ODISHA Current Affairs
January – October 2017

[Map of Odisha showing decadal growth rates of population 2001-2011 (districts)].
NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog announced its partnership with six states to bring transformative change in Health & Education sectors under its 'Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital (SATH)' initiative.

Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Karnataka were shortlisted under SATH initiative to transform their health sector.

On the other hand, three states namely - Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Odisha – were selected to transform their education sector under its SATH initiative.
The government has announced the expansion of rotavirus vaccine in five additional states under its Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP).

Assam, Tripura, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu

The announcement came after 38 lakh children were vaccinated in four states - Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, AP and Odisha when the vaccine was first introduced.

Diarrhoea is one of the biggest killers in children and rotavirus is one of the most common causes of severe Diarrhoea in children less than 2 years of age.
SWADESH DARSHAN, 100% funding will be done by the central government for strengthening infrastructure, capacity building of staff and locals, finding new avenues to connect people with tourism activities - Ministry of Tourism

Ministry of Tourism – PRASAD - Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive

Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY)scheme - Urban Development Ministry
PRASAD Scheme was launched in **2014-15** with 12 identified sites namely Ajmer (Rajasthan), Amritsar (Punjab), Amaravati (Andhra Pradesh), Dwarka (Gujarat), Gaya (Bihar), Kedarnath (Uttarakhand), Kamakhya (Assam), Kanchipuram (Tamil Nadu), Mathura (Uttar Pradesh), Puri (Odisha), Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh) and Vellankani (Tamil Nadu).

During **2015-16**, Patna (Bihar) and in **2016-17**, 12 more sites were added in the scheme for development namely Ayodhya (Uttar Pradesh), Badrinath (Uttarakhand), Belur (West Bengal), Deoghar (Jharkhand), Guruvayur (Kerala), Hazratbal and Katra (Jammu & Kashmir), Omkareshwar (Madhya Pradesh), Somnath (Gujarat), Srisailam and Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh), Trimbakeshwar (Maharashtra).
HRIDAY SCHEME
Deadline
November, 2018

Outlay of INR 500 Crores
the Scheme is being implemented in 12 identified Cities namely, Ajmer, Amaravati, Amritsar, Badami, Dwarka, Gaya, Kanchipuram, Mathura, Puri, Varanasi, Velankanni and Warangal (Telangana)
Odisha to focus on developing Buddhist circuit in the state

A museum of international standards will be set up at Udaygiri soon to exhibit various findings of Buddhist artefacts.

The state government has submitted a detailed project report of a number of projects for development of various Buddhist circuits of the state under the Swadesh Darshan Yojana.

The plan includes setting up world class museums, periphery and other infrastructure development, proper roads and electrification of the sites.

The information was given by tourism director Nitin Jawale at 4th Kalinga International Buddhist Conclave held at Udaygiri.
The 4th International Buddhist Conference was being organized at Udayagiri and Bhubaneswar from 10th to 12th April 2017 by Department of Tourism in association with Odishan Institute of Maritime and South East Asian Studies and Archaeological Survey of India in support of Odisha Tourism Development Corporation (OTDC) and Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC).

The three day conclave attracts about 200 number of International and National delegates scholars of Buddhism and Heritage, Tour Operators, Head Monks and Monks from various monasteries and join together to promote our Buddhist heritage resources in the world market through Odisha Tourism.
Tourist arrival in Odisha growing by 9 percent per annum: Tourism and Culture Minister Ashok Panda

The State Government spent over Rs 258 crore during the last three years to improve tourism infrastructure in Odisha where foreign tourist arrival increased by 14 per cent and overall visitors by nine per cent during the period.

Tourist arrival in the State has gone up from 98,66,810 in 2013 to 1,29,19,260 in 2016, recording a growth rate of nine per cent per annum,

Foreign tourist arrival also increased from 66,675 in 2013 to 76,361 in 2016, posting a growth of 14 per cent.

The tourism department said they target 30% growth in foreign tourist arrival (FTA) in the state and are expecting a steady growth in FTA in the second half of the year. The peak season will start from October.
The new Tourism Policy launched in November, 2016 offers incentives in the form of capital subsidies **upto Rs 10 crore** and **Rs 15 crore** for projects below and above **Rs 50 crore** respectively.

The single window clearance committee has **cleared 26 projects under the Tourism Policy** which also offers allotment from land bank to private sector for taking up tourism projects.
Puri-Konark railway line: Odisha state government and the Ministry of Railways are working to finalise on an MoU.

Odisha state government and the Ministry of Railways working to finalise on an MoU for a railway line between the temple towns of Puri and Konark.

The approximately 35-km long railway line will be constructed along the coastline at a cost of around Rs 250 crore.

While Puri is famous for its Lord Jagannath temple and rath yatra, Konark is known for its Sun temple.
Naveen Patnaik inaugurates light and sound show at Konark temple

The 35-minute show was inaugurated at the 13th century temple by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

The light and sound show was available to tourists in three different languages and they were able to enjoy the programme through customised headphones.

Headphones would be used in order to check noise pollution at the UNESCO Heritage site.
The Indian Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) spent Rs 5.56 crore on the project.

Tourists will have to choose their preferred language to listen to the narration while purchasing tickets for the light and sound show and the headphones will be set accordingly, officials said.

All tourists will have to pay Rs 50 each to watch the show.
Odisha Travel Bazaar gets own Website and Logo

The Tourism Department launched the website for Odisha Travel Bazaar, www.odishatravelbazar.com and an official logo, which would be hosted along the lines of The Great Indian Travel Bazaar, Jaipur.

The travel bazaar will bring together tour operators from across the country and abroad to promote State’s tourism products.

It will be organised by Tourism Department in association with Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) from October 15 to 17 at Bhubaneswar.
Gujarat has maximum of 12 cities among the top 50 cleanest, followed by Madhya Pradesh with 11 and Andhra Pradesh with eight.

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Swacch Sarveskshan 2017

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The **Gross State Domestic Product** of Odisha for 2017-18 at current prices is estimated to be Rs 4,12,481 crore. This is **8.8% higher than the revised estimate for 2016-17**.

**Total expenditure for 2017-18** is estimated to be Rs 1,06,911 crore, a **14.3% increase** over the revised estimate of 2016-17. In 2016-17, there was a decrease of Rs 538 crore (0.5%) in the revised estimate over the budget estimate.

**Total receipts (excluding borrowings)** for 2017-18 are estimated to be Rs 89,062 crore, an increase of **11.1% over the revised estimates of 2016-17**. In 2016-17, total receipts exceeded the budgeted target by Rs 1,857 crore (2.37%).

**Revenue surplus** for the next financial year is targeted at Rs 6,694 crore, or **1.6% of the state Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**.

**Fiscal deficit** is targeted at Rs 14,435 crore (3.5% of state GDP)
Departments of Housing and Urban Development, School Education and Water Resources saw most increase in allocations for the year 2017-18. On the other hand, the Panchayati Raj Department saw a marginal decrease in allocation in 2017-18.

Irrigation: 2.95 lakh hectares of agricultural land to be provided irrigation in 2017-18. Rs 1,546 crore has been allocated for Parbati Giri Mega Lift Irrigation Scheme.

“Parbati Giri Nicknamed the Mother Teresa of Western Odisha, was a prominent female freedom fighter”

UNNATI: A new scheme, Urban Transformation Initiative (UNNATI) is proposed to be implemented to improve urban roads and provision of civic amenities. Rs 294 crore has been allocated for the scheme.

Medical education: Rs 400 crore will be spent on establishment of new medical colleges to increase the availability of doctors.
Buxi Jagabandhu Assured Water Supply to Habitations (BASUDHA): An outlay of Rs 315 crore and Rs 750 crore respectively is budgeted to be spent for urban water supply and rural water supply under the program.

Jagabandhu was the commander (Bakshi) of the forces of the king of Khordha. He is one of the earliest freedom fighters of India. The great Paik Rebellion in 1817 was originated under his leadership.

Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS): Odisha’s public expenditure management system, IFMS which provides for electronic receipts and disbursements will be further upgraded to ensure entire chain of financial transactions becomes digital and paperless.

NREGA corpus: To provide timely payment of wages under NREGA, a corpus fund of Rs 300 crore is proposed to be established.
Reign of King Kansa began in Bargarh district, Odisha.

The ‘reign of King Kansa’ started with the beginning of Dhanu Yatra in Odisha’s Bargarh district.

It is 11-day long and world’s largest open air theatre festival.

This festival is based on Krishna Leela and Mathura Vijay which are enacted in 14 main places at Mathura and four places in Gopapura.

During the festival, Bargarh becomes the city of Mathura, the river Jeera becomes the Yamuna and Ambapali situated on the other side of Jeera becomes Gopapura.

The festival is a symbolic representation of the triumph of good over evil, and is a post-Independence phenomenon to mark the end of British rule.
The number of migratory birds in the Chilikalake, Odisha has substantially gone up this year: Census

The annual census was conducted by the Wildlife wing of the Forest Department

According to Chilika Wildlife DFO, 88,264 more birds have visited the brackish water lake this year than the last year.

Last year, 8,58,855 birds were sighted in the lake while the number has gone up to 9,47,119 this year.

A total of 176 species of migratory birds were seen in the largest brackish water lake in Asia this year.

About 20 teams were engaged in the bird census in the 11,000 sq km area of the lake
Union Cabinet Gives Green Signal to Amend Bill to Modify Scheduled Castes list in Odisha

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for amendments in

(i) the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 to modify the list of Scheduled Castes of the State of Odisha, and

(ii) the Constitution (Pondicherry) Scheduled Castes Order, 1964 so as to change name of the Union Territory from Pondicherry to Puducherry in the Order.

The Bill namely Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2017 incorporating the above changes will be introduced in the Parliament.
Proposal of **Sualgiri, Swalgiri caste**, as per approved Modalities, was found to be eligible for its inclusion as a **synonym of Sabakhia caste** at SI. No. 79 in the list of Scheduled Castes of Odisha.

Further, the name of Union territory of Pondicherry has been changed to **Puducherry vide the Pondicherry (Alteration of name) Act, 2006**.
Odisha’s Sualgiri and Swalgiri communities have been notified as Scheduled Castes.

It is followed by the THEN President Pranab Mukherjee’s assent to a new law.

The Rajya Sabha had passed the bill and it was cleared by the Lok Sabha in March.

As per the modified list for Odisha, the Sualgiri, Swalgiri are notified Scheduled Castes.

The new law has also replaced the term Union Territory of Pondicherry to Puducherry in the Constitution (Pondicherry) Scheduled Castes Order, 1964.
Sudarsan Pattnaik Created Guinness Record by Making World’s Tallest (NOW 2ND TALLEST) Sand Castle

He build the castle at the Puri beach in Puri.

The castle was 48 feet and 8 inches (14.84 metre) in height.

The sand sculpture was built with theme of World Peace.

39-year old Sudarsan broke the previous record of American sand artist Ted Siebert who had built a 13.97 metre high (45 feet and 10 inch) sand castle at Miami beach in USA in 2015.
World's tallest sandcastle in Germany

Sandcastle stood at 16.68 metres and was officially recognised by Guinness World Records as the tallest sandcastle in the world.

Sand carver Lucas Brueggemann
AirAsia signs MoU with Odisha Government for two-ways Direct Flights

AirAsia is Malaysia-based low-cost airline. AirAsia owner – Tony Fernandes  
The two-way direct international flights will be from Bhubaneswar to Kuala Lumpur.  
The airline began its flight service from the Biju Patnaik International Airport.  

AirAsia has been selected through competitive bidding.
The state government has offered to provide the subsidy grant initially for six months with the possibility of extending it for a year from the date of starting commercial flight operations.

The continuation of subsidy grant would depend on the trend in passenger traffic. If an operator is already running flights from an Indian city to Singapore, Bangkok or Kuala Lumpur and is keen to use Bhubaneswar as a hopping destination, the state government would offer subsidy grant.

However, the grant would be released on the condition that the operator reserves 30 per cent of seats for passengers flying from and to Bhubaneswar.
Odisha Census by Forest Department Sighted 181 Irrawaddy dolphins Sighted in Odisha : Census

According to a new census carried out by the Odisha State Forest and Environment department, the team has sighted as many as 181 endangered Irrawaddy dolphins in the state.

Besides, 34 Humpback dolphins, 31 bottlenose dolphins and 5 pan tropical spotted dolphins were also sighted.

This marks a significant drop from 2015, when survey teams recorded 450 dolphins.
The Chilika Lake, the largest brackish water lagoon of the country, has recorded a marginal drop in the population of Irrawaddy dolphins from 144 in 2015 to 134 this year.

About 55 dolphins were sighted this year in Bhitarakanika, compared to 58 spotted in 2015.

In the Bhadrak Wildlife Sanctuary jurisdiction, only five Irrawady dolphins were sighted.
Eminent educationist and litterateur Pathani Patnaik passed away.

Patnaik had written more than 50 books on different aspects of literature, including short stories and poems.

Besides, he has written hundreds of books on children literature, short stories, journalistic articles and translation books.
Odisha government launched 181 helpline for distressed women

Chief minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated a 24X7 toll free helpline number 181 for distressed women on the occasion on International Women's Days.

The helpline will facilitate quick response of various services including lodging police complaint to provide medical, legal and counselling to women victims.

Speaking on the occasion Naveen said, "Odisha government has instituted 50% reservation for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions and government jobs to encourage their better participation."
He further added that over 50 lakh women have successfully raised their socio-economic status by being a part of Mission Shakti.

Around 25 lakh women availed Rs 1100 crore assistance under Mamata Yojana meant for pregnant women.

The Centre had launched the 181 helpline number in 2013 after the brutal gang-rape of Nirbhaya in December 2012 and asked all states to start the helpline.

Besides, 1091 helpline number by the police and 10920 helpline number by the State Commission for Women are also there.
**Mamata Scheme**

It was started in **2016 by Odisha Government (Ministry of Women and Child Development)** to contribute as a factor in reducing maternal and infant mortality and improve the health and nutrition status of pregnant and lactating mothers and their infants.

The scheme provides all the facilities to the mother and new born baby and to reduce IMR (Infant Mortality Rate) and MMR (Maternal Mortality Rate) by insisting on a post-delivery hospital stay of 48 hours of the mother and the newborn.

Any complication that may arise during this period is addressed by skilled doctors available at Govt. health institutions.

**The main objective of this scheme** is to take complete baby care and reduce the IMR and MMR
Beneficiary women will receive a total incentive of Rs. 5000 (Five thousand) only in four installments, subject to the fulfillment of specific requirements like baby powder, oil, mosquito net, flannel cloth and so on.

The Pregnant women should be age of 19 years or more than that

Candidate must be a residence of Odisha state.

Under scheme women will eligible to get benefit only for the first 2 live birth.
Inclusion Of Five Indian Cities In World Heritage Site by UNESCO

UNESCO (UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL SCIENTIFIC and CULTURAL ORGANISATION) has added five Indian cities in its list of tentative world heritage site.

These cities include:

1. Historic City of Ahmedabad
2. Delhi – A Heritage City
3. Jaipur City, Rajasthan
4. Ekamra Kshetra- The Temple City, Bhubaneswar
5. The Victorian & Art Deco Ensemble of Mumbai.

WINNER - Historic City of Ahmedabad
Odia Installation Artist Sitaram Swain won Glenfiddich's Emerging Artist 2017

He received Glenfiddichs Emerging Artist of the Year award at Bestcollegeart Gallery at Lado Sarai, New Delhi.

He was honored for his innovative art style of portraying social issues through household objects and unique concepts.

He is the sixth recipient of the prestigious award

And has been awarded with a cash prize of Rs 10 lakh which includes an international allowance of Rs 1,20,000 per month and a work allowance of Rs 500,000 as well as a solo show at Art District XIII in 2018.
Bhubaneswar Set to Host World Hockey League 2017 and 2018 World Cup

Bhubaneswar, the capital city of Odisha, has been selected to host the 2017 Men’s Hockey World League Final as well as the Men’s World Cup in 2018 at the Kalinga Stadium.

The information was confirmed by the international hockey federation (FIH) and the government of Odisha.

The Men's Hockey World League Final Bhubaneswar 2017 will take place between December 1-10

The Men's Hockey World Cup 2018 will take place in late November/early December
Rabi Ray, former Lok Sabha Speaker, passed away

He was from Odisha, Born in Puri, died in Cuttack

Eminent socialist leader, former Union Minister and former Speaker of Lok Sabha Rabi Ray passed away.

He was 91 and is survived by wife Dr. Saraswati Swain.

He was the leader of the Samyukta Socialist Party in the Lok Sabha
PM Modi felicitates families of freedom fighters in Bhubaneswar.

He felicitated the family members of 16 freedom fighters who were martyred during the Paika Rebellion.

While interacting with descendants of freedom fighters, PM Modi mentioned that sacrifices made by their ancestor will be recognized by Govt. in 2022 when India completes 75 years of Independence.

He announced that Government will set up virtual museums at 50 places in the country to display the valour and remember the contributions of tribal communities.
Berhampur Thakurani Yatra Festival Began in Odisha

It is the festival of Goddess Budhi Thakurani called Berhampur Thakurani Yatra. It is one of the biggest festivals of southern Odisha.

As per tradition, the Goddess will stay in a temporary abode near her parental house in Desibehera street.

The idol of the Goddess would be taken out in a procession to different streets to facilitate residents worship her at their own doorsteps.

The biannual extravaganza is the festival of the weaving community, known as Devangiris, and organised by P Durga Prasad Desibehera, whose family has been conducting the festival for generations.
Bhubaneswar becomes first Indian city to win Pierre L enfant Awards

It has been selected for the 2017 Pierre L'Enfant International Planning Excellence Award by American Planning Association (APA).

Bhubaneswar has been selected for this award for Bhubaneswar Smart City Plan which is based on a citizen engagement approach and envisages use of technology for improving the overall quality of life.

Four other US-based planning firms and agencies have been selected for 2017 National Planning Awards in other categories.

All recipients were honoured on May 8, 2017 at the Awards Luncheon at APA's National Planning Conference in New York.
Odisha to introduce boat ambulances in four districts

Odisha will introduce boat ambulance service in four districts where people face difficulties in getting health service.

The boat ambulance service will be available in Koraput, Malkangiri, Kendrapara and Kalahandi districts.

The state government has sanctioned six boat ambulances for these areas which will be part of the 108 ambulance service.

This is part of an MoU signed between the State Government and the Ziquitza Health Care.
IIT, Chennai is providing technical support to this project and the request for proposal (RFP) for the same is being finalised.

The state government has sanctioned additional 92 Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulance out of the state funds at an investment of Rs 21.21 crore.

The total number of ambulance under the 108 service would now become 512.

This apart, the state government also signed another MoU with the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) for imparting post graduation diploma course to the serving doctors in different district headquarters hospital across Odisha.

This help us to meet the requirement of the specialists in remote areas.
JSPL commissions Odisha's largest integrated steel plant

Jindal Steel and Power Ltd (JSPL) has inaugurated the largest integrated steel plant of Odisha with the commissioning of the country's largest blast furnace at Angul.

Inaugurating the state of the art six mtpa steel plant of JSPL, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said it would provide direct employment to around 30,000 people and indirect jobs to many others.

Patnaik said, “as India looks to reach steel manufacturing capacity of 300 million tons by 2030, I am proud to note that more than 20 per cent of the country’s steel shall continue to be produced from our state.

The plant was set up at an investment of about Rs 33,000 crore.
The 135th Jagannath Puri chariot festival began in Odisha.

The 135th Jagannath Yatra started on 25 and concluded on July 3.

The end of Yatra is termed as the return cart festival or Bahuda Jatra.

The Rath Yatra festival is related to Lord Jagannath.

According to Hindu calendar, this yatra is celebrated every year on Ashadh Shukla Dwitiya.

The 5000 year old chariot festival marks the return of Lord Krishna to Vrindavan with his brother Balabhadra and sister Subhadra.
Inauguration of MITS Mega Food Park at Rayagada, Odisha.

The first Mega Food Park in the state of Odisha M/s MITS Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd. at Rayagada has been inaugurated by Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Hon’ble Minister of Food Processing Industries.

This is the 7th Mega Food Park operationalized in the last 3 years by the present government.

Mega Food Parks create modern infrastructure facilities for food processing along the value chain from farm to market with strong forward and backward linkages through a cluster based approach.

MITS Mega Food Park has been set up in 50.05 acre of land at the cost of Rs. 80.17 crore.
Government of India has provided a financial assistance of Rs.50 Crore to the project.

The food park is having facilities of fully operational industrial sheds for SMEs, developed industrial plots for lease to food processing units, Rice Processing Complex of 12 TPH, Dry Ware-House of 10,000 MT, Cold Store of 2500 MT, Multi Fruit Processing facility and other food processing facilities etc.

Mega Food Park will leverage an additional investment of about Rs. 250 crore in 25-30 food processing units in the park and generate a turnover of about Rs. 450-500 Crore annually.

The Park will also provide direct and indirect employment to 5000 people and benefit about 25000 farmers in the CPC and PPC catchment areas.
Odisha to have first automatic coastal warning for disasters in India

From July, Odisha commissioned the ambitious Early Warning Dissemination System (EWDS) to warn the vast population residing along its 480 km-long coast in the event of the occurrence of natural disasters like a tsunami or a cyclone.

Andhra Pradesh is also reportedly developing such system to alert the people in case of natural calamities.

The warning can be disseminated just by pressing a single button from a control room in the State capital in the event of the occurrence of natural disasters.

It would trigger loud sirens simultaneously from towers at 122 locations including tourist destinations, fish landing centres and coastal habitations situated across the state.
The sound emanating from the towers can be heard in localities up to a radius of 1.5 km.

Thus, Odisha become the first state to have developed an automatic public address system that can be activated across the state.

The towers will be installed in 22 blocks under six coastal districts such as Balasore, Bhadrak, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Puri and Ganjam.

The EWDS comprises of Satellite-Based Mobile Data Voice Terminals (SBMDVT), Digital Mobile Radio (DMR), Mass Messaging System (MMS) and Universal Communication Interface (UCI) for inter-operability among different communication technologies.

The project at an estimated cost of ₹ 82 crore will be implemented with assistance from the World Bank.

The EWDS will help the people to move to safer places before government agencies commenced evacuation.
Odisha to set up blood bank for cattle

Odisha is all set to become the first state in the country to have a blood bank for the cattle.

The first of its kind blood bank would be established on the premises of OUAT at an estimated cost of Rs 3.25 crore.

The Vice-chancellor of the Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT) is Surendra Nath Pasupalak.

The project will have a 60:40 sharing between the Centre and the state government.
Indian girl Padmalaya Nanda bags Little Miss Universe Internet 2017 crown at Little Miss Universe in Georgia

She is 12 year old and has created history by becoming the youngest girl to bag the Little Miss Universe Internet 2017 and Little Miss Actress crowns at the Little Miss Universe 2017 at port city of Batumi in Georgia.

Padmalaya Nanda studies in the 8th standard at a school in Cuttack, Odisha.

This is the first time that a 12 young Indian girl has won this beauty pageant title.
Lalit Mohan Das gets Biju Patnaik Award for Scientific Excellence

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik conferred the prestigious Biju Patnaik Award for Scientific Excellence to Lalit Mohan Das for his outstanding contribution to science and research.

The chief minister also felicitated Pradeep Kumar Chand, Swati Mohanty and Ajay Parida with Samanta Chandra Sekhar award.

In the young scientist category, Biswaranjan Paital, Samanta Mohapatra, Milan Kumar Biswal and Swarup Kumar Parida were awarded with cash prize of Rs 25,000 for their contribution in the field of science.
Odisha to set up international standard sports city

Encouraged by successful organisation of 22nd Asian Athletics Championships (AAC) in the state, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has announced to set up an international standard sports city.

"Kalinga International Sport City will be set up in Bhubaneswar.

The state will also have satellite stadia with world class infrastructure in Cuttack, Sambalpur, Berhampur and Rourkela.

Meanwhile, the state government has also signed an expression of interest with the International Association of Athletics Federation (IAAF) and the Athletics Federation of India for setting up of a high performance academy inside the Kalinga Stadium.
Patnaik dedicates to nation Odisha's longest bridge

The longest bridge is named after Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

The 2.88 km bridge over the river Kathajodi will connect the state capital of Bhubaneswar with Cuttack reducing the distance between the two cities by 12 km.

Netaji was born and brought up in Cuttack.

Patnaik laid foundation in February, 2011, the completion missed the deadline by over three years.
Ex President of India inaugurated the 200th anniversary celebrations of the Paika Rebellion of Odisha

The Ex President of India, Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated it in Delhi.

Pranab Mukherjee congratulated the people of the country and especially those of Odisha on the occasion.

The President said that it was indeed a privilege for him to be present on the occasion of inauguration of year-long celebration of Bi-Centenary of the Paika Bidroha of Odisha.

It is a time to remember the great history of our country and pay respect to our great heroes.
NALCO, IDCO to set up Aluminium Park in Angul, Odisha

National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) and Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO) have launched a joint venture company to set up an aluminium park at Angul.

It will be the first project in the subcontinent with a facility to directly obtain molten aluminium from the smelter.

The park, involving an investment of Rs 180 crore, will be spread over 223 acres of industrial land.

With aluminium consumption growing at 15 per cent on a yearly basis and the demand set to rise, the park is being set up in Odisha with the state contributing to 54 per cent of the country's total smelting capacity.

Odisha is witnessing rapid industrial transformation as per the roadmap laid out in our 'Vision 2025' document.
Noted Odia actor Minaketan Das passed away

He was well-known in Odisha's film and television industry for his negative roles.

Das was known for his acting in a number of Odia films including ‘Balunga Toka’, ‘Jianta Bhuta’ and ‘Most Wanted’.
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