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English Daily



## Justice BR Gavai to Take Oath as 52nd CJI Tomorrow



**New Delhi, (HS) :** Justice B.R. Gavai will take oath as the 52nd Chief Justice of India (CJI) on Wednesday, making him the first Buddhist to head the country's judiciary. President Droupadi Murmu will administer the oath of office to Justice Gavai, who succeeds former CJI Sanjiv Khanna.

President Murmu, in exercise of powers under Article 124(2) of the Constitution, had appointed Justice Gavai, the seniormost Judge of the Supreme Court, as Chief Justice of India, and the Ministry of Law and Justice had later notified his appointment. Justice Gavai was elevated as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India on May 24, 2019. In the last six years, he was a part of around 700 Benches dealing with matters pertaining to a variety of subjects, including constitutional and administrative law, civil law, criminal law, commercial disputes, arbitration law, electricity law, education matters and environmental law. He has authored around 300 judgments, including that of the Constitution Bench on various issues, upholding the rule of law and safeguarding the fundamental rights, human rights and legal rights of citizens. He became a permanent Judge of the Bombay High Court on November 12, 2005. He presided over Benches having all types of assignments at the Principal Seat at Mumbai as well as Benches at Nagpur, Aurangabad and Panaji. Earlier, in an informal interaction with the media, Justice Gavai expressed sorrow over the tragic incident in Pahalgam and said that the Supreme Court cannot remain untouched when the country is mourning. Son of former Bihar Governor R. S. Gavai, Justice Gavai takes pride in the fact that he is about to become the first Buddhist CJI of the country.

"My father had embraced Buddhism along with Baba Saheb Ambedkar. I will become the first Buddhist Chief Justice of the country," he said. Asserting that he believes in all religions, Justice Gavai said, "I go to temples, dargahs, Jain temples, gurudwaras everywhere."

## 'Ghar Mein Ghus Kar Maareng': PM Warns Pakistan of Total Annihilation If Terror Returns



**Adampur Airbase (Punjab), (HS) :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday issued a sharp warning to Pakistan and its supported terror groups, declaring that India's new doctrine on terrorism involves striking at the source, deep inside enemy territory. "Hum ghar mein ghus kar mareng aur bachane ka ek mauka tak nahi denge," the Prime Minister thundered during his address to air warriors at the Adampur Air Force base in Punjab.

He praised India's armed forces for their massive response to last week's Pahalgam terror attack, in which 26 people were killed by terrorists from a Lashkar-e-Taiba proxy.

'Operation Sindoor'-India's swift, coordinated military response - targeted nine terror bases in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, which was followed by hostilities that saw India repelling Pakistani missile and drone retaliation. "This is our new normal," PM Modi said, referring to Operation Sindoor, which he described as India's first tri-service combat operation since the 1971 war. "India's 'Laxman Rekha' against terrorism is crystal clear now. If another terror attack occurs now, India will give a reply - a solid reply. We saw this during the surgical strike, during the air strike. Now, Operation Sindoor is India's new normal,"

he asserted. Taking aim at Pakistan's military support for terror outfits, PM Modi declared: "Jis Pakistani sena ke bharse ye aatanki baithe the, Bharatiya sena, Bharat ki Air Force aur Bharatiyon ne us Pakistani sena ko bhi dhoool chata di hai. (The terrorists who were relying on the Pakistani Army - the Indian Army, the Indian Air Force, and the people of India have made that Pakistani Army bite the dust)." He added that India's growing military strength should serve as a deterrent. "Our drones, our missiles, just thinking about them will keep Pakistan sleepless for days." The Prime Minister used the moment to

express deep gratitude to the armed forces. "Every Indian is proud of you... you have written history. I have come for your blessings. You are an inspiration for this and the coming generations. I want to salute the Army, Navy and Air Force." "The terrorists dared us... but you hit them front-on. You wiped out their terror bases and killed 100 terrorists. They have now realised that if they try to attack us, the result will be their destruction..." massive destruction," PM Modi said. The Adampur Air Force base itself was at the centre of the recent military escalation, and also the target of a Pakistani disinformation campaign. Islamabad falsely claimed that its China-made JF-17 jets had destroyed the base and knocked out one of India's Russian-origin S-400 air defence systems. India responded by releasing a photograph of PM Modi saluting soldiers at Adampur, with a fully operational S-400 system in the background - silencing claims from across the border and reinforcing India's military

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## Over 10K Public Petitions Resolved by CM's Grievance Cell in Less Than A Year



**Bhubaneswar, (DMC) :** In a remarkable achievement within less than a year of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi taking office, the Chief Minister's Grievance Cell has successfully addressed over 10,000 public petitions, resolving an impressive 83% of them. This milestone was confirmed by the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) through its official social media handle on X (formerly Twitter). According to the CMO's post, "In less than a year, Hon'ble CM Shri @MohanMODisha has made citizen grievance redressal central to #Odisha's governance. Weekly hearings at the CM's grievance cell have

addressed 10K+ petitions with 83% resolved." The initiative is part of the state government's commitment to ensuring responsive and transparent governance. Recently, the state also sanctioned a sum of Rs 30.5 lakh from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund for urgent medical assistance, showcasing its dedication to providing tangible support to citizens in need.

The CMO emphasized that this was not merely a symbolic gesture, but a concrete effort to assist the people. "This is about real help, not just optics. A new era of accountable, people-first governance has begun," the post further stated.

## Individual Judge Can't Recommend for Senior Designation of Advocates: SC

**New Delhi, (HS) :** The Supreme Court on Tuesday said that an individual apex court or HC judge cannot recommend any advocate for "senior" designation. "The scheme of Sub-section (2) of Section 16 (of the Advocates Act, 1961) indicates that an individual Judge of the Supreme Court or the High Court, as the case may be, cannot recommend any Advocate for designation as the decision is a collective decision of the Full Court," said a bench presided over by Justice Abhay S. Oka.

The Bench, also comprising Justices Ujjal Bhuyan and SVN Bhatti, added that even if an advocate deserving of a designation does not apply for designation, on the basis of the discussion in the house, the Full Court can always recommend his designation, subject to his consent. "For that purpose, the recommendation in writing of an individual Judge is not warranted," clarified the apex court. In its detailed judgment, the Justice Oka-led Bench said that the practice of advocates making applications for the grant of designation can continue as the act of making an application can be treated as consent of the advocates concerned for "senior" designation. It clarified that the Full Court may consider and confer designation without an



application in a deserving case. Further, the top court opined discontinuation of point-based assessment by the Permanent Committee for the "senior" designation of advocates. The apex court said, "The applications of all candidates found to be eligible by the Permanent Secretariat, along with relevant documents submitted by the applicants, shall be placed before the Full House. An endeavour can always be made to arrive at a consensus. However, if a consensus on the designation of Advocates is not arrived at, the decision-making must be by a democratic method of voting." However, the Justice Oka-led Bench left it to the High Courts to take a call as to whether, in a given case, there should be a secret ballot. The Supreme Court clarified that the processes already initiated on the basis of earlier apex court

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## CM Launches Mega Development Drive in Mayurbhanj with Rs 420 Cr Projects

**Bhubaneswar/Bisoi, (DMC) :** Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for developmental projects worth over 420 crore in Mayurbhanj district during a grand event at Bisoi on Tuesday. According to an official press release, the projects, spanning various blocks, aim to transform the region's infrastructure and socio-economic landscape, marking a significant step toward a prosperous Odisha. The Chief Minister inaugurated 133 projects valued at over 7328 crore and laid the foundation for 52 projects worth more than 91 crore. These initiatives cover critical areas such as rural drinking water, mega piped water supply, school infrastructure upgrades, banking facilities, health centers, road construction, and tribal cultural centers.

The projects are expected to benefit areas like Rairangpur, Kusumi, Bijatala, Bahalda, Jamda, and Tiring, fostering inclusive growth. In a significant announcement, Majhi revealed plans to establish a +2 college at the Bisoi block headquarters to boost education in the region. He also declared that the Bisoi Mini Stadium would be named after the revered leader Dhananidhar Naik, with a statue to be installed



in his honour. Addressing the gathering at the Bisoi Mini Stadium, the Chief Minister described the projects as a "new chapter" in Mayurbhanj's development journey. "Today is a day of pride and glory for the people of Mayurbhanj. These projects will create a new wave of development and lay the foundation for a prosperous Odisha," he said. Highlighting his government's achievements over the past 11 months, Majhi cited transformative decisions such as opening all four gates of the Shree Jagannath Temple, launching the Subhadra scheme benefiting over 1 crore women, and setting the minimum support price for paddy at ₹3,100. The Subhadra scheme has empowered 17 lakh women to become "Lakhpati

Didis," strengthening the rural economy. The recently launched CM Kisan Yojana further supports farmers. Majhi also emphasized Odisha's industrial growth, driven by central government support. He announced that industries worth ₹10,000 crore will be established in Mayurbhanj, creating extensive employment opportunities and doubling the district's development. "Our government is a people's government. We believe in action, not just words. We have transformed governance to ensure elected representatives directly address people's grievances," he added. The Chief Minister outlined a vision for a prosperous Odisha by 2036, with 36 specific programs under the "36 for 36"

initiative. These aim to achieve excellence in education, health, industry, and infrastructure while ensuring basic amenities like clean water, healthcare, electricity, and transportation for marginalized communities. During the event, Majhi distributed financial assistance, including death benefits, marriage incentives for workers' daughters, and 10 lakh each to women from self-help groups, reinforcing the government's commitment to social welfare.

The program was attended by prominent leaders, including Housing and Urban Development Minister Krushna Chandra Mahapatra, Forest and Environment Minister Ganesh Ram Singhkhuntia, MPs Mamata

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## CBSE Class X Results Out: Top 12 with 92.64% Pass Rate



**Bhubaneswar, (DMC) :** The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Tuesday announced the results of the Secondary School Examination

(Class X) for all streams, recording an overall pass percentage of 93.66%. As per the official data released by the

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## PIL Filed over Bengal Govt's in Digha Jagannath Temple

**Kolkata/Bhubaneswar, (DMC) :** A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) was filed at a division bench of the Calcutta High Court on Tuesday questioning the involvement of West Bengal government with the recently inaugurated Lord Jagannath Temple at Digha in East Midnapore, reportedly modelled after the iconic Shree Jagannath Dham Temple at Puri in Odisha.

In the petition filed by Calcutta High Court advocate and the state BJP leader in West Bengal, Kaustav Bagchi argued on various points, claiming that the involvement of the state government with the Digha



temple, reportedly shown as Shree Jagannath Dham Cultural Centre in the records of the state government, is against the constitutional provisions. The division bench of Justice Soumen Sen and Justice Smita Das has

admitted the petition. In his petition, Bagchi had also requested that the first hearing in the matter be conducted by May 19. The first question raised by Bagchi in the petition is how the address of the office of the West

Bengal Housing Infrastructure Development Corporation (WBHIDCO), the implementing agency of the Digha temple, was shown as the address of the trust of the Digha Temple. Bagchi further raised objections over the announcement of tax concessions against donations made to the temple trust. The petitioner's question is, since, as per legal provision, no state government can be involved in the construction of any religious establishment, how could the announcement for tax concessions be announced? Bagchi also raised how money could be spent from the state exchequer behind the

construction of any religious structure, as was done in the case of the Digha Lord Jagannath Temple. The estimated cost borne from the state exchequer for the Digha structure is Rs 250 crore.

Already, since the inauguration of the temple on April 30, several controversies have surfaced in the matter. The first allegation was regarding the use of leftover timber meant for Puri's Shree Jagannath Dham Temple for carving deities in the Digha Temple. Secondly objection was raised regarding the use of "Dham" for describing the structure at Digha, considering

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## India-UK Trade

After several rounds of negotiations involving discussions over contentious issues such as the carbon tax, India and the UK have finalised the long-awaited free trade agreement. This is a welcome trade push. The agreement, which has been concluded against the backdrop of the tariff war unleashed by US President Donald Trump, is arguably the most comprehensive deal that Delhi has entered into with a major developed country. It comes after trade deals with Australia and the UAE, which reflect the shift in Delhi's approach towards embracing freer trade and integrating more deeply with global supply chains. The UK is India's significant trading partner. Bilateral trade between the two countries is about \$60 billion, and is projected to double by 2030. The trade deal will eliminate tariffs levied by the UK on about 99 per cent of products, including labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, footwear and manufacturing industries like electrical machinery and automobile components. The agreement addresses various issues concerning labor mobility that have posed significant challenges for India. Notably, skilled Indian professionals working in the UK, as well as their employers, will benefit from an exemption from social security contributions for a duration of three years. This provision aims to facilitate smoother transitions for Indian workers and enhance their employment opportunities abroad. Alongside, India has got "commitments on digitally delivered services for Indian services suppliers". On its part, Delhi has lowered tariffs on whiskey and gin to 75 per cent, and further to 40 per cent over 10 years. It has also reduced automotive tariffs to 10 per cent under a quota. Other areas where duties have been lowered are cosmetics, aerospace products, medical devices. This trade deal with the UK has been finalised at a time when India is also holding discussions on similar deals with countries/regions such as the US, the EU, Chile and Peru.

As such, it not only sends a signal to these countries, but also provides a template for other agreements. Recent developments indicate that potential agreements with both the United States and the European Union could soon come to fruition. It is crucial for the government to focus on finalizing these agreements as quickly as possible. At the same time, it is essential for the government to push forward with its domestic reform initiatives while also addressing the ongoing structural challenges that hinder economic growth.

14th May

## National Decency Day



This National Decency Day on May 14, make it a point to spread the message of how a decent human being can lead to the overall progress of a society. Here's all you need to know about the special day!

National Decency Day was created by a New York-based graphic designer Lisa Cholnoky in 2017 after she witnessed a heated political debate amongst relatives. Seeing how aggressive people get when speaking of anything concerning their beliefs, Lisa came up with the idea of promoting 'decency' during any kind of discourse that takes place between people. To spread the idea, Lisa designed a 'DECENCY' button and endorsed the message by wearing it every day. The three points that the designer spoke of included: Active Listening, Better Understanding, and Compassion. The minute the idea was launched, people jumped on the bandwagon and began supporting the cause. Today, every May 14, the mission of spreading decency is celebrated to bring back the public dignity all Americans deserve.

Furthermore, to drive attention to the cause of decency, Lisa mailed 536 'DECENCY' buttons to the U.S. Congress in July 2017. This move led to the recognition of the movement amongst politicians who further encouraged people to conduct discussions and debates in accordance with the rules of decency. This, furthermore, made numerous schools and towns realize how essential spreading awareness regarding decency is. In fact, educational institutes in around 25 States have enlisted themselves in their community's own 'Day of Decency' so students and family members are all involved with the cause by introducing projects and discussions.

According to Lisa Cholnoky, our children desperately need role models. "If we can all be civil with one another, we are setting the right example," she stated. Australian swimmer Annette Kellerman is arrested for public indecency after wearing a one-piece swimsuit at a beach in Boston. The National Legion of Decency is formed to ensure that motion pictures don't create content objectionable to the American Catholic Church. The U.S. Supreme Court limits free speech in high schools after a student's speech contains sexual innuendos. The Communications Decency Act is enacted to control children's access to pornography on the internet.

## Will China take over the Baton from USA ?



Subash Ch. Mishra

### Economic Diary

Prior to the second world war, the British used to say "The sun never sets on British empire". They ruled over a quarter of the globe for three centuries. This made them financially strong and a great military power. By the end of the second world war, Britain was financially weak and there was demand from the colonies for freedom. During the next couple of decades most of the British colonies got freedom; the major countries among them were India, Pakistan, Burma, Sri Lanka, Israel, Malaysia and Singapore. A number of African countries like Botswana, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya and Libya followed and got independence soon to add to the decline of the British empire. A few countries like Egypt and Iraq had already got independence before the WW2. The power vacuum was filled up by the USA which was relatively unscathed in the WW2 and which emerged as the only nuclear power after the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings. The power and leadership baton passed on from the hands of UK to the USA.

Post WW2 the new world

order saw USA as the new leader of the world in the areas of finance, education, diplomacy, warfare, science and technology. Though USSR emerged as a competitor in warfare and technology especially in the areas of space and nuclear technology, still US was considered as the global leader due to its democratic set up and open market system. USSR being a communist country with less transparency was no match to the USA in terms of size of economy and depth of financial market. USD became the reserve currency of the world and every country was investing its surplus in US market which helped USA to get cheap funds. But eight decades later things are looking for a change. China is the second largest economy today with a nominal GDP equal to USD 19 trillion as against USD 31 trillion for the USA. In PPP terms China's GDP is more than that of USA and it ranks number one in the world. The current stance of USA is different from the stance taken by it post WW2 and USA appears to have lost interest in leading the world politically. It has exited from the WHO, the environment related Paris Accord and decided to put the WTO in to backburner and enter in to its own tariff regime including a trade war with China. It has decided to exit its role from giving aids to the developing world and shut down the USAid which in addition to providing aid, was acting as its political presence across the world. It also decided to shut down its consulates in many African countries and the Voice of America service. Internally, the US Government has also been reducing its staff strength in government departments to control expenditure. All the above steps have been taken apparently to reduce its expenditure and keep the budgetary deficit under



control. The Government has also been inward looking ignoring its international obligations and diplomatic strategy. It has decided to alienate its traditional allies in Europe, Canada and Mexico and instead it has announced its intention to take over Greenland and Gaza which has been interpreted by experts as start of an imperial regime. The tariff hike has created discontent to the extent that Japan decided to sell US bonds as a strategy to give a message to USA. It has also indicated that it would use its USD 1.1 trillion US bond holdings during its negotiation with USA for tariffs. China also holds about USD 800 bn of treasury bonds and it can use these bonds to create havoc in US market.

As the whole world including its allies in Europe are drifting away from USA, does it indicate that it is time for another nation to take over the baton of global leadership from USA ? In order to take over the global leadership, the country should be reasonably strong both financially and militarily. China being the country next to USA in terms of financial and military strength has been suggested by experts as the next leader of the global order. But does China fits in to it ? Historically Chinese banks were

heavily relying on state owned enterprises for credit disbursement; interest rate on bank loans was controlled by the state and the exchange rate was managed. But China is stated to be undertaking financial reforms over the last decade to come out of it. It has reduced state guarantee to banks for loans and giving them more leeway to finance private entities. The interest rate on loans has also been deregulated. It also claims that its exchange rate is flexible and is not manipulated by the state any more. Banking sector remains the major source of financing of the economy and at the end of 2023 the NPA was reported to be less than 2%. The provision coverage ratio of commercial banks was 207.9%, the capital adequacy ratio 14.66% and the Liquidity Coverage Ratio 143.5%. China's inflation rate is also reasonably low. During the period 1981 to 2024, the average inflation rate was 4.6% and during 2024 the inflation was less than 1%. It has also opened up its capital market for investments from outside. In the recent years, China's bond market has developed rapidly. At the end of 2023, the size of China's bond market exceeded RMB 155 trillion (USD 21 trn), and the total market value of the stock market was close to RMB

80 trillion (USD 11 trn), making it the second largest bond and stock market in the world. The size of outstanding government bonds was RMB 66 trn and it is growing at a reasonable pace. The government bonds are issued with tenures up to 30 years and yields are low commensurate with the inflation rate. It is said that more than 1000 Foreign Institutional investors from 70 countries have invested in Chinese bonds.

The main risk indicators of Chinese banking sector are within the acceptable range. It has opened up its markets and with the growth of fintech, access to the market by overseas investors has become easier. China is also militarily catching up and China claims that it is ahead of USA in electronic warfare. Therefore, there is a good chance that China is poised to take over the baton from USA as the leader of the next world order. On the negative side, the world is still reluctant to accept RMB as a good reserve currency and as such its share in SDR is 12.28% as against 43.38% of USD. The foreign exchange reserves held in RMB comprise only 2.28% of the total global reserves. Further, there are several issues China needs to address before projecting itself as a credible successor to USA. First it has to be transparent in dishing out its data and ensure data integrity. Second it should project it as an open society and not one where a foreign visitor will be tracked every where he goes. Third, markets should function on principles and not on the whims and fancies of rulers. Rights of foreigners on their financial assets should be clearly established and announced. It takes time to build credibility but it can be destroyed in a short time.

*The author is a Retired Chief General Manager of Reserve Bank of India.*

## When water also becomes a weapon: India's unity robbed

Dr. Satyawan Saurabh

**"The battle within India in the shadow of the border" "When water also becomes a weapon: India's unity robbed"**

Today India is grappling with internal disintegration more than external attacks. Be it the Punjab-Haryana water dispute or the Pahalgam terror attack-an invisible ideological war is hidden behind every crisis. A third front has emerged within the country in the name of caste, religion, language, region, and ideology. This front neither fights with bullets nor with bombs-it silently breaks the unity and consciousness of the country. Until this front is identified, India will keep losing internally even after winning on external fronts.

When it comes to national security, most eyes turn towards the border-the line that separates us from Pakistan or China. But the most dangerous war that India is facing today is neither on the border nor in the bullets of the enemies. That war is going on within India-against our soul, unity, and ideology. The recent dispute over water between Haryana and Punjab is not just an administrative problem but a serious warning of the instability and regional imbalance of India's federal structure. When the water level of the Nangal Dam rose, causing floods in Haryana, and Punjab refused to take responsibility for it, it was not just one state opposing another. It was the breakdown of the unity on which India stands. On the other hand, the terrorist killing of a Hindu tourist in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, made it clear that some forces are still trying to divide India on religious grounds, and this effort is being made not only with bullets but also with ideological poison. India now faces three battlefronts-the military front on the borders, the diplomatic front



on the global stage, and the ideological war going on within the country, which I call the 'half front.' This half-front is invisible, but the most deadly. It is visible in our universities, media, social media, and sometimes even in our politics. This front divides the country on the basis of ideas, makes people fight in the name of religion, caste, language, and region, and fills the mind of a common Indian with distrust towards the nation. The people fighting on this front are imposters. These are the people who call the idea of India being divided a revolution, who consider Bharat Mata Ki Jai as communalism, and who look at every terrorist incident through the lens of 'reaction' and 'background.' For them, the nation is not an emotion but a subject of criticism. When the Indian army displays bravery, they remember human rights. When India achieves scientific achievements, they remind us of 'poverty and hunger.' When India gains respect on the global stage, they start comparing it with 'dictatorship.'

This 'ideology' is slowly entangling the youth in its web. Universities, which should be centers of character building, are now becoming laboratories of

anti-national slogans. There was a time when the aim of education was "Sa Vidya Ya Vimuktaye," i.e., education is that which liberates. But today's education is confusing the youth by distorting history, dividing freedom fighters into castes, and naming the concept of nation as 'cultural supremacy.' Social media has sharpened this half-front. An organized effort is visible on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube, in which India is given tags like 'Hindu Rashtra,' 'Manuvadi rule,' and 'anti-minority country.' These tags not only affect the international image but also confuse a common Indian. A common Muslim starts living in fear, a common Dalit starts feeling isolated, and a common Hindu starts living in guilt. But this ideological war is not limited to academic debates or social media posts. Its real and dangerous consequences are also emerging. In the Pahalgam incident, a Hindu tourist was killed because he was a 'Hindu' by religion. This is not just terrorism but an extreme form of religion-based ideological hatred. This incident indicates that our efforts to transform India's diversity into unity are still incomplete, and the roots of

hatred are very deep. The role of politics on this half of India's front is also very suspicious. While leaders have to raise the flag of nationalism to come to power, to get votes they promote discussions that divide the society. Sometimes minority appeasement, sometimes Dalit reservation politics, sometimes regional identity-all these have weakened India's national identity. Putting the country's unity at stake for political gain is suicidal, but this is what is happening today. There is another face of this ideological war-regional battles over water, electricity, resources, and languages. Is it not a matter of concern that two states of the same country-Haryana and Punjab-have started throwing each other into floods and droughts for water? Is it not also a part of the ideological war to create a feeling of 'hatred towards the other state' within India? The same is true for languages. Discontent in the South in the name of the imposition of Hindi, Marathi versus Hindi, Bengali versus Assamese-all these are examples of the 'half war' waged against the soul of India. Today, there is a need to take this half of India's front as seriously as the military conflict on the border.

The security of the country is not only through tanks and missiles but also through clarity of thoughts, social harmony, and faith in the nation. We have to understand that there is a difference between 'criticism of the country' and 'anti-nationalism,' but this difference ends when the purpose of criticism is not improvement but destruction. To win on this front, India needs not just soldiers but teachers, writers, journalists, poets, activists, and ordinary citizens. We have to reorient our education system towards nation building. We have to create an ideological front in favor of the nation on social media as well. And most importantly, we have to force politicians not to do politics at the cost of the country. Those who consider this half-front as the 'voice of freedom' must also understand that the first condition of freedom is unity. Without unity, freedom is only an illusion. How long will a nation that cannot identify its internal enemies fight its external enemies?

The real test of India is not in the battlefield but in the classrooms of universities, the pages of the media, the posts on social media, and the debates in Parliament. The test is whether we consider India to be just a piece of land or a living consciousness. This consciousness can survive only when every citizen, every student, every politician, and every writer understands that India's diversity is its strength, not its weakness. So now is the time to take this 'half front' very seriously. To save the country from breaking apart, we will have to fight with ideas, not tanks. And in this fight, every Indian is a soldier-either in favor of the nation or against the nation.

*Poet, freelance journalist and columnist, Haryana*



## Usha Padhee Appointed Interim Chairperson Of ORERA

**Bhubaneswar,(DMC):** The Odisha government has appointed Usha Padhee, Principal Secretary of the Housing and Urban Development Department, as the interim Chairperson of the Odisha Real Estate Regulatory Authority (ORERA). The appointment was made through an official notification issued by the Housing & Urban Development Department of the Government of Odisha on Friday. “In exercise of the powers conferred by third proviso to sub-section (1) of Section 20 of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 (Act 16 of 2016), the State Government do hereby designate the Principal Secretary



to Government, Housing & Urban Development Department as Regulatory Authority for the purposes of the said Act until

further orders,” the notification stated. Padhee will hold the post until a full-time chairperson is appointed.

## Secretaries’ Meet: Chief Secy Focuses On Scheme Implementation

**Bhubaneswar,(DMC):** A secretary-level meeting was held today under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja at the conference hall of Kharavel Bhawan. The meeting deliberated on the implementation of new schemes, district-level monitoring, and follow-up actions. The Chief Secretary emphasised the importance of the timely implementation of government initiatives and monitoring of progress at the district level. The meeting also discussed measures to ensure the welfare of government employees, including the timely



payment of retirement benefits and pensions. The meeting also discussed filling vacant posts in several departments. The meeting was attended by

senior officials, including Development Commissioner and Additional Chief Secretary Anu Garg, Additional Chief Secretaries Satyabrata Sahu,

Surendra Kumar, and Hemant Sharma, as well as other Principal Secretaries, Commissioners, and Secretaries from various departments.

## KIIT International School Shines in CBSE Class X and XII Results Trisha Rath emerges as the Regional Topper in Humanities with 99.4%

CBSE TOPPERS			10TH TOPPER
Trisha Rath Humanities	Hans Daruka Science	Dipti Sahu Commerce	Uswastee Ubika Patsani

**Bhubaneswar(DMC):** KIIT International School has once again demonstrated its academic excellence with stellar performances in the CBSE Class X and XII examinations, the results of which were declared today. In the Class XII results, all 265 students secured first division, achieving a 100 per cent

pass rate. Trisha Rath topped the school with an exceptional 99.4 per cent in the Humanities stream, emerging as the Regional Topper. Hans Daruka scored the highest in the Science stream with 98.8 per cent, while Dipti Sahu led the Commerce stream with 98.6 per cent. Notably, 104 students — accounting for nearly

40 per cent of the batch — scored above 90 per cent. The SEN Globe programme, designed for students with special educational needs, also recorded an impressive outcome in Class XII. All four students from the programme scored above 80 per cent, with one student achieving an outstanding 95 per cent. The

Class X students have also upheld the school’s legacy of excellence. All 112 students who appeared for the exam secured first division, with 58 students — over 50 per cent — scoring above 90 per cent. Uswastee Ubika Patsani emerged as the school topper with a phenomenal 99 per cent. The SEN Globe students in Class X also made the school proud, with seven students scoring above 70 per cent. The highest among them was an impressive 87 per cent. The Founder of KIIT and KISS, Dr. Achyuta Samanta, along with the school faculty, congratulated the students and their families for their outstanding performance, dedication, and perseverance.

## Six-Year-Old Brain Dead Boy Saves Two Lives Through Organ Donation

**Bhubaneswar,(DMC):** In a heart-wrenching yet inspiring story, a 6-year-old boy’s life was cut short in a tragic accident, but his parents’ decision to donate his organs has given new life to two persons in need of transplants. As per reports, the young boy, a resident of Baripada’s Murgabadi area, suffered severe head injuries when a 3-quintal gate fell on him on May 6. Despite being rushed to the hospital and receiving treatment at a hospital in Balasore and later at SUM Ultimate Medicare Hospital, the child’s condition deteriorated, and he was declared brain dead after two apnea tests. After the child’s death, with the noble intention of saving others’ lives and bringing happiness to other parents, the child’s parents decided to donate



their child’s organs and informed the hospital authorities to ensure that his legacy lived on. The hospital informed the State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (SOTTO), and the organ donation and transplantation process was completed. In a remarkable

display of compassion and generosity, the parents decided to donate their child’s organs. The child’s kidneys were harvested at SUM Ultimate Medicare Hospital and transplanted into two patients at AIIMS Bhubaneswar and a private hospital in the city.

## Senior IAS Officer Santosh Kumar Sarangi Gets Additional Charge As CMD Of SECI

**Bhubaneswar,(DMC):** Senior IAS officer Santosh Kumar Sarangi has been given additional charge as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd. Sarangi, a 1994-batch Odisha cadre officer, is currently serving as Secretary in the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. A notification issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) stated, “The competent authority has approved the assignment of additional charge of the post of Chairman and Managing Director, Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd., Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, to Shri Santosh Kumar Sarangi, IAS (OR:94), Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, till the appointment of a regular incumbent or until further orders, whichever is earlier.” Sarangi will discharge duties in the dual role until a regular appointment is made or further orders are issued.



## Kadam Calls For Urgent Odisha Assembly Session To Discuss Terror Attack, Operation Sindoor

**Bhubaneswar,(DMC):** Rama Chandra Kadam, the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) Leader and Pottangi MLA, has urged Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi to urgently convene a special session of the Odisha Legislative Assembly. In a letter dated May 10, released to the public on Tuesday, Kadam emphasized the need for immediate discussions on the recent Pahalgam terror attack, the ongoing Operation Sindoor, and the India-Pakistan ceasefire announced by U.S. President Donald Trump. Kadam’s letter follows similar appeals by Congress national President Mallikarjun Kharge and Lok Sabha Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi, who on Sunday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to call a special Parliament session to



representatives to discuss these developments and reaffirm our commitment to national security and unity.” He pressed the Chief Minister to act swiftly on this pressing request. Previously, Kadam had made similar appeals to Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati, Chief Minister Majhi, and Speaker Surama Padhy, calling for a special Assembly session to condemn the Pahalgam attack and express solidarity with the victims’ families.

address these critical issues. Highlighting the gravity of the situation, Kadam wrote, “The Pahalgam terror attack, Operation Sindoor, and the ceasefire declared by President Trump demand urgent deliberation. A special session of the Assembly is vital to enable elected

## Ama Bus Staff Protest In Bhubaneswar Over Safety Concerns, Service Disrupted



**Bhubaneswar,(DMC):** Bus services under the Ama Bus initiative were disrupted on Tuesday as staff staged a protest at Master Canteen Square demanding increased safety measures following an alleged assault on a conductor and driver. According to protesting staff, a group of 5 to 7 persons attacked the driver of Route No. 23 near Bhubaneswar Railway Station while the bus was en route to SUM Hospital. The incident reportedly stemmed from a dispute over roadside dust, which allegedly angered the group. The driver sustained a head injury and was admitted to AIIMS Bhubaneswar. “This kind of attack is unacceptable. We begin duty at 5 am and return home late at night after serving the public. Even if there is a mistake, it should not lead to violence,” said one of the protesting conductors. Staff

members emphasized that this was not the first instance of assault and warned that services would remain affected until the government ensures their protection. “We demand the immediate arrest of those involved and assurance from the authorities that such incidents will not be repeated,” a conductor added. In this regard, Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT) released a press statement regarding the incident, clarifying that the bus guide, Trilochana Parida, was physically assaulted by bikers inside the depot premises. He is currently receiving medical treatment at a local hospital. The incident was captured on depot CCTV footage and is under active investigation. A formal FIR has been registered at the designated Police Station,” the notification stated.

## Hot And Humid Weather Likely To Grip Odisha For Next Four Days

### Odisha Records 282 Heat-Related Illness Cases, No Confirmed Sunstroke Death So Far

**Bhubaneswar,(DMC):** With an increase in temperature, hot and humid weather conditions are likely to prevail in Odisha till May 17. The regional meteorological centre has issued yellow alerts for several districts for the next four days. For May 14 weather prediction, hot and humid conditions are very likely to prevail at one or two places over the districts of Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam and Gajapati. Besides, the IMD has predicted thunderstorms with lightning with gusty surface wind speed reaching 40-50 kmph very likely to occur in the afternoon/evening hours at one or two places over the districts of Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Gajapati and Ganjam for May 14. As per IMD prediction for May 15, hot and humid conditions are very likely to prevail at one or two places over the districts of Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam and Gajapati. For May 15, the IMD has forecast thunderstorms with lightning and gusty winds in several Odisha districts. In the districts of Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Gajapati, and Ganjam, thunderstorms with lightning and gusty winds reaching 40-50



km/h are likely to occur in the afternoon or evening hours at isolated places. Additionally, thunderstorms with lightning and gusty winds reaching 30-40 km/h are expected in the afternoon or evening hours at one or two places in the districts of Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Nabarangapur, Kandhamal, Bhadrak, Angul, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Balangir, Kalahandi, and Cuttack. According to the weather forecast, hot and humid conditions are very likely to prevail at one or two places over the districts of Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam and Gajapati on May 16. “Thunderstorm with lightning with gusty surface wind speed reaching 40-50

kmph very likely to occur in the afternoon/evening hours at one or two places over the districts of Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Gajapati”, read the prediction of IMD for May 16. Hot and humid conditions are very likely to prevail at one or two places over the districts of Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam and Gajapati”, read the IMD forecast for May 17. As temperatures continued to soar across Odisha amid hot and humid conditions, the number of heat-related cases also recorded considerable rise in the state. As per data available with the Health and Family Welfare Department, at least 282 persons have fallen ill due to heat-related

issues so far this summer. Sharing details regarding heat-related illness cases, Director of Public Health Dr Nilakantha Mishra told reporters that all these 282 affected persons sought treatment at outpatient departments (OPDs) of government hospitals and none of them required hospitalisation. Stating that unverified report of a suspected heatstroke death was received in Balangir district, Dr Mishra clarified that the case has not been confirmed as the district administration’s report is still awaited by the Revenue and Disaster Management Department. He said Sambalpur district reported the highest number of 83 heat-related illness cases, followed by Jharsuguda (72), Mayurbhanj (42), Balasore (24), Sonepur (17), and Deogarh (15). Advising people to avoid venturing out after 10 am, Dr Mishra said in case of emergencies, one should carry an umbrella or a cotton gamchha for protection. Those who have to go outside must stay hydrated by drinking adequate quantity of Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) or rice water, he said. Truck drivers have been specifically advised to avoid working in mining areas during peak heat.

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**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,**  
**PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION, RAYAGADA.**  
**e-mail: -eephd.rgda.od@nic.in,eephdrgda@gmail.com**

**NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement**  
**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) NO. EEPHDRAYAGADA-06/2025-26 DT.08.05.2025**

Sl No.	Name of the work	Bid Identification No.	Estimated Cost (Rs. In Lakh)	Class of Contractor	Period of Completion	Availability of Bid Document for Online Bidding	
						From	To
1.	Construction of P.H. Sub-Division, Office at Paralakhemundi.	EEPHDRAYAGA DA-06/2025-26 Dtd.08.05.2025	27.85	“C” & “B” Class	04 (Four Months)	17.05.2025 (11.00 Hr)	26.05.2025 (17.00 Hr)

Name & Address of Officer Inviting Bid: Executive Engineer, P.H. Division, Rayagada.  
Email: eephd.rgda.od@nic.in,eephdrgda@gmail.com

❖ Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal “<https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in>”.

❖ All amendments, time extension, clarifications etc. will be uploaded in the website only. Bidders should regularly visit the above website to keep themselves updated.

**OIPR-13052/11/0022/2526**  
**SUPERINTENDINGENGINEER,**  
**P.H. DIVISION, RAYAGADA**



# Joint Public Hearing Camp of Collector & SP Held at Kunjuri GP

**Khordha, (DMC):** A joint public hearing camp of Collector, Khordha Chanchal Rana & Superintendent of Police (SP) Sagarika Nath was held at the Kunjuri, GP, Office Conference Hall under Begunia Block, Khordha. In this camp, MLA, Begunia Pradeep Kumar Sahu, Zilla Parishad Chief Development & Executive Officer, Jyoti Shankar Sahu, Sub-Collector, Khordha, Kishore Kumar Panda, Begunia Panchayat Samiti Chairman Laxmidhar Subudhi, Kunjuri, GP, Sarapancha Ms. Pranati Sahu, BDO, Khirabdi Tanya Sahu, Tahasildar, Tapas Kumar Bisi, Deputy Collector,

Grievances, Artatrana Mallik, Assistant Collector, Grievances, Bhubaneswari Kannur were present. A total of 200 grievances were received in this public hearing camp, out of which 157 were individual grievances & 32 were collective problems. Collector, Mr. Rana, immediately resolved 8 grievances on the spot & provided financial assistance to Banita Champati of Kunjuri, GP, Rs-25,000, Sasmita Behera, Rs-20,000 & Subham Ransingh to-15,000, paid total-60,000 from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund for health treatment. Later, the Collector, Mr. Rana visited the Integrated Child Development Scheme, Mission



Shakti, Odisha Livelihood Mission, Rural Housing,

Drinking Water, Primary Health Care Camps, Mahatma Gandhi

National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Department Cleanliness Stalls, Horticulture, Fisheries, SSEPD. Ayushman Arogya Camp & other awareness stalls. Among others, CDM & PHO, Dr. Rajyashree Pattnaik, District Social Welfare Officer, Kusum Kumari Prahraj, District Social Security Officer, Dilip Hial, District Welfare Officer, Dr. Gitanshu Dash, District Panchayat Officer, Shyamendu Nayak, GPDO, Itishree Behera, district level officers of various departments, line department senior engineers and officers were present.

## PPL DAV Public School excels in CBSE class 10 & 12th



**Paradip, (DMC):** DAV Public School, PPL, Paradeep is filled with pride as its students have once again achieved exceptional results in the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) examinations for Class 10 and Class 12, which were announced on Tuesday. In the Class 12 Science Stream, the school celebrated a remarkable overall pass percentage of 100%. Out of 35 students who appeared for the examination, all successfully passed. Three students achieved scores above 90%, while 15

students secured above 80%. Suryodipta Pradhan topped in the school with a score of 94%, followed by Dipika Nayak and Mehul Jena with 91.20%, and Sibani Samantray with 89%, who ranked second and third, respectively. The success continued in Class 10, where the school also achieved a perfect overall pass percentage of 100%. All 40 students who took the examination passed successfully. Three students secured 95% and above, and 11 students scored 90% and above. Anuska Swain

## DAV IFFCO shines in CBSE XII & X results

**Paradip, (DMC):** It's a great pride for IFFCO DAV school that has given an exemplary performance in STD - XII & X CBSE Board results. In class XII, out of 56 students 51 students have passed in First Division with the overall pass rate of 98.21%. The topper of the school is Master Omm Swarup Khandual with 96%. Following him Miss Roshni Mohapatra stood second with 94.60%, and Master Uday Pandey achieved third with 92.40%. In Class- X results, the school has also achieved a milestone. The overall pass rate is 100% with 51 students securing First Division out of 57 students. The topper of the school is Master Arkajyoti Pradhan with 97.80% followed by Miss Sai Sushree Bhuyan (2nd) with 95.20%, and Miss Jasaswini Palai (3rd) with 94.60%. The Perfect Scorers (secured 100 out of 100) are Master Arkajyoti Pradhan, Master Amshul Kumar Raul and Miss Sai Sushree Bhuyan in Mathematics, Master Arkajyoti Pradhan in Science and Master Swayam Prakash Sahu in Sanskrit respectively. The revered Unit Head, IFFCO, Paradeep Unit and Chairman of the school, P.K. Mahapatra, the Regional Director of DAV Institutions, Odisha, Dr. K. C. Satapathy, the Regional Officer, DAV Institutions, Odisha, Zone-C, Dr. Sujata Sahu and the Headmaster, Sambit Sukumar Chinara have congratulated all the students and teachers for this scintillating performance.

## Tikiri Police crack theft case, Recover stolen goods



**Rayagada /Tikiri, (DMC):** The Tikiri Police have successfully solved a theft case, recovering stolen goods worth a considerable amount. The recovered items include a TATA 407 Pickup van, 48 HBL dry cell batteries, 4 mobile phones, and other articles. Three accused persons have been arrested in connection with the theft, which pertains to Tikiri PS case 75/25. The police's swift action has brought relief to the community and serves as a deterrent to potential thieves. The Tikiri Police's achievement highlights their commitment to maintaining community safety and security. Similar successful cases have been reported in other areas, showcasing the effectiveness of proactive policing. 1 TATA 407 Pickup van, 48 HBL dry cell batteries, 4 mobile phones, other articles Tikiri PS case 75/25. The Tikiri Police's efforts have ensured the recovery of stolen goods and brought the perpetrators to justice, demonstrating their dedication to serving the community.

## Bus Slipped to Save Cattle

**Paralakhemundi, (DMC):** At Cheligada under RUDayagiri police limits of Gajapati district one passenger bus tried to save a cow but slipped towards roadside ditch. From Paralakhemundi to Mohana that bus was going. At Cheligada weekly market while a cow was moving faster. So to save that cow bus tried to turn away & slipped towards roadside. Though that cow was injured but saved from danger.

## Panchayat Election will be crucial for all political parties

**Jagatsinghpur, (DMC):** Commencing Panchayat Election will be a acid test for all political parties of Jagatsinghpur district. At present BJP going through internal dispute at Jagatsinghpur district. BJP Minister, MLA, MP and District BJP organisation moving in paralal way. On the other hand District BJD organisation has lost faith of voters as BJP leaders going away from Voters and maintaining silence and away from political disputes. Revival of BJD organisation was not so benevolent for organisation. But lost popularity of Congress organisation turning towards revival. Congress started some movement as per direction of new PCC President but District President not yet made clear about selection of candidates of

different Assembly Constituency. Leadership will be a major problem for Congress to carry out GP election though about 25% Congress vote still found at grass root level. It was clear that BJP succeeded in 2024 election by decedent BJD & Congress voters. But after general election BJP leaders least concerned about party organisation rather busy about self establishment and ego. In such problem whether BJP will come out successful in Panchayat election at Jagatsinghpur district. At present MP of Jagatsinghpur going to face a problem regarding caste certificate as per direction of Honourable Odisha High Court. In such stage Panchayat election will be a acid test for all political parties.

## JNV Panikoili Shines in CBSE 10th & 12th Board Results



**Jajpur, (DMC):** PM SHRI Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Panikoili, a premier residential school, has once again proven its academic excellence with outstanding results in CBSE Class X and XII board examinations of this Year. In Class XII, Master Anshuman Samal topped the school with 96.2%, followed by Master Jaidev Mahato with 95.8% and Master Subhrajit Sahu with 95%. An impressive 9 students secured more than 90%, showcasing consistent hard work and dedication. Similarly, the

Class X results were equally commendable. Pratyush Prist secured the highest with 97%, followed by Master Abhijit Mahapatra (95.8%) and Master Chandan Lenka (95.6%). 19 students achieved a perfect 100/100 in subjects like Odia and Mathematics. Overall, the school recorded 100% first division results, with 20 students scoring above 90%. This phenomenal success is the result of tireless efforts by dedicated teachers and students. The school follows a rigorous schedule from 5:00 a.m.

to 10:00 p.m., including regular classes, doubt-clearing sessions, and continuous evaluation. Mrs. Dikshya Jyoti Mishra, the institution Principal congratulates all students and thanks to the staff, emphasizing that discipline, dedication, and consistent academic mentoring were the main key to this success. However it is a great achievement in the district and due to Mrs. Mishra our children are able to score. Dr. Kailash Chandra Pati, member of Parent Teacher Committee said on this occasion.

## Assistance of Rs.25000 provided by Nuapada Chemist & Druggist Association



**Nuapada/Khariar Road, (DMC):** A medical store namely Chandan Medical located at Khariar Road in Nuapada District had been gutted on short circuit fire recently. As per the information by the President Chemist & Druggist Association Nuapada Inder Chand Jain, an assistance of Rs.25000/- has been provided to the proprietor of the Chandan Medical Store on Tuesday by a cheque. Members from Medical Association Pradeep Kumar Jain, Santosh Sharma, Harpal Singh Gandhi and others were present at the time of giving cheque.

**Burla/Sundargarh, (DMC):** TP Western Odisha undertaken a major infrastructure development electricity network in Sundargarh town. The implemented under TPWODL's own Capital of 70.6 crore. This strategic initiative is designed demand summer season, ensuring consistent and population. The project scope includes extension of new lines to address long-standing km of the planned work has been completed, with nearing completion. Once fully operational, the approximately 5,000 consumers, largely in Sundargarh town. The improvements are improved public and operational safety, and a objective of the project is to mitigate recurring Distribution Transformers (DTRs), which have stability. By modernizing the LT network, of power distribution, reduce the outages, and Commenting on the development, Mr. Parveen Sharma, part of our ongoing commitment towards delivering consumers. The Sundargarh LT network more resilient power infrastructure that meets both



Distribution Limited (TPWODL) has initiative to upgrade the Low Tension (LT) project, covering 9.4 km of LT line, is being Expenditure (Capex) scheme with an investment to fortify the power infrastructure for high-reliable electricity supply to the town's urban reinforcement of the existing LT network and issues of power quality and safety. Till date, 8 the remaining 1.4 km currently in progress and upgraded infrastructure will benefit comprising residential and commercial consumers expected to lead to enhanced power reliability, substantial reduction in technical losses. A key issues such as cable burnouts and damage to historically affected the region's power supply TPWODL aims to enhance the overall efficiency contribute to cost-effective energy management. Verma, CEO, TPWODL said, "This initiative is high-quality and safe electricity to our improvement is a critical step toward building a current and future demands.

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## 'Ghar Mein Ghus Kar...

credibility. As the speech ended with chants of "Bharat Mata ki Jai", the message was clear: India will no longer tolerate cross-border terrorism and will respond not just in defence, but with pre-emptive precision. India's position on Jammu and Kashmir - the return of territory illegally occupied by Pakistan - has not changed, the External Affairs Ministry said Tuesday, underlining what Prime Minister Narendra Modi said 24 hours earlier and what government sources told NDTV a day before that. India is also determined this issue be resolved bilaterally, the ministry said, despite Pakistan having solicited mediation in the past and United States President Donald Trump having offered it twice. In a regular briefing this evening, ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal told reporters India has a "long-standing national position (on I&K) ... that issues pertaining to the Union Territory have to be addressed by India and Pakistan bilaterally".

## CBSE Class X...

board, a total of 23,71,939 students appeared for the exam this year, of whom 22,21,636 have passed. Continuing the trend of recent years, girls have outperformed boys yet again. While the pass percentage for girls stood at 95.00%, that for boys was recorded at 92.63%. Among the regions, Trivandrum and Vijayawada emerged as the top performers, both registering a pass percentage of 99.79%. They were followed closely by Bengaluru (98.90%) and Chennai (98.71%). Bhubaneswar also featured in the list of top-performing regions, securing a position in the top 12 with a pass rate of 92.64%. Guwahati, on the other hand, stood at the 17th position with a pass percentage of 84.14%. To access their results, students can visit the official CBSE websites, hosted with technical collaboration from the National Informatics Centre (NIC) and the National e-Governance Division (NeGD), Government of India. The results can be viewed through the following portals: [www.cbse.gov.in](http://www.cbse.gov.in), [www.results.nic.in](http://www.results.nic.in), [results.digilocker.gov.in](http://results.digilocker.gov.in), [umang.gov.in](http://umang.gov.in)

## Individual Judge Can't...

decisions will continue to be governed will the said decisions, but new applications shall not be considered unless there is a proper regime of Rules framed by the High Courts. Opining that at least one exercise of "senior" designation should be undertaken every calendar year, the apex court stressed the need to improve the regime of designation by periodical reviews by the Supreme Court and the respective High Courts.

## CM Launches...

Mahanta, Pratap Chandra Sarangi, and Nabacharan Majhi, and several MLAs. Sarakana MLA Bhavad Hansdah delivered the welcome address, while Mayurbhanj District Collector Hemakanta Say proposed the vote of thanks.

## PIL Filed...

that the word has a bigger religious and historical connotation. As per Hindu belief, barring the temples at Badrinath, Rameswaram, Dwarka, and Puri, no other religious This, Mr Jaiswal said, has not changed.

## No Facilities for Rabi Paddy Selling: Farmers Selling on 1300 Instead of 3100

**Paralakhemundi, (DMC):** For Rabi paddy crop no facilities made for farmers selling at mandi. So farmers use to sale on cheaper price per quintal 1300 instead of 3100 to Andhrapradesh business men, said Jagabamdhua Jena, Sanjay Behera, Jiban Patra, KSimeya & KRamakrishna. Particularly Gosani & Kashinagar blocks more afford for selling being the peak productions. President of Gajapati district Farmers Association Suryanarayan Patnaik said that on Rabi season 50000 quintals produced. At least 3 mandis would have helped farmers for sales procurement.





## 'You are conscience keepers of the system': CJI Sanjiv Khanna's message to Bar as he demits office



**New Delhi, (HS) :** Overwhelmed by the rich accolades on his last day at the Supreme Court, Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna on Tuesday said he was certain his successor CJI-designate Justice B R Gavai would uphold the values of the Supreme Court, fundamental rights and the basic constitutional doctrines. The ceremonial bench comprised the outgoing CJI, Justice Gavai, and Justice Sanjay Kumar, showcasing a rare moment of reflection, celebration, and reverence, not

just for Justice Khanna's contributions, but the legacy of his uncle, former Supreme Court judge Justice H R Khanna, he took forward.

The CJI called Justice Gavai his "biggest support" while expressing confidence in the latter's leadership and commitment to constitutional values. "What to say about justice and CJI designate B R Gavai, we got elevated the same year. Here we are in the collegium, and thereafter, we have interacted on several occasions. And I must say, he has been my biggest support. And I am sure that you have in Justice Gavai an excellent chief justice who's going to uphold the institution and who's going to uphold the fundamental rights who's going to uphold our basic doctrines which we have adopted and applied," he said. In his parting remarks, Justice Khanna expressed gratitude, reflecting on the memories he carries from his years in the judiciary and said, "I am overwhelmed." "I carry with me a lot of memories. Memories that are very nice and will remain with me throughout my life," he said. Emphasising the role of the bar and the bench in earning public trust, he shared, "The judiciary is not just judges; it includes the bar. You are the conscience keepers of the system."

CJI Khanna lauded the collegiality among judges from diverse regions and backgrounds, saying such diversity allowed for richer deliberations and more nuanced decisions. "Another thing is the biggest plus factor in this court. We have judges from different parts of the country, and they with different thought processes, different backgrounds, are able to discuss and find a lot of solutions. We were able to find out the right path," he said. Justice Gavai, who would assume the CJI office on May 14, said Justice Khanna "embraced his legacy" and built his own. He called it not a farewell but a transition and said, "What ends today is not a career, but the beginning of another."

## Ban on 4PM Youtube Channel Lifted, SC Told

**New Delhi, (HS) :** The Supreme Court was apprised on Tuesday that the Union government has withdrawn its directive to block the YouTube channel 4PM News Network. A bench of Justices B. R. Gavai and A. G. Masih was hearing a plea filed by journalist Sanjay Sharma challenging the Centre's directive to block his news channel on YouTube on the grounds of "national security" and "public order". Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing on the petitioner's behalf, submitted that since the blocking order has been withdrawn by the authorities, the prayer for interim relief has turned infructuous.

However, Sibal pressed the prayer contained in the petition challenging the constitutional validity of the Information Technology (IT) Blocking Rules, 2009. In view of the submission, the Apex Court ordered tagging the instant petition with the pending batch of pleas raising similar issues. Last week, the Justice Gavai-led Bench issued notice on the plea filed by the editor of the digital news platform and sought responses from the Union government, including the Ministry of Home Affairs, and YouTube. When a prayer for interim relief was pressed, the Top Court had said that it was not inclined to pass any stay order without



hearing from the government. In his writ petition filed before the Apex Court, journalist Sanjay Sharma said that non-furnishing of the blocking order or underlying complaint violated statutory and constitutional safeguards. "Rules 8, 9, and 16 of the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information by Public) Rules, 2009, which permit blocking without notice or hearing, are violative of Articles 14, 19(1)(a), and 21 of the Constitution, as they oust the principles of natural justice and enable a shadow regime of censorship devoid of transparency or accountability," stated the petition filed through Talha Abdul Rahman. Further, it said that the Constitution does not

## Top LeT Commander killed with three terrorists in J&K



**SRINAGAR, (HS) :** Three militants from the designated terrorist outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) have been killed in an ongoing encounter with security forces in the Shukroo forest area in South Kashmir's Shopian district in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday. The militants include top LeT commander Shahid Kuttay, according to officials. A police officer said a massive cordon and search operation was launched by troops in the Shukroo forest area of Keller in Shopian in the early hours of Tuesday, after receiving specific input about the presence of some militants there. Police said the search operation turned into an encounter after the terrorists fired upon the forces who retaliated. In the exchange of fire, three terrorists were killed as their bodies were sighted in the deep vegetation area in the forests, the officials said. A senior police officer identified the two as Shahid Kuttay and Adnan Shafi. The identity of the third one was being ascertained. Kuttay, a resident of Chotipora Heerpora area of Shopian, who had joined the terror ranks in March 2023, was a category "A" terrorist and a top commander of the outfit, the official said.

permit the blanket removal of content without an opportunity to be heard.

"National security" and 'public order' are not talismanic invocations to insulate executive action from scrutiny. They are constitutionally recognised grounds under Article 19(2), but are subject to the test of reasonableness and proportionality," the plea said. A vague reference to these grounds, without even disclosing the offending content, makes it impossible for the petitioner to challenge or remedy the allegation, thereby depriving him of his fundamental right to free speech and fair hearing, added the petition. The Editors Guild of India, in a recent press statement, said that it was "deeply concerned" by the decision of the Union government to block YouTube Channel 4PM News Network, and termed the move an "opaque use of executive power, without prior notice or opportunity for response". "Arbitrary takedown orders undermine the fundamental right to freedom of speech. The Guild reiterated its demand for a transparent and accountable mechanism for content takedowns, particularly when it concerns journalistic work. National security cannot become a pretext to silence critical voices or independent reporting," added the press statement.

## BJP-Led NDA Sweeps Panchayat Polls in Assam

**Guwahati, (HS) :** The Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has secured a sweeping victory in the 2025 Assam Panchayat elections, consolidating its political dominance in the state. In a decisive show of strength, the alliance secured 300 out of 376 Zilla Parishad seats, capturing more than 76 per cent of the vote share. This landslide win not only reflects the alliance's widespread grassroots support but also underscores the growing confidence of the electorate in its governance model. The ruling alliance also fared impressively in the Anchalik Panchayat elections, winning 1,436 out of 2,192 seats across the state. With a substantial vote share of 66 per cent in these local bodies, the NDA has demonstrated its strong foothold at the village and block levels. This robust performance marks a significant milestone for the BJP and its allies, particularly in the run-up to the 2026 state Assembly elections. Reacting to the panchayat poll results, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma took to social media platform X to express gratitude to the people of the state.



have been caused by fire after the strike, with a possible burn/strike scar next to the damaged structure. Nur Khan is a strategic air base situated between Rawalpindi and Islamabad - the two nerve centres of Pakistan. The former is the headquarters of the Pakistan military, and the latter is the political power centre of the country. The air base was earlier known as Chaklala. It was not the first time India struck Nur Khan. During the 1971 war, the 20 Squadron of the Indian Air Force

## Laxman Rekha Against Terror Has Become Clear: PM

**New Delhi, (HS) :**

India's Laxman Rekha against terror has become clear, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday while praising all three forces for the forceful response given to the Pahalgam terror attack under Operation Sindoor. Addressing air warriors and soldiers at Punjab's Adampur Air Force Station - which was among many IAF bases unsuccessfully targeted by Pakistan - PM Modi said, "Under India's Laxman Rekha against terror, if an attack takes place, the country will definitely retaliate against it. "Ghar mein ghus ke mareinge aur bachne ka mouka bhi nahin denge, (We will hunt you down in your territory and won't give a chance to escape)," he said. "We saw this during surgical strike, the air strike and now Operation Sindoor has become India's new normal," he said, highlighting the three-pronged policy of responding to terror attacks at will, ignoring nuclear blackmail and treating terror masterminds and their state sponsors alike. Saluting Indian forces and the Border Security Force for teaching a befitting lesson to the Pakistan Army for supporting terror, PM Modi said, "You have reminded Pakistan that if there is a terror attack, we will hit them in their own territory." PM Modi congratulated the IAF and other forces for showing exemplary man-machine coordination and said, "The thought of our drones and missiles now makes Pakistan lose its sleep."



## 'Our targets were...': What India said on Pakistan 'nuclear leakage'

**New Delhi, (HS) :** Ministry of external affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal on Tuesday addressed questions about reports around Pakistan's nuclear facility in Kirana Hills in context with India's Operation Sindoor military strikes, saying that it was for the Pakistani side to respond to claims being made over it. In the press briefing on Tuesday, Randhir Jaiswal was asked about social media buzz on 'nuclear leakage' in Pakistan after the Indian strikes. "Talk of Egyptian or American aircraft - those are questions for them (Pakistan) to answer, not for us. Our position was made very clear during the defence briefing. As for your question, the Pakistani minister has already made some remarks on that," he said. Clarifying India's stance, he added, "Our military action was entirely within the conventional domain. There were some reports suggesting that Pakistan's National Command Authority would convene, but those were later denied. In fact, Pakistan's government representatives have officially denied this on record."

Jaiswal also reiterated India's broader policy approach: "As you know, India has a firm stand that it will not give in to nuclear blackmail or allow cross-border terrorism to be conducted, invoking it in conversations with various countries, we've also cautioned that they subscribing to such scenarios would hurt them in their own region." Responding to US President Donald Trump's remarks, in which he claimed that the US played a role in preventing a potential nuclear war between India and Pakistan that could have claimed millions of lives, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, "The military action from



our side was entirely in the conventional domain... There were some reports, however, that Pakistan National Command Authority will meet on 10th May but this was later denied by them. Pakistan FM has himself denied the nuclear angle on record." He reaffirmed India's long-standing policy on such matters, stating, "As you know, India has a firm stance that it will not give in to nuclear blackmail or allow cross-border terrorism to be conducted invoking it. In conversations with various countries, we have also cautioned that their subscribing to such scenarios could hurt them in their own region." Randhir Jaiswal, responding to Pakistan foreign minister Ishaq Dar's remarks in an interview to foreign media, said that Pakistan's terrorism hubs in Bahawalpur, Muridke, Muzaffarabad, and other areas were destroyed, and its military strength was significantly weakened by India. "In the last week, as a result of Operation Sindoor, Pakistan has seen its terrorism centres in Bahawalpur, Muridke, Muzaffarabad and other places destroyed. Thereafter, its military capabilities were

## Hooch tragedy death toll rises to 21, kingpin among 10 arrested

**CHANDIGARH, (HS) :** The death toll in the Amritsar hooch tragedy has risen to 21, with 10 others hospitalised after consuming spurious liquor in five villages of the Majitha area in Punjab. Ten people, including the main supplier and the alleged kingpin, were arrested in connection with the incident. Along with the suspension of four officers: Deputy Superintendent of Police, Station House Officer (SHO), besides Majitha sub-division excise and taxation officer (ETO) and excise inspector. Sources revealed that the deceased include youths from Bhangali, Patalpuri, Marari Kalan, Therewal, and Talwandi Ghuman villages. With the condition of ten others critical, the death toll may rise. The victims have been admitted to Amritsar Civil Hospital. Police have launched an investigation into the source of the illicit liquor.

## All schools, colleges in non-border districts in Kashmir reopen

**SRI NAGAR, (HS) :** All schools and colleges in Kashmir, except those in the border districts, reopened on Tuesday following a suspension of hostilities between India and Pakistan, officials said. Education institutes in Kupwara, and Baramulla districts, and those in the Gurez sector of Bandipora would remain closed for now, they said. According to the officials, Kashmir University will resume classes on Wednesday. Schools, colleges and universities in the Union Territory were temporarily shut last week in view of the military standoff between India and Pakistan. However, in a pause in the standoff, the Jammu and Kashmir government on Monday ordered the reopening of educational institutes across the Union Territory, except for those in the border districts.

## Before-After Satellite Pics Show Damage to Pak Bases in Indian Strikes

**New Delhi, (HS) :** India struck multiple Pakistani air bases during 'Operation Sindoor', damaging runways, hangars, and buildings, causing a massive blow to Pakistan. Accessed before and after satellite images of these bases - Sargodha, Nur Khan (Chaklala), Bholari, Jacobabad, Sukkur and Rahim Yar Khan.

Maxar Technologies' high-resolution images show the extent of damage to these air bases in India's precision strikes. Air Marshal AK Bharti, Director General of Air Operations, during a press briefing, said India hit selected military targets deep inside Pakistan and its response was "measured and calibrated." The Jacobabad Air Base is around 200 km from the International Border. It is located in the Sindh province of Pakistan, west of Rajasthan's Longewala. India struck the hangar at the Jacobabad air base. Hangars are structures built at an air base to protect aircraft, primarily for maintenance and repair. The satellite image from May 11 shows damage to the hangar and debris

next to the structure. A before image from April 30 shows the structure is intact. India struck air bases in Pakistan's Sindh province - Bholari, Jacobabad and Sukkur. It is one of the newest air bases of Pakistan, which became operational in 2017.

During India's precision strikes on Pakistan, Bholari was chosen as a target, and India struck the hangar at the air base, causing severe damage to its roof, as shown in an image from May 11. A satellite picture from April 27, when tensions between India and Pakistan were still high post the Pahalgam attack, shows the hangar intact. Sukkur air base, located in the Sindh province, is a strategic air base for Pakistan, which lies west of the International border with Rajasthan. Sukkur, Jacobabad and Bholari are located in Sindh. Sukkur is operated by Pakistan's Southern Air Command. A satellite image from May 10 shows severe structural damage at the base and massive debris on the side. There was vegetation burn that may

Bharti, during the press briefing, showed a video of extensive damage to the runway of the air base. A large crater was formed on the runway after the Indian strikes.

The satellite images from Maxar locate the area which was hit by India. A huge crater was formed on the side of the runway of the air base. The Mushaf air base in Sargodha is a strategically important base of the Pakistan Air Force, which was targeted by India during Operation Sindoor. Sargodha is located west of Lahore and around 200 km from the international border with Punjab. The Indian Air Force, during the 1965 and 1971 wars, targeted Sargodha during its aerial campaign. The craters formed after Indian strikes were at least eight metres wide. During Operation Sindoor, Indian strikes damaged the runway at two locations of the airbase - One at an intersection and the other on the main runway. The images from May 10 show the runway being cratered after Indian strikes at the

two locations. The images from April 30 and May 10 show the extent of damage caused to the runway at Mushaf.

India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7 and attacked nine terror sites in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) to avenge the Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 people were shot dead. The Indian armed forces destroyed multiple camps of terror groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) and Hizbul Mujahideen, and killed more than 100 terrorists. After India's overnight operations, the Pakistani Army launched drones and missiles at western parts of India, which were successfully intercepted. India then hit selected military targets deep inside Pakistani territory. The two countries reached a ceasefire agreement last Saturday to halt military actions with immediate effect after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes.



## Pakistan says 11 military personnel killed during military confrontation with India

**ISLAMABAD, (HS) :** Pakistan on Tuesday said that 11 military personnel were killed and 78 others injured during the recent military confrontation with India. In a statement, the military also claimed that 40 civilians died and 121 others were injured in the "unprovoked and reprehensible dastardly attacks" by India on the night of May 6-7. India and Pakistan reached an understanding on Saturday to end the conflict after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes. While defending the motherland, 11 personnel of Pakistan's armed forces were killed and 78 others were wounded, the Pakistan military said. The victims from the Pakistan Air Force include Squadron Leader Usman Yousuf, Chief Technician Aurangzeb, Senior Technician Najeeb, Corporal Technician Farooq and Senior Technician Mubashir, it said. Naik Abdul Rehman, Lance Naik Dilawar Khan, Lance Naik Ikramullah, Naik Waqar Khalid, Sepoy Muhammad Adeel Akbar and Sepoy Nisar were among the army personnel killed in the strikes, it added. The Pakistan Armed Forces "mounted a resolute response under the banner of 'Marka-e-Haq', delivering precise and notch-up retributive strikes through Operation Bunyanum Marsoos," the statement said. Pakistan's armed forces, together with the people of Pakistan, pay solemn tribute to the deceased civilians and military personnel, it said. "Let there be no ambiguity: any attempt to challenge Pakistan's sovereignty or territorial integrity, ever again, shall be met with a swift, full-spectrum, and decisive response," it said.

## Bangladesh's interim government strips former ruling party of registration

**DHAKA, (HS) :** Bangladesh's Election Commission has cancelled the registration of the former ruling party of ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, preventing it from participating in the next national election, which is expected to be held by June next year. The decision on Monday came hours after the country's interim government headed by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus issued an official notification banning the Awami League party and its affiliated bodies from conducting activities online and elsewhere. Monday's formal notification from the Ministry of Home Affairs was issued two days after the interim Cabinet decided to ban all activities of the party under the country's Anti-Terrorism Act until a special tribunal concludes a trial for the party and its leaders. In the notification, the government said it outlawed all activities "including any kind of publication, media, online and social media" as well as "any kind of campaign, procession, meeting, gathering (or) conference until the trial of the leaders and activists ... is completed." It said the decision was effective immediately. Separately, the Election Commission said Monday it would not allow the Hasina-led party to contest the next election. Political parties must be registered with the Election Commission to take part in elections. A government adviser said Monday that anyone who posts comments online in support of the Awami League party would face arrest. On Sunday, the Awami League accused the interim government of "stoking division" and trampling on "democratic norms" by banning its activities. It said in a statement that the ban "stoked division within society, strangled democratic norms, fueled ongoing pogrom against dissenters and strangled inclusivity, all undemocratic steps."

## Europe's Latest Warning to Russia Ahead of Putin-Zelensky Meet in Turkey

**Istanbul, (HS) :** While US President Donald Trump "thinks" of flying to Turkey this week for possible talks between Ukraine and Russia over the ongoing war, the European leaders are threatening Moscow with a new round of punishing sanctions if it doesn't accept an unconditional ceasefire deal with Kyiv. In a fresh twist to the stop-start peace talks process, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Sunday accepted his Russian counterpart's offer of direct peace talks and said he would travel to Turkey and wait to meet President Vladimir Putin there on Thursday. Efforts to diplomatically end the war in Ukraine are speeding up before the proposed meeting in Istanbul on Thursday, with each party-- including Kyiv, Moscow, Washington and European leaders-- wanting to achieve an outcome they want.

Ukraine and its European allies have demanded a 30-day ceasefire starting Monday -- calling it a prerequisite for direct peace talks between Kyiv and Moscow. European leaders have also threatened to immediately impose new sanctions on Russia if the Kremlin does not change its stance by the end of



Monday. "The clock is ticking - we still have 12 hours until the end of this day," said Stefan Kornelius, spokesperson of the German government, at a news conference. Moscow, meanwhile, rejected their call on Monday, despite threats. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said during his daily briefing that "the language of ultimatums is unacceptable to Russia". He later said that Moscow wanted "serious" negotiations to achieve peace in the conflict, which has left tens of thousands of people dead. Moreover, Defence ministers from five major

European military powers are also planning to meet in Italy on Friday to discuss support for Ukraine. Italian Defence Minister Guido Crosetto will host his counterparts from Britain, France, Germany and Poland, his ministry said Monday in a statement.

Trump has said that he was "thinking" of flying to Turkey for possible Russia-Ukraine talks. "I was thinking about actually flying over there. There's a possibility of it, I guess, if I think things can happen," the US President told journalists at the White House prior to departing for a trip to



who began his diplomatic duties in the country in December 2023, was recalled because of his involvement in a scandal involving a woman at a hotel in Cox's Bazar. "Ahmed Maroof was involved with one Hafiza Haque Shah, a senior

official working with a Bangladeshi bank. Officials at the Pakistan Embassy also knew about this as she used to visit him regularly. But during Maroof's latest visit to Cox's Bazar, the issue of their immoral relationship came to the fore more



international conference for the reconstruction of Gaza, which is set to be convened immediately after a ceasefire is reached. The two ministers exchanged views on ways to further engage with international stakeholders to rally global support for the Arab-Islamic plan for early recovery and the reconstruction of Gaza in the coming period. They also reaffirmed their strong

opposition to any attempts to forcibly displace Palestinians from their land. Both sides emphasised the urgency of pursuing a just and durable political solution to the Palestinian issue through the two-state solution and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state along the June 4, 1967, borders with East Jerusalem as its capital. The conversation came on the

## Saudi crown prince welcomes Trump to kingdom as US leader begins four-day Middle East tour

**US, (HS) :** President Donald Trump opened his four-day Middle East trip on Tuesday by paying a visit to Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, for talks on US efforts to dismantle Iran's nuclear program, end the war in Gaza, hold down oil prices and more. Prince Mohammed warmly greeted Trump as he stepped off Air Force One at King Khalid International Airport in the Saudi capital and kicked off his Middle East tour. The two leaders then retreated to a grand hall at the Riyadh airport, where Trump and his aides were served traditional Arabic coffee by waiting attendants wearing ceremonial gun-belts. The pomp began before Trump even landed. Royal Saudi Air Force F-15s provided an honorary escort for Air Force One as it approached the kingdom's capital. Trump and Prince Mohammed also were taking part in a lunch at the Royal Court, gathering with guests and aides in an ornate room with blue accents and massive crystal chandeliers. Several major business executives were invited to the event, including Blackstone Group CEO Stephen Schwarzman, BlackRock CEO Larry Fink, and Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk. Musk is also leading the Department of Government Efficiency, a controversial second term effort tasked with slashing waste, fraud and abuse in the US government. Later, the crown prince will fete Trump with a formal dinner. Trump is also slated to take part Tuesday in a US-Saudi investment conference. "When Saudis and Americans join forces, very good things happen - more often than not, great things happen," Saudi Investment Minister



Khalid al-Falih said.

Saudi Arabia and fellow OPEC+ nations have already helped their cause with Trump early in his second term by stepping up oil production. Trump sees cheap energy as a key component to lowering costs and stemming inflation for Americans. The president has also made the case that lower oil prices will hasten an end to the Russia-Ukraine war. But Saudi Arabia's economy remains heavily dependent on oil, and the kingdom needs a fiscal break-even oil price of \$96 to \$98 a barrel to balance its budget. It's questionable how long OPEC+, of which Saudi Arabia is the leading member, is willing to keep production elevated. The price of a barrel of Brent crude closed Monday at \$64.77. "One of the challenges for the Gulf states of lower oil prices is it doesn't necessarily imperil economic diversification programs, but it certainly makes them harder," said Jon Alterman, a senior Middle East analyst at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. Trump picked the kingdom for his first stop, because

it has pledged to make big investments in the US, but Trump ended up traveling to Italy last month for Pope Francis' funeral. Riyadh was the first overseas stop of his first term. The three countries on the president's itinerary - Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates - are all places where the Trump Organization, run by Trump's two elder sons, is developing major real estate projects. They include a high-rise tower in Jeddah, a luxury hotel in Dubai and a golf course and villa complex in Qatar. Trump is trying to demonstrate that his transactional strategy for international politics is paying dividends as he faces criticism from Democrats who say his global tariff war and approach to Russia's war on Ukraine are isolating the United States from allies. He's expected to announce deals with the three wealthy countries that will touch on artificial intelligence, expanding energy cooperation and perhaps new arms sales to Saudi Arabia. The administration earlier this month announced initial approval to sell \$3.5 billion worth of air-to-air missiles for

## 13 killed as expired military munitions explode in Indonesia

**Java, (HS) :** At least 13 people were killed in an explosion during a disposal of expired military ammunition in West Java Antara News has reported citing the Indonesian Defence Forces. The blast took place on Monday. Those who died include four military officers, who were part of the operation to dispose expired ammunition in Sagara village in West Java's Garut district. As per Antara News, the Chief of Indonesian military's (TNI) Information Office, Major General Kristomei Sianturi, said that their bodies have been evacuated to the Pameungpeuk Regional General Hospital for autopsy and pre-funeral handling. "We are coordinating with on-site officers to secure and clear the incident site as a precaution against other potential explosions," he said during a TV interview in Jakarta on Monday. Citing the military, Antara News reported that the explosion occurred at 9:30 am local time when Army officers were trying to dispose of expired and unused ammunition at a site belonging to the Garut District Natural Resources Conservation Agency (BKSDA). "The Garut BKSDA site has been regularly used for the disposal of

Saudi Arabia's fighter jets. But Trump arrived in the Middle East at a moment when his top regional allies, Israel and Saudi Arabia, are far from neatly aligned with his approach. Before the trip, Trump announced that Washington was halting a nearly two-month US airstrike campaign against Yemen's Houthis, saying the Iran-backed rebels have pledged to stop attacking ships along a vital global trade route. The administration didn't notify Israel - which the Houthis continue to target - of the agreement before Trump publicly announced it. It was the latest example of Trump leaving the Israelis in the dark about his administration's negotiations with common adversaries. In March, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu wasn't notified by the administration until after talks began with Hamas about the war in Gaza. And Netanyahu found out about the ongoing US nuclear talks with Iran only when Trump announced them during an Oval Office visit by the Israeli leader last month.

"Israel will defend itself by itself," Netanyahu said last week following Trump's Houthi truce announcement. "If others join us - our American friends - all the better." William Wechsler, senior director of the Rafik Hariri Center and Middle East Programs at the Atlantic Council, said Trump's decision to skip Israel on his first Middle East visit is remarkable. "The main message coming out of this, at least as the itinerary stands today, is that the governments of the Gulf ... are in fact stronger friends to President Trump than the current government of Israel at this moment," Wechsler said.

## Bangladesh: Pakistan High Commissioner Flees Country after His 'Scandalous Activities' Bring Shame to Islamabad

**Dhaka, (HS) :** Pakistan's High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Syed Ahmed Maroof's sudden leave and disappearance from the country has set rumour mills abuzz, not only on social media but also in political and diplomatic circles from Dhaka to Islamabad.

Citing sources in the Bangladesh's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, local media reported that Maroof has proceeded on an indefinite leave since May 11 and is currently outside the country. It was revealed that Maroof did not get any protocol nor any formalities as he cautiously left Dhaka for Pakistan on May 11 via Dubai on an Emirates flight. Pakistan's Deputy High Commissioner in Dhaka, Muhammad Asif, is serving as the Acting High Commissioner in the absence of Syed Ahmed Maruf. Normally, the Deputy High Commissioner takes over in the absence of an officer in such a position. Several social media posts indicated that Maroof,



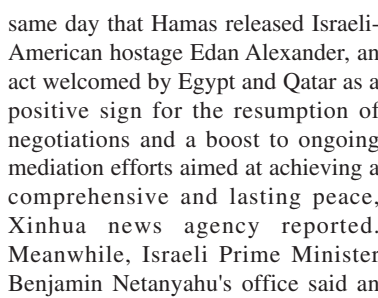
who began his diplomatic duties in the country in December 2023, was recalled because of his involvement in a scandal involving a woman at a hotel in Cox's Bazar. "Ahmed Maroof was involved with one Hafiza Haque Shah, a senior

official working with a Bangladeshi bank. Officials at the Pakistan Embassy also knew about this as she used to visit him regularly. But during Maroof's latest visit to Cox's Bazar, the issue of their immoral relationship came to the fore more

prominently and the scandal became too conspicuous to suppress. That is why Pakistan has been forced to take back their important asset," an official stated on the condition of anonymity. Social media is abuzz about Maroof's scandalous activities with Shah. Inputs confirmed that, faced with a potential diplomatic embarrassment, Pakistan had no choice but to withdraw one of its key operatives from the Bangladeshi soil. According to the available details, Maroof had left Dhaka on May 8 for Cox's Bazar and was scheduled to return on May 10. This was his second visit to Cox's Bazar in three months. Earlier, Maroof had visited Cox's Bazar on February 6-7 for a vacation with his wife. During this time, he also held a long meeting with a team of Rohingya - Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) and Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) in the presence of Jamaat Amir Shafiqur Rahman. These two groups are under

international scrutiny for their links to extremism. On February 8, for the first time in 16 years, a party workers' conference was held in Cox's Bazar in the presence of the Jamaat Ameer. The conference was organised by the Cox's Bazar district branch of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami. Sources further stated that in the last nine months, Maroof had been criss-crossing the nation, convening meetings, engaging with fringe groups in the volatile political environment of Muhammad Yunus's Bangladesh and shaping a network designed to reassert Pakistani influence through soft power and ideological infiltration.

Interestingly, this would be the third recall of Pakistani diplomats from Bangladesh. It may be mentioned that in January 2015, Mazhar Khan, a Pakistani official working at the Dhaka mission was expelled after Bangladesh intelligence accused him of funding Islamist radicals and peddling fake currency.



same day that Hamas released Israeli-American hostage Edan Alexander, an act welcomed by Egypt and Qatar as a positive sign for the resumption of negotiations and a boost to ongoing mediation efforts aimed at achieving a comprehensive and lasting peace, Xinhua news agency reported. Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said an



**New Delhi, (HS) :** The past week saw India and Pakistan exchange heavy fire after New Delhi launched Operation Sindoor to avenge the Pahalgam terror attack. Artillery guns screamed on the borders and the people of the two countries argued on social media. But at a polarised time such as this, many on both sides of the border were united on one subject -- the criticism of Pakistan Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, whose bizarre remarks provoked the much-needed comic relief amid a tense, war-like situation. During an interview with Sky News on April 25, Mr Asif effectively admitted that Pakistan has been backing terrorism and accused Western powers of conveniently blaming Pakistan. "When we were fighting on their side, way back in the 80s against the Soviet Union, all these terrorists of today were wining and dining in Washington, DC," he said. To a question on whether he admits that Pakistan had a long history of backing terror, he replied, "Well, we have been doing this dirty work for the United States for three decades and the West, including Britain. That was a mistake and we suffered for that."



## US-China tariff deal may undercut India's trade advantage

**New Delhi, (HS) :** With the US and China reaching an agreement to significantly reduce tariffs on each other's imports, India may lose the edge it had gained from the earlier imposition of reciprocal duties. The US had initially levied an additional 26% tariff on imports from India-much lower than the 145% imposed on Chinese goods. At the time, the view was that this skewed tariff structure could help India attract manufacturing operations shifting out of China. However, on Monday, China and the US reached a deal under which the US will cut tariffs on Chinese imports from 145% to 30%, while China will reduce duties on US products from 125% to 10%. These reductions will not impact any sector-specific tariffs or exemptions that existed prior to April 2, 2025.

Currently, Indian goods face a 10% baseline duty in the US, after Washington decided to pause the 26% reciprocal tariff for 90 days. The narrowing of this tariff gap could intensify competition for Indian exporters. "It could entail stark competition for Indian exporters considering the narrowing of the tariff gaps between Chinese and Indian exports," says Krishan Arora, Partner and Leader, India Investment Advisory Services at Grant Thornton Bharat LLP. He adds that India Inc must now revisit its production and logistics costs and develop more efficient value chains to remain competitive in export markets. Since the US ramped up tariffs on Chinese imports to 145%, India had hoped to benefit from the high tariff differential. iPhone maker Apple had even announced that the majority of

## World trade chief says global free trade is in a 'crisis'

**TOKYO, (HS) :** Global free trade is in crisis, the head of the World Trade Organization chief said Tuesday while meeting Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba on Tuesday. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, director-general of the World Trade Organization, told Ishiba that she has high expectations for Japan as a champion of open markets as US President Donald Trump disrupts world commerce with his fast-changing tariffs and other policies.

"Trade is facing very challenging times right now and it is quite difficult," she said. "We should try to use this crisis as an opportunity to solve the challenges we have and take advantage of new trends in trade." Japan, as "a champion of the multilateral trading system" must help maintain, strengthen and reform the WTO, the Japanese Foreign Ministry cited her as saying. They met a day after the United States and China said they had agreed to slash recent sky-high tariffs for 90 days to allow time for negotiations. Japan is among many countries yet to reach a deal with the Trump administration on hikes to US tariffs, including those on autos, steel



and aluminum. The WTO played a pivotal role in past decades as the US and other major economies championed the trade liberalization that facilitated the growth of global supply chains, many of which are anchored in China. By dismantling many protectionist barriers to trade, it has aided the ascent of Japan and China, and many other countries, as export manufacturing hubs. Since taking office for a second time, Trump has prioritized higher tariffs to try to reduce US imports and compel companies to locate factories in the United States, doubling down on a trade

war that he launched during his first term. The two leaders agreed that WTO member countries should unite to restore the organization's capacity to address challenges.

Okonjo-Iweala was visiting Japan to strengthen cooperation between Japan and the WTO to maintain and reinforce the multilateral trading system, Japanese officials said. She also was scheduled to meet with Foreign Minister Takeshi Iwaya, Finance Minister Katsumasa Kato and Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Yoji Muto.

Global University, says an immediate reorientation of supply chains was unlikely, even under the earlier high-tariff regime. He adds that export-competitive manufacturing in India remains limited, and expecting significant gains from reciprocal tariffs was not realistic.

iPhones sold in the US during the April-June 2025 quarter would be manufactured in India, fueling hopes that a broader shift of manufacturing from China to India was underway. However, with the new US-China trade deal, that shift now seems uncertain.

"While low-investment assembly

operations may linger in India for now, deeper manufacturing-the kind that builds real industrial ecosystems-may stall or even return to China," says Ajay Srivastava, Founder, Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI). Meanwhile, Deepanshu Mohan, Professor of Economics at OP Jindal

## Need to create zones green energy to achieve Net Zero emission : Manohar Lal

**New Delhi(PIB):** The Regional Conference for the Western Region States was held on 13th May in Mumbai in presence of Shri Devendra Fadnis, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Maharashtra and Shri Manohar Lal, Hon'ble Union Minister of Power and Housing & Urban Affairs. The meeting was also attended by Shri Shripad Naik, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy, Shri. Ramkrishna alias Sudin Dhavalikar (Hon'ble Minister of Power, Goa), Shri Kanubhai Mohanlal Desai. (Hon'ble Minister of Energy, Gujarat), Shri Pradyuman Singh Tomar (Hon'ble Energy Minister, Madhya Pradesh, through VC) and Smt. Meghana Sakore Bordikar (Hon'ble Minister of State for Energy, Maharashtra). The meeting saw the participation of the Union Power Secretary, Secretaries (Power/Energy) of participating States, CMDs of Central and State Power Utilities, and senior officers from the Ministry of Power.

Secretary (Power), Government of India (GoI) highlighted that it is crucial to ensure necessary capacity tie-ups as per the resource adequacy plan for upto FY2035 so as to meet future power



demand. It is also imperative to make necessary arrangements for development of inter-state and intra-state transmission capacities through various financing models available including Tariff Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB), Regulated Tariff Mechanism (RTM), budgetary support or monetization of existing assets. Hon'ble Chief Minister, Maharashtra in his address welcomed the guests and highlighted the key steps taken by the State towards improving the quality and reliability of power supply across the State. He also mentioned about the

proposed plan of the State for reducing the AT&C losses and thus reducing the cost of supply. Hon'ble Union Minister in his address underlined the importance of a future-ready, modern, and financially viable power sector to fuel the country's growth. He outlined the importance of cooperation and coordination between Central and the State Governments in achieving the goal of Viksit Bharat by 2047. He emphasized upon the need to enhance the Nuclear Generation Capacity in the country with the target of 100 GW by 2047. He mentioned about the need to create special zones for green energy

## Bharti Airtel Q4 results: Profit after tax soars 503% to 12,475 crore

**New Delhi, (HS) :** Bharti Airtel has reported a net profit of 12,475 crore in the fourth quarter of financial year 2024-25, registering a growth of 503 per cent from Q4 profit of 2,068.2 crore during the previous financial year. The company's revenue from operations increased 27 per cent to 47,876.2 crore, compared to last year's Q4 revenue of 37,599.1 crore. The company attributed the rise in revenue to currency revenue growth in Africa, "Revenue rise was driven by strong underlying momentum in India, rebound in reported currency revenue growth in Africa and full quarter impact of Indus Towers consolidation.", the company said in an exchange filing.

## Major ports' cargo rises 4.3% in FY25; PPA & DPA cross 150 MT

**New Delhi/Paradip, (DMC) :** India's Major Ports have consistently demonstrated remarkable progress over the past decade, with FY 2024-25 emerging as a milestone year in terms of cargo handling, operational efficiency, and infrastructure modernisation.

In FY 2024-25, Major Ports registered an impressive annual growth rate of 4.3% in cargo handling, increasing from 819 million tonnes in FY 2023-24 to ~855 million tonnes in FY 2024-25. This growth highlights the resilience and capacity of Major Ports in accommodating rising trade volumes. The increase in traffic was driven by higher container throughput (10%), fertilizer cargo handling (13%), POL cargo handling (3%), and handling of miscellaneous commodities (31%) compared to the previous fiscal year. Among commodities handled at Major Ports, Petroleum, Oil, and Lubricants (POL)-including crude, petroleum products, and LPG/LNG-led the charts with a volume of 254.5 million tonnes (29.8%), followed by container traffic



at 193.5 million tonnes (22.6%), coal at 186.6 million tonnes (21.8%), and other cargo categories such as iron ore, pellets, fertilizers, and more in FY 2024-25.

For the first time in the history of Major Ports, the Paradip Port Authority (PPA) and Deendayal Port Authority (DPA) surpassed the 150-million-tonne cargo handling mark, reinforcing their status as key hubs of maritime trade and operational excellence. Meanwhile, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority

(JNPA) set a record by handling 7.3 million TEUs, reflecting a 13.5% year-on-year growth. In FY 2024-25, Indian ports collectively allocated 962 acres of land for port-led industrialization, projected to generate an income of ₹7,565 crore in FY 2024-25. Furthermore, lessees are expected to make future investments of ₹68,780 crore on the allotted land, reaffirming investor confidence in port-led development. Private sector

## India's Retail Inflation Eases to 3.16 Pc in April

**New Delhi, (HS):** India's retail inflation fell to 3.16 per cent in April from 3.34 per cent in March to its lowest level since July 2019, as food prices eased further bringing respite to household budgets, according to figures released by the Ministry of Statistics on



Tuesday. Food inflation, which accounts for nearly half of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket, slowed to 1.78 per cent in April, compared to 2.69 per cent in March. This is for the third month in row that inflation has stayed below the RBI's 4 per cent medium-term target and will enable the central bank to continue with its soft money policy to spur economic growth.

India's annual inflation rate based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) declined to 3.34 per cent in March this year, compared to the same month of the previous year, which was the lowest level since August 2019. Retail inflation in the country has been on a declining trend in recent months. The Reserve Bank's Monetary Policy Committee has reduced its inflation forecast for 2025-26 to 4 per cent from 4.2 per cent earlier as the "outlook for food inflation has turned decisively positive," said RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra during the monetary policy review meeting recently. The outlook for food inflation has turned decisively positive. The uncertainties regarding rabi crops have abated considerably and the second advance estimates point to a record wheat production and higher production of key pulses over that last year, the RBI Governor pointed out. He observed that along with robust kharif arrivals, this is expected to set the stage for a durable softening of food inflation. "The sharp decline in inflation expectations in our latest survey for three months and one year ahead would also help anchor inflation expectations, going ahead," he pointed out.

Furthermore, the fall in crude oil prices augurs well for the inflation outlook. Concerns on lingering global market uncertainties and recurrence of adverse weather-related supply disruptions, however, pose upside risks to the inflation trajectory. He said that taking all these factors into consideration, and assuming a normal monsoon, CPI inflation for the financial year 2025-26 is projected at 4.0 per cent, with Q1 at 3.6 per cent; Q2 at 3.9 per cent; Q3 at 3.8 per cent; and Q4 at 4.4 per cent. Malhotra also sees the risks are evenly balanced.

## Sensex and Nifty crash 1.5% each after Monday's rally

**New Delhi, (HS) :** India's equity markets witnessed sharp selling pressure on Tuesday, with benchmark indices plunging over 1.5% as investors cashed in on gains following Monday's rally. The Sensex plummeted 1,282 points (1.55%) to close at 81,148, while the Nifty 50 dropped 346 points (1.33%) to 24,578. On Monday, Sensex and Nifty had logged their biggest intraday gains in the last four years amid easing geopolitical tensions between India and Pakistan. IT stocks bore the brunt of the sell-off on Tuesday, with heavyweights like Infosys, TCS, and HCL Technologies sliding 3-4% on profit booking. Auto and FMCG sectors also saw steep declines, reflecting broader market weakness. However, PSU banking, pharma, and defence stocks bucked the trend, eking out modest gains. Broader markets displayed a mixed trend. The small-cap index ended in positive territory, while the mid-cap index closed flat. "The relief-driven surge-fuelled by easing global and domestic risks, including a reduction in trade war tensions and Indo-Pak geopolitical stress-appears to be taking a breather," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited. He added, "This consolidation is primarily affecting large-cap stocks, while mid- and small-cap segments continue to gain traction. This divergence is expected to persist, supported by broad-based earnings improvements reflected in Q4 results so far.

to achieve Net Zero emission.

He mentioned that the distribution sector is most critical link in the power sector value chain. However, it faces challenges due to poor tariff structures, sub-optimal billing and collection, and delayed payments of Government department dues and subsidies. It is essential to reduce the AT&C losses and the gap between Average Cost of Supply and Average Revenue Realised, to ensure that the distribution sector becomes viable. To achieve that, it is essential that the tariffs are cost-reflective and Government dues and subsidies are paid on time to the DISCOMs. He commended the States of Gujarat, Goa and Chhattisgarh for their performance in reducing AT&C losses. He also highlighted that distribution utilities should further strive to improve efficiency through implementation of infrastructure and smart metering works under RDSS. In this direction, the Ministry has also facilitated ease for fund flows for smart metering works. He also emphasised that the pre-paid smart meters should be prioritised for installation in Government establishments including Government colonies and should be completed by August 2025.

## Indian Rupee Opens Stronger against US Dollar

**Mumbai, (HS) :** The Indian rupee opened 75 paise stronger at 84.65 against the US dollar on Tuesday, following its previous close at 85.38 a dollar. The trading range for the day was expected to be between 84.50 and 85.25, according to analysts. The dollar maintained its gains following a significant trade pact

between the US and China. The US will reduce tariffs on Chinese goods from 145 per cent to 30 per cent for 90 days, while China said it will cut tariffs on US goods from 125 per cent to 10 per cent for 90 days. The two countries will establish a mechanism to continue discussions about economic and trade relations.

## Coal Imports Drops by 9.2%



**New Delhi, (HS) :** Coal imports in the country declined by 9.2 per cent to 220.3 million tonnes (MT) during April 2024 to February 2025 - compared to 242.6 MT in the same period of previous fiscal year due to an increase in domestic production, the government said on Tuesday. This reduction in coal imports resulted in foreign exchange savings of approximately \$6.93 billion (₹3137.82 crore) for the country, said the Ministry of Coal.

The non-regulated sector, excluding the power sector, experienced a more significant decline, with imports dropping by 15.3 per cent year-on-year. Although coal-based power generation grew by 2.87 per cent from April 2024 to February 2025 compared to the previous year, imports for blending by thermal power plants sharply decreased by 38.8 per cent. This highlights India's ongoing efforts to reduce its dependence on imported coal and enhance self-sufficiency in coal production, the statement explained. The government has implemented several initiatives, including Commercial Coal Mining and Mission Coking Coal, to enhance domestic coal production and reduce imports. These efforts have also led to an encouraging 5.45 per cent growth in coal output during the April 2024 to February 2025 period, compared to the same period of FY 2023-24. India's coal sector plays a pivotal role in supporting its rapidly growing economy, with coal serving as a primary energy source for critical industries like power, steel and cement, etc. However, the country faces a significant challenge in meeting its domestic coal demand, especially for coking coal and high-grade thermal coal, which are in short supply within the country's reserves. As a result, coal imports have been vital to meet the needs of key sectors, including steel.

The Ministry of Coal has been implementing strategic measures to strengthen domestic production and ensure a secure coal supply, aligning with India's goals of reducing coal imports and enhancing energy security. By prioritising domestic coal output, the government aims to march ahead towards Viksit Bharat goal by building a self-reliant, sustainable energy framework that supports long-term economic growth, the statement added.

tirelessly to modernize port infrastructure, enhance operational efficiency, and foster private sector participation, paving the way for unprecedented growth in India's maritime sector. These milestones would not have been possible without the collaborative efforts of the Ministry, port authorities, officials, and employees, whose dedication and commitment have been instrumental in driving this decade of progress. From record-breaking cargo handling to significant improvements in operational parameters and financial performance, the achievements of FY 2024-25 reflect the resilience and readiness of our ports to support India's growing trade ambitions.

As we continue to scale new heights, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all stakeholders for their unwavering support and contributions. Together, we are building globally competitive, sustainable, and future-ready ports that will power India's economic growth and global trade footprint in the years to come."





## Alia Bhatt's Emotional Post For Indian Soldiers

Alia Bhatt has blended Mother's Day message with nationalistic pride amid India-Pakistan tensions. On Tuesday, Alia Bhatt wrote a long emotional post, dedicated to the Indian soldiers and their spirited mothers. Alia Bhatt began the note with these words, "The last few nights have felt... different. There's a certain stillness in the air when a nation holds its breath. And over the past few days we've felt that stillness. That quiet anxiety."

"That pulse of tension that hums beneath every conversation, behind every

news notification, around every dinner table." Praising the indomitable spirit of the mothers who raised brave soldiers, unflinching at their duties, Alia Bhatt wrote, "It's sacrifice. And behind every uniform is a mother who hasn't slept either. A mother who knows her child is facing a night not of lullabies, but of uncertainty. Of tension. Of silence that can shatter in an instant." "On Sunday we celebrated Mother's Day. And while flowers were being handed out and hugs were exchanged, I

couldn't help but think of the mothers who raised heroes and carry that quiet pride with just a little more steel in their spine," she added. "So tonight, and every night forward, we hope for less silence born of tension, and more silence born of peace. And send love to every parent out there holding prayers, holding back tears. Because your strength moves this nation more than you'll ever know. We stand together. For our protectors. For India. Jai Hind," Alia Bhatt signed off.

Take a look: On April 22,

26 civilians, mostly tourists, were killed in the Baisaran valley near Pahalgam, Jammu-Kashmir in a terrorist attack. India launched a retaliatory attack on Pakistan and POK-based terror hideouts in the codename of Operation Sindoor. Amid heightened tensions, Pakistan started drone attacks in different parts of India. On May 10, the two countries agreed for a ceasefire. While the world was celebrating mother's day on Sunday, the actor couldn't stop thinking about others who raised heroes and

carry the pride with more steel in their spine. She ended her note by saluting the officers and their mothers while hoping for less silence of tension and more silence of peace. She stands with the soldiers, for the protectors and for India. This emotional post came amidst the heightened tensions between India and Pakistan. After India launched a retaliatory attack on POK based terror hideouts. After which Pakistan started drone attacks in different parts of India. On May 10, both the countries agreed for a ceasefire.

## Anupam gets teary-eyed as he leaves country for work amid India-Pak conflict



In a heartfelt video, Anupam Kher discusses his growth alongside India, emphasizing gratitude for his success and the support of his homeland. Veteran actor Anupam Kher has shared an emotional video talking about the growing tensions between India and Pakistan. Anupam opened about feeling heavy-hearted as he leaves the country for work at such a sensitive time.

In the video, Anupam mentioned that he was packing and getting ready to go abroad but did not feel good even though his next directorial venture, Tanvi The Great, is achieving a great milestone. The film will have its world premiere at Cannes International film festival this year which starts on May 13. He captioned the video as, "Country

is the only one that can make you feel strong! Just like that! My mind was a little heavy, so I thought I should talk to you people from my heart. And didn't realise the video got longer! If you like it then watch it completely! If you like it more then share it too! Jai Hind! Hail India! #India #Hindustan."

In almost 9 minute long video, Anupam said, "Whenever I feel low, I think about where I started and where I've reached. That gives me strength. I realised I'm only eight years younger than my country. Bharat was born on August 15, 1947, and I was born on March 7, 1955. We've grown up together - like siblings." Opening up about his humble beginnings, Anupam reminded his audience that he is grateful for all the success in his life and it is

only because of the country he is born in. The Dilwale Dulhaniya Le Jaenge actor further mentioned, "I came to this city 43 years ago with 37 in my pocket. Today, I've completed 545 films. I live in a rented house, but I have a car, a bungalow, and, above all, I have my mother. Who gave me all this? This country did. Of course, we work hard, but it is this land that makes our dreams possible." While closing the video, the actor said, "We are an incredible country. Tiranga, Bharat Mata Ki Jai, these are cathartic words. One feels catharsis after saying this. Are these words only important for soldiers? No, it is important for citizens too. We lost some brave soldiers recently. Their families have suffered an irreparable loss. We can still live on but their loss is forever. When you think of their pain, your own sorrow starts to feel small."

"It felt nice after sharing with you. I don't know if one gets emotional too quickly at this age. I don't think about age too much, in fact I think I am a fearless person from inside. But when it comes to your country...then... it is only your country which can make you feel strong," Anupam said.

## Bhushan Kumar to present Rishab Shetty starrer 'Jai Hanuman'

'Kantara' fame Rishab Shetty starrer upcoming mythological project 'Jai Hanuman' has already created a buzz since its announcement on the occasion of Pran Pratishtha of the Ayodhya Ram Mandir. The film, directed by Prasanth Varma, will feature Rishab Shetty as Lord Hanuman. Now, the makers have shared an update that Bhushan Kumar will present the upcoming mythological epic produced by Mythri Movie Makers.

While sharing an update about the film, Varma said in a statement, "'Jai Hanuman' is a dream project that combines mythology with modern filmmaking techniques. The film is not just about the undying spirit of devotion and courage that Lord Hanuman embodies but also a reminder that strength guided by faith can move mountains." Bhushan Kumar will present 'Jai Hanuman', which is produced by Mythri Movie Makers, as per the press release. Taking to the Instagram handle, trade analyst Taran Adarsh wrote, "BHUSHAN KUMAR TO PRESENT RISHAB SHETTY - MYTHRI - PRASANTH VARMA'S PAN-INDIA EPIC 'JAI HANUMAN'... In a landmark collaboration, #BhushanKumar [#T-Series] will present the upcoming epic #JaiHanuman, produced by



#MythriMovieMakers. Featuring #NationalAward winning actor #RishabShetty in the title role, #JaiHanuman is helmed by #PrasanthVarma, the visionary director of #HanuMan. #JaiHanuman is produced by #NaveenYerneni and #YRaviShankar... All set to go on floors soon."

On speaking about the collaboration, Bhushan Kumar, said, "With Jai Hanuman, we are stepping further into large-scale, culturally rooted storytelling. Collaborating with Mythri Movie Makers, we are thrilled to introduce a film that is a celebration of Indian cinema and timeless devotion - our long-

standing partnership with them and Rishab Shetty's performance makes the journey even more special." Produced by Naveen Yerneni and Y. Ravi Shankar (Mythri Movie Makers), Jai Hanuman will celebrate faith and storytelling, supported by high production values and cutting-edge cinematic technology. "We are incredibly proud to bring Jai Hanuman to audiences everywhere - a film that's close to our hearts. We are happy to have Rishab Shetty onboard for the film..." added the producer. The film, which is all set to go on floors soon, will pay tribute to one of the most revered icons in Indian culture.

## Vijay Sethupathi starrer 'Ace' trailer out now

The trailer for the Vijay Sethupathi and Rukmini Vasanth starrer 'Ace' is finally out. The trailer, shared by actor Sivakarthikeyan on X, gives fans a sneak peek into what looks like an exciting entertainer. Along with the trailer, the actor wrote a caption that read, "Happy to release the trailer of dear @VijaySethuOffi's #ACE. Wishing the entire team great success. The ending was a sweet surprise for me." The three-minute trailer introduces viewers to Vijay Sethupathi's character, 'Bold' Kannan, who arrives in Malaysia after cutting ties with his past. Viewers also get to see Yogi Babu and Rukmini Vasanth playing key roles in the film. Meanwhile, Ace is set to release in theatres on May 23.

## Gambhir to Enjoy 'Rare' Power After Virat Exit

**New Delhi, (HS) :** Greg Chappell's fall was spectacular when he tried to impose his authority while Anil Kumble could not deal with alpha male stardom but it seems Gautam Gambhir is on course to become that rare India head coach who will wield more power than the skipper. Indian cricket is replete with examples where powerful managers had to back out in front of player-power. Bishan Singh Bedi, Chappell and Kumble despite being champion players themselves didn't realise that they have to play the second fiddle. John Wright, Gary Kirsten and Ravi Shastri knew that and were immensely successful.

With the retirements of Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and Ravichandran Ashwin, there aren't many megastars left in the Test team and it gives Gambhir time and space to manoeuvre and move his strategic pieces on the cricketing chess board. If sources in the BCCI are to be believed, Gambhir had objectives in his bucket-list and the biggest was abolition of star culture in the team. "The Gautam Gambhir era begins now. He was categorical that during the next WTC cycle, India need to have fresh faces," a BCCI source told PTI on the condition of anonymity. "Everyone, associated with decision making knew where



Gambhir stood in terms of carrying seniors in the longest format. Obviously his and chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar's thoughts aligned," he added. In Indian cricket, the captain has always been that central figure who would prevail over coaches even they were equally-powerful personalities. Sourav Ganguly, Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Kohli and Rohit Sharma all had the last say in the national teams that they led. But not anymore with Gambhir, who is now undoubtedly the most powerful figure with the last word resting with him. Rahul Dravid-Rohit Sharma combination had a brief but

eventful journey unlike Rohit Sharma-Gambhir, which never seemed like a happy marriage. With Kohli though, Gambhir had signed truce with powerful people acting mediators. This is the first time that a coach has got his way in terms of quick phasing out of mega stars.

But then power is a double edged sword. It is understood that in the transition phase of Indian cricket, Gambhir wanted the BCCI to empower him suitably so that debacle like Border-Gavaskar Trophy and New Zealand series at home isn't repeated anymore. In Shubman Gill, he would have a young captain, who will listen

to him, at least at least till he finds his footing. Gill is a superstar in making but has still not reached the level where he can question Gambhir's decisions and strategies.

The only person who could have had an independent voice is Jasprit Bumrah but his leadership ambitions have been neutralised by his dodgy fitness. Hence, Gambhir will have unfettered power, going forward just like he has in the T20 set-up. The only set up where he would still need to tread carefully is ODIs where Kohli and Rohit are still eying to compete till the 2027 ODI World Cup.

## Virat Visits Vrindavan With Anushka A Day After Test Retirement

**New Delhi, (HS) :** A day after announcing his retirement from Test cricket, Virat Kohli was spotted in Vrindavan, Uttar Pradesh, along with his wife, actress Anushka Sharma. A fan page on Instagram shared a collage of two pictures featuring the power couple. Anushka Sharma and Virat Kohli have gone to seek blessings from Swami Premanand Maharaj. In another video, posted by news agency ANI on X (formerly Twitter), the duo are arriving at Vrindavan in their car. On Monday, May 12, Virat Kohli shared a long note on Instagram, announcing his retirement. In his caption, the batting icon recalled how the red-ball cricket "tested" and "shaped" him.

Virat Kohli wrote, "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. 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." He added, "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." Anushka Sharma reacted to the big news in the sweetest way. She uploaded a snap with Virat Kohli on Instagram and penned an emotional note on Instagram. Take a look at her post here: Virat Kohli made his Test debut in 2011. He featured in 123 Tests for India, scoring 9230 runs with 30 hundreds at an average of 46.85.

## Novak Djokovic And Coach Andy Murray Part Ways After Six Months



**New Delhi, (HS) :** Novak Djokovic announced on Tuesday that he will be parting ways with his former rival and current coach, Andy Murray, after a stint of six months. Djokovic, 37, had brought Murray to his coaching staff ahead of the Australian Open 2025. Taking to Instagram, Djokovic said, "Thank you, coach Andy, for all the hard work, fun and support over last six months on and off the court. I really enjoyed deepening our friendship together." The partnership started in a promising way, with the icon defeating Carlos Alcaraz to make it to the quarterfinals of the Australian Open, the first Slam

of the year. However, an injury forced him to retire from the tournament during the semifinal against Alexander Zverev. Djokovic though, was full of praise he received from his long-time rival. Murray has won three Grand Slam titles, three Olympic medals, including two golds, before he called time on his career after the 2024 Paris Olympics. He has a 11-25 win-loss record against Djokovic. Since his recovery from injury, Djokovic has struggled with his form, losing to Jakub Mensik in the Miami Open final, Alejandro Tabilo in the second round of Monte Carlo, and Matteo Arnaldi in Madrid.