

Sabarimala god theft: Temple's chief priest held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Tiram

In a major development in the high-profile Sabarimala god theft case, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) on Friday arrested the chief priest of the Lord Ayyappa temple Tantri Kandaswami Rajeevaru.

He was taken into custody following the SIT's assessment that he had been in the shrine when the god was removed and that there was close link between him and Unkrishnan Potti and him.

The SIT interrogated Tantri, who appeared before the team early on Friday morning, for many hours at one of the safe houses in Attingal. He was later taken to the Crime Branch office at Enchakkal where the arrest was formally recorded at around 2.30 pm.

Statements given by Potti and former Travancore Devaswom Board president A Padmakumar proved crucial to the probe. Tantri's travels to Bengaluru and his dealings with sponsor Ramesh Rao and jeweller Govardhan are said to have been made as evidence. The investigation also revealed financial dealings between the Tantri and Potti, and found that it was Rajeevaru who facilitated the latter's entry into Sabarimala as a sponsor.

Statements from Sabarimala staff also indicated that Potti's influence at the hill shrine

strengthened from his close-knit circle. Tantri, who was an assistant priest in 2008 at Sabarimala, was later allegedly brought back with the influence of the Tantri.

Though Rajeevaru's role had been under suspicion from the early stages of the investigation, the SIT adopted a discreet approach while proceeding against him. SIT had taken the position that the Tantri, being a salaried employee of the Travancore Devaswom Board, comes under the purview of anti-corruption laws.

In his statement to the SIT, Rajeevaru reportedly said he knew of Tantri's role who performed numerous of the rituals at Sabarimala and as an assistant to the priest. During the hearing of Padmakumar's bail plea, the probe team is said to have deliberately avoided revealing details of the Tantri's involvement to prevent anticipatory bail for the accused.

Stating that the arrest of Tantri Kandaswami Rajeevaru was based on clear evidence and statements, DGP Ravada Chandrasekar said that the SIT conducted a transparent investigation under the supervision of the High Court. The DGP told the media that no pressure was exerted on the SIT and that the probe was carried out with complete freedom. He added that more arrests could take place depending on the availability of further evidence.



Govt to support Odia cuisine

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bhubaneswar

Besides, subsidies have been introduced for a range of emerging tourism segments, with museums and heritage properties eligible for capital support up to 40 per cent. Electric boats, electric caravans and art and craft theme complexes will be eligible for capital support up to 50 per cent. The chief secretary said in addition, a dedicated Capex and Opex support framework has been introduced for promotion of authentic Odia cuisine. Odia cuisine restaurants at notified tourist destinations within Odisha, as well as outside the state in five metropolitan cities of Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai and Kolkata will be extended support. "This will strengthen Odisha's culinary identity and expand its national and international visibility," she said.

Two killed after vehicle hits their scooter

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar: Two youths were killed after an unknown vehicle hit their scooter from behind near Dachimachhagadia in Khurda district in the wee hours of Friday. The deceased were identified as Sudhanshu Sundaray (22) and Bikash Baral of Ganapur. Further probe is on to identify the vehicle and nab the accused, police said.

CGU to be 1st varsity in East to launch satellite

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bhubaneswar

THE CV Raman Global University (CGU) in Bhubaneswar is set to create history as the first university in the country's Eastern zone to launch its own satellite.

The CGU's maiden satellite CGUSAT-1 will be launched into space using the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) C-62 of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on January 12. A Model 3000-1000-1000-1000-1000 was signed by CGU-PRO V G Sridhar with IN-SPACE, facilitating regulatory and launch coordination support, university officials said.

The satellite is now ready for launch aboard ISRO's PSLV and will begin transmitting signals from LEO Sun Synchronous (400-

Odisha's mineral governance success showcased at nat'l meet

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bhubaneswar

STEEL and Mines minister Bibhuti Bhushana Jena on Friday presented Odisha's reform-driven approach to mineral governance at the National Mineral Chintan Shivir 2026 in Gujarat's Gandhinagar.

He informed that since assuming charge, the state has successfully auctioned eight major mineral blocks which has reinforced investor confidence and accelerated responsible mineral development.

Notices inviting tenders have already been issued for 12 additional mineral blocks, reflecting Odisha's commitment to systematic, time-bound and transparent mineral resource management, Jena said.

The meet was organised by the Union Ministry of Mines, during which Jena gave a detailed presentation on Odisha's recent policy initiatives aimed at strengthening transparency, curbing illegal mining and ensuring efficient and sustainable utilisation of mineral resources. Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and Union Minister of Coal and Mines G Kishan Reddy were present at the chintan shivir. Jena said implementation of the Odisha Minerals (Prevention of Illegal Mining and Regulation of Trading, Transporta-

State transport authority gets notice over imposing ₹10K challan for pollution

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Cuttack

THE Odisha High Court on Friday issued notice to the Transport commissioner and chairman of State Transport Authority (STA) and the additional commissioner (enforcement) on a petition challenging a ₹10,000 challan imposed for alleged violation of pollution norms under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

A single Judge bench of Justice SK Panigrahy sent responses from the authorities within two weeks and directed that the matter be listed for further consistency on January 30. Dr Keertihrada Das (7), a resident of Bhubaneswar, filed the petition against a challan issued on December 21, 2025, in respect of his four-wheeler purchased in 2018. The penalty was imposed under section 190(2) of the Motor Vehicles Act, which prescribes a fine of up to ₹10,000 for violations relating to air and noise pollution.

Appearing for the petitioner, advocate Sahasranu Sourav contended that the additional commissioner of Transport (enforcement) had imposed the maximum penalty in a blanket manner without recording any reasons or specifying the basis for levying the highest fine.

Such imposition, he argued, was arbitrary, illegal and contrary to the scheme of the Act. The petition submitted that before issuing a challan under section 190(2), the authority concerned is mandatorily required to follow Rule 116 of the Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989. As per the rule, an officer must first direct the vehicle owner to submit the vehicle for pollution testing, and only upon failure to do so can a penalty be imposed. No such procedure was followed in present case.

Petitioner contended that the authority concerned is mandatorily required to follow Rule 116 of the Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989. As per the rule, an officer must first direct the vehicle owner to submit the vehicle for pollution testing, and only upon failure to do so can a penalty be imposed. In the present case, no such procedure was followed, rendering the challan void ab initio.

It was also argued that section 190(2) had been committed by the petitioner, as the additional commissioner was not present at the spot and had no objective basis to form a "reason to believe" that the vehicle violated prescribed pollution norms under Rule 115.

The case assumes significance in the backdrop of an ongoing controversy over enforcement of pollution norms in Odisha. Earlier, on January 6, a division bench headed by Chief Justice Harish Tandon had sought the state government's response to the STA's decision to deny fuel to vehicles lacking valid Pollution Under Control Certificates (PUCs). The proposed initiative, which was initially deferred to March 31 amid public backlash and overcrowding at testing centres, has drawn sharp legal and public scrutiny.

Phulbani to get 76 additional seats, highest in Odisha

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bhubaneswar

“The medical colleges have been asked to submit the proposals with financial implications to the directorate at the earliest so that necessary steps can be taken for seeking approvals from the National Medical Commission (NMC) for the academic session 2025-27,” Mishra told TNN.

As decided, the highest 76 additional seats will be created at Government Medical College and Hospital, Phulbani, followed by 75 at SLN Medical College and Hospital, Koraput and 70 at Maharaja Jajati Keshari Medical College and Hospital, Jajpur. The directorate has planned to add 57 seats at Bhima Bhola Medical College and Hospital, Balangir; 37 at Dharami Dhar Medical College and Hospital, Keonjhar; 36 at Pabitra Mohan Pradhan Medical College and Hospital, Talcher; 35 seats at SRM Medical College and Hospital, Kalahandi; 29 at Government Medical College and Hospital, Sundargarh; 24 at SCB Medical College and Hospital, Cuttack; 18 at MKCG Medical College and Hospital, Bampur; and 18 at PRM Medical College and Hospital, Baripada. At least 26 PG seats will be added at PGIMER and Capital Hospital, Bhubaneswar.

The NMC had approved 62 PG seats in six government medical colleges and hospitals in the state for the 2025-26 academic year. “The addition of PG seats and courses will not only enhance the quality of medical teaching and learning but also improve specialised healthcare delivery for the people of the region,” Mishra added.

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Adoption before death valid for compassionate appointment: Orissa HC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Cuttack

THE Orissa High Court on Tuesday clarified the law on compassionate appointment in cases involving adopted children, holding that an adoption validly made before the death of a government employee cannot be ignored merely because the adoptive deed or its recognition came later.

The ruling came while dismissing a petition filed by the central government and South Eastern Railway challenging an order of the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), Cuttack, division bench comprising Justices Dixit Krishna Shripad and Sib Sankar Mishra refused to interfere with CAT's order dated January 22, 2025, which had set aside the Railway's rejection of a compassionate appointment claim and directed reconsideration within 60 days.

The case arose from the death of K Sadhu Patra, an ex-technician (C&W) with the Railways, who died in harness on April 2, 2008. His widow, K Sushdha Patra, and her adopted son K Adamma Patra sought compassionate appointment. The Railways rejected the claim on December 14, 2021, contending that there was no



THE HC

If the stipulation in the policy circular is complied with, there is no justification for denying rehabilitation appointment when the breadwinner dies in harness.

Orissa High Court

'Bamboo Haat' to market crafts of local artisans

BHUBANESWAR. The state government has operationalised a new portal 'Odisha bamboo haat' to facilitate marketing of bamboo products made by local artisans, said Forest, Environment and Climate Change minister Ganesh Ram Singhkhuntia on Friday.

Addressing the National Bamboo Conclave - 2026 organised here, the minister said the dedicated website www.odishabamboo.com will facilitate the online sale of bamboo products and craft articles across the world.

"The state government is committed to developing Odisha as one of the leading states in India in bamboo cultivation and bamboo-based industries," Singhkhuntia said.

MSME minister Gokulnanda Malik highlighted that the promotion and development of bamboo-based industries is a key priority and commitment of the state government. Odisha Bamboo Development Agency (OBDA) state mission director V Kartick said, "Currently we are linking clusters to the platform and once it's done, we will sell products through it."

Organised by the One Future Foundation with support from Bharateeyam Trust, government and other stakeholders, the one-day event brought together over 200 participants, including policymakers, industry leaders, sustainable design experts and practitioners to explore the vast potential of bamboo as a renewable resource and a driver of rural prosperity.

World Bamboo Ambassador advisor Rebekah Ramesh, Guru Prasad Mishra and Sudhakar Patra from Bharateeyam Trust and conclave coordinator Sarada Prasad Panda also spoke. ENS

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OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR HORTICULTURE, GANAPATI, PARALAKHEMUNDA, GOVT. OF ODISHA, "e-procurement Notice" for "Bidding for Horticulture" No. EDH/43/2025-26

L-182: The Deputy Director of Horticulture on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids in single cover system on OFFLINE MODE

- Estimated Cost - Ranging from Rs. 84,00,000 to Rs.4,17,50,000
- Bid Cost: Rs. 2000 as Mentioned against each in Column - 04
- Period of validity: 90 days
- Months Mentioned in Column - 60 days
- No. of works (Lot) - 05
- Class of Contractor As Mentioned in Column - 06
- Date & Time of availability of bid document in the office of undersigned: 12.01.2026 upto 10.00 AM to 22.01.2026 up to 5.00 PM
- Last date / Time for receipt of bids in the tender box: 22.01.2026
- Date of submission of documents: 22.01.2026 to 28.01.2026 up to 5.00 PM (Except holidays)
- Date & time of opening of online bids: 28.01.2026 at 11.00 AM & onwards

Name and address of the officer inviting Bid: Deputy Director of Horticulture, Ganapati, Paralakhemunda

Further details can be seen from the Notice Board of DDH (Ganapati, Paralakhemunda)

DD-Deputy Director of Horticulture, Ganapati, Paralakhemunda

KALINGA HOSPITAL LIMITED

CIN: U51104RJ199PL1 002492
 Chandrabhaga, Cuttack, Odisha - 751033
 Website: www.kalingahospital.com, Tel: No. 8674-1308578, Email: csg@kalingahospital.com

Notice of Postal Ballot and E-Voting Information

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the provisions of section 108 and 110 of the Companies Act, 2013 ("Act") and applicable rules 20 and 22 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 ("Rules") and applicable Circulars issued by Ministry of Corporate Affairs and any other applicable laws, notices and regulations for the purposes as on Sunday, January 4, 2026 ("Cut-Off Date").

The Company has received a request from the Registrar of Companies (RoC) to receive all communications from the Company electronically. Upon successful registration of e-mail address, the User-ID and password for e-voting shall be shared on members' registered e-mail address.

Members are hereby informed that:

- Member holding shares as on Cut-Off Date are entitled to vote through E-voting. A person who is not a member as on the Cut-Off Date is not entitled to receive the Notice for e-voting.
- The Company has completed the dispatch of Notice through e-mail on January 9, 2026.
- Pursuant to applicable laws, the Company is sending this Notice in electronic form via e-mail to Members who hold shares in the Company in dematerialized form and have registered their e-mail addresses with the RoC.
- The Company has engaged the services of its RTA, as agency for facilitating E-voting.
- The detailed procedure/instructions on the process of E-voting are specified in the Notice.
- E-voting period will commence on Sunday, January 11, 2026 at 9:00 AM (IST) and shall end on Monday, January 9, 2026 until 5:00 PM (IST). The e-voting module shall be enabled thereafter. On-site vote on resolution is cast by a member, he/she shall be eligible to cast his/her vote subsequently.
- Mr. Narottam Bagaria (CIN Membership No. F5443) Partner of N. Bagaria & Associates, Practicing Company Secretary, Mumbai as the scrutinizer / Scrutinizer for conducting the Postal Ballot voting process in a fair and transparent manner.

The result of postal ballot will be announced within 7 working days from the conclusion of voting. The said results along with Scrutinizer's report would be displayed at the registered and corporate office of the Company. Additionally, the said results will also be uploaded on the website of the Company viz: www.kalingahospital.com as well as on the E-voting website of the RTA viz: https://www.evotingindia.com. The enablement/On-site vote on resolution is cast by a member, he/she shall be eligible to cast his/her vote subsequently.
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Place: Bhubaneswar, Odisha
 Date: January 9, 2026

Debashish Dibayajyoti Deo
 Company Secretary

SPACE READY

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CV Raman Global University founder and president Sanjiv Kumar Rout said that students participating in this satellite programme will gain expertise in areas such as satellite operations, image processing, satellite communication, research and innovation. The programme also enables students to analyse satellite image data and explore commercial ap-

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FROM P3...

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to launch satellite

Faculty members re- Technology Universi- liya Science Centre, ly global best practic- ent-built satellite

Raman Global Uni- sity founder and pres- mt Sanjib Kumar Rout d that students part- cipating in this satellite programme will gain expertise in areas such as satellite operations, image processing, satellite research and innovation. programme also en- ables students to analyse satellite image data and explore commercial ap-

plications and startup opportuni- ties in the space and geospatial sectors.

"The privatisation of India's space sector has opened up vast opportunities in entrepreneurship, employment and research for students. Keeping this in mind, CGU established the department of Space Systems Engineering to provide hands-on training in satellite construction, tracking and image processing, thereby preparing students for emerging careers in the space ecosystem," Rout added.

University officials said CGU also plans to develop two more advanced satellites using state-of-the-art technologies for which training programmes for the students is underway.

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OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR HORTICULTURE
GAJAPATI, PARALAKHEMUNDI
Govt. of Odisha "e" procurement Notice
Mail Id: ddgajapati@odnic.in, ddhgajapati@gmail.com, Phone No: 06815-222228
Bid Identification No.: DDH-03/2025-26

L-162: The Deputy Director of Horticulture on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites percentage rate bids in single cover system in OFFLINE MODE.

1. Estimated Cost- Ranging from Rs. 84,034.00 to Rs.4,17,570.00
2. Bid Cost: Rs. 2000 as Mentioned against each in Column - 04
3. Period of completion: **Calendar Months Mentioned in Column - 60 days**
4. No. of works (Tender): **05 nos.**
5. Class of Contractor: **As Mentioned in Column - 06**
6. Date & Time of availability of bid document in the office of undersigned: **12.01.2026 up to 10.00 AM to 22.01.2026 up to 5.00 PM**
7. Last date / Time for receipt of bids in the tender box: **22.01.2026**
8. Date of submission of documents: **27.01.2026 to 28.01.2026 up to 5.00 PM (Except Holidays)**
9. Date & time of opening of online bids: **29.01.2026 at 11.00 AM & onwards**

Name and address of the officer inviting Bid: **Deputy Director or Horticulture Gajapati, Paralakhemundi**
Further details can be seen from the Notice Board of DDH Gajapati, Paralakhemundi
Sd/- Deputy Director of Horticulture Gajapati, Paralakhemundi



KALINGA HOSPITAL LIMITED

CIN: U85110OR1990PLC002492
Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar, Khurda, Odisha - 751033
Website: www.kalingahospital.com, Tel No: 0674-2300570, Email: cs@kalingahospital.com

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The Notice is also available on the website of the Company at www.kalingahospital.com and on the E-voting website of RTA at <https://evoting.kfintech.com>.

Members who have not registered their e-mail address, are requested to register the same by emailing their names to Mr. Debasish Dibyajyoti Deo, Company Secretary of the Company at cs@kalingahospital.com receiving all communications from the Company electronically. Upon successful registration of e-mail address, the Member-ID and password for E-voting shall be shared on member's registered e-mail address. Members are hereby informed that:

1. Member holding shares as on Cut-off Date are entitled to vote through E-voting. A person who is not a member as on the Cut-off Date should treat the Notice for information purpose only.
2. The Company has completed the dispatch of Notice through e-mail on January 9, 2026.
3. Pursuant to applicable laws, the Company is sending this Notice in electronic form via e-mail to Members who hold shares in the Company in dematerialized form and have registered their e-mail addresses with the Company. For all other Members, this Notice has been dispatched in through registered post or speed post.
4. The Company has engaged the services of its RTA, as agency for facilitating E-voting.
5. The detailed procedure/ instructions on the process of E-voting are specified in the Notice
6. E-voting period will commence on Sunday, January 11, 2026 at 9.00 AM (IST) and shall end on Monday, February 9, 2026 until 5.00 PM (IST). The E-voting module shall be disabled thereafter. Once the vote on resolution is cast by a member, he/she shall not be allowed to change it subsequently.
7. Mr. Narottam Bagaria (ICSI Membership No. F5443) Partner of N Bagaria & Associates, Practicing Company Secretaries, Mumbai as the scrutinizer ("Scrutinizer") for conducting the Postal Ballot voting process in a fair and transparent manner.
8. The results of postal ballot will be announced within 2 working days from the conclusion of voting. The said results along with Scrutinizer's report would be displayed at the registered and corporate office of the Company. Additionally, the said results will also be uploaded on the website of the Company viz www.kalingahospital.com as well as on the E-voting website of the RTA viz <https://evoting.kfintech.com>.
9. In case of any query or grievance pertaining to e-voting, Members may contact Mr. Hanumantha Rao Patri, Assistant Vice President, Dy. Vice President, KFin Technologies Limited at E-mail: faqw.ris@kfintech.com, Phone: 040 67161526 / 040 67162222. Further, Shareholders may also visit Help & Inward's section available at KFinTech's website <https://evoting.kfintech.com> <https://evoting.kfintech.com>

Place : Bhubaneswar, Odisha
Date : January 9, 2026

For Kalinga Hospital Limited
Sd/-
Debasish Dibyajyoti Deo
Company Secretary