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English Daily



SC Trashes Plea to Implement NEP in TN, Kerala And Bengal



New Delhi, (HS) : The Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain a plea seeking direction to the states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and West Bengal to implement the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. A bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan opined that the apex court, in exercise of its writ jurisdiction, cannot directly compel any state government to adopt NEP.

"The court may, however, intervene if a state's action or inaction related to the National Education Policy violates any fundamental rights. We do not propose to examine this issue in this writ petition," said the Justice Pardiwala-led Bench as it dismissed the plea filed by advocate G.S. Mani, the petitioner-in-person. Referring to the media reports, the plea said that five states, namely Odisha, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Delhi, have not yet signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Union Ministry of Education, while 30 states and union territories (UTs) have done so. "Due to the change in government in Odisha and Union Territory of Delhi, only three remaining states, namely Tamil Nadu, Kerala and West Bengal have not signed the MOU with the Union government," it added. Further, the plea claimed that this MoU is necessary for the implementation of the National Education Policy and to receive funds of nearly Rs 13,000 crore over the next three years through the Centre's flagship scheme for state-run higher education. It said that the view of the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister that the NEP undermines social justice, attacks the Tamil language, and is against the interests of Tamil people and Tamil Nadu, is totally false, arbitrary, politically motivated and against the fundamental right to free and effective education and learning of other Indian languages of Tamil and other Indian Children. "The refusal or failure of the state

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PM Meets All 3 Service Chiefs Amid Heightened Tensions With Pakistan



New Delhi, (HS) : Prime Minister Narendra Modi, within a span of a few days, met the three service chiefs yet again on Friday as the India-Pakistan tensions escalated this week to the worst in nearly three decades.

On Wednesday, India launched air strikes under Operation Sindoor against targets in Pakistan that it said were "terrorist infrastructure", in response to a deadly attack on tourists in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam two weeks earlier. Twenty six people were killed in the Pahalgam attack. In response, Pakistan's armed forces launched multiple attacks using drones and other munitions along the entire western border on the intervening night of May 8-9, which were "effectively repulsed", the Indian

Army said today. The indigenously developed Akash surface-to-air missile air defence system has played a crucial role in thwarting Pakistani drone attacks targeting Indian assets on Thursday, according to defence officials. Officials further added that both the Indian Army and Air Force have deployed the missile system along the Pakistan border. "Pakistan Armed Forces launched multiple attacks using drones and other munitions along entire Western Border on the intervening night of 08 and 09 May. Pak troops also resorted to numerous ceasefire violations (CFVs) along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir. The drone attacks were effectively repulsed and a befitting reply was given to the CFVs. Indian Army

remains committed to safeguarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Nation. All nefarious designs will be responded with force," said the Army. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has carried out a comprehensive review of the national security scenario with the top military leadership, a day after Pakistan's attempts to target Indian military installations were repelled. In another development, the central government has empowered the Army Chief to call out "every officer and every enrolled person" of the Territorial Army (TA) to provide for essential guard or to be embodied to support or supplement the regular Army. The Centre has also asked all states to give emergency

procurement power to the heads of the civil defence authorities so that they can make the required purchases in case of an emergency situation.

On Thursday night, Pakistan targeted multiple cities, including military installations, with a volley of drones and missile attacks, however, all were repulsed by India's robust air defence system, and this left the Pakistani Army flustered and panicky. The women officers of the Indian Armed Forces informed that the forensic investigation of the wreckage of the drones is being done; however, "initial reports suggest that they are Turkish Asisguard Songar drones". Colonel Sofiya Qureshi said: "On the night of May 7 and 8, the Pakistani army violated Indian airspace several times over the entire western border with the intention of targeting military infrastructure. It also fired heavy-calibre weapons along the Line of Control. However, all their attempts were neutralised by us via kinetic and non-kinetic means." India launched 'Operation Sindoor', targeting terrorist base camps across the Line of Control (LoC) and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), to avenge the deadly terrorist attack in Pahalgam on April 22, in which 26 people were killed.

Odisha Govt Bolsters Security, Brings Back Students from Other States Amid India-Pakistan Tensions



Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : The Odisha government has heightened security measures at key locations in the state amid rising tensions between India and Pakistan. Chief Minister Mohan Majhi announced that the state government will facilitate the safe return of Odisha students pursuing studies in other states, particularly from Jammu.

A help desk has been set up at the office of the resident commissioner in New Delhi to assist students. Those returning from other states will be escorted to Bhubaneswar. "The government will facilitate the return of Odisha students pursuing studies in other states, especially from Jammu. A help desk has been set up at the office of the resident commissioner in New Delhi. Our students are being brought back from other

states to Delhi and then will be brought to Bhubaneswar," Majhi said. The government has also taken note of potential security threats, including possible attacks from the Bay of Bengal side, targeting important places like Chandipur and Puri. In response, both the central and state governments have tightened security measures. "There is a possibility of an attack from the Bay of Bengal side on important places like Chandipur and Puri. The central government and state government have tightened security," Majhi added. A review meeting is scheduled to discuss the situation in detail and determine the next course of action.

Another CM Majhi has initiated the process of honouring great sons and

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Odisha's '36 for 36' Initiative Targets 500 Billion Economy



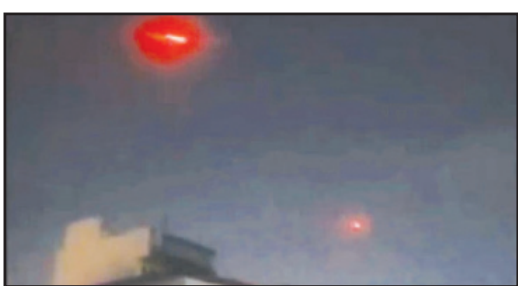
Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : By 2036, a prosperous Odisha will be established. For this purpose, 36 programs have been prepared. Odisha will be transformed into a \$500 billion economy. By 2036, steps will be taken to ensure that people at the lowest strata of society can access all basic facilities.

Speaking at a state-level 'Consultative Workshop' on 'Vision Odisha 2036 and 2047' held today at the Convention Hall of Lok Seva Bhawan, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi made these remarks. He described the vision document as a roadmap for the dreams of 4.5 crore Odias and a commitment to future generations. The Chief Minister stated that the preparation of the vision document is in its final stages,

with a draft already prepared. After consultations with experts, the final document will be finalized. Today's state-level workshop was followed by plans for three additional regional workshops in Sambalpur, Balasore, and Jeypore. The workshop saw participation from experienced administrators, educationists, public representatives, industry and civil society representatives, and prominent figures in Odisha's art, culture, and heritage, who shared their ideas and provided suggestions to the state government. The Chief Minister highlighted that 36 key programs have been identified to make a significant impact in critical sectors by 2036, under a strategic initiative called '36 for 36'. This initiative aims to

Continued P-4

Srinagar airport under drone attack, blasts heard



Srinagar, (HS) : Srinagar airport is under drone attack, it has been resumed. This comes after Pakistan resumed shelling along the Line of Control. There were also reports of drone being engaged in Samba, Pathankot and Jammu amidst a blackout in Jammu and Baramulla. Heavy shelling was also reported in Uri. A woman identified as Nargis Begum had been killed when a Pakistani shell hit a vehicle near Mohura in Uri on Thursday. CM Omar Abdullah, who is in Jammu, tweeted that "intermittent sounds of blasts, probably heavy artillery, can now be heard from where I am." Omar also

made an earnest appeal "to everyone in and around Jammu please stay off the streets, stay at home or at the nearest place you can comfortably stay at for the next few hours." "Ignore rumours, don't spread unsubstantiated or unverified stories and we will get through this together," the CM appealed. An uneasy calm had prevailed on Friday in Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, and other parts of the Valley following major escalation in India-Pakistan tension by Thursday night's (May 8, 2025) failed missile and drone attacks by Pakistan army in Jammu. In a major escalation, Pakistani forces had launched coordinated drone and missile attacks targeting civilian areas and military installations in Jammu on Thursday night. The Indian air defence systems responded swiftly, successfully intercepting and neutralising all eight missiles and multiple drones aimed at key targets, including the Jammu airport. 300 to 400 Turkish drones with civilian planes as cover to hit 36 sites, some of them religious centres. This was how Pakistan violated Indian airspace on the night of 8-9 May, the Ministry of External Affairs and the Indian Armed Forces had said in their briefing on Friday.

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ଟୀକାକରଣ

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୧୦ ସପ୍ତାହ (ଅଢେଇ ମାସ)	ଡିପିଜି-୨, ପେଣ୍ଟାଭାଲେଣ୍ଟ-୨, ଆରଜିଜି-୨
୧୫ ସପ୍ତାହ (ସାଢେ ତିନି ମାସ)	ଡିପିଜି-୩, ପେଣ୍ଟାଭାଲେଣ୍ଟ-୩, ଏଫଆଇପିଜି-୨, ଆରଜିଜି-୩, ପିପିଜି-୨
୯-୧୨ ମାସ	ଏଫଆଇ-୧, ଭିଟାମିନ୍-କ***, ପିପିଜି ଚୁଷ୍ମର, କେଲ-୧***ଏଫଆଇପିଜି-୩
୧୬-୨୪ ମାସ	ଏଫଆଇ-୨, ଭିଟାମିନ୍-କ***, ଡିପିଜି ଚୁଷ୍ମର-୧, ଓପିଜି ଚୁଷ୍ମର-୧, କେଲ-୨**
୫-୬ ବର୍ଷ	ଡିପିଜି ଚୁଷ୍ମର-୨
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ଗର୍ଭବତୀ ମହିଳା	ଟି.ଡି-୧, ଟି.ଡି-୨, ଟି.ଡି ଚୁଷ୍ମର*

* ଯଦି ୩ ବର୍ଷ ଭିତରେ ଚିଟି/ଟିଡି ଟୀକାର ଦୁଇଟି ମାତ୍ରା ନେଇଥିବେ ।

** କେବଳ କେଉଁ ପ୍ରକାର ଜିଲ୍ଲା ମାନଙ୍କ ନିମନ୍ତେ

*** ଭିଟାମିନ୍-କ, ୯ ମାସରୁ ଆରମ୍ଭ ହୋଇ ୫ ବର୍ଷ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ପ୍ରତି ୬ ମାସ ବ୍ୟବଧାନରେ ଦିଆଯାଏ ।

ଆପଣଙ୍କ ଶିଶୁ ନେଉଥିବା ଟୀକା ଗୁଡ଼ିକ ଯୁ-ଡ୍ରେନ୍ ପୋର୍ଟାଲରେ ଅପଡେଟ୍ କରନ୍ତୁ ।

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ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ଓ ପରିବାର କଲ୍ୟାଣ ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

facebook.com/HFWOdisha http://www.health.odisha.gov.in/ @HFWOdisha

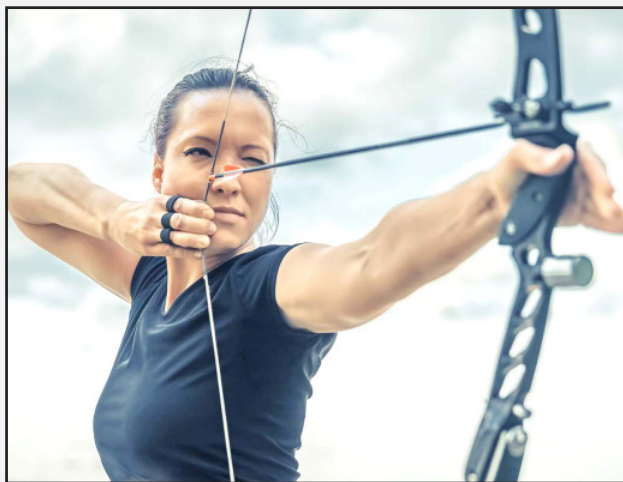
Rohit Sharma

Once New Zealand clean-swept India in the Test series in October, the first team to achieve the feat on home soil, Rohit Sharma's days as captain in the format seemed numbered. A loss of personal form hastened his goodbye from the format. He is an undisputed genius in the shorter version, a king of the 50-over format, a nawab of T20s, but in red ball, he was a commoner. 4,301 runs in 110 outings, an average of 40.57 and 12 hundreds - for someone with his dazzling gifts, determination and commitment, the figures capture the fits-and-starts nature of his long-form career. When he burst forth onto the global stage, in white-ball cricket, he was touted as the new torchbearer of the Mumbai school of batting, the inheritor of a heritage polished by Vijay Merchant and Vijay Manjrekar, Sunil Gavaskar and Sachin Tendulkar. But he fell short of embellishing their lineage. There was always a semi-tragic streak to his Test career, from a much-deferred debut owing to injuries. Had he utilised his breaks after his sensational entry into Tests, he could have ended up with far more glittering numbers and enriched batsmanship in the format, as he had in the white-ball arena. He possessed the most classic of strokes, a repertoire that most batsmen could only dream of, serenity that is the hallmark of legendary players, a bonus second to judge the length of the delivery, and the capacity to transcend playing conditions. A late dazzle did redeem his career to an extent, but his talents largely remained unfulfilled.

Similar was his captaincy record in Tests. Whereas he would be hailed as one of the greatest in the white-ball sphere - he moulded the team into an exhilarating bunch that reclaimed the T20 crown after 27 years and reached the 2023 World Cup final without losing a game - his leadership in Tests had its flaws. He won exactly half of the 24 Tests he led - the twin peaks being the series wins over England and Australia in India - but couldn't inspire his team to overseas series wins, like his predecessor Virat Kohli. The brand of captaincy was different - Kohli was all raging fire, Rohit had ice in his veins, the former wore his emotions on his sleeve, the latter resorted to one-liners and disenchanted shrugs. The comparisons to Kohli were unavoidable, and the disparity is most pronounced in Test cricket. While Kohli persevered and ascended to the heights of batting excellence, Rohit chose to withdraw to the lower levels during the journey.

10th May

Archery Day

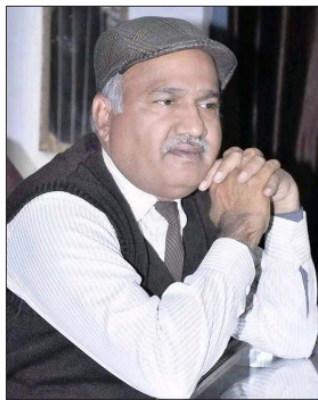


Archery Day is celebrated annually on the second Saturday in May and takes place on May 10 this year. Archery is a skill that defined human civilization at its early stages. It's been around for ages and, in a way, helped shape today's world. Archaeologists believe the use of bows and arrows started as early as 50,000 years ago. Early humans threw spears to kill their enemies. Soon, people found that it is easier if you use a bow and decrease the size of the spear. This tactic laid the foundation for archery. Bows and arrows soon dominated warfare and became an integral part of every ancient military unit. This holiday was created to celebrate archery in all its glory and educate people about the different facets of the sport.

Using a bow and arrow is the best way to hunt animals. The earliest use of arrows dates back to Africa, as far back as 72,000 to 60,000 years ago. Every civilization used some type of bow, which they developed independently. Archery provided a safe way to bring down big game from the comfort of a safe distance. Nations evolved out of early human settlements, and war became a common sight. A simple tool used for hunting soon turned out to be a deadly weapon of war. The Mongols invented composite recurve bows with lethal accuracy and ease of use. Genghis Khan's military used these bows lethally in their conquests and reduced kingdoms to wastelands.

In ancient warfare, archery was the pinnacle of projective weapons. It laid the foundation for modern warfare and helped shape the modern world. Regardless, only those with the strength to draw the bowstring and accuracy could become an archer. The invention of crossbows made it easy for anyone to be an archer. Around the seventh century B.C., the Chinese discovered crossbows. In his book, "Belopoeica" Greek author Heron of Alexandria describes the use of 'gastraphetes.' These are also a form of crossbow used in Greece as early as the fourth century B.C. In any form, archery defined warfare for thousands of years. Many wars were fought and won by archers, be it the horseback archers of the Mongols who decimated entire nations, the European longbow archers, or the crossbow users. Archers have helped shape warfare from a melee form to a long-range art. Modern warfare sees the decline of bows and arrows, but archery remains an inspiration for every modern weapon produced, from handguns to long-distance ballistic missiles fired from continents apart.

Agriculture knowledge missing from basic education



Vijay Garg

The most essential environment for the health of the body and mind. It also has the most important water and food. It can be readily available to human beings only when there is a proper arrangement of agriculture. In this way traditional agricultural system is mandatory in man's life. The official ambition of being focused only on the technical angle of political insolence, corruption and modern development in this country questioned the industries and left the agriculture sector neglected compared to it. Such neglect of farming-kisani had an impact on the Indian education policy. In the course of primary and secondary education, the subject-matter related to agriculture is invisible. There is nothing more about agriculture in primary education starting with mango from 'A' to Guava and 'Aa'. If agricultural knowledge-science will not be taught from a young age, how will children show interest in the subject when going to big classes.

In the entire twelve years period from first to class XII when children will be taught about agriculture and its various

undertakings, practical teaching-training will be provided and the opportunity to go to various workshops related to agriculture - work will be provided, only then will they be able to accumulate from the requisite knowledge about agricultural work. Only when this happens, their mind will be irrigated with farming. Children if not aware of the adoption of pure dieting, the major reason is that they were not educated in this regard in schools from childbearing only. That is why they are not even aware of the properties-defects of major crops of agricultural class, food grains, fruit-flowers, forest-flora and drugs and possibly the reason why they are prone to bad habits of catering. In home or schools they are formally informed in this context only. Parents, teachers and policy- Niyanta only when neglecting agriculture sector, how can children gain knowledge about this as expected. Man's of this period is the misfortune of life that forest areas are being cut on the day that comes for various projects related to industries, offices and progress. This is how agriculture sector is decreasing daily itself. Nature's imbalance has been in the center of public concern for many decades only. Public life expectancy is becoming unsafe due to natural imbalance. The distortions of the season are coming out in a fierce form. The earth, the sky, the water, the air and the fire all these elements are getting maline every day. As a result the crop cycle of the earth has deteriorated. Natural power of crops is almost exhausted. Food grain production has been completely dependent on artificial, chemists mixed and toxic



fertilizers and manure. Traditional and natural food grains seeds are on the verge of extinction. Village, village-life, rural arrangements are at their final stage. Science is becoming a curse. There is spread insecurity of problems, diseases and epidemics generated by modern life around. Man is ignorant of what is the natural joy of life. Each food and beverage is filling her with incurable diseases rather than nourishing the body. As many agricultural schools, colleges, universities and other educational-training institutions in the country, the reading of agricultural subjects is taking place and as many experimental training as possible, but they are somewhere devoid of natural elements of knowledge. Such reading has been briefed on yen-ken-prakara artificial agriculturalism for the upliftment of agricultural sector. Chemical substances are being resorted to for the preservation and production of seeds, manure and crops. As the practice of experiment on seeds in agricultural institutions, establishments and enterprises has been being

practiced for a few decades, some harmful elements in agricultural products have been permanently reaching. Since this process has become years old and every person associated with agriculture does not have to do more physical and mental labour in it, innovative efforts are not being made to completely harmless the product in it. At last its unpredictable outcome is facing man's physique. Apart from this, traders are selling adulterated and poisonous grains in the unorganized areas of villages, cities metros. The business of life-threatening chemicals having grains is also increasing in the same quantity.

Instead of banning and controlling such anti-human trading, industrial activities, governments are encouraging to open unaccounted private hospitals under the guise of treating people who are permanently ill by eating adulterated grains. What kind of responsibility is being carried out by keeping children deprived of agricultural education, by relying on adulterated grain and finally on the will of private hospitals to

treat damaged organs from toxic food? This question is hurting every sensitive person in the country badly. When man's body-mind will be unhealthy by eating unnatural grains, the society will only thrive and spread practices containing malpractices in the family. Governments have to take necessary steps to eliminate such anti-human, unhealthy and life-threatening circumstance. It has to be started in primary and secondary schools by increasing topics related to nature, environment and agriculture work. Passing XII examination annually, many students are taking admission in colleges for teaching-training of fields such as technology and mechanics. Humanities, forestry, agriculture, etc. have been from the beginning in uninterested pupils of pursuing higher education in life as required and directly connected areas. The reading environment of schools has to be changed to the extent that children can be familiar with the importance of natural life. They have to link farming- kisani's bookkeeping principles as well as practical agricultural works. When this type of school practice for fifty hundred years to come will be concluded with one obligation every year, then it can be hoped that man will receive a pure diet. natural This is the solution left now to reinvent man-life. This remedy will also be able to revive the world's overall natural ecology only when primary education throughout the world highlights the importance, utility, and specialty of agriculture.

*Retired Principal Educational
Columnt Street kour Chand
MHR Malout Punjab*

If You Tease US, We Won't Let You Go

Uma Shankar Prasad

A common definition of terrorism is the systematic use or threatened use of violence to intimidate a population or government for political, religious or ideological goals. India ranked 13th on the Global Terrorism Index. India continues to face a number of terror attacks from Islamist separatist groups in Kashmir, Sikh separatists in Punjab and secessionist groups in Assam. The regions with long term terrorist activities have been Jammu and Kashmir, east-central and south-central India (Naxalism) and the Seven Sister states. National Security Advisor M K Narayanan said as many 800 terrorist cells are operating in the country. Terror attacks caused 231 civilian deaths in 2012 in India. Compared to 11,098 terror caused deaths worldwide. An act of terror in India includes any international act of violence that cause death, injury or property damage, induces fear and is targeted against any group of people identified by their political, philosophical, ideological, racial, ethnic, religious or any other nature.

The Significance of India's Strike on Muridke in Pakistan:- Lashkar -e-Taiba is believed to be behind the April 22 attack in Baisaran near jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgalam, in which 26 people were killed."Pakistan again and again violates the Ceasefire Agreement Gali in Poonch- Rajauri area. Indian army is responding appropriately in a calibrated manner" as informed by ADG Public Information. In the early hours of Wednesday morning , India launched a military operation



targeting terrorist infrastructure across Pakistan and Pakistan occupied Kashmir. The operation , codenamed Operation Sindoor, involved a tri-services deployment of air, naval, and land-based assets. It is the most expansive cross-border precision strike carried by India since the Balakot operation in 2019. The mission was a response to the April 22 Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir terror attack, where 26 civilians including a serving Indian Navy officer and a Nepali national were killed. The attacks were linked to Pakistan-based Laskar-e-taiba, a terror group that has been alleged from Pakistani government. India gave 15 days time to Pakistan to take drastic action against the Terrorist who are remaining under the shadow of Pakistan. But the action of Pakistan appears to be dismal. Rather the terrorist group get logistical and financial support from the Pakistan government. Lastly India Planned for operation Sindoor and nine separate sites were struck during Operation Sindoor, four located in mainland

Pakistan and five in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. As per the version of Ministry of Defence no Pakistani military installations were targeted, instead all sites were selected based on their verified use as operational centres by banned terrorist groups.

Operation Sindoor, India's swift and surgical counterstrike after the Pahalgam terror attack, was the result of detailed planning by the government and the security establishment over the past two weeks. The goal was to break the backbone of the terror outfits operating from Pakistan, while ensuring no damage to military installations and keeping civilian casualties to a minimum. The 25 minute attack eliminated 70 terrorists and left 60 others injured. Thanks to Prime Minister Narendra Modi who postponed his 3 nation tour and advised for launching Operation Sindoor on today morning attacking nine terror camps in Pakistan and POK with a message " If you tease us, we won't let you go".

Columnist, Khorda

What does it really mean, to be Indian ?

Dr. Gurupada Mishra

There is, now more than ever, a need for Indians to reflect on their identity and redefine themselves instead of continuing to emulate only western thoughts and behaviours. Indian languages, literature, spiritual and cultural heritage are all second to none. Indian heritage is indeed a strong confluence of Hindu, Islamic, Buddhist, Zoroastrian and many other thoughts. Even though our heritage is a rich mix, we cannot ignore the fact that the roots of our spirituality come from refined philosophical thoughts we have inherited, mostly from Vedic traditions.

Everything that we see in this creation is manifestation of one reality which appears in different names and forms. What is known as 'Hindu' culture is deeply rooted in the Vedic vision of oneness which makes us revere rivers, Sun, Moon, trees, animals and accept people of all the different faiths and cultures. The loss of knowledge of our spiritual and cultural heritage originating from Vedas, in the name of secularism, has resulted in intolerance, and spread of narrow views that have increased division and dissatisfaction amongst different ethnic and religious groups within the country. Most intellectuals seem to think that Hindu identity needs to be curbed in order for India to move forward. Whereas, proponents of Hindutva, in their desperate attempt to save Hindu culture, are spreading the message of hatred that actually does not represent the true, all-encompassing nature of

Hinduism. Both the intelligentsia and proponents of Hindutva need to revisit their beliefs. The answer lies in reviving our Vedic spiritual heritage, inherent in which is the vision of oneness. Reviving such thoughts, taking ownership and acknowledging their profundity would naturally lead to tolerance and celebration of diversity.

India has the potential of being a thought leader and change-maker, who shows the world that there is one country and culture in which people of different religions, cultures, languages and customs can live in harmony, because of its underlying philosophical and cultural values. For this to materialise, we need a new set of intelligentsia who build a new identity of Indians based on acknowledging inherent depth and profundity of Indian thoughts and traditions which include Vedic vision. Only when persons of high calibre put forward refined thoughts to demonstrate the value of Indian literature, music, philosophy and culture, can India get free of decades of conditioning that makes some of us believe in only western superiority, which makes us curb any expression of pride in our heritage. India is at a crossroads. We can use our creativity and reshape our identity based on deep strengths of our traditions and thoughts that promote tolerance and acceptance. If we don't, we would continue embracing alien cultures and values only, while rejecting everything Indian as being orthodox and superstitious.

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SCBM, Cuttack*

Puspamitra Mohapatra

A man did not want his shadow. He discovered that it always came along with him, haunting him every second. He said to himself "I will bury this shadow. I must rid myself of it." He dug a deep pit. He looked into it and found his shadow at the bottom of the pit. He was exceedingly pleased. He made haste to fill the pit with mud. As he shoved mud into it, he

Shadow and Substance

found to his dismay that the shadow was coming up. Quickly he filled the pit, but the shadow was again on top of it! He gave up this task! He now wanted to run away from his shadow. He began to run but ran away from the sun, in the opposite direction. He now found that his shadow was running a head of him

and he could not overtake it, however fast he ran. He then turned round that began to run towards the sun. He was happy now that he was able to overtake his shadow he was running a head of it. But no, he still could not get rid of it. Finally, he lay down facing the sky. He turned to his left and

right to see if the shadow was anywhere. No, he had lost it. Now he slept peacefully. Even so, "I" ness and "mine"-ness follow man everywhere, dogging his footsteps. Egoism comes on top of all that the aspirant does to bury it and destroy it. It runs ahead of him as he starts running away from it. Pride of

learning, pride of austerities, pride of service, pride of being humble it takes any number of forms. When he starts running towards God, then it is left behind. When he surrenders himself to God totally, it is completely vanquished. He is now at peace with himself. He is free of cares, worries and anxieties. He enjoys unbroken bliss and joy.

*Advocate, Orissa High Court,
Cuttack*

Vedanta Aluminium showcases its extensive women development initiatives at ICC INWEC Business Mela 2025

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, presented a vivid demonstration of its transformative initiatives for the development of women at the ICC INWEC Business Mela 2025. The event, focused on celebrating women entrepreneurs and leaders across Odisha, was organised here by the Indian National Women Entrepreneurs Council (INWEC) under the aegis of the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC).

Vedanta showcased a diverse range of products designed, developed and marketed by innovative women entrepreneurs from the several Self Help-Group (SHG) projects supported by the company. These include Project Subhalaxmi in Jharsuguda, among Odisha's largest SHG projects with 5000+ members, Project Sakhi in Lanjigarh with nearly 5000 members and Project Unnati in Chhattisgarh with 5800+ members. These products reflected the diverse impact of the company's efforts, featuring Saura art paintings and Dhokra figurines from Kalahandi, Gonkra art paintings and traditional snacks from Korba,



and terracotta statues and natural honey from Jharsuguda, all manufactured by the numerous women entrepreneurs supported by Vedanta. Speaking at the event, Sunil Gupta, COO, Vedanta Aluminium, said, "India's full potential can only be harnessed if its women are provided with equitable opportunities for progress.

At Vedanta Aluminium, we are achieving this by ensuring that our roles are gender agnostic and that all hiring is based on skill and aptitude above any other factors. Further, we are committed to the empowerment of women within our communities by facilitating multiple developmental avenues, such as skill training, entrepreneurship, and access to

improved healthcare." Three of Vedanta's women employees were also felicitated at the event for achieving extensive contributions in their respective fields. These included Sindhu Pandre, Head of Operations at the all-women potline in Vedanta's aluminium smelter in Jharsuguda;

Sasmita Samal, Head - Technical Cell; and Bhumika Khare, Lead - Advanced Analytics at the Lanjigarh alumina refinery. Their recognition reflects the diverse employment opportunities increasingly available to women in a largely male-dominated industry. Vedanta Aluminium has also undertaken several initiatives designed to help women build sustainable livelihoods and become key

growth contributors within their local communities. For instance, since its inception in 2008, the Subhalaxmi Cooperative has played a pivotal role in equipping women with industry-relevant skills, providing them with market access, and enhancing their business acumen. It focuses on financial inclusion of women through microfinance loans and easy access to credit. Further, Vedanta Aluminium undertakes regular health camps and menstrual awareness campaigns in rural areas to ensure women have access to suitable healthcare even in the remotest areas of the state.

Together, these efforts are enabling women in diverse spheres to take independent charge of their progress. INWEC was established in 2020 to empower, educate, and elevate women entrepreneurs, with members ranging from industry leaders to small/medium enterprise owners to grassroots changemakers. The event was an ideal platform to highlight the extensive efforts undertaken by Vedanta Aluminium in this regard, both within its operations and across its communities.

'Sudarshan Chakra' Created At Puri Beach To Salute Armed Forces

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): Renowned sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik created a sand sculpture of 'Sudarshan Chakra' with the message "Jai Hind, Salute to Indian Armed forces" at Puri beach in Odisha on Friday.

His sand sculpture is not just a tribute to the valour of Armed forces but also symbolises the country's impregnable air defence system, which neutralised all the missiles and projectiles from across the border and safeguarded every inch of territory from coming under attack. Indian Air



Force's defence system has been powered by S-400 air missile defence systems, often touted as 'Sudarshan Chakra'.

They were instrumental in knocking down all the Pakistani drones and missiles fired towards 15 Indian cities, thwarting Islamabad's attempt to damage

military installations. Not a single projectile and missile fired by Pakistan could land on target on Thursday night, as the Russian imported S-400 defence system along with the indigenous Akash defence system effectively repulsed every attack.

Pattnaik created a 10 feet long Sudarshan Chakra at Puri beach to celebrate the success of India's air defence system. He used about 8 tonnes of sand for erecting the sand sculpture. His students also joined him in completing the sculpture. "We salute our Indian

armed forces and all Indians are with them, Jai Hind," said Sudarsan Pattnaik in a message. Notably, the Padma awardee artist Sudarsan has participated in more than 65 International sand sculpture championships and festivals around the world and won many prizes for the country.

He remains at the forefront in spreading awareness message through his sand art on issues of public interest like HIV/AIDS, Covid-19, global warming, Stop Terrorism, Beat Plastic pollution, Save Environment etc.

Chief Secretary urges swift civil defence measures, boost in volunteer engagement across Odisha



Bhubaneswar, (DMC): In light of heightened India-Pakistan tensions, Odisha Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja has called on officials to accelerate civil defence preparedness and significantly enhance volunteer participation across the state. Chairing a high-level meeting on Thursday at Lok Seva Bhawan, Ahuja emphasized the need to strengthen civil defence infrastructure at the grassroots level. The discussions revolved around expanding the civil defence volunteer base across districts and improving their operational and training capacities. Special focus was

given to the strategic deployment of volunteers in densely populated urban slums, where rapid response is crucial during emergencies. Officials also discussed improving service delivery training for these volunteers to ensure an efficient response during disasters. Senior officials present at the meeting included Home Department Principal Secretary Satyajit Sahu, Director General of Police, Fire Services Director Dr. Sudhanshu Sarangi, and OSDMA Executive Director Dr. Kamal Lochan Mishra. District Collectors and Revenue Divisional Commissioners

(RDCs) from regions such as Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Khurda, Angul, Sambalpur, and Sundargarh joined the meeting virtually to share insights on local volunteer availability and future requirements. The Chief Secretary praised the critical role civil defence volunteers play in managing emergencies - from rescue and relief operations to fire support, sanitation, and rehabilitation.

He urged officials to further strengthen coordination between civil defence volunteers and organizations like the National Service Scheme (NSS), Scouts and Guides, Nehru Yuva Kendra, and the Red Cross. Officials were also advised to conduct public awareness campaigns in vulnerable areas to educate residents on disaster readiness. District authorities were encouraged to act swiftly on the suggestions provided and ensure that Odisha remains well-prepared for any unforeseen crisis.

Sanjay Singh appointed as Principal Secretary of Works Department as Odisha govt gives new charges to these IAS officers

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): Sanjay Kumar Singh, a 1997-batch IAS officer has been appointed as the Principal Secretary of Works Department, informed the General Administration & Public Grievance (GA&PG) Department today.

As per the notification issued by the department, Sanjay Kumar Singh, the present Principal Secretary of Rural Development Department with additional charge of Principal Secretary to Government, Information & Public Relation Department and Principal Secretary of Food Supplies & Consumer

Welfare Department, has been appointed as Principal Secretary to Government, Works Department. Singh is also has been allowed to remain in additional charge of Principal Secretary of Information & Public Relation Department and Principal Secretary of Food Supplies & Consumer Welfare Department.

Likewise, 2008-batch IAS officer Yamini Sarangi, the Commissioner of Commercial Taxes & GST with additional charge of Special Secretary of Finance Department is also allowed to remain in additional charge of Commissioner-cum-

Secretary of Rural Development Department. In a similar development, the Odisha government also relieved 1996-batch officer Vir Vikram Yadav, the Principal Secretary of the Works Department with additional charge of Commissioner, Trade Promotion and Investment and Member Secretary.

Odisha State Commission for Backward Classes with immediate effect to enable him to join his new assignment as Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi.

IIT Bhubaneswar, TCS iON launch certificate programme on cloud systems & infrastructure management



Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhubaneswar and TCS iON have signed an MoU to launch a certificate programme on Cloud Systems and Infrastructure Management on Thursday.

The MoU was signed between Prof. Dinakar Pasla, Dean (Sponsored Research and Industrial Consultancy), IIT Bhubaneswar and V. Ramaswamy, Global Head, TCS, iON, in the presence of Prof. V. Pandu Ranga, Dean (Continuing Education), IIT Bhubaneswar and Dr. Padmalochan Bera,

programme coordinator. On behalf of TCS iON, Aditi Srivastava, Academic Alliance Lead; Abhijit Lahiri, Product Manager, Learning Programs-Higher Education and Debashis Roy,

Domain Consultant Learning Programs-Higher Education were also present on the occasion, along with senior faculty members and staff of IIT Bhubaneswar. This programme will cover theoretical, practical and applied use cases in the fields of cloud systems and related technologies. Internationally acclaimed

academicians, researchers and industry professionals with proven knowledge, experience and demonstrable ability in the field of cloud computing and AI will conduct sessions in this programme.

This programme will allow freshers, mid-career professionals and entrepreneurs to gain foundational skills and applied domain knowledge in the areas of cloud systems and infrastructure management. This will also open possibilities of different research collaborations between TCS and IIT Bhubaneswar.

Odisha State Beverages Corporation Launches Central CCTV Monitoring System

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): Excise Minister Prithviraj Harichandan inaugurated several key initiatives at the Odisha State Beverages Corporation office. These include the Central CCTV Monitoring System, Auto Indexing Approval System, and connectivity with the government treasury.

The new systems will enable the four stores of the Odisha State Beverages Corporation to monitor the head office's workings in real-time, streamlining operations. Minister Harichandan also emphasized the importance of creating awareness among youth against intoxicant consumption, aligning with the new excise policy. During the event, an annual Memorandum of



Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Odisha State Beverages Corporation and the Excise Department. The MoU focuses on excise revenue collection and programs to be implemented in the current financial year. The Odisha State Beverages Corporation contributed Rs 12 crore to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund, in

addition to an internal dividend of Rs 25 crore and an annual dividend of Rs 14 crore. The event was attended by Excise Department Secretary Guha Punam Tapas Kumar, Managing Director Ambar Kumar Kar, General Manager Sanjay Kumar Rout, Chief Operations Manas Ranjan Swain, and other officers and employees of the Corporation.

Nurses serve as soldiers on the frontline: SOA VP

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): Nurses serve the society as soldiers on the frontline often making significant personal sacrifices, Saswati Das, Vice-President of Siksha 'O' Anusadhan (SOA), said on Friday. "Nurses are known for their selfless service and sacrifices for which they are to be hailed."

Das said while speaking as chief guest at the concluding program of the International Nurses Week organised by the Institute of Medical Sciences and SUM Hospital, faculty of medicine of the SOA Deemed to be University here. Das made particular reference to the role played by nurses in the health



camps organised by SUM Hospital saying the organization of the nurses week was a tribute to the role played by them. The program was organised ahead of the

International Nurses Day celebrated on May 12. Dr. Mamata Acharya, Principal of the SCB Nursing College at Cuttack, who attended the program as chief speaker, urged

the nurses to continue to serve the society with dedication and commitment. Prof. (Dr.) Soumya Ranjan Dash, Dean in-charge of IMS and SUM Hospital and Prof. (Dr.) Pusparaj Samantasinghar, Medical Superintendent of the hospital who also addressed the gathering, described nurses as the backbone of the healthcare system.

Minati Mishra, Nursing Superintendent, presented the welcome address while Sobha Manjari Samal, Additional Nursing Superintendent, also spoke. Kaberi Rani Sahu, Deputy Nursing Superintendent, proposed the vote of thanks.

District Level Natural Calamity Committee Meeting - 2025 Held

Khordha, (DMC): The District Level Natural Calamity Committee Meeting-2025 was held in the Zilla Parishad Conference hall Khordha under the chairmanship of Collector, Chanchal Rana. In this meeting, MLA, Khordha, Prasanta Kumar Jagdev, Zilla Parishad, President, Ms. Rupshree Rani Guman Singh, Vice-President, Gopinath Maharana, were prominent participants. MLA, Prasanta Kumar Jagdev in his speech said, that "Along with preparing a draft long-term action plan, the waterlogging & flood problems of Salia Dam, Begunia, Bolgarh, Sargaon, Saru, Banki Tulpipur & Pradhan Sahi will have to be resolved.

If we can successfully prevent disasters, our economy will be strengthened & the dream of a developed country, developed state, developed district & developed village will come true. All of us, regardless of party affiliation, to work with enthusiasm & sincerity while maintaining brotherhood & to fulfill that goal. ADM, (Revenue) Safalya Mandit Pradhan presented the pre & post disaster management programs in the meeting. Control room, rain gauge station repair, rainfall



measurement & reporting at regular intervals, joint investigation of weak rivers & canal embankments & sandbags are being kept by the Irrigation dept. to deal with flood situation, repairing weak places, temporary shelters in flood and cyclone prone areas, boats, power boats, fire fighting services are available, clean drinking water,

DG, sets are being made available, water drainage in BMC & rural areas, food items, medicines, snake bite injections are being made available in remote areas, ample medicines & ORS are being made available in each primary and community health centers. Storage of packets, bleaching powder, cow dung, human food, rice, dry food in flood-hit areas, road repair, relief, rescue work, provision of all facilities in cyclone shelters,

allocation of helipads & airdrops of food items, formation of ODRAF & NDRAF teams, engagement of Civil Defense, Self Help Groups, Panchayati Raj institutions to provide services to the public during possible floods, cyclones, natural disasters and to expedite rescue work were discussed in detail. Similarly, keeping mobile numbers of all officials, providing rain gauge reports, details of national highway roads, rural development departments, whether each anganwadi center is in good condition or not, Collector has ordered the concerned officers to conduct an investigation with the departmental officers and submit a report. Collector has also ordered the concerned officers to clean Bolgarh town & submit the investigation report on the boat

sinking by the 23rd of this month. Similarly, the Collector has ordered the BDO to submit the final status of the Tangi, Chilika, boats & life jackets. The Sub-Collector & the Tahasildar will jointly conduct raids and cancel the boats without licenses & submit a report to the Collector on whether the power boats are in good condition or not. The Collector has ordered the TPCODL, BMC, to keep generators available in each block office & properly manage the electricity supply service. The Collector has ordered the DEO, to provide a list of school houses where temporary shelters will be provided & directed the concerned officers to patrol the line cutting areas in Bolgarh, Banpur areas.

Similarly, since internet access is disrupted in Baliana block, Collector has ordered to fix it immediately and has directed all departments to maintain zero casualty. The meeting was attended by Sub-Collector, Bhubaneswar, Dr. Manoranjan Sahu, Sub-Collector, Khordha, Kishore Kumar Panda, Education, Health, Transport, Agriculture, Tahasildars & BDOs of the district, BMC, NACs & Municipal Councils, Bank, BSNL, district level officers were attended the meeting.

Commemoration of the First Death Anniversary of Eminent Educationist Late Jadunath Mohanty



Balasore, (DMC): The first death anniversary of the renowned educationist and social worker, Late Jadunath Mohanty, was observed at Durga Garden Kalyan Mandap, Balasore, in the presence of a large gathering. Late Mohanty had served for many years as the Headmaster of Jawaharlal High School, Badakhaladi, Mayurbhanj. He was also the Secretary of the Mayurbhanj unit of the Odisha Secondary School Teachers' Association (OSSTA), President of the Private University Association, Principal of Sathya Sai Vidyavihar, Balasore, and Founder-President of Kamala Arjun College and the Health and

Veterinary Centres at Gandibed. Additionally, he was the lifetime President of Asutosh Maharaj College, Baripada, and was associated with several social and religious institutions. He was also linked to organizations like the Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Vanavasi Kalyan Ashram. Dignitaries present at the memorial meeting included Additional Secretaries to the Chief Minister, Odisha, Dr. Chitrasen Raut and Dr. Umesh Tripathy, Shri Arun Kumar Biswal (Head of State Transport Department), Shri Kushal Pal Singh (IPS), DCP, Delhi, Satyabrata Mishra (GM, GAIL, Angul), Himanshu Panda

(Assistant Director, ITR, Chandipur), noted journalist from Arunachal Pradesh Pradeep Kumar, retired administrative officer Jagannath Biswal, eminent educationist Rabinarayan Acharya, State Awarded Teacher Jugal Kishor Sahu, Srushtidhar Biswal (State Prachar Pramukh, RSS), social worker Umakanta Pattnaik,

Dr. Arunima Nayak (Sathya Sai Organization), Dr. Sachidananda Parida (President, Alumni Association, Jawaharlal High School), social worker Satish Chandra Behera, alumni members Bhimasen Sahu, Baidhar Behera, Bijay Nayak, Anjan Nayak, Bidyadhar Behera, Dr. Santosh Mohanty, and Muktirani Das. The meeting was conducted by Ashish Kumar Mallik and concluded with a vote of thanks from Smt. Jemamani Sethi. On this occasion, the family donated 2,00,000 to Jawaharlal High School to establish an annual scholarship, and 10,000 each was granted to Gayatri Parivar, Udala and Seva Bharati, Balasore as financial donations.

MGNREGS Scam in Thikpali Panchayat in Nuapada District : Money withdrawn in names of fake workers

Nuapada/Khariar Road, (DMC): MGNREGS Scam has surfaced at Babupali village under Thikpali Gram Panchayat of Komna Block in Nuapada District. Money has come in bank account of the non-workers. Money is deposited in the names of many people who do not work under NREGA works. As per the allegations of the Babupali villagers, in 2022-23 a pit (farm pond) was excavated using a JCB machine in the name of Balkrushna Majhi. In 2023-24, the bill has been passed again by showing the same work in the name of his mother.

In connivance with GRS and Gaon Sathi the same work has been billed twice. In allegations letter it has been mentioned that from 2021-22, many works have been done under MGNREGS scheme in the village Babupali. Gaon Sathi has also given job Card in the name of his family members and got money deposited in their bank account. Even in the names of 49 old age pensioner's and non-workers the money has been withdrawn without doing works. After taking a high level investigation into the incident, The villagers of the Babupali have made demands near the district administration to take strict action against the guilty officer and employees.

Snehlata - Sarat Routray Memorial Trust celebrates World Mother's Day



Puri, (DMC): World Mother's Day was celebrated on behalf of Snehlata- Sarat Routray Memorial Trust in the youth hostel premises on C T Road. Presided over by The President of the Organization Mr. Lalatendu Mishra, the day was inaugurated by Senior Social Worker and President of Bhubaneswar Dudnu Foundation Smt. Vandana Harichandan as the Chief Guest by lighting a lamp to The Lord.

The world's best amulya nidhi is the mother and her affection! Mrs. Harichandan said in her speech that who can pay the price of her renunciation.! One of the guests, State Award winning

poetess Ms. Sucheta Mishra as the keynote speaker highlighted the features of celebrating World Mother's Day! One of the guests of honour was Mr. C. B. Smt. Rajshree Mishra, former Deputy Legal Advisor, I. Kolkata, Ms. Rajshree Sahu, Announcer of All India Radio Puri, Smt. Savitri Khuntia, Senior Servitor, said in their speeches that no matter how much they praise the mother or daughter-in-law,

it will be less! Santosh Barik, Sanghamitra Pattanayak, Jyotirekha Mishra etc. sang beautiful songs on the mother at the festival! On the occasion of this day, the winners of the

essay competition organized by the children at the college level were felicitated with shields and certificates by the guests! The contestants were 1st - Shriman Chandan Sahu, 2nd - (Joint) Ms. Anwesha Roy and Ms. Sonali Mahala, 3rd - Ms. Gayatri Bhoi. Smt. Ambika Pattnaik, the perfect mother in running a beautiful family, was also specially felicitated with certificates and uttarayas! Secretary Advocate Rachita Routray read out the annual report and explained why today's day is dedicated to mother!

Sr. Advocate Bansidhar Routray, Journalist Laxminarayan Pattnaik, Smt. Pramila Singh, Kanchan Shukla, Advocate Shukla Rai, Banita Barik, Advocate Sasmita Rath, Advocate, Singer Sarvani Das, Kalpana Muduli, Kuni Sahu, Supriti Shukla, Bidhubhushan Nayak, Sagarika Pal were present on the occasion. Finally, poet Krishna Mohapatra thanked the festival and organized the meeting!

Valuable Materials Theft from Oldest BNPalace : Case Registered at Paralakhemundi MPS

Paralakhemundi, (DMC): At Paralakhemundi Model Police Station (MPS) a case registered on theft of valuable materials. Due to lack of care & protection such lackluster stealing made. Whole boundary & building looking hazardous which was once historical paradise during freedom of Odisha. Various costly items brought from Rangoon & floor tiles, too, imported from



abroad. On 6th late night or 7th early morning wood mixed iron railing stolen. IIC of MPS Prasant Bhupati started investigation.

South Odisha Development Council Meeting Held

Paralakhemundi, (DMC): At Bhubaneswar South Odisha Development Council (SODC) meeting held at Assembly. Presided by Chairman of SODC Nityanand Gondo all members of the Council attended. Among them Paralakhemundi MLA Er. Rupesh Kumar Panigrahi MLA Jeypore Taraprasad Bahinipati & others were present. Members shared on development scenarios of South Odisha & issues to cover of SC & ST community. Besides that time to time follow up meeting will enhance solution of South Odisha, where major backward districts covered.



AMNS worker's strike temporarily postponed after agreed to discussion over labour issues

Paradip, (DMC): From April 28th, the 'Purba Upakula Shramik Sangh' (PUSS), led by renowned trade union leader Prakash Tripathy had been staging an hour-long protest in front of the ArcelorMittal & Nippon Steel (AMNS) India Ltd.

company gate at here in Paradip and going on an hour-long strike inside the plant for eight days to demand various issues of all contract workers working at AMNS India Limited. But since the company authorities did not responded, the workers staged a two-hour



strike. After facing trouble, the company authorities were finally forced to seek the help of Nirajan Behera, ADM, Paradip to intervene. On Thursday, April

8th, at 4 pm, the PUSS union General Secretary Abhimanyu Behera, secretary Ratnakar Jena and AMNS HR Sunila Das and IR Arup Gowda attended the meeting at ADM office and discussed the problems of workers.

After about 3 hours of discussion, the AMNS authorities requested to give time for the company's higher authorities to join them on the 26th and take a decision over solving the problems of the workers. They requested to postpone the protest till then. Therefore, the union decided to postpone the protest until 26th May.

AICC Secretary at Jagatsinghpur

Jagatsinghpur, (DMC): Congress trying best to reorganise from grass root level and AICC Secretary Rosalina Turkey visited Jagatsinghpur to strengthen organisation. At Jagatsinghpur organisation Committee meeting held under presidentship of District Congress President Natabar Barick at Circuit House. Ex- MLA Debasis Pattnaik, Lalatendu Mohapatra, PCC Observer Siddharth Das, leaders and eminent workers all over District present at the meeting and assured to go ahead. Silently Congress getting ready to fight strongly at Panchayat and Municipality election as stated by eminent political figures.

Illegal Cattles Transportation:2 Persons to Police Custody

Paralakhemundi, (DMC): At Mohana High School junction of Gajapati Gajapati district by a Pick up van 10 Cattles were transported. Bajrang dal rescued those cattles & case registered at Mohana Police Station. 2 persons taken to police custody for interrogation.

From Dengapadar of Ganjam district by a Pick up van those 10 cattles transported to Mohana. By getting information Bajrang dal stopped that vehicle & reported at Mohana Police Station. Case registered at the PS & investigation started.



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Odisha Govt Bolsters...

patriots who embody Odia Asmita. As part of this effort, the allowance for freedom fighters has been increased, and a pension scheme has been announced for those arrested under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA) during the Emergency. The Chief Minister has approved a proposal to provide pensions to 23 MISA prisoners (19 MISA, 4 DISIR), in addition to the 21 MISA prisoners already approved, bringing the total to 44 eligible detainees. These activists will receive a monthly pension of Rs 20,000, and their medical expenses will be covered by the state government. During the Emergency (June 25, 1975, to March 21, 1977), many freedom fighters were arrested under laws like MISA, DIR, and DISIR while protesting against the Emergency and were imprisoned. It has been decided that all fighters alive as of January 1, 2025, will receive pensions and medical benefits.

SC Trashes...

government to implement the National Educational Policy (NEP) of the Central Government or sign an MOU may harm the public interest or infringe on citizens' rights. The state government is under a constitutional or legal obligation to implement the NEP 2020 of the Central Government and to enter into an MOU for the implementation of the said policy, scheme, or project," stated the petition. As per the plea, the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development brought the New National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 to improve the quality of education in India by focusing on holistic development, critical thinking, and skill development, apart from emphasising foundational literacy and numeracy.

Odisha's '36...

accelerate Odisha's development journey. The programs will be implemented through a 'Whole of Government' approach, covering 36 sectors including economy, industry, education, health, infrastructure, agriculture, tourism, science and research, innovation, women's empowerment, rural development, tribal welfare, and the promotion of Odia language, culture, and identity. Inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, the Chief Minister noted that the nation is progressing toward a developed India, and Odisha aims to become a prosperous state by 2036, coinciding with the state's centenary celebrations. By 2047, Odisha will play a pivotal role in achieving the goal of a developed India. The vision document for 2036 and 2047 reflects an ambitious resolve to build a prosperous, developed, and proud Odisha-a shining star within a developed India. Following the Prime Minister's philosophy of 'Jan Bhagidari' (people's participation), over 3.2 lakh suggestions have been received from Odisha's citizens and the Odia diaspora. The vision document is being prepared by and for the people. The Chief Minister revealed that Artificial Intelligence has been used to analyze public inputs and suggestions, making Odisha the first state in India to leverage AI for such a purpose. Additionally, legislators and parliamentarians have been requested via letters to share their valuable insights based on their extensive experience. At the event, Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Women and Child Development Pravati Parida emphasized the need to align current conditions with future goals. She noted that under the Prime Minister's leadership, the 'Make in India' initiative has propelled India toward self-reliance. Specific strategies have been outlined for women's empowerment in Odisha by 2036, ensuring equal rights and safety for women in all sectors. She highlighted that Odisha has surpassed its targets for creating 'Lakhpati Didi's', with approximately 17 lakh women achieving this status so far.

Model Police Seize 20 Grams Brown Sugar & Arrests 4 Persons

Khordha, (DMC): Model Police Station, Khordha have seized 20 grams of brown sugar & arrests 4 persons. The police officials, said that, a tip-off on brown sugar trade as per the direction of SP, Khordha, Ms. Sagarika Nath, under the supervision of SDPO, Khordha, Nihar Ranjan Pradhan & IIC, Model PS, Khordha, Sanjaya Kumar Nayak formed a team led by SI, D.K. Pingua & ASI, S. K. Sahu of Model PS, conducted a raid on the area of Gurujanga Melana Padia, Khordha & nabbed the 4 persons, identified as Sarbeswar Behera, Jeevan Mishra, Benudhar



Singh & Anil Kumar Behera all are the residents of Gurujanga, Khordha & seized 20 grams of brown sugar worth-2 lakhs from their possession. All the accused were accepted to dealing in drugs in the nearby area's & targeting youth's. The accused were booked under relevant sections of the NDP'S Act. They were produced before the judicial court.

Vyasa Vishnu Snehalaya & Vyasa Mandir foundation stone laid down

Paradip/Kujang, (DMC): The foundation stone of a Vyasa Vishnu Snehaalaya and Vyasa Temple, an Oldage home, organized by the Vyasa Foundation at Naliapal village under Kujang block of Jagatsinghpur district was laid down on Thursday. Joining as the chief guest, State Minister for Industries, Skill Development and Technical Education, Sampada Chandra Swain laid down the stone of this service oriented project.

The guests of honor at the inaugural function were retired Joint Director, Information and Public Relations Department Surya Ranjan Mohanty, Zilla Parishad Member Zone 2 Kujang, Rabinarayan Sahu, Sarpanch Diptirekha Lenka, Gareil Gram Panchayat Samiti Member Diptimayee Panda, Potanai Gram Panchayat Sarpanch Braj Kishor Maharaj, President of International Gita Mission Swami Chidanand Maharaj, Swami Shruti Sagarand Maharaj, Hemant Kumar Rath, TV Executive Sponsor Abhinand Das, working President of Vyasa Foundation, Vivekanand Hota, Land doner Vishnu Charan Swain. The meeting, organized under the chairmanship of Smt. Snehamayee Acharya, President of Vyas Foundation, was moderated by Pandit Dr. Siddheswar Panda.



Coordination meeting of NGOs held in Rath Yatra

Puri, (DMC): The service of volunteers in Puri Rath Yatra is unique and commendable. Year after year, they have been serving and surrendering to the Lord and providing assistance to the devotees. ADM Protocol Nilamadhab Bhoi has requested to provide similar meritorious services during the ongoing Rath Yatra.

Earlier in the day, the district administration held a coordination meeting with volunteers at town hall to ensure peaceful conduct of the upcoming Rath Yatra. Presiding over the meeting, ADM Nilamadhab Bhoi requires cooperation from all to ensure smooth conduct of various works during the Rath Yatra. So everyone came together and



requested to make the ongoing rath yatra a success. ADM Administration Sarat Chandra Behera NGOs requested the NGOs to provide various services to Prabhu's work from their experience and experience. ADM Revenue Dr Sarat Chandra Mohapatra It is not possible for the administration or the police alone to provide security and facilities to the devotees present in lakhs during the Rath Yatra.

For this, the role of volunteers is important. Feeling that it is service to the Lord, he urged us to work together. Zilla Parishad Chief Development Officer and Executive Officer Priyaranjan Prusty, Municipal Executive Officer Abhimanyu Behera, Additional SP Sushil Kumar Mishra, DIB Additional SP Devi Prasad Pratap, Additional SP Sachin Patel, Additional SP Soumya Ranjan Mallik, CDMO

Dr Ruphanu Mishra, District Education Officer Deepak Kumar Padhi, City DSP Prashant Kumar Sahu, GM. Sachin Patel was also present and said that harmony with volunteers would help in the service work of each department. At the outset,

Deputy Director of Information and Public Relations Santosh Kumar Sethi welcomed everyone and urged the volunteers to provide better services like previous years. Later, after a detailed discussion, sanitation, health care, medical assistance, ambulance service, stretcher service, blood donation, cremation, setting up of veterinary centers, drinking water supply, assistance in traffic protection, maintaining discipline, water spraying, cleaning of roads,

cleaning of the roads, Shri Gundicha Temple, Baddand, beach cleaning, cleaning of the tirtha pond, cleaning of the tirtha pond, cleaning of the river pond. Various sub-committees have been constituted to look into the matter and are headed by senior officers or nodal officers. The work will be carried out in a planned manner.

NGOs which have experience will work in that field. The chief was present and gave various views. Deputy collector Priyadarshini Mallik handled the work. It was attended by officials of other departments as well as office bearers of various NGOs and gave various suggestions. At the end, Sub Collector Raj Kishore Jena proposed a vote of thanks.

"Happiest Day...": The Man Behind Akash System That Stopped Pak Missiles

New Delhi, (HS) : The indigenously developed Akash missile system was instrumental in neutralising missiles and drones and protecting cities in west India when Pakistan attacked Thursday night. The Akash system - a surface-to-air system designed to engage multiple targets simultaneously - was developed over 15 years by Dr Prahlada Ramarao, a former DRDO scientist.

"It is the happiest day of life... seeing my baby work so accurately and beautifully in shooting down incoming enemy aerial targets," an elated Dr Ramarao told NDTV. He said he had tears in his eyes when he saw "it worked beyond expectations... engaging incoming targets effectively". Now 78 years old, he was the youngest Project Director for the Akash programme when he was handpicked by India's 'missile man' and former President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam. He recalled the Indian military had hesitated in acquiring the system,



which his colleagues and he had designed to intercept drones, missiles, helicopters, and even highly manoeuvrable aircraft like the United

States-made supersonic F-16 fighter jets, which are among those Pak pilots fly. The Akash system, working with India's integrated counter-unmanned

aerial system grid, the Russian-made S-400, and other anti-aircraft weaponry, came together to create a shield that held firm. And India, government sources said, had demonstrated it is 'capable not only of defending its skies... but it now controls them'. The Akash system is manufactured by Bharat Dynamics Limited in Hyderabad. Essentially it is a short range, surface-to-air missile system offering protection from aerial threats. It can engage multiple targets at one time, either as a group or autonomously. It has built-in electronic counter-counter measures and the entire system has been configured on mobile platforms, making it is highly manoeuvrable and potent addition to the military. The Akash system can engage targets at altitude of up to 20km. Each launcher carries three missiles - these work in a 'fire and forget' mode - and each missile is about 20 feet long and weighs 710kg. Each missile carries a 60kg warhead.

Defence Minister Meets CDS, 3 Service Chiefs Hours after Escalation by Pak

New Delhi, (HS) : Defence Minister Rajnath Singh met Chief of Defence Staff Anil Chauhan and three service chiefs in Delhi on Friday morning, hours after India thwarted a wave of missile and drone attacks from Pakistan targeting military stations and other cities. The meeting was held to assess the security situation after India's recent cross-border strikes under Operation Sindoor. India foiled the second round of Pakistan's airstrikes on military stations and several cities in Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Punjab, which began around 8:30 pm last night. Pakistan also targeted military stations at Jammu, Pathankot, and Udhampur, with the Indian Army retaliating swiftly. A massive blackout was reported from Srinagar, Jammu, and several places in Punjab and Rajasthan at night.

Now, 12-Hour Blackout In Jaisalmer, Barmer Amid India-Pakistan Standoff



Jaipur, (HS) : In response to escalating tensions between India and Pakistan, a high alert was declared across Rajasthan's border districts of Jaisalmer, Barmer, Bikaner, Sri Ganganagar, and Phalodi on Friday. As a precautionary measure, markets in Jaisalmer and Barmer closed early, at 5 pm, and a complete blackout has been imposed from 6 pm to 6 am.

In Bikaner, Sri Ganganagar, and Phalodi, the blackout will continue till 6 am on Saturday. All public events and programmes have been suspended in Jaisalmer, and the lights of electricity metres placed outside homes have been covered with tape or cloth to ensure complete darkness. In view of maintaining public safety measures across border districts, marriage and religious functions in Sri Ganganagar have been restricted and lighting, DJs, and loudspeakers have been banned. Also, hostels in Bikaner have been vacated, and the leave of all government employees has been cancelled. Further, the Tanot-Ramgarh road has been barricaded to restrict movement. To ensure medical readiness, 336 senior resident doctors have been deployed across Jaisalmer, Barmer, Bikaner, Ganganagar, Jodhpur, and Phalodi.

The Drug Control Department has also requested updated stock reports of medicines, oxygen, and surgical supplies from all district controllers. In Ramdevra in Jaisalmer, the Baba Ramdev Temple was closed at 6 pm, and it will remain closed from 6 pm to 6 am until further notice. In Barmer, sirens were sounded at 6 pm to mark the beginning of the blackout, and traders shut down their businesses in compliance with administrative orders. Residents in Jaisalmer and Barmer have taken precautions by covering their electricity metres to prevent even minimal light exposure during the blackouts. These measures come after India conducted airstrikes on terrorist camps in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) on May 7, in retaliation for the terrorist attack in Pahalgam on April 22. The administration has advised residents to postpone weddings and functions or conduct them during daylight hours, stay indoors after dark and avoid switching on external lights and avoid spreading or reacting to unverified social media content. In Sri Ganganagar, the ban on lighting, DJs, and loud sound systems will remain in effect for the next two months, especially during public, religious, and matrimonial gatherings.

A team of A.O. L. F. A met Hon'ble Minister (F&RD) regarding their problems & Solution's

New Delhi, (HS) : AOLFA team gave a detail memorandum to Minister, after detail discussion and went through the letter, Honourable Minister has assured below things. Minister has assured us , he will discuss with department officials and as well as NECC management too for a quick solution. Minister has assured, he will take this matter to Honourable CM for his intervention. Minister has assured, very soon he will fix an appointment with Central Minister (F&ARD) for discussion further and a team of delegates (AOLFA) along with Honourable Minister (State) will go to Delhi for the same to discuss further. Minister has assured, our Govt is now focusing on Maximise the Egg production as well as Egg consumption and for this Govt will take every necessary steps as required for the welfare of farmer and poultry Industry. Minister has informed, our Govt is thinking to allow layer farmers to directly participate in Egg distribution under MDM & SNP for maximise the egg consumption and smooth egg distribution among different beneficiaries.

Around 400 drones used to target military bases, places of worship: Centre on Pakistani escalation

New Delhi, (HS) : 300 to 400 Turkish drones with civilian planes as cover to hit 36 sites, some of them religious centres. This was how Pakistan violated Indian airspace on the night of 8-9 May, the Ministry of External Affairs and the Indian Armed Forces said in a briefing on Friday. Army spokesperson Colonel Sofiya Qureshi said, "Around 300 to 400 drones were used (by Pakistan) to attempt infiltration at 36 locations... Forensic investigation of the wreckage of the drones is being done. Initial reports suggest that they are Turkish Asisguard Songar drones." "The Indian forces shot down the Pakistani drones. The drones and its debris are being analysed," she added.

Officials said one Pakistani armed unmanned aerial vehicle had been sent to target Bathinda military station and that the attempt was foiled. They added that Indian armed forces had shot down the Pakistani drones using both kinetic and non-kinetic means. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said that places of worship had also been targeted, terming it a "new low" for



Islamabad. "Pakistani side targeted places of worship with a particular design... it is a new low even for Pakistan," he said. The Foreign Secretary added that Pakistani cross-border firing had hit a Christian missionary school in Poonch, killing two children. "We do have some information about this extremely regrettable and condemnable incident. During heavy shelling across the Line of Control in the early morning of 7th May, a shell fired from Pakistan landed just behind the Christ School

run by the Kamalites of the Mary Immaculate Congregation in Poonch. Tragically, the shell fired from Pakistan hit the home of two students of the Christ School," Misri said.

Misri also criticised Pakistan for not closing its airspace and accused Islamabad of using civilian air traffic as a shield. "Pakistan did not close its airspace and used civilian air traffic as a shield. Pakistani airlines were seen flying over Karachi and Lahore. There were heavy losses to the Pakistani army as India

SC Orders Andhra Deputy Collector's Demotion for Violating HC Order

New Delhi, (HS) : The Supreme Court has directed the demotion of a Deputy Collector in Andhra Pradesh who forcibly removed slum-dwellers' huts in Guntur district in violation of the orders of the High Court. A bench of Justice B.R. Gavai and Justice A.G. Masih ordered that the state government demote Deputy Collector T. Mohan Rao to the post of tehsildar. It also directed him to deposit a fine of Rs 1 lakh within four weeks. The apex court order came on a petition filed by Mohan Rao against a High Court order which found him guilty of contempt of court and sentenced him to two months' simple imprisonment. The bench observed that if he undergoes a sentence of two months, he would be dismissed from his service, thereby depriving his family of livelihood. However, to send a message, it directed the government to demote him by one level in the hierarchy of his service. Mohan Rao, in his capacity as tshsildar, had disobeyed the directions of the High Court by removing huts, thereby displacing the slum-dwellers. The High Court on December 11, 2013, had directed him not to remove the huts, passing the order on the petitions of four persons who contended that revenue authorities were seeking to evict them from the plots in their occupation without considering their representations. However, disobeying the orders of the High Court, the tehsildar removed the huts in 2014. Taking serious note of this contempt, the High Court sentenced him to simple imprisonment for two months.



India confronting challenge of terrorism, shared threat to international community: EAM Jaishankar

New Delhi, (HS) : External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Friday evoked the shared spirit of wartime unity as he addressed an event marking the 80th anniversary of the Soviet Union's triumph over Nazi Germany, amid India's ongoing operations against terrorism emanating from across the border.

"It is a great pleasure to join you all on this occasion to mark the 80th anniversary of the victory in the war over fascism in 1945," Jaishankar said during the event held at the Russian Embassy in New Delhi. The minister underscored the contemporary relevance of international cooperation, saying, "We also meet at a time when India is confronting the challenge of terrorism, one that is a shared threat to the international community. I thank those who have expressed solidarity with us and understand the resolute response that is underway."



India's remarks came just days after the Indian armed forces conducted precise missile strikes on nine terror targets in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and Pakistan under Operation Sindoor.

On Thursday, India thwarted Pakistan's attempts to strike military sites using drones and missiles at 15 locations across northern and western

India. In retaliation, India also targeted Pakistani air defence systems, including one in Lahore, which was reportedly neutralised. Since the April 22 terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Jaishankar have received calls from their counterparts in various countries, condemning the strike, offering condolences, and expressing solidarity with India. Russian President Vladimir Putin, in a phone conversation with Modi on 5 May, expressed his nation's full support for India's fight against terrorism and stressed that the perpetrators of the Pahalgam attack must be brought to justice. A Russian Embassy readout said Putin had described the attack as "barbaric", and both leaders emphasised the importance of an "uncompromising fight" against terrorism in all its forms. Jaishankar, reflecting on the

historical moment being commemorated, said, "Today is an occasion for hope and optimism, as also for remembrance, underpinned by the conviction that international cooperation is even more important than ever before." "It is an endorsement of our diplomatic endeavours, be that bilateral, regional or multilateral," he added.

Russian Ambassador Denis Alipov and several other diplomats were present at the commemorative event, held against a backdrop depicting Moscow's iconic Red Square. Russia marked the 80th anniversary of Nazi Germany's defeat with a grand military parade on Red Square on Friday, attended by President Putin and several foreign leaders. The Soviet Army had launched its offensive in January 1945, culminating in the Act of Unconditional Surrender signed on 9 May.

Centre extends closure of 24 airports for civilian flights



New Delhi, (HS) : At least 24 airports in northern and western parts of the country, including Srinagar and Chandigarh, have been shut for civilian flights till May 15, sources said on Friday.

Earlier, these airports were closed for civilian flights till May 10 in view of the military conflict between India and Pakistan. Airlines on Friday said that their flights have been cancelled due to the temporary closure of airports till May 15. The sources said at least 24 airports have been closed for civilian flights till 05:29 hours of May 15. The airports include Chandigarh, Srinagar, Amritsar, Ludhiana, Bhuntar, Kishengarh, Patiala, Shimla, Dharamsala, and Bathinda. Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Leh, Bikaner, Pathankot, Jammu, Jammu, and Bhuj are among the other airports that have been temporarily closed for civilian flights. "Following a notification from aviation authorities on continued closure of multiple airports in India, Air India flights to and from the following stations -- Jammu, Srinagar, Leh, Jodhpur, Amritsar, Chandigarh, Bhuj, Jammu, and Rajkot -- are being cancelled till 0529 hrs IST on 15 May," the airline said in a post on X. Air India also said customers holding valid tickets for travel during this period will be offered a one-time waiver on rescheduling charges or a full refund for cancellations. In a post on X, IndiGo said in accordance with the latest directives from the relevant authorities, all flights to and from 10 destinations will remain cancelled until 0529 hours on May 15 due to temporary airport closures. The airports are Srinagar, Jammu, Amritsar, Leh, Chandigarh, Dharamsala, Bikaner, Rajkot, Jodhpur and Kishangarh. "These precautionary measures have been instituted with your safety and security as our highest priority," the airline said. The military conflict between India and Pakistan has intensified. Under Operation Sindoor, armed forces had carried out strikes on terror targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir on Wednesday in retaliation against the Pahalgam terror attack that had killed at least 26 people last month.

retaliated," he said. Wing Commander Vyomika Singh said the non-closure of Pakistan's airspace posed a danger to unsuspecting civilian airliners, including international flights flying near the international border between India and Pakistan. "The screenshot we showed displays the data from the Flight Radar 24 application during a high air defence alert situation in the Punjab sector. As you can see, the airspace on the Indian side is completely devoid of civil air traffic due to our declared closure. However, civil airlines continue to fly the route between Karachi and Lahore," she added. She also said the Indian Air Force had demonstrated considerable restraint in its response, ensuring the safety of international civil carriers. Notably, India on Thursday night swiftly thwarted Pakistan's fresh attempts to strike military sites with drones and missiles - including in Jammu, Udhampur and Pathankot, among other border areas - after foiling similar bids at 15 locations in the northern and western regions of the country, as tensions soared between the two nations amid fears of a wider conflict.

Robert Francis Prevost New Pope, Takes Papal Name Pope Leo XIV



SCHIAVON, (HS) : Cardinal Robert Prevost, a long-time missionary in Latin America, was elected as the surprise choice to be the new leader of the Catholic Church on Thursday, becoming the first US pope and taking the name Leo XIV. Pope Leo appeared on the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica after white smoke billowed from a chimney atop the Sistine Chapel, signifying the 133 cardinal electors had chosen him as a successor to Francis, who died last month. "Peace be with you all," he told the cheering crowd, speaking in fluent Italian. He also spoke in Spanish during his brief address but did not say anything in English.

Prevost, 69 and originally from Chicago, has spent most of his career as a missionary in Peru and has dual Peruvian nationality. He became a cardinal only in 2023. He has given few media interviews and is known to have a shy personality. President Donald Trump swiftly congratulated him on becoming the first U.S. pope. "What excitement, and what a Great Honor for our Country. I look forward to meeting Pope Leo XIV. It will be a very meaningful moment!" However, the new pope has a history of criticizing Trump and Vice President JD Vance's policies, according to posts on the X account of Robert Prevost. Massimo Faggioli, an Italian academic who has followed the papacy closely, suggested the tenor of the Trump presidency might have influenced the cardinals to choose a pope from the U.S., who could directly rebut the president. "The international upheaval of the rhetoric of the Trump presidency, paradoxically, made possible the impossible," said Faggioli, a professor at Villanova University in the U.S. "Trump has broken many taboos, the conclave now has done the same -- in a very different key." The appointment was welcomed by the Peruvian president Dina Boluarte. "His closeness to those most in need left an indelible mark on the hearts of Peru," her office said in a post on X. Prevost becomes the 267th Catholic pope following the death of Francis, who was the first from Latin America and who ruled for 12 years. Francis had widely sought to open the staid institution up to the modern world, enacting a range of reforms and allowing debate on divisive issues such as women's ordination and better inclusion of LGBT Catholics. Leo thanked Francis in his speech and repeated his predecessor's call for a Church that is engaged with the modern world and "is always looking for peace, charity and being close to people, especially those who are suffering". He had not been seen as a frontrunner and there was a brief moment of uncertainty when his name was announced to the packed St. Peter's Square, before people started to clap and cheer. "I'm just thrilled. I hope this can bring to America a more loving community. I think there's a lot of hate in America. I think there's a lot of racism. I have experienced it," said Lailah Brown, 28, an African American from Seattle. "I hope America does not embarrass the pope," she said. Unlike Francis, who spurned much of the trappings of the papacy from the day he was elected in 2013, Prevost wore a traditional red papal garment over his white cassock as he first appeared as Leo XIV. SNAP, a US-based advocacy group for victims of clerical sex abuse, expressed "grave concern" about his election, renewing accusations that Prevost failed to take action against suspected predatory priests in the past in Chicago and in Peru. "You can end the abuse crisis - the only question is, will you?" it said in a statement addressed to the new pope. In an interview with the Vatican News website in 2023, Prevost said the Church must be transparent and honest in dealing with abuse allegations. A crowd of clergy and staff members at Chicago's Catholic Theological Union erupted in a joyful cheer as Pope Leo walked out onto the Vatican balcony, some four decades after he graduated from the South Side school. It was an "explosion of excitement and cheers that went up in the room ... many of us were just simply incredulous and just couldn't even find words to express our delight, our pride," said Sister Barbara Reid, president of the theology school. Pope Leo graduated from the school in 1982 with a master's degree. Reid called Leo intellectually brilliant, saying he has an extraordinarily compassionate heart. "It's an unusual blend that makes him a leader who can think critically, but listens to the cries of the poorest, and always has in mind those who are most needy," she said.

The last pope to take the name Leo led the Church from 1878-1903. Leo XIII was known for his devoted focus to social justice issues, and is often credited with laying the foundation for modern Catholic social teaching. Prevost has attracted interest from his peers because of his quiet style and support for Francis, especially his commitment to social justice issues. Prevost served as a bishop in Chiclayo, in northwestern Peru, from 2015 to 2023. Francis brought him to Rome that year to head the Vatican office in charge of choosing which priests should serve as Catholic bishops across the globe, meaning he has had a hand in selecting many of the world's bishops.

Helicopter crash in Sri Lanka kills six

COLOMBO, (HS) : A Sri Lankan Air Force helicopter crashed on Friday during a demonstration flight, killing six of the 12 personnel on board, the military confirmed. The incident occurred at Maduru Oya, east of the capital Colombo, when a Bell 212 helicopter plunged into a lake as part of preparations for a "fast-roping" manoeuvre-a display in which troops descend by rope from a hovering helicopter. The exercise was part of a graduation ceremony for Special Forces commandos. "There were 12 people on board, and six survived with minor injuries," a military official told AFP. Among the deceased were four commandos and two Air Force gunners. The ceremony was immediately called off, and an investigation into the cause of the crash is currently underway. This marks the deadliest air force incident since January 2020, when a Chinese-built Y-12 aircraft crashed in Haputale, about 200 kilometers east of Colombo, killing all four crew members. The most fatal helicopter crash in Sri Lanka's history occurred in September 2000, when an Mi-17 helicopter went down in central Sri Lanka, killing all 15 people on board.

Iran Denies US Media Claim of Identifying Secret Nuclear Facility

Tehran, (HS) : Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi on Friday rejected a Fox News report claiming to have identified a new secret nuclear facility in Semnan province. In a post on X, Araghchi dismissed the "Very Scary Satellite Images" touted by Fox News as part of an effort by Israel to derail the forthcoming indirect talks between Tehran and Washington.

"Like clockwork, more Very Scary Satellite Images are being circulated as Iran-US indirect nuclear talks are set to resume," Araghchi said. Fox News reported that it had exclusively obtained satellite imagery purportedly showing a previously undisclosed Iranian nuclear weapons facility, a 2,500-acre compound codenamed "Rainbow Site" that the network said has been disguised as the chemical producer Diba Energy Siba and active for more than a decade. Xinhua news agency reported. The rebuttal comes on the eve of the fourth round of Oman-mediated indirect talks on Iran's nuclear programme and US sanctions relief. To date,

Brazil Expresses Concern over India-Pak Tensions; Rejects all Forms of Terrorism

Brasilia, (HS) : The Government of Brazil, reiterating its stance on denouncing all forms of terrorism, expressed grave concern about the military actions in the Kashmir region following escalating tensions between India and Pakistan.

The remarks came after the Indian armed forces launched Operation Sindoor, targeting nine high-value terror locations in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) in response to the dastardly April 22 terror attack, which left 26 innocent civilians dead. "As expressed in the statement of April 23 regarding the attack in Kashmir on the previous day, the Government of Brazil reiterates its repudiation of all acts of terrorism. Brazil calls on the parties involved to exercise the utmost restraint in order to prevent an escalation of tensions," Foreign Ministry of Brazil said in a statement on Thursday. "The Ministry of Foreign Affairs advises Brazilian nationals to refrain from non-essential travel to Kashmir and adjacent regions. Itamaraty is monitoring the situation



of Brazilians in the area. There are no reports of Brazilian victims," the statement added. On Thursday, President Lula de Silva of Brazil called Prime Minister Narendra Modi, expressing support and solidarity with India in its fight against terrorism and conveying condolences at the loss of lives in the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, India. "PM Modi thanked President Lula for his condolences. The two leaders reiterated their commitment to strengthen India- Brazil bilateral strategic partnership. PM conveyed his

best wishes for Brazil's successful Presidency of BRICS this year," Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs posted on X.

Earlier condemning the Pahalgam terrorist attack Brazil extended its support to India. "The Government of Brazil has learned with consternation of the attack that occurred in Pahalgam, in the Kashmir region, on April 22, which caused a large number of fatalities and injuries. The Government of Brazil reiterates its repudiation of all acts of

American-Jewish Community Thanks India for Eliminating Islamist Terrorist Abdul Rauf Azhar

Washington/New Delhi, (HS) : Operation Sindoor, targeting nine high-value terror locations in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) also brought the much-awaited justice to friends and family of American-Jewish journalist Daniel Pearl.

Reports suggest that Islamist terrorist Abdul Rauf Azhar, a co-conspirator in the 2002 abduction and brutal murder of Wall Street Journal reporter Pearl and also the IC-814 hijacking mastermind, was also among the dozens of terrorists eliminated in the counter-terrorism offensive that destroyed 'Markaz Subhan Allah', the JeM terror headquarters and training facility in Pakistan's Bahawalpur, on Wednesday. Several noted personalities and people from all walks of life took to social media, are now thanking India for giving justice to Pearl by neutralising Azhar, brother of UN proscribed terrorist and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) chief Masood Azhar. "India delivered justice for the brutal murder of American-Jewish journalist Daniel Pearl by eliminating Abdul Rauf Azhar, the Jaish-e-Mohammed commander



and key conspirator behind Pearl's kidnapping, torture, and beheading," American Activist Amy Mek posted on X. "Abdul Rauf Azhar wasn't just a terrorist; he was the brother of Masood Azhar, JeM's founder, and a mastermind behind some of the most heinous Islamic attacks. He conspired to murder Daniel Pearl," she added. "Operation Sindoor struck at the heart of terror, hitting Jaish-e-Mohammed strongholds and sending a clear message: India will not stand by while radicals slaughter non-Muslims. To India, we say Thank You. Thank you for standing strong against Islamic

terror and taking the fight directly to the jihadis," Mek said further. Former US Special Envoy Ellie Cohanin also extended her gratitude to the government of India "For too long we did not see justice for the evil beheading of Daniel Pearl. Personally grateful to the government of India. Daniel Pearl forever memorialised by his last words echoing thousands of years of Jewish history & persecution: "My father is Jewish, my mother is Jewish, I am Jewish", " Cohanin posted on X. American author Pamela Geller, international human rights Lawyer Arsen Ostrovsky and Israeli journalist

terrorism, offers its heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims, wishes the injured a full and swift recovery, and expresses its solidarity with the Government and the people of India," the Foreign Ministry of Brazil said in a statement. Hostilities between India and Pakistan intensified on Thursday after Pakistan's military attempted to hit military stations in Jammu, Pathankot, Udhampur, and some other locations with missiles and drones, all of which were neutralised by Indian armed forces. Operation Sindoor was launched in the early hours of Wednesday, and the tri-services operation was conducted jointly by the Indian Army, Air Force, and Navy. The operation targeted infrastructure linked to terror groups responsible for the April 22 terror attack.

The Indian government said that it has exercised its right to respond to dastardly acts of terror emanating from the neighbouring nation. Operation Sindoor marks one of India's most assertive cross-border military responses since the Balakot airstrikes in 2019.

Emily Schrader also took to social media, thanking India for fighting against Islamic terror. "India Kills Muslim Terrorist Who Beheaded Jewish-American Wall Street Journal Reporter Daniel Pearl THANK YOU, INDIA!" Geller wrote. The US authorities for long have been seeking justice for the kidnapping and brutal murder of Daniel Pearl. "Thank you to our Indian friends for eliminating one of the key terrorists behind the 2002 execution of Danny Pearl. The Jewish and Indian people are two very proud nations, both fighting against the forces of Islamic terror," Ostrovsky posted on X.

"Justice. Thank you India, for eliminating the monsters who beheaded Daniel Pearl," posted Schrader. A key base for terrorist operations, the Bahawalpur site has been reduced to rubble. Masood Azhar, the founder of Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), is one of India's most wanted terrorists, responsible for several high-profile terror attacks, including the 2019 Pulwama bombing that killed 40 CRPF personnel.

MoS Defence

Sanjay Seth Meets President Putin



Moscow, (HS) : Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth, representing India at Russia's 80th Victory Day celebrations marking the end of World War 2 in Moscow, also met Russian President Vladimir Putin during his visit. Seth expressed India's gratitude for Russia's continued support in the global fight against terrorism.

Taking to social media, the Indian minister shared photos of his interaction with President Putin and other moments from the Victory Day event. "I am honoured to meet President Vladimir Putin during my visit to Russia. Represented India at the banquet organized on the occasion of the 80th Victory Day anniversary. Expressed gratitude for Russia's support in India's fight against terrorism led by Honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji", he said on his X handle. Seth, who is the BJP MP from Ranchi, arrived in Moscow on Thursday. He was welcomed by Indian Ambassador to Russia Vinay Kumar and Major General Oleg Moiseyev of the Russian Defence Ministry. During the visit, he held a bilateral meeting with Russian Deputy Defence Minister Colonel General Alexander Fomin. According to information shared by the minister, the discussions focused on strengthening bilateral military and military-technical cooperation.



delegations from both sides have met three times, twice in Muscat on April 12 and April 26 and once in Rome on April 19. On Thursday, a top Iranian military commander said that Iran prefers and prioritizes the path of diplomacy for resolving the nuclear issue, but is also ready for war if threatened,

according to the official news agency IRNA. "Our preference and priority regarding addressing the nuclear issue is the path of diplomacy and a fair manner, far from the atmosphere of threat. However, we are ready for any war on any scale," Chief Commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution

Guards Corps Hossein Salami said at a commemoration ceremony in the northeastern city of Mashhad. Based on its own political will, Iran voluntarily does not seek to develop nuclear weapons, and has excluded such weapons from its defence doctrine, Salami said. The United States, which has "bitter experiences" of interferences in other countries, has proven itself to be untrustworthy and incapable of keeping its promises, Salami noted, adding that should the United States threaten Iran, Iran would be ready for a war. "If you put a foot wrong, we will open the doors of hell to you," he said.

Salami's remarks came after Iran and the United States held three rounds of indirect talks with mediation from Oman throughout April, and also after fresh US sanctions were imposed in late April on a number of individuals and entities in Iran and other countries. The fourth round of Iran-US talks, which was originally scheduled for May 3 in Rome, was postponed due to what Oman described as "logistical reasons."

China Sales to US Drop Amid Donald Trump's Tariffs War

New Delhi, (HS) : China said Friday sales to the United States slumped last month while its total exports topped forecasts, as Beijing fought a gruelling trade war with its superpower rival.

Trade between the world's two largest economies has nearly skidded to a halt since US President Donald Trump imposed various rounds of levies on China that began as retaliation for Beijing's alleged role in a devastating fentanyl crisis. Tariffs on many Chinese products now reach as high as 145 percent -- with cumulative duties on some goods soaring to a staggering 245 percent. Beijing has responded with 125 percent tariffs on imports of US goods, along with other measures targeting American firms. Against that backdrop, analysts polled by Bloomberg had expected exports to rise just 2.0 percent year-on-year last month. But they beat expectations, coming in at 8.1 percent. However, exports to the United States



-- one of China's top trading partners -- fell 17.6 percent month-on-month, data showed. "The damage of the US tariffs has not shown up in the trade data in April," Zhiwei Zhang, president and chief economist at Pinpoint Asset Management, said in a note. "This may be partly due to transshipment through other countries, and partly because of trade contracts that were signed before

the tariffs were announced," he added. "I expect trade data will weaken in the next few months gradually." US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Trade Representative Jamieson Greer are set to meet Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng in Switzerland on Saturday and Sunday, marking the first talks between the superpowers since Trump unveiled his tariffs. April imports also beat

expectations, dropping 0.2 percent, compared with the 6.0 percent slide analysts had estimated. Purchases from overseas were also being closely watched as a key gauge of consumer demand in China, which has remained sluggish. Policymakers this week eased key monetary policy tools in a bid to ramp up domestic activity. Those included cuts to a key interest rate and moves to lower the amount banks must hold in reserve in a bid to boost lending.

A persistent crisis in the property sector -- once a key driver of growth -- also remains a drag on the economy. In an effort to help the sector, Pan also said the bank would cut the rate for first-time home purchases with loan terms over five years to 2.6 percent, from 2.85 percent. The moves represent some of China's most sweeping steps to boost the economy since September. But analysts pointed to a continued lack of actual stimulus funds needed to get the economy back on track.

Indian Oil, BPCL Assure Sufficient Fuel Supply Amid India-Pak Tensions



New Delhi/Mumbai, (HS) : Amid rising tensions between India and Pakistan, state-run oil marketing companies Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) on Friday issued public statements, assuring citizens that the country has sufficient stocks of petrol, diesel and LPG.

They urged people not to indulge in panic buying, emphasising that supply chains remain fully functional across India. Indian Oil, the country's largest fuel retailer, took to social media to reassure the public that there is no disruption in fuel availability. "Indian Oil wants to assure you that there is adequate availability of petrol, diesel, and LPG across the country. Our supply chains are operating smoothly, and all retail outlets have enough fuel and LPG," the company said in a post on X. The company also appealed to consumers to avoid panic-driven stockpiling, stating that "By staying calm and avoiding unnecessary crowding, we can ensure uninterrupted availability of fuel for everyone." Echoing similar sentiments,

BPCL - India's second-largest oil marketing company - also confirmed that its fuel stations and LPG distributorships across the nation are operating without interruption. "There is no cause for concern or panic buying. Our supply chain operations remain robust and efficient, ensuring uninterrupted supplies," BPCL said in a statement. It added that BPCL remains committed to providing energy accessibility and reliability, even during times of uncertainty.

The assurances came in the backdrop of increasing military activity between India and Pakistan following 'Operation Sindoor', a retaliatory strike by Indian forces on May 7 in response to a terrorist attack in Pahalgam on April 22. While India avoided targeting civilian or military infrastructure, Pakistan has attempted to strike Indian assets using drones and other weapons, particularly along the western borders and the Line of Control (LoC). However, Indian forces have effectively neutralised all such attempts. India's homegrown missile systems are proving to be a formidable deterrent to Pakistan's imported military assets.

Wipro appoints Sandeep Dhar as Global Head of GCC



BENGALURU, (HS) : Wipro Limited on Friday announced the appointment of Sandeep Dhar as Global Head of its Global Capability Centre (GCC) practice. The company said in a statement that Sandeep brings over 30 years of experience in the GCC ecosystem and consulting, having been instrumental in setting up and scaling some of the well-known GCCs in his career.

As Managing Director, he led the transformation of Tesco and Goldman Sachs Consumer Bank GCCs into strategic centres of innovation and growth. In his senior leadership responsibilities across industries, Sandeep has successfully managed P&Ls, driven digital transformation initiatives, and implemented advanced engineering practices. In his new role, Sandeep will spearhead Wipro's

consulting-led and AI-powered GCC strategy, designed to help global enterprises establish and scale as future-ready transformation and innovation hubs. Sandeep will report to Sanjeev Jain, Wipro's Chief Operating Officer.

"Wipro has been a trusted partner to GCCs for over two decades," said Sanjeev Jain, Chief Operating Officer, Wipro Limited. "We are delighted to welcome Sandeep to our team. His vast experience in leading and transforming GCCs, combined with Wipro's robust capabilities and comprehensive suite of services for GCCs, will enable us to deliver superior business value to clients." Sandeep Dhar, Global Head - GCC Practice, Wipro Limited, said, "As GCCs evolve to meet the dynamic business needs, enterprises require a trusted partner with the strategic vision to transform them into innovation hubs that drive impact. Wipro is ideally positioned to be the strategic partner of choice for GCCs, offering services that align with their objectives to establish, scale, transform or exit." Wipro's GCC services cover the entire lifecycle, from portfolio strategy to setup and operation. India has over 1,800 GCCs with over 120 new centres launched in 2024. It is expected that by 2030, the GCC market will grow to \$99-105 billion.

Aaryan Raj made a stellar impression at the Junior Fashion Week, Kolkata



Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : Aaryan Raj made a stellar impression at the recent Junior Fashion Week in Kolkata, captivating the audience with her confident and stylish performance. The event, held on 26th and 27th April 2025. The event showcased the latest designs from many international brands like Guess, Kamika and Kidsup, and Aaryan was a key highlight, showcasing the collections by walking the ramp on hover board also with grace and flair. He is offered a career in modeling by the organiser that he can showcase many more international brands and it will be a stepping stone to acting or other roles in the film and TV industry in future. And Acclaimed by Times Magazine, Juniors Fashion Week is Asia's finest edutainment platform. He is the only son of Ramesh Chandra Hati & Kalyani Dash of Patkura, Kendrapara.

Jindal Foundation Honoured for 'Overall Sustainable Practices' at Odisha Leadership Summit

Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : In a moment of great pride and recognition, Jindal Foundation, the CSR arm of Jindal Steel & Power, has been conferred the prestigious title of "Organisation with Overall Sustainable Practices" at the Odisha Leadership Summit, organised by World CSR Day. The award acknowledges the Foundation's holistic approach to sustainability, spanning across environmental conservation, inclusive community development, and long-term social impact. The award was presented in a grand ceremony held in Bhubaneswar, attended by industry leaders, CSR professionals, policy makers, and development experts. The event served as a platform to honour organisations and individuals leading the charge in responsible business and sustainability in the region.

Receiving the award, Mr. Prashant Hota remarked, "Under the guidance of



Smt. Shallu Jindal ji, Chairperson of Jindal Foundation, our sustainable development programmes are forging a better future for society by carefully weaving together economic progress,



environmental balance, and social equity. We deeply appreciate the community's invaluable support and active participation, which are making these programmes truly transformative and

paving the way for a brighter future. This recognition will further inspire our team's commitment to build an inclusive society." He thanked the jury for the award. Over the years, Jindal Foundation has launched a range of pioneering initiatives in education, healthcare, women's empowerment, tribal welfare, skill development, and environmental sustainability. Projects like Kishore Express, community health interventions, and grassroots capacity building have positively impacted thousands of lives across Odisha and beyond. The Odisha Leadership Summit, a flagship initiative of World CSR Day, celebrates best practices and innovation in sustainability and corporate citizenship. The recognition further reinforces Jindal Foundation's position as a national leader in inclusive and accountable development.

SBI to sell around 13% stake in YES Bank to Japan's SMBC

New Delhi, (HS) : State Bank of India (SBI) on Friday announced that it would sell around 13 per cent of its holding in YES Bank Ltd to Japan's Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC). The deal is expected to happen within 12 months from the date of execution or such other date as mutually agreed.

Canara Bank expects NIM pressure to ease by Q3 as deposit rates soften

New Delhi, (HS) : Public sector lender Canara Bank expects its net interest margin (NIM) to remain under pressure in the first half of FY26 due to the impact of falling repo rates on its lending portfolio, while deposit rates remain elevated. However, the bank is optimistic about softening deposit rates by the third quarter, which could support margin stability. Talking to The New Indian Express, Canara Bank MD and CEO K Satyanarayana Raju said the lender had to pass on the benefits of policy rate cuts quickly to nearly 44% of its loan book. However, it faces a lag in reducing interest rates on existing term deposits due to contractual obligations. "That is the pain point," the He said, adding that retail term deposit rates have yet to reflect the easing trend seen in bulk deposits. Canara Bank has the largest gold loan portfolio among Indian banks at Rs 1.81 lakh crore. Growth in this segment has moderated from 30% over the last two years to 19% in FY25, partly due to a higher base and stricter end-use monitoring.

India and Chile Sign Terms of Reference for Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement Negotiations

New Delhi(PIB): India and Chile signed the Terms of Reference (ToR) for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) on 08 May 2025, marking a significant advancement in their bilateral trade relations. The mutually agreed ToR were duly signed by H.E. Mr. Juan Angulo, Ambassador of Chile in India and Shri Vimal Anand, Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, also the Chief Negotiator for India-Chile CEPA from the Indian side.

Both sides reiterated their shared vision for strengthening bilateral relations and look forward to fruitful discussion during the first round scheduled for 26-30th May, 2025 in New Delhi. The CEPA aims to build upon the existing PTA between the two nations and seeks to encompass a broader range of sectors, including digital services, investment promotion and cooperation, MSME, critical minerals etc. thereby enhancing

economic integration and cooperation. India and Chile are strategic partners and close allies, sharing warm and cordial relations. Bilateral ties have steadily strengthened over the years with the exchange of high-level visits. A Framework Agreement on Economic Cooperation was signed between the two countries in January, 2005, followed by Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) in March, 2006. Since then economic and commercial relations between India and Chile have remained robust and continue to grow. An expanded PTA was subsequently signed in September, 2016 and became effective from 16th May, 2017. In April, 2019 both countries agreed to pursue a further expansion of the PTA with three rounds of negotiations between the years during 2019-2021. To deepen their economic engagement, both sides expressed their intention to negotiate a CEPA to unlock the full potential of their trade and commercial relationship, boosting

employment, facilitating investment promotion, and cooperation and exports, as suggested by the Joint Study Group established under the Framework Agreement. The JSG report was finalized and signed on 30th April, 2024.

This shared vision was reaffirmed during the recent State visit of the President of Chile, H.E. Mr. Gabriel Boric Font to India from 1-5 April, 2025 on an invitation from Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi. Leaders from both sides acknowledged that trade and commerce have served as a strong pillar of the bilateral relationship. They emphasized the importance of enhancing the existing trade framework to unlock new opportunities for growth. In this spirit, the two leaders acknowledged the signing of the mutually agreed Terms of Reference (ToR) and welcomed the launch of negotiations for a CEPA, aiming to establish a balanced, ambitious, comprehensive, and mutually beneficial agreement for a deeper economic integration.

India to Flag Pakistan's Terror Record at IMF Loan Meeting

New Delhi, (HS) : India will oppose Pakistan's case for availing a fresh \$1.3 billion IMF loan at an executive board meeting of the multilateral institution to be held on Friday. Foreign Secretary Misri confirmed that India's executive director, Parameswaran Iyer, will participate in the upcoming IMF board meeting to highlight concerns related to Pakistan as a country that funds and actively promotes terrorism as a state policy. He said that "the case with regard to Pakistan should be self-evident to those who generously open their pockets to bail out this country." He urged IMF board members to "look within and study the facts before extending further assistance." The IMF Executive Board will take a decision on Islamabad's request for a loan under a climate resilience programme, along with the first review of the ongoing \$7 billion bailout package that has been given to Pakistan. India is staunchly opposed to extending financial assistance to Pakistan because of serious concerns over the neighbouring country's role in financing terrorism. The IMF meeting comes within days of the horrific terror attack in Pahalgam, sponsored by Pakistan, in which 26 tourists were killed. Misri accused Pakistan of misusing international financial assistance, including IMF loans, to support military-intelligence operations and terrorist groups. He specifically pointed to Pakistan-based groups such as Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), which have been linked to multiple attacks in India and are designated terrorist entities under UN sanctions. The country was on the brink of sovereign default in 2023 and had to be bailed out by a \$3 billion IMF loan. The country is still critically dependent on this financial lifeline and is desperately trying to raise another \$1.3 billion climate resilience loan. The IMF had, on March 25, announced a staff-level agreement with Pakistan under a new 28-month Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF), granting Islamabad access to \$1.3 billion.

SBI, PNB Other Banks Say ATMs, Digital Services Operating Smoothly

New Delhi, (HS) : India's top banks, including the State Bank of India and the Punjab National Bank, said that their ATMs and digital services were fully functional and all operations were normal. The announcement by the banks came in response to fake social media reports claiming that ATMs are likely to be shut in the coming days amid rising tensions between India and Pakistan. "All our ATMs, CDMs/ADWMs and digital services are fully operational and available for public use," the State Bank

of India said in a post on X. India's biggest bank also told its customers not to rely on unverified information. Punjab National Bank also said: "All our digital services too are operating smoothly, ensuring a seamless banking experience from the comfort of your home." Similar messages have been posted by the Canara Bank, the Bank of India, the Bank of Baroda, and the Punjab and Sindh Bank. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will hold a review meeting on cybersecurity preparedness



of banks and financial institutions in the evening, the ministry said. Meanwhile, Indian Oil has said it has ample fuel stocks across the country, and our supply lines are operating smoothly. There is no need for panic buying-fuel and LPG is readily available at all our outlets, it said. "Help us serve you better by staying calm and avoiding unnecessary rush. This will keep our supply lines running seamlessly and ensure uninterrupted fuel access for all," the national oil giant said in a statement.

The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT), which represents 90 million traders, also said on Friday that there is no shortage of foodgrains or other essential items in the country. All commodities are abundantly available in the markets, and the government has adequate reserves. Therefore, no citizen needs to hoard or stockpile goods. Just like during the Covid period, traders will not only maintain the supply chain but, if needed, also ensure delivery of essentials to people's doorsteps.



Sonakshi calls out practice of 'sensationalising war, creating panic' during India-Pakistan conflict

Sonakshi Sinha took to her Instagram stories to laud the Indian Armed Forces and post a note about how it frustrated her to see 'screaming' about war. The tensions between India and Pakistan escalated on Thursday evening with the Indian Armed Forces intercepting drones and missiles launched towards the country. Sonakshi Sinha sent a prayer for the armed forces and the rest of the country before calling out coverage of 'sensationalising war' and 'creating panic' during unrest. Late on Thursday, Sonakshi wrote on her Instagram stories that she's praying for the armed forces and the rest of the country as things escalated. She wrote, "Praying for our armed forces...Praying for India...Praying for every anxious Indian right now...Praying for the innocent who have fallen and will still fall...Praying for peace in this time of war. Jai

hind."

She also posted the Ministry of Defence's directive urging the media and people from sharing real-time news on social media and other platforms, slamming channels for their 'over-dramatisation'. Her note read, "Our news channels are a joke! I'm so done with these over dramatized visuals and sound effects, the screaming and shouting! What are

you'll doing? Just do your job, report facts as they are. Stop sensationalizing WAR and creating panic on people who are anyway anxious for gods sake. People just find a reliable news source and stick to that...stop watching his garbage in the name of news."

After the events on Thursday evening and Friday morning, numerous celebrities took to social media to laud the Indian Armed Forces. Anushka Sharma, Virat Kohli, Rashmika Mandanna, SS Rajamouli, Kangana Ranaut, Akhil Akkineni, Namrata Shirodkar, Ananya Panday and Karan Johar are some of the celebrities who reacted to the news and lauded the armed forces. Much like Sonakshi, Rajamouli too urged the people not to shoot footage of the operations and share them online, as it 'might help the enemy'.

SS Rajamouli salutes the Indian Armed Forces; urges people not to shoot footage



RRR and Baahubali director SS Rajamouli has spoken up about the ongoing India-Pakistan conflict and saluted the Indian Armed Forces for their bravery. He also urged people not to shoot footage of the Army's movements and post it on social media, as it could be a security issue.

After the escalating tensions between both countries and the way India responded to Pakistan's attack from Thursday evening to Friday morning, Rajamouli lauded the armed forces for handling it well, writing

on X (formerly Twitter), "Saluting our Brave Indian Armed Forces for their unwavering courage in protecting our nation from terrorism. Let's stand together as a nation, inspired by their valor, to build a future of peace and unity. Jai Hind!" Then, mirroring the directive by the Ministry of Defence, he also urged people from sharing videos and unverified news, writing, "If you see any movement of the Indian Army, don't take pictures or videos. Don't share them as you might be helping the enemy.

Stop forwarding unverified news or claims. You'll only create noise, which the enemy wants. Stay calm, alert and positive. Victory is ours."

For the unversed, the Defence Ministry's directive posted on X reads: "All media channels, digital platforms and individuals are advised to refrain from live coverage or real-time reporting of defence operations and movement of security forces. Disclosure of such sensitive or source-based information may jeopardize operational effectiveness and endanger lives." They added: "Past incidents like the #KargilWar, 26/11 attacks, and the #Kandahar hijacking underscore the risks of premature reporting. As per clause 6(1)(p) of the Cable Television Networks (Amendment) Rules, 2021, only periodic briefings by designated officials are permitted during anti-terror operations. All stakeholders are urged to exercise vigilance, sensitivity, and responsibility in coverage, upholding the highest standards in the service of the nation."

Akshay to Deepika, Indian Film Fraternity Stands by Indian Army

The world woke up to India attacking Pakistan and POK-based terror bases after midnight on May 7, 2025. Expertly planned airstrikes under Operation Sindoor were carried out to avenge the Pahalgam attack, said Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. This was in response to the gruesome Pahalgam attack that took place on April 22, 2025, where terrorists attacked tourists, and claimed 26 lives in the Baisaran Valley of the Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir region.

Amid the prayers and support coming in for the Indian Army, the Indian Film Fraternity, too, has united to show their respect for the Armed forces amid the rising India-Pak conflict. Biggest A-listers, namely Akshay Kumar, Deepika Padukone, Rajinikanth, Alia Bhatt, Allu Arjun, Vicky Kaushal, Kangana Ranaut, Katrina Kaif, Shraddha Kapoor, Mohanlal, R Madhavan, Samantha Prabhu,



and Ranveer Singh, among others, have taken to social media to express their gratitude. This expression of unity has expanded across multiple platforms - from social media to mainstream press - and continues to gain momentum. As for the latest updates, Pakistan-led "unprovoked" attacks were witnessed across LOC last night. The Indian Army informed, "Pakistan Armed Forces launched multiple attacks using drones and other munitions along the entire Western Border on the intervening night of 08 and 09

May 2025. Pak troops also resorted to numerous ceasefire violations (CFVs) along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir."

Furthermore, it added, "Indian Army remains committed to safeguarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Nation. All nefarious designs will be responded with force." Meanwhile, India's Border Security Force (BSF) foiled a major infiltration attempt across the border in the Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Odisha Kudo Association in Meeting with CM



Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : A 70-member delegation from the Odisha Kudo Association, including players, coaches, and members, met Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi at Lok Seva Bhawan today to advocate for the promotion and official recognition of Kudo, a dynamic mixed martial art blending judo, karate, and taekwondo. The delegation highlighted the growing popularity of Kudo, both in India and internationally, and noted that training programs are already underway in several Odisha districts. They urged the state government to grant Kudo state-

level recognition to further its development and reach. Chief Minister Majhi engaged with the players, encouraging them to persist in their training and assuring them that the government would consider recognizing Kudo at the state level. The sport's potential to foster discipline and physical fitness was acknowledged during the discussions. The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Pravatī Parida, Revenue Minister Suresh Pujari, and Nitai Shankar Guin, the chief coach of the Odisha Kudo Association, underscoring the significance of the initiative.

16th KIIT International Chess Festival 2025 Inaugurated at KIIT

Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : The 16th KIIT International Chess Festival 2025, organised by KIIT-DU under the aegis of the All-India Chess Federation (AICF), was inaugurated on Friday at KIIT. Inaugurating the event as Chief Guest, eminent Indian tennis star, Olympian, and Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Awardee Leander Paes said, "The vision of Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Founder of KIIT & KISS, for education and sports education is truly unique. The sports infrastructure and training facilities at KIIT & KISS are excellent. Dr. Samanta is a great visionary and a role model for all. His contribution to bringing global sporting events to India is immense." He thanked Dr. Samanta for creating KIIT & KISS as a leading hub for sports education, adding, "It is my responsibility to take KIIT & KISS sports to the global stage." Abhijit Kunte, Grandmaster and Commissioner of Chess in Schools (FIDE), Pune, Maharashtra, expressed his



gratitude to Dr. Samanta for his foresight. "Sixteen years ago, he envisioned the need for an international chess tournament in the eastern region of India. Organising such a large-scale event consistently for 16 years is no easy task, but he has achieved it," he said. Bhavesh Bhai Patel, former Vice President of the All-India Chess Federation (AICF), said, "Organising a tournament of this scale requires significant funding, vast infrastructure, and above all, a big heart-which I have witnessed in

IPL 2025 suspended for one week



New Delhi, (HS) : BCCI has decided to suspend the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 with immediate effect for one week amid escalating tensions between India and Pakistan. Amidst the chaos, overseas players have expressed concern regarding the situation, and a willingness to return home. Now, it lies on the BCCI as to how their safe travel can be executed. As per reports, many Australian cricketers participating in IPL 2025 have expressed their anxiety and want to leave India as soon as possible, particularly those near sensitive border areas. Among those Australian players are Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc and

Josh Hazlewood, are part of IPL 2025. Starc, Ricky Ponting, Brad Haddin, Marcus Stoinis, Josh Inglis and Jake Fraser-McGurk.

Meanwhile, reliable IPL sources have revealed that all overseas players want to head home as soon as possible. As per sources, all ten franchises are now awaiting further advice over how they can start sending Indian and overseas players, as well as support staff and other crew members, back to their respective homes once the briefing by the Ministry of External Affairs. Meanwhile, Cricket Australia has kept a close watch on the scenario and the safety of their players involved in IPL 2025.

World Athletics Day: Vedanta Aluminium Celebrates Transformative Power of Sports Across Odisha

Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : On the occasion of World Athletics Day, Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, celebrates its steadfast commitment to fostering grassroots sporting talent and building a culture of athletic excellence across its operations in Kalahandi and Jharsuguda, Odisha.

Driving this commitment are initiatives like the Vedanta Sports Training Initiative in Lanjigarh and the Vedanta Martial Arts Training Centre at Jharsuguda. These initiatives are empowering more than 200 youth from underserved communities through access to professional coaching, modern sports

infrastructure, and competitive platforms. Since 2018, Vedanta's Lanjigarh unit has been at the forefront of community sports development. In this remote tribal belt - once known for malnutrition, stunted growth, and starvation-related deaths - Vedanta's Sports Training Initiative now supports more than 100 young athletes who are winning accolades on national and global platforms. Vedanta offers structured coaching in archery and karate, access to quality equipment, uniforms, and expert-led camps. In the past year alone, the archers trained under the program have secured 40+ medals at various state and national championships. Currently,



Vedanta supports 60 students in karate and 40 in archery at SSD High School, Lanjigarh, enabling them to aspire to and achieve sporting excellence at higher levels. Recently, the academy partnered with former

Olympian, Rahul Banerjee, to train more than 80+ tribal students in archery. The Vedanta Martial Arts Training Centre, a flagship initiative of Vedanta Aluminium's Jharsuguda unit, provides training in karate and

self-defence to local youth and women. With more than 100 students currently enrolled, the centre promotes physical fitness, self-discipline, and confidence, while preparing participants to compete at state, national, and international levels. The company also collaborated with the District Hockey Association to organize the first-ever Inter-State Girls' U-17 Girls' 5-A-Side Hockey Tournament in Jharsuguda. The tournament witnessed enthusiastic participation from nine teams, serving as a platform to identify and encourage promising female athletes.

Speaking on the occasion, Rajiv Kumar, CEO - Vedanta

Aluminium, said: "At Vedanta Aluminium, we believe sports has the power to transform lives. From Jharsuguda to Lanjigarh, our initiatives are not just creating athletes, but shaping confident, empowered individuals. Odisha has always been a cradle of sporting talent, and we are proud to be strengthening that legacy by building infrastructure, enabling access, and nurturing aspirations." Across Kalahandi and Jharsuguda, Vedanta Aluminium is building on Odisha's rich sporting legacy, particularly in hockey, archery, and martial arts. The company has organized numerous events such as the District Hockey

Championship and sponsored infrastructure like the Jharsuguda District Athletics Association's new administrative building. Its townships are equipped with modern playgrounds and training facilities, encouraging participation from both youth and adults in leading active, healthier lives. Vedanta Aluminium's grassroots sports programs have already seen athletes shine at prestigious platforms such as national-level archery competitions. These efforts reflect the company's broader vision of contributing to the holistic development of its communities and creating lasting social impact.