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English Daily



Justice Dixit Krishna Sworn in as Judge of Orissa HC



Cuttack/Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : In a significant judicial appointment, Justice Dixit Krishna Shripada was sworn in as a Judge of the Orissa High Court on Monday. The oath-taking ceremony was presided over by Orissa High Court Chief Justice Harish Tandon at the High Court premises in Cuttack. Justice Shripada's transfer from the Karnataka High Court marks an important judicial transition, raising the total number of judges in the Orissa High Court to 19. With an illustrious career beginning in July 1989, he has specialized in writ law, election law, and service law. His legal expertise has been demonstrated through his roles as senior standing counsel for the Election Commission of India and additional Central government standing counsel since 1999. Over the years, Justice Shripada has represented key institutions such as the University Grants Commission, Competition Commission of India, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, and the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre. His appointment as Assistant Solicitor General of India in 2014 further solidified his standing in the legal community before his elevation as a judge in 2018. His swearing-in is expected to contribute to the efficiency of judicial proceedings and uphold the legal standards of the Orissa High Court.

Shripad Dixit, born on July 20, 1964, has a distinguished judicial career. He was appointed as an Additional Judge of the Karnataka High Court on February 14, 2018, and later became a Permanent Judge on January 7, 2020. Before his elevation to the judiciary, Justice Dixit served as the Additional Solicitor General for the Karnataka High Court.

Operation Sindoor: Pak Begged for Peace After India's Devastating Strikes: PM

New Delhi, (HS) : In the aftermath of India's unrelenting Operation Sindoor, Pakistan was left reeling from the decisive action taken by the Indian Armed Forces. Pakistan was forced to seek escape route, and it found itself begging for peace after suffering heavy losses in retaliation for the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack. With its military stunned by the precision strikes against terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK), the neighbouring nation had no choice but to reach out to India, seeking to de-escalate the situation. This was stated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday in a powerful televised address.

He said that India's message to Pakistan was clear - terrorism will not be tolerated, and those who sponsor it will face consequences. PM Modi said that it was Pakistan that sought peace after facing India's overwhelming force. "It was Pakistan which was bearing the brunt of the Indian onslaught, forcing their DGMO to reach out to their counterpart in India," he



revealed, exposing the hollowness of Pakistan's position and confirming that it was Pakistan, not India, seeking de-escalation. In his address on television, PM Modi dedicated the success of Operation Sindoor to India's 'Nari Shakti'. He acknowledged the huge pain endured by women and children

who have lost family members to cold-blooded acts of terror. "This victory is for the mothers, sisters, and daughters of this nation," PM Modi declared, honouring the resilience of the women who have witnessed such horrors. PM Modi did not hold back in calling out Pakistan's involvement in terrorism. He

directly targeted key terror hubs within Pakistan, referring to Bahawalpur and Muridke as "universities of terror" from where anti-India activities have been orchestrated. "Pakistan tried to remove the Sindoor of our women, and we uprooted their universities of terror," he said, underscoring the sheer scale of India's response. The Prime Minister confirmed that India's Armed Forces had exceeded their intended targets, neutralising over 100 terrorists. "The targets of the Indian Armed Forces have crossed a century!" he declared. PM Modi made it clear that Pakistan had been repaid in a language it understands, with India sending a clear message that no terror attack would go unanswered. In a scathing attack on Pakistan's military, PM Modi emphasised that India's armed forces are far superior. "The Pakistani Army is nothing compared to the Indian Armed Forces," he stated, underscoring India's military might and determination in the fight against cross-border terrorism. Furthermore, PM Modi left no

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Trying to Assuage Their People: India on Pakistan's 'Family Man' Spin for Terrorist Hafiz Abdur Rauf



New Delhi, (HS) : India on Monday dismissed Pakistan's attempts to distort facts around the impact of Operation Sindoor, calling it a predictable disinformation campaign aimed at misleading its own citizens and downplaying the extent of damage inflicted by Indian strikes on terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). The officials said this during the Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) press briefing in New Delhi on Operation Sindoor, responding to questions about Pakistan's narrative surrounding the funeral of terrorists killed in the operation.

"Obviously, that is expected, and they will do whatever it takes to assuage their people and

minimise the information of damage that comes out," said Air Marshal A.K. Bharti, Director General Air Operations. Air Marshal Bharti said, "What media and propaganda spin the other side is trying to make out is a story for them to answer and not a military question for us. We have done our job." A significant part of Pakistan's attempt to muddy the waters has been its effort to conflate two separate individuals: Hafiz Abdur Rauf, a US-designated terrorist and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) operative, and Abdul Rauf Azhar, a senior Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) commander reportedly eliminated in the Indian airstrikes. Pakistani officials have claimed that Abdul Rauf, who led the

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CM announces Rs 50 crore package for Santhali language, Pandit Raghunath Murmu memorial

Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Monday announced a special package of Rs 50 crore to set up cultural institutions dedicated to Santhali tribe, development of Ol Chiki language and preserve memorials related to Guru Gomke Pandit Raghunath Murmu in Mayurbhanj district. Majhi announced this during a function marking the centenary celebration of the invention of Ol Chiki script for Santhali language and the 120th birth anniversary of Pandit Raghunath Murmu.

The function was held at Mahuldiha in Mayurbhanj district. Pandit Murmu invented the Ol Chiki script in 1925, which consists of 30 letters and is used to write and promote Santali literature and culture. Majhi said Pandit Murmu's residence and Samadhi Peeth would be developed into memorials, and the state government would commemorate the Ol Chiki centenary throughout the year. The package will also be used to set up of an Ol Chiki library in Baripada, Pandit Raghunath Murmu open theatre-museum and a heritage building at Murmu's workplace. Majhi said an international seminar would



be organised in Delhi to promote Santhali language on a global platform, which is likely to be attended by President Droupadi Murmu. While lauding Pandit Murmu's contributions to tribal culture, language and literature, Majhi said, "Pandit Murmu's life was not just that of an individual-he was a movement, a consciousness, a craft, and a culture of knowledge." He added that the state government is committed to preserving, promoting, and expanding the Ol Chiki language, created by Pandit Murmu a century ago.

"Murmu's invention was not just merely a change in vocabulary, but a new chapter in the evolution of culture," the chief minister said. The CM further said the state government would advance this legacy by setting up Santhali language institutions in primary education, produce textbooks, train teachers and create language development centres. Majhi said Pandit Murmu was not only a promoter of knowledge and education, but also a personality who revealed the inner values of this land. "Our government has

organised various programmes in the name of Pandit Raghunath Murmu," he said. The chief minister also felicitated Santhali language researcher Chunda Soren with the Guru Gomke International Award carrying a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh. A souvenir on Pandit Murmu's life was unveiled, and his descendant Chuniyan Murmu and Padma Shri recipient Damayanti Beshra were also honoured. Odisha ministers Suryabanshi Suraj, Krushna Chandra Mahapatra and Ganeshram Singhkhuntia lauded Murmu's legacy.

Yellow warning issued for 13 districts today for heat, humidity



Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : Keeping in view the extreme heat wave condition in Odisha, yellow warning has been issued to as many as 13 districts for today for heat and humidity.

The entire state of Odisha is sweltering in the heat. The temperature crossed 40 degrees Celsius at as many as 19 places of the State. In the last 24 hours, Sambalpur has become the

hottest city with 43.2 degrees. The mercury has reached 42.5 degrees in Titilagarh and 42 degrees in Balangir. Similarly, temperature has reached 41.7 degrees in Angul, 40.4 degrees in Baripada and 41.6 degrees in Jharsuguda. The highest temperature of this year has been recorded in Bhubaneswar for the first time at 40.7 degrees yesterday. Due to the high humidity in the atmosphere, extreme heat and humidity are being experienced. The Meteorological Department has estimated that extreme heat will

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10 satellites monitoring 24/7 to ensure security of India: ISRO chief

New Delhi, (HS) : ISRO Chairman Dr V Narayanan said the Indian Space Research Organisation is developing a satellite for G20 countries to study climate and air pollution. ISRO Chairman Dr V Narayanan said that 10 satellites are continuously working for a strategic purpose to ensure the safety and security of the country's citizens. Speaking at the convocation ceremony of the Central Agricultural University in Manipur's Imphal on Sunday, he said India is becoming a "vibrant space power" and will have its first space station by 2040. "Today, 433 satellites of 34 countries are lifted from India and placed in orbit. I am also happy



to inform you that today, 10 satellites are continuously working 24/7 for a strategic purpose to ensure the safety and security of the citizens of the

country," the ISRO chief said during the programme. His comment came amid the military conflict between India and Pakistan. The country launched

Operation Sindoor on May 7 to destroy terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir in retaliation for the Pahalgam terror attack. Narayanan also said, "If we have to ensure the safety of our country, we have to serve through our satellites. We have to monitor our 7,000 km seashore. We have to monitor the entire northern part continuously. Without satellite and drone technology, we can't achieve that." He said the Indian Space Research Organisation is developing a satellite for G20 countries to study climate and air pollution and monitor weather. The progress that the country has made since Independence was "phenomenal and outstanding", he added.

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Chief Secy Manoj Ahuja Reviews Development Projects In Jajpur’s Nagada

Bhubaneswar,(DMC): Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja visited Jajpur district today and inspected Nagada under Sukinda block to assess the ground situation and review developmental projects. Despite intense summer heat, accompanied by Secretary of Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Department Girish S.N., Departmental Director Vineet Bhardwaj, and District Collector P. Anvesha Reddy, he went door-to-door to inquire about the well-being of Nagada residents. District Collector P. Anvesha Reddy briefed the Chief Secretary on the progress of various projects in the Nagada area. The Chief Secretary reviewed ongoing projects, including the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, public health, women and child development, and drinking water supply initiatives. At the Upper Nagada Anganwadi Center, he conducted a ground-zero assessment. Observing that some beneficiaries’ houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana were only 60% complete, he expressed concern and directed the Chief Executive Officer of the Zilla Parishad, Ashok Kumar Behuria, and BDO Pradipta Kumar Sethi to ensure their swift completion. He inquired about the health of Suba, the wife of Shikar Pradhan, who had given birth at home without vaccinations, and instructed officials to immediately include eligible beneficiaries in the Mamata Yojana who had been excluded. In the presence of Chief Engineer Balram Mishra and Executive Engineer Ratnakar Sahu, the Chief Secretary was informed about the quality of drinking

water supply and the fluoride content in it. Visiting the home of Katikia Pradhan, he observed grain storage methods and Juang traditions. Responding to the villagers’ demand for a pond for bathing and sanitation, he inspected the site near a spring above the village and directed the Jalachhaya Project Director, Ramakant Parida, to take necessary action. He expressed satisfaction upon learning that many women were using Subhadra scheme funds for goat and poultry farming. Under the Forest Rights Act, he instructed the District Collector, Tehsildar Manas Ranjan Tripathy, DFO Anil Ray, and ACF Santosh Kumar Pati to expedite the issuance of agricultural land titles. Accompanied by DEO Nityananda Barik and BEO Narayan Das, he visited the Nagada Government Upper Primary School, where School Management Committee President Kripa Pradhan and Chukuli Pradhan demanded education in the Juang language, school boundary walls, and spring water conservation. Noting irregular attendance by some students, he advised improvements. At Deogaon, he inspected a 200-bed tribal hostel, unused for three years, and directed DWO Sarat Chandra Behera, Special Officer Sunaram Singh, and Public Works Department Superintending Engineer Kamal Kumar Swain to make it operational promptly. Finally, at the Kaliapani Primary Health Center, he advised CDMO Dr. Prakash Chandra Bal, Superintendent Dr. Jaydeb Nanda, and DPM Bishwaranjan Rath on upgrades.

India Abides By Simla Agreement Without Deviation: Odisha BJP Chief

Bhubaneswar,(DMC): Taking a dig at Congress for raising questions over the fate of Simla Agreement, Bharatiya Janata Party’s (BJP) Odisha unit president Manmohan Samal said that the government will give a proper answer to the grand old party. “The Centre will give a proper answer to Congress on the issue and clearly explain its stand,” Samal told the Media. Notably, the Congress has urged the Centre to clarify whether it is open to third-party mediation on the Kashmir issue, warning that such as stance could potentially violate the Simla Agreement. The grand old party



pointed to US President Donald Trump’s daily statements, claiming that he was intervening in the matter, and said a

clarification from the union government on the matter was inevitable. While addressing a party programme in New Delhi on Monday, AICC general secretary K C Venugopal said the party wants to know whether there has been a shift in the country’s foreign policy, and therefore the matter has to be taken up in the Parliament at the earliest. The Odisha BJP chief asserted that India abides by the Simla agreement and there should not be any doubt. “We are working as per the Simla Agreement without any deviation. It is not our principle to make any compromise on foreign affairs, Samal said.

International Nurses Day Celebrated at KINS

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): International Nurses Day was celebrated today by the Kalinga Institute of Nursing Sciences (KINS). Addressing an event organised on the occasion, Founder of KIIT, KISS, and KIMS Dr. Achyuta Samanta said that nurses are the epitome of service. He emphasized the crucial role that nurses play in the healthcare sector, stating that in a patient’s recovery, the role of a nurse is often even more significant than that of a doctor. A patient can heal through the compassionate touch and dedicated care of a nurse. Hence, nurses must always uphold an attitude of empathy and dedication toward patients. Dr. Samanta encouraged all nurses to work with a spirit of selfless service and dedication. He said that the students’ enthusiasm to enroll in the nursing course



reflects their innate spirit of service and commitment. With the strong infrastructure and vast opportunities for practical exposure at KIMS, KINS students can establish themselves in the nursing profession. Prof. Saranjit Singh, Vice-Chancellor of KIIT, highlighted the theme of this year’s International Nurses Day, “Our Nurses. Our Future. Caring

for nurses strengthens economies”. He stated that proper nursing care not only benefits patients but also strengthens the financial health of healthcare institutions. Therefore, the physical and mental well-being of nurses should always be a priority. Dr. C.B.K. Mohanty, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, School of Medicine, KIIT, described nurses

as the vital link between doctors and patients. He noted that among the employees working in healthcare institutions, nurses make up the largest group. Without nurses, it would be impossible to deliver healthcare services effectively. Among others present on the occasion were Prof. Dr. R.C. Das, Principal of KIMS; Dr. Manas Ranjan Behera, Medical Superintendent of KIMS; Brigadier Dr. Ambika Prasad Mohanty, Director of the Schools of Nursing, Allied Sciences, Pharmacy, and Physiotherapy; and Prof. J.R. Mohanty, Registrar of KIIT DU. At the event, Prof. Dr. Niyati Das, Principal of KINS, delivered the welcome address, while Ms. Geetanjali Mohanta, Nursing Superintendent at KIMS, offered the vote of thanks. The annual souvenir of KINS, ‘KARA’, was also unveiled by the dignitaries on this occasion.

Reopening of airports in India: Here’s what Bhubaneswar airport director said on regular flight operations

Bhubaneswar ,(DMC): The reopening of 32 airports, which were earlier closed in view of the escalating tension between India and Pakistan, has been welcomed by air travellers across the country. Though the airports have been opened, it is expected that regular flight operations will return to normalcy in a day or two. In an exclusive interview, Bhubaneswar airport director, Prasanna Pradhan on Monday informed that 32 airports across country have been reopened. It means that everything is ready and flight operations can resume. Airports are now open and the airlines can reschedule their flights and passengers can plan their trips accordingly. “Today, we have



received notification regarding reopening of airports. It is hoped that the airlines will start resume their regular flight operations from tomorrow. As the today’s schedule is over, it now all depends on passengers to plan their trips and re-schedule their bookings with the respective airlines,” the

Bhubaneswar airport director said. The Bhubaneswar airport informed that it depends on airlines regarding resumption of flight operations and ‘we have got information that airlines have already started to offer rebooking without any penalty’. Everybody will see this sympathetically, and it is

hoped that things will be in favour of the air travelers, director Pradhan stated. In most cases, when aircrafts are not flying, the airlines give offer either to reschedule or refund the booking amount. A detailed clarity is likely to emerge on rescheduling of the trips by passengers based on availability of seats and other reasons. When airports are now available, passengers will see their convenience and plan their trips and reschedule accordingly after contacting their respective airlines to respective destination. “As the airports have been opened, it will be opened both for domestic as well as international travels,” the Bhubaneswar airport director added.

DGP YB Khurania Reviews Security Preparations For Rath Yatra In Puri



Bhubaneswar/Puri,(DMC): Director General of Police (DGP) of Odisha, YB Khurania, on Monday, visited the Jagannath Temple in Puri to review the arrangements for the upcoming Snana Yatra and Rath Yatra. As per reports, the DGP discussed crowd management, traffic arrangements, and law and order with senior officials as part of measures to ensure the safety of devotees and the smooth conduct of the upcoming Rath Yatra festival. The review

meeting was held at the office of Puri Superintendent of Police (SP), attended by senior police officers, including Additional DGPs Sanjay Kumar, Amitabh Thakur, Dayal Gangwar, Praveen Kumar, Anup Sahoo, and Pinaki Mishra, as well as SP Vinit Agrawal. That apart, DGP Khurania led a comprehensive security review, examining CCTV surveillance, rapid response teams, and coordination with local district authorities, emphasising that security

remains the top priority given the massive turnout of devotees expected for Rath Yatra. During his visit, the DGP also reviewed the preparedness of other security forces deployed at the temple. Notably, the armoured vehicle ‘Vajra’ has been deployed at the temple entrance as part of the enhanced security protocol. He reviewed the deployment of modern security infrastructure and interacted with senior police officials to guarantee a secure environment for the festival.

Two More Arrested In Bhubaneswar Firing Incident; Firearms Recovered

Bhubaneswar,(DMC): The Commissionerate Police of Bhubaneswar-Cuttack on Monday arrested two more persons in connection with the firing incident that took place late Friday night near Damana Chhak under Chandrasekharpur police limits. The incident occurred at Cosmos Bar, where a security guard sustained a bullet injury to his leg after allegedly being shot by the accused. The latest arrests bring the total number of people held in the case to 13. The arrested

have been identified as Dadhibamana Jena and Krushna Chandra Barik. This was confirmed by the Commissioner of Police, Bhubaneswar-Cuttack, S. Dev Datta Singh. “Yesterday, 11 persons were arrested in connection with the case. Today, we have arrested two more accused. The incident took place two days ago, when a group of persons attempted to force a security guard to keep the bar open beyond permitted hours. After being denied entry and

escorted out, they returned around 4 am and opened fire, injuring the guard,” Singh said. He added that firearms used in the attack have been recovered from the possession of the accused. The Commissioner further stated that the crackdown on criminal activities in the city will continue. “We are committed to taking immediate action whenever a crime occurs in Bhubaneswar. Our team ensures swift investigation and timely closure of such cases,” he said.

IGBC’s 2nd Edition of Green Odisha Conclave 2025 Charts Roadmap for A Green Future

Bhubaneswar ,(DMC): Odisha is making advancing strides toward a sustainable built environment, with growing momentum in green building adoption across cities like Bhubaneswar and Cuttack. The state has shown a strong commitment to integrating eco-friendly practices in infrastructure development, supported by proactive government agencies like IDCO and BDA. Increasing participation in IGBC initiatives and the presence of certified green projects reflect the state’s dedication to environmental stewardship. With rising awareness, collaborative efforts, and policy support, Odisha is well on its way to becoming a leading example of sustainable urban development in eastern India. This is what came out in CII- Indian Green Building Council’s 2nd Edition of the Green Odisha Conclave held on 9 May 2025. The conclave

centered around the theme “Building a Sustainable Future: Roadmap & Sustainable Solutions for a Green Built Odisha.” It brought together over 200 professionals from government, industry, and academia to chart a greener, more sustainable future for the state. The full-day event focused on integrating green building practices into Odisha’s urban and rural development strategies. Leading architects, policymakers, urban planners, and technical experts shared ideas and innovations aimed at minimizing environmental impact while enhancing the quality of life through sustainable infrastructure. The inaugural session was addressed by Ar. Manonjay Rath, Chairman, IGBC Bhubaneswar Chapter; Ar. Vivek Singh Rathore, Co-Chairman, IGBC Kolkata Chapter and Rakesh Bhura, Co-Chairman of IGBC Bhubaneswar Chapter. The session concluded with closing remarks by Mr.



Manoj Kar, Past Chairman, IGBC Bhubaneswar. Odisha is increasingly prioritizing sustainability in its construction and urban planning efforts. With growing adoption of green building standards and active involvement from state agencies, the region is fostering environmentally conscious

development. Initiatives promoting energy efficiency, eco-friendly materials, and resource conservation are helping shape a greener built environment, reinforcing Odisha’s commitment to a sustainable future. “Today, while sustainability tackles the environmental concern; it is also a commitment to our

communities’ well-being and future. By embracing IGBC’s green and net zero building practices, Odisha is paving the way for healthier, more resilient cities that honour both our heritage and our aspirations,” said Ar Rath. A key highlight of the day was a panel discussion on “Suggested Roadmap for a Green Built Odisha. The panel included senior officials and experts from Bhubaneswar Development Authority, Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO), the Works Department, IIT Bhubaneswar, and the Indian Building Congress. They discussed the adoption of green codes, incentives for green buildings, and integration of climate-responsive design in public projects. Ar. Rathore further said, “Odisha is at a pivotal moment in shaping its urban future, and integrating sustainability into its built environment is no longer a choice but a necessity. Through IGBC’s

collaboration with the government and the Indian construction industry stakeholders, we can ensure development that is both progressive and environmentally responsible.” The technical sessions explored cutting-edge green construction solutions and showcased successful case studies. Speakers from companies such as En Simulated Solutions LLP, Saint-Gobain Glass, LuminX, ITC Limited, and Aerolam Insulation Pvt. Ltd. presented topics like energy-efficient glazing, thermal insulation, and green-certified buildings. Attendees gained insights into practical innovations being implemented in both industrial and urban settings. The conclave served as a pivotal moment in Odisha’s journey towards sustainable development, offering a collaborative platform to learn, share, and advance green building practices across the state.

Groom Held In Bhubaneswar For Cheating Woman With False Marriage Promise

Bhubaneswar,(DMC): Dhauli Police on Monday arrested a groom for allegedly cheating a woman by promising marriage and then attempting to wed another woman in Bhubaneswar. The accused has been identified as Biswajit Sahoo, a resident of Puri district. According to sources, the complainant alleged that she and the accused had been in a serious relationship for several years and had been living together for the past one year. She claimed that Sahoo had repeatedly assured her of marriage. However, on Sunday night, the woman, accompanied by police officials, arrived at a wedding mandap in Bhubaneswar where Sahoo was preparing to marry another woman. She confronted him at the venue, accusing him of betrayal and deception. Following the incident, police detained the groom and later arrested him based on the woman’s complaint. He was produced before a local court on Monday.

Annual Day Celebration of UJA Jajpur wing's held

Jajpur, (DMC): The Annual Day Celebration of Utkal Journalist Association (UJA) , Jajpur wing was held on this Sunday evening here in Gouttam Buddha Sanskruti Bhawan, Jajpur Town under the chairmanship of State President Rtn.Bibhuti Bhushan Kar, notable Journalist in the state. State Textile and Handloom Minister Dr. Pradeep Bal Samanta attained the event as Chief guest along with Jajpur MP Dr. Rabindra Narayan Behera , as the honourable guest . Veteran Political Leader Gouttam Roy , Sri Subash Bal , Chairperson Vyasanagar Municipality were also attained . Editor to Pragativadi Sri Birupakhya Tripathy joined as key note Speaker. Advisor Benudhar Panda, exe President Haradhan Banerjee, Biswajeet



Nayak , Jajpur wing President Harihar Swain were also chaired Jajpur MP Dr. Rabindra Narayan Behera emphasized the journalists

role as a watchdog in democracy. He stated that the power lied in the journalists pen. He advised journalist friends to always

provide true and unbiased news . All should take the initiatives how Jajpur will list as first number in the State . On his welcome address

State President Rtn. Kar briefly shared the main moto ,objectives of UJA and now a days how a journalist lives . Due to our media people government able to reach at every individuals , media has a vital role for government changes , recently we have noticed , He spoke . Government should fulfill all the demands of Journalists as soon as possible, he added . Journalists in Print , Electronic and digital platforms should protecting the decency in the field of journalism , he advised in this regard. Cultural events , felicitations to different personalities in the region were held on this occasion . More than hundred number of journalist, educationist in the district were participated .

Social activist Snehamayee nominated as District Vigilance Committee member

Paradip/Jagatsinghpur, (DMC): On the basis of dedicated service and skills, Smt. Snehamayee Acharya, a well-known social activist and the Chairperson of Vyasa Foundation, has been selected as a member of the Jagatsinghpur District Vigilance Committee. Earlier, Smt. Acharya was a member of the District Anti-Corruption Committee and Observer of Samagola Jail at Kujang and has been working successfully. Smt. Snehamayee Acharya, the Chairperson of Vyasa Foundation, has created a unique identity for herself by performing various social services. Along with



Smt. Acharya, Sushri Priyadarshini, Prapat Chandra Behera, Devendra Kumar Mallik, Purna Chandra Mall and other government officials were nominated as the District Vigilance Committee Member by the district collector . Advocate Suresh Chandra Das, Antaryami Patnaik, Sarala researcher Ramakant Rawal, Sarada Prasanna Das, union leader Prakash Tripathy, Ranjan Kumar Pradhan,working journalists of Paradip and all the members of Vyasa Foundation were welcomed and congratulated Mrs. Acharya on her for achieving this post.

Jala- Chatra a failure programme at Jagatsinghpur District

Jagatsinghpur, (DMC): As much as heat wave causing problem to civilians the system of Jala - Charta found as failure project of District administration. Though it was decided by disaster preparedness meeting to provide drinking water at market place, Panchayat, Block, Municipality head quarters and other thickly population areas. But this system proved failure all over district. At Gram Panchayat lebel, Block lebel this Jala - Chatra programme is a grand failure. About 95% project found defective but GP and Block lebel Officers making faule bill. But at Jagatsinghpur Municipality the Jal



drinking water at high temperature in Summer. District Administration should take proper action against such irregularities.

Sahayata centre opened and the work done by one SSG, who selected by tender. Due to lack of proper supervision Jal-sahayata centers are not functioning properly. As per rule the Kendra will work from 9 AM to 2 PM. But these Jal - Sahayata centers are working for two hours from 9 AM to 11 AM and supplying plain water without Ice and lemon. Even the SSG violating the notice of Executive Officer. In such situation people facing lot of problem for a glass of

3 Arrested on Betarsing Murder Case



Paralakhemundi, (DMC): Under RUdayagiri police limits of Gajapati district,at Betarsing village one Ashok Beherdalei had been killed.On this matter Sibaram Beherdalei,Jayaram Badaroito & Ajit Kumar Badaroito were arrested. On 9th night on personal vis-a-vis those accused persons strongly beaten him & killed.On Saturday deceased's brother Bhimsen Beherdalei complained at RUdayagiri Police Station.Accordingly case registered & investigation started said Aswini Kumar Bhitiria.

Odisha Non-Gazetted Forest Service Association Holds 14th Biennial Session

Rayagada, (DMC): The Odisha Non-Gazetted Forest Service Association, Rayagada Forest Division (T), successfully conducted its 14th Biennial General Session and Representative Election at the Biju Pattanaik Auditorium in Rayagada on dt 11/05/25. The event was graced by the Joint Secretary of the State Association along with representatives from the districts of Koraput, Jaypur, Malkangiri, and Nabarangpur. This significant gathering marked an important moment for the association as it aimed to strengthen its organizational structure and renew its



commitment to the welfare of forest service employees. During the session, new office-bearers were elected to lead the association for the next term.

Pradeep Kumar Sahu was elected as the President, with Surya Prakash Pattnayak as the Vice President. Labanya Majhi was chosen as the Secretary, while

Pradyumna Kumar Behera took over as the Treasurer. The Joint Secretary positions were filled by Badicheti Bhaskar and Ranjita Gouda. All the elected

representatives solemnly took an oath of confidentiality and commitment to uphold the values and mission of the association. The newly elected team is expected to bring fresh energy and dedication to the association's ongoing efforts to improve working conditions and secure better benefits for its members. With a clear focus on the welfare of forest service employees, the leadership aims to advocate for their rights, enhance service standards, and foster unity among members. The association remains steadfast in its mission to support its workforce and ensure that their voices are heard and respected at all levels.

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doubt about India's future course of action, confirming that Pakistan-sponsored terrorism will not be tolerated."Even now, every inch of land in which terror is encouraged by Pakistan is within the reach of our Armed Forces," he stated, reinforcing India's commitment to addressing any threat emanating from across the border.

PM Modi made it abundantly clear that Operation Sindoor is far from over. "India will give back to terror and their backers in a language they understand," he said, reaffirming that "nuclear blackmail won't work" against India. His final remarks set the tone for India's new strategic normal: "India will answer back, and there will be no distinction between terrorists and those who sponsor them, whoever they are and wherever they are."

Trying to Assuage Their...

funeral procession of the slain terrorists in Muridke, was merely "a common family man". During a recent press conference, Indian officials had released photographic evidence showing Rauf at the helm of the funeral prayers, with high-ranking Pakistani military officers in attendance and coffins draped in Pakistan's national flag -visually affirming what New Delhi described as Pakistan's "institutional support to terrorism." Abdur Rauf, brother of JeM chief Masood Azhar, is a designated global terrorist sanctioned by the US Treasury in 2010. His Pakistani national ID (CNIC 35202-5400413-9, birthdate March 25, 1973) matches the details in the OFAC sanctions list. He has played a crucial role in LeT's fundraising and training operations and was deeply involved with Falah-e-Insaniyat Foundation (FIF), a LeT front group disguised as a charity. Abdul Rauf Azhar, on the other hand, is JeM's operational commander involved in major attacks, including the 1999 IC-814 hijacking, the 2001 Parliament attack, the 2016 Pathankot airbase attack, and the 2019 Pulwama bombing. Indian sources claim he was neutralised during Operation Sindoor. "The presence of Pakistan Army officers, Punjab police officials and local lawmakers at the funeral of LeT terrorists paints a clear picture of state patronage," India said. Among those spotted were Lt Gen Fayyaz Hussain Shah, Maj Gen Rao Imran Sartaj, Brig Mohd Furqan Shabbir, IGP Dr Usman Anwar, and MLA Malik Sohaib Ahmed Bherth. Referring to the visuals from Muridke, India said that this was not a "private religious funeral" but a state-backed ceremony. India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri also highlighted the hypocrisy, questioning, "If only civilians were killed, why were funerals being led by UN-proscribed terrorists attended by Pakistan's top military brass?" The fallout from the funeral ceremony has ignited fresh global concern about Pakistan's persistent support for proscribed terror groups.

The Indian government has reiterated that Operation Sindoor was a counter-terrorist strike, not a military offensive, and took deliberate precautions to avoid civilian casualties. India has described Pakistan's counterclaims and efforts to project terrorists as civilians as a desperate ploy to shift focus from the hard evidence now publicly available.

Yellow warning...

be experienced in most districts of the state till the 15th of May. Daytime temperatures are expected to rise by 2 to 3 degrees for the next 3 days. Yellow alert has been issued for 13 districts today due to heat and humidity. Similarly, 19 districts have been alerted for tomorrow.

Another The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a nowcast warning for parts of Gajapati and Ganjam districts, predicting moderate thunderstorms with lightning and strong surface winds reaching 40-50 kmph, accompanied by light to moderate rain, in the next two to three hours. According to the nowcast warning issued by the IMD at 2pm, the thunderstorm may cause minor damage to loose or unsecured structures and banana trees. Standing crops may also experience some damage due to the strong winds and rain. Residents in the affected areas are advised to remain vigilant and keep a close watch on the weather for any worsening conditions. They are also advised to be prepared to move to safer places if necessary. The IMD has urged people to take necessary precautions to ensure their safety during the thunderstorm.

Teacher SBPatnaik Honored on His Superannuation



Paralakhemundi, (DMC): At Nrushinghanath Function Hall on great admiration Sashi Bhushan Patnaik has been honored on his retirement.For his dedications & commitments he has been honored.On this occasion state awarded teacher Bichitrnanda Beberta,Saroj Kumar Panda Pradhanacharya of SSSVM,Science teacher Harinath Patra graced on dias.They reflected on Patnaik's long astute service to discover best students. As a poet he,too, acknowledged his recognition in literature. Shyamsundar Gantayet facilitated the program. Soumyaranjan Nayak conveyed vote of thanks. Among others Laxminarayan Mishra, Babita Purohit,Sujata Nanda,Ramakant Patnaik,Sailabala Sahu, Pramod Rath,Binodini Bhukta,Harekrusna Mishra,Manoj Kumar Panda,Sunita Maharana also shared their experiences on Patnaik.

Meeting on Viksit Krishi Sankalp Aviyaan held by Union Agriculture Minister ShriShivraj Singh Chouhan



New Delhi, (HS) : The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, along with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), is set to launch the Viksit Krishi Sankalp Aviyaan across India from May 29 to June 12, covering over 700 districts. Union Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced that this initiative aims to enhance farming practices and directly benefit farmers, aligning with Prime Minister Modi's vision of "Lab to Land." The campaign will feature direct engagement between agricultural scientists, ministry officials, and local farmers, focusing on modern farming techniques, advanced crop varieties, and promoting natural farming methods. Key aspects of the campaign include education on balanced fertilizer use based on soil health cards, demonstrations of agricultural drone technology, and the promotion of techniques such as direct seeded rice (DSR) and soybean mechanization. Teams composed of scientists, state agriculture officials, and progressive farmers will facilitate this exchange of knowledge. Shri Chouhan emphasized that this campaign is not merely procedural but an actionable initiative expected to yield visible results within three months, coinciding with the Kharif season. He stressed the importance of delivering agricultural research to farmers in the fields, fostering their curiosity, and motivating scientists. Letters have been sent to state Chief Ministers to ensure coordination, and a detailed action plan has been developed for the campaign's success. This initiative represents a significant step towards achieving "One Country, One Agriculture, One Team," ultimately aiming for a developed India through prosperous agriculture.

BrahMos missile strikes forced Pakistan to agree to a ceasefire

New Delhi, (HS) : India's decisive move to attack multiple airbases using BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles forced Pakistan to agree to a ceasefire, highly-placed sources have said. India used BrahMos after Pakistan had tried to target New Delhi with its Fatah 11 ballistic missiles, which were intercepted and brought down by the S 400 Air Defence System near Sirsa in Haryana, 125 km from the capital. India targeted multiple air bases, including the highly-fortified Noor Khan air base in Rawalpindi's Chaklala, just 10 km from Islamabad. This was the first time that India used BrahMos in combat. "BrahMos was mounted on Sukhoi Su-30MKI fighter jet, which targeted Pakistan's several key military installations and air bases deep inside the country, including the air base at Noor Khan (Chaklala)," sources said. The destruction of the road and airstrip eventually neutralised Pakistan's access to its nuke assets. "The tactical use of the cruise missile was meant to undermine Pakistan's posturing as a nuclear power. It was the turning point which sent shock waves to Rawalpindi and sobered the military leadership, including its Army chief, Asim Munir. A day before, India had struck the air



defence system at Lahore, which had already laid bare Pakistan's vulnerabilities in detecting India's missiles that hit the targets with precision deep inside their territory," sources said. Besides Chaklala, BrahMos was used to strike other air bases in Pakistan - Rafiqui (Shorkot), Murid(Chakwal), Rahim Yar Khan, Sukkur, Chunian (Kasur), besides critical radar installations at Pasrur and Sialkot. Major damage was also reported at airfields in Skardu, Bholari, Jacobabad, and Sargodha. The escalation of hostilities between the two countries were brought to a halt following the intervention of the United States President Donald Trump, who on Saturday in his post on Truth

Social said that India and Pakistan had agreed to a "full and immediate ceasefire." Later, India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri announced that the DGMOs of the two countries had agreed to stop all firings and military action on land, air and sea with effect from 5 pm on Saturday. However, Pakistan violated the ceasefire a few hours later. BrahMos is a long-range ramjet supersonic cruise missile with high high-explosive, conventional warhead. The missile can take any trajectory predetermined by the user. A pilotless aircraft that can be launched from any platform - submarines, ships or fighter aircraft, its speed is 2.8 Mac, approximately 900 metres per second and can cover 300 to 800 kilometres.

Drones sighted, engaged by air defence system in J&K's Samba

SRINAGAR, (HS)

: As normalcy began returning to Jammu and Kashmir following the India - Pakistan ceasefire, drones from Pakistan were spotted in Samba, a border district in the region, in the evening. "The Pakistani drones were sighted in the evening in the air. There were red streak lights. The Indian Air Defence system got activated and engaged



the drones," defence sources said. Loud explosions were heard in Samba and nearby areas, and the Army later confirmed drone activity in the region.

"A small number of suspected drones are being observed near Samba in J&K. They are being engaged," army sources said. "There is no need to be alarmed," they added. The drone attack from Pakistan took place after Prime Minister Narendra Modi concluded his speech, in which he warned that Pakistan must dismantle its terror infrastructure if it wants to survive, and asserted that any talks with Pakistan would focus only on terrorism and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK).

Earlier, US President Donald Trump had also spoken about the ceasefire saying that his administration ended a dangerous conflict of two nations with lots of nuclear weapons. "We stopped a nuclear conflict. I think it could have been a bad nuclear war, millions of people could have been killed. So I'm very proud of that," The drone attack from Pakistan is the first major violation of the India-Pakistan ceasefire that came into effect on Saturday evening.

Pedestrians, Cyclists Deaths among Road Crashes in SE Asia: WHO

New Delhi, (HS) : Road traffic injuries are the leading cause of death among young people aged five to 29 years, and they continue to be a pressing public health concern in the South-East Asia Region, said the World Health Organisation (WHO) on Monday. On the eighth UN Global Road Safety Week marked biennially, starting on the third Monday of May, WHO said, in 2021 alone, the WHO South-East Asia Region, which includes India, accounted for more than 3,30,000 deaths from road crashes, representing 28% of the global total.

Vulnerable road users, including pedestrians, cyclists, and operators of two-and three-wheelers, account for up to 66% of these fatalities, said Saima Wazed, Regional Director for WHO South-East Asia (WHO-SEARO) region. Globally, each year, road traffic crashes take a devastating toll on our communities, claiming the lives of nearly 1.2 million people and leaving up to 50



million more with non-fatal injuries, she said. "These tragedies are not mere statistics. They are the loss of children, parents, and loved ones, and are largely preventable," she added. This year, the theme urges the world to make walking and cycling safe for everyone. "Walking and cycling are an integral part of the

multimodal transport systems in the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2020-2030. They also promote healthy and sustainable cities and lifestyles," she added. "This year's theme is a timely call to action. Pedestrians and cyclists already account for more than one in four road traffic

deaths. Ensuring their safety is not only a matter of saving lives," she said. Prioritising walking and cycling supports physical activity, which is a key modifiable risk factor for noncommunicable diseases such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and cancers, she said. She added that the two activities also support mental well-being, helping to reduce symptoms of depression and anxiety.

"Road safety is an important element of WHO guidance for healthy cities. In our region, the WHO partnership for healthy cities has been working extensively with megacities such as Mumbai and Bangkok to address road safety and promote safe transportation. This included improved designs of pedestrian walkways, through the assessment of hundreds of kilometers of roads and sidewalks, and universal inclusive designs for accessible walkways," she added. Creating safe, inclusive, and accessible roads for all in

the densely populated cities of South-East Asia is challenging, she said. "However, doing so will support the population, especially the most vulnerable, through improved community well-being and environmental sustainability. When we integrate road safety with the promotion of physical activity, we address interconnected challenges: injuries, non-communicable diseases, mental health, and even climate change," she further said. Urging all members, civil society, the private sector, and communities to push for people-centred mobility policies, safer road design, safe vehicles, and lower speed limits, the WHO SEARO chief, said together, we should ensure that every person - especially children and youth - can walk and cycle safely in our communities and on roads. "By doing so, we not only improve road safety but also advance climate action, health promotion, and the Sustainable Development Goals," Wazed said.

BBC Asked Pak Minister, 'Do Terrorists Live In Pakistan' ?

New Delhi, (HS) : Pakistan does not shelter active terrorists or terrorist outfits, and those living in its territory "do not indulge in terror activities, either in Pak or across the order in India", that country's Defence Minister Khwaja Asif told British broadcaster BBC in an interview earlier this month.

The interview took place hours after India-Pak military tension spiked against the backdrop of the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir, in which 26 people, mostly civilians, were killed was claimed by a proxy of the Lashkar-e-Taiba, a banned terrorist group India has said operates from Pakistan soil and with support from the deep state. Azadeh Moshiri the BBC's Pak correspondent had asked Mr Asif if there were terrorists leaders or terror groups active in Pakistan. The Pak Defence



Minister responded with an emphatic "no". Mr Asif also responded to questions about the United States' belief that Pakistan continues to allow terror groups - like the Jaish-e-Mohammed,

which was behind the 2019 Pulwama and 2016 Uri attacks, in which 59 soldiers were killed - to raise funds through 'legitimate businesses'. "These (terrorism and terrorists) are things from our past..."

Mr Asif began, pointing to the US' role in arming certain Afghanistan groups in the 1980s, during the Afghan-Soviet war. He argued that over the decades the US' hand in creating and arming 'mujahideen' groups, which were later reborn as terrorist outfits, was forgotten and Pak was left holding the bag. Among the outfits the US (and Pakistan too) had supported then included the Haqqani network, which had, and still has links with the Taliban and the Jaish and Lashkar groups.

"The terrorists, which it is claimed that they are in Pakistan or their terrorist outfits are in Pakistan, they were allies of the US efforts in Afghanistan in the 80s. This thing keeps haunting us... that all these people who were actually our allies, or we were their allies... they're all 'dry-cleaned' now, but we are still 'dirty'.

Jharkhand Jaguar jawan injured in Maoist-triggered IED blast during search operation in Chaibasa

RANCHI, (HS) : A Jharkhand Jaguar jawan was injured in a Maoist-triggered IED blast on Monday and was airlifted to Ranchi for better medical treatment. According to police, the incident occurred in the Marangponga forests under the jurisdiction of the Chhota Nagara police station in Chaibasa. The condition of the injured jawan is stable and out of danger, they said. Sources stated that a joint team of Jharkhand Jaguar and the CRPF's CoBRA battalion were conducting a search operation to trace the squad of wanted Maoist leader Anal Da. "Manoj Kumar Damai accidentally stepped on an IED planted by the Maoists, causing it to explode," stated the official communique from Police Headquarters in Ranchi. The incident took place at around 10.45 am on Monday, it said. After the incident, the forces intensified their operation in the area. Earlier, on April 12, Jharkhand Jaguar jawan Sunil Dhan had been seriously injured in an IED blast triggered by Maoists in the heavily forested border area between the Chotanagra and Jaraikela police stations in West Singhbhum. That incident also occurred during a search operation in the Chhota Nagara police station area. Notably, several Maoist commanders are active with their squads in the Saranda forests of Chaibasa and have planted thousands of IEDs to check security forces from entering the jungles, due to which regular incidents of blasts are taking place during operations.

Nuclear threat & more: Pakistan's old ruse India's new resolve for ceasefire

New Delhi, (HS) : May 11 proved exceptionally intense and emotionally turbulent. It began with reports of Pakistan moving its troops to forward areas and rumours of them having had deliberations on the tactical usage of nuclear weapons. But defence experts in India were already aware of what was at play. According to them, Islamabad was once again reaching for the oldest trick in its geopolitical playbook. That is, to escalate the conflict just enough to invite international concern, then use that pressure to secure a ceasefire and declare victory at home, as it had done numerous times before. And that is precisely what transpired. By sundown, at around 5:25 pm to be precise, US President Donald Trump took to his very own Truth Social to announce that "after a long night of talks mediated by the US, India and Pakistan have agreed to a full and immediate ceasefire."

So what were all of Pakistan's military assertions for? "It was all a ruse," said Col S Dinny (ret'd), a veteran of several counter-terrorism deployments in Jammu and Kashmir. "It is Pakistan's old textbook philosophy. They do something nasty, initiate a war, and then don't know how to continue. They rely on international pressure to force a ceasefire." In

previous instances, India might have been more accommodating. But that tolerance, experts say, has eroded. "If you recall, after 26/11 and even Pathankot, we entered into a dialogue with Pakistan," said Cmde Srikanth Kesnur (ret'd), former director of the Maritime Warfare Centre. "Later, after Uri and Pulwama, we wised up and stepped up our offensive, unwilling to yield to threats of escalation," he added. This time, too, India didn't blink. "Pakistan is famous for blackmailing the rest of the world, saying, 'If you don't help me, I'll kill myself.' But India has caught on," Cmde Srikanth said. "There is now a clear realisation within Indian military and political leadership that these guys will not commit this kind of hara-kiri. And we must not allow ourselves to be blackmailed - and this time, we haven't." The reported Pakistani troop movements were no surprise either. "These are very expected moves," said Lt Gen Dushyant Singh (ret'd), Director General of the Centre for Land Warfare Studies. "When escalation is rising, it's logical for a country to reposition forces. And it did escalate, didn't it? There were air attacks on our bases, and we responded similarly. It's all part of the chessboard being redrawn in real time," the veteran added.



Cmde G Prakash (ret'd), a Navy veteran who has extensive experience in operations, training, and policymaking, said that this restlessness of the Pakistan Army can be attributed to its larger-than-life image. "Their army survives on the idea that it is the sole protector of the country from India. The centre of gravity in Pakistan is its army, and it cannot allow itself to appear weak," the veteran added. Pakistan's nuclear sabre-rattling, however, raised deeper concerns. "Even the North Koreans haven't talked about nuclear weapons with such a chalta hai, casual attitude as Pakistan has," Cmde Srikanth said. "It is perhaps the most irresponsible nuclear power if the N-word has to be brought out at the very first

step." Even before India launched Operation Sindoor, Pakistan had begun hinting at its nuclear capabilities. "There were already noises - 'We have nuclear weapons, and we will not hesitate', and 'blood will flow', etc. It's the most absurd thing you can hear in a modern conflict," said Col Dinny. So then, what was Pakistan getting at, especially given how a war of attrition invariably favours India? This was not war, experts unanimously say. It was building a narrative. "They wanted an honourable exit," said Col Dinny. "Then they could claim, 'Oh, we halted the mighty Indians. We're equals'. That's the kind of narrative they could sell to their public - as they have done before." Lt Gen Dushyant agreed. "This

wasn't a confident response from them. It was aiming at getting the optics right. They were showing their public that they were responding to Indian strikes. Their actual strikes on our airbases and military headquarters were largely symbolic." "The Pakistan Army was under pressure," Lt Gen Dushyant noted. "It was being criticised for its failure to counter the Balochistan Liberation Army and the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan. So, what did they do? Shift the battlefield east - towards India. The plan was to turn internal dissent into external confrontation." Pakistan's true objective, the expert said, was not victory but a stalemate. "That was their endgame - to freeze the conflict through global mediation and save face domestically. The nuclear posturing was part of that puzzle," Lt Gen Dushyant said. Some may find the resulting ceasefire - framed as a US-brokered peace - a bit anticlimactic. But India, as Cmde Srikanth pointed out, never sought an indefinite war. "We gave them 'off-ramps' at several stages. Our objective was never prolonged conflict." The others concurred. "India certainly was not rushing toward war. But it is ready for it. We have the capability and the political and the national consensus for it. But since day one of the conflict, our

responses were responsible," said Col Dinny. "India's reality is this - we want peace so we can grow," added Lt Gen Dushyant. "Our aim is to meet the developmental goals we've set for 2047. That's the mission. Not a needless war."

As for how the ceasefire came about, Cmde Srikanth explained that "only a few would dismiss Pakistan's lack of real success with drone strikes, our neutralisation of their air bases, and the categorical stand we have maintained against terrorism as contributing factors." Col Dinny concurred, saying, "Pakistan has sustained heavy damage over the past days, and it was difficult for them to push us any further. That's the ground reality." He further added that India "is no longer bogged down by Pakistan's threats - be it a conventional war or nuclear escalation. We've entered a new phase in our fight against terror." That new phase was captured in the Indian government's press briefing. "Any act of terror will be considered an act of war", they had insisted, Lt Gen Dushyant highlighted. "In many ways," said Cmde Srikanth, "India has declared a new normal. What we've demonstrated is political and institutional stability. And its full strength will become evident as, inevitably, interesting developments unfold in Pakistan in the days ahead."

China denies reports of sending cargo plane with military supplies to Pakistan

BEIJING, (HS) : The Chinese military on Monday denied reports that its largest military cargo plane has carried arms supplies to Pakistan and warned legal action against those spreading such rumours. The People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAF) has denied that its Xi'an Y-20 military transport aircraft has taken supplies to Pakistan. After seeing a large amount of information on the internet about a "Y-20 transporting relief supplies to Pakistan", the Air Force said in a statement that such claims were untrue, a report on the official website of the Chinese Defence Ministry said on Monday. The PLAF also posted several screenshots of photos and words that shared the incorrect information, with each stamped with the red word "rumour." "The internet is not beyond the law! Those who produce and spread military-related rumours will be held legally responsible!" the report added. The denial by the PLA, which shares close ties with its Pakistan counterpart, was regarded as significant, coming two



days after an understanding between India and Pakistan to stop all firings and military actions and Islamabad's requirement for immediate replenishments. According to a recent report of Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), China has emerged as the largest weapons supplier to Pakistan, accounting for 81 per cent of arms procurement of China's all-weather ally from 2020 to 2024.

The procurement included the latest jet fighters, radars, naval ships, submarines and missiles. Both countries jointly manufacture J-17 aircraft, the mainstay of the Pakistan Air Force (PAF). Considering the large-scale use of

Chinese weapons supplies by Pakistan and the all-weather relationship between the two countries, the Chinese official media showed considerable interest during the last few days in the India-Pakistan military confrontation, regurgitating some of Pakistan's claims, including the downing of planes. India launched 'Operation Sindoor' on May 7 to destroy nine terror infrastructures in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir in retaliation for the Pahalgam terror attack. This was followed by major strikes on several Pakistan airbases a day later, virtually weakening Pakistan's ability to retaliate as India's air defence missile systems successfully thwarted a series of attempts made by

Pakistan to breach Indian airspace with swarm drone and missile attacks. While the Chinese official media here intimately played up reports of Pakistan's claims of shooting down planes, the scale of attacks by the Indian Air Force on nine terror sites deep inside Pakistan followed by strikes on radar systems and air bases came as a surprise here. The Indian Embassy in Beijing cautioned state-run tabloid Global Times to verify messages before posting them on social media. On the diplomatic front, China said it will play a constructive role to bring about a ceasefire between India and Pakistan.

China hopes India and Pakistan will consolidate and maintain the momentum of the ceasefire, avoid renewed conflict, and resolve differences through dialogue and negotiation, returning to the path of political settlement. China stands ready to maintain communication with both sides and continue to play a constructive role in achieving a comprehensive and lasting ceasefire and safeguarding regional peace and stability, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lin Jian told the media last week.

US prevented 'bad nuclear war' between India and Pakistan: Trump



Washington, (HS) : President Donald Trump on Monday said he used the lure of trade with the US to persuade India and Pakistan to end hostilities last week, which, he added, could have potentially spiraled into a nuclear war. The US President also commended the leaderships of India and Pakistan for "wisdom" and "fortitude" to understand the gravity of the situation and end the fighting. Trump on Saturday announced a ceasefire in the India-Pakistan military conflict following the April 22 attack by a Pakistan-linked terrorist outfit in which 26 tourists were killed in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam. "Come on, we're going to do a lot of trade with you guys," President Trump said at a news conference in the White House before departing for Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Qatar in West Asia. "Let's stop it. Let's stop it. If you stop it, we're doing trade. If you don't stop it, we're not going to do any trade. We're going to do a lot of trade with Pakistan. We're going to do a lot of trade with India. We're negotiating with India right now, we're going to be soon, negotiating with Pakistan," he went on to say. No details were available or how the offer of trade was extended by the Trump administration in this context. India and the US have been discussing a bilateral trade agreement and both sides have expressed optimism about an early deal, unlike in 2019 - in President Trump's first term - when talks had fallen through. "We stopped (a) nuclear conflict," President Trump went on to say. Although there is no evidence or indication the two countries were about to use nuclear weapons. "I think it could have been a bad nuclear war. Millions of people could have been killed. So I'm very proud of that." Earlier at the briefing, the US President said, "My administration helped broker a full and immediate ceasefire, I think, a permanent one, between India and Pakistan, ending a dangerous conflict of two nations with lots of nuclear weapons, and they were going at it hot and heavy, and it was seemingly not going to stop." "I'm very proud to let you know that the leadership of India and Pakistan was unwavering, powerful, but unwavering in both cases," he went on to say. But, he added, they also had "the strength and the wisdom and fortitude to fully know and to understand the gravity of the situation".

Scientists Find Molecule That Blocks Brain Cell Death in Parkinson's, Alzheimer's

Sydney, (HS) : A team of Australian scientists has identified a small molecule that blocks cell death, an advance that could lead to new treatments for neurodegenerative conditions like Parkinson's and Alzheimer's. The team from the Melbourne-based Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research (WEHI) aimed to find new chemicals that block cell death, which could help treat degenerative diseases in the future. The findings offer hope for treatments that could slow or stop the progression of neurodegenerative diseases. After screening over 100,000 chemical compounds, the team found a small molecule that targets a killer protein called BAX. By interfering with a well-understood cell death protein, the molecule effectively stopped cells from dying. "We were thrilled to find a small molecule that targets a killer protein called BAX and stops it working," said Professor Guillaume Lessene from WEHI.

UK PM Announces Major Immigration Reform, Slammed for "Shameful Language"

London, (HS) : In an announcement that may impact tens of thousands of people who aim to make the United Kingdom their home, Prime Minister Keir Starmer has pledged to significantly reduce the net migration in the country by the end of this parliament. This is the first major move in years to overhaul the immigration system in the UK.

Prime Minister Starmer, whose primary objective is to give impetus to growth amid economic stagnation, has debunked the theory that higher migration results in higher growth. "The theory that higher migration numbers leads to growth has been tested in the last four years," he said in response to a question on migration, adding that "That link doesn't hold on that evidence." The prime minister went on to say that those who want to be British citizens will now have to live there twice as long to be granted one. Speaking about the new immigration policy, Prime Minister Starmer said, "The UK has underinvested in skills and growth. This white paper is not just a white paper on



immigration, it is also a white paper that leads to skills and training." He evaded a question on whether UK's net migration - Inflow of migrants to the UK minus outflow of migrants from the UK - would fall each year between now and the next general election, but confirmed that it would fall by the end of this parliament. The silver lining for those wanting to migrate to the UK remains in the fact that Prime Minister Starmer has refused to put a cap on the total number of individuals who will be permitted to go to the UK. In his

opening remarks, the prime minister said that the intent behind curbing immigration in the UK was to prevent the country from becoming "an island of strangers". He said that his move must be seen as a "strategy absolutely essential to my plan for change, that will finally take back control of our borders, and close the book on a squalid chapter for our politics, our economy, and our country."

Touching upon the Brexit sentiment of "take back control", Mr Starmer said, "everyone knows what it meant on immigration". Targeting the previous government he charged that "between 2019 and 2023, even as they were going round our country telling people with a straight face that they would get immigration down, net migration quadrupled." Prime Minister Starmer has been accused of speaking right-wing party Reform UK's leader Nigel Farage's language at the press conference. Refugee charity Care4Calais has accused the prime minister of "fanning the fire of the far-right" over his "island of strangers" remark.

After 3 Years, Russian, Ukraine to Hold Peace Talks

Moscow, (HS) : Russia and Ukraine may be on the point of holding peace talks for the first time since the early weeks of the war. Here is a short guide to what was on the table back in 2022, the last time the two countries held peace talks, and why those talks broke down.

Russian and Ukrainian negotiators met in Belarus on February 28, 2022, four days after Russia's full-scale invasion. They later held meetings by video link before meeting again in person in Istanbul on March 29. After that, they exchanged multiple drafts until mid-April, before the talks broke down. - According to draft documents published last year by the New York Times, Ukraine was prepared to become a permanently neutral, non-aligned and nuclear-free state, with no foreign troops or weapons on its soil. These terms would have barred it from joining NATO but allowed for the possibility of EU membership. - In return, Ukraine would have received security guarantees from a group of countries including the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council - Britain, China, Russia, the



United States and France. - A partially agreed draft said the guarantor states - including Russia - would respect and observe Ukraine's independence and sovereignty and refrain from the threat or use of force against it. - The draft proposed holding talks over a period of 10-15 years regarding the status of Crimea, which Russia annexed from Ukraine in 2014. If Ukraine was attacked, it wanted the guarantors to provide assistance that could include "closing

airspace over Ukraine, providing necessary weapons, using armed force in order to restore and subsequently maintain the security of Ukraine as a permanently neutral state". But Russia insisted any decision must be agreed by all guarantor states - meaning Moscow would have a veto. The two sides disagreed sharply on the future size of Ukraine's armed forces and its military arsenal. For example, Kyiv was ready to agree to cap the size of its forces at

Ukraine says Russia fired 108 drones overnight despite ceasefire deadline

KYIV, (HS) : Ukraine said Russia had fired over a hundred drones overnight despite attempts from Kyiv's allies to get Moscow to begin a 30-day ceasefire on Monday. Russia's leader Vladimir Putin answered to the ceasefire proposal by suggesting to first hold direct talks, in a bid to appease US President Donald Trump, who has been pushing for a quick peace. Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelensky said he would be willing to meet Putin on Thursday in Turkey but insisted that Russia agree to the 30-day ceasefire, which allies hoped would start Monday. "From 11:00 pm on May 11, the enemy attacked with 108 Shaheds and other types of drones," the Ukraine air force said, adding that "as of 08:30 am, 55 drones were confirmed downed." The overnight attacks wounded one person and damaged residential buildings in the southern Odesa region, the military administration said. They also damaged railway infrastructure and wounded a train driver in the eastern Donetsk region. "Ceasefire proposals are being ignored, and the enemy continues attacks on railway infrastructure," Ukrainian national railway operator Ukrzaliznytsia said.

250,000, with 800 tanks and a maximum missile firing range of 280 km (174 miles). Russia was demanding limits on Ukraine of 85,000 personnel, 342 tanks and a 40 km missile range. Moscow demanded that Ukraine recognise Russian as an official state language and end what it considers to be discrimination against Russian-speakers, something Ukraine denies. Russia demanded the repeal of what it

called "laws of Ukraine on Nazification and glorification of Nazism". Ukraine rejects the Nazism charge as absurd.

By April 2022, the situation on the battlefield appeared to be turning in Ukraine's favour. It had beaten back Russian forces from around Kyiv and shown evidence to the world of alleged Russian war crimes that provoked international condemnation, although Moscow denied them.

Pak Says Man Who Led Terrorists' Funeral "A Family Man". US Disagrees

New Delhi, (HS) : The Pakistani armed forces have claimed that Hafiz Abdur Rauf, a US-designated global terrorist, who led the funeral of the terrorists killed in Indian airstrikes during Operation Sindoor is an ordinary citizen. Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry, Pakistan's Director General of Inter-Services Public Relations (DG ISPR), categorically denied that the man seen in the image was a terrorist. Instead, he was described as a religious leader and "a common family man." The military spokesperson even presented what was claimed to be the individual's National Identity Card (CNIC), naming him as an official of the Pakistan Markazi Muslim League (PMMML), specifically, its "Welfare Wing Incharge."

The man identified by Pakistan as a cleric is Hafiz Abdur Rauf, a senior leader of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and head of the now-banned Falah-e-Insaniyat Foundation (FIF), both of which are designated terrorist entities

under US and United Nations sanctions. The CNIC number (35202-5400413-9), name, and date of birth (March 25, 1973) released by the Pakistani military match exactly with details in the US Department of Treasury sanctions lists. Pakistan's characterisation of Rauf as an innocent preacher is the latest instance in a long history of downplaying or denying links between state institutions and internationally designated terrorists. During the funeral, held in Muridke, near Lahore, several high-ranking officers of the Pakistan Army stood behind Rauf as he led the ceremony. Coffins wrapped in Pakistan's national flag were carried in military protocol, suggesting institutional backing. In a press briefing in New Delhi recently, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri had held up the viral photograph and highlighted the contradictions between facts and what the Pakistani military leadership says. The funeral, held on May 8 in Muridke, did not resemble a private religious



affair. Images and video footage show military protocol, state security presence, and formal participation by Pakistani officials. "They claim that only civilians were killed in the strikes on the 7th of May. We have made the point very clearly that all attacks on the morning of 7th May were against carefully selected terrorist infrastructure, terrorist targets?" Mr Misri had said at a press briefing.

According to news agency IANS, the photograph shows Rauf surrounded by uniformed military officers, among them Lt Gen Fayyaz Hussain Shah (Corps Commander, IV Corps, Lahore), Maj Gen Rao Imran Sartaj (GOC, 11 Infantry Division), Brig Mohammad Furqan Shabbir (Commander, 15 Hybrid Mechanised Brigade), Punjab's Inspector General of Police Dr Usman Anwar, and provincial MLA Malik

Sohaib Ahmed Bherth. In an apparent attempt to deflect criticism, Pakistani officials appeared to conflate Hafiz Abdur Rauf with Abdul Rauf Azhar, brother of Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) chief Masood Azhar. Rauf Azhar, also Masood Azhar's brother, has a well-documented record of terrorism planning, including orchestrating the 1999 IC-814 hijacking, the 2001 Indian Parliament attack, and the 2016 Pathankot and 2019 Pulwama strikes. In contrast, Hafiz Abdur Rauf has been integral to the financial and propaganda operations of LeT since at least the early 2000s. According to the US Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), Rauf has served in several key roles within LeT. These include Director of Public Service in 2003, Director of Humanitarian Relief in 2008, and operational head of LeT's charity fronts, initially Idara Khidmat-e-Khalq (IKK), later renamed Falah-e-Insaniyat Foundation (FIF).

As early as 2003, Rauf was involved

in publicly defending the work of LeT-affiliated organisations, despite a formal ban imposed by Pakistan's own government. In interviews given to Pakistani news outlets and on LeT's official website, he claimed responsibility for managing fundraising and disaster relief under the guise of welfare operations. These activities, according to the US, were designed to provide cover for LeT's terrorist activities and evade international scrutiny. In 2009, Rauf led a fundraising delegation under the FIF alias to Bajaur, Pakistan, where LeT was active in both relief and recruitment. On November 24, 2010, the United States imposed sanctions on Rauf and FIF. The sanctions were the result of detailed dossiers shared by Indian intelligence, particularly after the 2008 Mumbai attacks that killed over 170 people. The UN Sanctions Committee also lists both FIF and LeT, as well as Rauf's close associate and LeT founder Hafiz Muhammad Saeed. Despite this, Rauf has continued to operate within Pakistan with apparent impunity.

India-Pak tensions, inflation & economic data key triggers for next week



New Delhi, (HS) : The Indian stock market outlook for next week will be guided by several domestic and international cues such as retail inflation, quarterly results, US jobless claims data and others. Next week, companies like SMC Global, Bajaj Electricals, JM Financial, Raymond, Tata Steel, UPL, AB Capital, Bharti Airtel, Cipla, Hero MotoCorp, Tata Motors, HAL, Tata Power, and JSW Energy will release their Q4 FY2024- 25 results.

In India, inflation will be in focus with the release of CPI YoY data on May 13, providing clarity on consumer price trends and their implications for the Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy. Additionally, Exports YoY data on May 15 will shed light on the health of India's external trade amid global uncertainties. In the US, the spotlight will be on inflation and consumption metrics. On May 13, both CPI MoM (Month-on-Month) and YoY (Year-on-Year) figures will be closely watched for signals on the Federal Reserve's policy direction. Meanwhile, China will release its Money Supply M2 YoY data on May 15, a critical indicator of liquidity and credit growth that could influence monetary easing expectations. Bajaj Broking Research said, "The week of May 13 to 16, 2025, brings a slate of crucial economic data releases across India, the United States, and China, which are likely to guide investor sentiment and central bank expectations." Last week, the stock market ended lower due to the escalation between India and Pakistan. The Sensex declined by nearly 1,047 points to settle at 79,454, while the Nifty slipped 338 points to close at 24,008 - both registering a weekly loss of approximately 1.4 per cent. Sector-wise, real estate and PSU banks were the major laggards, falling around 6.5 per cent and 4.5 per cent, respectively, while the auto and media sectors bucked the trend to emerge as top gainers.

Puneet Singhania, Director at Master Trust Group, said, "Rising tensions between India and Pakistan are likely to dominate investor sentiment in the coming week, creating a cautious undertone in Indian equity markets. Any escalation along the border or strong diplomatic developments could lead to uncertainty." "Alongside geopolitical concerns, the ongoing Q4 corporate earnings season will continue to drive stock-specific action. Further developments on both geopolitical and corporate fronts will play a crucial role in determining the market direction," he added.

Temporary Closure of 32 Airports Lifted

New Delhi, (HS) : India's largest airlines, IndiGo and Air India, on Monday said that their teams were working to gradually start operating flights to and from the 32 airports that the government has reopened following the de-escalation of hostilities on the Pakistani border. "In line with the latest government directives, the airports are open for operations. We will progressively commence operations on the previously closed routes," IndiGo said in a statement. "As services gradually return to normal, there may still be a few delays and last-minute adjustments... our teams will work diligently to restore seamless operations," the airline said. IndiGo also recommended that passengers should check their flight status regularly for the latest updates. It further stated that for passengers reconsidering their travel plans, change and cancellation fee waivers remain available until May 22 for travel to and from the affected airports. Air India said that following a notification from aviation authorities on the reopening of airports, the airline is working towards progressively commencing flights to and from Jammu, Srinagar, Leh, Jodhpur, Amritsar, Bhuj, Jamnagar, Chandigarh and Rajkot.

LTIMindtree secures \$450 million deal with global agribusiness firm

BENGALURU,(HS) : LTIMindtree on Monday announced that it has won a \$450 million deal for a project to be executed across seven years with a leader in the global agribusiness sector. This is said to be the largest deal in for LTIMindtree so far.

As a part of this deal, LTIMindtree will implement an AI-powered operating model to deliver application management, infrastructure support, and cyber security services. This suite of future-ready IT services, built on platforms such as SAP S/4HANA, Service Now, Microsoft Azure, as well as proprietary AI frameworks are aimed at enhancing the client's operational efficiency, scalability, and global growth, the company said in a statement. This deal comes at a time when IT services companies are facing various macroeconomic headwinds and macro uncertainties. "Securing this large deal marks a pivotal milestone as we transform to an AI driven business model, helping our clients enhance productivity," said Venu Lambu, Chief Executive Officer (Designate) and Whole-Time Director, LTIMindtree.

"Winning this important deal underscores our strength in crafting innovative solutions and delivering with excellence," said Nachiket Deshpande, President - Global AI Services, Strategic Deals, LTIMindtree. Samir Gosavi, Chief Business Officer - Retail and CPG, LTIMindtree, added, "This win marks a major breakthrough for our consumer services business. Our AI-driven operating model will drive measurable business impact in an industry that's evolving rapidly." The sixth largest software company recently posted a 2.6% increase in its consolidated net profit for the quarter ended March 2025 at Rs 1,128.5 crore compared to Rs 1,099.9 crore in the same quarter last year. The company's revenue was up 10% y-o-y at Rs 9,771.7 crore as against Rs 8,892.9 crore in the year-ago period.

US, China declare 90-day tariff pause, agree to mutual reductions

New Delhi, (HS) : Amid ongoing discussions regarding a trade agreement, the United States and China have jointly declared a 90-day pause on a portion of their existing tariffs, as outlined in a statement released by both countries. In a media address, US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said the two countries had agreed not only to a temporary suspension but also to a notable reduction in current tariff levels. According to Bessent, the tariff cuts will be reciprocal, with each side reducing rates by 115 percentage points. During this 90-day window, the US will lower its tariffs on Chinese goods from 145 per cent to 30 per cent. In a similar move, China will bring down tariffs on American imports from 125 per cent to 10 per cent. "We have reached an agreement on a 90-day pause and substantially moved down the tariff levels." He characterised the talks with Chinese officials as productive and emphasised that "both sides showed great respect," Bessent said. US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer said, "It's important to understand how quickly we were able to come to agreement, which reflects that perhaps the differences were not so large as far as maybe thought."

Greer said one of the Trump administration's main goals is to reduce



the trade gap with China, which reached a record \$263 billion the previous year. "We're confident that the deal we struck with our Chinese partners will help us to resolve, work towards resolving that national emergency," he said. A joint statement issued by US and China read, "The parties commit to take the following actions by May 14, 2025: The United States will (i) modify the application of the additional ad valorem rate of duty on articles of China (including articles of the Hong Kong Special Administrative

Region and the Macau Special Administrative Region) set forth in Executive Order 14257 of April 2, 2025, by suspending 24 percentage points of that rate for an initial period of 90 days, while retaining the remaining ad valorem rate of 10 per cent on those articles pursuant to the terms of said Order..." The statement further said, "China will (i) modify accordingly the application of the additional ad valorem rate of duty on articles of the United States set forth in Announcement of the Customs Tariff

Commission of the State Council No. 4 of 2025, by suspending 24 percentage points of that rate for an initial period of 90 days, while retaining the remaining additional ad valorem rate of 10 per cent on those articles, and removing the modified additional ad valorem rates of duty on those articles imposed by Announcement of the Customs Tariff Commission of the State Council No. 5 of 2025 and Announcement of the Customs Tariff Commission of the State Council No. 6 of 2025; and (ii) adopt all necessary administrative measures to suspend or remove the non-tariff countermeasures taken against the United States since April 2, 2025."

Since assuming office in January, Donald Trump has increased tariffs on US imports from China to 145 per cent, building on the levies he had introduced during his previous term and those later implemented by the Biden administration. In response, China imposed restrictions on the export of certain rare earth minerals - crucial for American defence and consumer electronics industries - and raised tariffs on US products to 125 per cent. This escalating trade conflict effectively froze close to \$600 billion in bilateral trade, disrupted global supply chains, raised concerns over stagflation, and led to some job losses, Reuters reported.

India hasn't accepted demand of FTA to protect generic drug firms

CHENNAI, (HS) : India has declined the United Kingdom's request to include a 'data exclusivity' clause in the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) announced on May 6, in order to protect the interests of its domestic generic drug industry, a Commerce ministry official confirmed. During the FTA negotiations, the UK proposed adding a provision that would grant exclusive rights over clinical trial data to innovator pharmaceutical companies. However, Indian officials did not agree to this request. "There is no threat to the Indian generic drug industry from this agreement. In fact, ensuring the growth of the generic sector is one of our key priorities," sources in the Commerce Ministry were quoted as saying by news agencies. India's generic pharmaceutical sector plays a significant role in the country's exports, which continue to grow. The industry is valued at around USD 25 billion, with nearly 50% of its



output being exported.

Data exclusivity protects the clinical trial data that innovator companies generate to prove the safety and effectiveness of new drugs. This protection can prevent competitors from using the same data to gain marketing approval for cheaper generic versions during the exclusivity period. By securing exclusive rights to their data,

original drug makers can delay the entry of low-cost alternatives into the market. India had earlier rejected a similar demand from the four-member European Free Trade Association (EFTA)-comprising Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland-during FTA talks concluded in March 2023. That agreement is expected to come into force later this year. Some of the world's leading pharmaceutical companies, such as AstraZeneca and GSK (UK), and Novartis and Roche (Switzerland), are based in these countries. An expert noted that the concept of data exclusivity goes beyond the scope of the WTO's Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) agreement, which India adheres to.

The India-UK FTA, announced on May 6, includes mutual benefits: British Scotch whisky and cars will become cheaper in India, while tariffs on Indian exports like garments and leather goods to the UK will be reduced.



Mumbai, (HS) : Gold has emerged as the best-performing asset class in FY25, delivering a remarkable return of 41 per cent in USD terms and 33 per cent in INR (rupee) terms, according to a National Stock Exchange (NSE) released on Monday. In a year marked by global uncertainties and shifting investment trends, gold's safe-haven appeal surged, making it the top choice for investors worldwide, including in India. The NSE 'Market Pulse report for April' highlights that global gold demand rose to a 15-year high of 4,974 tonnes, driven by a 25 per cent increase in investment demand.

Central banks across the world continued their buying spree, purchasing over 1,000 tonnes of gold for the third consecutive year - more than double the annual average seen between 2010 and 2021. Reflecting this global trend, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) also increased gold's share in its forex reserves to 11.4 per cent in 2024, up from 6.7 per cent in 2014. Despite gold's outperformance this fiscal year, the NSE report pointed out that over a longer period of 20 years, Indian equity markets have given higher returns. The Nifty's price return of 13 per cent and total return of 14.4 per cent have outpaced gold's 10.5 per cent return over the same time frame. Investor participation in India continues to grow at a rapid pace. NSE's total registered investor base reached 11.3 crore in March 2025, with 2.1 crore new investors added in FY25 alone - the highest in the last five years. The monthly average of investor additions has more than doubled since FY21. States like Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh saw the largest increase in new investors, said the report. On the trading front, equity cash market turnover saw impressive growth. The turnover jumped from Rs 90 lakh crore in FY20 to Rs 281 lakh crore in FY25, growing at a compound annual rate of 26 per cent. The average daily turnover in the cash market reached a record Rs 1.1 lakh crore.

TN Govt Approves Rs 150 cr for eRural Development Under 'Namukku Naame' Schem

Chennai, (HS) : The Tamil Nadu government, led by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, has granted approval for the implementation of the 'Namakku Naame Thittam' in rural areas for the current financial year, earmarking a sum of Rs 150 crore for its execution. This move aims to bolster community-driven development by encouraging public participation in infrastructure and service improvements.

The state government has also issued comprehensive guidelines outlining the scope, procedures, and eligible institutions under the scheme. The initiative will focus on upgrading and modernising facilities in government-run schools, colleges, and community welfare centres across rural Tamil Nadu. The 'Namakku Naame' (translated as "We for Ourselves")



scheme is rooted in the principle of participatory development. Under this scheme, local communities are encouraged to identify critical infrastructure needs and contribute

resources - financial or otherwise - alongside government funding to complete the proposed projects. The allocation of Rs 150 crore is expected to significantly enhance rural infrastructure, with an emphasis on educational and welfare institutions. The government hopes this will lead to improved learning environments, better service delivery at community centres, and an overall boost in rural

quality of life. Officials from the Department of Rural Development stated that the scheme will also foster a sense of ownership among residents and enhance accountability in the

implementation of public projects. Proposals under the scheme must be routed through local panchayats, and development works will be subject to strict monitoring and quality checks as outlined in the newly-issued guidelines. The scheme is expected to be implemented in a phased manner, with district administrations instructed to prioritise projects based on local needs. Preference will be given to institutions that demonstrate active community involvement and readiness to contribute to the development efforts.

With this renewed thrust, the Tamil Nadu government reiterates its commitment to inclusive growth and grassroots empowerment, bridging development gaps between urban and rural regions of the state.

Investors Richer by Rs 16 Lakh Crore in Sensex, Nifty

New Delhi, (HS) : The understanding for a ceasefire between India and Pakistan brought cheers for investors who were richer by more than Rs 16 lakh crore in a single day - as

Sensex and Nifty gained a massive nearly 4 per cent in a bull rally seen after February 2021. The Indian stock markets delivered their best single-day performance in four years, as positive

global and domestic cues boosted market sentiment. At the close of trade, Sensex soared 2,975.43 points, or 3.74 per cent, to end at 82,429.90, while Nifty jumped 916.70 points, or 3.82 per cent, to finish

at 24,924.70. This was the second-biggest percentage gain for both indices in the last four years, with the only larger rally recorded on February 1, 2021, when the indices rose over 4.7 per cent.

Goa to explore nuclear power facility for energy security & sustainability: Shri Manohar Lal

New Delhi (PIB): Union Minister of Power and Housing & Urban Affairs, Shri Manohar Lal, held a detailed review meeting with the Chief Minister of Goa, Dr. Pramod Sawant, and senior officials in Panaji today. The meeting focused on the power sector developments, loss reduction initiatives, and the progress under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS).

Commending the Government of Goa and the Electricity Department for their effective efforts in ensuring power availability and achieving universal electrification, Shri Manohar Lal stated, "Goa has shown exemplary performance in reducing AT&C losses to 9.32%, which is significantly below the national average. This is a testament to the State's sustained efforts in improving the efficiency of its power distribution system." The Minister appreciated the State's significant progress in implementing infrastructure works under RDSS aimed at reducing losses. However, he emphasized the need to accelerate the pace of smart metering, which has the potential to revolutionize consumer engagement with DISCOMs through data analytics and AI/ML tools. "Now that the contracts have been awarded, I am confident



that the implementation will gain momentum. Prioritizing saturation of smart meters in Government offices, colonies, commercial and industrial units, and high-load consumers will help ensure digitization and improved service delivery," Shri Manohar Lal noted. Highlighting the importance of operational efficiency, the Minister encouraged the State to further reduce utility losses and integrate more Renewable Energy into the grid. He mentioned that this would help lower the cost of power supply and enhance overall performance. Shri Manohar Lal also acknowledged Goa's citizen-centric efforts in simplifying procedures for rooftop solar installations and new electricity connections, enhancing the ease of living for consumers.

Given that around 80% of Goa's electricity is procured from outside the State, the Minister urged the State to explore all possible avenues for local generation of power. He also encouraged the State to consider the possibility of establishing a nuclear power facility as a long-term measure for energy security and sustainability. The meeting concluded with the assurance that the Ministry of Power would extend full support to the State in achieving its energy goals.

"Bollywood Celebrities & Cricketers are Not Real Heroes": Anushka

As military tensions continue to rise between India and Pakistan, several members of the Bollywood fraternity have come forward to express their support for the Indian Armed Forces. Actress Anushka Sharma recently reacted to a social media post that praised soldiers as the real heroes of the nation.

The post, originally shared by a meme account, read, "Days like these make you realise that Army men are the real heroes, not

Bollywood celebrities and cricketers." Anushka Sharma, who is married to Indian cricketer Virat Kohli, showed her agreement by liking the post on Instagram. Before this, Anushka had also shared a message on her Instagram Story, expressing gratitude to the Indian Armed Forces for their role in ensuring the country's safety. She wrote, "Eternally grateful to our Indian Armed Forces for protecting us through these times like the heroes that they

are. Heartfelt gratitude to the sacrifices they and their families have made. Jai Hind." Anushka Sharma is the daughter of Colonel (retired) Ajay Kumar Sharma, who has served in every war since 1982, including Operation Bluestar and the Kargil War. She was only 11 years old when her father was involved in the Kargil War in 1999.

In a 2012 interview with ETimes, the actress recalled that time, saying, "Kargil was a tough one. I was too young

at that time, but I was scared of seeing my mother. She would always have the news channel switched on throughout the day and would get upset when casualties were announced." She added, "I take pride in saying that I am an army officer's daughter even more than being an actor." On the professional front, Anushka Sharma has been on a break from acting. She was last seen in Zero in 2018, alongside Shah Rukh Khan and Katrina

Kaif. She has completed shooting for Chakda Xpress, but the film's release date is yet to be announced.

Another Anushka Sharma is a proud Army-kid. Amid India-Pakistan's border tensions, Anushka applauded the Indian Army in an Instagram post. An old interview of Anushka Sharma has been doing the rounds on social media where she spoke about what happened when her father was fighting the Kargil War.

RRR Film Screening at Royal Albert Hall in London

RRR, which starred actors NTR Jr. and Ram Charan, had a special screening at the Royal Albert Hall in London on Sunday, May 11. The event also featured a live orchestra performance by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. The special screening was also attended by Jr. NTR, Ram Charan, and ace director SS Rajamouli. Taking to its official X handle on Sunday, the team shared a picture of the packed hall along with a caption that read, "HistoRRRY!! #TogetheRRRAgain @RoyalAlbertHall."

Earlier, the team had announced the event on social media. Their post said, "LONDON... here we come! Relive the soul of #RRRMovie like never before with a scintillating live orchestral performance by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. Join



our Trio: @ssrajamouli @tarak9999 @AlwaysRamCharan at @RoyalAlbertHall, London, on Sunday, May 11th, for a musical celebration of India's epic action drama." RRR made history as the first Indian film to win an Oscar for Best Original Song with Naatu Naatu. The film also received praise on many global platforms, including the Golden Globe Awards. The song was also released in Hindi as Naacho

Naacho, in Tamil as Naattu Koothu, in Kannada as Halli Naatu, and in Malayalam as Karinthol. Its Hindi version was sung by Rahul Sipligunj and Vishal Mishra. RRR is a fictional story based on the lives of two Telugu freedom fighters, Alluri Seetharama Raju and Komaram Bheem. Ram Charan and Jr. NTR played the lead roles, respectively. Alia Bhatt, Ajay Devgn, and Shriya Saran also starred in the film.

Pathaan 2: Shah Rukh Khan's Spy Sequel to be Shot in Chile



The release date of YRF Spy Universe's next project- War2, starring Hrithik Roshan, Jr NTR and Kiara Advani is inching closer and fans can't wait to see the epic on-screen faceoff of the superstars. The next Spy Universe flick in the pipeline is Alia Bhatt, Sharvari Wagh and Bobby Deol-led Alpha. Well, a recent report suggests that the makers have already started work on the next project before both highly anticipated flicks hit the theatres. Reportedly, the team has started chalking out the strategy to kickstart Pathaan 2 with Shah Rukh Khan.

According to the latest

report, Shah Rukh Khan will shoot Pathaan 2 in Chile next year. The report by Mid-Day states that filmmaker-actor Anshuman Jha met the president and the delegates of Chile, including Carolina Arredondo, the minister of culture and arts. Moreover, the President of Chile, His Excellency Gabriel Boric Font, during his trip to India, landed in Mumbai. He reportedly discussed the possibilities of filmmakers highlighting the beauty of Chile through their projects. Jha said to the portal, "There are concrete conversations of Pathaan 2 by Yash Raj Films and Lakadbagha 3 being shot in Chile next year."

Further, he added, "I hope we help His Excellency's vision of bringing the beauty of Chile to the world through our cinema."

According to earlier reports, Pathaan 2 will serve as a twist to the Spy Universe and it will predate Tiger Vs Pathaan by setting up the epic clash between the two cinematic legends (SRK and Salman Khan). The idea of the sequel was immediately pitched after Pathaan's release in 2023. Aditya Chopra and SRK decided to spin Pathaan into a standalone franchise too within the Spy Universe. Moreover, Anil Kapoor has signed a multi-film contract with YRF and he will remain constant in all movies under the Spy Universe. His affiliation will begin with War 2, followed by Alpha and Pathaan 2. In addition to external factors, the delay is also reportedly tied to creative decisions. Shah Rukh Khan is said to be deeply involved in the development of the script and has requested further refinements to ensure the storyline does justice to his daughter Suhana Khan's big debut.

PGC holds President Cup Golf Tournament



Paradip, (DMC) : Paradip Golf Club (PGC) organized 'President Cup Golf Tournament' at Golf Field of Paradip Port on Sunday. In the handicap 0-18 category, Oscar Dungdung became the champion, while Ranjit Kumar Bomali was the best crosser and Dipak Kumar Sadhang was the runner-up. In the 19-24 category, Nilabhra Dasgupta was the champion,

Subash Acharay was the runner-up, Dharmendra Mishra was the winner in longest drive and Bablu Sikdar was the winner in the nearest to the pin category. Similarly, in the women's putting category, Miss Sagarika Gope was became the champion, Mrs. Madhusmita Sethy was first runners-up and Mrs. Ambarika Sutar was the 2nd runners-up.

On the occasion, P.

L. Haranadh, chairman, Paradip Port Authority (PPA) has joined as chief guest and Nilabhra Dasgupta was present as the guest of honour and distributed trophies and prizes to the winning players. Among others, Sushil Chandra Nahak, CME, PPA, Manipushpak Sethy, Dy. CME, PPA, Chandan Panigrahi, Dy. CEE, PPA, Sanjay Negi, DIG, Coastguard, Sanat Patel, Commandant, CISF, Sudhir Mulagada, CEO, KICT were present as the guests. The event was successfully organized by Dharmendra Nath Sondhi, President, PGC & FA&CAO, PPA, Bablu Sikdar, working president, PGC, Akshay Chandra Sutar, Captain, Paradip Golf Team, Subash Acharya, vice president, PGC and Dr. Durga Prasad Sethy, working president, Gopabandhu Kreedha Sansad.

Virat Announces Retirement from Test Cricket

New Delhi, (HS) : Indian cricket stalwart and former captain Virat Kohli on Monday announced his retirement from Test cricket. The decision came after it was reported that Kohli had communicated his decision to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) ahead of next month's five-match Test series against England.

"It's been 14 years since I first wore the baggy blue in Test cricket. Honestly, I never imagined the journey this format would take me on. It's tested me, shaped me, and taught me lessons I'll carry for life," Kohli wrote in his Instagram post. "There's something deeply personal about playing in whites. The quiet grind, the long days, the small moments that no one sees but that stay with you forever. As I step away from this format, it's not easy - but it feels right. I've given it everything I had, and it's given me back so much more than I could've hoped for. I'm walking away with a heart full of gratitude - for the game, for the people I



shared the field with, and for every single person who made me feel seen along the way. I'll always look back at my Test career with a smile. #269, signing off," he added. In less than a week, both Kohli and Rohit Sharma have retired from the longest format of the game which

will leave the Indian team without much experience in the batting department.

Kohli, who made his Test debut in 2011, has been a cornerstone of India's red-ball resurgence over the past decade. His aggressive captaincy, prolific batting and unmatched intensity

have helped transform India into a formidable Test side both at home and abroad. Kohli will bid adieu to his Test career with 9230 runs in 123 matches at an impressive average of 46.85 with 30 centuries and 51 half-centuries. He hangs up his spikes as the fourth-most successful Test captain overall, behind Graeme Smith (53 wins), Ricky Ponting (48 wins), and Steve Waugh (41 wins). Kohli's 30 Test centuries make him the fourth-most successful India batter, behind Sachin Tendulkar (51 hundreds), Rahul Dravid (36), and Sunil Gavaskar (34). Kohli also made seven Test double hundreds, the most ever by an Indian. He also has the most Test hundreds by an Indian captain, with Gavaskar (11 centuries) way behind his 20 tons. The right-handed batter previously announced his retirement from the T20I format after India's T20 World Cup triumph last year. The 36-year-old will now only feature in ODI cricket for India.

Hockey India Names 24-Member Team For European Leg Of FIH Pro League

New Delhi, (HS) : Hockey India has unveiled the 24-member Indian women's hockey team set to compete in the European leg of the FIH Pro League 2024-25, scheduled to take place in London, Antwerp, and Berlin from June 14 to 29. India will play twice against each of the four participating teams - Australia, Argentina, Belgium, and China - beginning their campaign with a clash against Australia on June 14. The squad will be led by midfield dynamo Salima Tete as captain, with experienced forward Navneet Kaur serving as vice-captain. The team includes goalkeepers Savita and Bichu Devi Kharibam. The defenders selected are Sushila Chanu, Pukhrambam, Jyoti, Suman Devi Thoudam, Jyoti Singh, Ishika Chaudhary and Jyoti Chhatra.

IPL: BCCI prepares 3 draft schedules, to be announced on May 12

New Delhi, (HS) : The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has prepared three sets of new schedule for the remaining matches in Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025, said the sources. On May 9, BCCI suspended IPL for a week due to the India-Pakistan conflict, but the announcement of ceasefire has led to the resumption of the league. Among the three proposed drafts, one is said to be the home stadium of the teams excluding Dharamshala. The other two involves reduced number of venues, focusing the southern part of the country like Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Chennai. Confirmation of the new plan is expected to be out in few hours. While no official words are out, the sources have revealed that BCCI has asked the franchises to recall their overseas cricketers to their respective bases at the earliest. A total of 16 matches, including the four play-offs, are remaining to be played. According to the sources IPL 2025 matches will likely resume from May 15 or 16 with new schedule and the first match might be between Lucknow Supergiants and Royal Challengers Bangalore.



The midfield features Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke, Sujata Kujur, Manisha Chauhan and Neha, with attacking midfielders Salima Tete, Lalremsiami, Sharmila Devi, Sunelita Toppo and Mahima Tete. The forward line is made up of Deepika, Navneet Kaur, Deepika Soreng, Baljeet Kaur, Rutaja Dadaso Pisal, Beauty Dungdung and

Sakshi Rana. The standby list includes goalkeeper Bansari Solanki and defender Ajmina Kujur. India's performance in the Bhubaneswar leg of the league was marked by both resilience and learning moments. The team registered two wins and two draws, accumulating nine points to place sixth in the standings. They opened strongly against

England with a 3-2 victory and a draw, but then faced three consecutive defeats - two to Spain and one to Germany. A 1-0 comeback win against Germany helped the team regain momentum. Their closing matches against World No. 1 Netherlands demonstrated grit and growth. Despite a 2-4 loss in the first game, India earned 13 penalty corners and put the Dutch under significant pressure. In the final match, they held the Netherlands to a 2-2 draw and clinched a bonus point with a shootout win, ending their home campaign on a high note.

Speaking on the squad selection, Indian women's hockey team chief coach Harendra Singh said, "We've gone with a balanced squad that blends experience with young talent.

Eagle Cup Cricket Tournament CDA Lions Cuttack Champion

Khordha, (DMC) : The 20th one-day Eagle Cup Cricket Tournament held at Eagle Club Play Ground has concluded. 8 teams from Cuttack, Bhubaneswar & Khordha participated in it. Two teams from Cuttack (Magic XI & CDA Lions) qualified for the finals after beating all the teams. CDA Lions Cuttack team defeated Magic-XI team in an exciting match and became this year's champion. On the opening day of the tournament, former Chairman, Khordha Municipality, Sanjukta Sahu, President, Khordha Central Co-operative Bank & Secretary of the organizing committee, Abhishek Singh Samanta, councilor Praveena Jagdebray, Anil Ram, Amiya Mohanty, Monalisa Singh, Nagbhusan Jena were prominent participants. The audience enjoyed the game to the tune of fireworks & DJ sound. Magic-XI Cuttack won the toss and decided to bat first. The team scored 140 runs for the loss of 5 wickets in



the 6 overs. Ashish Raut scored 42 runs from 8 balls with including 7 sixes. For CDA Lions, Himanshu Shekhar took a hat-trick of wickets. In reply, the CDA team scored the required 141 runs for the loss of 2 wickets in 5.2 overs & was declared the winner. Utam Mohanty scored 65 runs in 14 balls for the team. While the final match was refereed by Sanju Biswal & Rakshita Pattnaik & all the members of the club co-operated to make the tournament

a success. Former, MLA of Khordha and President of Eagle Club Rajendra Kumar Sahu & Abhishek Singh Samanta were present at the closing ceremony and awarded the winning and runner-up teams. Subham Behera of CDA was awarded the best player of the tournament, Himanshu Shekhar was the best player of the final match, Raul Ali was the best batsman & Ashish Raut of Magic Eleven was awarded the best bowler of the tournament.