

INDIA CHEM 2026

Majhi to lead Odisha’s investment drive

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
BHUBANESWAR

TO attract fresh investments and project Odisha as an emerging industrial destination, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi will lead the State’s investment outreach at India Chem 2026, scheduled to be held in Mumbai on October 22.

According to a statement released by the CMO, Majhi will participate in the inaugural session and the CEO Roundtable, which will be chaired by Union Chemicals and Fertilisers Minister J P Nadda, during his two-day visit to Mumbai. The visit will focus on attracting fresh investments and strengthening Odisha’s position as an emerging industrial destination in the chemical and petrochemical sectors. The State’s participation will highlight its industrial strengths, investment-ready infrastructure, progressive policies and growing ecosystem for chemical and petrochemical manufacturing. The programme will provide an important platform for Odisha to engage directly with industry leaders, present new investment



opportunities and explore partnerships for the next phase of industrial growth, the official said.

During the visit, the Chief Minister is scheduled to hold one-to-one meetings with leading representatives of the chemical and petrochemical industries, with discussions planned with more than 20 major companies. These interactions will focus on potential investments, industrial expansion, downstream manufacturing and opportunities to establish new industrial ventures in Odisha.

A key highlight of the

State’s participation will be a presentation on a coal gasification project, an emerging area of industrial opportunity for Odisha. The State government may also announce the establishment of a dedicated, large-scale chemical industrial park as part of its efforts to strengthen the industrial ecosystem, promote value addition, and attract investments across the chemical, petrochemical, plastics, and packaging segments. The event will provide Odisha with an opportunity to demonstrate its capabilities and strengthen engagement with domestic and

international industry stakeholders. Odisha is positioning itself as a leading investment destination in the chemical and petrochemical sector, leveraging its rich resource base, industrial infrastructure, and supportive policy framework. The State’s established strengths in mining and metallurgy provide a strong foundation for expanding into downstream chemical and petrochemical industries, promoting value addition, and attracting investments in higher-value manufacturing, the official said. The chemical and

petrochemical sector is a priority area for Odisha as it seeks to diversify its industrial base, strengthen manufacturing value chains and attract investments in allied sectors, including plastics, packaging and other downstream products. In the chemical and petrochemical sector, Odisha has attracted 56 companies, representing proposed investments of Rs 1,93,087.94 crore and an employment potential of 1,12,324 people.

As part of its industrial development efforts, 27 projects in the sector have been grounded or inaugurated, representing investments of Rs 60,825.34 crore and an employment potential of 35,351 people. “Odisha has a strong industrial foundation, and we are now focused on expanding our presence in high-potential sectors such as chemicals and petrochemicals. Our participation at India Chem 2026 will provide an opportunity to engage directly with leading companies, present the State’s investment opportunities and explore partnerships for future growth,” said Additional Chief Secretary, Industries, Hemant Sharma.

BJP slams Naveen on CJP row

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
BHUBANESWAR

ODISHA’S ruling BJP has accused BJD chief Naveen Patnaik of seeking to create a “Bangladesh-like situation” in the country for political gains after he demanded the immediate release of two CJP leaders in Delhi.

In a post on its official X handle on Tuesday, the BJP alleged that Patnaik was supporting attempts at “regime change” after he called for the release of Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) leaders Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka, who have been in judicial custody since their detention during a march towards Jantar Mantar on October 13.

Patnaik, who supported the CJP’s protest after the NEET question paper leak controversy, said hoisting the national flag, even in a prohibited area, should not warrant prolonged detention. Reacting to his remarks, the BJP said, “Patnaik wants to create a situation like Bangladesh in the country to shine in his own politics!”

The party also accused Patnaik of supporting what it described as “regime change” activities. You (Patnaik) were the CM of Odisha for 24 years and have now been out of power for barely 24 months, and you have already resorted to regime change acts? Your support for anarchists and foreign-funded anti-India forces wanting a Bangladeshi-style violent regime change is not surprising given your history of settling thousands of illegal Bangladeshi immigrants into the State. You not only allowed them to become voters, but you are also opposing the SIR process,” the BJP said.

Claiming that people in Odisha had always been peace-loving and respectful of India’s sovereignty, the party said, “The sovereignty of our nation is far more important than temporary political PR. Stop being operated by the Pandus of the world.”

The BJP spokesperson, Anil Biswal, also criticised Patnaik, suggesting that the BJD president should not seek publicity like Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. “India is a democracy, not a mobocracy! CJP leaders Saurav



Das and Ashutosh Ranka were remanded to further judicial custody until October 21 by an executive magistrate, citing apprehensions of a breach of peace and disturbance of public tranquillity,” Biswal said.

“Naveen Babu appears to be attempting to put pressure on the judicial system, following a model similar to Rahul Gandhi’s march towards the Supreme Court. Such conduct is not expected from a former CM. We cannot wait until India witnesses the kind of mobocracy and street unrest seen in France, Spain, Belgium and Italy,” he said.

Biswal said India’s democratic values allowed citizens to raise their voices, but added that democracy did not legitimise violent protests or give anyone the right to abuse institutions such as the Indian Army and Delhi Police. The BJP’s remarks came after Patnaik called for the immediate release of Das and Ranka in a post on X.

“Jai Hind. The judicial custody of #AshutoshRanka and #SauravDas must be urgently reviewed and they must be released immediately. Hoisting the National Flag, even in a prohibited area, should not warrant such prolonged detention. The judiciary and the executive must rise to the occasion to ensure that the youth of this country do not lose faith in the rule of law and constitutional rights,” Patnaik said. Dipke thanked the BJD chief for extending support to Das and Ranka.

3 drown in Luna river

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
BHUBANESWAR

THREE persons drowned while bathing in the Luna river in Kendrapada district on Tuesday, police said. Five persons from Gahaga village under Kendrapada Sadar police limits had gone to bathe in the river around 11 am, but three of them were subsequently swept away by strong currents, a police officer said.

Personnel from the fire services department and the Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF) launched a search operation and fished out the bodies, he said.

The deceased have been identified as Himanshu Sekhar Satapathy, Sabyasachi Swain and Chiranjib Parida

Manikeswari’s Chhatar Yatra celebrated

SATYA NARAYAN  
MAHAPATRA  
BHABANIPATANA

THE famous Chhatar Yatra of Goddess Manikeswari was celebrated with deep spiritual fervour on Monday in Bhabanipatana, drawing over four lakh devotees who gathered to offer prayers to the deity’s movable shrine. As part of the traditional rituals, thousands of animal and bird sacrifices are performed by devotees during the procession.

Following the sacred Mahashtami rituals on Sunday night, temple ‘sevayats’ carried the movable shrine of Maa Manikeswari’s Chhatar to Jenakhal at midnight. The procession moved to the traditional, sacred beats of the ‘jena badya’ drums. Upon arrival, the Chhatar was placed in a temporary pandal, where secret rituals were solemnly performed.

The historic Chhatar Yatra festival commenced from Jenakhal at



5 am on Monday, with the sacred Chhatar Vijay Yatra proceeding along a 3 km route to the main temple. Devotees lined the streets to warmly welcome the deity throughout the spiritual procession. Senior district administration officials and Kalahandi SP Nagaraj Devarakonda were present on-site to closely monitor the event.

To ensure a peaceful Chhatar

Yatra, 15 police platoons and 95 officers were deployed. The sacred Chhatar reached the temple at 7.40 am. In keeping with tradition, the Yuvraj of Kalahandi, Advait Pratap Deo, received the deity from the Chhatra Bahak and escorted it into the Garba Gruha (sanctum sanctorum). Thanks to these measures and community cooperation, the festival concluded peacefully.

CM greets people on Dasara

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
BHUBANESWAR

ODISHA Governor Braj Mohan Ram, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and Leader of Opposition Naveen Patnaik on Tuesday extended greetings to the people of the State on the occasion of Vijaya Dashami and Dussehra.

“Heartfelt greetings to the people of the State on the auspicious occasion of Vijaya Dashami. May the grace of Mother Durga, the creator of the universe, fill everyone’s life with happiness, peace, and prosperity,” the Governor said in a post on X.

Majhi, who is observing the festival in a subdued manner as a mark of solidarity with farmers affected by rains and floods, highlighted the festival’s significance as a celebration of the victory of truth over falsehood, righteousness over unrighteousness, and justice over injustice.

“Heartfelt greetings and best wishes to all on the grand festival of the victory of truth over falsehood, righteousness over unrighteousness, and justice over injustice—the sacred ‘Vijaya Dashami’ also known as ‘Dussehra’,” Majhi said in a post on X.

Patnaik wished the people and, in a post on X, said: “May truth and justice be established.



May Ma Durga’s blessings bring happiness and prosperity into everyone’s lives. My Sharadiya greetings to all, Jai Ma Durga.”

MOTHER’S ALLEGED KILLER ARRESTED

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
PURI

ODISHA Police on Tuesday arrested a 40-year-old man from Jamshedpur almost two months after he allegedly killed his mother and buried the body in the kitchen floor of their rented house here, an official said. Searching for the accused, police combed Odisha and also visited Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

The woman’s body was recovered on August 24 after the owner of the house in Puri’s Kumbharpada area alerted police about a foul

smell from a locked room rented by Gajapati district native Madan Gajanan Dalei (40) and his mother Annapurna, police said.

Dalei was arrested from Jharkhand’s Jamshedpur, where he was working in a shop, Puri SP Prateek Singh said. He said for the past 57 days, Dalei was on the run. He frequently changed his place and rarely used mobile phones. The arrest followed sustained CCTV footage analysis and inputs from local sources, the police officer said.

Explaining the investigation, the SP said that based



on the complaint of the house owner in Puri, police opened the locked room and dug up Annapurna’s body from the kitchen floor, which was freshly cemented. Police examined footage from CCTV cameras installed at the rented house and in the surrounding area that showed the accused and his mother

leaving the house on August 20 morning and sitting near the Jagannath Temple, apparently seeking alms.

Police also found footage where the accused was seen procuring sand and cement on August 21, providing important clues during the probe, the SP said, adding that the woman might have been killed on August 20 night and that the accused subsequently buried her body in the kitchen. Asked about the motive of the crime, the SP said: “Though he has confessed to the crime, he is yet to reveal the reason behind the incident.”

On the hunt for Dalei, Puri police visited their native place Paralakhemundi and came to know that the accused contacted his sister who lived in Kolkata. They later got a clue regarding his whereabouts in Jamshedpur. By the time police reached the industrial town in Jharkhand, he had fled. Police officials also visited Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, announcing rewards at various places for his capture, the SP said. However, based on recent information, police nabbed Dalei from a snacks shop in Jamshedpur, he added.

Shallu Jindal ‘CSR Person of the Year’

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI

SHALLU Jindal, Chairperson of the Jindal Foundation, has been named ‘CSR Person of the Year’ at the 19th India CSR Leadership Summit & Awards 2026 in New Delhi. The award recognises her community-led initiatives focused on upgrading women’s health, maternal care, nutrition, and economic empowerment.

Under her leadership, the Jindal Foundation’s #HerKadam initiative has served over 2,300 underserved villages by integrating



healthcare, nutrition, safe motherhood, and economic empowerment. The programme has screened, treated, and counselled over 9 lakh adolescent girls for anaemia while providing vital antenatal and

postnatal care to more than 8.9 lakh expectant and new mothers.

The #HerKadam initiative has delivered over 12 million health and nutrition supports, helping more than 90 per cent of identified severely malnourished children reach a healthy status.

Held under the theme ‘CSR Enabling Innovation – Bringing Ideas, Technology, Capital and Partnerships Together to Scale Social Impact’, the summit united corporate and development leaders to strengthen collaboration and expand social impact.

Pujari accuses BJD of failing to resolve Kotia issue

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
BHUBANESWAR

ANDHRA Pradesh’s poll notification for three villages in Koraput district has sparked a political row in Odisha, with minister Suresh Pujari accusing former chief minister Naveen Patnaik of trying to cover up past mistakes by alleging that the BJP government was “silent” on the matter. The decades-old dispute involves both Odisha and Andhra Pradesh claiming their right over 21 of the 28 villages of Kotia gram panchayat on the borders of the two States. The matter has been pending before

the Supreme Court, with a fresh suit filed by Odisha in January 2022 still under consideration.

A day after BJD president Patnaik demanded to know whether the BJP’s “dependence” on NDA ally TDP was the reason for Odisha government’s “silence” on the panchayat poll notification, Pujari on Tuesday accused the previous BJD dispensation of failing to resolve the border dispute.

The Odisha Revenue and Disaster Management Minister said, “We have been trying our best to resolve the Kotia issue. I visited Kotia four times in the past two years, and our



ministers are making regular visits to connect with the people there.” “Several

developmental works have been taken up in the area. However, the issue (border

dispute with Andhra Pradesh) has escalated due to the negligence of the previous BJD government headed by Naveen Patnaik,” Pujari told reporters.

The BJD chief’s letter to Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi was an “eyewash, an attempt at covering up past mistakes”, he added. Both the Opposition BJD and Congress have accused the BJP government of “double standards” and renege on Odisha’s territorial integrity and pride.

Patnaik, who is also the Leader of the Opposition in the Odisha Assembly, had sent a letter to CM Majhi, expressing concern over

Andhra Pradesh’s notification announcing polls in Phagunasineri, Ganjeipadar and Phatusineri villagers of Kotia gram panchayat. “What happened to the BJP’s assurances that Kotia belongs to Odisha? What makes this even more troubling is that the Telugu Desam Party, which governs Andhra Pradesh, is a crucial ally of the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre,” the former chief minister had said.

Pujari said he held five-time former chief minister Patnaik in high regard, but said the BJD president writing to Majhi on the matter was an attempt at staying

in the limelight instead of giving constructive suggestions.

“We respect your experience. Come forward and let’s resolve the issue together. I also call upon the BJD for an open debate over the Kotia matter,” the minister said.

He held a meeting on Tuesday with Odisha’s Advocate General, Revenue Divisional Commissioner (RDC), southern division, and Koraput District Collector to discuss the issue. “I have asked the RDC and the Collector to keep a close watch on the Kotia area and keep the State government updated,” the minister said.

The BJD spokesperson, Lenin Mohanty, on the other hand, came down heavily on the State government and alleged that Odisha has been facing debacles ever since the BJP came to power in the State in June, 2024. “The BJP supported the MMDR Amendment Act, 2026, a black law under which Odisha lost its rights over mineral-bearing land, along with a pending amount of Rs 1 lakh crore and Rs 12 crore every year. For the BJP, the interests of a few industrialists mattered more than those of 4.5 crore Odias. It did not even consider the interests of our Gen Z,” he said.