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Monsoon to reach Kerala by May 27, IMD



Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has announced that this year, the southwest monsoon is likely to set in over Kerala on May 27. Southwest monsoon normally sets in over Kerala on June 1, with a standard deviation of about seven days. IMD has been issuing operational forecasts for the date of monsoon onset over Kerala from 2005 onwards. An indigenously developed state-of-the-art statistical model with a model error of ± 4 days is used for the purpose, according to an IMD statement. Last year, IMD had forecast the arrival on June 4 with a margin of 4 days. The advance of the southwest monsoon over the Indian mainland is marked by monsoon onset over Kerala and is an important indicator characterizing the transition from the hot and dry season to the rainy season. As the monsoon progresses northward, relief from scorching summer temperatures is experienced over the areas. India Meteorological Department (IMD) has been issuing operational forecasts for the date of monsoon onset over Kerala from 2005 onwards. An indigenously developed state-of-the-art statistical model with a model error of ± 4 days is used for the purpose. The 6 Predictors used in the models are: i) Minimum Temperatures over North-west India, ii) Pre-monsoon rainfall peak over south Peninsula, iii) Mean sea level pressure over Subtropical NW Pacific Ocean, iv) Outgoing Long wave Radiation (OLR) over south China Sea, v) Lower tropospheric zonal wind over Northeast Indian Ocean, vi) Upper tropospheric zonal wind over Indonesia Region. IMD's operational forecasts of the date of monsoon onset over Kerala during the past 20 years (2005-2024) were proved to be correct except in 2015. Over the past few years, the monsoon has arrived in Kerala on the following dates: May 30 in 2024, June 8 in 2023, May 29 in 2022, June 3 in 2021, and June 1 in 2020.

India agrees to ceasefire with Pakistan after call from across the border



New Delhi, (HS) : It might end up being remembered as the big 5:25 pm Donald Trump surprise. At that moment, on Truth Social, the US President posted that India and Pakistan had agreed to a "FULL AND IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE". US Secretary of State Marco Rubio followed up at 5:37 pm confirming the unexpected news. And soon, there he was, the Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri before the press, confirming that peace had been sealed after an evening call by the Pakistan Director General of Military Operations (DGMO). "The Director General of Military Operations of Pakistan called the

Director General of Military Operations of India at 1535 hours IST earlier today. It was agreed between them that both sides would stop all firing and military action on land and in the air and sea with effect from 1700 hours Indian Standard Time today," Misri announced. The top military officials would speak again on May 12, Misri added. It was three days after India launched Operation Sindoor to target terror infrastructure across the border in retaliation for the Pahalgam attack, and following Pakistan's escalatory response, which triggered a military build-up, that both countries had agreed to halt all firing and

military action on land, air, and sea. Following the announcement, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar posted on X saying, "India and Pakistan have today worked out an understanding on stoppage of firing and military action". "India has consistently maintained a firm and uncompromising stance against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. It will continue to do so," he further wrote. Earlier, Trump, in his post, had claimed credit for stitching together the ceasefire. In a headmasterly tone, he wrote: "Congratulations to both Countries on using Common Sense and Great Intelligence.

Thank you for your attention to this matter!" US Secretary of State Marco Rubio also took to X saying "India and Pakistan have agreed to an immediate ceasefire and to start talks on a broad set of issues at a neutral site". "I am pleased to announce the Governments of India and Pakistan have agreed to an immediate ceasefire and to start talks on a broad set of issues at a neutral site. "We commend Prime Ministers Modi and Sharif on their wisdom, prudence, and statesmanship in choosing the path of peace," he wrote. Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, while confirming the ceasefire, thanked "President Trump for his leadership and proactive role for peace in the region." He tweeted that "Pakistan appreciates the United States for facilitating this outcome, which we have accepted in the interest of regional peace and stability." Prime Minister Sharif also thanked "Vice President JD Vance and Secretary of State Marco Rubio for their valuable contributions for peace in South Asia" while going on to

Continued P-4

Ceasefire on India: Pakistan Forced on Backfoot During Operation Sindoor



New Delhi, (HS) : The decisive retaliatory strikes undertaken by the Indian Armed Forces under Operation Sindoor over the last few days, which underscored the country's growing military prowess, played a significant role in both India and Pakistan announcing a ceasefire late Saturday afternoon, that sources said has been reached firmly on New Delhi's terms.

The cessation of hostilities was implemented at 5 PM on Saturday, hours after India demolished eight Pakistani air

bases, eliminated over 100 high-value terrorists, and inflicted significant damage on Pakistan's terror infrastructure and military support assets. Crucially, the ceasefire came not through a negotiated settlement or involvement of any third party, but after Pakistan found itself incapable of sustaining further escalation, say sources. "Over the last few days, as we have all seen, Pakistan has suffered very heavy and unsustainable losses, after it has given us an unprovoked attack

Continued P-4

Govt to Organise 'Parakram Shobha Yatra' Across State Tomorrow to Honour Armed Forces



Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi announced that the government will organise 'Parakram Shobha Yatra' across the state on May 11, 2025, at 8 AM to honour the Indian Armed Forces protecting the country's sovereignty. In a post on 'X', Majhi praised the Indian Army's strong response to terrorist attacks through 'Operation Sindoor'. He expressed pride in the soldiers' bravery and valour in the anti-terrorist fight, safeguarding the country's security and sovereignty. The 'Parakram Shobha Yatra' aims to honour the sacrifices of the Indian Army fighting for the nation's honour and pride. Majhi urged citizens to join the procession as a display of nationalism and unity, strengthening the morale of the soldiers in their fight against terrorism. "Let us join this

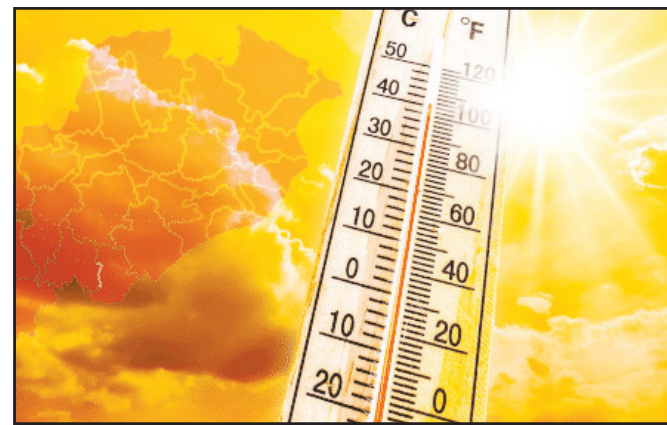
procession as true Indians as an identity of the nationalism. Let us unite for the national interest. Let us further strengthen the morale of the Indian Army soldiers in the fight against terrorism," CM Majhi stated.

Another Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has announced that the grievance redressal programme will be held not only in Bhubaneswar but also in all parts of the state. "This government is the government of the people, your government. Now, not only in Bhubaneswar, but there will be a grievance redressal programme in all parts of the state. I will personally visit you, listen to your problems, and resolve them," the CM said. In a video message, Majhi emphasised that his government prioritises listening to common people. The Chief Minister

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Heatwave Odisha: Mercury Soars Beyond 40°C Across 17 Places

Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : Odisha is reeling under an intense heatwave as temperatures continue to rise across the state. According to the latest data, 17 places have recorded temperatures exceeding 40°C, with Sambalpur leading the chart at a blistering 42.7°C. Other places, including Hirakud, Jharsuguda, Titlagarh, and Balangir, are also witnessing extreme heat, prompting authorities to issue yellow warnings for heatwave conditions and thunderstorms. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has confirmed that Odisha will experience above-normal temperatures for the next five days due to persistent dry conditions and strong westerly winds. Coastal districts, including



Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapada, and Jagatsinghpur, are facing high humidity levels, further exacerbating discomfort among residents. The state government has urged people to remain indoors during peak hours, stay hydrated, and take necessary

precautions against the heat. Meteorologists highlight the lack of significant monsoonal influence as a key factor behind the prolonged heatwave. The southwest monsoon remains weeks away, leaving the state vulnerable to soaring

temperatures. While light thunderstorms are expected in select districts, including Koraput, Rayagada, and Ganjam, they are unlikely to provide substantial relief. With heatwave conditions projected to persist until May 15, experts advise Odisha's residents to exercise caution, especially the elderly, children, and those with health conditions susceptible to extreme temperatures. The regional meteorological centre has recommended avoiding outdoor activities between noon and 4 PM, emphasising the importance of hydration and wearing light clothing. As Odisha continues to battle the heat, authorities remain vigilant, monitoring developments to ensure timely updates and precautionary measures for public safety.

Odisha Prepared to Counter Potential Threats Amid Indo-Pak Tensions

Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : With security concerns escalating due to heightened tensions between India and Pakistan, Odisha's Revenue & Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari assured citizens that the state is fully prepared to face any potential threats, including drone-based attacks. "The state is well-equipped to handle any situation. There is no need for panic. We are in constant coordination with the central government, the Indian Army, Navy, Air Force, Odisha

Police, and paramilitary forces to ensure the safety of our people," stated Minister Pujari while speaking to reporters.

The Odisha Police is on high alert, closely monitoring sensitive locations across the state. In response to growing security threats, the government has regulated drone operations to mitigate any possible risks from the air or sea. "In this war-like situation, security forces are working around the clock to maintain peace and order," Pujari added. The statement comes at

a time when national security has been ramped up, with the Indian Army's launch of 'Operation Sindoor' to combat terrorism. In line with national efforts, the Odisha government has taken precautionary steps to protect critical infrastructure, including key sites such as All India Radio, Doordarshan, the Hirakud Dam, Jagannath Temple, and defense installations. Minister Pujari also revealed that Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi had convened a high-level meeting to

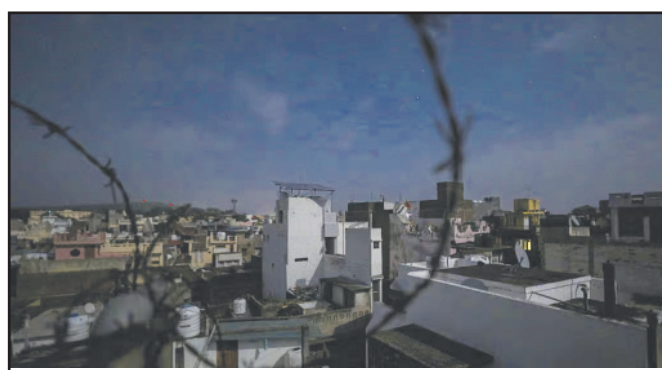
review the security situation. "The Chief Minister has instructed relevant departments to bolster surveillance and security around these strategic locations. Increased patrolling has been deployed to ensure public safety," Pujari said.

The state government assured the public of its readiness to handle any situation with the full backing of central forces and the collective efforts of state and national security agencies.

Blasts in Srinagar after ceasefire; drones seen in Gujarat

AHMEDABAD, (HS) : Loud explosions have been heard in Srinagar just hours after India and Pakistan agreed to a "full and immediate ceasefire", ending days of heavy tension and military action between the two countries. Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah confirmed hearing explosions across Srinagar. "This is no ceasefire. The air defence units in the middle of Srinagar just opened up," Abdullah said in a post on X. Complete blackout has been enforced in Jammu, Pathankot, Ferozepur, Jailsalmer and Barmer. The Gujarat Home Minister Harsh Sanghavi has also tweeted that "several drones have been spotted in the Kutch

district". He went on to add that "a complete blackout will be implemented now. Please stay safe, don't panic." Earlier, US President made a surprise announcement that India and Pakistan had agreed to a ceasefire on Truth Social at 5:25 pm. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri went on to confirm that peace had been sealed after an evening call by the Pakistan Director General of Military Operations (DGMO). "The Director General of Military Operations of Pakistan called the Director General of Military Operations of India at 1535 hours IST earlier today. It was agreed between them that both sides would stop all firing and military



action on land and in the air and sea with effect from 1700 hours Indian Standard Time today," Misri announced. The top military officials would speak again on May 12, Misri added. Following the announcement, External Affairs

Minister S Jaishankar posted on X saying, "India and Pakistan have today worked out an understanding on stoppage of firing and military action". "India has consistently maintained a firm and uncompromising stance against terrorism in all its forms

and manifestations. It will continue to do so," he further wrote.

A blackout enforced across Gujarat's border districts was lifted on Saturday following a sudden ceasefire agreement between India and Pakistan. The temporary shutdown came after a wave of drone incursions and cross-border strikes heightened tensions in the region. The flare-up began early on May 8, when the Indian Army shot down a suspected Pakistani drone over an empty plot in East Kutch, scattering debris across nearby fields. Authorities immediately launched an investigation to confirm whether the object was a drone or a missile, deepening

anxiety along the already volatile frontier. According to sources, the Army had intercepted a total of five drones near the India-Pakistan border in Gujarat's Kutch district. Two of them were brought down in Abdasa taluka, one intercepted earlier, and another shot down in Lakhpat, where locals reported hearing a loud explosion. A broken drone was also found in an empty plot in Adipur, while another was downed near Nagore in Bhuj taluka. "A Pakistan Army armed drone was successfully brought down by the Indian Army using L-70 air defence guns in Kutch this morning," sources said. Later that night, three more drones were sighted near the Sir Creek area,

compounding fears. On the evening of May 9, a full blackout was enforced across Kutch, Jamnagar, and the border villages of Vav and Suigam after additional drone movements were reported. In Lakhpat, three drones were detected approaching Indian territory, with video footage of the sightings quickly making rounds on social media. Though the drones later vanished from sight, fresh movements were observed near another sector along the border. Around 11 p.m., drones were again spotted near the northern edge of Kutch, the same area where a drone had been shot down earlier. On the morning of May 10, the Indian Army

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Who are Nattukottai Chettiars ?

Bhaskar Parichha

The Nattukottai Chettiar community, also known as the Nagarathar community, is a prominent Tamil merchant community originating from the Chettinad region of Tamil Nadu, India. They are renowned for their entrepreneurial spirit and have historically been involved in trade and finance, establishing businesses across India and in various countries around the world. The community is known for its unique cultural practices, rich culinary traditions, and distinctive architectural styles in their ancestral homes. Nattukottai Chettiars have also made significant contributions to the fields of education and philanthropy, establishing numerous schools, temples, and charitable organizations. Their legacy continues to influence the

socio-economic landscape of the regions they inhabit. '

Fortune Seekers: A Business History of the Nattukottai Chettiars' by Raman Mahadevan delves into this fascinating community. Raman Mahadevan is a distinguished historian specializing in economic and business history. His research focuses on the extensive field of industrial and capitalist evolution in colonial South India. He has co-edited notable works such as Shaping India: Economic Change in Historical Perspective and South India Economy: Agrarian Change, Industrial Structure and State Politics 1914-1947.

Says the book: 'NattukotaiChettiars were the most prominent business community from Tamil region and this book captures their spirit of enterprise that led many of them to seek their fortunes overseas.

It's a story that connects South India, Burma, and South-East Asia across the Bay of Bengal and equally one

Fortune Seekers: A Business History of the Nattukottai Chettiars

that spans the British imperial era and that of the modern nation state.'

Writes Mahadevan in the introduction: 'this book is the story of the community's entrepreneurship not only in south India, but on shores far beyond. It is about the spirit of enterprise that led many community members to seek their fortunes overseas, with all the attendant twists and turns that spelt success or failure or penury

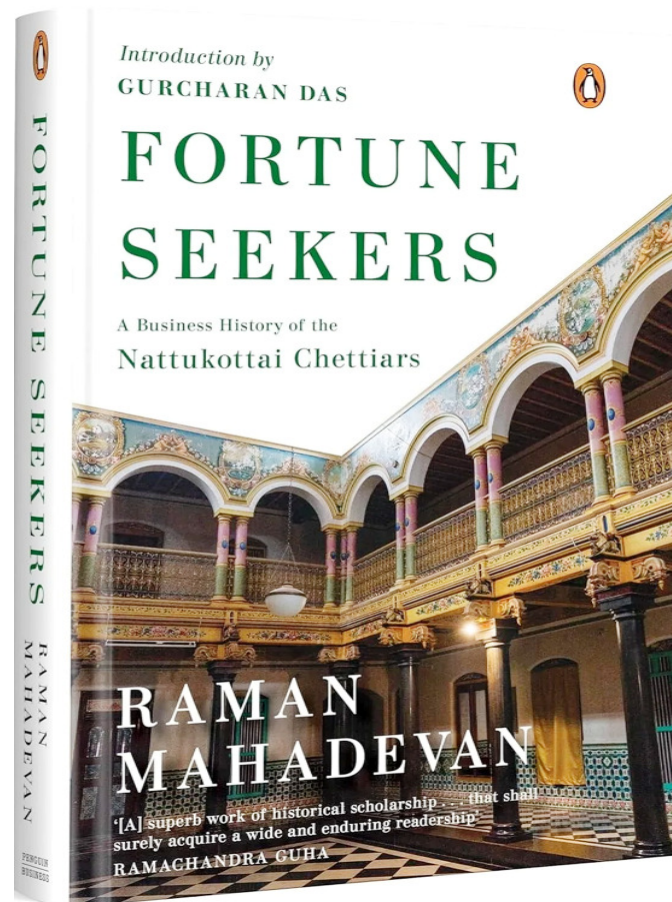
for them. It is about the transformation and diversification of the community and the breakdown

of the old business and social networks over time. It is the story of how risk and courage, as much as trust, were central to the whole epic of wealth generation in southern India. In a sense, their story is also a thread that connects south India, Burma and Southeast Asia across the Bay of Bengal. It is equally one that spans the era from British Imperial rule to the modern nation states. The Chettiar story offers a glimpse into a kaleidoscope of changes,

some of which were epochal.'

This book is meticulously crafted, filled with rich details and sharp analysis, providing crucial insights for history students, business professionals, and modern entrepreneurs about the importance of diversifying their portfolios into profitable investment opportunities. It emphasizes the need to evaluate the changing economic environment and adapt strategies accordingly. Fortune Seekers, which includes a Foreword by Gurcharan Das, represents a significant addition to the current body of literature vis-à-vis Indian business communities.

Raman Mahadevan
Penguin Business
Gurugram



Early American Presence in India

Wanderers, Adventurers, Missionaries: Early Americans in India

Dharma Raj

Explorers, pioneers, and religious workers played a crucial role in shaping the early interactions between America and India. These individuals ventured into uncharted territories, paving the way for cultural exchanges and trade relationships. Explorers documented their findings, providing valuable insights into Indian society, geography, and resources, which sparked interest and curiosity among Americans. Pioneers, often seeking new opportunities, contributed to the establishment of trade routes and economic ties, facilitating the exchange of goods and ideas between the two regions.

Meanwhile, religious workers, motivated by a desire to spread their faith, engaged in missionary activities that not only aimed to convert but also to understand and respect Indian traditions. Their efforts led to a complex interplay of cultural influences, fostering a dialogue that would shape perceptions and relationships for years to come. Together, these groups laid the groundwork for a multifaceted relationship between early America and India, characterized by exploration, commerce, and spiritual exchange. In the year 1833, Frederic Tudor, an innovative American entrepreneur, made a remarkable contribution to history by successfully transporting 180 pounds of ice

that he had harvested from the famous Walden Pond in Boston all the way to Calcutta. This venture catered to the desires of the wealthy elite in British India, who viewed ice as a luxurious commodity. As a result of his pioneering efforts in this unique trade, Tudor earned the nickname 'Ice King' and went on to build a thriving business that focused on exporting American ice to the Indian market, revolutionizing the way ice was perceived and utilized in that region.

Wanderers, Adventurers, Missionaries: Early Americans in India by Anuradha Kumar documents the role of explorers, pioneers, and religious workers in shaping early american relations with India. Anuradha Kumar lived in Mumbai for over ten years while working at the Economic and Political Weekly. The author discusses how individuals were attracted to the country for reasons beyond material gain. For instance, the 'medical missionaries' exhibited a profound concern for the status of women in India. Ida Scudder's initiatives in the early 1900s led to the establishment of the Christian Medical College in Vellore, which remains a vital institution for saving lives today. Additionally, in 1873, 'Doctor Miss Sahiba' Clara Swain founded the first hospital for women and children in Asia, located in Bareilly, on land provided by the Nawab of Rampur. Among those who settled permanently were Samuel Evans Stokes, a twenty-two-year-old who arrived in Kotgarh in the Himalayan foothills in 1904, adopted Hinduism, and took on the name Satyanand Stokes. He transformed apple farming in the region, now part of Himachal Pradesh, by introducing the 'Red Delicious' variety from Missouri; his descendants continue to reside and work there today.



Similarly, the Alter family made their mark when Martha and David Emmet Alter came to Mussoorie in 1917 to study at the Landour Language School for the summer; by 1941, Emmet had become the principal of Woodstock School, located nearby on the hillside.

A quarter of a century later, Robert, his son, held the same position. Stephen, Robert's son, remains in Mussoorie, where he is successfully pursuing a career in writing; his cousin Tom Alter was a cherished actor in Indian cinema until his death in 2017. These individuals represent just a few of the 'first Americans in India' who arrived starting in the 1700s, each with unique aspirations and motivations-as adventurers, traders, reformers, writers, and artists. All of them were, without exception, captivated, astonished, moved, and ultimately profoundly transformed by their experiences in India. Anuradha Kumar has skillfully crafted a narrative that is both well-researched and engaging, making this book a noteworthy and fascinating read. It offers a balanced mix of information, unexpected insights, and entertainment that keeps readers intrigued throughout.

Anuradha Kumar
Speaking Tiger Books
New Delhi

Inflation Explained in Simple Terms

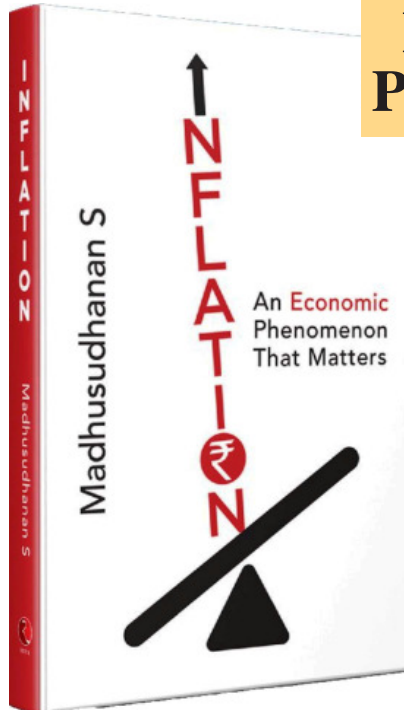
Dharma Raj

Madhusudhanan S has dedicated a significant portion of his career as an economic consultant for the Government of India, accumulating approximately 16 years of diverse experience in various economic fields. His academic contributions are remarkable, particularly his 2015 article, 'Rate of Interest and Indian Financial System,' which was featured as a distinct chapter in the edited volume, Financial Crisis and Indian Economy. His latest publication, 'Inflation: An Economic Phenomenon That Matters,' seeks to clearly elucidate these effects while providing an in-depth and insightful examination of various theories, case studies, and arguments. Considering the intricacies of the phenomenon, this work advocates for a comprehensive understanding of the topic. Despite the vast array of cultural and linguistic differences,

Arun Mishra

India's economy has been growing steadily at a remarkable rate of over 7 percent each year. However, this impressive economic growth has not translated into sufficient job creation, which is lagging far behind the needs of the population. At the same time, a large portion of the workforce is engaged in low-wage jobs, highlighting a troubling disparity. This scenario underscores a dual crisis: one of productivity and skill development, and another of a critical lack of quality employment opportunities for the country's large and diverse population.

In his book 'Jobonomics', Goutam Das provides an in-depth analysis of the pressing issues surrounding the job market. He raises a significant alarm regarding the potential consequences of neglecting the challenges that impact both the demand for and supply of jobs. If these issues are not effectively tackled, Das warns that by the year 2025, we could



the world is intricately interconnected. This essential interdependence is attributed to the

Inflation : An Economic Phenomenon that Matters

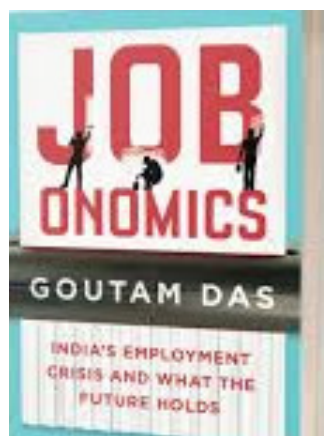
social sciences, particularly the economy, which plays a crucial role in global affairs. However, the narrative extends beyond this. Consider the concept of a Russian doll and explore the layers of thought. While the economy represents the visible aspect of international relations, an underlying force influences all nations, beliefs, and individuals. This force, recognized by humanity as inflation, significantly affects consumers, investors, and the overall economy. The objective is to assist readers in comprehending the causes, effects, and various forms of inflation, as well as its practical implications,

including those related to government and policy. It further outlines the development of the concept, elucidates the notion of inflation targeting in India and other nations, and details the progression of monetary policies in India. Drawing on his extensive knowledge and hands-on experience, he provides readers with a novel viewpoint on economic matters, with a particular emphasis on inflation, in his most recent publication. His dedication to breaking down intricate economic ideas ensures that his writing is approachable for a diverse range of readers, including policymakers, students, and the general public.

Madhusudhanan S
Rupa Publications
New Delhi

Talking about Jobs & Economics

Jobonomics



see over 200 million people either stuck in unsatisfactory jobs or completely out of work. This raises critical questions about the barriers that prevent Indian companies from creating enough job opportunities. Additionally, it prompts an exploration of the various factors that contribute to the stagnation of small

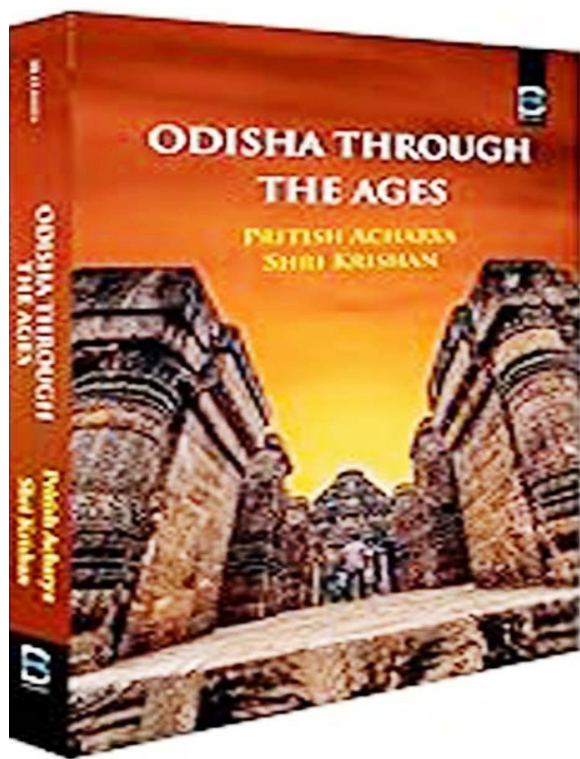
businesses, which are often seen as vital engines for job creation in the economy. The question of whether robots will take over existing jobs, spanning from manufacturing positions to administrative roles, is a significant concern in today's society. As automation technology advances, it raises important inquiries about the future of work and the types of jobs that will remain available.

Furthermore, what will the salary landscape look like in the coming years as these changes unfold? It is also worth examining why successive government administrations have struggled to deliver on their promises to create more high-paying job opportunities for the workforce. This raises critical discussions about economic policy, workforce development, and the impact of technology on employment. In this engaging book, the author explores these questions and

more, providing a detailed account of the real-life experiences of workers from various backgrounds across India. The journey stretches from Tiruppur in Tamil Nadu to Gurugram in Haryana, showcasing the rich tapestry of the Indian workforce. The book sheds light on the significant social and political consequences of unemployment and underemployment, illustrating how these issues affect individuals and communities alike.

Through thoughtful analysis of current and emerging trends in India's labor market, this relevant work not only charts a path forward but also emphasizes the immense human potential that can be harnessed to drive meaningful change. An interesting read.

Goutam Das
Hachette India
New Delhi



Odisha across Historical Periods

Bhaskar Parichha

Odisha has a rich and diverse history that spans several periods, each marked by significant cultural, political, and social developments. In ancient times, Odisha was known as Kalinga, a region famous for its maritime trade and cultural exchanges with Southeast Asia.

The Kalinga War, fought between Emperor Ashoka and the Kalinga kingdom, marked a pivotal moment in Indian history, leading to Ashoka's conversion to Buddhism and the spread of the religion across the region. During the medieval period, Odisha flourished under the rule of various dynasties, including the Eastern Ganga dynasty, which contributed to the construction of iconic temples such as the Jagannath Temple in Puri. This era also saw the rise of Odia literature and art, with

significant contributions from poets and scholars. The colonial period brought significant changes to Odisha, as it became part of British India. The impact of colonial policies on agriculture, trade, and education transformed the socio-economic landscape of the region. The struggle for independence saw many Odia leaders emerge, advocating for the rights and welfare of the people. Post-independence, Odisha has continued to evolve, facing challenges such as natural disasters and economic development. The state has made strides in various sectors, including education, industry, and tourism, while also preserving its rich cultural heritage. Today, Odisha is recognized for its unique traditions, festivals, and contributions to Indian art and culture, reflecting its historical journey through time. 'Odisha Through the Ages' by Prithish Acharya and Shri

Krishan provides a comprehensive account of the historical development of Odisha, tracing its journey from early primitive societies engaged in hunting and gathering to its present-day status. Prithish Acharya is a History Professor at NCERT, based at RIE in Ajmer, Rajasthan. He has previously taught at Rajiv Gandhi University in Itanagar and served at the National Defence Academy in Pune and the Regional Institute of Education in Bhubaneswar. Shri Krishan recently finished his role as a history professor at Indira Gandhi University in Rewari, where he was also the Chairperson and Dean of the School of Social Sciences. He was a Senior Fellow at the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library and has contributed to IGNOU as a course writer, editor, translator, and resource person. The book begins with the introduction of basic stone tools, highlighting the significant transition

to agricultural practices that followed. It further explores the rise of structured state systems that emerged as a result of these agricultural advancements. Then it delves into the intricate tapestry of various dynasties that thrived on the agricultural surplus, which played a crucial role in laying the foundation for the establishment of organized statehood in the region. While providing a comprehensive exploration of the inter-regional dynamics of Odisha, it also details the interactions between various ruling entities throughout its history. It emphasizes the region's trade connections and cultural exchanges, which have played a significant role in shaping a distinct Odia identity. Additionally, the text delves into the impact of external political forces on Odisha's development. It discusses the arrival of colonial governance and its socio-economic consequences,

Odisha Through the Ages

including the popular resistance that emerged in response.

Furthermore, the chronicle examines the evolution of a linguistic and cultural identity in the context of the broader rise of pan-Indian nationalism, highlighting key contemporary themes that resonate throughout the region's history. Considering the scarcity of literature on the history of Odisha, this publication represents a significant contribution.

Prithish Acharya/Shri Krishan
BK Classics
Bhubaneswar

Odisha Ramps Up Coastal Security with Drones & Navy Coordination



Bhubaneswar, (DMC): In response to escalating security concerns along Odisha's 480-kilometer coastline and heightened India-Pakistan tensions, a high-level security review meeting was held at the Police Seva Bhavan in Bhubaneswar on Saturday. Chaired by the Director General of Police (DGP), Odisha, the meeting included senior officials such as the Additional Director General (ADG) of Coastal Security, Arun Bothra, and the ADG of Law and Order. The meeting focused on

evaluating the state's coastal security infrastructure, improving inter-agency collaboration, and ensuring the readiness of marine and coastal police forces. Odisha's coastline, vulnerable to infiltration, smuggling, and natural disasters, prompted discussions on advanced surveillance, logistics, and training needs. ADG Coastal Security Arun Bothra, addressing the media post-meeting, highlighted the deployment of enhanced drone surveillance for real-time monitoring and the alertness of marine police

stations. "All coastal protection units are on high alert, and we are coordinating closely with the Indian Navy and central intelligence agencies," Bothra said. He also announced plans for joint patrolling exercises and the use of high-speed interceptor boats, advanced surveillance systems, and mobile patrol units along sensitive coastal areas. The DGP emphasized a multi-agency approach, involving the Marine Police, Indian Navy, Coast Guard and intelligence units, to create a robust security network.

He commended the police forces' efforts and urged heightened vigilance during festivals, cyclone alerts, or other critical events. The meeting also addressed the need to upgrade marine police infrastructure, increase coastal outposts, and enhance personnel training. This strategic initiative underscores Odisha's critical role in bolstering maritime security along India's eastern coast.

Odisha to set up five fast track courts to take up cases of crime against women: Minister

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): The Odisha government will soon set up five fast-track courts in the state to take up cases concerning crimes against women including domestic violence, sexual assault and abuse, the state's minister for law, works and excise, Mr. Pruthiraj Harichandan said on Saturday.

These fast track courts will dispose-off cases within a period of one month to provide justice to suffering women, Mr. Harichandan said while speaking at the 43rd annual conference of the Medico Legal Society of Odisha (MLSO), state branch of the Indian Academy of Forensic Medicine (IAFM), organised at the Institute of Medical Sciences and SUM Hospital here. Harichandan said the role of



forensic medicine was crucial in dispensing justice to women victims of crime. It was necessary for investigating officers in police stations to acquire knowledge about the medico-legal domain, he said. He praised IMS and SUM Hospital for organizing such a program. Prof. Pradipta Kumar Nanda, Vice-Chancellor of SOA,

who attended the conference as guest of honour, said that IMS and SUM Hospital had been greatly contributing in the field of research. This program would further strengthen the university's research initiative, he said. The conference was also addressed by Prof. (Dr.) Ashok Kumar Mahapatra, SOA's

Principal Advisor (Health Sciences), who elaborated on the importance of forensic medicine in medical science. Prof. (Dr.) Pusparaj Samantasinghar, Medical Superintendent of the hospital, spoke on the theme of the conference 'Forensic Frontiers: Ensuring Maternal, Child and Transgender Health for Social Justice.'

The other speakers included Prof. (Dr.) Braja Kishore Das, state's Additional Director of Medical Education and Training and President of MLSO, Prof. (Dr.) Kunal Mishra, hospital's Head of Department of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology and Dr. Ankita Mitra, Head of the Department of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology at IMS and SUM Hospital-2 at Phulnakhara.

Proper diagnosis, timely treatment can cure lupus: Expert

Bhubaneswar,: Awareness about Lupus, an auto-immune disease which mostly afflicted women of child bearing age, is the key to battle the disease. To spread this message, a rally was taken out here by the Department of Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology of the Institute of Medical Sciences and SUM Hospital, faculty of medicine of SOA Deemed to be University, on Saturday to mark the World Lupus Day. The rally in which doctors, nurses, students and medical professionals took part proceeded from the busy Master Canteen square up to Ram



Mandir. It was also attended by the local MLA Mr. Babu Singh. Praising the hospital's initiative, Singh said spreading awareness was the key to defeat the disease. The disease mimicked the symptoms of many other ailments which confuses both the patient and the treating physician,

Prof. (Dr.) Pradipta Sekhar Patro, Head of the Department of Immunology and Rheumatology of the hospital, said. If the prognosis is done properly and timely treatment is provided, the patient can be cured, Prof. (Dr.) Patro said adding it all depended on correct diagnosis, medical

tests and treatment. Prof. Jyoti Ranjan Das, Dean (Students' Welfare) of SOA and Ms. Minati Mishra, Nursing Superintendent, also attended the rally. Later in the day, a Continuing Medical Education (CME) program was organised in the hospital which was attended by Dr. Sanghamitra

Pati, Additional Director General of ICMR and Director of ICMR-Regional Medical Research Centre, Bhubaneswar. Dr. Pati said the need was to make the people aware about Lupus while research into the disease was on. The CME was also attended by Prof. (Dr.) Sanghamitra Mishra, Dean of IMS and SUM Hospital, who spoke on the theme for the day this year- 'Put on Purple, Make Lupus Visible'. Prof. (Dr.) Ashok Kumar Mahapatra, SOA's Principal Advisor (Health Sciences) and Prof. (Dr.) Pusparaj Samantasinghar, Medical Superintendent also addressed the gathering.

AIIMS Bhubaneswar cancels all Leaves for staff amid national emergency preparedness

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): Amid the escalating Indo-Pak conflict, AIIMS Bhubaneswar has cancelled all leaves of its faculty members, doctors, health staff, and officials with immediate effect. The hospital administration issued an official order today, directing all faculty, resident doctors, medical personnel, and administrative staff to report to duty without delay. According to the order, no leave of any kind, including vacation or station leave will be granted to any officer unless it is on medical grounds, and this will remain in effect until further notice. Additionally, all staff members who are currently on leave have been instructed to resume their duties immediately, in accordance with directives from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.



Trainee IAS Officers Visit H&UD Department & Get Hands-On Exposure

Bhubaneswar ,(DMC): As many as ten trainee IAS officers of the 2024 batch, allotted to the Odisha cadre, visited the Department of Housing & Urban Development as part of their orientation programme, on Friday. The visit was aimed at providing them with hands-on exposure to the functioning of a key government department driving urban transformation in the state.

The trainee officers were warmly welcomed by Principal Secretary Usha Padhee, who along with Director of Municipal Administration Arindam Dakua, Special Secretary Debasis Singh and other senior officers of the department, conducted an engaging and insightful session. Addressing



the trainees, Usha Padhee said, "The urban sector in Odisha is undergoing a rapid transformation driven by innovation, inclusivity, and citizen-centric governance. This is an exciting time to be part of public service, and I hope today's interaction inspires you to think creatively and work collaboratively for urban development." During the interaction, the department

presented key highlights of its flagship initiatives for a Viksit Odisha@2036 & the integration of digital platforms for efficient service delivery. The Principal Secretary emphasised the role of young officers in shaping future Urban Policies that are sustainable and responsive to local needs. The

trainees also had the opportunity to interact with officers leading various verticals, gaining practical insights into policy implementation, community participation and sustainable urban management. The visit concluded with an open discussion, where the officer trainees expressed

appreciation for the department's progressive and people-centric approach to urban governance.

AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Paradip, "dt -9.5.2025," I Prasanta kumar Mohanty, aged :47, s/o - Laxmidhar Mohanty, at Lockpada, Atharbanki, ps: Paradip Model Police Station, dist - Jagatsinghpur "Decleare that my landed property Document, khata no: 23/418 plot no 2/614 kisan: Gharbari 6 decimal, deed no: 10752101259, dt 11.10.2021 & RoR of the said landed property have been mis-placed at somewhere and it is beyond recovery after severe tracingout the same." This affidavit to produce the same before the authority.

Union Bank of India, Cuttack Region Organized Mega AGRI RISE Outreach Camp at Kendrapara Centre

Cuttack, (DMC): Union Bank of India has launched Mega AGRI RISE Outreach Camp Drive throughout India and under this Drive its Regional Office, Cuttack organized Mega AGRI RISE Outreach Camp at Kendrapada on 08.05.2025. The Camp was inaugurated by District Manager, APICOL, Kendrapada district, BPC, Mission Shakti, Kendrapada district in presence of Bibekananda Sarangi , Regional Head, Cuttack. Harekrushna Sahoo, Credit Head, Regional



Office, Cuttack, Branch Heads of Kendrapada District along with their customers were also present in the camp. Bibekananda Sarangi and Harekrushna Sahoo informed

about the purpose of AGRI RISE outreach drive of the Bank which is mainly to reach out the existing as well as intending AGRI customers and to support

financing under various Govt. Sponsored Schemes. The Bank Officials made a presentation on their Schemes as well as benefits. District Manager, APICOL, highlighted the importance of AGRI finance and informed about initiatives of Various Govt. Schemes and discussed about proper utilization of Bank funds for real growth of AGRI units. More than 100 customers attended the camp and 32 sanction letters were distributed to the customers and the event was very successful.

French style comes to Odisha: Celio opens its first ever store in Utkal Kanika Galeria

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): Celio, the premium French menswear brand, is excited to announce the opening of its very first store in Odisha. Situated in the heart of Bhubaneswar at Utkal Galleria Mall, this 1600 sq. ft. outlet aims to transform the menswear shopping experience by combining modern style with Parisian sophistication. This mall is Inaugurated by Bjp leader sri jagannath Pradhan.

Mall manager Sri Dulal chandra sahu and National sales head Manoj Bhatija present in this occasion. With this launch, Celio celebrates the opening of its 69th store in India, reinforcing its growing footprint across the country. This new store in Bhubaneswar brings Celio's signature collection to the city, offering a wide selection of stylish casualwear, elegant formals, and essential



accessories. The collection highlights 100% breathable linen outfits, co-ord sets, linen trousers, easy-going shorts, relaxed-fit jeans, printed shirts, polos, T-shirts, and one of the largest anime-themed ranges, featuring popular titles like Naruto and Demon Slayer. From finely tailored shirts and versatile chinos to premium Italian innovation denims and statement-making jackets, every item showcases the brand's dedication to exceptional quality, comfort, and effortless style. Created for the

contemporary man, the store is set to become the ultimate destination for wardrobe staples that effortlessly move from workdays to weekends. Sharing his thoughts on this landmark expansion, Mr. Satyen Momaya, CEO of Celio India, said: "We are delighted to bring Celio's legacy of Parisian fashion to the vibrant city of Bhubaneswar. As a hub of culture and emerging modernity, Bhubaneswar is the perfect location for our newest store. This launch reinforces our commitment to expanding our

footprint in India and offering fashion-forward, high-quality, and accessible menswear to discerning consumers. We look forward to welcoming shoppers to an elevated retail experience that merges international trends with everyday wearability." Celio's new store is crafted to excite and engage, with a sleek, modern layout, dedicated product zones, and a welcoming, intuitive shopping experience.

Every element brings Celio's bold global fashion spirit to life. With this launch, Celio continues to accelerate its growth in India, delivering innovation, customer-first experiences, and cutting-edge menswear trends to the modern Indian man. The Bhubaneswar opening marks another exciting milestone in Celio's journey to make international fashion more accessible across the country.

TENDER NOTICE

INDIAN NAVY

Tender Call Notice for Procurement of Ragazine Drill Boots for Trainees
Batch 01/25 and 02/25 at INS Chilika, Naval Base, Dist: Khurda
Odisha-752037

- Sealed quotation in **Two-Bid System** are invited from interested firms for Procurement of Ragazine Drill Boots for 02 batches (Detailed specification in RFP).
- The details of Schedule are as as tabulated below: -

Description	Remarks
The detailed qualifying requirements for the subject items are given in the RFP document.	Tender Fee: INR 500.00
Note:- The RFP document will be available at the communication address or can be sought through email.	
Date of issue of tender forms	11 May 25 to 25 May 25
Date and Time of submission of sealed tender	Before 1700 hrs on 25 May 25
Date and Time for opening of tender (T-bids)	At 1030 hrs on 26 May 25

- Tender forms can be obtained from Training Office, INS Chilka on production of tender fees INR 500/- (Rupees Five Hundred Only) drawn in favour of **Trainees Welfare Fund (TWF)** for each set of tender. No tender will be issued after the stipulated date and time.
- Tender authority reserves the right to amend/ change the schedule of date or quantity above without any legal obligations. For any further queries contact Training Administrator, INS Chilka, Mob - 7379937028.
- The tender set can also be obtained from Security Office, Main Gate, INS Chilka. Original copy of tender fee is to be enclosed with technical bid if tender set is collected from the Main Gate, INS Chilka. In case, of failure of non-submission of tender fee (in original) the bids will be rejected.

INS Chilka
PO: Chilka
Dist: Khurda
10 May 25

(Rajababu Sharma)
Captain
Training Captain for
Commanding Officer

JSW Foundation Inaugurates New Building at Sahayata Old Age Home



Sambalpur, (DMC): Rengali In a significant step toward promoting inclusive community welfare, JSW Foundation has inaugurated and officially handed over newly constructed facilities at Sahayata Old Age Home, Rengali. This initiative was undertaken keeping in mind the specific needs of the elderly residents at the home. Responding to the heartfelt

request of the residents, JSW Foundation constructed four rooms and three combined toilet-cum-bathrooms, ensuring greater comfort and hygiene for the senior citizens. This thoughtful addition aims to improve the living conditions and overall well-being of the beneficiaries. The new infrastructure was inaugurated in the gracious presence of Mrs. Neelam Singh, President-

Akanksha Ladies Club, JSW BPSL and Mr. Vishal Raj, Head - CSR, JSW Foundation (Sambalpur & Jharsuguda); alongside officials of JSW Foundation and civil team of JSW BPSL and members of the Akanksha Ladies Club. Mr. Himanshu Sekhar Mishra, President of Sahayata Old Age Home, also attended and extended his gratitude to JSW Foundation for this impactful initiative.

The facilities were formally handed over to Mr. Sashibhusan Sahu, the caretaker of the Old Age Home, who will oversee the upkeep and management of the new infrastructure to ensure its long-term benefit to the elderly residents. This initiative has received heartfelt appreciation from the community and the residents, further reinforcing JSW Foundation's commitment to sustainable development and improving quality of life across its operational areas.

Humepipe Culvert on Dormant at Rayagada Block



Paralakhemundi, (DMC): At SKalamasing village of Karadasing panchayat of Rayagada block of Gajapati district villagers are on dire straits on communication. Since 2022-

23 budget sanctioned for bridge construction to approach the village. But since that time bridge construction still incomplete. A tune of 5 lakhs sanctioned but due to lack of monitoring construction

still on jeopardy situation & village is disconnected from world. Villagers facing difficulties to reach at main road & particularly to block office & marketing. That too students who are regular on higher studies facing extreme difficulties to cross the dilapidated road. Not to tell about maternity care women & other serious patients who are facing acute problems too where ambulance can't reach at village. So villagers demanded for completion of the road.

Talcher Thermal Conducts Total Blackout Drill in Line with Government Directive on Civil Defence

Talcher, (DMC): In alignment with the Government of India's directive to enhance civil defence preparedness, NTPC Talcher Thermal successfully conducted a total blackout drill. During the 30-minute exercise, all non-essential lighting across the project premises was switched off to simulate complete blackout conditions. This strategic measure was aimed at reinforcing camouflage techniques and bolstering

emergency response capabilities. The drill saw active participation from employees who promptly assembled and adhered to established safety protocols with commendable discipline and alertness. The facility, equipped with all necessary infrastructure and emergency support systems, ensured a seamless and effective execution of the drill. This initiative not only tested the operational readiness of the plant

during potential threat scenarios but also underscored NTPC Talcher Thermal's commitment to national security and proactive safety practices. Speaking on the occasion, the plant's leadership reaffirmed NTPC's dedication to building a culture of preparedness and resilience. Exercises like these are a vital part of NTPC's ongoing safety and security framework, aligning with its vision of being a responsible and future-ready energy leader.

Aditya Alumina Refinery Onboards First Batch of Apparel Trainees

Rayagada, (DMC): Aditya Alumina Refinery, a unit of Hindalco Industries Limited under the Aditya Birla Group, has taken a significant step towards empowering local communities by onboarding the first batch of apparel trainees. This initiative is part of the company's flagship CSR program aimed at providing skill development training to girls and women in rural areas. The training program is designed to prepare trainees for employment opportunities in the upcoming apparel factory being set up near the refinery and power plant at Kansariguda Village.

This initiative is expected to generate employment for over 500 women in the initial phase, contributing to the socio-economic development of the region. The company's efforts to promote sustainable livelihoods and financial independence among women and girls from nearby communities highlight its commitment to fostering positive change in the region. This initiative is poised to make a lasting impact on the lives of many, enhancing both skill sets and employment prospects.



Puri Official Premier League inaugurated Nimapada team won by 4 wickets



Puri, (DMC): The Nimapada team has been crowned champion in the official 3rd Premier League of Puri held by Nimapada Tehsil at the historic Nimapada Barabati Ground. The final match was played between Gope and Nimapada official group this morning. Gope won the toss and batted first and scored 108 runs for the loss of six wickets. Nimapada team won by scoring 112 runs in 15.5 overs for the loss of six wickets. Deputy Director information and public relations

Santosh Kumar Sethi and Nimapada Tahsildar Manoj Kumar Pradhan were the guests of honour at the event. Later, the champion team was given a trophy with a cheque of Rs 20,000 and the runners-up team was given a trophy with a cheque of Rs 15,000. Kamakshi Prasad Mallik top-scored for Gope with 40 runs while Satyaban Palai took three wickets for Nimapada. Manoj Kumar Behera scored 70 runs for Nimapada, while Jitendra Chhatoi and Pankaj Khatoai took

two wickets each for Gope. Manoj Kumar Behera of Nimapada team scored 70 runs and took one wicket and was given the Man of the Match and Series trophy. Nimapada Additional Tahsildar Niranjan Nayak, Satyabadi Additional Tahsildar Om Prakash Parida, Revenue Supervisor Ramchandra Mohapatra, Section Officer Sasmita Das, all revenue inspectors, employees of both Nimapada and Gop tehsils were present on the occasion.

Tata Steel Foundation prioritizes development of educational infrastructure in local areas

Dhenkanal, (DMC): Two newly constructed classrooms have been dedicated by Tata Steel Foundation (TSF) at Government Nodal UP School, Purunakote to improve the educational infrastructure. Hon'ble Member of Parliament from Dhenkanal Rudra Narayan Pani and Hon'ble MLA from Hindol Simarani Nayak attended the inauguration ceremony as the chief guests and appreciated the work of Tata Steel Foundation. The main objective of this initiative is to provide a better quality educational environment to the 203 students who come to this school from the villages surrounding the Tata Steel Meramandali plant.

This construction work has been done by TSF to meet the need of additional classrooms to accommodate more students and to ensure long-term sustainability. TSF has connected 2 kilowatts of solar power to promote clean and green energy. Water purifiers have been installed to ensure that every student, teacher and parent who visits the school campus has access to clean drinking water. Apart from these initiatives, Tata Steel Foundation is actively involved in various community-focused initiatives including sports development, water conservation and public health interventions. It is worth noting that the Foundation has set up a volleyball court at the Paikpurunakot UP School, where many local children have excelled at the district, state and national levels.

From Page- 1

Ceasefire on India:...

on our installations. It has suffered losses both on land and in air. There has been extensive damage to the crucial Pakistani air bases like Skardu, Sargodha, Jacobabad and Bholari. In addition, a loss of AD weapon system and radars made the defence of Pakistani airspace untenable," said Wing Commander Vyomika Singh. The outreach from Pakistan's Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) to his Indian counterpart was a direct consequence of India's show of force and resolve. New Delhi's doctrinal shift - declaring that any future act of terror will be treated as an "act of war" - redefined the framework of engagement as it was formally acknowledged by Washington and left Pakistan with virtually no options. It has also been made clear that the current announcement, reached without any preconditions, only relates to stoppage of all firing and military action, thus not affecting at all New Delhi's decision to suspend the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), the closure of Attari Integrated Check Post in Punjab or the cancellation of the SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme for Pakistani nationals. India agreed to cease hostilities only after securing a position of dominance.

India agrees to...

add that "Pakistan believes this marks a new beginning in the resolution of issues that have plagued the region and prevented its journey toward peace, prosperity and stability." Pakistan's Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar told Geo News that Saudi Arabia and Turkey too played an important role in facilitating the deal.

Govt to Organise...

Grievance Cell, which was previously limited to Bhubaneswar, will now be expanded to villages and districts. Senior officers and district collectors have been directed to hear people's grievances. After a 16-year hiatus, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has revived public grievance hearings. People can now share their problems with the government in their own localities for speedy resolution.

Blasts in...

intercepted yet another drone near the Kutch border. The blackout, imposed as a precautionary measure, was lifted soon after the ceasefire was announced, bringing momentary relief to the tense border communities.

ADANI DAV Public School organizes a three-day summer camp

Dhamra, (DMC): Adani DAV Public School organized a three-day summer camp and training workshop from 6th May 2025 to 8th May 2025 with great enthusiasm and delight. The program of this summer camp and training workshop started at 7:00 AM and ended at 10:30 AM in two separate venues of the school. The programme was inaugurated with the lighting of the lamp by the esteemed Principal of the school, Mrs. Krishnapriya Sarangi. Hundreds of students attended this summer camp. The physical education teacher of the school, Mr. Bibhuti Bhushan Swain conducted Yoga, Pranayama and Ram Ravana Game. The art teacher of the school, Mr. Arun Kumar Lenka conducted trainings and workshops in various co-curricular activities including drawing, painting and clay modelling.

The music teacher of the school, Mrs. Saswati Samanta let students practice various types of songs and music too. The students participated in all the activities wholeheartedly and learned some innovative tricks to do all the tasks in less time. Parents from Nursery to Class-II attended this three day summer camp and training workshop. On the first day of the training workshop, Mrs. Gayatri Mohapatra taught LSRW skills through different joyful activities. On the second day, Mrs. Gayatri Mohapatra, Ms. Batya Bijayini, Ms. Usashree Behera and Mrs. Tasneem Kausar let students experiment some exciting scientific activities.. On the third day, the school counsellor, Ms. Swopnarani Subudhi disseminated some pieces of educational information about positive parents. Mrs. Mamata Pattayat gave novel ideas about craftsmanship to increase creativity and aestheticism in students. The Principal gave a clarion call to all participants to practice the activities regularly taught by the teachers. Finally, the parents narrated their experiences of the three-day training workshop. The Principal of the school presented many interesting gifts to all parents and students who attended the training workshop. The three-day summer camp and training workshop was coordinated well by Mr. Bibhuti Bhushan Swain, Mr. Arun Kumar Lenka and Mrs. Saswati Samant. With the cooperation of everyone, the program was accomplished successfully.

Road Damaged due to high temperature

Jagatsinghpur, (DMC): Due to negligence of RD Department PMGSY road damaged by high temperature. To-day the main road from Hatbazar to Kalia bora damaged by high temperature and thousand of people are in problem for communication. As this road connect Naugaon block with Jagatsinghpur block, people were in problem. As per guide line there should be gap between two slab of Concrete road.

But RD Engineers are avoiding the guide line and preparing a single slab of long road and latter on cutting the road by cutting machine to prove their efficiency. For this type of technical defect the



Concrete road causing damage by heavy temperature due to expansion. Now the damaged road causing problem for communication. People demand a high level enquiry by technical team. This road work completed just before one month and damaged within one month due to negligence of RD Department.

The old man was attacked by an elephant with its trunk

Keonjhar, (DMC): Panic spread in Patna range area, after a 65-year-old man was killed by a single roaming tusker on Friday morning in a cashew orchard near Shani Temple of Kendeipasi under Patna Range. The deceased has been identified as Ganeswar Mahanta of Bhalupahadi, Murusuan Panchayat of Patna block. According to the sources Ganeswar, who had come to see the elephant (tusker) with other villagers, suffered severe abdominal pain after the elephant attacked him with its trunk. Later he was rescued by the forest officials and shifted to the Keonjhar District Headquarters Hospital where the doctor declared him dead. "As the elephant is moving alone the forest team keeping vigil eye with tracking it and warning local people" said Banabihari Sardar, range officer, Patna range.

Paradip Municipality holds Health check-up camp, cleanliness awareness, pension distribution & felicitation program

Paradip, (DMC): Paradip Municipality organized a health and eye check-up camp for sanitation workers, Swachh Sathi, Swachh Supervisor, conducted seminar on cleanliness drive, under the Madhubabu Pension Yojana allowances distributed to the beneficiaries of various wards, and felicitation to students who passed A-1 grade in the 10th examination at Municipality Kalyan Mandap on Saturday.

The program was presided over by Municipality chairman Basant Biswal. On the occasion, Sampad Chandra Swain, Minister for Industries, Skill Development and Technical Education, Government of Odisha joined has joined the program as the chief guest and distributed allowances to 61 Madhubabu Pension Yojana

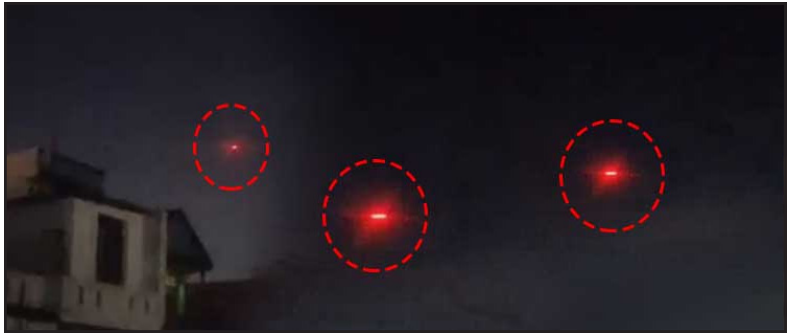


beneficiaries and felicitated 8 meritorious students. Minister Shri Swain said that cleanliness along with health care is absolutely essential and he thanked the Chief Minister for the decision to establish a medical college in Jagatsinghpur district. In addition, in view of increasing road accidents, the Minister informed that a decision has been taken to open a trauma center at Paradip Port Hospital. Similarly,

the Minister Shri Swain highly appreciated the cleanliness and awareness programs of the Paradip Municipality. Among others, Paradip Municipality Executive Officer Abhishek Panda, Additional Executive Officer Ms. Smruti Swain, Principal of Saraswati Sishu Vidya Mandir Dharanidhar Parida,

Sports Teacher of PPL DAV public school Saswat Kumar Bharatiya were present as the guests of honour. Similarly, Minister's representative Sarbeswar Baliarsingh, Councillor and BJP Paradip Mandal President Subrat Pradhan, Councillor Kambala Jagannath Rao, Smt. Soudamini Sahu, Councillors of various wards and a large number of women and men were present.

Hours After Announcement of Truce, Pakistan Violates Ceasefire



Srinagar/Jammu, (H.S) : Despite the announcement of ceasefire by India and Pakistan, there was a violation by the Pakistan army on Saturday evening in Akhnoor, Mendhar, R.S. Pura, Chamb, Bhimber and Gurez sectors while loud blasts were also heard in Srinagar. Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, posted on X: "What the hell just happened to the ceasefire? Explosions heard across Srinagar !!!" Omar Abdullah also said, "This is no ceasefire. The air defence units in the middle of Srinagar just opened up". Reports mentioned that drones were sighted and brought down in Srinagar's Badami Bagh Cantonment area. The headquarters of Army's 15th Corps is in the Badami Bagh Cantonment area of the city. Blackout was observed in Srinagar after loud explosions were heard. Blackout was also observed in Kathua and Baramulla districts immediately after ceasefire violation and sightings of drones at some places across the LoC in the Indian territory. Reports said a drone was brought down in Baramulla town as well.

ED conducts raids in Mumbai, Surat; seizes Rs 6.30 crore in money laundering case

Mumbai, (H.S) : The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday carried out searches at four locations across Mumbai and Surat as part of its probe into M/s Platinum Hern Pvt Ltd (Torres Jewellery) under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. The investigation revealed large-scale Hawala transactions, leading to the seizure of Rs 6.30 crore in cash and incriminating digital evidence.

As per an ED release, Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Mumbai Zonal Office conducted searches across Mumbai and Surat on May 9 under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 at 4 premises as a part of the ongoing probe in the case of M/s Platinum Hern Pvt Ltd under the brand name "Torres Jewellery." ED initiated an investigation based on a complaint registered by the APMC Police Station, Vashi, Navi Mumbai. "ED investigation revealed that M/s Platinum Hern Pvt Ltd has collected huge cash from its customers instead of the sale of Moissanite Diamonds and other jewellery. Instead of using the said cash for its legitimate business purposes, the said cash has been routed through Hawala operators and later converted into

There are reports of ceasefire violation in Arnia sector of the international border in Samba district. Sirens echoed in Akhnoor and Baramulla town. Five persons died in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday morning in Pakistan artillery fire in the Poonch and Akhnoor area. The deceased included Raj Kumar Thapa, additional district development commissioner (Rajouri), a woman named Rashida Bi, two residents of Bihar in Poonch and one person in Akhnoor sector. Towns of Poonch and Uri have suffered intensive damage and the damage to civilian property and public infrastructure is huge.

In Akhnoor sector Pakistan army has used artillery fire to violate the ceasefire. Reports said the ceasefire violations started at 6.30 p.m. Reports of drone attack at Udhampur town have also come in. The town is the headquarters of the Army's Northern Command. There is, however, no official confirmation of the ceasefire violations by Pakistan after the two countries announced ceasefire from 5 p.m. onward on Saturday.

USDT cryptocurrency," the release read. The key person, Alpesh Khara, not only facilitated the collection of huge cash from Torres showrooms across Mumbai on the instructions of Oleksandr Zapichenko alias Alex and Ms Olena Stoian but also assisted them in converting the said cash into USDT cryptocurrency. Alpesh Khara was arrested by the ED on March 26 and was in the custody of the ED from March 26 to April 1. "It was revealed during the investigation that Alpesh Khara was one of the franchise owners of a known Angadia entity, which has branches across India, and huge cash has been exchanged hands through those branches of Angadias as well as other various Hawala Operators," the release read.

ED carried out searches at those Angadias / Hawala Operators at Mumbai and Surat, who assisted in facilitating such Hawala transactions at Mumbai and Surat, resulting in the seizure of huge cash of Rs 6.30 crore as well as incriminating digital devices. Earlier searches conducted in this case on January 23 resulted in freezing of bank accounts totalling Rs 21.75 crore and seizure of incriminating documents and digital devices.

"India, Pakistan agree to cease military action on land, air and sea"

New Delhi, (H.S) : In a crucial step toward de-escalation, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri confirmed that Pakistan's Director General of Military Operations contacted his Indian counterpart earlier this week and the two sides agreed to halt all military actions on land, at sea, and in the air-effective from 1700 hours IST. Misri noted that instructions have been issued to enforce the ceasefire, with another round of DGMO-level talks scheduled for May noon.

Addressing the press briefing on Saturday, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said, "Pakistan's Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) called Indian DGMO at 15:35 hours earlier this afternoon. It was agreed between them that both sides would stop all firing and military action on land and in the air and sea with effect from 1700 hours Indian Standard Time." He added, "Today, instructions have been given on both sides to give effect to this understanding. The Directors General of Military Operations will talk again on the 12th of May at 1200 hours." Earlier in the day, Misri emphasised that the actions being undertaken by Pakistan against India are being seen as "escalatory" and

Border Force Trooper Killed, 7 Injured in Pakistani Shelling

Jammu, (H.S) : A BSF trooper was killed and seven others were injured in Pakistani firing along the International Border in Jammu on Saturday, officials said. The incident took place in the R S Pura sector, they said. A senior Border Security Force (BSF) officer said sub-inspector Mohammed Imteyaz made the supreme sacrifice while gallantly leading from the front. He, along with seven others, were injured in cross-



"provocative" in nature. He made the remarks during a press briefing on Saturday, where proofs of Pakistan's escalatory and provocative actions were provided alongside exposing the lies being peddled by Pakistan. While speaking to the media, the Foreign Secretary said, "Pakistan's actions constituted provocation, escalation. In response, India defended and reacted in a responsible and measured fashion". Addressing a joint press conference by the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Defence on Operation Sindoor, Indian Army Colonel Sofiya said



"Firm, Uncompromising Stance Against Terrorism": S Jaishankar



Mr Misri's statement followed an unexpected post by United States President Donald Trump, announcing the ceasefire, who added it was mediated by the US in a "long night of talks". The post was unexpected as it was a deviation from the earlier stance of the US: The conflict between India and Pakistan is "fundamentally none of our business". The statement was issued a day ago by US Vice President JD Vance who stressed, "What we can do is try to encourage these folks to de-escalate a little bit, but we're not going to get involved in the middle of war that's fundamentally none of our business and has nothing to do with America's ability to control it." "You know, America can't tell the Indians to lay down their arms. We can't tell the Pakistanis to lay down their arms. And so, we're going to continue to pursue this thing through diplomatic channels," said Vance, a proponent of US disengagement from international conflicts. Meanwhile,

that Pakistan's target was India's military infrastructure, LoC, IB, and over 26 sites." External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said, "India and Pakistan have today worked out an understanding on stoppage of firing and military action. India has consistently maintained a firm and uncompromising stance against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. It will continue to do so." Pakistan Deputy PM and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar also confirmed the ceasefire, "Pakistan and India have agreed to a ceasefire with immediate effect. Pakistan has always strived for peace

border firing initiated by Pakistan. While Imteyaz succumbed to his injuries, the other personnel were admitted to a hospital, the officer said. "We salute the supreme sacrifice made by BSF braveheart sub-inspector Md Imteyaz in service of the nation on May 10, 2025, during cross-border firing along the International Boundary in R S Pura area, district Jammu," the force's Jammu frontier said in a post on X.

sources said it was a "conditional" ceasefire, and there is no change in India's position on the diplomatic measures against Pakistan. The ceasefire comes a day after Pakistan targeted Indian air bases. Wing Commander Vyomika Singh told a briefing earlier Saturday that there were "several high-speed missile attacks" on air bases, but "limited damage" to equipment.

The strained ties between the nuclear-powered neighbours broke down after a terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam. Twenty-six people, mostly tourists, were gunned down by terrorists in a picturesque valley in Pahalgam on April 22. India blamed Pakistan for the attack, a charge denied by Pakistan. The attack set off several diplomatic actions by India against its neighbour, including the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty. It was also followed by a strong statement by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who vowed to avenge the attack. Nearly two weeks after the attack, India launched 'Operation Sindoor', hitting nine terror sites in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. What followed was a wave of Pakistani attacks using drones and other munitions, which India said was "repulsed" by its forces, who gave a "befitting reply" to Islamabad's aggression.

Tahawwur Sent to Jail Till June 6

New Delhi, (H.S) : A Special NIA Court on Friday sent 26/11 Mumbai terror attack accused Tahawwur Rana to judicial custody till June 6, marking a temporary break in questioning by the federal probe agency. On May 3, the NIA had collected voice and handwriting samples of Rana, a Pakistani-Canadian national, in court as a precursor to match them with recordings of his telephonic discussions with 26/11 co-accused David Coleman Headley, an official said. Rana, who was recently extradited from the US, is suspected to have passed on to Headley handwritten notes sharing instructions, coordinates, and maps which were used to scout 26/11 targets. The NIA also had plans to take Rana to Mumbai and other cities to reconstruct the chain of events preceding the terror attack that left 166 people dead.

Last month, the Special NIA court extended Rana's NIA custody by 12 more days to allow investigators to question him. Special Judge Charan Jit Singh accepted Senior Advocate Dayan Krishnan's plea that the investigating agency needed more time to uncover Rana's role in the Mumbai attack of 2008. Rana was presented in court for an extension of his NIA custody after his 18-day remand ended on April 28. During the court proceedings, the Special Judge was informed by the NIA about the alleged evasive technique adopted by Rana during questioning. The court had earlier directed the NIA to conduct a medical test of Rana every 24 hours and allow him to speak to his lawyers every second day. During his NIA remand, Rana was also questioned by Mumbai Police officers. During the interrogation, Rana claimed that he had "no connection whatsoever" with the planning or execution of the attack. He also claimed that his childhood friend and co-accused Headley was solely responsible for the reconnaissance and planning aspects of 26/11. Headley is currently in a US jail. Headley, who turned approver in the case, had earlier admitted to conducting reconnaissance missions across India, including in Mumbai, on behalf of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

During questioning, Rana said that apart from Mumbai and Delhi, he had also travelled to Kerala. When asked about the purpose of his visit to Kerala, he claimed he had gone there to meet a known acquaintance and had provided the individual's name and address to the agency. Rana, a former officer of the Pakistan Army's Medical Corps, was extradited to India from the US recently to stand trial in the Mumbai attack case.

and security in the region, without compromising on its sovereignty and territorial integrity." Earlier, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said that both countries had agreed to start talks on a broad set of issues at a neutral site. "Over the past 48 hours, VP Vance and I have engaged with senior Indian and Pakistani officials, including Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Shehbaz Sharif, External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Chief of Army Staff Asim Munir, and National Security Advisors Ajit Doval and Asim Malik. I am pleased to announce that the Governments of India and Pakistan have agreed to an immediate ceasefire and to start talks on a broad set of issues at a neutral site. We commend Prime Ministers Modi and Sharif on their wisdom, prudence, and statesmanship in choosing the path of peace," he said.

Earlier, India had launched Operation Sindoor on May 7 in reply to the ghastly terror attack in Pahalgam on May 2. The attack had killed 26 people. India had struck nine terror sites deep inside Pakistan. This saw Pakistan up the ante with a series of unprovoked escalations using artillery guns and drones.

Railways Suspend Night Operations in Border Areas of Jammu, Punjab

New Delhi, (H.S) : In a security move prompted by escalating tensions with Pakistan, Indian Railways has decided to halt night-time train operations in the border areas of Jammu and Punjab. The decision affects regions close to the International Border and the Line of Control (LoC), including Amritsar, Bathinda, Firozpur, and Jammu. According to official sources, trains that were earlier scheduled to pass through these areas at night will now be rescheduled to operate during daylight hours. Additionally, certain short-distance trains operating in these sensitive zones will be cancelled until further notice. This precautionary measure comes in the wake of increased military activity along the border. The government has said that the Pakistan military has been mobilising troops into forward positions, raising concerns of further escalation. In response, Indian armed forces have heightened their operational readiness. More than 15 trains are expected to be affected by the rescheduling, Railways officials said. However, to mitigate passenger inconvenience, Indian Railways will operate special trains during the day to maintain connectivity in these regions. Daytime train services on existing schedules will continue without disruption. The decision to halt night operations follows reports of blackout orders in border areas to prevent potential targeting of civilian infrastructure during the night. Intelligence inputs suggest that the risk of Pakistani drone activity and artillery shelling remains high.

"Conditional" Ceasefire, No Change In India's Position on Indus Treaty

New Delhi, (H.S) : The ceasefire with Pakistan is a conditional one and there is no change in India's position on the diplomatic measures against the neighbouring country, including the suspension of the Indus Water Treaty, sources have said. The move to negotiate a ceasefire, the sources emphasised, was initiated by Pakistan and pointed to a statement by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, who underscored that India has an uncompromising stance against terrorism, which will not change. The Ministry of Defence, in a press conference after the ceasefire, also emphasised that India had not only fended off three big waves of missile and drone attacks by Pakistan but also caused extensive damage to its air defence systems, making defending its airspace unsustainable.

Every Pakistani misadventure, the ministry stressed, has been met with strength and any escalation in the future



will also invite a decisive response. The first announcement of the ceasefire between India and Pakistan - after four days of hostilities - came from US President Donald Trump at 5.35 pm on Saturday. Mr Trump claimed that the cessation of hostilities followed a "long

night of talks" mediated by the United States. Soon after that, however, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said at a press briefing that the Director General of Military Operations of Pakistan had called his Indian counterpart at 3.35 pm and the ceasefire had been agreed upon. "The

Heli services for Shri Kedarnath Dham are also fully operational. You are requested not to pay attention to any kind of rumour," he wrote on X. "The state government is constantly trying to make your travel experience safe and smooth. For any information and assistance, you can call helpline numbers 1364 and 0135-1364. #CharDhamYatra2025," he added.

Helicopter services for Char Dham Yatra running smoothly: Uttarakhand Govt

Dehradun, (H.S) : The helicopter services for the Char Dham Yatra in Uttarakhand have resumed and are running smoothly, the Uttarakhand government said on Saturday. State Director General of Information, Bansidhar Tiwari, told ANI that the services to the four Dhams, including Badrinath and Kedarnath, are operational from all helipads, including

the Sahastradhara helipad in Dehradun. In a post on X, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said the Char Dham Yatra in Uttarakhand is proceeding smoothly, with over 4 lakh devotees having visited the sacred shrines so far. "Dear Devotees, Chardham Yatra is being conducted smoothly in the state. So far, more than 4 lakh devotees have visited the Dhams.

"Every year a large number of devotees visit Devbhoomi, Uttarakhand for the Char Dham Yatra," the chief minister said, adding, "Our government is continuously working to make the journey smooth, safe and well organised," CM Dhami said. The Char Dham Yatra 2025 officially began on April 30 with the opening of the Gangotri and Yamunotri Dham on Akshaya Tritiya amid Vedic chants and rituals.



Marco Rubio Reaches Out To Real Centre of Pakistan Power, Talks To Army Chief

New York, (H.S): US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has finally reached out to the real centre of Pakistan's power, Army Chief Asim Munir, after talks with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to de-escalate tensions with India failed. State Department Spokesperson Tammy Bruce said on Friday, "Secretary of State Marco Rubio spoke with Pakistani Army Chief Asim Munir earlier today". The call came as Pakistan and India ratcheted up their confrontation, targeting places beyond Kashmir and further inside their territories."

The US President wants to see the confrontation de-escalate as quickly as possible," Donald Trump's spokesperson Karoline Levitt said on Friday." This is something that the secretary of state and, of course, now, as our national security advisor as well, Marco Rubio, has been very much involved in," she said. Bruce said that Rubio offered Munir "US assistance in starting constructive talks in order to avoid future conflicts". She added,



"He continued to urge both parties to find ways to de-escalate". Rubio spoke to Sharif on Thursday, and "emphasised the need for immediate de-escalation", Bruce said in a readout of that call. The same day, he also called India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar with a similar message urging de-escalation, while emphasising the US "commitment to work with India in the fight against terrorism", according to the spokesperson. After India launched 'Operation Sindoor', India's National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval made the first international call to Rubio. Rubio is also the national security

advisor after Mike Waltz stepped down from the job. India launched the operation in retaliation for an attack by a front organisation of the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba in which 26 people were killed in a religiously targeted massacre in Pahalgam last month. Earlier, Bruce laid out the US priorities in dealing with the situation, saying that there should be no escalation and the two countries should talk to each other. "America, obviously, was at the centre of this, in speaking with a variety of leaders of both countries over the last two days," she said. But there have been mixed messages on the US role. Vice President JD Vance said

the conflict between the neighbours was "fundamentally none of our business", acknowledging Washington's inability to control the situation. In an interview to Fox News on Thursday, he said, "What we can do is try to encourage these folks to de-escalate a little bit, but we're not going to get involved in the middle of a war that's fundamentally none of our business and has nothing to do with America's ability to control it."

Before India launched its operation, Trump took a hands-off position, saying, "I am sure they'll figure it out one way or the other". But has since been urging the two countries to de-escalate. Trump is more focused on the Gaza war, where a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas that Washington helped broker has broken down. Next week, he will be close to the latest conflict in South Asia. He is scheduled to visit Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates, where the Gaza conflict will be high on the agenda.

US conducting security impact probe into imported aircraft, jet engines, parts



already imposed 25 percent tariffs on automobiles and steel. His administration has also been conducting probes to determine national security effects of imports of copper, lumber, semiconductors and pharmaceuticals, among other items.

Meanwhile, a coalition of 15 US states is filing a new lawsuit challenging President Donald Trump's executive order declaring a "national energy emergency," which aims to accelerate fossil fuel development. Washington State Attorney General Nick Brown announced the legal action on Friday during a press briefing. The 61-page complaint was submitted

to the US District Court for the Western District of Washington. According to the lawsuit, Trump's order violates the National Emergencies Act of 1976, which was designed to ensure that presidents use their emergency powers

"only when actual emergencies exist" and not for "frivolous or partisan matters." Prodded onto the shakiest of limbs by the President's unsupported and unlawful Executive Order, multiple federal agencies now seek to broadly employ these emergency procedures in non-emergency situations," the lawsuit said.

IMF Loan To Pak: Terror Financing Is Absurd & Must Be Stopped; Global Investor Jim Rogers

New Delhi, (H.S): After the International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved the disbursement of \$1 billion to Pakistan despite India's stern warning over such funds being used by the neighbouring country to sponsor terrorism, veteran global investor Jim Rogers on Saturday said that the financing of terror is "absurd" which must be stopped.

India has firmly opposed providing funds to a country that continues to sponsor cross-border terrorism, warning that such support carries reputational risks for global institutions and undermines international norms, according to government sources. In an interaction with IANS, 82-year-old Rogers said he is against terror financing by global organisations, hailing India's efforts to defend its borders. "I am certainly against terror financing, and I hope the

whole world is. Terror financing is absurd; terrorists are absurd," Rogers emphasised. On the ongoing conflict between the countries, the American investor and financial commentator based in Singapore said: "India is right in defending its borders. Every country is always right in defending its borders".

"But the question always becomes who is actually defending the borders and who is attacking," he said, adding that "India is one of the great and exciting countries in the world". Political leaders and experts have expressed serious concern over the IMF reimbursement to Pakistan, stressing that this would not help de-escalation of hostilities between India and Pakistan. India has strongly opposed further financial assistance from the IMF to Pakistan. "Rewarding continued sponsorship of cross-

border terrorism sends a dangerous message," the Finance Ministry said in a statement. "It exposes funding agencies and donors to reputational risks and undermines global values," the Ministry added. According to government sources, India abstained from the IMF vote on approving a loan to Pakistan not due to a lack of opposition, but because IMF rules do not permit a formal "no" vote.

By abstaining, India conveyed its strong dissent within the constraints of the IMF's voting system and used the opportunity to formally record its objections. India questioned the effectiveness of ongoing IMF assistance, noting that Pakistan has received support in 28 of the past 35 years including four programmes in just the last five without meaningful or lasting reform, according to sources.

Saudi Foreign Minister Dials EAM Jaishankar & Pak Foreign Minister, Discusses Efforts To De-Escalate Tensions

Riyadh, (H.S): Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah on Saturday held separate telephonic conversations with External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar and Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, discussing efforts aimed at reducing the ongoing tensions between India and Pakistan."

Minister of Foreign Affairs Prince Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah, held two phone calls today with Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs of India and Ishaq Dar, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan," the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirmed on Saturday. "During the calls, discussions focused on efforts to de-escalate tensions and end ongoing military confrontations. His Highness affirmed the Kingdom's commitment to the security and stability of the region



and its close and balanced relations with both friendly countries," read a statement issued by the ministry. The call came as Pakistan showed no signs of de-escalating tensions and continued to attack the civilian and military infrastructure, including places of religious worship, in Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and Rajasthan. It is noteworthy that Saudi Arabia's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Adel bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir visited New Delhi on Thursday and called on EAM Jaishankar. The Saudi Minister's India visit, labelled as "unscheduled" by

analysts, came at a time Pakistan escalated tensions at the Line of Control (LoC) and International Border following the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, which killed 26 innocent civilians. The Indian armed forces on Wednesday launched Operation Sindoor, targeting nine high-value terror locations in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) in response to the dastardly terror attack. In a separate statement released on Saturday, the Saudi Foreign Ministry mentioned that Adel bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir's visit to India and Pakistan on May 8-9

took place upon the directives of the leadership of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. "The visit comes as part of the Kingdom's efforts towards de-escalation, ending ongoing military confrontations, and resolving all disputes through dialogue and diplomatic channels," the statement mentioned. In his meeting with the visiting Saudi minister, EAM Jaishankar had conveyed India's steadfast stance in combating terrorism and shared New Delhi's perspectives on firmly countering terrorism.

Saudi Arabia had earlier condemned the Pahalgam terror attack in the strongest terms. "The Kingdom affirms its firm stance in rejecting all forms of violence, extremism, and targeting of civilians. The Kingdom also extends its sincere condolences and sympathy to the families of the victims, and the government and people of India," the Saudi Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

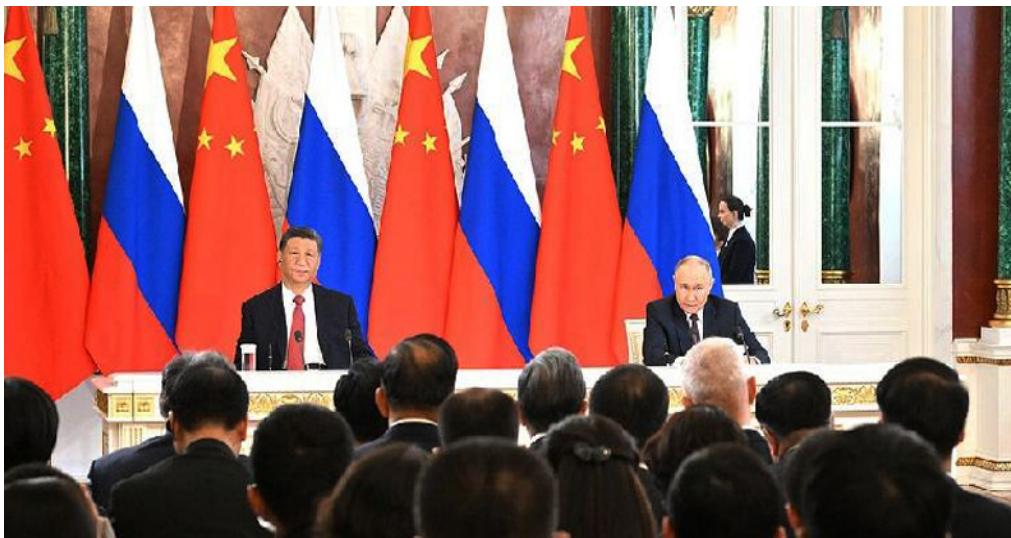
Xi, Putin Reach Many New, Important Common Understandings: Chinese Foreign Ministry

Beijing, (H.S): Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin had in-depth exchanges of views on China-Russia relations and major international and regional issues and reached many new and important common understandings during Xi's visit to Russia, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said here Friday. Lin Jian told a daily news briefing that the two heads of state signed the Joint Statement Between the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation on

Further Deepening the China-Russia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership of Coordination for the New Era on the Occasion of the 80th Anniversary of the Victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, the Soviet Union's Great Patriotic War and the Founding of the United Nations.

They witnessed the exchange of over 20 bilateral cooperation documents, injecting new impetus into the development of China-Russia relations. Noting that the two sides are good neighbours that cannot be moved away, true friends who share weal and woe, and good partners for mutual success,

Xi said that the relationship between China and Russia is characterised by a distinct historical logic, strong endogenous driving force and rich civilizations, and does not target any third party and it is not subject to restrictions from any third party, according to Lin. Xi also noted that the two sides have successfully found the right way for the two neighboring major countries to



get along with each other and forged a spirit of strategic coordination for a new era with permanent good-neighborly friendship, comprehensive strategic coordination and mutually beneficial cooperation at its core.

The two countries need to nourish everlasting friendship and deepen political mutual trust, and increase strategic coordination, as well as pursue mutual benefit, and continue to deepen practical cooperation in various fields, Xi said. The two countries need to uphold fairness and justice, and firmly defend the international system with the UN at its core and the international order based on international law,

Xi said, adding that the two countries need to enhance solidarity, safeguard true multilateralism and steer global governance towards the right direction. President Xi stressed that this year marks the 80th anniversary of the victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, the Soviet Union's Great Patriotic War, and the World Anti-Fascist War. Facing

unilateralism, power politics and bullying acts in the world, China and Russia, as two major countries and permanent members of the UN Security Council, will shoulder responsibilities to uphold the correct historical perspective on WWII, safeguard the authority and standing of the UN, firmly defend the victorious outcome of WWII, resolutely defend the rights and interests of China, Russia and the vast number of developing countries, and jointly promote an equal and orderly multipolar world and a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization.

During the visit, China and Russia issued a joint statement on global strategic stability, reiterating that the two sides will endeavor to practice true multilateralism and support the central role of the UN and relevant multilateral mechanism, Lin said. The spokesperson said that the two sides stressed that nuclear-weapon states, which bear special responsibility for international security and global strategic stability, should reject Cold War mentality and zero-

sum games, address concerns via dialogue and consultations on an equal footing, and build confidence to avoid dangerous miscalculations, Xinhua news agency reported. This demonstrates China and Russia's sense of responsibility as major countries for upholding and enhancing global strategic stability. The two sides also issued a joint declaration on further strengthening cooperation to uphold the authority of international law,

reiterating the two countries' full commitment to the principles of international law including the United Nations Charter and the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and opposition to the abuse of unilateral sanctions and long-arm jurisdiction, Lin said. He said the declaration emphasized that states have the right to conduct normal economic and trade cooperation, elaborated on the two sides' shared stance on important matters concerning international law and sent a strong message of resolutely upholding the international order based on international law to the international community.

Baloch Diaspora Exposes 'Terror State' Pakistan, Backs India's Operation Sindoor

Quetta, (H.S): Several prominent Baloch leaders and writers, including Mir Yar Baloch, have slammed Pakistan for operating terror factories and unleashing mayhem on neighbouring countries, especially India. In a message to the international community on Friday, Mir Yar Baloch asserted that the Pakistani army has opened many terror franchises which have bled India by attacking the country's Parliament, hotels, passenger airplanes and tourist destinations like Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir."

India being a civilized and peaceful country and guardian of human dignity, human rights reserves the right to defend her people. In a retaliation to Pakistan's barbaric Pahalgam terror attacks, India is carrying out targeted attacks inside Pakistan where the ISI's national assets of extremist groups are dwelling, receiving training, operating under the supervision and full support of its military and deep states," Mir Yar Baloch stated."

Today it is the moral obligation of the entire world to firmly stand with India and acknowledge the courageous decision of the Indian government which has the full mandate of its 1.4 billion Indian and overwhelming endorsement and backing of two of the houses," Mir further added. Emphasising that India is doing absolutely what is appropriate for a durable peace and tranquility, Mir called on the global community to join India's Operation Sindoor to give justice to those widows and innocent people who lost their loved ones." Dear world, India is not



alone, the Baloch, Pashtun, Sindhi and Kashmiri people who are also the prime victims of Pakistan's fundamentalist army for last more than seven decades, are appreciating India's precise air and drone strikes against Pakistan's terror infrastructure and facilitators of terror groups," he stated.

Tara Chand, former Cabinet Minister in the Government of Balochistan and the President of Baloch American Congress, also extended his support to India in its retaliatory actions against terror infrastructure in Pakistan following the deadly Pahalgam terror attack on April 22. "Dear Prime Minister Modi Narendra Modi, I want to express my support for the recent actions taken against terrorism by entering Pakistan."

However, it is important to acknowledge that Pakistan has harboured many such terrorists. Until the situation in Balochistan, which is crucial to Pakistan's stability, is addressed, Pakistan will continue to pose challenges for India," Chand posted on X. "It is time to consider a strategic approach to the freedom of Balochistan, similar to how India Gandhi played a pivotal role in the separation of Bangladesh from Pakistan. Currently, the people of Balochistan stand in

solidarity with the people of India," he added. 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.

Hostilities between India and Pakistan have intensified after Pakistan's military attempted to hit civilian infrastructure and military stations in Jammu, Pathankot, Udhampur, and some other locations with missiles and drones, all of which were neutralised by Indian armed forces.

Highlighting the hypocrisy of Pakistan, Baloch activists also exposed how Pakistan demands human rights for terrorists while denying the same to Baloch, Pashtuns, and Sindhis. "The image of a state grieving for dead terrorists while Baloch mothers search for missing sons is a painful contradiction. It exposes a brutal truth - this nation values the lives of terrorists over its own oppressed people. A nation that sheds tears for dead terrorists but stays silent on the innocent lives lost in Balochistan is a nation that has lost its humanity," said a Baloch activist.

India-UK FTA To Boost Growth Across Sectors: Piyush Goyal



New Delhi, (H.S): Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, on Saturday highlighted the transformative potential of the India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA), stating that it offers promising avenues of growth for diverse sectors."The India-UK FTA offers promising avenues of growth for diverse sectors," the Union Minister wrote on social media platform X.

The FTA, finalised after extensive negotiations, marks a significant milestone in the economic relations between India and the United Kingdom.The agreement aims to remove tariffs on 99 per cent of Indian exports to the UK, benefiting major

sectors like textiles, marine products, leather, footwear, sports goods, toys, gems and jewellery, engineering goods, auto components, and organic chemicals.Beyond goods, the deal is also expected to significantly boost trade in services such as IT/ITeS, financial and professional services, business services and education.

This comprehensive approach aims to enhance bilateral trade and foster economic growth in both nations.A notable feature of the FTA is the exemption for Indian workers temporarily in the UK and their employers from paying social security contributions for a period of three years.This

provision is expected to make Indian service providers more competitive in the UK market and facilitate greater mobility for professionals. Earlier this month, Minister Goyal emphasised that the FTA is not merely about goods and services but also about people, possibilities, and prosperity. He expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his guidance and encouragement, which made the trade deal possible."

Under Prime Minister Modi's visionary leadership, India is increasingly recognised as a "Vishwa Mitra - Trusted Partner" on the global stage," the Union Minister said."The India-UK FTA is aligned with India's vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047 and complements the growth aspirations of both countries," Goyal mentioned.It is expected to generate direct and indirect employment opportunities, enhance competitiveness, and integrate value chains, thereby contributing to the resilience of supply chains.

India's Credit Rating Upgraded To 'BBB' With 'Stable' Trend: Morningstar DBRS



New Delhi, (H.S): India's rating has been upgraded from 'BBB (low)' to 'BBB' with a 'Stable' trend by global sovereign credit rating agency Morningstar DBRS.The key drivers for the ratings upgrade include India's structural reforms through infrastructure investments, digitalisation, fiscal consolidation, sustained high growth with macroeconomic stability, and a resilient banking system."The global sovereign credit rating agency, Morningstar DBRS, upgraded India's Long-Term Foreign and Local Currency - Issuer Ratings from BBB (low) to BBB with a Stable trend," a

Finance Ministry statement issued on Friday said."India's Short-Term Foreign and Local Currency Issuer Ratings were also upgraded to R-2 (high) from R-2 (middle) with a Stable trend," the statement said.The upgrade is based on India's structural reforms, which entail massive investments in infrastructure to spur growth and create employment and digitalisation, which facilitated fiscal consolidation reflected in declining debt and fiscal deficit levels and sustained high growth. India has clocked an average GDP growth of 8.2 per cent during FY22-25, with macroeconomic

stability as inflation has come down, the exchange rate of the rupee is range-bound, and the country's external balance is sound.A resilient banking system featuring well-capitalised banks with a high capital adequacy ratio and a decline in non-performing loans to a 13-year low was another significant driver for the upgrade.The credit rating may be further upgraded if India continues to implement reforms that raise the investment rate, enhancing medium-term growth prospects.

The report also stated that despite the current public debt levels, risks to debt sustainability are limited due to local currency denomination and long maturity structures. Further, continued reforms and a reduction in the public debt-to-GDP ratio could bring further upgrades, the statement said. The rating scale for Morningstar DBRS is similar to the Fitch and S&P rating scales. Morningstar DBRS uses 'high' and 'low' as suffixes compared to the +/- nomenclature used by Fitch and S&P.

Audits, firewalls, real-time reporting: FM asks banks to step up cyber vigil amid tensions with Pakistan

New Delhi, (H.S):Expressing concern about the safety of bank employees and their families working at branches in border areas, the Finance Minister directed banks to ensure their adequate safety by effectively coordinating with security agencies. In a meeting with top banking and insurance officials, and financial sector regulators Friday, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman directed banks

to conduct regular audits of their cybersecurity systems and data centres to ensure that all digital and core banking infrastructure is fully firewalled and monitored round the clock to prevent breaches or any hostile cyber activity. The meeting took place amid heightened concerns that the country's critical infrastructure could be hit by cyber attacks in the ongoing tensions between India and Pakistan.The



actively watched, and staff members have received several internal alerts to increase awareness.Bank officials stated that their Security Operations Centre (SOC) and Network Operations Centres are fully operational and on high alert. These centres are coordinating closely with CERT-In and the National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC), facilitating real-time data sharing and threat monitoring.

During the meeting, the Finance Minister stressed the critical role of the banking and financial sector in ensuring economic stability during heightened geopolitical tensions and challenging times.She directed all banks to remain fully alert and prepared to deal with any eventuality or crisis, ensuring uninterrupted access to banking & financial services for citizens and businesses across the

country, especially in border areas.She remarked that banking services, both physical and digital, must function without disruption and glitches. Emergency protocols should be updated and tested to handle any arising contingencies, she added..The Finance Minister expressed deep concern about the safety of bank employees and their families working at branches around the border areas.

She directed banks to ensure their adequate safety by effectively coordinating with the security agencies.She asked banks to ensure that citizens and businesses do not suffer under any circumstances, and priority must be given to seamless cash availability at ATMs, uninterrupted UPI and internet banking services, and continued access to essential banking facilities.The Finance Minister directed banks to conduct regular audits of their cybersecurity

systems and data centres and ensure that all digital and core banking infrastructure is fully firewalled and monitored round the clock to prevent breaches or any hostile cyber activity.She instructed banks to designate two dedicated senior officials identified at the headquarters, one for reporting all cyber-related matters and the other to ensure operational matters, including the functioning of bank branches and the availability of cash in ATMs. Both dedicated officers should report any incident to CERT-In/relevant agencies and DFS on a real-time basis.

In this regard, banks were also asked to coordinate in real time with the RBI, CERT-In and relevant government agencies to ensure robust and agile information exchange and response, according to an official statement.Besides, the Finance Minister directed insurance companies to ensure timely claim settlements and uninterrupted customer service. The Finance Minister mentioned that the sponsor banks should ensure that regional rural banks (RRBs) are well-supported during these times and hand-hold them for any issues that they are facing. Sitharaman reiterated that the government is firmly committed to national security and economic stability, noting that the country's banking and financial system remains robust and resilient.

India's Forex Reserves Fell USD 2.06 Billion After Extending Gains For Eighth Straight Week

New Delhi, (H.S): India's foreign exchange reserves (Forex) fell USD 2.06 billion to USD 686.06 billion in the week that ended on May 2, after extending gains for the eighth straight week, official data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) this week showed. India's Forex rose by USD 1.983 billion to USD 688.129 billion in the week that ended on April 25.

For the reporting week, the foreign currency assets increased USD 514 million to USD 581.177 billion, the apex bank's data shows. The FCAs are the largest components of the foreign exchange reserves which reflects the valuation impact of non-US currencies like euro, pound, and yen kept in the reserves. They are written in the dollar terms. The gold reserves also witnessed a hit, decreasing USD 2.545 million to USD 81.82 billion



during the reporting week. The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), which are kept with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) also saw a hit of USD 30 million, lowering at USD 18.558 billion, according to the RBI data. The forex reserves started falling after reaching an all-time high of

USD 704.89 billion in September, only to recover afterwards. The decline in reserves was most likely due to RBI intervention, aimed at preventing a sharp depreciation of the Rupee. The Indian Rupee is now at or near its all-time low against the US dollar.An estimate by the apex

bank suggests that India's foreign exchange reserves are sufficient to cover approximately 10-12 months of projected imports. In 2023, India added around USD 58 billion to its foreign exchange reserves, contrasting with a cumulative decline of USD 71 billion in 2022. In 2024, the reserves rose by a little over USD 20 billion.

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

TRAI releases Recommendations on 'Terms & Conditions for the Assignment of Spectrum for Certain Satellite-Based Commercial Communication Services'

New Delhi, (PIB): The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has today released Recommendations on 'Terms and Conditions for the Assignment of Spectrum for Certain Satellite-Based Commercial Communication Services'. Department of Telecommunications (DoT), through a reference dated 11.07.2024, stated that keeping in view the provisions of Section 4 and the First Schedule of the Telecommunications Act, 2023, in terms of Section 11(1)(a) of the TRAI Act 1997,

TRAI is requested to provide recommendations on terms and conditions of spectrum assignment including spectrum pricing while accounting for level playing field with terrestrial access services for the following satellite-based communication services: NGSO based Fixed Satellite Services providing data communication and Internet services. In its recommendations, TRAI may take into account services provided by GSO-based satellite communication service providers. GSO/ NGSO based

Mobile Satellite Services providing voice, text, data, and internet services.In this regard, TRAI issued a consultation paper on 'Terms and Conditions for the Assignment of Spectrum for Certain Satellite-Based Commercial Communication Services' on 27.09.2024 for seeking comments and counter comments from stakeholders on 21 issues raised in the consultation paper. Initially, the last dates for furnishing comments and counter comments initially were 18.10.2024 and 25.10.2024, respectively.

However, considering the request of some of the stakeholders, the last dates for furnishing written comments and counter comments were extended to 25.10.2024 and 01.11.2024, respectively In response to the issues raised in the consultation paper, 30 stakeholders furnished comments, and 12 stakeholders furnished counter comments. As part of the consultation process, TRAI conducted an open house discussion (OHD) on the consultation paper through virtual mode on 08.11.2024.

Based on the comments received from stakeholders during the consultation process, and further analysis, TRAI has finalized its Recommendations on 'Terms and Conditions for the Assignment of Spectrum for Certain Satellite-Based Commercial Communication Services'. Salient points of the recommendations are given below: For assigning frequency spectrum for user links and feeder links for NGSO-based FSS for data communication and Internet service,

frequency spectrum in Ku band, Ka band, and Q/V band should be considered.For assigning frequency spectrum for GSO/NGSO-based MSS for providing voice, text, data communication and Internet service, the following frequency bands should be considered:L band and S band for user links; and C band, Ku band, Ka band and Q/V band for feeder linksFrequency spectrum should be assigned for NGSO-based FSS and GSO/ NGSO-based MSS for a period of up to five years. However, considering the market conditions, the Government may

extend it for a further period of up to two years.Terms and conditions including prices for the spectrum assignment for NGSO-based FSS and GSO/ NGSO-based MSS, recommended through these recommendations, should remain valid for a period of five years from the date of notification of the policy regime by the Central Government, further extendable by a period of upto two years.

Any revision in the terms and conditions including prices for the spectrum assignment for NGSO based FSS and GSO/ NGSO based MSS, notified by the Central Government after a period of five years from the date of notification of the policy regime recommended through these recommendations, should become applicable to all authorised entities including the existing entities.To control interference, the relevant provisions of ITU-RR should be made applicable to the authorised entities, and other entities which have been authorised by the Central Government.The frequency spectrum identified

by the Central Government for satellite-based telecommunication services in the higher frequency bands such as C, Ku, Ka, and Q/ V bands that are assigned on a shared basis, should be assigned with a condition that each Authorised Entity and all other entities which have been authorized by the Central Government to use such shared frequency spectrum, will coordinate among themselves in good faith.

The Government, with the help of Telecom Engineering Center (TEC), should examine the need for prescribing a framework for sharing of spectrum. The framework may include conditions on the maximum equivalent power flux density (EPFD) etc. With a view to nudging the satellite operators to coordinate among themselves in good faith at the earliest, the Government may also consider introducing a provision for splitting of spectrum as a last resort in line with the provision created by FCC in its 'Spectrum Sharing Rules for Non-Geostationary Orbit, Fixed-

Satellite Service Systems' in case two or more NGSO-based FSS satellite systems fail to complete coordination.For establishment and operation of satellite earth station gateways, the authorised entities should be mandated to coordinate among themselves in good faith.The DoT, with the help of TEC, should carry out a study to assess the requirement for prescribing coordination distance between two satellite earth station gateways (GSO-NGSO and NGSO-NSGO) operating on the same frequencies.

If required, necessary guidelines may be issued.In the frequency range(s) already identified for IMT such as 42.5-43.5 GHz, the satellite earth station gateways should be permitted to be established at uninhabited or remote locations on case-to-case basis, where there is a less likelihood of IMT services to come up.With a view to mitigate the risk of scarcity of gateway sites, Satellite Earth Station Gateway(s) should be installed and commissioned within 12 months from the date of permission granted to the

authorised entities by the Central Government for the establishment of the Satellite Earth Station Gateway(s).The entities authorised to provide s a t e l l i t e - b a s e d telecommunication services should be permitted to surrender the right to use frequency spectrum assigned to them before the expiry of the validity period. For this purpose, broad terms and conditions have been recommended.

There should be a defined timeline, not exceeding 30 days from the date of application, within which the frequency spectrum should be assigned to an Authorised Entity for the provision of satellite-based communication services, provided that the in-principle clearance of satellite network has been given by the Central Government. In case of any objection, the same may be communicated to the concerned Authorised Entity within such window of 30 days from the date of application, for necessary action.



Vaani Says, "I Salute The Indian Army for Ensuring Nation's Safety"

Vaani Kapoor appreciated the Indian Armed Forces for defending the nation with resolve and integrity amid the India-Pakistan Conflict. She took to the stories section of her Instagram handle, and penned, "What we witnessed wasn't just a successful defense, but a powerful, robust display of strength, strategy, and unwavering commitment by the Indian Armed Forces, doing what they do best,

defending the nation with resolve and integrity."

"I salute the Indian Army for ensuring our nation's safety, for standing guard while we sleep in peace, and for carrying out their duty with unmatched courage, precision, and humility," the *Raid 2* actress wrote. On the work front, Vaani's upcoming project with Pakistani actor Fawad Khan, *Abir Gulaal* was indefinitely postponed in India amid the ongoing

conflict between India and Pakistan. *Fawad* was scheduled to make his Bollywood comeback after 9 years with *Abir Gulaal*. Previously, the Pakistani actor has been a part of Bollywood movies such as *Khoobsurat*, *Kapoor & Sons*, and *Ae Dil Hai Mushkil*. After his last release, *Ae Dil Hai Mushkil*, Pakistani actors were banned in the country following the *Pulwama* attack. Additionally, *Fawad*

also faced a lot of backlash after calling out Operation *Sindoor* by the Indian forces in response to the *Pahalgam* attack. The *Zindagi Gulzar Hai* actor penned on Twitter, "My deepest condolences to the families of those injured and killed in this shameful attack. I pray for the souls of the deceased and strength for their loved ones in the days to come. A respectful request to all: stop stoking the flames with

rabble-rousing words. It is not worth the lives of innocent people. May better sense prevail. InshaAllah. Pakistan Zindabad!"

During Operation *Sindoor*, the Indian Defence Forces attacked nine terror camps located in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK) in the wee hours of May 7, escalating tension across the LoC. India's air defence systems also intercepted a major Pakistani drone attack.

Raveena, Kareena, Parineeti, Karan react to India-Pakistan ceasefire agreement

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri announced on Saturday that Pakistan called the Indian DGMO on the afternoon of May 10, during which both sides agreed to cease all military actions on land, at sea, and in the air starting from 5pm. Bollywood celebrities such as Raveena Tandon, Karan Johar, Kareena Kapoor, and others reacted to the India-Pakistan ceasefire agreement on social media.

Raveena took to Instagram to welcome the decision, writing: "If this is true, then it's a welcome decision. #ceasefire. But make no mistake, the day India bleeds again #statesponsoredterrorism it will be an act of war, and then there will be hell to pay. The #IMF had better keep track of where their money goes. The big powers may have sanctioned these loans to recover earlier debts or to fund more ammunition or whatever. But now-and never-should Bharat bleed again." She captioned her post: "#ceasefire But few things are pretty clear. I will support my country in all the ways I can as a citizen. #mycountrymylife #bharatforever This has shown



us who our friends are and who aren't. My country's enemy is mine. The world must act against terrorism-and fast." Kareena Kapoor also took to Instagram, posting "Rab rakha" (folded hands emoji) and "Jai Hind" (Indian tricolour emoji). Filmmaker Karan Johar responded with folded hands and orange heart emojis. Ananya Panday and Varun Dhawan shared the announcement on their Instagram Stories, adding folded hands emojis in support. Filmmaker Shekhar Kapur wrote on X: "Ceasefire declared today, disengagement started at 5pm. Hopefully, all those who support terrorism against India now realise our leadership will not

hold back in taking strict and appropriate action. Now India can move on to what is most needed-achieving our development goals." Meanwhile, Parineeti Chopra also wrote, "Om Namah Shivaay."

For the unversed, on April 22, a brutal terror attack in *Pahalgam* claimed the lives of 26 civilians, sending shockwaves across the country. Many celebrities condemned the act on social media. In response, the Indian Army launched Operation *Sindoor*-a targeted military action against terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan-on May 7. After days of rising tensions, both nations have now agreed to cease all firing and military operations.

Operation Sindoor director apologises after facing backlash for announcing film



Following the announcement of the film *Operation Sindoor*, director Uttam Maheshwari has issued a public apology after receiving backlash for the timing of the project's reveal. The film,

inspired by India's recent military operation in response to the *Pahalgam* terror attack, was unveiled shortly after the real-life events, drawing criticism for "being insensitive" to the ongoing

situation. In a statement shared on social media, Maheshwari clarified that the intention behind the film was never to hurt or provoke anyone's sentiments. "My sincere apologies for recently announcing a film based on Operation *Sindoor*, inspired by the recent heroic efforts of our Indian Armed Forces. The intent was never to hurt or provoke anyone's sentiments," he wrote. Explaining his motivation as a filmmaker, he added, "I was moved by the courage, sacrifice, and strength of our soldiers and leadership, and simply wished to bring this powerful story to light."

Virat likely to retire from Test cricket, BCCI's Response

New Delhi, (HS) : Indian cricket team star batter Virat Kohli has told BCCI that he wishes to retire from Test cricket ahead of the England Test series but top officials has asked him to reconsider his decision, according to a report by *The Indian Express*. Kohli's decision came just days after Rohit Sharma decided to retire from Test cricket. According to media reports, the selectors will be meeting in a few days to decide the squad for the five-match Test series against England and if both Virat and Rohit are not available, they will have a huge task at hand. The report further claimed that Kohli has been contemplating retirement since the end of the *Border-Gavaskar* Trophy where his disappointing show earned him a lot of criticism.

"He has made up his mind and has informed the board that he is moving on from Test cricket. The BCCI has urged him to rethink as the crucial England tour is coming



up. He is yet to revert on the request," sources told *Indian Express*. Earlier, Rohit Sharma on Wednesday announced his retirement from Test cricket with immediate effect, ending the relentless speculation surrounding his future in the longest format and leaving India in need of a new captain for the upcoming five-match series against England. Having already retired from T20 Internationals after leading India

to the World Cup trophy last year, the 38-year-old Rohit will now only be seen captaining the national team in the ODI format. "Hello everyone, I would just like to share that I am retiring from Test cricket. It's been an absolute honour to represent my country in whites. "Thank you for all the love and support over the years. I will continue to represent India in the ODI format," he posted on Instagram with a picture of his Test cap.

The BCCI also confirmed that Rohit will continue to be the ODI captain. "Thank you, Captain. End of an era in whites! ImRo45 bids adieu to Test cricket. He will continue to lead India in ODIs. We are proud of you, Hitman." BCCI posted on 'X'. If Kohli does confirm his retirement, it would signal the close of one of Indian cricket's most iconic red-ball chapters - a period marked by overseas dominance, fearless cricket, and an obsession with excellence.

Overseas Players are Leaving of India after IPL Suspension

New Delhi, (HS) : Most of the foreign recruits in IPL franchises departed for their respective countries on Saturday following the suspension high-profile T20 League which was halted for a week due to India-Pakistan border tension. The Indian Premier League (IPL) was suspended on Friday, a day after the Punjab Kings vs Delhi Capitals match in *Dharamsala* was abandoned midway following air raid alerts in neighbouring cities of Jammu and Pathankot. With the tournament suspended, the players and support staff from various franchises have begun returning to their home-towns,

while several foreign players are home-bound. "Our players and extended staff have safely returned to Bengaluru and are now homebound to their respective cities and countries," RCB said in a statement. RCB's foreign contingent includes Tim David, Liam Livingstone, Jacob Bethell, Romario Shepherd, Philip Salt, Josh Hazlewood, Lungi Ngidi, and Nuwan Thushara. Among the overseas support staff are head coach Andy Flower, bowling coach Adam Griffith, Director of Cricket Operations Mo Bobat, team physio Evan Speechly, and analyst Freddie Wilde. "We're deeply grateful for the swift



3 Venues Shortlisted for IPL 2025 Resumption

New Delhi, (HS) : Bengaluru, Chennai and Hyderabad have been picked out as the venues for the remaining 16 fixtures of the 18th season of the Indian Premier League (IPL) if the season resumes in May after the tournament was suspended for a week in the wake of the escalating tensions between India and Pakistan, according to ESPNcricinfo. According to ESPNcricinfo, the IPL chose three venues in southern Indian cities in case the Indian government gives a nod to resume the tournament. On Friday, the BCCI announced that the tournament would be suspended for a week due to rising cross-border tensions between the two neighbouring countries. Several team officials informed ESPNcricinfo that the remainder of the tournament



could be played later in the year. When it comes to resuming the cash-rich league, among the most significant challenges that the BCCI faces in the current situation is bringing back overseas players.

After the suspension was announced, teams began to disband, and players began to get the next available flight to their respective destinations. According to ESPNcricinfo, a

majority of the overseas players are expected to fly out of India by the end of Saturday. The franchises remain optimistic about the return of overseas players in a scenario where the tournament resumes later in May. However, they offered no guarantee that the tournament would extend beyond the window of May 25, the date when the IPL 2025 final was scheduled to be held at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata. Several players will engage in their bilateral commitments and the World Test Championship final between Australia and South Africa, which will be played at Lord's from June 11.

Overall, 57 matches were completed in IPL 2025, and the 58th fixture between Punjab Kings and Delhi Capitals at the HPCA Stadium in *Dharamsala* was called off after 10.1 overs.

coordination and support from the BCCI, local authorities, and the police who made this possible," the RCB statement added. An LSG official also confirmed to PTI that some of their overseas players flew out on Saturday, while a few others opted to stay back for the time being. For other franchises like Mumbai Indians (MI) and Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), both domestic and international players have also departed for their respective locations. According to a source, KKR players left from Hyderabad, where they were scheduled to face Sunrisers Hyderabad on Saturday. After the IPL match in *Dharamsala* was called off, players from Punjab Kings and Delhi Capitals reached New Delhi on Friday after being evacuated and escorted to the Jalandhar railway station in batches through Hoshiarpur amid tight security. The squads had arrived in New Delhi aboard a special 'Vande Bharat Express'. A Punjab Kings (PBKS) source said that most of their foreign players have left for home.

Odisha's Harshbardhan, Maharashtra's Asmita Create National Youth Records

Rajgir, (HS) : Odisha's Harshbardhan Sahu made history on Saturday by creating two youth national records to clinch gold in the ongoing Khelo India Youth Games at the Rajgir Sports Complex. Harshbardhan's lift of 115kg in clean & jerk and overall total of 203kg are both national youth records, surpassing last year's mark held by Babulal Hembrom (Snatch 88 + 114 clean

& jerk) of Jharkhand at the IWF World Youth Championships in Suva, Fiji. There was another flurry of national youth records in the last event on Saturday. In girls' 49kg, Asmita Dhone stamped her authority by creating a youth national record thrice with a lift of 91kg, 95kg and 97kg to capture gold for Maharashtra with a total lift of 170kg (73+93). Uttar Pradesh's Mansi

Chamunda (75+88) of Uttar Pradesh and Pooja Sanjay Thepekar (60+72) settled for silver and bronze, respectively. Harsbardhan, who trains at Sports Authority of India's (SAI) NIS Patiala, had just returned with a bronze medal from World Youth Championships in Lima, Peru on May 6. Continuing the momentum, Harsbardhan began with an 82kg lift in snatch and

followed it up with 85kg and 88kg. In Clean & Jerk, he seemed most confident completing a 108kg lift in his very first attempt, 8kg higher than his closest rival Niklesh Lakra of Jharkhand. He then lifted 112kg and eventually 115kg to set a new national youth record and lay his hands on the gold medal. At the World Youth Championships, Harsbardhan had lifted a total of 197kg (87+110kg).

MoU for the Promotion of Sports Leander Paes-Samantha Sports Academy to Open at KIIT-KISS

Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : The Leander Paes-Samanta Sports Academy is set to be established at KIIT and KISS. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on Friday between KIIT-KISS and tennis legend Leander Paes in this regard. The Founder of KIIT and KISS Dr Achyuta Samanta signed the MoU on behalf of the institutions, while Leander Paes, signed on his behalf. As per the agreement, the Academy will promote 16 different sports, including tennis.

Olympian, Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Awardee, and Padma Bhushan Leander Paes is a former Indian tennis player and the first Asian man to be inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame. He has won eight men's



doubles and ten mixed doubles Grand Slam titles. This collaboration marks a significant milestone in Indian sports. KIIT and KISS will provide the necessary infrastructure, while Leander will contribute his technical expertise and vast experience in the field, inviting talents from across the globe.

Leander expressed his delight following the signing of the MoU, stating that KIIT and KISS have world-class sports facilities. He pledged to make every effort to elevate both institutions to global prominence in sports education. He announced his vision to nurture 250,000 sports talents over the next 15 years through

this initiative. The Academy will focus on the emotional, mental, and physical well-being of athletes by providing specialized training, rehabilitation, and diverse opportunities. "I am going to establish the first academy at KIIT & KISS," he said with enthusiasm.

Dr. Samanta emphasized that despite being academic institutions, KIIT and KISS have remained deeply committed to the development and promotion of sports and athletes for over two decades. He expressed heartfelt gratitude to Leander for partnering in this noble endeavor, calling it a moment of immense pride for the institutions. "Sports persons, especially those from Odisha, will greatly benefit from this sports academy," Dr. Samantha added.