

Sujata Rout's BJD Entry: A New Asset or a New Test for the Party?

The former IAS officer brings administrative experience and a record associated with women's welfare—but political relevance will ultimately depend on what she does inside the organisation.

The entry of former IAS officer Sujata Rout Karthikeyan into the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) has opened a fresh chapter in Odisha's political conversation. Her induction is significant not simply because a senior bureaucrat has entered electoral politics, but because she brings with her nearly 24 years of administrative experience and a public record closely associated with social welfare and women's empowerment.

But the more important question for the BJD is not whether her arrival has generated headlines. It is whether her administrative experience can be converted into political organisation, public engagement and sustained grassroots work.

Sujata Rout Karthikeyan joined the BJD in June 2026 in the presence of party president Naveen Patnaik. At the time of her induction, Patnaik made it clear that she was joining as an ordinary member and said that her experience could be useful, particularly in work concerning women. He also stated that he would continue to lead the BJD in the next election, thereby addressing speculation surrounding the party's immediate leadership structure.

Her background, however, gives the BJD a potentially distinctive political resource. During her administrative career, Karthikeyan served in several important positions. Her tenure in Sundargarh was associated with initiatives including a bicycle distribution programme for schoolgirls and measures connected with nutrition and education. She later became the first woman Collector of Cuttack and served as Director of Social Welfare, where she was associated with the implementation of the Mamata maternity benefit programme. Her name is particularly linked with Mission Shakti, the women's self-help-group movement that became one of the previous BJD government's flagship programmes.

These experiences could matter politically because Odisha's electoral politics cannot be separated from issues of women, rural livelihoods, self-help groups, welfare delivery and local development.

Yet bureaucracy and politics operate by different rules.

An administrator works within government institutions, laws and established procedures. A politician must build relationships, communicate political positions, work with party workers, face criticism, negotiate competing interests and maintain a continuous connection with voters. Administrative credentials may provide experience, but they do not automatically translate into political influence.

That distinction will be particularly important for the BJD.

The party is now operating from the Opposition after losing the Odisha Assembly election in 2024. Its challenge is not merely to introduce new faces but to strengthen its organisational structure, maintain contact with its grassroots base and respond to a changed political environment. Sujata's entry therefore comes at a time when the party's every organisational decision is likely to attract greater scrutiny.

Her association with former bureaucrat-turned-politician V.K. Pandian, her husband, is also inevitably part of the political discussion. Pandian joined the BJD after leaving the civil service but withdrew from active politics following the party's 2024 electoral defeat. Reports have consequently examined whether Sujata's entry could have a wider significance for the party.

However, political observers and the public will ultimately judge Sujata Rout Karthikeyan on her own political work rather than simply on her administrative past or family association.

Her own first message after joining the party has also focused on collective politics. She said the future of politics lies in "we" rather than "I", emphasising teamwork and shared responsibility.

That statement carries particular relevance for any political organisation seeking renewal.

For the BJD, the immediate task is to determine how her experience can be utilised without creating distance between a new senior entrant and the party's existing political workforce.

The response of district-level leaders, legislators, former legislators, women's organisations and grassroots workers will therefore be an important part of the story. There is also a larger lesson here for Odisha politics.

The movement of experienced administrators into politics is not new. But whenever a bureaucrat crosses into active politics, the public expectation changes. The individual is no longer judged primarily by administrative achievement; political accountability becomes part of the equation.

Sujata Rout Karthikeyan's BJD journey has therefore only just begun. Her administrative record has already established her credentials in public service. Her political record, however, remains to be written.

The coming years will show whether her experience in governance can become an effective political instrument for the BJD, whether she can establish an independent political identity, and how successfully she can work alongside the party's existing leadership and grassroots organisation. For the BJD, her arrival may offer experience, a new perspective and potential organisational value. But political significance is not created by a joining ceremony. It is built through sustained work, public trust and performance over time.



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RASMITA ROUT
EDITOR

FROM CHILDHOOD TO RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN

Book on President Droupadi Murmu Unveiled in Rourkela

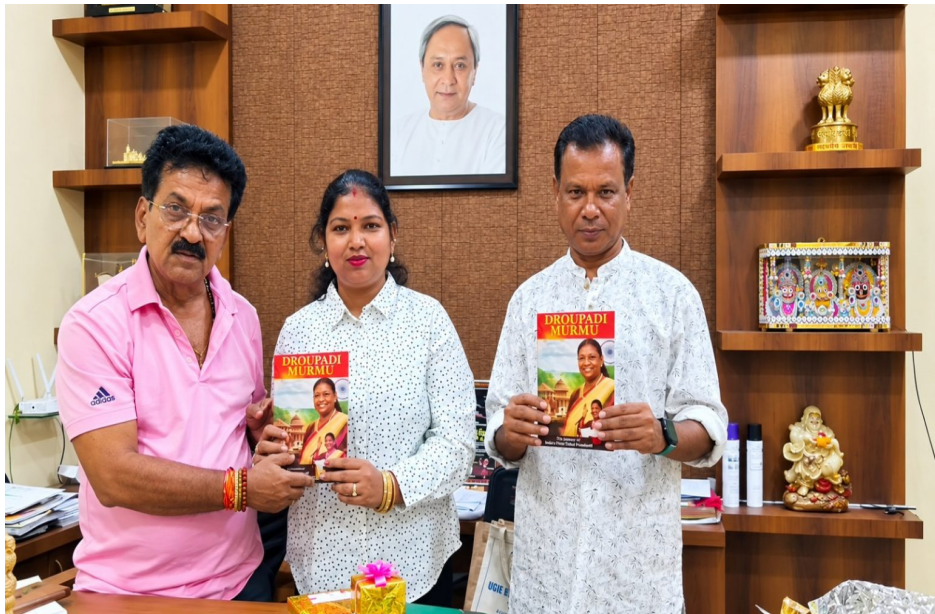
■ NEWSMAN AADYASHA TIMES

A book documenting the life and journey of President Droupadi Murmu, from her childhood and formative years to her rise to the Rashtrapati Bhavan, was unveiled in Rourkela on September 18. Rourkela MLA Sarada Prasad Nayak launched the publication, which seeks to present different stages of the President's life and public journey to readers.

Authored by Rashmita Rout and Saroj Kumar Rout, the book traces the journey of President Murmu and highlights the experiences and milestones that shaped her public life. According to the publication's presentation, it aims to give readers an account of her progression from her early years to the highest constitutional office in India.

The book is particularly positioned as a publication for younger readers. It seeks to introduce the younger generation to the various stages of President Murmu's life and the journey that eventually took her to Rashtrapati Bhavan. The authors have attempted to document this journey in a form intended to be accessible and educational for readers interested in her life and achievements.

Speaking after reading the book, MLA Sarada Prasad Nayak appreciated the efforts of the authors and said that the content could be educational and inspirational for young people.



He also praised the authors for documenting the President's journey in book form.

The publication comes at a time when President Murmu's public journey continues to attract interest across Odisha, particularly in view of her connection with the State and her rise from a modest background to the country's highest constitutional position. Her life story has frequently been discussed in the context of representation, public service and the opportunities available to people from diverse social and geographical backgrounds.

For readers in Odisha, the book also provides a local perspective on a national constitutional figure. By documenting the different stages of Murmu's life, the publication seeks to place her childhood, formative experiences and public career within a broader narrative of personal development and public responsibility.

The launch in Rourkela has therefore brought attention not only to the book itself but also to the importance of recording contemporary public figures and their life journeys for

future generations. Biographical works can provide younger readers with an opportunity to understand the experiences, challenges and milestones associated with a public career. The authors, Rashmita Rout and Saroj Kumar Rout, have focused the publication on President Murmu's journey rather than limiting it to her present constitutional role. This approach allows readers to explore the stages that preceded her arrival at Rashtrapati Bhavan and to understand the progression of her public life.

The book's unveiling in Rourkela has also added a literary and educational dimension to the city's public activities. The event brought together a political representative and the authors around a publication centred on the life of one of India's most prominent constitutional personalities.

With its emphasis on childhood, formative experiences, public life and the journey to the presidency, the book is expected to appeal particularly to students and young readers. Its central objective is to document President Droupadi Murmu's life journey and make that story available to a wider audience, while encouraging readers to learn about the different stages that shaped her path to Rashtrapati Bhavan.

NEWS BRIEF

Pawan Kumar Joins as New Sub-Collector of Redhakhol

■ NEWSMAN AADYASHA TIMES

REDHAKHOL: Pawan Kumar, an IAS officer of the 2024 batch, has assumed charge as the new Sub-Collector of Redhakhol, marking the beginning of his administrative assignment in the subdivision. His appointment brings a young officer to the local administration at a time when effective implementation of government programmes and timely delivery of public services remain important priorities. Kumar formally took charge of the post on September 18. As Sub-Collector, he will be responsible for coordinating various administrative activities within the subdivision and overseeing matters related to revenue administration and public welfare. The new Sub-Collector will also have to coordinate with local authorities on development and welfare initiatives. For residents of the subdivision, accessibility to the administration and timely resolution of public issues are among the key expectations from the new office-holder. The appointment of Pawan Kumar, an IAS officer from the 2024 batch, thus marks a new phase in the administrative functioning of Redhakhol, with his tenure likely to focus on governance, revenue administration, development coordination and citizen-oriented public services.



Mumbai's Richest Bappa: 66 Kg Gold, 335 Kg Silver and ₹703 Crore Insurance Cover

■ NEWSMAN AADYASHA TIMES

MUMBAI: Mumbai's GSB Seva Mandal Mahaganapati at King's Circle has once again attracted attention during the city's grand Ganeshotsav, with the idol adorned with around 66 kg of gold and 335 kg of silver ornaments. The scale of the jewellery and the extensive arrangements for the festival have resulted in insurance coverage worth ₹703.27 crore this year. The GSB Seva Mandal is celebrating its 72nd Ganeshotsav this year. The Mahaganapati is installed for five days, but the celebrations draw thousands of devotees who gather to seek blessings and participate in traditional rituals. The idol's elaborate decoration, featuring gold, silver and precious stones, has made the GSB Ganpati one of Mumbai's most closely watched festival attractions. The insurance cover is not restricted to the precious ornaments. According to organisers, the policy also takes into account various risks associated with the festival, including arrangements involving devotees, volunteers and other aspects of the large-scale celebrations. The ₹703.27-crore cover is higher than the ₹474 crore insurance protection taken by the Mandal in 2025. The enormous collection of jewellery seen on the idol has been built over several decades. According to the organisers, the ornaments are not the



contribution of a single individual or family. Devotees and sevadars have offered gold, silver and other valuables over the years, gradually creating the collection used for the annual celebrations. Rising prices of precious metals have also contributed to the higher valuation of the assets. One of the distinctive traditions associated with the GSB Seva Mandal is Tuladaan, under which devotees offer items equivalent to their body weight after their wishes are fulfilled. The practice remains an important part of the Mandal's religious traditions and attracts devotees who come to fulfil vows and express gratitude. Despite the extraordinary value of the jewellery, organisers emphasise that the festival extends beyond material wealth. Annadaan Seva is a major feature of the celebrations, with food and prasad being distributed to large numbers of devotees. Reports said the Mandal expected prasad to reach more than two

lakh people during the five-day festival. The celebrations also incorporate measures aimed at reducing waste. The Mandal has adopted digital receipts in place of printed receipts and uses an eco-friendly idol as part of its efforts towards more sustainable festivities. Religious rituals and prayers are conducted according to Vedic traditions and scriptures. While the figures — 66 kg of gold, 335 kg of silver and ₹703.27 crore in insurance coverage — have drawn widespread attention, the organisers and devotees associate the celebration with a much longer tradition of faith and collective participation. At King's Circle, the GSB Mahaganapati therefore represents more than an elaborate display of precious metals. The annual celebration combines devotion, generations of offerings, volunteer service and community participation, making it one of the notable events of Mumbai's Ganesh festival.

No Road, No Proper Access: Khokadapal Villagers Warn of Vote Boycott

NEWSMAN AADYASHA TIMES



REDHAKHOL : Residents of Khokadapal village under Charamal Gram Panchayat in Redhakhol block of Sambalpur district have warned of boycotting future elections if their long-standing demand for proper road connectivity is not addressed. The villagers say the absence of an all-weather road has made everyday life difficult for more than 40 families comprising over 100 people.

According to the residents, the village remains difficult to access for nearly eight months of the year, except during the dry summer period. During the monsoon, streams, waterlogged stretches and muddy routes make movement particularly dangerous. The lack of reliable connectivity has affected transportation, education and access to essential services.

Children face particular difficulties in reaching school. Villagers said students have to cross railway tracks and a waterlogged overbridge as part of their journey. The situation becomes even more serious during medical emergencies. In a recent incident cited by residents, an ambulance was unable to reach the village to transport a seriously ill woman. She reportedly had to be carried on a cot to a safer location where further transportation was possible.

Residents also said that basic administrative and household needs have become difficult to manage despite the panchayat

office being only about three kilometres away. Collecting rice and other essential supplies can involve considerable hardship because of the poor access route. The villagers said they have repeatedly approached railway authorities, local administrative officials and elected representatives seeking a permanent solution. They also expressed concern about travelling through the area because of the risk of wild animals and other hazards. According to them, repeated appeals have so far not resulted in a lasting improvement in connectivity. Frustration over the situation has now led residents to issue a political warning. They said that if the road problem is not resolved soon, they may boycott elections in the future. They also warned that political leaders and ministers would not be allowed to enter the village if their demand continues to remain unaddressed. The issue highlights the difficulties faced by rural communities when basic road connectivity remains inadequate. For Khokadapal residents, an all-weather road is not merely an infrastructure demand but a necessity for education, healthcare, transportation and access to essential services. The villagers are now seeking timely intervention from the administration and concerned authorities, hoping that a permanent road solution will be taken up before their difficulties worsen further, particularly during the rainy season.

Nearly Half of Doctor Posts Vacant in Angul, Rural Healthcare Hit

NEWSMAN AADYASHA TIMES



ANGUL :Healthcare services across Angul district are facing a serious manpower shortage, with nearly half of the sanctioned posts for MBBS doctors lying vacant, raising concerns over access to timely medical treatment, particularly in rural and remote areas. According to health department data cited in a report by Aadyasha Times, 187 of the 397 sanctioned MBBS doctor posts remain vacant in the district. Only 201 regular doctors are currently working, while nine doctors have been engaged on a contractual basis. The shortage is also significant among specialist doctors. Of the 97 sanctioned specialist posts in the district, 43 are vacant. The lack of specialists has reportedly affected the functioning of several Community Health Centres (CHCs), with some facilities operating largely as referral centres. Patients requiring specialised treatment are consequently being directed to larger hospitals, including the district headquarters hospital.

The impact is particularly visible in remote parts of the district. In the Satkosia region, inadequate medical staffing has reportedly created difficulties for residents seeking treatment. At Purunakote Primary Health Centre, patients are reportedly returning without receiving treatment because doctors are unavailable. Many residents are being forced to travel nearly 40 kilometres to

Bantala Community Health Centre for medical attention, creating additional hardship for patients and their families.

The situation at Jamardihi health centre in Pallahara block has also raised concern. According to the report, the health centre has remained closed for around three months, leaving residents dependent on other healthcare facilities. Such gaps in primary healthcare access can be particularly difficult for people living in remote locations, where transportation to larger hospitals may involve considerable time and expense.

The manpower shortage extends beyond doctors. Of the 709 sanctioned nursing officer posts in the district, 318 remain vacant. There are also 89 vacancies among 130 sanctioned pharmacy officer posts. Vacancies have

been reported among other essential healthcare personnel, including radiographers and laboratory technicians. The continuing shortage has placed additional pressure on the doctors, nurses and other healthcare workers currently serving in government facilities. Residents, particularly those in remote and underserved areas, have urged the authorities to fill vacant positions and restore regular services at health centres.

The situation has renewed concerns over the accessibility and effectiveness of public healthcare in Angul. Filling vacant medical and paramedical posts, strengthening primary health centres and ensuring specialist availability at community-level facilities will be important for improving healthcare access across the district.

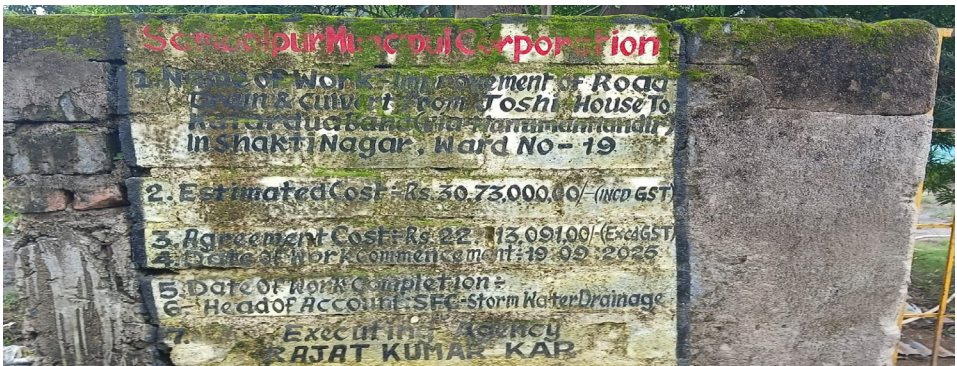
Project Details Painted on Walls Instead of Information Boards in Sambalpur, Questions Raised

SAMBALPUR : Questions have been raised over the manner in which details of urban development projects are being displayed in parts of Sambalpur city, with project information reportedly being painted directly on walls instead of being presented through conventional information boards. Local residents have sought clarification from the authorities over the practice, particularly in relation to transparency and the accessibility of public information.

Several development works are reportedly being undertaken under the Sambalpur Municipal Corporation. In Ward No. 19, particularly in the Shaktinagar area, projects listed for the 2025-26 financial year include the reconstruction of roads and drains from Toshi House to the Katardhua Bandh culvert. Other proposed works reportedly include reconstruction of a drain from the Mahamayi Temple to the club house and development-related work at Katardhua Bandh.

While displaying information about public works can help residents understand what projects are being implemented in their neighbourhoods, local people have questioned why the details are being written directly on walls instead of being

displayed on dedicated information boards. Residents said project information should be presented in a clear, systematic and durable manner. They have particularly sought details such as the name and nature of the project, sanctioned amount, work order, implementing agency and other relevant information. According to them, an appropriately designed information board would allow residents to examine the details and retain access to the information throughout the execution of the work. Concerns have also been expressed about the durability of information painted on walls. With exposure to rain, sunlight and other weather conditions, painted text may gradually fade or become difficult to read. Residents said this could eventually prevent members of the public from checking important details about projects carried out with public funds. The issue has also prompted questions about the administrative procedure being followed. Residents want to know whether there is any departmental rule, approval or specific instruction permitting project details to be displayed on walls in place of standard information boards. They have called for the concerned authorities to clarify whether the practice is part of an approved procedure or simply an



alternative method being adopted locally.

Another concern relates to expenditure and accountability. Residents have sought greater clarity about the sanctioned cost of the development works and whether any public money has been spent on preparing or displaying project information. They believe that details connected with public expenditure should remain easily accessible so that citizens can understand the scope and financial aspects of projects being executed in their areas.

The matter has therefore raised a broader question about transparency in the implementation of municipal development works. Public display of project information is intended to keep residents informed about the works being undertaken around them. For

such information to serve that purpose effectively, residents say it should be accurate, legible, durable and readily accessible. Local residents have urged the Sambalpur Municipal Corporation and other concerned authorities to clarify the practice and ensure that project-related information is displayed through an appropriate and transparent system. They also want details of the works, including their financial and implementation aspects, to remain available to the public for the duration of the projects. The questions raised by residents have placed renewed attention on how information concerning civic development projects is communicated to the public and the need for clear documentation of works carried out through municipal funds.

Child Marriage-Free Society

Not a Declaration, but a Call for Collective Resolve

At an age when a child’s hands should be holding books, if those very hands are adorned with the symbols of marriage, should we call it tradition or social injustice? At an age when a child should be dreaming about the future, imposing upon them the responsibilities of married life can never be a matter of pride for any civilized society.

Child marriage is not merely a violation of law; it is an assault on a child’s childhood, education, freedom, safety, dignity and future. Therefore, the fight against child marriage is not merely a legal battle it is a struggle for humanity, a struggle for rights, and a test of our collective social conscience.

In other words, child marriage is not simply a marriage; it is an unjust interference in a child’s childhood, education, freedom, health and future. The United Nations’ decision to observe 27 November as the International Day for the Elimination of Child, Early and Forced Marriage is a historic step in this direction. However, merely declaring an international day will not solve the problem. The responsibility to transform this declaration into real and lasting change rests with all of us. India has laws against child marriage. Several government initiatives and campaigns are also being implemented. A national campaign

such as “Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat” (Child Marriage-Free India) has also been launched. Yet, in social reality, this harmful practice has not been completely eliminated. At its roots lie poverty, lack of education, gender inequality, social pressure, misinterpretation of tradition, and lack of awareness about children’s rights.

Particularly in rural areas, addressing this problem cannot be left solely to government officials. Elected representatives of Panchayati Raj institutions, teachers, Anganwadi workers, ASHA workers, women’s self-help groups, youth groups, child protection committees, police personnel, voluntary organizations and ordinary citizens all must become active stakeholders in this fight.

The most important question before us is this: Will we intervene after a child marriage has taken place, or will we prevent it before the marriage takes place? A change in this approach is absolutely essential. Preventing the marriage of a child is certainly an achievement, but an even greater responsibility is to address and eliminate the social conditions and causes that allowed such a situation to arise in the first place.

Children must not be viewed merely as beneficiaries of protection, they must be recognized as human beings who have the right to express their views about matters affecting their lives. Ensuring that children

continue their education, develop their abilities and skills, and dream about their own future is the true hallmark of a healthy society.

Parents have the most important role to play in this campaign. The mindset that “if we marry off our daughter early, our responsibility is over” must change. Every child whether a girl or a boy is a child first. Protecting their childhood is the moral responsibility of the family as well as society.

In Odisha, the efforts of various government agencies and social organizations against child marriage have certainly created hope. Greater participation by women leaders, youth groups and Panchayati Raj representatives at the grassroots level can make this movement even stronger. If every village, every ward and every family accepts its responsibility to prevent child marriage, this struggle can undoubtedly evolve into a powerful social movement.

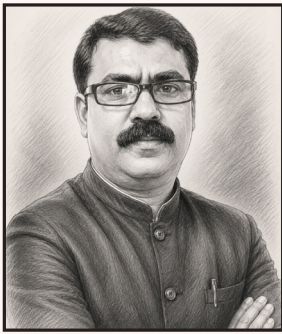
Today, what we need is not awareness alone, but courageous action backed by awareness. Whenever information about a possible child marriage comes to our notice, we must not remain silent spectators. We must inform the appropriate child protection authorities through lawful and responsible means. Protecting one child does not simply mean

preventing one marriage; it means giving that child an opportunity to shape and choose their own future.

The United Nations’ new declaration has given us an opportunity to broaden and strengthen the movement against child marriage. We must not restrict it to the observance of a single day; instead, it should become a year-round social campaign.

Because a child’s hands should carry dreams of the future, not the burden of marriage. A Child Marriage-Free Odisha and a Child Marriage-Free India should not be merely government objectives; they must become a collective resolve of all of us. Today’s children are tomorrow’s society. Only by protecting their childhood can we build a healthy, equal and just society.

We must all understand that saving a child’s childhood does not simply mean preventing one marriage; it means saving an entire future.



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NEWS BRIEF

Drug Mafia Finds ‘Safe Haven’ in Rengali, Operations Continue in Sambalpur

SAMBALPUR: With the festive season approaching, Sambalpur police have intensified their crackdown on illegal drug trafficking and have reportedly uncovered a network using Rengali as a safe location to stock narcotic substances before transporting them to Sambalpur and other areas. In a major development, police reportedly seized *24 cartons of cough syrup* allegedly linked to illegal drug trafficking. During the operation, notorious drug trafficker *Pritam Biswal* was injured in a police encounter. He was subsequently taken for treatment, while police continued efforts to trace other members of the network. According to the report, drug traffickers have increasingly been using different locations around *Rengali* to store contraband before moving it towards Sambalpur. The strategic location and road connectivity are believed to have made the area attractive for such activities. Police have stepped up surveillance and checking at several locations in and around Sambalpur, including major roads and highways. Special attention is reportedly being given to areas where drug transactions have previously been detected. The investigation has also brought the activities of Pritam Biswal and his associates under scrutiny. Police reportedly recovered a substantial quantity of cough syrup from vehicles allegedly being used for transportation. One of his associates, *Mohammed Irfan*, was also reportedly detained in connection with the case, while another suspect allegedly managed to escape from the spot. The crackdown comes at a time when police are increasing security arrangements ahead of *Durga Puja and other major festivals*. Officials are particularly concerned about the movement and distribution of illicit substances during the festive period.

Karadi Becomes Popular Food and Source of Livelihood in Banei

■ NEWSMAN AADYASHA TIMES

BANEI: Traditional forest produce Karadi, or tender bamboo shoot, is gaining popularity across Sundargarh district while also emerging as an important seasonal source of livelihood for tribal communities, particularly women. Once largely consumed within tribal and forest-dwelling communities, Karadi is increasingly finding a place in local markets and food culture. The tender bamboo shoots emerge during the monsoon season and are collected from bamboo groves by local communities. After collection, the outer covering is removed and the shoots are thoroughly washed before being cut into smaller pieces. They are generally soaked in water before being prepared for consumption. Karadi is commonly cooked as a vegetable and eaten with rice, while it is also prepared as curry, fry and santula. The growing popularity of the forest produce has created a seasonal income opportunity for tribal families in Banei, Lahunipada, Koida and Gurundia blocks. Tribal women have an important role in the process, from collecting the bamboo

shoots to processing and selling them in local markets and villages. The activity provides families with an additional source of income during the monsoon season.

Karadi is also being introduced beyond traditional household kitchens. The increasing demand has reportedly encouraged some local eateries to include bamboo-shoot preparations on their menus. This growing acceptance is helping transform Karadi from a traditional forest food into a more widely recognised local delicacy.

The produce can also be preserved for longer periods. According to the report, bamboo shoots can be dried and powdered, a preparation locally known as Hendua. Such processing provides a way of storing the seasonal produce and potentially extending its availability beyond the monsoon months. Medical opinion cited in the report notes that bamboo shoots contain nutrients



including iron, protein and vitamin C. However, dietary requirements differ from person to person, and specific health-related claims should be considered with appropriate professional advice.

At the same time, the increasing demand for Karadi has raised concerns about the sustainability of bamboo resources. The Forest Department is reportedly considering action over the collection and sale of bamboo shoots because of concerns about the gradual depletion of bamboo in forest areas. Bamboo is also an important food source for elephants, and officials have linked declining bamboo availability with increasing elephant movement towards human settlements.

The possibility of restrictions on collection and sale, however, has reportedly not been welcomed by sections of the local population. There is a demand that authorities should first concentrate on protecting existing bamboo resources and increasing bamboo plantations before introducing restrictions that could affect the livelihoods of communities dependent on the forest produce. For tribal communities in the Banei region, Karadi therefore carries significance on two fronts. It remains an important part of traditional food practices while providing seasonal economic opportunities, particularly for women involved in its collection and sale. Its growing popularity has also brought greater attention to the value of locally available forest produce. The experience highlights the need to balance livelihood opportunities with sustainable management of forest resources. With proper conservation and responsible harvesting practices, Karadi could continue to support traditional food culture and seasonal incomes while helping protect the bamboo resources on which both local communities and wildlife depend.



A NEW HEALTH ADVANTAGE FOR ODISHA

Integrating Clinical Precision, Research, and Environmental Genomics

Modern medicine is undergoing a profound structural transition. For generations, clinical practice has operated reactively: a patient exhibits symptoms, tests are conducted, and therapeutic interventions begin. Today, advances in high-throughput sequencing, molecular diagnostics, computational biology, and environmental genomics are moving public health upstream from late-stage treatment to precise biological understanding, early risk stratification, and pathogen surveillance.

For Odisha, this transition offers a strategic opportunity to connect its expanding medical colleges, clinical research facilities, and academic centres into an integrated scientific ecosystem.

The case for advanced molecular infrastructure in Odisha rests on pressing public health realities rather than theoretical promise. The state contends with complex clinical and epidemiological challenges where genomic diagnostics can yield immediate value. Sickle Cell Disease remains a substantial public health priority, particularly across western Odisha. Managing this hereditary hemoglobinopathy requires more than conventional diagnostic screening; it demands precise molecular characterization, carrier identification, prenatal counselling, and long-term therapeutic monitoring to mitigate morbidity.

Simultaneously, Leptospirosis presents an enduring infectious threat, demonstrating the close interplay between seasonal environmental exposure, water systems, animal hosts, and human infection. Diagnosing such conditions early and mapping their transmission pathways requires

an analytical framework that links clinical observations directly with biological and ecological context. Odisha's public healthcare architecture is uniquely positioned to address these demands. The Multidisciplinary Research Units (MRUs) established under government medical colleges and tertiary hospitals are already driving vital clinical investigations, epidemiological surveys, and translational studies across diverse patient demographics.

By equipping these existing units with advanced genomic workflows, the clinical ecosystem can accelerate diagnostic timelines for complex disorders. Rather than routing specialized samples to distant metropolitan facilities incurring delays and administrative overhead, the state can foster a decentralized diagnostic framework.

Bridging this gap requires targeted access to advanced tools, including -

- **Targeted Gene Panels** - Rapid, cost-effective screening for actionable clinical variants.
- **Whole Exome Sequencing (WES) & Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS)** - Comprehensive evaluation for undiagnosed rare diseases, paediatric developmental disorders, and complex inherited traits.
- **Molecular Oncology & Reproductive Genetic** - High-resolution carrier screening, prenatal diagnosis, and somatic mutation profiling to guide therapy selection.
- **Specialized Bioinformatics & Genomic Interpretation** - Translating raw variant data into clinically

validated, actionable medical reports. To bridge these advanced diagnostic requirements with clinical practice, specialized genomics partners such as Mediomix provide end-to-end analytical infrastructure, spanning high-throughput sequencing, clinical-grade bioinformatics pipelines, and genetic counselling support, allowing regional hospitals to deploy advanced testing without the prohibitive expense of building entire sequencing stacks in-house.

Malignancies arising in identical organs often exhibit disparate clinical trajectories based on their underlying somatic mutations, epigenetic changes, and metabolic profiles. Comprehensive tumour profiling enables clinicians to identify therapeutic targets and evaluate resistance mechanisms with precision. For Odisha, the larger strategic potential lies in developing longitudinal genomic datasets that capture the distinct molecular profiles of cancers across local communities. As research centres transition from single-gene testing toward integrated Multi-Omics uniting genomics, transcriptomics, and metabolomics, the findings can clarify population-specific cancer drivers, refine clinical trial design, and improve standard of care regimens across regional oncology centres. Human health does not exist in isolation from its surrounding ecology. With diverse urban, agricultural, riverine, and industrial corridors, Odisha represents an ideal proving ground for the One Health framework, the systemic recognition that human, animal, and environmental welfare are interdependent. Metagenomic surveillance across soil, water, and air samples transforms

traditional environmental monitoring. Rather than evaluating only chemical pollutants, high throughput metagenomic sequencing characterizes entire microbial communities, identifies emerging zoonotic pathogens, tracks antimicrobial resistance (AMR) reservoirs, and detects biological shifts before clinical outbreaks manifest in human populations. Deploying large-scale environmental metagenomics alongside clinical diagnostics requires sophisticated computational biology capable of processing complex biological data.

In this domain, Mediomix works alongside academic researchers and public health laboratories to deliver robust sequencing workflows, metagenomic taxonomic profiling, and predictive bioinformatics that turn raw environmental samples into actionable epidemiological intelligence. Building Odisha's biomedical advantage requires a shift from isolated laboratories toward a shared intelligence layer. By uniting hospital wards, research units, and environmental sequencing through accessible bioinformatics, the state can transition from an importer of specialized tests to an active contributor to genomic discovery and precision health.



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Veerappan: The True Story of South India's Most Feared Forest Brigand

BENGALURU: Koose Munisamy Veerappan became one of India's most notorious criminals during a decades-long career involving elephant poaching, sandalwood smuggling, kidnapping and armed violence across the forests bordering Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala. His deep knowledge of the terrain helped him evade law-enforcement agencies for years. Born in 1952, Veerappan began as a poacher before building an armed network involved in the illegal ivory and sandalwood trade. Authorities linked his gang to the deaths of police

personnel, forest officials and civilians. His notoriety grew further after the 2000 abduction of Kannada film star Rajkumar, who was held captive for 108 days. The prolonged hunt for Veerappan became one of the most challenging manhunts in southern India. Special Task Forces from Tamil Nadu and Karnataka spent years developing intelligence networks and attempting to track his movements through difficult forest terrain. The final breakthrough came in October 2004 through Operation Cocoon, a



carefully planned Tamil Nadu Special Task Force operation. Veerappan was reportedly persuaded to leave the forest for medical treatment. On October 18,

2004, he and three associates were intercepted near Papparapatti in Dharmapuri district. A gunfight followed, killing Veerappan and the three gang members. Veerappan's legacy remains controversial. While some accounts describe a Robin Hood-like image among sections of local communities, official records and documented accounts associate his gang with serious violence, poaching, smuggling and kidnapping. His life has since been revisited through books, films and documentaries, reflecting continued public fascination with one of India's most prolonged criminal manhunts.



FASTag Portability Introduced: Vehicle Owners Can Switch Banks Without Replacing FASTag

■ NEWSMAN AADYASHA TIMES

NEW DELHI : Vehicle owners can now switch their FASTag issuer bank without replacing the physical FASTag attached to their vehicles, following the launch of the new OneTag portability service by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). The facility is aimed at giving FASTag users greater choice while simplifying the process of changing banks.

The OneTag service is available through the Rajmargyatra app. Under the new system, users can retain the same physical FASTag and move it from one issuing bank to another. The FASTag ID linked to the vehicle registration number remains unchanged after the portability process is completed.

To use the facility, FASTag users have to log in to the Rajmargyatra app and enter their vehicle registration

number to check whether their tag is eligible for portability. The existing issuer bank then provides a six-digit Mobile Verification Code (MVC) for authentication. After verification, the user can select a new participating issuer bank and complete the required customer verification and wallet onboarding process. Once the transfer is successfully completed, the previous issuer closes the existing FASTag wallet. Any available balance is refunded to the customer after applicable adjustments. This is expected to remove the need for vehicle owners to purchase and affix a fresh tag every time they decide to change their issuing bank. The introduction of OneTag is significant because FASTag has become the dominant method of electronic toll collection on India's national highways. More than 98% of toll collections are now processed through FASTag, while the system has more than 13 crore users, according



to information released in connection with the new portability initiative. FASTag uses RFID technology to enable automatic toll payments. The tag is attached to a vehicle's windscreen and is linked to a prepaid account or bank account, allowing toll charges to be deducted electronically as the vehicle passes through a toll plaza. OneTag also introduces a six-month cooling period between portability requests. This means that after switching to a new issuer, a user has to wait six months before the FASTag can be ported again. The requirement is intended to ensure orderly

management of the portability system. Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari announced the initiative as part of efforts to improve convenience for highway users. The system is designed to give customers greater flexibility in choosing their FASTag service provider while reducing the operational costs associated with producing, dispatching and replacing physical tags. The portability feature could particularly benefit users who want to change banks because of service-related issues or personal preferences. Instead of removing an existing FASTag and obtaining another one, vehicle owners can now complete the issuer-switching process digitally while continuing to use the same tag. With digital toll payments already widespread across India's highway network, the OneTag initiative represents another step towards making the FASTag ecosystem more interoperable and user-friendly.

THE PEOPLE'S LEADER FROM NAYAGARH AND FORMER KANDHAMAL MP REMEMBERED

From royal heritage to public service, Hemendra Chandra Singh earned lasting respect through humility, high parliamentary attendance and his close connection with the people of Nayagarh and Kandhamal.

Former Kandhamal Member of Parliament Hemendra Chandra Singh is remembered as one of Odisha's most admired political leaders whose simplicity, courage, and commitment to public service earned him widespread respect despite his brief political career.

Born on September 29, 1967, into the royal family of Nayagarh, Hemendra Chandra Singh was the son of Raja Brajendra Kishore Singh and Rani Lokarajya Lakshmi. Although he belonged to a royal lineage, he chose to build his identity through close engagement with the people rather than relying on his family's heritage.

He received his early education at St. Xavier's School and later studied at Rajkumar College, Raipur, where he developed a broad outlook and leadership qualities that later shaped his public life.

► Political Journey

Hemendra Chandra Singh began his political career with the Indian National Congress and served as the President of the Nayagarh District Congress Committee. Ahead of the 2014 General Elections, he joined the Biju Janata Dal (BJD).

In the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, he contested from the Kandhamal Parliamentary Constituency on a BJD ticket and secured a decisive victory. He defeated Congress candidate Harihar Karan by a margin of approximately 1.81 lakh votes, marking his maiden entry into Parliament.

► A Short but Dedicated Parliamentary Career

His tenure as a Member of Parliament began in May 2014. Although his parliamentary career lasted only a few months—from May 18 to September 5, 2014—he demonstrated remarkable dedication. According to available

parliamentary records, his attendance in the Lok Sabha stood at 97 percent, reflecting his sincere commitment to his responsibilities.

► Untimely Demise

On September 5, 2014, Hemendra Chandra Singh passed away at the age of 47 in a private hospital in Bhubaneswar. He had been admitted after suffering chest pain and breathing difficulties. His condition later worsened due to septicemia and multiple organ complications, leading to his untimely demise.

His sudden death sent shockwaves across Odisha, with leaders and citizens from Nayagarh, Kandhamal, and other parts of the state mourning the loss of a promising public representative.

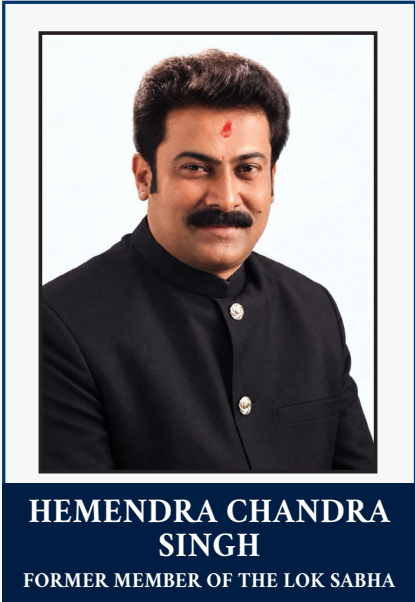
► FAMILY

Following his demise, his wife, Pratyusha Rajeshwari Singh, contested the by-election from the Kandhamal Lok Sabha

constituency and was elected as Member of Parliament. Hemendra Chandra Singh is survived by a son and a daughter.

► A Lasting Legacy

Though his political career was brief, Hemendra Chandra Singh left a lasting impression through his humility, fearless leadership, and dedication to public welfare. He is remembered not only as a former Member of Parliament but also as a compassionate leader who remained closely connected with the people.



HEMENDRA CHANDRA SINGH
FORMER MEMBER OF THE LOK SABHA

Hectic Preparations Underway to Launch Prabasi Odias Data Bank

■ NEWSMAN AADYASHA TIMES
NEW DELHI : Preparations are underway in the national capital for the launch of what organisers describe as the first dedicated Data Bank for Prabasi Odias living across India and different parts of the world. The initiative seeks to create a digital network containing relevant information about Odias residing outside Odisha and connect them through a common platform.

The registration process is currently open for non-resident Odias living in different States, cities and countries. According to the organisers, registered participants are being issued identity cards identifying them as Prabasi Odias. The initiative is being undertaken by the voluntary organisation Samudayik Vikas Samiti (SVS) under the leadership of its president, social worker and chartered accountant Dr. Manoranjan Mohanty. The organisation is currently engaged in the enumeration of Odias living outside Odisha and the collection of their digital information. The proposed database is expected to bring together information about members of the Odia community

living in different geographical locations, creating a structured platform for communication and community networking. Dr. Mohanty, described as the chief architect of the project, said the information collected through the registration process would be integrated into a dedicated Prabasi Odias website and mobile application. According to him, the platform is intended to provide real-time assistance to members of the community during emergencies, help Prabasi Odias identify and connect with other Odias living nearby, and facilitate the development of a wider network of Odia communities and associations. The initiative could also provide a common digital identity for members of the Odia diaspora. By bringing community members onto a single platform, organisers aim to make communication easier and encourage greater interaction among Odias living in different parts of India and overseas. The planned launch is expected to be held in the national capital in the presence of senior representatives of around

300 major Odia organisations from India and abroad. The participation of community organisations is expected to provide an opportunity to discuss ways of expanding the database and strengthening links among Prabasi Odias. According to the organisers, registrations have already been received from Odias living in 80 countries through the census portal. The figure indicates the geographical reach of the initiative and the interest among members of the community living outside Odisha. The organisers have appealed to Prabasi Odias living in different parts of India and overseas to

register on the SVS platform. They have also urged Prabasi Odia organisations to associate themselves with the initiative and encourage more members of the community to participate. The proposed database comes at a time when Odias living outside the State have established communities in cities across India and in several countries. Such community networks often play a role in preserving language, culture and traditions while providing social support to members living away from their native State. The organisers believe that a comprehensive digital

database could help bring these geographically dispersed communities closer together. Beyond maintaining information, the proposed website and mobile application are expected to function as communication and assistance platforms for the wider Odia diaspora. The initiative, once launched, will therefore seek to combine digital technology with community networking, creating a common platform through which Prabasi Odias can remain connected with one another and participate more actively in a global Odia community.

Sambalpur's AIIMS Demand Gains Momentum Amid Growing Healthcare Concerns

SAMBALPUR : The demand for establishing an All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Sambalpur is gaining momentum, with citizens and social organisations highlighting the need for advanced healthcare facilities in western Odisha. The campaign has gathered public attention amid concerns over access to specialised treatment and diagnostic services in the region. A recent public rally organised in Sambalpur saw hundreds of members of the Koshal Sena and local residents participate in a demonstration seeking an AIIMS-level institution in the city. The protesters marched towards the office of the Revenue Divisional Commissioner (RDC) and submitted a memorandum addressed to the Prime Minister and Odisha Chief Minister. The demand is being linked to the healthcare requirements of a large population across western Odisha. Supporters of the proposal have pointed to the need for advanced treatment and research facilities for serious illnesses, including cancer, kidney-related diseases and respiratory disorders. They have called for official approval and budgetary provisions for establishing the institution in Sambalpur. Sambalpur already has a major government medical institution in the Veer Surendra Sai Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (VIMSAR), Burla. The institute provides medical education and healthcare services and remains an important referral centre for patients from the region. However, concerns have also emerged over the availability and timely delivery of certain specialised diagnostic services at VIMSAR. A 2025 report highlighted complaints regarding waiting periods for MRI, CT scans and ultrasound examinations. VIMSAR authorities subsequently stated that two CT machines were functioning round the clock, while a new MRI machine was being installed. They also acknowledged manpower constraints affecting round-the-clock ultrasound services. The latest campaign has therefore brought wider attention to the question of whether western Odisha requires an additional institution offering advanced tertiary healthcare, medical education and research. Supporters argue that such a facility could reduce the need for patients to travel long distances to other major medical centres for specialised treatment. For residents supporting the Sambalpur proposal, the issue is closely connected with equitable access to healthcare. They are seeking intervention from both the State and Union governments and want the demand to be considered as part of efforts to strengthen medical infrastructure in western Odisha. The growing campaign has consequently placed the proposed AIIMS project on the public agenda, with residents and organisations awaiting a formal response from the concerned authorities on the feasibility and future of the demand.

Healthcare Eludes Kuhhi Villagers as Faith in Divine Power Grows

■ NEWSMAN AADYASHA TIMES

REDHAKHOL : Despite advances in science and modern medicine, residents of Kuhhi village under Ward No. 5 of Redhakhol NAC are reportedly turning increasingly towards religious faith and traditional practices as access to proper healthcare remains difficult. The situation has raised concerns over the availability of basic public services in the rural community.

Several villagers are reportedly suffering from different illnesses, but access to doctors, medical advice and proper treatment remains limited. The shortage of healthcare facilities, combined with inadequate awareness about available medical services, has made it difficult for residents to seek timely treatment. According to the report, this has gradually contributed to greater reliance on traditional beliefs and religious practices.

The healthcare concerns are compounded by a serious drinking-water problem. Although borewell water is available in the locality, residents reportedly say that the supply is inadequate and not suitable for all their needs. As a result,



families are forced to purchase water, adding an additional financial burden to households already facing difficulties in accessing essential services.

Amid these challenges, Maa Narayani, a revered local deity, has become an important source of hope for many villagers. Residents reportedly observe fasts on Tuesdays and conduct religious rituals and homa yajna while seeking relief from illness and other problems. The growing dependence on religious faith reflects the community's search for support when access to modern healthcare and other public

services remains inadequate.

The situation has also raised questions about the reach of government healthcare services at the grassroots level. While faith and religious traditions remain an important part of community life, residents need access to reliable medical facilities, qualified healthcare professionals and essential medicines so that illnesses can be diagnosed and treated at an early stage.

Public health observers cited in the report have stressed that traditional beliefs should not simply be dismissed. Instead, the

circumstances that encourage people to depend exclusively on such practices need to be addressed. Regular health camps, improved access to doctors, availability of medicines and awareness programmes could help residents make informed healthcare decisions.

Safe drinking water is another urgent requirement. Poor access to clean water can create additional health risks, particularly for children, elderly people and those already suffering from illness. Ensuring adequate and safe drinking-water facilities could therefore form an important

part of improving overall health conditions in the village.

Residents have urged the administration to take note of their difficulties and strengthen healthcare and drinking-water facilities. They are seeking practical intervention that can make medical treatment more accessible and reduce the hardships faced by families in the village.

The situation in Kuhhi highlights a wider challenge faced by communities where modern healthcare remains physically or economically difficult to access. Building confidence in scientific medical treatment requires more than awareness campaigns; it also requires ensuring that healthcare services are actually available when people need them.

For the villagers, better healthcare, safe drinking water and regular health awareness programmes could provide a more dependable support system while allowing them to continue their cultural and religious traditions by choice rather than necessity. Addressing these basic needs, residents believe, would go a long way towards improving the quality of life in Kuhhi.



Nuakhai Juhar

From
Mr Pradeep Pradhan
Chairman
Redhakhol Block





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Illegal Sand Mining Allegations in Naktideul Raise Concerns Over Tikira Riverbank



■ NEWSMAN AADYASHA TIMES

BHUBANESWAR : Allegations of large-scale illegal sand extraction and transportation from the Tikira River in Naktideul tehsil of Sambalpur district have raised concerns over environmental damage, riverbank erosion, agricultural land and potential revenue losses to the State government. Local residents allege that unauthorised sand lifting has continued for several years and intensified recently. According to residents, heavy machinery is being used at several locations along the river to extract sand. They have also raised questions over the absence of a valid sand quarry lease in the area and alleged that extraction is taking place without proper regulation.

Residents say excessive sand removal is affecting the natural condition of the river. They have expressed concern that continuous extraction could alter the river's flow, weaken its banks and damage vegetation along the riverbed. Riverbank erosion has reportedly become a concern in several stretches, with agricultural land located close to the river also facing potential risks. Another concern raised by villagers is the reported decline in water levels. Changes in the river's water availability are said to be affecting agriculture and traditional livelihoods. Fishing communities, in particular, are reportedly facing difficulties as local water sources dry up. Residents have demanded measures to improve water retention, including the construction of check dams in the upper reaches of the river and stone pitching along vulnerable sections of the riverbank. The allegations have also triggered questions about enforcement. Some residents claim that action against illegal sand transportation has not been uniform. They have alleged that while certain vehicles transporting sand for private construction purposes face police action, other suspected illegal activities continue. These claims have not been independently established.

Loan App Scam: When Easy Credit Turns into a Trap

■ NEWSMAN AADYASHA TIMES

NEW DELHI: The growing popularity of instant loan applications has made borrowing money easier than ever, but the convenience can also expose users to fraud, excessive charges and misuse of personal information. Apps promising quick loans with minimal documentation are increasingly being scrutinised as concerns grow over unauthorised digital lenders and predatory recovery practices.

The attraction is straightforward: a borrower facing an urgent financial requirement can download an application, submit basic personal information and receive a loan offer within minutes. However, cybersecurity and financial experts warn that speed should not be confused with legitimacy. An unclear lender identity, unusually low interest rates, instant approval without proper assessment and demands for excessive phone permissions are among the warning signs consumers should watch for.

A major concern is the collection of sensitive personal data. Some



malicious loan applications have reportedly sought access to contacts, photographs, messages and other information that is not necessarily required for legitimate lending. Authorities have identified malicious applications targeting users and have taken steps to address such threats, including seeking removal of identified apps from digital platforms.

The consequences can extend beyond financial loss. Borrowers who fail to repay within short periods may face repeated calls and pressure from recovery agents. Reports of illegal lending operations have also documented cases in which personal information obtained through apps

was allegedly used to intimidate or harass borrowers and their contacts.

Another problem is the actual cost of borrowing. An apparently small loan can become expensive after processing charges, taxes, high interest and short repayment periods are taken into account. Some borrowers may then take another loan to repay the first, creating a cycle of debt. Recent reporting has highlighted how repeated borrowing through digital lending platforms can contribute to mounting household financial pressure.

Experts advise consumers to begin with the identity of the

lender rather than the loan offer. Before applying, borrowers should establish whether the lender is a regulated bank or non-banking financial company and verify that the information provided by the application matches the lender's official website. The app's privacy policy, developer details, customer-support information, interest rate, processing fees and repayment schedule should also be examined carefully. App permissions deserve particular attention. A loan application requesting access to information unrelated to the lending process should raise questions. Consumers should avoid sharing sensitive documents or personal information through links received through unsolicited SMS messages, social-media posts or messaging applications.

Financial experts also recommend reading the complete loan agreement before accepting credit. The borrower should understand the total amount disbursed, the amount that must ultimately be repaid, applicable fees, repayment dates and consequences of delayed payment.

For people who have already installed a suspicious application, immediate precautions can include revoking unnecessary permissions, preserving messages and transaction records, contacting the relevant bank or financial institution and reporting suspected cybercrime through official channels. Victims should also avoid making additional payments merely because of threats or pressure without first verifying the legitimacy of the claim.

The rise of digital lending does not mean that all loan applications are fraudulent. Legitimate digital lenders can provide useful access to credit when they operate transparently and within applicable regulatory frameworks. The challenge for consumers is distinguishing regulated services from deceptive or malicious applications.

The basic lesson is simple: easy credit should never mean careless borrowing. Taking a few minutes to verify the lender, understand the costs and examine data permissions can help prevent a quick financial solution from becoming a much larger personal and financial problem.

Migrant Worker's Death at Shyam Metalics Raises Questions Over Investigation

■ NEWSMAN AADYASHA TIMES

SAMBALPUR: The death of a 43-year-old migrant worker, identified as Sanjay, while working in connection with Shyam Metalics at Pandloi in Sambalpur district, has raised questions over the circumstances surrounding the incident and the subsequent investigation.

According to the newspaper report, the Factories and Boilers Department has submitted a report in connection with the worker's death. However, the report reportedly does not clearly establish the exact cause of death. The report also states that Sanjay's body was taken

to Haryana by his wife and brother. The post-mortem report was reportedly still awaited at the time of the newspaper report. Meanwhile, an unnatural death (UD) case was registered by police, but the report alleges that even after several days, the investigation had not progressed significantly.

The report further highlights a jurisdictional issue involving two police stations. It alleges that although the incident falls within the jurisdiction of another police station, necessary communication and coordination between the

two stations had not taken place, resulting in delays in the investigation.

Report also quotes departmental officials regarding the report submitted by the Factories and Boilers Department. Questions have been raised over why the circumstances and cause of the worker's death have not yet been clearly established.

With the investigation reportedly delayed, concerns have emerged over whether the circumstances surrounding Sanjay's death will be fully established and whether his family will receive justice.

Human Chain in November, Mass Dharna in December for AIIMS



Several speakers stressed the need for an AIIMS in Sambalpur and questioned the delay in fulfilling the demand despite political commitments and statements supporting the proposal. Former BJD district president Siddharth

SAMBALPUR: The demand for establishment of Odisha's second AIIMS in Sambalpur is set to intensify, with the Paschimanchal Yuva Action Committee announcing a series of programmes as part of a six-month agitation. During the 2024 elections, the BJP had included the establishment of Odisha's second AIIMS in Sambalpur in its manifesto. The demand was subsequently placed before the Central Government on September 8 of the same year. Health Minister Mukesh Mahaling had also supported the demand and, according to an RTI response, had directed the district administration to identify suitable land for the proposed institution. Against this backdrop, the Paschimanchal Yuva Action Committee discussed the demand at a citizens' meeting and collected opinions from the public. The committee announced that a human chain would be organised in November, followed by a mass dharna in front of the District Collector's office in December. The meeting also discussed the roadmap for the next six months of the agitation. The programme was held under the chairmanship of Youth Action Committee president Bikash Das, with Mohit Nayak serving as coordinator.

Das said that during the BJD government, VIMSAR was granted unitary university status and several steps were taken towards improving healthcare services in western Odisha. He questioned why similar action was not being taken despite the present government being in power. Former MP Bhavani Hota also supported intensifying the demand for AIIMS in Sambalpur. Paresh Dani said that, following the establishment of IIM Sambalpur, a movement for an AIIMS in Sambalpur has now begun. BJP spokesperson Malaya Bakshi argued that the Congress and the BJD, which had been in power for long periods, were more responsible for the condition of healthcare services in Sambalpur and western Odisha. The meeting also referred to a series of reports published in Sambad regarding the AIIMS demand. Benudhar Dash drew attention to the issue, while Sourav Sen delivered the welcome address and Bikash Das proposed the vote of thanks.

The organisers said the November human chain and December mass dharna would form part of a broader campaign seeking the establishment of Odisha's second AIIMS in Sambalpur.

Rourkela Circuit House Controversy Puts Revenue Department's Accountability Under Scrutiny

ROURKELA: The controversy surrounding the alleged stay of adult-content performer Tina Nandi at the Panposh Circuit House in Rourkela has widened into a larger administrative issue, with questions now being raised over whether the prescribed rules governing the use of government accommodation were properly followed. The controversy resurfaced after an old video allegedly featuring Nandi speaking about her stay at the Rourkela Circuit House in December 2025 came to light. Police have begun examining how the accommodation was arranged, who facilitated the booking and whether the required procedures were followed. Three persons have reportedly been questioned in connection with the matter. However, the central issue is not the identity or profession of the alleged occupant. The key



question is whether a government property was allotted through the prescribed administrative process. Revenue Department's Role Under Scrutiny According to the Odisha Government's official Circuit House system, Circuit Houses are intended primarily to provide accommodation during official visits and fall under the administrative control of the Revenue & Disaster Management Department. The relevant

rules also define the competent authority responsible for the management and allotment of accommodation. Under the Orissa Circuit Houses and Inspection Bungalows Rules, 1985, non-official persons are not automatically barred from accommodation. However, such accommodation is subject to availability, applicable conditions and the discretion of the competent authority.



Ganesh Chaturthi 2026: 5 Iconic Ganesh Temples Across India

❖ Every Devotee Should Visit ❖

Sacred Temples • Divine Blessings • A Journey of Faith

From ancient shrines to popular pilgrimage spots, these 5 Ganesh temples across India offer a unique blend of spirituality, tradition and cultural heritage. Here are five must-visit Ganesh temples that every devotee should experience at least once in their lifetime.



*May Lord Ganesha
remove all obstacles
and bring happiness,
prosperity and success
to your life!*

1 Siddhivinayak Temple Mumbai, Maharashtra



The Siddhivinayak Temple in Mumbai is one of the most revered Ganesh temples in India. During the 10-day Ganesh Utsav, the temple witnesses an enormous influx of devotees from across the country and abroad.

The black stone idol of Lord Ganesha is unique because the deity's trunk is turned to the right, a feature considered highly auspicious.

The temple's festive atmosphere during Ganesh Chaturthi is truly unforgettable.

Mumbai, Maharashtra

2 Madhur Mahaganapathi Temple Kasaragod, Kerala



Located in Kasaragod, Kerala, the Madhur Mahaganapathi Temple is one of the region's most famous temples dedicated to Lord Ganesha. The temple is known for a remarkable idol believed to have appeared on a temple wall. Situated near the Madhuravahini River, the temple attracts devotees throughout the year.

It also hosts several traditional celebrations, including the five-day Madhur Bedi festival.

3 Trinetra Ganesh Temple Ranthambore, Rajasthan



The Trinetra Ganesh Temple is situated inside the historic Ranthambore Fort in Rajasthan's Sawai Madhopur district. The temple is unique because it houses a rare three-eyed (Trinetra) form of Lord Ganesha. Another distinctive feature is that Lord Ganesha is depicted along with his entire family, including his wives Riddhi and Siddhi and sons Shubh and Labh.

Thousands of devotees visit the temple, especially during Ganesh Chaturthi.

Ranthambore, Sawai Madhopur, Rajasthan

4 Chintamani Ganesh Temple Pune, Maharashtra



Located near Pune, the Chintamani Ganesh Temple is one of the eight revered Ashtavinayak temples of Maharashtra. According to legend, Lord Ganesha helped Sage Kapila recover a precious jewel called Chintamani, giving the temple its name.

The temple's spiritual significance and peaceful surroundings make it a popular pilgrimage destination throughout the year.

Pune, Maharashtra

5 Kanipakam Vinayaka Temple Andhra Pradesh



The Kanipakam Vinayaka Temple in Andhra Pradesh is among the most famous Ganesh temples in South India. The self-manifested idol of Lord Ganesha is believed to have emerged from a well, which still exists within the temple premises. Devotees believe that the idol continues to grow in size over time.

The temple attracts large crowds during Ganesh Chaturthi and other major Hindu festivals.

Kanipakam, Andhra Pradesh

*From Mumbai's Siddhivinayak Temple to
Andhra Pradesh's Kanipakam Vinayaka Temple,
these sacred shrines offer devotees a memorable way to
celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi and seek Lord Ganesha's blessings.*

AADHYASHA INFOTECH

Assam Launches ₹48,000 Crore Adani Power

"Adani Power's 3,200 MW ultra-supercritical thermal"

GUWAHATI: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday laid the foundation stone for Adani Power's 3,200 MW ultra-supercritical thermal power plant at Chapar in Dhubri district, marking the beginning of one of the state's largest private-sector power investments. The project involves an estimated investment of ₹48,000 crore.

The Chapar project is designed to significantly expand Assam's power-generation capacity and strengthen electricity availability for households, businesses and industries. The plant will consist of four units, each with a capacity of 800 MW, taking the total generation capacity to 3,200 MW.

The plant will use ultra-supercritical technology, which is designed to operate at higher temperatures and pressures than conventional thermal power technology. The company said the facility will incorporate high-efficiency systems and modern environmental safeguards.

Employment is expected to be a major part of the project's economic impact. Adani Power said the plant could generate



up to 20,000 jobs during the construction phase and around 5,000 jobs once operational.

The project is also expected to create opportunities beyond direct employment. Local contractors, suppliers, transport operators and service providers could participate in the plant's construction and subsequent operations, potentially expanding economic activity around Dhubri. The Chapar plant forms part of a broader ₹63,000-crore power investment planned by the Adani Group in Assam. Around ₹48,000 crore is earmarked for the thermal power project, while roughly

₹15,000 crore is planned for two pumped-storage projects with a combined capacity of 2,700 MW.

The foundation-stone ceremony was attended by senior Assam government officials, industry representatives, community representatives and Jeet Adani, director of the Adani Group. The project follows the investment commitments associated with the Advantage Assam Investor Summit 2.0. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma described the Chapar project as a major investment for the state and said the expansion of energy infrastructure could support.

Tata Trusts Challenges Chandrasekaran



MUMBAI: Tata Trusts disputes the validity of N. Chandrasekaran's reappointment as Tata Sons chairman, citing nominee-director

voting provisions and rejecting the use of a casting vote to settle the disagreement.

Tata Trusts has escalated its dispute with Tata Sons over the reappointment of N. Chandrasekaran as chairman, challenging the validity of the resolution passed by the company's board on September 17. The Trusts said the decision did not satisfy voting requirements contained in Tata Sons' Articles of Association. The Tata Sons board had voted 4-1 in favour of giving Chandrasekaran another five-year term. Noel Tata, chairman of Tata Trusts and one of the Trusts' nominee directors on the Tata Sons board, voted against the proposal. The disagreement centres on the interpretation of Tata Sons' Articles of Association. Tata Trusts, which holds about 66 per cent of Tata Sons, argues that decisions concerning the chairman require affirmative support from a majority of the directors nominated by the Trusts in addition to the overall board vote. There are currently two Tata Trusts nominee directors on the Tata Sons board. According to the Trusts, one of the two nominees voted against Chandrasekaran's reappointment, meaning the required affirmative support was not obtained. The Trusts therefore maintains that the resolution was not legally effective.

Titan Eyes Watch Brand Acquisitions As Premium Demand Surges

BENGALURU: Titan Company is considering acquisitions and investments in smaller and emerging watch brands as part of its strategy to strengthen its presence in India's premium and luxury watch market. The Tata Group company is evaluating opportunities that could complement its long-term growth plans and expand its reach across segments and markets.

The company's acquisition strategy comes as premium watches gain momentum among Indian consumers. Titan management has indicated that the business is increasingly focused on higher-value products as demand patterns shift toward premium and luxury offerings. Titan Company Chief Marketing Officer Ranjani Krishnaswamy said the possibility of investing in or acquiring smaller watch companies has been discussed internally. The company is looking for brands and businesses that could add to its existing portfolio and support its longer-term ambitions.

The approach follows Titan's experience of using acquisitions to strengthen its presence in other consumer categories. Management has indicated that a similar strategy could be considered in watches if the right brand and partnership opportunity emerges. The company is also witnessing stronger demand at



the premium end of the market. Titan has been increasing its focus on watches priced above ₹25,000, with the segment becoming an important part of its premiumisation strategy.

Titan recently introduced Vetra, its branded in-house mechanical movement platform, as part of its efforts to strengthen its mechanical watchmaking capabilities. The platform forms the foundation for a new Titan Automatics collection and represents an expansion of the company's capabilities in higher-end watchmaking. The move toward acquisitions could complement Titan's internal product development. While the company continues to build its own brands and technology, acquiring or investing in emerging labels could provide access to new designs, customer segments, specialist expertise and established brand identities. Festive demand

is providing another positive backdrop for the watch business. Titan expects the upcoming festive period to be robust, with management pointing to healthy consumer demand and an early wedding season coinciding with a delayed Diwali. The company has reported a healthy start to the festive season and is preparing to meet increased consumer demand. Management has indicated that capacity to service the expected demand is already receiving significant attention as the season approaches. The wedding calendar could further support sales of watches, particularly in premium categories where watches are increasingly positioned as gifting and occasion-led purchases. An early wedding season alongside the festive period could create an extended period of stronger consumer activity. Titan's broader watch strategy also includes strengthening its int presence .

Rapido Moves NCLT Against Magicpin Over Unpaid Dues

NEW DELHI: Mobility platform Rapido has filed an insolvency petition against hyperlocal commerce company Magicpin at the National Company Law Tribunal, escalating a financial dispute between the two technology companies. The case concerns alleged unpaid operational dues of less than ₹10 crore.

The petition has been filed under Section 9 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016, which allows an operational creditor to seek initiation of corporate insolvency resolution proceedings when an alleged payment default occurs. Rapido has filed the case through its registered entity, Roppen Transportation Services Private Limited. The Chandigarh Bench of the NCLT has issued notice to Magicpin, asking the company to respond to Rapido's claims. However, the tribunal has not yet admitted the insolvency petition or ruled on the merits of the underlying dispute.



The amount involved is reportedly below ₹10 crore and relates to issues including payment reconciliation as well as expenses incurred by Rapido for delivery and logistics services. The precise amount and liability remain matters for the parties and tribunal to address.

Rapido and Magicpin had previously entered into a partnership connected with Rapido's food-delivery business, Ownly. Under the arrangement, Magicpin provided

access to its network of more than 80,000 restaurants, helping Rapido expand its food-delivery operations beyond Bengaluru. The partnership also involved Magicpin leveraging Rapido's delivery fleet in selected locations. Magicpin had earlier worked with other digital platforms, including Paytm and PhonePe, in the food-delivery ecosystem. The current dispute demonstrates how commercial disagreements can move into formal legal channels.

ACE Targets 15% Export

NEW DELHI : Micron Workers Demand Profit Share in AI BoomEmployees push for 15% operating profit distributions following industry precedents set by Samsung and SK Hynix.Tight memory chip capacities keep assembly workforces under high operational NMDC aims for aggressive production volume growth while pushing for net-zero operational emissions by 2047. Action Construction Equipment (ACE) is targeting a significant increase in its international business, with exports expected to account for around 15 per cent of revenue within the next two to three years. The Palwal-based construction equipment manufacturer currently derives about 7-8 %.

ASML And Lam Research Deepen India Semiconductor



NEW DELHI: ASML has formally begun operations in India as global semiconductor equipment companies increasingly expand their presence in the country. The Dutch chip-equipment major is initially planning to hire around 20 to 30 engineering graduates as it builds its local operations and prepares to support

India's emerging semiconductor manufacturing ecosystem. The company's India expansion is closely linked to the development of domestic semiconductor manufacturing, particularly Tata Electronics' upcoming 300-millimetre fabrication facility in Dholera, Gujarat. ASML is expected to support the fab with its advanced lithography equipment and related expertise. ASML has already entered into a strategic partnership with Tata Electronics covering lithography tools, local talent development, supply-chain resilience and research capabilities. The collaboration is aimed at supporting the establishment and eventual ramp-up of Tata's semiconductor fab.

Moneyview IPO Set To Hit Dalal Street On September 24

NEW DELHI: Digital lending and financial services platform Moneyview is set to enter the Indian public markets, with its maiden initial public offering scheduled to open on September 24. The Bengaluru-based fintech has filed its red herring prospectus with the Registrar of Companies ahead of the issue.

The IPO will include a fresh issue of shares worth ₹750 crore, alongside an offer for sale of up to 10.04 crore equity shares by existing shareholders. The company had originally proposed a larger fresh issue of ₹1,500 crore and an OFS of 13.6 crore shares in its draft documents. Moneyview is backed by prominent investors including Accel, Tiger Global Management and Ribbit Capital. Founders Puneet Agarwal and Sanjay Aggarwal are also among the shareholders participating in the offer-for-sale component. The price band for the IPO

is scheduled to be announced separately on September 21. The

1, subject to the completion of the IPO process. The fresh capital



anchor-investor bidding period is expected to open on September 23, one day before the public issue opens. The public issue will remain open until September 28. Share allotment is expected to be finalised on September 29, while trading in Moneyview shares is scheduled to begin on October

will be used partly to expand Moneyview's lending operations. Under the revised plan, ₹325 crore of the net proceeds is intended to support growth in loan disbursements under default loss guarantee arrangements.

Another ₹250 crore is planned to be invested in subsidiary

Whizdm Finance to strengthen its capital base. The remaining funds from the fresh issue are intended for general corporate purposes.

Moneyview operates as a digital financial services platform, connecting consumers seeking financial products with banks, non-banking financial companies, insurers and other financial institutions. Its offerings are supported by a network of financial partners. The company's shareholder base includes several institutional investors. Accel holds the largest reported stake at 21.89%, followed by Tiger Global Group at 13.79%, promoter Sanjay Aggarwal at 10.33% and Ribbit Capital at 10.2%. The OFS component will allow existing investors to monetise part of their holdings while the fresh issue will provide new capital to the company. Several institutional shareholders have reduced.

India's textile and apparel industry has warned that potential additional US tariffs

NEW DELHI: India's textile and apparel industry has raised concerns over the potential impact of new US tariff measures following the signing of the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026. Industry body CITI has urged the Indian government to engage with Washington to protect exporters from possible additional duties. The legislation, signed by US President Donald Trump on September 18, gives the administration the authority to impose tariffs of up to 100 per cent on goods from countries that meet specified thresholds for purchases of Russian crude oil or natural gas. India and China are among the countries identified as potentially exposed under the law, although the legislation does not automatically impose a 100 per cent tariff on Indian goods. The final tariff rate, products covered and implementation schedule have yet to be determined by Washington. This has created uncertainty for Indian exporters as they plan future shipments and negotiate orders with American buyers. The United States is the largest overseas market for India's textile and



US Tariffs Can Hurt Indian Textile Sector

apparel industry, making changes in American trade policy particularly important for exporters. Higher duties could affect pricing, margins and the ability of Indian companies to compete with suppliers from other manufacturing countries. The concerns come at a time when the sector is recording mixed export performance. In August 2026, India's overall textile and apparel exports increased by 6.39 per cent year-on-year in US dollar terms. Textile exports grew 13.03 per cent, while apparel exports declined 2.74 per cent. For the April-August period, textile exports increased 6.94 per cent, but

apparel exports fell 9.10 per cent. Combined textile and apparel exports were consequently marginally lower by 0.24 per cent compared with the corresponding period a year earlier. MSME exporters could face particular pressure because many operate on relatively limited margins and compete primarily on price. Additional import duties in the US could either raise prices for American buyers or force Indian suppliers to absorb part of the additional cost.

CITI has therefore called for urgent engagement between New Delhi and Washington. The industry body has argued that a predictable and balanced trade.

Primary Market IPO

NEW DELHI: India's primary market is set for intense activity in the week beginning September 21, with as many as 20 public issues scheduled to open for subscription while 14 companies are expected to make their stock-market debut. The heavy pipeline comes despite continued consolidation in the broader secondary equity market. The upcoming IPO activity is expected to generate more than ₹4,200 crore in fundraising, with the mainboard segment accounting for the bulk of the capital. Moneyview's proposed ₹750-crore fresh issue has not been included in this tally because its price band was still due to be announced. Among the major mainboard issues opening during the week is Varmora Granito, which plans to raise around ₹708 crore. Its issue is scheduled to open on September 22 and will include both a fresh issue and an offer-for-sale component. A-One Steels India is scheduled to launch its ₹405-crore IPO on September 24. The issue will include a fresh issue of ₹355 crore and an offer-for-sale component worth ₹50 crore at the upper end of its price range. The SME segment is also contributing substantially to the week's primary-market activity. Thirteen SME companies are expected to open their issues during the week, with their combined fundraising expected to exceed ₹400 crore.

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Chhattisgarh, the "Land of the Rich Heritage", is a treasure trove of natural beauty, ancient temples, tribal culture and vibrant traditions. From magnificent waterfalls and dense forests to historical sites and bustling markets, the state offers a unique blend of nature, culture and adventure for every traveller.

FAMOUS PLACES — TO VISIT IN — CHHATTISGARH



KAILASH & KUTUMSAR CAVES
Located near Budhar, these limestone caves are known for their stunning stalactite and stalagmite formations, making them a natural wonder.



BANTEESHWAR TEMPLE
A 1,000-year-old Shiva temple in Dantewada, known for its exquisite architecture and spiritual significance.



CHITRAKOTE FALLS
Often called the "Niagara Falls of India", this majestic waterfall on the Indravati River is one of the most popular attractions in Chhattisgarh.



SIRPUR
An important archaeological site with ancient temples, monasteries and museum, showcasing the rich history of the region.



INDRAVATI NATIONAL PARK
Home to diverse wildlife, including tigers, leopards, elephants and rich flora, this park is a paradise for nature and wildlife enthusiasts.



BASTAR
Famous for its vibrant tribal culture, handloom, handicrafts and the annual Bastar Dussehra, one of the largest tribal festivals in the world.



TIRATHGARH WATERFALLS
A beautiful cascade in the Kanger Valley National Park, known for its pristine surroundings and scenic trekking trails.

CULTURE & NATURAL BEAUTY EXPERIENCE THE TRUE SPIRIT OF CHHATTISGARH



EXPLORE
STUNNING LANDSCAPES,
ANCIENT HERITAGE AND
RICH TRIBAL CULTURE

From the lush forests to historic temples, Chhattisgarh is a destination that inspires.

TOP PLACES AT A GLANCE

- Chitrakote Falls – Jagdalpur
- Kailash & Kutumsar Caves – Budhar
- Banteesvhar Temple – Dantewada
- Sirpur – Mahasamund
- Indravati National Park – Bijapur
- Tirathgarh Falls – Jagdalpur
- Kanger Valley National Park – Jagdalpur
- Bastar – Jagdalpur



SAMBALPUR (NEARBY)
Known for its scenic beauty, temples and the famous Hirakud Dam, a marvel of modern engineering.



MAHADEV GHAR
A sacred hilltop temple offering panoramic views of the surrounding valleys and a peaceful atmosphere.



TRIBAL VILLAGES
Experience the warm hospitality and rich traditions of the Gond, Baiga and Maria tribes, known for their unique art, dance and lifestyle.



BHOJLAIYA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY
A lesser-known gem, ideal for birdwatching, nature walks and spotting wildlife in its natural habitat.



TAMRA GHAR
A picturesque spot with waterfalls, hills and a serene environment, perfect for a relaxing getaway.



Vibrant People | Rich Traditions | Breathtaking Destinations





AADHYASHA GADGETS



HOW TECHNOLOGY IS SHAPING A BRIGHTER TOMORROW

From smarter devices to cleaner cities, innovation is improving lives, creating opportunities and building a more sustainable future for all.

AI IS BECOMING A EVERYDAY HELPER

From voice assistants to smart recommendations, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is now part of our daily lives. Experts say AI is helping people work faster, learn better and make smarter decisions. As the technology improves, it is expected to create new opportunities in education, healthcare and business.

PEOPLE
IDEAS
TECHNOLOGY
A BRIGHTER
TOMORROW



SMARTER PHONES, BIGGER POSSIBILITIES

The latest smartphones are more than just calling devices. With powerful cameras, on-device AI and longer battery life, they are helping people stay connected, work on the go and capture life's moments in better ways.



TECH FOR A GREENER PLANET

Clean energy technology, including solar, wind and energy-efficient devices, is playing a key role in fighting climate change. Experts believe innovation can help build a cleaner and healthier future for coming generations.



HYBRID WORK IS HERE TO STAY

Flexible work models, powered by cloud tools and high-speed internet, have changed the way people work. Companies are now focusing on technology that supports collaboration, productivity and better work-life balance.

STAY SAFE IN A DIGITAL WORLD

With more of our lives online, cybersecurity is more important than ever. Experts advise using strong passwords, enabling two-factor authentication and being careful of suspicious links. Staying informed and following simple online safety habits can protect your personal data and devices.



India's Tech Startups Powering Global Change

By Our Technology Correspondent

Indian startups are making their mark on the global stage, building innovative solutions in areas like fintech, healthtech, edtech and clean energy. With strong talent, growing investor interest and government support, India is fast becoming a hub for technology innovation.

Experts say the next decade will see even more Indian companies creating products and services that solve real-world problems, not just in India but across the world.



Young entrepreneurs are using technology to create solutions for a better future.

5 Tech Trends to Watch in 2026

- 1 Generative AI:** More powerful tools for content, design and problem-solving.
- 2 Electric Vehicles:** Faster charging and longer range.
- 3 Smart Homes:** Devices that learn and adapt to your lifestyle.
- 4 Healthcare Tech:** AI and wearables for early detection and personalised care.
- 5 Space Tech:** Private companies making space more accessible.

“TECHNOLOGY WORKS BEST WHEN IT BRINGS PEOPLE CLOSER.”

—UNKNOWN



WEARABLES HELP YOU STAY HEALTHY

From tracking steps to monitoring heart rate and sleep, wearable devices are making it easier for people to take charge of their health. Doctors say these gadgets can be a useful tool for early detection of potential health issues.



DRONES FIND NEW USES

Drones are no longer just for photography. They are now being used in agriculture, disaster management, infrastructure inspection and even delivery services. Experts say the technology has huge potential, especially in rural areas.



AUTOMATION IS CHANGING JOBS

Robots and automation are making manufacturing faster and safer. While some jobs may change, experts believe technology will also create new roles and opportunities in areas like AI development, maintenance and data analysis.

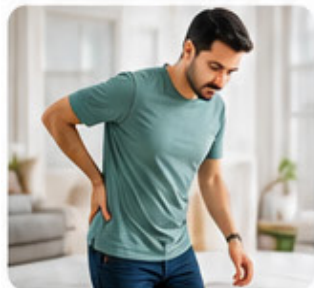


TECH MAKES LEARNING EASIER

Online platforms, educational apps and virtual classrooms are helping students learn at their own pace. With access to quality content from around the world, technology is making education more inclusive and accessible.



1 BONE PAIN
Dull, constant pain in your back, hips, or joints may be an early sign of weak bones.



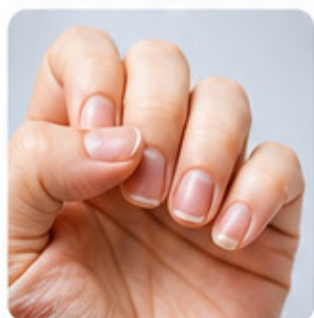
2 LOSS OF HEIGHT
Losing height over time or a stooped posture can indicate shrinking bones or spinal fractures.



3 FRACTURES FROM MINOR FALLS
Breaking a bone from a minor fall or bump may signal that your bones are fragile.



4 MUSCLE WEAKNESS & CRAMPS
Weak muscles and frequent cramps may be linked to poor bone strength and low calcium levels.



5 BRITTLE NAILS & TEETH PROBLEMS
Brittle nails, cavities, or gum problems can be connected to calcium and vitamin D deficiency.

GOOD BONE HEALTH IS ESSENTIAL FOR AN ACTIVE, PAIN-FREE LIFE. OSTEOPOROSIS AND WEAK BONES OFTEN DEVELOP SILENTLY. RECOGNIZING THE EARLY SIGNS TODAY CAN HELP YOU STAY STRONG TOMORROW.

5 SIGNS YOUR BONES MIGHT BE WEAKENING WITHOUT YOU KNOWING!



STRONG BONES, STRONG LIFE.
DON'T IGNORE THE SIGNS!



TIPS FOR STRONG BONES

-  Get enough calcium from milk, curd, cheese, and leafy greens.
-  Soak in sunlight for 15–20 minutes daily for vitamin D.
-  Do weight-bearing exercises like walking, jogging, or strength training.
-  Avoid smoking and limit alcohol and caffeine.
-  Maintain a healthy weight and balanced diet.
-  Get regular bone density tests after age 40.

HEALTH

BUILD STRONG BONES TODAY, FOR A STRONGER TOMORROW!

Your bones are living tissues that need care and nourishment every day. A healthy lifestyle can help prevent osteoporosis and keep you active, agile, and independent as you age.

BONE-BOOSTING FOODS TO INCLUDE IN YOUR DIET



DAIRY PRODUCTS
Rich in calcium for stronger bones and teeth.



LEAFY GREENS
High in calcium, magnesium & vitamin K.



NUTS & SEEDS
Packed with calcium, protein & healthy fats.



FATTY FISH
Great source of vitamin D and omega-3 fatty acids.



LEGUMES
Good source of protein, calcium & magnesium.



TOFU
Plant-based protein and calcium-rich superfood.

AMAZING BENEFITS OF STRONG BONES



PREVENTS FRACTURES
Strong bones help prevent breaks and painful injuries.



BETTER MOBILITY
Healthy bones and joints keep you moving with ease.



SUPPORTS POSTURE
Strong bones maintain balance, posture and reduce back pain.



MORE INDEPENDENCE
Keeps you active and independent as you age gracefully.



IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE
Enables you to enjoy daily activities without limits.



LOWER RISK OF OSTEOPOROSIS
Good bone health reduces the risk of bone loss.

DAILY HABITS FOR HEALTHY BONES



WALK DAILY
Aim for 30 minutes of brisk walking every day.



STAY HYDRATED
Drink enough water to keep your bones and joints healthy.



STRETCH & YOGA
Improves flexibility, balance and bone strength.



SLEEP WELL
7–8 hours of quality sleep helps your body repair and restore.



EAT BALANCED DIET
Include calcium, vitamin D, magnesium and protein in every meal.



AVOID HARMFUL HABITS
Say no to smoking and excessive alcohol.



REGULAR CHECK-UPS
Get bone density tests and doctor advice regularly.



STRONG BONES TODAY, STRONG YOU FOR LIFE!





Samantha Not Leaving Films Due to Pregnancy

Samantha is currently away from films, and several reports have claimed that her pregnancy has led her to withdraw from various projects. However, the report clarifies that her exit from the Indo-UK film “Chennai Story” happened nearly three years ago and was not connected to her current situation.

The film was announced in November 2022 and was expected to feature Samantha in the role of a private detective. At the time, the makers had indicated that she was their preferred choice for the project. Samantha had also expressed interest in the film.

However, the project did not progress as planned. Around the same period, Samantha began facing health-related difficulties, which eventually led to her stepping away from the film. Therefore, reports suggesting that she has only recently left Chennai Story because of pregnancy are described as misleading.

The report also says that Samantha had another action film planned after “Maa Inti Bangaram.” Preparations for that project had reportedly begun, but it has now been postponed. It remains unclear whether the makers will proceed with another actress or wait for Samantha.

According to people close to Samantha, she is currently staying away from films and may take considerable time before beginning a new project. Her fans are reportedly hoping that speculation surrounding her film career will come to an end.



Can Nani’s “The Paradise” Break His North American Record?

Nani has crossed the million-dollar mark in North America with several films across different genres, including Jersey, Hi Nanna, Dasara, Saripodhaa Sanivaaram and HIT 3. His films have found audiences there even without always being large-scale action productions. At present, “Saripodhaa Sanivaaram” holds Nani’s best North American performance, with a reported gross of around \$2.49 million. HIT 3 collected approximately \$2.31 million, while Dasara reached around \$2.05 million. Meanwhile, advance bookings for

The Paradise have reportedly been strong. By September 19 afternoon, its North American premieres had reached around \$480,000 in advance sales, with approximately \$441,000 coming from the United States. Around 18,800 tickets had reportedly been sold. With several days still remaining before the premieres, additional shows are being added in some locations. For The Paradise to become Nani’s new North American career-best, the film would need to cross approximately \$2.5 million.



Rashmika Mandanna Responds to Criticism Over Her Accent and Language

Rashmika Mandanna, popularly known as the “National Crush,” continues to have a strong presence across Indian cinema. However, her language and accent have frequently become topics of discussion on social media. Rashmika has faced criticism and trolling from some netizens regarding her pronunciation and accent in different languages. Responding to the issue, she said that language has never been an obstacle to her career growth. She explained that she belongs to the Kodagu (Coorg) region and that her mother tongue is Kodava Takk. According to her, the limited presence of her mother tongue in the film industry became one of the reasons she eventually entered cinema in different languages. Rashmika also said that her fans are like family members to her. She credited them with encouraging her to try Telugu cinema first and later Hindi films, saying that her career progressed naturally from there.

Kankana: New Odia Drama Set for Release with a Strong Ensemble Cast

Odia cinema is gearing up for the release of “Kankana,” a new drama featuring Supriya Nayak, Suryamayee Mohapatra, Choudhury Jay Prakash Das and Ankita Mohanty in key roles.

Directed by Prithvi Raj Patnaik and produced by Deepak Mahapatra, the film has a runtime of approximately 2 hours and 2 minutes and has received a UA certificate. The film was scheduled for theatrical release on September 18, 2026.

The project brings together a prominent cast from the Odia film industry, with veteran performer Choudhury Jay Prakash Das sharing the screen with actors Supriya Nayak, Suryamayee Mohapatra and Ankita Mohanty. The combination of experienced and contemporary performers is expected to be one of the film’s notable features.

“Kankana” is categorised by eTimes as an Odia drama, placing it among the latest regional releases of September



2026. The film is part of a busy period for Odia cinema, with several new films arriving in theatres around the same time. With its ensemble cast and a runtime of just over two hours, “Kankana” adds another original Odia-language story to the current theatrical lineup. The film’s director, Prithvi Raj Patnaik, leads the creative team, while