



AT A GLANCE

EAM Jaishankar Dials Counterparts In Asia & Europe, Discusses Strikes on Pak-Based Terror Camps

New Delhi, 7/5 (H.S): External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar on Wednesday spoke with the foreign ministers of Japan, Qatar, Spain, France and Germany, discussing India's strikes on Pakistan-based terror camps earlier in the day. EAM Jaishankar's conversation with Japanese Foreign Minister Iwaya Takeshi lasted for approximately 15 minutes during which he appreciated Japan's strong condemnation of the April 22 Pahalgam terrorist attack in which 26 innocent civilians were gunned down by four terrorists, two of them belonging to Pakistan." Iwaya extended his sincere condolences to the victims of the terrorist attack in Kashmir and expressed his deepest sympathy to those who were injured in the attack," the Japanese Foreign Ministry said in a statement." Iwaya stated that Japan is deeply concerned that the recent series of events could lead to further reprisals and escalate into a full-scale military conflict and urged both India and Pakistan to exercise restraint and stabilize the situation through dialogue for the peace and stability in South Asia.

Shri Amit Shah, chairs a security review meeting with the Chief Ministers & Lieutenant Governors of border states adjoining Pakistan & Nepal

New Delhi, 7/5 (H.S): Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, today chaired a security review meeting in New Delhi with the Chief Ministers and Lieutenant Governors of border states adjoining Pakistan and Nepal. The meeting was attended via video conferencing by the Lieutenant Governors of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Chief Ministers of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat, and West Bengal, and a representative from the Sikkim government.

Senior officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), including the Union Home Secretary, Director of Intelligence Bureau (IB), Director General of Border Security Force (BSF), and Director General of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), were also present In the meeting, Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah said that after the heinous terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Kashmir, on April 22, 2025, Prime Minister Shri Narendra

Heatwave Conditions To Prevail In Odisha Till May 13: IMD

Bhubaneswar, 7/5 (DMC): Heatwave conditions are very likely to prevail over the districts of Odisha till May 13, according to the prediction of IMD.According to the IMD's prediction for May 8, hot and humid conditions are very likely to prevail at one or two places over the districts of Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Gajapati,

Ganjam, Nayagarh, Khurda, Cuttack and Jajpur."Heatwave conditions are very likely to prevail at one or two places over the districts of Jharsuguda and Sambalpur. Hot and humid conditions are very likely to prevail at one or two places over the districts of Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Gajapati, Ganjam, Nayagarh, Khurda,

Cuttack, and Jajpur", read the IMD's forecast for May 9. As per the IMD's prediction for May 10, heatwave conditions are very likely to prevail at one or two places over the districts of Jharsuguda, Boudh, Balangir and Sambalpur. Besides, hot and humid conditions is very likely to prevail at one or two places over the districts of Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapara,

Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Gajapati, Ganjam, Nayagarh, Khurda, Cuttack, and Jajpur.For May 11, the regional weather office has issued a yellow warning for heatwave conditions at one or two places over the districts of Jharsuguda, Boudh, Balangir, Sundargarh, and Sambalpur. That apart, hot and humid conditions are very likely to prevail at one or two places over the districts

of Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Gajapati, Ganjam, Nayagarh, Khurdha, Cuttack and Jajpur.For May 12, the regional weather office has predicted heatwave conditions likely to prevail at one or two places over the districts of Jharsuguda, Boudh, Balangir, Bargarh, Sundargarh, Sambalpur, and Sonepur. Besides, hot and humid conditions are very likely

to prevail at one or two places over the districts of Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Gajapati, Ganjam, Nayagarh, Khurda, Cuttack, and Jajpur."Heatwave conditions are very likely to prevail at one or two places over the districts of Jharsuguda, Boudh, Balangir, Bargarh, Sundargarh, Sambalpur, and Sonepur.

PM Modi Briefs Prez Murmu on Operation Sindoor



New Delhi, 7/5 (H.S): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday called on President Droupadi Murmu at the Rashtrapati Bhavan and briefed her on Operation Sindoor, a bold and tightly coordinated military action in which Indian armed forces struck multiple high-value terror targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). "Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi called on President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan and briefed

her about Operation Sindoor," the President's office posted on X.Launched in the early hours of Wednesday, the tri-services operation was conducted jointly by the Indian Army, Air Force, and Navy. Between 1.05 a.m. and 1.30 a.m., a barrage of 24 missiles hit nine terrorist facilities, including Lashkar-e-Taiba's headquarters in Muridke and key installations in Bahawalpur - locations long identified as breeding grounds for terror activities. According to

government sources, the operation killed an estimated 70 terrorists. Officials said the action was deliberately designed to be non-escalatory and proportionate, avoiding civilian and military infrastructure while specifically targeting verified terrorist camps.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, addressing a media briefing in New Delhi alongside Army Colonel Sophia Qureshi and Air Force Wing Commander Vyomika Singh, described the strikes as "measured and proportionate". He added that the attacks were launched in response to credible intelligence of impending attacks by Pakistan-based terror outfits. The April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam, attributed to The Resistance Front - a proxy of Lashkar-e-Taiba - claimed the lives of 26 civilians, including one Nepali national. It was one of the deadliest civilian terror incidents

on Indian soil since the 2008 Mumbai attacks.Colonel Qureshi noted that Pakistan has, over the decades, developed a network of terror camps, launch pads, and recruitment centres across PoK and within its own borders." This operation was aimed at dismantling those very foundations," she said, calling it a strategic shift in India's counter-terror posture.

Foreign Secretary Misri stressed that India's actions were compelled by the urgency to prevent further bloodshed." This morning's strikes were precise, proportionate, and responsible - focused solely on neutralising terror threats." Real-time surveillance and post-strike assessments confirmed the destruction of the intended targets.Operation Sindoor marks one of India's most assertive cross-border military responses since the Balakot airstrikes in 2019.

CM Majhi Announces To Establish 3 Integrated AYUSH Hospitals In Odisha



Bhubaneswar, 7/5 (DMC): The Odisha government has decided to establish three integrated AYUSH hospitals in Dhenkanal, Berhampur, and Balasore, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi announced on Wednesday.The Chief Minister made the announcement during his address as the chief guest at the annual function of the Students' Union of Dr. Abhin Chandra Homoeopathic Medical College and Hospital in Bhubaneswar.During the event, the Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for a new Emergency Unit at the college and declared the establishment of a Homoeopathic Research & Analysis Department to bolster research in the field. He also inaugurated a blood donation camp, emphasizing the state's commitment to enhancing healthcare services.Highlighting the significance of homoeopathy, Majhi noted that Dr. Abhin Chandra Homoeopathic Medical College has been a cornerstone in promoting homoeopathic education and treatment in Odisha for 56 years. **Continued P-4**

26 Naxals killed in this year's biggest operation against Naxals along Telangana-Chhattisgarh border

Chhattisgarh, 7/5 (H.S): A total of 26 Maoists have been killed by security forces till now as part of the biggest operation undertaken this year against left wing extremists at the Karregutta hills in Telangana along the Chhattisgarh border, official sources said on Wednesday.The offensive involves as many as 20,000 troops and is led by the CRPF along with units of Chhattisgarh Police. It has clocked 18 days after it was launched on April 21 from Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh across the border of Telangana."

A total of 26 Naxals including four women have been killed till now as part of this operation. Huge amount of explosives, weapon-making factories and other logistical items of the ultras have been seized," a senior officer told PTI.Over a dozen troops including those from CRPF's CoBRA and Chhattisgarh Police units like DRG and STF have been injured till now, they said.This includes CoBRA officer Assistant Commandant



Sagar Borade who lost a leg in an improvised explosive device (IED) blast two days ago and another commando from the 206th battalion of CoBRA who was severely injured in a similar blast on Wednesday.The importance of the operation can be gauged from the fact that CRPF director general (DG) G P Singh is camping continuously in the state, at Raipur and sometimes at Jagdalpur, since April 19 and has visited the operations area including the Karregutta hills thrice till now, officials said.Everyday, the CRPF and state police heads meet twice at the police headquarters in Raipur to review the operation, rotate the troops

and ensure that supply lines of food, water and ammunition are replenished, they said.Officials said the Karregutta hills area has been "an untouched territory till now and it was a testimony of the forces strength that there have been no casualties on their side despite the heavily mined area, hot weather and harsh terrain". "The coordination between the CRPF and Chhattisgarh Police is going great and that is why the forces were able to capture the hill and hold the area till they neutralise or apprehend the last Maoist on ground there," a senior officer said.The joint forces have recovered and defused about 135 IEDs till now, officials said, adding a "final

offensive" has been launched. The CRPF, this week, inducted as many as 20 new companies comprising about 2,000 personnel for the operation.The security forces are now "holding the heavily mined hill areas which has multiple bunker-like hideouts," according to officials. Some senior Naxal cadres are suspected to be holed up in the hill area. The operation will reach its logical conclusion soon, a senior officer supervising the operation had told PTI on Tuesday.

About four helicopters, two drone squadrons comprising 20 big and small unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) in each, along with satellite imagery and maps provided by the NTRO, have been deployed to track Hidma, the top commander of the PLGA battalion no 1, and other senior cadres like Deva, officials have said. Inputs suggested that Hidma was seen around a bunker built in the Karregutta Hills along with an armed squad, and the operation was launched on this information.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addresses the Global Conference on Space Exploration (GLEX) 2025

New Delhi, 7/5 (H.S): Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the Global Conference on Space Exploration (GLEX) 2025 via videoconferencing today. Welcoming the distinguished delegates, scientists, and astronauts from across the globe, he highlighted India's remarkable space journey at the GLEX 2025, stating that,

"space is not merely a destination but a declaration of curiosity, courage, and collective progress". He emphasized that India's space achievements reflect this spirit, from launching a small rocket in 1963 to becoming the first nation to land near the Moon's South Pole. "Indian rockets carry more than payloads-they carry the dreams of 1.4 billion Indians", he

remarked, stating that India's space advancements are significant scientific milestones and proof that the human spirit can defy gravity. He recalled India's historic achievement of reaching Mars on its first attempt in 2014.

He highlighted that Chandrayaan-1 helped discover water on the Moon, Chandrayaan-2 provided the highest-resolution images of the lunar surface, and Chandrayaan-3 furthered understanding of the Moon's South Pole. "India developed cryogenic engines in record time, launched 100 satellites in a single mission, and successfully deployed over 400 satellites for 34 nations using Indian launch vehicles", he pointed out, underlining India's latest accomplishment-docking



two satellites in space this year-calling it a major step forward in space exploration.Shri Modi reaffirmed that India's space journey is not about competing with others but about reaching greater heights together. He emphasized the collective goal of exploring space for the benefit of humanity. He highlighted

India's commitment to regional cooperation, recalling the successful launch of a satellite for South Asian nations. He announced that the G20 Satellite Mission, introduced during India's Presidency, would be a significant contribution to the Global South. He remarked that India continues to advance with

renewed confidence, constantly pushing the boundaries of scientific exploration. "India's first human spaceflight mission, 'Gaganyaan', reflects the nation's growing aspirations in space technology", he pointed out.

Shri Modi revealed that, in the coming weeks, an Indian astronaut would travel to space as part of a joint ISRO-NASA mission to the International Space Station. He further outlined India's long-term vision, stating that by 2035, the Bharatiya Antariksha Station would facilitate groundbreaking research and international collaboration. He declared that by 2040, an Indian astronaut would leave footprints on the Moon and added that Mars and Venus remain key targets in India's future space

ambitions.Emphasizing that for India, space is not just about exploration but also empowerment, the Prime Minister highlighted how space technology enhances governance, improves livelihoods, and inspires generations. He noted the vital role of satellites in ensuring the welfare of every Indian, citing their contributions to fishermen alerts, the GatiShakti platform, railway safety, and weather forecasting.

He underscored India's commitment to fostering innovation by opening its space sector to startups, entrepreneurs, and young minds. He pointed out that India now has over 250 space startups, contributing to advancements in satellite technology, propulsion systems, imaging, and other

pioneering fields. "Many of India's space missions are being led by women scientists", he proudly acknowledged. "India's space vision is rooted in the ancient philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'", reaffirmed Shri Modi, stressing that India's space journey is not just about its own growth but about enriching global knowledge, addressing shared challenges, and inspiring future generations. He emphasized India's commitment to collaboration, stating that the nation stands for dreaming together, building together, and reaching for the stars together. Concluding his remarks, he called for a new chapter in space exploration, guided by science and the collective aspiration for a better future.

Kota Deaths

The recent tragic deaths of three young students-two who were preparing for the NEET exam in Kota, Rajasthan, and a forensic science student from a private university in Mohali, Punjab-underscore a critical issue in India that is being largely ignored. One of these students tragically passed away just before the NEET-UG exam, which highlights the perilous mix of extreme academic pressure, neglect of mental health, and unrealistic expectations. Kota, a city renowned for its coaching centers, has seen 14 student suicides this year alone. Despite numerous warnings, the persistent stressors-high-stakes examinations, intense competition, unregulated coaching practices, and the relentless pressure to achieve guaranteed success-remain largely unaddressed. Recently, the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) took steps against several coaching institutes for misleading advertisements and unfair practices, as many of these institutions promised top ranks without any substantiation. These deceptive assurances, coupled with overwhelming pressure, ensnare vulnerable students and anxious parents alike. There is an urgent need for a cultural shift away from the obsession with top ranks. The Rajasthan government's initiative to introduce a Coaching Institutes (Control and Regulation) Bill is a promising development, and implementing mandatory counseling and aptitude assessments before enrollment could be beneficial; however, effective enforcement is essential. The 2018 guidelines, intended to provide psychological support and regulate private institutes, appear to have been largely overlooked. Without stringent oversight, the new legislation risks becoming ineffective as well. Parents must reconsider their approach; forcing children into unsuitable career paths or tying their self-worth to academic performance only breeds despair. Parents must take the time to engage in self-reflection regarding their expectations and pressures placed on their children. Forcing children into unsuitable educational paths or tying their self-worth to academic performance, such as grades and rankings, can lead to feelings of hopelessness and despair. It is crucial for society to stop perceiving students solely as competitors vying for top positions and instead recognize them as unique individuals with their strengths and weaknesses. Furthermore, the government has a responsibility to cultivate an environment that provides ample job opportunities for young people in a variety of fields that align with their interests and passions. Ultimately, no exam or academic achievement is worth the sacrifice of a young person's life or well-being.

A research study was done, few years back, about some suicides in IITs. In IIT Kanpur, some parents were called for counselling them along with their children. The high expectations of the parents and other relatives and some temporary setbacks of the students in mid-semester and/or final examinations are the major reasons. Even if a counselling session for faculties were conducted at that time. Not to put tremendous pressure on the fragile young minds. Most probably that's what happening.

8th May

World Red Cross & Red Crescent Day



World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day is held on May 8 every year, in celebration of the basic principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The day honors the birth anniversary of the first Nobel Peace Prize winner and founder of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the great Henry Dunant. Every year, a theme is designated for observation, as people all around the world are encouraged to join the cause and contribute to peace in their own individual ways.

We celebrate the founding principles of the Red Cross Movement on May 8. World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day recognizes the vital role played by the staff, volunteers, and members of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement who have provided critical humanitarian assistance to communities all around the world. As we progress in the new century, it becomes clearer that the need for international forces to relay humanitarian aid has never been more. With global democracy in peril every day, the disastrous blows to the world order place the most vulnerable people around the globe in mortal danger.

The Red Cross Movement firmly believes that all of us have the power to change the world. On May 8, we honor the unified resolve of millions of selfless volunteers who have taken the pledge of service. The brave volunteers of the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies have been on the frontline of numerous natural and artificial disasters. Aid has flowed via the Red Cross in the form of band-aids, stretchers, blood donations, and practical tools of rehabilitation.

Along with honoring the centuries-long peace-keeping legacy of the movement, the day also raises public awareness of the prevention and cure of diseases such as tuberculosis, H.I.V./AIDS, and malaria in deprived communities. During the live celebration, a musical concert is organized and educational health messages are broadcast on national television, reaching millions of people all around the world. The celebration is supported by the British Red Cross.

"The Third Battlefield: When the Enemy of Country is Within"



Dr. Satyawan Saurabh

The country's enemies are no longer two, but three: a do-or-die battle and a challenge on half the front." "Beyond the borders: The conspiracy of the half front growing within the country"

"The Third Battlefield: When the Enemy of the Country is Within" Today India is fighting not two but three fronts: external terror, enemies across the border, and the 'half front' hidden within. While the Pahalgam terror attack raised questions on security, the Punjab-Haryana water dispute shook the federal system. The unity of the country is being challenged by ideological conspiracies, which include some political and intellectual groups. Now there is a need for clear leadership, strong center-state dialogue, and identification of ideological anti-nationals. This battle is not just about the border but also about the soul-to unite and protect India. India's sensitive geography and complex sociology have always made it a land of two-way conflict-on one side the enemies across the borders, and on the other side the ideological poison within the borders. But now the time has come when this bipolar war has become tripolar. Now the fight is not only with Pakistan and China, but also with that 'half front,' which is hollowing out the unity of the country from within. The terrorist attack in Pahalgam, the Indo-Pak tension, and the recent dispute between Punjab and Haryana over the Nangal dam during the same period are evidence of the fact that the country is now more vulnerable

to internal conspiracies than external ones.

Pahalgam tragedy: An open challenge of terror: The killing of an innocent Hindu tourist by terrorists in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, on 20 April 2025, reopened the wounds of the country. This attack is the result of a mindset that grows the crop of conspiracies by giving the fertilizer of religion. Terrorism is no longer just a military attack; it is a psychological war designed to spread fear, insecurity, and instability. Even though the Modi government's security approach may be criticized, it must be accepted that the current policy against terrorism, which balances both restraint and retaliation, is part of strategic thinking. The question is not why the attack happened; the question is why the internal fronts became active after that.

Lock on the dam: When even water became a pawn of politics A few days after the incident, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann ordered the stoppage of Haryana's share of water and had the control room of the Nangal dam locked by deploying police force. This was not just an administrative decision but a slap in the face of the federal spirit of India. When a state wages war against another state in times of crisis, it hurts the constitutional soul of India. Politics over water is nothing new, but when this dispute is in the shadow of national security and unity, then it starts to look close to treason.

Aadha Morcha: A new name for ideological treason: India's first CDS, General Bipin Rawat, had talked about a "two and a half front war" during his time-Pakistan, China, and an ideological front operating within the country. This 'half front' does not fight with guns or missiles; it uses pens, cameras, courts, and sometimes the platforms of power to shake the foundations of the country. When the politics of chief ministers like Bhagwant Mann or leaders like Arvind Kejriwal are repeatedly seen standing against the identity of India, then it does not remain a



doubt; it becomes proof that this 'half front' is giving oxygen to anti-India forces from within the country itself. Trust is leaking more than water. The question is no longer whether Punjab will give water to Haryana or not. The real question is whether one state of India can clash with another to this extent in times of crisis. Is this the India that the architects of independent India had seen in their dreams? Or is this the India where politics is flowing more than rivers? The lock of Nangal Dam has become a symbol of India's federal politics-a symbol that is leaking trust, and that leakage is revealing cracks in the democratic fabric of India.

A test of people's patience: A test of Modi's leadership: Today the country is trapped from two sides-on one side there is a terror attack, and on the other side there is a surge of internal conspiracies. In such times, the eyes of the public turn towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This is not a political but a psychological belief that when the country starts falling apart, then a leader like Modi can unite it again. It is also true that the opposition to Modi is no longer based on logic but is full of emotions. Many times it seems that those who are opposing Modi are actually challenging the self-confidence of India.

Ideological attack on the federal system: The water dispute between Punjab and Haryana is not just a water

dispute; it is an ideological attack on the Indian federal system. This is the discourse that tries to divide the country into different pieces from within-in the name of language, in the name of religion, and now in the name of water. Those leaders who practice the politics of confrontation rather than consensus, even in times of crisis, knowingly or unknowingly become soldiers of the third front, which wants to see India as a disintegrated nation rather than a world leader. Silence of media and intellectuals: Half the front is hidden here. Why is the section of society that used to come out on the streets on CAA-NRC silent on Nangal Dam today? Isn't the lock on water a matter of concern for democracy? Isn't this a violation of the Constitution? In fact, this is the half front that works to legitimize the discourse that divides the country, sometimes in the name of students, sometimes in the name of farmers, and sometimes in the name of secularism. This class does not want power; it wants to destabilize power.

Soul of the country: A common man's perspective: Today, the soul of the country resides in the common man who is neither a policy maker sitting in Delhi nor an activist who starts trends on Twitter. He is a farmer, a laborer, a small shopkeeper, a son of a soldier, or a retired teacher-who cannot see the country breaking apart. He

neither wants any particular religion nor the pride of any particular caste. He wants a united India, where there is no terror, no locks on the dams, and no enemies hidden within.

What next? Reconciliation or confrontation?

Rebuilding the federal dialogue is essential - conflicts between states must be resolved promptly by the central government. It is important to identify the 'half' front'-ideological traitors must face legal and social boycott. Re-reading of patriotism is necessary-for those who are in power and for those who are on the streets. This is not just a water dispute; it is a challenge to the national sentiment. Today India is not only battling external forces but also an internal 'half front.' While the terrorist attack in Pahalgam is a wound from across the border, the Punjab-Haryana water dispute is like a piercing thorn that is bleeding from within. There is a need for vigilance, unity, and rejection of the mentality that is filling the foundations of the country with suspicion and narrow-mindedness.

Because in the end, this is what will decide- Is India just geography or a feeling? Is India only a map or an intention? India is just a system or a brilliant consciousness.

Poet, freelance journalist and columnist, Haryana

Pain is a given, but suffering is a choice

Bikram Mohapatra

In the Bhagwad Gita Krishna emphatically declares there is no place for grief in life. We invite grief into our lives by unintelligent identification. We further compound the problem by suffering in anticipation of pain, anguish during the experience and agonising in memory of past trauma. The root cause is ignorance. The Gita says the world is a mix of pairs of opposites, is ever-changing, and is unpredictable. Understand the world as it is. Enjoy it, but never depend on it. Then the same world that now gives stress, will become pleasurable. You will be happy. Grief and delusion come from identification with body, mind and intellect – the little self. When you view everything from a personal angle, there is grief. View the same thing from a larger perspective; there is peace.

Arjuna, the mighty prince and warrior, is reduced to tears when he looks at the entire scenario from his personal viewpoint. He lays down his bow and arrow and refuses to fight. He surrenders to Krishna and says, "I am your disciple. Please teach me." Krishna does not comfort Arjuna. He speaks the Truth – uncompromising and forthright. It removes the despair and prepares Arjuna for the philosophy that is to come. Arjuna is worried about dying. So are we all. Krishna explains what happens at



death. Atman, the real you, never dies. Even the mind and intellect do not perish. You only leave behind the body and environment that no longer meet with your needs and move to another body and circumstances more suited to the fulfilment of your desires. Just as a man gives up tattered clothes, to don new ones. Thus your journey to Truth continues.

Krishna says – There was never a time when you and I did not exist nor will there ever come a time when we shall cease to be. Everything around us, changes. One who is not troubled by these fluctuations and remains steady, equal to joy and sorrow, is fit for immortality. In the midst of this cycle of birth and death it is your duty to act. For a kshatriya, there is nothing more sacred than a righteous cause. You are fortunate to have such an opportunity that is a win-win

situation. If victorious, you will gain the vast kingdom. If slain, you will attain heaven.

We are all warriors in the battle of life. Each one has obligations to perform. Do what you have to do, without attachment. Your right is to action only, not to its fruit. If you act thus you will be freed from the sorrow and bondage of birth and death. Perfection in action is yoga. Also, serenity is yoga. And excellence is peace in the midst of intense exertion. When the mind is calm, the intellect is sharp, and action brilliant. If the mind is disturbed, thinking gets fuzzy and action becomes flawed. A tranquil mind is fit for meditation. In deep meditation mind and intellect vanish. Only Atman remains. You have moved to the state of godhood!

“Ananda Jyosna’ Chandi Mandir Marg, Chandi Chhak, Cuttack

Service, a crucial part of deeper journey

Puspamitra Mohapatra

How do great seekers describe their peak spiritual experiences? In the same way, ten persons describe the taste of mangoes they have never seen or savoured before – in ten unique, yet broadly similar, delightful ways. The spiritual journey essentially requires transcending the lower nature and shedding all baggage to become light. Surge in creativity, hearing of soothing sounds, experiencing colourful light flashes and a heart filled with joy are the few early stage rewards everyone gets, indicators of a deeper reality. In fact different sounds and colours appear in a definite order indicating the progress markers on the path. Most seekers are aware of these.

There are many ways to begin this rewarding journey. J Krishnamurthi in his ten-page masterpiece ‘At the Feet of the Master’ says we can start by doing three things: Tame our body and mind: We are more than the sum of our physical, astral and mental bodies. We need to tame them as they create hindrance in our true work. For example, when there is an opportunity to help someone, the physical body feels tired and wants us to rest. The astral body has its desires; it wants us to say sharp words, feel jealous, be greedy, envy other people's possessions. Our mental body wishes to think much of itself and little of

others. Each one of them pretend to be our real Self wanting us to pursue selfish motives. But as we want none of these things, it must always be us who should control our physical, astral and mental bodies and not that they control us. The body must be treated well, fed on pure food and drink, and kept clean, for without a perfectly clean and healthy body we cannot do the work of preparation. Never wish to shine or appear clever. Speak little; better still say nothing, unless we are quite sure that what we want to say is true, kind and helpful. Never allow ourselves to feel sad or depressed because it infects others and makes their lives harder. Control anger or impatience, so that our thought may always be calm and unruffled.

Always watch for an opportunity: To help others through selfless and unattached actions. Any set of spiritual practices with the above mindset will transform us into channels through which divine energy and love can flow. The more divine love flows through us to help others, the higher we rise on the evolutionary ladder. We rise as we help others rise. This resolve must fill our whole nature, and no temptations should ever turn us away from this. This is the common thread running across all deeper practices.

Advocate, Orissa High Court, Cuttack

Mock drills in Odisha at 12 delicate places demonstrate 'Run to Survive' in emergency situations

Bhubaneswar ,(DMC): While India goes to the first war against terrorism, mock drills in Odisha at as many as 12 delicate places demonstrated 'Run to Survive', for community response and mass awareness on Wednesday. In pursuance of the circulars issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, civil defence conducted mockdrills across the state at 12 selected locations in order to sensitize mass in case of emergency-like situations triggered by war. Contingents of civil defence accompanied by volunteers, NCC and scout cadets, demonstrated the very tricks on how to respond to a stimuli related to danger or war-related emergencies during the probable war looming over Pakistan, following the Pahalgam massacre.Beginning from the Odisha's Capital City



Bhubandeswar-to- rural suburbs having economic significance including Angul, Talcher, Paradip, Dhamra, Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Kendrapada, Gopalpur, Sambalpur, Balasore, Rourkela, Chandipur, Bhadrak etc, the Odisha Police, Odisha Fire Services & CISF conducted massive mock drills at crowded places. Here the civil defence wings alarmed the mass blowing a special buzzer that intended to attract quick public response to the stimuli, for self-defence and public security.Following the

alarm, the civil defence personnel demonstrated rescue operation and firstaid post mock-bombing and scathing attack with arms and ammunition.Apart from it, the civil defence wings demonstrated the very tricks featuring, how to respond to sudden fire, blackout, explosion and the technicality involving successful survival form danger. Meanwhile, NCC and Scout cadets acted as victims and survivors who demonstrated how to run to a safe & secured place in order to get rid of danger.The Odisha Home

Department began statewide civil defence mock drills in the state at 4 pm today aiming to train citizens for emergency situations like enemy air attacks.The drills are to run at least for a week across 12 districts, including Khordha, Angul, Balasore, Bhadrak, and Sundargarh.Over 4,000 Apada Mitras, civil defence volunteers, and personnel from OSDMA, NCC, and NSS participated in the drills. Emergency Response Centres at state and district levels were also activated during the state-wide exercise.

NLUO launches its child protection committees in three settlements of Cuttack

Cuttack, (DMC): The National Law University Odisha (NLUO) launched Community-Level Child Protection Committees (CLCPCs) in Brajabeharipur, Valmiki Nagar, and Baba Tilkanagar areas of Cuttack on Monday.

The initiative, part of NLUO's Project Kutumb, seeks to strengthen child safety through community-driven monitoring and rapid response to abuse or exploitation, stated a press release by the university. The CLCPCs will identify at-risk children,ensure access to welfare schemes, and report violations. Members received training on legal safeguards, reporting mechanisms, and fostering child-friendly environments. Regular refresher programs and links to



District Child Protection Units (DCPUs) will keep committees active. Project Kutumb, started in 2022, aligns with India's Mission Vatsalya to decentralise child protection. It focuses on vulnerable settlements, using data-driven strategies to address gaps in education, healthcare, and safety.NLUO emphasised collaboration between residents and authorities. Moreover, the

university will provide technical support to CLCPCs, ensuring grievance redressal and service delivery.Meanwhile, the initiative ties into Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), marking their 10th anniversary. As part of the launch, NLUO's Centre for Child Rights (CCR) conducted vulnerability mapping in the settlements to tailor interventions.

Local contributions, such as infrastructure upgrades by Brajabeharipur residents, reflect community ownership. CLCPCs will serve as the first point of contact for reporting issues, ensuring timely action, whereas the overall project aims to transform these areas into models where children's voices shape their futures.

ORMAS: Transforming Odisha's Rural Economy with Sustainable Growth



Bhubaneswar, (DMC): The Odisha Rural Development and Marketing Society (ORMAS) continues to be a key driver in strengthening the rural economy and empowering local entrepreneurs.In a two-day review meeting organised at the Odisha Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Institution in Bhubaneswar, Minister of Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water, Rural Development Rabi Narayan Naik, underscored the organisation's role in fostering economic growth among rural

producers and artisans.Minister Naik emphasised the need for ORMAS to modernise its strategies while aligning with current market trends. He reiterated the government's commitment to supporting rural livelihoods by ensuring year-round market access and capacity building for small-scale entrepreneurs. The discussions also highlighted the importance of refining local products such as turmeric, onions, chillies, mahua, and other agricultural commodities to enhance Odisha's

self-sufficiency and global reach. ORMAS has been instrumental in promoting indigenous crafts and products through structured branding, packaging, and advanced marketing techniques. Future plans include increasing employment opportunities by focusing on product refinement, classification, preservation, and global promotion.

The review meeting also featured presentations from district-level ORMAS officials, showcasing successful initiatives and upcoming measures. Additionally, ORMAS, in collaboration with various stakeholders, explored the potential of locally sourced mahua flowers in manufacturing biscuits and chocolates. This initiative aligns with the broader goal of sustainable rural economic development. Minister Naik encouraged continued innovation and urged ORMAS to prioritise grassroots entrepreneurship as a catalyst for long-term economic growth.

"Banking for PwDs" for bank officials was organized by state Commissioner for Person with Disabilities Odisha

Bhubaneswar ,(DMC): A work shop on "Banking for PwDs" for bank officials was organized by state Commissioner for Person with Disabilities Odisha at Toshali Bhawan SCPD conference hall. The commissioner cum secretary social security & Empowerment of persons with disabilities Department Shri R.S.Gopalan,

State Commissioner for persons with disabilities Smt. Bratati Harichandan, convener SLBC Shri Goutam Patra, Controlling heads of banks and persons with disabilities attended the meeting. The state Commissioner for Person with Disabilities, Smt. Bratati Harichandan advised all banks to provide easy accessibility in bank



branches &ATMs such as ramp, tactile flooring, lift, accessible to toilet, wheel chair, side bar etc. She also advised banks to provide easy counter service, hassle free account opening, sanction of DRI & other loans, signage in braille; on linedisable friendly banking services to persons with

disabilities. She also emphasized that banks have to abide the rules on reservation in employment, guideline for transfer and allowances & other facilities available to them as per RBI guideline. The recent direction of Hon' ble Supreme court of India regarding relaxation in KYC for

PWDs was also discussed.The Commissioner-cum-Secretary, SSEPD Department, in his address, encouraged all bankers to adopt a more inclusive and empathetic approach towards persons with disabilities. He emphasized the vital role of banks as service providers and urged them to take proactive steps in extending DRI and other loans, relaxing KYC norms where feasible, and ensuring accessible and user-friendly banking services for all.The convener SLBC requested banks to go through the rights of persons with disabilities act, 2016 and act accordingly. Afterexchange of opinions & suggestions the meeting ended with vote of thanks.

Odisha Pavilion Makes Grand Mark at GITB 2025

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): Odisha Tourism made a strong impression at the Great Indian Travel Bazaar (GITB) 2025, drawing global tour operators, MICE planners, and travel media to its well-curated pavilion.The showcase highlighted Odisha's diverse tourism offerings, including spiritual circuits, eco-retreats, heritage trails, and MICE infrastructure, alongside engaging technology-led experiences.

The Odisha Pavilion featured Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) installations, allowing visitors to explore the picturesque destinations of Konark, Satkosia, Chilika, and Bhitarkanika virtually. This innovative approach was a key draw, providing a multisensory glimpse into the state's rich



tourism potential. Adding to the cultural experience, guests were welcomed with authentic Odia delicacies such as Arisa Pitha and Khaja, which received appreciation for their traditional taste. The Odisha Tourism delegation, led by Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Smt. Pravatī Parida actively engaged industry stakeholders, fostering discussions on enabling policies, investment opportunities, and future collaborations. A series of B2B and G2B meetings took place at the Odisha Pavilion,

with over 35 Foreign Tour Operators (FTOs) and Destination Management Companies (DMCs) exploring partnerships in spiritual tourism, eco-tourism, and MICE events. The initiative marks a strategic push for Odisha Tourism to enhance its global presence and develop long-term partnerships. With immersive engagement and meaningful industry collaborations, Odisha's participation in GITB 2025 reinforces its vision of becoming a premier travel destination.

Khurda, (DMC): A mock drill preparation meeting on how to protect life and property from possible air strikes was held at the Oswan Conference Hall under the chairmanship of District Magistrate Chanchal Rana. In the meeting, Additional District Magistrate (Administration) Pratap Chandra Beura, Additional District Magistrate (Revenue) Safalya Mandit Pradhan, District Council Chief Development and Executive Officer, Jyoti Shankar Sahu, Upazila, Khurda, Kishore Kumar Panda, Deputy District Magistrate, Bhubaneswar Munironda Sahu participated and discussed the mock drill. Through the presence of District Magistrate Shriyut Rana, Additional District Magistrate Bhubaneswar Rudra Narayan Mohanty, Police Sub-Division, Fire Service, Bhubaneswar Metropolitan Corporation, Regional Transport Officer, Bhubaneswar District



Information and Public Relations Officer etc., directed to make the mock drill a success. During this mock drill, the police Sirens will be sounded by the department and will be sounded in stages for 5 minutes up to Rajmahal Chack. After that, all important departments such as Police, B. The District Magistrate gave detailed instructions to the concerned departmental officers on the mock drill work of MC,

information, control room, Capital Hospital control room, administration and the public to stay indoors with concrete roofs, not to go out, stop autorickshaws, house to house ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers to deliver messages, not to allow people, animals, vehicles to pass through the area under any circumstances, admit people in danger to the Capital Hospital, etc. Similarly, after receiving news

of a possible air raid, how to wake up the public and how they can stay safe, giving correct information to the media, etc. Important topics were discussed. Volunteers, National War Students' Corps, NS The District Magistrate has directed the Mock Drill to be conducted to ensure that all the services of the SAF, Odisha State Disaster Management Authority, Education, Food Department, Health Department are provided in a timely manner and 100 percent protection of property and life is ensured.

This is a practice, skill training and awareness program. There is no reason for the public to panic in this. District Social Welfare Officer Kusum Kumari Prahraj, District Education Officer Sonamika Roy, Deputy Collector, Revenue, Nivedita Parida, District Information and Public Relations Officer Laxman Kumar Behera and other district level officers were present in the meeting.

District Development Coordination & Monitoring Committee Meeting (DISHA) Held

Khordha, (DMC): The District Development Coordination & Monitoring Committee Meeting was held at the Zilla Parishad Conference Hall, Khordha. The meeting was held under the chairmanship of MP, Bhubaneswar, Lok Sabha, Mrs. Aparajita Sarangi. In her speech, Mrs.Sarangi said,

"The main focus of this meeting is to ensure that everyone, regardless of party affiliation, works together for the overall development of khordha district and to monitor whether all the schemes of the Central Government are reaching the grassroots level."

The last meeting was held on 05.10.2024. After today's meeting, regular meetings will be held in every three months.The MP,Mrs. Sarangi, said that she has set a vision that five basic services will be provided to every house, namely, a house, clean drinking water connection, toilet, electricity, gas cylinder & above all, road connection to the village. MLA, Khordha, Prasanta Jagdev joined the

meeting and spoke in his speech that, DISHA meeting will definitely show disha in the development of khordha district.The district now has political & administrative efficiency. There is the same government at the center and the state. There is no party in development. Therefore, if everyone comes together for the rapid development of khordha, we will soon reach the target and the vision will be ready for the next generation, he added.

Among other guests, MLA,Begunia, Pradeep Kumar Sahu j said in his speech, that now the district is facing water scarcity due to the scorching heat. He requested to the MP to focus on solving the water problem & various problems of health & education services.

MLA, Jatni, Bibhuti Bhusana Balbantaray said in his speech, there is no party in development, with the cooperation of all the officers & employees & public representatives of khordha district, the benefits of all the



schemes will be reached to the people & he proposed to construct a culvert between Kalyanpur Pancha Gaon Road. MP, Mrs.Sarangi said, from 01.04.2025 onward the political Audit will be conducted for the successfully implemented of various govt.program in khordha district.

House-to-house survey will be conducted to ensure the success of the five basic service schemes. There will be a reading room in each block headquarters & it will be run by the block office. Similarly, coaching centers will also be opened and emphasis will be given to knowledge acquisition. In the

rural housing scheme, 381 houses have been completed in the 2024-25 five-year period under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, while 374 are under construction. In this regard, a target of 757 houses has been set, while the first installment has been given to 755 beneficiaries, the second installment to 491 beneficiaries & the third installment to 357 beneficiaries.

MP advised the BDOs to complete all the construction work by May-15th of this month. The number of rural houses in the district is about 2 lakh. 4100 have been included in the National Social Security

Scheme in the district. In the year 2024-25, the target of providing 14.98 lakh work days under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is 8.96 working days have been provided and 60 percent success has been achieved. Similarly, 684 houses have been provided with 100 working days. 583 projects have been identified under the Amrit Sarovar Yojana, while it is targeted to involve 570 beneficiaries in 190 gram panchayats. While the target of constructing 2554 Anganwadi centers has been completed, 1558 have been constructed.

In addition, MP, Mrs.Sarangi, said Swachh Bharat Mission, Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Yojana, tube well digging under Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Yojana, pipeline water supply, irrigation, Prachi River Embankment Yojana, Lift Irrigation Yojana, 200 PM Kusum Yojana in 8 blocks, construction of rural roads, Bolgarh Bankoi to Patbandha road to be completed by May-31 this month, construction of

108 rural roads in the district is progressing, P.M. Fasal Bhima Yojana & under this scheme, a total of 295148 farmers were covered with 26095 hectares of kharif land & 1188 farmers with 260 hectares of farmland in 2023 with this, she reviewed the progress of the Livestock Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana Scheme, MP, Fund Scheme,Tree Plantation & Forestry Scheme, Public Works Department Scheme, Tourism, National Highways Scheme & Rogi Kalyan Samiti Scheme.

MP, Mrs.Sarangi also Praising the performance of Collector, khordha & advised all the officers & employees to be honest, hardworking, responsible & sincere servants.The meeting was attended Zilla Parishad Chief Development & Executive Officer, Jyoti Shankar Sahu, Sub-Collector, Khordha Kishore Kumar Panda, Sub-Collector, Bhubaneswar, Manoranjan Sahu, Zilla Parishad Members, Panchayat Samiti Chairman & district level officers, engineers were present.

Two fake railway employees arrested

Cuttack,(DMC): The Railway Protection Force (RPF) in Cuttack has reportedly arrested two fake railway employees and seized several articles from their possessions. The arrested fake railway employees have been identified as Raj Kumar Purty and Charan Bodra. Both of them are residents of Jharkhand. While Raj Kumar Purty impersonated himself as Station Master, Charan Bodra identified himself as Token Potter.

The DTI/Paradeep informed that during foot plate inspection by ARM/Paradeep and DTI/Paradeep, it was noticed that one person was wearing Station Master uniform and passing the train by showing green flag at Bagadia PH in but his activities were suspicious. On getting information, officers and staff of RPF Post Paradeep, Cuttack and SIB team KUR attended Bagadia PH and found two persons were present and impersonating as railway employees.

Last Day of Chaitra Parva celebrations in Saipriyanagar SEES Massive Turnout of devotees



Rayagada, (DMC): The annual Chaitra Parva celebrations at the Maa Majhi Ghoriani temple in Saipriyanagar concluded with great fervor and devotion on its final day. Thousands of devotees gathered at the temple from dawn till dusk to offer prayers and seek blessings. The temple was beautifully decorated, and special arrangements were made to accommodate the large number of devotees. The festivities saw a massive turnout of devotees, who offered various items like coconuts, bananas, incense

sticks, and lamps to the deity. The atmosphere was filled with spiritual fervor as devotees sang hymns and performed traditional dances. The sound of drums and traditional music added to the festive atmosphere. The temple committee, led by President M Chinna Rao, along with Treasurer Babuji, Ram Rao, Rajendra Babu, Purna Chandra Nalla, G Laxman Rao, T Trinath, Ramakrishna, Durga, Ishwar Rao, and Gouri Patnaik, played a crucial role in organizing the event. The committee members worked

Mock drill held at 23 places in Puri

Puri, (DMC): Mock drills were conducted at 23 places in Puri district at 4 pm today. The mock drill was arranged to keep all civilians alert and safe for possible war like situations. The mock drill was organised near Badadand town police station in Puri city, at penthakata cyclone shelter and beach in front of Puri hotel. This mock drill has been successful. All the people have cooperated in this. District Collector Siddharth Shankar Swain informed that all arrangements were made as per the protocol.

As per the earlier decision, sirens rang for five minutes at all the 23 points in Puri district at exactly 4 pm. Hearing the sound of sirens, everyone became alert and took shelter in rooftops and buildings as safe shelters. After 15 minutes, the siren sounded again, warning that the danger had been averted. Later, people performed their duties naturally. The health department, fire department, volunteers jointly demonstrated the medical facilities, ambulance arrangements, extinguishing the fire to the



injured people through a mock drill. Sp Vineet Agarwal, ADM Administration Sarat Chandra Behera, ADM Revenue Dr. Sarat Chandra Mohapatra, ADM Protocol Nilamadhab Bhoi, Zilla Parishad Chief Development Officer Priyaranjan Prusty, Municipal Executive Officer Abhimanyu Behera, Additional SP Sushil Kumar Mishra were present on the occasion. CDMO Dr Rupabhanu Mishra, Deputy Collector Manisha Sarangi and other district level officials and security officials were present and assisted in conducting the mock drill.

Truck Slipped at 30 Feet Down Ditch

Paralakhemundi, (DMC): One cloth loaded truck lost control & slipped down 30 feet ditch at Santinagar of Gobindapur ghat section under Mohana police limits. That truck was going from Mohana to Badagada of Ganjam district. Driver GPathuarajji(38) injured & another passenger too. Locals & police staff rescued the victims. Those injured persons admitted at Badagada primary



health centre. One cow too squeezed under truck & succumbed to death. Mohana police started investigation.

Protest against Supreme Court' s May 2 judgement on Industrial Ecosystem



Sambalpur, (DMC) : In protest against the recent Supreme Court decision, more than 3,000 people including JSW - BPSL employees, contractors, local vendors had gathered in front of the JSW - Bhushan Power & Steel Limited (BPSL) plant gate in Thelkoloi under Sambalpur District on Wednesday afternoon. They were protesting against the May 2 Supreme Court verdict which has sent shockwaves across Odisha's industrial ecosystem. The demonstrators voiced serious concerns over the possible fallout of the apex court's ruling, which they fear could threaten their employment and business prospects in the days to come.

The protestors, many holding placards and shouting slogans, stated that the judgment could potentially jeopardize the livelihoods of nearly 19,000 people associated directly or indirectly with JSW BPSL. "This is not just a legal verdict; it's a verdict that puts thousands of families at risk. I request the honorable Supreme Court to rethink on this matter," said a protesting local person. Some local residents also joined the protest, expressing apprehension over the cascading effect on the region's economy and employment opportunities.

Many protestors believe that the verdict could set an alarming precedent for future industrial operations in the state. "This is a body blow to the industrial backbone of Odisha. We appeal to the government and legal authorities to find a viable solution that safeguards jobs and protects the interests of local communities," said a contractor who has worked with JSW - BPSL for over a decade.

Drug racket busted in Khariar Road : 3 held



Nuapada/Khariar Road, (DMC): In a major crack down on illegal drug trade, Jonk Police busted a narcotics racket operating out of ward No.13 - Khariar Road in Nuapada District, arresting three persons and seized a large cache of contraband. In a press meet held at DPO Nuapada, Superintendent of Police G.R. Raghavendra informed that acting on a tip-off, Jonk Police led by IIC Pradeep Kumar Dharua raided the house of Akhtar Dhopipara, Ward No 13 Locality.

Aktar Mohammad (55), Sohel Mohammad (23) and Ameer @ Shahrulkh Khan (32) were caught. Police recovered 622 numbers of Pentazocine Lactate injections and two mobile phones from the premises. A case has been registered in Jonk Police Station on Case No. 88/7.5.2025 Under section 111(4) BNS/ r.w. Sec-21(a)/29 of NDPS Act. The three accused were produced in court on Wednesday, said SP. Further investigation is going on.

District Level Honor to Best of 15 A1 Students in HSC



their hard strain which proved record results for the first time in Gajapati district. They must continue such notion & build more recognitions. All A1 15 students have been honored by the guests.

All BEOs, Headmasters of those schools where outstanding performance shown, parents & guardians of those illustrious students attended. Those honored students are GManisha, Soumyaranjan Panigrahi Bikash Rout of Gothakeli High School

of Mohana block; Hirabati Roito, Anita Dalai & Chandrashekhar Dalai of KMBhaliasahi GHS of RUDayagiri block; Shradhanjali Patra & KSivanjsneya Rao of SKCGHS Gurandi of Gosani block; Prajyoti Choudhry & Ankita Padhi of SSVM of Paralakhemundi;

BJhanshi of GHS Tatipeti & Goshna of GHS Bhuskudi of Gosani block, Rudraprakash Panigrahi of Randiva Aided HS, Priyanka Gouda of KGHS Mahendragada of RUDayagiri block. Program coordinated by SS ARavikumar, District Sports in charge of DEO office, BEOs & all staff of DEO coordinated the program.

Jagatsinghpur District administration start mock drill at Paradip

Paradip, (DMC): As per the directions of the Union Home Ministry, the Government of India is conducting a nationwide defence mock drill today. The exercise is being held in 244 districts in the country, in which air raid sirens, blackout simulations and citizens are being trained to protect themselves in emergency situations. The exercise will include siren testing, power outage drills, etc. The drill is being conducted at two locations in Paradip, along with 12 other locations in Odisha.

The first was held in the Shandhakud slum area, while the second one was conducted at the Nehru Banglow area. The event was led by Jagatsinghpur District Magistrate J Sonal and will be attended by various volunteers including local district administration, fire brigade, police administration, NDRF, ODRF, NCC cadets, and scout and guide students. The main objective of this exercise is to strengthen the preparedness of citizens and administration in times of emergency and to protect the lives and property of the people from possible war threats. The purpose of conducting mock drills is to create awareness among the slum dwellers as well as among the urban dwellers. However, these two mock drills have been successfully concluded today and the district administration is always ready to deal with any situation, said Jagatsinghpur District Magistrate J. Sonal.



Couple arrested in charge of Grand Mother's murder

Keonjhar, (DMC) : Keonjhar police arrested wife and husband in charge of assault and murder of her grand mother and forwarded to court. The gruesome incident of murder was took place on the Tuesday night, in Gamharia village, Munda Sahi, under Keonjhar Town Police Station jurisdiction. The deceased is identified as Birma Munda (70). The accused are identified as Chhotu Munda (30 years, S/o Kuitu Munda) and his wife Gangi

Munda (30 years). The incident took place following a domestic dispute that escalated due to sudden provocation. Birma felled down with injury when they pushed her. In the morning the villagers found her dead and informed the police. Following the incident, police of Keonjhar Town PS rushed to the spot and seized the dead body. Upon received a complaint from Dula Munda, police registered a case and the Keonjhar Town Police

promptly initiated an investigation. "The inquest and post-mortem examination of the deceased were conducted, and the dead body was handed over to the family members after completion of legal formalities" said Srikant Sahu, IIC Town PS. A team from the District Scientific Laboratory (DSL), Keonjhar, visited the crime scene and collected incriminating evidence, which has been seized by the Investigating Officer sources said.

TPSODL issues 1,229 Notices for Power Line Encroachments



the Electricity Act, 2003 and CEA Safety Regulations 2023. As per the Act, no building or structure is permitted under or near overhead lines without prior approval which may result in disconnection of power supply and appropriate legal action. Mr. Amit Kumar Garg, CEO, TPSODL, said: "Safety of the public and our field teams is our topmost priority. These encroachments are hazardous and against the law. We are committed

to enforcing compliance while also educating citizens. We urge everyone to strictly avoid construction near electrical lines and to take necessary permissions beforehand." TPSODL has also rolled out an intensive awareness campaign to educate consumers about these dangers. The campaign includes village meetings, audio-visual vans, posters, Nukkad Nataks, and door-to-door outreach, especially in rural and semi-urban areas.

TPSODL urges all consumers to take prior approval from the appropriate authority before initiating any construction near electricity lines and to never undertake construction under or close to electrical infrastructure. Violations will be treated seriously in accordance with the law. Consumers who have received notices must act immediately to rectify the situation. Non-compliance will lead to enforcement actions as prescribed under the Act.

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CM Majhi Announces

"This institution is not only a leader in the state but also a significant contributor to homoeopathic education, research, and training nationwide," he said. The college's unique feature of operating a homoeopathic medicine manufacturing unit, which supplies medicines to various hospitals, was lauded as a commendable initiative. The Chief Minister further elaborated on the state's healthcare advancements, stating that approximately 15 percent of India's AYUSH economy is driven by homoeopathy. Odisha currently has four government homoeopathic colleges and hospitals, including Dr. Abhin Chandra, alongside 562 government homoeopathic dispensaries. To strengthen the healthcare sector, the state government has allocated ₹23,635 crore in the budget, accounting for over 8 percent of the total state budget. Majhi highlighted the implementation of the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, which enables over one crore people in Odisha to access treatment at 29,000 government and private hospitals across India. Health & Family Welfare Minister Mukesh Mahaling, also present at the event, underscored the vital role of homoeopathy in healthcare and praised the college's students for making the treatment method more accessible to the public. He expressed confidence that the combined efforts of the state and central governments would surpass healthcare goals in Odisha. The event saw participation from Ekamra Bhubaneswar MLA Babu Singh, Commissioner-cum-Secretary Health & Family Welfare Aswathy S, Padma Shri Dr. Ashok Mahapatra, and keynote speaker Dr. L.K. Nanda. The college principal, Dr. Pushpanjali Patra, delivered the welcome address, while Students' Union president Lipak Mahapatra presented a report, and general secretary Soumya Darshan Swain proposed the vote of thanks.

Shri Amit Shah,

carried out by Indian armed forces, terrorist training camps, weapon bases, and hideouts of organizations such as Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed, Hizbul Mujahideen, and other terrorist groups were completely destroyed. Union Home Minister said that all states should make their preparations as per the guidelines issued for the mock drill. He said that arrangements should be made for smooth operation of essential services like hospitals, fire brigade etc. and uninterrupted supply of essential goods should be ensured. The Home Minister asked the states to keep SDRF, Civil Defence, Home Guards, NCC etc. on alert to deal with any situation. He said that efforts should be made to ensure public participation through citizens and non-governmental organisations. Shri Amit Shah said that strict vigil should be kept on anti-national propaganda by unwanted elements on social and other media platforms and prompt action should be taken in coordination with state governments and central agencies. The Home Minister said that every effort should be made to maintain seamless communication and the security of vulnerable points should also be further strengthened. He asked the states to stop spreading unnecessary fear among the public and take steps to spread awareness among the people against rumours. He said that coordination between the local administration, army and paramilitary forces should be further enhanced.

Workers staging symbolic protest against AMNS reaches 10 days at Paradip

Paradip, (DMC): The Purba Upakula Shramik Sangh has been staging a peaceful symbolic protest for the past 10 days at ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel (AMNS) India Company over various basic issues. The protest has been going on continuously since from 28th April under the leadership of Union President and renowned trade union leader Prakash Tripathy. On Wednesday, from 7 am to 8 am, they staged a protest in front of the main gate of the company for an hour before duty. The union's general secretary Abhimanyu Behera spoke about the various demands of the workers in a speech, while union secretary Ratnakar Jena protested against the company's policies of harassment and exploitation towards the workers. Since the company authorities have been ignoring the issues of the workers. The union leaders have announced to stop work in each shift for two hours from today after receiving duty orders. Union President Prakash Tripathy clarified that the agitation will continue until the company authorities take action to resolve the problems of the workers.

Gold Chain Theft Continued at Gosani Block of Gajapati

Paralakhemundi, (DMC): Stealing of gold chains continued at Gosani block. This time from an woman in between Patikota & Satamail road one motor bike rider snatched her gold chain of 3 tolas. That woman belongs to Andhrapradesh. Despite such regular theft yet to be traced out culprits by Gurandi police. Area people annoyed by such lackluster action.

Illegal Fire Crack Shop Raided

Paralakhemundi, (DMC): Led by Sub Collector Anup Panda with Tehsildar Narayan Behera & staff of Paralakhemundi Model Police Station raided fire crackers shop. There are 13 such shops where 12 shops instructed to open for 8 days during Deewali & rest shop till 31st March. But noticed with political pressure they are at



ease to open. So team raided in 2 shops where other locked with fear & fled away. Those 2 shops sealed by the administration.

Unauthorized Brick Layers Demolished by Gajapati District Administration

Paralakhemundi, (DMC): At the outskirts of Paralakhemundi district headquarter of Gajapati at so many places brick layers opened. That caused environment pollution. Without any permission they go on processing bricks. On Tuesday led by Sub Collector Anup Panda, Tehsildar Narayan Behera, District Mining Officer Dipen Parida, IIC of Paralakhemundi Model Police Station Prasant Bhupati raided few brick layers & demolished by JB machine. They said such intervention will continue.



Operation Sindoor: NSA Doval Engages With Counterparts From US, UK, China & Russia



New Delhi, (h.s): National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval on Wednesday held talks with his counterparts, top security officials and diplomats from major global powers, a few hours after India carried out precise strikes on nine terrorist camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) as part of 'Operation Sindoor'.

Sources confirmed that NSA Doval spoke with US NSA and Secretary of State Marco Rubio, UK NSA Jonathan Powell, Saudi NSA Musaid Al Aiban, UAE NSA Sheikh Tahnoon and NSC Secretary General Ali Al Shamsi, Japanese NSA Masataka Okano,

Russian NSA Sergei Shoigu, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, and Emmanuel Bonne, the Diplomatic Advisor to the President of France Emmanuel Macron. During the discussions, NSA Doval briefed his counterparts on the action taken by India and explained how the strikes conducted on the terror centres operated by Pakistan-based terror outfits like Jaish-e-Mohammed,

Hizbul Mujahideen and Lashkar-e-Taiba were measured, non-escalatory and carried out with restraint. He also highlighted that India has no intention to escalate tensions but is fully prepared to respond if Pakistan

chooses to retaliate. The outreach is being seen as India's effort to keep the international community informed and gain their understanding and support. Experts are of the view that this is part of a broader diplomatic strategy to frame India's actions as part of the global fight against terrorism. Tuesday night's strikes targetted locations in Bahawalpur, Sialkot, Kotli, Muzaffarabad, and Barnala, where several major terrorist camps were operating.

These camps were known to have trained terrorists involved in past attacks on Indian soil, including the 2008 Mumbai attacks and the 2023 Poonch pilgrimage attack. Officials said the NSA will remain in contact with his counterparts in the coming days as the situation evolves. Experts reckon that India's message is clear: while it seeks peace, it will not hesitate to act against terrorism. At the same time, by reaching out to key international players, India is working to ensure global support and avoid further escalation.

Oversight Board seeks public opinion to restore or remove child abuse videos on Meta

New Delhi, (H.S): The independent Oversight Board on Wednesday has sought opinion of general public to restore or remove child abuse videos on Meta. The Board, an independent body of 22 global human rights and freedom of expression experts from across the political spectrum and the world, is reviewing two videos which show teachers hitting children in school settings. "The review will explore the key tension between sharing content depicting non-sexual child abuse to shed light on wrongdoing and demand accountability, and the need to protect children's safety, dignity,

and privacy," the Board said in a statement. Both videos were initially removed by Meta for violating the Child Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Nudity policy, later one was allowed on the platform "with a newsworthy allowance and warning screen". The policy states the company removes content depicting "real or non-real non-sexual child abuse regardless of sharing intent..." "Allowing non-sexual child abuse content in an awareness-raising or condemnation context risks re-traumatising the victim, while prohibiting such content may be viewed as infringing on the public's

ability to be informed," said Meta, in its referral to the Board. In view of this, the Oversight Board opened a public comment period and is seeking comments from stakeholders on the complex issues surrounding online depictions of child abuse. The comments are sought on "the impact on victim, responsibilities of the platform, human rights considerations for content moderation, effects on accountability and standards for protective reporting". The public comment window will remain open until 23:59 Pacific Time (12:29pm IST) on Wednesday May 21, the statement said.

Assam: Drugs Worth 9.5 Crore Seized, Three Held

Guwahati, (H.S): Assam Police seized drugs worth Rs 9.5 crore and arrested three drug peddlers, including a woman, in two separate operations, officials said on Wednesday. An Assam Police spokesman said that based on credible intelligence regarding the transportation of contraband from Silchar (southern Assam) to Guwahati via the Silchar-Coimbatore Express train,

a team from Panbazar Police station was deployed at Guwahati railway station on Wednesday. A female suspect was identified and apprehended upon the train's arrival, he said. Following due legal procedures and in the presence of independent witnesses, the search led to the recovery of 20,000 highly addictive



methamphetamine tablets, valued at Rs 5 crore, one mobile handset and Rs 1,000 in cash. The accused, identified as Parvina Khatun Bibi (31), has been taken into custody. The detainee is a resident of Sadieler Khuti village in West Bengal's Cooch Behar district. In another operation, the Assam Police on Tuesday night arrested two drug peddlers at

Salchakra in Silchar in the state's Cachar district, and seized 847 grams of heroin and 4.035 kg of opium from them. The total estimated value of the drugs is Rs 4.5 crore. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma appreciated the police for the seizure of the drugs. According to the police spokesman, legal actions were undertaken under

Hyderabad, (H.S): Personnel from multiple civil defence services participated in the mock drill at four places in Hyderabad on Wednesday as part of the nationwide 'Operation Abhyaas' to test and strengthen the country's preparedness. Air raid sirens blared throughout the city at 4 p.m. and lasted for two minutes.

Authorities activated the industrial siren and used the sirens of police patrol vehicles at traffic intersections. Police appealed to people to take shelter in the nearest buildings, and those in houses and shops were advised to remain indoors. Messages were sent out from the Integrated Command Control Centre (ICCC) to people that there were 'missile attacks' and 'air raids' at four places. Personnel of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF),



Disaster Management, Fire Services, police, traffic police, Medical & Health, Railway, revenue, GHMC, NCC, Scouts & Guides, and other agencies participated in the mock drill.

The mock drill was conducted at four places - Secunderabad, Kanchanbagh, Nanal Nagar and Nacharam NFC Area. Officials said the civil mock drill was conducted after 54 years. The personnel who participated in the mock drill were seen carrying the 'dead' and

'injured' on stretchers, shifting the 'injured' to hospitals through ambulances, administering CPR and oxygen, safely evacuating people trapped in targeted buildings,

using fire tenders to douse the fire and providing other emergency services. Nagi Reddy, Director General, Fire Services, who is the Director Civil Defence for Telangana and overall in-charge of the operation, monitored the mock drill from ICCC with Hyderabad Police

Commissioner C. V. Anand and other top officials. The Police Commissioner said that through this mock drill the preparedness of various departments to tackle an emergency situation in the event of an attack was tested. Anand said the drill also helped them identify the loopholes, and the departments concerned would take necessary action to overcome them.

He said the exercise was also aimed at educating people on the precautionary measures to be taken in the event of an attack. He told citizens that there is no need for panic. Twelve civil defence services undertook the mock drill. Industrial sirens, police miked in junctions and other areas, patrol vehicles, and fire sirens were used. Hyderabad is one of 244 vulnerable locations in the country identified for the nationwide 'Operation Abhyaas'.

25 Minutes of Raining Bombs : Indian Army Releases Videos Razing Terror Camps in PoK, Pak

New Delhi, (H.S): The Indian Army, after carrying out pre-dawn strikes on nine terror camps across the border, released a series of videos documenting the timing and moment when the military strikes hit the terror installations and structures in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and Pakistan.

The series of videos give an insight into how the Indian army and Air Force rained bombs for 25 minutes on prime terror bases, particularly those of Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed headquarters inside Pakistan. Earlier in the day, two women commanders of the Armed Forces briefed the nation about the 'Operation Sindoor' and informed that nine launchpads, five in Pok and four in Pakistan, were hit by 21 precision strikes. The operation began at 1.04 a.m. in the wee hours of Wednesday and



culminated at around 1.30 a.m. The Indian Army was the first to inform about Operation Sindoor and wrote on X, "Justice is served. Jai Hind."

The Army has also shared videos of the precision strikes, showing the moment when the terror hubs were decimated and vaporised. Taking to X, the Army shared the video of the first terror target - Kotli and wrote, "Target 1 - Abbas Terrorist Camp at Kotli. Distance - 13 Km from the

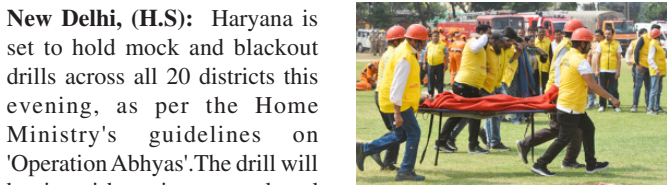
Line of Control (PoJK). Nerve Centre for training suicide bombers of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). Key training infrastructure for over 50 terrorists."

"Target 2 - Gulpur Terrorist Camp at Kotli. Distance - 30 Km from Line of Control (PoJK). Control Center and Base of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) Used for revival of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. Destroyed at 1.08 AM," it wrote in another post, while sharing the video. Earlier

in the day, a video of the ravaged Subhan Allah terror camp in Pakistan's Bahawalpur also surfaced on social media. The terror camp, belonging to Jaish-e-Mohammed has been reduced to rubble, with concrete all around, as shown in the viral video.

The video was apparently shot after India's precision strikes. Bahawalpur, the headquarters of Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) served as a hiring centre and indoctrination centre for the terror enthusiasts. The "video evidence" shared by the Army assumes significance because the last time India carried out Balakot strikes, hitting the terror launchpads in PoK, it was disputed by Pakistan as well as some political parties in the country. This time, the video evidence will give the naysayers and doubters a fitting reply.

Mock drill in Haryana's 22 districts to begin, blackout for 10 minutes



New Delhi, (H.S): Haryana is set to hold mock and blackout drills across all 20 districts this evening, as per the Home Ministry's guidelines on 'Operation Abhyaas'. The drill will begin with a siren sound and include exercises like evacuation, response coordination, followed by full blackout, officials said. Residents have been urged to switch off all lights and remain indoors as part of the drive. Under the 'Operation Abhyaas', a large-scale drill will be carried out simulating air raid and blackout scenarios - thereby preparing people for exigencies during war-like situations. During a high-level meeting on Wednesday, Haryana chief secretary Anurag Rastogi

issued comprehensive instructions to all Deputy Commissioners and Police officers regarding operational aspects of the mock drill. The exercise will commence at major government establishments, public sector units and other important sites. The mock drill will involve Home Guards, Civil Defence Volunteers, Police, NCC officials and Disaster Mitras. Deputy Commissioners have been directed to activate their civil

defence systems as part of a coordinated response. They will also encourage people to participate in the drive. The general public has been requested to switch off all the lights in their houses during the blackout drill from 7.50 pm to 8.00 pm. People have been advised to stay indoors, and if some are driving, they should park their vehicle on the side and switch off the lights. "Stay where you are and do not move around. During the alert, turn off all lights inside and outside the house. Also, disconnect the inverter or alternative power supply," are among the guidelines issued to the general public during the blackout drill.

ECI Crosses Milestone of Training Over 2,300 Field-Level Election Functionaries At IIIDEM



New Delhi, (H.S): In a significant stride towards strengthening electoral management at the grassroots level, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has completed the training of over 2,300 field-level election functionaries at the India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM), New Delhi, in recent weeks. Marking a pioneering initiative, the Commission has begun conducting training in regional languages - a step aimed at greater inclusivity and comprehension. As part of this initiative, a dedicated training programme for officials from Tamil Nadu and Puducherry is currently underway in Tamil language. A total of 293 participants - including 264 Booth Level Officer (BLO)

Supervisors, 14 Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), 2 District Election Officers (DEOs), and other election officials - are attending this two-day training programme at IIIDEM. Addressing the participants during the inaugural session, Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar underlined the critical role played by BLOs as the primary interface between the Election Commission and voters. He emphasised that their responsibilities directly impact the accuracy and integrity of electoral rolls - the bedrock of any democratic process. Over the coming years, the ECI plans to train more than one lakh BLOs across the country. At IIIDEM, the current programme is designed to be interactive and hands-on, featuring sessions on the correct

handling and processing of Forms 6, 7, and 8, used for voter registration and corrections. It also includes practical modules on using IT tools to streamline electoral roll management. The participating BLO Supervisors are being prepared to serve as Assembly Level Master Trainers (ALMTs), who will in turn train BLOs in their respective constituencies - creating a multiplier effect in skill dissemination.

An important component of the training is legal literacy: Participants are being oriented on the appellate provisions under the Representation of the People Act, 1950. They are learning about the process for filing first appeals with the District Magistrate or an officer of equivalent rank under Section 24(a), and second appeals with the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of the State or Union Territory under Section 24(b). Notably, the Commission highlighted that no appeals were filed from Tamil Nadu and Puducherry following the recent Special Summary Revision (SSR) exercise conducted between January 6 and 10, 2025 - a positive indicator of the robustness of the revision process.

Indian Forces Fully Prepared To Take On Pak If It Resorts To Any Misadventure: Army

New Delhi, (H.S): Hours after the precision strikes by the Indian Armed Forces under 'Operation Sindoor' decimated many terror hubs across the border, including the Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) headquarters and also destroyed the terror camps where the butchers of 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks namely Ajmal Kasab and David Headley were trained, the Army said that Indian forces were fully prepared to take on Pakistan, if it resorts to any misadventure.

Briefing the nation about India avenging the Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 civilians were killed, with precision strikes, Colonel Sofia Qureshi and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh, two women officers of the Armed Forces stated, "India has maintained considerable restraint in its response." "However, Indian armed forces are fully prepared to take on Pakistan, if it resorts to any misadventure," said the officers, in an unambiguous message to



Pakistan. They further said that no civilian structures were targeted, and strikes were undertaken by deploying a certain set of niche weapons. "All targets were neutralised with clinical efficiency, no military establishments were targeted," they added.

The officers gave a detailed account of how the five terror camps in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and four in Pakistan were identified and vaporized in targeted attacks by the Indian Army, in the wee

hours of Wednesday. Out of nine targets, Markaz Taiba in Muridke is the one that stands out because of its link with barbaric and savage attacks in 2008 on India's financial capital.

Briefing the media, the women officers informed that Markaz Taiba, a noted terror training centre in Pakistan's Muridke was destroyed in targeted attacks by the Army, which used niche weapons to raze selected installations and structures. "Markaz Taiba is situated about 18-25 km from

the IB. It was at this centre that 26/11 killers including Ajmal Kasab and David Headley were trained," the women officers told the Press.

Early this morning, India executed a well-coordinated military operation against Pakistan, striking nine terror-linked locations across Pakistan and PoK. Reports suggest that close to 100 terrorists might have perished in the strikes, however, any official announcement is yet to be made regarding this.

Pak Cleric Slams Own Government as 'Tyrannical', Denounces War With India

Islamabad, (HS) : A Pakistani cleric has launched a scathing attack on his own government and has declared that any war with India will be unislamic, in a video that has been widely circulated. In the video, Abdul Aziz Ghazi, a controversial cleric of Islamabad's Lal Masjid, criticises the Pakistani government, calling it a "cruel, useless system". In a video going viral on social media, Abdul Aziz Ghazi can be heard asking his audience whether they would stand with Pakistan in the event of a war with India. He question is met with an unexpected silence. Noting the lack of response from the crowd, the cleric commented, "There are very few [hands]. This means many are enlightened now. The matter is, war between Pakistan and India is not an Islamic war."

Abdul Aziz Ghazi goes on to denounce the Pakistan military, accusing it of widespread repression, claiming authorities in Pakistan have grown more oppressive- a bold and controversial take for someone associated with Lal Masjid, a place once synonymous with radical calls. "The system in Pakistan today is that of disbelief (kufr), a tyrannical system. It is worse than that of India. There isn't as much oppression in India as there is in Pakistan," he said. Referring to the siege of Lal Masjid in



2007, Abdul Aziz Ghazi said, "Did the Lal Masjid tragedy happen in India? Does India bomb its own citizens? Are people disappearing in India like they are in Pakistan?" The cleric also cited atrocities in Waziristan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and accused the Pakistan government of bombing its own people. "What happened in Waziristan and across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa - these are atrocities...The state bombed its own citizens. Have such atrocities occurred

in India? Have their fighter jets bombed their people the way ours have? Are so many people reported missing in India? Here, people are exhausted from staging protests in search of their loved ones. Here, clerics are missing, journalists are missing, Tehreek-e-Insaf members are missing." The video was reportedly recorded at Lal Masjid on May 2, has sparked outrage on Pakistani social media. It was also shared by Husain Haqqani, the former Pakistan

ambassador to the US, who criticised the cleric for his views. The mosque was established in 1965, shortly after Pakistan's capital was shifted from Karachi to Islamabad. Soon, it became a centre for radicalising people against India, with its chief cleric developing a close relationship with Pakistan's intelligence and security apparatus. However, by 2006, when the Lal Masjid was headed by brothers Abdul Aziz and Abdul Rashid, it started openly challenging the Pakistani government by advocating the imposition of Sharia law across Pakistan.

As the situation escalated, the then-Pakistani government, led by former President Pervez Musharraf, started seeing the mosque as a direct challenge to state authority. In 2007, the government ultimately launched a military, known as Operation Sunrise, aimed at quelling the growing threat emanating from the mosque. As per official figures, the operation resulted in 154 deaths, while around 50 people were arrested. It also prompted pro-Taliban rebels along the Afghanistan border to nullify a 10-month-old peace agreement with the Pakistani government, leading to violence that resulted in more than 3,000 casualties in 2008.

Relationship Between Australia & India 'Never Been Stronger', Says Albanese



Canberra, (HS) : Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on Tuesday said that the relationship between Australia and India has never been stronger and said that he is looking forward to working with Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the coming years to build a prosperous future for the region. Earlier in the day, PM Modi had dialled Albanese, congratulating him on his party's landslide victory in Saturday's General Election. "Thank you for the call Prime Minister Narendra Modi and for your warm congratulations. The relationship between Australia and India has never been stronger. I look forward to working with you over the coming years to build a prosperous future for our region," Albanese said in a post on X. During

the telephone conversation, Prime Minister Modi congratulated Albanese on his historic re-election as the 32nd Prime Minister of Australia. "Spoke with my friend Anthony Albanese to personally congratulate him on his party's historic victory. We agreed to work together with renewed vigour to advance the India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and explore new areas of cooperation," PM Modi posted on X after the phone call. Prime Minister Modi and his Australian counterpart had met on the sidelines of the Group of 20 (G20) Summit in Rio de Janeiro last November during which they also held the second Australia-India Annual Summit ahead of the fifth anniversary of the Australia-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2025

Palestinian Poet Mosab Abu Toha Wins Pulitzer



New Yorker, (HS) : Palestinian poet and author Mosab Abu Toha has won the Pulitzer Prize for his powerful essays published in The New Yorker, chronicling the physical and emotional toll of the ongoing war in Gaza. The award, announced Monday, honours an essay series the Pulitzer board described as combining "deep reporting with the intimacy of memoir to convey the Palestinian experience" of Israel's war on Gaza. "I have just won a Pulitzer Prize for Commentary," Mr Abu Toha wrote on Instagram. "Let it bring hope. Let it be a tale." His words were a tribute to his late friend and fellow Palestinian poet, Refaat Alareer, who was killed in an Israeli air strike in Gaza in December 2023. Mr Alareer's final poem was titled, "If I must die, let it be a tale." Mosab Abu Toha, 32, lived most of his life in Gaza. In 2023, he was detained by Israeli forces at a checkpoint while trying to flee Beit Lahia in northern Gaza with his wife, Maram, and their three children. "In Israeli detention, soldiers separated me from my family, beat me, and interrogated me," he wrote in one of his Pulitzer-winning essays in The New Yorker.

Friedrich's bid to become Germany's chancellor fails in parliament

BERLIN, (HS) : In a historic first, conservative leader Friedrich Merz's bid to become Germany's 10th chancellor since World War II failed by six votes in parliament on Tuesday, a stunning defeat as he had been widely expected to win smoothly. A candidate for chancellor has never failed to win on the first ballot since the end of the war. The loss triggered a stock market slide: the DAX, the index of major German companies, was down 1.8% following the vote.

Merz needed a majority of 316 out of 630 votes. He only received 310 votes - well short of the 328 seats held by his coalition, which is also one of the slimmest postwar majorities. Because the vote was held by secret ballot, it was not immediately clear - and might never be known - who had defected from Merz's camp. Merz's coalition is led by his center-right Christian Democratic Union and its Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union. They are joined by the center-left Social Democrats, outgoing Chancellor Olaf Scholz's party. The parties were now



to regroup to discuss the next step but it was also unclear how long the process could take. Merz is seeking to take the helm of the 27-nation European Union's most populous member after Scholz's government collapsed last year and a national election was held in February. Scholz, despite his official farewell on Monday, remains in a caretaker role until a new chancellor takes over. Germany has the continent's biggest economy and serves as a diplomatic heavyweight. The new chancellor's portfolio would include

the war in Ukraine and the Trump administration's trade policy on top of domestic issues, such as Germany's stagnant economy and the rise of a far-right, anti-immigrant party. "The world is in turmoil. Europe needs a strong Germany," Carsten Linnemann, the secretary-general of the Christian Democrats, told reporters after Merz's loss. He said a second vote should come soon. "We can't wait for days now, we need clarity quickly."

The lower house of parliament - called the Bundestag - has 14 days to elect a candidate with an absolute majority. Merz can run again, but other lawmakers can also throw their hat in the ring. There is no limit to the number of votes that can be held within the two-week period. If Merz or any other candidate fails to get that majority within the 14 days, the constitution allows for the president to appoint the candidate who wins the most votes as chancellor, or to dissolve the Bundestag and hold a new national election.

Fresh Blow to Trump, Judge Orders to Admit 12,000 Refugees

United State, (HS) : A judge on Monday ordered President Donald Trump's administration to admit around 12,000 refugees into the United States, a blow to the government's efforts to re-shape America's immigration policy. The order clarifies the limits imposed by an appeals court ruling which allowed the Trump administration to suspend the refugee admissions system, but said it must admit people already granted refugee status with travel plans to the United States.

The Trump administration argued at a hearing last week that it should only have to admit 160 refugees who were

scheduled to travel within two weeks of an executive order in January halting the system. But US District Judge Jamal Whitehead overruled the claim on Monday, saying "the government's interpretation is, to put it mildly, 'interpretive jiggerypokery' of the highest order. "It requires not just reading between the lines" of the appeal decision "but hallucinating new text that simply is not there." Whitehead wrote in his order. Whitehead had originally blocked Trump's executive order halting refugee admissions, ruling in February that it likely violated the 1980 Refugee Act. But his decision was overruled by

the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals a month later. "Had the Ninth Circuit intended to impose a two-week limitation -- one that would reduce the protected population from about 12,000 to 160 individuals -- it would have done so explicitly," Whitehead wrote. "This Court will not entertain the government's result-oriented rewriting of a judicial order that clearly says what it says," he added. The lawsuit had been brought by Jewish refugee non-profit HIAS, Christian group Church World Service, Lutheran Community Services Northwest and a number of individuals. Those nonprofits said in their February

lawsuit that several people who had been about to travel, having sold all their belongings in their own country, were abruptly left in limbo by Trump's order. Refugee resettlement had been one of the few legal routes to eventual US citizenship, and had been embraced by former president Joe Biden, who expanded eligibility for the program to include people affected by climate change.

Trump's White House campaign was marked by vitriol about immigrants. He has also pushed a vigorous program of deportations, with highly publicized military flights taking handcuffed people to countries in Latin America.

Hamas Executes Palestinians Amid Food Crisis

Cairo, (HS) : At least six Palestinians were executed by Hamas in Gaza, and 13 others were shot in the legs for allegedly looting food stores and community kitchens, the Palestinian group said in a statement, as desperation grows in the enclave under a complete Israeli blockade that has now entered its third month. "A warning has been issued - those who ignore it bear full responsibility," Hamas said in the statement. Over the last week, there have been reports of armed gangs looting some of the remaining food supplies in Gaza City, challenging Hamas' control of the territory.

Bangladesh court issues new arrest orders against detained Hindu leader



Das, was arrested at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka on November 25 last year in a sedition case over alleged defamation of the national flag. His bail petition was rejected by a Chattogram court, which sent him to jail the next day.

His arrest sparked widespread protests, with his followers demonstrating in Dhaka and other places. The four cases on which the court took action on Tuesday include obstruction of police duties at the Kotwali police station and attacks on lawyers and justice seekers, according to Assistant Public Prosecutor Md Raihanul Wazed Chowdhury. "The court granted the plea to show him (Das) arrested after the hearing," news portal bdnews24 quoted Chowdhury as saying. Das was presented to the court virtually for the hearing, considering his "security and overall situation," an official was quoted as saying by the report. Security was beefed up at the Chattogram court premises since Tuesday morning in anticipation of the virtual hearing, BSS reported. Security was also heightened in front of the Chattogram jail, it added. On Monday, the court ordered Das' arrest in connection with the murder of assistant government prosecutor Saiful Islam Alif, who was hacked to death during the violent protest sparked by the Hindu leader's arrest. On April 30, a High Court bench ordered Das' release on bail.

However, the decision was challenged before the Appellate Division's chamber judge Justice Rezaul Haque, who stayed the ruling. Earlier, the lawyers of the Hindu community leader had failed to secure bail for him as the lower court in Chattogram denied their petitions. "The allegation of disrespecting the national flag is baseless, as it was not a national flag, top defence counsel Apurba Kumar Bhattacharya earlier said.

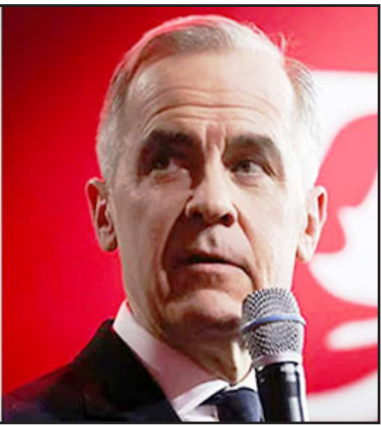
US President Trump and Canada's Carney set for high-stakes meeting

United State, (HS) : Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney meets Donald Trump on Tuesday for the first time since he won reelection on a pledge to stand up to the US president's tariffs and threats to annex the United States' northern neighbor. The 60-year-old Liberal Party leader has said that things cannot be the same with the United States under Trump, and warned not to expect any immediate agreements from the meeting at the White House.

Trump has sparked a major trade war with Canada, which counts the United States as its main ally and trading partner, while repeatedly making extraordinary calls for Canada to become the 51st US state. Republican Trump called Carney a "very nice gentleman" after they spoke last week but said on Monday that he was "not sure" what Carney wanted to talk about. "He's coming to see me. I'm not sure what he wants to see me about, but I guess he wants to make a deal. Everybody does," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office. Trump is set to welcome Carney at 11:30 am (1530 GMT), followed by lunch and then a meeting in the Oval Office. Trump slapped general tariffs of 25 percent on Canada and Mexico and sector-specific levies on autos, some of which have been suspended pending negotiations. He has also



imposed similar duties on steel and aluminum. Carney has vowed to remake Canada's ties with the United States in perhaps its biggest political and economic shift since World War II. "Our old relationship based on steadily increasing integration is over. The questions now are how our nations will cooperate in the future," Carney said on Friday. The Canadian leader said he would also "fight to get the best deal" on the tariffs. But Trump's ultra-loyal Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick said it would be "really complex" to reach a deal. "They have their socialist regime and it's basically feeding off of America," he told Fox Business on Monday. "I just don't see how it works out perfectly." The US president



inserted himself into Canada's election early on with a social media post saying Canada would face "ZERO TARIFFS" if it "becomes the cherished 51st state." Pierre Poilievre's Conservative Party had been on track to win the vote but Trump's attacks, combined with the departure of unpopular former premier Justin Trudeau, transformed the race.

Carney, who replaced Trudeau as prime minister in March, convinced voters that his experience managing economic crises made him the ideal candidate to defy Trump. The political newcomer previously served as governor of the Bank of Canada and the Bank of England, and in the latter post he played a key role reassuring markets after the 2016 Brexit vote. Carney is

known for weighing his words carefully but he will face a challenge dealing with the confrontational Trump on the US president's home turf. "This is a very important moment for him, since he insisted during the campaign that he could take on Mr Trump," Genevieve Tellier, a political scientist at the University of Ottawa, told AFP. The Canadian premier would also have to avoid the fate of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, who walked into a brutal tongue-lashing from Trump and Vice President JD Vance in February. "Everyone obviously remembers the altercation with Zelensky," said Tellier.

One point in Carney's favor is that he is not Trudeau, the slick former prime minister whom Trump famously loathed and belittled as "governor" of Canada, she added. The world will also be watching, with Carney's victory one of two by left-leaning leaders in the past week in elections that Trump's stance may have swayed. Carney's victory came just days before Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese also won reelection in a vote that was overshadowed by Trump's tariff threats. On arrival in the US capital, the Canadian PM struck a confident tone. "Canada and the United States are strongest when we work together -- and that work starts now," he said on social media.

EU Top Priority For FTA Because of Our Traditional Links: Nirmala Sitharaman

New Delhi, (H.S): India has been successfully negotiating bilateral treaties with many different countries and European Union (EU) is "top of our priority because of the traditional links which we have with the EU", Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Tuesday. Addressing the "ADB Governors' Seminar: Cross Border Collaboration for Future Resilience" in Italy's Milan, the Finance Minister said the global fragmentation and also the way in which the April tariff announcement by the US has panned out, uncertainties are increasing and simultaneously global institutions are not carrying the heft they were carrying earlier."

In such a situation, countries are today looking at bilateral arrangements. In the case of the EU, India has been negotiating for quite some time. But today, the sense of urgency is felt by both sides because the market can be one big market. So, you need to have investments in various countries, you need to have market access in different countries, and you need to have bilateral arrangements," FM



Sitharaman told the gathering. She further added that negotiation is about the art of making it possible. "You need to have everything done to make it possible to achieve. But when there are fixed positions, someone will have to bring in the elasticity there."

So, it's not as if the world has not negotiated with one another. But it cannot be violative of the acceptable principles of free trade," the Finance Minister mentioned. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his UK counterpart, Sir Keir Starmer, on Tuesday announced the successful conclusion of a mutually beneficial India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA). On

global supply chains, FM Sitharaman said India's approach to supply chains has not been short-term. "We've taken a long-term approach. Our approach is to strengthen ourselves more on the basis of the assets that we have, whether it is in the form of human capital or technology in which we have a lead,

if I can say that way, and also in sectors in which we think we can build further," she added. "We have about 600 million people who are less than 25 years of age. So, we are not dealing with an economy which is ageing. We've developed Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) to make sure that access to the global market is given to even the citizen who's

somewhere in a far-flung area in a village with some handicraft products that he wants to market," she told the audience. The minister also interacted with top executives of global banks at an event on the sidelines of the 58th ADB Annual Meetings 2025. In her keynote address, the Finance Minister reiterated the commitment of the government to ensure that the banking system operates efficiently and delivers services to all segments of the customers.

She appreciated the role of global banks in supporting the Indian corporate sector accessing global capital and also invited the international banks to strengthen their presence in India. She also met International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) President Alvaro Lario and discussed mutual cooperation for empowering rural communities, enhancing food security and advancing sustainable agriculture. FM Sitharaman also emphasised India's successful initiatives in poverty reduction, rural infrastructure and DPI as replicable models in the Global South via South-South Cooperation.

Vedanta Aluminium Marks World Malaria Day 2025 with Week-Long Health Campaign

Jharsuguda, (DMC): Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, in collaboration with the District Health Department and the National Health Mission, Odisha, marked World Malaria Day 2025 with a week-long health awareness and screening campaign across 28 villages and an old-age home, through live awareness sessions conducted by the company's Mobile Health Unit (MHU) and field volunteers.

Community members were sensitized on the causes, symptoms, prevention, and treatment of malaria. Informational material in Odia language was distributed to ensure accessibility and reinforce understanding. Door-to-door testing was conducted across the villages using rapid diagnostic kits. The campaign successfully reached more than 2,000 people, reaffirming Vedanta's commitment to the health and well-being of communities around its operations. Speaking on the occasion, Sunil Gupta, Chief Operating Officer - Vedanta Aluminium, said, "At Vedanta, we believe that inclusive and



sustainable development begins with healthy communities. Our week-long campaign for World Malaria Day reflects our commitment to proactive, on-ground healthcare interventions in collaboration with local health authorities. It is through such sustained efforts that we aim to build resilient, disease-free communities." Sharing her experience, Khirabati Patel, a resident of Siriapali village and beneficiary of the campaign, said, "The team explained how malaria spreads and how we can protect our families. They tested us at home, and now we feel much safer. I truly appreciate Vedanta for bringing this initiative to our doorstep." Vedanta Aluminium continues to deliver high-impact health and social interventions across its areas of operation, strengthening its vision of

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

Captains of Trade & Industry Hail Landmark India-UK Free Trade Pact

New Delhi, (H.S): India's apex business chambers and trade organisations on Tuesday hailed the landmark India-UK Free Trade Agreement, terming it a major milestone achieved under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) President Sanjiv Puri said: "CII commends the Government of India for finalising the landmark India-UK Free Trade Agreement. This transformative accord reflects our shared commitment to deepening economic ties, bolstering technology collaboration, diversifying global supply chains, and fostering a more business-friendly environment."

Guided by the 2030 Roadmap, the timely agreement will help advance a comprehensive strategic partnership between India and the UK, steering bilateral trade towards the ambitious target of \$100 billion by 2030, Puri said. Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) President S.C. Ralhan said: "The India-UK FTA eliminates or significantly reduces tariffs on a wide range of Indian goods, giving our exporters preferential access to one of the world's most affluent and consumption-driven markets. Key sectors poised to benefit include: Textiles & Apparel as removal of tariffs will enhance India's competitiveness against countries like Bangladesh and Vietnam." "Leather & footwear will gain through increased access to high-end UK retail markets. Besides, Gems & Jewellery Pharmaceuticals as well as Agriculture & Processed Foods will get better access to the UK market." The FTA includes provisions on investment



facilitation, intellectual property, digital trade, and dispute resolution - offering long-term predictability to UK investors. This will further strengthen India's position as a preferred investment destination in the Indo-Pacific region, he added. The UK India Business Council (UKIBC) said the landmark trade deal, when signed, will represent a major step forward in strengthening the economic and strategic partnership between the UK and India. The agreement promises to reduce barriers to trade and investment, promote sustainability and innovation, and encourage closer cooperation across industries, including technology, manufacturing, services, education, and healthcare.

With India being one of the fastest-growing major economies and the UK a global leader in innovation and services, this agreement is poised to deliver significant benefits to businesses of all sizes, the UKIBC said. Currently, the total trade between the UK and India was 42 billion pounds in the four quarters to the end of Q2 2024, an increase of 9.7 per cent year-on-year. This level of trade has almost doubled from before the pandemic - in 2019, the year before the

pandemic, UK-India trade was only 24.1 billion pounds. UKIBC Chair Richard Heald said the landmark trade deal reflects the deep trust, shared values, and mutual ambition that define the UK-India relationship. "This agreement will unlock new opportunities for businesses across both countries, drive economic growth, create jobs, and support innovation and collaboration across sectors." "We are delighted to have worked closely with both governments and with businesses throughout the negotiation process.

Our members and clients are excited about the opportunities that will now open up. UKIBC remains committed to supporting businesses to navigate the new framework and to fully realise the benefits of this historic agreement," he added. ASSOCHAM President Sanjay Nayar said: "Assocham, on behalf of Indian industry, commends PM Modi for his leadership in concluding a path breaking trade agreement with the United Kingdom. This landmark India-UK Free Trade Agreement and the Double Contribution Convention is a win-win for both nations and will deepen our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, fostering trade, investment, innovation, and wealth creation."

India at The Forefront of Global Energy Transition: Piyush Goyal

New Delhi, (H.S): India is at the forefront of global energy transition and solar power alone has grown over 30 times in the last decade, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, said on Tuesday, adding that the country achieved renewable energy targets of 2030 eight years ahead of schedule. Addressing the 'Columbia India Energy Dialogue' here, the minister highlighted India's leadership role in the global energy transition and reiterated the country's commitment to inclusive and equitable climate action.

Goyal underscored the collective responsibility of all nations in tackling climate change. "At the end of the day, the energy transition is something we all must contribute to. While the level and speed of transition will differ based on the developmental stage of each country, the commitment must be universal," he said. The minister stressed that climate change is a real and urgent



challenge and that each nation must craft its own unique solutions. "Pathways may be different, but the recognition of the problem is universal. India has consistently taken a leadership position.

I suspect COP21 would not have had any concrete outcome without Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi rallying the Global South and making them part of the solution rather than being adversaries to it," the minister told the gathering. Goyal also lamented that the promises made by developed nations at the Paris Agreement have largely

remained unfulfilled. "Since 2015, the larger issue has not just been climate change, but the failure of the developed world to deliver on technology transfers, long-term concessional climate financing, and support under the principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR)," he said.

Highlighting India's achievements, Shri Goyal said, "India accounts for only 3 per cent of global carbon emissions, despite supporting 17 per cent of the world's population." "We achieved our 2030 renewable energy target of 200 GW in 2022

itself-eight years ahead of schedule. Solar power alone has grown over 30 times in the last decade. India continues to submit its reports to the UNFCCC on time, setting an example for global compliance," he added. The minister emphasised the critical need to address the root causes of carbon emissions, particularly overconsumption and waste. "Excess consumption, especially in high-prosperity nations, leads to systemic carbon emissions-from farm to plate.

Every step-production, packaging, transport, storage, and disposal-adds to emissions. This behavioural pattern must be addressed," he added. Reiterating India's commitment to the clean energy transition, Goyal highlighted the achievement of a 500-gigawatt interconnected national grid. This was made possible by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 2014 initiative to connect all regional grids and invest billions of dollars in creating a unified national power infrastructure.

AI & skilling get a booster under India-UK FTA: Industry

New Delhi, (H.S): India is at the forefront of shaping the world's digital future, boasting the highest AI skills penetration rate globally and the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) will enable the UK to fully recognise India as a key destination for its students and talent to achieve their ambitions in this space, industry leaders said on Wednesday.

The formal signing of the India-UK FTA is a landmark moment, solidifying the natural partnership between our two nations." This comprehensive agreement will immediately unlock substantial economic benefits, driving increased trade

across goods, services, and, critically, technology. The formalised partnership in key areas like AI will be a catalyst for innovation, creating high-skilled jobs and cementing the UK and India's positions as global leaders in this transformative field," said Keshav Muruges, Chairperson, CII UK India Business Forum.

For students and technology professionals, in particular, this FTA should serve as a springboard for deeper collaboration in deeptech and the mobility of skills. The long-term potential of this partnership is immense, he mentioned. "The timing couldn't be better, with the

FTA enhancing the economic resilience of both the UK and India by providing access to new markets and reducing vulnerability to external shocks. This is particularly important in a world where trade tensions are on the rise," said Muruges. Ashok Chandak,

President, IESA and SEMI India, said the FTA is a timely catalyst for boosting the India's image and business opportunities globally in multiple sectors. The services sector will also benefit significantly, with growth in design, testing, and embedded software, driven by joint R&D and collaboration -

leveraging the UK's design strengths and India's engineering talent thereby helping startups and innovators." By reducing tariffs on components, raw materials, and capital equipment, it lowers production costs and enhances the export potential of 'Made in India' products," Chandak mentioned.

The FTA also facilitates skilled talent exchange, strengthens supply chain resilience, and promotes green electronics collaboration. The agreement will indirectly create hundreds and thousands of jobs across both countries in key sectors.

Cabinet Approves Revised 'SHAKTI' Policy For Coal Allocation To Power Sector

New Delhi, (H.S): The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved the grant of fresh coal linkages to thermal power plants of the Central Sector, State Sector and Independent Power Producers (IPPs) under the revised 'SHAKTI' policy. The approval includes Coal linkage to Central Gencos and states at notified price in 'Window-I' and coal linkage to all Gencos at a Premium above notified price in 'Window-II', according to an official statement.

For Window-I, the existing mechanism for grant of coal linkage to Central Sector Thermal Power Projects (TPPs) including Joint Ventures (JVs) and their subsidiary will continue, the statement said. The coal linkages will be

earmarked to states and to an agency authorised by group of states as per existing mechanism, on the recommendation of Ministry of Power. Coal linkage earmarked to states may be utilised by states in its own Genco, Independent Power Producers (IPPs) to be identified through Tariff Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) or existing IPPs having Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) under Section 62 of the Electricity Act, 2003 for setting up of a new expansion unit having PPA under Section 62, the statement explained.

Under 'Window-II' for premium above notified price, any domestic coal-based power producer having PPA or untied and also imported coal-based power plants (if they so require) can secure coal on auction basis for a period up to 12 months or



for the period of more than 12 months up to 25 years by paying premium above the notified price and providing the power plants the flexibility to sell the electricity as per their choice. Directions would be issued to Coal India Limited

(CIL)/Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) for implementation of the aforesaid decisions. Besides, the concerned Ministries and all the states will also be apprised of the revised 'SHAKTI' policy for further dissemination to the concerned

Departments/Authorities and also to the Regulatory Commissions, the statement said. With the introduction of revised SHAKTI Policy, existing eight paras for coal allocation have been mapped to only two windows, in the spirit of ease of doing business. The policy will enable the power plants to plan for meeting their coal requirement depending upon their demand for long-term and short-term.

The Central Sector Thermal Power Projects (TPPs) will continue to get coal linkage on nomination basis on the recommendation of Ministry of Power, whereas, the linkages earmarked to the States on nomination basis on the recommendation of Ministry of Power may be utilised by the states in the State Generating Company. The requirement of

PPA has been entirely done away with for selling the electricity generated through the coal secured under Window-II, thereby providing the power plants the flexibility to sell the electricity as per their choice. Allowing flexible linkage for new capacity addition with or without PPA with a tenure ranging from 12 months to 25 years is expected to encourage IPPs to plan new thermal capacities, which will help in achieving the future thermal capacity addition.

Imported Coal Based (ICB) plants can secure domestic coal under Window-II, subject to the technical constraints of ICB plants, thereby reducing their import coal dependency. The benefits accrued, on account of import coal substitution, would be determined by Appropriate Regulatory Commission and passed on to the electricity

consumers/beneficiaries. The revised SHAKTI Policy, besides supporting brownfield expansion, will promote setting up of greenfield thermal power projects primarily at pithead sites which are nearer to the coal source. With an aim to reduce the 'landed cost' of coal at thermal power plant end, coal source rationalisation will be done.

This will not only ease up railway infrastructure but would also ultimately result in reduced tariff for electricity consumers, the statement said. The revised 'SHAKTI' policy also provides for delegation of powers for enabling minor changes, in the policy, at the level of concerned Ministries. Further, for dealing with operational issues, an "Empowered Committee" comprising Secretary (Power), Secretary (Coal) and Chairperson, CEA is proposed, the statement added.

Neha Kakkar Reacts To Melbourne Concert Organizers' Claim She Refused To Perform For 700 People

Neha Kakkar has addressed the controversy surrounding her Melbourne concert after event organizers recently alleged that the singer backed out of the show due to a low turnout of just 700 people. On Tuesday, Neha took to her Instagram handle and shared a video from her Melbourne concert, addressing the ongoing controversy. In the clip, she can be heard saying, "Hi, you want to know what actually happened at the Melbourne show, right? Let me show you." The video then cuts to vibrant scenes of the concert, with a cheering crowd dancing and singing along as Neha performs her chart-topping hits. Sharing this video, the singer wrote, "Thank you Melbourne!" Through this post, Neha appeared to dismiss the allegations made by event organizers, who claimed she refused to perform due to a small crowd. A few days ago, Australian event organizers Pace D and Bikram Singh Randhawa pushed back against Neha Kakkar's explanation of the Melbourne concert controversy, insisting her version of events is inaccurate. In a recent interview with RJ Siddharth Kannan, they claimed that the singer declined to perform due to a relatively small crowd of around 700 attendees. The organizers explained that Neha had been scheduled for back-to-back shows with the same team—one in Sydney and one in Melbourne. While the Sydney concert drew a crowd of 1,500 to 2,000 people and went off smoothly, they allege she was

unhappy with the Melbourne turnout and opted not to go on stage. The event planners were quoted saying, "The crowd was very angry at her because they had been waiting for hours. What I got to know from the organizer was that she said that there are just 700 people, so until you fill up the stadium, I won't perform." Responding to Neha Kakkar's allegations about the lack of a sound check and unpaid sound engineers, event organizers Pace D and Bikram Singh Randhawa dismissed the claims, stating that opening acts had already performed and all technical arrangements were in place. They also denied her claims about inadequate hospitality, including the absence of food, water, and accommodation. The organizers maintained that hotel arrangements had been made in advance, and several cars were lined up for transportation, suggesting that the necessary provisions were indeed in place. Earlier in March, singer Neha Kakkar became embroiled in controversy following a troubled concert appearance in Melbourne. She reportedly arrived nearly three hours behind schedule, which sparked disappointment and frustration among concertgoers. The crowd, upset by the delay, began booing and calling for her to leave the stage. Emotionally shaken by the reaction, Neha broke down mid-performance. In the aftermath, Neha took to social media to present her version of events.

Kesari Veer: Legends of Somnath Release Date Postponed



The makers of Kesari Veer: Legends of Somnath have announced that the film has been postponed. They also revealed the new release date. Kesari Veer is all set to hit theatres on May 23. The caption read, "See you in the theatres on 23rd May 2025, Har Har Mahadev. Releasing Worldwide in Cinemas on 23rd May, 2025." Starring Suniel

Shetty, Vivek Oberoi, Sooraj Pancholi, and debutant Akanksha Sharma, the film is set in the 14th century and follows the battle to protect the Somnath temple from invaders. A day ago, the makers of Kesari Veer: Legends of Somnath released the film's first song, titled Bharatvarsh Anthem. The patriotic track pays tribute to the sacrifices of Indian warriors

and adds to the film's emotional and nationalistic tone. The song is sung by Suvarna Tiwari, with lyrics by Akshat Gupta and music composed and produced by Monty Sharma. It has been released under the Panorama Music label. Rajesh Menon, CEO of Panorama Music, said the anthem is a powerful tribute to Indian warriors and a proud moment for the team. The trailer, which was released recently, shows Suniel Shetty as warrior Vegda Ji, Sooraj Pancholi as Veer Hamirji Gohil and Akanksha Sharma as Rajal. Vivek Oberoi plays the antagonist Zafar, who leads the attack and attempts forced religious conversions. Kesari Veer is directed by Prince Dhiman and produced by Kanu Chauhan under Chauhan Studios. It will be released worldwide by Panorama Studios. The film will release on May 16.

Operation Sindoor Aftermath: PBKS vs DC Match To Be Shifted From Dharamsala? Sources Say, "BCCI..."

New Delhi, (HS) : The venue for Punjab Kings vs Delhi Capitals IPL 2025 clash (on Thursday) and PBKS vs Mumbai Indians match (on Sunday) could be changed after Operation Sindoor. The match which was originally been scheduled to be hosted by the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium, Dharamsala, as the nearest airport is closed. However, the final decision on it has not yet been taken. "The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is in touch with the Indian government regarding the matter," sources told NDTV. Early on Wednesday, the Indian armed forces carried out 24 precision missile strikes on nine terror targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (POK), including Muridke and Bahawalpur - strongholds of terror groups Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), respectively. More than 70 terrorists were killed and over 60 wounded in the strikes, sources said, as India significantly degraded the operational capability of these outfits. The attacks, which were carried out at 1:44am, were in response to the terror attack in Pahalgam in



Jammu & Kashmir's Anantnag district that claimed 26 lives - 25 Indians and one Nepali citizen - on April 22. With the temporary closure of Dharamsala's airport following India's missile strikes on Pakistan's terror infrastructure, the travel plans of IPL teams which are supposed to play in the hill town have gone for a toss but they have decided to adopt a wait and watch policy for now, said a PTI record. Dharamsala, which is due to host the Punjab Kings vs Delhi Capitals clash on Thursday, has one more match left on schedule -- the May 11 game between Punjab and Mumbai Indians. The picturesque city is the second home base of Punjab Kings, who

don't face any immediate logistical hassle for now as they will be in the city till end of this week. But Delhi will need to figure out its logistics as the players have to be back at their home base for the game on Sunday. The Mumbai team's travel plans to Dharamsala remain unclear at this point. "Everything is fluid at the moment. Discussions are on with franchises and they are also internally discussing about what are the options of travelling from Dharamsala to Delhi in case the airport remains shut," a BCCI source told PTI on condition of anonymity. "One option (for Delhi Capitals) remains bus journey but then it is not just about teams but also the

broadcast crew and equipment. It's an evolving situation," he added. India carried out precision strikes on nine locations in Pakistan and Pakistan Occupied Jammu and Kashmir in retaliation to the Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 people, mostly tourists, were murdered. At least 18 airports in the northern and western parts of the country have been temporarily shut owing to the military escalation. These include Srinagar, Leh, Jammu, Amritsar, Pathankot, Chandigarh, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Shimla, Dharamshala and Jannagar. Chandigarh, which is the nearest alternate airport for Dharamsala, is among those shut down for operations right now.

Manoj to Collaborate with Vipul Shah for His Upcoming Political Thriller

Producer and director Vipul Amrutlal Shah is known for helming films like Aankhen, Waqt: The Race Against Time, Namaste London, London Dreams, Action Replayy, and Namaste England. He is now all set to collaborate with National Award-winning actor Manoj Bajpayee for his upcoming political thriller titled Governor. As per PeepingMoon, Manoj Bajpayee will be essaying the role of the Governor. It is touted to be an intense plot, at the same time a commercially rich theatrical drama. The film will be produced by Vipul Amrutlal Shah's Sunshine Pictures. The project will be helmed by Chinmay Mandlekar. Governor has been in the works for the last two years. The casting for the supporting members is still



underway. The Pre-Production phase is also going well and the shooting should commence some time in July or August. Manoj Bajpayee is thrilled to be collaborating with Vipul Amrutlal Shah, for yet another versatile role. Vipul Amrutlal Shah is also gearing up for his upcoming directorial venture

Hisaab, a heist thriller with Jaideep Ahlawat and Shefali Shah in the lead. Produced by Sunshine Pictures and Jio Studios, Hisaab is expected to drop in the latter half of 2025.

Manoj Bajpayee was last seen in the 2024 film Despatch. He has reportedly wrapped up filming for The Family Man 3.

Sonu Sood to be honoured with Humanitarian Award

The Miss World Organisation has announced that celebrated actor and founder of the Sood Charity Foundation, Sonu Sood, will be presented with the prestigious Humanitarian Award at the Grand Finale of the 72nd Miss World Festival in Telangana for his philanthropic work during COVID-19. This special honour recognises his exceptional service to humanity and unwavering commitment to social upliftment through his foundation. The award will be conferred on May 31, 2025, at the HITEX Arena in Hyderabad as part of the festival's final celebrations. In addition to receiving this global honour, Sonu Sood will also serve as one of the official judges for the grand finale, joining a distinguished panel to crown the next Miss World. Actor Sonu Sood expressed his gratitude for receiving the Humanitarian Award from the Miss World Organisation, saying that the award reinforces his purpose in bringing "hope, support, and dignity" to people in need. "Receiving the Humanitarian Award from the Miss World Organisation



is deeply humbling. It reinforces the purpose behind our efforts -- to bring hope, support, and dignity to those in need. I share this recognition with every volunteer, supporter, and life we've touched through the Sood Charity Foundation. I'm also proud to announce that the Miss World Organisation and the Sood Charity Foundation have come together to collaborate on spreading awareness for a Cancer Free World. This shared commitment will help amplify the message and bring hope to millions around the globe," said Sonu Sood as per the press note shared by Altair Media: The Official PR

handle of Miss World. Julia Morley CBE, Chairman and CEO of the Miss World Organisation, said they feel honoured to present the Humanitarian Award to actor Sonu Sood for his inspiring work through his Sood Charity Foundation. Bottom of Form "We are honoured to present Sonu Sood with a Humanitarian Award at the 72nd Miss World Grand Finale in recognition of his extraordinary service to humanity. His compassion, tireless dedication, and impact through the Sood Charity Foundation perfectly embody the spirit of 'Beauty With A Purpose.'

Archery WC Stage 2: Indian Men's & Women's Compound Teams To Play For Gold In Shanghai

Shanghai, (HS) : India's men's and women's teams booked their spots in the compound team finals at the second stage of the Archery World Cup after respective semifinal wins. The men's team featuring ever-consistent Abhishek Verma alongside Ojas Pravin Deotale and Rishabh Yadav narrowly defeated Denmark, 232-231, in a tight semifinal. The men's team, which topped the qualification leaderboard with 2134, received the first round bye and began their campaign with a 239-232 quarterfinal win over Great Britain. Deotale, a bronze medalist at the Central Florida stage one month ago, praised the team's preparation and focus. "We've practised for the team match to be in the finals. In Florida, we were hoping for a different colour of a medal, and this time we did it. Verma and Yadav also did pretty well. We are not looking about who is against us, we are just focusing on ourselves that we have to shoot good. We are not competing with any other teams or any other player. We are just competing for us. We have to score," he told World Archery. The women's

team, which had also received a bye in the opening round after topping the qualification with 2114 points, reached the gold medal match by outshooting Great Britain 232-230, in a lineup that included world number one Ella Gibson, following their 232-229 quarterfinal win over eighth-ranked Kazakhstan. Denmark won bronze in the compound men's team event, while Türkiye took third place on the women's side. Both men's and women's will take on Mexico in their respective gold medal match, scheduled for Saturday. Earlier in the day, Korea broke the compound men's team match world record in their first-round matchup against Macao. The team of Kim Jongho, Choi Eun Gyu and Choi Yonghee hit the 10-ring with 100 percent accuracy -- 24 10s out of 24 arrows -- becoming the first team in history to complete a perfect match. The record was previously held by the USA's Jesse Broadwater, Braden Gellenthien and compound legend Reo Dee Wilde, who shot just one shy at 239 during the Turin 2011 World Archery Championships.

KIYG 2025: MP Teams Take Motivation From PM Modi's Interest And Win Gold In Mallakhamb

Gaya, (HS) : Madhya Pradesh men and women's Mallakhamb teams swept to the top of the podium with command performances in the IIM Campus here, claiming the pride of placings in the first of the medals decided in indigenous sport in the Khelo India Youth Games 2025 Bihar. The boys' team, comprising Yuvraj Rao Ghadge, Devendra Patidar, Yatin Kori, Neeraj Kachhawa, Daksh Kahar, and Jayant Rathore, mesmerised the fans, accumulating 123.60 points across rope, hanging, and pole disciplines to leave archivals Maharashtra (122.50) and Chhattisgarh (122.05) behind. Neeraj Kachhawa said it was a special feeling to beat last year's winner, Maharashtra. However, he was candid and admitted the team was not on the top of its game. "We could have done better. We take all our rivals seriously, but against Maharashtra, we give our all," he said. The Madhya Pradesh star said the Mallakhamb athletes were all grateful that the Khelo India Youth Games offered them a great platform.

In Loving Memory of



Our Beloved Mother /Grandmother, Late. Smt. Annapurna Biswal.

To honor her kind and generous spirit, we are organizing a Lunch for Senior Citizens and Orphans. May her soul continue to inspire love, care, and compassion in our hearts.

Date: 08 May, 2025 Time: 12.30 pm

Venue: Utkalmani Gopabandhu Old Age Home

With heartfelt remembrance, Biswal Family