

Quality edu, economic opportunities key to balancing sex ratio: CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhubaneswar

EXPRESSING concern over the skewed sex ratio in the state affecting gender equality and social stability, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Saturday called for creating massive public awareness to address the societal biases for male children.

Addressing a function on the occasion of the state-level Shoshan Paksh-2025 celebration at the State Institute for Women and Children (SIWC) here, Majhi said the need of the hour is to address the underlying societal attitudes and beliefs that contribute to preference for sons.

"Gender bias against girl children is still deeply rooted. Sons are preferred over daughters and what is surprising is that mothers prefer a male child over girl," he said.

Citing Kerala which stands out among all states on sex ratio and gender equality, the chief minister said it is because the state has the highest literacy rate. "Though the situation in Odisha is changing but slowly. With improvement in the sex ratio (1,000 males to 979 females), our efforts should be towards increasing access to quality education and economic opportunities for girls which can empower them and reduce the preference for sons," he said.

Emphasising the importance of collective awareness in making Odisha malnutrition-free, a key priority for building a prosperous state, Majhi said the Shoshan Paksh-2025 celebration aims to raise awareness about nutrition and promote healthy practices. Anganwadi workers and supervisors play a crucial role in this effort, providing nutrition and basic education to children.

Highlighting the key initiatives of the state government for improving the children's health and well-being, the chief minister said a ₹100 crore-funded Odisha Pushti Mission will



CM Mohan Charan Majhi with participants at Shoshan Paksh | EXPRESS

CM OKAYS ONE MORE BATTALION OF OISF

Bhubaneswar: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Saturday approved the formation of one more battalion of the Odisha Industrial Security Force (OISF). The new battalion will have 1,040 posts. With this addition, the total number of OISF battalions in the state will be two, with a combined strength of 2,847 personnel. The existing OISF battalion has 1,807 posts. The decision to form a new battalion reflects the government's commitment to ensuring the safety and security of industrial and commercial hubs in the state. This move is expected to enhance the security infrastructure and support the state's growing industrial landscape, the CMO said.

be launched while ₹284 crore has been allocated in the current year's budget to provide nutritious food to women and children and assistance under Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana for families with two daughters has been increased from ₹10,000 to ₹12,000. The chief minister stressed that a whole of government approach is crucial for the success of the campaign promoting a unified and coordinated effort across departments. He inaugurated an 84-bed hostel, a modern library and anganwadi training centre on the premises of SIWC. Eight buildings of the institute were named after renowned women personalities of the state.

Cuttack CWC starts probe into JNV student sexual assault case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Cuttack

THE case of alleged sexual assault of a 17-year-old student by a labourer inside the boys hostel of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) at Mundali has been taken up by the district child welfare committee (CWC), which has started its probe into the incident.

The CWC chairman Pramod Acharya on Saturday said the victim along with his parents will soon be presented before the panel for recording his statement. The victim will also be facilitated with counselling and other necessary measures to overcome the trauma, he added.

Expressing severe displeasure over the conduct of the principal in such a heinous crime, Acharya said he will be summoned to appear before the CWC to clarify why he did not intimate the matter and file the FIR on behalf of the victim.

"It is a serious matter and we will take it forward. A thorough probe will be conducted to ascertain under which circumstance the labourers, who had come from outside, were accommodated in the boys hostel of the JNV. Necessary legal action would be initiated against all the persons responsible for the unfortunate incident," said Acharya.

The victim had gone to the toilet at about 9.30 pm on April 10 night when one of the labourers who was standing near the gate came inside, locked the gate and sexually assaulted him.

The boy had informed his parents who filed a complaint with Baranga police the next day. The accused labourer, who along with others had been engaged by the principal for colouring the office and buildings of JNV, had been arrested on April 12. However, the incident had been hushed up and came to light on Friday after a local social activist Saroj Kumar Sahu submitted a petition to the commissioner of Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) alleging gross misconduct of the school authorities in the sensitive issue.

BJD lost 2024 election as it could not counter false narrative: Naveen

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhubaneswar

LEADER of Opposition Naveen Patnaik on Saturday said BJD lost the 2024 election with a narrow margin as it could not effectively counter the false narrative of the BJP.

Addressing the party leaders and workers at Sankha Bhawan here after being elected as the BJD president for the ninth consecutive time, the former chief minister said, "I have full faith in the party workers. They will give a befitting reply to the lies. We will take the message of our service to every village and city of Odisha."

He called upon the party workers to be aggressive in exposing the falsities of the BJP, particularly on social media. Stating that BJD's organisational strength should not be underestimated, Naveen said the grassroots level workers are the real assets of the party.

"BJD's strength is based on its policies and ideology. The party will continue to serve the people whether in power or not. Empowerment of all sections of people including women, farmers, youths, workers, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes is the focus of the BJD. The party has always fought for the interest of the people of Odisha and will continue to do so in future," he said.

Naveen said the BJD rule from 2000 to 2024 was the golden period of development for Odisha. The state became an ideal for other states because of its pioneering role in many

fields. He thanked the party leaders and workers for giving him the opportunity to serve the party as president of BJD. He paid tributes to Biju Patnaik and said his ideals have always shown the way to the party.

Several MPs, MLAs absent

However, Naveen's assumption of the reigns of the party in the aftermath of the crisis over the Waqf Amendment Bill voting in Rajya Sabha, though unopposed, was not a smooth affair as several senior leaders including three MPs and two MLAs were absent on the occasion.

The MPs who were not present were Sasmit Patra, Sulata Deo and Niranjan Bishi while the absentee MLAs include Ranendra Pratap Swain and Sanatan Mahakud. Other senior leaders including former ministers Bhupinder Singh, Sashi Bhushan Behera and Prafulla Mallik were also absent.

Sources in the BJD said that those who remained absent do not belong to the same group in the party. Patra has been under attack within the party for voting in favour of Waqf Bill. Deo and Bishi had supported Patra. Swain had recently shot off a letter to the party chief questioning the change of party's stand on the Bill while the senior leaders had questioned interference of outside force in the party's decision making. The MPs and MLAs who skipped the function were not available for their comment while the senior leaders like Singh, Mallick and Behera said they were not invited to the meeting.

BJD chief can't accept people's mandate: Samal

BHUBANESWAR: Countering the "false narrative" accusation of BJD president Naveen Patnaik, the BJP on Saturday said the regional party lost the 2024 elections due to corruption, misgovernance and misutilisation of central assistance.

Responding to Naveen's statement at a media conference here, state BJP president Manmohan Samal said the issues raised by his party struck a chord with the people as the regional party had no answers.

"We continued to ask questions to the BJD government and they ignored them. Their silence cost them dearly. Lack of democracy within the BJD, over bureaucratisation of the state administration, no say of ministers in government, and above all disrespect of elected representatives at the hands of bureaucrats were the issues raised by the BJP. These were the narratives of the BJP before the election and none of them were false," Samal said. He further added that instead of accusing the BJP, Naveen should introspect on what went wrong. "It seems he is still not ready to accept the people's mandate," the state BJP chief said.

Replying to a query on Naveen's election as the party president for the ninth consecutive time, Samal said, "I congratulate him and expect that the BJD under his leadership will act as a responsible opposition and play a very constructive role." ENS

EXPRESS READ

Youth dies by suicide after sustaining losses in online gaming

Bhubaneswar: A 24-year-old youth allegedly died by suicide on Saturday after sustaining huge losses in online gaming. The deceased was working in a pathology lab here and staying on rent in Chintamaniswar area. He allegedly ended his life by hanging. Police launched an investigation and found that he was addicted to online games. He had reportedly sustained losses to the tune of ₹7 lakh and was upset over the matter. "The youth's mobile phone was seized from the spot and it will be examined to ascertain the apps he used. A case of unnatural death has been registered and further probe is underway," said Laxmisagar police station IIC, Shyam Sundar Rao. On March 13, a 16-year-old girl from Rayagada district had died by suicide after reportedly not receiving ₹4 lakh in winnings from an online gaming platform.

ODISHA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, CUTTACK NOTICE No.2399 / P.S.C., Dt.16.04.2025 (1E-04-2024/25) (DR - II) D-13: The Commission herewith cancels the Advertisement No 28 of 2023-24 for recruitment to the post of Language Officer under the Law Department...

बनारस रेल इंजन कारखाना, वाराणसी-221004 दिनांक: 18.04.2025 निविदा सूचना भारत के राष्ट्रपति के लिए एवं उनकी और से नियमितित वस्तुओं की आपूर्ति हेतु...

Shree Jagannath Temple Office, Puri Tender Call Notice Bid Identification No.05/25-26 Memo 5461 dt.16.04.25 in Single Cover System for S/R to PH works (Internal & external) of Neeladri Bhakta Niwas...

THE GANDHIGRAM RURAL INSTITUTE (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY) Ministry of Education (Shiksha Mantralaya), Govt. of India Accredited by NAAC with 'A' Grade (3rd Cycle) Gandhigram - 624 302, Dindigul District, Tamil Nadu.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA SAMBALPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, SAMBALPUR. Email ID: secretarysdasbp@gmail.com C-179 NOTICE INVITING TENDERS NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement Bid Identification No. SDASBP- 02/2025-26 Dt. 19.04.2025

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION-II, KENDRAPARA eerw_kendraparat@yahoo.co.in 'E' PROCUREMENT NOTICE NO.RWD-II/KPD-1/25-26 DTD 17.04.2025

AFFIDAVIT By virtue of an affidavit before the Notary, Balangir, Dated-15/04/2025, I, Narendara Kumar Majhi, At/Po- Rusuda, Ps- Tusura, Dist- Balangir, declare that I have changed my name from Narendara Majhi to Narendara Kumar Majhi.

Regional Plant Resource Centre FOREST, ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA NAYAPALLI, BHUBANESWAR-751015, ODISHA, INDIA, PHONE:91 674 2557925 E-mail: rprcbsr@gmail.com. Website:www.rprcbsr.in

AFFIDAVIT I, TARAKESWOR MANDAL, S/O Gagan Mandal, resident of Pujaniput, Po/ Ps - Padwa, Dt- Koraput, odisha -764 038, Odisha declare by this Affidavit No.1226, Dated - 18/04/2025, that now onwards I shall be known as TARAK MANDAL for all future purpose.

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW FOR PROJECT FELLOW MM-11: Eligible candidates may attend a walk-in-interview at 10.30 A.M. onward on 25th April 2025 (Registration/Reporting strictly from 9.30 A.M to 10.30 A.M) at Regional Plant Resource Centre(RPRC) for temporary positions of Project Fellow, under State Plan Project for the year 2025-26.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, RAYAGADA Email ID: ccewrcrayagada@gmail.com Letter No.559 /W.E/ Date: 11.04.2025 NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH GEPNIC e-Procurement Notice

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT SardarVallabh Patel Post Graduate Institute of Paediatrics Health & Family Welfare Department, Govt. Of Odisha, Email Id.svppgip_cuttack@rediffmail.com, svppgipcuttack@gmail.com Letter No.2303 /SVPPGIP Date:17/04/2025 TENDER CALL NOTICE E-34: Sealed tender are invited from suppliers/agencies/s/caterers/persons for supply of A. Food Catering Services (Meals, Tiffin, Snacks, Tea, Coffee, etc.) & B. Hotel Accommodation service to Superintendent, SVPPGIP, Cuttack(Location: Cuttack) for a period of one year on annual are contact basis.

RGG RADHA GOBINDO ROY GRANDSON JEWELLERS 22 CT GOLD (10 gm) ₹ 89,450.00 Infront of Juma Masjid, Nimchour, Cuttack - 2, Phone : 7735876989

Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) (A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited) NOTICE Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) proposes to support the opening of PRADHANMANTRI JAN AUSHADHI KENDRA in command Areas of MCL under the CSR initiative and operated by Project Affected Persons (PAP) of MCL. This notice is being issued for the identification of interested PAP. Issuance of this notice does not confer any rights on the applicant, nor does it place any obligation upon the MCL for granting any benefits.