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English Daily



Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai appointed next CJI

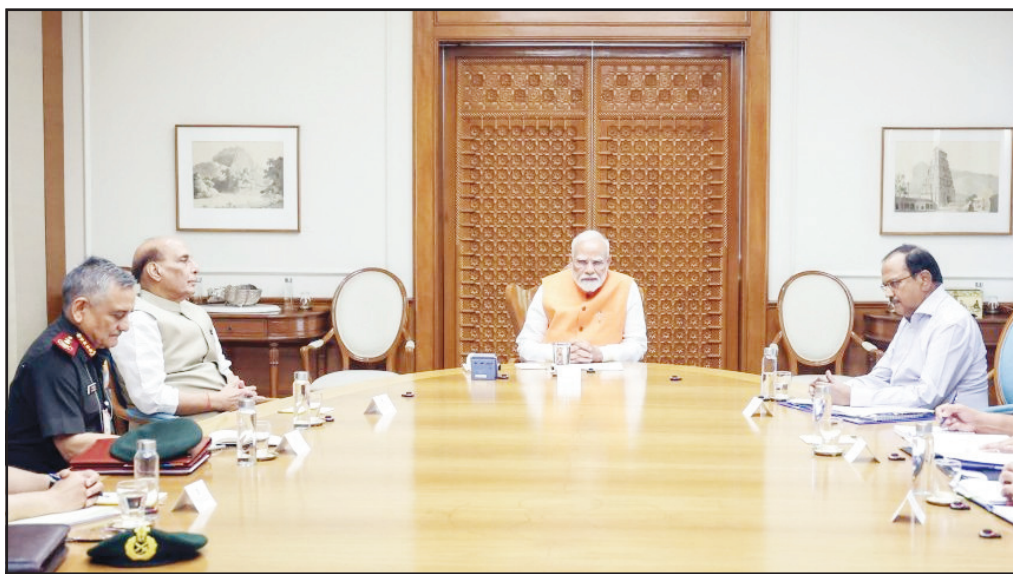


New Delhi, (HS) : President Droupadi Murmu appointed Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai as the next Chief Justice of Supreme Court of India with effect from May 14, 2025. Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna, who is due to retire on November 23, 2025, will take oath on May 14 and serve a tenure of six months and ten days as the Chief Justice of Supreme Court of India. He will succeed Justice Sanjiv Khanna, who had proposed his name for the coveted post. "In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (2) of Article 124 of the Constitution of India, the President is pleased to appoint Shri Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai, Judge of the Supreme Court, to be the Chief Justice of India with effect from 14th May, 2025," read the notification issued by the Ministry of Law and Justice Department of Justice (Appointments Division).

Who is Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai? Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai was born on 24th November 1960 at Amravati. Joined Bar on 16th March 1985. Worked with late Bar. Raja S. Bhonsale, former Advocate General and Judge of High Court, till 1987. Practiced independently at Bombay High Court from 1987 to 1990. After 1990, practiced mainly before Nagpur Bench of Bombay High Court. Practiced in Constitutional Law and Administrative Law. Was Standing Counsel for Municipal Corporation of Nagpur, Amravati Municipal Corporation and Amravati University. Appeared regularly for various autonomous bodies and Corporations like SICOM, DCVL etc. and various Municipal Councils in Vidarbha region. Worked as Assistant Government Pleader and Additional Public Prosecutor in the High Court of Judicature at Bombay, Nagpur Bench, from August 1992 to July 1993. Was appointed as Government Pleader and Public Prosecutor for Nagpur Bench on 17th January 2000. Was elevated as Additional Judge of the High Court on 14th November 2003. Became a permanent Judge of the Bombay High Court on 12th November 2005. Presided over Benches having all types of assignments at the Principal Seat at Mumbai as well as Benches at Nagpur, Aurangabad and Panaji. Elevated as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 24th May 2019. In the last six years, was a part of around 700 Benches dealing with matters pertaining to variety of subjects including constitutional and administrative law, civil law,

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PM Gives Forces 'Full Operational Freedom' to Respond J&K Attack



New Delhi, (HS) : Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given the armed forces 'complete freedom to decide on the mode, targets, and timing' of India's military response to the Pahalgam terror attack, sources told NDTV Tuesday night. The message was delivered as the Prime Minister met Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, and Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan.

Sources said the Prime Minister 're-affirmed that it is our national resolve to deal a crushing blow to terrorism' and that he has 'complete faith and confidence' in the Indian military. Shortly after the meeting, Home Minister Amit

Shah and Mohan Bhagwat, chief of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, the ruling BJP's ideological mentor, reached the Prime Minister's residence. The PM's message, sources explained, greenlights military action against the terrorists who killed 26 people, mostly civilians, in the worst such incident since the Pulwama attack in February 2019.

Then India conducted precision air strikes on terrorist camps in Balakot in Pakistan. The camps were run by banned terror group Jaish-e-Mohammed with help from the Pak Army. Fast-forward six years and it is another familiar banned Pak-

based terror group - the Lashkar-e-Taiba - that has been linked with this attack. A proxy - The Resistance Front - has claimed responsibility. Meanwhile, security agencies have also said available evidence pointed to Pakistan again. Diplomats from the US, Russia, China, Japan, and some European nations have been briefed on this material. The government has already rolled out a series of diplomatic restrictions on Pakistan. In the first round of responses Delhi revoked visas for Pakistan nationals, except for Pak Hindus and those with long-term stay approvals. The government had also revoked medical visas. All notified visas

issued to Pak nationals expired on Sunday, April 27, leading to a long line of Pakistani citizens at border crossings, including the famous Attari-Wagah checkpoint. Since Thursday, when the revocation order was first issued, nearly 1,000 Pak nationals have left India, with Home Minister Amit Shah personally asking chief ministers to enforce the order. As part of further diplomatic restrictions on Pakistan, India had also suspended the Indus Waters Treaty, a critical water-sharing deal that gives Pak nearly 85 per cent of its supply. The suspension of the IWT, signed in 1960, was met with fury by Pakistan, which called it "an act of war". Islamabad has since also revoked all visas for Indian nationals and ejected hundreds. Pak also revoked visas and held other bilateral deals, like the Simla Agreement, in abeyance. In comments to Pakistani media outlet Geo News - YouTube broadcasts of which have been banned online in India - Defense Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif described the next few days as crucial.

In one of his first public comments on the Pahalgam attack, the Prime Minister vowed vengeance and said his government would not allow

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CM Majhi Reviews 'Jadu Pedi' Kits To Boost Early Childhood Learning



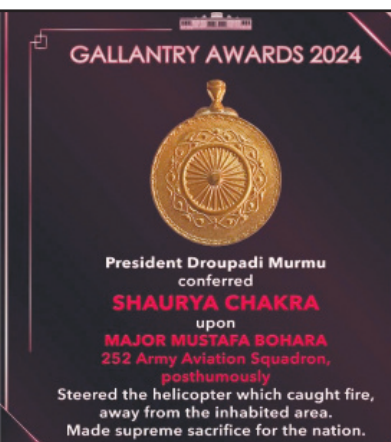
Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : In a significant move to enhance early education through play and joyful learning, Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Tuesday reviewed the innovative 'Jadu Pedi' (Magic Box) learning kits, designed for students of Shishu Vatika, Class 1, and Class 2. These kits have been developed by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) in alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. During a review meeting at Lok Seva Bhawan, the Chief Minister expressed satisfaction after examining the kits. "These learning toys will help young children learn through play, using materials familiar to their surroundings. This will make learning more engaging and enjoyable for them," he said.

The initiative is being

implemented by the School and Mass Education Department. Commissioner-cum-Secretary Shalini Pandit briefed the Chief Minister on the contents and educational value of the kits. Each kit costs around Rs 20,000, and the State Government plans to distribute them to 45,000 schools across Odisha. The total project cost stands at Rs 90 crore. The programme aims to develop foundational skills in children by sparking curiosity and making the learning experience more joyful and interactive. The play-based learning programme, developed by the NCERT, targets children aged 3 to 8 years. It focusses on fostering cognitive growth, emotional well-being, and foundational skills in language and mathematics. In February

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Shaurya Chakra Awardee's Mother Won't Be Deported to Pak



Srinagar/New Delhi, (HS) : Days after the tragic Pahalgam attack, Jammu and Kashmir authorities have transported 59 Pakistani nationals to Punjab for their repatriation to their country of origin, officials in Srinagar said. According to officials, the Pakistani nationals, who were living in the valley for decades and included the mother of Shaurya Chakra awardee Constable Mudasar Ahmad Sheikh, were collected from various districts and taken in buses to Punjab, where they will be handed over to the Pakistani authorities. Shameema Akhtar, the mother of Constable Mudasar Ahmad Sheikh, who died in May 2022 while fighting terrorists, was one of the deportees. However, she was later allowed to stay back. In a carefully worded clarification, Shameema's brother-in-law Mohammad Younus said Mudasar's mother has returned home as she was not taken for deportation. "We are thankful to the Government of India," Younus said.

Earlier, Mudasar's uncle had told reporters that his sister-in-law belonged to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and, as such, she should not have been deported. "My sister-in-law is from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Only Pakistanis should have been deported," Younus said. After Mudasar's death, Union Home Minister Amit Shah visited the family, and so did the Lieutenant Governor, twice, he said. "My bhabhi was 20 years old when she came here and has been living here for 45 years now. My appeal to (PM Narendra) Modi and Amit Shah is that they should not do it," Younus said. Shameema had married Mohammad Maqsood, now a retired police officer, before the eruption of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir in 1990. The main Baramulla town square

has been named Shaheed Mudasar Chowk in memory of the policeman. According to the citation for Sheikh, he was awarded the third-highest civilian award posthumously in 2022 for his role in thwarting a major terrorist plot targeting the Amarnath Yatra. On May 25, 2022, credible intelligence was received regarding the movement of three heavily armed foreign terrorists travelling in a vehicle, with a sinister intention of attacking the upcoming Amarnath Yatra. In response to this input, a joint operation was swiftly launched by security forces in Baramulla in North Kashmir. Constable Mudasar Ahmad Sheikh, a seasoned and alert member of the operation team, was quick to identify and challenge a suspicious vehicle. Recognising the imminent threat, the terrorists tried to drive away. Sheikh acted decisively by charging at the vehicle, completely disregarding his safety. In a display of raw bravery, he managed to physically drag one terrorist out of the vehicle. The brazen act triggered indiscriminate firing from the remaining terrorists, resulting in grievous injuries to Sheikh.

Despite bleeding profusely and battling excruciating pain, Sheikh remained undeterred and continued his hand-to-hand combat with the captured terrorist. He eventually neutralised him. Sheikh, however, died of his injuries while being evacuated. Shameema, accompanied by her husband, received the Shaurya Chakra from President Droupadi Murmu in Delhi in May 2023. In the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack last week, the Centre announced a slew of measures, including suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty, downgrading diplomatic relations

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KIIT (Deemed to be University) has only one permanent campus in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. It has no other campus / off campus anywhere else in the country and globe.

Hindu Minority

Ever since Sheikh Hasina was overthrown in Dhaka, India has raised its concerns with Bangladesh about the safety of minorities in that country. Hasina fled to India on the evening of August 5 last year, and the following day, in an all-party meeting, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar flagged the issue. Delhi has continued to express concern over instability in Bangladesh, and in particular, the toll it takes on the safety of minorities. During a recent meeting on the sidelines of BIMSTEC, Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged the Chief Advisor to the interim government, Muhammad Yunus, to ensure that the state addresses the issue with urgency. Despite assurances, however, Dhaka has been prone to dismissing the incidents of the Hindu minority being targeted as isolated manifestations of public anger against the previous regime. Following the kidnapping and killing of Bhabesh Chandra Roy, a prominent leader, the Yunus government cannot continue to be in denial. Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh told Parliament in February, "Since August, reports have cited the deaths of 23 Hindus and 152 incidents of attacks on Hindu temples in Bangladesh." The interim government must acknowledge the insecurity faced by Bangladeshi Hindus and take immediate steps to ensure their safety. A culture of impunity will only exacerbate the situation and also contribute to tensions between Dhaka and Delhi.

India has been a friend to Bangladesh since the Liberation War of 1971. However, the interim government's foreign policy has sent mixed signals. Yunus' recent visit to China, during which he made a provocative statement about India's Northeast region, and the high-level diplomacy over the weekend between Bangladesh and Pakistan, signal Dhaka's attempts to align with Delhi's regional rivals. Despite Bangladesh's demand for reparations and a public apology from Pakistan for the atrocities committed by the Yahya Khan regime during the 1971 Liberation War, both countries appear to be on the path towards rapprochement - a significant reversal of Hasina's foreign policy. Bangladesh must recognise that Dhaka's long-term interests are better served if it acknowledges the regional realities and understands what Delhi can offer: A stable economic and defence partnership. In turn, India should remain resolute in its demands for the protection of minorities in Bangladesh, while keeping the door open for talks with the interim government on issues ranging from border security to trade, connectivity and counter-terrorism. Delhi must also broaden its outreach. Given Bangladesh's uncertain domestic situation and the impending elections, Delhi must engage a broader swathe of forces and institutions in the country to get a deeper understanding of its changing domestic dynamics and to guard against any nasty surprises ahead.

30th April

Honesty Day



Honesty Day is a special day celebrated every year, encouraging everyone to be truthful and open in all aspects of life! Ready to dive into the transparent waters of Honesty Day? Here are some quirky and playful suggestions to mark the occasion with a sparkle of sincerity:

Create a playlist of songs that shout honesty from the rooftops. From Billy Joel's soulful confessionals to Aretha Franklin's heart-to-heart melodies, let each song be a reminder that truth rocks. Challenge yourself to share something genuine with someone close to you. It could be a secret admiration or a long-held opinion. Remember, vulnerability is the new black. Make a vow only to make promises you can keep. Whether it's promising yourself a day of self-care or committing to a friend, let your word be as solid as gold. Be an honest hero on social media. Share your Honest Day celebration or a truth you've come to embrace. Use #NationalHonestyDay to connect with fellow truth-tellers. Dive into the annals of history to uncover the biggest fibs that have shaped the world. Share these with friends or family to highlight the importance of truth in shaping a fair society. Initiate candid conversations without hidden agendas. Ask straightforward questions and prepare for some hardcore, honest answers. It's about building a world where honesty isn't just appreciated; it's expected.

Honesty Day began in the early 1990s, thanks to M. Hirsh Goldberg, an author and former Governor of Maryland press secretary who aimed to promote truthfulness. Goldberg's book, "The Book of Lies," inspired him to establish a day encouraging honesty in all interactions. Choosing April 30, he intended to contrast April Fools' Day, which celebrates deceit. Goldberg's idea was simple yet profound: a day dedicated to being honest with ourselves and others. This initiative reflects on the importance of truth in maintaining healthy relationships and societies. Interestingly, he also established the Honest Abe Award, which he gives annually to individuals, companies, and organizations exemplifying honesty. Countries outside the United States, like Italy, also recognize the value of honesty, celebrating their own version of Honesty Day in December. This global recognition underscores honesty's universal importance across cultures and societies.

Digital Payment Without Internet



Subash Ch. Mishra

Economic Diary

Not very Long ago, when TV came to our villages, we saw people fixing the TV antenna on coconut trees. The signal in villages used to be bad, but becomes better when the antenna sits on top of a coconut tree. We have a similar experience now with mobile phones in some villages. People climb up a tree to get better signals and after the talk is over they come down. But if you have to make a payment to a shopkeeper by using the mobile phone it becomes tricky. The signal may go off half way through the payment process resulting in the account getting debited but the shopkeeper not receiving the money. The availability of internet is equally bad in many countries. It is reported that the internet speed is one of the slowest in USA. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) estimates that two-thirds of individuals in the world's least developed countries and about 2.6 billion people globally are still fully offline. In addition to non-availability of access to internet, there is another issue that has warned even the most developed nations. Some of the global giants like Google and Amazon have

faced power outage issues and the whole world has faced the non availability of services from Global giants. This has given rise to the need of making digital payment without internet which is also known as offline digital payment.

In a normal online digital payment an individual can make the payment by using his computer or the mobile phone or by making payment through his debit or credit card at the point of sale (POS) of the merchant establishment. There are several small payments one needs to make these days at various places like the grocery store, the vegetable vendor, the newspaper supplier and there is a possibility that net connection is unstable or is not very strong while making the payment. Further, making several small value online payments clogs the passbook with too many transactions. This problem is addressed by the offline payment method. RBI allowed offline digital payments in India by issuing guidelines in January 2022. Initially offline transaction was allowed for a maximum amount of Rs 200 per transaction. The instructions have been upgraded from time to time. Now, offline payments are permitted in proximity (face to face) mode; it can be made by using any channel like cards, wallets or mobile devices and transactions can be done without any additional factor of authentication. The upper limit of an offline payment transaction has been increased to Rs.500. The total limit for offline transactions on a payment instrument is set at Rs.2,000 at any point in time. UPI Lite is a facility given with all mobile payment apps like Google pay, Phonepe etc which can be activated for small value offline payments. In UPI Lite, the upper limits are Rs 1000 and Rs.5000 respectively. One has to transfer



the amount (Up to Rs 5000) from the bank account to the wallet and use the same for several transactions. No PIN will be required to make payment from the wallet with UPI Lite. When the person making payment does not have a net connectivity, but he still wants to make a payment, he can scan the QR code given by the shop keeper and make the payment. The information is stored in the mobile and completed when the phone is online. This increases convenience and only one transactions showing the amount of Rs 5000 transferred from the bank to the wallet will appear in the passbook. Prepaid cards used in metro stations or bus are also cards that store value and make payment when the holder touches the card on the machine installed in metro stations or busses. Offline digital payment can also be made through the credit card or debit card. In that case there is no wallet, but the card holder authorizes such payments by a PIN. Currently, this method of offline card payment is limited to a few cases wherein the PIN entered on a PoS terminal by cardholder is verified by the card chip itself and the transaction is stored on the PoS terminal and

settled with the bank subsequently. A flyer purchasing a coffee from the airline during a flight and making the payment by his card is an example of offline payment. Such offline payments accumulate in the devices and when they go online, the amounts are charged to the card holder. In India NPCI has started the offline UPI payments through the number 99#. A person with a smart phone can open the dialer on his phone and enter the offline UPI number *99# to initiate the call to connect to the offline UPI payment service. Among the several options presented on the screen, he has to select "I" for "Send Money". This will allow him to initiate a payment transaction. Thus, offline transactions are supported by the authorities to enable people benefit from the digital age payment products. This will also reduce pressure on demand for currency in the country.

The offline payments that are more often done today in India are at best semi-offline payments in the form of wallet based payment. Globally, many countries have introduced offline digital payments for the convenience of people. In USA, this is allowed on Stripe platform, in India it is UPI Lite

and in Brazil, this is allowed on a platform called Materal. Sweden also offers an offline payment solution through a platform called Digital cash. China has done good progress in offline digital payment by using Near Field Communication technology through Wechat and Alipay platforms. A pure offline transaction requires periodic connection to the internet to complete the transaction. While offline payments provide convenience to people, it goes with some amount of risk. There is always a chance that the payment does not go to the payee and the payer has to make double payment. If the payment has been made to a shopkeeper and the payer has left the premises, in most of the cases, the loss will have to be taken by the shopkeeper. Secondly, offline payments from the wallet go through without PIN and are therefore prone to risk. Vulnerability of the software may open up opportunities to hackers to break in to the software and compromise its security. The user data of the payer or payee stored in the devices are at the risk of getting affected which compromises privacy. Offline digital payments systems locally store account balances and transaction histories on the user's device. If the device is lost, stolen, or fails, the user has limited recourse to the balance. In cases of loss or theft, a bank cannot reload a new device with the lost device's balance. Finally, failure of transactions and loss of data and privacy can open up reputational risk issues for the payer and the payee. Despite these issues offline payments ecosystem offers another option to the people and obviates the need for cash and therefore in course of time it is expected to be popular.

The author is a Retired Chief General Manager of Reserve Bank of India.

Akshaya Tritiya: A festival of prosperity, virtue and beginnings

Priyanka Saurabh

Akshaya Tritiya, also known as 'Akha Teej', is a very holy festival celebrated on the Tritiya Tithi of Shukla Paksha of Vaishakh month according to the Hindu calendar. 'Akshaya' means that which never decays (destroys). This is the reason why this day is considered very fruitful for auspicious works, charity, investment and new beginnings. This day is especially dedicated to the worship of Goddess Lakshmi and Lord Vishnu. It is believed that by worshipping, fasting and donating with a true heart on this day, not only happiness and prosperity are attained in the present life, but also Akshay Punya is attained for the next births. According to the Puranas, Satya Yuga and Treta Yuga started on this day. Lord Parshuram was also born on this day. It is mentioned in the Mahabharata that on this day Yudhishtira received the Akshaya Patra, due to which there was never a shortage of food grains. Akshaya Tritiya is considered extremely auspicious for works like marriage, house-warming, starting a business, buying property, or gold-silver or land investment. On this day, work can be started even without any Muhurta.

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special role from the social, economic and cultural points of view. The virtuous deeds, charity, chanting, fasting and service work done on this day are considered to give 'Akshaya', i.e., indestructible fruits. This day is especially considered an abujh muhurat (best auspicious time) due to both the Sun and the Moon being in the high zodiac sign, so any auspicious work can be done on this day even without astrological consultation. There are many mythological events associated with Akshaya Tritiya, which make this day extremely sacred. Lord Parashurama was born on this day, so it is also celebrated as Parashurama Jayanti. On this day, Yudhishtira received the 'Akshaya Patra' from Lord Surya, which never got empty. Vyas ji and Ganesh ji started writing the Mahabharata on this day. Kubera received immense wealth by worshipping Goddess Lakshmi on this day.

Lord Vishnu incarnated on this day in the forms of Nar-Narayan, Hayagriva and

Parashurama. On this day, devotees take baths in Ganga, do charity, fast and do puja. Special worship is done of Goddess Lakshmi-Narayan. Buying gold is considered a special tradition of this day because it is a symbol of 'Akshay Sampatti'. In the puja, water is filled in a copper pot and offered to Lord Vishnu. Kheer, fruits, and Panchamrit are offered. Food, clothes, water and money are donated to the poor and Brahmins. Feeding girls is considered very pious. In many parts of India, this day is also associated with the agricultural cycle. Farmers consider it a day to sow seeds and wish for a new crop. In Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra, the tradition of Kanyadan and marriage is especially prevalent on this day. It is considered auspicious to buy gold on this day. Jewellery companies, banks and investment companies see this day as an opportunity. People start new businesses, buy houses, land or vehicles and invest in gold, silver, stocks or mutual funds. It is not only

a symbol of religious faith but also a symbol of the coordination of people's economic understanding and tradition. Traditionally, Akshaya Tritiya has been a festival of balance and harmony with nature. It falls at the beginning of the summer season, when activities like water conservation, tree planting, and keeping water for birds are promoted. Many social organisations run water banking and green campaigns on this day. It is a break from the hustle and bustle of urban life, which gives us an opportunity to reconnect with nature once again.

In today's times when people are increasingly turning to consumerism and rushing, Akshaya Tritiya reminds us of spiritual balance, compassion and the continuity of good deeds. This festival teaches that it is not only external possessions but also eternal values - truth, compassion, charity and dharma - that enrich life. Akshaya Tritiya is not just a festival but a celebration of sensitivity, virtue and positive beginnings. This day reminds us that whatever good deed we do in life, it should lead not only towards material but also towards spiritual and moral progress. Today, when we celebrate Akshaya Tritiya, make a promise to ourselves - that we should leave behind something 'Akshaya' not only for ourselves but also for society and the environment.

"Whoever serves water, plants trees with love,

May there be eternal happiness in his life."

Research Scholar in Political Science

Poetess, Independent journalist and columnist, Arya Nagar, Hisar (Haryana)

Odisha Gears Up For Heatwave : Health Department Implements New Measures

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): With the onset of the heatwave season, the Health and Family Welfare Department of Odisha has ramped up its strategies to ensure the safety and well-being of the public amid rising temperatures. Under the direction of Health and Family Welfare Minister Mukesh Mahaling, a crucial review meeting was convened by Dr. Nilakantha Mishra, Director of Public Health (DPH).

The meeting aimed to assess and streamline operational and logistical measures necessary to protect the citizens of Odisha during the heatwave. Dr. Mishra emphasized the need for a comprehensive approach to managing the public health impact of extreme heat. He highlighted that the department is working to ensure the availability of essential medical supplies, such as intravenous fluids, Oral Rehydration Solutions (ORS), medicines, air coolers, and power backup systems, to mitigate the



effects of the heatwave. Additionally, all 30 districts have been instructed to ensure the readiness of medical facilities, with sufficient beds prepared for heatwave-related cases. The department has also expanded its training program for healthcare workers, focusing on managing heat-related illnesses. Dr. Mishra stressed that the training would not only involve healthcare professionals but also extend to grassroots-level teams in the districts, enabling local health workers to respond quickly and effectively to emerging heat-related health issues. Special

attention has been given to mining regions and areas prone to extreme heat, where vulnerable populations will be provided with additional resources and protection. The department has prioritized ensuring these communities are well-equipped to cope with the severe weather conditions. Alongside this, there will be an intensified Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) campaign across the state to raise awareness about the risks associated with heatwaves and provide the public with practical advice on preventing heat-related illnesses. Dr. Mishra further

stressed the importance of learning from past experiences and ensuring that all preparedness strategies are implemented in a timely and effective manner. "We are well-prepared to handle the challenges of the upcoming heatwave season. Through the collective efforts of healthcare professionals, district officials, and the public, we remain committed to providing timely medical assistance,

raising awareness, and ensuring that all necessary infrastructure and resources are in place to minimize the impact of extreme heat," Dr. Mishra assured. The meeting was attended by Dr. Basant Pradhan, Nodal Officer for Heat-Related Illnesses, Dr. Ashok Paikray, State Surveillance Officer, Dr. Sephali Mallik, Additional Director of Nursing, Dr. Pratibha Pradhan, Additional Director of DFW, along with Chief District Medical Officers (CDMOs) from all districts, both in person and virtually.

KIIT-KISS, FIVB & Volleyball Foundation Strengthen Partnership to Empower Volleyball at the Grassroots Level

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): The Founder of KIIT and KISS Dr Achyuta Samanta held extensive deliberations on Monday with FIVB and Volleyball Federation during his visit to its headquarters in Switzerland for the promotion and development of volleyball at the grassroots level through KIIT-KISS. FIVB serves as the leading international governing body for volleyball and the visit followed an invitation extended to him.

The meeting with FIVB officials focused on the advancement of volleyball at the grassroots level in India, particularly within schools in Odisha. Dr. Samanta, along with Dr. Ary Graça, President of the FIVB Volleyball Foundation, FIVB President Fabio Azevedo, and FIVB Director General Steve Tutton, participated in this meeting. Volleyball made good progress in India during the tenure of Dr Samanta as President of FIVB. However, FIVB officials regretted that there has been a lack of significant progress in the volleyball in India after Dr



Samanta's tenure ended. During the meeting, FIVB announced the establishment of multiple Centres of Excellence at KIIT and KISS to enhance the promotion of volleyball in India, particularly in Odisha. These centres will offer advanced training for both players and coaches.

Additionally, an academic programme will be implemented for volleyball coaches and referees. The FIVB officials have committed to involving 400 schools in Odisha in this initiative, ensuring that each school receives volleyballs and nets. In addition, the FIVB will provide coaches to enhance the

promotion of beach Volleyball in India considering the coastal belt in India having. The FIVB will visit KIIT and KISS to review the volleyball development initiatives undertaken in Odisha every year.

Expressing satisfaction over this, Dr. Samanta said, this will lead to significant development of both volleyball and beach volleyball in Odisha and fostering sports talent at the grassroots level. Both organizations are committed to promoting youth engagement in volleyball while creating opportunities for education, empowerment, and development through sports.

5-day workshop on ancient text editing concludes at SOA

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): A five-day workshop on Text Editing held at the Siksha 'O' Anusandhan Deemed to be University (SOA) here where training was imparted to research scholars of Odia language in the art of deciphering ancient manuscripts, editing the same and transferring the text into books, concluded on Monday.

Fifteen research scholars from SOA, Utkal University, Bhubaneswar, and Ravenshaw University, Cuttack, underwent the training at the workshop organised by the SOA Centre for Propagation, Preservation and Restoration of Ancient Culture and Heritage of India (PPRACHIN). Three experts in



the domain-- Prof. Gouranga Charan Das, Prof. Pradipta Kumar Panda and Prof. Santosh Kumar Rath- imparted training at the workshop.

Prof. Gayatribala Panda, Head of PPRACHIN, who addressed the concluding program, said such a workshop had not been organised anywhere in Odisha till now. The objective behind holding the workshop was to churn out efficient editors in the state to bolster efforts

to preserve and propagate texts which were written centuries ago, she said.

Prof. Panda said the scholars who received training in the workshop had gained much knowledge about ancient Odia literature and the language of 'pothis' of yore. The trainees learnt how to decipher ancient manuscripts and text editing, she said. The

second PPRACHIN lecture was also organised to mark the occasion which was addressed by Prof. Jagannath Das, Professor Emeritus in the Department of Anthropology and Tribal Studies of PPRACHIN.

Prof. Das elaborated on the relationship between anthropology and literature and how the former influenced the latter.

Odisha Govt-Gates Foundation Forge Landmark Partnership For Promoting Inclusive Agriculture Transformation

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): In a landmark development for promoting Inclusive Agriculture Transformation in Odisha, the Government of Odisha and the Gates Foundation today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on areas that will drive growth, such as AI-enabled use cases, precision agriculture, climate-smart innovations, and enhancing the productivity of dairy and fisheries.

The MoU sets the stage for a multi-year collaboration focused on technical support, research, and on-ground implementation of climate-smart agriculture practices in Odisha. This strategic partnership, anchored by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment (DAFE) and the Fisheries & Animal Resources

Development Department (FARDD), will drive science-based, ground-level interventions to promote Climate Smart Agriculture. Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo, Deputy Chief Minister of Odisha emphasised the signing of MoU with the Gates Foundation marks a significant leap toward future-ready agriculture in Odisha.

It reaffirms our Government's commitment to invest in knowledge, innovation, and partnerships that benefit farmers across the state. Alkesh Wadhvani, Director, Poverty Alleviation, Gates Foundation said that we are happy to get into the collaboration with Odisha government especially, with the agriculture & allied sectors. The MoU reinforces our continued collaboration and shared commitment to a resilient and



inclusive future for Odisha's farmers. The newly launched alliance will serve as a catalyst that will bring together the best of innovation and farmer adoption at scale - placing Odisha at the forefront of sustainable agricultural growth. Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment (DAFE), Fisheries & Animal Resources Development Department (FARDD) and the Gates

Foundation also launched the Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance Odisha. It will serve as a collaborative platform bringing together Government agencies, research institutions, start-ups, civil societies, NGOs, farmer institutions, and the private sectors to accelerate Climate Smart technology and strategy adoption and innovation. The event marked the release of a Scoping Report Series on "Data-

Driven Prioritisation of Districts for Climate-Smart Agriculture in Odisha" by the Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP). The report series present a district-level assessment of climate risks, resource use patterns, and emissions from agriculture- providing a blueprint for developing District-Level Climate Action Plans and piloting CSA practices tailored to local conditions.

Besides, a report by International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) titled "Transforming Fallow Lands-An Impact Evaluation of the Comprehensive Rice Fallow Management Program in Odisha (CRFM)" was released. The IFPRI report evaluates the impact of the Comprehensive Rice Fallow Management (CRFM)

Program in Odisha, focusing on the conversion of fallow lands and its effects on acreage and yields of pulses and oilseeds. The study provides strong evidence of increased land utilization and productivity, demonstrating how integrated data systems can effectively guide inclusive, data-driven agricultural planning and policy.

Further, the Department released Odisha Agriculture Statistics 2023-24, which is the mirror of agricultural activities in the State. Statistical information are crucial input for policy planning. Suresh Kumar Vashishth, Principal Secretary, Fisheries & Animal Resources Development Department stressed that the MoU will strengthen the fisheries and animal resources sectors through the inclusion of scientific and data-

driven tools to refine the policies. Dr. Arabinda Kumar Padhee, Principal Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers'

Empowerment reiterated that this is a unique convergence of science, policy, and partnership and this MoU will build a long partnership leveraging the international best practices to be replicated in our ecosystem with the help of a digitised platform. The partnership between DAFE, FARDD and the Gates Foundation will strengthen the digital ecosystem, expand digital services for farmers, improve export and market linkages, promote crop diversification, support agri-tech use, and advance livestock development, with attention to gender and building resilience.

ICMAI Bhubaneswar Hosts 56th Annual Function



Bhubaneswar, (DMC): The Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICMAI), Bhubaneswar Chapter is celebrating its 56th Annual Function, Student Seminar and Blood Donation Camp on the theme today at the CSIR-IMMT Auditorium, Acharya Vihar, Bhubaneswar. The event marks a day of professional recognition, student achievements and community service.

The programme inaugurated by Ambassador Dr. Deepak Vohra, Special Advisor to the Prime Ministers of Lesotho, South Sudan and Guinea-Bissau, and to the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils of Leh and Kargil, in presence of CMA Gagan

Bihari Swain, CEO, OCPL & Director (Finance), OPGC Ltd, Bhubaneswar, CMA Avijit Goswami, Council Member, ICMAI, CMA Subhasish Chakraborty, Chairman, ICMAI-EIRC, CMA Damodara Mishra, Secretary, ICMAI-EIRC,

CMA Ramesh Chandra Patra, Chairman of ICMAI Bhubaneswar Chapter, CMA Avinash Kotni, Treasurer & Chairman, Training Placement & Branding Committee, CMA Barada Prasan Nayak, Secretary, ICMAI-Bhubaneswar Chapter, senior members and students of the Chapter. In this session the souvenir was released and All India Rank Holder prizes were distributed. In the technical session,

Ambassador Dr. Deepak Vohra delivered a special motivational address during this session as well. CMA Avinash Kotni, Treasurer and Chairman of the Training, Placement & Branding Committee welcomed the guests.

CMA Sarat Kumar Behera, Vice-Chairman of the Chapter and CMA Surya Narayan Tripathy, Past Chairman, addressed the audience, sharing insights into professional growth and the evolving role of cost accountants. In the afternoon, the Award Conferment Ceremony held and in this ceremony, the award conferred by our distinguished guests Surya banshi Suraj, Hon'ble Minister of State (I/c) for Odia Language,

Literature & Culture, Higher Education, Sports & Youth Services, Odisha, CMA Gagan Bihari Swain, CEO, OCPL & Director (Finance), OPGC Ltd, Bhubaneswar, CMA Pravakar Mohanty, Past President, ICMAI in presence of CMA Ramesh Chandra Patra, Chairman of the Chapter, CMA Avinash Kotni, Treasurer & Chairman, Training Placement & Branding Committee, ICMAI-Bhubaneswar Chapter, CMA Barada Prasan Nayak, Secretary of the Chapter, CMA Soumya Ranjan Jena, Chairman, PD Committee of the Chapter. The ceremony concluded with the conferral of several prestigious awards like Young Cost Accountant Award, the Late Aditi Memorial Award, Late Indumati Mohanty Memorial Award, Late Jagannath Mohapatra Memorial Award, Murari Pusa Memorial Excellence Award of Excellence,

Late Ashalata Mishra Memorial Award and Late Gayadhar Behera Memorial Award, along with honors for winners of debate, quiz competitions, and students qualified in the June and December 2024 terms. The event successfully brought together CMA members, students and dignitaries from various sectors, reaffirming ICMAI Bhubaneswar's commitment to academic excellence, ethical leadership and societal contribution.

ITER alumni & secretary of Odisha Society of UK calls on SOA Founder President

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): Lohit Kumar Das, a 2010 pass out of the Institute of Technical Education and Research (ITER), faculty of engineering of SOA Deemed to be University, and Co-founder of Ridescan, United Kingdom, called on SOA

Founder President Prof. (Dr.) Manojranjan Nayak here on Tuesday. Das, who worked with Wipro, studied MBA at the London Business School and subsequently took over as Regional Director for an AI analytics company overseeing its operations in

UK and India. He has also founded an AI Robotics company in the UK focusing on AI ethics and safeguarding. Das is presently serving as General Secretary of the Odisha Society of UK and spearheads several mental health awareness initiatives.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES	
Office of the Addl. Chief Engineer, Mechanical Circle, Bhubaneswar	
Email Address: semechcircle104@gmail.com	
e-Procurement Notice- Bid Identification No.- ACEM/MDC-08/2025-26	
1. Name of the Work	: Mechanical Gate Works
2. No. of Works	: 01 (One)
3. Category of executors	: SSI Units registered under DIC/ NSIC/ MSME for Irrigation Shutters / Hydro mechanical gates.
4. Bid Identification No.	: ACEM/MDC-08/2025-26
5. Estimated Cost	: Rs. 10,58,741/-
6. Period of Completion	: 02 (Two) calendar months.
7. Date & time of availability of bid documents in the Portal	: From dt.28.04.2025 (10.00 AM) to dt.08.05.2025(5.30 PM)
8. Last date/ time for receipt of bid In the Portal	: dt.08.05.2025 (up to 5.30 PM)
9. Date and Place of opening of Bid	: dt.09.05.2025 (12.00 Noon onwards in the O/O the undersigned)
10. Name of the Officer inviting bid	: Addl. Chief Engineer, Mechanical Circle, Bhubaneswar
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal https://tendersodisha.gov.in . Any further issue of Addenda/ Corrigenda/ Cancellation Notice shall be uploaded in the aforesaid website only.	
OIPR-32405/11/0058/2526	
Addl. Chief Engineer, Mechanical Circle Bhubaneswar	

On the Occasions of International Year of Cooperatives - 2025 Seminar & Loan Fair Held



Khordha, (DMC): The Co-operative Department of Odisha Government has directed to celebrate Madhubabu's birth anniversary in every district. In this context, the seminar was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies, Khordha Division, Mrs. Alakananda Jena. The speakers included Mrs. Swayam Prabha Pattnaik, Retired Lecture Gopal Krushna Das, Bhimsen Pradhan, Chief Executive

Officer, Khordha, Central Co-operative Bank, Sarathi Satpathy told about the Madhusudan Das, life philosophy, ideology & his contribution to the Odisha cooperative movement. On this occasions Agriculture & agriculture-related loans were provided to 21 borrowers, self-help groups in the khordha Central Co-operative Bank premises. In this loan fair, employees of all branches &

societies as well as borrowers were present. The program was attended by the bank DGM, Sandeep Pattnaik, Jyoti Ranjan Rautray, Bhabani Mohan Sinha, Tapan Kumar Chaudhary, ashmita Mallick, Prabhu Prasad Pattnaik & the senior Secretary of the Co-operative society Jhaja Samantray, Biswanath Maharana, Nityananda Dash were present. At the end of program DGM, Sandeep Pattnaik proposed the vote of thanks.

Workers' union protest in front of AMNS company gate demanding protection of workers' interests



Paradip, (DMC): More than a thousand contract workers working at ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel (AMNS) India company, who were the members of 'Purba Upakula Shramik Sangh' led by renowned trade union leader Prakash Tripathy.

Prakash Tripathy had submitted a demand letter regarding the various problems of these workers and discussed the matter with the Paradip Additional District Magistrate and the company authorities. But the company authorities are

reluctant to follow the industrial policy of Odisha. According to the union, the industrial bodies recognize the workers' union formed to protect the interests of the workers in all the industrial units in the Paradip industrial area.

Due to which the industrial units discuss various problems of the workers with the unions and solve the problems, and the workers also solve their problems through the union. This makes it easier for the workers and the industrial institutions. However,

Hywa" Causing regular accident

Jagatsinghpur, (DMC): At present regular movement of Hywa inside district causing regular accident in the district. Though administration arranging regular meeting about road safety but no body raising the question of illegal Hywa movement to villages, town and semi urban areas. As Hywa taking heavy load of 50 to 60 ton of goods beyond the capacity of roads. Specially only one driver operating such a heavy high speed vehicle without helper.



When the heavy loaded Hywa going through RD roads, GP roads, and Village roads of low load carrying capacity are causing problem. But road authorities and RTO are not taking any action against illegal and heavy

load of Hywa. Now Hywa are engage in sand carrying illegally at unauthorised ghats and moving speedily to avoid checking and penalty. Due to speed drive Hywa causing regular accident on narrow and village roads.

As per statistical data Hywa accident is more than 50% of total accident of district. But District Police, RTO and Road authorities are not conscious about Hywa movement. All are liberal about Hywa movement and for which heavy loaded and speedy moving Hywa causing damage of roads and creating more and more accident every where in district

Orphaned daughter seeks help from CM for father's purification work

Keonihar, (DMC): Two sisters from Oria village in Telkoi block, who lost their father and mother, have written a petition to the Chief Minister seeking help to perform the purification work of their father Duttikrushna Nayak (50), who died on the 23rd. After the death of Mother Indira Nayak at the age 45 in Cancer in the year 2024 and father Duttikrushna Nayak died at the age 50 in the year 2025 after prolonged lung diseases, the two sisters became orphans. They are identified as Sima Nayak and Rakhi Nayak. The two minor girls are now living in financial distress after losing their mother and father and are worried about

how they will perform the purification work of their father after five days. Duttikrushna, who lives below the poverty line, used to live happily with his two daughters and wife by working as a farmer and doing daily wage work. Then, the family was saddened after his wife Indira Nayak was diagnosed with cancer. In the expensive medical treatment era, despite spending a lot of money for his treatment and losing everything, he used to work and support his two daughters and wife. Duttikrushna himself is a respiratory patient. Therefore, he could not work hard. However, he did not give up and continued to support his

family. In February 2024, Indira passed away while undergoing treatment. Amidst the mountain of grief, Duttikrushna performed Indira's last rites with great difficulty. After mother's illness, the elder daughter shouldered the heavy responsibility of serving her mother and running the house. Due to his mother's ill health, the elder daughter Sima's education ended in the 10th standard. Similarly, while the younger daughter was studying in Telkoi College, she was left halfway through her studies due to domestic problems. After the death of his wife, Duttikrushna, who was devastated by the future of his two daughters and the

Patients Troubled due to Lack of Rest Shed at Gumma CHC



Paralakhemundi, (DMC): At Gumma CHC of Gajapati district being the scheduled block covering 19 panchayats, health services paralyzed. From long distance patients are coming but they are deprived of to take rest. On various tests they have to wait longer period. So need to arrange rest shed; said Adivasi Mahasangh Gumma Block President Anil Gomango, Asin Gomango, Kal Evison Mandal, Masulin Roito, Bulu Roito & Eliyo Mandal.

The state-level meeting of the SABAR Samaj held here on Sunday



Bolangir, (DMC): Attended by representatives from thirteen districts of Odisha, the delegates deliberate on the steps for the development of Sabar Samaj in the state. The Sabar Samaj have been the original inhabitants since the beginning of civilization, but today we have lost everything due to lack of unity among us, says Chitta Ranjan Nayak. The meeting also called upon Sabar Samaj people to participate more in politics and development.

The meeting appreciated the steps taken by President of India Droupadi Murmu for the development of Kaliapalli (Shabarpalli) Vishwvasu Peeth near Kontilo in Nayagarh district, Satyanarayana Bhoi and Tapas Bhoi were unanimously elected as the state coordinators. Jatha Biswal proposed vote of thanks.

Paradip Municipality & Bar Association jointly celebrated Madhu Babu Jayanti

Paradip, (DMC): The 177th birth anniversary of Utkal Gaurav Madhusudan Das and Swabhimani Diwas was celebrated on Monday. The Paradip Municipality and Paradip Bar Association jointly organized this celebration with great manner at Paradip Dochki. In the program, Paradip Bar Association Vice President and Municipal Council Chairman Basant Biswal presided over the event, while Paradip Bar Association President Tapan Das, State Industries Minister representative Sarveshwar Baliarsingh, Advocate Kailash Sahu, Municipal Executive Officer Abhishek Panda and others took prominent part and paid tribute to Utkal Gaurav Madhusudan Das.



levels. While it is decided to spend about 80 thousand crore rupees in 63 thousand villages of the country under the Dharitri ABA Janjantiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan Yojana.

17 departments of the government will supervise this program. Today's program was attended by intellectuals from Brahmapura & Sialia villages, including khurda Block Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Local Sarpanch, PS, members & ward members. MLA, Mr. Jagdev advised the officials to be careful especially how the development

of the villages will be done by giving priority to the opinions of the villagers in the Gram Sabha. In addition, there was a discussion on how all the schemes of the Central and State Governments will be implemented at the grassroots level.

On this occasion, people from the villages around Brahmapura were present and complained about their collective and individual problems to the MLA through applications, while Mr. Jagdev, directed the BDO, to solve these problems as soon as possible.

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CM Majhi....

2023, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched the kits as a tool for foundational-stage teaching and learning, promoting the motto 'Learning through Play.' Jadu Padi is a versatile and engaging resource that supports experiential learning, contributing to the holistic development of children - cognitively, socially, emotionally, and physically. According to the National Curriculum Framework for the Foundational Stage (NCF-FS) 2022, children learn best through play - talking, listening, using toys, painting, drawing, singing, dancing, and physical activities like running and jumping.

The kits include playbooks, toys, puzzles, posters, flashcards, storybooks, and worksheets, all reflecting local culture, languages, and social contexts. Available in 13 Indian languages, the kits are designed to meet the diverse learning needs of children.

PM Gives...

terrorism's evil agenda to succeed. "The time has come to raze whatever is left of the terror haven. The will of 140 crores will break the back of the masters of terror," he said in comments seen to be directed at Pakistan. Since then he has made several strong statements warning the terrorists India - unafraid of terror - will track down and hold each person accountable, including those who planned the heinous attack.

Shaurya Chakra...

with Islamabad, and ordering all Pakistanis on short-term visas to leave India by April 27 or face action. The 59 deportees include the wives and children of ex-militants, who returned to the valley under the 2010 rehabilitation policy for former ultras. Of them, 36 had been living in Srinagar, nine each in Kupwara, eight in Baramulla, four in Budgam, and two in Shopian district, officials said.

Justice Bhushan...

criminal law, commercial disputes, arbitration law, electricity law, education matters, environmental law, etc. Has authored around 300 judgments including Constitution Bench Judgements on various issues upholding the rule of law and safeguarding the fundamental rights, human rights and legal rights of citizens.

Pankaj Marodia appointed as BJP Mandal President of Khariar Road

N u a p a d a / Khariar Road, (DMC): Youth leader Pankaj Marodia appointed as BJP Mandal President of Khariar Road in Nuapada District. In the party meeting held on Monday at BJP office Nuapada, BJP District President Kamlesh Dixit announced the



names of newly appointed Mandal President in the presence of MP Kalahandi Malavika Devi. All the BJP party activists congratulated Pankaj Marodia on becoming the Khariar Road BJP Mandal president.

Jt. Grievances at Gobra



Paralakhemundi, (DMC): At Gobra panchayat of Gosani block of Gajapati district joint grievances held. Chaired by Collector Gajapati Bijay Kumar Dash, SP Jatindra Kumar Panda, Zilla Parishad CDO Sankar Kerketa, Sub Collector Anup Panda graced on dias. Among 53 grievances 19 individuals & 34 community level received. Among them 9 grievances shorted out. Besides that 22 beneficiaries got their forest patts. Other grievances Collector instructed to sort out to line department staff.

Among those grievances PMAY, Social Security, land patta, education, irrigation, health, road received. Chairman of Gosani N. Veeraj, BDO Gorachand Pattnaik, Tehsildar Narayan Behera, CDMO Dr. Md. Mubarak Ali, DSSO Santosh Kumar Nayak, with local Sarpanch & other PRI members were present.

Achievement on Degree Results at WDC

Paralakhemundi, (DMC): At Women's Degree College 2 students achieved their glorious feat on recent declared degree results by Brahmapur University. On 2024-25 session in Home Science Sonali Karjee & Sunita Pradhan secured 4th & 10th positions respectively. Dr. Rina Sahu Principal & Home Science Lecturer Madhusmita Pradhan with other teaching staff & other staff complimented both for their outstanding achievements.

India brands Pakistan 'rogue state' at UN, citing its defence minister's 'open confession' to backing terror groups



New Delhi, (HS) : India has branded Pakistan a "rogue state" at the United Nations, citing Pakistani Defence Minister Khawaja Asif's "open confession" to funding and supporting terrorist groups. The strong rebuke came just days after the Pahalgam terror attack in Jammu & Kashmir, which claimed 26 lives - the highest civilian toll in a single attack since the 2008 Mumbai attacks. India's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Yojna Patel,

responded firmly. "It is unfortunate that one particular delegation has chosen to misuse and undermine this forum to indulge in propaganda and make baseless allegations against India. The whole world has heard Pakistan's defence minister Khawaja Asif admitting and confessing Pakistan's history of supporting, training and funding terrorist organisations in a recent television interview," she said. "This open confession surprises no one and exposes Pakistan as a rogue state fuelling global terrorism and destabilising the region. The world can no longer turn a blind eye," Patel added.

India's Right of Reply on baseless allegations made by Pakistan. In a televised interview with Sky News, Asif openly admitted that Pakistan had long supported militant groups and said: "We have been doing this dirty work for the United States for about three decades and for the West, including Britain.. That was a mistake, and we suffered for that... If we had not joined the war against the Soviet Union and later on the war after 9/11, Pakistan's track record was unimpeachable." Speaking at the launch of the Victims of Terrorism Associations Network (VoTAN), Patel described the Pahalgam attack as a grave tragedy. "The Pahalgam terrorist attack represents the largest number of civilian casualties since the horrific 26/11 Mumbai attacks in 2008. Having been a victim of cross-border terrorism for decades, India fully understands the long-lasting impact such acts have on victims, their families and society." She also acknowledged international support in the aftermath of the Pahalgam attack, saying: "India appreciates and values the strong, unequivocal support and solidarity extended by leaders and governments across the world. This is a testimony to the international community's zero tolerance for terrorism." Highlighting the role of the newly launched VoTAN initiative, Patel said, "We reiterate that terrorism in all its forms must be condemned unequivocally."

3 NSCN Militants Killed in Assam Encounter, Arms Recovered



Guwahati, (HS) : Three militants of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) were killed during an encounter with the security forces in Assam's mountainous Dima Hasao district on Tuesday, officials said. An Assam Police spokesman said that the encounter came after secret information that some armed cadres, who had given an extortion notice to National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) officials and engineers in Dima Hasao district, were hiding in areas under the Haflong police station. Accordingly, a search operation was launched by Assam Police's Special Units and Assam Rifles on Saturday evening. "Almost after 60 hours of search, on Monday, the search parties came across an armed group in the area between N Kubin-Hera Kilo. The armed militants fired on the security forces, who retaliated, and there was a heavy exchange of fire," the spokesman said. Subsequently, an extensive search of the area led to the discovery of three dead bodies of militants, belonging to the NSCN. However, the faction of the NSCN they belonged to is yet to be known. Two AK series rifles and a pistol were recovered from the forested areas, and a search operation is still underway. Tuesday's incident occurred within three days after three militants of the NSCN-K-YA faction were killed on April 27 during a fierce gun battle between the security forces and the extremists in Arunachal Pradesh's Longding district. Defence spokesman Lt Col Amit Shukla had said that two construction workers were kidnapped on April 25 from Pangchao areas in Longding district.

Pakistan fails to attack Indian Army's Cyberspace

New Delhi, (HS) : Pakistan-based cyber attackers have once again failed in their attempts to violate Indian cyber sovereignty. With its imprints in the Pahalgam terror attack clear, the Pakistani forces have been violating the ceasefire on the LoC every day. Now, Pakistan has redirected its efforts towards publicly accessible welfare and educational websites after finding mission-critical national networks impenetrable. Operating under the moniker "IOK Hacker" - Internet of Khilafah, the group sought to deface pages, disrupt online services and harvest personal information. India's layered cybersecurity architecture detected the intrusions in real-time and quickly traced their origin to Pakistan. Sources say that Intelligence assessments confirm four related incidents. The websites of Army Public School (APS) Srinagar and APS Ranikhet were both targeted with inflammatory propaganda. APS Srinagar also faced a distributed-denial-of-service assault.

Brahmastra 3.0 - Concludes with Unparalleled Grandeur at Regional College of Management



Bhubaneswar : The curtains came down on the spectacular five-day cultural and intellectual extravaganza, Brahmastra 3.0, on April 29, 2025, at the Regional College of Management (RCM), Bhubaneswar. Conceived and curated as the brainchild of Dr. Pritam Pal (Group Director), this flagship annual youth fest has grown into one of the most awaited inter-institutional events in Eastern India. Brahmastra 3.0 unfolded through five dynamic and diverse verticals-Brahmotsav, Kurukshetra, Ranbhoomi, Chakravayuh, and Drona-each designed to ignite creativity, competition, and collaboration among students. The event welcomed participation from students across RCM and various other colleges, universities, and institutes from Bhubaneswar and even distant corners of the country. With boundless enthusiasm and energy, participants showcased their talents and made the event a true celebration of youth and intellect. Among the standout segments, the Drona Awards earned special acclaim. This prestigious vertical was dedicated to recognizing and honoring teachers, mentors, professors, coaches, trainers, and leaders in the public sector, for their relentless contribution to shaping minds and inspiring generations. A wide array of educators and professionals competed and were felicitated for excellence across both sports and cultural arenas-making Drona the heart and soul of Brahmastra 3.0. The grand finale and award distribution ceremony were graced by distinguished dignitaries including Dr. Prabir Pal, Founder-Chairman of RCM; Dr. Sangamitra Pal, Director of RCM Global School (RCM Group of Institutions); Mr. Manas Ranjan Debata, Additional Director cum Principal; Dr. Itishree Debi, Principal (UG); and Dr. Shradha Mishra, Additional Director. Their presence added a layer of prestige and motivation for the young achievers and honorees. The event also received vital support from its generous title sponsor FALCON Group and partners including ESSPL, IMFA, APPOLO, Reliance Trends, Indulge among others and the Press & Media Fraternity, who were specially acknowledged during the closing ceremony. Brahmastra 3.0 concluded on a note of inspiration, innovation, and grandiosity-perfectly embodying the vision of Dr. Pritam Pal to build platforms that empower youth, honor educators, and bridge academia with community engagement.

Nothing wrong in country using spyware for security, but members of civil society have right to privacy: SC

New Delhi, (HS) : Hearing a batch of pleas on the Pegasus row, the Supreme Court on Tuesday said there's nothing wrong in a country using spyware for security purposes, but members of civil society have a right to privacy that is protected by the Constitution.

"What's wrong if a country is using spyware? To have spyware is not wrong, but against whom you are using it is the question. You can't sacrifice the security of the nation," a two-judge bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh said. The apex court was hearing a number of petitions seeking a detailed probe into allegations that the government used Israeli software Pegasus for snooping against journalists, judges, activists, politicians and others. One of the lawyers of the petitioners told the bench that the basic issue in the case was whether the government had the Pegasus spyware



and was using it.Solicitor General of India, Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre, said, "Terrorists cannot claim privacy rights." Hearing this, the bench said, "A civil individual who has the right to privacy will be protected under the Constitution." Several pleas were filed before the top court in the snooping row by senior journalists N Ram and Sashi

Over 70 Pakistani women with NORI certificates return to India

CHANDIGARH, (HS) : More than 70 Pakistani women married to Indian nationals who were having NORI (No obligation to return to India) certificate issued along with LTV (long-term visa) crossed over to India through the Integrated Check Post (ICP) at Attari border. The Union Government had revoked all visas issued to Pakistanis after the Pahalgam terror attack, which killed 26 tourists. The Pakistani women who went to meet their parents in Pakistan were not allowed to come back to India and were stopped by Pakistani immigration despite holding valid documents.However, today immigration authorities of Pakistan allowed those having Pakistani passports and married to Indian nationals with NORI certificates and long-term visas to cross over to India, said sources. It is learnt that following discussions, an exception was made. In total, 240 people from Pakistan, including more than 70 NORI visa holders, entered India. Meanwhile, 140 others from India returned to Pakistan via the Attari border. Dr Vikram Udasi from Jalgaon, Maharashtra, who



had been waiting at the Attari border since April 25 to receive his wife Priya, a Pakistani national and four-year-old child Ahan, who had gone to meet her family in Pakistan, finally re-united with his wife and child.

"Finally, I have met my wife and child after the long wait and now we are leaving back for our home town, thank god," he said and added that they got married in 2017. "She has been on a Long Term Visa (LTV) for the past eight years, which is valid until 2026," he said. Another Indian national, Rishi Kumar from Kolhapur in Maharashtra, has also been stranded at the ICP Attari for the

Kumar, Rajya Sabha MP John Brittas of the CPI(M), advocate Manohar Lal Sharma, former Union minister Yashwant Sinha and RSS ideologue KN Govindacharya. The pleas had sought an inquiry headed by a sitting or retired judge of the top court to investigate the alleged snooping.

The petition had said that the targeted surveillance using military-grade spyware is an unacceptable violation of the right to privacy which has been held to be a fundamental right under Articles 14 (Fundamental right to equality before the law and equal protection of the laws), 19 (Protection of certain rights regarding freedom of speech, etc) and 21 (Protection of life and personal liberty) by the Supreme Court in the K S Puttaswamy case. The top court had constituted a technical committee and overseeing committee on the alleged use of Pegasus spyware to

snoop on phones of politicians, activists and journalists. The panel set up to oversee the working of the technical committee was headed by Justice (retired) RV Raveendran and also included former IPS officer Alok Joshi and cyber security expert Dr Sundeep Oberoi.

SC Orders CBI Probe Into Builder-Bank Nexus in Delhi-NCR, Mumbai

New Delhi, (HS) : Cracking down on delays in the construction and handover of residences, the Supreme Court has ordered a CBI probe into an "unholy nexus" between builders and banks in projects in Delhi, the National Capital Region (NCR), Mumbai, Chandigarh, Mohali and Kolkata. During a hearing on Tuesday, a bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh, directed the CBI to register seven preliminary enquiries (PE) and set up a special investigation team (SIT).

Karnataka Man Shouts 'Pakistan Zindabad' During Cricket Match, Beaten to Death



Mangaluru, (HS) : A man was allegedly beaten to death by a group of people over a dispute during a cricket match in the outskirts of the city following which 15 people have been arrested, police said on Tuesday.Terming the incident as "mob lynching", Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara said he has not yet received the report but assured that the case will be taken very seriously. He said the individual reportedly shouted 'Pakistan Zindabad' when there was a local cricket match going on.The incident occurred at around 3 PM on April 27 near the Bhatra Kallurti temple in Kudupu village on the outskirts of Mangaluru, police said. The victim whose identity is yet to be ascertained, was allegedly assaulted with sticks, resulting in multiple injuries that led to internal bleeding and shock. He was declared dead at the hospital, police said.

Addressing a press conference here, Mangaluru City Police Commissioner Anupam Agarwal said, "Initially, the police registered a case of unnatural death and launched an investigation after the body was found near the temple grounds. A post-mortem conducted on April 28 confirmed that the death was due to multiple blunt force injuries and lack of medical attention." A case has been registered under Section 103(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, which pertains to murder by a group of five or more persons, at the Mangaluru Rural Police Station, based on a complaint lodged by a resident, he said. So far, 15 accused have been arrested, and the police are on the lookout for at least 10 more individuals, he added. "The main accused, identified as Sachin, a resident of Kudupu, is already in our custody. The section invoked in this case is very stringent-if proved, the accused, either individually or as a group, can face life imprisonment or even the death penalty.

Pakistan Defence Minister's 'X' account withheld in India



New Delhi, (HS) : Days after the Pahalgam attack, which killed 26 people, the X account of Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has been withheld in India. Earlier on Monday, India announced a ban on 16 Pakistani YouTube channels for spreading provocative and communally sensitive content and misinformation against India, its Army, and security agencies in the backdrop of the tragic Pahalgam terror incident in Jammu and Kashmir. Collectively, these channels have a massive following of over 63 million subscribers.

Last week, the Pakistani defence

minister made a huge admission by stating that Pakistan has been funding and backing terror groups in a viral video clip. In a video clip that has now gone viral, Pakistan's defence minister was in conversation with Sky News's Yalda Hakim, when she asks him, " But you do admit, you do admit, sir, that Pakistan has had a long history of backing and supporting and training and funding these terrorist organisations? Khawaja Asif in his reply says, "We have been doing this dirty work for the United States for about 3 decades... and the west, including Britain...That was a mistake, and we suffered for that, and

that is why you are saying this to me. If we had not joined the war against the Soviet Union and later on the war after 9/11, Pakistan's track record was unimpeachable." Asif's statement lays bare the fact that Pakistan, for many years, has been harbouring these terror groups. Following the terror attack in Pahalgam that killed 26 people, the Central government announced several diplomatic measures, such as closing the Integrated Check Post (ICP) at Attari, suspending the SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme (SVES) for Pakistani nationals, giving them 40 hours to return to their country, and reducing the number of officers in the High Commissions on both sides. India also halted the Indus Waters Treaty signed in 1960 in the wake of the Pahalgam attack. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also assured the country that the terrorists responsible for this attack, along with those who conspired it, will face punishment beyond their imagination, The Prime Minister asserted that the time has come to eliminate the remaining strongholds of terrorism and that the willpower of 140 crore Indians will now break the backbone of the perpetrators of terror.

SC Refuses to Entertain Fresh Plea Against Waqf (Amendment) Act

New Delhi, (HS) : The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a fresh petition challenging the recent amendments to the Waqf Act, 1995. A bench, headed by CJI Sanjiv Khanna, told the petitioner that it cannot deal with hundreds of petitions on the same issue and that the petitioner may choose to file an intervention application in the petitions challenging the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, if so advised. The CJI Khanna-led Bench, on April 17, the previous date of hearing, decided to treat five writ petitions as lead cases and said that other pleas will be treated as intervention applications. Further, it ordered the apex court registry to rename the cause titles of the proceedings as "In Re: The Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025".

The Bench, also comprising Justices Sanjay Kumar and K.V. Viswanathan, granted a week's time to the Centre and state governments and the Waqf Boards to file their preliminary reply. During

the course of the hearing, the Union government assured the Supreme Court that it would not de-notify provisions related to 'waqf by user' or include non-Muslim members in the Waqf Board. Posting the matter for further hearing on May 5, the apex court said that the hearing fixed on the next date will be a preliminary hearing and, if required, interim orders will be passed. In its preliminary affidavit, the Centre said that it brought amendments to prevent abuse of waqf legislation, which resulted in the encroachment of government properties, apart from ensuring that the Waqf Boards in the country are properly administered and function with transparency. "It is submitted that there have been reported misuse of waqf provisions to encroach on private properties and government properties. It is really shocking to know that after the amendment brought in the year 2013, there is a 116 per cent rise in auqaf area," the Union Ministry of Minority Affairs

said. The Centre, in its reply document filed before the top court, said that it was found that most of the Waqf Boards have been functioning in the "most non-transparent manner" and have either not uploaded the details in public domain or have uploaded partial details. The Union government said that under the old regime, due to the absence of adequate safeguards, government properties and even private properties were declared as waqf properties. "The provisions of Sections 3A, 3B and 3C take care of the said situation which has been prevailing since several decades. It is submitted that there are startling examples whereby the government lands or even the private lands were declared as waqf properties," it said in the affidavit.

The Union government said that the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, was passed with the objective of modernising the management of waqf properties in India through transparent, efficient and inclusive measures. It argued that the

reforms introduced are directed solely at the secular and administrative aspects of waqf institutions - such as property management, record-keeping, and governance structures - without impinging upon any essential religious practices or tenets of the Islamic faith.

The preliminary reply document filed by the Union government said that before introducing the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, there has been a detailed executive level and Parliamentary level exercise in order to understand the problems plaguing the previous statutory regime, the consequences, and the appropriate measures that were required to remedy the same. The Centre contended that the "primary religious right being the right to make a dedication is not interfered with, and neither is the administration of any specific waqf interfered with as the same continues to be vested with the mutawalli as per the purpose behind such waqf".

Canada Elections: Liberal Party To Retain Power After Unintended Boost From Trump

Ottawa, (H.S): Canada's Liberal Party is set to retain its power under Prime Minister Mark Carney after a closely-fought election with an unintended boost from US President Donald Trump, who helped unleash a wave of nationalism in a country known for its understated demeanour. Conservative Party leader Pierre Poilievre conceded defeat and congratulated him early Tuesday morning, sealing his victory.

Declaring victory, Carney said, "We will build an independent future for our great country." At 3 a.m. (12:30 p.m. in India), with results still coming in, it was not clear if the Liberal Party would have a majority on its own. The party had won 150 seats and was leading in 17, which together could add to 167 seats, six short of a majority in the 343-member House of Commons. It had 152 seats in the last parliament. The Conservative Party had won 132 seats and was



ahead in 13, for a total of 145 likely seats. The National Democratic Party, led by Khalistan sympathiser Jagmeet Singh suffered a rout, winning five seats and leading in two, while Singh himself lost the election.

The Liberal Party appeared at the beginning of the year to be heading towards a humiliating defeat when Trump resurrected it by waging a tariff war against Canada and threatening to annex it. Support for the party surged in a show of defiance against Trump and reinvigorated nationalism. In the backlash,

many Canadians switched allegiance to the Liberal Party, which they believed was better placed to stand up to Trump than the Conservative Party led by Pierre Poilievre, whose ideology mirrored the US President's in many ways.

The Liberals were also helped by former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who had become very unpopular, stepping down and replaced by Carney. A newcomer to electoral politics, Carney is a technocrat who had been the governor of the central banks of Britain and Canada during trying

times for them economically. Both the Liberal and Conservative leaders offered messages of unity and hope. Poilievre offered his cooperation in "getting a trade deal that puts these tariffs behind us while protecting the sovereignty of Canada and the Canadian people." Carney, who congratulated Poilievre on his election, said, "Let's put an end to the division and anger of the past."

We are all Canadian, and my government will work for and with everyone." Turning to the confrontation with Washington, he said, "When I sit down with President Trump, it will be to discuss the future economy and security relationship between two sovereign nations." He said he would work to wean Canada away from its dependence on the US. Trump, who ridiculed Trudeau, calling him the "governor of the 51st state" of the US, has been more restrained with Carney. He has said that he could work with Carney.

22 Killed In Deadly Restaurant Fire In China's Liaoning

Beijing, (H.S): A devastating fire tore through a restaurant in Liaoyang City, located in northeast China's Liaoning Province, on Tuesday afternoon, claiming the lives of 22 people and leaving three others injured, according to state media. The cause of the blaze has not yet been disclosed as authorities continue investigations into the tragedy. The fire reportedly broke out at 12:25 p.m. local time in a restaurant situated within a residential area, state broadcaster CCTV said.

Chinese President Xi Jinping called for "all-out efforts" to ensure that the injured receive the best possible medical care and instructed officials to strengthen fire safety measures nationwide, Xinhua news agency reports. This marks the second major fire tragedy in China this month. On April 9, 20 elderly residents were killed in a blaze that swept through a nursing home in Longhua county of Chengde city, in north China's Hebei province. A total of 39



people were inside the building when the fire started. China has witnessed several fatal accidents in recent years, often attributed to gas leaks, outdated infrastructure, or poor safety enforcement. In March last year, an explosion linked to a gas leak at a restaurant in Hebei province killed two people and injured 26. In September, another gas-related blast in a high-rise building in Shenzhen claimed one life. Accidents like these are often exacerbated by illegally stored chemicals, lack of fire exits, and poor enforcement of building

codes - issues sometimes fueled by corruption and negligence. In this latest incident, according to some media reports, the fire started in the kitchen. It suggests that it may be linked to the traditional use of open flames for cooking, such as braising dishes in large iron woks or preparing popular meals like hot pot, where ingredients are cooked directly at the table over live flames. Liaoyang, where Tuesday's fire occurred, is part of China's industrial "rust belt" - a region known for its declining factories and population exodus.

Missing Indian Student In Canada Found Dead Under Mysterious Circumstances

Ottawa, (H.S): An Indian student in Canada, who has been missing for four days, was found dead, the Indian High Commission in Ottawa said. The student, Vanshika, was found dead under mysterious circumstances. Vanshika, the daughter of Devinder Singh, an AAP leader, hailing from Punjab's Dera Bassi, moved to Ottawa two and a half years ago for higher studies.

We are deeply saddened to be informed of the death of Ms. Vanshika, a student from India in Ottawa. The matter has been taken up with the concerned authorities, and the cause is under investigation as per local police. We are in close contact with the bereaved kin and local community associations to provide all possible assistance," the High Commission of India in Canada posted on a social media platform 'X'. Vanshika went missing on April 25, the day she left her house to check out a room,



the Hindu Community in Ottawa said in a letter to Ottawa Police Service. After that, the Indian High Commission in Ottawa also had posted on X that it is in touch with local partner Indo-Canadian community associations and concerned authorities regarding a missing person alert for an Indian student in Ottawa. "Vanshika has been missing since the evening of Friday, April 25th, 2025, after leaving her residence at 7 Majestic Drive around 8-9 PM to view a rental room. Her phone was

switched off at approximately 11:40 PM that night, and she missed an important exam the following day an action completely out of character for her. Despite extensive efforts by her family and friends, there has been no contact or information about her whereabouts," the letter read. The community wrote, "We are deeply worried and, frankly, fearing the worst."

The Hindu community in Ottawa is distressed, and the anxiety continues to grow with each passing hour. Given the troubling circumstances and the vulnerability of the missing person, we respectfully request your personal attention and intervention in this matter. We humbly urge the Ottawa Police Service to escalate this case, allocate appropriate resources, and prioritise the investigation into Vanshika's disappearance. A swift and thorough response could make a critical difference in ensuring her safe return."

Indian Community Holds Vigils Across US To Honour Pahalgam Terror Attack Victims

New York, (H.S): Members of the Indian community across various parts of the United States on Tuesday held prayer meets and vigils to express solidarity with the victims of the brutal Pahalgam terror attack. The gatherings were organised in memory of the victims of the heinous assault in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam, where terrorists deliberately targeted Hindus and shot them dead. The attack was later claimed by 'The Resistance Front', an offshoot of the banned Pakistan-based terrorist group Lashkar-e-Taiba.

In the attack, terrorists had opened fire on a group of tourists in the Baisaran Valley, killing 26 people and injuring several others, including a Nepali national. Harrowing visuals of the attack, showing chaos and indiscriminate firing by the terrorists, have flooded social media. In Edison, New Jersey, more than 300 members representing around 20 organisations of the Indian-American community gathered to condemn the horrific terrorist



attack strongly. Edison Mayor Sam Joshi and New Jersey Assemblyman Robert Karabinchak also attended the tribute event to pay homage to the victims." Standing united against terror and in solidarity with the victims," the Consulate General of India in New York posted on social media while sharing pictures of the gathering. A separate tribute ceremony was held in Connecticut, where sixteen Indian associations united to honour the victims in a heartfelt show of solidarity and

compassion. Participants sang the national anthem and conveyed a powerful message of peace, resilience, and collective strength. They held placards with slogans in support of India and waved Indian flags, demanding justice for the victims. In Columbus, Ohio, community members waving Indian and American flags came together in a moving display of unity and grief, showing resilience against the horrific terror attack. Meanwhile, Indian community members around the world staged

massive protests on Sunday against the terror attack, demanding justice for the victims. Demonstrations were organised in Canada, Denmark, England, France, Finland, Germany, Spain, and the United States. Family members of several victims revealed that terrorists had approached them individually and inquired about their religion - those who identified themselves as Hindu were executed on the spot.

In response to the attack, India imposed a series of stringent measures against Pakistan, including the expulsion of Pakistani military attaches, suspension of the key Indus Waters Treaty, and immediate closure of the Attari land-transit post. Sketches of three terrorists suspected of being involved in the Pahalgam attack have been released. The suspects have been identified as Hashim Musa alias Suleman and Ali Bhai alias Talha Bhai, both residents of Pakistan, and Adil Hussain Thoker, a native of Anantnag district.

First Batch of Indian Haj Pilgrims Arrives In Saudi Arabia

Riyadh, (H.S): The first batch of Indian Haj pilgrims were accorded a warm welcome at the Madina Airport in Saudi Arabia by Indian Ambassador to the Kingdom, Suhel Khan and Consul General Fahad Suri on Tuesday. They were joined by the Saudi Deputy Minister for Haj and Umrah, Abdulaziz A. Wazzan, and several other senior Saudi officials.

As many as 1,22,518 pilgrims from India will be undertaking the sacred journey during Haj 2025 with the first two flights carrying 288 pilgrims from Lucknow and 262 pilgrims from Hyderabad landing today, Minister of Minority Affairs Kiren Rijiju posted on X. The pilgrims were given a warm welcome upon their arrival and their entry procedures were completed in a swift and efficient manner. They were transferred to their accommodations in Madina subsequently. "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Government



of India remains committed to ensuring a smooth and seamless Haj pilgrimage for all. Prayers for a safe, blessed and spiritually enriching pilgrimage," Rijiju stated. The government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has accorded highest priority for Indian Muslims to undertake the annual pilgrimage. As a result of the efforts, the country allocation for India has gradually increased to 175,025 in 2025 from 136,020 in 2014. The Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA) through the Haj Committee of India manages arrangements for the bulk of the quota allotted to

India, which is 122,518 in the current year. All the necessary arrangements including flight schedules, transportation, Mina camps, accommodation, and additional services have been taken up and completed as per the Saudi requirements, within the given timelines. The balance of over 52,000 slots of the quota were allotted as is customary to private tour operators. Due to changes in Saudi guidelines, more than 800 Private Tour Operators were consolidated into 26 legal entities termed Combined Haj Group Operators (CHGOs), by the Ministry of Minority Affairs,

this year. Addressing legal challenges, the Haj quota was allocated by the Ministry to these 26 CHGOs well in advance. However, despite reminders, they failed to comply with the necessary timelines set by the Saudi authorities and failed to finalise the mandatory contracts, including for Mina camps, accommodation, and transport of pilgrims.

The Saudi Haj Ministry later informed that due to delays, the available space in Mina became occupied. Later with the intervention of the Indian government, the Saudi Haj Ministry offered a lifeline to private Haj operators whose quota of sending about 10,000 pilgrims faced cancellation due to delayed documentation. Saudi Haj Ministry, in a rare gesture, agreed to re-open the Haj Portal (Nusuk Portal) to all Indian Combined Haj Group Operators (CHGOs) to complete their work with respect to 10,000 pilgrims.

Failure To Observe Safety Principles Caused Port Explosion: Iran

Tehran, (H.S): The Committee set up by the Iranian Authorities to investigate the cause of the massive explosion at Shahid Rajaee port in the Hormozgan province, which claimed 70 lives, reported that there was a "failure to observe safety procedures" at the port. In a statement on Monday evening, the Committee to Investigate the Causes of the Fire Incident in Shahid Rajaee Port stated that after conducting several meetings with experts in different fields,

it was concluded that the reason for the tragic incident was "the failure to observe safety principles and passive defence standards" as confirmed to the committee members, the semi-official Mehr News Agency reported. "There have been discrepancies in some cases, and the security and judicial bodies are seriously seeking to identify the wrongdoers," it added. Determining the cause of this incident requires a thorough and fully-fledged investigation of its



various aspects, which, due to expert requirements, requires technical and laboratory processes; however, without wasting time, its implementation steps are being pursued, and the final results will be revealed to the public as soon as possible," the committee concluded. Meanwhile, the Interior Minister, Eskandar Momeni blamed "negligence" as the cause of the powerful explosion and the inferno in the provincial capital Bandar Abbas, where the port and the country's largest maritime hub is located. However, some media reports also suggest that the explosion was caused by missile fuel ingredients imported from China. In January, after Tehran's supplies ran low following its

conflict with Israel, China was to send a ship carrying sodium perchlorate, a common missile fuel component, to Iran. Following this, the port took in a shipment of "sodium perchlorate rocket fuel," in March, the reports said, adding that the port explosion on Saturday was due to the mishandling of this very fuel.

Reports further suggested that eyewitnesses of the incident and videos doing the rounds showed chemicals in an area of shipping containers caught fire and led to a massive explosion. Meanwhile, the officials stated on Monday that the death toll from the blast and the subsequent inferno rose to 70, and the fire at the port was extinguished.

Pak Exposed As Rogue State Fuelling Global Terrorism: India At UN

New Delhi, (H.S): India has strongly raised the Pahalgam terror attack at the United Nations and also flagged a Pakistani minister's "confession" to training and funding terrorists. The horrific terror attack on April 22 left 26 people, including 25 tourists and one local, dead, representing the largest number of civilian casualties since the 26/11 Mumbai attacks in 2008.

Ambassador Yojna Patel, India's Deputy Permanent Representative at the UN, on Monday flagged a Pakistani minister's "open confession" to training and funding terrorists at the UN. Pakistan Defence Minister Khwaja Asif had said in a recent TV interview that his country has

backed terrorism over the decades. This confession was not surprising, and it exposed Pakistan as a "rogue state" that has been fuelling global terrorism, said Ambassador Yojna Patel at the UN.

The whole world has heard Pakistan's Defence Minister Khwaja Asif admitting and confessing Pakistan's history of supporting, training and funding terrorist organisations in a recent television interview. This open confession surprises no one and exposes Pakistan as a rogue state fuelling global terrorism and destabilising the region. The world can no longer turn a blind eye," she said. Khwaja Asif, in a TV interview soon after the Pahalgam



terror attack, was asked by a journalist about Pakistan's role in

backing terrorist organisations. "We have been doing this dirty work for

the US for the past three decades, including the West and the UK,"

he had said. Ambassador Patel also slammed Pakistan for misusing and undermining the global forum to "indulge in propaganda and make baseless allegations against India."

She was speaking at the launch of the Victims of Terrorism Association Network (VoTAN) in New York. She said India fully understands the long-lasting impact such terror acts have on victims, their families and society, having been a victim of cross-border terrorism for decades. The Ambassador said that India deeply appreciates and values the strong, unequivocal support and solidarity extended by leaders and governments across the world in

the wake of the recent terrorist attack at Pahalgam, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir." This is a testimony to the international community's zero tolerance for terrorism... We reiterate that terrorism in all its forms must be condemned unequivocally," she said.

Ambassador Patel said the establishment of the VoTAN was a significant step as it will create a structured, safe space for victims to be heard and supported. "India believes that initiatives like VoTAN are essential to strengthening the global response to terrorism, ensuring that victims remain at the centre of our collective efforts," she added.

Piyush Goyal Discusses India's Opportunities with Top Business Leaders In UK

London, (H.S): Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal held meetings with members of the Indian business delegation and other top industry leaders in the UK, and discussed avenues for greater collaboration for mutual prosperity. The Commerce Minister is on a five-day visit to London,

Oslo and Brussels this week, for strengthening India's trade and investment relations with the UK, Norway and the European Union. "Interacted with members of the Indian business delegation over dinner. Discussed the robust growth of our industry and avenues for greater collaboration with the UK for mutual prosperity," Goyal posted on X social media platform. He also met Al Cook, CEO of De Beers Group, and his team to explore global trends in the gems and



jewellery sector. "We discussed India's opportunities, sustainable practices, and growth prospects for the diamond industry," said the minister. Goyal also met Martin Gilbert, Chairperson of Revolut, and exchanged views on the immense opportunities in India's fintech ecosystem and the importance of partnerships with global players to drive innovation and growth. Earlier, Goyal held a meeting with the UK Secretary

of State for Business and Trade, J. Reynolds, to advance Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations between India and the UK. The Indian minister termed the meeting with his British counterpart "as productive" and part of the commitment to deepen the India-UK economic ties." Arrived in London for two days of engaging discussions aimed at strengthening bilateral trade and

investment relations. In my first engagement, held a productive meeting with the UK Secretary of State for Business and Trade J. Reynolds to advance Free Trade Agreement negotiations, reinforcing our commitment to deepening India-UK economic ties,"

Goyal said on X, after the meeting. The visit started with the London leg of the trip, aimed at wrapping up the negotiations for the proposed FTA between India and the UK, as talks have entered the last lap. India and UK are looking to conclude talks for the proposed FTA sooner as international trade is expected to face challenges on steeper tariffs from the US. There are 26 chapters in the agreement, which include goods, services, investments and intellectual property rights.

RBI's Move To Inject Liquidity Seen as a Positive For Bond Prices



1 lakh crore in two tranches of Rs 50,000 crore each. The central bank also held a dollar-rupee buy/sell swap auction of \$10 billion for 36 months. Besides, the central bank this week reduced borrowing costs by cutting the benchmark repo rate by 25 basis points and changing its neutral stance to accommodative.

The steps were taken as part of the soft money policy to spur economic growth, as the inflation rate has come down. According to financial analysts, the fresh liquidity infusion is also expected to help fetch a better price for the new benchmark bond, which would be auctioned on May 2. The RBI announced the new bond after the old benchmark bond completed the outstanding amount of Rs 1.84 lakh crore.

Rs 40,000 crore purchase announced on April 11. RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra has stated that the central bank will continue to monitor evolving liquidity and market conditions and take measures as appropriate to ensure orderly liquidity conditions. The bond purchases are in continuation of the RBI's recent measures to inject liquidity into the system. In March, it conducted OMO purchases of government securities worth Rs

Gold Shines on Akshaya Tritiya: Prices Up By Over 30 Pc In A Year

New Delhi, (H.S): Gold has continued to shine bright for investors, delivering a return of over 30 per cent since last year's Akshaya Tritiya, according to brokerage firm Ventura. As the festival approaches this Wednesday, the price of 24-carat gold has surged from Rs 73,240 per 10 grams in 2024 to nearly Rs 94,000-Rs 95,000 per 10 grams this year.

Akshaya Tritiya is considered one of the most auspicious days to buy gold. It is believed that purchases made on this day invite prosperity and good fortune. With this belief deeply rooted in tradition, millions across the country turn to gold not just for adornment but also as a time-tested investment - especially during uncertain times. Over a longer horizon, gold has delivered even more impressive returns. In the past six years, gold prices have more than tripled. On



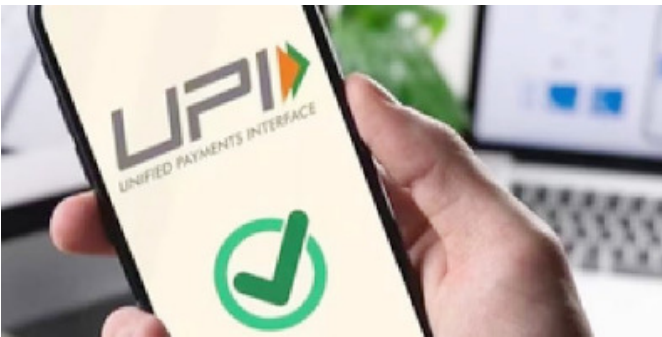
Akshaya Tritiya in 2019, 24-carat gold was priced at Rs 31,729 per 10 grams, the firm said. The surge in gold prices is largely attributed to rising global uncertainties, which have prompted many investors to turn to the yellow metal as a safe-haven asset.

On April 22 this year, gold prices hit a historic milestone, breaching Rs 1,00,000 per 10 grams for the first time. Ventura also highlighted regional trends, noting that the highest demand for gold during Akshaya Tritiya comes from South India, contributing nearly 40

per cent to total sales. The western region accounts for about 25 per cent, the eastern region for 20 per cent, and the northern region for around 10 per cent.

Interestingly, while Akshaya Tritiya is significant in South India, consumers in North India place greater importance on purchasing gold during the Dhanteras festival. The brokerage firm further mentioned that while high gold prices could dampen sales volume this year, the overall revenue for the industry is expected to remain stable as compared to last year.

NPCI Directs Banks To Limit 'Check Transaction' API Usage To Avoid UPI Outage



New Delhi, (H.S): In the wake of the mega unified payments interface (UPI) outage earlier this month, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has asked banks to ensure that all the API requests (traffic) sent to UPI is monitored and moderated in terms of appropriate usage. The relentless transaction status checks by banks resulted in the massive UPI outage on April 12, leaving millions stranded. In a notification, the NPCI has said

that banks will initiate the first check transaction status API after 90 seconds from the initiation/ authentication of the original transaction. "After the timers are changed, members may initiate the same after 45 to 60 seconds of the initiation/authentication of original transaction, after NPCI revised communication," said the agency. Banks may initiate maximum of three check transaction status APIs, preferably within two hours from

the initiation/authentication of the original transaction, it added. Payment service provider banks will ensure that all the API requests (traffic) sent to UPI is monitored and moderated in terms of appropriate usage - for restricting high number of repeat APIs for same transactions or older transactions, etc.

According to the notification, payment service provider banks will audit their systems by "Cert-in empanelled auditor on an immediate basis, to review the API usage and existing systems behaviour, and annually hereafter". "PSP banks/Acquiring Banks shall ensure that there is no batch processing (by processing file and converting to online request at high TPS) of any of the non-financial APIs sent to UPI Online systems," read the notification. Subsequently, in case of U48 error (Transaction ID not

present or not found in UPI System) within first two 2 hours from initiation of the original transaction, then banks will refer the NPCI settlement files (available to Payee, Payer or PSP banks) after the settlement cycle is completed."

Alternatively, members may initiate a maximum of one check transaction status API on UDIR (Unified Dispute and Issue Resolution) which, in turn, checks URCS (UPI Backoffice) to fetch the final settlement status of the transaction," according to the NPCI. On April 12, digital payments via UPI suffered a nationwide outage affecting millions of users, hindering local shopping, bill payments and business transactions. Major banking apps from SBI, ICICI, and HDFC were also affected, pointing to a broader issue within the UPI network infrastructure.

India's Private Corporate Sector Bullish On Capex Despite Global Uncertainties: Govt Survey

New Delhi, (H.S): Despite challenges like weak demand, geopolitical tensions, and high borrowing costs, about 30 per cent of firms in the private corporate sector planned to invest in upgradation in FY 2024-25, supporting the sharp increase in capital expenditure (capex) last fiscal, a government survey showed on Tuesday.

The slightly lower intended capex for FY2025-26, though still above the 2023-24 levels, reflects cautious planning after a strong 2024-25. Overall, the trend indicates growing corporate confidence and a judicious approach to investment amid improving economic certainty, according to the survey data released by the Ministry of



Statistics. According to survey estimates, nearly 40.3 per cent of enterprises plan to undertake capex on core assets during 2024-25. Additionally, 28.4 per cent intend to invest in value addition to existing assets, while around 11.5 per cent focus on opportunistic assets, and 2.7 per cent on debt strategies. The strategy of investing in distressed assets and non-performing loans was adopted by less than one-half

of a percent of enterprises. Meanwhile, about 16.9 per cent allocated their capex towards other diverse investment strategies. According to the findings, the average gross fixed assets per enterprise in the private corporate sector increased from Rs 3,151.9 crore in 2021-22 to Rs 3,279.4 crore in 2022-23 (4 per cent growth), and further to Rs 4,183.3 crore in 2023-24, reflecting a significant 27.5 per

cent growth. The estimated capex per enterprise for the years 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24 was Rs 109.2 crore, Rs 148.8 crore and Rs 107.6 crore, respectively. Moreover, the estimated provisional capital expenditure per enterprise for purchasing new assets in 2024-25 is Rs 172.2 crore.

There has been an overall increase of 66.3 per cent in aggregate capex (unweighted) over the four-year period from 2021-22 to 2024-25. The strategy of 40.3 per cent of enterprises is to undertake capex on core assets during 2024-25, followed by 28.4 per cent to invest in value addition to existing assets, according to the survey. In 2022-23, the Parliamentary Standing Committee recommended that the Ministry of Statistics develop a

comprehensive methodology to capture capex data from the private sector. The primary objective of the capex survey is to estimate the capex trends of private corporate sector enterprises from the past three financial years (2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24), along with anticipated capital expenditure for the current year (2024-25) and upcoming financial years (2025-26).

A total of 2,172 enterprises submitted complete information for all five years of the reference period, forming a fixed panel. The results show an overall increase of 66.3 per cent in aggregate capex (unweighted) over the four-year period from 2021-22 to 2024-25, according to the survey.

Need To Target 1 Billion UPI Transactions A Day In 2-3 Years: FM Sitharaman

New Delhi, (H.S): Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday underscored the need to target one billion Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions per day within the next 2-3 years, stressing on the importance of accelerating the internationalisation of UPI through the development of interoperable frameworks and expanding global payment acceptance. In a meeting to review various aspects and the way ahead for the UPI ecosystem, Finance Minister encouraged officials to intensify efforts to onboard more users and merchants onto the UPI platform to broaden its reach and impact.

She urged all stakeholders to work collaboratively to address infrastructure gaps, enhance the end-user experience and cybersecurity architecture. The Union Minister also directed NPCI to reinforce UPI's robustness and prevent future disruptions. Discussions focused on enhancing the resilience, scalability, and real-time monitoring of the UPI infrastructure to ensure uninterrupted service delivery and strengthen user trust. UPI is witnessing significant growth. From FY 2019-20 to FY 2024-25, UPI transactions registered a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 72 per cent. NPCI officials also informed Finance Minister that between FY 2021-22 and FY 2024-25, around 26 crore new users and 5.5 crore new merchants have been successfully onboarded onto the UPI platform. UPI now has approximately 45 crore annually active users.

In FY 2024-25, UPI transactions amounted to Rs 261 lakh crore - a 30 per cent YoY growth. Similarly, in terms of volume, 18,586 crore transactions took place in FY 2024-25 - a 42 per cent annual growth. The UPI saw a 13.59 per cent increase (on-month) in transaction volume at 18.3 billion in the month of March, from 16.11 billion in February, as per the latest NPCI data. The month of March saw a record Rs 24.77 lakh crore worth UPI-based transactions, up 12.79 per cent from 21.96 lakh crore in February. On a daily basis, the UPI network recorded more than 590 million average transactions at 79,910 crore daily transaction count, according to the NPCI data.



India, Netherlands Agree To Strengthen Economic Ties

New Delhi, (H.S): India and the Netherlands have agreed to strengthen bilateral trade and economic cooperation at high-level meetings held by Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal during his visit to the European nation, according to an official statement issued on Tuesday. The Commerce Secretary's visit from April 24-26 underlined India's commitment to strengthening its economic engagement with the Netherlands, a key European partner. The discussions at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Economic Affairs laid the groundwork for enhanced collaboration.

The CEOs Roundtable fostered new business connections, with Dutch companies expressing keen interest in India's growing market and investment opportunities, the statement said. The engagements at the Port of Rotterdam and ASML opened new avenues for cooperation in maritime infrastructure and semiconductors, aligning with India's economic priorities. Barthwal commenced his visit with a productive discussion with Michiel Sweers, Director General for Foreign Economic Relations, Dutch Ministry of Foreign



Affairs, in The Hague. The discussions focused on strengthening bilateral trade and economic ties, inter alia, through the setting up of the Joint Trade and Investment Committee (JTIC) mechanism. Further, the meeting covered diverse issues of bilateral trade and economic relationship, advancing strategic economic cooperation, fostering policy alignment, and addressing trade barriers to facilitate smoother market access for Indian and Dutch businesses.

A highlight of the visit was the CEOs Round-table Conference organised by the Embassy of India. Attended by approximately 40 representatives from leading Dutch and Indian companies, as well as business chambers and trade organisations, the round

table facilitated discussions on trade opportunities, challenges and actionable solutions. The Roundtable also featured the showcasing of One District One Product (ODOP) handicrafts by the Embassy, celebrating India's rich artisanal heritage. Barthwal visited the Port of Rotterdam, Europe's largest and one of the world's most advanced ports.

Received by Boudewijn Siemons, CEO of the Port of Rotterdam Authority, at the World Port Centre. The Commerce Secretary held in-depth discussions on enhancing cooperation between the Indian ports and Rotterdam. The talks explored opportunities for knowledge sharing, technology transfer, and sustainable port management practices. A tour of the port facilities, including the

fully automated APM Terminals at Maasvlakte II, provided insights into Rotterdam's state-of-the-art infrastructure and operational efficiencies. He highlighted the potential for collaboration in modernising Indian ports, aligning with India's Maritime Vision 2030, which aims to enhance port capacity and logistics efficiency. The visit laid the groundwork for setting up a Green and Digital Corridor between the Port of Rotterdam and Indian ports like the Deendayal Port Authority Kandla, and export of Green Hydrogen and carriers like Ammonia and Methanol from India to Europe, with the Port of Rotterdam acting as a gateway to Europe.

Later, Barthwal travelled to Veldhoven to visit the headquarters of ASML, a global leader in photolithography systems for the semiconductor industry. In a productive meeting with ASML CEO Christophe Fouquet, the Commerce Secretary discussed deepening India-Netherlands cooperation in the semiconductor sector. The discussions focused on leveraging ASML's expertise to support India's ambitions to become a global semiconductor

manufacturing hub, as outlined in the India Semiconductor Mission. The Commerce Secretary also visited the Republic of Croatia from April 22-23, where he held bilateral discussions with Zdenko Lucic, State Secretary for Foreign Trade and Development, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, and Ivo Milatic, State Secretary, Ministry of Economy. The meetings focused on advancing India-Croatia trade and investment relations, promoting sectoral collaboration, and reinforcing India's engagement with the Central European region.

During the meeting with Zdenko Lucic, discussions centred around taking forward the EU-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and enhancing bilateral trade cooperation. The Commerce Secretary mentioned the areas of collaboration between the two countries, like Railways, Global Capability Centres, Electric Vehicles and IT. The Croatian side apprised about their interest in investment in the Defence sector (about flagship products of India), solar cells production, food processing technology, automobiles, knowledge sharing amongst other sectors, the official statement added.



Ananya's leaked scene from Kesari Chapter 2 with R Madhavan leaves netizens divided

Chunky Panday's daughter Ananya Panday is one star kid who has managed to prove her versatility in the last few years with projects such as Gehraiyaan (2022), Kho Gaye Hum Kahan (2023) and CTRL (2024). A majority of netizens agree that she has grown as an actor and deserves more opportunities. Yet there were many who were left disappointed when Ananya joined Akshay Kumar and R Madhavan in Kesari

Chapter 2. Hence began the nepotism debate again. But some minds were changed when the film arrived in theatres and audiences witnessed Ananya as Dilreet Gill. Well, a scene from the courtroom drama featuring Ananya and Maddy has now gone viral on social media.

This video from Kesari Chapter 2 has been leaked by a fan on Instagram, along with the message: "When someone says ananya is not a good actress show them this scene." This intense clip

features Ananya questioning a witness in the court's stand while battling R Madhavan aka Neville McKinley, an Anglo-Indian lawyer appointed to defend the British. Ananya angrily states, "Aap aise baat kar rahi hain jaise aapko farak hi nahi padh raha. Aap itni besahmi se jhoot kaise bol sakti hain? Kya aapko iss liye sharm aa rahi hai kyunki woh ek Hindustani hain? Kyunki aapki izzat aur aapka honour ek innocent ki zindagi se kahin zyada important hai? Itna zyada

important ki aap yeh tak bolne ko tayyari hain ki woh insaan..." Right then, the clip ends.

This short but feisty video of Ananya as a lawyer is quite impressive. But it has left the internet divided. Some are lauding the actor. For instance, one social media user gushed, "I think the delivery was perfect for the scene, i can see the frustration and anger in her delivery," whereas another comment read, "She act so well in every character.....she just

need good script and roll and actually she acts in OTT like ott kid and in movies and films she act outstanding.....no doubt." A fan even claimed, "Ananya has improved massively, unlike Sara & Jahnvi." Meanwhile, trolls have opined that something is missing, even though they have acknowledged Ananya's growth. One such netizen wrote, "See I won't deny she has grown as an actor but I can still hear the sobo girl in her when I'm seeing this.

Aamir delays Sitaare Zameen Par trailer launch after Pahalgam terror attack

Bollywood actor Aamir Khan is all set to make his comeback to the big screen with his upcoming film Sitaare Zameen Par. While the film's trailer was initially set to release this week, it has now been postponed. The decision was made as a gesture of respect for the lives lost in the Pahalgam terror attack.

The trailer was scheduled for a grand launch this week, with significant promotional efforts already underway. However, sources close to the industry revealed that "Aamir Khan and his team felt it would be inappropriate to proceed with the launch at this time." A new release date for the trailer will be announced later. Sitaare Zameen Par is a spiritual sequel to the 2007 film Taare Zameen Par. Alongside Aamir, the film also stars Darshel Safary and Genelia D'Souza in pivotal roles. It follows the transformative journey of a man who, through his interactions with children who perceive the world differently, is compelled to



confront his own shortcomings. The film marks Aamir's return to cinemas following the debacle of his last release, Laal Singh Chaddha. It is scheduled for release in December this year. In an interview with The Hollywood Reporter, Aamir spoke about Sitaare Zameen Par, saying: "Well, it's a beautiful story. Actually, the easiest way I can describe it is that Taare Zameen Par is a very emotional film that makes you cry. Sitaare Zameen Par makes you laugh; it's a humorous film. The theme is similar - about people with

different abilities, different intelligence, or different challenges - but it's humour instead of emotion."

He also described how the sequel goes beyond the original and said, "In many ways, I feel it's way ahead of Taare Zameen Par, because in Taare Zameen Par, the person with the challenge - Ishaan - was helped by my character. In Sitaare Zameen Par, it's ten people with challenges who help me, the supposedly 'normal' person. So I feel it goes much further. I hope it turns out well."

Jaspinder: I dedicate my Padma Shri to the victims of Pahalgam attack



Singer Jaspinder Narula's dedicated almost her entire life to music- and now, she is dedicating her Padma Shri to the victims of the Pahalgam terror attack. "I was honoured on Monday in Delhi, but meri Padma Shri ki khushi aadhi ho gayi kyunki mera mann bauhaut dukhi tha. The incident which happened in Pahalgam recently disturbed me. I pray to

God that the people killed and their families find peace. I dedicate my honour to them," says the 54-year-old.

Popular for chartbusters such as Taare Hain Baraati (Virasat) and Bumbroo (Mission Kashmir), Jaspinder still remembers the first ever time she sang, "I was eight! I sang on Doordarshan, and after that I

sang Dumadum Mast Qalandar at the launch of Doordarshan in Jalandhar. I was one of the first people in the country to sing Dumadum Mast Qalandar. I would accompany my mother to her shows in Canada and London. Someone gifted her a record of the song, and when I listened to it I liked it, and prepared it."

Ask her about the high points of her prolific career, and she replies, "Every song of mine gave me so much gratification. I got love of the people. When I received the Padma Shri from our President, she remembered that she had also honoured me on April 12 at another felicitation at the Punjab University. Waqt kam hota hai Padma awards mein baat karne ka unse, but she did smile and remember."

British Board of Film Classification rates HIT 3, Retro 'strong' for violence

Sailesh Kolanu's Telugu Nani-starrer HIT: The Third Case and Karthik Subbaraj's Tamil Suriya-starrer Retro are both slated for release worldwide on May 1. The British Board of Film Classification (BBFC) rated both films strong for violence and revealed further details of the kind of language and horror used in the films.

HIT 3's synopsis on the BBFC website reads, "In this Telugu-language crime thriller, a maverick police officer is drawn into the disturbing world of a series of gruesome murders he is investigating." It has been rated strongly for 'violence' and 'injury detail' while 'threat and horror', 'language' and 'suicide and self-harm' received high ratings too. For context, the ratings are almost similar to Unni Mukundan's 2024 Malayalam film Marco, which is touted to be the 'most violent



Indian film'. The additional info reveals that there are 'prolonged scenes' involving stabbing, shooting, dismemberment and other bodily harm. The film also has some 'strong language' in one instance, accompanied by 'milder terms' in other scenes. Much like the trailer hinted, the website confirms that scenes depicting trafficking, sex work, harassment and critical danger to a child are

part of the film. Retro's synopsis on the BBFC website reads, "A former gangster who once swore to give up his violent ways must break his vow in order to defeat his enemies and protect his estranged wife in this Tamil-language action thriller." It has been rated high for 'violence', 'threat and horror', 'language' and moderately for 'drugs', 'sex' and 'sexual violence'.

Pahalgam Attack: India's Boycott Means for Pakistan Cricket & Its Board

New Delhi, (HS) : In the wake of the dastardly terrorist attack in Pahalgam, the Indian government has taken some significant stands in order to isolate Pakistan. The steps haven't only come from the political standpoint but also from a sporting perspective, with the aim being to cut all possible ties with the country. While India has not been playing bilateral cricket with Pakistan since the 2012-2013 series, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has asked the International Cricket Council (ICC) not to put the two teams in the same groups in global events going forward. Pakistan's cricketing revenue has significant dependence on India, be it directly or indirectly. But, with the Indian government and the BCCI deciding to toughen their stance in the wake of the Pahalgam attack, Pakistan is set to face a huge financial impact.

No Indo-Pak cricket in ICC events: If India and Pakistan aren't put in the same group of ICC events like the World Cup and, Champions Trophy, the chances of the two teams facing



each other reduce massively. When it comes to global cricketing events, the organisers deliberately put India and Pakistan in the same group in order to maximise revenue. But, with the BCCI asking the ICC to not do that again, the revenue is bound to take a hit. As per the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), India vs Pakistan cricket matches have generated an estimated Rs 10,000 crore (\$1.3 billion) in the last two decades.

Advertisers even agree to shell out extravagant prices for 10-second ads during India vs Pakistan matches. The PCB depends a lot on the revenue it earns from the ICC but India's boycott could result into the apex body's revenue taking a hit, which would directly impact Pakistan's income too. With Pakistan struggling to even cross group stages of ICC events in current times, entire tournament could conclude without a single Indo-Pak match being witnessed.

Reduced advertising revenue is expected to have a significant impact on the earnings of PCB.

Broadcast Boycott: The broadcast of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) has already been stopped in India, in the wake of the Pahalgam attack. Even the Pakistan cricket team's forthcoming international fixtures are unlikely to be aired in India. The development, hence, will affect a major chunk of the revenue the PCB earns from Indian broadcasters. Already in financial doldrums over their unprofessional affairs in recent years, the crisis that the PCB has been trying to mitigate for long looks set to hit an all new low. Even YouTube channels of a number of former Pakistan cricketers have been banned in India. The likes of Shoaib Akhtar, Basit Ali, Rashid Latif, etc. manage to generate a lot of revenue through social media due to Indian fans. But, that would no longer be possible. In the past, even former Pakistan captain Ramiz Raja had even highlighted how dependent the PCB is on India for its revenue streams.

'Fake' Suryavanshi Responds to Sachin's Praise, Fans Compares



New Delhi, (HS) : West Indies legend Ian Bishop saw shades of a young Sachin Tendulkar in Vaibhav Suryavanshi, who hogged the limelight with his mind-blowing 35-ball century in the Rajasthan Royals' eight-wicket win against the Gujarat Titans. Vaibhav, all of just 14, became the youngest batter to score a ton in T20 cricket, and became the fastest-ever Indian to reach the mark in IPL history.

Chasing the target of 210, RR always dominated the game as the teen batter stood tall against

GT's deadly bowling lineup and became the fastest Indian centurion in IPL history, reaching there in just 35 balls. As a result, the hosts went across the line in just 15.5 overs and remained alive in the playoffs race.

Vaibhav Suryavanshi also broke a massive world record. He is now the youngest ever (14 years, 32 days) to score a ton in the T20 format. However, this early fame also had a negative impact as a fake profile of Suryavanshi went viral on X (formerly Twitter). The account

ran with the username of @VaibhavOfficia and had Suryavanshi's photo in RR's jersey as the profile picture. As the young opener created history on the field, the account went viral and quickly gained a massive number of followers and likes. However, the number of followers rapidly increased after the user replied to a wish from India's legendary batter Sachin Tendulkar. Praising Suryavanshi for knock, Sachin took to X and wrote, "Vaibhav's fearless approach, bat speed, picking the length early, and transferring the energy behind the ball was the recipe behind a fabulous innings. End result: 101 runs off 38 balls. Well played!!" Replying to Sachin's wish, the user wrote, "Thank you so much Sir. It's been a dream to earn a compliment from someone I've admired. Grateful beyond words."

As soon as this post went viral, the X decided to take an action and cautioned the other

users regarding the misinformation. X listed three reasons for the account being a fake one. "1. Not followed by the Rajasthan Royals (they follow all their players). 2. Account handle using 'Officia', professional account tend to avoid such names. 3. All tweets and replies originated on 28th April, likely to farm engagement." it read. Talking about Vaibhav Suryavanshi, the young batter surpassed the previous record held by former India all-rounder Yusuf Pathan (37 balls, for Rajasthan Royals vs Mumbai Indians in 2010). Suryavanshi is also the youngest centurion in IPL history (14 years, 32 days), surpassing Manish Pandey (19 years 253 days, for Royal Challengers Bengaluru vs Deccan Chargers in 2009). Overall, this is the second-fastest ton in the IPL, falling just short of Chris Gayle's 30-ball knock for Royal Challengers Bengaluru against Pune Warriors in 2013.

Max Receives Suspension over Anti-Doping Rule Violation

London, (HS): The violation occurred in late 2023, when Purcell unknowingly received intravenous vitamin infusions that exceeded the permissible limit of 100 ml within a 12-hour period. Despite his claim that the clinic had been informed of his status as a professional athlete, Purcell received infusions of over 500 ml on two occasions. As a result, he has been barred from participating in, coaching at, or attending ITA-sanctioned tennis events until June 11, 2026. However, his full cooperation during the investigation led to a 25% reduction in the suspension period. "This case highlights that anti-doping rules are not limited to banned substances but also prohibited methods," said Karen Moorhouse, CEO of ITA.

BCCI slaps notice on 'illegal' use of IPL 2025 content

New Delhi, (HS) : The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has cracked down on The Grade Cricketer, a top Australian cricket podcast, forcing its hosts to delete hundreds of IPL 2025-related videos from social media platforms. The move follows a legal notice accusing the podcast of using tournament images and logos for commercial purposes without authorisation.

Hosts Sam Perry and Ian Higgins stated receiving a "polite legal letter" from the BCCI and IPL authorities over the weekend, demanding the removal of content across YouTube, Instagram, Facebook, and X (formerly Twitter). The notice claimed the podcast used IPL photography and branding beyond 'editorial' limits, specifically for commercial gain. To avoid account suspensions, the duo proactively deleted all IPL 2025 content, including their daily show 'The Big IPL Breakfast', which they are planning to rename as 'The Big Cricket Tournament Breakfast'. The podcast, followed by over a million fans globally, had partnered with Indian grocery platform



with the same frequency, even as they prepare for live shows in India this week. The BCCI's action aligns with IPL media advisories, which restrict the use of official audio, video, or images on social media. Notably, press conference materials are permitted only on news websites or apps for editorial purposes. Uploading such content to platforms like YouTube or Instagram violates IPL's copyright terms.

While the podcast adjusts its approach, Perry emphasised their commitment to IPL coverage: It's very important to note we're going to continue to post coverage of the tournament, at the same cadence that we do." The hosts will also drop 'IPL' from their show title to avoid further disputes.