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President Highest Functionary: Ex-SC Judge



New Delhi, (HS) : The President is the highest constitutional functionary, and the Constitution framers have never said anything about time taken by him or her for giving assent to a bill, said former Supreme Court judge Ajay Rastogi on Saturday, underlining the need for deeper study of the provisions of Article 200 that expects Governors to approve bills 'as soon as possible'. Calling for a healthy debate on Supreme Court's judgment in the Tamil Nadu bills' delay matter, Justice Rastogi told IANS: "I feel Constitution framers said that we are conscious, for governor... not for President, that every constitutional authority will exercise its power expeditious and fulfil the mandate of the Constitution, but they still said 'as soon as possible' and did not set a time frame."

"Why did the Constitution framers say 'as soon as possible' for governors?" asked Justice Rastogi, suggesting that the spirit and essence of the Constitution framers' decision to do so needs to be respected and valued. Justice Rastogi's observations hold significance amid a debate, sparked by the SC verdict on Tamil Nadu bills, on the question if it is proper for the top court to set a three-month deadline for assent to bills sent by the legislature. The critics alleged that the verdict ended up bringing even the actions of the President, the highest Constitutional functionary, under judicial review and setting a deadline for his or her decision-making. Reacting to adverse comments on the apex court's verdict in the Tamil Nadu case, Justice Rastogi said that there is a need to weigh in the reason why the framers of Constitution said that Governors may take a decision on bills 'as soon as possible'. He said the Constitution framers probably felt that it was not required to say anything about the President's decision-making, but for Governors they did so.

Continued P-4

Indian diplomacy to shift focus to Europe after US V-P Vance's visit

New Delhi, (HS) : Europe is set to be Indian diplomacy's new focus after US Vice President J D Vance's visit to India from April 21 to 23. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will headline a flurry of high-level engagements in May with his tour to Croatia, Norway and Netherlands. The highlight of this visit is expected to be his participation in the third India-Nordic Summit scheduled for May 15 in Norway's capital city Oslo. Modi's European itinerary is likely to begin with a historic stop in Croatia, marking the first-ever visit by an Indian prime minister to the Adriatic nation. The visit is aimed at enhancing economic ties, particularly in the context of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor, announced during the 2023 G20 Summit in Delhi. Croatia's geographic position and nearby ports such as Italy's Trieste-a key element in the corridor-- make it a vital partner in this initiative.

In Norway, Modi will attend the India-Nordic Summit alongside leaders from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden. The summit will focus on expanding cooperation in trade, innovation, renewable energy, climate change, and



sustainable development. Norway, has ratified the India-EFTA (European Free Trade Association), trade pact, known as TEPA, Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement. EFTA is an intergovernmental organisation that promotes free trade and economic cooperation between its member states, which currently include Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland. The bilateral discussions with Norway will also touch on Arctic cooperation, maritime industries, and UN Security Council reform, where Norway backs India's bid for

permanent membership, sources said. Modi recently held conversations on phone with both Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen and Finnish President Alexander Stubb, highlighting the summit's importance. The final leg of the trip takes the Prime Minister to the Netherlands, where he last visited in 2017. The visit is expected to enhance the strategic partnership, particularly in water management, and strengthen already robust trade relations. The Netherlands is India's largest trading partner in the EU and hosts the second-largest Indian

diaspora in Europe after the UK.

Complementing these diplomatic engagements, India is also expected to host French Defence Minister Sébastien Lecornu in early May. His visit is set to finalise the Rs 63,000 crore Rafale M deal for 26 naval fighter jets, further cementing India-France defence cooperation. "India is not just the mother of democracy, but democracy is an integral part of Indian life," said the Prime Minister. He noted that Indians naturally embrace diversity and integrate seamlessly into the societies they join, respecting local rules and traditions. Meanwhile, extending gratitude to the Saudi leadership for continued assistance, Foreign Secretary Misri said on Saturday that the kingdom plays an important role in facilitating the visit of thousands of Indian citizens for annual pilgrimages for Haj and Umrah. The annual Haj pilgrimage and Umrah is an important component of India-Saudi bilateral relations with India's Haj quota standing at 175,025 pilgrims. On the diaspora front, Indian community in Saudi Arabia is 2.7 million strong and acts as a living bridge between the two countries.

Death toll mounts to 11 in northeast Delhi's Mustafabad building collapse



New Delhi, (HS) : A multi-storey residential building collapsed in northeast Delhi's Shakti Vihar area in the early hours of Saturday, leaving 11 people dead and 11 injured, officials said. Teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), fire services, Delhi Police and other volunteers carried out rescue efforts for over 12 hours at the site of the 20-year-old four-storey structure that collapsed in the Mustafabad area of the national capital around 3 am.

A police source said construction work in "two-three shops" on the ground floor could have led to the collapse. Delhi

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta ordered a probe into the incident and expressed sadness over the incident. "Deeply saddened by the tragic building collapse in Mustafabad. Orders have been given to investigate the incident and strict action will be taken against the culprits," she said. "My deepest condolences to those who died in the unfortunate accident. May God grant peace to the departed souls and give strength to the bereaved families to bear this irreparable loss," the chief minister added. Locals said construction work going on at a new shop could have triggered

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Dr. P.K. Mishra's Address at IIM Sambalpur Highlights Economic Transformation



Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : India's pursuit of a \$5 trillion economy is not merely a financial benchmark but a transformative journey aimed at lifting millions out of poverty, establishing world-class infrastructure, achieving energy security, and advancing digital empowerment. At the 9th Annual Convocation of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Sambalpur, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Dr. P.K. Mishra, underscored this vision, drawing inspiration from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's roadmap for Amrit Kaal.

Dr. Mishra highlighted the three pillars driving India's journey towards a developed economy by 2047--"Reform,

Perform, and Transform." He emphasized that the global economic landscape is undergoing rapid change, presenting both challenges and opportunities. With disruptions in supply chains, rising geopolitical tensions, and evolving trade patterns, he urged future leaders to be agile and innovative in navigating these shifts. Reflecting on India's strengths, Dr. Mishra noted the country's demographic advantage, expanding infrastructure, and technological prowess. He elaborated on India's growing geopolitical influence and strategic partnerships, alongside its thriving diaspora and soft power contributions on the global stage. Recognizing India's emergence as a global innovation hub, he cited the country's position as the world's third-largest startup ecosystem with over 100 unicorns. Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes have bolstered sectors such as electronics, pharmaceuticals, and renewable energy, opening new opportunities in manufacturing and logistics. Dr. Mishra reiterated India's commitment to sustainability, highlighting the ambitious goal of installing 500

Continued P-4

Spain Ambassador Meets CM Majhi, Discusses Strategic Cooperation

Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : In a bid to explore avenues of strategic cooperation between Spain and Odisha in key sectors such as renewable energy, metallurgy, textiles and automobiles, Ambassador of Spain in India Juan Antonio March Pujol met Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi at Lok Seva Bhawan today.

The discussions focused on deepening bilateral collaboration across priority sectors: Metallurgy and Refractory Solutions: With Odisha being India's mineral hub and home to leading steel clusters, the Chief Minister highlighted the recent investment by TIMAB Magnesium India Pvt. Ltd., a subsidiary of the French-Spanish Groupe Roullier. The company is setting up a Rs 90 crore refractory manufacturing unit in Khordha, which is expected to generate over 300 jobs. Renewable Energy: Odisha's new



Renewable Energy Policy was showcased, with a call to Spanish firms like Siemens Gamesa, Acciona, and Iberdrola to explore investments in solar parks, offshore wind, and green hydrogen projects. The Chief Minister emphasized Odisha's commitment to the green transition and invited Spanish

expertise in floating solar and energy storage technologies. Textiles and Technical Apparel: The CM invited leading Spanish apparel brands such as ZARA, Desigual, and Mango to explore sourcing hubs and joint innovation centers in Odisha's integrated textile parks. The state's skilled workforce and

proactive policy framework were presented as key advantages.

While CM Majhi highlighted Odisha's emergence as one of India's fastest-growing states and a leading destination for responsible and future-ready investments, Ambassador of Spain, Pujol appreciated the state's dynamic industrial ecosystem and expressed Spain's keen interest in building long-term, technology-led partnerships. The meeting reaffirmed Odisha's commitment to building high-value partnerships with Spain and laid the foundation for a new chapter of industrial, technological, and cultural collaboration between the two regions. In this meeting, Additional Chief Secretary Nikunj Bihari Dhal, Additional Chief Secretary (Home), Satyabrata Sahoo and Additional Chief Secretary (Industry) Hemant Kumar Sharma were present.

6th Phase Funds Disbursal Under Subhadra Yojana on April 24

Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : The Odisha government will disburse funds under the Subhadra Yojana in the sixth phase to eligible beneficiaries on April 24, announced Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida. The financial assistance, aimed at

empowering women, will be provided during a special event in Puri on the occasion of Panchayati Raj Divas by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi. Approximately 1.7 lakh women who applied by March 31 will receive two installments totaling

Rs 10,000 each, directly transferred to their bank accounts. The Subhadra Yojana, a flagship initiative to support women's financial independence, has already benefited millions across the state. To date, 1.65 crore women have received the

first installment, amounting to Rs. 5,032.93 crore, while 98.82 lakh women have received the second installment, totaling Rs. 4,941.04 crore. The scheme continues to play a pivotal role in enhancing economic security for women in Odisha.

"We Should Shut Parliament If...": BJP MP's Big Remark on SC

New Delhi, (HS) : The remarks against the Supreme Court just got a lot more edgier, angrier. First, it was Vice President Jagdeep Thakur. Now, BJP MP Nishikant Dubey. Mr Dubey, an MP from Godda in Jharkhand, launched a broadside against the Supreme Court. Words like "anarchy", "inciting religious wars" were thrown at the highest court of the land in the country by the BJP MP. Opposition Congress said attempts are being made to "weaken the Supreme Court".

The comments follow Vice President Jagdeep Thakur's "Article 142 has become a nuclear missile against democratic forces, available to judiciary 24x7". The Vice President made the remarks



after a Supreme Court judgment effectively laid down a deadline for the President and Governors to clear Bills. "How can you

give direction to the appointing authority? The President appoints the Chief Justice of India. The Parliament makes the

law of this country. You will dictate that Parliament?... How did you make a new law? In which law is it written that the President has to take a decision within three months? This means that you want to take this country towards anarchy. When the Parliament sits, there will be a detailed discussion on this..." said Mr Dubey, appearing to raise questions of propriety and limits on judiciary's power. Mr Dubey's party, the BJP, has so far not reacted to the explosive comments of its MP. "Supreme Court is responsible for inciting religious wars in the country. The Supreme Court is going beyond its limits. If one has to go to the Supreme Court for everything, then Parliament and

State Assembly should be shut," said the 56-year-old BJP MP. The comments come amid the ongoing hearing in the Supreme Court over several petitions challenging the constitutionality of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025.

The Centre had assured the Supreme Court during the hearing held on April 17 that it would not denotify any 'Waqf-by-user' provision and would not include any non-Muslim members in the Board. The assurance came a day after the top court said it will consider staying those parts of the law. The petitioners have claimed the law violates multiple rights granted by the Constitution, including right to equality and freedom of religion.

OISF To Get Second Battalion to Boost Industrial Security



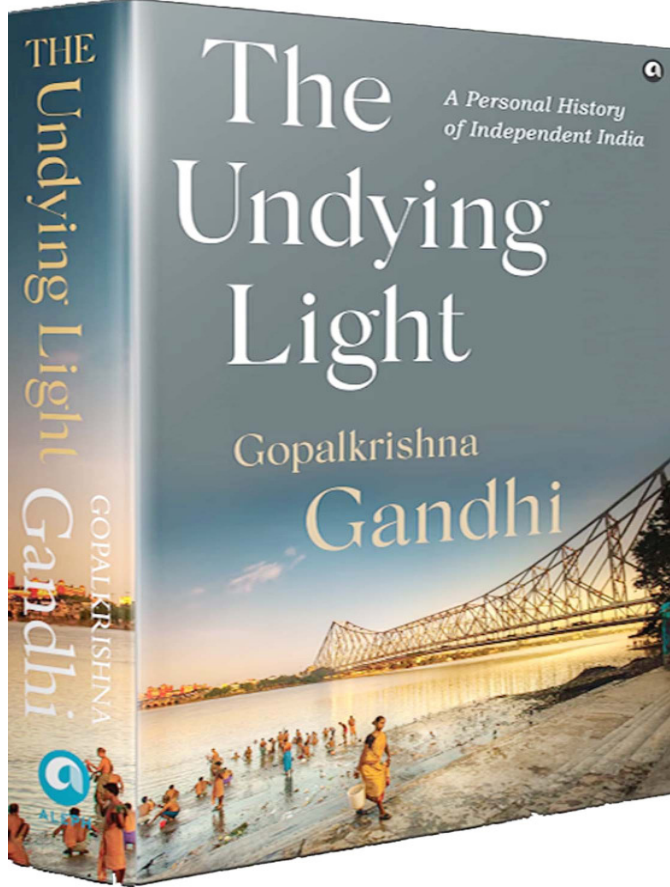
Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : The Odisha government has approved the establishment of another battalion of the Odisha Industrial Security Force (OISF), with a total of 1040 posts created for this new unit.

This will bring the total number of battalions in OISF to two, with a combined strength of 2847 personnel. The existing battalion has 1807 posts. The move aims to enhance security for industrial establishments and commercial areas, supporting the state's focus on industrial growth. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has approved the proposal to bolster security in the face of growing industrial development. As per a statement issued by the CMO, the state government is prioritizing industrial growth, and with new industries being established, the potential in this sector is expected to increase significantly. As a result, ensuring the security of industrial establishments and key commercial areas has become crucial.



Richly Engaging and Intellectually Stimulating

The Undying Light : A Personal History of Independent India



Bhaskar Parichha

The Undying Light : A Personal History of Independent India by Gopalkrishna Gandhi is a remarkable memoir, and history of India after Independence, by one of India's most distinguished public intellectuals, begins with his memories, at the age of three, of the assassination of his paternal grandfather, Mahatma Gandhi.

Gopalkrishna Gandhi studied English literature at St Stephen's College in Delhi. As a former administrator and diplomat, he has translated The Tirukkural from Tamil to English and Vikram Seth's novel A Suitable Boy into Hindi. Additionally, he has written a novel titled Refuge and a play in English verse called Dara Shukoh. He presently holds the position of Distinguished Professor at Ashoka University. This impactful introductory note sets the stage for a book that delves into a variety of interactions with both Indian and international figures, ranging from the well-known to the obscure, while offering unique perspectives on significant events and pivotal moments in modern Indian history.

The author, who served as secretary to Presidents R. Venkataraman and K. R. Narayanan, as well as governor of West Bengal and Bihar, provides firsthand accounts of many of these occurrences. The book is structured into eight distinct sections. The first section explores the aspirations and visions of a newly independent nation, alongside the tragic circumstances of Partition that followed its establishment. The second section highlights key milestones that paved the way for democracy, including the adoption of the Indian Constitution in 1950, the inaugural general election (1951-52), and the establishment of the Swatantra Party by C. Rajagopalachari, the last governor-general of India and the author's maternal grandfather.

In the third section, readers are taken through significant events such as the 1962 Sino-India War, which shook the foundations of a fledgling democracy, as well as the passing of India's first president, Rajendra Prasad, in 1963, its first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, in 1964, and the second prime

LalBahadurShastri, in 1966. Section Four commences on an optimistic note as the author, now a young bureaucrat, embarks on his career as an assistant collector in the South Arcot district before departing for Sri Lanka in 1978 to serve as the First Secretary in India's diplomatic mission. During this period, he observes the ascent and evolution of Indira Gandhi as Prime Minister, the protests led by Jayaprakash Narayan, and recounts the somber events of the Emergency (1975-77) that followed shortly thereafter. The subsequent section addresses the tragic incidents that impacted the nation throughout the 1980s, including the Nellie Massacre (1983), Operation Bluestar and its dire aftermath-the assassination of Indira Gandhi (1984) and the ensuing violence against the Sikh community-and the Bhagalpur riots (1989). However, there were also moments of triumph, such as Rakesh Sharma becoming the first Indian cosmonaut to orbit the Earth in 1984 as part of the joint Russia-India space mission. Section Six commences with the departure of Kashmiri Pandits

from Kashmir in the early 1990s, followed by the nationwide anti-Mandal protests led by students, the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi by the LTTE in 1991, and the demolition of the Babri Masjid along with the subsequent riots in 1992. It also covers the outbreak of the bubonic plague in Surat in 1994, Operation Shakti in 1998, and concludes with the horrific murders of Graham Stuart Staines and his two sons in 1999. In the penultimate section, the author, serving as secretary to President K. R. Narayanan, provides an insider's perspective on the significant events that unfolded at the dawn of the new millennium. This includes the hijacking of IC 814 by Harkatul-Mujahideen in 2000, the visit of US President Bill Clinton to India that same year, and the successful state visit of President Narayanan to China. The section also recounts the devastating earthquake that struck Bhuj, Gujarat, in 2001, the ensuing communal riots in Gujarat in 2002, and the violence in Nandigram in 2007. Additionally, the author reflects on notable occurrences during his tenure as

governor of West Bengal and his time as governor of Bihar. In the concluding section, we enter the Modi era, during which the author reflects on the transformations and turmoil that India is experiencing in the twenty-first century, particularly in the aftermath of the 2014 and 2019 elections. The author also addresses the threats posed to democratic republicanism, federalism, and secularism by the prevailing majoritarian political landscape.

Richly engaging and intellectually stimulating, The Undying Light: A Personal History of Independent India is further enhanced by a collection of distinctive archival photographs sourced from various origins. This work provides a thorough and detailed account of pivotal events that have shaped the nation from the time of Independence to the present day, offering readers a profound understanding of India's journey through its historical milestones.

Gopalkrishna Gandhi
Aleph Book Company
New Delhi

Globe-trotting Book on Waste

Dharma Raj

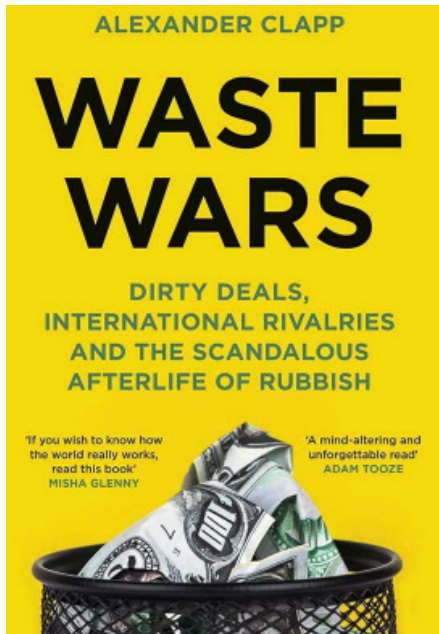
Dumps and landfills globally are reaching capacity. The vast quantities of waste produced daily have led to conflicts over waste management, deceitful practices, and concealment efforts spanning thousands of miles and numerous oceans. Yet, very few individuals are aware of these occurrences.

'Waste Wars: Dirty Deals, International Rivalries and the Scandalous Afterlife of Rubbish' by Alexander Clapp is a hard-hitting exposé of the global waste trade, revealing the hidden and often shocking afterlife of the world's rubbish. Drawing on years of investigative reporting and travels across five continents, Clapp uncovers the vast, multi-billion-dollar black market in garbage that operates largely out of sight, with devastating consequences for the world's poorest communities. Alexander Clapp is an award-winning journalist whose work has appeared in the New York Times, The Economist, and The Guardian. He has received multiple journalism awards, including a Pulitzer Center Breakthrough Journalism Award.

Clapp investigates how millions of tonnes of waste generated daily in the Global

North are shipped, smuggled, or dumped onto poorer nations in the Global South. The book details how this trade is driven by both legal loopholes and outright criminality, involving a

Waste Wars: Dirty Deals, International Rivalries and the Scandalous Afterlife of Rubbish



mix of corporations, mafias, and corrupt officials. The narrative follows a diverse cast: Javanese recycling gangsters, cruise ship dismantlers in the Aegean, Tanzanian plastic pickers, whistle-blowing environmentalists in Guatemala, and Ghanaian boys burning Western electronics for pennies.

These stories illustrate the human cost of the West's wastefulness, showing how discarded electronics, plastics, and toxic waste poison landscapes and livelihoods in the Global South. Clapp challenges the comforting myth that recycling in the West is effective and ethical. He reveals that much of what is sorted for recycling is instead exported and processed in unsafe, polluting conditions

overseas. The book traces the roots of this system to the post-World War II explosion in consumerism and the subsequent export of waste problems to poorer countries, often under the guise of recycling or aid. Waste Wars explores how trash has become a geopolitical issue, sparking conflicts between

nations and exposing global inequalities. The book also examines the failures of green politics and international regulation, showing how loopholes and lack of enforcement perpetuate the problem. The book exposes how the West's wastefulness is not just an environmental issue but a moral and political crisis, with the poorest and most vulnerable paying the highest price. It calls into question the sustainability of current consumption patterns and the effectiveness of recycling as practiced today, urging readers to confront the uncomfortable realities behind the things they throw away.

Waste Wars is a globe-trotting, investigative book that reveals the dark, interconnected world of the international waste trade, the environmental and human costs it imposes, and the uncomfortable truths about the afterlife of our rubbish.

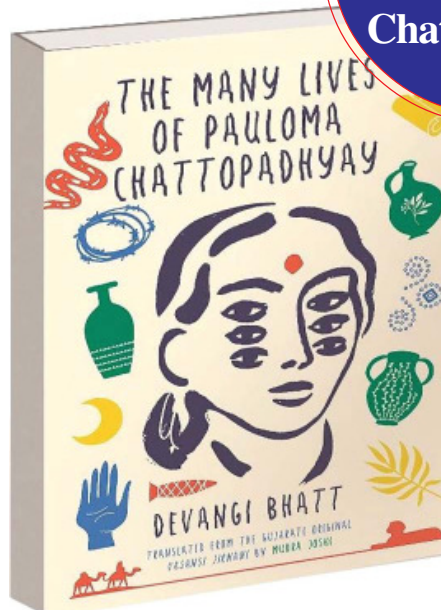
Alexander Clapp
Hachette India
New Delhi

A Waning Connection to Reality

Arun Mishra

The Many Lives of Pauloma Chattopadhyay by Devangi Bhatt originally in Gujarati and translated into English by Mudra Joshi is a narrative centers around Pauloma Chattopadhyay, a middle-aged housewife living in the vibrant city of Kolkata. During a routine exploration of her storeroom, she unexpectedly discovers an ancient earthen pot. This seemingly ordinary object possesses extraordinary properties, functioning as a portal that whisks her away to a multitude of fantastical realms.

In these alternate dimensions, the usual constraints of time and space are temporarily suspended, granting her a much-needed reprieve from the drudgery and repetitiveness of her everyday existence. Through her adventures, Pauloma embarks on a journey of self-discovery and exploration, allowing her to break free from the confines of her routine life and experience the wonders that lie beyond her familiar surroundings. Throughout her journeys, Pauloma



adopts a range of identities that reflect the diverse cultures she encounters. In Germany, she transforms into Aurora Miller, immersing herself in the local customs and lifestyle. In Egypt, she takes on the role of Princess Rabiya Abdi, allowing herself to be influenced by the rich history and traditions of the region. Meanwhile, in Gujarat, she passionately embraces the persona of Monghi, fully engaging with the vibrant heritage and community of the area. Each

The Many Lives of Pauloma Chattopadhyay

identity she assumes not only enhances her travel experience but also deepens her understanding of the world around her. The remarkable essence of her travels intensifies as Pauloma navigates the tumultuous era of Nazi-occupied Germany, observes the significant cultural shifts occurring in Egypt, and delves into the

superstitions that shape the lives of rural communities in India after gaining independence.

As the narratives of these three women become more intricately connected to Pauloma's own life experiences, she begins to confront a waning connection to reality. This tiny novel is an exceptional piece of literature.

Devangi Bhatt /Mudra Joshi
Niyogi Books
New Delhi

Tareekh Pe Justice: Reforms for India's District Courts

Bhaskar Parichha

One of the most significant shortcomings of the Indian state since the adoption of its new Constitution in 1950 has been its failure to provide equitable and prompt justice to its citizens.

TareekhPe Justice: Reforms for India's District Courts by Prashant Reddy Thikkavarapu and Chitrakshi Jain offers an in-depth examination of the issues affecting the district judiciary. These courts represent the sole level of the judiciary present in every district across the nation. Among the three tiers of the Indian justice system, district courts handle the highest volume of cases and serve as the initial point of access for the majority of Indians pursuing justice. This work offers a thorough and critical analysis of the dysfunctions plaguing India's

district courts, which serve as the foundation of the Indian judiciary and are responsible for the majority of civil and criminal cases nationwide.

The book underscores significant delays, inefficiencies, and institutional deficiencies within district courts that foster a "chilling atmosphere" for judges, thereby obstructing their capacity to administer prompt and fearless justice. It also identifies systemic problems within the higher judiciary, such as lack of transparency in decision-making, the failure to publish accurate judicial statistics, flawed digitization initiatives that have cost over Rs 2,000 crore, and reckless judicial activism that has resulted in ineffective reforms. In contrast to prevalent discussions that primarily emphasize the quantity of judges or financial resources, the authors contend that institutional factors are the fundamental causes of judicial delays and inefficiencies. Historically, discussions surrounding judicial reforms in India have predominantly focused

on resource-related issues, such as the quantity of judges and financial support for the judiciary. In this book, the authors seek to shift this perspective by highlighting the institutional factors that have fostered a stifling environment for district judges, thereby obstructing their capacity to administer justice in a fearless, prompt, and effective manner. Furthermore, the authors identify numerous challenges within the higher judiciary, which bears the responsibility for overseeing the district courts. These challenges include the failure to provide accurate judicial statistics, a lack of transparency in the decision-making process, a poorly designed digitization initiative that has consumed over Rs 2000 crore, and reckless judicial activism that has frequently led to incomplete judicial reforms.

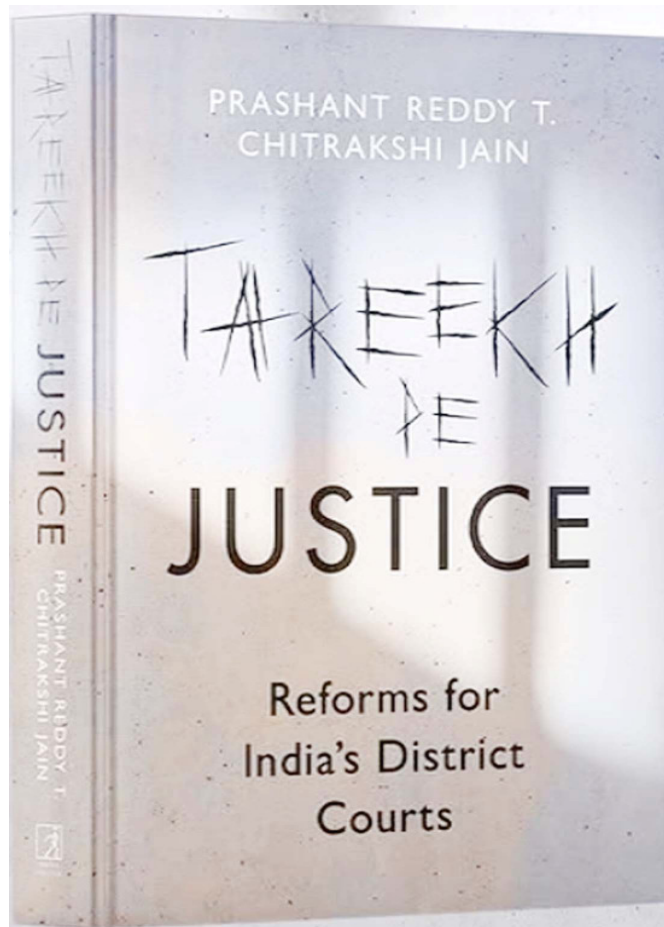
Finally, the authors put forward three significant concepts aimed at fundamentally reimagining the justice system. These concepts involve restructuring the constitutional framework of the Indian judiciary, reintroducing citizens into court proceedings through the use of

juries, and opposing harmful populist pressures that threaten to undermine procedural and evidentiary protections within the legal system. Implementing these reforms has the potential to enhance the efficiency of district courts and simultaneously rebuild public confidence in the Indian judiciary and the rule of law in the country. The authors advocate for three significant reforms aimed at overhauling the Indian judicial system to rectify its structural deficiencies. Reintegrating citizens into the judicial process to improve transparency and foster public confidence. Safeguarding procedural and evidentiary standards to uphold the quality and integrity of justice. The book recommends establishing a dedicated commission to manage complaints against judges in the district judiciary with transparency. It calls for the compulsory publication of judicial statistics and frameworks for financial accountability. It underscores the necessity of achieving a balance between the speed and quality of justice delivery. It is a thoroughly

researched, insightful, and urgent appeal for judicial reform, combining academic research, narrative, and practical solutions. It is deemed essential reading for lawyers, judges, policymakers, scholars, and members of civil society who are engaged in judicial reform and governance in India. The term "TareekhPeTareekh" (date after date) is a well-known phrase in India that signifies delays in the judicial process. The book reinterprets this phrase as a call to action to tackle and reform the persistent delays within the justice system.

TareekhPe Justice offers a critical examination of the entrenched institutional failures that lead to delays in India's district courts and suggests bold reforms to enhance efficiency, transparency, and public trust in the judiciary.

Prashant Reddy Thikkavarapu/ Chitrakshi Jain
Simon & Schuster India
New Delhi



Odisha CM Felicitates Sudarsan Pattnaik For Winning UK's Prestigious 'Sand Master' Award

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): Odisha's globally acclaimed sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik was felicitated today by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi at the Lok Seva Bhawan for winning the prestigious 'Sand Master' Award in the United Kingdom. Pattnaik became the first Indian ever to receive this honour at the International Sand Art Festival held in Weymouth, Dorset, UK. Recognizing this rare achievement, the Chief Minister praised Pattnaik as a "true asset of Odisha" and expressed hope that he would continue to bring greater glory to both Odisha and the nation in the



future. During the felicitation, Pattnaik presented the medal, certificate, and photographs of his sand art to the Chief Minister. In return, CM Majhi expressed delight and offered him a floral

bouquet and a ceremonial shawl in recognition of his global achievement. Earlier, President of India and Prime Minister had also extended their congratulations to Pattnaik on his milestone.

Spanish Ambassador Juan Antonio March Pujol interacts with SOA students

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): Sagacity and understanding hold the keys to establishment of world peace, His Excellency Juan Antonio March Pujol, Spain's Ambassador to India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and Maldives said on Saturday. "It is important to maintain peace in the world and to achieve it we need intelligence and understanding."

Pujol said while having an interaction with students of Siksha 'O' Anusandhan Deemed to be University (SOA) here. Narrating his experiences as a diploma before students, Pujol said failures actually lead the way to success. He said he had decided to become a diplomat when he was 10 years old and was studying in United



Kingdom. Pujol said the Covid pandemic and the unprecedented lockdown imposed across the world following the outbreak had taught several lessons to humanity. It had also helped humans to get connected to nature. Replying to questions, he

said though education was important it was more important for a person to stress on proper conduct. Stating that Artificial Intelligence (AI) had become an important part of human life, Mr. Pujol advised students not to be too dependent

Odisha Leads In Poshan Abhiyan With Remarkable Achievements

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): Odisha has emerged as a leader among the states in the Poshan Abhiyan, achieving significant milestones in nutrition and child welfare, according to recent data released by State authorities. The State's consistent efforts to combat malnutrition and promote community awareness have earned it top rankings across multiple parameters.

Odisha has achieved an impressive 99.98% Aadhaar verification of beneficiaries, securing the first position nationally for several consecutive periods. Additionally, the State has monitored the growth of 99.89% of children aged 0-6 years, ensuring early



identification of nutritional needs. As part of the ongoing Poshan Pakhya, Odisha has conducted over 30.98 lakh awareness programs to educate communities on nutrition and health. The people's movements and community-based

initiatives have reached a staggering 1.16 crore awareness activities, fostering widespread participation in the fight against malnutrition. Further strengthening its infrastructure, Odisha has transformed over 8,400 Anganwadi centers into knowledge

centres, serving as vital centres for nutrition education and child care services. In the Suposit Gram Panchayat campaign, 674 gram panchayats have been selected for verification, positioning Odisha as a frontrunner among states in this national initiative.

12 KISS Students Excel in JEE Main

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): Twelve students from Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) have cracked the JEE Main examination, the results of which were declared today. All of them have qualified for JEE Advanced. Out of the 12 students, seven are girl students.

Three of these successful students hail from Jharkhand and pursued their education at KISS. Expressing his happiness over this achievement, Dr. Achyuta Samanta, the Founder of KIIT and KISS, congratulated the successful students. He stated that every year, students from KISS continue to excel in the JEE examination. He further

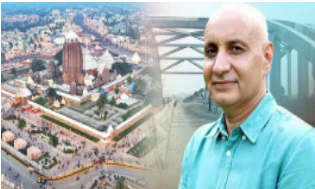


emphasized that not just in JEE, KISS students have been consistently performing well in various competitive exams at regional, national, and international levels. Their success is a result of

the focused attention and quality academic environment provided to them at KISS. Dr. Samanta also extended his gratitude to all the teachers and staff of KISS for their dedicated efforts.

V V Yadav Appointed Additional Secretary In MoEFCC After Stellar Service In Odisha

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): In a significant move, seasoned IAS officer Vir Vikram Yadav has been appointed as the Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC). The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved his



appointment. Yadav, a 1996-batch IAS officer, has served Odisha with distinction, leaving

an indelible mark on the state's infrastructure development as Works Secretary. Yadav had earlier held the post of Chief Administrator of Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA), where he spearheaded the Parikrama Prakalp yojana, a visionary project that transformed the temple's

surroundings. That apart, Yadav's administrative experience spans multiple critical domains, including his tenure as Food and Supplies and Cooperation Secretary, where he played a pivotal role in ensuring the state's food security and strengthening cooperative frameworks.

Youth Hangs Self After Losing In Online Game In Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): A tragic incident has come to light in Bhubaneswar, where a 23-year-old youth, Vikas Nayak, allegedly took his own life after losing a substantial amount of money in an online game. The incident occurred in the Champa Pokhari area under the Laxmisagar police station. According to reports, Vikas was an avid online gamer and played games on his mobile phone. After incurring about Rs 7 lakh loss in the game, he reportedly lost his mental balance and was unable to cope with the situation. In a shocking turn of events, he allegedly hanged himself inside his house. On being informed,



police reached spot and seized the body for post-mortem. They have seized his mobile phone and registered a case. Further investigation is currently underway.

Veteran & Popular Odia Journalist Ratikant Mohanty Passes Away At 70

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): Veteran journalist Ratikant Mohanty died at the age of 70. He was ailing for the past few years. He is survived by his wife, Sipra Mohanty, and two daughters, Puja and Bandana. Known for his dedication to truth, integrity, and public service, Ratikant began his career with Dinalipi, one of Odisha's prominent newspapers, where he quickly established himself as a sharp, fearless, and articulate voice. His deep understanding of grassroots issues, combined with an unwavering commitment to ethical journalism, helped him earn widespread admiration among colleagues and readers alike. He later joined Paryabekhyak, where his



analytical skills and thoughtful reportage further cemented his reputation. His writing was not just informative-it was insightful, often giving a voice to the voiceless and shining a light on the concerns of the common

man. His stories were grounded in reality and often reflected his strong connection with the socio-political undercurrents of Odisha. Ratikant's professional journey also took him to the national stage. He worked for The Asian Age, where his ability to connect regional developments with broader national narratives made his work stand out. His association with Hindustan Samachar further showcased his versatility and deep-rooted belief in value-based journalism. Apart from being a journalist, he was a mentor, a guide, and an inspiration to many budding reporters and editors. His calm demeanour, meticulous approach to facts, and ethical stance in the face of growing sensationalism made him a role model in the media world.

New mega IT Park to be set up in Cuttack-Bhubaneswar; Odisha Govt unveils massive infrastructure plans

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): In a significant move to boost Odisha's digital infrastructure and IT ecosystem, the state government has announced the development of a large-scale IT park in the Twin City of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack. The announcement was made by Odisha's Works Minister Prithviraj Harichandan, who detailed a series of ambitious infrastructure projects set to transform the state's urban and rural connectivity landscape over the next five years. According to the Minister, the upcoming IT park will be developed over 1,000 hectares of land, marking it as one of the largest IT infrastructure initiatives ever undertaken in Odisha. The project aims to position Odisha as a competitive destination in India's fast-growing digital economy. A key feature of the park will be a "Plug and Play" built-up area, designed to facilitate quick operational readiness for IT companies.

These ready-to-use facilities will eliminate setup delays and are expected to attract both national and international tech firms looking for expansion. In Bhubaneswar alone, the built-up space will span approximately 10 lakh square meters, offering modern office infrastructure for startups, mid-size firms, and tech giants alike. This initiative is in line with the government's broader objective to create employment and turn the Twin City into a major IT hub in Eastern India.

District Level Odia Week Celebrated

Khordha, (DMC): District level odia week was celebrated under the chairmanship of ADM, Pratap Chandra Beura at the conference hall of Collector Khordha. As per the instructions of the Odisha govt. Odia Week will be celebrated from 15th to 21st of April every year & the history of Odisha, bravery of the ancestors, dedication, ideology will be discussed and everyone will be made aware to keep the ideal of paying homage to them alive. In this context, an Odia Essay Competition was organized among the officers and employees of the Office of the Collector & all the district level offices under the chairmanship of the ADM. On the Odia essay related to the history of Khordha and its contribution to Odisha & on the topic of the Paika Rebellion & its contribution to India's independence.

The officers mainly participated in the Odia Essay Competition, while senior and junior revenue assistants were participated in the odia essay competition. In this Odia Week celebration, under the chairmanship of ADM, Pratap Chandra Beura, District Welfare Officer Dr. Githansu Mohan Dash, Deputy Collector, Revenue, Nibedita Parida graced the judging panel. Deputy Collector, Emergency, Sritapa Mishra, Deputy Collector, Establishment, Debabrata Kar, Deputy Collector, Right to Information Act, Ananya Srustii Satapathy, Land Acquisition Officer Krishna Kumar Jena, Deputy Collector, Election & Judicial, Manoj Kumar Senapati, Deputy Collector, General and Miscellaneous, Pradhan Tuliana, Assistant Collector Akshay Kumar Jena, Assistant Collector, Grievances, Bhubaneswari Kanhar, DI & PRO, Khordha, Laxman Kumar Behera, District Cultural Officer Chaudhuri Aurobinda and all the staff's were present.

Review of Public Sector Banks by Secretary, DFS, Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India.



Bhubaneswar, (DMC): A review meeting of ACP, CD ratio, Social security Schemes and other flagship schemes of Government was held on 19th April, 2025 at Hotel Mayfair, Bhubaneswar by M. Nagaraju, Secretary, Department of Financial Services. In the meeting, the Principal Secretary, Finance Deptt., Govt. of Odisha, Regional Director, RBI,

Bhubaneswar, CMD of SIDBI, MD & CEO of UCO Bank, MD of State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, Punjab National Bank, Indian Bank, Bank of India, Executive Directors of Canara Bank, Indian Overseas Bank, Bank of Maharashtra, Punjab & Sind Bank including Deputy MD, Nabard were present. The Secretary, Financial Services, Department of Financial

Services, Govt. of India M. Nagaraju appreciated the performance of SLBC, Odisha under Social Security Schemes, CSP Plus initiative and support of State Govt. for implementation of various Govt. Schemes. He advised banks to improve performance under Education & Housing Loans. He also appreciated the increased volume of credit flow by banks

in Odisha during last few years. The CMD, SIDBI Manoj Mittal informed about PRAYAS model of Udyam Assist portal and CGTMSE coverage of loans. The Principal Secretary, Finance Department, govt. of Odisha Saswat Mishra informed that in every SLBC meetings of Odisha serious discussions are taking place on ACP achievement, CD ratio, Social Security and Govt.

schemes. The Regional Director, RBI, Bhubaneswar Dr. Sarada Prasan Mohanty advised banks for more micro lending to reduce the dependence on NBFCs. He also provided the clarification on CD ratio. He also provided valuable inputs for overall improvement of SLBC activities in the State.

The MD & CEO of UCO Bank and Chairman SLBC, Odisha Ashwani Kumar highlighted the performance of Banks in Odisha in Social Security Schemes, ACP, CD ratio and Govt. sponsored schemes. The General Manager UCO Bank and Convenor, SLBC Odisha Goutam Patra presented the performance of PSBs through a Power Point Presentation. The MD & CEOs, EDs of banks also assured to improve the performance of their banks in desired sectors.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA PANCHAYATIRAJ & D.W. DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE PANCHAYAT SAMITI, BIRIDI					
'e' mail ID : ori-biridi@nic.in				I-33	
'e' Procurement Notice No.BDO-BPS-02 of 2025-26					
1	Number of the works	3 (three) Nos.			
2	Tender Amount (Approx.)	Rs.14.55 Lakh to 14.73 Lakh			
3	EMD (online)	Rs.14,800.00 & Rs.14,800.00			
4	Tender Paper Cost (online) (Non-Refundable)	Rs.6,000.00			
5	Class of Contractor	"D"&"C" Class Contractor			
6	Period of Completion	06 (six) Calendar Months			

Procurement Officer	'e' Procurement Notice No.	Availability of Tender		Last date & time for seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of Bid	Place of opening of Bid
BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, BIRIDI	BDO-BPS-02 / 2025-26	From	To	30.04.2025 upto 11.00 P.M during office hours on working days	03.05.2025 upto 11.00 AM during office hours	O/o the Panchayat Samiti, Biridi

Further details can be seen from the Govt. web site '<https://tendersodisha.gov.in>

All corrigendum / cancellation of tender if any, will only be uploaded in the above web site

OIPR-19221/11/0003/2526

BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, BIRIDI

Hon'ble Governor Dr. Haribabu Kambhampati visited the Krishi Vigyan Kendra at Sakshigopal, Puri



Puri, (DMC): The science centre, run by The Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology, Bhubaneswar, has a number of high quality units for agriculture. The Governor appreciated the work done by the Science Centre to make the farmers aware of the improved technology about agriculture along with self-reliance. In

particular, the Hon'ble Governor visited the units of various types of bird rearing, including mushroom farming, Japanese cow fish farming, colorful fish farming. Similarly, the Hon'ble Governor visited various medicinal tree units as well as ponds at the Science Centre and the laboratory being done here. Hon'ble First Lady of Odisha Smt. Jayashree

Kambhampati was also present during the visit. Vice-Chancellor of Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology Prof. Prabhat Kumar Rout, Dean of the University Prof. Prasanjit Mishra, Senior Scientist of Krishi Vigyan Kendra Surya Mishra and other officials of the Science Center turned around and explained all this.

On his arrival at the Science Centre, the Hon'ble Governor was given a guard of honour by the police while the Hon'ble Governor was felicitated by the Science Centre before his return. On this occasion, the Hon'ble Governor suggested to work towards benefiting the farmers through various schemes of the Government.

Heavy Tremor; Zinc Sheet Roof Skied Up

Paralakhemundi, (DMC): At RUDayagiri & Mohana block severe tremor destroyed house roof of various households. At Dengaamba of Liligada panchayat Gudu Mallick Lalu Mallick, Rabi Mallick lost their zinc sheet roofings. Their documents too destroyed. Similarly at Ramgiri near Kureisuni temple in youth association building zinc sheet roof too destroyed. Electricity service shutted down.



Accident at Taptapani Ghat: Paper Loaded Truck Over Turned

Paralakhemundi, (DMC): At Taptapani ghat section of Gajapati & Ganjam district border one paper loaded truck slipped & fallen down to 20 feet ditch. Fortunately driver & helper relieved. At 5pm yesterday that loaded truck was going to Brahmapur. That fell at farm land both chesis & body detached of the truck. Both driver & helper slightly injured. No sooner Pudemari Outpost police reached & rescued both. They started enquiry.



Vajpayee's centenary birth celebrations held at Jagatsinghpur. BJP'S senior leaders honoured



Paradip/Jagatsinghpur, (DMC): On Saturday, former prime minister Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee's centenary birth celebration was held at Sanskriti bhawan of Jagatsinghpur under the leadership of Prata Mishra, BJP's Jagatsinghpur district president. Sampad Chandra

Swain, Minister for Industries, skill development and technical education in Government of Odisha attended as the chief guest, Bibhu Prasad Tarai Jagatsinghpur MP joined as honourable guest, Satyabrata Mohapatra former district president, senior BJP leaders

Sanjaya Mohanty, Rajkishore Behera, Satyasarathi Mohanty, Nursinha Sahoo participated in this celebration and spoke in memory of Vajpayee. Soubhagya Mohaanty Jagatsinghpur vice president of BJP conducted the meeting. Birendra Biswal, Sasanka Sekhar Acharya, Rama Chandra Swain, the BJP functionaries who worked for the party during Vajpayee's time were honoured on this occasion for their contribution to the party. Among others, Subrat Kumar Pradhan Paradip Mandal BJP president, old party workers Kailash Mullick, Purnachandra Sethi and score of other party workers and leaders were present.

2 Died in 2 Separate Accident

Paralakhemundi, (DMC): At Gajapati district on 2 separate accidents 2 persons died. At Merapalli of Gajapati district on a turning road one Mohan Dora of Kansamari village of Ganjam district was returning from Adava by his TVS bike. His bike collided with a Hiwa vehicle (AP39WA9890). At spot he died. Mohana police seized his body & sent for postmortem to Brahmapur. Deceased's son Bighneswar registered at Mohana Police Station. Case (58/



25) registered. Similarly from Kottama to Adava under Adava police limits driver fallen under his tractor by losing control. Deceased name was Tuna Nayak of Digapahandi. Police registered a case & started investigation.

E-KYC verification is a must for preparation of new ration card

Puri, (DMC): New ration cards are now being prepared for eligible beneficiaries after verification and field verification of all applicants who have applied for the new ration card on the instructions of the state government. In this context, e-KYC verification of all family members is a must for preparation of new ration cards. Therefore, all the applicants in the district should contact the supply inspectors in their blocks or municipalities and get the e-KYC verified at the earliest.

2 Arrested by Killing Forest Pig

Paralakhemundi, (DMC): Under Paralakhemundi forest range of Gajapati district Siringa Sabar & Esaku Bhuyan of Upplada village arrested by killing forest pig. Forest department staff arrested both. Staff seized 8 kgs of meat & 5 axes from them. Court forwarded them to jail.



Labour safety & awareness massive rally & meeting held in Paradip

Paradip, (DMC): In a powerful show of solidarity, more than 3,000 workers took part in a massive roadshow and motorcycle rally led by renowned trade union leader Prakash Tripathy. The rally, organised by Paradip Port Mazdoor Sangha, Purba Upakula Shramika Sangha, and Paradip Port DLRs & Contract Workmen Association, began at Dochhaki and concluded at Jaydev Sadan Ground.

The event marked a historic moment in Paradip's labour movement, with workers raising their voices for the safety and security of their jobs and future. At the forefront of the rally, Prakash Tripathy, president of all



three trade unions, was applauded for resolving several key issues in a short span of time. He reaffirmed his commitment to unity and assured the workers that under his leadership, solutions and prosperity are within reach. As the enthusiastic crowd gathered at the venue and the rally reached its destination,

a sudden nor'wester hit the area, bringing heavy rain and strong winds. Due to the adverse weather conditions, the public meeting was postponed to the next evening, April 19, 2025. The spirit of the workers, however, remained undampened and expectations are high for the rescheduled meeting.

Puri & Jagatsinghpur District Boundary Dispute - 27 above injured

Jagatsinghpur, (DMC): To-day dispute arise among people of Tara sahi village under Balikuda Block of Jagatsinghpur District and People of Bali diha Village under Astarang Tahasil of Puri District for a Cashew forest at the mouth of River Devi. The dispute converted in to mass attack and 17 members of Bali diha Village under Puri District are under treatment at Astarang CHC and 10 above people of Tara sahi Village under

Jagatsinghpur District are under treatment at Balikuda CHC. Balikuda Police and Tahasildar and Astarang Tahasildar are present at the spot to controll the situation. As the Cashew Forest situated at a delta of River Devi and not yet detected to which District the Forest belongs. People of Bali diha demanding that they are in possession of Cashew Forest since 30 years and it situated in Puri District. Similarly people of Tara sahi

demanding that they are in possession of Cashew Forest since long and the record of rights in favour of their four father. It is a continuous problem between people of Jagatsinghpur District and Puri District since formation of Jagatsinghpur District but boundary dispute between both the District still continuing. Intellectuals demand that the State should take effective measures to solve boundary dispute.

Utkal Alumina Organises Stakeholder Friendship Cricket Tournament 2025 Kalahandi wins Title, Rayagada emerges Runner-up in Final Match

Muniguda, (DMC): Utkal Alumina, a unit of Hindalco Industries of the Aditya Birla Group, organized a one-day Stakeholder Friendship Cricket Tournament 2025 at the Township Sports Ground in Oshapada, Tikiri, Rayagada district. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from various teams representing district administration, police, paramilitary forces, and Utkal Alumina employees.

Teams included the Rayagada Collector XI, Kalahandi District Administration XI, Rayagada SP XI, CRPF XI, and two teams from Hindalco Industries (Utkal Alumina and Aditya Alumina combined). In the opening match, Hindalco XI batted first and scored 67 runs in 10 overs. CRPF XI successfully chased down the target, defeating Hindalco XI to register their first win. The second



match saw a face-off between the senior Hindalco XI and Rayagada Collector XI. Winning the toss and opting to bat, Hindalco scored an impressive 98 runs for 4 wickets. However, the Collector XI chased down the target losing just 3 wickets. The third match between Rayagada SP XI and Kalahandi XI was a tight contest. Despite a spirited performance from both sides, Kalahandi XI secured a win, showcasing excellent

form. Another high-voltage match was played between CRPF XI and Collector XI. Collector XI set a daunting target of 114 runs. CRPF XI, however, collapsed under pressure, managing only 47 runs and losing all wickets, resulting in a 67-run defeat. The final match between Kalahandi XI and Collector XI was the highlight of the tournament. Collector XI, having won the toss, opted to bat but was restricted to a modest 54 runs by

the disciplined bowling attack of Kalahandi XI. In response, Kalahandi XI comfortably chased the target, losing just 4 wickets, and emerged as the champions of the Stakeholder Friendship Cricket Tournament 2025. Rayagada SP Ms. Swati S. Kumar (IPS) graced the event as Chief Guest. Other dignitaries present included Mr. Naveen Chandra Nayak Additional District Magistrate, Rayagada, Mr. Bishnu Prasad Patra Additional

SP, Mr. Sheikh Alenoor District Sports Officer, Rayagada, Mr. Ramesh Kumar Padhi, DSO, Kalahandi, and Mr. Mahananda, District Culture Officer. Senior company officials including Mr. Ravi Mishra, Unit Head, Utkal Alumina, Mr. Mazhar Beg, Head, Aditya Birla Refinery, Dr. Bibhudatta Mahapatra, Vice President, Corporate Communications,

Mr. Bijaya Kumar, Functional Head, HR and Mr. Koushik sharan mishra VP Aditya Refinery were also present to encourage the teams and celebrate the spirit of sportsmanship. The tournament was successfully coordinated by Mr. Pitambar Behera, General Manager, Corporate Affairs & Public Relations, along with members of the company's sports committee, under whose supervision the entire event was organized.

From Page- 1

Death toll...

the collapse. They also expressed concern about the fragile state of four to five buildings. Waste water from the sewer has been seeping into the walls of the buildings for years, and over time, the moisture has weakened the structure, causing the walls to develop cracks," said Salim Ali, another resident. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi, in a statement, said that the structure was around 20 years old and was fully occupied. The four-storey building's owner Tehsin and his family live on the first floor while tenants live in the rest of the building. AAP supremo and former Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal also extended his condolences to the bereaved families. "I appeal to all the party workers to fully cooperate with the administration in relief and rescue operations," he said in a post on X.

President Highest...

Referring to the three-month deadline set by the apex court for approving bills, Justice Rastogi said the court's verdict is in the public domain. "Let people express their views and even the court may further clarify if it finds it is required," he said.

Dr. P.K. Mishra's...

gigawatts of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030. He mentioned India's leadership in clean technology initiatives such as the National Green Hydrogen Mission, the International Solar Alliance, and the Global Biofuel Alliance. He emphasized that the future of India's economy depends on skilled professionals in green finance, electric vehicles, carbon trading, and circular economy practices. With more than 800 million internet users, India's digital economy is flourishing.

TPNODL's Proactive Response to Kalbaisakhi; Ensures Minimal Disruption

Balasore, (DMC): Northern Odisha experienced the wrath of Kalbaisakhi as heavy winds caused widespread devastation across towns like Balasore, Remuna, and Nilgiri, leading to significant disruptions in electrical infrastructure on Friday. Amid these challenging circumstances, TP Northern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPNODL) has showcased relentless dedication by swiftly initiating restoration efforts to mitigate the impact on affected residents. The calamity caused extensive damage to power lines and electrical systems, leaving several areas without power. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, TPNODL deployed its workforce immediately to address the outages. Teams of employees, equipped with tools and unyielding resolve, worked around the clock in adverse conditions to restore power in the maximum affected areas. In a strong demonstration of commitment to the community, TPNODL CEO Mr. Dwijadas Basak, along with senior officials, personally visited the restoration sites late at night to oversee the operations and offer encouragement to the employees. The leadership team expressed



gratitude to the workers for their tireless efforts and assured the public of TPNODL's unwavering dedication to restoring normalcy. TPNODL has successfully restored power in most affected areas, and the remaining locations are expected to be operational soon. The company has also initiated preventive measures to strengthen infrastructure against future calamities.

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated the foundation stone and temporary campus of the much-awaited Kendriya Vidyalaya in Titilagarh



Titilagarh, (DMC): The dream of a much-awaited Central School in Titilagarh city has come true. This time, a double-engine government is running in the Centre and the State. For years, the work of Central Schools has been done only on paper, while the location and planning were being done four times. This long-standing dream has come true as the BJP government has come to power in Odisha for the first time in the current elections. On Saturday at 10 am, Union Education Minister Shri. Dharmendra Pradhan arrived in a helicopter

The DAV College landed at the playground. At this time, Odisha Deputy Chief Minister Shri Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo, Balangir MP Mrs. Sangata Singh Deo, Health Minister Shri Mukesh Mahaling, Kantabanji MLA Shri Laxman Bagh, Titilagarh MLA Shri Naveen Jain, Municipal Council Chairperson Smt. Mamata Devi Jain, BJP City President Shri Sunil Acharya, Ranju Raiman, MPs Prashant Sarangi, Mahendra Thakur and a large number of BJP workers were present and welcomed. From there, he went out in a big procession and toured the city.

At Thana Chak in the city, all the guests were welcomed by the Marwari Women's Mandal, Pragati Branch, and Merchants' Association and showered flowers. From there, Union Education Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated the temporary campus at Dhabaleswar School. Then he performed the puja of the foundation stone of the Central School. After that, he attended a public meeting. Among others, Rajya Sabha MP Shri Niranjan Triyak, Titilagarh Deputy Collector Shri Rihan Khatri and other guests were present. The campus will be built in one to two years, so the academic year 2025/26 will start in the temporary campus. He said in his speech that education will be provided from Sishu Batika to fifth grade. Sanjay Kumar Nayak's report from Titilagarh.

Russian President Vladimir Putin announces an Easter ceasefire in Ukraine



Russia, (H.S) : Today from 1800 (1500 GMT) to midnight Sunday (2100 GMT Sunday), the Russian side announces an Easter truce," Putin said in televised comments, while speaking to Russian chief of staff Valery G. The announcement comes hours after Russia's Defense Ministry informed that Russian forces had pushed Ukrainian forces from one of their last remaining footholds in Russia's Kursk region on Saturday.

According to Russia's Defense Ministry, its forces took control of the village of Oleshnya, on the border with Ukraine. "Units of the 'North' military group have liberated the village of Oleshnya in the Kursk region during active offensive operations," the ministry said in a statement. According to Russian state news agency TASS, Russian forces were fighting to push Ukrainian forces out of the village of Gornal, some seven miles (11 kilometres) south of Oleshnya. "The Russian military has yet to push the Ukrainian Armed Forces out of Gornal ... in order to completely liberate the Kursk region. Fierce fighting is underway in the settlement," the agency reported, citing Russia security agencies. Russian and North Korean soldiers have nearly deprived Kyiv of a key bargaining chip by retaking most of the region, where Ukrainian troops staged a surprise incursion last year. In other developments, the Ukrainian Air Force reported that Russia fired 87 exploding drones and decoys in the latest wave of attacks overnight into Saturday. It said 33 of them were intercepted and another 36 were lost, likely having been electronically jammed.

Russian attacks damaged farms in the Odessa region and sparked fires in the Sumy region overnight, Ukraine's State Emergency Service said Saturday. Fires were contained, and no casualties were reported. Russia's Ministry of Defense, meanwhile, said its air defense systems shot down two Ukrainian drones overnight into Saturday.

BJP, police face off in Bengal's Dakshin Dinajpur over Murshidabad violence



New Delhi, (H.S) : BJP's Sukanta Majumdar said that the clash erupted due to an unprovoked lathi charge on BJP supporters by the police.

Tensions flared once again in West Bengal's Dakshin Dinajpur on Saturday as BJP supporters, led by Union minister Sukanta Majumdar, clashed with the police during a protest over the recent Murshidabad violence, officials said. According to the police, "mild force" was used when protesters attempted to storm the Block Development Officer (BDO) office, though the situation is now under control. However, BJP leader Majumdar, who also serves as the president of the party's West Bengal unit, claimed the clash was triggered by an unprovoked lathi charge on BJP supporters by the police. According to BJP's Sukanta Majumdar, Bharatiya Janata Party workers under his leadership carried out a gherao at the BDO office in Balurghat, but when the police stopped them, a clash broke out. The demonstration, which was meant to condemn the alleged inaction over violence targeting Hindus in Murshidabad, turned chaotic when police tried to stop the crowd, resulting in a scuffle, the BJP MP said. Majumdar alleged that the police action against the BJP's protest showed the undemocratic face of the Mamata Banerjee government.

"The state police cannot stop rioters. It says it is outnumbered when it faces a mob of miscreants and hooligans. But it crushes the democratic protest of the BJP against atrocities by thugs and rioters," said Balurghat MP Majumdar. Meanwhile, the TMC accused the BJP of attempting polarisation by fomenting trouble. "While the state government is doing everything possible to instil confidence among the people, the BJP is trying to escalate the situation for electoral gains. They don't want Bengal to remain peaceful, they don't want amity and peace to prevail among different communities," TMC leader Kunal Ghosh alleged. BJP West Bengal chief Sukanta Majumdar, the Mos for Education, demanded that all those behind the violence in Murshidabad be arrested, and confidence-building measures be taken up by the administration to make the displaced people feel secure. Earlier, Majumdar claimed the call for the riots in Murshidabad was made from the loudspeaker of a mosque.

'Maharashtra Above All': Thackeray Cousins Hint at Reunion

New Delhi, (H.S) : The Thackeray family - which splintered politically in 2005 following Raj Thackeray's decision to start his own party, could witness a dramatic reunion. Estranged cousins Raj and Uddhav Thackeray have both hinted at a patch-up amid concerns over alleged threats to Marathi identity and culture. Speaking at different events, the two leaders, who head the Shiv Sena (UBT) and the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) respectively, conveyed a common message that Maharashtra's linguistic and cultural interests are above political rivalries.

Asked about the possibility of a reunion between the cousins during a podcast with actor-filmmaker Mahesh Manjrekar, Raj Thackeray said that the differences between him and his cousins are proving detrimental to Maharashtra's interests. "The disputes and fights between Uddhav and me are minor -- Maharashtra is much bigger than all that. These differences are proving costly for the existence of Maharashtra and the Marathi people. Coming together is not difficult, it's a matter of will. It's not just about my desire or selfishness. We need to look at the bigger picture. All Marathi people across political parties should unite and form a single party," Raj Thackeray said. However, Raj Thackeray stressed the difference between his earlier departure



from Shiv Sena in 2005 from the 2022 split led by Eknath Shinde, who broke away from Uddhav Thackeray's faction to form a new government with the BJP. "I left Shiv Sena when MLAs and MPs were with me. Even then, I chose to walk alone because I couldn't work under anyone except Balasaheb Thackeray. I had no objection to working with Uddhav," he said. "The question is - does the other side have the will to work with me?" "If Maharashtra wants us to come together, let Maharashtra speak up," he added. "I don't let my ego get in the way of such matters." Uddhav Thackeray, addressing a gathering organised by the Bhartiya Kamgar Sena, expressed a conditional openness to reconciliation. "I'm ready to put aside petty

IMEC Not Frozen Due to Security Issues: MEA

New Delhi, (H.S) : India remains engaged with "selected partners" on India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) despite the current political and security situation in the region, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said on Saturday ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Saudi Arabia, next week. Emphasising that efforts will be made to take forward work on IMEC during PM Modi's two-day visit to Saudi Arabia scheduled from April 22-23, the top diplomat hoped that engagement on IMEC across the original and prospective partners will fructify on the ground soon. "The

political and security in the regions seems like progress of IMEC has frozen, but India has engaged with selected partners and exchanged views on what needs to be done. We don't necessarily need to wait for the security situation to completely settle down for work to start on IMEC," said Misri. It was on the sidelines of the G20 Leaders' Summit in September 2023 that the leaders of India, European Union, France, Germany, Italy, Saudi Arabia, UAE and US announced a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), committing to work together to develop a new India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor



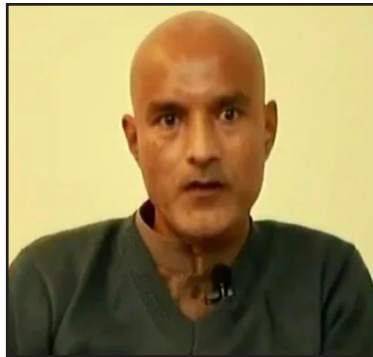
(IMEC). The IMEC will comprise two separate corridors, the east corridor connecting India to the Gulf and

northern corridor connecting Gulf to Europe. "After the signing of the framework understanding on IMEC in September 2023, all partners had an urgent regional situation to address. It meant that the kind of groundwork that was foreseen between all the partners could not begin immediately. That however, does not mean individual countries or groups of countries that are part of the original agreement have not discussed or engaged on what the contours of the agreement will look like and what kind of work will be required to effect progress under this agreement," Foreign Secretary Misri said on Saturday.

'No Right to Appeal for Kulbhushan Jadhav Because...': Pak SC

New Delhi, (H.S) : Indian national Kulbhushan Jadhav, who is in a Pakistan jail over allegations that he was an Indian spy, was not given the right to appeal following a verdict by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in 2019 because the ruling only addressed the matter of consular access, Pakistani newspaper Dawn reported.

Ruling in favour of India in June 2019, the ICJ affirmed Mr Jadhav's right to consular access and called on Pakistan to review and reconsider his conviction and death sentence. Pakistan's Defence Ministry lawyer Khawaja Haris Ahmed on Wednesday mentioned the case of Mr Jadhav before a constitutional bench of that country's Supreme Court, during a proceeding against Pakistani citizen who were convicted by military courts for their alleged involvement in the massive protest over the arrest of former prime minister Imran Khan in May 2023. The Pakistani government calls



the series of riots that broke out on May 9, 2023 a "Black Day". Mr Ahmed said the right to appeal which was available to Mr Jadhav was, however, not given to Pakistan's own citizens who were convicted in the May 2023 riots cases. The Pakistani Supreme Court was told that Attorney General Mansoor Usman Awan was busy in deliberations over the question of providing the right to appeal before superior courts to the

No Debate on Article 142, Decision Entirely in Court's Domain: Ex-SC Judge Ajay Rastogi

New Delhi, (H.S) : Supreme Court's retired judge Ajay Rastogi on Saturday virtually disagreed with Rajya Sabha Chairman and Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar's 'nuclear missile' remark about Article 142 and its alleged misuse, saying the decision to use the inherent powers under the Article lies entirely in the domain of the court.

"When to exercise the powers under Article 142, what are the circumstances under which to exercise the power is always in the domain of the court," Justice Rastogi told IANS, countering the perceived tirade against the judiciary. He said, in his personal view, a time has come that all parties must introspect. "We are going wrong somewhere. The time has come that all stakeholders must introspect and find out a way which is in the interest of the institutions and in fulfilment of the mandate of the Constitution." Earlier this month, the top court, using its inherent powers under Article 142 of the Constitution, resolved a standoff between the Tamil Nadu government and Governor R.N. Ravi over the delay in granting assent to bills. The court used the powers for the purpose of declaring the 10 withheld Bills as deemed to have been assented on the date when they were presented



to the Governor after being reconsidered by the State legislature. The issue took a new twist after Jagdeep Dhankhar used strong words against the judiciary, comparing Article 142 as a 'nuclear missile' available to the judiciary against democratic forces. The debate intensified with former Union Minister Kapil Sibal calling Dhankhar's criticism as an attack on the judiciary and a potential act of shaking public faith in courts. However, renowned lawyer Mahesh Jethmalani put his weight behind the Vice President for fulfilling his obligation of upholding the

Constitution. Justice Rastogi while talking to IANS ruled out the talk about friction between the legislature and the judiciary. "Giving interpretation on a legislation is judiciary's role. Parliament is supreme and has the power to amend a provision," he said. The court should not feel offended if Parliament amends a provision, he said.

Justice Rastogi also dismissed the narrative of the judiciary and the executive being on collision course, underscoring judges' commitment to public welfare and their ability to withstand the perceived pressure due to dissection of their views. "There is absolutely no pressure on judges. They function independently and fearlessly, no matter what the public thinks. We as judges work, with full commitment, in the interest of our institution and the public," said Justice Rastogi.

RCM's Mega-B Fest Brahmastra



Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : Regional College of Management celebrates Brahmastra, its annual Mega-Fest, an event of unprecedented magnitude aims at unifying the Education Fraternity of not only the state of Odisha but across the nation to create an education ecosystem where students' future professionals pool their innate potential, energy, drive and aspiration learn. Brahmastra offers an opportunity to understand that "Learning happens through Doing" by getting a real-life & on-job experience in leadership, organization skills, Team-work, planning & strategizing to open their eyes to the latest market driven demands in a rapidly changing global Business Scenario and mind-boggling technical revolution

Organized entirely by students with exceptionally qualified and astute faculty, Brahmastra has seen unprecedented success in its previous editions. This year this Mega-Event has been scaled up by several folds with 37 Events under Verticals like Management & IT Competitions, Sports, Cultural events, Food Fiesta/ Competitions and Drona, a unique Faculty Engagement Activity & competitions, which gives great impetus and motivation to those who create leaders and build the nation.

Speaking about Brahmastra 2025 spread over 5 days and multiple venues is being held from 25th April to 29th April. Speaking about this Mega-B-fest the Director RCM Dr Pritam Pal observes-"Changing times need changing Perspectives and a 360 degree Paradigm Shift in what and how we educate our future generations; an impossible task for any single institution. I request and invite all our students & our peer Institutions- Let's all join hands to look beyond tomorrow."

Hectic Preparations Underway To Welcome US Vice President JD Vance In Jaipur

Jaipur, (H.S): Preparations are in full swing in Jaipur to extend a grand welcome to United States Vice President James David (JD) Vance, who will be visiting India as part of his international tour. Vance is scheduled to arrive in the country on April 21 for a four-day visit. On Friday, Vance landed in Italy with his family and will touch down in India on April 21. After a scheduled meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi, he will travel to Jaipur later that evening.

According to officials, Vice President Vance will stay in Jaipur from April 21 to 24. On April 22, he will visit the historic Amer Palace in the morning, followed by an address at the US-India Business Summit at the Rajasthan International Centre. The summit is expected to witness the participation of top officials from both countries, with Vance set to present his vision for strengthening bilateral trade ties. On April 23, he will



travel to Agra aboard a US Air Force aircraft to visit the Taj Mahal. After spending approximately three hours at the monument, he will return to Jaipur the same afternoon and tour the Jaipur City Palace later in the day. He is scheduled to depart for Washington, D.C., at 6.30 a.m. on April 24.

A red-carpet welcome awaits Vice President Vance at Jaipur Airport. The Rajasthan government has mobilized personnel from various departments, and elaborate security arrangements are in place. Temporary road closures are expected based on intelligence

inputs, and plainclothes officers from the Rajasthan Police will be deployed alongside Vance's security detail. A 20-vehicle convoy will support the VVIP's movements in addition to his official motorcade, and a specially-equipped ambulance with senior doctors will accompany the delegation.

Emergency medical facilities have been set up at designated hospitals. A traditional Rajasthani welcome has been planned for Vance and his family at Amer Palace on April 22. The family will don Jodhpuri safas and experience the cultural richness of the state through puppet shows, folk dances, traditional attire, and local cuisine. The palace will remain closed to the public during the two-and-a-half-hour visit. Twelve trained guides have been appointed to provide historical insights about Amer and Jaipur, ensuring dignitary interactions are conducted at a suitable distance. Amer Palace

Superintendent Dr Rakesh Chholak confirmed that all preparations, including security measures and renovation work, have been completed. Sources said External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will receive Vance upon his arrival in Delhi. The meeting with Prime Minister Modi is scheduled for April 21, with National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Jaishankar also expected to attend.

The Foreign Minister may also accompany the US Vice President to Amer Palace the following day. Later on April 22, after the Business Summit, Vance is expected to meet Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma and Governor Haribhau Bagade. Vice President Vance will be accompanied by his wife Usha, their three children - Ivan, Vivek, and Mirabel - and senior US administration officials. This visit marks the first by a US Vice President to India in 13 years, the last being Joe Biden's visit in 2013.

Heavy Rain-Induced Disasters Kill 52 In Rwanda Since April



Kigali, (H.S): At least 52 people have been killed and 107 others injured by disasters triggered by heavy rains in Rwanda since the beginning of April, an official said. Adalbert Rukebanuka, director general of planning, policy, and risk reduction at the Ministry in charge of Emergency Management, told reporters on Friday in the national capital of Kigali that between April 1 and 16, the country recorded 390 disaster incidents."

From April 1 to April 16, we recorded 390 disaster cases where 52 people died and 107 were injured. At least 19 houses collapsed, while 731 houses were damaged," he said. Rukebanuka noted that the Ministry has identified 522 disaster-prone hotspots across the country, with around 22,000 households - home to nearly 97,000 people - currently at risk. Xinhua news agency reported. He warned that 117 pieces of infrastructure, 23 public facilities, and more than 25,000 hectares of crops could

also be affected by disasters caused by the ongoing heavy rains. As part of emergency response efforts, he said more than 1,600 households located in high-risk districts, including Rusizi, Rubavu, Nyamasheke, Karongi, Rutsiro, Nyabihu, Nyamagabe, and Nyaruguru, should be urgently relocated. Rukebanuka added that so far, 800 families living in high-risk zones have already been relocated and are now receiving shelter. Since devastating floods and landslides struck the country's Western Province in May 2023, which claimed more than 100 lives and destroyed thousands of homes and critical infrastructure, Rwanda has been working to

strengthen its disaster preparedness and response mechanisms. The government launched emergency housing efforts, completing 904 houses in the immediate aftermath. The Rwanda Meteorology Agency has issued a forecast indicating that April rainfall will surpass levels seen in previous years. The expected rainfall will range from 100 mm to 350 mm, compared to the usual 100 mm to 300 mm. The most intense downpours, between 300 mm and 350 mm, are predicted in Rusizi district, the eastern parts of Nyamasheke, the northern areas of Karongi, and the western parts of Nyamagabe and Nyaruguru.

Ex-Interior Minister Questioned Overnight In Martial Law Probe



Seoul, (H.S): Former South Korean Interior and Safety Minister Lee Sang-min returned home on Saturday after an overnight police interrogation over his alleged involvement in former South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol's brief imposition of martial law late last year. The former minister appeared before a special police investigation team at around 2 p.m. Friday as a suspect in the ongoing probe. He was released about 18 hours later at approximately 7:40 a.m. on Saturday.

He is suspected of directing the National Fire Agency to cut off power and water supplies to multiple media outlets critical of former President following Yoon's martial law declaration on December 3. Lee reportedly denied the allegations against him. He is said to have spent more than three hours, beginning around 4 a.m., reviewing and making revisions to the official record of his statement. Investigators are seeking to determine whether the utility disruptions were initially ordered by then President Yoon,

and whether Lee carried out those instructions, Yonhap news agency reported. The ongoing investigation includes testimony from fire department personnel as well as forensic analysis of materials seized during raids on Lee's home and offices in Seoul and Sejong in February, according to sources familiar with the probe. Meanwhile, Yoon, who dramatically rose from a top prosecutor to the presidency in about three years, became the nation's second President to be formally removed from office, with his surprise martial law bid rattling the nation for months and deepening political polarisation.

With the ruling, Yoon, 64, follows in the footsteps of former South Korean President Park Geun-hye, who was ousted in 2017 when the Constitutional Court upheld her impeachment over a corruption scandal. Before taking the nation's highest office, Yoon began his career as a prosecutor in 1994, rising through the ranks to lead an investigation team into Park's corruption scandal that ultimately led to her

ouster and subsequent imprisonment. In 2019, he was appointed as the nation's top prosecutor under then South Korean President Moon Jae-in but clashed with the administration as he oversaw investigations into family members of former Justice Minister Cho Kuk. Amid mounting pressure from the Moon administration, Yoon stepped down from his post in 2021, only to enter politics shortly after and win the presidential election in 2022 as the candidate for the conservative People Power Party.

Yoon's term was riddled with conflict with an uncooperative National Assembly dominated by the main Opposition Democratic Party (DP). Yoon exercised his presidential veto power against 25 Bills passed by the National Assembly. Tensions with the DP appeared to reach an extreme in early December as the main Opposition introduced motions to impeach the country's top auditor and a senior prosecutor, with Yoon declaring martial law on December 3, which ultimately led to his downfall.



Sanaa, (H.S): The death toll from US air strikes on Yemen's fuel port of Ras Isa has risen to 80, with 150 other people wounded, Houthi-run health authorities reported on Saturday. The strikes took place Thursday night, targeting the port and several concrete tanks used for storing imported fuel. The victims are workers of the port, including five paramedics, Xinhua news agency reported.

The port, northwest of Yemen's Red Sea city of Hodeidah, has been a main lifeline for importing fuel into the areas seized by the Houthi group. The group has controlled vast areas of northern Yemen since it started a civil war against the government in late 2014. The attack marks the deadliest since Washington resumed its strikes on Houthi targets in mid-March. Five paramedics were also among the casualties, said the television in

an earlier report, adding that they were killed upon their arrival on ambulances at the scene, in the second wave of US air strikes on the port that took place overnight shortly after the first. More than 14 air strikes on the fuel port were reported during the two waves, destroying concrete tanks storing imported fuel and igniting massive fires. The fires were extinguished within hours, said the report.

A resident confirmed to Xinhua that among the victims were employees, truck drivers, contracted workers, and civilian trainees of the port, adding that rescue teams recovering bodies and extinguishing fires were also targeted in subsequent strikes. The port, northwest of Yemen's Red Sea city of Hodeidah, has been a main lifeline for importing fuel into the areas seized by the Houthi group. The group has controlled vast areas of northern Yemen since it started a civil war against the government in late

2014. Earlier, US Central Command (USCENTCOM) confirmed in a statement that it struck and destroyed Ras Isa on Thursday, "to eliminate this source of fuel for" and "degrade the economic source of power" of the Houthis. "The Houthis have continued to benefit economically and militarily from countries and companies that provide material support to a designated foreign terrorist organisation," USCENTCOM said on social media platform X.

The United States redesignated the Houthi group as a terrorist organisation after President Donald Trump assumed power in January. USCENTCOM alleged that the Houthis "use fuel to sustain their military operations, as a weapon of control, and to benefit economically from embezzling the profits from the import". Shortly after the heavy air strikes, Yemeni Information Minister

Moammar al-Eryani blamed the targeting of the fuel port on the Houthis, accusing the militia of transforming the port "from an economic facility serving Yemenis into a centre for smuggling weapons and fuel." Meanwhile, Minister of Oil and Minerals Saeed al-Shamasi confirmed the readiness of government-controlled ports in Aden, Nishtun, Mukalla, and Mocha to receive fuel and food shipments sufficient to meet market demands across all regions of Yemen.

In response, the Houthis denounced the strikes as "a full-fledged war crime," dismissing the US and the Yemeni government's accusations and insisting that "the port is a civilian, not a military facility". In a statement released on Friday, the Houthis said the US attacks were aimed at supporting Israel in crimes against the Palestinian people, vowing to continue their "support operations" for Palestinians. The group, meanwhile, claimed that it has successfully prevented all "Israeli navigation in the Red Sea." It also assured citizens in northern Yemen that "the oil supply is stable," while warning that "the US crime will not pass without painful punishment."

Also on Friday, the Israeli military reported intercepting a missile launched from Yemen in the morning. The launch is believed to be made by the Houthis in retaliation for the US overnight air strikes. In mid-March, Trump ordered "decisive and powerful military action" against the Houthis after the group announced plans to resume attacks on Israeli targets, citing Israel's blockade of humanitarian aid to Gaza as the reason.

Pakistan: No Extension In Deadline For Afghan Refugees Awaiting Third-Country Resettlement

Islamabad, (H.S): Pakistan announced that the April 30 deadline for Afghan refugees awaiting resettlement in a third country will not be extended. All the Afghan refugees will be deported from Pakistan if their host nations do not relocate them by the deadline, local media reported. Speaking at a press conference in Islamabad on Friday, Pakistan's Minister of State for Interior, Talal Chaudhry, emphasised that no illegal immigrant would be allowed to stay in the country beyond the deadline, and warned that those who are found 'facilitating' the illegal stay of Afghans by any means would face strict action.

He said that strict action would be taken against Pakistani citizens who rent out shops, homes, or hotel rooms to Afghan immigrants, or hire them for jobs. "We have communicated clear instructions to all provinces. If anyone gives a shop, house, or any kind of space to an illegal foreigner, they will be held accountable under the law," Chaudhry added. Earlier, the Pakistan government had set



a deadline of March 31 for Afghan Citizen Card (ACC) holders to leave the country. The Minister shared that 84,869 Afghan nationals have been repatriated since April 1 as part of Pakistan's deportation policy, Pakistan's leading newspaper, The Express Tribune reported.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar is leading a high-level delegation to Kabul on Saturday on a day-long visit as part of mutual efforts being made by both countries to ease ongoing tensions amid security issues and forced deportation of Afghan nationals from Pakistan. Furthermore, the Afghan delegation led by Minister of Industry and

Commerce Nooruddin Azizi, engaged in discussions with Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar on Thursday in Islamabad. The talks focussed on enhancing bilateral ties, mainly regarding the honourable return of Afghan refugees, Afghan state-run Bakhtar News Agency reported. With the increasing wave of returning Afghan migrants from Pakistan, several migrants forcibly deported through the Torkham crossing recently said that they not only have no homes to live in, but they also do not own any land on which to build one. "We ask that job opportunities will be created for us. We have no homes, no land. All our belongings are left outside. There

are no jobs, and no one has created employment for us. But our most urgent need is shelter," Afghan media outlet TOLO News reported, quoting Mohammad Nabi, a deported migrant from Pakistan. Several deported Afghan migrants also report that Pakistani police treated them harshly, extorted money under various pretexts during the journey, and acted aggressively. The forcibly deported Afghan refugees said that Pakistani drivers exploited their vulnerability, charging excessive transportation fares.

Daad Mohammad, a 58-year-old resident of Kunar province, who had migrated to Pakistan 45 years ago, said that despite decades of work and settlement, he and his family were deported abruptly and empty-handed, in violation of migration principles. "The Pakistani police raided my house, treated me harshly, and didn't even give me a chance to take my belongings. Our motorcycles, cargo vehicle, and all our possessions were left behind. We barely had time to load the children into the vehicle and flee," he recounted.

White House Blames Covid 'Lab Leak' Origins on China, Slams Biden & Fauci

Washington, (H.S): US President Donald Trump's White House launched a Covid-19 website on Friday in which it blamed the origins of the coronavirus on a lab leak in China's Wuhan. He also criticised former President Joe Biden, former top US health official Anthony Fauci and the World Health Organisation of suppressing the coronavirus origins. The White House website now has an entire page dedicated to the Covid-19 lab-leak theory.

This comes weeks after the CIA issued a report saying that the lab-leak was likely. The agency had previously said that it did not have enough information to determine the origin of Covid-19. The new webpage is on the site that served as a resource for Covid-19 vaccination efforts. It now has a banner reading: "LAB LEAK, The True Origins of Covid-19." President Donald Trump is also featured in the banner. The 'lab-leak' page also accuses former Chief Medical Advisor Dr. Fauci and Biden of



covering up the origins of coronavirus. It says that the previous administration 'engaged in a multi-year campaign of delay, confusion and non-responsiveness' to conceal the truth."

This website shows the true origins of Covid-19 and how Democrats and the media discredited alternative health treatments and the lab-leak theory," the White House said in a statement. "The Proximal Origin of SARS-CoV-2 publication, which was used repeatedly by public health officials and the media to discredit the lab-leak theory, was promoted by Dr. Fauci to push the preferred

narrative that Covid-19 originated naturally," the site said. It further lists five key points, suggesting that Covid-19's origins were not natural. The virus possesses a biological characteristic that is not found in nature..

According to the data, all cases of Covid-19 stem from a single introduction into humans, which is contrary to previous pandemics, where there were multiple spillover events. Wuhan is home to China's foremost SARS research lab, which has a history of conducting gain-of-function research (gene altering and organism supercharging) without adequate biosafety.

Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman to leave tonight for an official visit to USA & Peru from 20th to 30th April 2025

New Delhi, (PIB): Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman will embark on an official visit to USA and Peru beginning 20th April, 2025. During the visit to the USA, the Union Finance Minister will visit San Francisco and Washington D.C. from 20th to 25th April, 2025. In the course of her two-day visit to San Francisco beginning 20th April 2025, the Union Finance Minister will deliver a keynote address at the Hoover Institution at the Stanford University, San Francisco, on 'Laying the foundations of Viksit Bharat 2047' followed by a fireside chat session.

Smt. Sitharaman will also interact with top CEOs from prominent fund management firms during a Roundtable meeting with investors, besides holding bilateral meetings with CEOs from top information technology (IT) firms based in San Francisco. Smt. Sitharaman will also participate in an event featuring Indian diaspora in San Francisco and interact with the Indian community settled there. During her visit to Washington D.C., USA, from 22nd to 25th April 2025, Smt. Sitharaman will participate in the Spring Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the



World Bank, the 2nd G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governor (FMCBG) Meetings, Development Committee Plenary, IMFC Plenary, and Global Sovereign Debt Roundtable (GSDR) meeting.

On the sidelines of the Spring Meetings in Washington D.C., Smt. Sitharaman will hold bilateral meetings with her counterparts from several countries, including Argentina, Bahrain, Germany, France, Luxembourg, Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom, and USA; besides meeting EU Commissioner for Financial Services; President, Asian

Development Bank (ADB); President, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB); United Nations Secretary-General's Special Advocate for Financial Health (UNSGSA); and First Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). During her maiden visit to Peru from 26th to 30th April 2025,

the Union Finance Minister will lead an Indian delegation of officials from the Ministry of Finance and business leaders, highlighting the strengthening bilateral economic and trade relations between the two

nations. Beginning her visit in Lima, Union Finance Minister Smt. Sitharaman is expected to call on the President of Peru, H.E. Ms. Dina Boluarte, and Prime Minister of Peru, H.E. Mr. Gustavo Adrianzén, besides holding bilateral meetings with the Peruvian Ministers of Finance and Economy; Defence; Energy and Mines; and also holding interaction with local public representatives. In the course of her visit to Peru, the Union Finance Minister will chair the India-Peru Business Forum meeting with prominent business representatives in attendance from both India and Peru. Smt. Sitharaman will also hold an interaction with the Indian investors & businesses currently operating in Peru, as well as the Indian Business delegation visiting Peru.

Given Peru's importance in the global supply chain of critical minerals and precious metals, discussions during these engagements are also expected to explore avenues for greater collaboration in the mining sector, particularly to strengthen India's resource security and facilitate value-chain linkages between the two economies. The Union Finance Minister will also participate in a community event at Lima, where she will interact with the Indian diaspora living in Peru.

Gold May Hit 1 Lakh Amid Trump Tariffs, Recession Fears: Experts



New Delhi, (H.S): The gold prices in India could soon touch Rs 1 lakh per 10 grams, as global uncertainties continue to push investors towards safe-haven assets, experts said on Saturday. The sharp rise in gold prices is being driven by fears of a slowdown in the US economy, fuelled by President Donald Trump's renewed tariff policies.

According to estimates by global brokerage Goldman Sachs, gold prices could reach \$3,700 per ounce in the near term, and possibly touch \$4,500 per ounce if trade tensions escalate further. If this happens, domestic gold prices on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) could climb to Rs 1 lakh or even Rs 1.25 lakh per 10 grams, market experts said. Gold has already delivered

strong returns to investors. In the last five years, gold prices have jumped more than 110 per cent - from Rs 44,906 per 10 grams on April 17, 2020, to Rs 95,239 per 10 grams on April 17. In the year-to-date (YTD) period alone, prices have risen by nearly 25 per cent. Anuj Gupta,

Head of Commodity and Currency at HDFC Securities, said gold prices are currently rallying due to trade war fears and recession concerns in the US. "The safe-haven demand has spiked as investors worry about the economic impact of Trump's tariffs. According to US Fed Chair Jerome Powell, a one per cent hike in tariffs could reduce US economic growth by 0.10 per cent," Gupta said. Despite the recent gains in the stock market,

experts say gold still has room to run. Gupta said that the triggers supporting gold - including geopolitical tensions and inflation - remain intact. "Any correction in gold should be seen as a buying opportunity," he added. Navneet Damani, Group Senior Vice President at Motilal Oswal, said the outlook for gold is constructive."

Persistent trade tensions, inflationary pressures, and central bank gold purchases will continue to support prices," he said. Damani expects support for gold at Rs 91,000 and resistance at around Rs 99,000 in the near term. He also advised investors to maintain a 'buy on dips' strategy, saying that gold will remain attractive as long as global policy uncertainty and trade issues persist.

Foreign Investors Infuse 8,500 Crore Into Indian Equities This Week



Mumbai, (H.S): Foreign investors have once again turned their attention to Indian equities, pumping in around Rs 8,500 crore during the week, as per the latest National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) data. The inflows came in during just three trading sessions - Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday - as stock markets remained closed on Monday and Friday due to public holidays.

This marks a positive turnaround after months of consistent selling by foreign institutional investors (FIIs) in the equity segment. Their return helped the markets end the week on a strong note. Both the Indian equity indices wrapped up the week on a strong recovery by

surging over 4.5 per cent - driven by positive signals from both domestic and global factors. The rally was primarily fuelled by optimism surrounding the deferral of tariffs and recent exemptions on select products, raising hopes for potential negotiations that could mitigate the impact on global trade. A key reason behind this fresh wave of investment is the weakening of the US dollar.

As the dollar slips and currencies like the Indian rupee gain strength, global investors find it more attractive to move funds from the US to emerging markets like India. While these inflows bring temporary relief to the markets, analysts say the coming weeks will be crucial. "Investors will be watching closely to see

whether this positive trend continues or if global factors once again influence foreign investment in Indian stocks," experts noted. As per market experts, in the coming week, market participants will closely watch the quarterly earnings of major companies like Infosys, HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank.

Other key players, including HCL Technologies, Axis Bank, Hindustan Unilever and Maruti Suzuki India are also set to release their financial results. Meanwhile, the expiry of the April derivatives series could add to market volatility. On the global front, any developments related to tariffs and their potential impact on international markets will also be closely tracked, the experts mentioned.

No Plan To Levy GST on UPI Transactions Over 2,000: Govt

New Delhi, (H.S): The Finance Ministry on Friday made it clear that the government is not considering any proposal to levy Goods and Services Tax (GST) on UPI transactions over Rs 2,000. "The claims that the Government is considering levying Goods and Services Tax (GST) on UPI transactions over Rs 2,000 are completely false, misleading, and without any basis.

Currently, there is no such proposal before the Government," the Finance Ministry said. GST is levied on charges, such as the Merchant Discount Rate (MDR), relating to payments made using certain instruments. Effective January 2020, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has removed the MDR on Person-to-Merchant (P2M) UPI transactions through



the Gazette Notification dated December 30, 2019. Since currently no MDR is charged on UPI transactions, there is consequently no GST applicable to these transactions, the Ministry said. The government remains committed to promoting digital payments via UPI. To support and sustain the growth of UPI, an Incentive Scheme has been operational from FY 2021-22. This scheme specifically

targets low-value UPI (P2M) transactions, benefiting small merchants by alleviating transaction costs and promoting wider participation and innovation in digital payments, the official statement explained. The statement pointed out that the total incentive payouts under this scheme over the years reflect the government's sustained commitment to promoting UPI-based digital

payments. Allocation under the scheme over the years includes Rs 1,389 crore for FY2021-22, Rs 2,210 crore for FY2022-23, and Rs 3,631 crore for FY2023-24. These measures have significantly contributed to India's robust digital payments ecosystem.

According to the ACI Worldwide Report 2024, India accounted for 49 per cent of global real-time transactions in 2023, reaffirming its position as a global leader in digital payments innovation. UPI transaction values have seen an exponential increase, growing from Rs 21.3 lakh crore in FY 2019-20 to Rs 260.56 lakh crore by March 2025. Specifically, P2M transactions have reached Rs 59.3 lakh crore, reflecting growing merchant adoption and consumer confidence in digital payment methods, the statement added.

Indian Stock Markets Rally Over 4.5 Pc In Holiday-Shortened Week

Mumbai, (H.S): Indian benchmark indices wrapped up the week on a strong recovery by surging over 4.5 per cent - driven by positive signals from both domestic and global factors, experts said on Saturday. The benchmark indices opened with significant gains and continued to build momentum throughout the

week. As the week ended, both the Nifty and Sensex closed near their highs at 23,851.65 and 78,553.20, respectively. "The Nifty index has been trading within a range of 21,700-23,800 for the past couple of months and has now reached the higher end of this range. It has also reclaimed important moving averages - the

100 and 200-day EMAs," said Ajit Mishra - SVP, Research, Religare Broking Limited. "As the positive momentum continues, there is potential for the index to target the 24,250-24,600 zone in the coming weeks," he added. Banking stocks were the standout performers, rallying due to easing retail inflation data and

a favourable monsoon forecast. This fuelled optimism about potential rate cuts by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The positive sentiment was further boosted by optimism surrounding deferrals of tariffs and exemptions for select products, raising hopes that trade tensions might ease in the future.

Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority facilitates First Commercial Sea shipment of Indian pomegranates from Maharashtra to USA

New Delhi, (PIB): In a historic initiative towards introducing Indian Pomegranates to distant markets, a landmark commercial sea shipment of the prized Indian Bhagwa variety of Pomegranate has successfully arrived in New York, marking a significant milestone for India's Fresh Fruits exports. With growing international demand for premium quality of Fresh Fruits, the arrival of this shipment heralds the potential of Indian Pomegranates becoming a preferred choice in the competitive U.S. market.

The Pomegranate season, which traditionally saw air freight as the primary mode of transportation, shifted gears in recent weeks to embrace the cost-effective and sustainable sea freight mode. After India had been granted market access by USA for Pomegranates, during the season in 2023, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) in collaboration with United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health

Inspection Service (USDA APHIS), National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO - India) and National Research Centre for Pomegranate, Solapur (NRCP) successfully conducted the trial shipment of Pomegranate to USA by air. Owing to the success of the static trial to enhance the shelf life of Pomegranates for up to 60 days by APEDA in collaboration with ICAR-National Research Centre for Pomegranate, India had successfully flagged off its first trial commercial sea shipment of Pomegranates comprising of 4200 boxes i.e. 12.6 tons to the U.S. in collaboration with Inf Farms from Irradiation Facility Center (IFC),

Maharashtra State Agricultural Marketing Board (MSAMB), Vashi, Navi Mumbai in February, 2024. APEDA facilitated the USDA pre-clearance program for Pomegranates in December, 2024 which played a pivotal role in easing the logistical and regulatory hurdles for Indian agriculture exporters and enabled

them to enter the U.S. market. APEDA's proactive approach in inviting the USDA inspectors for the pre-clearance process three months in advance ensured the smooth and timely arrival of the shipment. The inaugural sea shipment of 4,620 boxes of Indian Pomegranates, weighing approximately 14 tons reached the U.S. East Coast in the second week of March, well within five weeks of the point of departure. The shipment was met with exceptional enthusiasm in New York. The arrival quality was reported as "excellent" and customers were captivated by the remarkable visual appeal and the superior eating quality of the Indian Bhagwa variety of Pomegranates.

Chairman, APEDA, Shri Abhishek Dev remarked, "Government of India has been at the forefront in promoting Indian fresh fruits for the global market. APEDA has been supporting the export of Indian fruits like Mangoes and Pomegranates to USA by funding the pre-clearance program. Indian farmers will achieve better

realisation when their fruit gets exported to premium international markets like USA. Indian mangoes have already reached annual exports of around 3500 tons and we hope that Pomegranates will also reach such strong numbers in the years to come". This consignment was sent by Kay Bee Exports, a leading exporter of fruits and vegetables from Mumbai and a registered exporter with APEDA. The Pomegranates in this consignment were directly sourced from the farms of Kay Bee Exports, ensuring that the benefits of this export reach Indian farmers at the grassroots level. "We are thankful to APEDA for facilitating exports of Indian Pomegranates to USA.

APEDA's efforts have ranged from securing market access to setting up export protocols, co-ordinating with multiple stake-holders and organising the pre-clearance program in conjunction with USDA. Kay Bee is specialised in Pomegranates and hope to offer the best fruit that India has to offer. Our customers expect

the best fruit quality and we always strive to do so" said Mr. Kaushal Khakhar, CEO, Kay Bee Exports on the successful shipment. "While Indian Pomegranates have always been recognized for their taste, this shipment has proven that with the right quality and consistency, Indian fresh fruits can meet the discerning tastes of the American consumer," said a representative from the Indian export consortium. "We are delighted with the reception in the market and are confident that this successful arrival will pave the way for an increase in volumes in the coming seasons.

"Looking ahead, the industry is optimistic that with continued marketing efforts and strategic promotional campaigns, Indian Pomegranates can carve a niche for themselves in the premium U.S. market. In light of the growing success, industry stakeholders sought APEDA's continued support in launching promotional campaigns for the Indian Pomegranate in the coming year, with the aim of educating U.S. consumers on the

fruit's exceptional eating quality and diverse culinary applications. India, being the second-largest producer of horticulture crops, sees major Pomegranate production in states like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh. APEDA has established Export Promotion Forums (EPF) specifically for Pomegranates, aimed at boosting exports and removing supply chain bottlenecks. These EPF forums include representatives from the Department of Commerce, Department of Agriculture, state governments, national referral laboratories and the top ten leading exporters, ensuring a collaborative effort in promoting Pomegranate exports.

In the financial year 2023-24, India exported 72,011 metric tons of Pomegranates worth USD 69.08 million. This year, there has been a significant growth in Pomegranate exports from India registering a growth of 21% with a value of USD 59.76 million in the period April - January, 2024-2025. Key export destinations include the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bangladesh, Nepal, Netherlands,

Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bahrain, Oman and USA. Indian Pomegranates, particularly the Bhagwa variety, are renowned for their rich flavour, deep red colour and high nutritional value. These Pomegranates are packed with antioxidants and vital nutrients, making them a popular choice among health-conscious consumers worldwide. The Government of India's commitment to promoting the export of fresh fruits and vegetables, despite their perishable nature, is evident in their development of sea protocols to retain product attributes when exporting to long-distance destinations.

This initiative not only reinforces India's position in global markets but also directly supports Indian farmers by creating sustainable export opportunities. The steady supply of high-quality fruit, coupled with continued marketing initiatives, will undoubtedly position Indian Pomegranates as a desirable choice for American consumers, ensuring their place on the U.S. retail shelves in years to come.



Rakul on being the 'IT' girl in Bollywood: I just wanted to be heroine

Her fierceness is what defines her, but the way she balances it with grace and aplomb is what truly sets her apart. That's what actor Rakul Preet Singh brought with her as she shot for the cover of HT City Showstoppers.

Never one to take it slow and always up on her feet, the actor insists that the gone year has taught her to take things at their own pace. "2024 was a year which gave me extreme happiness. I got married and then work was great, but then my back injury sort of set me back. In the beginning, I was in denial and that it is going to be fine, but you learn

to surrender and realise that this is a lesson," she says. Rakul Preet Singh took a three-month break from work after her back injury in October last year to focus on her recovery and she says it puts things into perspective: "That period taught me to calm down and introspect; it was a mental battle but I've now become very patient to align with what life is telling me." And then she came back with a bang, giving a memorable performance in Mere Husband Ki Biwi earlier this year. Starring alongside Arjun Kapoor and Bhumi Pednekar, it was one of those two-heroine projects

that many actors turn away from. Where does that security comes in from into her to choose such projects? "It comes from your childhood. If you are made to believe that you're good enough, then you believe that you're good enough. Never have I heard my parents say to me or my brother that 'tumse nahi hoga'. They brought us up in a fearless and confident manner that for me, it has been 'main apni favourite hoon, hamesha'." Coming from Delhi to being the 'IT girl' of Bollywood, the process has been seamless for the actor. But she doesn't pay much heed to it:

"When I entered the industry, I didn't know what is the 'IT girl'. I just wanted to be a heroine and be on the big screen. When I started, people said that five to six years is the shelf life of a girl in cinema but things are changing. As long as you look good and work well, age is just a number. I want to aim at longevity, and I aspire to be like Amitabh Bachchan sir or Tabu ma'am."

An image of a modern Indian woman, Rakul takes her responsibility as a public figure seriously. "You have to be cautious about what you put out for the people. What I do at my

job, that's what matters. But I also need to show the reality- the good and the bad days. Even if I'm not looking my best every day, it's fine. I feel not setting unrealistic expectations is very important because there are a lot of young kids who aspire to be like actors, and they set standards thinking that this is what ultimate beauty is. They feel they aren't good enough and that responsibility is on us," she insists. So, how does she ensure it with her fashion? "For me, fashion is a lot of comfort. My sense of style is easy and it's not OTT.

Kesari Chapter 2 Off to a Slow Start, Earns in Single Digits

Akshay Kumar, R Madhavan, and Ananya Panday's historical courtroom drama, Kesari Chapter 2, released in theatres on Friday. The film collected Rs 7.50 crore on its opening day, according to Sacnilk. Theatre occupancy averaged around 20% on Friday, with attendance gradually increasing from morning (12.67%) to night shows (27.80%). The film, made reportedly on a budget of Rs 150 crore, stars Akshay Kumar as legendary lawyer C. Sankaran Nair and explores the untold story behind the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.

The incident, which occurred on April 13, 1919, during the festival of Baisakhi in Amritsar, is considered one of the darkest chapters in India's colonial history. Thousands had gathered at



Jallianwala Bagh to peacefully protest against the Rowlatt Act and demand the release of leaders Dr. Satyapal and Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlew. British officer Brigadier General Reginald Dyer ordered his troops to open fire on the unarmed crowd without warning.

According to the Ministry of Culture, 1,650 rounds were fired,

and the shooting stopped only when the ammunition ran out. While British records stated 291 people died, Indian estimates suggest over 500 casualties. Kesari 2 follows the 2019 film Kesari, which depicted the Battle of Saragarhi, where 21 Sikh soldiers of the British Indian Army fought against 10,000 Pashtun tribesmen.

Anurag Kashyap 'Apology' after Outage

Acclaimed filmmaker Anurag Kashyap has waded into another controversy with his remarks on the Brahmin community. Amid the row over the 'Phule' movie, his reply to an X user that he would "urinate on Brahmins" sparked massive outrage and police complaints. His family has been getting rape and death threats for his remark, he has claimed in an apology note. No action is worth the threat the

family has been getting, said Mr Kashyap in his long note, which had more jibes than apologies. "This is my apology, not for my post but for that one line taken out of context and the brewing hatred. No action or speech is worth your daughter, family, friends, and colleagues getting rape and death threats from the kingpins of sanskar," he said in his statement. Mr Kashyap, known for movies like the two-

part Gangs of Wasseypur, said his critics can abuse him all they want, but must spare his family. "I won't take back what I said. Abuse me all you want. My family didn't say anything. If you want an apology, here it is. Brahmins, spare the women. These values are imbibed in our scriptures, too, except for Manuwaad. Decide which Brahmin you are. Rest, here's an apology from me," he added.

Retro trailer: Suriya fights his killer instincts in Kartik's gangster



Retro trailer: Suriya is back with a masala entertainer! The makers of Retro released the highly anticipated trailer of his next. Filled with a colourful setting, and even more colourful costumes for Suriya's local gangster, the trailer promised an equal dose of action, comedy, and romance!

The almost three-minutes long trailer shows Suriya's character going through a range of emotions, as he pledges his

lady love (played by Pooja Hegde) that he will let go off his rowdy lifestyle and not resort to violence as an answer. But it is easier said than done for him, as he keeps on getting in the way of things and beating up the goons. We see him punch through a wall in frustration, pummel and murder men, and smoke a cigarette and drink alcohol together. We also see glimpses of other menacing characters - played by Joju George, Jayaram,

Prakash Raj, and Nasser among others. Reacting to the trailer, a fan commented, "Karthik Subbaraj - Suriya combo" A second fan commented, "It's look like a special film for Suriya fans love you Suriya." A comment read, "Suriya is back with a Bang." Retro is produced by Suriya and wife Jyothika's banner 2D Entertainment and Stone Bench Films. The tagline of the film is: Love, Laughter and War. The film has music composed by Santhosh Narayanan, cinematography handled by Shreyas Krishna and editing by Shafique Mohamed Ali. It is slated to release in cinemas in May 1, 2025.

Suriya was last seen in Kanguva, where he played a warrior called Kanguva. He also plays a bounty hunter called Francis. The film also starred Disha Patani and Sunny Deol. It underperformed at the box office.

Jos Buttler guides GT to 7-wicket win over DC

Ahmedabad, (HS) : Jos Buttler smashed an unbeaten 97 and shared a 119-run partnership with Sherfane Rutherford (43) as Gujarat Titans defeated Delhi Capitals by seven wickets in an IPL match here on Saturday. Chasing a challenging 204-run target, Buttler took just 54 balls for his 97 (11x4, 4x6), as GT completed the task in 19.2 overs. Had Buttler scored a 100, it would have been his eighth IPL century. Earlier, invited to bat, DC managed 203 for eight on an easy-paced pitch with skipper Axar Patel top-scoring for the visitors with his 39-run knock off 32 balls, while Tristan Stubbs (31) and Ashutosh Sharma (37) also made useful contributions for their side. Pacer Prasad



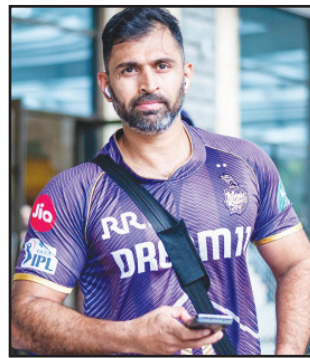
Krishna (4/41) was the standout bowler for the home side. Brief Scores: Delhi Capitals: 203 for 8

in 20 overs. (Acar Patel 39, Tristan Stubbs 31; Prasad Krishna 4/41). Gujarat Titans:

204 for 3 in 19.2 overs (Sai Sudharsan 36, Jos Buttler 97 not out, Sherfane Rutherford 43).

Nayar Joins IPL Side after Getting Sacked from BCCI

New Delhi, (HS) : Abhishek Nayar, Indian cricket team assistant coach, who was recently sacked by the BCCI has joined a new team. The after-shock of India's Border Gavaskar Trophy loss against Australia was felt on Wednesday as sources claimed that the Rohit Sharma-led team's assistant coach Abhishek Nayar has been sacked despite being only eight months into his tenure with the national side. Also, trainer Soham Desai and fielding coach T Dilip would not continue in their respective



roles. Now, Nayar has joined Kolkata Knight Riders. Nayar was earlier associated with the IPL

team when Gautam Gambhir was the mentor. The two forged a brilliant partnership which saw KKR win the IPL 2024. While most reports claimed that Nayar was being removed after India's poor show on the Tour of Australia, news agency PTI came up with an interesting detail. A report by PTI claimed that Nayar's removal was on the cards after Sitanshu Kotak was added to the Indian team's support staff as an additional batting coach. "...just after the tour of Australia, there was a review meeting

conducted by the BCCI. The top officials of the board, including secretary Devajit Saikia and vice-president Rajeev Shukla, were present along with important members associated with the Indian team, and the national selectors," a BCCI source was quoted as saying by the news agency.

"On the sidelines of the meeting, a powerful member of the support staff expressed his apprehensions about Nayar's presence and said how him being in the dressing room is proving to be counter-productive.

Football fever in Bhubaneswar: Tickets for Kalinga Super Cup 2025 now available



Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : Great news for football fans! The highly anticipated Kalinga Super Cup 2025 is set to kick off in Bhubaneswar, and tickets for the tournament are now available for booking online. Per officials from the All India Football Federation (AIFF), tickets can be purchased via the official website or mobile app of ticketgenie.in. The tournament opens on April 20 with a thrilling clash between

Kerala Blasters FC and East Bengal FC at the iconic Kalinga Stadium, which will host all matches of the tournament. Three of the four editions, since the first in 2018, were hosted at the Kalinga Stadium, and the only time the tournament was held outside Odisha, at Kozhikode in 2023, the trophy was won by Odisha FC and brought to Bhubaneswar.

Champion's Reward:

Qualification for the 2025-26 AFC Champions League Two Preliminary Round This will be the fifth edition of the Kalinga Super Cup. Past champions include East Bengal FC (2024), Odisha FC (2023), FC Goa (2019), and Bengaluru FC (2018). Tournament Format & Highlights: ISL teams are seeded based on their final league standings in the 2024-25 season. Three I-League teams-Churchill Brothers FC Goa, Inter Kashi, and Gokulam Kerala FC-will take on the top three seeded ISL clubs.

Match Schedule: Sunday, April 20: Kerala Blasters FC (8) vs East Bengal FC (9) Monday, April 21: FC Goa (2) vs I-League Club (TBC) Odisha FC (7) vs Punjab FC (10) Wednesday, April 23: Bengaluru FC (3) vs I-League

Club (TBC) Mumbai City FC (6) vs Chennaiyin FC (11) Thursday, April 24: NorthEast United FC (4) vs Mohammedan SC (13) Jamshedpur FC (5) vs Hyderabad FC (12) Quarter-finals: Saturday, April 26: QF1: KBFC/EBFC vs MBSG/I-League QF2: FCG/I-League vs OFC/PFC Sunday, April 27: QF3: BFC/I-League vs MCFC/CFC, QF4: NEUFC/ MSC vs JFC/HFC Semi-finals: Wednesday, April 30: SF1: Winner QF1 vs Winner QF2, SF2: Winner QF3 vs Winner QF4, Final: Saturday, May 3: Winner SF1 vs Winner SF2

Don't miss out the opportunity to experience high-octane football action in Bhubaneswar. Book your tickets now and cheer for your favorite team in the Kalinga Super Cup 2025!

Vedanta Aluminium Supports Inter-State U-17 Girls' 5-A-Side Hockey Tournament in Jharsuguda

Jharsuguda, (DMC) : Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, is supporting the Inter-State Girls' five-a-side hockey tournament in the under-17 category, organised in collaboration with the Jharsuguda District Hockey Association. The tournament is being held at the Hockey Stadium in H. Katapali, Jharsuguda, from April 18 to 20, 2025.

The tournament in Jharsuguda Features nine teams from Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha. Each team comprises eight players, one coach, and one team manager. Matches will follow a league format, with preliminary rounds scheduled for

April 18 between 6:00 AM and 8:00 AM, followed by the formal inauguration at 5:00 PM. The closing ceremony will take place at 7:00 PM on April 20, 2025. The event is being coordinated by Ms. Aboli Sunil Naravane, Collector and District Magistrate of Jharsuguda and President of the District Hockey Association, and Mr. Braja Bandhu Bhoi, Additional District Collector and Secretary of the Association, and supported by Vedanta Aluminium. Regular reviews are being conducted to ensure the smooth execution of the event. Ten officials appointed by the Odisha Hockey Association will oversee the tournament. Senior association members, including



Mr. Sanatan Sahu, Secretary; Mr. P.K. Mohanty, Treasurer; Mr. Ranjan Das, Senior Member; Mr. Kalu Charan Choudhury, OSD

Sports and Smt. Subhadra Pradhan, former captain of the Indian women's hockey team and currently Chief Selector, will also

be present throughout the event. Mr. Jeevan Mohanty, Vice-President, Odisha Hockey Association, announced that

Padma Shri Dr. Dilip Kumar Tirkey, President of Hockey India, will serve as Chief Advisor for the tournament.

Vedanta Aluminium remains committed to community development and sports initiatives, continuing to support grassroots sports and youth engagement through collaborative efforts. The company recently acquired the Kalinga Lancers, a premier hockey team based in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, reinforcing Vedanta's long-standing commitment to promoting sports in Odisha, a region where the company has played a pivotal role in socio-economic development for over two decades. Vedanta Aluminium, a business of Vedanta

Limited, is India's largest producer of aluminium, manufacturing more than half of India's aluminium i.e., 2.42 million tonnes in FY25. It is a leader in value-added aluminium products that find critical applications in core industries. Vedanta Aluminium ranks 2nd in the S&P Global Corporate Sustainability Assessment 2024 world rankings for the aluminium industry, a reflection of its leading sustainable development practices. With its world-class aluminium smelters, alumina refinery and power plants in India, the company fulfils its mission of spurring emerging applications of aluminium as the 'Metal of the Future' for a greener tomorrow.