



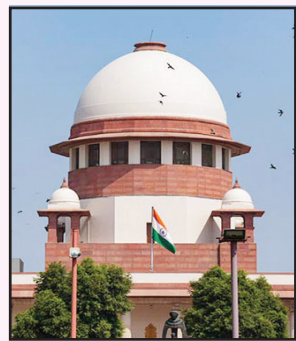
DUMANI MAIL

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English Daily



Centre defends Waqf Amendment Act in SC



New Delhi, (HS) : Defending the Waqf Amendment Act, 2025, as a valid, lawful exercise of legislative power, the Centre on Friday filed its reply in the Supreme Court and requested it to dismiss the batch of petitions challenging the act's constitutional validity. "It is a settled position in law that constitutional courts would not stay a statutory provision, either directly or indirectly, and will decide the matter finally," said the Centre, in its reply filed before the top court. The Centre filed the reply after complying with the top court's order asking it to do so.

A three-judge bench of the apex court, led by the Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sanjay Kumar and including Justices Sanjay Kumar and K V Viswanathan, is scheduled to hear the batch of pleas challenging the Waqf Amendment Act on May 5. The Centre said that after 2013, there was an addition of over 20 lakh hectares (precisely 20,92,072.536) in waqf land. "For the last 100 years, waqf by user is recognised only upon registration and not by word of mouth. Hence, the amendment was in sync with consistent practice. There will be maximum of two non-Muslims among 22 members in the Waqf Council and Aukaf Boards, a measure that is representative of inclusiveness and not intrusive of the administration of waqfs," the Centre said. The affidavit added that the identification of government land deliberately or wrongly mentioned as waqf properties is to set the revenue records right and that government land cannot be treated as land belonging to any religious community. The Centre, in its 1,332-page preliminary counter affidavit, submitted that there cannot be a "blanket stay" on the law as there was a "presumption of its constitutionality".

The government also said it would oppose any attempt by the Supreme Court to order

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'Won't allow a single drop of water into Pakistan': Jal Shakti minister CR Paatil



New Delhi, (HS) : Jal Shakti minister CR Paatil on Friday said that India would not allow a "single drop" of water to flow into Pakistan as a retaliation for its alleged role in the terrorist attack on tourists in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam, killing 26 innocent people. "We will ensure that not a single drop of water flows into Pakistan from India," CR Paatil said.

The minister made the comments after attending a meeting chaired by home minister

Amit Shah to discuss the future course of action following India's decision to suspend the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 with Pakistan. Besides Paatil, senior officials from several ministries reportedly attended the high-stakes meeting. Paatil also said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has issued a slew of directives, and the meeting was held to follow up on them. Shah also made several suggestions to ensure the effective implementation of the Centre's

decision. Paatil later posted on X, "The Modi government's historic decision on the Indus Waters Treaty is lawful and in national interest. We will ensure that not a single drop of Indus water flows into Pakistan." The BJP leader also said India has sent a "strong message" to Pakistan that it will not tolerate terrorism at all. Sources told news agency PTI that the government is developing a long-term strategy to ensure its effective implementation.

Earlier on Friday, Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah called the now-suspended treaty the "most unfair document" for the people of the union territory, saying it never had their support. "The Government of India has taken some steps. As far as Jammu and Kashmir is concerned, let's be honest, we have never been in favour of the Indus Waters Treaty. Now, what the medium to long-term implications of this are, that is something we have to wait to see," Abdullah said. In the Cabinet Committee on Security meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in the presence of Home Minister Amit Shah, India decided to hold the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 in abeyance until Pakistan credibly and irrevocably abjures its support for cross-border terrorism and has closed the integrated Attari Check Post.

India has also declared the officials of the Pakistani High Commission persona non grata and ordered them to leave India within a week. The country further decided to cancel any

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Odisha Targets 130 MTPA Steel Production By 2030, Says CM



Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi expressed confidence in achieving the state's ambitious target of producing 130 million tons per annum (MTPA) of steel by 2030, during his address at the Odisha State Roundtable at India Steel 2025 in Mumbai on Friday.

Highlighting Odisha's position as India's leading producer of iron ore and stainless steel, Majhi noted that the state currently hosts 54 integrated steel plants with a combined capacity of 41.21 MTPA. To meet the 130 MTPA

steel target, Odisha will require approximately 190 million tons of iron ore annually. The state, which accounts for 58% of India's iron ore production, aims to increase its share to 70% by 2030-31, contributing 240-245 MTPA to the projected national demand of 340 MTPA. Majhi invited investors to capitalize on Odisha's abundant resources, assuring them of sufficient supplies of iron ore, coal, and limestone. "All necessary materials are available within the state, eliminating the need to source externally. As steel

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15th Rozgar Mela: PM Modi to Distribute over 51,000 Job Letters Tomorrow



New Delhi, (HS) : Prime Minister Narendra Modi is slated to distribute more than 51,000 appointment letters to newly-appointed youth in various government departments and organisations through video conferencing on Saturday. In line with the Prime Minister's commitment to accord highest priority to employment generation, the 15th Rozgar Mela will be held at 47 locations across the country, according to a statement by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). The event will provide meaningful opportunities to the youth for their empowerment and effectively contributing to national development. The new recruits, selected from across the country, will join the Central government in various ministries/departments including the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Personnel and Public Grievances and Pensions, Ministry of Home Affairs, Department of Posts, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Labour and Employment, among others. More than 10 lakh permanent government jobs have been offered since 2022, setting a remarkable record, PM Modi had said during the 14th edition of Rozgar Mela in December last year. While distributing 71,000 job offers, PM Modi highlighted that such job fairs were part of the government's endeavour to provide employment with complete transparency. PM Modi launched Rozgar Mela - the recruitment drive for 10 lakh personnel - on October 22, 2022. The first edition saw the handing over of appointment letters to 75,000 new appointees. Rozgar Mela represents a significant initiative by the government to enhance employment opportunities for the youth across India. By facilitating direct connections between job seekers and employers, it not only addresses the pressing issue of unemployment but also empowers individuals to contribute to national development. At the 14th Rozgar Mela, PM Modi also mentioned that India had signed agreements related to migration and employment with 21 countries in recent years, including countries like Japan, Australia, France, Germany, Mauritius, Israel, the UK and Italy, apart from the Gulf countries.

Newly Appointed Odisha Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners Take Oath



Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : In a significant event underscoring Odisha's commitment to transparent governance, the newly appointed State Chief Information Commissioner and three State Information Commissioners took their oath of office today at the Raj Bhavan's Abhishek Hall. The solemn ceremony, presided over by Governor Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati, saw Manoj Kumar Parida sworn in as the State Chief Information

Commissioner, alongside Pranabindu Acharya, Palitra Mandal, and Smt. Kalpana Pattnaik as State Information Commissioners.

The event commenced with the reading of the appointment orders by Sanjay Kumar Singh, Principal Secretary of the Information and Public Relations Department, following the Governor's approval. Governor Kambhampati administered the oath of office and secrecy to the appointees, marking their official

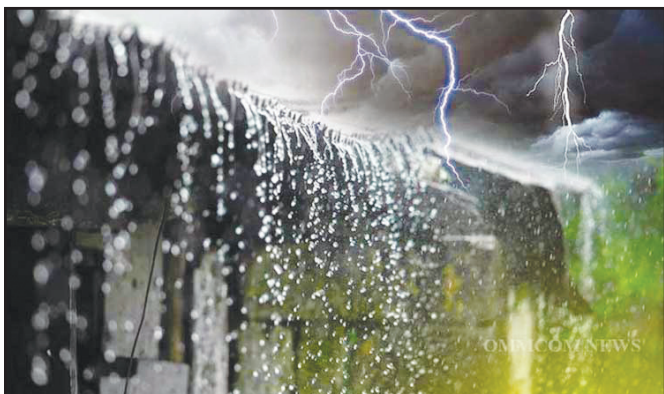
induction into roles critical to upholding the Right to Information (RTI) framework in Odisha. The ceremony was graced by prominent dignitaries, including Odisha Legislative Assembly Speaker Surama Padhy, Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida, Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari, Law, Works, and Excise Minister Prithviraj Harichandan, and Food Supplies, Consumer Welfare, Science, and Technology Minister Krushna

Chandra Patra. Other notable attendees included Government Deputy Chief Whip Gobinda Chandra Das, Chairperson of the Odisha Human Rights Commission Justice Shatrughna Pujahari, State Information Commissioner Sushant Kumar Mohanty, Principal Secretary to the Governor N.B.S. Rajput, Director of Information and Public Relations Deb Prasad Dash, and other senior officials. The appointments come at a pivotal time as Odisha continues to strengthen its mechanisms for transparency and accountability. The State Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners play a vital role in ensuring the effective implementation of the RTI Act, addressing appeals, and fostering public access to information. The diverse backgrounds of the appointees are expected to bring fresh perspectives to these responsibilities, enhancing the state's governance framework.

Reflecting on the occasion, attendees emphasised the importance of these roles in promoting an informed citizenry. The presence of high-ranking officials and dignitaries

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IMD Forecasts Thunderstorms, Hailstorms in Odisha from April 26 To 30



Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted a fresh spell of thunderstorms, lightning, and potential hailstorms across Odisha from April 26 to April 30, offering relief from the

ongoing heatwave in the state. On April 26, thunderstorms with lightning and gusty winds of 30-40 kmph are expected in the afternoon or evening at isolated locations in Malkangiri, Ganjam,

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12 Pakistanis in Odisha on long-term visas; begins to serve exit notices

Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : The process of issuing notices to 12 Pakistani nationals residing in Odisha on long-term visas (LTVs) has been initiated following a directive from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Government of India. These individuals, who have been living in the state for extended periods, will soon be formally asked to leave the country, officials confirmed. According to reliable sources, the decision follows a nationwide reassessment of foreign nationals residing in India, particularly those holding long-term visas issued on humanitarian grounds or under special circumstances.

Earlier in the day, Union Home Minister Amit Shah dialled Chief Ministers of all the states and asked them to ensure that no



Pakistani stays in India beyond the deadline set for leaving the country, sources said. India on Thursday announced revoking all

visas issued to Pakistani nationals from April 27 and advised Indian nationals residing in Pakistan to return home at the

earliest, as tensions between the two countries escalated over the Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people, mostly tourists, on

Tuesday. Amit Shah personally called up the Chief Ministers of all the states and asked them to ensure that no Pakistani stays in India beyond the deadline, sources said. The Chief Ministers were also told to identify the Pakistani nationals staying in their respective areas and ensure their deportation, the sources said. The MHA has instructed State governments to review the status of such individuals and begin procedures to ensure compliance with national security protocols and immigration laws.

In compliance with this central directive, the Odisha government has started the formal process to serve exit notices to the 12 Pakistani citizens currently residing in different parts of the state. Authorities are

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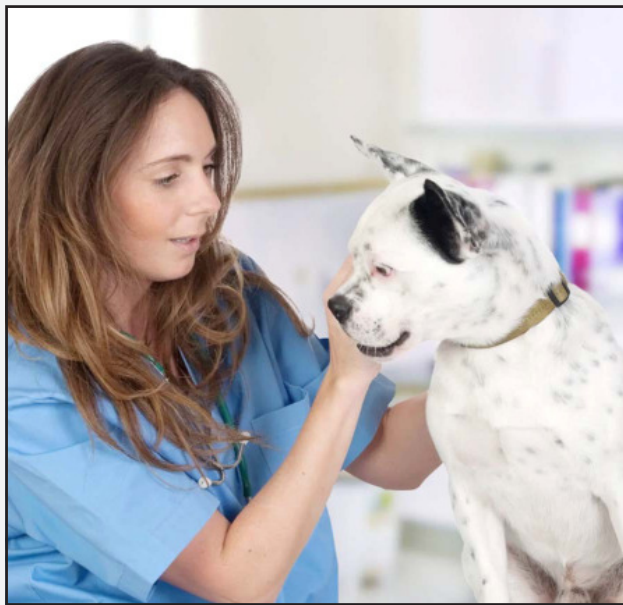
Vance Visit

Vance's four-day tour, which began on Monday, comes as the Modi government desperately tries to duck US tariffs. These "reciprocal" tariffs - including a 26 percent levy on Indian exports to the US - are currently on pause for 90 days, until July 8, for all countries except China. India, like all other countries, however, is currently being tariffed at 10 percent. The US is India's largest trading partner and the biggest buyer of its exports. Officials from the two countries have been engaged in intense negotiations to lock down a bilateral trade agreement that would allow them to avoid a tariff battle. But those negotiations have prompted concerns among Indian farmers: The country has long used tariffs to shield agriculture from being swamped by products from other countries. Now, farmers critical of Modi fear that the Indian government may weaken those protections as part of a trade deal with Trump. As Vance prepared to vacation with his family at India's famed Taj Mahal and historic forts, dozens of farmers protesting in several villages across India burned his effigies on Monday and raised slogans: "Go back, Vance. India is not for sale!" This visit, along with Vance's speech in Jaipur on Tuesday, must be viewed in the context of growing apprehensions about the trade policies implemented by the Donald Trump administration, the reassessment of the United States' position on the world stage, and the tightening of immigration regulations. Against this backdrop, the images of the Vance family sight-seeing, the play on the Indian connection through Second Lady Usha Vance, and the photogenic warmth of the meeting with PM Narendra Modi, with the couple's three children participating, have led to a perceptible softening. The tenor of the trip has been in stark contrast to the hard and stark stance taken by the V-P in Europe during the Munich conference earlier this year. His speech in Jaipur only underlined this. The US V-P announced that the Terms of Reference (ToR) for a bilateral trade agreement have been finalised. He spoke of deepening defence cooperation and about offering the latest defence equipment, notably the F-35 fighter jet. He also made a case for exporting US hydrocarbons to India, and partnering in energy exploration as well as emerging technologies, including AI. The Trump administration remains consistent in its approach to the Indo-Pacific - there has been clarity on the China challenge from Trump's first term through to the Biden administration. Vance's welcoming of India's leadership of the Quad is important in this context.

Vance has sought to frame bilateral ties in terms of a convergence of interests, free from what he sees as the shibboleths of a defunct ideology. Vance's visit, which took place just over two months after the Modi-Trump summit in Washington, revealed a crucial insight: India appears to possess increased flexibility during this time of disruption and rebalancing. The pressing challenge now is to leverage this momentum effectively, especially given the turmoil in the global economic and strategic environment, which threatens to create prolonged periods of uncertainty.

26th April

Veterinary Day



World Veterinary Day is marked on the last Saturday of April, which is April 26 this year. It is a day to celebrate the noble profession of veterinarians. The day provides recognition for those who have dedicated their lives to helping animals, and it honors the profession's role in the health and well-being of animals, people, and communities around the globe. Veterinarians are some of the most caring and selfless people in the world. They have the difficult task of taking care of and helping animals recover from injury and illness. Today we also remember all animals - whether pets and food sources, wild and domestic - as companion animals or livestock.

When King Louis XV's Royal Council of State established the Royal Veterinary School in Lyon, France, in 1761, students were taught how to treat livestock diseases. In 1863, the first International Veterinary Congress was held in Edinburgh. This meeting was initiated by Professor John Gamgee of the Veterinary College of Edinburgh, who invited veterinarians from Europe to attend a conference that later became known as the World Veterinary Congress. This congress aimed to establish a system for exchanging knowledge and experience between European countries through veterinary associations. Congress also sought to improve animal health and welfare for food production and establish international veterinary standards.

In congress, in 1959, held in Madrid, the World Veterinary Association was established, created out of the need for a global organization and a constitution. The World Veterinary Association's mission is to focus on animal health and welfare, the environment, and public health, and, in pursuing its goal, the association has collaborated with other organizations, such as WHO, O.I.E., and F.A.O. The World Veterinary Association created World Veterinary Day in 2000.



Suresh Chandra Sarangi

David Grabber of the dismantle the Wall Street movement, in his Magnopus book, "Debt, the first 5000 years" chronicles the evolution of debt, with command and control, delineating there in, as per the best tradition of Anthropology, speaks up majestically the evolution of debt, debt ceilings, subprime mortgages, and credit default swaps. He writes it in an engaging manner, which is a philosophical inquiry into the nature of debt, where it comes from and how it is managed. In this fascinating and thought provoking masterpiece, he exposes the alternative history of the rise of money and markets, which is an erudite, sprawling and provocative work. He writes that for more than 5000 years, long before the coins and bills existed, there existed an elaborate relationship, between the debtors and creditors. And an elaborate credit system as well. Debt is a noun, meaning a sum of money borrowed. The American saying is if you owe the bank, hundred thousand dollars, the bank owns you. If owe the bank a hundred million dollars, you own the bank. In today's complex economy, the connotation of debt has been many and still the huge increase in debt speaks that the world is not feeling comfortable, under the burden of burgeoning debt.

Global debt, as per the list released by UN trade and development report of 2024, has reached a whopping US dollar 97 trillion in 2023. The public debt in the developing countries reached less than one third of the total-US dollar 29 trillions and since 2010 it has grown as fast as developed economies. It speaks,

The world in Debt

to add salt to the injury, of the growing cost of developing countries are higher than those of underdeveloped ones. There is a stark contrast among the developing regions across the world. In the new international financial architecture, the debt has created more inequality, a burden of this too heavy, with major countries almost are gasping under the burden, with exacerbated cost of immense mental and social problems. Debt servicing is defaulted and the Greek debt crisis and Sri Lanka's debt default are disturbing developments. Debt servicing has been costly and in 2022 it has reached 6.3% of export revenues. This affects development as the borrowing cost becomes phenomenal, interest payment becomes irregular and the developing countries fail to allocate resources for development. The United States, which occupies the first position with a staggering 34.80 trillions, as per some report. Is quite substantial. US dollar debt is still ballooning, and leads the list of debt trapped countries. It is alarming. Twice, last year itself, there was no money to run the government and the ensuing deadlock, until, the debt ceiling was raised. It is believed that most in US believe that the government can not pay the debt, which is alarming and if US defaults then the whole finance system may collapse. The world debt is increasing in galloping speed are there do not appear any checks and balances to arrest the North bound curve. It becomes more challenging, in the aftermath of Trump's tariff war, China's retaliatory trade war and the small, low income countries suffocate under a trade war.

Let us try to understand how it happen. If the government earns 3 rupees and spends 4 rupees then the shortfall in revenue is one rupee and in order to meet its developmental and social obligations and commitments, it borrows from the public, through RBI. Sometimes, it also takes loan from private equity, other country and multilateral institutions to



meet the budgetary gap. As a result in modern economy the deficit financing has been a rule and not an exception. The long term trend in debt accumulation, more particularly, that of external debt is worsening. The gap is becoming wider and wider, not in case of America alone, but most of the countries. In 2001 the US debt was 10 trillion and now it has become 34.80 trillions. The budgetary deficits of all the countries in the world expanded on account of The deadly COVID Pandemic, that made the state exchequer blank, throughout the world. This, therefore, prompted the countless countries across the globe to go for borrowing, from the public of their countries, and from external sources. This happens without increasing the source of the revenues and therefore, the debt burden even increases. So much so that in 2023, a 26% increase was there compared to 2021 and in 2023, a record 54 countries equivalent to 38% of the total, allocated 10% or more of government revenues to interest payment. Interestingly, 3.3 billion people, out of those who live in the world, spend more on servicing interest than education and health, combined together. Even interest payments outweighs climate related investment or other activities. Thus, climate adaptation and mitigation receives a jolt. Under the circumstances, leaders and thinkers including economist feel that the international financial architecture needs urgent reform, including debt restructuring of low income groups. So the

question arises, which is pertinent again, regarding sustainable developments and the summit of the future policy to be redesigned. Some of the interesting statistics of the report of UNTD says US dollar 29 trillion was the extent of public debt in 2023, 47 billion was the developing countries net interest payments. So. This matters, as public debt has to be utilised for development. But the debt is developing of a fast pace and deepening with astronomical figures of public debt. An example of the painful crisis that enveloped like a gathering storm in Sri Lanka, that is a grim reminder to all concerned to keep the finances in order. US public intellectual, Martin Wolf speaks of the looming disaster, and how an it is unfolding as an imminent disaster. Debt to gdp ratio has reached unsustainable limit, inflation loom large and a default of the debt can not be ignored. World growth will be squeezed. Therefore, the leaders of the country have to make painful choices like cutting unnecessary unproductive expenditure. Some even are of the opinion that countries must stop mindless unproductive expenditure, populist programme, when the government trying for raising public debt, then there is crowding effect within the country and this stalls the investment process. The rise in the rate of global interest rate because of the urgency of foreign debt is another blow. Even world bank and IMF, are putting strict conditionalities, like sharp expenditure cut, devaluation of the nations

currency, strict debt restructuring and debt repayment norms. It appears, in the very near future, world may have to grapple with a major threat. In the latest world outlook, the IMF reported that around 56% of low income countries and 25% of the emerging markets are in debt crisis. The important point is how to make debt sustainable. The lender countries are also turning sceptical to extend a helping hand in apprehension of a debt default. There has to be a rejig of the debt portfolio and the outcome of the budgetary support must go for sustainable purposes and productive social expenditure, to bring a semblance of realism. So the need of the hour is that the government must operate in a business like framework, pursue positive and creative economic policies. If debt servicing falter, under the burden of astronomical debt, then sooner or latter it is a bubble going to burst. As the debt service coverage ratio and interest service coverage ratio becomes unsustainably high then the rich nations have to reschedule it, with haircuts, so that the poorer countries can manage their debt service obligation and have a smoother passage to come out of a debt trap.

Economist Tphanie keltron, in her book "The Deficit Myth", elaborated regarding how to build a better economy, paying out for health care, creating new job opportunities, and spending for arresting the climate crisis, advises practical solutions. Prudent expenditure policy, she says as to how the limited resources to be spent reasonably. With global trade war becoming murkier, without any solution at sight, things may be worsening. Tariffs and trade war will break many more countries, deepen their poverty, and increase their suffering under the debt trap. It seems to be a Herculean task, including India. The future of the world economy and the stability will be more decided on the outcome of the trade war, which needs to be stopped at any cost, with a reviving of international financial architecture. It seems the war for financial autonomy and development would be either own or lost in the battlefield of prudent debt management.

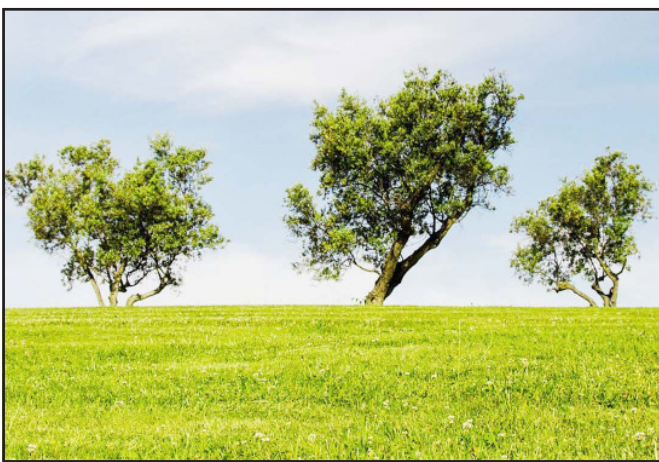
The writer is a former General Manager, Bank of India

The Three Trees

Dr. Umesh Chandra Patra

Once there were three trees on a hill in the woods. They were discussing their hopes and dreams when the first tree said "Somday I hope to be a treasure chest. I could be filled with gold, silver and precious gems. I could be decorated with intricate carving and everyone would see the beauty." Then the second tree said, "Someday I will be a mighty ship. I will take twenty kings and queens across the waters and sail to the corners of the world. Everyone will feel safe in me because of the strength of my hull." Finally the third tree said, "I want to grow to be the tallest and straightest tree in the forest. People will see me on top of the hill and look up to my branches and think of the heavens and God and how close to them I am reaching. I will be the greatest tree of all time and people will always remember me.

After a few years of praying that their dreams would come true a group of woodsmen came upon the trees. When one came to the first tree he said, "He looks like a strong tree, I think I should be able to sell the wood to a carpenter" and he began cutting it down. The tree was happy, because he knew that the carpenter would make him into a treasure chest. At the second tree the woodsman said, "This looks like a strong tree I should be able to sell it to the shipyard." The second tree was happy because he knew he was on his way to becoming a mighty ship. When the woodsmen came upon the third tree, the tree was frightened because he knew that if they cut him down his



dreams would not come true. One of the woodsmen said, "I don't need anything special from my tree, so I'll take this one, "and he cut it down." When the first tree arrived at the carpenters, he was made into a feed box for animals. He was then placed in a barn and filled with hay. This was not at all what he had prayed for. The second tree was cut and made into a small fishing boat. His dreams of being a mighty ship and carrying kings had come to an end. The third tree was cut into large planks and left alone in the dark. The years went by and the trees forgot about their dreams. Then one day a man and woman came to the barn. She gave birth and they placed the baby in the hay in the feed box that was made from the first tree. The man wished that he could have made a crib for the baby, but this manger would have to do. The tree could feel the importance of this event and knew that it had held the greatest treasure of all time. Years later, a group of men got in the fishing boat made from the second tree. One of them was tired and went to sleep. While they were out on the water a great storm arose and

the tree didn't think it was strong enough to keep the men safe. The men woke the sleeping man and He stood and said peace and the storm stopped. At this time the tree knew that it had carried the king of kings in its boat.

Finally someone came and got the third tree. It was carried through the streets as the people mocked the man who was carrying it. When they came to a stop, the man was nailed to the tree and raised in the air to die at the top of a hill. When Sunday came, the tree came to realize that it was strong enough to stand at the top of the hill and be as close to God as was possible, because Jesus had been crucified on it. The moral of this story is that when things don't seem to be going your way, always know that God has a plan for you. If you place your trust in Him, He will give you great gifts. Each of the trees got what they wanted, just not in the way they had imagined. We don't always know what God's plans are for us. We just know that his ways are not our ways, but his ways are always best.

Prof. Hepatology Deptt. S.C.B. Medical College, Cuttack

May be you have a tunnel vision of love

Aparna Nayak

Love can be of two types. One is when you say to somebody, "I need you, I really love you." This is ugly love because it is based on need. You want to be together with somebody; you want to cling to the other. The other keeps you occupied. Without the other you become afraid of your own aloneness. And this is what people say, and lovers enjoy it very much. When somebody says to you, "I need you, I really love you," you feel you are entering something beautiful - but you are not. You are entering something destructive.

Freedom is lost. You cannot allow the other to be free, because if you allow freedom then you will have to face your loneliness and that you don't want to do. So you cling, you hold onto the other, you possess the other. Even if it means being possessed by the other, you are ready to lose your freedom. You become mutual slaves, of each other. Love as a need creates a "tunnel vision". You become focused on one person and you are afraid that if the other person leaves you, you will not be able to live at all. One is willing to admit only a narrow range of sensations; all else is regarded as insignificant. How can you possess a presence, a person? It is not a thing, you can never be the master. The other will go on asserting its freedom. The other will go on sabotaging your efforts to possess. The other is trying to possess you, and you are trying to possess the other. Nobody wants to be possessed, and

everybody wants to be the possessor. Now, this is doomed to fail. Sooner or later you will start feeling life has no meaning. This kind of love is pathological, and it is the only kind that exists and is available in the world. It drives people neurotic, psychotic. It should be changed into love, not as a need but as a state. Then one can love life in more richness. Then one can love and yet allow the other freedom. Then love is non-possessive. But that love is possible only when you have learned how to live with your aloneness. When you can be alone and perfectly happy and you don't miss the other at all, only then you can love.

But now a totally different kind of love arrives - even to think of it will shock you. Then the lover says, "I don't need you, I love you." It will look contradictory because you have always heard, "I need you, I love you very much." You are acquainted with that approach. But this is true and creative love, when you can say, "I don't need you, I simply love you." Just meditate over it. Repeat it silently within yourself, "I don't need you, I love you" and a totally different dimension opens up. Now there is no need to possess, now there is no need to reduce the other to a thing, now there is no need to destroy her freedom, now there is no need to allow the other to destroy your freedom. Now love can exist with freedom. It is beautiful.

Main Sagar, Pan Road, No.-3, Balaji Departmental Store, New Delhi-110046

New Heights In Orthopedic Care: AIIMS Bhubaneswar Performs First Robotic Knee Replacement Surgery

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): Setting a new standard for advanced medical care in Odisha, AIIMS Bhubaneswar has introduced first-ever robotic knee replacement procedure, which is considered as a significant milestone in the health care sector in the State. The procedure was performed on a 66-year-old female patient by the Department of Orthopaedics, utilising cutting-edge robotic technology to ensure precision and accuracy. According to AIIMS Bhubaneswar Executive Director Dr. Ashutosh Biswas, the surgery was completed smoothly, and the patient is currently in stable condition. Dr. Biswas congratulated the Orthopaedics team on their achievement, highlighting the significance of the robotic surgery facility in providing advanced medical care to patients from all walks of life. "With the introduction of robotic services, AIIMS Bhubaneswar has made robot-



assisted surgeries accessible to patients across all social strata," Dr. Biswas added. The Head of the Department of Orthopaedics, Dr. Bishnu Prasad Patro, explained that robotic knee replacement surgery offers several advantages, including minimized risks of human error and improved surgical outcomes. The robotic system provides real-time feedback, enabling surgeons to execute complex steps with greater precision and accuracy. This landmark procedure marks a significant advancement in orthopedic care at AIIMS Bhubaneswar. Traditional knee replacement procedures involved

the use of jigs and cutting blocks, which, while effective, carried a potential for human error, particularly in complex cases involving severe deformities, previous surgeries, or advanced arthritis. However, robotic technology takes this to the next level by providing real-time feedback to the surgeon, fine-tuning the procedure, and ensuring greater precision. Additionally, the robot can carry out certain steps independently using navigation and artificial intelligence, offering a higher level of accuracy and consistency throughout the operation.

Affordable Housing Is Key To Slum-Free City: H&UD Minister

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) Minister Krushna Chandra Mohapatra underscored the critical role of affordable housing in eradicating slums and ensuring dignified living for all citizens of Bhubaneswar.

Speaking at the inauguration of a major real estate and housing expo organized by CREDAI Odisha, the Minister highlighted the proactive steps being taken by the State Government to make housing more accessible for slum dwellers. "Affordable housing is the key to building a slum-free Bhubaneswar. We are committed to ensuring that every citizen has access to safe and sustainable shelter," said Mohapatra, adding that government initiatives are aligned with the goal of inclusive urban development. Cuttack MLA Sofia Firdous, who graced the



occasion as the guest of the evening, praised CREDAI Odisha for hosting the grand event. "This expo will create valuable job opportunities for the local population and significantly contribute to the state's economy," she said.

Revenue Minister Suresh Pujari also graced the occasion. Scheduled from April 20 to 29, 2025, the nine-day expo is a dynamic platform that brings together a wide range of stakeholders - including leading builders, banks, building material

manufacturers, electronics firms, interior designers, and tile manufacturers. The event is designed to cater to aspiring homeowners, real estate investors, architects, and design professionals.

Attendees can explore the latest in smart home technologies, eco-friendly construction materials, and future-ready lifestyle innovations. Additionally, the expo will feature interactive sessions, expert panels, and discussions on current trends in urban housing, design, and infrastructure.

Gitanjali elected as the president of the Bhubaneswar Marwadi Yuba Manch I



Bhubaneswar, (DMC): The youngest daughter-in-law of prominent Businessman of Titilagarh Kejriwal family and Hindustan Seeds, founder of Ranisati Dadiji Temple / Gayatri Temple, Late Laxmandas Kejriwal, and Wife of

Bhubaneswar based businessman and social worker Rajesh Kumar Kejriwal, Mrs. Gitanjali Kejriwal has been elected as the president of All India Marwadi yuba Manch Bhubaneswar branch, The largest branch of the Manch. Oath Taking ceremony held at a hotel in

Bhubaneswar, Smt. Kejriwal and her team were formally sworn in as the 26th president of the yuba Manch for the year 2025/2026 in a colorful atmosphere. The oath-taking ceremony was presided over by Umesh Khandelwal.

The chief guest was Odisha Pradesh Marwadi Yuba Manch President Ajay Kumar Sharma, Khurda MLA Prashant Jagdeb, BJP State Vice President Golak Mohapatra, BJP State Women Morcha member and actress Vidusmita Mantri were present at the ceremony. Odisha Pradesh Marwadi Yuba Manch Vice President Arun Kumar Agarwal, along with Marwadi Yuba Manch Presidents/secretary and members from various districts of the state were also present.

Utkal Hospital Becomes the First Healthcare Institution in East India to Adopt Salesforce Agentforce for Digital Transformation

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): Salesforce, the world's #1 AI CRM, today announced its collaboration with Utkal Hospital, the largest stand-alone private-sector hospital in Odisha, which has become the first healthcare provider in East India to adopt Salesforce Agentforce.

Through the implementation of Agentforce and Salesforce Health Cloud, this strategic collaboration aims to drive digital transformation by unifying patient data, automating operations and empowering patients with self-service capabilities-setting a new standard for healthcare innovation in the region. Utkal Hospital will use a range of Salesforce tools - including Agentforce, Salesforce Scheduler, and AI-powered chatbots - to improve patient engagement and streamline operations. By bringing together patient data from different systems like Hospital Information Management System (HIMS),



Electronic Medical Record (EMR), and Excel into a single 360-degree view, the hospital can ensure smoother coordination across its call center, medicine orders, and self-service portals. With deep integration into Utkal's computer telephony integration (CTI) telephony systems, Salesforce will enable real-time, automated support, significantly reducing dependency on manual processes and enhancing the overall patient experience. Utkal Hospital, with a capacity of 450

beds - including 150 dedicated critical care beds has been a pioneer in adopting advanced technologies to enhance patient care. The hospital's Department of Cardiac Sciences, equipped with state-of-the-art Cath Labs and Cardiac Critical Care Units, exemplifies its commitment to advanced technology infrastructure. Salesforce's advanced AI and analytics capabilities, powered by Agentforce, will provide predictive insights and automation

Paddy Procurement For Rabi Season To Commence From May 1st

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): The Odisha government has made extensive preparations for purchase of paddy from farmers in the current Rabi season from May 1 to June 30. According to an official press release, the State-level Paddy Procurement Committee meeting was held in the Second Floor Conference Hall of Lok Seva Bhawan under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja.

The concerned District Collectors and Civil Supply Officers attended through video conferencing, while Principal Secretary, Food Supply and Consumer Welfare Sanjay Kumar Singh outlined issues for discussion. At the outset, Singh said that in the last Kharif season, about 73.45 LMT of paddy was procured from nearly 16 lakh 60 thousand farmers. For this, Rs 16,853 crore was paid to the farmers as MSP and Rs 5,862 crore as input assistance. Similarly, the procurement of paddy for the current Rabi season will begin



from May 1 to June 30. It was decided in the meeting to target procurement of 14 lakh metric tonnes of paddy in the current season. For this, about 3 lakh 37 thousand farmers have registered. This year, procurement will be made in 20 districts including newly added three districts of Kandhamal, Sundargarh and Bhadrak.

A total of 965 primary agricultural cooperative societies and 200 SHGs have also joined this process. Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja has directed the concerned Collectors to ensure that eligible farmers are not deprived of paddy procurement. He also commended over the

token being provided to farmers by validating paddy crop growing areas through satellite imagery technology by ORSAC. He also directed to immediately deploy nodal officers and supervisors for mandis. Similarly, it was discussed in the meeting that all facilities will be available for farmers at mandis.

Like Kharif season, Rs 3100 per quintal including Rs 2300 as MSP and Rs 800 as input assistance will be directly disbursed to the farmer's account within 48 hours of paddy procurement. In addition, complaints can be made through toll free No 1967 regarding paddy purchase. Each mandis will be

equipped with CCTV along with each vehicle carrying paddy from Mandi to Mill must have Vehicle Tracking System. District Collectors have been instructed to make special arrangements in view of the unseasonal rains and heatwave to protect paddy and ensuring lifting of paddy on the same day. Similarly, special squads will be deployed at bordering districts to keep eye on outside vehicles carrying paddy during procurement.

Odisha State Civil Supply Corporation Managing Director K. Sudarshan Chakravarty presented all such preparation during the discussion. Among others, Mission Shakti Commissioner-com- Secretary Shalini Pandit, Transport Commissioner Amitabh Thakur, Agriculture and Food Production Director Shubham Saxena, senior officers from Food Corporation of India and Odisha State Supply Corporation and various departmental officers were present in the meeting.

Darpan Portal Key To Transparency & Accountability: Anu Garg

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): Development Commissioner and Additional Chief Secretary Anu Garg today said that States/UTs should ensure no grants are disbursed to NPOs without a Darpan Unique ID and requested regular updates on blacklisted NGOs.

While attending a regional workshop on the Darpan portal in Bhubaneswar, Garg stated that the Darpan portal should be used as a primary tool to ensure transparency, accountability, and effective utilization of public resources. Highlighting key aspects of the platform, the Development Commissioner emphasized the importance of States/UTs effectively utilizing the Darpan Portal and making Darpan ID mandatory for NPOs to create a universal database.



Linking state-level NPO registration databases with the Darpan Portal is also crucial. Registration on the Darpan portal offers multiple advantages, including a centralized view of NGOs, better planning, and monitoring for state governments, and increased visibility and credibility for NGOs. The portal

also provides a provision for blacklisting NPOs and ensures accountability and financial tracking through integration with PFMS. The Darpan portal, maintained by NITI Aayog since 2015, serves as a repository of information about Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs) in India, providing a Unique Darpan ID to registered NPOs, she pointed

out. The portal offers dual benefits, acting as a decision support system for government agencies dealing with NPOs while providing NPOs with a unique identifier. A dashboard with restricted access is available to nodal officers of all States/UTs, featuring data analytics related to grant disbursement, NPO profiles, and areas of operation.

Birla School of Communication Hosts Editors' Conclave



Bhubaneswar, (DMC): Birla School of Communication, Birla Global University, hosted its 1st Editors' Conclave on April 25, 2025, marking a significant milestone in its commitment to fostering dialogue between academia and the media industry.

The conclave brought together a distinguished panel of editors from leading national media houses, sparking insightful conversations on the evolving

landscape of journalism. Held at the university's Bhubaneswar campus, the event served as a dynamic platform for students, professionals to engage in meaningful discussions on two thought-provoking themes- "Media in Transition:

The Editor's Perspective Then and Now" and "The Future of Media Freedom: Corporate Influence, Editorial Independence and Regulatory Challenges"-the

conclave facilitated in-depth conversations on the shifting roles, responsibilities, and challenges of editorial leadership in the digital age. Panelists included Mr. Tathagata Satpathy, Editor, Dharitri & Orissa Post, Mr. Nilambar Rath Editor & CEO, Odisha LIVE and Former Editor, ETV Network,

Mr. Ruben Banerjee, General Secretary, Editors Guild of India, Former Editor-in-Chief, Outlook, Ms. Sarvapriya Sangwan, Editor, Digital Content, BBC News, Mr. Manoranjan Mishra Founder & Editor, News Room Former Editor, OTV & Kanak News, Dr. Ashok Kumar Panda, Editor, MBC Television, Mr. Sisir Bhattamishra, Editor, Nandighosa TV who shared their experiences, challenges, and insights into the future of news and

responsible journalism. Delivering the welcome address, Dr. Shiv Shankar Das, Dean of Birla School of Communication, said, "The Editors' Conclave is a reflection of our mission to connect students with real-world challenges and thought leaders from the media fraternity. The conclave concluded with closing remarks from Dr. Gyana Ranjan Mishra, Assistant Professor at the Birla School of Communication. Ms. Anwesha Padhi and Dr. Mehul Agarwal, Assistant Professor at the Birla School of Communication, moderated the sessions.

AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the hon'ble court of Executive Magistrate, Jharsuguda on 16th December, 2024, I Dil Bahadur Pun have changed my surname from "PUN" to "LAMA". Henceforth, I shall be known as "DIL BAHADUR LAMA" for all purpose.

DIL BAHADUR LAMA

COURT OF THE SUB-COLLECTOR: JHARSUGUDA NOTICE

No. 221 Date. 22nd April 2025
Mutation Appeal Case No - 111/2019
Giridhari Sahu Vrs Mamata Sarkar

To, Mamata Sarkar W/o Sujit Sarkar, At: Sarbahal, Post/PS/Tahasil/ Dist- Jharsuguda (Odisha)

Take Notice that, the above case relating to Mutation Case No 1749/2007, MS Khata No. 790 of Mc JSG TU 05 is fixed on dt- 06.05.2025 at 8.00 AM for hearing of the case.

You are therefore directed to appear before this court in person or through your pleader in the above and time fixed with relevant papers/documents for hearing of the case, failing which the case will be decided per law.

Given under my hand and seal of this 22nd day of April, 2025.

Sub-Collector, Jharsuguda

Puri court building relocation issue: Puri Lawyers' Association's appeal to Chief Minister



Puri, (DMC): Chief minister Mohan Charan Majhi questioned whose plan was it to shift the 160-year-old court building. The Puri Lawyers' Association has been protesting against the shifting of the Puri court building to the ITI at Talabania. During

the visit of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi to Puri today, puri lawyers' association activists submitted a memorandum in this regard. During this discussion, Mr. Majhi asked whose plan was to shift such a heritage building from the place. Union president

Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Samman Abhiyan

Jagatsinghpur, (DMC): To- day District BJP Organisation arrange Ambedkar Samman Abhiyan at the 135th birth anniversary of Dr. B R Ambedkar at Adikavi Saraladas Sanskruti bhawan and Ex Zilla BJP President Satyabrata Mohapatra Presided over the programme. Union Education Minister Dr. Sukanta Majumdar joined as chief guest and in his address said that the objective is to provide happy livelihood to the last man of the Society.

Jajpur MP, Rabi narayan Behera, Industries Minister Sampad Swain, MP, Jagatsinghpur Bibhu Prasad Tarai, MLA Amarendra Das also address the gathering. Media Co- ordinator Ganesh Prasad Mohanty Municipality Vice - Chairman Rajendra Prasad Bisoi and other leaders and workers were present there.



MCL hosts Coal India's 2nd HR/IR Conclave 2025



Bhubaneswar/ Angul (DMC): The 2nd HR/IR Conclave 2025 of Coal India Limited hosted by Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) commenced today in Bhubaneswar. The two-day event has brought together Directors (HR) and senior HR professionals from across Coal India and its subsidiaries to engage in dialogue on evolving human resource strategies, industrial harmony and workplace transformation. The Conclave was inaugurated virtually by Shri P M Prasad,

Chairman, Coal India Limited. In his address, he appreciated the initiative to unite HR leadership under one forum, and highlighted Coal India's remarkable growth journey. He emphasised the need to further improve welfare of employees and workplace infrastructure as part of the company's inclusive development agenda. Shri Prasad also commended role of HR professionals in Coal India and contributions of company in bringing in positive change in the life of people, preferably in

Premananda Mohanty said the construction in the proposed area was completely illegal and secretary Sarat Kumar Rayaguru said it was a conspiracy against merit power. Sasand Sambit Patra said that the transfer of such a heritage judiciary is not only opposed by the lawyers but also the resentment of the people of Puri. Puri MLA Sunil Mohanty He said the protest was acceptable.

Deputy Chief Minister Prabhathi Parida said the matter was "very sensitive" and asserted that the government would take all steps. The meeting was attended, among others, by Anil Kumar Sahu, Samir Ghosh, Karnabir Mohapatra, Jyoti Prakash Mohanty, Tapas Baliarsingh and senior advocates Somnath Das and Digidarshan Patnaik Were present.

Huge quantity of LPG gas cylinders seized in Paradip : Illegal stockist arrested

Paradip, (DMC): Paradip Lock police raided the shop and godown of an unscrupulous trader who was running his business by keeping illegal LPG gas stocks under the nose of the police and seized a large quantity of LPG gas and empty cylinders and arrested the accused on Thursday.

The accused arrested by the police is Sanjay Prushti alias Kalia, son of Narayan Prushti of Nimidhi village under Paradip Lock police station. Sanjay Prushti had been keeping the stocks illegally in his house for a few months and selling the said LPG gas cylinders to employees of various industrial establishments and foreign companies for a large sum. However, as soon as the police received information, they raided the shop and warehouse of Sanjay

Disobedient Driver Missed Death Before Train Near Level Crossing

Paralakhemundi, (DMC): Due to callousness Driving more accidents occurred on day to day incidents. Similar incident happened at Ranipentha- Sidhamadanga railway level crossing at the outskirts of Paralakhemundi, while guard was about to close the gate on arrival of train, no sooner a car crossed the railway track followed with train. Fortunately no casualties happened & driver just missed the accident. So public retorted to take action against rule violators.

Marijuana of 10 Lakhs with Bolero Seized

Paralakhemundi, (DMC): At

Gajapati district, Garabandha police cordoned one bolero vehicle at Kinchilingi check gate. But that vehicle tried to whisk away by speed & came in front of police. For safety police just moved back & later that vehicle sped towards Koinpur. At Arsiling inside hilly forest those goons left the vehicle & fled away. In presence of Magistrate all 4 bags of ganza seized. Weighed about 107 kgs & would have costed 10 lakhs. Case (26/25) registered at Garabandha Police Station & investigation started.



Prushti alias Kalia in the presence of magistrate and seized 40 cylinders with a load of 14.2 kg LPG gas and 34 empty cylinders of 14.2 kg, 3 loaded cylinders of 19.2 kg LPG gas and 6 empty gas cylinders, 2 cylinders with a load of 5 kg LPG and 32 empty cylinders of 5 kg, i.e. a total of 120 LPG gas cylinders were seized by the police. Police

arrested the accused Sanjay Prushti and registered a case number 121/25 and produced him in court. The accused was running a business by keeping such a large number of LPG gas cylinders in such an unsafe manner in a gas depot. Investigation is ongoing in this regard, informed Paradip Lock Police Station IIC Rashmi Ranjan Das.

Odisha Vigilance Arrests Contractor For Misappropriating 57 Lakh Govt Fund In Nuapada

Nuapada /Khariar Road, (DMC): The Odisha Vigilance sleuths arrested a contractor for allegedly misappropriating government funds to the tune of Rs 56,93,957. The accused, identified as Sri Laxmidhar Routray, was found to have siphoned off the funds in connivance with Soil Conservation Overseer Sri Harishchandra Bentkar.

According to sources, the scam involved non-execution of 22 Loose Boulder Check Dams under the Watershed project at Khariar in Nuapada district. A case has been registered against the accused contractor under various sections of the Prevention of Corruption Act. The arrested contractor has been forwarded to court Nuapada.

Headmaster Arrested For Sexually Harassing a minor Girl Student

Jajpur, (DMC): Head Master of a Govt High school in Hasinpur village of Sujapur Panchayat was on this Tuesday arrested and court forwarded by Sadar Police on the charge of inappropriately touching a girl student on the institute's premises. The accused headmaster has been identified as Debendra Das, in the local area. It came to the fore when the girl and her friends were narrated the incident to her mother after reaching home.

The accused with his relatives were tried to compromise the matter, but the family decided to get right justice and later go to Police. However this is an heinous crime the accused should be punished in an strong eyesight where no one again try to do such type of crime in any institution, locals demand. The accused should be suspended immediately the family demanded at the district level education officers.

TPWODL Workforce's Tireless Efforts to Provide Uninterrupted Power Service during Peak Summer

Burla, (DMC): As Western Odisha grapples with an intense heatwave, with temperatures soaring to unbearable levels, the need for uninterrupted power supply has become more critical than ever. Rising to the occasion, the dedicated linemen of TP Western Odisha Distribution Limited (TPWODL) are working tirelessly on the ground to maintain seamless power service to homes, hospitals, and businesses across the region.

Summer brings not only extreme temperatures but also a sharp surge in electricity demand. This often leads to overloading in several areas, resulting in technical faults and breakdowns. Despite these challenges, TPWODL's field teams, led by their supervisors, are putting in relentless efforts to restore and maintain supply without delay. To support the well-being of its workmen and ensure sound health during these high-temperature operations,



TPWODL is providing essential health support at worksites, which include oral rehydration solutions (ORS), drinking water, and rest breaks. The supervisors are constantly monitoring the health of field staff, ensuring they stay hydrated and maintain good health while performing critical tasks under the scorching sun. TPWODL has also deployed multiple rapid-response teams across Western Odisha to address faults immediately and prevent

prolonged outages. The company's commitment to reliable and continuous power service remains steadfast, even in the face of extreme weather conditions. "We salute the relentless spirit of our workmen and ground teams who are standing tall in the face of the heatwave. Their hard work ensures that the people of Western Odisha to have access to the power they need during this difficult time," said Mr. Parveen Verma, CEO, TPWODL.

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Odisha Targets 130...

production scales up, we will enhance mining output to support the industry," he said. To facilitate industrial growth, the state government has established a high-level task force to streamline project implementation, ensuring access to raw materials, encumbrance-free land, robust connectivity via roads and railways, and utilities like electricity and water. Majhi emphasized the government's commitment to creating a comprehensive metal-based value chain, spanning raw materials to advanced engineering products.

'Won't allow a...

visas provided under the SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme (SVES) and ordered Pakistan to leave the country within 48 hours. The Government of India has also decided to suspend visa services for Pakistani nationals, effective immediately. All existing valid visas issued by India to Pakistani nationals will stand revoked, effective from 27 April 2025, the Ministry of External Affairs stated in a press release.

Centre defends Waqf...

a stay, partial or complete, on implementation of this new law, noting that it is a settled position in law that courts do not have authority to stay statutory provisions, either directly or indirectly. "There is a presumption of constitutionality that applies to laws made by Parliament and an interim stay is against the principle of balance of powers," the government said. Last week the court said it would not trespass into the domain of the Legislature, and that the separation of powers had been made clear by the Constitution. Nevertheless, the court also agreed to hear a handful of petitions challenging the new laws and, in the hearing that followed, asked if the government would allow Muslims on Hindu endowment boards. The court also said it was considering an interim stay given the violence - deaths were reported from Bengal and clashes in Lucknow - over the new law. That interim stay, however, was put on hold after the government asked for time.

Newly Appointed Odisha...

underscored the state's commitment to upholding democratic values through accessible and accountable governance.

12 Pakistanis in...

in the process of verifying the legal status, visa duration, and any pending applications for citizenship or asylum that the individuals may have submitted. A senior official from the state home department stated, "We have received instructions from the Ministry of Home Affairs to initiate the process of repatriation. All necessary legal procedures are being followed to ensure that the process is in line with national and international protocols." The presence of Pakistani nationals in India on long-term visas is typically governed by strict conditions, including regular police reporting, restrictions on movement, and no engagement in employment without permission. However, recent security assessments have prompted the Centre to re-evaluate all such residencies. While the identities and locations of the individuals have not been disclosed due to security concerns, officials have assured that their exit will be monitored and carried out with due diligence. Law enforcement agencies, including local police and immigration authorities, have been placed on alert to oversee the process. This move comes in the backdrop of heightened national security vigilance and reflects the Indian government's broader push to tighten immigration policies and monitor foreign nationals residing in the country under special permissions.

IMD Forecasts....

Koraput, and Mayurbhanj districts. For April 27, the IMD has issued an Orange warning for Koraput, Ganjam, Sundargarh, Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Keonjhar, and Bhadrak, forecasting thunderstorms, lightning, hailstorms, and winds of 50-60 kmph in some areas. Additionally, thunderstorms with winds of 30-40 kmph are likely in Malkangiri, Rayagada, Gajapati, Kandhamal, Kalahandi, Nabarangapur, Nayagarh, Nuapada, Bolangir, Bargarh, Sonepur, Boudh, Angul, Dhenkanal, Jajpur, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, and Deogarh. On April 28, an Orange warning is in place for Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Bhadrak, Angul, Ganjam, Jajpur, Sundargarh, and Balasore, with thunderstorms, lightning, hailstorms, heavy rainfall, and winds of 50-60 kmph expected.

Police Arrests Three Accused Persons for Extorting Money from Agniveer Aspirant's

Khordha, (DMC): Police have apprehended two personnel alongside a dismissed employee of Indian Navy for their alleged involvement in extorting money from individuals seeking to join the Agniveer (SSR/MR) CG Navik during a recent recruitment drive at INS Chilka. The suspect's have been identified as Vinay Kumar Ray, aged-38, who is stationed at INS Chilka & Satyam Chahar(23) from INS Kesari located in Andaman & Nicobar Island along with Bhooasan(25) a former staff member of the Navy. Authorities reported that the accused had been soliciting bribes ranging from 30,000 to ? 1.2 lakhs from candidates assured them an ensured selection into the Agniveer program.

The undisclosed allegation surfaced after a candidate filed a complaints revealing they were invited to a What's App group where one of the accused offered assistance in navigating the selection process. The candidates alarm over the unethical proposition led them to inform the relevant authorities at INS Chilka. Following this alter, Lieutenant Commander, Adwitiya Singh who serves as the Training Correspondence Officer took action by filling a written complaints with Balugaon Police Station, Khordha. In a press meet held at District Police Office, Khordha, Superintendent of Police, Mrs. Sagarika Nath, told the media persons that, " The accused used their position's & inside access to deceive aspirants & threaten them with cancellation of their candidature if they refused to pay". In light of the scandal the Indian Navy has commenced a thorough review of the documents of all selected candidate's to ensure that no fraudulent appointments have occurred. Acting promptly the Navy surveillance team identified a potential suspect & shared the intelligence with police authorities of Balugaon police station, based on this input the police successful apprehended the accused. The Indian Navy is extending full cooperation to the police in the ongoing investigation.



Pahalgam attack and the gathering of war clouds over South Asia

New Delhi, (HS) : There have been incipient signs of late that all is not quiet on the western front, as India and Pakistan marked the anniversary of the ceasefire understanding of February 25, 2021 on the Line of Control (LoC) and other parts of the international border. True, the ceasefire never really meant any fundamental shift in Pakistan's state policy of sponsoring and waging a proxy war against India. Delhi, nonetheless, has been a stakeholder in the ceasefire agreement for as long as possible, even as its focus was on the Line of Actual Control with China. Pakistan, too, had its hands full, faced with a looming default crisis, internal security issues, and the deepening political instability that followed the overthrow of the Imran Khan government, which was masterminded by the military.

At any rate, the first major breach of the ceasefire agreement came on April 1, when Pakistan Army intruded into Indian territory and opened fire along the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district and our troops "responded effectively in a controlled and calibrated manner" while reaffirming commitment to the ceasefire agreement. That was a deliberate attempt to undermine the remarkable stability that was achieved in the Kashmir zone since 2019 after the abrogation of Article 370 and reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir. The surge in terrorist activities has been "an issue of concern" for some time, to quote army chief General Manoj Pande. The south of the Pir Panjal range, which connects Kashmir Valley with Rajouri and Poonch via Mughal Road, has historically been a hotbed of militancy between 1997 and 2003. Hilly features, tough terrain, dense foliage and the prevalence of natural caves on Pir Panjal (where the army's footprint is



lighter) make the region an attractive sanctuary for terrorists to carry out surprise attacks. Intelligence gathering is a big challenge, as the terrorists, mostly foreigners, avoid making contact with civilians and stick to guerrilla tactics, making it difficult for security forces to gather information about their movement. Possibly, the deployment of troops out of the region to Ladakh following the tensions with China emboldened the terrorists to move in. The hill station of Gulmarg lies in the Pir Panjal range. That said, there is also the 'big picture' to be weighed in. The incursion on April 1 in Poonch sector, which was indeed a grave provocation by the Pakistani military, came in the downstream of the US administration's green-lighting of the extradition of Tahawwur Rana, a key plotter of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, to India. It was on February 13, during a joint press conference with PM Narendra Modi, that President Donald Trump personally announced Rana's extradition to India. Can it be a coincidence that the terrorist strike on Pahalgam on April 22

coincided with the visit by Vice President JD Vance to India?

It must be a matter of exceptional concern to the General Headquarters of Pakistan Army in Rawalpindi that Delhi's policy of 'zero tolerance' toward terrorism is getting unprecedented support today under the stewardship of the FBI by Kash Patel and Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard. Pakistan has put on a brave face and washed its hands of Rana, a Canadian citizen. But things are not as simple as that once he begins to narrate how the terror ecosystem operates in Pakistan under the direct supervision of the military leadership. These are early days. Although the extradition treaty of 1997 stipulates India must ensure that Rana will not be tortured, will be provided adequate protection in prison, and will only be tried for the offences for which he has been extradited-limiting India's legal options-the fact remains that he has been under US detention for the past 16 years alongside David Headley. A second aspect of immense relevance here collaterally is

the belligerent outburst, out of the blue, by Pakistan's army chief General Asim Munir on April 17 during a diaspora event in Islamabad. At the meeting that was attended by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, senior ministers and Pakistani elites living abroad, Munir described Kashmir as Pakistan's 'jugular vein' and exhorted overseas Pakistanis to pass on the country's story to their children, emphasising their forefathers believed that Hindus and Muslims were different in every aspect of life. Can it be a coincidence that Munir's inflammatory rhetoric came against the backdrop of the current dissonance within India over the Waqf (Amendment) Act 2025, which is putting the spotlight on properties donated by Indian Muslims over centuries? Third, it is both symbolic and consequential that the Kashmir issue figured in the talks between the foreign secretaries of Pakistan and Bangladesh in Dhaka on April 18, marking the resumption of such consultation after 15 years. According to the readout in Islamabad, Pakistan Foreign Secretary Amna Baloch took the initiative to brief the Bangladeshi side "on the situation in India's illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, emphasising the need for an early resolution of the dispute in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people". Pakistan's Deputy PM and Foreign Minister, Muhammad Ishaq Dar, is due to visit Dhaka shortly. All indications are that a highly motivated axis is shaping up in the geopolitics of the region hostile towards India for the first time since the creation of Bangladesh. Interestingly, the Pakistani readout messaged that 'a shared commitment to a forward-looking partnership emerged' during the talks.

Lashkar Chief Hafiz Saeed's Role Revealed in Pahalgam Terror Attack



New Delhi, (HS) : The terrorist attack in Baisaran valley near Pahalgam, which ended in 26 people dying, has brought a long-active terror group operating in Jammu and Kashmir to the forefront. This terror attack, one of the deadliest since the scrapping of Article 370 in 2019, has triggered high-level diplomatic and security responses from the government against Pakistan, which has been accused of harbouring the handlers and backers of this terrorist group. The attack was carried out by a group affiliated with the proscribed Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terror organisation, comprising mostly foreign terrorists, with support from local militants, overground workers from the Valley and under the control of 26/11 attacks mastermind and Lashkar chief Hafiz Saeed. According to sources, this particular module has been active in the Kashmir Valley for a long time. Security agencies believe it has been behind several high-profile attacks across the region, including in Sonamarg, Boota Pathri, and Ganderbal. In October 2024, four individuals, including two Indian Army personnel, were killed in a terror strike at Boota Pathri. That same month, Sonamarg witnessed a deadly assault on tunnel construction workers in which six labourers and a doctor were gunned down. Hashim Musa, one of the main accused in the Pahalgam massacre, is believed to be a suspect in this attack. Following the Sonamarg massacre, a key figure in the module, Junaid Ahmed Bhatt, an A+ category Lashkar terrorist from Kulgam, was neutralised in an encounter in Dachigam in December 2024. Other members of the group managed to escape, dispersing into nearby forested regions. After a major attack, these terrorists typically go underground, hiding in dense forest hideouts until receiving fresh orders from their handlers in Pakistan. The module is reportedly controlled directly by Lashkar chief Hafiz Saeed and his deputy Saifullah, both believed to be operating from Pakistan. Indian intelligence agencies maintain that the module receives not only ideological but also logistical and tactical guidance from Pakistan's military and its intelligence agency, the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI).

Top LeT commander Altaf Lalli killed in Jammu and Kashmir

Bandipora/New Delhi, (HS) : In a major success to Indian Army, the top LeT (Lashkar-e-Taiba) commander identified as Altaf Lalli has allegedly been killed in Bandipora area of Jammu and Kashmir said reports on Friday.

According to reports, acting on specific intelligence about terrorist presence, post the major terror attack in Phulwama a search operation was launched by the Indian Army and Jammu and Kashmir Police in Bandipora. Further, contact was established with the terrorists and this lead to a major crossfire between the Indian army and the police. Following which the top Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) commander Altaf Lalli was killed. Further is is worth mentioning here that the Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi has reached Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir. The Army chief upon arrival was briefed by the 15 Corps Commander on the security situation and actions being taken by the formations against terrorists inside our own territory.

He was further informed about the Pakistan Army attempts to violate the ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC). Army officials verified the above details. Further detailed reports in this regard awaited. Earlier today in a retaliatory action the Indian Army along with the local police houses of two terrorists were razed to the ground said reports on Friday.

'Most unfair document': Omar Abdullah backs Centre's move to suspend Indus Waters Treaty

Srinagar/New Delhi, (HS) : Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah, on Friday, called the now-suspended Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan the "most unfair document" for the people of the union territory, saying it never had their support. India on Wednesday suspended the World Bank brokered 1960 treaty on water sharing with Pakistan in response to the terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam that killed 26 people. Abdullah spoke about the Centre's move after a meeting with various tourism, trade, and industry bodies amid reports of a tourist exodus from the union territory. "The Government of India has taken some steps. As far as Jammu and Kashmir is concerned, let's be honest, we have never been in favour of the Indus Waters Treaty. Now, what the



medium to long-term implications of this are, that is something we have to wait to see," Abdullah said. Reported that Union home minister Amit Shah is expected to hold a meeting regarding the

Indus Waters Treaty at his residence in the national capital on Friday evening. Union Minister for Jal Shakti, CR Paatil, and other senior government officials are also expected to attend. The meeting

SC raps Haryana government for failing to act on manual scavenging worker widow's plea

New Delhi, (HS) : The Supreme Court on Friday issued a notice to the Chief Secretary of the Haryana government, summoning his personal appearance within four weeks to explain the alleged non-compliance with the court's earlier directions regarding a representation filed by Asha - the widow of a sewer worker who died in 2022 while cleaning a sewer. The bench noted on record that it appeared the State of Haryana had neither acted on the

Supreme Court's 3 January order nor considered the representation submitted by the petitioner. "Issue notice, returnable on May 9. The Chief Secretary, Government of Haryana, Chandigarh, is to personally remain present on the next date of hearing so as to make us understand why our order has not been considered and in what manner the representation of January 6 (received by the government on January 9) has been looked into," the bench said

in its order dated 25 April. Asha alleged that, despite submitting multiple representations in 2023 and 2024 seeking statutory compensation of ₹30 lakh-in line with the Supreme Court's judgment in the Balram Singh case-she had received no payment. She subsequently filed a writ petition before the Supreme Court through her counsel, Pawan Reley and others. On 3 January 2025, the court directed the Haryana government to take a decision on the

matter. Following the order, Asha submitted a fresh representation to the Chief Secretary on 6 January, which was delivered on 9 January.

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Amit Shah calls meeting to discuss future action on Indus Waters Treaty abeyance

New Delhi, (HS) : Union Home Minister Amit Shah will hold a key meeting on Friday to discuss the future course of action on the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 with Pakistan, which has been kept in abeyance, sources said. Union Jal Shakti Minister C R Paatil and senior officials of several ministries will take part in the meeting, sources said. The meeting is expected to discuss the future course of action and how to implement the decision of keeping the treaty in abeyance, they said. India has already informed Pakistan of its decision to keep the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance with immediate effect, saying Pakistan has breached its conditions. India's Water Resources Secretary Debashree Mukherjee said in a letter addressed to her Pakistani counterpart, Syed Ali Murtaza, that sustained cross-border terrorism by Pakistan targeting Jammu and Kashmir impedes India's rights under the Indus Waters Treaty. "The obligation to honour a treaty in good faith is fundamental to a treaty. However, what we have seen instead is sustained cross-border terrorism by



Pakistan targeting the Indian Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir," the letter read. India's decision to suspend the decades-old treaty follows the killing of 26 people, mostly tourists, in a terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam on Tuesday. "The resulting security uncertainties have directly impeded India's full utilisation of its

rights under the treaty," the letter read. The communication to Pakistan also highlighted "significantly altered population demographics, the need to accelerate the development of clean energy, and other changes" as reasons necessitating a re-assessment of the treaty's obligations. To give effect to the decision, the government has also

formally issued a notification to suspend the Indus Water Treaty. The treaty brokered by the World Bank has governed the distribution and use of the Indus river and its tributaries between India and Pakistan since 1960. The Indus river system comprises the main river, the Indus, and its tributaries. The Ravi, Beas, Sutlej, Jhelum and Chenab are its left-bank tributaries, while the Kabul river, a right-bank tributary, does not flow through Indian territory. The Ravi, Beas and Sutlej are collectively referred to as the eastern rivers, while the Indus, Jhelum and Chenab are known as the western rivers. The water of this river system are crucial to both India and Pakistan. At the time of Independence, the boundary demarcation between the two newly-formed nations - India and Pakistan - cut through the Indus Basin, leaving India as the upper riparian and Pakistan as the lower riparian state. Two key irrigation works - one at Madhopur on the Ravi and another at Ferozpur on the Sutlej - on which Punjab on Pakistan's side was entirely dependent, ended up within the Indian territory.

Police Aircraft Crashes in Thailand, Killing Six



Bangkok, (H.S): A small police plane crashed near the shore of Thailand's resort town of Hua Hin on Friday morning, killing six people, the Thai police said. The Thai national police said on its social media page that the aircraft of the police aviation division crashed into the sea off Cha-am District, Phetchaburi Province shortly after taking off from the nearby Hua Hin airport, with all six on board killed.

The police said the accident took place when the plane was conducting a test flight for parachute training. All six people on board were police officers. Five died at the scene and one died later at a hospital, Xinhua news agency reported. Video footage showed the plane

nosedive into the sea. Initial investigations suggest that the engine malfunctioned shortly after takeoff. The police said the cause of the accident will be investigated. The police emergency centre of Phetchaburi province said that it received notifications of a plane plunging into the sea just near a local resort at about 8:15 a.m.

Pol Lt Gen Archayon Kraithong, spokesman for the Royal Thai Police, said the incident happened during a test flight operation in preparation for a parachute training drill in Hua Hin. The victims were identified as Pol Col Prathan Khiewkham, Pol Lt Col Panthep Maneewachirangkul and Pol Capt Chaturawong Wattanapaisarn,

along with aircraft engineer Pol Lt Thanawat Mekprasert and mechanics Pol L/Cpl Jeerawat Maksakha and Pol Sgt Maj Prawat Pholhongs, the Bangkok Post reported. Authorities have not confirmed the aircraft model, but images from the scene suggest it was a Viking DHC-6 Twin Otter. The crash occurred in the Hua Hin district, with the aircraft landing in the sea roughly 100 metres from shore. Photos reveal the plane partially submerged and broken in two.

The test flight was part of preparations for a parachute training exercise in the area. Officials from the public relations department of Prachuab Kiri Khan province confirmed the location of the crash. Further details about the cause of the accident and the condition of the crew were not immediately released. Emergency responders and investigators are on-site assessing the situation and collecting evidence to determine the cause of the crash.

Student Knife Attack At French School Leaves 1 Dead, 3 Injured

Paris, (H.S): A high school student entered a school in western France's Nantes with a knife and stabbed at least four students, local media reported, citing the police. One of the victims died from injuries, according to BFMTV on Thursday, citing multiple sources.

Teachers stopped the attacker before police arrived, BFMTV said, adding that the attacker, a second-year high school student, has been detained, Xinhua news agency reported. The youth - whose identity has not been revealed but who had expressed an admiration for Adolf Hitler - was overcome by teachers after staging attacks in several classrooms, witnesses said. He was detained by police but hospitalised after a



psychiatric examination. The suspect sent a rambling email to other students just before the attacks. "The psychiatrist who examined the suspect concluded that his state of health is incompatible with the current police custody," Nantes prosecutor Antoine Leroy told reporters. SIn the latest case to shock France, the assailant attacked fellow students with a

knife at the Notre-Dame de Toutes-Aides grammar school in the western city of Nantes. Speaking at the scene, French Interior Minister Bruno Retailleau said that nearly 50 investigators have been deployed and worked "tirelessly" since. More than 70 interviews have been conducted, he added. French Prime Minister Francois Bayrou has called for an intensification

Russia: Nuclear Weapons an Option in Case of Western Aggression

Moscow, (H.S): Russia reserves the right to use nuclear weapons in the event of aggression by the West, the Russian Security Council Secretary Sergei Shoigu said on Thursday. "In November 2024, revisions were introduced to the Basic Principles of State Policy of the Russian Federation on Nuclear Deterrence, according to which Russia reserves the right to use nuclear arms in the event of aggression against it or the Republic of Belarus, including with the use of conventional weapons," Shoigu said in an interview to state-run news agency Tass.

According to the official, Russia is "carefully monitoring Europe's military preparations". "In accordance with Russia's National Security Strategy, in the event of foreign countries carrying out hostile actions representing a

threat to Russia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, our country considers it legitimate to take appropriate symmetric and asymmetric measures necessary to thwart such actions and prevent them from repeating," he reiterated. Shoigu further said that the nuclear deterrence "is being carried out with regard to countries and military coalitions that consider Russia a potential enemy and possess weapons of mass destruction or conventional armed forces with substantial military capabilities".

Additionally, he stated that such actions also involve countries who provide their territory and resources for preparing and carrying out aggression against Russia. "The goals of ensuring the integrity of Russia and Belarus' unified defensive space and joint implementation of events on

strategic deterrence were enshrined in the Security Concept of the Union State and the Treaty on security guarantees between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus approved in December 2024, which were developed with direct participation of security councils of both countries," Shoigu remarked. The senior Russian security official further warned that any deployment of peacekeepers to historical Russian lands would risk a third World War.

Shoigu pointed to plans by the "coalition of the willing" to put boots on the ground in Ukraine under the guise of peacekeepers. "Sensible politicians in Europe understand that the implementation of this scenario may lead to a direct confrontation between NATO and Russia or even cause WWII further down the road," he asserted.

Pahalgam Attack: Indian High Commission In London Holds Prayer Meet, Pays Solemn Tribute

London, (H.S): The High Commission of India in London held a solemn commemorative ceremony in memory of those killed in the Pahalgam terrorist attack and in solidarity with the spirit of India. The dignitaries and community members observed a moment of silence and stood in solidarity with India. The ceremony on Thursday was joined by the UK Minister Catherine West;

L. Murugan, Indian Union Minister of State in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs; UK Conservative Party Member of Parliament Bob Blackman; and UK Labour Party Member of Parliament Kanishka Narayan; Members of the UK House of Lords, Baroness Verma, Lord Raval, and Maharashtra's Minister of Social Justice, Sanjay Shirsat. Additionally, members of the Indian diaspora also joined in large numbers to pay their tributes to the innocent lives lost in the terror attack. "With one voice, they



affirmed that terrorism must not go unpunished - and that India will identify, track down, and bring to justice every terrorist, their handlers, and their backers. The commemoration concluded with the recital of a shloka from the Brihadaranyaka Upanishad, invoking peace and well-being for all," said the High Commission. Meanwhile, in his first address following the barbaric terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on

Thursday issued a strong and unequivocal message to the perpetrators of the violence, asserting that India will pursue them to the "ends of the earth" and that terrorism will not go unpunished. "India will identify, track and punish every terrorist, their handlers and their backers. We will pursue them to the ends of the earth. India's spirit will never be broken by terrorism," he said while addressing a massive gathering in Bihar's Madhubani. The brutal

assault, which has resulted in the death of 25 tourists and a local, and also 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 innocent tourists. The attack has been described as one of the most horrific in the region in recent memory.

According to Intelligence sources, Pakistan-based terror outfit The Resistance Front (TRF), an offshoot of the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba, has claimed responsibility for the attack. The attack has triggered a string of strong retaliatory diplomatic and strategic actions by India, including suspension of the Indus Water Treaty, expulsion of Pakistani military attaches, closure of the Attari-Wagah border, and cancellation of the SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme for Pakistani nationals.

'Vladimir, Stop': Trump Says after Russian Strikes on Kyiv

Washington, (H.S): US President Donald Trump on Thursday reacted angrily to Russian strikes on Kyiv, telling his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin to "STOP", marking a new and sharp change in tone in his remarks on the Russian leader. Nine persons were killed and more than 100 were impacted in a Russian airstrike overnight in what has been described as the largest attack on the Ukrainian capital this year.

I am not happy with the Russian strikes on Kyiv," President Donald Trump wrote on Truth Social. "Not necessary, and very bad timing. Vladimir, STOP! 5,000 soldiers a week are dying. Let's get the Peace Deal DONE!" President Trump has so far refrained from attacking the Russian leader, reiterating

multiple times the friendship between them. He has been far more critical of Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and slammed him on Wednesday for refusing to accept Russia's suzerainty over Crimea, which it snatched in 2014. President Trump's attempts to end the Russia-Ukraine war have stalemated in recent days. While Ukraine has accepted the US peace plan of a complete ceasefire, Russia has not and has continued attacking Ukraine.

Zelenskyy has sought a complete ceasefire before further talks. "It has been 44 days since Ukraine agreed to a full ceasefire and a halt to strikes," he wrote on X on Thursday. "This was a proposal from the United States. And it has been 44 days of Russia continuing to kill our people and

evading tough pressure and accountability for its actions. It is extremely important that everyone around the world sees and understands what is really happening. Nearly 70 missiles, including ballistic ones. And about 150 attack drones." US support under President Joe Biden enabled Ukraine to withstand the Russian onslaught for three years.

After taking office, President Trump has indicated that support is not for as long as it takes, as President Biden had vowed, and has sought access to Ukraine's rare earth reserves in exchange for the support and also pushed the two sides to end the war. He has obtained President Zelenskyy's agreement to his ceasefire plan, but has not made much headway with President Putin.

12,000 Afghan Nationals Caught With Fake Pakistani Passports In Saudi Arabia: Interior Committee

Islamabad, (H.S): Pakistan's Standing Committee on Interior has been informed that over 12,000 Afghan nationals were caught with fake Pakistani passports while travelling to Saudi Arabia in the past five years, raising serious concerns over tens of thousands more such cases of Afghan nationals being able to get fake Pakistani passports and using them to travel to different countries, including the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The revelation was done during a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Interior, which was briefed about the ongoing repatriation process and ongoing campaign to nab illegal Afghan nationals, along with the law and order situation in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Balochistan. "At least 12,000 people reached Saudi Arabia on fake Pakistani passports. Of them, 3,000 had



photo-swapped passports, while 6,000 passports were issued by tampering with the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) data," informed Director General Passports, Mustafa Jamal Qazi.

"Most of the people who travelled on these fake documents were deported to Afghanistan. None of them are now in Pakistan," he added. Qazi also revealed that strict action was taken against officials of NADRA and Passport

Department officials, including at least 35 Assistant Directors. The issue of Afghan nationals making fake identities and passports to travel abroad has been a serious challenge for years.

Reliable sources revealed that this is one of the reasons why countries like Saudi Arabia and the UAE have been rejecting visas for individuals from different cities of Pakistan. It is believed that thousands of Afghan nationals have been caught in possession of fake passports with their addresses

being of different urban and rural cities of Pakistan. "It is a fact that there are still thousands of Afghans in the UAE, with fake Pakistani identities and passports. The UAE government has been cracking down on them and has already arrested and deported many," said a Pakistani official in Dubai. Pakistan is in process of deporting and repatriating thousands of illegal Afghan nationals and holders of the Afghan Citizen Card (ACC).

As per details, over 80,000 Afghan nationals have returned to Afghanistan since April 1, 2025. In the latest and third phase of repatriation, Pakistani authorities have asked registered Afghan nationals, including holders of Proof of Registration (PoR) cards, to voluntarily return to Afghanistan, adding that formal deportation and crackdown against them would start after the end of April 30 deadline.

Iran's Ambassador To Lebanon Summoned Over Hezbollah Disarmament Remarks

Beirut, (H.S): Iranian Ambassador to Lebanon Mojtaba Amani was summoned to the Lebanese Foreign Ministry over remarks criticising efforts to disarm Hezbollah. According to the National News Agency on Thursday, the Ministry's Secretary-General, Hani Chmeitli, met with the Iranian ambassador and emphasised "the necessity of adhering to the diplomatic principles outlined in international agreements concerning the sovereignty of states and non-interference in their internal affairs, foremost among them the Vienna Convention".

The Iranian embassy in Lebanon announced in a statement that during the visit, the ambassador provided clarifications to the Lebanese side regarding the tweet he had recently posted, Xinhua news agency reported. In his X post on April 18, the ambassador said that "the disarmament project is



a clear conspiracy against nations ... Once these countries surrender to the demands of disarmament, they become vulnerable to attack and occupation, as was the case in Iraq, Libya, and Syria". He noted that its content was general and comprehensive, applying to all countries without exception, including Iran.

He added that this visit came as a precaution to avoid any misunderstanding or misinterpretation between the two countries regarding the content of his post. Amani also emphasised "the need to prevent

enemies from creating division between Iran and Lebanon," stressing that "vigilance and cooperation are the guarantee to thwart such attempts". The Iranian ambassador reaffirmed "Iran's firm commitment to supporting the independence, sovereignty,

stability, and security of the Lebanese Republic, as well as Iran's full readiness to enhance support and expand the horizons of bilateral cooperation in various fields". Iran is a major backer of the Hezbollah group. Last week, Hezbollah Secretary-General Naim Qassem said that his group

would not allow its disarmament. "We will never allow anyone to disarm Hezbollah or the resistance; this idea must be erased from consideration," Qassem said. Lebanese President Joseph Aoun also said on Tuesday that any differences regarding Hezbollah arms "would be resolved through communication and dialogue". A fragile ceasefire has been in place in Lebanon since November, ending months of cross-border warfare between Israel and Hezbollah, which escalated into a full-scale war in September.

Lebanese authorities have reported more than 2,764 Israeli violations of the truce, including the deaths of at least 194 victims and injuries to 485 others. Under the ceasefire deal, Israel was supposed to fully withdraw from southern Lebanon by January 26, but the deadline was extended to February 18 after Israel refused to comply. It still maintains a military presence at five border outposts.

US Reiterates Support For India After Pahalgam Attack

Washington, (H.S): The US on Thursday condemned the "heinous" terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, and reiterated support for India. It did not, however, hold Pakistan responsible for it but is monitoring the situation closely. The US stands with India and strongly condemns all acts of terrorism," Tammy Bruce, the US State Department Spokesperson, said at a news briefing, reiterating remarks by President Donald Trump and Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

We pray for the lives of those lost and for the recovery of the injured, and call for the perpetrators of this heinous act to be brought to justice. "Asked if the US saw Pakistan being behind the attacks, Bruce said, "It was a horrible situation, but at the same time, that's basically going to be the extent of the comments at this point. What I can tell you is, of course, as we all know, it's a rapidly changing situation, and we are monitoring it closely, as



you might imagine. And we, of course, are not now taking a position on the status of Kashmir or of Jammu either. "The US expressed support for India swiftly after the attack on Tuesday with President Donald Trump calling Prime Minister Narendra Modi later that day. US Vice-President J.D. Vance also addressed the attack leaving India after a four-day trip. "I want to just, of course, issue our condolences to the people of Kashmir who were affected by this terrible terrorist attack. The President has already spoken with Prime Minister Modi. I

believe I'll be speaking with him later this afternoon. And obviously, we're providing whatever assistance and help we can provide to the government and to the people of India. "The US and President Trump have been extremely supportive of India's battles against terrorism. The American leader personally announced the extradition of Tahawwur Rana, who was sought in India for his role in the 2008 Mumbai terrorist attacks, during Prime Minister Modi's visit to the White House in February. Rana is now in the custody of Indian law enforcement agencies.

EPFO Launches New Form 13 Functionality To Speed Up Transfer Claim Process



New Delhi, (PIB): The EPFO has further simplified the process for transfer of PF account on change of jobs by launching a revamped Form 13 software functionality that will speed up the transfer of funds to the new account, according to an official statement issued on Friday.

Henceforth, once the transfer claim gets approved at the transferor (source) office, the previous account will automatically get transferred to the present account of the member at the transferee (destination) office instantly, furthering the aim of "Ease of Living" for members of the EPFO. Till now, the transfer of PF accumulations used to happen with the involvement of two EPF offices. One, from which the PF accumulation is transferred

(source office) and the second being the EPF office to which the transfer is actually credited (destination office).Now, with an aim to further simplify the process, the EPFO has removed the requirement of approval of all transfer claims at the destination office by launching a revamped Form 13 software functionality, the statement said.

The move is expected to benefit more than 1.25 crore members, facilitating the transfer of around Rs 90,000 crore that takes place every year, as the entire transfer process will be speeded up.This revamped Form 13 functionality also provides the bifurcation of taxable and non-taxable components of PF accumulations to facilitate the accurate calculation of TDS on taxable PF interest.In January this

year, the EPFO made the transfer process easier by removing the requirement of approval from an employer in a majority of the cases of job change in jobs to make things easier for its members.The EPFO has also launched a facility for bulk generation of UAN by employers without Aadhaar seeding to facilitate the ease of doing business.

With a view to further Ease of Doing Business and to address the grievances being raised with respect to proper accounting of the past accumulations that had been remitted to the EPFO by the Exempted PF Trusts consequent to the surrender/cancellation of exemption and also in other cases involving remittance of past period contributions consequent to quasi-judicial/recovery proceedings, it has been decided

by the EPFO to relax the requirement of Aadhaar for generation of UAN/credit of past accumulations for such members, the official statement said.Also, a facility for bulk generation of UANs based on the Member ID & other member information available on record, so as to enable prompt crediting of funds in the accounts of such members has been provided.

To that effect, a software functionality has already been deployed and made available to the field offices in the FO Interface for bulk generation of UANs in the above said cases and also account for the past accumulations without the requirement of Aadhaar in EPFO Application, the statement said.

However, as a measure of risk mitigation to protect the PF accumulations, all such UANs would be kept in a frozen state and subsequently made operational only after the seeding of Aadhaar, the statement said.All these measures are expected to significantly improve services to members and reduce long-standing grievances, including further streamlining of validations for auto settlement of eligible claims, the statement added.

India's Steel Industry Poised For Global Growth, Focus on FTAs & Self-Reliance: Piyush Goyal



Mumbai, (H.S): India's steel industry is set to play a significant role in meeting both domestic and global demand, Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said on Friday. The minister emphasised India's position as a highly efficient, cost-effective, and high-quality producer of steel, asserting that the sector will not only cater to India's growing needs but also contribute significantly to global demand in an increasingly competitive environment."

The country is actively pursuing free trade agreements (FTAs) with countries and regional blocs, including the European Union (EU), the United Kingdom (UK), the United States (US), and New Zealand, to gain greater access for its steel products," Goyal said at the sidelines of the Steel India 2025 event here."

India is consistently focused on self-reliance (Atmanirbharta). But when we talk about Atmanirbharta, we are not closing the doors to the world. We are, in fact, opening the doors wider because every

country will have its competitive advantages for different products," the minister said.India is currently negotiating 10-12 such agreements to ensure that its steel, known for its cost-effectiveness and high quality, is available to international markets, the Union Minister added.

Goyal also mentioned that India's steel industry is well-positioned to contribute to the growing needs of the world while also addressing the needs of domestic consumers."The government remains vigilant and proactive in protecting the steel industry against unfair trading practices," he stated."India has

already taken steps to safeguard its industry from the dumping of steel at irrationally low prices, as identified in a quasi-judicial inquiry by the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR)," Goyal noted.India's commitment to boosting its steel sector is reflected in its diplomatic efforts to engage with key trading partners.

With the global trade environment becoming more uncertain, India's push for FTAs is crucial in ensuring continued access to international markets. The trade pact with the UK is reportedly near completion, and negotiations for the proposed bilateral trade agreement (BTA) with the US are advancing ahead of schedule.

Centre Notifies New Rules For GST Appellate Tribunal

New Delhi, (H.S): The government has notified the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) (Procedure) Rules which make it online filing of applications mandatory, provide for hybrid hearings and listing of cases on an urgent basis steps that will make the adjudication process simpler for businesses.The notification states that the rules come into effect from April 24, 2025, and the GSTAT portal has already gone live.

The move marks a major step in streamlining tax litigation under the GST regime. Under the new rules, all appeals and applications must be filed digitally via the official GSTAT portal.The framework, laid out in 15 chapters, covers procedures from the admission of appeals to hearings and final orders. The Tribunal will allow hybrid hearings - either in person or through video conferencing - as approved by the Tribunal President.It has also set strict



timelines and said that urgent appeals filed by noon can be listed on the next working day and late filings by 3 p.m. can also be listed with permission on the next working day. Respondents will have to reply within one month and applicants can file a rejoinder also within one month. The tribunal will issue orders within a period of 30 days from the date of the final hearing, excluding holidays.The tribunal will sit on all working days from 10.30 a.m.-1.30 p.m. and 2.30 p.m.-4.30 p.m., with possible extensions while the office remain open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on

working days.A daily cause list will be posted online and on notice boards, prioritising order pronouncements, clarifications, and admissions. Experts are of the view that on online filings would reduce delays and help in faster resolution of tax disputes.The GSTAT is the Appellate Authority under the GST Act to hear appeals on tax disputes against the orders passed by the Appellate or Revisional authorities. Its Principal Bench is based in New Delhi and has 31 State Benches located across the country, with sittings in 44 different locations

New Delhi, (H.S): India could allow foreign companies to take a stake of up to 49% in its nuclear power plants, three government sources said, as New Delhi draws up plans to open up its most guarded sector to help achieve goals to cut carbon emissions. The government has considered changing its nuclear foreign investment framework since 2023. The need to increase nuclear capacity, however, has become pressing as India seeks to replace carbon-intensive coal with cleaner sources of energy.

Investment in the sector has the potential to spur tariff negotiations with the United States, although the officials could not say whether the issue would be linked to any trade deal. In 2008, a civil nuclear agreement with the United States provided for deals worth many billions of dollars with U.S. companies. The companies, however, have been deterred by the risk of unlimited exposure in the event of any accident and no foreign



investment has been allowed in India's nuclear plants. If the latest proposals go through, together with plans to ease nuclear liability laws and allow domestic private players into the sector, they could remove the impediments to government aims to expand nuclear power capacity by 12 times to 100 gigawatts by 2047. The sources said any foreign nuclear investments would still require prior government approval rather than be allowed automatically. India's finance ministry, department of atomic energy and the prime minister's

office did not respond to Reuters' queries. All three sources asked not to be named because the proposals are still under consideration. They said the necessary legal changes were likely to be placed before the federal cabinet soon and that the government aims to get the amendments to the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act of 2010 and the Atomic Energy Act of 1960 passed in the monsoon session of Parliament in July. Amendments to the Atomic Energy Act would allow the government to issue licences to

private companies to build, own and operate a plant and mine and manufacture atomic fuel, the three sources said. Under the government's control, total Indian nuclear generation is just over 8 GW, 2% of the country's installed electricity capacity. As the country seeks to shift away from coal, it is seeking to supplement wind and solar with atomic energy to meet high night-time energy demand.

The atomic energy department has said foreign companies including Westinghouse Electric, GE-Hitachi, Electricite de France and Rosatom were interested in participating in the country's nuclear power projects as technology partners, suppliers, contractors and service providers. Indian conglomerates, including Reliance Industries, Tata Power, Adani Power, and Vedanta Ltd, have also held discussions with the government to invest about \$26 billion in the nuclear power sector.

RBI cancels licence of Jalandhar-based Imperial Urban Co-op Bank



New Delhi, (H.S): The Reserve Bank of India on Friday said it has cancelled the licence of Jalandhar-based Imperial Urban Co-operative Bank as the lender does not have adequate capital and earning prospects. The Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Government of Punjab has also been requested to issue an order for winding up of the bank and appoint a liquidator for the bank. On liquidation, every depositor would be entitled to receive deposit insurance claim amount of his/her deposits up to Rs 5 lakh from Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC). As per the data submitted by the bank, RBI said 97.79 per cent of the depositors are entitled to receive the full amount of their deposits from DICGC. As on January 31, 2025 DICGC has already paid Rs 5.41 crore of the total insured deposits. Giving reasons for cancellation of the licence of Imperial Urban Co-operative Bank, the RBI said the continuance of the bank is prejudicial to the interests of its depositors.

Confident that new batch of officers will advance vision of Viksit Bharat by promoting economic progress & social equality: MoS Shri Pankaj Chaudhary

New Delhi, (PIB): Union Minister of State for Finance Shri Pankaj Chaudhary presided over the Passing Out Parade today as Chief Guest of the 75th batch of 42 Indian Revenue Service (Customs & Indirect Taxes) officer trainees, including 25 men and 17 lady officers at NACIN, Palasamudram.

Five officers are from the Royal Government of Bhutan were also part of the training programme. Also present were Shri Sanjay Kumar Agarwal, Chairman, CBIC, Ms Aruna Narayan Gupta, Member, CBIC, and Dr. M. Subramanyam, Director General, NACIN, along with senior officers of CBIC and dignitaries. The Passing Out Parade, National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes & Narcotics (NACIN), Palasamudram, marks the culmination of an intensive 18-month training programme and



commences their journey as Karmayogi, dedicated to safeguarding India's economic interests. The ceremony commenced with a solemn observance of mourning and tribute for the victims of the tragic Pahalgam incident, with officers and dignitaries stood in silence to honour victims' memory. In his address on the occasion, Shri Chaudhary commended the batch's achievements and emphasised their responsibility in building a transparent and accountable tax system. Shri Chaudhary highlighted the role of

IRS officers in economic growth and urged them to lead with courage and clarity. The Minister expressed confidence in their ability to advance the Government's vision of Viksit Bharat by promoting economic progress and social equality. In his address, Shri Sanjay Kumar Agarwal, Chairman, CBIC, congratulated the 75th batch officers and outlined their pivotal role in revenue mobilisation, trade facilitation, and national development and urged them to stay updated, uphold integrity, and embrace digital

transformation to serve efficiently. Shri Agarwal further urged them for a balance between enforcement and facilitation, encouraging officers to lead with empathy, confidence, and discipline.

In her address, Ms. Aruna Narayan Gupta, Member, CBIC, stressed on ethical conduct, empathy and continuous learning, while underscoring "Sevabhav" as a foundational quality for IRS officers, urging them to approach their duties with empathy, humility and a service-oriented mindset.

She emphasised that public servants must remain accessible, fair and citizen-centric in their conduct, reinforcing that serving people is at the heart of governance. In his address, Dr. M. Subramanyam, Director General, NACIN, congratulated the officers as they are the first batch to undergo their entire

foundational training at the newly developed NACIN Palasamudram campus, making the occasion a historic milestone for the academy.

Further emphasising adaptability, public service and the importance of integrity in shaping modern tax officers, he expressed pride in the academy's evolving capabilities, highlighting its advanced training infrastructure and growing international collaborations.

The parade included a display of drills, showcasing the professionalism and discipline of the officers and also reaffirmed NACIN's role as a world-class institution committed to excellence in training and nation-building. The event concluded with the officers taking a solemn pledge to uphold the values of integrity and service as they step into their roles as economic enablers and defenders of the nation.

TRAI releases recommendations on 'the issues Related to Critical Services in the M2M Sector & Transfer of Ownership of M2M SIMs'

New Delhi, (PIB): Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has today released its recommendations on 'the issues Related to Critical Services in the M2M Sector, and Transfer of Ownership of M2M SIMs'. Earlier, Department of Telecommunications (DoT), through its letter dated 01.01.2024, had referred to the TRAI's recommendations dated 05.09.2017 on 'Spectrum, Roaming and QoS related requirements in Machine-to-

Machine (M2M) Communications', and had requested TRAI to provide reconsidered recommendations, as per the provisions of Section 11 of the TRAI Act 1997 on the following issues:Identification of Critical Services in the M2M Sector. Transfer of Ownership of M2M SIMsIn this regard, TRAI, on 24.06.2024, issued a consultation paper on 'the Issues Related to Critical Services in the M2M Sector, and Transfer of Ownership of M2M SIMs' for

soliciting comments and counter comments from stakeholders. In response, TRAI received 16 comments and one counter-comment from stakeholders. An open house discussion on the consultation paper was held on 24.10.2024 through virtual mode.Based on the comments received from stakeholders and on its own analysis, TRAI has finalized its recommendations on 'the Issues Related to Critical Services in the M2M Sector, and Transfer of Ownership of M2M

SIMs'.Machine to Machine (M2M) communication can enable applications and services across a broad range of vertical markets such as automotive, utilities, healthcare, safety & surveillance, financial, public safety, smart city and agriculture. At present, the M2M ecosystem is at an early stage of growth of its lifecycle. As the M2M ecosystem matures, and thereby gains user confidence, more and more services will be delivered to individuals, enterprises and

public institutions by using Internet of Things (IoT). Many of such services would be critical IoT services, requiring ultra-reliable, low latency M2M connectivity with very high availability. As critical IoT will be used for delivering services of critical importance, the identification of services as critical IoT service requires to be done well in advance. The identification of a service as a critical IoT service would enable user agencies to enter into suitable service level

agreements (SLAs) with telecom service providers. Through the SLAs, telecom service providers may be held accountable for ensuring that the M2M connectivity provided by them meets the requisite telecommunication service performance parameters (such as latency, reliability, and availability) which are sacrosanct for the successful operation of the concerned critical IoT service. Through these recommendations, TRAI has recommended a broad guiding framework for classifying a

service as a 'critical IoT service'. TRAI has recommended that a service should be classified as a 'critical IoT service', if it passes the following twin tests:Whether the service (application) demands ultra-reliable low-latency M2M connectivity with very high availability? Whether any disruption of the M2M connectivity used for delivering the service (application) will have a debilitating impact on national security, economy, public health, or public safety?



Hina Reacts to Pahalgam Terrorist Attack: "Heartbroken as an Indian"

Hina Khan has broken her silence on the devastating terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu & Kashmir. On Thursday (April 24), the actress shared a lengthy note on Instagram, condemning the heinous incident. Hina Khan wrote, "Condolences. Dark Day. Teary Eyes. Condemnation. Calls of Compassion. Nothing means anything if we fail to accept reality. If we don't accept what really happened, especially as Muslims, everything else is just talk. Simple talk. A couple of tweets and that's it."

The actress added that the tragic incident left her heartbroken, affecting her mental health. She said, "The way this attack was conducted by heartless, inhuman, brainwashed terrorists who claim to be Muslims is beyond appalling. I can't imagine if a Muslim was forced to revoke his religion at gunpoint and was killed anyway. It breaks my heart." Hina Khan added, "As a Muslim, I want to apologise to all my fellow Hindus and my fellow Indians. People who lost their lives. Heartbroken as an Indian. Heartbroken as a Muslim. I can't get over what happened in Pahalgam." "It has affected me and my mental health. But it's not about me, and it's not my pain. It's the pain of

everyone who has lost their loved ones. It's the pain every Indian is feeling. I am praying for their strength and peace. I am praying for the souls whom we lost. And we must not mince words. I condemn it. I reject it. And I hate those who did it. Wholeheartedly, absolutely, unconditionally," she wrote. Additionally, Hina Khan asserted that she stands in solidarity with the nation. She said, "Those who did this can follow any religion. They are not human beings to me. As embarrassed as I am by the acts of some Muslims, I pray to my

fellow Indians not to alienate all of us. All of us who call India our home and our motherland. If we end up fighting each other, we would be doing what they want us to do, to divide us, to keep us fighting and we must not let that happen as Indians." "As an Indian, I stand with my nation, our security forces, and I support our country. As an Indian, I believe all religions are safe and the same in my beautiful country. I will support my country's resolve to avenge this unconditionally. No excuses. No questions," the note read. Hina Khan also requested everyone to "bring back our brothers and sisters from the Kashmiri Pandit community", emphasising her belief in co-existence. On a concluding note, Hina Khan prayed for "justice as an Indian, as a Muslim and as a human being."

"We all must come together and support India in these testing times. Let's not give them what they want. We must come together as one, people. No politics. No divisions. No hate. No matter what. We are Indians first. Jai Hind," were her concluding words. Hina Khan was diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer last year. She is currently undergoing treatment for the medical condition.

Ground Zero review: Emraan's thriller drags but pays off well

Though unplanned, the release of Ground Zero comes at a particularly relevant moment following the Pahalgam attack. The nation is upset, angry, and amidst all this, when a film about unrest in Kashmir and India's bravery comes to the fore, it is bound to find takers.

The film revolves around the operation to take down terrorist Rana Tahir Nadeem, or Ghazi Baba, led by BSF officer Narendra Nath Dhar Dubey (played by Emraan Hashmi). The story begins with the 'Pistol gang', which has been killing BSF officers stationed in JnK in the early 2000s, and Narendra wants to nab the mastermind behind these heinous attacks. But all attention and manpower is diverted towards the 2001 Indian Parliament attack. Another attack follows. The pace of the screenplay is good, as we get sucked into this world of intelligence and counter-terrorism.



Ground Zero benefits from being based on real life incidents, and also combining real footage as part of the on-screen recreation. The makers (director Tejas Prabha Vijay Deoskar and producers Farhan Akhtar and Ritesh Sidhwani) have good material in hand. Written by Sanchit Gupta and Priyadarshree Srivastava, the film maintains a balance between showcasing the professional and private lives of people who risk it out every day for us and the country. It also touches upon the

brainwashing of the youth, lured into an uncertain life in the name of religion. But since there is so much to take in, the length seems like a hindrance. It's something the editor Chandrashekhar Prajapati could have done a better job on, but there's coherence in whatever unfolds. Authenticity in the BSF's portrayal shows. The makers have rightfully consulted a lot of high-ranking officers during the making, which explains the long list of people thanked as the film begins.

Jewel Thief - The Heist Begins Review: Saif & Jaideep Star in Stylish Snoozefest



A red diamond brings the worst out of two men—a criminal kingpin and a globetrotting con artist—in Jewel Thief - The Heist Begins. The trouble is, it does not spare the film either. Jewel Thief - The Heist Begins, all style and no substance, is an abomination of monumental proportions. Beyond trite, it rests on a premise that should have been snuffed out on paper itself. The precious object that two combatants are ready to die for is of African provenance. It triggers a rigmarole that traverses the world-Budapest, Istanbul, Mumbai-for inspiration. It finds none. The heist thriller piles inanity upon inanity and never pauses to ponder why. Produced by Siddharth Anand's Marflix Pictures, the Netflix film is directed by Kookie Gulati and Robbie Grewal. It has come from the stable that delivered War, Pathaan, and Fighter. Don't let that fool you.

Unscrupulous art collector Rajan Aulakh (Jaideep Ahlawat) hits a momentary rough patch. He pins his hopes on the Red Sun to bail him out of the tight spot he is in. He blackmails Rehan Roy (Saif Ali Khan) into agreeing to rob the priceless diamond from a museum in Mumbai. Rehan has a dad somewhere in his backstory. The two do not see eye to eye. Rajan has a blood fetish (more on that later) that leads him into heinous deeds and dangerous deals. An agreement with an Istanbul crime lord Moosa (Laitongbam Dorendra Singh), a man he has a history of violence with, forces him to turn to Rehan. As Rajan and Rehan engage in a battle of attrition, it isn't the coveted stone alone that has Rehan's attention. Rajan's comely but unhappy wife Farah (Nikita Dutta), too, is in his sight. When the film begins to meander, the heist shifts from the ground to the sky, from an art museum in Mumbai where the precious stone is on display to a commercial jetliner ferrying a prince and his entourage to London. But no matter how hard it tries, Jewel Thief - The Heist Begins struggles to lift itself out of its mediocrity. Rehan is weighed down by the guilt of having broken away from his family—a do-gooder doctor-dad (Kulbhushan Kharbada), a feckless kid brother (Gagan Arora) and a mother whose death he has not been able to live down. Rajan, driven by greed and a craze for power, revels in drawing blood at the slightest provocation.

Cast: Saif Ali Khan, Jaideep Ahlawat, Kunal Kapoor, Nikita Dutta, Director: Robbie Grewal, Kookie Gulati

Sanjay Leela's Love & War Release Might Be Delayed

The official announcement of Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Love & War was made in January 2024. The caption of the post read, "We Bring You Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Epic Saga 'Love & War.' See You At The Movies, Christmas 2025." Fans are ecstatic to witness powerhouses Alia Bhatt, Ranbir Kapoor, and Vicky Kaushal coming together in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's epic romantic drama. The initial release of the film was locked in by the makers for Christmas 2025 which was then postponed to March 2026. However, sources have now revealed to The Hollywood Reporter that Sanjay Leela Bhansali plans to mount a larger-than-life war sequence between Ranbir Kapoor and Vicky Kaushal. Taking into consideration, the massive scale of the film, the release might get postponed from March 2026. The source told The Hollywood



Reporter, "The current shooting timeline of Love & War involves a mega war sequence, which Bhansali will mount on a huge scale. But that will only be shot in November."

Furthermore, the source added, "After the sequence is filmed, which promises to be of an epic scale involving Vicky and Ranbir, the team aims to wrap up by January 2026. It will be impossible for Love & War to finish post-production and come

on the big screen two months later in March. So the film might get pushed." As for the plot of Love & War, not much has been revealed. The film marks Alia Bhatt's second collaboration with Sanjay Leela Bhansali after the 2022 blockbuster Gangubai Kathiawadi. It also marks the ace director's second project with Ranbir Kapoor after his debut Saawariya in 2007. Vicky Kaushal will be working with the filmmaker for the first time.

No India vs Pak in World Cups after Pahalgam Attack: BCCI

New Delhi, (HS): A terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Kashmir, which claimed 26 lives on 22 April, has led to widespread condemnation and raised questions about future cricket encounters between India and Pakistan. The terrorists targeted tourists at the scenic Baisaran meadows. This tragic event has further strained the already tense relationship between the neighbouring countries, prompting debate over their interactions on the cricket field.

For the past decade, India and Pakistan's cricket matches have been restricted to International Cricket Council (ICC) tournaments and continental cups, with their last bilateral series taking place in 2012-2013. These matches garner immense global attention, often being scheduled in the same group stages to maximise viewership. Amidst the aftermath of the attack, speculations have emerged suggesting that the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) may have requested that the ICC ensure India and Pakistan do not compete in the initial stages of



forthcoming cricket events. However, Cricbuzz reported a senior BCCI official responding to these claims, stating, "We are unaware of such a request being made, and no formal communication on the matter has been initiated yet." No men's ICC events are slated for this year, with the Women's World Cup scheduled to take place in India from September to October. As previously agreed, Pakistan's matches will occur at a neutral venue. Similarly, the men's Asia

Cup, also to be hosted by India, will proceed at a neutral site to align with past agreements. Expressing solidarity with the victims, BCCI Vice-President Rajeev Shukla said, "We strictly adhere to government directives concerning bilateral series with Pakistan. While we refrain from such series, we participate in ICC events under the organisation's obligations." BCCI Secretary Devajit Saikia expressed his sorrow for the lives lost in Pahalgam. "The cricket fraternity is deeply shocked by the tragic

events in Pahalgam," he said, extending condolences to affected families and offering prayers for those lost.

"The cricketing community is deeply shocked and anguished by the tragic loss of innocent lives in the gruesome terror attack at Pahalgam yesterday. On behalf of the BCCI, while condemning this ghastly and cowardly act with strongest possible words, I extend our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and prayers for the departed souls.

Pakistan Star Withdraws from National Team for Mental Health



Karachi, (HS): Pakistan women's team veteran Nida Dar has withdrawn from national selection because of mental health issues, a first in the country's cricket. Nida, 39, a former captain of the national women's team, said in a social media post on Friday that she has taken a break from cricket. "In the past few months, a lot has happened around me personally and professionally, which has taken a toll on my mental health. Therefore, I have decided to take a break from cricket to focus on myself. I request everyone to respect my privacy during this time," she said. The all-rounder, who is one of the most recognisable faces in Pakistan women's cricket, said she had informed the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) about her situation.

Neeraj's 'Integrity Questioned' for Inviting Arshad Nadeem

New Delhi, (HS): India's javelin hero Neeraj Chopra broke his silence on inviting Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem for an event that will take place at Bengaluru in May 2025. While Nadeem declined the invitation, Neeraj has come under a lot of criticism following the Pahalgam terror attacks. The Olympic gold medalist was criticised heavily on social media for inviting a Pakistan athlete while the country was shaken by the attack in Jammu and Kashmir. However, Neeraj clarified that the invitations were sent much before the attack and slammed the "hate and abuse" directed towards him as well as his family.

"I usually am a man of few words, but that doesn't mean I will not speak up against what I think is wrong. More so when it comes to questioning my love for our country, and the respect and honour of my family. There has been so much talk about my decision to invite Arshad Nadeem to compete in the Neeraj Chopra Classic, and most of it has been hate and abuse," he wrote on X (formerly Twitter). "They haven't even left my family out of it. The invitation I extended to



Arshad was from one athlete to another - nothing more, nothing less. The aim of the NC Classic was to bring the best athletes to India and for our country to be the home of world-class sporting events. Invites had gone out to all athletes on Monday, two days before the terrorist attacks at Pahalgam." "After all that has taken place over the last 48 hours, Arshad's presence at the NC Classic was completely out of the question. My country and its interests will always come first. To those that are going through the loss of their people, my thoughts and prayers are with you. Along with the entire nation, I am both hurt and angry at what has taken place."

"I am confident that our country's response will show

our strength as a nation and justice will be served. I have carried my country with pride for so many years now, and so it hurts to see my integrity being questioned. It pains me that I have to explain myself to people who are targeting me and my family, with no good reason. We are simple people, please don't make us out to be anything else." "I also find it difficult to understand how people switch opinions. When my mother, in her simplicity, had made an innocent comment a year ago, there was an outpouring of praise for her views. I, meanwhile, will work even harder to ensure that the world remembers India and looks at it with envy and respect for all the right reasons. Jai Hind," he concluded.

Kalinga Super Cup: Punjab Face Goa for Spot in Semis

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): Punjab FC riding on their dominant victory against Odisha FC, will face FC Goa for a spot in the semi-finals when they face each other in the second quarterfinal of the Kalinga Super Cup which will be played on Saturday here at the Kalinga Stadium. Punjab FC eased past Odisha FC 3-0 while FC Goa also got the better of I-League side Gokulam Kerala FC by the same scoreline for a spot in the quarterfinals. The match is scheduled to kick off at 8 pm. The Shers put in a dominant display in the Round of 16 against the home



side with Asmir Suljic, Ezequiel Vidal and Nihal Sudeesh scoring the goals. Iker Guarrotxena scored a hat trick for the Goan side and

will be the main threat for Punjab's defence. Speaking ahead of the game head coach, Panagiotis Dilmeris said, "We took our chances against Odisha and converted them. Odisha created a lot of chances against us, which would be the most by any team against us in the season and I would like that to be not repeated tomorrow against Goa." Asked about the squad and the injury concerns, Dilmeris said, "We had some players who did not feature in the first match including Luka Majcen and Filip Mrzljak. They have trained ahead of the

quarterfinals and we hope to have a full squad for tomorrow's match." FC Goa did the double over Punjab FC in the Indian Super League season winning 2-1 in Goa and 0-1 in New Delhi. Punjab will look to snap that record and get the better of their opponents and book their spot in the semi-finals. "We played well against Goa in both the matches but could not get the desired results. We hope to keep playing like we did in the first game and get a win against them tomorrow," said Punjab FC youngster Muhammad Suhail F.