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English Daily



Death toll in Kolkata hotel blaze rises to 15



Kolkata, (HS) : As the death toll in the devastating fire at a six-story hotel building at Madan Mohan Burman Street in central Kolkata has reached 15, a senior official of the West Bengal government and a member of the state cabinet admitted severe lapses in fire safety management at the construction. The director general of the state fire services department, Ranveer Kumar, who reached the spot on Wednesday, said that the fire licence of the hotel had expired three years back, and the hotel authorities did not bother to renew it. The fire broke out at the hotel on Tuesday night. State's Fire Minister Sujit Bose admitted that the fire alarm installed at the hotel was not functional. At the same time, he admitted that the fire-extinguishing equipment at the hotel did not function at the crucial moment. Meanwhile, initial findings by the investigation team have revealed other major lapses in ensuring proper emergency evacuation arrangements and ventilation facilities at the hotel, as a result of which the

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PM chairs CCS meet on J&K security; armed forces have full freedom to respond to Pahalgam attack



New Delhi, (HS) : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday chaired a second meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) within a week of the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir. Reaffirming his commitment to counter terrorism and those who support it, the Prime Minister reportedly again vowed and asserted to tackle such forces through "proper befitting ways". The high-level meeting, which included Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Home Minister Amit Shah, entailed extensive discussions on various options to punish the perpetrators and promoters of the recent attack. Although no official statement was released, sources suggested that PM Modi had in-depth deliberations on the final course of action previously

discussed in Tuesday's meeting with the Defence Minister and the chiefs of the three armed forces.

Chaired by the Prime Minister at his Lok Kalyan Marg residence, the CCS convened at 11 am and lasted several hours. The meeting reportedly began with a broad assessment of the overall security scenario in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in light of a potentially volatile situation following the recent terror strike. Discussions revolved around both diplomatic and military responses, factoring in every possible contingency. The CCS meeting was attended by senior ministers, including Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah, and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, in accordance with established protocol. A day before, PM

Modi had met with senior military leaders, granting the armed forces "complete operational freedom" in deciding the "mode, targets and timing" of India's response to the April 22 attack. Sources indicated that the committee might have evaluated multiple aspects of the nation's preparedness in response to the Pahalgam incident, aiming to deliver a strong message to those abetting and engaging in terrorism. A source told this newspaper, "Look, as the government at the first meeting of CCS, held on April 23, had reportedly deliberated and decided a slew of non-military punitive measures against Pakistan including suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty and others, as it seems to me, today at the second CCS meeting, the government

under PM Modi might have decided and deliberated upon the ways to tame Pakistan-backed and based terrorism or other associated measures whether a precision - selected-location -based military operations can be made or not on terror camps like that others".

Following the CCS meeting, the Prime Minister also chaired two other significant cabinet sessions Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) and the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs (CCPA). Notably, this was the first CCPA meeting to be held since 2019, when it was convened in the aftermath of the Pulwama terror attack. In addition, the Prime Minister also reportedly held a separate meeting with key cabinet colleagues, including Home Minister Amit Shah and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. Sources noted that PM Modi continued working late into the evening from his South Block office in the Prime Minister's Office. It is worth recalling that on Tuesday, PM Modi had reportedly stated that the armed forces have "complete operational freedom" to determine how and when to respond, during a high-level meeting attended by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, NSA Ajit Doval, Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan, and the chiefs of the three services.

CM Unveils Rs 7 Cr Development Plan for Jayadev Peeth



Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : Poet Jayadev and his masterpiece Gita Govinda are integral to Odisha's cultural identity, declared Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi during a program organized at Jayadev's birthplace, Kendubilwa, on the occasion of Jayadev Jayanti. He described Jayadev as one of the greatest icons of Odia pride. During the event, the Chief Minister announced several projects to transform the Jayadev Peeth into a global center for literature, culture, and spirituality, laying the foundation stone for some initiatives. He emphasized the goal of elevating the Peeth to a world-class spiritual hub.

A Rs 7 crore project was launched to develop the Peeth, including the creation of diverse flower gardens, ten lotus ponds, and a garden of creepers to restore the natural beauty of Jayadev's era as much as possible. Additional projects announced include an entrance gate, a Dashavatara Plaza, beautification of the Padma Pond, development of various groves, a craft shop, and a food court. The Chief Minister assured that the state

government would provide all necessary funds for these beautification efforts, noting the historical significance of the Peeth, believed to have been visited by Lord Jagannath himself.

To ensure comprehensive development, Majhi directed the Culture, Tourism, and Information & Public Relations departments to jointly prepare a detailed project report. He also advised Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi, who was present, to spearhead efforts to transform the Peeth into a model village. Majhi reiterated the government's commitment to honoring Odisha's great personalities, with this grand event at Jayadev's birthplace being a step in that direction. Offering heartfelt tributes, he described visiting Kendubilwa on the sacred occasion of Akshaya Trutiya and Jayadev Jayanti as a matter of great joy, pride, and privilege. The Chief Minister highlighted Jayadev's stature not only for Gita Govinda but also as a peer among India's greatest Sanskrit poets, including Ashvaghosha, Bhasa, Kalidasa, Bhartruhari,

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सत्यमेव जयते



MESSAGE OF HON'BLE GOVERNOR ON THE OCCASION OF MAY DAY -2025

I convey my greetings and good wishes to all sisters and brothers of the Working Class of the State on the occasion of 'May Day'.

I call upon everyone to work sincerely in their own spheres and be the reason of pride and glory for the State and contribute to the building of "Viksit Odisha-Viksit Bharat".

(Hari Babu Kambhampati)

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DADLS-19 MSG



ଶ୍ରମିକ ଦିବସ ଅବସରରେ ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା



ଆନ୍ତର୍ଜାତିକ ଶ୍ରମିକ ଦିବସ ଅବସରରେ ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ଶ୍ରମିକ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀ ମାନଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ଆନ୍ତରିକ ଶୁଭକାମନା ଜଣାଉଛି । ଶ୍ରମ ହିଁ ସମୃଦ୍ଧିର ମୂଳଭିତ୍ତି । ଶ୍ରମିକ ସମାଜର ସର୍ବାଙ୍ଗୀନ ଉନ୍ନତି, କଲ୍ୟାଣ ତଥା ଅଧିକାରର ସୁରକ୍ଷା ପାଇଁ ରାଜ୍ୟ ସରକାର ପ୍ରତିବଦ୍ଧ । ଆସନ୍ତୁ, ସମସ୍ତ ବର୍ଗର ଶ୍ରମିକ ମାନଙ୍କ କଲ୍ୟାଣ ନିମନ୍ତେ ଆମର ଉଦ୍ୟମ ଜାରି ରଖିବା ।

(ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀ)
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

Trump's America

A trade war, an upending of the US's traditional relationships with its Western European allies, a polarising immigration policy, attacks on the established liberal order - Donald Trump's first 100 days in office have marked a disruption of the international systems, and presented a challenge to countries like India that must navigate the consequent uncertainties. To understand the impact and to try and anticipate what the future holds, it's important to look at the ideological shift in US domestic politics under Trump, and the issues that matter to his political base. Trump's attack on the global trading system that has served the US so well for decades is about catering to those left behind by globalisation and those suffering from a rising inequality. Second, many Trump supporters are tired of America's «security commitments» abroad, which they see as having led the country into costly and protracted conflicts. Third, among some sections, there was the impression that immigration policies had become too liberal and that a new balance needed to be struck. Fourth, Trump's politics has targeted «wokeism», which it sought to present as an elite concern. It is across these four registers that the most controversial of Trump's moves have taken place. The backlash from liberal circles is underway, but it remains to be seen whether it can pose a credible political challenge. Delhi has had to navigate the Trump Administration's policies on trade and immigration, and now, increasingly, global security. On each, it has managed to play a holding game and, in many cases, made progress. India has been circumspect on Washington's tariff regime, choosing to work behind the scenes rather than engage in bluster on the international stage. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was among the first world leaders to visit the White House in Trump 2.0, and US Vice President J D Vance's India trip earlier this month cemented the gains from the Modi-Trump meeting. The Terms of Reference for a trade deal have been finalised, and it is in the interest of both countries to firm it up sooner rather than later. On the security front, Washington seems eager to support partners with whom it shares interests and who, in turn, are willing to work with it. Given that India is not an ally and is looking for like-minded partners in the Indo-Pacific, the US's new outlook could work in its favour. On immigration, Delhi has accepted deportation of illegal immigrants while trying to protect the visa regimes that allow technology workers and other skilled labour to remain in America.

The challenge in the next 100 days will be to find an equilibrium that benefits both India and the US. There is some reason to be optimistic. Both Trump and Vance have reiterated the importance of the Quad and India's role in it. The lack of equivocation vis-a-vis Pakistan in the aftermath of the terrorist attack in Pahalgam is also a welcome sign, as was the deportation earlier of Tahawwur Rana, the Pakistani-Canadian doctor involved in the Mumbai attacks. Moving forward, the understanding Delhi and Washington evidently share on security cooperation must be expanded to other areas, especially bilateral trade and immigration.

1st May

May Day



Looking forward to celebrating May Day on May 1, 2025 this year? We know we are! Looking back at past decades, May has had different meanings for diverse cultures and countries. Today, specifically in the United States as other countries, it is a celebration of the season of Spring. We've got the best tips to make sure that your May Day is one to remember!

May Day is a public holiday celebrated on May 1 in many different cultures around the world. It is a day of unity, togetherness, and rebirth; a day for everyone to come together and celebrate life as we know it! A plethora of observances and celebrations take place on May Day on May 1. Throughout the years and decades, there have been different meanings, festivities, and representations of May Day. The meaning of seasonal change has been the most significant one amongst different countries.

May Day is one of the four ancient Celtic cross-quarter days, making it an astronomical holiday as it falls between the March equinox and June solstice. Originating from its Celtic name, «Belthane,» Beltane was a spring celebration that included dancing, singing, special bonfires, and house doors and animals would be decorated with yellow May flowers and ribbons. During this time, in various communities in Ireland, people would visit special wells and the Bethane dew was believed to bring beauty and youthfulness to those around it. In the Middle Ages, English villages had homes with maypoles from rejoice and celebrations of May Day. Villagers would go into the woods to find maypoles set up from towns and cities. Because maypoles came in different sizes, villages would compete with each other to see who had the tallest one. People would dance around them because the pole symbolized male fertility as baskets and wreaths symbolized female fertility. In the 19th century, a new meaning of May Day came about. May Day also became known as International Workers' Day for labor rights and an eight hour work- day in the United States.

As time went on, different cultures created their own traditions in alignment with their beliefs. Europeans and Americans celebrate May Day with flower crowns, maypole dancing, and by making flower baskets to share with loved ones. In Hawaii, May Day is known as «Lei Day,» a celebration of the aloha spirit and the giving of the flower. What a better way to celebrate than with the people you love!

Workers' India: Development standing in shadow of exploitation



Dr. Satyawan Saurabh

«The same hands that built the buildings of this country are today struggling for food, shelter, and identity. Daily wage workers do not just provide labor; they are the foundation of this country - also the most neglected. Their sweat is reflected in the pace of development, but their voice is not heard. Is this the dream of 'New India' - where workers remain unseen, unheard and insecure?»

In the changing times, when the world of technology, capital, and glamour seems to be making India shine, there is a large section of the country that lays the foundation of that shine but itself keeps suffocating in the darkness. This is the section - e daily wage laborers. It is because of them that skyscrapers are built, the roads run at a high speed, and the city breathes. But the irony is that there is neither stability, nor security, nor identity, nor sensitivity in the lives of these laborers. The plight of daily wage laborers is not only economic but also a result of social neglect and institutional failures. Be it the Covid-19 pandemic or the recent urban disasters, this class had to bear the first and the deepest blow. For these daily wage earners, lockdown and economic recession became a matter of life and death. Their names may be recorded in government announcements, but there is no reliable record of them in the statistics, nor are they a

priority in the implementation of schemes.

India's workforce is around 500 million, of which more than 90 percent of workers are employed in the informal sector. About 72 percent of urban India's workforce is working as daily wage workers. This «backend India,» which no one sees, works day and night to keep up the pace of «frontend India.» This class is the foundation of modernity not only of India but also of Singapore, Dubai, and the Gulf countries. But the irony is that they have no identity card, no insurance, no stability, hard work and neglect. The struggle of workers in India is not new. From the Bombay Mill Workers Movement (Girni Kamgar Movement) during the British period to the establishment of the All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) in 1920, the working class organized themselves and raised their voice for their rights. The tradition of celebrating May 1 as 'Labour Day' may have started with the Chicago movement, but the workers of India have also fought struggles that shook the power from time to time. But the sad thing is that even in the 21st century their issues remain the same - minimum wages, safety, and dignity. Factories, hotels, restaurants, construction sites, and delivery services - all depend on them. From Ola-Uber drivers to masons, carpenters, food delivery boys, and plumbers - they are the ones who keep the cities moving. But when it comes to their rights, the system becomes silent. There is no adequate water-bathing system for them, no safe housing, no pure drinking water, no health services. They are advised to wash their hands, but even hand pumps are unreliable for them. If they are sick, there is no name in the hospital queue; if there is a bank, there is no account; and if there is labor there is no recognition. They face the triple blow of infection,



{The breaths that are caught in the pace of the city

She gets tired but doesn't stop.

whose sweat has stained the cement, They are the most unheard of.

It's time we don't just build walls.

Rather, recognize the hands that put them up.}

unhealthy environment, and mental exploitation every day. A large number of these hard workers are women workers - rrying bricks to construction sites, washing utensils in homes, sweating in the fields, and then returning home to look after the kitchen. They have no maternity leave, no protection from sexual harassment, and no guarantee of equal pay. The saddest thing is that women workers are often considered 'invisible' in social security schemes. When the cities were put under lockdown during the Covid-19 pandemic, the images of migrant workers walking thousands of kilometers barefoot, hungry, and thirsty on the roads shook the entire country. The hands that built the cities became strangers to everyone. Governments kept passing the buck to each other, and these workers kept losing their lives even on railway tracks

while returning to their villages. In such a situation, the question arises - who is responsible for their plight? Governments that remember them only during election season? Society that only uses their labor but does not consider them as human beings? Or the policy system that still considers them «temporary,» while the entire urban India is dependent on their labour? If our cities are standing on someone's bones, then is their right only to shed sweat? Does the development of the country mean only high-rise buildings, or also the prosperity of the hands that build those buildings? We need a revolution at both policy and social levels. First of all, their registration should be made mandatory - initiatives like the «e-Shram Portal» should be made widespread and local. Also, it should be the government's priority to provide the

«Unorganized Workers Index Number Card» to every worker. This will not only give them an identity but will also serve as a means to link them to social security schemes.

Boosting the social security fund can no longer afford delay. Every worker must have access to health insurance, a guaranteed minimum wage, and relief in case of emergencies. The definition of a smart city is incomplete if it does not provide dignity to its most vulnerable workers. Local bodies, panchayats, and municipalities must also link these daily wage workers to employment according to their skills. There should be a «Shram Sahayata Kendra» in every city, which should become a center of information, consultation, and assistance. The hard work of the workers who went to countries like Singapore, Qatar, and Dubai from India became the identity of the buildings there. But there too there is a lack of basic facilities for them, and here in our country they are completely neglected, calling them 'weaker sections.' What an irony it is to make the citizens of a developing country 'second-class' citizens in their own country! Ramnath, a construction worker in Gurugram, spends 12 hours a day lifting bricks and gravel. He and his wife both work as labourers, yet are unable to pay the school fees of their children. «We built the city, but we do not have the right to live in it,» he says. Ramnath is no exception at a representative voice of millions of laborers in India.

Today, when we are celebrating Labor Day, it should not be merely symbolic. This day should force us to think whether we are really able to give our builders the respect, the security, and the life they deserve. If not, it will not take long for the building of development of this country to turn into ruins.

Poet, freelance journalist and columnist, Haryana

Labor Day Thoughts

Mohan Charan Bissi

Nowadays, machines are used everywhere. Just as machines made by man use man, man is using them. As the use of human resources decreases, dependence on machines increases. The value of labor and labour is decreasing day by day. It is time to think about the safety of those workers whose hard work creates cities and villages. Let's discuss the issue of strike action, the judicial system of the Indian Constitution, and labor welfare at the government level so that those workers can get proper justice and wages.

In May 1886, 400,000 American workers in various parts of the country went on strike for an eight-hour day. The strike was peaceful, but on the third day, violence broke out in Chicago. Police shot some workers. Later, someone threw a bomb, killing seven police officers and four workers. The incident became known as the Haymarket. The affair is called. This incident has been taken as a movement by workers internationally and May Day has been celebrated as International Labor Day. America made the eight-hour daily wage a law in 1892. May Day is celebrated as International Labor Day in about 80 countries. In India, the Labour Kisan Party celebrated Labour Day in 1923. Everyone has the right to work. Labour requires a proper environment, fixed hours, reasonable price, government assistance and proper rest. Workers have launched protests at various times to get this right. The Government of India is providing assistance to the workers through various programs. Since the Labour Department is in the Combined List, the state government and the central government also give special attention and enact various laws. This year, the Odisha

government, keeping in mind the interests of the workers. Chief Minister Shri Mohan Charan Majhi has announced an increase of Rs 10 in their minimum daily wage. According to this decision, the minimum daily wage of unskilled workers has increased from Rs 452 to Rs 462. Similarly, the wages of semi-skilled workers have been increased from Rs 502 to Rs 512, the daily wages of skilled workers from Rs 552 to Rs 562 and the minimum daily wages of highly skilled workers from Rs 602 to Rs 612. It has been announced that this increased wage will be implemented retrospectively from April 1. Considering the current situation, there is a need for a further increase in the wages of workers.

In order to provide due justice to the workers in the Indian Constitution, Article 23(1) of the Fundamental Rights prohibits the exploitation of human beings as slaves and bonded labour and other forms of such labour. Any violation of this provision shall be an offence punishable under the law. (2) Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from imposing compulsory service for public purposes, and the State shall not discriminate in imposing such service on grounds only of religion, race, caste or class or any of them. Article 24 of the Constitution states: No child below the age of fourteen years shall be employed in any factory or mine or shall be employed in any hazardous employment. Similarly, the Directive Principles of the Constitution of India are mentioned in Article 39. All citizens, men and women, shall have the same right to an adequate standard of living. Men and women shall be entitled to equal pay for equal work. The law and order in the country shall be so administered that equal opportunities for work and leisure shall be ensured to all. Article 43. The State shall, by appropriate legislation or by economic

organizations or by any other means, ensure that workers in agriculture, industry or any other category of work are paid a fair wage. Article 43. The State shall, by appropriate legislation or by any other means, take steps to ensure that workers can participate in any industry in a wide range of ways. Despite so many provisions of the Constitution, workers are neglected today. Apart from this, there are four types of provisions as per the new labour code of the Government of India. They are the wage code, social security system, safety and health at work and work regulation code. Earlier, labour protection arrangements were made through various acts in 1947 and 1948. There is EPF, PI system for workers. There is an eight-hour work system, one day off per week, and a bonus system for working more than eight hours. Despite all these arrangements, a large number of workers are still victims of exploitation. They are not provided with proper wages, proper environment and proper rest.

Even with a large amount of government facilities, the welfare of the workers is not being achieved. There are a lot of casual workers. Both the governments need to make many more plans for the welfare of the workers and we will have to take appropriate steps after examining whether the workers are getting the benefits properly. Today, without investing in human resources, the way we live with the help of machines, the time will come when all the machines will fail and humans will become crippled. Our life is sweet and beautiful for the workers. Therefore, if we do not provide proper facilities for the workers, then in the future we will be deprived of human resources and become slaves of machines.

Gadramal, Koksara, Kalahandi

Donate Blood : Donate Life

Dr. Meghana Mishra

Safe blood and blood products have a direct and lifesaving impact on countless individuals. The availability of safe blood contributes significantly to reducing morbidity and mortality rates and improving the quality of life for patients in need. Every two seconds, someone in India needs blood. It is estimated that over 12,000 persons die every day in India due to non-availability of blood. Unfortunately, in our country, many people who need transfusions do not have timely access to safe blood.

Even a single donation can save lives. Blood gives us energy by bringing oxygen and nutrients to the body's cells. It also carries waste products to the liver and kidneys for removal. Blood contains different types of cells and other components. Just two drops of blood can include millions of red blood cells, which carry oxygen and carbon dioxide. Blood also includes white blood cells (which fight disease), platelets (which help form blood clots), and plasma (the liquid portion of blood). Blood has a short shelf life, so blood donations are always needed. Platelets can only be stored for five to seven days, and red blood cells for up to 42 days. Blood donation is safe and simple. It usually takes only about an hour of your time. But only 3% of Americans give blood each year. Safe blood is essential in all healthcare facilities to ensure appropriate treatment and minimise preventable mortality. One in four maternal deaths in India is due to excess loss of blood and shortage of blood in hospitals to replenish lost blood. This problem is further compounded by the high prevalence of anaemia in India. More than one million new people are diagnosed with



cancer each year. Many of them will need blood, sometimes daily, during their chemotherapy treatment. A single-car accident victim can require as many as 100 units of blood. Donating blood from time to time is linked to lower blood pressure and a lower risk for heart attacks as per some studies. People with a condition called hereditary hemochromatosis must have blood removed regularly to prevent the build-up of iron.

Blood safety relies on public awareness and education. Promoting knowledge about the importance of blood safety, encouraging regular blood donations, and addressing common misconceptions help build a strong culture of blood safety within communities. Safe blood plays a crucial role in healthcare systems, and its availability relies on voluntary unpaid donations, rigorous testing, and careful screening procedures. Blood safety is a multifaceted process that encompasses stringent donor screening, comprehensive testing for infectious diseases, advanced technologies like NAT and pathogen reduction, proper blood typing, storage, transportation, and adherence to quality control measures.

Director, Asseless Public School, CDA, Cuttack

Odisha's Cuttack & Chilika among 21 sites eyed for Kochi-Style water metro project



Bhubaneswar, (DMC): In a move that could transform public transportation in Odisha, Cuttack and Chilika have been shortlisted among 21 locations across India for a proposed water metro service, modeled on the successful Kochi Water Metro. The initiative, spearheaded by Kochi Metro Rail Ltd (KMRL) under the guidance of the Central government, aims to replicate the eco-friendly, water-based transit

system that has already served over 40 lakh passengers in Kochi within just two years of launch. Feasibility studies are currently in progress to evaluate the technical and environmental viability of introducing such a service in these locations. The assessments focus on factors such as water flow, docking infrastructure, population density, and suitable propulsion systems for sustainable operations.KMRL's Managing

Director Loknath Behera confirmed that preliminary assessments have begun in cities including Cuttack and the Chilika lake area. He noted that the first phase of evaluation has already been completed in Prayagraj, Varanasi, and Ayodhya, setting the stage for a broader rollout.The project has also drawn interest from the World Bank, which is exploring possible collaboration to support the expansion of the eco-conscious water transit model across the country.

If approved, the water metro system could significantly reduce traffic congestion in Cuttack and improve connectivity in the Chilika region, a vital ecological zone and major tourist destination. Additionally, the service is expected to boost tourism, offer cost-effective commuting, and promote green urban mobility in Odisha.

Odisha aligns with national goal to eliminate Measles-Rubella by 2026: Mukesh Mahaling

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): In a significant step towards strengthening public health and safeguarding future generations, Odisha's Health and Family Welfare Minister Mukesh Mahaling has launched a comprehensive set of

Education, and Communication (IEC) materials aimed at accelerating the Measles and Rubella (MR) elimination programme in the state.The launch was held at the Directorate of Public Health as part of the celebrations for World Immunisation Week 2025, observed globally from April 24-30 under the theme: "Immunisation for all is humanly possible." Speaking at the event on Tuesday, Mahaling reaffirmed Odisha's commitment to eliminating Measles and Rubella by the year 2026 - in alignment



with India's national target. Highlighting Odisha's "outstanding performance" in child healthcare, Mahaling proudly shared that the State has achieved a remarkable 90.5% full immunisation coverage, the highest among all Indian states, according to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5).This milestone is a testament to the dedication of healthcare workers, community support, and strong inter-departmental coordination, he said."Immunising children and pregnant women remains our topmost priority," said

Mahaling. "It is the most cost-effective and life-saving public health intervention. Together, we must ensure no child is left behind," he added.

The Minister emphasised that the success of the MR elimination mission depends on a collaborative approach involving multiple government departments such as Health & Family Welfare, Women & Child Development, School & Mass Education, ST & SC Development, Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water, Housing & Urban Development, and Information & Public Relations.Their joint efforts are being strengthened at the state, district, and block levels.He further appealed for the active participation of parents, caregivers, Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, PRI members, community leaders, NGOS,

SHGS, and civil society to create a grassroots movement for immunisation awareness and action.Let us unite as one community, he urged, to make Odisha a Measles-Rubella free state - a shining model of public health excellence for the entire nation.

The event also paid tribute to India's immunisation triumphs, including the eradication of smallpox in 1977, the country's Polio-free status since 2014, and the elimination of maternal and neonatal tetanus in 2015.Director of Public Health Dr Nilakantha Mishra, State Immunisation Officer Dr. Tapas Kumar Patra, and Binod Bihari Das, Private Secretary to the Health Minister, along with senior officers from the Department of Health and Family Welfare, were present at the launching ceremony.

DC Anu Garg Holds Meeting To Enhance Governance Efficiency



Bhubaneswar, (DMC): A meeting chaired by Development Commissioner-cum-Additional Chief Secretary Anu Garg today discussed the annual action plan and strategies for making the governance process more effective, simple, and focused on expeditious delivery. Senior

officers of the Planning & Convergence Department attended the meeting, where timelines for preparing the Annual Action Plan for FY 2025-26 were discussed. The plan pertains to Local Area and Regional Development Schemes, including MP-LADS, MLA-

LADS, KBK Bikas Yojana, and Kandhamal & Gajapati Bikas Yojana. The meeting also deliberated on strengthening the governance system and making the monitoring mechanism for District Mineral Foundation (DMF) more robust. The officers discussed strategies to overhaul existing processes, eliminate redundancies, and simplify governance to enhance efficiency.The outcomes of the meeting are expected to lead to significant improvements in the state's planning machinery, resulting in enhanced convergence and more effective governance.

Chief Secy Ahuja Reviews Cyclone Preparedness, Emphasizes Inter-Departmental Coordination

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): The state government held a pre-cyclone preparedness meeting under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja to review the readiness of various departments for potential cyclones and floods.

Ahuja emphasised the importance of inter-departmental coordination to face any disaster, drawing from the experience of Cyclone Fani in 2019. He directed the State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) to strengthen the system for disseminating cyclone information to every person at the



grassroots level.The meeting reviewed the current system for transmitting weather warnings, Doppler Weather Radar systems, and digital warning systems. OSDMA informed that

preparations for establishing Doppler Weather Radar stations at Balasore and Sambalpur are complete. Key officials, including the Additional Chief Secretary, Special Relief Commissioner,

Director General of Fire Services, and others, discussed their department's preparedness and emphasized the need for strengthening telecommunication systems, deploying ODRAF forces, unified Command System for quick services, flood water drainage preparations in urban areas and coordination between cyclone shelters, local administration, and the public.The meeting also reviewed preparedness in areas such as water resources, food supply, drainage systems, medical services, and women and child development.

Secondary Education Departme Provides Final Pension to 12 Retired Employees

Khordha, (DMC): A retirement felicitation meeting & final pension distribution program was organized by Khordha District Secondary Education Department under the chairmanship of District Education Officer(DEO)Mrs. Sonamika Ray. In the said felicitation meeting, Mrs.Ray felicitated the retired teachers, senior & junior assistants, class- IV employees who have retired from government jobs and prayed to God that their retirement life be filled with happiness, peace, joy.In her speech, she wished them a long and healthy life.

Among the retired employees, TGT, Arts Teacher of Bhagabati Govt. Girls High School Suprabha Biswal,Hindi Teacher of Gediapalli Govt. High School, Trupti Pattnaik, BJB,Nagar Harihar Govt. High School Assit. Teacher Jyotirmayee Patra, Sarkana Govt. High School Assit.Teacher Sachidananda Biswal, Barimund Bapuji Govt. High School,PET, Ananta Charan Sahu, Parichhala Govt.High School,Class-IV employee Nilakanta Sahu, Sanapadara B.C. Govt.High School, Class- IV employee Anil Kumar Dalei, Nachuni Godabarish High School Class-IV employee Gopinath Sarangi, Nuapada



P.K.Bidya Niketan Class-IV employee Dinabandhu Jena,Bankoi Govt.High School Headmaster Badrul Hasan Khan, Tangi BEO, office Junior Asst. Sarata Kumar Das & Senior Asst. Basudev Mohapatra were given final retirement pension letters.DEO, Mrs. Sonamika Ray along with BEO & ADEO, all the officers and employees joined in and wished the retired employees a happy life.

District-Level Farmer's Day Celebrated in Khordha



Khordha, (DMC): The holy Akshaya Tritiya & district-level farmer's day were celebrated at the National Crop Research Regional Centre for Indian Pulses, Khordha. In a program organized on this occasion, the state Law, Works & Excise Minister Prithviraj Harichandan attended as the chief guest & performed Bhumi Puja & Akshi Muthi.

Attending the CM Kisan Kharif-2025 assistance distribution ceremony held at the Jairajguru Town Hall, Khordha, Minister, Prithviraj Harichandan in his speech said, that "Today is the holy Akshaya Tritiya the farmer worships the land & puts the plough in his hand, sows seeds and starts farming.The farmer endures heat, rain, cold, and dew and brings a smile to everyone's face by providing food to the world.Therefore, it is the supreme duty of the nation to respect the farmer and his family.

They are backbone of our economy. They are the foundation of our food security & economic stability & their tireless work deserves our utmost respect & gratitude.The central and state governments By providing a minimum support price of paddy of Rs 3100, PM Kisan and CM Kisan incentives will give a new direction to the farmers.

Their contributions are not just about food production they are about building a stronger, more resilient & prosperous future for all of us. Let us work together to create an environment where farmers can thrive & continue to nourish our community & nation, he added. MLA, Khordha Prasanta Kumar Jagdev joined as the guest of honor and said in his speech, "Odisha is an agricultural state, the lifestyle and livelihood of the people here depends on agriculture. Since time immemorial, Akshaya Tritiya has

been celebrated according to the laws of nature.Farmers are the backbone of our food system, ensuring that we have access to essential sustenance. Agriculture contributes significantly to the local & national economy, providing livelihoods for many. Farmers face numerous challenges including weather fluctuations, market uncertainties & resources constraints but their resilience & dedication remain unwavering. Many farmers struggle with low incomes & market fluctuations, making it difficult to support their families & invest in their farms. We need to continue supporting our farmers through policies that promote fair price's, access to resources & sustainable farming practices.

Turning our negative feelings into positive, we have adopted the government's scheme, saying that with the progress of farmers and farmland, khurda district will be the center of development." Among the other guests, ADM,Safalya Mandit Pradhan, Sub- Collector Kishore Kumar Panda, Chief District Agriculture Officer Rabi Narayan Senapati, DI & PRO, Khordha, Laxman Kumar Behera were prominently present. On this day, the chief guest felicitated 10 successful farmers. Tangi Assistant Agriculture District Officer, Manoranjan Mishra, proposed vote of thanks.

ଖୋର୍ଦ୍ଧା କେନ୍ଦ୍ର ସମବାୟ ବ୍ୟାଙ୍କ ଲିଃ.,ଖୋର୍ଦ୍ଧା

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ରିଜର୍ଭ ବ୍ୟାଙ୍କ ଦ୍ୱାରା ଲାଭସେବୁ ପ୍ରାପ୍ତ

୧୧୩ ବର୍ଷର ଅଗ୍ରଣୀ ବ୍ୟାଙ୍କ

ବ୍ୟାଙ୍କରେ ଉପଲବ୍ଧ ସୁବିଧା ଓ ସୁଯୋଗ

୧. CBS ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ୧୮ ଗୋଟି ଶାଖା, ୩ ଗୋଟି ସମ୍ପ୍ରସାରିତ ଶାଖା ଓ ସହକର୍ଷିତ ୧୫୭ ଗୋଟି ପ୍ରାଥମିକ କୃଷି ସମବାୟ ସମିତି ଦ୍ୱାରା କୃଷି ଓ କୃଷକର ଉନ୍ନତି ସହ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ପ୍ରକାର ବ୍ୟାଙ୍କିଙ୍ଗସେବା ପ୍ରଦାନ ।

୨. ଠିକ ସମୟରେ ୧, ୦୦,୦୦୦ ଟଙ୍କା ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ କୃଷି ରଣ ପରିଶୋଧ କଲେ କୋଣସି ସୁଧ ଦେବାକୁ ପଡିନଥାଏ ଓ ୧,୦୦,୦୦୧ ଟଙ୍କାରୁ ୩, ୦୦,୦୦୦ ଟଙ୍କା ରଣ ଉପରେ ଶତକଡା ୨ ପ୍ରତିଶତ ହାରରେ ସୁଧ ଦେବାକୁ ପଡେ ଏଡବଦ୍ୟତାତ ବଳରାମ ଯୋଜନା ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ରାଗଝଣା ଓ ଭୂମିହୀନ ଝଣାଙ୍କୁ କୃଷି ରଣ ଯୋଗାଇ ଦିଆଯାଏ ।

୩. କୃଷକମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଫସଲକାମା, ଦୂର୍ଘଟଶାନ୍ତିକର କାମା ଓ କାବନ କାମା ଉପଲବ୍ଧ ଅଛି ।

୪. ସରକାରୀ ମୂଲ୍ୟରେ ସମିତି ମାନଙ୍କ କରିଆରେ କୃଷକମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ବିହନ, ରାସାୟନିକ ସାର,କୈବିକ ସାର ଓ କାଟନାଶକ ଔଷଧ ଯୋଗାଇ ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା ।

୫. କୃଷି ଆନୁସଙ୍ଗିକ ମିଆଦୀ ରଣ ଯଥା ଗାଈ, ଛେଳି, ମେଣ୍ଟା ପାଳନ, କୃଷି ଯନ୍ତ୍ରପାତି, ପୋଷଣୀ ଖୋଳା, ମାଛ ଝଷ, ଫଳ, ଛତୁ ଝଷ, ପାନବରଜ ଓ ଜଳସେଚନ ମିମିର ରଣର କିଛି ଠିକ ସମୟରେ ପରିଶୋଧ କଲେ ଶତକଡା ୩ ଟଙ୍କା ସୁଧ ରିହାତି ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା ରହିଛି ।

୬.ସମସ୍ତ ପ୍ରକାର ବ୍ୟବସାୟିକ ଭିଜିକ ରଣ, ଗୃହ ଉପକରଣ କ୍ରୟ ରଣ, ଡକ୍ଟରାୟ ରଣ ଓ ସମ୍ପତି ବକ୍ଷକ ରଣ ଅତି କମ ସୁଧ ରେ ଉପଲବ୍ଧ ।

୭. ୨ବକିଆ ଓ ୪ ବକିଆ ଯାନ ପାଇଁ ଅତି ସହଜ,ସରଳୀକୃତ କମ ସୁଧ ରେ ରଣ ଉପଲବ୍ଧ ।

୮. ସ୍ୱର୍ଣ ବକ୍ଷକ ରଣ ଅନ୍ୟ ବ୍ୟାଙ୍କ ତୁଳନାରେ ସ୍ୱର୍ଣ ସୁଧ ଶତକଡା ମାସିକ ୮.୧ ହାରରେ ପ୍ରଦାନ କରାଯାଏ ।

୯.ମିଶନ ଶକ୍ତି ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ମହିଳା ସୁସ୍ଥ ସହାୟକ ଗୋଷ୍ଠୀ ମାନଙ୍କୁ ଠିକ ସମୟରେ ରଣ ପରିଶୋଧ କଲେ ୫,୦୦,୦୦୦ ଟଙ୍କା ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ବିନା ସୁଧରେ ରଣ ପ୍ରଦାନ କରାଯାଏ ।

୧୦. ଆର୍ଥିକ ସ୍ୱାବଲମ୍ବନ ପାଇଁ କ୍ଷୁଦ୍ର ବ୍ୟବସାୟ ରଣ ୧,୦୦,୦୦୦ /-ଟଙ୍କା ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ରଣ ଉପଲବ୍ଧ ।

୧୧. IMPS, NEFT, RTGS, AEPS, PoS, CTS Clearing ସମେତ ATM ଓ Rupay କାର୍ଡ ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ଉନ୍ନତ ବ୍ୟାଙ୍କିଙ୍ଗ ସେବା ଦିଆଯାଏ ଏବଂ ସମିତିମାନଙ୍କରେ micro ATM ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ କୃଷକ ମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଟଙ୍କା ଉଠାଣ କରିବାର ସୁବିଧା ଉପଲବ୍ଧ ଅଛି

୧୨. Safe Deposit Locker ସହର ଶାଖା, ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର ମହିଳା ଶାଖା ଓ ଖୋର୍ଦ୍ଧା ମହିଳା ଶାଖା ଠାରେ ଉପଲବ୍ଧ ଅଛି ।

୧୩. ସର୍ବନିମ୍ନ ସହାୟକ ମୂଲ୍ୟ (MSP) ରେ ସମିତି ମାନଙ୍କ କରିଆରେ ଧାନ, ଚିନାବାଦାମ ଓ ମୁଗ ଆଦି ଫସଲ କ୍ରୟ କରିବାର ସୁବିଧା ଓ ଝଣାମାନଙ୍କୁ ସିଧାସଳଖ ବ୍ୟାଙ୍କ ର ସଂଚୟ ଖାତା ରେ ଟଙ୍କା ପ୍ରେମ କରାଯାଇଥାଏ ।

୧୪. ମିଆଦୀ ଜମା (Fixed Deposit) ଓ ସଂଚୟ ଜମା (Saving Deposit) ଉପରେ ଅନ୍ୟାନ୍ୟ ବାଣିଜ୍ୟିକ ଓ ଗ୍ରାମ୍ୟ ବ୍ୟାଙ୍କ ଠାରୁ ଅଧିକ ସୁଧ ଦେବା ସହିତ କମ ରାଶି କାମା ଦ୍ୱାରା ସୁରକ୍ଷିତ (DICGC) ଓ ବରିଷ୍ଠ ନାଗରିକମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ମିଆଦୀ ଜମା ଉପରେ ୦.୫ ପ୍ରତିଶତ ଅଧିକ ସୁଧ ପ୍ରଦାନ କରାଯାଏ ।

ଅଧିକ ବିବରଣୀ ନିମନ୍ତେ ନିକଟସ୍ଥ ଶାଖା / ବ୍ୟାଙ୍କ ମୁଖ୍ୟ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ ସହ ଯୋଗାଯୋଗ କରନ୍ତୁ ।

ଶ୍ରୀ ସାରଥୀ ଶତପଥୀ

ମୁଖ୍ୟ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ନିର୍ବାହୀ ଅଧିକାରୀ

ଖୋର୍ଦ୍ଧା କେନ୍ଦ୍ର ସମବାୟ ବ୍ୟାଙ୍କ ଲିଃ.

ଶ୍ରୀଯୁକ୍ତ ଅଭିଷେକ ସିଂହ ସାମନ୍ତ

ସଭାପତି

ଖୋର୍ଦ୍ଧା କେନ୍ଦ୍ର ସମବାୟ ବ୍ୟାଙ୍କ ଲିଃ.

Shree Jagannath Educational & Social Service Welfare Trust Promotes Education Through Olympiad and Webinar Initiatives



Paradip, (DMC): In a significant step toward encouraging academic excellence, the Shree Jagannath Educational & Social Service Welfare Trust (SJESSWT), established in a memory of Dr. Bibhuti Ranjan Tripathy & Er. Biswa Deepak Tripathy, recently conducted an Olympiad Examination in association with Kids Olympiad for school children.

Nearly 90 enthusiastic students participated and showcasing their curiosity and dedication to learning. The initiative aimed to foster critical thinking, healthy competition, and a lifelong love for education. The successful organisation of the Olympiad exam and the award ceremony was made possible through the collective efforts of trust members Mrs. Arundati

Nanda, Mrs. Radha Rani Satapathy, Mrs. Sunita Dash, Mrs. Mamatamayee Samantaray, Soudamini Rana, Mr. Pradip Kumar Gochhayat and Mrs. Sarmistha Nayak, Joint Secretary along with Dr. Sanjukta Dash (Treasurer) and Mrs. Jyoshna Dash Secretary of SJESSWT.

Their dedication ensured a smooth and inspiring experience for all young participants. The event was further graced by esteemed guests Mrs. Bharati Dash and Mr. Deepak Sarangi, whose presence served as a source of motivation for the children. Mr. Prajwal Tripathy volunteered his time and efforts, contributing significantly to the event's success. In addition, the Trust organised a webinar session on "Child Psychology and

Adolescent Development," which saw active participation from both parents and teachers. The session, led by Dr. Monalisa Mishra, Deputy Director, Communication and PR, RCM, focused on emotional support and understanding the mental and emotional growth of children during their formative years.

Trust Chairman Dr. Aditya Gaurab Tripathy remarked, "Education empowers individuals and builds stronger communities. It is the foundation of a better future." The Trust continues its unwavering commitment to holistic education through scholarships, counselling, and awareness initiatives, ensuring that learning remains accessible, enjoyable, and impactful for every child.

Celebration of Krishak Diwas & Akshaya Trutiya



Jagatsinghpur, (DMC): District level Krishak Diwas and Akshaya Trutiya celebrated at Jorakul under Alipingal Panchayat of Jagatsinghpur block. Industries Minister Sampad Charan Swain with local MLA Amarendra Das spread paddy seeds as per ritual and plough the field. After traditional works the meeting started and Dist. Chief Agriculture Officer presided over the meeting. Honourable Chief Minister realised assistance to Farmers under CM Kissan Yojana by VC. Minister Sampad Swain and MLA Amarendra Das address the gathering. As Akshaya Trutiya an auspicious day and on the very day "Thaku Raja" cum Collector Jagatsinghpur J. Sonal inaugurated Chariot of Lord Baladev jew of Sidhal at collector's residence office. Similarly Jayadev Jayanti celebrated at Sadbhavana Sabha gruha by Culture Department.

Rayagada Celebrates Akshaya Tritiya with State-Level Farmers' Day



Rayagada, (DMC): The State-Level Farmers' Day was celebrated on the occasion of Akshaya Tritiya at the Agriculture Office premises in Gunupur, Rayagada. Minister of School and Mass Education, Nityananda Gond, was the chief guest. The minister performed rituals, including Akhimuthi, Bhumi-pujan, and initiated the Kharif cultivation by holding a plow. He also distributed the first installment of financial assistance to farmers under the CM Kisan Yojana. On this occasion, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi virtually distributed financial assistance to over 50 lakh farmers in the state.

In Rayagada district, 90,739 farmers benefited from the scheme, with 87,223 small and marginal farmers and 3,516 landless farmers receiving assistance. The minister highlighted the importance of Akshaya Tritiya and its significance in Odisha's agricultural traditions. He emphasized the state government's commitment to empowering farmers and announced that the 2025 Kharif season's financial assistance would be disbursed to farmers. The event was attended by Rayagada Collector Parul Patwari, Additional District Collector Naveen Chandra Nayak, and other officials.

Chaos at PWD IB

Paralakhemundi, (DMC): At Khajuripada of Nuagada block of Gajapati district, inspection bungalow under PWD looks lucrative & an unused building. Subsequently Asst. Engineer & staff quarters too on deteriorated situations. Zinc roof sheets not on safe & bushes with thorns covered as unmanned land. Years together that building of no use nor guard too stays there. Rather turned as unsocial human beings den. Earlier all staff were staying but now on dormant state. Locals retorted to bring that building as usable structure.



Akhay Tritiya Observed Gajapati



Paralakhemundi, (DMC): At Gajapati district traditional Akhaya Tritiya observed. Near BNPalace at a field formal program held. Collector Bijay Kumar Dash, MLA Mohana Dasarathi Gomango, ZP

President GTRao, CDAO Rabindra Kumar Adek, PD of Watershed Suresh Kumar Patnaik, Deputy Director Horticulture Susant Ranjan Das, CDVO Dr. Ramakant Rana were present. With seed sowing

program launched. Collector imparted on various schemes to get more profits. Besides that on flory culture also advised. On off-farm poultry & fisheries prioritised. Among others Chairman of Gosani NVeerraju, Chairperson of Kashinagar MSudharani, Chairman of RUDayagiri Laxminarayan Sabar, Gumma Chairperson Sunemi Mandal & District Farmers Association President Suryanarayan Patnaik were present. Program coordinated by Harihar Seth ARCS, Rebatimohan Rout Secretary RMC, Addl. District Agriculture Officer KSuraj, AAO Sanghamitra Pradhan where farmers & line department staff were present.

Wife dead & husband Critically Injured by Elephant attack in Keonjhar

Keonjhar, (DMC): Panic spread in Telkoi range area of Keonjhar forest division on Thursday after death of one 45 years old woman and critically injured of her 50 year old husband by wild elephants attack. The woman dead is identified as Labanya Palei and injured identified as Jadu Palei, both of Udayagiri village under Telkoi police station.

Range officer, Telkoi forest range Shivaji Mohan Rao said "despite several awareness and alert, the people are not obeying. For which such type of incident happened. Compensation will be paid for the deceased as per the rule. The injured is sent to Keonjhar district head quarter hospital for treatment. We are trying to drive the elephant herd from human habitation to forest area. Elephant driving squads have been deployed to track the elephant and caution the villagers ". According to the sources on Thursday morning the



couple went to nearby Cashew field to collect cashew, where one elephant herd consisting of 16 elephant camped. The elephant suddenly attack them. One of the elephant lifted Labanya with its trunk and trampled her, causing serious injuries to her palm and body. Meanwhile, when her husband, Jadu, rushed to save her wife, the elephant attacked him as well. The elephant striking him in the chest with its tusks, leaving him critically injured. After receiving information forest officials from

Telkoi range rushed to the spot and rescue both and shifted to Telkoi community health centre for treatment with the help of local people. Forest team trying to drive the elephants away to the dense forest. As their condition deteriorated, they were later referred to the Keonjhar District Headquarters Hospital for further treatment. "But Labanya died while shifting to Keonjhar district headquarter hospital for treatment.

Her husband is admitted in Keonjhar district medical and under going treatment " the RO, Telkoi added. Sources said that there are 37 elephants in two herds moving in Telkoi range area since last few days causing crop and house damage and spreading havoc. Villagers passing sleepless nights due to the elephant menace. The elephant moving across the Keonjhar and Dhenkanal district borders when forest officials or the villagers trying to drive away.

TPSODL Gears Up for Kalabaisakhi Season

Berhampur, (DMC): With the Kalabaisakhi season and severe heatwave conditions looming over Southern Odisha, TP Southern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPSODL) has stepped up its preparedness to ensure uninterrupted power supply and minimize storm-related disruptions.

Over the past year, the company has focused on strengthening infrastructure, optimizing resource deployment, and improving coordination with emergency services - all to serve its consumers better during challenging weather conditions. During FY 2024, TPSODL reported 996 instances of Kalabaisakhi across its operational area, while the number was 662 in FY 2025. To manage such weather-induced challenges efficiently, TPSODL has mobilized over 5,900 ground staff, armed with essential tools and safety gear, to carry out

restoration activities swiftly. Additionally, 800 personnel are on standby for deployment during exigencies. The company has also established close coordination with the Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF) and local administrative bodies to ensure timely movement of materials, especially in difficult and hilly terrains.

As part of its robust response strategy, TPSODL has deployed 6 Mobile Sub Stations in each circle. Emergency response teams equipped with 25 ASKA lights and 19 DG sets have been formed to act swiftly during outages. Based on alerts received, emergency control rooms are activated at the division level to ensure seamless coordination and immediate action. Material preparedness has been another key focus. In addition to the five main stores, TPSODL has created 16 transient stores across



strategic locations. Emergency stocks like poles, conductors, transformers, LT AB cables and hardware are maintained at the section level, ensuring quick accessibility.

A cable fault locator has also been deployed to detect underground faults in 33kV and 11kV lines. Separate agencies have been assigned to carry out tree trimming and cutting operations to prevent power

supply interruptions caused by falling trees or branches during storms. To fortify the network against high-speed winds, 4,490 interposing poles have been installed at vulnerable locations, reinforcing line stability.

The company's 24x7 Centralized Power System Control Centre in Berhampur further adds to its readiness by enabling round-the-clock monitoring, early fault detection,

and prompt action to maintain supply continuity. Commenting on the preparedness, Mr. Amit Kumar Garg, CEO - TPSODL, said: "Our commitment to the people of Odisha goes beyond just delivering power - it's about ensuring their safety and peace of mind, especially during adverse weather conditions. With strategic investments in infrastructure, manpower, and technology, we are fully prepared to handle the Kalabaisakhi season.

Our teams are on high alert and ready to act at a moment's notice." TPSODL's all-round preparedness reflects its dedication to reliable service delivery and consumer safety. With a strong foundation in place and an alert team on the ground, the company is poised to face the Kalabaisakhi season with confidence, ensuring that Southern Odisha stays connected, safe, and secure.

From Page- 1

Death toll in...

majority of those killed in the fire died not because of getting charred but because of suffocation caused by the smoke emitting out of the fire. As per the latest information available, 13 of the victims died of smoke-related suffocation, while one died after he jumped off the floor out of panic. The cause of the 15th person is yet to be ascertained. Most of those killed in the fire came to Kolkata from outside, with some of them hailing from Tamil Nadu. "The hotel had just one entry and exit point. The door of the emergency exit was blocked with construction items that were being used for expansion and renovation work within the structure. Had the emergency exit been functional, the number of casualties could have been less," said an officer from the state fire services department. At the same time, the entire hotel had a glass cover without adequate ventilation facilities that disallowed the exhaust of smoke, resulting in so many deaths due to suffocation. Already, the police have registered an FIR against the hotel authorities. Both the owners of the hotel have been missing since Tuesday night. The state government has already formed a special investigation team to probe the matter. The local people alleged that despite several complaints of illegal constructions in the hotel raised in the past, neither the Kolkata Municipal Corporation nor the local police took any action to prevent the untoward incident.

CM Unveils Rs 7...

Bilhana, and Sriharsha. He compared Gita Govinda to Kalidasa's Meghaduta for its literary excellence. Majhi noted that, long before Odia literary works like Sarala Das's Mahabharata, Jagannath Das's Bhagavata, and Balaram Das's Dandi Ramayana, Jayadev's Gita Govinda in Sanskrit became a timeless, nationally revered masterpiece, symbolizing Odisha's spiritual identity. Archaeological findings from the 8th to 13th centuries indicate that Kenduli village was a major center of Vaishnava culture, with Madhava idols suggesting the prevalence of Madhava worship. Local lore holds that the Madhava temple in Niali was Jayadev's place of worship. Majhi shared anecdotes and folklore about Jayadev's life, emphasizing that Gita Govinda is dedicated to Lord Jagannath and Lord Krishna. He described Jagannath as a deity who loves devotion, music, and emotional expression, which is why Gita Govinda is performed as a ritual in the Jagannath Temple. The work, a poetic blend of love, devotion, and aesthetics centered on Radha and Krishna's eternal divine play, has enriched India's cultural and religious heritage. Jayadev's work has gained international acclaim, with Gita Govinda translated into languages such as French, German, Korean, Japanese, and English, captivating global scholars and literature enthusiasts. Its devotional, emotional, and musical qualities have made it widely performed and cherished.

Three Odiya lost life at Kolkata Hotel Fire Tragedy

Jagatsinghpur, (DMC): Three people from Jagatsinghpur district lost life at Kolkata Hotel Fire Tragedy yesterday. As per information Dushmanta Kumar Nayak, Dushmanta kumar Swain both of then belongs to Hariapa Village under Erasama block and Manoj kumar Patra of village Nandan under Tirtol block yester day stayed at Hotel Raturaj in Kolkata. But the total Hotel burnt by fire and 14 dead and injured body detected but these three persons have not detected. These three people were employee of a Company at Bhubaneswar and they were at Kolkata in company work. The relatives made contact with Odisha and West Benal Police but no information available.

It is favorable to build the chariot of Shrijiu by getting the world famous rath yatra on the holy Akshaya Tritiya

Puri, (DMC): On the auspicious occasion of Akshaya Tritiya today, the construction of chariots has become auspicious for the famous Rath Yatra of Shrijiu as per the traditional rituals. This morning, after the dhoop, the pujapanda samantas from inside the temple brought the order from the three fences of the Mahaprabhus and reached the chariot barn of Shrinar to suit the construction of the chariot. After this, Madanmohan, Bhudevji, Sridevi sat on a maniviman from the temple and sat in the rathakhala. Ramakrishna and Panchupandava came with them and reached the chariot barn. The pujapandas had earlier placed a command on the chariot wood that was to be adapted to the vanayag chali in the chariot barn.

As per the tradition, the priests and shrotriya Brahmins performed puja and homa yagna in the vanayag method. This was followed by the construction of Shrijiu's chariot with a gold axe, silver axe and iron axe. The axe was touched with three pieces of wood by the chief elders of the three chariots for the purpose of three chariots. The chariot-friendly home was performed by the Deul priest. After this, Tadhau Karan Rath tied the saree to the forehead of the vardhakis. This is the first step of the world famous Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath. After the construction of the chariot swelled favourably, the BJ idols conquered the Naredra Sarovar for the pressure journey. Chief Administrator of The Temple, Dr. Arvind Padhi, District Collector, Siddharth Shekhar Swain, SP Vineet Agarwal and many administrative officials, chariot maker Vishwakarma Sevak were present in the program. On this occasion, it was informed that the construction work of Shrijiu's chariot will be completed in about two months.

Secretary to Health Visited Gajapati

Paralakhemundi, (DMC): At Gajapati district Secretary to Health department cum district Nodal Officer Aswathy S. visited Mohana block. Secretary assessed on Skill Development Centre, OLM Mission Shakti centre, PMSri SSD High School & discussed with staff. At Chandragiri she visited PHC & discussed with patients. She appreciated on normal service deliveries. Also visited Asia's biggest Budha temple at Jirango. Among others Sub Collector Anup Panda, PD of Zilla Parishad Sankar Kerketa, CDMO Md. Mubarak Ali, DEO Dr. Mayadhar Sahu, DWO Solomon Raika, Tehsildar Chakradhar



Padhi, BEO Narendra Kumar Behera, CDPO Sabita Patnaik & Deputy Director of Horticulture with block officials were present.

Caste Data to be Part of Next Population Census: Centre's Big Announcement

New Delhi, (HS) : Questions on caste - i.e., an enumeration of the various castes and sub-castes, and the number of people in each, across the country - will be part of the national census expected next year, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said during a cabinet briefing Wednesday afternoon.

"Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs decided to include caste enumeration in forthcoming census exercise," Mr Vaishnaw said dropping a metaphorical bombshell in a briefing expected to include information about India's continuing response to the Pahalgam terror attack. The census will be held in a 'transparent' manner, he said, taking sharp swipes at the Congress and other opposition parties that, over the past few years, has targeted the ruling BJP over demands for a 'caste census', particularly while campaigning for state and federal elections. Mr Vaishnaw slammed the Congress specifically, saying the party had always opposed a caste census, pointing out the category had not even been included in censuses



since Independence. "Congress governments have always opposed a caste census. In 2010, the late Dr Manmohan Singh said the matter of caste census should be considered... a group was formed (and) most political parties recommended it. But the Congress decided to conduct a survey..." he said. "It is well understood that the Congress and its partners (referring to the party-led INDIA opposition bloc) have only used 'caste census' as a

political tool," he claimed. Mr Vaishnaw also dismissed caste counts been held by state governments - starting with Bihar in October 2023 - accusing them of just trying to score brownie points with voters. "Some states conducted surveys to enumerate castes... some did it well... some conducted surveys purely from a political angle," he said, "Such surveys created doubts in society." Legally a caste census, the minister said, can only be conducted by the union

government. This big decision comes months before a critical Assembly election in Bihar, over 63 per cent of the population of which comes from Extremely Backward or Backward classes. Welcoming the announcement, Home Minister Amit Shah called it a "historic decision" by the Narendra Modi government.

"In the CCPA (Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs) meeting held today under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji, a message of strong commitment towards social equality and rights of every section has been given by deciding to include caste enumeration in the upcoming census," Mr Shah said in a post in Hindi on X. "The Congress and its allies opposed the caste census for decades while in power and played politics over it while in the opposition. This decision will empower all economically and socially backward classes, promote inclusion and pave new paths for the progress of the deprived," he wrote.

After J&K Attack, India Warns Pak over Unprovoked Firing



New Delhi, (HS) : Amid escalating tensions between India and Pakistan after last week's terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam, in which 26 people were killed, key military officials of both countries have spoken over the hotline and New Delhi has warned Islamabad against "unprovoked violations" along the Line of Control, sources have told. "Director Generals of Military Operations of India and Pakistan talked over the hotline yesterday to discuss the unprovoked ceasefire violations by Pakistan. India warned Pakistan against the unprovoked violations by the Pakistan army along the Line of Control," the sources were quoted as saying on Wednesday. The details of the conversation came on a day when Pakistan violated the ceasefire on the International Border in Jammu after resorting to unprovoked firing along the Line of Control for six straight days.

"Further to the previous update about 29-30 April (night), unprovoked small arms firing by Pakistan Army was also reported from their posts across the Line of Control in Baramulla and Kupwara districts, as well as across the International Border in the Pargwal Sector," a defence spokesman said, adding that Indian Army troops responded "appropriately". Firing across the International Border is rare and is being seen as an escalation from Pakistan after the Pahalgam terror attack. After nationwide outrage over the killing of 26 people, mostly tourists, in the targeted attack, India has taken a series of diplomatic measures against Pakistan, including revoking visas and suspending the key Indus Waters Treaty, which lays out how water from the six rivers of the Indus system will be shared between the countries. Pakistan has responded by closing its airspace to Indian airlines and threatening to suspend all bilateral agreements - including the important Simla pact, which recognises the ceasefire line of December 17, 1971 as the Line of Control. The ceasefire violations after this announcement are also seen as important in this context.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also held several important meetings on Wednesday, including one of the Cabinet Committee on Security - which is India's highest decision-making body on national security matters. In an earlier high-level meeting on Tuesday, which also included the chiefs of the armed forces, Prime Minister Modi gave the forces "complete operational freedom" to decide on the "mode, targets, and timing" of India's military response to the Pahalgam attack, sources have said. He also "reaffirmed that it is our national resolve to deal a crushing blow to terrorism" and expressed "complete faith and confidence" in the Indian armed forces.

India closes airspace for Pakistani flights days after Pahalgam terror attack



New Delhi, (HS) : A Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) issued has been issued for shutting the airspace for Pakistani airlines. The Indian airspace will not be available for Pakistani flights, a Notice to Airmen

(NOTAM) said on Wednesday.

Indian airspace will not be available for: o Aircraft registered in Pakistan, o Aircraft operated, owned, or leased by Pakistani airlines or operators, o Including military aircraft. The notice comes mere days after the deadly Pahalgam terror attack that resulted in the death of 26 people, including 25 Indians. The attack, which also injured several other tourists at the Jammu and Kashmir resort town, happened last Tuesday. In the aftermath of the attack, the Union government had taken several steps to put pressure on Pakistan due to its support for cross-border terrorism. These steps included the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty, the reduction of the Pakistan High Commission staff, and the closure of the Attari border checkpoint. Pakistan had also announced its own measures, including the closure of its airspace for Indian flights, along with copying most of the Indian measures. It had also threatened to pull out of the Shimla Agreement, along with all other agreements with India.

Tensions have been high between the two countries ever since the attack, with Pakistan repeatedly violating the ceasefire agreement along the Line of Control (LoC) and the international border in Jammu and Kashmir. The Indian Forces have been giving an appropriate response to the violations.

Ajith Kumar hospitalised in Chennai after suffering leg injury



Chennai, (HS) : Actor Ajith Kumar was rushed to a private hospital in Chennai on Wednesday after he suffered a leg injury. A report from India Today details that the actor had a 'minor leg injury' after he was mobbed by fans at the Chennai airport on Tuesday. The actor returned from New Delhi to Chennai after being honoured with the Padma Bhushan.

As per the report, sources close to the actor said in a statement, "Ajith Kumar sir suffered a small injury in his leg when he was mobbed by a huge crowd at the Chennai airport. Hence, he had to be admitted for physiotherapy. The actor is likely to be discharged this evening. There's nothing to worry about his health." Thanthi TV also reported that on Tuesday when the actor arrived in Chennai from Delhi, there was a huge crowd awaiting his return. The crowd was a lot to handle, and the actor was mobbed at the airport where he injured his leg. The actor was honoured with the Padma Bhushan from President Droupadi Murmu on Monday. His wife Shalini Ajith was seen cheering for him at the event. When the awards were announced in January, Ajith issued a statement that read, "I am deeply humbled and honoured to receive the esteemed Padma Award by the President of India. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu and the Honourable Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi for this prestigious honour. It is a privilege to be recognized at such a level and I am truly grateful for this generous acknowledgment of my contributions to our nation." On the work front, Ajith was most recently seen in Good Bad Ugly.

Supreme Court Acquits 2 Rape Convicts

New Delhi, (HS) : The Supreme Court on Wednesday acquitted two rape convicts on finding the prosecution's theory "full of holes" raising grave suspicion. A bench of Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and K Vinod Chandran referred to a Supreme Court verdict which cautioned against false allegation of rape as it caused distress, damage and humiliation to the accused though rape led to greatest distress.

The bench said a court should be equally careful in protecting the accused from a false implication. "We find difficulty in accepting their testimony to be one having sterling quality. We cannot also say that the story as narrated by the victims inspires confidence. Looking for assurance, we find the entire narration to be unbelievable and not substantiated on its finer details," it said. The top court's verdict came on an appeal filed by two accused persons who challenged the Bombay High Court's July 2024 order, which dismissed their appeal against a trial court's July 2003 order. The trial court convicted them in a case of abduction and rape of two women in June, 2000. There were a total of four accused, two of whom were only convicted on the abduction charge. The high court, however, allowed the appeal of the duo and acquitted them.

The prosecution alleged that the two women, who were going to Kurla, boarded a tempo in which the four accused were travelling. The accused refused to stop the vehicle in Kurla and the women were taken to a field where two accused raped them, it added.

Union Cabinet approves Greenfield High-Speed Corridor from Shillong to Silchar on Hybrid Annuity Mode

New Delhi, (HS) : The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved the proposal for the Development, Maintenance, and Management of a four-lane Greenfield Access Controlled high-speed corridor highway from Shillong to Silchar.

According to an official statement, the 166.80 km of National Highway No. 06 from Mawlyngkhung (near Shillong) in Meghalaya to Panchgram (near Silchar) in Assam will be built on Hybrid Annuity Mode as an access-controlled greenfield High-Speed Corridor at a total capital cost of Rs 22,864 Crore. The project length of 166.80 km lies in Meghalaya (144.80 km) and Assam (22.00 km). The proposed Greenfield high-speed corridor will improve the service level for the traffic moving from Guwahati to Silchar. The development of this corridor will improve the connectivity to Tripura, Mizoram,

Manipur, and the Barak Valley region of Assam from the mainland and Guwahati with substantially reduced travel distance and travel time. This will, in turn, contribute to the enhancement of the logistics efficiency of the nation. The corridor will improve connectivity between Assam and Meghalaya and will spur economic development, including the development of industries in Meghalaya, as it passes through the cement and coal production areas of Meghalaya. This corridor will cater to the national and international tourists coming from well-connected Guwahati Airport, Shillong Airport, and Silchar Airport (via existing NH-06) connecting Guwahati to Silchar. This would connect scenic places of tourist attraction in the North-East and promote tourism. This critical infrastructure project will improve inter-city connectivity between Guwahati, Shillong, and Silchar, traverses through Ri Bhoi, East Khasi

Hills, West Jaintia hills, East Jaintia hills in Meghalaya and Cachar district in Assam reduce congestion on existing NH-06 and enhance transport infrastructure development in line with the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan.

The project alignment integrates with major transport corridors, including NH-27, NH-106, NH-206, NH-37, providing seamless connectivity to Guwahati, Shillong, Silchar, Dibrugarh, Ummulung, Phramar, Khlieriat, Ratachera, Umkiang, and Kalain. Upon completion, the Shillong-Silchar Corridor will play a pivotal role in regional economic growth, improving connectivity between Guwahati, Shillong, Silchar, Imphal, Aizawl, and Agartala. The project aligns with the government's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat, enhancing infrastructure while generating employment and fostering socio-economic development in Meghalaya, Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, and Tripura.

Jamshedpur's Shambhavi Jaiswal Emerges ICSE Class 10 All India Topper With Perfect Score

Jamshedpur, (HS) : Shambhavi Jaiswal, a student of Loyola School, Jamshedpur, has made the city proud by securing a perfect 100 per cent in the Indian Certificate of Secondary Education (ICSE) Class 10 examinations, emerging as the all-India topper. The news of her unprecedented achievement brought joy and celebration from her home to her school. Her parents, both doctors, were overwhelmed by the result and initially found it hard to believe that their daughter had topped the entire country. Shambhavi credited her success to her parents and



teachers. "I used to top at school, but I never imagined I would be the national topper," she told the media here on Wednesday. "I set small goals for myself every day and worked consistently toward them. My mother stood by me throughout my preparation, patiently helping me clear every doubt - big or small." Shambhavi's father, Dr Abhishek Jaiswal, heads the radiology department at Meherbai Tata Memorial Hospital (MTMH), while her mother, Dr Ojaswi Shankar, is a senior gynaecologist at Manipal Medical College Hospital.

Is being from Kashmir our only crime? 20 traders forced to flee Mussoorie amid tensions over Pahalgam attack

DEHRADUN, (HS) : Around 20 Kashmiri traders, long-time seasonal residents dealing in world-renowned shawls, garments, and dry fruits in Mussoorie, have been forced to return to Jammu and Kashmir. Their departure follows aggressive protests by Hindu organisations in Uttarakhand, escalating tensions in the popular hill station.

The palpable shift in atmosphere across the country after the recent Pahalgam terror attack has reportedly resonated even in the serene 'Queen of the Mountains,' reaching the quiet valleys of Mussoorie. These approximately 20 Muslim businessmen, primarily from Kupwara in Jammu and Kashmir, pursue this seasonal trade as their ancestral profession. They were compelled to abandon goods worth lakhs of rupees locked inside their warehouse before their abrupt departure. One of the affected traders, Mohammad Iqbal from Kupwara, shared his harrowing experience with TNIE, detailing the fear and lack of support they faced. "What is our fault that this is happening to us?" Mohammad Iqbal asked, his voice heavy with emotion. "Is being from Kashmir our only crime? Our Prime Minister says Kashmir is our part and we are Kashmiris, yet despite this, why are we being killed? Recounting the events after the Pahalgam attack, Iqbal said. "Seeing the sensitivity of the situation, we went to the Kitab Ghar



police outpost in Mussoorie to ask for help. Even the police told us to leave, saying, 'We cannot save you'. We asked for time until morning, but we were not allowed to stay," he added.

Mohammad Iqbal, whose father has worked as a daily wageer with the Indian Army for 30 years, broke down in tears while recounting this. The 20 traders, split into groups of 12, five, two, and one, "somehow spent the night," Iqbal said. "As soon as morning broke, we left for Dehradun ISBT." He further stated, "The Mussoorie Kotwal (Station House Officer) also told us the same thing: 'Leave this place immediately and go'." Iqbal asserted that in all these years, they have never even had an argument

with anyone, focusing solely on their business. "We are proud to live in India," he stated, "but our own people are killing us. Where is the humanity in this?" In a voice filled with anger, Iqbal said. "If the perpetrators of the Pahalgam atrocity were to come before me, I would not fear the consequences of what I would do to them." The Kashmiri shawl traders claim two of their companions were beaten and the incident filmed and circulated online, prompting panicked calls from their families back home and forcing them to abandon their decades-old business practice. Narrating his ordeal to TNIE, Javed Ahmed Chopan from Kupwara said, "After the Pahalgam attack, Hindu organisations in

Mussoorie beat two of our companions. Not only that, they made a video of the beating and viralized it on social media. When our families saw that video, they immediately asked us to return." He added, "We have been doing our ancestral shawl work peacefully for the last 19 years, going to Mussoorie in summers and Dehradun in winters. Now, who will give us a livelihood?" Nasir Khuehami, J&K Students Association convener, lamented the release of alleged attackers despite an FIR request.

He told TNIE, "I regret that where justice was to be served, at that very place justice was denied. What precedent are we going to establish?" Citing police sources, he added, "Police have argued that the accused involved in the assault have apologised, so they have been released." Mohammad Shafi, originally from Kunamposhpura village in Kupwara, who has been engaged in this ancestral shawl business in Mussoorie since 1988, spoke to TNIE with a choked voice. "We are poor businessmen, we don't have money to buy shops, so every year we set up our business by putting up stalls on the roadside here," he said. "I didn't even have money left to go back. Somehow, I managed to borrow from my companions to pay the fare and return." He highlighted his biggest worry: "My two sons and one daughter are studying. The biggest question before me is how I will pay their fees now."

US Urges India, Pak To 'Not Escalate' Tensions

Washington, (H.S): US Secretary of State Marco Rubio called on India and Pakistan to "not escalate" the situation and plans to convey the same message in phone calls to his counterparts in the two countries, Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Pakistani foreign minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar respectively.

The US also urges other world leaders to deliver the same message to the two sides. "We are reaching out to both parties and telling, of course, them not to escalate the situation," Tammy Bruce, the State Department spokesperson said, reading out a statement from Secretary Rubio on Tuesday.

"The Secretary expects to speak with the foreign ministers of Pakistan and India as early as today or tomorrow." The spokesperson also said Secretary Rubio "is encouraging other national leaders, other foreign ministers, to also reach out to the countries on this issue." Bruce also said the US



has engaged India and Pakistan at other levels as well, other than that of the foreign ministers. She did not give details. There were no updates from the state department on the calls. Rubio's statement came hours after news reports said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had given the armed forces "complete operational freedom to decide on the mode, targets and timing of our response".

This followed a high-level meeting PM Modi chaired, attended by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, and the chiefs of the three services. President Donald Trump had

called Prime Minister Narendra Modi just hours after the Pahalgam terrorist attack last week. The Indian Prime Minister had stated on that call: "India is determined to bring the perpetrators and backers of this cowardly and heinous terrorist attack to justice",

clearly indicating India's desire to not only punish the terrorists who carried out the attack but also their backers, which is a pointer to Pakistan. Tulsi Gabbard, the director of national intelligence offered US support for India's effort to "hunt down" the perpetrators of the attack in a post on X.

'Pahalgam Incident Deeply Disturbing & Tragic': Former Pakistan PM Imran Khan

Islamabad, (H.S): Former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday termed the Pahalgam terror attack as disturbing & tragic and also condoled the victims and their families. "Loss of human life in the Pahalgam incident is deeply disturbing and tragic. I extend my deepest condolences to the victims and their families," said the incarcerated former Prime Minister during a discussion with the lawyers in Adiala Jail, Rawalpindi.

He alleged that when the "False Flag Palwama Operation" incident happened, Pakistan offered to extend all-out cooperation to India, but India failed to produce any concrete evidence. "As I predicted in 2019, the same is happening again after the Pahalgam incident. Instead of introspection and investigation, Modi Sarkar is again placing the blame on Pakistan," he said. He further added that being a country of 1.5 billion people, India needs to act responsibly instead of messing with a region already known as "nuclear flashpoint." "Peace is our priority, but it



should not be mistaken for cowardice. Pakistan has got all the capabilities to give a befitting response to any Indian misadventure, as My Government, backed by the whole nation, did in 2019.

I have always emphasised the importance of the Kashmiris' right to self-determination, as guaranteed by United Nations resolutions," he said. The former Prime Minister further alleged that India, led by RSS ideology, is a "grave threat", not only to the region but beyond it. "Indian oppression in Kashmir, intensified after the illegal abrogation of Article 370, has further fueled the Kashmiri people's desire for freedom," he

alleged. Talking about the internal factions inside Pakistan, the former Prime Minister said that, sadly, his nation has been divided by an "illegitimate government" imposed through fraudulent Form-47 results."

And yet, ironically, Narendra Modi's aggression has united the people of Pakistan in one voice against Indian hostility. While we reject this fake regime, we stand firmly as one Pakistani nation and strongly condemn Modi's war-mongering and his dangerous ambitions that threaten regional peace," he said. The former Prime Minister further addressed the polarisation of his nation following deep resentment against the country's army."

Needless to say, to win the war against an external enemy, the nation must first be united. It is high time to put a halt to all actions that are further polarising the nation. The state's excessive focus on political victimisation at this critical time is deepening internal divisions and undermining the nation's collective ability to confront external threats," he said. Imran Khan also targeted Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari and PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif for their alleged timid stand against the neighbouring country."

It is naive to expect any strong stance from self-serving figures like Nawaz Sharif and Asif Zardari. They will never speak out against India because their illegal wealth and business interests lie abroad. They profit from foreign investments, and to protect those financial interests, they remain silent in the face of foreign aggression and baseless allegations against Pakistan. Their fear is simple: that Indian lobbies might freeze their offshore assets if they dare to speak the truth," said the former Pakistan Prime Minister.

Haters Resort To 'Fake News': Israel Embassy Denies Issuing Note Verbale To MEA

New Delhi, (H.S): The Embassy of Israel in India on Wednesday denied issuing the 'note verbale' to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), accusing an Indian Army officer of sexually assaulting an Israel Defense Force (IDF) personnel during a joint military exercise in Jammu and Kashmir, terming it as completely "fake".

The Embassy expressed shock over the incident, stating that haters resorting to such "fake news" to harm the strong bond between India and Israel will not succeed. "Unbelievable! The bond between Israel and India is so solid, haters resort to fake news to try to harm it. It won't work," the Israeli Embassy posted on X. Israel has expressed its solidarity with India in the fight against terrorism following the deadly Pahalgam terror attack. Israeli



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had called PM Narendra Modi over the "Islamist terrorist attack in Kashmir" and offered his condolences to the people of India.

I spoke today with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and expressed my condolences, and those of the people of Israel, to the people of India following the Islamic terrorist attack in Kashmir. Prime

Minister Modi thanked me for sharing in India's grief and emphasised that our two countries stand shoulder to shoulder in the critical fight against murderous terrorism," Netanyahu posted on X on April 24.

PM Modi had also shared the barbaric nature of the cross-border terrorist attack and reiterated India's firm resolve to bring the perpetrators and their supporters to justice. Last week,

External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar also met Israeli Ambassador Reuven Azar in New Delhi and appreciated Israel's steadfast support in combating cross-border terrorism. Azar took to social media and expressed gratitude to EAM Jaishankar for the useful discussion. "Thankful for the useful discussion External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar.

Looking forward to work together to overcome common challenges and untap India and Israel many opportunities!" he posted on X. The brutal assault on April 22, which resulted in the death of 26 innocent tourists and left several others critically injured, unfolded in the Baisaran Valley near Pahalgam. Four heavily armed terrorists, two of them from Pakistan, emerged from the surrounding dense forests and opened indiscriminate fire on tourists.

Islamabad: Pakistan on Wednesday announced cancellation of all domestic flights to Gilgit and Skardu amid escalating tensions with India after last week's Pahalgam attack in which 26 innocent civilians lost their lives." The decision to suspend the flights to the northern regions was made after a review of national airspace safety protocols. All other flights to the northern areas of Pakistan have also been temporarily halted as a precautionary measure," said an official.

A strict monitoring of foreign flights has also been initiated with major focus on international airlines crossing over from India. As per details, the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has been instructed to scrutinise all inbound foreign aircrafts. After the high-level meeting of the Pakistan's National Security



Committee (NSC), it was decided to give a reciprocal response to India's decisions to shut down the Wagah-Attari border, declare defence and security advisors at Pakistan High Commission as Persona Non Grata, cancelling visas for Pakistani nationals under SAARC, and putting the IWT in abeyance, etc. Pakistan has already shut down its airspace for Indian airlines in response to New Delhi's measures, including the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), following the terror attack in Kashmir. In this regard, a

Notice for Airmen (NOTAMN) was issued, banning Indian carriers from the Pakistan skies, initially for one month. Indian airlines including Air India, IndiGO and Akasa Air are among the carriers banned from using the Pakistani airspace. The restrictions are also applicable to Indian military and VIP aircraft movement. Addressing a post midnight emergency presser, Pakistan Information Minister Attaullah Tarar warned that India could attack Pakistan within next 24 to 36 hours.

Ukraine 'By All Means Wants To Disturpt' Victory Day Ceasefire Declared By Putin; Russian Envoy

Moscow, (H.S): Russia has said that Ukraine wants to disturb the ceasefire announced by President Vladimir Putin for the day of the 80th anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War. President Putin on Monday announced a 72-hour ceasefire in its ongoing 'Special Military Operation' in Ukraine on account of the Victory Day celebrations, next month. Ukraine wants to disrupt the dialogue and escalate tensions, according to Rodion Miroshnik, the Russian Foreign Ministry's special envoy for the crimes of the Kiev regime, on Wednesday. The Russian envoy stated that in the past 24 hours,

40 civilians were injured and at least two killed in Ukrainian attacks on Russia's frontline regions. "These are not loud, peace-loving verbal statements that Zelensky is lavishing on the Americans to please them. These are real criminal acts, committed in silence, but demonstrating the bloodthirsty nature and the desire to disrupt the dialogue by all means and escalate up to another round of tensions," he stated on the Telegram channel. Miroshnik asserted that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's regime is deliberately targeting civilians in Russia's frontline regions. "The use of high-precision weapons

confirms the result. This is nothing but a bloodthirsty regime's lunge in response to Russia's peace-loving proposal to suspend hostilities for the period of Victory Day celebrations," the diplomat added. Meanwhile, announcing the ceasefire, the Kremlin said, "By decision of the President of the Russian Federation, Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation V.V. Putin, for humanitarian reasons, during the days of the 80th anniversary of the Victory, from midnight on May 7-8 until midnight on May 10-11, the Russian side declares a

ceasefire. All military actions are suspended for this period." "Russia believes that the Ukrainian side should follow this example. In case of ceasefire violations by the Ukrainian side, the Russian Armed Forces will provide an adequate and effective response. The Russian side once again declares its readiness for peace negotiations without preconditions, aimed at eliminating the root causes of the Ukrainian crisis, and constructive interaction with international partners," it added. The celebrations on Red Square in Moscow will mark the 80th anniversary of Russia's victory in the Great Patriotic War.

North Korea Conducts First Test-Firing of New Warship's Weapons Systems

Seoul, (H.S): North Korea has conducted its first test-firing of key weapons systems on the country's new destroyer, with leader Kim Jong-un calling for accelerating the navy's capabilities to stage nuclear attacks, state media reported Wednesday. Under Kim's inspection, North Korea carried out the "combat application test" of weapons systems mounted on its new 5,000-ton destroyer named the Choe Hyon on Monday and Tuesday, Yonhap news agency reported quoting the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA).

The North held a launching ceremony of the new multipurpose warship Friday, armed with weapons that it said will significantly enhance its naval operations. The destroyer is equipped with supersonic strategic cruise missiles, tactical ballistic missiles and other strike means. North Korea conducted a test-firing of supersonic cruise missiles, strategic cruise missiles, anti-aircraft missiles and 127-millimetre ship-based automatic guns Monday, the KCNA said. A



test of firing ship-to-ship tactical guided weapons, the ship's automatic guns, smoke and electronic jamming guns took place the following day. The North's leader stressed the need to "perfect" the warship's weapons systems for integrated operations in a short span of time."

It is important to establish a proactive and offensive defensive system on the premise of powerful attack capability," Kim was quoted as saying by the KCNA. "The time has come to make a responsible option for accelerating the nuclear armament of the navy in order to defend the state and maritime sovereignty from the existing and future

threat," the North's leader said, setting forth unspecified tasks for accomplishing such a goal. North Korea has focused on strengthening its naval power in an effort to build a platform capable of delivering nuclear attacks from the sea.

At last week's launching ceremony, Kim called for building more warships of "Choe Hyon class" and larger cruisers, as well as various types of escort ships, next year and also developing "nuclear-powered submarines" in the future. In March, the North unveiled what appears to be a nuclear-powered submarine under construction, with its leader warning that his country's maritime defence capability will

be "fully" projected "in any necessary waters without limitation." The supersonic cruise missile launched from the new destroyer bore resemblance to the Russian Zircon hypersonic cruise missiles, while the installation of the phased array radar appears to be similar to that of Russian vessels, according to Rep. Yu Yong-weon of the People Power Party. "It is highly likely that North Korea received up-to-date military technology from Russia in exchange for its troop dispatch," Yu said.

In back-to-back confirmations, North Korea and Russia recently acknowledged the deployment of North Korean troops to Russia, in support of its war against Ukraine under a mutual defence treaty signed by their leaders in June last year. South Korea's National Intelligence Service said in October that North Korea had decided to send more than 10,000 troops to Russia. The military estimates that North Korea sent an additional 3,000 soldiers to the Kursk region in January and February.

Trade Talks With India 'Coming Along Great': Trump

Washington, (H.S): US President Donald Trump said that trade talks with India were "coming along great" and expressed confidence in signing a deal. Unlike his aides, however, the president did not put an immediacy to the talks. "India's coming along great," he told reporters at an airport, heading to rally in Michigan state to mark his achievements in the first 100 days of his second term.

"I think we'll have a deal with India... they want to make a deal." Scott Bessent, the treasury secretary who has been leading the negotiations with trading partner countries in Asia, has flagged the likelihood of a deal with India being the first to be signed in the aftermath of the global trade turmoil triggered by President Trump's multiple rounds of escalation of tariff, including a reciprocal tariff on nearly all of America's trading partner countries. Imports from India were pegged at 26 per cent



in President Trump's reciprocal levies that were announced early this month aimed at levelling import duties and also bridging the trade imbalance that favours India. It is down to 10 per cent for 90 days and applies to all trading partner nations with the exception of China, whose exports to the US will be tariffed at 145 per cent. India has been off the block fast to sew up a trade deal and the Trump administration has been touting it as the model outcome of President Trump's tariff assault on global trade. "I

would guess that India would be one of the first trade deals we would sign," Treasury Secretary Bessent told CNBC. Bessent has indicated the first trade deal is expected this week or the next. India wants a deal and made it clear by not retaliating to President Trump's reciprocal tariffs, unlike China, and moved swiftly to seek a deal instead. Few details are available of the deal, but there are expectations in the US of major cuts in duties on imported automobiles, a long-standing US demand.

Adani Power Logs Strong Financial Performance In FY25, Achieves 102 BU Power Generation

Ahmedabad, (H.S): Adani Power on Wednesday reported a 21.4 per cent jump in consolidated continuing profit before tax (PBT) at Rs 13,926 crore in FY25, compared to Rs 11,470 crore in FY24, due to improved EBITDA and lower finance costs. The Adani Group company registered a 10.8 per cent rise in consolidated continuing total revenues at Rs 56,473 crore in FY25 compared to Rs 50,960 crore in FY24, supported by higher sales volumes, offset partially by lower tariff realisation.

Continuing revenues exclude one-time prior period income recognition. Continuing EBITDA for FY25 grew 14.8 per cent to Rs 21,575 crore, according to the company.For Q4 FY25, consolidated continuing total revenue was higher by 5.3 per cent at Rs 14,522 crore compared to Rs 13,787 crore in Q4 FY24, primarily due to higher volume, offset by lower tariff realisation. Consolidated continuing PBT for



Q4 FY25 stood at Rs 3,248 crore vs Rs 3,464 crore for Q4 FY24 on account of higher depreciation due to new acquisitions, apart from slower demand growth and lower merchant tariffs.In Q4 FY24, the company's profit after tax (PAT) had non-recurring items like higher refund received from government authorities and gain on sale of unutilised assets.

These were at lower level this quarter, with PAT at Rs 2,599.23 crore.In a significant achievement, the company reached 102.2 billion units (BU) power generation in FY25, up by 19.5 per cent from 85.5 BU in FY24.

Consolidated power sale volume stood at 95.9 BU in FY25, up by 20.7 per cent from 79.4 BU in FY24 due to robust power demand and higher operating capacity.For the January-March quarter (Q4), consolidated power sale volume stood at 26.4 BU in Q4 FY25, up by 18.9 per cent from 22.2 BU in Q4 FY24 due to growing power demand and higher operating capacity, said the company."

Adani Power has posted ever-higher operating and financial performance for FY 2024-25, aptly demonstrating the strength and resilience of the

Adani Portfolio companies. As we progress quickly in the next phase of capacity expansion, we are prioritising capital and cost efficiencies to sharpen our competitive edge and extend our sectoral leadership across key parameters," Adani Power Limited CEO S.B. Khyalia said.The consolidated operating capacity grew from 15,250 MW in FY24 to 17,550 MW in FY25 on account of the acquisition of the 1,200 MW Moxie Power Generation Ltd, 600 MW Korba Power Limited, and 500 MW Adani Dahanu Thermal Power Station."

We are employing our deep, cross-domain expertise to make the business future-ready to continue delivering superior returns over the long term. Our unrelenting commitment to sustainability, which has seen us rank among the best thermal power producers in the world on several counts, will continue to guide us on our growth journey," Khyalia added.

Income Tax Department notifies ITR-1, ITR-4 forms for assessment year 2025-26



New Delhi, (H.S): The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has notified the income tax return forms ITR-1 and ITR-4 for the financial year 2024-25 and the assessment year 2025-26.The returns for incomes earned during the financial year from April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025, have to be filed using the new forms.

A major change in the ITR forms this year is that ITR-1 (SAHAJ) can be filed for notifying long-term capital gains (LTCG) under section 112A. This is subject to the condition that the LTCG is not more than Rs 1.25 lakh, and the income tax assessee has no loss to carry forward or set off under the capital gains head. Earlier, ITR 1 did not have a provision to report capital gains tax. This year, taxpayers who have long-term capital gains from the sale of listed equity shares and equity-oriented mutual funds can use ITR-1 to file their tax returns.However, ITR-1 forms cannot be filed in cases of taxpayers who have capital gains

from the sale of house property or short-term capital gains from listed equity and equity mutual funds.The notification also stipulates that in cases where income tax assesses have opted out of the new income tax regime in AY 2024-25, they must declare and opt to either continue or reverse the selection.

Those who have opted out of the new income tax regime for the first time in AY 2025-26 must furnish Form 10-IEA acknowledgement details. Additionally, there must also be a clarification for the late filing of Form 10-IEA.In both ITR-1 & ITR-4 forms, all deductions ranging from 80C to 80U must be chosen from a drop-down in the e-filing facility, and the exact clauses and

sub-sections must be revealed. Income from retirement accounts maintained abroad - falling under section 89A - will now have improved fields and a relief tracking feature. In ITR-4 section 44AD (business), if digital transactions make up to 95 per cent of the business' transactions, then the turnover threshold has now been changed to Rs 3 crore.

In Section 44ADA (professionals): Under the same digital receipts condition, the limit has now been increased to Rs 75 lakh. All bank accounts, being held in India during the previous year, barring the dormant ones, will now have to be compulsorily reported in the ITR 1 and ITR 4 forms.

RBI approves executive committee to oversee IndusInd Bank operations

New Delhi, (H.S): The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the constitution of an interim committee to oversee the operations of IndusInd Bank, which will discharge the duties, roles and responsibilities of the chief executive officer (CEO) of the bank for an interim period until a permanent CEO is appointed, the bank said on Wednesday.The move comes after IndusInd Bank's

Managing Director and CEO Sumant Kathpalia resigned from his post in connections with the derivatives accounting lapse that has eroded the private sector bank's net worth.In a stock exchange filing, the bank informed that the committee, comprising Soumitra Sen (Head-Consumer Banking) and Anil Rao (Chief Administrative Officer), will manage the bank's day-to-day affairs under the

supervision of an Oversight Committee of the Board.This Oversight Committee will be chaired by the Chairman of the Board and will include the chairs of the Audit Committee, the Compensation and Nomination and Remuneration Committee, and the Risk Management Committee."Based on the RBI approval, the Board has constituted such 'Committee of

Executives' to oversee the operations of the Bank, under the oversight and guidance of the Oversight Committee of the Board till a new MD and CEO of the Bank assumes charge or a period of 3 months from the date of relieving the incumbent MD and CEO, whichever is earlier," according to the exchange filing by the bank.The bank said it is taking all necessary steps to ensure

stability and continuity of its operations while "maintaining high standards of governance".The stock of IndusInd Bank fell in the early trade on Wednesday. The bank's Deputy CEO Arun Khurana has also quit after accounting discrepancies were unearthed in the bank's derivatives portfolio by an independent audit. The findings of the investigation carried out by a

professional firm, appointed by the bank's board, were submitted on April 26. The audit report confirmed that incorrect accounting practices led to an adverse cumulative impact of Rs 1,959.98 crore on the bank's profit and loss account as of March 31, 2025. The issue first came to light on March 10, when IndusInd Bank disclosed that mark-to-market (MTM) losses in its derivatives book could

impact up to 2.35 per cent of its net worth as of December 2024 due to discrepancies in its derivative accounts found during an internal review. The loss in net worth worked out to around Rs 1,600 crore.The RBI issued a direction to the bank to appoint global audit firm Grant Thornton Bharat to conduct a forensic investigation to ensure an accurate assessment of the losses.

SEBI Reviewing Derivatives Rules To Protect Retail Investors: Tuhin Kanta Pandey

Mumbai, (H.S): The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is actively working on refining rules related to the derivatives market, with a focus on protecting retail investors while ensuring that market activity is not affected, its Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey said on Wednesday. Pandey clarified that SEBI is not trying to clamp down on the futures and options market but is adopting a balanced approach.

While discussing the regulator's recent proposals to NDTV Profit, he said the goal is to improve the market's structure and reduce unnecessary risks for small investors." We are continuously reviewing the market, gathering feedback, and we are ready to make adjustments where necessary," Pandey said.The market regulator had earlier issued a consultation paper on proposed futures and options reforms, and according to Pandey, the regulator has received over 800 public comments.These



comments are now being carefully examined, and a final decision on the proposed changes will be made soon.The SEBI Chairman said that many of the proposed measures do not require approval in a board meeting and can be implemented directly through administrative procedures.

This means the new changes, once finalised, could be rolled out quickly. One key proposal includes changing the way open interest (OI) is calculated in the equity derivatives market.SEBI is considering shifting from the

notional value method to a 'Future Equivalent' method. The aim is to avoid artificial inflation of open interest, which can push stocks into a ban period unnecessarily. SEBI has also suggested a change in the way the market-wide position limit (MWPL) is calculated.

Currently, the MWPL is set at 20 per cent of a stock's free-float market capitalisation. The new proposal recommends that it should be the lower of 15 per cent of free-float market cap or 60 times the average daily delivery value (ADDV) in the cash market.

Farm And Rural Workers Get Respite As Inflation Burden Eases Further In March

New Delhi, (H.S): The year-on-year inflation rates based on the all-India consumer price index for agricultural labourers (CPI-AL) and rural labourers (CPI-RL) for March this year eased to 3.73 per cent and 3.86 per cent, respectively - compared to 7.15 per cent and 7.08 per cent in March 2024 - bringing respite to poor households, according to figures released by the Ministry of Labour and Employment on Wednesday.

The easing of the price spiral was also evident in comparison to the previous month of February when the corresponding figures stood at 4.05 per cent for CPI-AL and 4.1 per cent, 4.61 per cent for CPI-RL.The inflation rate for agricultural and rural labourers has been steadily declining over the last six months. This comes as a welcome relief for these vulnerable segments that are hit hardest by the increasing prices. It also leaves more money in their hands to buy



a wider range of goods, leading to a better lifestyle.The decline in inflation for farm and rural workers also come in the backdrop of a fall in the country's overall retail inflation to 3.34 per cent in March this year, compared to the same month of the previous year,

the lowest level since August 2019, according to figures released by the Ministry of Statistics earlier this month.Food Inflation during March slowed to 2.69 per cent which is the lowest level since November, 2021.The significant decline in headline inflation and food inflation during the month of March 2025 is

mainly attributed to decline in inflation of vegetables, eggs, pulses, meat and fish cereals and milk, according to the official statement.Retail inflation in the country has been on a declining trend in recent months.

The Reserve Bank's Monetary Policy Committee has reduced its inflation forecast for 2025-26 to 4 per cent from 4.2 per cent earlier as the "outlook for food inflation has turned decisively positive," RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said last week." Headline inflation moderated during January-February 2025 following a sharp correction in food inflation. The

outlook for food inflation has turned decisively positive. The uncertainties regarding rabi crops have abated considerably and the second advance estimates point to a record wheat production and higher production of key pulses over that last year," the RBI Governor said. He observed that along with robust kharif arrivals, this is expected to set the stage for a durable softening of food inflation."

The sharp decline in inflation expectations in our latest survey for three months and one year ahead would also help anchor inflation expectations, going ahead," he pointed out. Furthermore, the fall in crude oil prices augurs well for the inflation outlook. Concerns on lingering global market uncertainties and recurrence of adverse weather-related supply disruptions, however, pose upside risks to the inflation trajectory, the RBI Governor noted.

WAVES 2025 Transformig India in to a Global M&E Powerhouse

New Delhi, (PIB): Get ready for a landmark celebration of creativity, technology, and storytelling as WAVES 2025 - the World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit - takes center stage in Mumbai from May 1st to 4th. Hosted by the Government of India, this first-of-its-kind global event brings the spotlight to India's vibrant Media & Entertainment sector, transforming the Jio World Convention Centre into a dynamic hub of imagination, innovation, and opportunity. With over 100,000 registrations, including 1,100+ international participants, WAVES 2025 is where filmmakers, tech pioneers, creators, investors, and industry leaders come together to shape the future of entertainment.

From the legendary voices of Amitabh Bachchan and Shah Rukh Khan to the tech leadership of Satya Nadella and Sundar Pichai, the summit unites visionaries across sectors in a powerful showcase of talent and ambition.This is more than a summit - it's a movement to position India as a global creative and digital powerhouse. With exciting highlights like the Create in India Challenge, cutting-edge exhibitions, startup pitches, cultural performances, and high-

level dialogues, WAVES 2025 marks a bold step into the future-where culture meets code, and tradition meets transformation. The Create in India Challenge (CIC) is a strategic initiative aimed at empowering India's content creators. By providing a platform for innovation and creative expression, CIC seeks to strengthen India's creators' economy, enhance soft power, and position emerging talent for global recognition. The initiative supports monetization of skills and contributes to the growth of the media and entertainment industry.CIC brings an exciting lineup of 32 unique challenges across creative, tech and cultural fields.

Launched on August 22, 2024, it attracted massive participation from across India and around the world! The challenges have attracted entries from over 60 countries, reflecting the global appeal and reach of this pioneering initiative. From this exceptional pool of talent, 750 finalists will be given the opportunity to showcase their creative skills and outcomes at Creatosphere, a specially curated platform featuring innovation across animation, comics, AI, XR, gaming, music, and more, as part of WAVES 2025. The winners of

these challenges will be conferred the prestigious 'WAVES Creator Awards' in a grand red carpet ceremony on Day 2 of the event.WAVES Promo Video Challenge: A unique contest designed to discover powerful and inspiring audiovisual content that captures and showcases the spirit and ambition of the WAVES 2025, through a video. Truth Tell Hackathon: Tech innovators, data experts, and media professionals were called to develop AI solutions that tackle misinformation and promote credible journalism.

This exciting competition aims to celebrate and showcase the creativity, innovation, and impact of community radio stations across India. Participants worked on using data science, machine learning, and statistical modeling to create solutions that help advertisers make smarter, data-driven decisions. The goal was to maximize ROI and support marketing objectives. Aims to blend India's rich textile heritage with global fashion trends, offering an exciting challenge to advertising professionals and freelancers. It aims to nurture exceptional talent in Hindustani, Carnatic, and soulful Sufi music while preserving and promoting India's

rich musical legacy. Designed to push the limits of creativity and music, while promoting a sense of community, innovation and growth within the industry The event featured a diverse range of musical performances across various genres, celebrating the broad tastes of music lovers. Songwriters, singers, performers and music creators were invited to create and share a piece of music that resembles Indian classical music or a fusion of classical and contemporary music instruments and styles. Aims to spotlight and celebrate global talent in production of Electronic Dance Music (EDM), fostering collaboration, innovation, and creativity in music production and live performance.

This initiative aligns with the "Create in India" mission, showcasing India as a hub for global creativity and entertainment. Passionate drone pilots and filmmakers were invited to capture the breathtaking beauty and diversity of India in a 2-3 minute video, showcasing the country from the unique perspective of aerial drone cinematography. This competition focuses on encouraging and supporting innovative solutions created by local companies in fingerprinting

and watermarking technologies. Comic Making Competition for amateur and professional artists. WAVES Anime and Manga Challenge: An innovative initiative aimed at harnessing the growing interest in manga and anime in India.Animation Filmmakers Competition: Aimed at uncovering and empowering India's storytellers in the field of animation.Game Jam: An exciting opportunity for India's game developers to showcase their creativity and innovation.Esports Tournament: The eFootball and World Cricket Championship (WCC) competitions are held in batches, each offering thrilling matchups, with the champions being crowned at WAVES.City Quest: Shades of Bharat:

An educational game to celebrate Bharat's urban development.XR Creator Hackathon: Challenge that invites developers from across India to push the boundaries of augmented and virtual reality. Innovate2educate Handheld Device Challenge: Academia, designers, engineers, and innovators were invited to develop a prototype of an educational handheld device that makes learning math, solving puzzles, and boosting cognitive skills fun and interactive.AI

Avatar Creator Challenge: The challenge focused on creating AI avatars: personalized, interactive digital personas that engage with users like human influencers in virtual spaces.WAVES Awards Of Excellence: A prestigious competition recognizing outstanding showreels and AdFilms in animation, VFX, gaming, and related fields, celebrating creativity and innovation. Bharat Tech Triumph Program: A contest to identify and empower the top gaming and interactive entertainment innovators.

WAVES VFX Competition: Participants were tasked with creating a visual effects sequence or short film featuring a superhero with extraordinary powers, but using them in the context of everyday, mundane life. WAVES Comic Chronicles: This competition invited comic submissions on any chosen theme, requiring a minimum of 60 panels, with each image or scene representing a single panel. WAVES Explorer: Invited participants on a captivating journey to showcase India's rich cultural heritage and creativity. Participants created YouTube videos (up to 1 minute) or vlogs (up to 7 minutes) highlighting their favorite aspects of India.

Reel Making Competition: Participants were invited to create engaging reels on themes such as food, travel, fashion, dance, music, gaming, yoga & wellness and tech.Young Filmmakers Challenge: The competition aimed to foster innovation, storytelling skills, and digital literacy among young participants through a concise 60-second film format.Film Poster Making Competition: A unique opportunity to create innovative and visually compelling reimaged film posters to celebrate and promote the rich film poster heritage of India. Trailer Making Competition:

Filmmakers, both seasoned and emerging, were invited to craft compelling trailers using Netflix content, offering a chance to reimagine iconic scenes or highlight fresh perspectives. Unreal Cinematics Challenge: The Unreal Cinematics Challenge by TVAGA provided a platform for artists, animators, and content creators to showcase their storytelling and technical skills using Unreal Engine. WAVES Cosplay Championship:A grand celebration of pop culture, creativity, and craftsmanship, bringing together participants showcasing their talents on the final day. It highlights genres such as Indian history, manga, anime, comics and games.

Palak Tiwari recalls cyber-stalking a guy she found cute

Bollywood actor Palak Tiwari, who is recently busy with promotions of her upcoming film *The Bhootnii*, talked about her stalking skills.

Bollywood actor Palak Tiwari has often grabbed headlines due to her rumoured relationship with Ibrahim Ali Khan, but the two have maintained their stance of being just friends. However, in a recent interview with Zoom, Palak recalled her 'most sane story' about cyber-stalking a guy she thought was cute-and later ended up dating him.

Speaking about stalking a guy on Instagram, Palak said, "I'd say the most sane thing I've done... So there was this guy, and I was like, 'Oh sh*t, he's so cute.' When I spot a guy and I think he's cute, I need to know who he is. But I didn't know anything-not even his name, nothing, I had just seen him once and I knew I needed to find out." She added that the relationship worked out-until it didn't: "This person posted a story with him but didn't tag him. And they were following 2,000 people. You best believe

I scrolled through all 2,000 names to find his name and username. I sent it to my friend. This was just for me... I wouldn't have done it for anyone else. But yes, it did work out-until it didn't."

Palak made her grand Bollywood debut alongside Salman Khan in *Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan*, which also featured Raghav Juyal, Pooja Hegde, Shehnaaz Gill, Siddharth Nigam and others in key roles. The film failed to make a mark at the box office. She is now set to star in the

horror film *The Bhootnii*. Helmed by Sidhaant Sachdev and produced by Deepak Mukut and Sanjay Dutt, the horror film also stars Sanjay Dutt, Mouni Roy, Sunny Singh, Aasif Khan and Navneet Malik in key roles. The film is scheduled to hit theatres on 1 May and will clash at the box office with Ajay Devgn's *Raid 2*.

She added, "This person posted a story with him but didn't tag him. And they were following 2,000 people. You best believe I scrolled through

all 2,000 names to find his name and username. I sent it to my friend. This was just for me. I wouldn't have done it for anyone else. But yes, it did work out-until it didn't." Palak had made her big Bollywood debut with Salman Khan's *Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan*. The film also had Raghav Juyal, Pooja Hegde, Shehnaaz Gill, and Siddharth Nigam in pivotal roles. *Bhootnii* is directed by Sidhaant Sachdev and has Sanjay Dutt, Mouni Roy, Sunny Singh, Aasif Khan, and Navneet Malik in key roles.

Suriya's best wishes to teams *Raid 2*, *HIT 3* get heart-warming replies from Riteish, Nani



Retro, *Raid 2*, *HIT*: The Third Case and *Tourist Family* are all releasing in theatres on May 1 and actor Suriya sent best wishes to the other teams. Numerous films across the country are releasing on May 1 and actor Suriya sent best wishes to the rest of the teams. Apart from his film *Retro* with Karthik Subbaraj, this Thursday will also see *Raid 2* in Hindi, *HIT*: The Third Case in Telugu and *Tourist Family* in Tamil hit screens. Suriya's warm wishes received

sweet responses.

Suriya took to X (formerly Twitter) to wish the teams of *Raid 2*, *HIT 3* and *Tourist Family* good luck. He wrote, "Dearest Sasi & Simran, Nani, Ajay sir & Riteish, all the cast & crew of #TouristFamily #HIT3 #Raid2 Wishing you the bestest! #Anbannafans Lots of love and respect for your support for #Retro... May each of our films be a success & entertain the audience in theatres tomorrow." Riteish Deshmukh reposted his

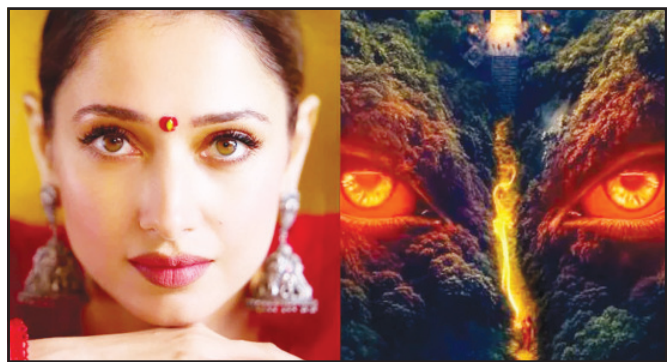
tweet, calling him a 'man with a large heart'. He wrote, "Best wishes to all our films - Bro man - you have a large heart @Suriya_offl - May all the films receive immense love from the audiences. #Nani, Sasi, Simran, #TouristFamily #Retro #HIT3 #Raid2." Nani also replied to him, writing, "Dear @Suriya_offl sir.

Karthik's *Retro* stars Suriya and Pooja Hegde in the lead roles and tells the story of a man with a violent past who promises to leave it all behind for his beloved and has no choice but to fight back when it all catches up to him. Sailesh Kolanu directs *HIT 3*, which sees Nani and Srinidhi Shetty in lead roles. It tells the story of a cop who finds himself challenged when tasked with solving mysterious murders. Raj Kumar Gupta's *Raid 2* sees Ajay Devgn, Riteish and Vaani Kapoor in lead roles. It follows the story of an Indian Revenue Service Officer facing off a politician.

First Look of Tamannaah & Sidharth's Folk Thriller *Vvan* Unveiled

Tamannaah has been roped in for the upcoming folk thriller, *Vvan-Force of the Forest*. She will share screen space with Sidharth Malhotra. On Wednesday, the makers announced the new development in an Instagram post. Production house Balaji Motion Pictures shared an introduction video of Tamannaah's character on their official handle.

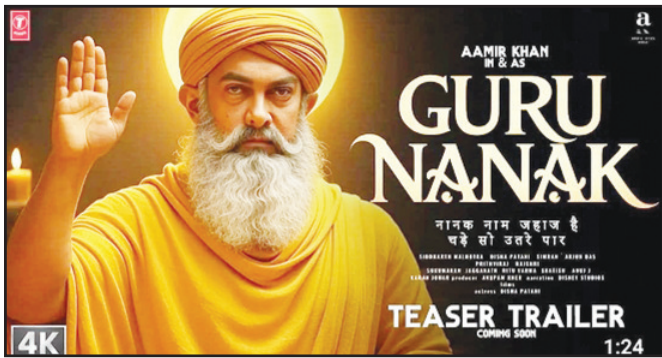
While her face wasn't visible in the clip, the actress was seen dressed in a red saree, running barefoot towards a forest. She even lights a lamp in her way and comes across a board which reads, "Warning: Entering the forest after sunset isn't allowed." The side note on the post read, "Rooted in Indian mythology and mysticism, *VVAN* - Force of the Forrest unfolds a tale straight from the pages of history and folklore. Delighted to welcome @tamannaahspeaks to this powerful narrative - a force in her own right, ready to



command the screen like never before." Pinkvilla had earlier reported that Tamannaah will join Sidharth Malhotra in *Vvan*. "Tamannaah is excited to step into the world of mythology, set in the central part of India. She will be undergoing a diction training with Sidharth Malhotra for her role in the film. *Vvan* will be shot in real locations, and the makers have already started the pre-production to identify the forest areas. A large chunk of this film is set in a forest," the source told the publication.

Directed by Arunabh Kumar and Deepak Kumar Mishra, *Vvan* is produced by Balaji Telefilms and TVF Motion Pictures. The film will release in theatres on Chhath next year. Meanwhile, Tamannaah was last seen in *Odela 2*. The actress is now busy shooting for *Ranger*, alongside Ajay Devgn. Sidharth Malhotra, on the other hand, will be seen in *Param Sundari* opposite Janvi Kapoor. The film will release on July 25, 2025.

Aamir to play Guru Nanak? Actor clears after 'teaser' creates row



On April 25, a YouTube channel with no official connection to any production house shared a 'teaser' of a Guru Nanak biopic with Aamir Khan in the lead role and Kareena Kapoor also starring. As many objected to the supposed film, some pointed out that the channel was not official and the teaser itself looked AI-generated.

Now, the actor himself has cleared the air and put an end to the controversy. An official statement from the actor's spokesperson states, "The poster showing Aamir Khan as

Guru Nanak is completely fake and AI generated. Aamir Khan has no connection to any such project. He holds the highest respect for Guru Nanak and would never be part of anything disrespectful. Please don't fall for fake news." A fake teaser, generated by AI, shows Aamir in the garb of the Sikh spiritual and religious leader. The teaser claims that the film has been bankrolled by T-Series even though the channel originally posting it has no official links to T-Series. It has since been shared widely on social media. The teaser sparked

controversy with a Bharatiya Janata Party leader in Punjab calling it a deliberate ploy to incite the Sikh community by showing a Muslim actor in the role of the Sikh guru. According to Dainik Bhaskar, BJP Punjab spokesperson Pritpal Singh Baliawal has filed a complaint with SGPC, also urging the Punjab Police, Cyber Cell, and security agencies to trace the perpetrators' IP addresses and make immediate arrests.

Aamir was last seen on screen in the 2022 release, *Laal Singh Chaddha*, which starred Kareena Kapoor alongside him. The official adaptation of the Oscar-winning film *Forrest Gump*, *Laal Singh Chaddha*, was a commercial failure. The actor will return to the big screen with *Sitaare Zameen Par* this year. The film is a spiritual successor to his 2008 hit, *Taare Zameen Par*. While no release date has been announced, the film is set to release sometime this year. It also stars Genelia D'Souza.

Kalinga Super Cup: Strong Second-Half Show Helps FC Goa Prevail over MBSG, Reach Final



Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : FC Goa prevailed over Mohun Bagan Super Giant, beating them 3-1 to progress to the final of the Kalinga Super Cup on Wednesday. The scores were tied 1-1 at half-time. Goals from Brison Fernandes (20'), Iker Guarrotxena (51' p), and Borja Herrera (58') sealed a comfortable victory for Manolo Márquez's side over Bastab Roy's young guns. The Gaurs, champions in 2019, will face the winners of the clash between Mumbai City FC and Jamshedpur FC in Saturday's final. In a blistering start, Goa constantly pressured Mohun Bagan's defence on the back foot, their high pressing and high-

speed game leaving the Mariners' midfield constantly out of position and disjointed.

To add to that, Goa also brought unpredictability to their set-piece routines, and in the 20th minute, Brison Fernandes capitalised on one to score the opener. From an improvised corner routine, Borja Herrera curled a perfect cross into the danger zone, for Brison to slightly glance into the far corner. Goa's lead didn't last too long, and Mohun Bagan were level within two minutes. Ashique Kuruniyan picked up a pass on the byline and, with a devastating turn of pace and skill, left the marking defender Boris Singh in

his wake before unleashing a low fizzing cross into the six-yard area. Suhail Bhat merely had to tap it in to create a carbon copy of his quarter-final goal against Kerala Blasters. The Gaurs came out with more energy, desire, and verve in the second half, and within a minute, Brison's driving midfield run and pass split the defence, delivering a perfect opportunity for Dejan Drazic on the left side of the box. The Serbian pulled his shot wide. Mohun Bagan's defence had gone absent, and it portended things to come. In the 50th, while running to a long ball in the same channel, an unmarked Drazic was brought down by a reckless

Dheeraj Singh challenge. The referee duly pointed to the spot, and Iker Guarrotxena made no mistake, sending the goalkeeper the wrong way to score. Dheeraj's evening got worse seven minutes later when he was badly caught under a Herrera corner, which flew over him and straight into the net. The Spaniard had threatened constantly with his curling corners and on this occasion found the perfect blend of curl and flight to outwit the goalkeeper.

The Mariners looked out of it, and yet they had a chance to reduce the deficit and create a fight when Salahuddeen ran clear from a Nuno Reis long ball, controlled it, went around the goalkeeper, and found himself facing an open net. He took a touch too many and pulled the trigger too late, allowing Goa's scrambling defence to issue a heroic block on the line. From thereon, it was merely all about game management, and Goa did that perfectly, even coming close to adding a fourth in the final minutes of the game. They didn't need to, progressing to the final and keeping their hopes of a first Asian campaign since 2021 and a second Super Cup title alive.

Bumrah Remains Top-Ranked Test Bowler in ICC Rankings

Dubai, (HS) : Zimbabwe's historic three-wicket win over Bangladesh in the first Test at Sylhet has rewritten parts of the ICC Men's Test Player Rankings. Leading the charge is pace sensation Blessing Muzarabani, whose nine-wicket match haul not only earned him the Player of the Match award but also catapulted him into elite company among Test bowlers.

With a new career-best rating of 705 points, Muzarabani became only the second Zimbabwean bowler in history to breach the 700-point mark in Test cricket-a rare feat that places him firmly in the top bracket. His effort lifted him four places to 15th in the latest ICC Test bowling rankings. Only India's Jasprit Bumrah continues to reign supreme at the top of the list. Adding to Zimbabwe's celebration, left-arm spinner Wellington Masakadza made a memorable return to the Test arena after more than two years. Masakadza picked up five wickets in the Sylhet Test and re-entered the Test bowling rankings in joint 68th place. But the Sylhet Test wasn't a one-sided affair-Bangladesh, despite the loss, saw several of their players reap rewards on the rankings table. Veteran off-spinner Mehidy Hasan Miraz, who claimed 10 wickets across both innings, climbed four places to 26th among Test bowlers.

In the batting department, it was a week of steady gains for Bangladesh's top-order performers. Mominul Haque's composed innings of 56 and 47 helped him climb five spots to 48th on the Test batting rankings, while emerging batter Jaker Ali made a significant jump of 10 places to reach 50th after his second-innings half-century.

Sara Tendulkar on Joining E-Cricket League

Mumbai, (HS) : Sara Tendulkar has always been close to cricket, not just as the daughter of legend Sachin Tendulkar, but as someone who grew up with the sport woven into her everyday life. Now, she's beginning to chart her path, joining the e-Cricket ecosystem, a space that blends tradition with technology, and the Sachin Tendulkar Foundation.



Happy Labour's Day

"A Worker is a creator and a great asset to every nation."



**Best Wishes from
Prakash Tripathy**

**President,
Paradip Port Mazdoor Sangh
&
Purba Upakula Shramik Sangh**



**Warm Wishes on
International Labour's Day**

"If you know how to work hard in life then you have the formula to be successful in life."

**Basant Biswal
Chairman,
Paradip Municipality, Paradip**