

PM likely to visit Odisha on Sept 27



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BHUBANESWAR

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi is likely to visit Odisha on September 27 and address a public meeting in Berhampur, State Revenue Minister Suresh Pujari said on Saturday. The final itinerary of the Prime Minister's visit is yet to be finalised, but preparations are in full swing, he said. This will be Modi's sixth visit to Odisha in the last 15 months, after the BJP came to power in the State, he added.

"The Prime Minister has given his consent to visit Odisha on September 27. Our Commerce and Transport Minister Bibhuti Bhusan Jena has already started prepara-

tions for the visit, and I will be there in Berhampur from September 15," Pujari told reporters.

Modi will attend the BJP's 'Seva Pakshya' programme, which will start on his birthday on September 17 and continue till Gandhi Jayanti on October 2, the minister said. He last visited the State on June 20 to attend the first anniversary celebrations of the BJP government in Odisha.

"Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, during his recent visit to Delhi, had extended an invitation to the Prime Minister to come to Odisha on September 17, but it could not be possible due to pre-engagement," Pujari said. He said the State

government has sent the tentative programme to the PMO, which will finalise the itinerary for September 27.

Pujari said the BJP and the State government have planned to plant 75 lakh saplings on September 17, marking the 75th birth anniversary of the Prime Minister. During 'Seva Pakshya', State BJP workers are planning to organise blood donation camps, health check-ups, sanitation drives and community assistance programmes, he said.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Majhi said the Prime Minister's five-State visit to Mizoram, Manipur, Assam, West Bengal and Bihar is "a testament to the scale and speed of progress across the nation."

Majhi said this reflects how the nation is "emerging as a global leader while ensuring inclusive development."

"Mizoram gets connected to the Indian Rail Network for the first time with the inauguration of Bairabi-Sairang new rail line, a historic milestone to be etched in the annals of history forever, symbolic of national unity and integration," he posted on X.

Hailing the Prime Minister's initiative, Majhi said, "With each such step, Bharat is moving closer to its vision of becoming strong, #atmanirbhar and prosperous. We are emerging as a global leader while ensuring inclusive development for every region and every citizen."

Chief Secy bats for preventive vigilance

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BHUBANESWAR



ODISHA Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja directed all department heads and district collectors to adopt preventive vigilance measures to eliminate corruption and exclude officials of doubtful integrity from sensitive roles. In a letter addressed to additional chief secretaries, principal secretaries, the Director General of the Vigilance directorate, commissioner-cum-secretaries of all departments, revenue divisional commissioners (RDCs), and collectors, Ahuja emphasised the State government's commitment to clean, transparent and citizen-centric governance.

Referring to recent cases of corruption detected by the Vigilance department, the Chief Secretary highlighted the urgent need for proactive and sustained focus on preventive vigilance. "Mere punitive action is not sufficient; root causes of corruption must be systematically eliminated through administrative, legal, social, economic and educative measures," he said.

Ahuja asked the authorities to constitute an internal vigilance committee (IVC) in all departments to identify sensitive areas and prepare short- and long-term action plans, adopt and scale up technology-driven reforms such as EoDB (ease of doing business), WAMIS (Works and Accounts Management Information System),

e-tendering, e-procurement, Work Passbook, DBT for funds transfer and online HR management systems.

"Enforce transparent HR practices including staff rotation, fair and transparent online transfers and exclusion of officials of doubtful integrity from sensitive roles," Ahuja said in the letter asking authorities to empower citizens by displaying service timelines under ORTPS (Odisha Right to Public Service) Act, 2013 in offices, monitoring compliance through dashboards and actively using feedback systems.

He also directed the heads of departments to institutionalise a culture of zero tolerance towards corruption by periodic review, open discussions among senior officers and structured monitoring of feedback.

Ahuja directed officials that these instructions must be disseminated among all officials for compliance and emphasised that a strong preventive vigilance framework will enable realisation of a truly responsive and people-oriented government.

AIIMS-BBSR ranked 14th best

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BHUBANESWAR

AIIMS Bhubaneswar Executive Director and CEO Dr Ashutosh Biswas said the institute has been placed in the top 100 institutions in the country in the overall category, making it one of the few medical institutions to achieve such a distinction.

AIIMS Bhubaneswar has been ranked 14th among medical colleges in India, as per the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2025. This outstanding performance marks a significant leap from 31st position in 2021 and 15th position in 2024, underlining the institute's continued commitment to excellence in

medical education, healthcare, and research, Biswas said.

The Executive Director and CEO said AIIMS Bhubaneswar has made notable progress across key domains such as infrastructure development, patient care, education, research, and institutional perception — all of which have contributed to its impressive ranking.

"This recognition is the result of the collective hard work and dedication of our entire AIIMS Bhubaneswar family. We remain committed to our mission of delivering excellence in healthcare, fostering world-class research, and nurturing the next generation of medical professionals," he said.

Glue applied on eyes of students

HANS NEWS SERVICE
PHULBANI



AT least eight boys of a State-run tribal welfare residential (TRW) school in Kandhamal district were admitted to hospital on Friday after some fellow students allegedly applied a strong adhesive on their eyes while they were asleep, police said. The incident took place at Sevashram school in Salaguda.

The affected children, aged around 12 years and studying in classes 4 and 5, were initially taken to Gochhapada primary health centre. Seven of them were

later shifted to the district headquarters hospital (DHH) in Phulbani for further treatment, a police officer said.

One of the eight students was discharged from the

primary health centre after he could open his eyes, police added. "Around 7 am, I visited the hostel and found that eight students were unable to open their eyes. Later, I found out that some

students applied an adhesive on their eyes," teacher Premalata Sahoo said.

The teacher said she helped the students brush their teeth and feed them breakfast before taking them to the nearby primary health centre. "We do not know whether there is any criminality behind this, but suspect that some students did it for fun. We are inquiring into the matter," Sahoo added. However, the victims' parents and local leaders demanded stringent action against the wrong-doers. Local sarpanch Rohit Kahanra held the school teachers responsible for the incident.

Woman cop goes missing

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BHUBANESWAR

ODISHA police on Saturday announced a Rs 25,000 cash reward to anyone providing information on missing woman traffic constable of Bhubaneswar. The 25-year-old woman traffic constable posted in Bhubaneswar and identified as Subhamitra Sahoo, a native of Paradip in Jagatsinghpur district, had been missing since September 6.

Giving details of the missing woman constable, the DCP Bhubaneswar, in a post on X, said: "Have you seen her? Name: Subhamitra Sahoo Missing since: 06.09.25 Reward: Rs 25,000/- Call: 7008264419 | WhatsApp: 8280338302."

The photograph of the missing constable was also attached in the social media post.

Bhubaneswar DCP Jagmohan Meena said a reward of Rs 25,000 will be given to anyone providing credible information on her whereabouts, and the identity of the informer will not be revealed.

The police social media post said she had left for duty from Surya Nagar in Bhubaneswar at around 10 am on September 6. Though her duty ended by 7 pm, she did not return home.

Meanwhile, the family members of the woman traffic constable have met the Twin City Commissioner of Police (CP) here and sought his help to trace her. After she went missing, her family had lodged a complaint with the local police, suspecting that she could have been abducted.



Six held for looting jewellery shop



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BHUBANESWAR

POLICE arrested six persons in connection with a jewellery shop loot in Khurda district, officials said on Friday. Police recovered 1.9 kg of gold, 4.5 kg of silver and over Rs 9.45 lakh in cash from the accused, along with a country-

made gun, a live round and a sharp weapon used during the crime. According to the FIR, 11.5 kg gold ornaments and 5 kg silver ornaments, worth around Rs 11.55 crore, were looted during the heist. During investigation, police found that a gang of 10 persons were involved in the crime and eight have been identified. While

four accused were arrested on September 1, two others were arrested on Friday, a police officer said. "We have launched an operation to crack the case. So far, we have arrested six persons and recovered 1.9 kg of gold, 4.5 kg of silver and Rs 9.45 lakh cash from them," Khurda SP Vivekanand Sharma said.

UP man held in Rs 98 lakh cyber fraud case

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR

THE Commissionerate Police arrested a cyber criminal from Uttar Pradesh for allegedly duping a person of over Rs 98 lakh on the pretext of investment in shares and securities, said Jagmohan Meena, the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Bhubaneswar, on Friday.

The accused, identified as Mohd Shadab (33), is a resident of Rahimpur village in Bijnor district of Uttar Pradesh. During a media briefing, DCP Meena said the victim in June this year received a WhatsApp link with the invitation to join the WhatsApp Group namely "X05-IIFL SECURITIES LTD".

Later, the accused cyber fraudsters contacted the victim impersonating as

officials of IIFL Securities Limited by using the company's logo. They lured the complainant into investing by promising huge trading benefits through misleading and biased communication in the said WhatsApp group.

"The complainant was duped and deceived by the lucrative offers of the cyber fraudsters with a false promise of high returns. The complainant has deposited his hard-earned money to the tune of Rs 98.10 lakh in various bank accounts supplied by the fraudsters during the period from June 17 to July 1, 2025," informed the Commissionerate Police sources.

The police further said the cyber fraudsters used two websites, <https://cequityinsightyu.com> and <https://fintrendhub.com>, for the commission of the offence. When the victim realised

that he had fallen prey to the cyber criminals, he lodged a complaint with the Cyber Crime and Economic Offences Police Station in Bhubaneswar on July 4.

Police, during the investigation, found that Rs 30 lakh have been transferred by the victim to a firm 'M/s CHAUDHARY CONTRACTOR AND SUPPLIER' located at Bijnor in Uttar Pradesh. Subsequently, a team of Commissionerate Police, with the help of Kotwali City Police Station, arrested the accused, Shadab, on Wednesday, as Rs 30 lakh had been transferred to Bijnor-based firm's bank account registered in the name of the arrested fraudster.

The police on Friday produced the accused, who was brought to Odisha on transit remand, before the court that sent him to judicial custody.

One dies as shop collapses in Koraput

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KORAPUT

ONE person died and two others were injured when a shop in a market complex collapsed in Koraput district here on Saturday, police said. The incident took place at a two-storeyed shop, part of Biswasray Marketing Complex,

located in front of the district police headquarters along National Highway-26 in Koraput town.

The deceased has been identified as P Lokesh (63), a shopowner, who was among the three persons pulled out from the debris of the collapsed building. The personnel of the ODRAE, Fire Service personnel, along with the district police,

conducted rescue operation. "One shop owner, P Lokesh succumbed to the injury," said Premlal Hial, the Sub-Collector of Koraput, who visited the building collapse site. Officials confirmed that no other person was trapped under the debris.

The shop, which had reportedly weakened due to continuous rains in the town, was under repair at the

time of the incident. Authorities clarified that the main Biswasray Marketing Complex remained unaffected as the collapsed stalls had been constructed independently outside its foundation.

Vehicular movement on the highway through the town was temporarily halted during the rescue operation.



BJD to stage protest on Sept 15 over fertiliser crisis

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR

ALLEGING that Odisha's BJP government has failed to meet the fertiliser requirement of farmers, the Opposition BJD on Friday said it will stage a protest near Raj Bhavan on September 15. The BJD's announcement came a day after Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi claimed that there was no shortage of fertiliser for the ongoing kharif crop cultivation in Odisha.

The BJD vice-president Sanjay Das Burma and Opposition chief whip Pramila

Mallik, at a press conference here, however, rejected the Chief Minister's claim and alleged that the State government was "misleading" the farmers, who constitute 70 per cent of the State's population.

"We are demanding immediate supply of fertiliser to the farmers as they need it now. Any further delay in fertiliser supply would adversely affect the kharif crop," Das Burma said. The fertiliser supplied by the government is not in an adequate amount, he said.

The CMO on Thursday in a statement had claimed that



Odisha required a total of 9,55,000 tonnes of fertilisers for the 2025 kharif season (by September 30), and this entire quantity was allocated by the Central government.

Alleging that the State government's repeated claim that fertiliser stocks are sufficient is "false", Das Burma said a shortfall was reported in various districts. Citing instances, he said while Ganjam district submitted an indent of 19,561 metric tonnes (MT) of fertiliser, but it got only 10,640 MT.

While Bhadrak district sought 6,188 MT of fertiliser, it was supplied only 863 MT. Similarly, Balasore district demanded 2,600 MT and got only 900 MT, and Angul also received only 4,954 MT against its demand of 8,100 MT of fertiliser, the BJD

said.

"There is a huge gap between the demand and supply of fertiliser across the State," Das Burma said, adding that the farmers have now hit the streets and are blocking highways across the State to protest the shortage, even as the Chief Minister claims "no fertiliser crisis" in Odisha. Opposition chief whip Pramila Mallik alleged that the fertiliser crisis has deepened in Odisha due to the "careless" attitude of the BJP government.

"Former chief minister and Leader of the Opposition Naveen Patnaik had

written a letter to Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilisers J P Nadda and sought his intervention. But no follow-up action is taken, leading to such a situation," Mallik said.

Mallik recalled that about seven years ago, the work of Talcher fertiliser plant was started by the Central government, and then it was promised that the factory would be functional in 36 months. However, even after more than seven years, the plant has not become functional, she pointed out, holding the Centre responsible for the fertiliser crisis.