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ଶ୍ରୀ ନରେନ୍ଦ୍ର ମୋଦୀ
ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ



ଶ୍ରୀ ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀ
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

ଜାତୀୟ ପଞ୍ଚାୟତିରାଜ ଦିବସ - ୨୦୨୪

ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ

ଶ୍ରୀ ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀଙ୍କ

ସଦୟ ଉପସ୍ଥିତିରେ

ରାଜ୍ୟସ୍ତରୀୟ ସମାରୋହ

୨୪ ଏପ୍ରିଲ ୨୦୨୪ | ତାଳବଣିଆ, ପୁରୀ

ଜାତୀୟ ପଞ୍ଚାୟତିରାଜ ଦିବସ ପାଳନ ଅବସରରେ

ପଞ୍ଚାୟତ ସମିତିର ସାଧାରଣ ବୈଠକକୁ
ଅନୁଲୀନ ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ପରିଚାଳନା
କରିବା ନିମନ୍ତେ
ଇ-ପଞ୍ଚାୟତ ସଭା
(ପଞ୍ଚାୟତ ସମିତି)
ପୋର୍ଟାଲର ଉନ୍ନୋତନ

ରାଜ୍ୟର ଅନୁମୋଦିତ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ପ୍ରକଳ୍ପ ପାଇଁ
ରେକର୍ଡ ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତି, ବୈଷୟିକ ମଞ୍ଜୁରୀ, ପ୍ରଶାସନିକ
ଅନୁମୋଦନ ଭଳି ପ୍ରକ୍ରିୟା ଗୁଡ଼ିକୁ ସୁଗମ
ରୂପେ ପରିଚାଳନା କରିବା ନିମନ୍ତେ
ପି.ପି.ଏମ୍.ଏସ୍
ପୋର୍ଟାଲର ଉନ୍ନୋତନ

ଗ୍ରାମ ପଞ୍ଚାୟତ ଭିତ୍ତିଭୂମିର ଦୃଶ୍ୟକରଣ
ଏବଂ ନିର୍ବାଚିତ ପ୍ରତିନିଧିଙ୍କ ତଥ୍ୟକୁ ପ୍ରାପ୍ତ
କରିବା ପାଇଁ
ପଞ୍ଚାୟତ ମନିଟରିଂ ସିଷ୍ଟମର
ଶୁଭାରମ୍ଭ
(ପୋର୍ଟାଲ ଓ ମୋବାଇଲ ଆପ୍)

ପଞ୍ଚମ ରାଜ୍ୟ ଅର୍ଥ ଆୟୋଗ ଅନୁଦାନରେ
୨୧୩ ଗୋଟି ଗ୍ରାମ ପଞ୍ଚାୟତକୁ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟଦକ୍ଷତାରେ
ଶ୍ରେଷ୍ଠତା ପ୍ରତିଯୋଗିତା, ନିଜସ୍ବ ଆୟ ବୃଦ୍ଧି
ତଥା ପଞ୍ଚାୟତର ସର୍ବାଙ୍ଗୀନ ବିକାଶରେ
ନିରନ୍ତର ପ୍ରୟାସ ନିମନ୍ତେ
୩୨ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କାର
ପ୍ରୋତ୍ସାହନ ରାଶି ବଣ୍ଟନ

୬ ଲକ୍ଷ ହିତାଧିକାରୀଙ୍କୁ
ନୂତନ ରାସନ କାର୍ଡ ପ୍ରଦାନ

ଖାଦ୍ୟ ଯୋଗାଣ ଓ
ଖାଉଟି କଲ୍ୟାଣ ବିଭାଗ,
ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର

ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ସୂର୍ଯ୍ୟଘର ଯୋଜନାରେ
୩ କିଲୋଘାଟ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ସୋଲାର
ପ୍ୟାନେଲ ପାଇଁ **୧,୩୮,୦୦୦ ଟଙ୍କା**
ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ସବସିଡି ପ୍ରଦାନ

ଶକ୍ତି ବିଭାଗ,
ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର

୪,୧୨୪ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କା ମୂଲ୍ୟର
୩୧୪ ଟି କୁଳସ୍ତରୀୟ ଷ୍ଟାଡ଼ିୟମ୍
ଭିତ୍ତିପ୍ରସ୍ତର ସ୍ଥାପନ

କ୍ରୀଡ଼ା ଓ ଯୁବ ସେବା
ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର

୨ ଲକ୍ଷରୁ ଉର୍ଦ୍ଧ୍ବ ନୂତନ ସୁଭଦ୍ରା
ହିତାଧିକାରୀଙ୍କୁ **୨୦୦ କୋଟି**
ଟଙ୍କାରୁ ଉର୍ଦ୍ଧ୍ବ ସହାୟତା ରାଶି ପ୍ରଦାନ

ମହିଳା ଓ ଶିଶୁ ବିକାଶ
ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର



Chemical Fertilizers

Chemical fertilisers are made from fossil fuels and minerals having alternative industrial uses. Ammonia, the key input of nitrogenous fertilisers such as urea, is derived from natural gas that is also a transportation fuel and feedstock for petrochemicals and power generation. There is similar user competition now happening with rock phosphate ore. This raw material for manufacturing di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) and other phosphorous-containing fertilisers is being increasingly used as the cathode (positive electrode) source in electric vehicle batteries, replacing more costly nickel, manganese, cobalt and aluminum oxides. As more of phosphoric acid produced from the ore deposits in Morocco, China, Egypt or Tunisia goes towards making lithium iron phosphate batteries, there will be that much less available for manufacturing phosphatic fertilisers. The resultant "food versus cars" dilemma may have echoes of the more familiar "food versus fuel" debate arising from the diversion of sugarcane, food grain and vegetable oils for ethanol and bio-diesel production. India imports nearly half of its natural gas consumption and hardly has any mineable phosphate, potash or elemental sulphur reserves. Its agriculture is, hence, particularly vulnerable to global price spikes and supply disruptions. All the more reason why a country that is substantially dependent on imports, of both finished fertilisers and inputs used for their domestic manufacture, needs to focus on efficient nutrient application. There was a time when farmers had to be incentivised to use chemical fertilisers for boosting crop yields. Today, they need to be restrained from over-application. The government should take proactive measures to implement comprehensive strategies aimed at limiting, if not outright reducing, the reliance on high-analysis fertilizers such as urea, diammonium phosphate (DAP), and muriate of potash. These fertilizers, which contain high concentrations of essential nutrients-46 percent nitrogen in urea, 46 percent phosphorus in DAP, and 60 percent potassium in muriate of potash-have become staples in modern agriculture. However, their excessive use poses significant environmental and economic challenges, including soil degradation, water pollution, and increased dependency on imported raw materials. To address these issues, it is crucial to encourage farmers to transition away from these high-analysis fertilizers towards more sustainable alternatives, such as complex fertilizers and water-soluble fertilizers. Enhancing nutrient use efficiency is a key objective in this transition. By improving how nutrients are utilized by crops, we can significantly decrease the reliance on bulk fertilizers. This shift will not only reduce the environmental impact associated with fertilizer production and application but will also lessen the need for imports of intermediates and raw materials used in fertilizer manufacturing. As a result, this approach can contribute to greater self-sufficiency in agricultural inputs, ultimately benefiting the economy.

The future of sustainable agriculture in India hinges on achieving greater crop yields per unit of water and maximizing crop production per kilogram of nutrients utilized. This holistic approach to nutrient management will pave the way for a more resilient agricultural sector, capable of meeting the challenges posed by climate change, population growth, and resource scarcity. A concerted effort to promote the use of more efficient fertilizers and sustainable agricultural practices is essential.

24th April

Skipping Day



National Skipping Day is on April 24, and its purpose is to raise physical health awareness for children with a day of healthy exercise through skipping. It's organized by Skipping Workshops that have around 250 schools with over 50,000 kids taking part in numerous skipping activities. Some might consider it childish, but skipping is a great way to exercise. It targets almost all the muscles in your body, it burns fat, and it also builds stamina. Having fun while exercising doesn't get any better!

It's difficult to pinpoint the origins of skipping, but it has been traced back as far as seventh century China. Chinese rope makers invented it in celebration of the New Year and called it the Hundred Rope Jumping game, or jumping 100 threads. In the game, three or more players use a string of rubber bands tied into a circle, usually at last six feet long. Two participants hold the rope taut as the third player stands between the two sides and accomplishes tasks that increase in difficulty as the string rises from ankle height. The game is still played today and it's a great way to stretch those muscles.

In 1600 BC, Ancient Egyptians would use vines to jump rope as part of their conditioning routine. For warriors, it was a proficient training regimen for battles with desirable effects that defined their musculature and increased their stamina. It wasn't all serious, however, as jump roping was used as a form of play as well. Over time, it evolved into an art form as people began to master it and add tricks to the activity. Jump rope has been depicted in medieval paintings where children roll hoops and jump rope over cobblestone streets. Dutch colonists brought the two-rope version of rope-skipping from Africa to America and called it doubled dutch. In the 1930s, jump rope and double dutch became popular in Black communities, specifically amongst Black girls. Girls had less of an opportunity to play sports and they became highly skilled at the game and created songs and moves to add to the fun experience.

Today, skipping has risen to even greater heights. There are national championships for jump rope and double dutch that draw in major audiences worldwide, and kids still enjoy them as playground activities. In 2002, National Skipping Day was organized as a way for children of all ages to get some exercise by getting more of them skipping.

Supreme Court's Recent Verdict ...Revisiting Governor's role

Political Dairy



Tejeswar Patnaik

The role of the Governor in India's federal structure has once again come under the spotlight, following the recent landmark verdict of the Supreme Court on the issue of withholding assent to bills passed by state legislatures. In a judgment with far-reaching implications for Centre-State relations, the apex court addressed the Governor's action of indefinitely withholding bills passed by democratically elected state governments. The Court's ruling is a significant reaffirmation of constitutional propriety and democratic norms.

The Supreme Court disapproved of the prolonged inaction by the Governor, which had effectively stalled the legislative process in the concerned state. By clearing ten such pending bills, the Court reinforced the authority of state legislatures and upheld their primacy in a democratic setup. The ruling sends a clear message: Governors must act following constitutional obligations and not impede the democratic will of the people. Further, any indefinite delay on the part of the Governor in withholding bills may also likely affect the development of the state. According to Article 200 of the Indian Constitution, the Governor must either give assent to a bill, withhold it, return it (if it is not a money bill), or reserve it for the President's consideration. While the Article does not provide a specific time frame for action,

the Court addressed this ambiguity by stipulating that the Governor should take appropriate action within a three-month window. This directive is expected to prevent misuse of gubernatorial discretion and ensure timely legislative processing. This verdict is particularly relevant in the current political landscape, where there has been growing friction between Governors and opposition-ruled state governments in states like Kerala, West Bengal, Telangana, Punjab, and Tamil Nadu. Disagreements over bill assent, legislative procedures, and administrative decisions have frequently escalated into public controversies, raising questions about the neutrality and conduct of Governors.

Additionally, the Governor's authority under Article 356 to recommend President's Rule in a state has often been perceived as a political tool. Historically, this provision has been misused, especially during the Congress regime, to dismiss opposition-ruled state governments. Such interventions, while sometimes necessary, have more often than not undermined democratic principles and damaged the federal fabric of the nation. Debates around the Governor's role are not new. During the Constituent Assembly debates, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar firmly rejected the idea of Governors being elected by state legislatures. He asserted that the Governor is primarily a constitutional head with no real executive power and cautioned that an elected Governor might push for excessive provincial autonomy, thus affecting the unity of the Indian Union. However, the current state of affairs compels us to revisit Ambedkar's vision. Why should an appointee of the Centre, often selected on political considerations, be vested with discretionary powers that can override the mandate of a democratically elected state government? In recent years, there has been an increasing erosion of constitutional provisions,



constitutional morality, and the spirit of cooperative federalism. The conduct of some Governors has raised serious concerns and has, at times, appeared to violate the very Constitution they are sworn to uphold. The Governor occupies a unique position in India's constitutional framework-serving as a bridge between the Centre and the States. Despite being a ceremonial head, the Governor has more discretionary powers than even the President of India. These powers become particularly significant in situations like a hung assembly or a constitutional crisis. The appointment process itself has drawn criticism. More often than not, retired politicians or bureaucrats with affiliations to the ruling party at the Centre are appointed as Governors. This practice has led to questions about impartiality and has sparked demands for reform. Critics argue that such appointments undermine the intent of the Constitution, which envisions a neutral and dignified office capable of maintaining the constitutional balance between the Centre and States. Adding to the complexity is the lack of clarity in constitutional provisions regarding the Governor's discretionary powers. For example, during a hung assembly, the Governor's role in inviting a party to form the government can be influenced by subjective

interpretations. Recognizing this, the Supreme Court in the S.R. Bommai case (1994) outlined circumstances under which a breakdown of constitutional machinery could be legitimately claimed, such as political instability, internal subversion, or a failure to uphold constitutional norms. Another key ruling, in Nabam Rebia & Others vs Deputy Speaker of Arunachal Pradesh (2016), further curtailed the Governor's discretionary power. The Court emphasized that Article 163 does not grant absolute discretion to the Governor and that he or she must act with the advice of the Council of Ministers. The Court also held that the Governor's decisions on summoning, proroguing, or dissolving the state assembly are subject to judicial review-setting a vital precedent for accountability. In response to recurring controversies, the Punchhi Commission was established in 2007 to study Centre-State relations and suggest reforms. The Commission made significant recommendations regarding the role and appointment of Governors: The candidate for Governorship should have no active political affiliation for at least two years before appointment.

A selection committee comprising the Prime Minister, the Home Minister, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, and the Chief

Minister of the concerned state should select the Governor. State legislatures should be empowered to pass resolutions seeking the removal of a Governor in case of constitutional impropriety. Unfortunately, these progressive suggestions are yet to be accepted by the Central Government. It is now imperative for the Central Government to seriously consider the Punchhi Commission's recommendations. The recent verdict of the division bench of the Supreme Court on the Tamil Nadu Governor's conduct in withholding the bills is a stark reminder of the need to maintain healthy Centre-State relations. Implementing the Punchhi Commission's reforms will help ensure that Governors act as impartial custodians of the Constitution, rather than political emissaries. More particularly, it will restore faith in the federal structure and reinforce the principles of democracy and cooperative governance. Striking a balance between the Centre's power to appoint Governors and the States' right to autonomous functioning is essential considering India's diversity. Only by preserving the neutrality of the Governor's office can our nation truly uphold the spirit of cooperative federalism and ensure harmony within its diverse and vibrant polity.

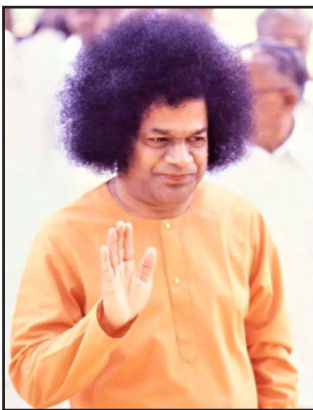
Sri Patnaik is a writer

“Our real tribute to Him will be, henceforth”

Kishore Kumar Jena

There is no evil in money, scholarship, knowledge or intelligence. But evil arises from activities that one performs using them. Pure water has no colour. Poured into a black bottle, it appears black. Poured into a red bottle, it appears red. Water has not become red or black; colour of the bottle makes the difference. When money, scholarship, cleverness and intelligence are possessed by persons in whom rajas is dominant, they promote hatred, ambition and lust. When possessed by persons in whom tamas is dominant, they promote miserliness, greed and envy. When possessed by persons in whom Satwa is dominant, they promote miserliness, greed and envy. When possessed by persons in whom Satwa is dominant, they promote love, compassion, urge to serve, the unity of all mankind and world peace. The sublimation of your character to Satwa is the duty that everyone owes to themselves. This is the path, the real goal. You must ceaselessly tread the path and reach the goal.

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ambition and lust. When possessed by persons in whom tamas is dominant, they promote miserliness, greed and envy. When possessed by persons in whom Satwa is dominant, they promote love, compassion, urge to serve, the unity of all mankind and world peace. The sublimation of your character to Satwa is the duty that everyone owes to themselves. This is the path, the real goal. You must ceaselessly tread the path and reach the goal. There is no death for Baba or even for any human being. Baba is made of two components. The first component is the unimaginable God. Birth and death are only for imaginable items. Hence, the unimaginable component, God, has neither birth nor death. God is the absolute eternal truth. The second component is soul, which is any human being. Soul is energy. It is eternal in the sense that it is the first created relative truth. It will end only by the will of God, which we do not know. Therefore, energy is also treated as almost eternal item. The body of the soul is another

form of energy, which consists of matter. Matter is also almost eternal since it will end only when the energy ends. Therefore, the soul-component means both energy and matter, which is any ordinary human being. Therefore, neither the God-component nor the soul-component has birth and death. During the so-called death, the soul leaves the body and takes the energetic body, which goes to the upper world. In the case of an ordinary human being, the upper world may be heaven or hell. But, in the case of a blessed devotee, the upper world will be the abode of God in energetic body, who is called as Father of heaven.

God takes up the soul-component consisting of energy and body for the sake of His expression as said in the Gita. The expression is to pacify the desire of devotees and also to guide them through the true spiritual knowledge. Since the form of materialized body is also not lost, you can find Baba in the energetic form, if Baba wishes. Even the departed soul can appear in the energetic body by the will of God. God selects a soul-component from His close devotees and comes down before us. This is called as the process of human incarnation. Therefore, nobody should think that death is the destruction of anything. It is only the destruction of our perceptible association in this world.

Advocate, Bangali Saha, Cuttack

Be like a child

Puspamitra Mohapatra

Most of us are caught in the small part of life and miss seeing the whole. Without leaving our room, we want to see the vastness of the sky. We live a part of the whole and that part is our pattern, our positionality, our ego. Thus, we limit our brain to our patterns. We limit our brains to limited paradigms. To drop our shallow way of seeing and to see the whole is managing our life effectively. To take that leap, one has to have a childlike perspective and not a childish perspective.

Life is a thrilling mystery; it is vast and limitless. But we get limited by our concepts, ideas and beliefs. We have not learnt to observe our life, and hence we are lost in our limitations. We have to learn how to perceive, how to look, how to see. A child sees innocently. To be innocent is to be open. Can we be open in our perception? When we look at a flower, we don't actually see the flower. The perceiver pollutes the perception. With strong likes and dislikes, the person looks at a flower. When that happens, the emphasis is on one's likes and dislikes and not actually on the flower. As one grows, one's mind has rigid frames of like and dislike, opinions, dogmas, fears, conflicts and greed. So one's experience of the external world is a product of one's internal mind.

We learn through books. We go to school and college and learn. We collect a lot of concepts, words and then we get imprisoned by what we know. Then, when we “see and know”

something in the outer world, there is a struggle. The struggle is to see and know in the light of what I know in my past. The present should fit into my past. So what I know, from my past, is it more valuable than what I see in the present? A childlike perception is freeing oneself from that background and hence inwardly be free and from that freedom to see. Apply this in the field of relationships, at the office or home. One has an image of one's life partner or boss. This image is a product of one's conclusions, opinions, and with that mental image one relates to one's partner or boss. One does not connect to the other and instead connects to the other through the image of the other. So one's struggle is to see the other fit into one's image of one's partner or of oneself. This is a complicated way of living. A childlike perception has no image and then its innocence comes in touch with the object. The struggle for seeing that one's image is validated is not there and hence no pain. By this one can relate better and not be a victim and be bitter.

Be like a child, open, innocent and then with that perception we will see something new. The ability to see something new is a product of one's inner being, free from one's past. Past will exist but will not limit a free perception. Then we will look at our projects, freely, openly, and something new happens in the way we look at the problem in the office or work or any situation.

Advocate, Orissa High Court, Cuttack



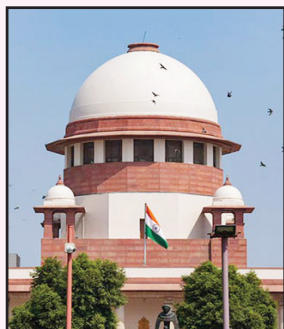
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SC Observes Two Minutes' Silence Pay Tribute To Pahalgam Attack Victims



New Delhi, (HS) : As the country continues to mourn Tuesday's gruesome terror attack in Pahalgam, the Supreme Court of India on Wednesday will be observing a two-minute silence in memory of those who lost their lives in the tragic attack. According to a circular issued by the Administrative Security Branch, the tribute will be observed from 2:00 PM across the Court and its Registry, in silence, to honour the victims of the terror incident, including tourists, in the Union Territory.

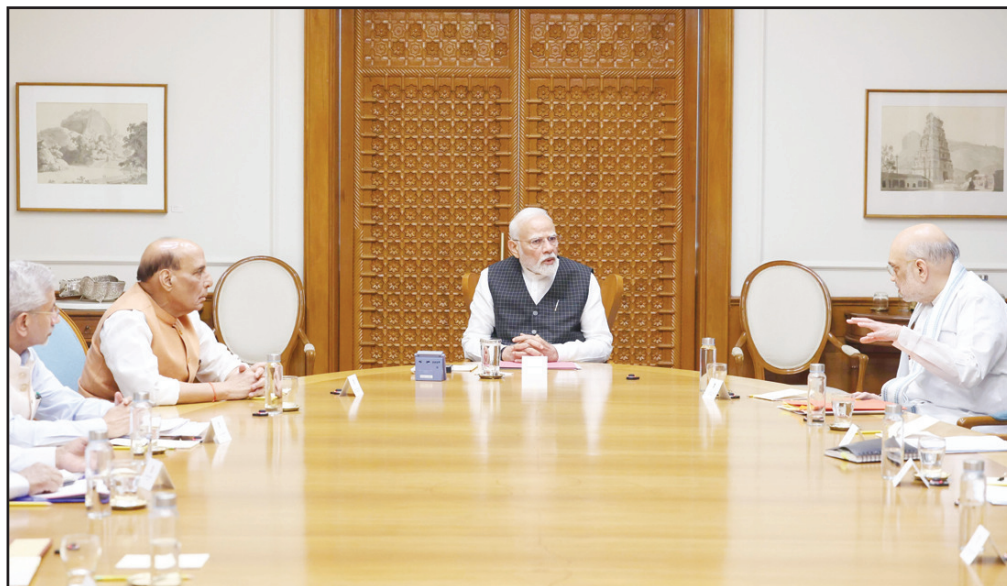
The Supreme Court's gesture came amid nationwide mourning following the attack in the Baisaran meadow of Pahalgam on Tuesday. Political leaders, civil society organisations, and institutions across the country have condemned the attack and expressed solidarity with the victims' families. The attack, which unfolded on Tuesday in the picturesque Pahalgam area of Anantnag district, turned a place once known for its tranquillity into a site of mourning. The attack was one of the biggest terror attacks in the region after the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019. Earlier today, Union Home Minister Amit Shah visited the Baisaran meadow, the site of the attack that claimed the lives of innocent tourists. The Union Home Minister arrived at the terror site by helicopter, descending onto the meadow now bearing the scars of violence. He was briefed about the incident by security officials. Earlier, the Union Home Minister also paid his tribute to the victims of the attack by laying a wreath in a poignant ceremony outside the Police Control Room in Srinagar. Shah also met with the families of the victim members. Their faces etched with profound sorrow,

Continued P-4

Top Security Committee Met at PM Modi's Residence to Discuss Pahalgam Attack

New Delhi, (HS) : Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a crucial meet of the Cabinet Committee of Security or CCS to discuss the shocking terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam that has cost 26 lives, and formulate India's response to it. Union defence minister Rajnath Singh has already issued warning that there will be retaliation, which will be appropriate and swift.

Union minister Amit Shah, who was in Srinagar earlier today, reached the venue after landing in Delhi. Union defence minister Rajnath Singh, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, and foreign minister S Jaishankar also attended the meeting. Like yesterday, Mr Doval briefed the Prime Minister about the situation on the ground. Last evening, terrorists had opened fire at the meadow of Baisaran -- a tourist hotspot near Kashmir's Pahalgam -- had opened fire. They had asked the tourists about their religion and then shot the men in the head. Twenty-six people -- tourists from 14 states



and two foreign nationals -- were killed in what was the deadliest attack in the Kashmir Valley since the 2019 Pulwama strike. The Resistance Front (TRF), a terrorist group seen as a proxy for the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba, has claimed responsibility for the attack, which has sent shock waves across the country. Earlier today,

the Defence Minister issued a strong warning. Without naming Pakistan, he said, "I assure people that the Government of India will take every step that is necessary and appropriate. And we will not only get those who have carried out this incident, we will also reach out to those who, sitting behind the scenes, have conspired to commit such

heinous acts on the soil of India". PM Modi, who cut short his visit to Saudi Arabia and was back in Delhi this morning, has condemned the attack and vowed to bring the guilty to book. In an emotional post on X last evening, Mr Modi said, "Those behind this heinous act will not be spared... their evil agenda will

Continued P-4

Pahalgam terror attack: Sketch of terrorists released



Pahalgam/New Delhi, (HS) : Security forces have released sketches of three terrorists involved in the Pahalgam terror attack. Reports said that four terrorists allegedly belonged to The Resistance Front (TRF). This terrorist group is said to be a proxy of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). Sources say they are involved in the Pahalgam terror attack. According to reports, a team of the National Investigation

Agency (NIA) has reached the Pahalgam terrorist attack spot. The team will assist the Jammu and Kashmir Police with the investigation. The three terrorists have been identified as Asif Fauji, Suleman Shah and Abu Talha. It is worth mentioning here that, in the Pahalgam terror attack as many as 26 people have been killed and as many as 17 people have been injured said a list of

Continued P-4

MP Aparajita Sarangi Pays Condolences to Family of Balasore Man Killed in Pahalgam Terror Attack



Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : Aparajita Sarangi, Member of Parliament (MP) from Bhubaneswar, met the wife of Prashant Satpathy, who was killed in the Pahalgam terror attack, and offered her condolences on Wednesday. As per reports, Sarangi paid her respects to the citizens who lost their lives in the recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir. Among the victims was Prashant Satpathy, a young man from Odisha. She consoled the wife and son of Prasant Satpathy. The MP is in Jammu & Kashmir for a Public Accounts Committee meeting. In a heart-wrenching scene, Prashant's wife clung to Sarangi, recounting the tragic events. Sarangi urged the family to stay strong during this difficult time and expressed sympathy for their loss.

A video of the emotional encounter has been shared on social media. It is pertinent to mention that Prashant, an accountant at CIPET in Balasore, was on a trip to Jammu and Kashmir with his wife, Priyadarshini and son when he was killed in a terrorist attack. His brother, Sushant Kumar Satpathy, received a call yesterday afternoon around 2:30 pm and was informed about Prashant's death, while his wife and son were reported safe. The news of Prashant's death has sent shockwaves in the local community, with many visiting his home to offer condolences.

Odisha Cabinet raises qualification criteria for Anganwadi workers, mandates graduation for promotion

Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : The Odisha Cabinet, led by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, mandates a Graduation degree for Anganwadi workers' promotion. Existing workers remain exempt. This move is targeted to enhance service quality. A total of six proposals were approved by the Cabinet.

In a significant policy move aimed at enhancing service quality in the State's welfare sector, the Odisha Cabinet on Wednesday approved an amendment making a Graduation degree mandatory for the promotion of Anganwadi workers. Chaired by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, the Cabinet cleared the proposal under the Odisha Children's and Women's Welfare Service (Amendment) Rules, 2025, stipulating that new applicants



to the Junior Grade of the service must possess a graduate or equivalent qualification from a recognised university. Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja, briefing

reporters after the meeting, clarified that the new qualification requirement will not apply to existing Anganwadi workers, who will remain eligible

under the earlier rules. "This step will improve the quality of service delivery and ensure better implementation of schemes

Continued P-4

Odisha Cabinet Approves Rs 108 Cr Underground Pipeline of Anandapur Barrage Project

Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : The Odisha Cabinet on Wednesday approved a tender worth Rs 108 crore (excluding GST) for a crucial component of the Integrated Anandapur Barrage Project, aimed at boosting irrigation and socio-economic development in Keonjhar district. The initiative will irrigate 3,450 hectares of Culturable Command Area (CCA) through underground pipelines, benefiting farmers in the Anandapur, Hatadihi, and Ghasipura blocks. The approved project includes the development of 2,221 hectares of CCA, along with Command Area Development (CAD), under the Baitarani Left Bank Canal (BLBC) from RD 0.00 km to 28.50 km, and

1,229 hectares of CCA, including CAD, under the Baitarani Right Bank Canal (BRBC) from RD 0.00 km to 9.00 km. The work, scheduled for completion within 18 months, forms part of the broader Anandapur Barrage Project, which seeks to irrigate 60,000 hectares across Keonjhar and Balasore districts. This development is expected to significantly enhance agricultural productivity and improve the socio-economic conditions of local farmers by ensuring reliable irrigation. The project underscores the state government's commitment to advancing agricultural infrastructure and fostering rural prosperity in Odisha.

We will reach conspirators', India won't spare: Rajnath Singh

New Delhi, (HS) : People involved in the cowardly terror attack in Kashmir's Pahalgam will get a "strong response" in the "near future" and India cannot be "intimidated" by any such terrorist acts, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Wednesday, in the first clear indication of India's possible response to the incident. He also said that India will not only hunt down those who perpetrated the attack but will also trace the people who conspired to carry out the nefarious act on Indian soil while "sitting behind the scenes." The defence minister's remarks while delivering the annual Arjan Singh Memorial lecture came a day after 26 people were killed by terrorists in Pahalgam in an attack that

triggered widespread outrage within India and abroad.

Hours before the address, Singh reviewed the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir in a nearly two-and-a-half-hour meeting that was attended by NSA Ajit Doval, Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan, Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi, Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Air Chief Marshal AP Singh and Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh. "Yesterday, in Pahalgam, our country lost many innocent citizens in a cowardly attack by terrorists targeting religion. This extremely inhuman act has plunged all of us into deep grief and pain," the defence minister said. "From this platform, I assure the countrymen that in view of the



incident, the government of India will take every step that is necessary and appropriate," he said. "And we will not only trace those who perpetrated this incident. We will also reach out

to those who, sitting behind the scenes, have conspired to carry out the nefarious act on the soil of India," Singh said. He said, "India is such an old civilization and such a big country that it

cannot be intimidated by any such terrorist activities." "The people responsible for such acts will get a strong response in the near future," he asserted. Singh described the attack in Pahalgam as "extremely inhuman" that has "left all of us in deep grief and pain." "First of all, I express my deepest condolences to all the families who have lost their loved ones. In this sad time, I pray to God for the peace of the departed souls. "I would like to reiterate India's firm resolve that we have a zero tolerance policy against terrorism. Every citizen of India is united against this cowardly act," he said. The high-level meeting chaired by Singh discussed all possible aspects of the situation that emerged in Jammu and Kashmir following

the terror attack, sources said, declining to share further details. It is learnt that Singh directed the armed forces to enhance their combat readiness and increase intensity of anti-terror operations.

In the meeting, Army Chief Gen Dwivedi presented a detailed overview of the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir including deployment of his forces. Strongly condemning the terror attack, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said those behind the "heinous act" will be brought to justice. Several meetings on the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir have taken place since the terror attack. Modi returned to New Delhi this morning after cutting short his two-day trip to Saudi Arabia.

Home Minister Amit Shah rushed to Srinagar on Tuesday evening to spearhead the security measures. Shortly after landing in Delhi, Modi held a meeting with NSA Doval, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri. In one of the deadliest terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir in recent years, 26 people - including two foreign nationals - were killed when suspected terrorists opened fire on a group of tourists at the scenic Baisaran meadow in Pahalgam on Tuesday afternoon. Intelligence agencies have identified Saifullah Kasuri, also known by the alias Khalid, a senior commander of the Pakistan-based terror group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), as the

Continued P-4

Husband Arrested Killing 4th Wife

Paralakhemundi, (DMC): On an attack cruel husband killed his 4th wife. Incident happened at Adagaon village near Gandahati under Garabandha police limits. Named Mangala Badanundi married 4 women one after another. Earlier first & second wife died. Both third & fourth wives were staying together. On 12th 4th wife Chinami had conflict & later she was injured by her husband beating. Still she had not gone for treatment due to fear. On Sunday she died. Deceased's son Damodar lodged complain at Garabandha police station. But that killer absconded. After strain search he was found & arrested.

Preparation for Panchayatraj Diwas

Jagatsinghpur, (DMC): Previously Panchayatraj Diwas & Biju Pattnaik Jayanti celebrated on 5 th March all over Odisha. But this year the system changed and state will observe National Panchayatraj Diwas on 24th April 2025. As per 73rd Constitutional Amendment Ministry of Panchayatraj celebrate National Panchayatraj Diwas on 24th April. So all the Blocks of Jagatsinghpur district getting ready to celebrate National Panchayatraj Diwas on 24th. But there is no holiday unlike 5th March.

Vishwa Hindu Parishad Protest Against Atrocities on Hindus in West Bengal



Khordha, (DMC): The real purpose of the violent demonstration by the Muslim people on 11 April 2025 in the name of protesting against the Waqf Act was to liberate Murshidabad from Hindus. The fanatical jihadists looted and set fire to more than 200 houses and commercial establishments of the Hindu community. Hundreds of Hindus were attacked to death, three were brutally killed and women were raped. As a result, more than 500 Hindu families had to leave Murshidabad. Instead of reaching out to them, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has met the rioting Muslims. The

Mamata government is destroying the parliamentary structure of India in West Bengal and giving it to her government and vote bank. National security is at stake in West Bengal, Bangladeshi and Rohingya infiltrators are being allowed to enter freely. The activities of Pakistani and Bangladeshi terrorist organizations have increased. The West Bengal government is being forced to work under the direction of anti-social elements and jihadi goons. In protest against this, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad Khordha district has staged a protest in front of the collector office & demanded immediate imposition of

Koraput Collector Receives Prestigious Award

Koraput, (DMC): Koraput Collector V. Kreethi Vasan and her team have been honored with the Prime Minister's Award for outstanding performance in achieving holistic development in Koraput district. Chief Minister Shri Mohan Charan Majhi felicitated the Collector and her team at Lok Seva Bhawan on April 22, 2025. This prestigious award recognizes the district's commitment to progress and development. The Chief Minister's appreciation highlights the state government's dedication to



promoting progress and development in all districts. acknowledging and rewarding exceptional work by its officials. The award is a testament to the district's efforts in achieving holistic development and sets a positive precedent for other districts to follow. The state government is committed to promoting development and progress in all districts. The state government is dedicated to supporting development initiatives and recognizing exceptional work by its officials. This award is a shining example of the government's commitment to

Gambling Den Busted : 23 Gamblers Arrested, 2 Fourwheelers, 10 two wheelers, 16 Mobiles and Cash seized

Nuapada/Khariar, (DMC): Acting on a reliable information regarding the gambling activities at village Jethupali under Komna police station limit, two police teams raided the place on Tuesday night and arrested 23 persons. During the raid, 23 Gamblers were apprehended and stake money of Rs.48,225/-, sixteen mobile phones, two four wheelers, 10 motorcycles and playing cards were seized on the spot. They have been identified as Pabitra Naik (33), Parmeshwar Tandi (27), Nilamani Sabar (36), Prasanna Kumar Tandi (42), Kunja Rout (58), Legda Satnami (66), Nemichand Ahir (37), Balbant Khamari (35), Alekha Sagaria (45),



Alekha Jain (49), Dhabaleswar Kuldeep (44), Sadanand Hans (54), Tukeram Sabar (52), Jagannath Meher (30), Manas Mahanand (24), Keshar Satnami (52), Kumar Singh Khamari (27), Premanand Tandi (37), Harbendra Sabar (25), Ritesh Bag (43), Pitabasa Meher (37), Sudam Meher (46) and Gaurishankar Thanapati (40). Out of 23 Gamblers, 6 main accused were forwarded to SDJM court Nuapada, U/s 112 (2), 111 (4) BNS / r.w. sec. 3 OPG Act. on Wednesday, said Superintendent of Police Nuapada G.R. Rahavendra in a press meet held at DPO Nuapada.

literary carnival has been held on the occasion of World Book Day

Puri, (DMC): A literary carnival has been held on the occasion of World Book Day in the post-graduate English section. c. The meeting began under the chairmanship of Prof. Mihir Prasad Mishra, Principal of S Autonomous College. The meeting began in the presence of Chief Guest Prof. Sujata Mishra, Guest of Honour Niranjan Nayak, Dr. Rabindra Kumar Pradhan and Dancer Payal Mohanty and Convener of the Seminar Smt. Sasmita Pramanik. Emphasis was on reading. On the occasion of World Book Day, Shri Niranjan Nayak highlighted his short novel The Other Side of the Rainbow. Parts of the novel were read out by Professor Somnath Mohapatra; Dr. Upma Behera gave a brief summary of the novel. Two books of poetry, namely, Voice in the Mirror and Florilegium of Poems,



written by poet and lecturer Dr. Ravindra Kumar Pradhan were given a detailed discussion by Dr. Deep Shikha Routray, Faculty of the Department. Dr. Pradhan highlighted the elements required for writing poems and stories. It is pertinent to mention here that the meeting was attended by faculty/ faculty and students of The Department of English of Suraj Malla Saha College, Government Women's College, Utkalmani

Smriti College and SCS Junior College. The meeting was conducted by Prof. Dr. Subhasish Nanda. In the second half of the meeting, various competitions were held among the students; Then the prize distribution ceremony o finally gave a vote of thanks by Dr. Upma Behera. It is worth mentioning here that this inter-college student program is new to the Higher Education Department.

Missed Mentally Retarded Child Returned by Family

Paralakhemundi, (DMC): At Nayagarh district since last 8 years a mentally retarded boy was missing. That boy found at Mohana block of Gajapati district. From Satapatna village of Nayagarh district that boy named Surendra Meher was missing. Since last 8 years his family wandering & beyond their expectation to get him. Some relatives of that family traced Surendra & sent by video call his details. Mother Subasini needed support of BDO Mohana to bring him to his village. BDO assured to all help to grieved family.



Villagers Retorted Against Liquor Selling

Paralakhemundi, (DMC): At Soura Gosani village huge country liquor sales trounced the villagers on their daily life. So they demanded before Superintendent of Excise of Gajapati district to stop such selling. At Badagosani village smuggling liquor on huge selling. They reported at block. But nothing done. Superintendent Excise Pradip Sahu said action will be taken against those goons.

TPNODL Hosts First-Ever Innovation Carnival on World Creativity and Innovation Day

Balasore, (DMC): Marking a significant milestone in its journey toward excellence and innovation, TP Northern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPNODL) proudly celebrated its first-ever Innovation Carnival on the occasion of World Creativity and Innovation Day. This inaugural event stands as a testament to TPNODL's unwavering commitment to nurturing a culture of creativity, continuous improvement, and consumer-centric innovation. The Innovation Carnival served as a vibrant platform for employees across various functions—including Operations, Commercial, Safety, Consumer Services, IT, Energy, and Projects—to showcase over 22 groundbreaking innovations. These employee-led projects reflect a deep-seated passion for solving real-world challenges and



advancing power distribution practices with forward-thinking solutions. Addressing employees at the event, CEO Mr. Dwijadas Basak, along with the company's functional chiefs, highlighted the critical role of innovation in driving organizational growth and

sustainable development. Mr. Basak also unveiled TPNODL's innovation roadmap for FY 2025–26 and beyond, reaffirming the company's strategic vision to embed innovation in every facet of its operations. "Innovation is not just about new ideas; it is

about making a meaningful impact," said Mr. Basak. "At TPNODL, we believe in empowering our employees to think differently and create solutions that elevate consumer experiences and operational efficiency." The event

demonstrated how a collaborative, idea-driven culture can unlock new possibilities for service enhancement and organizational excellence. It also provided an interactive space for cross-functional learning and knowledge exchange, reinforcing TPNODL's position as a progressive power distribution company. Through initiatives like the Innovation Carnival, TPNODL continues to place employees at the heart of its innovation journey. By encouraging out-of-the-box thinking and rewarding creative problem-solving, the company aims to build a smarter, more resilient, and sustainable energy future. The celebration concluded with enthusiastic participation from employees and leadership alike, reinforcing the shared vision of a more innovative and inclusive organization.

From Page- 1

Pahalgam terror attack....

deceased released by the authorities. According to reports, a group of terrorists emerged from the dense forests in the Baisaran meadows of Pahalgam on Tuesday and opened fire at the tourists. The sketch of terrorists shall help the police and security forces to a great extent. Further detailed reports awaited in this regard. The entire nation has condoled the death of the tourists. The act has been condemned as cowardly. "Our hearts go out to the bereaved families. We share in your grief and stand by you in this dark hour. But terror will never break our resolve, and we will not rest until those behind this barbarity are brought to justice," it added. Some tourists have decided to cut their trips to the Kashmir Valley short in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack, resulting in increased demand for flight tickets from Srinagar. The Director General of Civil Aviation (DGC) has now requested airlines to increase the number of flights to and from Srinagar amid heightened tensions. "The airlines are also requested to consider waiving cancellation and rescheduling fees and provide all necessary assistance to tourists facing unexpected circumstances and challenges during this difficult time," the advisory read. This has been one of the biggest terror attacks after the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019. The government, however, has yet to officially confirm the number of casualties in the terror attack in Pahalgam. Subsequently a FIR was registered against the two men by police on behalf of the state government at the Damoh Kotwali police station on Tuesday late night, under BNS Sections 353(2), 196, 299 and 3(5) which deal with statements/false information which could incite enmity between religious groups, promoting enmity between different groups, outraging religious feelings and crime with a common intent, the SP-Damoh added.

Top Security...

never succeed. Our resolve to fight terrorism is unshakeable..." Earlier, after two major terror attacks at Uri and Pulwama, India had hit back, conducting a surgical strike and air strikes on terror camps across the Line of Control. Both PM Modi and the foreign minister have referred to India's response frequently. Mr Jaishankar has said that the government has made it clear that "if you come and do something here, you may be across the LoC, you may be across the international boundary- we will still come and get you there".

Odisha Cabinet raises...

focused on women and children," he said. The Cabinet also approved the restructuring of the Odisha Subordinate Welfare Service and the Odisha Welfare Service, which includes the creation of 24 new posts at various levels to strengthen the administrative framework. In the healthcare sector, the Cabinet gave its nod to the continued implementation of Emergency Medical Ambulance Services (EMAS) for the five-year period from 2023-24 to 2027-28. The proposal, submitted by the Health and Family Welfare Department, aims to ensure uninterrupted emergency response services across the State. "As new technologies are being adopted these days in Anganwadi centres, the eligibility criteria (educational qualification) for promotion of an Anganwadi worker to ICDS supervisor was changed from Matriculation to Graduation," Chief Secretary Ahuja added.

We will reach...

mastermind behind the massacre. According to intelligence sources, five to six militants were involved in the attack, including several who had recently infiltrated the Valley from across the Line of Control (LoC). Security forces have since launched a massive manhunt in and around the Pahalgam region, with aerial surveillance and ground operations underway to track down the perpetrators. Security agencies have released sketches of three terrorists involved in heinous attack.

SC Observes...

Meanwhile, a National Investigation Agency (NIA) team visited the Pahalgam terror attack site today to support the Jammu and Kashmir (J-K) Police in probing what is considered the deadliest assault on civilians in the region in almost twenty years. The NIA team - led by a Deputy Inspector General-rank officer - visited Baisaran a day after terrorists gunned down a group of tourists in the picturesque meadow, which is located around five kilometres from Pahalgam town in Kashmir's Anantnag district. Official sources privy to the development told ANI that "the NIA team members will be assisting the Jammu and Kashmir Police in the investigation."

Dhamra Port observes 81st National Fire safety Week



Dhamra, (DMC): Dhamra Port marked the 81st National Fire Safety Week with great enthusiasm and a strong commitment to promoting fire safety awareness and preparedness. The weeklong observance, held from 14th to 20th April 2025, featured a wide range of educational and practical programs aimed at enhancing community awareness and strengthening emergency response capabilities. The celebration included several focused activities such as demonstrations on the safe use of LPG gas cylinders, hands-on training in fire extinguishing techniques, and comprehensive emergency response and rescue drills conducted both within the port premises and in surrounding community areas. These initiatives were designed to educate not only port personnel but also the broader community about critical fire safety practices and protocols. The closing ceremony of the Fire Safety Week was held with much fervor and witnessed the presence of key dignitaries and leadership from Dhamra Port. Among those present were Sanjeev Kumar Gupta, Chief Operating Officer (COO); Basuki Nath, Head of Human Resources; an Jagabandhu Behera, Head of Fire & Safety, along with all departmental Heads of Departments (HODs), Heads of Sections (HOS), and representatives from contractor organizations.

'Heaven on earth turned to hell': Families in grief, horror after Pahalgam terror attack

New Delhi, (HS) : What was meant to be a celebration of love, family, and dreams turned into one of the bloodiest chapters in recent Kashmir history. The serene valley of Pahalgam, famously known as "Mini Switzerland," became the site of horror on Tuesday as terrorists opened fire on unsuspecting tourists. At least 28 lives were lost - newlyweds, fathers, sons, and professionals who had come seeking peace but instead met brutality.

Among them was Lieutenant Vinay Narwal, a 26-year-old naval officer from Karnal, Haryana, on his honeymoon with his wife, Himanshi. The couple had married just a week prior, on April 16. Vinay, who had been commissioned into the Navy two years ago, was dining with his wife when he was shot in the head. His grandfather, a retired police officer, recounted how Vinay had always dreamt of serving the armed forces. "He was just a boy when he started asking questions about military vehicles. That dream brought him here - and now, took him away," he said. From Karnataka, another family is shattered. Manjunath Rao, 48, a Bengaluru-based realtor, was vacationing with his wife and son to celebrate his son's excellent results in the Class XII exams - he had scored 96%. They had planned to return home on April 24. Instead, the family is returning with his lifeless body. His wife Pallavi, still numb with shock, recalled the harrowing moment when her husband was gunned down in front of her. "After killing my husband, I asked them to kill me too. One of them said, 'Nahin marenge, Modi ko boldo'... and walked away," (We won't kill you, tell Prime Minister Modi). Pallavi added



Kashmir shuts down after years, this time to protest Pahalgam terror attack



Srinagar, (HS) : Srinagar, including the old city area, wore a deserted look in response to a hartal called to protest the killing of 26 tourists. For the first time since the revocation of Article 370 in 2019, the Kashmir Valley observed a complete hartal (shutdown) with shops and educational institutions closed and traffic off the roads on Wednesday to protest the dastardly terror attack on tourists in Pahalgam that left at least 26 dead on Tuesday afternoon. The tourist destination of Pahalgam resembled a ghost town with businesses downing their shutters and no vehicles plying. Srinagar, including the old city, wore a deserted look. "All markets were closed in the city's business hub of Lal Chowk. This is the first time after years that such a hartal is being observed in Kashmir, particularly after the Narendra Modi-led Centre's crackdown on Kashmiri separatists," said Abdul Hameed, a local resident and streetfood seller. The incident shocked the Valley and its tourism industry after the terrorists gunned down 26 visitors in the Baisaran meadow of Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Tuesday. Union home minister Amit Shah, who arrived in Srinagar on Tuesday night, lieutenant governor Manoj Sinha and chief minister Omar Abdullah paid their last respects to the slain tourists at the police control room in Srinagar.

that three local Kashmiri men rescued them chanting, "Bismillah, Bismillah." "They were like my brothers," she said. Manjunath's mother has not been informed about his death. She was told that he was injured in the attack. Prasant Kumar Satpathy, 43, from Balasore, Odisha, had been saving for months to show his family the snow-clad landscapes of Kashmir. The accounts assistant from CIPET was with his wife and nine-year-old son when he was gunned down near the ropeway. "He just wanted to show us heaven on earth," his grieving wife told relatives. Now, his younger brother is on his way to bring his body back home.

Shubham Dwivedi, a 31-year-old businessman from Kanpur, had been married for just two months. He was in Pahalgam with 11 family members when he was shot point-blank after terrorists confirmed his identity. His wife Aishanya, who hails from Lucknow, watched in helpless horror. "They asked me who he was. When I said, 'My husband,' they shot him in front of me," she said. The couple had taken a train to Delhi, a flight to Srinagar, and were to return on April 23 - the day of his final journey. . The wedding of Shubham and Aishanya was solemnised in Jhansi on February 12, this year. In Aruhi village of Bihar's Rohtas district, sorrow hangs thick in the air. The dusty lanes are unusually quiet, the faces somber. News that Manish Ranjan, an Intelligence Bureau officer, had been gunned down in front of his wife and two young children during the Pahalgam attack has left his entire village - and family across two states - in stunned disbelief. The 42-year-old officer, originally from Aruhi but posted in Hyderabad, had taken a rare

After Pahalgam terror attack, two terrorists killed

SRINAGAR, (HS) : In less than 24 hours after a deadly terror attack at Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Tuesday killed at least 26 people, mostly tourists, an infiltration bid has been foiled along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district on Wednesday, the Indian Army said."On 23 Apr 2025, approximately 2-3 UI terrorists tried to infiltrate through general area Sarjeevan at Uri Nala, Baramulla (in north Kashmir)," the Chinara Corps said in a post on X. "Two terrorists have been eliminated. Large quantity of weapons, ammunition and other war-like stores have been recovered from the terrorists," they said. "The infiltrators were challenged by our troops, and a firefight ensued," an Army official said adding that the exchange of gunfire is still ongoing. So far, two militants have been killed in the operation. Additional reinforcements have been rushed to the area to support the troops. Drones and helicopters have also been deployed for aerial surveillance to locate any remaining militants in the region. This military action comes in the wake of a deadly terrorist attack in the Baisaran area, around 5-8 kilometers from Pahalgam, where at least 26 people were killed on Tuesday afternoon.Baisaran, often referred to as "Mini Switzerland" for its lush meadows and natural beauty, is only accessible by foot or horseback, as there is no motorable road.

break from work to travel with his wife Asha (also known as Jaya), 12-year-old son, and 8-year-old daughter. It was supposed to be a bonding trip - a pilgrimage and a vacation wrapped into one. "He was excited about visiting Vaishno Devi. I was going to join them too, but couldn't go because of my health," said his uncle Alok Priyadarshi, his voice trembling over the phone. "Now we only want justice from the government. He served the nation - and they shot him in front of his children."His family, originally from Rohtas but currently settled in Malda, West Bengal, is shattered. His father, Manglesh Mishra, a retired college teacher, had hoped to see all three of his sons thriving. Now

the eldest is gone - leaving behind grieving parents, two brothers employed in government services, and children too young to understand the finality of death. "He had called me just before leaving," said his other uncle, Alok Ranjan, from Sasaram. "The kids were excited. The family was happy. But destiny had willed it otherwise."32-year-old Syed Adil Hussain Shah, a local horse rider was the sole provider for his family. Adil wasn't a tourist. He wasn't part of any convoy. He was one of Kashmir's own - a man who saddled up horses for visitors, offering them rides through the stunning slopes of Baisaran. That day, he had gone to Pahalgam for work as usual, unaware that he wouldn't return home again.

J-K Govt announces Rs 10 lakh ex-gratia for kin of deceased, compensation for injured

Srinagar, (HS) : As the nation mourns the loss of innocent lives in the Pahalgam terrorist attack, the Jammu and Kashmir (J-K) Government has announced ex-gratia worth Rs 10 lakh each for the families of deceased victims and Rs 2 lakh for those who sustained serious injuries. "No amount of money can ever compensate for the loss of loved ones, but as a mark of support and solidarity, the J&K Government announces an ex-gratia of Rs 10 lakh each for the families of the deceased, Rs 2 lakh for those seriously injured, and Rs 1 lakh for those with minor injuries," the J-K Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said in a post on X on Wednesday. "All arrangements for the dignified transport of the victims back to their homes have been made. The injured are being provided the best medical care," the CMO added. Abdullah further expressed anguish over the loss of lives in the Pahalgam terrorist attack, saying that such "acts of brutality" have no place in society. He said that the government would not rest until those responsible are brought to justice. "Deeply shocked and anguished by the despicable terrorist attack in Pahalgam yesterday. This barbaric and senseless act of brutality against innocent civilians has no place in our society.

Ex-Diplomat Kanwal Sibal Calls For Halting Indus Waters Treaty With Pak

New Delhi, (HS) : Calling for a strong response after the terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam, in which 26 people were killed, former foreign secretary Kanwal Sibal has called for the indefinite suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan, asserting that "blood and water" can't go together.

The Resistance Front (TRF), an offshoot of the Lashkar-e-Taiba, has claimed responsibility for Tuesday's dastardly attack. In a post on X on Wednesday, Mr Sibal, who was the Indian ambassador to Russia and is now the Chancellor of the Jawaharlal Nehru University, also pointed to the timing of the massacre - during US Vice-President JD Vance's visit - stating that India is in a favourable position with the US. "It is time to suspend the Indus Waters Treaty indefinitely as a truly meaningful response to the latest terrorist outrage in Pahalgam instigated by Pakistan. We have earlier said that



blood and water can't go together. Let's act on our own declared position. This will be a strategic response," Mr Sibal wrote. "We are in a favourable position on this with the US as the terrorist attack has occurred during Vance's visit. Trump and Vance have strong views on Islamic extremism and terrorism," he added. Alluding to the strained ties with Bangladesh, Mr Sibal said suspending the Indus Waters Treaty will send a "salutary message" to the country too.

Signed in 1960 after nine years of negotiations between India and Pakistan, the Indus Waters Treaty sets out a mechanism for cooperation and information exchange between the two sides on the use of the waters of a number of cross-border rivers. The World Bank was also a signatory to the pact and India's position on two hydropower projects in Jammu and Kashmir under the treaty was upheld by a neutral expert appointed by the organisation in January. "It has been India's consistent and principled position that the Neutral Expert alone has the competence under the Treaty to decide these differences" on the Kishenganga and Ratle hydroelectric power plants in the Union Territory, the Ministry of External Affairs had said. In August last year, India had also served a notice to Pakistan seeking a review of the Treaty, stating that "fundamental and unforeseen" changes in circumstances necessitated a

reassessment. Some reports had said cross-border terrorism from Pakistan was one of the reasons behind the notice. Tuesday's attack in the hilltop meadow of Baisaran had killed 26 people, including a Navy officer and an officer from the Intelligence Bureau. Terrorists reportedly sought the identity of people in the area, most of whom were tourists, before shooting them - many at point-blank range. As a manhunt for the terrorists is underway, Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security on Wednesday evening.

Just before the meeting, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said that India will respond strongly, and soon. "Those responsible for such acts will receive a strong response in the near future. We won't punish only the monsters who carried out this act of brutality and barbarism, we will also reach those who hid behind a curtain to carry out this conspiracy. Attackers and their masters will be targeted," he said.

NIA team reaches Pahalgam terrorist attack site, assisting J-K Police

New Delhi, (HS) : The National Investigation Agency (NIA) team visited the Pahalgam terror attack site on Wednesday to support the Jammu and Kashmir (J-K) Police in probing what is considered the deadliest assault on civilians in the region in almost twenty years. The NIA team - led by a Deputy Inspector General-rank officer - visited Baisaran a day after terrorists gunned down a group of tourists in the picturesque meadow, which is located around five kilometres from Pahalgam town in Kashmir's Anantnag district. Official sources privy to the development told ANI that "the NIA team members will be assisting the Jammu and Kashmir Police in the investigation." NIA's visit to the terror attack site as an expert is significant in the investigation, as 26 tourists have lost their lives and over three dozen were injured at Baisaran meadow, near the popular tourist town of Pahalgam. The NIA's assistance to J-K Police underscores a key role in the overall investigation, as Pakistan-based terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba's proxy.

Several houses torched in Manipur's Kamjong district, curfew in two villages



GUWAHATI, (HS) :Unknown miscreants on Wednesday morning burned down several houses in two Kuki villages of Manipur's Naga-majority Kamjong district, prompting authorities to impose prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the BNSS. The attack was carried out at Gampal and Haiyang villages, located near the Myanmar border. Most villagers were away in their fields at the time of the attack. In an order, District Magistrate Rangnamei Rang Peter said the prohibitory orders were imposed as such disturbances could lead to serious breaches of peace, endanger public tranquillity, and pose risks to human lives and property. The order prohibited the movement of any person outside their residences and any other act or activity that could disturb the law and order in the area. Several Kuki-Zo organisations, including Kuki Inpi Manipur and Kuki Students' Organisation, condemned the incident and demanded immediate rebuilding of the two villages, including

proper rehabilitation of the affected families and fair compensation for losses they suffered. Further, they demanded the deployment of an adequate number of personnel of "neutral security forces" to ensure the safety of the villagers and prevent further violence. Another demand was the provision of essential supplies, including food, medical aid, and shelter to all those displaced or affected. "These heinous attacks have terrorised innocent Kuki civilians and once again imperilled the already fragile peace and stability in the region," the organisations said in a joint statement.

"We urge the government to act with immediacy, impartiality, and integrity. The people of Gampal, Haiyang and the wider Kuki-Zo community deserve not only protection, but also justice and peace. The Kuki-Zo community views this act of terror seriously as this would create misunderstanding between communities in the otherwise peaceful area," the statement further stated.

National Herald Case: Congress Faces Its Gravest Political Trial Since Bofors

Sabyasachi K.

New Delhi, (HS) : In what is being called the Congress party's biggest crisis since the Bofors scandal, Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi now find themselves at the center of a high-stakes legal and political storm. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has charged the Gandhis with money laundering in connection with the National Herald case, marking the first time the powerful political family faces such direct legal action.

The controversy centers around a complex web involving real estate worth an estimated 2,000 crore, a defunct newspaper, and a non-profit company allegedly used to acquire assets at a fraction of their value. The case could have far-reaching implications-not only for the Gandhis but for the future of the Congress party itself. Former Union minister P. Chidambaram attempted to defend the party, questioning the very existence of a crime. But the BJP has seized on the opportunity, with spokesperson Sambit Patra declaring that the Gandhis "will go to jail," signaling the saffron party's aggressive stance. BJP leaders have labeled this legal action as overdue accountability, showcasing it as a success of the Modi 3.0 government. The matter has now reached a crucial



juncture. On April 25, a Delhi court will decide whether to take cognizance of the ED's chargesheet. If it does, the court could summon the Gandhis-or worse, allow the ED to take them into custody. This comes at a critical time for the Congress, as the party prepares for several key electoral battles. The case dates back to the origins of the *National Herald* newspaper, launched by Jawaharlal Nehru in 1938. The publication ceased operations in 2008 due to mounting debts. Later, a company called Young Indian Ltd-where Sonia and Rahul Gandhi collectively hold a 76% stake-acquired Associated Journals Ltd (AJL), which

owned the newspaper. This move effectively gave Young Indian access to vast real estate assets held by AJL. The ED alleges that this was a backdoor method for the Gandhis to gain control over prime properties without paying market rates. According to investigators, the Congress gave a loan of ?90 crore to AJL, which was later written off. Young Indian, allegedly formed to benefit from this transaction, acquired the assets by paying only 50 lakh.

In its defense, the Congress has vehemently denied any wrongdoing. It claims that Young Indian is a not-for-profit company registered under

Section 25 of the Companies Act, and that no shareholder can personally profit from its assets. The party insists the entire transaction was legal and aimed at preserving the legacy of the *National Herald*, not personal gain. Still, the political fallout could be devastating. The BJP continues to hammer its narrative of "dynasty politics" and misuse of party funds, while also highlighting recent questioning of Sonia's son-in-law Robert Vadra in unrelated money laundering cases. Vadra, who was interrogated for three consecutive days last week, could soon face three separate chargesheets. The ED's recent surge in activity across opposition-ruled states-targeting leaders like Bhupesh Baghel, Lalu Prasad Yadav's family, and Pinarayi Vijayan's kin-has revived allegations of political vendetta. The Congress maintains this is part of a broader pattern of the Modi government using investigative agencies to target rivals.

Nevertheless, in the court of public opinion, perception may matter more than legal arguments. And with the Gandhis under mounting scrutiny, the Congress party finds itself walking a political tightrope-with a storm of legal and electoral consequences on the horizon.

Macron, Albanese, Ramgoolam Join Global Leaders in Condemning Pahalgam Terror Attack



New Delhi, (HS) : French President Emmanuel Macron on Wednesday extended his heartfelt condolences to the victims of the dastardly terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam that has claimed dozens of lives.

"A heinous terrorist attack has struck India, claiming the lives of dozens of men and women from all walks of life. We share the profound sorrow of the victims' families, to whom I extend my heartfelt condolences," Macron posted on X. French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot also took to social media and extended unwavering solidarity in the face of a barbaric attack. "India is struck by a violent terrorist attack. Our thoughts are with the whole Nation mourning dozens of victims and with their families. In the face of such barbarity, our solidarity is unwavering," he said. Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese called PM Narendra Modi and strongly condemned the terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir, expressing solidarity with the people of India in this hour of grief and extending all support in the fight against terrorism. Albanese also took to social media and termed the terror attack an act of senseless violence that has shocked the world. "This afternoon I have spoken to my friend Prime Minister Narendra Modi to offer my condolences on behalf of Australia following the terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir. The horrific loss of life of innocent civilians is an act of senseless violence which has shocked the world. Those responsible must be held to account. Australia and India are great friends and we stand with India at this difficult time," Albanese posted on X. Prime Minister of Mauritius, Navin Ramgoolam also called PM Modi,

condemning the cowardly terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir and offering deepest condolences on the senseless killing of innocent people. According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Ramgoolam expressed support and solidarity with the people of India in this hour of grief and stated that the two countries remain united in the fight against terror. Prime Minister of New Zealand Christopher Luxon also expressed shock at the deaths of many following the terrorist strike.

"Having woken in London to news of the shocking terrorist attack in Kashmir, I'm appalled by the senseless deaths of so many. New Zealanders' thoughts are with the people of India at this difficult time," he posted on X. Condemning terrorism, Foreign Minister of Singapore Vivian Balakrishnan affirmed to stand with India at this difficult time. "Deeply saddened by the terror attacks in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir that claimed the lives of many and injured others. Singapore strongly condemns terrorism. We stand with India at this difficult time," he said. The brutal assault, which has resulted in the death of more than dozen tourists and left several others critically injured, unfolded on Tuesday in the Baisaran Valley near Pahalgam, where heavily armed terrorists emerged from the surrounding dense forests and opened indiscriminate fire on tourists. The attack has been described as one of the most horrific in recent memory. According to initial Intelligence reports, Pakistan-based terror outfit The Resistance Front (TRF), an offshoot of the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba, has claimed responsibility for the attack, although official confirmation is awaited.

Vance Calls PM, Says US Ready to Provide 'All Assistance' in Joint Fight Against Terrorism

New Delhi, (HS) : US Vice-President, currently visiting India, called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday afternoon to strongly condemn the Pahalgam terror attack and convey that the United States is ready to provide "all assistance" in the joint fight against terrorism.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Vance, who is visiting Agra on Wednesday, strongly condemned the dastardly terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir during his phone call with PM Modi. "He conveyed his deepest condolences on the loss of lives and reiterated that the United States stands with the people of India in this difficult hour. He expressed that the United States is ready to provide all assistance in the joint fight against terrorism. PM thanked Vice President Vance and President Trump for their messages of support and solidarity," the MEA stated. On Tuesday, Vance had taken to social media expressing his shock over the cowardly terror attack. "Usha and I extend our condolences to the



victims of the devastating terrorist attack in Pahalgam, India. Over the past few days, we have been overcome with the beauty of this country and its people. Our thoughts and prayers are with them as they mourn this horrific attack," he had posted on X. The US Vice President and his family had called on Prime Minister Modi in New Delhi Monday evening ahead of the Principals'

and delegation-level bilateral meeting between the two leaders. This is Vance's first visit to India and he and the accompanying US delegation visited Jaipur on Tuesday before arriving in Agra on Wednesday. Wrapping up his two-nation visit to Italy and India, he is scheduled to return to Washington on April 24.

Earlier in the day, US President

Donald Trump called Prime Minister Narendra Modi to extend US support and condolences over the terrorist strike that killed dozens of tourists. Prime Minister Narendra Modi told US President Donald Trump that he was determined to punish those responsible for the Pahalgam terrorist outrage foreshadowing retaliatory actions that have become the hallmark of his response to terrorism. "President Donald Trump called PM Narendra Modi and conveyed his deepest condolences at the loss of innocent lives in the terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir. President Trump strongly condemned the terror attack and expressed full support to India to bring to justice the perpetrators of this heinous attack. India and the United States stand together in the fight against terror," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal posted on X.

PM Modi told the American President that India is determined to bring the perpetrators and backers of this cowardly and heinous terrorist attack to justice.

Concerned at Loss of Tourists' Lives: Pakistan on Pahalgam Terror Attack

Islamabad, (HS) : Pakistan on Wednesday reacted to the deadly terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district that left more than a dozen tourists dead and several others wounded. The brutal assault unfolded on Tuesday in the Baisaran Valley near Pahalgam, where heavily armed terrorists reportedly emerged from the surrounding dense forests and opened indiscriminate fire on a group of tourists. The attack has been described as one of the most horrific in the region in recent memory.

Responding to media queries, Pakistan's Foreign Office issued a brief statement, saying, "We are concerned at the loss of tourists' lives in an attack in Anantnag



district. We extend our condolences to the near ones of the deceased and wish the injured a speedy recovery."

According to initial Intelligence reports, the Pakistan-based terror outfit The Resistance Front (TRF), an offshoot of the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba, has claimed responsibility for

the attack, although official confirmation is awaited. Back in Jammu and Kashmir, security forces have gone on high alert across the Union Territory following the bloodshed. Security has been tightened at all vulnerable spots, and additional forces have been deployed across the

Valley. Checkpoints have been reinforced with barbed wire barricades and intensified vehicle inspections are being carried out, particularly in areas considered sensitive, such as Sarjeevan near Uri Nala in Baramulla district. Union Home Minister Amit Shah, J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha arrived at the Srinagar Police Control Room on Wednesday to pay their last respects to the victims of the terror attack.

The mortal remains of the deceased tourists were brought to the Police Control Room early Wednesday morning amid heavy security, where a solemn tribute was paid by the top leadership.

India's 5 Big Steps Against Pakistan, Day After Pahalgam Terror Attack



New Delhi, (HS) : India has announced a series of steps directed at Pakistan a day after 26 tourists were killed by terrorists with Pakistani links in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam. Indus Water Treaty has been kept in abeyance. Pakistani nationals will get no SAARC visas. The Atari border with Pakistan will be shut. India will withdraw staff from its high commission in Pakistan. The current visas of Pakistani nationals under the SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme (SVES) have been cancelled, and they must leave within 48 hours.

Myanmar Hit by 154 aftershocks Following Deadly 7.7-Magnitude Quake

Yangon, (HS) : A total of 154 aftershocks have hit Myanmar since a devastating earthquake struck the country on March 28, according to the country's Department of Meteorology and Hydrology on Wednesday. These tremors ranged in magnitude from 2.8 to 7.5, according to the department, Xinhua news agency reported. As of Tuesday, the earthquake has claimed 3,759 lives and injured 5,107 others, with 114 people still reported missing nationwide, official data showed.

On April 17, India, under Operation Brahma, had sent an additional consignment of relief material that was handed over by Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Abhay Thakur to Mandalay Chief Minister Myo Aung in the presence of diaspora leaders of Mandalay and Sagaing. The relief aid included RO water plant, genset, rice, noodles, cooking oil, atta, sugar, dal, salt, MREs, blankets and medicines for the needy, the Embassy of India in Yangon stated. India had launched Operation Brahma to provide necessary support, including Search and



Rescue (SAR), humanitarian aid, disaster relief, and medical assistance, following the devastating 7.7 magnitude earthquake that struck Myanmar on March 28. Under Operation Brahma, India was the first responder to the earthquake-hit Myanmar and has provided relief supplies of over 750 MT including essential medicines, foodgrain, ready-to-eat meals, tents, blankets, gensets, rapidly deployable surgical and medical shelters,

water sanitation and hygiene services, drinking water, essential clothing, prefabricated office/residential structures, etc. Further, humanitarian assistance consisting of an 80-member NDRF Heavy Urban Search and Rescue Specialists Team and a 127-member Indian Army field hospital team were also deployed. The supply of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief material to Myanmar demonstrates India's

willingness to stand with the people of Myanmar and support through this difficult time, the Ministry of External Affairs maintained. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had also expressed deep sorrow over the disaster and conveyed India's condolences directly to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the State Administration Council and Prime Minister of Myanmar, reaffirming India's commitment to assisting Myanmar during this crisis.

On April 4, Prime Minister Modi met Hlaing on the sidelines of the BIMSTEC Summit in Bangkok and discussed the situation in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in the country, including India's ongoing efforts under Operation Brahma to provide humanitarian aid, disaster relief, and medical assistance to Myanmar. The Senior General had expressed his gratitude for India's assistance efforts. The Prime Minister conveyed that, as the first responder, India stands with Myanmar in this time of crisis and is ready to deploy more material assistance and resources.

Earthquake Of 6.2 Magnitude Hits Turkey's Istanbul

Istanbul, (HS) : A powerful earthquake measuring 6.2 on the Richter scale struck near Istanbul, Turkey's emergency management agency reported on Wednesday. The tremor, centered in the Sea of Marmara about 40 kilometers southwest of Istanbul, was felt in surrounding regions, though no casualties or major damage have been reported so far. The tremor, centered in the Sea of Marmara about 40 kilometres southwest of Istanbul, was felt in surrounding regions, though no casualties or major damage have been reported so far. The United States Geological Survey confirmed the quake's magnitude and noted it occurred at a shallow depth of 10 kilometres, increasing the likelihood of it being widely felt. It was followed by several aftershocks, including one measuring 5.3. The disaster and emergency management agency urged residents to stay away from buildings. Authorities continue to monitor the situation closely and are urging citizens to stay alert and follow official safety guidelines, Xinhua news agency reported.

Palestinian President Abbas urges Hamas to hand over Gaza hostages



RAMALLAH, (HS) : Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas urged the militant group Hamas on Wednesday to release the hostages still being held in Gaza, calling it the main factor fuelling Israeli attacks on the territory. "Hamas has given the criminal occupation excuses to commit its crimes in the Gaza Strip, the most prominent being the holding of

hostages," Abbas said at a meeting in Ramallah. "I'm the one paying the price, our people are paying the price, not Israel. My brother, just hand them over." "Every day there are deaths. Why? Because they (Hamas) refuse to hand over the American hostage," said the Palestinian leader, referring to Edan Alexander, who was reportedly on a list of hostages Israel had asked to be freed in a proposal that was recently rejected by Hamas. "You sons of dogs, hand over what you have and get us out of this" ordeal, he added, levelling a harsh Arabic epithet at Hamas. Bassem Naim, a senior Hamas official, condemned Abbas's remarks, calling them "insulting". "Abbas continues to describe a significant and integral part of his own people using derogatory language," Naim said. "Abbas repeatedly and suspiciously lays the blame for the crimes of the occupation and its ongoing aggression on our people." Ties between Abbas' Fatah party and Hamas have been marked by deep political and ideological divisions for nearly two decades. Abbas and his Palestinian Authority have often accused Hamas of undermining Palestinian unity, while Hamas has criticised the president for collaborating with Israel and cracking down on dissent in the West Bank.

Israeli strike on school-turned-shelter kills 23 as Arab mediators seek long-term Gaza truce

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip,

(HS) : An overnight Israeli strike on a school-turned-shelter in Gaza City killed 23 people, as Arab mediators worked on a proposal to end the war with Hamas that would include a five to seven year truce and the release of all remaining hostages, officials said Wednesday. There was no immediate Israeli comment on the strike, which set several tents ablaze, burning people alive. The military says it only targets militants and blames civilian deaths on Hamas because its fighters are embedded in densely populated areas. France, Germany and Britain meanwhile said Israel's seven-week-old blockade on all imports to Gaza, including food, was "intolerable," in unusually strong criticism from three of the country's closest allies. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas called on Hamas to release the hostages in order to "block Israel's pretexts" for continuing the war. He reiterated his demands that Hamas give up their arms, referring to them as

"sons of dogs" in unusually strong language during a speech in the West Bank. Abbas, who heads the Western-backed Palestinian Authority, has no influence over Hamas but is seeking a role in postwar Gaza. Egypt and Qatar are still developing the proposal, which would include the gradual withdrawal of Israeli forces from the entire strip and the release of Palestinian prisoners, according to an Egyptian official and a Hamas official who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief media. Israel ended a ceasefire with Hamas last month and has vowed to continue the war until all the hostages are returned and Hamas is either destroyed or disarmed and sent into exile. It says it will hold parts of Gaza indefinitely and implement President Donald Trump's proposal for the resettlement of the population in other countries, which has been widely rejected internationally.

Hamas has said it will only release the dozens of hostages it still holds in



return for Palestinian prisoners, a complete Israeli withdrawal and a lasting ceasefire, as called for in the now-defunct agreement reached in January. A Hamas delegation arrived in Cairo late Tuesday to discuss the evolving proposal. The Egyptian official said the proposed truce, with international guarantees, would last between five and seven years, and that a

committee of politically independent technocrats would govern Gaza - a measure Hamas has accepted. The Hamas official said the militant group is open to a long-term truce that includes the complete withdrawal of Israeli forces and international guarantees, naming Russia, China, Turkey or the United Nations Security Council as possible guarantors.

March spending push helps Centre meet revised capex target

New Delhi, (HS) : A late-year spending push helped the Centre meet its revised capital expenditure target of Rs 10.18 lakh crore for fiscal 2024-25, senior government officials have told Business Today TV.



The previous fiscal year had begun at a cautious pace, as fund disbursements were affected by the model code of conduct that was put in place during the Lok Sabha elections. Capital spending gained significant momentum only in the second half of the fiscal. Sources indicate the Centre may have ended the fiscal year with capex above the revised target. The Budget Estimate for 2024-25 capex was pegged at Rs 11.11 lakh crore initially, it was revised later. This recalibration comes alongside a sharper fiscal deficit target of 4.8% of GDP, compared to last year's 4.9%. The government is aiming for an even lower deficit of 4.4% in the current fiscal year. For the first 11 months of fiscal 2024-25, the centre had only spent Rs 8.12 lakh crore in capex, which meant that March spending would have been higher than Rs 2 lakh crore.

On asking if government would trim down its FY26 target owing to the global headwinds, the official shared that investment is a big engine of domestic growth and is unlikely going to be impacted by the global situation. Hence, government is likely to stay on its target of 11.21 lakh crore for FY26 capex.

Gold price surge to cut organised retailers' volumes by 9-11%

New Delhi, (HS) : Rising gold prices are expected to reduce sales volumes for organised gold jewellery retailers by 9-11% in fiscal 2026, as high prices lead consumers to purchase smaller quantities. However, despite the volume dip, revenues are projected to grow 13-15%, driven by higher gold prices and realisations, predicts India's premium rating agency Crisil Ratings. On Tuesday, gold prices in India hit a historic high, breaching the 1 lakh per 10-gram mark. The rating agency projects the retail revenues of organised jewellery sector are set to grow for a fifth consecutive year, after a 2.5 times increase in industry size since fiscal 2021. The sales volume has been weak due to persistent high gold prices affecting consumer budgets, Crisil said in its latest industry outlook. "The recent jump in prices came just before the start of the festive and marriage seasons in the first half of April 2025, limiting the impact on demand thus far. However, as ticket sizes for buyers are likely to remain constant, caratage and grammage may reduce, as seen in the last four fiscals, impacting volumes.

Agrinnovate India Ltd Pays Dividend of Rs.1.42 crore for FY 2023-24

New Delhi(PIB): Agrinnovate India Limited (AgIn), a Government of India enterprise under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, has declared a dividend of Rs.1.42,23,513 for the financial year 2023-24. The dividend distribution complies with guidelines issued by the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM). This is the first time the AgIn has paid the dividend since its inception. The dividend cheque was formally presented to Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan in New Delhi today. The event was also graced by the presence of Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare Dr. Devesh Chaturvedi and Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Dr.M.L. Jat. This announcement reflects AgIn's continued financial strength and strategic vision, under the leadership of Dr. Praveen Malik, Chief Executive Officer, Agrinnovate India Ltd.

Established in 2011, Agrinnovate India Ltd. serves as the commercial arm of ICAR, bridging agricultural research and practical implementation. AgIn plays a pivotal role in transferring, valorizing, and scaling agri-technologies across India to benefit farmers and entrepreneurs. The dividend declaration underscores AgIn's commitment to financial sustainability, institutional accountability, and its broader mission of advancing India's agricultural innovation ecosystem.

Centre Fast-Tracks 17 Mega Infra Projects Worth Rs 14,096 cr. Across 4 States

New Delhi, (HS) : The Centre has fast-tracked 17 mega projects being carried out with an investment of Rs 14,096 crore across the states of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, and Uttarakhand.

A high-level meeting headed by Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Amardeep Bhatia, took stock of as many as 19 issues related to these projects with a focus on fast-tracking resolution of implementation challenges through enhanced inter-ministerial and inter-state coordination, according to an official statement issued on Wednesday. The review meeting,



conducted under the aegis of the Project Monitoring Group (PMG), was attended by senior officials from Central ministries, state governments, and project proponents. Among the

Centre Tightens Vigil to Check Flow of Cheap Imports Amid US Tariff Hikes



New Delhi, (HS) : The government has set up a taskforce to keep a close watch on attempts by other countries to dump goods at predatory prices to exploit the Indian market, following the hike in tariffs announced by the Donald Trump administration which makes it difficult to export to the US, a top government official said on Wednesday.

"A new world order is developing with tariffs and retaliatory tariffs announced almost in real-time. Exports to the US may be re-directed towards us, so we need to be vigilant against dumping and predatory pricing which may happen in the next few months. A task force under the Ministry of Commerce had been set-up to closely monitor the situation," said Deepak Mishra, Joint Secretary, Petrochemicals, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals. Addressing the 'India Speciality Chemicals Conclave' organised here by Assocham, Mishra also said that India's chemicals sector "may benefit from this development." "We are working to develop a Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) framework for India. Once this is in place, products can be branded accordingly in conformity to international environmental norms and

quality controls," he explained. Mishra pointed out that research and development is crucial for the speciality chemicals business as it is more of a knowledge-centric business. "The industry must work together with academia to enhance capabilities for research. We have a great ecosystem of research labs in the country consisting of both government and private laboratories that are doing good work," he added. Kapil Malhotra, Co-Chairman, Assocham National Council on Chemicals and Petrochemicals said, "As the dust from the US Tariffs begins to settle, the chemicals sector has seen a surge in activities with enquiries coming in from across the globe". "Enquiries for speciality chemicals have also been coming in from China as they are moving into bulk chemicals. Upstream and downstream MSME players can play a key role in expanding the Chemicals sector. If we channelise our energies with downstream units we can grow at a much faster rate than our current growth," Malhotra added.

Speaking at the conclave, CM Saikant Varma, CEO, Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board, said, "The scope for growth in the chemicals sector is phenomenal. Specialty chemicals is a priority sector where the state is keen to attract investment. The

China says door for US trade talks 'wide open'



BEIJING, (HS) : China said Wednesday that it was willing to engage in trade talks with Washington, a day after US President Donald Trump signalled that hefty tariffs he imposed on the country would come down after the sides reach a deal. Since Trump began a second term in January, he has unleashed a tit-for-tat trade battle with Beijing that has seen US levies on many Chinese goods reach 145 percent. The fierce trade war between the world's top two economies has rattled markets and raised fears of a global recession. Trump acknowledged Tuesday that the level of US tariffs on China was currently "very high", saying that they would "come down substantially" after a deal is struck. Asked about the remarks, Beijing said that tariff and trade wars have "no winners", repeated previous comments. "We do not wish to fight, nor are we afraid of fighting," said foreign ministry spokesman Gao Qiang at a regular press conference, adding that China would "fight to the end", if necessary.

"The door for talks is wide open," he said. But, he warned, "saying on the one hand that they want to reach an agreement with China, while on the other hand continuing to exert extreme pressure is not the correct way to have dealings with China".

country's largest petrochemical hub is proposed to be set-up in Mulapeta where a deep sea port is also under construction. The state also has one of the most conducive Industrial Policy in the country right now." "Mega and ultra-mega investments above Rs 1,000 crore and above Rs 5,000 crore, respectively, are eligible for tailor-made incentives where the investors can put forth their wish list and the government will try to meet them. With three

industrial corridors passing through the state, six operational airports and access to ports and connecting ports the state offers seamless connectivity by road, sea and air," he added.

Sagar Kaushik, Chairman, Assocham National Council on Chemicals and Petrochemicals, said that the global market for chemicals is about \$6 trillion and 60 percent of this is traded globally, offering a vast opportunity across multiple geographies and the differential sectors.

India Set to Maintain Its Leadership in Global Economic Growth: Centre

New Delhi, (HS) : Despite global uncertainties and downward revisions in growth forecasts for other large economies, India is set to maintain its leadership in global economic growth, the government said on Wednesday. Supported by strong fundamentals and strategic government initiatives, the country is well-positioned to navigate the challenges ahead.

"With reforms in infrastructure, innovation, and financial inclusion, India continues to enhance its role as a key driver of global economic activity," said the Ministry of Finance. India is poised to lead the global economy once again, with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) projecting it to remain the fastest-growing major economy over the next two years. According to the April 2025 edition of the IMF's World Economic Outlook (WEO), India's economy is expected to grow by 6.2 per cent in 2025 and 6.3 per cent in 2026, maintaining a solid lead over global and regional peers. It shows a



downward revision in the 2025 forecast compared to the January 2025 update, reflecting the impact of heightened global trade tensions and growing uncertainty. "Despite this slight moderation, the overall outlook remains strong. This consistency

signals not only the strength of India's macroeconomic fundamentals but also its capacity to sustain momentum in a complex international environment. As the IMF reaffirms India's economic resilience, the country's role as a key driver of global growth continues to

gain prominence," said the ministry. The IMF's projections reaffirm India's resilience, further solidifying its importance in shaping the global economic future. The April 2025 edition notes that after several years of overlapping shocks, the global economy has entered a phase of cautious stabilisation.

Growth remains modest, and projections for global output have been revised downward from the January 2025 update. This reflects a steep rise in tariff rates, policy uncertainty, and slowing progress in international cooperation. "For India, however, the growth outlook is relatively more stable. The IMF projects steady expansion for the Indian economy, supported by firm private consumption, particularly in rural areas," the ministry noted. In a global environment marked by uncertainty and subdued growth, India's resilience stands out, reinforcing its role as a key driver of global economic activity, it added.

World Health Summit's Regional Meet to Shape Global Agenda

New Delhi, (HS) : The World Health Summit (WHS) Regional Meeting, scheduled to take place in New Delhi from April 25-27, is set to provide a vital platform for shaping the global health agenda, with a special focus on the integration and scaling up of traditional medicine systems, the government said on Wednesday. According to Union Minister of State (independent charge), Ministry of Ayush, Prataprao Jadhav, the WHS Regional Meeting is a timely opportunity to advance global dialogue on traditional medicine. "The dedicated session reflects growing global interest in holistic health. As we prepare for the 2nd WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit in December, hosted in Delhi and anchored by the WHO-GTMC in Jamnagar, India reaffirms its commitment to global well-being," he said. Among the key highlights of the summit is a session titled "Restoring Balance: Scaling up Access to Traditional Medicine for Health and Well-being", which promises to serve as a major milestone for the global traditional medicine sector. The WHS Regional Meeting will bring together ministers, leading scientists, CEOs, UN

officials, and civil society stakeholders to explore innovative, inclusive, and sustainable pathways to achieving health for all.

The session on traditional medicine will delve into how holistic health systems rooted in ancient wisdom can help meet the growing global demand for person-centred care and contribute to health equity. Experts will examine opportunities to advance universal access to safe and effective traditional medicine practices by leveraging technological innovations, evidence-based research, and evolving regulatory frameworks. Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary, Ministry of Ayush, stated, "The WHS Regional Meeting offers a crucial platform to promote evidence-based traditional medicine within global health discussions. The session on traditional medicine sets the stage for the 2nd WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit in December, supported by the WHO-GTMC and reflecting India's leadership in advancing traditional medicine globally." As anticipation builds for the 2nd WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit, the WHS Regional Meeting in New Delhi is poised to catalyse critical dialogues and partnerships that will shape the trajectory

IndiGo waives cancellation, rescheduling fees on flights



New Delhi, (HS) : India's largest low-cost carrier IndiGo on Wednesday said it is offering waivers for cancellation fees or rescheduling charges on Srinagar flights, in the wake of the deadly terror attack in Pahalgam. The decision has been taken due to concerns and difficulties "our customers may be facing due to the current situation in Pahalgam," said the airline in a statement, adding that the focus is on delivering compassionate support to those who need immediate attention during this challenging time.

"To support those traveling to/from Srinagar, IndiGo is offering waivers for cancellation fees or rescheduling charges. IndiGo has added special flights to Srinagar from Delhi and Mumbai with immediate effect and will be operating these over and above the regular schedule of 160 weekly flights from/to Srinagar from various parts of India," the statement further added. The airline is closely monitoring the situation and doing everything possible to assist customers in every way it can. "In view of the emergent situation, we have taken steps to keep the fares moderated. Our priority remains safety of our customers and offering efficient services," said IndiGo. The statement came after civil aviation regulator DGCA has advised commercial airlines such as IndiGo and Air India to increase the number of flights to meet the surge in demand from tourists stranded in Srinagar in the wake of the terrorist incident in Pahalgam. The airlines have been urged to facilitate the return of the tourists to their home destinations across the country and not to charge cancellation or rescheduling charges for the flights. The advisory issued by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation states: "In the aftermath of the incident in Pahalgam, there is an unexpected demand from tourists seeking to return to their homes. In this regard, the airlines are advised to take swift action to increase the number of flights in response to the heightened demand and also to ensure uninterrupted connectivity from Srinagar to various destinations across India, facilitating evacuation of stranded tourists."

"The airlines are also requested to consider waiving cancellation and rescheduling fees and provide all necessary assistance to tourists facing unexpected circumstances and challenges during this difficult time," the advisory further stated.



Priyanka Chopra to be honoured at Gold House Gold Gala

Actor Priyanka Chopra will be honoured at the fourth annual Gold House Gala in May. Besides her, Jon M Chu, Megan Thee Stallion, and Ang Lee will also be felicitated, as per Variety. This year, the Gold Gala will take place on May 10 at the Music Centre in Downtown Los Angeles. Over 600 guests are expected to convene, celebrating the 2025 A100 List (to be announced on May 1) -- the 100 most impactful Asian Pacific changemakers in culture.

In a statement, Gold

House CEO and co-founder Bing Chen said, "The Gold Gala is more than just the biggest Asian Pacific event -- it's a platform for launching the next wave of culture. From honouring Michelle Yeoh for EAAO before her history-making Oscars run to celebrating Cynthia Erivo with Michelle and Jon M Chu before Wicked became a public phenomenon." Speaking to the theme of the gala, First Light, Chen said, "We're honouring those we have been the first, not just for themselves, but for everyone who's lit after." Priyanka will

receive the inaugural Global Vanguard Honor for her unprecedented 25-year career bridging Asian Pacific and Western cultures through acclaimed work across Hindi cinema and Hollywood, as well as her continual elevation of underrepresented voices.

Touted as the premier and most-watched celebration of Asian Pacific and multicultural excellence, the Gold Gala will return with over 600 influential attendees to honor the 2025 A100 List - a handpicked lineup of the year's 100 most impactful

Asian Pacific figures in culture, to be unveiled on May 1, 2025. The star-studded evening will feature special stage presentations for honorees including Priyanka Chopra, Jon M. Chu, Laufey, Min Jin Lee, Prabal Gurung, Pokémon CEO Tsunekazu Ishihara (accompanied by Pikachu), Ang Lee, Anderson .Paak, Megan Thee Stallion, and the cast and creators of Moana 2. Celebrated Olympians and Paralympians - Suni Lee, Chuck Aoki, and Lee Kiefer - will also be recognized. The night will include a

special performance by Laufey, debuting a live rendition of her upcoming single, Silver Lining. This year's theme, First Light, symbolizes the powerful beams of hope that emerge through adversity, celebrating trailblazers who have lit the way not only for themselves, but for future generations. The evening will also feature a thoughtfully curated Filipino-inspired dinner by OpenTable, crafted by James Beard Award-winning chef Lord Maynard Llera, the culinary force behind the acclaimed Los Angeles restaurant Kuya Lord.

'Kashmir turning into hell': Salman condemns Pahalgam terror attack



As many as 26 people were killed in the Pahalgam terror attack, which took place on Tuesday afternoon. The country has been shaken to the core, and Bollywood celebrities have also expressed sorrow over the lives lost in the attack. Salman Khan condemned the targeting of innocent people in the heinous act

Salman took to X (formerly Twitter) to express grief and denounce the terror attack in Pahalgam. He wrote, "Kashmir, heaven on planet Earth, is turning into hell. Innocent people are being targeted. My heart goes out to their families. Ek bhi innocent ko marna puri kinaat ko marne ke barabar hai (Killing even one innocent person is equal to killing the entire universe)." Shah Rukh Khan, among other major

Bollywood personalities, also condemned the attack. On Instagram, he wrote, "Words fail to express the sadness and anger at the treachery and inhumane act of violence that has occurred in Pahalgam. In times like these, one can only turn to God and say a prayer for the families who have suffered, and express my deepest condolences. May we, as a nation, stand united, strong, and bring justice against this heinous act."

Alia Bhatt, Priyanka Chopra, Kareena Kapoor, Akshay Kumar, Mohanlal,

Chiranjeevi, Pawan Kalyan, and several other stars also expressed their outrage over the attack. Visitors were enjoying their holidays with loved ones when unidentified gunmen opened fire on them in Pahalgam's Baisaran, Jammu and Kashmir. The attack occurred at around 3 pm on Tuesday, prompting security forces to rush to the area upon hearing gunshots. Twenty-six people, mostly civilians, were killed, and 20 others were injured. After learning about the tragedy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi strongly condemned the act. He wrote on X, "Condolences to those who have lost their loved ones. I pray that the injured recover at the earliest. All possible assistance is being provided to those affected. Those behind this heinous act will be brought to justice... they will not be spared! Their evil agenda will never succeed. Our resolve to fight terrorism is unshakable and will only grow stronger." PM Modi also cut short his official visit to Saudi Arabia and returned to Delhi on Wednesday.

26 people were killed and 17 were injured in a suspected terrorist attack on tourists in Pahalgam, Kashmir, on April 22. Reuters reported that the police called it 'the worst such attack in the country in nearly two decades'. Several celebrities including Alia Bhatt,

Priyanka Chopra and Akshay Kumar have condemned the attack and expressed their condolences. Now Shah Rukh Khan has penned a note on the attack and demanded justice for the heinous act.

Taking to his Instagram Stories on Wednesday afternoon, Shah Rukh Khan wrote: "Words fail to express the sadness and anger at the treachery and inhumane act of violence that has occurred in Pahalgam. In times like these, one can only turn to God and say a prayer for the families that suffered and express my deepest condolences. May we, as a Nation, stand united, strong and get justice against this heinous act."

At least 26 people, mostly civilians, were reportedly gunned by terrorists in the attack that took place on Tuesday afternoon near Pahalgam. Several celebrities, including Akshay Kumar, Vicky Kaushal, Janhvi Kapoor and Sidharth Malhotra, have come forward to condemn the Pahalgam terror attack. They expressed their deep grief and sorrow over the incident, while also demanding justice for the victims.

Akshay Kumar took to X, formerly known as Twitter, to express anger, writing, "Horrorified to know of the terror attack on tourists in Pahalgam. Sheer evil to kill innocent people like this. Prayers for their families". Actor Sanjay Dutt shared, "They killed our people in cold blood. This can't be forgiven, these terrorists need to know we are not staying quiet. We need to retaliate, I request our Prime Minister @narendramodi ji, Home Minister @AmitShah ji and Defence Minister @rajnathsingh ji to give them what they deserve".

Ahaan to Make His Debut with Mohit's Directorial Under YRF Banner

Ahaan Panday, cousin of actress Ananya Panday, is all set to make his mark in Bollywood with Saiyaara. Directed by Mohit Suri, the intense love story will be launched under the Yash Raj Films banner. The big announcement was shared by trade analyst Taran Adarsh on Instagram. The post also featured a snap of actress Aneet Padda, who will play the female lead. Taran Adarsh shared exciting details about the film, writing, "YRF - Mohit Suri introduces two new talents in intense love story 'Saiyaara' - Release date locked... #YRF and #MohitSuri join forces for the very first time to present an intense love story titled #Saiyaara."

Presented by #AdityaChopra and directed by #MohitSuri, #Saiyaara introduces two new talents - #AhaanPanday and #AneetPadda... The film is scheduled for a theatrical release on 18 July 2025," the trade



analyst added. Taran Adarsh also highlighted that Saiyaara marks the first film to be produced by YRF's CEO, Akshaye Wadhani. Ahaan Panday is the son of Chikki (Aloke) Panday, who is Chunky Panday's younger brother. Ahaan's sister, Alanna Panday, is a popular content creator and was also seen on Prime Video's reality show - The Tribe. Behind the scenes, Ahaan has worked as an assistant director on projects like Freaky Ali, The Railway Men and Rock On 2. Aneet Padda is not new to

the world of acting. In 2024, she was featured in the web series Big Girls Don't Cry. Before that, she appeared in Salaam Venky (2022), a family drama featuring Kajol and Vishal Jethwa.

Coming back to Saiyaara, the official Instagram handle of Yash Raj Films also dropped a note to announce the project. It read, "Yash Raj Films' romantic film Saiyaara, which introduces Ahaan Panday in the Hindi film industry & also stars Aneet Padda as the female lead, is set to release on July 18, 2025 in theatres worldwide."

5-day mega sports event comes to a close

Keonjhar/Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : The Odisha Inter-University Competition (Games and Sports) organised by Dharanidhar University, Keonjhar concluded on 20th of April. The mega event- which was organised with the support of Higher Education Department, Government of Odisha- consisted of a range of outdoor and indoor games and sports such as cricket, hockey, football, badminton, kho kho kabaddi, table tennis, carrom and chess. All the games were held under men's and women's category. Badminton was also held under singles and doubles category. A total of 13 universities (including the host) with more than 2000 students participated in the event. The event was inaugurated by Chief Minister of Odisha, Mohan Charan Majhi in the presence of MP of Keonjhar Anant Nayak and MLAs Fakirmohan Naik, Akhila Charan Naik, Sanatan Mahakud and Collector Keonjhar, Vishal Singh on 16 April 2025 at Dharanidhar Sports Complex, Keonjhar.



The closing ceremony had renowned athlete and Olympian Dutee Chand as its chief guest. Chand encouraged students to take active interest in sports. While different universities won prizes under various categories, Utkal University led the medal tally emerging as champions in 11 categories and runners-up in six. Sambalpur University became champions in eight games and runners up in eight. The host university secured the second runners-up position in kho kho (women's) and table tennis (men's). Cash prize of Rupees

50000 was awarded to Winners of outdoor games. The first runners-up received 40000 whereas the 2nd Runners received 25000 for group events. In individual events the winners, first runners-up and second runners-up received Rupees 30000, 15000 and 10000 respectively. Five eminent sportspersons from Keonjhar district-Subhansu Senapati (cricket), Bablu Munda (martial arts), Parvati Mahanta, Renubala Mahanta and Sukabati Mahanta (athletics) were felicitated for their achievements in their respective fields. Actor

Madhusmita Sutar, who is an alumnus of Dharanidhar University was also felicitated.

Speaking on the occasion, OSD-cum-Vice Chancellor of Dharanidhar University, Professor Pratap Kumar Mohanty congratulated the winners and thanked all the teams for participating in the games and the people of Keonjhar in actively contributing to the success of the inter university sports and games. Registrar of the university, Dr Shashikant Jena emphasised the need to include sports as a part of everyday life for the sake of mental and physical well-being, and in the larger interest of the nation. Nodal officer, Dr Damodar Sahoo proposed the formal of vote of thanks. Secretary sports council, Dharanidhar University, Bijay Kumar Das shared the stage with other dignitaries during the prize distribution ceremony. Dr Sangita Sushree Nayak of department of Sociology and Dr Jayalaxmi Mohapatra of department of Zoology coordinated the event.

Former Pakistan cricketer accuses BCCI of 'match fixing' in IPL



New Delhi, (HS) : Former Pakistan cricketer Tanveer Ahmed has raised serious allegations against the Board of Control for Cricket in

India (BCCI) and the Indian Premier League (IPL) following the Rajasthan Royals' recent match against Lucknow Super Giants in

Jaipur. Ahmed, speaking on social media platform X, alleged that the majority of IPL teams are linked with match-fixers. "BCCI boasts about the IPL being the world's biggest league. Yes, it is, but it is also the largest platform for fixing, with most teams in the hands of fixers," he wrote. The controversy deepened with suggestions from Jaideep Bihani, Convenor of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Rajasthan Cricket Association (RCA), accusing Rajasthan Royals of match-fixing after their narrow losses to Delhi Capitals and Lucknow Super Giants. Bihani criticised the team's failure to secure nine runs in the final over of these matches. Rajasthan Royals have categorically dismissed the allegations as "completely false and baseless". The team has issued a strongly-

worded letter to the Rajasthan government and the state's Sports Council demanding firm action against Bihani. From the BCCI's perspective, an insider characterised these claims as groundless, emphasizing that, "the RCA is currently dissolved. An ad-hoc committee has been formed and, with approaching elections, there is much spectacle. Everyone is seeking attention." The BCCI official reiterated that its anti-corruption unit is vigilant in protecting the IPL's integrity against fraudulent activities, asserting, "There is no truth to these allegations."

This accusation reignites longstanding debates about the integrity of one of the cricketing world's most popular competitions, as the IPL maintains its vast audience both within India and internationally.

'Sporting' While Our People Die, Not This Time: Shreevats Goswami Urges BCCI to Cut Cricketing Ties With Pak

New Delhi, (HS) : Former cricketer Shreevats Goswami has urged the BCCI to cut all cricketing ties with Pakistan following the horrific Pahalgam terror attack, that left at least 26 killed and several others injured. The terror attack took place in the Baisaran Valley, a scenic meadow situated in Pahalgam, a popular tourist destination about 30 miles southeast of Srinagar on Tuesday, sending shockwaves throughout the country. Pakistan-based terror outfit, The Resistance Front, an offshoot of the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba, has claimed responsibility for the assault, marking one of the worst attacks in the region in recent years. Various sportspersons have strongly condemned the deadly terrorist attack and praying for peace and normalcy in the valley. Former wicketkeeper batter Shreevats Goswami has also condemned the incident and urged



the BCCI to stop playing cricket with Pakistan in a long social media post.

"And this is exactly why I say - you don't play cricket with Pakistan. Not now. Not ever. When BCCI or the government refused to send India to the Champions Trophy in Pakistan, some had the audacity to say, 'Oh, but sport should rise above politics',"

Goswami wrote on X. "From where I stand, murdering innocent Indians seems to be Pakistan's national sport. And if that's how they play - then it's time we respond in a language they truly understand. Not with bats and balls. But with resolve. With dignity. With zero tolerance," the post read. "I'm furious. I'm devastated. Just a few months ago,

I was in Kashmir for the Legends League - I walked through Pahalgam, met the locals, saw hope returning to their eyes. It felt like peace had finally found its way back. And now ... this bloodshed again. It breaks something inside you. It makes you question how many more times we're expected to stay silent, stay "sporting," while our people die. No more. Not this time," it added. India and Pakistan have not played bilateral cricket since 2012-13 and only meet in ICC events. Recently, the BCCI refused to send its team for the Champions Trophy, which was hosted by Pakistan. India played all their matches in Dubai, including the summit clash against New Zealand. In another post, Goswami urged all the Indian players, playing in the ongoing IPL 2025, to wear black armbands for this entire week "in memory of the innocent lives lost" in the deadly attack.