It's very important to take your medicine as prescribed. Medicines work for about 2 in 3 people with epilepsy. If your seizures continue while taking medicine, tell your health care provider right way. They make want to change the amount or type of medicine you take. You should not skip or stop taking your seizure medicine without talking to your provider. Suddenly stopping your medicine might cause withdrawal symptoms, including life-threatening seizures. se

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# Paddy Procurement Chaos in Odisha

Pradeep Kumar Panda



Odisha's Food Supplies Minister Krushna Chandra Patra had announced completion of Rabi paddy procurement by June 30, targeting 18 lakh metric tonnes, addressing farmers' concerns over token lapses. However in some areas, farmers who had received procurement tokens were reportedly turned away due to lack of target allocation. Despite assurances from the state government, Rabi paddy procurement has been marred by deductions across mandis of Odisha, leaving farmers frustrated. Allegations of undue influence by rice millers and middlemen have aggravated the situation as thousands of paddy bags wait to be lifted. BJP government has failed in procuring paddy from farmers and that deductions of 8 to 15 kg per farmer under 'katnichhatni' were rampant. To curb issues related to 'katnichhatni' and ensure fair assessment of paddy quality, the government has provided quality testing equipment at procurement centers, including 200 AI-based Grain Analyzers on and 140 modern mobile paddy cleaning machines. Total Mandi in Odisha is more than 600. 200 Grain

Analyzer Machine is inadequate. Some places FAQ are decided by machine and Some places FAQ are decided by manual basis. Rs. 5000 crore was allocated under Samrudh Krushak Yojana in the Annual Budget for the financial year 2024-25 for the Paddy procurement Bonus of Rs. 800 per quintal. Total budget is utilised. There was no allocation in Supplementary Budget. BJP Government will face budget constraint for all paddy procurement. Farmers in Sambalpur, a key agricultural hub in Western Odisha, since 8 June resorted to widespread road blockades, expressing their fervent anger over chronic delays in paddy procurement and the devastating damage caused to their harvested produce by recent unseasonal rains. This latest agitation underscores a deeply entrenched crisis in Odisha's paddy procurement system, which farmers across the region have consistently highlighted. The immediate trigger for yesterday's protests was the significant backlog of paddy-laden trucks awaiting unloading at various mandis (procurement centers). Farmers reported that their harvested paddy, painstakingly brought to the centers, has been left stranded in the open for days, becoming increasingly vulnerable. The recent spell of unseasonal rainfall,

which has affected many parts of Western Odisha including Sambalpur, proved to be the final straw. Paddy bags exposed to the elements quickly absorbed moisture, leading to discoloration, quality deterioration, and rendering them unfit for sale under Fair Average Quality (FAQ) norms. This directly translates to substantial financial losses for the already struggling farmers. The issues plaguing paddy procurement in Odisha are multifaceted and have been the subject of frequent farmer protests across Western Odisha. The key grievances include: Persistent Delays in Paddy Procurement and Unloading: Despite the government's efforts, farmers often face agonizing waits at mandis. Insufficient number of procurement centers, inadequate storage infrastructure, and logistical bottlenecks in lifting the procured paddy contribute to this delay. Millers, who play a crucial role in the procurement chain, are often cited as a reason for slow lifting, at times allegedly to pressure farmers into accepting lower prices or deductions. Disputes Over Paddy Quality Testing: The introduction of digital analyzer machines for quality testing, while aimed at transparency, has drawn criticism from farmers. They allege that these machines are often



unreliable and that the strict FAQ norms applied by these machines often result in unwarranted deductions ("katnichhatni") for moisture content or foreign particles, even for good quality paddy. Farmers argue that this practice is exploitative and significantly reduces their rightful earnings. Non-Payment or Delayed Payment of Crop Insurance Claims: Despite the existence of crop insurance schemes, farmers frequently complain about the lack of timely and adequate compensation for crop losses due to natural calamities. The bureaucratic hurdles and lengthy assessment processes often delay the disbursement of claims, leaving farmers in dire financial straits, especially after losing their harvest to adverse weather like the recent rains. The ongoing procurement crisis and rain-induced damage have pushed many farmers to the brink.

They are burdened by loans and face uncertainty about their livelihoods. The road blockades in Sambalpur, a common form of protest in the region, aimed to draw immediate attention to their plight and demand swift action from the state government. Farmers' organizations in Sambalpur and other parts of Western Odisha have consistently demanded: Expedited and transparent paddy procurement with adequate infrastructure, Decentralization and simplification of the token system to make it farmer-friendly, Re-evaluation of paddy quality testing methods and an end to arbitrary deductions and Timely assessment and disbursement of crop insurance claims. As the agricultural season progresses and more paddy arrives at the mandis, the pressure on the government to address these long-standing issues effectively will only intensify, potentially leading to further

farmer agitations across the state. The livelihoods of thousands of farmers hinge on a more efficient and equitable procurement system. Odisha rice mills also face storage crisis amidst new paddy procurement season. They have expressed concern about the lack of space to accommodate new paddy stocks from the upcoming procurement cycle. Millers have reported a backlog of around 70,000 quintal of rice from the 2023-24 Kharif season, which has left their storage facilities overstretched. They have expressed concern about the lack of space to accommodate new paddy stocks from the upcoming procurement cycle. As per sources, 96 millers in the district had received 21 lakh quintal of paddy for custom milling during the last Kharif season. As per norms, 14.7 lakh quintal of rice should have been delivered back through the State Warehousing

Corporation and Food Corporation of India (FCI) before the new procurement season. However, about 70,000 quintal rice remains undelivered, resulting in the current stockpile in millers' godowns. Statewide Protests Escalate: The simmering discontent has boiled over into open protests across Odisha. Farmers in Koraput and Subarnapur districts have resorted to blocking highways, demanding immediate purchase of their token-backed paddy, procurement of rain-damaged crops at the enhanced price of Rs 3100 per quintal, and prompt payment of their outstanding dues. Similar problems and protests have been reported from Binjharpur in Jajpur district, as well as from the western and southern agricultural hubs of Sambalpur, Deogarh, Bargarh, Kalahandi, and Nuapada districts, all reporting widespread irregularities in the paddy collection process. The coastal and southern districts are facing similar challenges, with millers employing delaying tactics in both harvesting and payment. Food Supplies Minister Krushna Chandra Patra has acknowledged delays in some districts due to pre-monsoon rains and issues with storage space, reassuring farmers that procurement has picked up. However, the All Odisha Rice Millers' Association has countered, stating that their storage spaces are

full with Rabi paddy meant for custom milling for public distribution, shifting the onus back to the government for storage solutions. Farmer organizations, including the prominent Navnirman Krushak Sangathan, have repeatedly drawn the attention of the administration to these pressing issues and have even planned demonstrations in the capital. However, reports indicate that the administration has, at times, not allowed farmer leaders to voice their grievances, further fueling frustration. Adding to the farmers' sense of betrayal is the perceived inaction from the farmer branches of both the ruling and opposition parties. Farmers, irrespective of their political affiliations, lament that no concrete steps are being taken to resolve this critical and sensitive issue that directly impacts their survival. Incessant rains over the past few days have hit transportation and slowed down procurement process. Farmers fear token lapse as mandis will close on June 30. Biju Janata Dal has urged State Government to extend Paddy Procurement deadline by one month and ensure procurement of all paddy without katnichhatni in transparent manner as promised by Hon'ble Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi.

Economist, Bhubaneswar



## Qamar Sabri will represent India in the program of International Labor Foundation Japan in Tokyo

**New Delhi,(KCN):** The International Labor Foundation program is being organized in Tokyo, Japan from 1 to 10 July 2025, in which labor leaders from Japan, India and Sri Lanka will participate. Representatives of Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh and Indian National Trade Union are participating in this program on behalf of India! In this program, apart from special training, the interests of laborers and the contribution of workers in the progress and development of the nation, deep brainstorming and exchange of ideas will be done on the protection of the rights of workers, better working



environment for them, proper salary, health facilities and state-of-the-art technical training and workshops for workers etc.! In this program, labor leader Mohammad Qamar Sabri alias Gulab Sabri, a resident of Churamba in Munger city, is

participating as a representative of INTUC. He thanked Congress National President Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, INTUC National President Sanjeev Reddy and National Vice President Chandra

Prakash, due to whose efforts he got the opportunity to participate in this program of workers organized in Tokyo. He said that the important participation of workers in India and the important role of workers in building a strong India is proving to

be a milestone. Md. Qamar Sabri said that today international workers are playing an important role in various problems like exploitation and lack of favorable environment and other facilities. What is the view of different countries on these burning issues and this will be a strong platform for the exchange of views of international labor leaders on the problems and facilities of workers. Workers play an important role in the construction of any nation, but they themselves are deprived of facilities and real rights. International analysis of burning issues will be the main point of the program organized in Tokyo.

## Russian National Day celebrated in Kolkata



**Kolkata(Partha roy):** Consul General of the Russian Federation in Kolkata Mr. Maxim Kozlov and Mrs. Natalia Gerasimova hosted a Reception to mark the Russian National Day on 11th June 2025 at Taj Bengal in Kolkata. Russian National Day is celebrated on 12th June every year.

Reception was attended by city based diplomats from various nations, senior Government officials, Industrialists and business personalities, celebrities with social & professional ties with Russia as well as friends & well wishers of Russia.

Mr. Kozlov in his address highlighted historical connection and cooperation between Governments & people of Russia and India. Mr. Kozlov emphasized resilience of people of Russia over centuries. Mr. Kozlov mentioned the completion of 25 years of Russia -India Strategic Partnership agreement.

Despite challenges of global geopolitical development from time to time, Mr. Kozlov emphasized that India and Russia multidimensional relationship is moving from strength to strength. India & Russia historical connection spanning over many centuries, even before modern nation states of India & Russia formed. Consul General Mr. Maxim Kozlov and Vice Consul Ms. Ekaterina Tyurina touch people's hearts in Bengal and in India when they communicate in Bengali & Hindi building bridges of goodwill and people to people connect.

## Monsoon-Driven River Ranching of Bata for Natural Breeding



**Kolkata,(KCN):**In a commendable effort to enhance inland fish production and restore aquatic biodiversity, the ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (ICAR-CIFRI), Barrackpore, successfully carried out a River Ranching Program under the National Ranching Program III on 1 July 2025, at Barendrapara Ghat, Belur, West

Bengal, where 0.91 lakh of brood fish of bata (average weight: 50g) were released into the river Ganga. This initiative was implemented under the ambit of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), which aims to rejuvenate the river through integrated efforts in environmental conservation, sustainable fishery development, and community

participation. The fish have been released in order to ensure natural breeding in river Ganges in the upcoming monsoon. As of present, ICAR-CIFRI has ranched about 176 lakhs fish fingerlings overall at various locations nationwide. This extensive fish ranching is part of other equivalent initiatives occurring along different segments of the river to

foster sustainable fishing. The event was graced by Dr. B.K. Das, Director, ICAR-CIFRI, along with esteemed members from the NMCG project team. Their presence highlighted the institutional commitment toward scientific interventions for river ecosystem restoration. A total of 52 local fishers participated in this initiative, reflecting strong community involvement

and local stakeholder engagement. This river ranching effort marks a significant milestone under the NMCG's broader vision to revitalize the Ganga River, both as a vital ecological corridor and as a source of livelihood for millions. The release of native species like bata not only supports the ecological restoration of degraded habitats but also strengthens the economic resilience of riparian fishing communities. Through this initiative, ICAR-CIFRI continues to lead the way in implementing science-backed, community-driven interventions, aiming to bridge the gap between biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods.

## NIA Chargesheets Maoist Operative For Aiding Banned Outfit CPI (Maoist) In Jharkhand

**New Delhi(KCN):** The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a supplementary chargesheet against a key operative of the proscribed CPI (Maoist) outfit in connection with terror-related activities in Jharkhand. The accused, Rajesh Deogam, a resident of West Singhbhum district, has been charged under multiple Sections of the Indian Penal Code, the Arms Act, the Explosive Substances Act, and the Unlawful Activities

(Prevention) Act. The charge-sheet was filed before the NIA Special Court in Ranchi on Thursday as part of case RC-02/2024/NIA-RNC, which pertains to Maoist-linked criminal activity in the region. Originally registered by local police in March 2024, the case involved the seizure of a large sum of money and materials connected to senior CPI (Maoist) leader Misir Besra. The NIA took over the investigation in July 2024. According to the

agency, Deogam was instrumental in supporting the activities of the banned organisation. He allegedly facilitated the handling of arms, harboured Maoist cadres, and extorted levies from local contractors and traders to fund the group's operations. NIA said Deogam played an active role in organising underground meetings and was part of a wider conspiracy to carry out terrorist acts in the region.

## Bharat 's Primit Maakoday awarded Global Equity, Social Innovation, & Wellness award by Women International Network



**Kolkata(Partha roy):** Mr. Primit Maakoday, President of the Global Citizen Forum, Co-Founder of the Boston Center of Excellence for Health and Human Development, founding member of Friends of Madhya Pradesh and Billion Hopes Foundation and Accelerator, was conferred the Award for Excellence in Global Equity, Social Innovation, and Wellness by the Women International Network (WIN) President Kristin Engvig and associated organizations. The award ceremony was held in Mandela Hall, Nobel Peace Center, Oslo, Norway on the occasion of the International Day of Yoga, a global movement promoted by Prime Minister of India Shri

Narendra Modi. Yoga is promoting holistic health, and integrated wellness globally. Women International Network (WIN), headquartered in Switzerland and operating in Norway, India, United States, and many other countries. Mr. Maakoday was honoured for his decades-long commitment to advancing inclusive and impactful systems in healthcare, education, women empowerment and clean energy. His work emphasizes social innovation rooted in global best practices for global good, benefiting communities across both the developed and developing world. During his address Mr. Maakoday said "We need to strive to create

meaningful synergies between ancient wisdom and current innovation to build truly integrated ecosystems for mental, spiritual, and physical (MSP) health and well-being. When people, process, and purpose come together, transformation becomes possible for all, beyond barriers of gender, religion, or nationality." He emphasized the importance of inclusive development and the need to place women's leadership and empowerment at the center of all future global progress. Mr. Maakoday's vision echoes the contributions of global leaders such as Padma Shri Dr. H.R. Nagendra, a pioneer in yoga-based health science; Sri Sri Ravi

Shankar, Sadguru and Shri Ramdev who have been the international voice for peace and wellness; Rajrishi Dr. B.K. Modi, who unites Vedic wisdom with futuristic thinking and champions the vision of a Happy, Healthy, Wealthy Life Beyond 100; and Padma Shri Dr. Sudhir Parikh, who has consistently advanced Indo-U.S. cooperation in education, healthcare and public affairs. The event also included high-level discussions focused on launching collaborative projects to improve human development outcomes particularly in Africa and the Global South and to expand scalable models that promote equity, peace, wellness, and sustainability across G20 nations and developing world.

## Despite Assurances Of Loyalty By Shivakumar, Supporters Of K'taka CM, Dy CM Keep Pot Boiling Over Top Job

**Bengaluru(KCN):** Even as Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has been reiterating that he stands firmly behind Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, senior Congmen and supporters of the two leaders in Karnataka, continue to issue statements regarding power sharing and the Chief Minister's post. Minister for Social Welfare H.C. Mahadevappa made a categorical statement that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah would continue in office. "CM Siddaramaiah will not only remain in his post and complete the full term, but he will also lead the party to victory in the 2028 Karnataka Assembly elections," he said. Mahadevappa further stated that the Congress high command had sought the opinion of MLAs before selecting Siddaramaiah for the Chief Minister's post. Therefore, there was no question of a change in leadership and he would continue in his position for the remaining three-year left of his term. Minister Mahadevappa, a close associate of Siddaramaiah, hails from the same district as the Chief Minister. Significantly, Dy CM



Shivakumar's brother, former Congress MP D.K. Suresh, too, stated that the CM's post was not vacant and "for now, Siddaramaiah is our Chief Minister. There is no doubt about that." However, when asked by the media that he had once expressed the hope that Shivakumar should become CM, Suresh said, "That hope still exists – even today, and it will remain tomorrow too. Hope and belief are what drive our lives. Without belief, life itself becomes difficult." "I still have that hope. Shivakumar has worked with great loyalty for the party. People from some regions placed their trust in him and supported the Congress so that he could

get a chance. But as of now, the CM seat is not vacant," he maintained. When asked whether Shivakumar's efforts would be rewarded, he said, "Definitely, some day he will be rewarded. It has to happen. Whether he becomes CM or not is not for me to decide – I'm too small a person for that. That's a decision for our senior leadership. For now, Siddaramaiah is our Chief Minister. There is no doubt about that." On being asked about expectations among some MLAs and party workers that Shivakumar would become CM after two-and-a-half years and whether his recent remarks conveyed helplessness, Suresh said, "It

is not helplessness. It is respect for the party and its leadership. When holding a responsible position in the party, one must honour the organisation. Shivakumar has done just that." When asked what message this development sends to party workers, he said, "People voted for the Congress because they found the BJP unsuitable. Congress MLAs, ministers, the CM, and leaders must all work with the public's welfare in mind. Regardless of our personal hopes or frustrations, we must remain united for the sake of the party, workers, and the people."



# Odisha Seeks Hike In Paddy Procurement Target During Minister's Delhi Visit

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** In a bid to safeguard Odisha's agricultural and procurement interests, Minister for Food Supplies & Consumer Welfare, and Science & Technology, Krushna Chandra Patra is on a three-day official visit to Delhi. As part of his engagements, he met Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, and New & Renewable Energy, Prahlad Joshi on Tuesday.

During the meeting, Minister Patra urged the Centre to increase the paddy procurement target for Odisha. He also raised key issues concerning delays in lifting rice stocks by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and pending dues owed to the state for previous paddy and rice procurement seasons. Union Minister Joshi assured full cooperation and prompt resolution of the state's concerns. Minister Patra also



held discussions with other top officials during his Delhi visit, including Delhi Food Minister, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Shaktikanta Das, and other senior bureaucrats, to advance Odisha's interests in food distribution and scientific development. He was accompanied by K. Sudarshan Chakraborty, Managing Director of the Odisha State Civil Supplies Corporation, along with other senior department officials.

## Malkangiri: Minority protesters demand action against accused



**Malkangiri(KCN):** A large number of people, belonging to a minority community, held a protest rally in Odisha's Malkangiri district Wednesday, demanding the immediate arrest of those involved in an attack on them. The rally was organised under the banner of Malkangiri District Christian Manch, and the

protesters submitted a memorandum to the district collector's office. They alleged that several people in their community were assaulted by a group of men at Katamateru village under the Malkangiri police station limits June 21. "Though we have lodged a complaint with the police, no action has

been taken so far. Therefore, we are on the streets," said Pallav Kumar Lima, the secretary of the organisation. He said nearly 30 people were injured and admitted to the district headquarters hospital. Hundreds of community members joined the protest rally on the rain-drenched day.

There was an argument between the protesters and the police as the district collector was allegedly late to come outside his office to accept the memorandum. When contacted by PTL, Malkangiri SP Vinodh Patil H said, "The police have registered a case and the matter is under investigation."

## Rain turns roads to rivers: Daringbadi villages left stranded again





Kandhamal: Torrential rains triggered by a low-pressure system have thrown life out of gear in Odisha's Kandhamal district, where swelling rivers and washed-away roads have left several villages in Daringbadi block completely cut off. In Tilorai panchayat, the Gumma river has once again flooded, submerging the key diversion road and

snapping all vehicular movement to and from Budaguda, Gumikia, and parts of Kotagada and Baliguda blocks. The sudden rise in water levels has made travel hazardous and, in some cases, impossible. With no safe passage, schoolteachers and students were forced to return home mid-journey. Villagers heading to Simanbadi for

administrative and private work also had to turn back. Locals said ambulance access is now practically impossible, raising fears for medical emergencies in the region. The situation is especially concerning as this is the second time in 10 days that the Gumma river has washed away the same diversion. The previous incident June 24 had halted transport

for two days before the waters receded. This renewed flooding has intensified calls for a more permanent, high-level bridge in the region. Meanwhile, interior roads have turned into slippery, muddy tracks, making even foot movement risky. Farmers, schoolchildren, and daily commuters are among the worst hit.

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## Plantation by Tata Steel Foundation celebrating Van Mahotsav



**Kalinganagar, (KCN):**In observance of ‘Van Mahotsav’, Tata Steel Foundation, in collaboration with the Logistics Operations and Environment Department of Tata Steel Kalinganagar, successfully organised a mass plantation and riverbank clean-up drive at the Brahmani Riverbank area in

Kalinganagar on Thursday. More than 70 volunteers from various departments of Tata Steel Kalinganagar participated in the drive, planting 300 saplings along the Brahmani Riverbank. This effort aimed to enhance green cover, prevent soil erosion, and support local biodiversity. Apart from plantation, a plastic waste

clean-up drive was also conducted to mitigate pollution and help restore the ecological integrity of the river ecosystem. This ‘Van Mahotsav’ celebration underscores the critical role of volunteer-driven initiatives in promoting environmental stewardship and collective responsibility for a sustainable future.

## Explore the Spiritual Heart of Dakshin Bharat with Bharat Gaurav Special Tourist Train

**Bhubaneswar,(KCN):**The launch of the “Dakshin Bharat Yatra”, a 13-day rail tour aboard the Bharat Gaurav Special Tourist Train, starting from Pathankot Cantt Station on 28th July 2025. The Dakshin Bharat Yatra offers a spiritually enriching pilgrimage opportunity for devotees. This yatra will offer devotees the opportunity to seek blessings, deepen their spiritual connection and experience the divine presence at some of the most revered temples and sacred locations in Dakshin Bharat. This carefully curated pilgrimage will take



travellers to Tirupati-Rameshwaram-Madurai-Kanyakumari & Mallikarjuna. The tour offers multiple boarding and deboarding points,

including Pathankot Cantt, Jalandhar City, Ludhiana, Chandigarh, Ambala Cantt, Kurukshetra, Karnal, Panipat, Sonapat, Hazrat Nizamuddin,

Mathura, Agra Cantt and Gwalior. The tour includes seats across different classes including Sleeper Class 640 seats, 3AC – 70

seats and 2AC – 50 seats. The package includes train tickets, all meals, comfortable and clean accommodation on double/triple sharing basis, Transfers and sightseeing by buses and on onboard escort, housekeeping, security and paramedical staff personnel with basic medicine. The Yatra offers comfort, safety and spiritual fulfillment and the chance to visit multiple religious destinations in a single journey.

The train is being run by the IRCTC, for more details, visit the IRCTC website: [www.irctctourism.com/bharatgaurav](http://www.irctctourism.com/bharatgaurav)

## Saatvik Green Energy Limited (SGEL) Appoints Bollywood superstar Kartik Aaryan as its official Brand Ambassador

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Saatvik Green Energy Limited (“SGEL”), proudly announces the appointment of Bollywood superstar Kartik Aaryan as its official brand ambassador. More than a Collaboration—A Shared PurposeThe journey

began with an impromptu conversation between SGEL’s Chairman and Managing Director, Neelesh Garg; Managing Director, Manik Garg; and Chief Executive Officer Prashant Mathur. What started as a casual discussion about resonance and

representation, quickly evolved into a purposeful decision. Kartik Aaryan, known for his grounded persona, relatable storytelling, and aspirational yet rooted appeal, emerged as a perfect reflection of what Saatvik stands for. Neelesh Garg, Chairman

and Managing Director, SGEL said: “We saw that same integrity, hard work, and humility in Kartik’s journey—from Gwalior to global stardom. That’s when we knew—it wasn’t a pitch, it was a purpose.” Manik Garg, Managing Director, Saatvik Green

Energy Limited, said, “As we step into a new decade of our journey, Kartik Aaryan becomes not just the face of the brand, but the voice of this belief. With Kartik, we aim to inspire people to choose a cleaner, better, more self-reliant tomorrow.”

### LANDSLIDE BETWEEN JARATI AND MALIGUDA IN KORAPUT-JEYPORE RAIL SECTION IN KORAPUT-KIRANDUL LINE

**Bhubaneswar,(KCN):**Due to incessant rains, landslide occurred between Malliguda-Jarati stations in Koraput-Kirandul line of Walair Division on 2nd July 2025, the following train services got affected for second day. Heavy earth moving machineries, manpower and materials have been mobilized and the restoration works are underway. The railway officials including DRM are on site for early restoration. Major portion of the track covered with mud and boulders have been cleared and the restoration work is on full swing. We regret to inform that, the following trains have been cancelled or partially cancelled:

Rourkela-Jagadalpur-Rourkela Express from Rourkela on 03.07.2025 and from Jagadalpur on 04.07.2025 will remain CANCELLED. B. 18448 Jagadalpur-Bhubaneswar Hirakhand Express from Jagadalpur on 04.07.2025 will remain CANCELLED. The above trains have been cancelled for rake adjustment. C. 58501/58502 Visakhapatnam-Kirandul-Visakhapatnam Passenger from both sides 04.07.2025 will run between Visakhapatnam & Araku and will remain cancelled between Araku and Kirandul. D. 18005/18006 Howrah-Jagadalpur-Howrah Samaleswari Express from Howrah on 03.07.2025 and from Jagadalpur on 4th &

5th July 2025 will run between Howrah and Koraput and will remain cancelled between Koraput and Jagadalpur. E. 18515/18516 Visakhapatnam-Kirandul-Visakhapatnam Express from Visakhapatnam on 03.07.2025 and from Kirandul on 04.07.2025 will run between Visakhapatnam and Koraput and will remain cancelled between Koraput and Jagadalpur. F. 08445/08446 Jagadalpur-Puri-Jagadalpur Rath Yatra Special from Jagadalpur on 04.07.2025 & 05.07.2025 and from Puri on 06.07.2025 & 07.07.2025 will run between Koraput & Puri and will remain cancelled between Koraput & Jagadalpur.

**Mumbai :** Union Bank of India today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for a Co-Financing arrangement for MSMEs. The MoU was signed by Shri Lal Singh, Chief General Manager, Union Bank of India and Shri Vivek Kumar Malhotra, Chief General Manager, SIDBI. SIDBI is country’s principal financial institution

engaged in the Promotion, Financing and Development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME). Under the MoU, Union Bank of India would consider Joint financing/ Co-Financing with SIDBI to Projects/Units in the MSME. This MoU would help the Banks to increase their customer base, while helping the MSMEs to meet their funding requirements. The key highlights of the arrangement include joint

identification of viable projects and term loan and working capital financing to MSMEs. Initially the arrangement would be at specific centers and once the arrangement stabilizes at these centers, more locations would be covered. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Lal Singh, CGM (MSME), Union Bank of India, said “MSME is one of the key sectors of our Indian Economy contributing to GDP,

Exports, Manufacturing Output, Employment, Women Empowerment etc. MSME is one of the focused areas of the Bank and at Union Bank of India, we aim to become Bank of 1st choice for MSMEs. This tie-up with SIDBI aids in realizing the Bank’s vision to have increased credit flow to the MSME sector and extend operational convenience to the MSME clientele. Under partnership, Union Bank of India through its Pan

India branch network can provide general Banking products like Current Accounts, Savings Accounts, Working Capital facilities and other related services to the MSME Customers of SIDBI.” Also, speaking on the tie-up arrangement, Shri Vivek Kumar Malhotra, CGM, SIDBI reiterated SIDBI’s commitment towards timely financing for MSMEs across all sectors.

## Unacademy produces 178 Rankers for UPSC CSE

**Bhubaneswar:** Unacademy, India’s largest learning platform\*, today announced that 178 out of 685 rank holders of UPSC CSE 2021 are Unacademy Learners. Among the top rankers from the Unacademy platform are Gamini Singla (AIR - 3), Aishwarya Verma (AIR – 4), Utkarsh Dwivedi (AIR - 5) and Yaksh Chaudhary (AIR – 6). 3 Learners have secured ranks between 1-5, 32 have secured ranks from 6-100 and 143 have secured AIRs from 101-685.

From the 178 Rankers, 45 Learners were Unacademy’s Plus/ Iconic subscribers guided by India’s Top Educators. The other rankers were guided by Unacademy’s Last Mile Programme for UPSC CSE 2021 Interview. Last Mile Programme is an interview guidance program for the last stage of the UPSC CSE exam that helps Learners who have qualified the Mains exam to crack the Personal Interview stage. The questions are asked by retired bureaucrats, former UPSC members and Top Educators in a mock set-up. In last year’s Unacademy’s Interview Guidance Program 170+ Rankers qualified the Interview stage by securing AIR 2.

## India to see largest increase in energy demand worldwide over the next 20 years, says Infomeries

New Delhi, : India faces the twin dilemma of co-existence of shortage and abundance in several parts of its energy system. While the provision of electricity has increased significantly over the years, weak institutions and utility governance hamper the power sector’s financial performance with issues of accountability, operational efficiency, customer service, and transmission to state-level transmission institutions. The sector takes a huge and grossly unacceptable hit due to extensive losses, leakages and pilferages, and the cost recovery

from tariffs. These are some major findings of a report titled Power Sector in India: New Emerging Opportunities and Challenges released by Infomeries Valuation and Rating Pvt Ltd., the well-known SEBI-registered and RBI-accredited financial services credit rating company. The report explores the opportunities and challenges ahead for India as it seeks to ensure reliable, affordable and sustainable energy for a growing population. During FY20 and FY19, the growth of electricity generation was lower than in the previous financial years because

of the impact of COVID-19. The report quotes the International Energy Agency (IEA) stating that during FY21 recovery in electricity demand from the COVID-19 pandemic was faster and stronger in India than in EU countries. India is the third-largest producer and the third-largest consumer of electricity in the world. With the increasing population, electricity demand is rising at a fast clip and India has improved its power generation capacity over the years. India has added more than 500 billion units until FY22 from FY10.

## India’s GDP growth projected at 7.2 pc for Q4 of FY 25: Report

New Delhi: The Indian economy is projected to expand by 7.2 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2024-25, due to an improvement in the agriculture sector and a sharp increase in net indirect tax, according to Barclays. “We think the agriculture sector growth is likely to show improvement year-on-year, as suggested by advance estimates of crop production, which show record high wheat production. Accordingly, we estimate agriculture GVA growth at 5.8 per cent in Q4, accelerating from 5.6 per cent in Q3,” Barclays’s India Chief Economist, Aastha Gudwani, said. Meanwhile, Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced Monday that India’s foodgrain production has increased by over 106 lakh tonnes to 1,663.91 lakh tonnes in 2024-25, which represents a 6.83 per cent increase over the corresponding figure of the previous year. “The production of the rabi crop was 1,600.06 lakh tonnes in 2023-24, now it has increased to 1,645.27 lakh tonnes,” the minister said. Barclays expects GDP growth in the fourth



quarter of the fiscal at 7.2 per cent due to a sharp rise in net indirect tax and real GDP growth at 6.4 per cent for the full financial year. High indirect tax collections reflect strong economic activity in the manufacturing and services sectors. Moody’s Ratings had, earlier this month, pegged India’s GDP growth at 6.3 per cent for 2025 and expects the economy to pick up momentum in 2026 to record a 6.5 per cent growth rate. Moody’s forecast is in line with the IMF outlook, which sees India as the only major economy in the world to record an over 6 per cent growth rate in 2025.

The estimates are lower than the second official estimate by the National Statistical Office of 6.5 per cent for FY25, with an implicit forecast of 7.6 per cent for the fourth quarter of the

financial year. Economists estimate the economy to have grown anywhere between 6.4 per cent and 7.2 per cent in the January to March 2025 quarter and expect GDP to have expanded by 6.3 per cent to 6.4 per cent in FY25. ICRA has projected the year-on-year expansion of the GDP to rise to 6.9 per cent in the fourth quarter of FY2025 and full year GDP growth at 6.3 per cent. “Both private consumption and trends for investment activity were uneven in Q4 FY2025, with the latter partly owing to tariff-related uncertainty. Services sector exports continued to show double-digit growth, while merchandise exports contracted in YoY terms in the fourth quarter of FY2025 after expanding in the third quarter of the fiscal,” its Chief Economist, Head-Research & Outreach, Aditi Nayar, said.

## Blue Dart signs the UNFCCC Climate Neutral Now Pledge

**Bhubaneswar:** Blue Dart, South Asia’s premier express air and integrated transportation & distribution company and a part of the Deutsche Post DHL (DPDHL) Group has signed the ‘Climate Neutral Now’ (CNN) pledge by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The pledge highlights the organisation’s commitment

to ambitious CO2 reduction targets. Deutsche Post DHL Group has adopted a package of measures worth up to €7 billion to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 in line with the Paris Climate Agreement, primarily to expand the use of sustainable technologies and fuels in its fleets and buildings. Its long term goal is to reduce GHG emissions to net zero by

2050. The Climate Neutral Now Initiative encourages and supports interested stakeholders to act now in order to achieve a climate neutral world by 2050 as enshrined in the Paris Agreement. The initiative is a tool to promote voluntary action on climate change. Blue Dart has already invested extensively in remaining a Sustainable Provider of Choice by being the first

in the industry to set quantified carbon-reduction targets. The organisation, as a part of the Deutsche Post DHL Group aimed to increase their CO2 efficiency by 10% by the year 2012 and 30% by the year 2020. Against the 30% target, Blue Dart achieved a 34% CO2 efficiency in 2021. Pablo Ciano, EVP Corporate Development, DPDHL Group says, “As a Group, we have

developed a Sustainability Roadmap that supports the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals. We are constantly working towards introducing innovative green logistics solutions that improve our carbon footprint. I am delighted to share that representing the DHL eCommerce Solutions Division in India, Blue Dart has been delivering high on its sustainability initiatives.





# Not baited, not beaten: Shubman Gill shows the way

**New Delhi:** At one point during the post-Lunch stupor that was the second session of the opening day at Edgbaston, Ben Stokes dramatically ushered his off-side fielders to move into catching positions. While point stayed put, mid-off, cover and extra-cover all moved in. The passage of play just before had reduced the Hollies Stand to a mild hum, but even they now perked up to the possibilities of this novelty and created a crescendo of noise as the England captain sprinted up. It was a good length ball on off-stump honing into pads, just the kind England have been targeting Shubman Gill with continuously. India's captain nimbly moved forward to defend under his eye. And as if to underscore his control over proceedings, he even held his pose for effect. It summed up the tone of the day. England tried theatre, Gill responded with stillness. They

invited rashness, Gill offered restraint. They targeted the LBW, he was up to the task. The Indian captain had walked in just before Lunch, after two of the six specialist batters he'd picked were in the hut, and from that moment till stumps, refused to be baited or rushed. Gill's seventh Test hundred, his second in two games of this series and as captain, was the kind of innings that may not pass the Bazball eye test. But in context, it was a necessary act of assertion, to show the way that there's no one 'natural style' of playing. It took him 125 balls to even get to 50 with just five boundaries hit in that passage. The 100 came off the 199th ball, making it his slowest ton in the format. But it was also, statistically, his second-best hundred in terms of control percentages. In fact, as per Cricviz, no batter has ever recorded a lower false shot percentage than Gill's 4% in a Test hundred in

England since tracking data has been available. Yes, this was a benign pitch. The surface had even less to offer than Headingley. Gill walked out to bat at a reasonable platform of 95 for 2. But only a couple of hours before, he'd made a pair of interesting selection calls, prioritising batting depth over bowling potency that Jasprit Bumrah and Kuldeep Yadav provided. Two of the six specialist batters he picked were already dismissed and as Leeds had proved, even 471 wasn't enough. The real challenge ahead of Gill wasn't technical. It was to not be drawn in - not by England's fields, not by the energy of the disapproving crowd, nor by the temptation to force the pace or fall to unforced errors as they'd done in Leeds. Here too, there were avoidable lapses. Yashasvi Jaiswal had his own second century of the series, seemingly tied up before feathering an edge while attempting a



slash outside off-stump. Rishabh Pant, Gill's deputy, was barely under pressure but fell on the wrong side of the risk-reward balance when his attempted takedown of Shoaib Bashir found long-on, curiously placed almost straight back behind a mid-on. An over later, the first of the two all-rounders Gill brought in - Nitish Reddy - shouldered arms and was bowled by Chris Woakes with India on 211 for 5, very far away from what

the wicket, men dropped into odd catching positions, waiting for that one misjudgement. It never came. Gill even timed his counter perfectly but without ceding control. Right after England tried to push for another wicket following Nitish's. The ball was now 62 overs old. The next 32 balls brought 27 runs and another partnership was underway. It was a lifting of pressure - on Jadeja, on the scoreboard, and on himself. Then, again, the tempo dropped. Between 75 and 90, he went back into run-milking mode, until Joe Root was brought on to quickly go through the formality of rushing through the 80th over at the end of which the second new ball would be made available with 20 mins to go in the day's play. Gill picked his moment. With a packed leg-side field, he swept Root twice, both times clean, both times splitting the wall. It brought him to his hundred. The

helmet came off and from underneath emerged a roar. It wasn't performative, it was raw, a release, the first visible crack in his composure all day after following through on all that he had preached the day before. While there had been several batting mis-steps, Gill singled out his own dismissal for 147 attempting to slog Bashir in the first innings at Headingley for opening the door for England's comeback. He had demanded greater accountability and concentration from his teammates and proceeded to show the way too. Gill is a modern batter, adept at all three formats. It isn't easy to contain bowling one side to him but at no point did he lose his focus despite England's attempts to unsettle him. It was a lesson he learnt previously in Vizag last year, the only other hundred of his with greater control. There he faced a similar web with Stokes getting his spinners

to bowl round the stumps to him with six fielders on the leg. Gill forced a release by playing a reverse sweep and fell for 103. It was a dismissal that brought England back into the contest in the third innings and provoked a lot of conversation and soul searching in Gill. Here, straight after the landmark he hunkered down once more as the second new ball brought with it its own challenges late in the evening. But Gill and Jadeja, firm in their shapes and light on their feet, closed out the final phase. By stumps, India were 310 for 5 - not dominant, but resilient. There is still a long way to go, and Gill will have to bat even longer on Day 2 with that reinforced lower order if India are to bat the opposition out of the game this time. The Bumrah-Kuldeep omissions will be judged later and over four innings. Whatever storms lie ahead, they began this Test with questions swirling, but their captain has refused to be beaten. Or baited.

## Taskin rues "unexpected" collapse after promising start

**New Delhi:** Bangladesh fast bowler Taskin Ahmed admitted that the manner of their collapse in the ODI series opener against Sri Lanka was both "painful and unexpected". Chasing a modest target of 245 at the R. Premadasa Stadium on Wednesday (July 2), Bangladesh were well placed at 100 for 1 in the 17th over before an extraordinary meltdown saw them slip to 107 for 8 - losing seven wickets for just five runs, the worst such collapse in men's ODI history. The previous lowest was 8 for 7 by the USA against Nepal in 2020, when they fell from 23 for 1 to 31 for 8 and were bowled out for 35. "Unfortunately, we had a great start, but after that... tough loss for us. Seven wickets in five runs - it was unexpected.



We tried, but it didn't happen. Yeah, it wasn't a great feeling," Taskin said after the match. "Premadasa is a bit tricky, but today, from that [Wanindu] Hasaranga over when [Najmul Hossain] Shanto got run out followed by [Tanzid Hasan] Tamim's dismissal, we collapsed badly. Those two wickets in one over were the turning point. The way we started today, I was expecting we would win with 5-6 overs in hand, but unfortunately, that

collapse was a big loss. It hurts because I am also a player. Bowling and batting combined, we are a team." Taskin felt the wicket wasn't as difficult one to bat, pointing to the effort of Jaker Ali towards the end. "Look, Jaker batted really well at the end. With him, if we had two or three batters left, we could have won the match. Yes, we didn't bat well, but seeing two or three guys bat on this wicket, it doesn't feel like the wicket was that bad.

That was our failure. Actually, we bowled pretty well, but still, it could have been better. But it's okay." Taskin revealed that the dramatic collapse caught him by surprise. "It reminds me that in cricket, there is uncertainty. I wasn't expecting that. I was chilling in the dressing room with a coffee, and suddenly, five wickets down. Hopefully, we will come back stronger in the next game, and everyone will learn from the mistakes." He admitted that the team may have eased off too early, leading to a collective panic. "After that great start, we were a bit relaxed. Everything was going our way, and suddenly, that run-out and one of our set batters, Tamim, got out. Then we panicked a bit. We didn't play our

natural game, and under pressure, we collapsed. Stats-wise, this is a very low-scoring ground, especially if you bat second, and there is a high chance you lose the game. Still, this game was in our hands, and we could have done a bit better," he said, stressing the need for Bangladesh to improve their game awareness. "These are our best 15-20 players. Maybe in bowling and batting combined, and with game awareness, we are a bit behind the top teams. We are trying to improve that with a good environment and culture. We have been saying this transition period thing a lot. Maybe we are taking a bit longer, but we have to come out of it. There is no other option. We are working on it, and everyone is trying hard," Taskin added.

**New Delhi:** Vaibhav Suryavanshi made headlines on Wednesday by smashing the second-fastest half-century by an Indian in Under-19 ODIs, during the third Youth ODI against England in Northampton. The 14-year-old reached his fifty in just 20 balls, bringing it up with a towering six off James Minto, and went on to hammer 86 off only 31 deliveries. Only Rishabh Pant has scored a quicker half-century for India in this format - an 18-ball blitz against Nepal during the 2016 Under-19 World Cup. Chasing a challenging target of 269 in a rain-curtailed 40-over contest, Suryavanshi provided India with the ideal platform. Despite the early dismissal of stand-in captain Abhigyan Kundu, the left-hander signalled his



intent by cracking two boundaries within his first 13 balls. What followed was an exhibition of clean, fearless hitting - nine sixes and six fours flowed from his bat as he dismantled the English bowling attack. His explosive innings eventually ended when he was caught in the deep, but not before tilting the momentum decisively in India's favour. His dismissal was quickly followed by that of Chavda, leaving India three down but still well ahead of the asking rate.

Earlier, England had posted 268 for 6 after being asked to bat first. Captain Thomas Rew led the charge with an unbeaten 76 off just 44 balls, peppered with nine fours and three sixes. Opener BJ Dawkins provided a solid foundation with a fluent 62, while Isaac Mohammed chipped in with 41. India's bowlers did well to rein in the scoring after a brisk start. Kanishk Chauhan was the pick of the attack, claiming 3 for 38 and sparking a middle-order wobble. He clean bowled Ben Mayes, removed Rocky Flintoff in his next over, and later dismissed Joseph Moores for a duck. Naman Pushpak and Deepesh Devendran also chipped in with a wicket each, while Vivaan Malhotra trapped Mohammed LBW to break a dangerous partnership.

# Sri Lanka stun Bangladesh to go 1-0 up

**New Delhi:** A monumental collapse for Bangladesh, triggered by the Sri Lankan spinners, saw the hosts take an early lead in the series with a comfortable 77-run win in the first ODI at the R. Premadasa stadium in Colombo on Wednesday (July 2). A measured century from skipper Charith Asalanka and a useful 45 from Kusal Mendis helped Sri Lanka finish with a competitive 244. Bangladesh, in reply, got off to a good start but lost their way completely from the 17th over of the chase. Jaker Ali scored a valiant 51 but his knock

went in vain as Bangladesh folded for 167. It wasn't a great start from Sri Lanka after they opted to bat as they slipped to 29 for 3 inside eight overs. The in-form Pathum Nissanka fell for a duck, attempting a cut off Tanzim Hasan Sakib only to get an edge to the 'keeper. Nishan Madushka chopped on a Taskin Ahmed delivery and the bowler also had Kamindu Mendis spooning a catch to mid-off, dismissing him for nought. Meanwhile, Kusal was playing a fluent innings at the other end, dealing in

boundaries, including two fours and a six off Tanzim in the sixth over. Asalanka got going with some cracking shots, including a six over cover off Taskin and a slog-sweep for a maximum off Mehidy Hasan Miraz, helping Sri Lanka to the 50-run mark at the end of the 10th over. Kusal and Asalanka put on a 60-run stand, which came to an end in the 19th over when the former was trapped in front by debutant left-arm spinner Tanvir Islam, falling five short of a half-century. Asalanka continued positively, striking a six off Taskin



en route to a 61-ball fifty, with Janith Liyanage supporting him well from the other end as they raised a fifty-run stand to give Sri Lanka a steady platform. But Bangladesh again hit back to end a promising partnership, with Najmul Hossain

balls after over no. 34. Rathnayake was involved in a useful 39-run stand with Asalanka before being bowled by Tanzim for 22. Wanindu Hasaranga then struck a brisk 22, with three fours, but his stay was cut short by Taskin, who also picked up the wicket of Maheesh Theekshana to leave Sri Lanka at 228 for 8 in the 46th over. Asalanka went on to bring up his fifth ODI hundred but fell in the final over, as Tanzim finished with three wickets to keep Sri Lanka below 250. Parvez Hossain Emon, the other debutant in the

Bangladesh XI, began confidently along with Tanzid Hasan, with the openers scoring six fours between them in the first five overs. But an attempted slog went awry for Emon, who fell to Asitha Fernando for 13. Tanzid then struck a four and a six off Rathnayake while Shanto got going with two fours off Fernando. Both scored at a steady rate, with Tanzid bringing up a 51-ball fifty, as they took their partnership past 70 before Bangladesh suffered a collapse. It started with the run-out of Shanto, who went for a second run but found

himself short of the crease despite a dive. Hasaranga then struck twice in the 18th over to leave Bangladesh in more trouble. Litton Das was trapped in front for a duck while the well-set Tanzid was undone by a stunning catch from Liyanage, who flew to his right from mid-off and held on to the ball with both hands. There was more to come as Towhid Hridoy was bowled by Kamindu and new skipper Mehidy followed soon after as he was out lbw to Hasaranga. The ambidextrous bowler Kamindu then pocketed the wickets of Tanzim and Taskin in the same over.