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English Daily



## CM To Hold Public Grievance Hearing In Berhampur

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC) :** Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has announced that a public grievance hearing will soon be held in Berhampur. The Chief Minister shared this information during his address at the centenary celebrations of Bhimpur Advanced (Unnita) High School in Ganjam district on Sunday. "The Chief Minister's grievance cell will soon commence operations in Berhampur and I will personally visit the city to conduct the grievance hearing," said Majhi, speaking at the centenary event of the institution that has played a pivotal role in the region's educational landscape.

In his address, Majhi also highlighted the historical significance of Bhimpur High School, which was established on March 15, 1924. He emphasized that the school has been a beacon of knowledge for over a century, serving the educational needs of the community.

## Enemies of Kashmir and nation seek to disrupt region's remarkable progress: PM

**New Delhi, (HS) :** Five days after the deadly terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Kashmir, Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed deep anguish and reiterated India's strongest-ever stance against terrorism and those who support it. In his monthly radio programme Mann Ki Baat on Sunday, the Prime Minister spoke at length about the pain and anger felt across the nation. "Today as I speak to you in Mann Ki Baat, there is a deep anguish in my heart. The terrorist incident that took place in Pahalgam on the 22nd of April has hurt every citizen of the country," he said.

He affirmed that justice for the victims will be ensured without fail. "Every Indian holds deep sympathies for the affected families," he added. The Prime Minister noted that the pain is not limited by geography or language. "No matter which state one belongs to, no matter which language one speaks, one is feeling the pain of those who have lost their loved ones in this attack. I can feel that the blood of every Indian is on the boil after seeing the pictures of the terrorist attack," he said. Taking direct aim at the forces behind the violence, he said, "This



attack in Pahalgam shows the desperation of the patrons of terrorism; displays their cowardice... at a time when peace was returning to Kashmir, there was a vibrancy in schools and colleges, construction work had gained unprecedented pace, democracy was getting stronger, the number of tourists was increasing at a record rate, people's income was increasing, new opportunities were being created for the youth." He underlined that enemies of the nation and of Jammu and Kashmir were frustrated with the region's progress. "The

terrorists and the masterminds of terror want Kashmir to be destroyed again and hence they executed such a big conspiracy," he said. "In this war against terrorism, the unity of the country, the solidarity of 140 crore Indians, is our biggest strength. This unity is the basis of our decisive fight against terrorism," the Prime Minister asserted. Urging the public to remain resolute, he said, "We have to strengthen our resolve to face this challenge that has surfaced before the country. We have to demonstrate strong willpower as a nation. Today the

world is watching, after this terrorist attack, the whole country is speaking in one voice."

He also highlighted the support India has received from the global community. "The anger that we the people of India feel, that anger is there in the whole world. After this terrorist attack, condolences are continuously pouring in from all over the world. Global leaders have called me up as well; written letters and sent messages too. Everyone has strongly condemned this heinous terrorist attack," he said. "They have expressed condolences to the families of the deceased. The whole world stands with 140 crore Indians in our fight against terrorism. I once again assure the affected families that they will get justice, and justice will be done. The perpetrators and conspirators of this attack will be served with the harshest response," the Prime Minister said. Meanwhile, sources said the Indian Army has moved into position to counter terror threats, with the next 48 hours being crucial in the operation. The government is reportedly maintaining strict vigilance over terror sympathisers, both in Jammu and Kashmir and across other parts of the country.

## CM Emphasizes Education's Role in Shaping Odisha's Future at Bhimpur High School Centenary



**Bhubaneswar, (DMC) :** Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi underscored the pivotal role of education in shaping a prosperous Odisha as the state approaches its centenary in 2036. He made these remarks during the centenary celebrations of Bhimpur Advanced (Unnita) High School in Ganjam district on Sunday. The Chief Minister began by paying tribute to the school's founder, the revered teacher Bhagwan Panda. Majhi noted that Bhimpur High School, which commenced its journey on March 15, 1924, has been a beacon of knowledge in the region for over 100 years.

Reflecting on the history of education in India, Majhi discussed the traditional Guru-

Shishya system and contrasted it with the British-era education policy, which, he said, primarily focused on creating clerks and officers rather than fostering true knowledge and character. He lamented the continuation of this system even after India gained independence.

"The true purpose of education is to nurture responsible citizens who can contribute to building a strong society," Majhi asserted. He commended the changes brought about in India's education system under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, particularly the introduction of the National Education Policy

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## ଅଶୁଦ୍ଧତା ସତର୍କତା

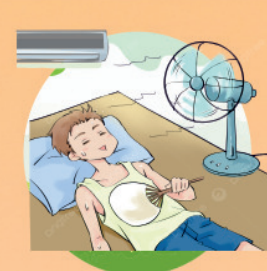
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## Opposition Support

In the aftermath of Tuesday's terror strike in Pahalgam, take a minute, rewind to the pre-Tuesday polity. It was a story of polarisation-as-usual, with the government digging its heels in, the Opposition not giving any quarter to the government. The recent debate in Parliament on the Waqf Bill had brought a rare instance of both acknowledging each other, if only to lock horns. Against this backdrop, Tuesday is a turning point. The toll of the horrific act of terror has been devastating, leaving in its wake a stunned nation and grieving households across states. But Tuesday has also brought together, for now, a warring political class, the government with the Opposition, on a common ground of empathy and solidarity with families of the 26 Indians whose lives were cut short so cruelly. As it rolled out a series of steps in its coercive diplomacy to further isolate Pakistan and increase the international pressure on it, the government held an all-party meeting on Thursday to brief its political opponents and bring them on board. And even as some members of the Opposition raised questions of security and intelligence lapses - legitimately, after a tragedy as grave as this one - all pledged support to the government in the action it takes in this sobering moment in the interest of the country. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that "India's spirit will never be broken by terrorism". That spirit is renewed and reinforced when parties across the political-ideological spectrum set aside their differences. In a challenging time, they will need to play not only a representative but also a bridging role. Even as some TV and social media warriors are using this moment to deepen divides and stoke faultlines, political parties must know that a much larger India lies beyond them, which all this noise - shrill and empty - and posturing cannot obscure. In this larger nation, stories abound of how, in the terror attack in which those who were targeted were identified by their names and their faith, neither mattered when locals rushed to help the victim, lent a shoulder and more, and later, when schools and colleges, shops and business establishments in the Valley downed their shutters to express their pain and solidarity. This India is compassionate and encompassing, it will not let itself be defined or distorted by a terrorist's strike, however devastating.

In this India, someone from Bengal and Gujarat, Maharashtra and Kerala, Karnataka and Arunachal Pradesh can plan a dream-come-true holiday in heartbreakingly beautiful Pahalgam, and students from Kashmir can go to other states to study and make a home away from home. That's why the safety of the tourist in the Valley needs to be secured urgently. And no walls must be allowed to come up that could have the effect of isolating Jammu and Kashmir. Because that would be exactly what the terrorists and their handlers intended. The united political front in the wake of Pahalgam not only empowers the government as it hunts the terrorist down, it should also stand for an unequivocal assertion of the nation's spirit that will never be broken.

28th April

## BraveHearts Day



We believe everyone fighting pediatric cancer is a brave warrior, and National BraveHearts Day on April 28 perfectly captures this sentiment. This day was founded to honor the strength and bravery of people affected by pediatric cancer, including the kids, their parents, families, loved ones, and everyone else who cares.

Fighting cancer is extremely hard at the best of times; imagine if you were doing it alone! Now imagine how much worse this situation is for a child who is affected. Families dealing with pediatric cancer need all the support and love they can get. Amy and Jeremy Jacobs knew how lonely this fight could be; after all, they had been through this exact situation when their toddler was diagnosed with a medulloblastoma brain tumor. To help and support others like them who were faced with a pediatric cancer diagnosis, they launched the BraveHearts For Kids organization. They offer help, support, guidance, and resources completely free of cost and use all the money from individual contributions across various support programs. This organization founded National BraveHearts Day to help people recognize the kids, parents, loved ones, and others who care for these heroes. Now, each year, April 28 is observed as National BraveHearts Day. Amy and Jeremy Jacobs' daughter Ava is diagnosed with a brain tumor at 13 months of age. The Jacobs' set up the BraveHearts For Kids organization to support people fighting pediatric cancer. BraveHearts For Kids initiates National BraveHearts Day, which is observed on April 28 each year. The organization launches the Spotlight Hope app, which connects people to free resources to help navigate each stage of their pediatric cancer journey. It is a day dedicated to children fighting cancer and everyone affected by it. The more you share awareness about this day, the more lives you can touch.

If you've come across anyone who could benefit from the resources the Spotlight app provides, let them know. No one should have to battle this illness alone. Know someone fighting childhood cancer? Be generous with your time; let them know your support and care are always with them.



Raghunath Mahapatra

Even before, we can trace some elements of what we can define as "a job" in primate populations, the capability for some apes to produce tools is probably the nearest concept that we can trace.. As time waltzed through the epochs, jobs evolved in tandem with the unfolding human narrative. The agrarian age saw the rise of farmers, sowers of sustenance, while the industrial revolution birthed the era of factories and specialized labor. The digital age, ushered in a paradigm shift, birthing jobs that dance in the realms of technology, information, and innovation.

The "Future of Jobs Report 2025" published by the "World Economic Forum (WEF)" reveals that job disruption in future will equate to 22% of jobs by 2030, with 170 million new roles set to be created and 92 million displaced, resulting in a net increase of 78 million jobs. Analyzing data of over 1,000 companies world-wide, the report finds that the skills-gap continues to be the most significant barrier to business transformation today as nearly 40% of skills required on the job set to be changed or modified. More than 63% of employers already citing it as the key barrier they face. Frontline roles and essential sectors like care and education are set for the highest job growth by 2030, while

# The Future of Jobs

advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and renewable energy are reshaping the world market which results in increase in demand for many technology-specific and/or specialist roles. The Head of "Work, Wages and Job Creation" at the World Economic Forum, Till Leopold maintains that "Trends such as generative AI and rapid technological shifts are upending industries and labour markets, creating both unprecedented opportunities and profound risks." As per the report, technology skills in AI, big data and cybersecurity and human skills, such as creative thinking, resilience, flexibility and agility, will remain critical and a combination of both skill types will be increasingly crucial in a fast-shifting job market. While the WEF report suggests that 44% of workers' skills will be disrupted in the next five years, on the other hand, a McKinsey report estimates that roughly 20% of hours worked could be automated. This means that while some jobs may remain, many will evolve, and new skills will be needed to stay relevant. The McKinsey report estimates that globally 250-280 million new jobs could be created from the impact of rising incomes on consumer goods alone, with up to an additional 50-85 million jobs generated from higher health and education spending. A broader sector-specific growth of jobs scenario designed by the WEF reveals that the IT sector is expected to maintain its position as the strongest hiring sector with 37% of future jobs, followed by Financials & Real Estate (33%) and Healthcare & Life Sciences (27%) and the rest 3% may be shared among other jobs. Also the report reveals that the regional



hiring intentions remain stable, with the Americas reporting the strongest outlook at 29%, followed by Asia Pacific at 27%, and Europe, Middle East, and Africa (19%).

Amidst this global scenario, India faces a growing gap between the skills of its graduates and the needs of the job market, particularly the future job market. While India is ranked second globally in future job market preparedness, particularly in AI and digital skills, only 42.6% of graduates are currently employable. According to the WEF's Future of Jobs Report 2025, two-thirds of companies operating in India see a need to tap into more diverse talent pools to fill emerging roles (far above the global average of 47%). And to tap that diverse pool of talents and make them future-ready, corporate sponsorship is expected to play a significant role in doing so, particularly around generative AI. According to the World Economic Forum's Executive Opinion Survey, India scores lower on 'ease of finding skilled employees in the local labour market' than the average for countries in its income group and also scores low on 'ease of finding skilled employees in the local

labour market' than the average for countries in its income group. In both the parameters, the country is ranked at 3 out of 7, where 1 is the lowest possible score. But it's a fact that the business landscape in India is under transformation as the organizations citing three leading drivers of expected changes by 2030: increased digital access, climate-mitigation efforts and geopolitical tensions. Employers in India expect to outpace global adoption of certain technologies, with 35% believing that semiconductors and computing technologies will transform their operations this decade, while 21% see quantum computing and encryption as leading catalysts for change. But to achieve this change, the WEF report said, around 63 in every 100 Indian workers will require high-end training by 2030.

Of course, it's a fact that today's India stands at the confluence of three powerful forces: demographic advantage, digital transformation and a deep developmental commitment. With the world's largest youth population and a vibrant skill ecosystem, the country is uniquely positioned to become the skill capital of the world. To achieve this, the public and private

sectors need to continue their strong work to enhance tech skills among the population, embedding this not just within the workforce but within educational institutions at as early an age as possible. There is still a great deal of uncertainty surrounding the future of jobs across the globe. Gone are the days when a one-size-fits-all approach to a job was there. In fact, a whopping 77% of employers in 2023 struggled to fill open positions due to a lack of qualified candidates. It is currently estimated that over 65% of children in early childhood education will have jobs in the future that do not yet exist. It is likely that work-structures as we understand them will come to break down, and the idea of a singular-career becomes moot. We may very well see a future where people tend to work on a more freelance basis, lending out services as and when needed, and being specialists in a variety of fields. The gradual refinement of online learning will allow people to constantly re-skill and up-skill themselves for a job market that will be changing rapidly. This sort of structure is termed as 'gig economy' and is what many experts believe the future of work will be.

Despite some hurdles, the report concludes that the future of work can be shaped for better outcomes and that it is the policy, business and investment decisions made by leaders today that will determine these outcomes and the future space for action. Till Leopold, Head of Work, Wages, and Job Creation at WEF has aptly said, "Now is the time for businesses and governments to unite, invest in skills, and ensure an equitable, resilient global work force."

*The writer is Former Senior Project Associate HSS Department, IIT Kanpur*

## The Terrorist Pakistan in Fright

UmaShankar Prasad

After Indian response to the Pahalgam terror strike Pakistan is in state of fright. There is no doubt that it has described India's suspension of the 'Indus water treaty as "Anact of war". However those seemingly tough words seem to betray Pakistan's sense of extreme nervousness. It seems to have realised that all the sins it committed and promoted until now in regard to India will get paid back more menacingly. Hence the fright -that those who understand the intricacies of the international politics now sense, no matter Islamabad's bravado.

The steps that Pakistan has adopted in response to India's measures have childishness, so to say. For example, Islamabad has said that it is suspending the Simla Agreement. It has also said that it is blocking the Wagah Border post. It has also closed its airspace for airlines from India, and it has suspended trade with INDIA. Most of these steps are actually fruitless in reality. For, Simla Agreement that was linked more than 50 years ago has become almost fully redundant. Pakistan's closure of Wagah Border Post has little sense after the fact that it was in India that closed its side of the post at Attari two three days ago. Closing air space for airliner from India may have some effect on



Indian aviation business. But it is Pakistan who is going to suffer more in that bargain. The loser, thus, is going to be Pakistan and not India. And when it starts realising the terrible impact of suspension of the Indus Water Treaty in the next few weeks of high summer, Islamabad will have no corner in which to hide its dirty face. For, when most levers are in India's hand, Pakistan can expect to have no negative impact on India. And the best part of this story is that almost everybody in Pakistan realises the hollowness of its stated position on terror, on Kashmir, on its own economy, its own tenuous security scenario on multiple fronts, on the inherent weaknesses of its armed forces, on the fickleness of its ordnance industry and defence research..! Everybody in Pakistan-in-Islamabad which is the capital of the country, in Rawalpindi which

hosts its military head Quarters, in Karachi which is the biggest business hub, Now in tension. Pakistan Army Chief General Asim Munir when he made the highly irresponsible statement about Kashmir being Pakistan's "jugalur Vein".

In sharp contrast, in India, the mood is fully aggressive, verbalised so beautifully by Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi in Madhubani in Bihar. For the Indian audience, he spoke in his usual chaste Hindi. But Mr Modi never speaks a single word regarding the irresponsible of his Government and military status. What ever it may be The Prime minister's speech, thus, peaked the well-coordinated response India gave to the terrorist overture in Pahalgam sincerely appreciated by the world. In total episode of the incident The mood of Pakistan is of Fright.

*Columnist, Khordha*

## When your life becomes a celebration

Dr. Arundhati Devi

Ancient seers have expressed spiritual experience in verse and in forms and deities that represent the profound secrets of life. One such embodiment of valour, beauty, and intelligence is Karthikeya, also known as Murugan. The word Murugan is formed from the divine trinity. He is present in us and around us in both form and formless aspects. I am also made of the same energy and so are you. All living beings are manifestations of this energy and are also sustained in it. Life has three energies: Iccha Shakti, Jnana Shakti and Kriya Shakti. Valli, consort of Murugan, represents Iccha Shakti, desire; Devasena, also consort of Murugan, is a symbol of Kriya Shakti, that is, action, effort; and Murugan is Jnana Shakti, knowledge. Iccha Shakti forms the very basis of our existence. We need to develop the right attitude towards desires and understand its nature. When a person says, "I don't want anything in this world," that is also a desire. When desires arise, observe them. What happens to your mind when the desire is fulfilled? What is the state of your mind when the desire arises? Were you happy, in anger or in haste? This will indicate whether or not to act upon them. This observation is possible when the mind is without craving or aversion. Murugan represents Jnana Shakti. He is himself the secret. It is easy to tide over challenges in life when our mind is aligned with the divine, with Murugan. His Vel, spear, reminds us to be deep-rooted in knowledge, broaden our perspective and have sharp intellect. His mount is the peacock, symbol of the mind. When the mind follows wisdom and is filled with divinity, it dances and is blissful. Murugan's flag has a rooster. The rooster crows at sunrise without fail, and is a symbol of alignment with the rhythm of nature. All these are qualities that come along with the manifestation of Jnana Shakti in our life. When you have the right desire and knowledge, it has to be followed by action. This is represented by Devasena, Kriya Shakti. The sign of life is activity. There are no actions in a corpse. However, actions need to be properly channelised. Often a leader is chosen to channelise the collective energy of society towards particular actions. Here, it is important to choose the right leader. Murugan is a unique leader. He is both king and recluse. Only when you act from the space of helping the other without wanting anything for yourself, you can be a good leader. Actions in the collective consciousness that are done with respect and prayerfulness for the benefit of all, are represented by Devasena. When both our desires and our actions are directed towards the divine, life becomes a celebration.

*Director & Secretary, International Indecency Prevention Movement, Cuttack*

## How does one achieve the impossible ?

Kabir Kumar Jena

Let's begin by examining the concept of the impossible before trying to answer such a tantalising question. Some things are clearly impossible in a physical sense. A nonagenarian who hopes to qualify for the Olympics for high jump is clearly hoping for the impossible unless of course one has a seniors' Olympic event in mind. But when Napoleon said that the word 'impossible' is found in the

dictionary of fools, then clearly, he did not have such impossibilities in mind. What he perhaps had in mind was that certain goals or accomplishments, which we normally consider out of reach, may be capable of being achieved if only one was daring enough to entertain them and determined enough to go after them. One might have considered it impossible of France to achieve the kind of military victories that Napoleon achieved for his country.

This idea of the impossible becomes even more relevant when we come to the individual, who might consider certain accomplishments impossible without realising that with persistent effort and determination they could be achieved. Perhaps, in such a context, the word 'impossible' is best understood as really denoting the improbable, which our imagination considers impossible. With these introductory remarks let us now consider what some

sages have to say about achieving the impossible. We should focus our attention entirely on the means with the same passion with which we covet the goal itself. That would be one way of treating the means as the end. And then once such a concrete step is realised, similarly, the success we have achieved should be considered only a step in relation to what remains to be achieved to accomplish the goal. This would be one way of treating the end as the means.

Do seem to shed light on the exciting question under discussion. He says that one should begin by doing the necessary; then one should do the possible, and then he adds that if one does so one would find oneself accomplishing the impossible. His remarks clearly bear a family resemblance to what was uttered by Pavahari Baba in response to the question put to him by Swami Vivekananda.

*Advocate, Orissa High Court, Cuttack*



Thunderstorm Alert For Odisha: IMD Issues Orange, Yellow Warnings For Today



**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):** The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued both orange and yellow weather warnings for Odisha, forecasting thunderstorms with lightning, hail, gusty winds, and heavy rainfall in several districts on April 28. As per the IMD's mid-day bulletin, a Western Disturbance persists in the middle tropospheric westerlies, with its axis located around 5.8 km above mean sea level, roughly along 77°E longitude and north of 18°N latitude. An Orange warning has

been issued for Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Bhadrak, Gajapati, Ganjam, Rayagada, and Koraput districts, where thunderstorms accompanied by lightning, wind speeds of 50-60 km/h, hail, and heavy rainfall are expected during the afternoon and evening hours on Monday. Additionally, a Yellow warning has been sounded for Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Jharsuguda, Bargarh, Sambalpur, Deogarh, Angul, Dhenkanal, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Sonepur, Boudh,

Nuapada, Balangir, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Nabarangpur, and Malkangiri, where similar weather conditions may occur, though with slightly lower intensity and wind speeds up to 40-50 km/h. Light to moderate rain or thundershowers are also likely across parts of North Interior Odisha from April 29 to May 5, the department said. In view of the system, the IMD has predicted a drop in day temperatures by 3-5°C across the state over the next 24 hours. No major temperature fluctuations are expected beyond that.

Samriddhi Utsav: Odisha is globally renowned for its rich heritage of handicrafts & cultural traditions

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):** Odisha is globally renowned for its rich heritage of handicrafts and cultural traditions. The state is home to around one lakh sixty thousand artisans engaged in various handicraft activities. Odisha's art and craft traditions have been preserved through the skills of these talented artisans, many of whom have been practicing their craft for generations.

Painting, carving, weaving, and other local resource-based crafts not only strengthen our cultural heritage but also play a vital role in rural economies. Recognizing the need for the holistic development of these artisans, both government and private sector organizations are making collaborative efforts, a point emphasized by dignitaries during the Samriddhi Utsav. Supported by TPCODL and organized by Mahashakti Foundation at Kala Bhoomi, Shilpi Vihar, Gandamunda, Bhubaneswar, the event saw the



participation of key dignitaries, including Mr. Pradeep Kumar Ghosal (CSR Head - TPCODL), Mr. Duyanta Tyagi (Commercial Head - TPCODL), Mr. Narendra Nath Jha (Regional Director - TRIFED), Prof. Dr. Debashish Mahapatra (President - Mahashakti Foundation), Mr. Prashant Kumar Mahapatra (Vice Chairman - Utkalika), Mr. Himanshu Pattnaik (Business Manager - ORMAS), Mr. Ambika Prasad Nanda (CSR Head - Tata Steel Foundation, Odisha), Mr. Jugal Kishore Pattnaik (Managing Director -

Mahashakti Foundation), Mr. Mohan Baliyarsingh (Director - Mahashakti Foundation), Mr. Gagan Mahapatra (Director - Utkalika), Mr. Narendra Nayak (CEO - OSAFIL), Ms. Anita Sabat (Director - Sabat Export). All of them engaged in discussions regarding the challenges and opportunities for Odisha's artisans. The Samriddhi Utsav witnessed the participation of over 200 artisans representing crafts such as Palm Leaf engraving, Pattachitra painting, handloom weaving, applique work, and Dhokra craft from

places like Kakudrapur and Banamalipur (Khordha district), Saptasajya (Dhenkanal district), Lanjigarh (Kalahandi district), and Maniabandh (Cuttack district). Ten craft stalls were exhibited during the event, showcasing a variety of traditional artworks. During the event, dignitaries also launched the Samriddhi Catalogue and the Kala Patrika (Quarterly Newsletter of Kala Punaruthan) published by the organisation.

The second session of the event focused on deliberations around artisans' challenges, aspirations, and economic development. In the afternoon, a cultural program was held showcasing Odissi Dance performance, following which Ms. Rashmi Pattnaik from TPCODL delivered the vote of thanks. The event was coordinated with the support of Mr. Subham Purohit, Mr. Surajit Pattnaik, Adya Shruti Nayak, Ritupama Rath, and Shiny Khuntia.

Two Odia talents ready to shine at Waves 2025 Animation Film Competition Finals in Mumbai

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):** With their unique storytelling styles and innovative concepts, Bhagyashree Satpathy and Rishav Mohanty are poised to make Odisha proud as they are all set to shine at the Waves 2025 Animation Film Competition Finals.

The World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES 2025) is scheduled to take place in Mumbai from May 1 to 4. Waves 2025 serve as a prestigious platform for India's emerging creative talents. Among the 42 finalists selected from across the country for the

Animation Filmmaker Competition under WAVES, two young talents from Odisha, Bhagyashree Satpathy of Jajpur and Rishav Mohanty of Bhubaneswar have already left their mark.

Bhagyashree Satpathy is a 22-year-old filmmaker and animation artist from Dharmasala, Jajpur. She is currently pursuing her studies at the National Institute of Design (NID), Ahmedabad. Deeply inspired by Indian mythology and regional folklore, Bhagyashree's work re-imagines traditional

narratives with contemporary themes and a bold visual language. Bhagyashree's finalist project, "Pasa", is a concept series that blends mythology with psychological drama, exploring manipulation, gender, and control.

Bhagyashree has previously directed notable works such as Happy Birthday Tara and a documentary film based on Maa Kalijai of Chilika Lake, Odisha. Rishav Mohanty hails from Bhubaneswar and is NID Ahmedabad student. He has earned his place in the finals with his

animation documentary film titled "Khatti". His work reflects a deep understanding of storytelling and visual narrative, highlighting the potential of animation as a medium for authentic and engaging documentation.

At Waves 2025, the finalists will pitch their projects before an esteemed panel of international judges and top personalities from the global entertainment industry. The competition offers a significant opportunity: the top three winners will each receive a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh.

Pahalgam Terror Attack Survivors From Odisha Recount Heart-Wrenching Moments

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):** A family from Cuttack has a narrow escape as terrorist went berserk, killing tourists by identifying them as Hindu, on April 22 in the Baisaran meadows of Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, in what is being described as the deadliest strike on civilians in the Valley in the last two decades. Ranjit Bhoi was vacationing with his wife, along with their son and daughter-in-law celebrating the beauty of the valley when they heard the gunshots.

Recounting the terror and chaos, Sashi Kumari Nayak told a local channel that the terrorists were standing next to them. "We saw three people getting shot in front of us. Had they turned to where we were hiding, we too would have not survived the onslaught. After the terrorist hit a tourist on his chest, a woman asked him to kill her also. I could clearly hear the terrorist asking her to call PM Modi. This horrific incident will remain etched in my mind forever," she said. Sashi slipped and fractured her right hand and leg as they then ran for their lives. "I was rescued by BSF jawans and rushed to hospital," she said. She



added that BSF jawans should be deployed at the spot to ensure security and safety of the tourists. Bhoi said that they were clicking pictures and making videos where they heard the blank firing. "My son Sandeep asked us to hide under the racks there.

The four terrorists first fired on the security guard. One among them inched towards us and was about 5 feet away. One of the tourists, who could recite 'Kalam', survived the attack, while three others were shot dead in cold blood. I counted 14 bodies as we hurriedly left the spot," he said. The family later reached Srinagar and left for home. Sandeep said that he had literally forced his family to take the trip to Jammu



and Kashmir. "I am a Hanuman bhakt but tried to recite 'Kalam' to myself while hiding fearing danger as the terrorists segregated and targeted young men. We went through a lot of mental trauma and therefore, I will never ask anyone to visit the Valley," he added.

Similarly, a group of tourists from Odisha's Puri were just 200 metres away from the site where the terror attack took place at the scenic Baisaran meadows. "Initially, we assumed that there was some kind of celebration for which firecrackers were being burst. "When we heard screams, we got scared and realised that something was wrong. My elder brother advised us to leave the place as soon as possible. We

could see people running for their lives," he said. They rode down on ponies and soon reached the hotel, which was about 3 km away. On the other hand, the decision to cut short their stay in Kashmir saved a local businessman and his family from Berhampur. Hari Narayan Mishra (50), along with his wife Mandakini and their two daughters, was on a 15-day family vacation and left the Valley a day before the terror attack.

They reached Berhampur safely on Thursday. They went to popular tourist destinations such as Gulmarg and Baisaran on April 21. They had planned to spend two more days at Baisaran. However, heavy rains and landslides made them uncomfortable and they departed from Srinagar earlier than scheduled. "It's nothing short of a miracle that we're alive," said a family member. Odisha saw one casualty in the terror attack. It was 41-year-old Prashant Satpathy, a native of Balasore district. The employee of the Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology had gone to Pahalgam with his wife and son on vacation.

Credai Odisha Home & Decor Expo at Janata Maidan continues to attract eminent personality

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):** Credai Odisha's Home and Decor Expo 2025 continues its dream run as more numbers of leading icons of the state have been attending the event and given their support. As the event started on 20th April 2025 and already entered the 8th day on Sunday, Bhubaneswar Ekamra MLA Babu Singh and Badachana MLA Amar Kumar Nayak graced the event as guest joining the list of eminent personalities and others.

Another attraction of Sunday evening at the event venue was electrifying performance of leading odia singer Asima Panda, which drawn huge crowd, as they engaged with various stakeholders of the event to understand the real estate and décor opportunities available at the city. Asima enthalls the crowd with her hit number, that add cultural colour to the expo. The Ten-day extravaganza, scheduled from April 20 to 29, 2025, has drawn an



overwhelming response, attracting more than 12,000 visitors so far. The expo has sparked tremendous interest among prospective homeowners and investors, generating significant enquiries for new flats and a wide range of home and decor solutions.

The expo serves as a dynamic platform uniting leading builders, banks, building material manufacturers, electronics firms, interior designers, and tile manufacturers. Designed to cater to aspiring homeowners, real

estate investors, architects, and design professionals, the event showcases the latest in smart home technologies, eco-friendly construction materials, and future-ready lifestyle innovations.

Interactive sessions, expert panels, and discussions on emerging trends in urban housing, design, and infrastructure further enhance the value of the event for visitors and industry stakeholders alike. The grand event was graced by several dignitaries, including D.S. Tripathy, Chairman, CREDAI, Swadesh Kumar

Routray, President, Umesh Khandelwal, Vice President, Anil Kumar Agarwal, Secretary & Kalinga Keshari Ratha, Executive Member. Regional leaders who added their presence to the occasion were Mr. Dinesh Singhanía, President, CREDAI Sambalpur, Mr. Pramit Kumar Das, Joint Secretary, CREDAI Puri, Mr and Bibhu Chandan Jena, President, CREDAI Balasore, Mr. P.K Moharana, president Credai Odisha Cuttack.

This expo is not just about business; it is about building dreams. We are thrilled to witness such an overwhelming response and look forward to contributing to the growth of Odisha's housing and infrastructure sector through innovation and collaboration." The Home and Decor Expo 2025 stands as a testament to Odisha's commitment to fostering innovation, collaboration, and inclusive growth in the real estate and housing industry.

APEDA and the Government of Odisha organises Capacity Building Programme to 'Boost Agricultural Exports from Odisha' in Bhubaneswar

**Bhubaneswar, (PIB):** The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) and Government of Odisha organized a Workshop cum Capacity Building Programme to Boost Agri Products' Exports from Odisha at Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Hall, Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT), Bhubaneswar on the 25th April, 2025. The event exhibited over 10 stalls represented by Farmer Producer Organisations (FPO)/ Farmer Producer Companies, women agripreneurs, departments of the Government of Odisha and exporters from all across Odisha.

Several GI Tagged and Agri-Products from the state such as Koraput Kalajeera Rice, Nayagad Kanteimundi, Brinjal, Ganjam Kewda Flower Products, Koraput Coffee, Kandhamal Haldi Powder, Kendrapada Rasabali, Salepur Rasagolla, Khajuri Gud, Dhenkanal Magaji Ladoo and Mayurbhanja Kai Chutni were displayed at the University.

Chief Guest and Deputy Chief Minister and Minister of Agriculture, Government of Odisha, Shri Kanak Bardhan Singh Deo, in his keynote address, highlighted the initiatives of the State Govt. for increasing agricultural exports, particularly of Organic products, from the State. He encouraged exporters to explore the array of products, including GI products from the state for promotion in the global marketplace. He appreciated the active collaboration of APEDA with the State Govt. towards increasing Agricultural exports

from the State. The event featured three technical sessions focusing on key areas for boosting Odisha's agricultural exports. The first session addressed the promotion of organic exports under the revised National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP), emphasizing organic certification, value chain development, and market access. The second session discussed strategies to enhance rice exports from Odisha by leveraging unique varieties, improving logistics, and tackling export challenges.

The third session explored opportunities for value addition and export promotion of agri-processed and GI-tagged products, with a focus on strengthening logistics, cold chain infrastructure, and market linkages. The program witnessed the participation of more than 400 stakeholders including the officials from State Government department, Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology, FPO's, FPC's, and progressive farmers.

On the Sidelines of the event, APEDA being the Secretariat for the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) organised a stakeholder interaction with more than 30 Organic grower groups of the State and Organic Certification bodies operating in the State of Odisha. The discussions centered on the revisions in the NPOP (8th Edition), which was recently launched on 9th January 2025, and clearing doubts and queries of the growers with respect to the new provisions. Shri Sukanta Kumar Panigrahi, Member of Parliament and Member,

Parliamentary Standing Committee-Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing in his address emphasized on ODOP, use of Agri-Infra fund to support agri exports from the state of Odisha. He further emphasized that the dream of Vikshit Bharat by 2047 is possible by developing the overall agriculture export ecosystem which will help to gain competitive advantage, drive economic growth, create better jobs, and generate foreign exchange earnings.

Chairman of APEDA, Shri Abhishek Dev in his welcome address highlighted the export-oriented strategy for agricultural products with special emphasis on organic products. He emphasized on the untapped potential of the State in terms of agriculture exports, particularly in Organic products, owing to huge diversity and quantum of output. He assured that more such programs and export Conclaves will be conducted in future which are highly important paradigms for boosting agricultural exports.

He encouraged the FPO's and FPC's from the state for participation in key national and international Trade Fairs for market access, promotion and outreach. The Workshop cum Capacity Building Programme followed by the Technical Sessions brought together key policymakers and experts from the Union and State governments, Industry and Academia aiming to build a robust export ecosystem in the state in the times to come.

Bhubaneswar: Hi-Tech Medical College & Hospital inaugurates its 15th Graduation Ceremony "Charak-2025"

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):** Hi-Tech Medical College and Hospital in Bhubaneswar inaugurated its 15th Graduation Ceremony, "Charak-2025", marking a significant milestone on its journey of transforming the healthcare and education sectors in Odisha. The ceremony, which was held at the Hi-Tech Medical College campus, witnessed the graduation of 100 medical students who are set to make their mark as healthcare professionals in the state and beyond.

The chief guest for the occasion, Justice Anand Chandra Behera of the Orissa High Court, hailed Hi-Tech Medical College for its remarkable contribution to the medical education sector in Odisha. "Hi-Tech Medical College has created a unique history by producing 1,500 medical doctors for the state, and I believe that in the years to come, Odisha will witness a golden chapter in India's medical history," Justice Behera said

during his address. The event also served as a moment to reflect on the pioneering role Hi-Tech Medical College has played in shaping the future of medical education in Odisha. The institution, which has established campuses in Bhubaneswar, Rourkela, and Tirupati Balaji, continues to churn out highly skilled doctors who are poised to uplift the healthcare system in the state.

Dr. Tirupati Panigrahi, the founder chairman of Hi-Tech Medical College, took the stage to deliver an inspiring message to the graduates. "The graduation of medical students is not just another milestone; it marks the beginning of a lifelong journey of learning and service to humanity," Dr. Panigrahi said. "Your student life never truly ends. The pursuit of knowledge in medicine is endless." Managing Trustee Suresh Kumar Panigrahi, Principal Professor Dr. Purna Chandra Dash, Vice Chancellor

of Health Sciences, Odisha University, Professor Dr. Manas Ranjan Sahu, and Chief Executive Officer of AIIMS, Ashutosh Vishwas were also present at the ceremony. They distributed certificates to the graduating students and urged them to serve Odisha with dedication and integrity."

This day signifies not just the culmination of your years of hard work, but the beginning of a responsibility to make a difference in the health and well-being of our society," said Professor Dr. Manas Ranjan Sahu, Vice Chancellor of Health Sciences, Odisha University. The graduation ceremony was skillfully conducted by Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Lisa Dangi, with support from Administrative Officer Dr. Gopeshwar Acharya. Adding to the vibrancy of the ceremony, students from Hi-Tech Group's Nursing College and Science College presented a series of cultural performances.



## Mega 16th Annual Day celebration of IFFCO DAV public school celebrated



**Paradip, (DMC):** The most remarkable event, the Mega Annual Day Celebrations - "YASASVITA" was conducted on April 25th in the Community Centre, IFFCO, Paradeep. The sparkling Annual Day Celebrations -

"YASASVITA" was blessed with the gracious presence of P. K. Mahapatra, Unit Head, IFFCO Paradeep and Chairman SMC as the Chief Guest, K R N Murthy, General Manager, Production, IFFCO Paradeep and Dr. Kalikinkar Pattanayak, OES-1 (Retd.), Expert, Centre for Cultural Resources, New Delhi as the Guests of Honour, Madam S. Mohapatra, the First Lady of IFFCO, Paradeep. The Chief Guest in his motivating speech cited that education in

collaboration with co-curricular activities helps the students to develop their multiple skills. Furthermore, he appreciated the teachers for their relentless efforts and achievements in the field of academics as well as co-scholastic areas in moulding the students to come forward and showcase their talents.

The Guest of Honour, Dr. Kalikinkar Pattanayak in his inspiring speech cited that beauty lies in heart and education is the process of thinking, feeling and action. Furthermore, he quoted that Swami Dayananda was a man of wisdom and we must follow his ideologies to prosper in our life. The other distinguished guests whose presence made the occasion a gala event were, Sambit Sukumar

Chinara, Principal, DAV IFFCO, Sanjib Kumar Sahu, Principal, DAV, PPL, Smt. Bindushree Mohanty, Principal, DAV, PPT, Mrs. Anupa Saikia Bora, DPS, IOCL, Paradeep, the dignitaries from IFFCO Paradeep Unit, teachers, parents and students. The speeches by the Chief Guest, Guest of Honour and the Principal DAV IFFCO, followed by a one minute condolence to the bereaved souls in the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu & Kashmir, melodious welcome song, breathtaking cultural programmes by the energetic students, prize distribution ceremony, felicitation of the guests and felicitation of teachers for their academic excellence added remarkable colour to the programme.

The Principal, Sambit Sukumar Chinara extended his gratitude to all the dignitaries for their resplendent presence. As a customary, Sri Rajesh Dash thanked all the dignitaries and audience for their graceful presence to make the programme a grand success.

## Youth Kidnapped from Lodge: Goons Demand 1.5 Lakh Threatened to Kill on Non-Payment

**Paralakhemundi, (DMC):** Infront of CHC of Mohana of Gajapati district, from a lodge one youth has been kidnapped. That youth belongs to Sundardango of Nuagada block under RUDayagiri police limits. As per his family information that youth was returning by bus from Endrima of his brother-in-law's home under Mohana police limits.

Some goons kidnapped him from bus & kept him in that lodge. Later they demanded family members 1.5 lakhs & on Non-payment they threatened to kill him. They sent a tied hand



& face photo to family. On Saturday family reached at Mohana but could not find him. Rather they repeatedly warned to kill missing Mantu. Mantu's father lodged complain at Mohana Police Station. Police started enquiry on an interrogation with lodge owner Sarat Chandra Sabat.

## Youth Found Hanging from Ceiling fan inside his house

**Nuapada /Khariar Road, (DMC):** Body of a young man was found hanging from the ceiling fan inside his home at Khariar Road in Nuapada District on Sunday. As per information, the deceased was identified as Vishal Mittal (29) son of Jugal Kishore Mittal, resident of Ward No-8, Khariar Road under Jonk Police Station limit. On being informed Jonk Police reached the spot, seized the dead body and sent to DHH Nuapada for postmortem and started investigation. Police suspected it to be a case of suicide, however, no suicide note was recovered from the room and the reason behind the extreme step by the youth is yet to be ascertained.

## Hindalco Launched hands on training for first batch of local girls to make them work ready for Apparel Factory being set up at Phuljoba.

**Rayagada, (DMC):** In a significant stride towards fostering inclusive development and women's empowerment, Aditya Alumina Refinery, Kansariguda — a unit of Hindalco Industries Limited, Aditya Birla Group — formally launched and onboarded its first batch of Apparel Training Program at Phuljoba on 25th April '25.

The Apparel Manufacturing Unit, being established alongside the Refinery and Power Plant at Kansariguda village, aims to create employment opportunities for women and girls from nearby communities. This initiative is expected to generate employment of more than 500 women in the initial phase which substantially contributing to the socio-economic growth of the

region. The Apparel Training Program was formally inaugurated by Mr. Mazhar Beig, Unit Head & President of Aditya Alumina Refinery, in the presence of Sarpanchs from Naktiguda, Bankamba, Podapadi, and Odiapentha, RPDAC members, community leaders, and villagers from peripheral areas.

As part of the program, the first batch of over 100 women and girls from surrounding villages have been onboarded through a structured process that included written test, skill assessments and counselling sessions. These trainees will undergo an intensive eight-month, hands-on training at Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail Limited (ABFRL) units in Bhubaneswar and New Delhi. Upon successful



completion, they will serve as master trainers, supervisor, lab technician, operator based on their qualification and skills. "The inauguration of this Apparel Training Program and onboarded of the first batch of women mark a transformative moment for our community development efforts."

said Mr. Mazhar Beig. "By equipping women with practical skills and real-world industry

is the first time we are stepping into a structured training program, bringing new hope to our families and villages," said Kunti Jani from Kansariguda. Rajani Majhi of Phuljoba shared, "We are grateful to Aditya Alumina Refinery for believing in us and giving us this life-changing opportunity." Binati Bagh from Puhundi added, "Receiving professional training from the Aditya Birla Group was beyond our imagination.

We promise to learn with full dedication and manufacture garments of international standards at Phuljoba. "The initiative was highly appreciated by the local communities, reinforcing Aditya Alumina Refinery's commitment to building a sustainable, inclusive future for the region.

## Sanjeeb Jena felicitated in Sujapur

**Jajpur, (DMC):** Sanjeeb Kumar Jena, Youth Political Leader and notable social worker in Bari has been felicitated by Kanana Memorial Dramatic Club, Hasanpur on its 34th annual Drama celebration. Sanjeeb

attains the programme as a chief guest and inaugurated the Drama programme along with local Social Worker Ganeswar Mahakud, Divya Prakash Mohanty, Prakash Chandra Mohanty, Drama Director Arun Routray, OAS

Suryankita Sahoo and others. Due to local youths cooperation this organisation able to hold the Drama a region base cultural event where all the youth along with habitants gather and enjoyed the night, Sanjeeb said in this occasion.

## Important Meeting of District Press Club Held



**Khordha, (DMC):** An important meeting of District Press Club, Khordha was held at Sambadik Bhawan premises. The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Press Club President Subhranshu Ranjan Samantraya & the upcoming programs of the Press Club were discussed in detail. The decision of the state government to distribute labour

cards to journalists was not accepted in this meeting. Unanimously decided be presented a memorandum to the Chief Minister in this regard. The members of the Press Club participated in the Prime Minister's Mann Ki Baat program. Along with this, all the decisions of the central government for the security of the country were strongly

supported by the District Press Club. Among others, the advisor of DPC, Tapan Kumar Nayak, Vice-President Lalit Mohan Mohapatra, Prasanna Kumar Paikaraya, Secretary, Dilip Kumar Pattnaik, OUWJ, Khordha, District Unit Prakash Kumar Hati, Md. Motahar Yusuf, Subhakanta Mohapatra, Sayed Liyakat Alli, Ranjit Patsani, Kutubuddin Khan, Iswar Ch. Mangaraj, Durga Prasad Sarangi were prominently present.

It was decided to celebrate the annual function of the district press club in the coming days. The proposal of advisor Tapan Kumar Nayak to prepare the annual draft for the coming year with the co-operation of all the members of the district press club was unanimously accepted.

## Sneha Behera & Nirmal Jena Honored on Parala Maharaja's 134th Birthday



**Paralakhemundi, (DMC):** At SKCG(A) College old students association (OSA) observed 134th birthday of late Parala Maharaja Sri Krushna Chandra Gajapati. Presided by Principal Dr. JNPatnaik, President of OSA Nruhingha Charan Patnaik, Secretary Adarsha Das graced on dias. Speakers highlighted on deemed contributions of late Maharaja for the formation of new Odisha state. Besides that in all fields e.g. education, irrigation & railway line to introduce Paralakhemundi a land mark.

Teaching staff & members of OSA participated. On this occasion Final year Odia (Hons) student Sneha Behera honored with citation certificate & cash reward of Rs. 1000 for her participation on state level Youth Parliament program at Bhubaneswar, only selected from Gajapati district. Similarly on Inter University Athletics at Sambalpur Nirmal Jena begged gold, silver & bronze. He also honored with same on this occasion.

Training and District Culture Officer, Hemanta Behera were the guests of honour. Establishment of educational institutions, establishment of medical colleges, establishment of paddy research centres, industrial establishments, improvement of agricultural infrastructure, digging of large ponds etc. are the people-oriented services of the Maharaja, they said. Deputy Director of Information and Public Relations Santosh Kumar Sethi presided over the function and welcomed everyone, guest introduction and conducted the meeting. The guests gave away prizes to the best contestants of the quiz competition held earlier. Initially the guests garlanded the statues

of the bridegrooms in the institute premises. He garlanded the statue of the Lord and a portrait of the Maharaja of Parla at the venue of the meeting. A minute's silence was offered and bande utkal janani anthem was performed in memory of the tourists who died in Kashmir. Social activists Chakradhar Mohapatra, Anam Charan Sahu, litterateur and Bipin Bihari Dalai, teachers and students of various educational institutions were also present on the occasion. At the end, Assistant Information Officer Rajendra Patra proposed a vote of thanks. Information and Public Relations Sub-Divisional Officer Pradipta Kumar Senapati and other staff were present on the occasion.

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## CM Emphasizes...

(NEP) 2020. Expressing concern over its delayed implementation in Odisha, he announced that the state government has now adopted the NEP, with expectations for significant improvements in the education sector. To further strengthen the educational framework, Chief Minister Majhi announced the launch of pre-primary education, or 'Sishubatika,' aligned with the NEP. He also introduced the 'Skilled Odisha Mission,' aimed at enhancing basic literacy and numeracy, which will facilitate smoother transitions for students to higher education. Majhi sharply criticized the previous government's '5T school' initiative, calling it a "farce" and citing the fact that only 16 percent of schools had internet connectivity far below the claims of digital transformation. He stated that no meaningful efforts were made to enhance the quality of education. In a significant development, Majhi unveiled the 'Godavarish Mishra Adarsh Pratya Vidyalaya Yojana,' a new scheme focused on the development of primary schools. The initiative promises to ensure that primary schools are equipped with qualified teachers and improved infrastructure at the panchayat level. Addressing the issue of dropout rates among tribal children, Majhi introduced the 'Madhosing Hath Karcha Yojana,' aimed at curbing dropout rates and providing financial support. He also highlighted his government's commitment to education by noting a record allocation of Rs 31,000 crore for primary education in the current budget. Furthermore, he mentioned the 'Chief Minister's Poshan Yojana,' which provides nutritious mid-day meals to students. He expressed confidence that these initiatives will greatly improve the education system in Odisha in the years to come. Responding to requests from Bhimpur High School, Chief Minister Majhi assured that the school would be recognized as a heritage institution. He instructed the District Magistrate to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for infrastructure development and pledged to meet the school's legitimate demands with necessary government funding. Addressing the gathering, Majhi assured the people that his government had fulfilled all promises made during the elections. "We are working for everyone—farmers, women, youth, and the poor. Large-scale industries are set to be established in Ganjam district with investments exceeding Rs 1 lakh crore, creating ample job opportunities for the local youth," he said. Majhi further emphasized that his government would focus on the region's development and promised to pay special attention to local demands. He also announced that the Chief Minister's Grievance Cell would be stationed in Berhampur to address public concerns directly.

## Paradip Cricket League concludes : DKT Stars crowned champions



**Paradip, (DMC):** The third edition of the Paradip Cricket League (PPL) Gangadhar Jena Invitational Cup Championship concluded on Sunday. The final match was played between DKT Stars and Sriram Sporting club. Batting first, DKT Stars won the toss and decides to bat first and scored 213 runs for the loss of 10 wickets in 19.2 overs. In reply, Sriram Sporting team lost all 10 wickets in 13.5 balls and scored only 93 runs and was defeated. DKT Stars won the title of this year's championship.

In the concluding ceremony, Pramod Kishore Jena, son of late Gangadhar Jena, Paradip Municipality Chairman Basant Biswal, Nilabhra Dasgupta, Dy. Chairman, Paradip Port Authority, Lalitendu Vidyadhar Mohapatra, Sanjay Behera, secretary, OCA, Ravi Das, president, PPL, Dharmendra Pati, Working President, Akshay Sutar and Subash Acharya, Vice Presidents, Junit Das, secretary, Iswar Sahu and Bharadwaj Sahu, joint secretary, Prasant Sahu, Treasurer of PPL were present as the guests. Among others, Utkal Rout, Satya Ranjan Pradhan, Shubha Ranjan Pradhan and all members of Paradip Cricket League were present and actively coordinated the tournament. The final match was conducted by Nihar Ranjan Baliarsingh and Debendra Nayak. At the closing ceremony, the guests presented trophies and awards to the champion and runner-up teams.

## 2 Women Group Tussle for Drinking Water Water not in my Drawer: BDO



**Paralakhemundi, (DMC):** Due to severe heat wave drinking water scarcity found where river, pond, well drying. So scarcity of water turned towards conflict. At Ashrayagada of Gumma block 2 women groups had conflict on drinking water. They approached BDO Gumma & requested for normal supply of drinking water. On retrospect BDO angered & retorted that water not available in his furniture drawer. Rather huge fund allocated for drinking water but not meeting purposes. On 3 tube well one completely dormant & rest 2 flowing dirty & slow water. So for angry reply of BDO women eg: Muni Lima, Bakaseba Pani, Uchargita Singh, Manuma Lima, Binita Pani, Supriya Lima, Tarangon Paricha & Bhanuma Kar retorted that they will appeal before Collector Gajapati.

## Discussion upon No- Confidence motion against Vi- Chairman on 20th May

**Jagatsinghpur, (DMC):** Out of 21 Councillor of Jagatsinghpur Municipality 13 Councillor raised No- Confidence motion against Vi- Chairman Rajendra Kumar Bisoi before Collector on 15 th April 2025. Accordingly Collector intimate Municipality Executive Officer vide letter no. 103/ 24 th April 2025 that as per Municipality Act 1950 sec 54 special meeting will hold on 20 th May 2025 at Collectriate and Sub- Collector Prasant Kumar Tarai will preside over the meeting. Sub- Collector will operate the meeting and will intimate the collector on same day. On 20 th May the fate of Municipality Vi- Chairman will decided. This No- Confidence motion will create political disharmony in Jagatsinghpur Municipality as discussed by intellectuals.

## Puri district-level Parla Maharaja's birth anniversary was held

**Puri, (DMC):** is a divine virtue of sacrifice, service and philanthropy. This can be achieved not by money but by his tireless efforts and selfless commitment, said Parala Maharaja Shri Krishnachandra Gajapati Narayan Deb. The District Information and Public Relations Department celebrated the birth anniversary of Maharaja Shri Krishnachandra Gajapati Narayan Dev at the Conference Hall of The District Institute of Education and Training this morning. Sub Collector Mr. Jena, who was the Chief Guest, despite having all the facilities and opportunities to lead a clean life as a Maharaja, acted responsibly for the creation of a separate



Odisha, protection of language, health care, education, social services, etc. He has made many sacrifices and reforms for the all-round development of Odisha. On this day, he paid tribute to his memory and said that if we can learn anything to serve from his life and put it in our lives, it would be the best tribute to him. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Kailash Chandra Tikaitray, former Director, Odia Bhasha

Pratishthan, spoke at length about the life and ideals of The Maharaja of Parla and said that the formation of a separate Odisha would not have been possible without the Maharaja of Parla. He said that tribute to the ancestors is not just the proper honour but also a guiding light and inspiration for our future generations. Santosh Kumar Parida, Chairman, District Institute of Education and



## 5 Days After Attack, Hope, Confidence Take Over Pahalgam as Tourists Return



**Pahalgam, (HS) :** Pahalgam, hit by terror that cost 26 lives, appears to have bounced back with tourists who wanted to enjoy summer in Kashmir Valley, sticking to their travel plans. The refrain was -- "We thought it over and decided to come". The scenic area that had drawn the "Little Switzerland" tag, was opened to tourists a couple of days after Tuesday's attack. Ground Zero of the attack, Baisaran meadow, is still shut though.

For a few days after the group of terrorists emerged from the pine forests around the meadow and opened fire on a group of unsuspecting tourists, the bustling tourist hub had almost emptied out. In place of 5,000 to 7,000 sightseers a day, hardly 100 could be seen after the massacre, raising spectres of unemployment for locals who mostly depend on tourism. But on Sunday, a heartening scene unfolded on the streets of Pahalgam as foreign and domestic tourists strolled through the town, bringing back a sense of normalcy. Displaying remarkable resilience and optimism, tourists from across India said such incidents can happen anywhere. A group visiting from Maharashtra said they were not afraid because they have the support of travel agents and their tour group. "We should not be afraid. What will happen, will happen," one of them said. Croatian and Serbian tourists were seen exploring the streets of Pahalgam, completely at ease. Vlatko, a tourist from Croatia, said: "It is my 10th time in Kashmir and every time it is fantastic. For me, it is number one in the world, natural, soft people. My group is very happy; it's their first time here, Croatian and Serbian people." Asked about safety, he said, "I feel totally safe, no problem here. Everywhere, people say hello - zero, zero scared."

## Two killed in fire incident in Rohini

**New Delhi, (HS) :** At least two people lost their lives in a fire that broke out at a jhuggi (slum) near Shri Niketan Apartment in Sector 17 of Rohini in the national capital on Sunday, police said. The bodies of the two victims have been recovered from the spot, and further search and rescue operations are currently underway. MK Chattopadhyay, Deputy Chief Fire Officer of the West Zone, stated that two children with burn injuries were recovered and they have been shifted to the hospital. He clarified that the cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained. "We received a call at 11:55 am. ... As soon as we received the call, according to SOP, our ADO, AK Sharma and 4-5 fire brigades were dispatched to the site. Since the lanes here are narrow, our vehicles could not reach the site. Seeing the intensity of the fire, it was declared a Medium category fire. Now, nearly 26 vehicles are deployed here on the scene. ...

# Kalinga Gourav Foundation Hosts Woman of Substance Awards Presentation Ceremony

**Pahalgam, (HS) :** Kalinga Gourav Foundation hosted the 12th edition of "I Woman of Substance Awards" presentation ceremony in New Delhi with pomp, splendour and much fanfare. The venue Amphitheater at India Habitat Centre in New Delhi was aesthetically and elegantly decked up with colourful curtains and lights befitting to the grand occasion. The ceremony was attended by leading Women leaders, Noted Women Professionals from cross sections of the Society, celebrities and prominent personalities. Since the Awards being presented for the first time in National Capital, unusual interest, unexpected enthusiasm and unprecedented excitements were found among the organisers and participants. The entire ambience was agog with Festive Fervour.

The highlight of the programme was a high voltage Panel Discussion on the contribution of Women towards Vikasit Bharat. The Panelists were Dr. Anita Panda, Rashmi Sahoo, Dr. Kavita Rao, Beauty Srivastava, Rinki Sodha Rajput and Ruchi Dubey. The Discussion was ably moderated by Shyama Jha. The Ceremony witnessed the Mega release

## Panic in Pakistan as India vows to cut off water supply over Kashmir

**LATIFABAD, Pakistan/NEW DELHI, (HS) :** Spraying pesticides on his parched vegetables one street away from the Indus River, Pakistani farmer Homla Thakhur is worried about his future. The sun is at its peak, the river is running very low, and India has vowed to cut supplies upstream after a deadly militant attack in Kashmir. "If they stop water, all of this will turn into the Thar desert, the whole country," said Thakhur, 40, before heading back to the river to refill the tank for the spray gun.

The Reuters Tariff Watch newsletter is your daily guide to the latest global trade and tariff news. His nearly 5-acre (2 hectare) farm is located in the Latifabad area of the southeastern province of Sindh, from where the Indus flows into the Arabian Sea after originating in Tibet and snaking through India. Thakhur's fears were echoed by more than 15 Pakistani farmers and several other experts, especially as rain



has been scanty in recent years. For the first time, India on Wednesday suspended the World Bank-mediated Indus Waters Treaty, opens new tab of 1960 that ensures water for 80% of Pakistani farms, saying it would last until "Pakistan credibly and irrevocably abjures its support for cross-border terrorism". India says two of the three

militants who attacked tourists and killed 26 men in Kashmir were from Pakistan. Islamabad has denied any role and said "any attempt to stop or divert the flow of water belonging to Pakistan ... will be considered as an Act of War". The treaty split the Indus and its tributaries between the nuclear-armed rivals.

## Exit Deadline Ends Today, 272 Pakistani Nationals Left India in 2 Days

**Pahalgam, (HS) :** Around 272 Pakistani nationals have left India in the past two days through the Attari-Wagah border point and a few hundred more are expected to exit on Sunday when the deadline for the 12 categories of short-term visa holders of the neighbouring nation ends, an official said. As many as 629 Indians, including 13 diplomats and officials, have returned from Pakistan through the international border crossing located in Punjab. The 'Leave India' notice to the Pakistani nationals was issued by the government after 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed by Pakistan-linked terrorists at Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir on April 22. The deadline for exiting India for those holding SAARC visas was April 26. For those carrying medical visas, the deadline is April 29.

The 12 categories of visas whose holders have to leave India by Sunday are -- visa on arrival, business, film, journalist, transit, conference, mountaineering, student, visitor, group



tourist, pilgrim and group pilgrim. However, those having long-term and diplomatic or official visas were exempted from the 'Leave-India' order. According to officials, 191 Pakistani nationals left India through the Attari-Wagah border on April 25 and 81 more exited on April 26. As many as 287 Indians crossed into India from Pakistan On April 25, and altogether 342 Indians, including 13 diplomats and officials, returned from Pakistan through the Attari-Wagah border on April 26, officials said. Some of the

Pakistanis might have left India through airports too, they said, pointing out that since India does not have direct air connectivity with Pakistan, they might have left for other countries. Officials said the

highest number of Pakistanis with short-term visas were staying in Maharashtra. Their number was pegged at around 1,000, they said. The state's minister Yogesh Kadam on Saturday said the 1,000 Pakistani nationals with short-term visas have been asked to leave India. Around 5,050 Pakistani citizens have been living in Maharashtra and most of them are on long-term visas. Of these, around 2,450 were in Nagpur, 1,100 in Thane, 390 in Jalgaon, 290 in Navi Mumbai, 290 in Pimpri Chinchwad, 120 in Amravati and

## 9 Killed after Car Rams Crowd at Festival in Canada's Vancouver

**Ottawa, (HS) :** At least nine deaths were reported from the Canadian city of Vancouver after a driver ran over a crowd at a street festival. The local police said the incident occurred around 8 pm (local time). The incident happened as members of the Filipino community gathered in large numbers to celebrate Lapu Lapu Day in the city's Sunset on Fraser neighbourhood. The driver has been taken into custody, police said. "A number of people have been killed and multiple others are injured after a driver drove into a crowd at a street festival at E. 41st Avenue and Fraser shortly after 8 p.m. tonight. The driver is in custody. We will provide more information as the investigation unfolds," said Vancouver Police. Later, police updated that at least nine people have died in the incident. Eyewitnesses told local media outlets that a black SUV ploughed through the festival at speed, hitting multiple people as it drove through the crowds. They said the driver of the car appeared to be a young Asian man, and appeared to be mentally challenged. Several videos of the horrific incident have surfaced on social media, showing bodies lying on the street after the car attack, as emergency crews raced to attend to those still alive. Festival security guard Jen Idaba-Castaneto told local news site Vancouver Is Awesome that she saw "bodies everywhere." "You don't know who to help, here or there. It's so shocking," she said. Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said he is "devastated" to learn about the events at the Lapu Lapu festival in Vancouver. "I offer my deepest condolences to the loved ones of those killed and injured, to the Filipino Canadian community, and to everyone in Vancouver. We are all mourning with you.



15 in Mumbai, officials said. Interestingly, 107 Pakistani nationals, who were staying in Maharashtra were, untraceable, according to officials.

In the southern state of Telangana, police chief Jitender cited official records to say that as many as 208 Pakistani nationals were staying in the state, mostly in Hyderabad. Among them, 156 hold long-term visas, 13 short-term visas and 39 were with the travel document for medical and business purposes. There were 104 Pakistani nationals in the southern coastal state of Kerala, of whom 99 were on long-term visas. The remaining five, who were on either tourist or medical visas, have left the country. Central India's Madhya Pradesh had around 228 visiting Pakistani nationals, many of whom have left the country already, officials said. On the other hand, around 12 Pakistanis have been identified in Odisha and all of them have been asked to follow the deadline set for them to leave the country. Goa Chief Minister

Pramod Sawant has said three Pakistani nationals, who were in the state on short-term visas, have been asked to leave. Seven Pakistanis were in Gujarat on short-term visas -- five in Ahmedabad and one each in Bharuch and Vadodara. They have either left India or are leaving by Sunday, officials said. Besides, 438 Pakistani nationals are in the western state on long-term visas and they include Hindus who have applied for Indian citizenship. In the north, Uttar Pradesh Director General of Police Prashant Kumar said on Saturday that the process of sending back all categories of Pakistani citizens visiting the state who have been ordered to leave India has been completed. One Pakistani national is still in the state and he will depart for Pakistan on April 30, the DGP said. Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday called up the chief ministers of all states and asked them to ensure that no Pakistani stays in India beyond the deadline set for leaving the country.

## "Anytime, Anywhere": Indian Navy's Message with Arabian Sea Warship Visuals

**New Delhi, (HS) :** Indian warships have conducted multiple anti-ship firings in the Arabian Sea, demonstrating their preparedness for long-range precision strikes, with the Navy asserting they are combat-ready to protect the nation's interests. Multiple visuals of BrahMos anti-ship and anti-surface cruise missiles being fired from warships in the middle of the sea were shared by the Navy. These warships included Kolkata-class destroyers, and Nilgiri and Krivak-class frigates. "Indian Navy Ships undertook successful multiple anti-ship firings to revalidate and demonstrate readiness of platforms, systems, and crew for long-range precision offensive strike. Indian Navy stands combat-ready, credible, and future-ready in safeguarding the nation's maritime interests Anytime Anywhere Anyhow," said the Indian Navy in an online post. Pakistan issued a notification for the firings in the Arabian Sea region. The firings come amid heightened tensions between India and Pakistan in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack. After the massacre of 26 civilians vacationing in Jammu and Kashmir, India has ordered Pakistanis to return to their homeland and suspended the crucial Indus Water Treaty. Pakistan has also suspended all bilateral agreements with Indian. Repeated ceasefire violations from Pakistan's side along the Line of Control have also begun in an attempt to provoke the Indian troops. The Indian side has retaliated effectively, according to the army. No casualties were reported in the exchange of fire. The Pahalgam massacre was the deadliest terror attack since the scrapping of Article 370.



**Pahalgam, (HS) :** The police on Saturday issued a list of 14 local active terrorists in Kashmir Valley. Out of these, nine terrorists are operating in South Kashmir. The security forces in Jammu and Kashmir continued their crackdown on terrorists on Sunday, days after 26 people were killed in the ghastly Pahalgam terrorist attack.

A two-storied residence of Adnan Shafi Dar, a terrorist affiliated to The Resistance Front (TRF), a proxy of Pakistan-based terrorist outfit Lashkar-e-Toiba, was razed in Melhura in Zainapora area of Shopian district. A house belonging to another terrorist Amir Nazir was demolished in Pulwama's

Daramdora area. The security forces demolished the house of father of a terrorist named Jameel Ahmed, who is in Pakistan since 2017. Till now, the houses of nine terrorists have been demolished in the Kashmir Valley. The crackdown on terrorists comes amid the heightened border tensions between India and Pakistan following the attack. Fresh ceasefire violations were reported in Nowgam and Uri sectors during the night. The army strongly retaliated against Pakistani firing in Rampur Uri and Tutmargali in the Nowgam Kupwara sectors. "On the night of 26-27 April 2025, Pakistan Army posts initiated unprovoked small arms fire across the Line of Control in the areas opposite Tutmari Gali and Rampur Sectors. Own troops responded effectively with appropriate small arms fire," the Indian Army said in a statement. India has taken strong actions against Pakistan following the Pahalgam terror attack, including the suspension of the Indus Water Treaty. A 45-year-old social activist named Ghulam Rasool Magray, who was shot at by unknown gunmen on Saturday, succumbed to his injuries on Sunday.

Magray was shot by terrorists inside his residence at Kandi Khas late on Saturday. The police on Saturday issued a list of 14 local active terrorists in Kashmir Valley. Out of these, nine terrorists are operating in South Kashmir.



Puraskars, conferment of Adi Rani Tribal Queen Title and Aryabhata Gaurav Sammans. The distinguished guests graced the august occasion include Former Minister of U.P., Sunil Bharala, Former External Affairs Secretary Amarendra Khatua, Renowned Road Safety Activist, Dr. Maya Tandon, Chairman, World Odisha Society, Kishore Dwibedi, Founder President, Youth for Nation, Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Secretary, Sree Neelachal Seva Sangha

Ravindranath Pradhan, Leading Industrialist Gaurav Gupta, Company Secretary B. L. Agarwalla, Noted Social Activist Hemant Sharma, Famous Spiritual Preacher Swami Prem Anweshi, Ex MLA of G B Nagar Vimala Batham and Renowned Vedic Tantra Guru and Astrologer Acharya Dr Shailesh Tiwari. Invited Guests presented "I Woman of Substance Awards" to several outstanding women for remarkable contributions in their

Professional Field. They include Dr. Maya Tandon (Mother Icon), Gulabo Devi (Lifetime Achievement), Bansuri Swaraj (Best Politician), Dr. Shashi Singh (Women's Face of the Year), Rashmi Sahoo (Entrepreneur), Adv. Sasmita Tripathy (Best Lawyer), Nilima Priyadarshini (Best Media Personality), Dr. Kavita Rao (Women Entrepreneur), Er. Rosalin Mishra (Playback Singer), Abha Anupama (Women Entrepreneur), Anindita Das (Senior Playback Singer), Beauty Srivastava ( Women Entrepreneur), Geetika Agarwal (Social Activist), Smita Samantha (Women Entrepreneur), Madhusmita Patra (Social Activist), Geeta Manod (Social Activist), Monalisa Mohanty (Social Activist), Priya Mishra (Spiritualism), Raj Kumari Brahmabhatt (Social Activist), Laganadipa Mishra (Social Activist), Priyatama Kar (Women Entrepreneur), Priyanka Goutam (Best Actress), Rinki Sodha Rajput (Best Model cum Actress), Manju Amar Dabhi ( Best Media Personality), Reetika Kashyap (Anchor), Ruchi Dubey (Educationist), Smarika Mohanty (Women Entrepreneur), Dr.

Shreya Jessica Dhan (Tribal Women's Empowerment), Dr. Anita Panda (Best Writer) and Anjali Dutta (Motivational Speaker). The major attraction of the Award presentation ceremony at India Habitat centre was a spectacular musical extravaganza presented by Renowned Singer Anindita Das. Ace Anchor Pratima Sharma conducted the proceedings of the ceremony in a smooth and seamless manner.

The Prominent Personalities present include Dr Debendra Majhi, Pramod Bhal, Vinayak Das, Dr. Kaveri Behera, Suranjita Rana, Dwarka Chopra, Santosh Rout, Subhash Chandra Sastri and Ajay Gupta. The entire arrangements of Award Presentation Ceremony were well managed and successfully executed with the able and active supervision of senior office bearers of Kalinga Gourav Foundation like President Dr. Sanjeeb Patjoshi, Secretary General Dr. Chidatmika Khatua, Chairman, Reception Committee Dr. Manoranjan Mohanty, National Convenor Dr. Rajnikant Mishra and Chairman, Organising Committee Bharat Kumar.



## SUV Rams Crowd In Canada Festival, Multiple Casualties Reported



**Vancouver, (H.S):** Multiple people were injured and several killed after a vehicle drove into a crowd at the Lapu Lapu Filipino Festival in Vancouver, Canada, according to the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) on Sunday (Indian time).

Authorities confirmed that the driver, who drove a black SUV into the street festival at E. 41st Avenue and Fraser Street shortly after 8 p.m. on Saturday, is now in custody. The incident occurred during the Lapu Lapu Day Block Party, an annual event honouring the Philippines' first national hero. Taking to X, the

Vancouver Police posted, "A number of people have been killed and multiple others are injured after a driver drove into a crowd at a street festival at E. 41st Avenue and Fraser Street shortly after 8 p.m. tonight. The driver is in custody. We will provide more information as the investigation unfolds."

Meanwhile, harrowing videos from the scene surfaced on social media, showing multiple victims lying on the ground, some of whom appeared dead or seriously injured. Witnesses reported that the victims were hit while walking or waiting at food trucks

lined up along the road. New Democratic MP Don Davies expressed his condolences on X, posting, "Just heard the tragic news of the horrendous attack at the Lapu Lapu festival. I am praying for all the victims and their families." Vancouver Mayor Ken Sim also reacted to the tragedy, saying, "I am shocked and deeply saddened by the horrific incident at today's Lapu Lapu Day event..."

Our thoughts are with all those affected and with Vancouver's Filipino community during this incredibly difficult time." A large number of emergency services are present at the scene, and investigations are ongoing. Media reports stated that it remains unclear whether the crash was accidental or intentional. The Lapu Lapu festival, taking place in the area of E 43rd Avenue and Fraser Street, was meant to be a celebration of Filipino heritage but instead turned into a scene of sorrow and chaos.

## Will continue offering full support to Indian govt: Kash Patel on Pahalgam attack



**Washington, (H.S):** Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director Kash Patel on Sunday condemned the Pahalgam terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir and assured continued support to the Indian government in its fight against terrorism. Patel described the deadly assault as a "reminder of the constant threats our world faces from the evils of terrorism."

The brutal attack, which took place on April 22 and claimed 26 lives, was carried out by The Resistance Front (TRF), a proxy of the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). It has sparked widespread diplomatic and public outrage both within India and internationally. Taking to X, Patel wrote, "The FBI sends our condolences to all the victims of the recent terrorist attack in Kashmir - and will continue offering our full support to the Indian government." "This is a reminder of the constant threats our world faces from the evils of terrorism. Pray for those affected. Thank you to the men and

women of law enforcement who answer the call in moments like these," he further added. In a show of solidarity, former US President Donald Trump also spoke to Prime Minister Narendra Modi a day after the attack, strongly condemning the act of terror. President Donald Trump called PM Narendra Modi and conveyed his deepest condolences at the loss of innocent lives in the terror attack

in Jammu and Kashmir. President Trump strongly condemned the terror attack and expressed full support to India to bring to justice the perpetrators of this heinous attack. India and the United States stand together in the fight against terror," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) posted on X. Although Trump had previously offered to mediate between India and Pakistan

during his first term, he declined to renew that offer when questioned by a reporter during a news gaggle en route to Rome to attend Pope Francis' funeral. Asked whether he was concerned about the situation and if he planned to speak to the leaders of India and Pakistan, Trump responded, "There have been tensions on that border for 1500 years," rhetorically exaggerating the history of the dispute."

But they'll get it figured out one way or the other. I'm sure that I know both leaders," he added. Despite showing no intention to mediate, Trump and his officials were swift to condemn the Pahalgam terror attack and pledge support to India. US Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard also extended condolences and support to India's efforts to bring the perpetrators to justice. Posting on X, Gabbard wrote, "We are with you and support you as you hunt down those responsible for this heinous attack."

## Pak Army Chief escalates anti-India rant, rakes up two-nation theory again

**Islamabad/New Delhi, (H.S):** Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir on Saturday once again raked up the two-nation theory, stating that the very idea behind it was the fact that Muslims and Hindus are two separate nations."

The two-nation theory was based on the fundamental belief that Muslims and Hindus are two separate nations, not one. Muslims are distinct from Hindus in all aspects of life - religion, customs, traditions, thinking and aspirations,"

Munir said while addressing the passing out parade at the Pakistan Military Academy (PMA) in Kakul, Abbottabad. The Pakistani Army chief insisted that Pakistan's existence was a result of "unparalleled struggle and sacrifices", adding that safeguarding it was the duty of the armed forces of the country." Our forefathers gave immense sacrifices for the creation of Pakistan. We know how to defend it," he said while



referring to the growing tensions with India following this week's Pahalgam attack that claimed the lives of 26 innocent civilians.

The event was also addressed by Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif who expressed Islamabad's readiness to participate in any "neutral, transparent and credible" investigation into the Kashmir terror attack which has brought both countries on the verge of an all-out confrontation. This

is not the first time that Munir has indulged in loose talk, exhibiting conduct unbecoming an officer. The Pakistani Army Chief had made an extremely provocative speech just a few days before the heinous Pahalgam attack.

Addressing a Convention for Overseas Pakistanis in Islamabad on April 16 - again in the presence of the country's Prime Minister - Munir urged the gathering to not forget that they belong to a "superior

ideology and culture" and went on to refer to Kashmir as Islamabad's "jugular vein". "You should definitely tell Pakistan's story to your children. Our forefathers thought that we are different from the Hindus in every aspect of life. Our religions, our customs, traditions, thoughts and ambitions are different.

That was the foundation of the two-nation theory that was laid," he said. India had hit out at the Pak Army Chief immediately, reminding him yet again that it is Pakistan which continues to illegally occupy the territory of Jammu and Kashmir and which it must vacate."

See, how can anything foreign be their jugular vein? This is a Union Territory of India. Its only relationship with Pakistan is the vacation of illegally occupied territories by that country," said Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) at a regular media briefing in New Delhi on April 17.

## Myanmar: Over 200,000 Displaced After March 28 Earthquake

**Yangon, (H.S):** More than 200,000 people have been displaced after a powerful 7.7-magnitude earthquake struck central Myanmar on March 28, according to the country's National Disaster Management Committee (NDMC).

At the NDMC's third meeting of the year, held Friday in Nay Pyi Taw, Committee Chairman Vice Senior General Soe Win said the earthquake caused widespread destruction across 10 regions and states, including Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, and Shan, reports Xinhua news agency, quoting state media. He reported that 3,763 people have been killed and 5,107 injured, while 110 remained



missing as of Friday. In total, 629,206 people from 128,965 households were directly affected. As of April 23, 48,656 of the total displaced people have been sheltering in 135 rescue centres, while 159,239 others have relocated independently, the official daily The Mirror reported Saturday, citing NDMC. Despite

being affected, more than 421,000 people have remained in their homes as their houses are still livable, Soe Win said. Search and rescue operations, along with damage assessments and recovery work, are underway in hard-hit areas like Sagaing, Mandalay, and Nay Pyi Taw, he added. The earthquake destroyed or damaged

over 63,000 homes, 6,700 schools, 5,400 monasteries, 5,300 pagodas, and hundreds of other religious buildings, hospitals, bridges, roads, and dams, he said. International medical teams, including 337 foreign personnel, have set up temporary hospitals in the worst-affected areas and are providing care alongside local health workers.

Soe Win said the funds donated by local and international donors via the NDMC are being systematically distributed for rescue and recovery efforts. Following a request for international assistance by the Myanmar government, 2,095 rescue workers from 26 countries and regions have arrived in Myanmar, bringing over 3,800

tons of relief supplies using 147 planes, seven ships, and 23 vehicles, he added. Authorities are inspecting damaged buildings using a color-coded system - blue, orange, and red - to assess structural damage and guide repairs.

Temporary housing, including bashes and modular shelters, is being built for displaced staff and residents, while plans are underway to reconstruct homes using earthquake-resistant designs based on soil testing and fault-line assessments. Since the earthquake on March 28, Myanmar has experienced over 150 aftershocks, and rescue and recovery operations are ongoing, the report said.

## Death Toll In Iran Port Explosion Mounts To 25

**Tehran, (H.S):** At least 25 people were killed and 800 others injured in a huge explosion at a port on Saturday in Iran's southern province of Hormozgan, media reported Sunday. The exact cause of the incident has not been determined yet, Xinhua reported, quoting official news agency IRNA. The explosion occurred at the Port of Shahid Rajaei in the provincial capital Bandar Abbas, after which rescue teams were immediately dispatched to the scene, and all port activities were suspended, the semi-official Tasnim news agency reported. In remarks to the semi-official Fars news agency on Sunday, Jalal Maleki, spokesman of the Tehran Fire Department, said the massive fire resulting from the blast had been almost contained, although there were still scattered flames, which he described as "not worrisome."

Ahmad Pouyafar, governor of Bandar Abbas, announced on Saturday that all educational centres across the city would be closed on Sunday due to the explosion and consequent air pollution. Hossein Zafari, spokesperson for the National Disaster Management Organization, told Fars that chemical materials in a container at the port may have caused the blast. However, the Iranian government's spokeswoman, Fatemeh Mohajerani, warned against any "hasty speculations" about the cause of the incident before relevant authorities complete the investigations.

What had been confirmed so far was that there were containers, probably with chemical materials, at a corner of the port, she added. In a post on X, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian extended sympathy to the victims of the explosion, announcing that he had issued a directive for the investigation of the blast and its cause. He added that Iranian Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni had been dispatched to the province to ensure necessary coordination and address the condition of the injured. Following the incident, many countries, as well as international organisations and groups, extended condolences to the Iranian people and government.



## Trump's Agenda For Next 100 Days: Trade Deals, Peace Talks, 'Torpedoes'

**Washington, (H.S):** President Donald Trump and his administration this week will highlight the accomplishments of his first 100 days in office, while looking toward the next 100 days with a focus on trade deals and peace talks, White House officials said. After a pace of changes that have thrilled allies and stunned adversaries, including in social policy areas such as transgender rights, one official said Trump has "torpedoes" in store but did not explain what those were.

Trump has enacted sweeping changes on a wide range of U.S. domestic and foreign policy priorities since taking office on January 20. He has upended the world economic order with tariffs, slashed the federal government with job cuts and done away with diversity programs in the public and private sector. He has also attacked academia, law firms and courts. This week, Trump plans



to travel to Michigan for a rally to commemorate the 100-day milestone. The White House intends to highlight his economic vision, ejection of undocumented immigrants, changes to foreign policy, and work by billionaire Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency to purge the federal bureaucracy and cut what it sees as waste.

Celebrating those moves will be part of a broad victory lap around Trump's second-term launch that the official, speaking on condition of anonymity, described to reporters as a conservative's fantasy. "Every

morning I wake up, it's like living in a dreamscape," he said. While Trump officials laud the speed and breadth of his efforts to remake American society, critics say Trump has trampled on the rights of citizens and non-citizens, alienated allies and threatened U.S. supremacy in the world.

The president has withheld funding from universities for what his administration considers tolerance of anti-Semitic behavior; cut back on transgender rights; and done away with diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) programs in the federal

government and with federal contractors. This has had a broad knock-on effect throughout U.S. society. The official said there is more to come, with lots of "torpedoes under the water."

That includes more executive action, a hallmark of Trump's first 100 days, which the official said would continue like a "snowball rolling downhill." He said the administration was still working on a travel ban for citizens from multiple countries. Courts have stymied some of Trump's actions, drawing scorn from his allies and White House rebukes that those judges are thwarting the will of the head of the executive branch and the people who elected him. While Trump will continue to wage war with the courts and a government bureaucracy that his team views as too bloated and out of line with his world view, another official said he would put more focus in his next 100 days on trade deals

and peace talks. The president launched an all-out trade war on numerous countries this year before putting reciprocal tariffs largely on hold to allow for negotiations with individual nations.

His administration hopes to secure agreements within 90 days. Experts say that is extremely unlikely, noting that Trump has not yet secured a single deal. His rhetoric about talks, particularly with China, has often been at odds with what the other country says is true. The president will take an extended trip abroad next month, visiting Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, and continue to push for peace in Russia's war with Ukraine. Trump had promised to solve that conflict on "Day One," but peace has been elusive. The president conceded on Saturday that Russian President Vladimir Putin may not want to stop the war.



## Centre Launches Portal, Guidelines For Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme; Aims For Large Investments

**New Delhi, (H.S):** Centre has launched guidelines and portal for the Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS) to develop a strong component ecosystem by attracting large investments, both global and domestic, in the electronics component manufacturing ecosystem. Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw launched the guidelines and portal on April 26.

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister, had approved the Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS), which was notified on April 08, 2025. The scheme aims to develop strong manufacturing capacity and capabilities and integrate Indian companies with Global Value Chains (GVCs). Speaking at the launch, Union Minister stated that electronics production has



grown five-fold and exports have grown more than six-fold, with export CAGR exceeding 20 per cent and production CAGR over 17 per cent.

He added that mobile phones, servers, laptops, and IT hardware have seen very strong progress and that the industry is poised to take off significantly. Vaishnaw described ECMS as a horizontal scheme that will support not just electronics but

also industrial, power, automobile sectors and more. He emphasized that a complete ecosystem for electronics manufacturing is coming into place across the country.

Underscoring the importance of innovation and quality, the Minister said that many companies have now established design teams, and it is essential that every participant develops such

teams. Stressing on quality, he called for achieving Six Sigma standards across the sector, warning that those not adhering to quality benchmarks would be cut short. He said the twin focus on design capability and quality excellence would drive India's leadership in electronics. Vaishnaw also spoke about India's advances in AI and data-driven solutions. He informed that 350 datasets have already been uploaded on AI Kosh, and four AI tools developed by IITs will soon be released.

He further stated that techno-legal solutions are being developed to strengthen the electronics ecosystem. The Minister informed that ECMS has a strong pipeline of projects ready for approval and expressed confidence that this marks just the beginning of India's rapid growth as a global electronics hub.

## India's Forex Reserve Rises For 7th Week, Gradually Climbing Towards All-Time High

**New Delhi, (H.S):** India's foreign exchange reserves rose USD 8.310 billion to USD 686.145 billion in the week that ended on April 18, extending gains for the seventh straight week, official data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) this week showed. Barring the latest jump, forex reserves had slumped for about four months.

The forex reserves started falling after reaching an all-time high of USD 704.89 billion in September, only to recover afterwards. The decline in reserves was most likely due to RBI intervention, aimed at preventing a sharp depreciation of the Rupee. The Indian Rupee is now at or near its all-time low against the US dollar. The latest RBI data showed that India's foreign currency assets (FCA), the largest component of foreign exchange reserves, stood at USD 578.49 billion. The gold reserves



currently amount to USD 84.572 billion, according to RBI data. Estimates suggest that India's foreign exchange reserves are sufficient to cover approximately 10-12 months of projected imports. In 2023, India added around USD 58 billion to its foreign exchange reserves, contrasting with a cumulative decline of USD 71 billion in 2022. In 2024, the reserves rose by a little over USD 20 billion. Foreign exchange reserves, or FX

reserves, are assets held by a nation's central bank or monetary authority, primarily in reserve currencies such as the US Dollar, with smaller portions in the Euro, Japanese Yen, and Pound Sterling. The RBI often intervenes by managing liquidity, including selling dollars, to prevent steep Rupee depreciation. The RBI strategically buys dollars when the Rupee is strong and sells when it weakens.

## India, As Fastest Growing Economy, Is Ideal Investment Destination: RBI Governor

**Washington, (H.S):** India is expected to record a robust 6.5 per cent growth in the current financial year despite a tremendous increase in uncertainty and volatility in global financial markets, as per RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra. Addressing the US-India Economic Forum organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and US India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) here, Malhotra said: "At a time when many advanced economies are facing economic headwinds and a deteriorating economic outlook, India continues to offer strong growth and stability making it a natural choice for investors seeking long term value and opportunity."

The RBI Governor pointed out that India offers a policy ecosystem that is transparent, rule-based, and forward-looking - an ideal setting for long-term and productive investments." As the world's fastest-growing major economy, India is not just a destination for investment - it is a partner in prosperity. Together, we have the chance to shape the future - not only for India but for a better world. I invite you to be a part of this journey, to collaborate, innovate, and invest in India," he said.

Malhotra highlighted that the Indian economy has demonstrated remarkable resilience and dynamism. Over the past four years (2021-22 to 2024-25), it has recorded an average annual growth rate of 8.2 per cent. It was and continues to be the fastest-growing major economy in the



world. This is a significant step up from the average growth rate of 6.6 per cent in the preceding decade (2010 to 2019). No wonder, over the last ten years, India has leapfrogged from the tenth largest economy to the fifth. In terms of purchasing power parity, it is already third. Even nominally, the country is poised to become the third-largest economy shortly, he added. "I am sanguine of our continued success as there are a lot of positive factors that give me this confidence," the central bank chief remarked.

In this context, he pointed out that India's financial sector is strong and vibrant, efficiently catering to the funding requirements of various economic agents. The banking sector, which continues to meet the large funding requirements of the economy, has demonstrated resilience with healthy balance sheets. The soundness of the country's

banks has been bolstered by strong profitability, lower non-performing assets and adequate capital and liquidity buffers. The health of the non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) sector is also robust. Bank credit growth, although moderating in recent months, continues to be in double digits (about 12 per cent) compared to an average of about 10.5 per cent in the last 10 years, he added."

While offering excellent opportunities for investment, as private debt to GDP is still on the lower side, the banking sector is poised to meet the investment needs of the society and industry," the RBI Governor said. He also highlighted that proactive government policies present unparalleled opportunities for investment in sunrise sectors such as space, semi conductors, renewable energy and electric vehicles.

## 'Make In India For Global Scale': Vaishnaw As Reports Suggest Apple May Expand Production In India

**New Delhi, (H.S):** Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw, said on Sunday that India is now achieving "Make in India" at a global scale, as reports suggest that tech giant Apple may shift the entire assembly of iPhones meant for the US to India by next year.

Vaishnaw shared a newspaper clip on social media platform X with the caption "Make in India' for global scale," highlighting the country's growing strength in global manufacturing. According to a report by Financial Times, tech giant Apple is planning to shift the entire assembly of iPhones meant for the US to India by next year. This would be a major step in Apple's global manufacturing strategy as the company looks



to reduce its dependence on China. However, the final decision will depend on how fast India can strengthen its supply chain and how the ongoing trade talks between China and the US unfold.

The report mentioned that US President Donald Trump had also been pressuring Apple to move its production out of China due to trade tensions. Trump recently confirmed that discussions on tariffs with China are still continuing. Meanwhile,

Apple's contract manufacturers in India are already scaling up their operations. Foxconn's new plant in Bengaluru is expected to become operational this month and could produce up to 20 million iPhones at full capacity.

Apple's manufacturing strength in India is already impressive. In the past year, iPhones worth \$22 billion were assembled in India, with Tamil Nadu-based Foxconn contributing nearly 50 per cent of Apple's

exports. Exports from Foxconn's factory have jumped more than 40 per cent compared to the same period last year. Today, India accounts for nearly 20 per cent of Apple's total iPhone production worldwide, showing how important the country has become for the brand's global plans.

The Indian market is also witnessing strong growth for Apple. In the first quarter of 2025 alone, more than three million iPhones were shipped from India - a new record. This rising demand has been supported by affordability schemes such as no-cost EMIs, cashback offers, and discounts through online shopping platforms. Experts believe Apple could maintain a steady annual growth rate of 10 to 15 per cent in India this year.

## India's Growth Story Is Safe, Secure And Stable: Piyush Goyal

**New Delhi, (H.S):** Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, on Sunday, highlighted India's strong foreign exchange reserves and its position as the world's fastest-growing major economy, attracting both global and domestic capital. "India's growth story is safe, secure, and stable," the Minister said in his address at an event organised by leading mutual fund managers and financial advisors in the national capital."

Today, through initiatives such as 'Make in India', our country has become more integrated into global supply chains on the back of our competitive strengths and growing manufacturing capabilities," he added. Goyal's statement on the strong economic fundamentals of the economy comes in the backdrop of India's



forex reserves surging for the seventh straight week to a six-month high of \$686.15 billion as on April 18, according to the latest Reserve Bank of India data.

The reserves rose by \$8.3 billion for the week ended April 18, after having shot up by as much as \$39.2 billion in the preceding six weeks. A strengthening of the country's foreign exchange reserves also helps bolster the rupee vis-a-vis

the US Dollar, which is good for the economy. With the recent increase in foreign exchange reserves the rupee has also emerged stronger.

An increase in the foreign exchange reserves gives the RBI more headroom to stabilise the rupee when it turns volatile. The RBI can intervene in the spot and forward currency markets by releasing more dollars to prevent the rupee from going into a free

fall. Conversely, a declining forex reserve leaves the RBI less space to intervene in the market to prop up the rupee. An IMF report, released last week, said India continues to remain the world's fastest growing major economy and the only country expected to clock more than six per cent growth in the next two years.

The IMF outlook report pegs India's economic growth rate at 6.2 per cent in 2025 and 6.3 per cent in 2026 which is more than 2 percentage points above second ranking China's economic growth forecast at 4 per cent for 2025 and 4.6 per cent in 2026. The US, which has triggered tariff turmoil across the globe, is expected to see its GDP growth slowing to 1.8 per cent this year, which is expected to decline further to 1.7 per cent in 2026, according to the report.

## NIELIT signs MoUs with 8 Visionary Organizations to Propel Digital India Initiatives



**New Delhi, (PIB):** In a major stride towards advancing the Digital India mission, the National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT) signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with eight visionary organizations on 25th April, 2025 at Electronics Niketan, New Delhi.

The MoU signing ceremony, graced by the esteemed presence of Sh. S. Krishnan, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), marks a new chapter of strategic collaborations for NIELIT aimed at strengthening

the digital ecosystem of the nation. The organisations with whom NIELIT has signed MoU are Semi-Conductor Laboratory (SCL), ERNET India, National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, SKYROOT Aerospace, Institute for Financial Management and Research (IFMR) and Kyndryl India.

These partnerships are designed to enhance education, skilling, research, and innovation in the fields of Electronics and Information Technology. The areas of collaboration span across joint research projects, curriculum

development, capacity building, training, skilling programs, and support for emerging technologies and innovation. Speaking on the occasion, Sh. S. Krishnan, Secretary, MeitY, highlighted the significance of such synergies, stating, "This is a strategic convergence of academia, industry, and government institutions to foster a robust digital ecosystem and develop a future-ready workforce. Collaborative efforts like these are essential to shaping a digitally empowered society and a thriving knowledge economy." He further

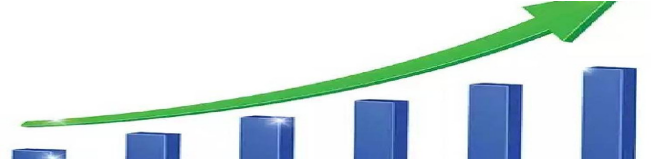
appreciated the leadership of Dr. M. M. Tripathi, Director General, NIELIT, and the entire NIELIT team for their pivotal role in forging these partnerships and advancing the organization's commitment to bridging the gap between industry needs and academic outcomes through high-quality, practical education and skilling initiatives.

The event was graced by distinguished dignitaries including Ms. Preeti Nath, Economic Adviser, MeitY, Dr. M. M. Tripathi, DG, NIELIT, Ms. Tulika Pandey, Scientist G & Group Coordinator, MeitY, Dr. Kamaljeet Singh, DG, SCL, Sh. Sanjeev Bansal, DG, ERNET India, Ms. Girija Mukund, Director CSR & ESG, Kyndryl India, Dr. Krishnashree Achuthan, Dean & Director, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Dr. C. V. S Kiran, VP, Skyroot Aerospace, Dr. Prof. Mohammad Rihan, DG, NISE, Dr. Narsi Reddy, Director, Heartfulness Institute.

## Market Valuation Of Six Top 10 Firms Jumps By 1.18 Lakh Crore This Week

**Mumbai, (H.S):** The combined market value of six of India's top 10 most valued companies surged by Rs 1,18,626.24 crore this week. During the week, the Sensex rose by 659.33 points, or 0.83 per cent, and the Nifty gained 187.7 points, or 0.78 per cent. Among the top 10 companies, six saw growth in their market valuations, including HDFC Bank, TCS, State Bank of India, Infosys, and ITC.

However, four companies - Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, Bajaj Finance, and Hindustan Unilever - experienced declines. TCS saw the highest increase in market value, adding Rs 53,692.42 crore to its valuation, which reached Rs 12,47,281.40 crore. Infosys' market capitalisation jumped by Rs 24,919.58 crore to Rs 6,14,766.06 crore, while HDFC Bank's valuation grew by Rs 2,907.85 crore, reaching Rs



14,61,842.17 crore. The State Bank of India's market cap climbed by Rs 1,472.57 crore to Rs 7,12,854.03 crore, and ITC saw an increase of Rs 1,126.27 crore, bringing its valuation to Rs 5,35,792.04 crore. On the downside, Bharti Airtel's market value dropped by Rs 41,967.5 crore, falling to Rs 10,35,274.24 crore, while Hindustan Unilever's market cap decreased by Rs 10,114.99 crore to Rs 5,47,830.70 crore. Bajaj Finance's valuation declined by Rs 1,863.83 crore to Rs 5,66,197.30 crore, and ICICI Bank's market cap dipped by Rs 1,130.07 crore to Rs 10,00,818.79 crore. Despite the fluctuations, the most valuable

companies in India are as follows: HDFC Bank, TCS, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Infosys, Bajaj Finance, Hindustan Unilever and others. Meanwhile, the combined market capitalisation of the top 10 most-valued companies surged by Rs 3.84 lakh crore last week, driven by a strong bullish trend in equities.

HDFC Bank and Bharti Airtel were the top performers. Despite a two-day holiday, the stock market saw a significant rally, rising over 4 per cent last week. The Nifty gained 1,023 points, or 4.48 per cent, closing at 23,851, while the Sensex rose by 3,395 points, or 4.52 per cent, closing at 78,553 in the previous week.





## Shruti responds to those asking her 'which number boyfriend is this'

Actor Shruti Haasan got candid about her regrets in life and the relationships she has been in the past. Here's what she said. Actor Shruti Haasan has been quite public about her relationships in the past, having most recently dated actor Michael Corsale and visual artist Santanu Hazarika. Talking to Filmfare, she revealed that she had 'no regrets' in life and had this to say to people who ask her, 'which number boyfriend is this?'

When Shruti was asked if

there was anything she would like to redo in her life, anything she regrets, she said, "I have hurt some people and I wish I didn't do that. Everything else, I have like zero regrets. I'm like, okay, I was a clown, it's fine. Just some people that were very valuable to me, I hurt them by mistake and I always now spend my time saying sorry for it." When the conversation then veered to relationships, she claimed she wished she 'wasn't so influenced' by her relationships. She claimed it

hasn't changed in years, adding, "We all have that one dangerous ex, apart from that, I do close the chapter with no regrets. That's why when people say, oh, which number boyfriend is this? You're not understanding - for you it's a number, for me it's the number of times I failed at having the love I want. So, I don't feel bad about it...but I feel a little bad. Of course, I'm human." She also stated that she doesn't blame her partner when a relationship ends because two

people can't be expected to change 'at the same time, in the same way'. She said she has been 'loyal' and 'good' in relationships, and if she hasn't chosen, she didn't 'owe people answers'. "We all have that one dangerous ex, apart from that, I do close the chapter with no regrets. That's why when people say, oh, which number boyfriend is this? You're not understanding - for you it's a number, for me it's the number of times I failed at having the love I want. So, I don't feel bad

about it...but I feel a little bad. Of course, I'm human," admitted Shruti Haasan.

Shruti was last seen in the 2023 films Veera Simha Reddy, Waltair Veerayya, The Eye, Hi Nanna and Salaar: Part 1 - Ceasefire. She is currently working on Lokesh Kanagaraj's Coolie, H Vinodh's Jana Nayagan, and Mysskin's Train. She will also reprise her role for Prashanth's Salaar Part 2: Shouryanga Parvam when the film goes on floors.

## Adnan slams ex Pak minister who asked singer to exit from India

As emotions run high in the aftermath of the heinous terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam, singer Adnan Sami has blasted Pakistani politician and former minister Fawad Ahmed Hussain Chaudhry after the latter took a swipe at him. Reacting to an X post on New Delhi setting a deadline for Pakistan nationals to leave India, Fawad Ahmed Hussain Chaudhry, a former minister from the Imran Khan-led Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, took a dig at Adnan Sami. "What about Adnan Sami?" he asked. Mr Sami was born and raised in the UK. His father was from Pakistan and his mother was from Jammu. The popular singer has been living in India since 2001. Earlier, he had a visitor's visa and held Pakistani and Canadian citizenship. In 2015, he applied for an Indian citizenship and the government approved the request. Since 2016, he has been an Indian citizen. Even that you didn't get right you dumb Ass...My roots are from Peshawar- Not Lahore!! To think that you were Minister of (Mis) Information and have no knowledge about any information!!!! Meri tho hawa



nikal gae- Tu abhi bhi Balloon hai! And you were Minister of Science?...

Responding to the Pakistan politician's post, Mr Sami said on X, "Who's going to tell this illiterate idiot!!" Fawad Ahmed Hussain Chaudhry did not stop at this and made an objectionable personal remark on Mr Sami's weight loss journey. "Our very Own Lahori Adnan Sami aisay lag rahay hein jaisey Baloon se hawa nikal chuki hooo... get well soon," he said. This translates to, "Our very own Lahori Adnan Sami looks like a deflated balloon, get well soon." This drew a sharp comeback from the singer. Mr Sami referred to the Pakistan politician as a "dumba\*" and corrected him, saying that his roots were from Peshawar and

not Lahore. "To think that you were Minister of (Mis) Information and have no knowledge about any information," he said, taking a swipe at the former minister. "Meri tho hawa nikal gae, Tu abhi bhi Balloon hai (I may have been deflated, you are still a balloon.

And you were Minister of Science? Was that the science of Bulls\*?" the singer said. Mr Sami, like crores of Indians, has been devastated by the terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam, where terrorists shot dead 25 tourists and a local Kashmiri in cold blood. Earlier, he had posted that his heart had shattered into a million pieces as he grappled with the devastating news of the terror attack.

## Vijayendra confirms meeting Salman for Bajrangi Bhaijaan sequel



The more personal, the more universal is something that V Vijayendra Prasad, screenwriter of the two-part Baahubali franchise, Bajrangi Bhaijaan, and RRR, swears by, and he believes that India is rich in stories and filmmakers should tap into this treasure trove to take Indian culture to the world.

Prasad and filmmaker-son SS Rajamouli will keep making films that are "100 per cent Indian", he added. "The more personal, the more universal. You have to speak the truth with honesty and integrity. We did not compromise on anything to be visible in the world," the screenwriter told. Citing examples of films such as Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge, Manjummel Boys and Gandhi, Prasad said cinema is a carrier of a country's culture. "People saw our movies. They liked our movies. Automatically, they have respect for our culture. There is so much possibility with visual media to take our culture abroad. There are so many patriotic heroes whose stories must be told." "One day, my son Rajamouli asked me, 'Father, can you tell me which way India is rich?' I was trying to find an answer when he said, 'India is rich in stories'. We have Mahabharata and Ramayana. So, we have to encash this. That is our property, our richness.

## Myth that sequels, franchise films safe to make: 'Raid 2' Director

It's a common belief that sequels and franchise movies come with a built-in safety net, says "Raid 2" director Rajkumar Gupta. Gupta is returning with a sequel to his 2018 blockbuster hit "Raid" that featured Ajay Devgn in the role of IRS officer Amay Patnaik.

"I don't think anything is safe, that's a myth that making the second part will be safe. Unless and until it calls for a sequel and you have to have a story for that, I don't believe in an easy way out. Sequels are working and there is no rocket science to that. They are working because of familiarity," the director, known for critically-acclaimed films like "Aamir", and "No One Killed Jessica", told PTI in an interview. "Raid" focused on real-life raids conducted by income tax department in the 1980s. The sequel, he said, once again focuses on true cases. Gupta said it has taken him almost four years to come up with a sequel. He praised Devgn for his performance in both the movies. "He is such a brilliant actor that we didn't need to do much but get the script right. Our approach was to get the story, character right, and make sure he doesn't look out of the character," the director said.

"We followed what the script demanded. Ajay sir is known to do different films and whatever the character demands, he does that." The 2018 film, "Raid" featured Saurabh Shukla as the antagonist and Ileana D'Cruz as Devgn's wife. For the sequel, the makers roped in a fresh cast, Riteish Deshmukh as the villain and Vaani Kapoor as Devgn's love



interest. When asked about changing the leading lady for the sequel, Gupta said, "It happens all the time". He also said that this change should not be viewed "negatively". "I think these things happen. Ileana was part of 'Raid', and she was great in it, and she is still part of the 'Raid' family. This time it's Vaani, it came nicely together, like both the characters. The character is the same, the actor has changed. It's seven years ahead. So, the actor has changed, and there is no negativity to that." Casting a villain is one of the most important decisions, said Gupta. "As a director, you have to see how he will enter the film and where it will all end, what's his journey. So, it is very important to cast it right for any character. But here it is more important because he is equal to the protagonist. It is set to release theatrically on May 1.

## IPL: MI crush LSG by 54 runs for fifth straight win

**Mumbai, (HS) :** Mumbai Indians (MI) secured a 54-run victory over Lucknow Super Giants (LSG), marking their fifth consecutive win. This is MI's first league victory against LSG in the last three editions. With the win, MI has climbed to second place on the points table, with 12 points from 10 matches, while LSG remains in sixth place with 10 points.

Jasprit Bumrah starred with the ball, taking four wickets overall, including three in a single over by dismissing David Miller, Abdul Samad, and Avesh Khan. Trent Boult took three wickets, and Will Jacks added two more as MI dominated LSG's batting lineup. After opting to bat first, MI posted a competitive total of 215/7 in their 20 overs. In response, LSG were all out for 161, with their chase derailed by a poor powerplay following Bumrah's early strike, removing Aiden Markram, resulting in LSG's batting order collapsing under pressure. Earlier, Suryakumar Yadav and Ryan Rickelton both reached their half-centuries, helping MI build a strong foundation. However,



despite a solid start, MI suffered a middle-order collapse, losing key wickets of Hardik Pandya, Tilak Varma, and Will Jacks in quick succession. SKY brought up his fifty in just 28 balls, while Rickelton reached 58 off 32. Both SKY and Rickelton were dismissed shortly after reaching their half-centuries. SKY was caught by Mitchell Marsh off an Avesh Khan delivery, while Digvesh Rathi gave LSG a crucial breakthrough by dismissing

Rickelton. Prince Yadav further troubled MI by removing Will Jacks, while pacer Mayank Yadav, marking his return in style, dismissed Rohit Sharma for just 12, with the MI opener failing to make an impact once again. Mayank also claimed another wicket, sending MI skipper Hardik Pandya back for just 5.

LSG won the toss and chose to bowl against MI in their IPL 2025 clash. "We feel the wicket is better to bat. It might stop a bit in

the afternoon. The win record (6-0) feels got but we don't look at it too much," LSG skipper Rishabh Pant said following the toss. "We don't mind a bat as well. Need to make sure the energy is in the right place in such conditions. Momentum always helps you but in the IPL every game matters and we just have to do the right thing," Hardik said. After losing four of their first five matches, MI have staged a strong comeback, winning four games in a row.

## Mayank Roars Back Into IPL 2025 after Injury Woes

**Mumbai, (HS) :** Mayank Yadav, one of India's fastest bowlers, marked his return to professional cricket in the 2025 Indian Premier League (IPL) after an extended injury layoff. Representing the Lucknow Super Giants (LSG), Mayank played against the Mumbai Indians (MI) at the iconic Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai. The 26-year-old pacer had been out of action since October 2024, after sustaining a foot injury during a T20I match against Bangladesh. Further delays followed when Mayank stubbed his toe while recuperating, forcing him to miss LSG's earlier games in IPL 2025. On April 27, LSG's captain Rishabh Pant announced Mayank's inclusion in the team's playing XI, replacing Shardul Thakur. The Super Giants won the toss and chose to bowl first, aiming to capitalise on the day game's conditions. Mayank's return is expected to bolster LSG's bowling lineup as they aim for a strong finish in the league.

In their previous match against the Delhi Capitals, Mayank was named in the squad but didn't play due to tactical decisions following LSG's batting collapse. His current performance will be closely watched by fans and critics alike, eager to see if he can replicate the pace and precision that made him a star on the cricket field.



## India Out from PSL-2025 Amid Rising Tensions

**New Delhi, (HS) :** The PCB on Sunday facilitated safe return of 23 Indian nationals who were part of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) production and broadcast team. Following the escalation in diplomatic and border tensions between the two countries following the Pahalgam terror attack, the Pakistan government had asked all Indian nationals in Pakistan to leave the country by April 30. In a cowardly attack, 26 innocent tourists were gunned down by terrorists in Pahalgam on April 22. A PCB official confirmed that 23 Indian nationals who were in Pakistan for the production and broadcast of the PSL matches have been sent back. "The Indian nationals all returned home via the Wagah border from Lahore," the official said. The Indian cameramen and technicians were hired by the company, which is producing and broadcasting PSL matches. The official said in a bid to ensure the quality of the broadcast didn't suffer, the company hired foreign and local cameramen and technicians to fill the void left by the Indians.



## Suresh Confirms Dhoni's IPL 2026 Plans after CSK's 2025 Debacle

**Chennai, (HS) :** Chennai Super Kings are in the middle of a torrid Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 season that sees them placed at the bottom of the points table, with just two wins in nine games so far. While the hopes of a playoff qualification only remain mathematically possible, the results have triggered a debate around the franchise undergoing a possible major reshuffle ahead of the next campaign. There are also questions on the future of MS Dhoni, but if CSK's 'Chinna Thala' Suresh Raina is to be believed, Dhoni is set to stay for at least one more season.

Analysing CSK's campaign, Raina highlighted how poor the team has been in almost all departments, be it fielding, batting, or bowling. For Raina, the foundation for the next season would be laid on the auction table for the franchise. "I hope that next season, they (CSK) come with better planning. And Dhoni is going to play for one more season, for sure," Raina said in a chat with sports presenter Jatin Sapru in a video on his YouTube channel. Assessing CSK's mega auction, Raina said that Dhoni doesn't seem to have had a hand in the buys



the management picked ahead of the 18th edition. "They always say MS Dhoni makes the final call. But to be very honest, I never attended any of the auctions. I was never a part of those discussions. I always talked about the players who were retained. MS might get a call about whether to go ahead with a player or not - but he's not that involved," he said. "The core group handles the auction - you can imagine, Dhoni can't have this type of auction. He would maybe

name four or five players he wants, and out of them, a few would be retained. Even if an uncapped player is working hard, look at MS Dhoni--being a 43-year-old captain, still giving everything." Dhoni himself hasn't produced many match-winning knocks for CSK this season, but Raina isn't expecting that from a 43-year-old. The former India and CSK batter is happy seeing Dhoni keep wickets, captain, and try his bit with the bat but wants the other 10 players to step up too.

"He's playing just for the brand, for his name, for the fandom - and still putting in the effort. At 43, he's doing wicketkeeping, captaining, carrying the entire team on his shoulders. But what are the other ten players doing? "Those who are paid 18 crores, 17 crores, 12 crores - they're not responding to the captain. Especially when you've never lost to certain teams before - that needs to be rectified. You have to identify - is this player a match-winner? Can I trust this player in the next match? There are players who've been playing there for years - even the older ones. But what are the results? You're losing. The same mistakes are happening every time.