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English Daily



AT A GLANCE

IMD predicts thunderstorm activity till May 18

Bhubaneswar, 15/5 (DMC): The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Thursday predicted that thunderstorm activity with lightning, gusty surface winds are very likely to occur across Odisha during 15th to 18th May 2025. Thunderstorm with lightning with gusty surface wind speed reaching 50-60 kmph very likely to occur in the afternoon/evening hours at one or two places over the districts of Angul, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Bhadrak, Ganjam, Gajapati, Nawarangpur, Koraput, Malkangiri, and Rayagada.

Thunderstorm with lightning with gusty surface wind speed reaching 50- 60 kmph very likely to occur in the afternoon/evening hours at one or two places over the districts of Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Sundargarh, and Kalahandi. Thunderstorm with lightning with gusty surface wind speed reaching 40- 50 kmph very likely to occur in the afternoon/evening hours at

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'Can timelines be imposed & manner of exercise be prescribed through judicial orders?' President Murmu asks Supreme Court on assent to Bills

New Delhi, 15/5 (H.S): With the Supreme Court setting timelines for the President and Governors to act on Bills sent by state assemblies, President Droupadi Murmu has sought the top court's opinion under Article 143(1) on whether their actions are justiciable and whether such timelines can be imposed on them in the absence of any such provision in the Constitution.

In April this year, the Supreme Court set a timeline for Governors to act on Bills, and for the first time, prescribed that the President should take a decision on the Bills reserved for consideration by the Governor within three months from the date on which such reference is received. Under Article 201 of the Constitution, no timeframe has been set for a presidential decision.

The top court said that "in case of any delay beyond this period, appropriate reasons would have to be recorded and conveyed" to the state concerned. The court, in a ruling, declared the action of Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi as illegal and erroneous in reserving 10 Bills for consideration of the President in November 2023 after they had already been reconsidered by the state Assembly. "Is the exercise of constitutional discretion by the



President under Article 201 of the Constitution of India justiciable? In the absence of a constitutionally prescribed timeline and the manner of exercise of powers by the President,

can timelines be imposed and the manner of exercise be prescribed through judicial orders for the exercise of discretion by the President under Article 201 of the Constitution of India?" the President has sought to know. "Is the exercise of constitutional discretion by the Governor under Article 200 of the Constitution of India justiciable? Is Article 361 of the Constitution of India an absolute bar to judicial review in relation to the actions of a Governor under Article 200 of the Constitution of India? In the absence of a constitutionally prescribed time limit, and the

manner of exercise of powers by the Governor, can timelines be imposed and the manner of exercise be prescribed through judicial orders for the exercise of all powers under Article 200 of the Constitution of India by the Governor?"

President Murmu asked. The reference also sought to know; whether "in light of the constitutional scheme governing the powers of the President, is the President required to seek advice of the Supreme Court by way of a reference under Article 143 of the Constitution of India and take the opinion of the Supreme Court when the Governor reserves a Bill for the President's assent or otherwise?" "Are the decisions of the Governor and the President under Article 200 and Article 201 of the

Constitution of India, respectively, justiciable at a stage anterior into the law coming into force? Is it permissible for the Courts to undertake judicial adjudication over the contents of a Bill, in any manner, before it becomes law?" and "can the exercise of constitutional powers and the orders of/by the President / Governor be substituted in any manner under Article 142 of the Constitution of India?" Some of the other questions referred to the SC are, "What are the constitutional options before a Governor when a Bill is presented to him under Article 200 of the Constitution of India?"

Is the Governor bound by the aid & advice tendered by the Council of Ministers while exercising all the options available with him when a Bill is presented before him under Article 200 of the Constitution of India? "President Murmu pointed out that Article 200 of the Constitution, which prescribes the powers of the Governor and the procedure to be followed while assenting to Bills, withholding assent to Bills and reserving a Bill for the consideration of the President, "does not stipulate any time frame upon the Governor for the exercise of constitutional options."

'Blocks Are The Mirror of Governance': CM Majhi Sets Agenda For Grassroots Development



Bhubaneswar, 15/5 (DMC): Stressing the pivotal role of grassroots administration, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Thursday said that the government's success will be judged by the efficiency of its blocks and the extent to which citizens benefit from development schemes. Addressing a state-level conference of Chief Development Officers (CDOs) and Block Development Officers (BDOs) at the Convention Centre in Lok Seva Bhawan, Majhi declared, "Our blocks are the mirror of our administrative success. If the blocks function efficiently and people benefit from all schemes, it will be proof of the government's competence." He emphasized that the CDOs and BDOs act as the critical link between the government and the people. "You are the bridge. A strong and wide bridge ensures better communication and delivery. These schemes are not charity—they are the people's right. Never treat the public as objects of pity," he said. Asserting his commitment to public service, Majhi said, "Prime Minister Modi calls himself the Pradhan Sevak, and I too consider myself the Chief Servant of Odisha. You must work with the same mindset. Corruption and negligence will not be tolerated." He issued a clear warning that any dereliction of duty would result in strict action. The conference comes as the state seeks to enhance the delivery of key rural welfare schemes, including the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Antyodaya Griha Yojana, MGNREGS, Viksit Gaon Viksit Odisha, Subhadra, Vision 2036, and Vision 2047. On the implementation of MGNREGS, the Chief Minister reiterated his recent directive to ban the use of machines and ensure that at least 100 days of

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Odisha CM reaffirms support for steel industry growth



Bhubaneswar, (DMC): Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Thursday reiterated the state government's commitment to supporting the development of steel industries by ensuring the availability of raw materials and necessary infrastructure.

Speaking at a meeting with a delegation from the Indian Steel Association, led by industrialist Naveen Jindal, Majhi assured that the state would provide all necessary assistance within the framework of existing regulations, following proper consultations with stakeholders. The Chief

Minister emphasized the importance of scaling up steel production in Odisha and strengthening related infrastructure. Discussions during the meeting focused on increasing India's steel production capacity from the current 165 million tonnes per annum to 500 million tonnes by the year 2047.

Highlighting Odisha's strategic role in achieving this ambitious target, Majhi underscored the need to facilitate access to iron ore and other essential resources at competitive prices. He also addressed the issue

of accelerating the operationalization of already auctioned mines and the upcoming auction of additional iron ore blocks—official sources revealed that approximately 30 mines are set to be auctioned this year. The possibility of providing iron ore to steel producers at favorable rates through the state-owned Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC) was also explored. Following the meeting, Naveen Jindal remarked, "A delegation from the Indian Steel Association met with the Chief Minister and senior officials today.

We highlighted that India is now the second-largest steel producer globally, and Odisha has played a significant role in this achievement. The state has vast potential to further elevate its contribution to national steel output." Key officials present at the meeting included Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja, Additional Chief Secretary of the Steel and Mines Department Surendra Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary of the Industries Department Hemant Sharma, and secretaries from other relevant departments.

"Are Nukes Safe With Pak?" Rajnath Singh Calls For International Supervision



New Delhi, 15/5 (H.S): Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday questioned Pakistan's ability to handle nuclear weapons, days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi said India would not tolerate "nuclear blackmail" from Islamabad. The Defence Minister also called for international intervention to supervise Pakistan's nuclear weapons. "The world knows that our army's aim is accurate and

when they hit the target, they leave the counting to the enemies. How strong is India's pledge against terrorism today...it can be known from the fact that we did not even care about their nuclear blackmail. The whole world has seen how irresponsibly Pakistan has threatened India. Today, from the land of Srinagar, I want to raise this question whether nuclear weapons are safe in the hands of such an irresponsible

and rogue nation," Mr Singh said. He added, "I believe that Pakistan's nuclear weapons should be taken under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)". Follow India Pakistan News Live Updates Here Rajnath Singh visited the Army's 15 Corps Headquarters in Srinagar and interacted with army personnel during his first visit to the Valley after India's Operation Sindoor, a military strike on terror targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir to avenge the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack.

He also reviewed the overall security scenario and the combat readiness of the Indian Armed Forces and inspected the Pakistani shells that were dropped in the border areas. Mr Singh also visited the Army's 15 Corps Headquarters and interacted with the army personnel. The Defence Minister was accompanied by J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. Mr Singh also paid a tribute to the army personnel who fought the terrorists. "I would

Continued P-4

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର

ଜାତୀୟ ଡେଜୁ ଦିବସ

୧୬ ମଇ, ୨୦୨୫

“ଡେଜୁ ଏକ ମଣାବାହିତ ଭୂତାଣୁ ଜନିତ ଘାତକ ରୋଗ, କିନ୍ତୁ ଏହାର ସଫଳ ପ୍ରତିରୋଧ ସମ୍ଭବ । ପରିବେଶ ପରିଷ୍କାର ରଖିବା, ନିୟମିତ ମଶାରି ବ୍ୟବହାର କରିବା ଓ ଡେଜୁର ଲକ୍ଷଣ ଦେଖିଲେ ତୁରନ୍ତ ପରୀକ୍ଷା କରାଇ ଚିକିତ୍ସା କରିବା ଦ୍ୱାରା ଆମେ ଡେଜୁ କବଳରୁ ରକ୍ଷା ପାଇପାରିବା ।”

କ'ଣ କରିବା

- ପାଣି ଜମୁଥିବା ସ୍ଥାନ ଯଥା ଟିକା, ଷଡେଜ, ଡବା, ଟାୟାର, ଫୁଲଦାନୀ, ଏୟାର କୁଲର ଆଦି ଅନ୍ତତଃ ସଫାହରେ ଥରେ ସଫା କରନ୍ତୁ ।
- ଦିନ ହେଉ ବା ରାତି ଶୋଇଲାବେଳେ ମଶାରି ଟାଙ୍ଗନ୍ତୁ ।
- ପୁରା ହାତ ପୋଷାକ ପିନ୍ଧନ୍ତୁ ।
- କୁର ସହ ଦେହ ହାତ ଓ ଆଖି ବନ୍ଧିବା ଓ ଦେହରେ ଲାଲ ଲାଲ ହୋଇ ଫଳିଯିବା ଆଦି ଲକ୍ଷଣ ଦେଖିଲେ ତୁରନ୍ତ ଡାକ୍ତରଖାନାକୁ ଯାଆନ୍ତୁ ।

କ'ଣ କରିବା ନାହିଁ

- କୌଣସି ସ୍ଥାନରେ ୭ ଦିନରୁ ଅଧିକ ସମୟ ପାଣି ଜମିବାକୁ ଦିଅନ୍ତୁ ନାହିଁ ।
- ଘର ପାଖରେ ଲଟା ବୁଦା ବଢିବାକୁ ଦିଅନ୍ତୁ ନାହିଁ ।
- ଖୋଲା ଦେହରେ ବାହାରେ ବୁଲିବାକୁ କରନ୍ତୁ ନାହିଁ । (ବିଶେଷତଃ ସକାଳ ଓ ସନ୍ଧ୍ୟା ସମୟରେ)
- ଡାକ୍ତରଙ୍କ ବିନା ପରାମର୍ଶରେ ପୀଡା ନିବାରକ ଔଷଧ ଖାଆନ୍ତୁ ନାହିଁ ।

ଡେଜୁର ପରୀକ୍ଷା ଓ ଚିକିତ୍ସା ସରକାରୀ ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟକେନ୍ଦ୍ରମାନଙ୍କରେ ବିନା ମୂଲ୍ୟରେ ଉପଲବ୍ଧ ।

ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ଓ ପରିବାର କଲ୍ୟାଣ ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର

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Awami League

In its best version, the Awami League (AL), Bangladesh's oldest political party, embodied the principles that underpinned the founding of the country. Going against the political grain of the time, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman attempted to separate religion from government and national identity. That changed under General H M Ershad, who declared Islam the state religion in 1988. While the AL, under Sheikh Hasina's leadership, retained Islam's status as the state religion, it also guaranteed equal rights for Hindus and other religious communities. Bengali linguistic nationalism and secularism, therefore, have had an uneasy coexistence with orthodox Islam. Following Hasina's overthrow in August last year, however, religious conservatism has increasingly taken centre stage. It is reflected in a series of troubling developments: Attacks on the Hindu minority, the vandalism of Mujibur Rahman's home. Another disquieting move is the Muhammad Yunus-led interim government's decision to invoke an anti-terrorism law to suspend all activities of the AL, effectively barring it from participating in the upcoming general elections.

The sweeping ban is expected to remain in effect until the International Crimes Tribunal concludes its investigation into the party. Freezing all political activities and denying the AL a chance to contest the election is a serious blow to democracy. The people of Bangladesh may well choose to punish the AL for its heavy-handedness during the student movement last year. But this must be the prerogative of the voters. By clamping down on political rivals and opponents, the current regime may end up scoring the same kind of self-goal that Hasina did. Ensuring legitimacy and stability should be the top priority for all stakeholders in a country in which politics is still in flux. The vision of a new republic cannot be realised without free and fair elections.

With the AL unlikely to return to power in the foreseeable future, New Delhi must recalibrate its approach by initiating outreach to the Bangladesh Nationalist Party and the newly formed National Citizen Party. India should also reinforce its border security and continue to collaborate with Bangladesh on critical areas such as trade, regional connectivity, and counter-terrorism. Amid a fast-evolving geopolitical dynamic, it is essential that Delhi maintains an open and active diplomatic channel with Dhaka. And the interim government in Bangladesh must take concrete steps to protect the country's minorities.

16th May

International Day of Light



International Day of Light is celebrated annually on May 16 to celebrate the contribution of light and light-based technologies to various fields and areas of life, including arts and culture, education, medicine, communications, science, and sustainable development. Did you know that in 1802 Humphrey Davy invented the world's first electric lamp? International Day of Light commemorates the anniversary of physicist and engineer Theodore Maiman's first successful laser operation in 1960. The day is observed by the United Nations and administered by UNESCO's International Basic Science Programme (I.B.S.P.). International Day of Light is celebrated around the world through events and forums organized by people both inside and outside the scientific community. Since antiquity, humans have used various materials to produce light, ranging from hollow rock, shells, or wood soaked in animal fat and oil lamps to candles and gas. The modern history of light began with the invention of the electric light bulb. Contrary to popular belief, the light bulb was invented long before Thomas Edison patented it. Edison only made it possible for the light bulb to be manufactured commercially. In 1802, Humphrey Davy invented the electric arc lamp, an early predecessor of the incandescent electric bulb, by connecting voltaic piles to charcoal electrodes. However, the arc lamp was not a practical source of lighting as it was too bright for domestic or work uses, and it burned out quickly. This invention led to the creation of the miner's safety lamp in 1815 and street lighting in several European cities, including Paris, during the 1800s. In 1850, Joseph Swan solved one of the problems that electric lamp inventors have encountered over the years: the cost-effectiveness of the lamp's filament. In place of platinum filaments, Swan used cheap carbonized paper filaments. In 1878, he patented his electric lamp in the United Kingdom and demonstrated it at a lecture in Newcastle, England. Swan's invention, like Davy's arc lamp, was impractical for everyday use due to the inefficiency of its vacuum pumps. When Edison discovered the flaw in Swan's electric lamp, he made improvements and presented his light bulb in December 1879. Swan copied these improvements and established an electrical lighting company in England. Edison filed a patent infringement case against Swan, but this failed. Edison and Swan later formed an alliance called Edison-Swan United, which grew to become the world's largest light bulb manufacturer. In the early 1960s, Nick Holonyak, an employee at General Electric, accidentally invented the red LED light and patented it for use as a light fixture. In the early 1990s, Japanese and American scientists Isamu Akasaki, Hiroshi Amano, and Shuji Nakamura created the blue LED and were awarded the 2014 Nobel Prize in Physics for it. Scientists were able to create white LEDs as a result of this. Lighting is becoming more advanced and sophisticated, with the ability to light up homes and streets wirelessly - using smartphones and AI voice commands. Incandescent light bulbs are also being phased out, with halogen, LED, and OLED alternatives taking their place.

India Strikes Back: A New Era of Assertiveness

Political Dairy



Tejeswar Patnaik

The tragic killing of innocent Indian tourists in Pahalgam on April 22 shocked the nation and once again highlighted the persistent threat of cross-border terrorism. India's response was swift and decisive. On May 7, the Indian Armed Forces launched Operation Sindoor, a targeted military strike on terrorist bases located in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (Pok). These precision airstrikes signalled a new phase in India's counterterrorism strategy, reflecting its growing military and diplomatic assertiveness. The operation was not just symbolic. Backed by clear visual evidence, the strikes inflicted heavy damage on terrorist infrastructure. The Indian military's prompt release of footage helped establish the authenticity of the operation even as global media attention

intensified. However, alongside the military confrontation, India found itself battling an information war. Misleading narratives and fake news-some even from reputed Western media-tried to question the effectiveness of India's action and undermine the credibility of its defence systems. Despite such attempts, international military experts recognised India's strategic maturity. Austrian historian Tom Cooper praised the Indian missile strikes, particularly pointing out the destruction of critical Pakistani military infrastructure, including airbases like Nur Khan and Sargodha.

He argued that Pakistan's inability to deliver a credible counterattack exposed India's military superiority. Equally significant was the role of India's indigenous defence systems. At a press briefing, the Director General of Air Operations confirmed a successful strike on a surface-to-air missile system in Karachi's Malir Cantonment, achieved with surgical precision.

U.S. Army veteran John Spencer, Chair of Urban Warfare Studies at the Modern War Institute, commended India's technological self-reliance, even comparing its systems favourably with those used by China. India's response extended beyond military action. In a bold diplomatic move, the government revoked the Indus Waters Treaty, a significant step indicating that India is willing to use all tools of

statecraft against terrorism. The decision, while carefully measured, was intended to increase pressure on Pakistan without escalating into full-scale war. Amid the ceasefire that followed, controversy erupted when then-U.S. President Donald Trump claimed that the United States had brokered the peace deal. Prime Minister Narendra Modi promptly dismissed the claim, reiterating India's consistent policy of no third-party mediation on bilateral issues, especially concerning Kashmir.

Modi also made it clear that future dialogues with Pakistan would focus solely on Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and terrorism, not on the status of Kashmir itself. India also declared that any future terrorist act would be treated as a state-sponsored act of war. The geopolitical fallout of these events exposed the complexities of India's foreign partnerships.

While traditional allies like Russia and Israel reaffirmed their support for India's right to self-defence, certain challenges emerged. France, a key strategic partner and supplier of Rafale fighter jets, hesitated to share critical software codes and radar configurations. This raised concerns about India's reliance on foreign military technology and highlighted the urgent need for greater defence autonomy. The hypocrisy of the European Union and the West, too, stands exposed in this armed conflict. In

the global media space, bias became evident once again. Many Western outlets described Jammu and Kashmir as "India-occupied," presenting fake or inaccurate narratives. Meanwhile, countries such as Turkey, Azerbaijan, and China openly backed Pakistan. Turkey went further, supplying drone systems to aid Pakistan during the conflict. These actions drew sharp public backlash in India. Despite India's generous humanitarian assistance during Turkey's 2023 earthquake, including medical aid and disaster relief teams, Turkey's open support for Pakistan angered Indian citizens.

A massive "Boycott Turkey and Azerbaijan" campaign spread across social media. With over 300,000 Indian tourists visiting Turkey each year and tourism making up 12.5% of its GDP, many Indians began cancelling their travel plans. Indian traders also started reducing imports of Turkish goods like apples, sending a clear economic message.

Amid all this, India's economic rise and democratic dividend and digital technology have added to its strategic leverage. With a GDP of \$4.3 trillion, India is now the fifth-largest economy in the world and is expected to soon surpass Japan. Analysts believe India can leverage this economic strength to reshape its foreign policy, foster stronger trade relationships with other nations and expand its defence exports. The government's focus on 'Make in India' and 'Atma

Nirbhar Bharat' (self-reliant India), especially in the defence sector, has become more important than ever. Reducing dependence on foreign military suppliers will allow India greater control over its strategic assets and improve long-term security. Today, India ranks among the top four military powers globally, surpassing even some NATO countries in manpower, strategic doctrine, and emerging technologies.

Defence self-reliance is no longer just a goal-it's a necessity. Diplomatically, India must continue its efforts to isolate Pakistan on global platforms and build international coalitions against terrorism. The events following the Pahalgam attack have sent a clear message. India is no longer willing to absorb terrorist attacks silently. It will defend its sovereignty through precise military action, strategic diplomacy, and economic power.

More importantly, it will do so from a position of strength. As global challenges grow more complex, national unity, strategic clarity, and technological self-reliance are essential. India's path to global leadership depends on its ability to remain firm, focused, and fearless. Now is the time to stand united, resolute and vigilant-as India charts a bold new course in global affairs. Nation comes first, every thing Next.

Sri Patnaik is a writer

Death is a kind of compulsory eviction

Of all the stages through which a person will have to pass, death is the most certain. Everyone who is alive now will be dead sometime in the future. One day the eyes of those who see will fade and their tongues freeze into silence. Every human being will one day be leaving this world, never to return, and entering a world which he will never leave. No one can be sure when death will come; it might strike at any instant.

The gravity of the situation lies in death not being the end of life, but rather the beginning of a new, eternal life, a world of everlasting reward or retribution. Everyone is on a journey from life to death. Some have set their sights on the world, others on the Hereafter. Some strive to satisfy their own desires and egos, others are restless in the love and fear of God. Both types of people appear the same in this world. But in relation to life after death, there is a world of difference between the two: those who live in God and the Hereafter are redeeming themselves, while those who live in worldly pleasures and selfish desires are condemning themselves to doom. Death will overtake everybody; no one can



Prof. Dr. Samrat Kar

escape from it. But death is not the same for everyone. Some have made God their goal in life; they speak and keep silence for His sake alone; their attention is focussed entirely on the after-life. Death is for them the end of a long terrestrial journey towards their Lord. Others have forgotten their Lord; they do not do things for God's sake; they are travelling away from their Lord.

They are like rebels who roam at large for a few days, and then death seizes them and brings them to justice. The attitude - Righteous people have a different attitude to death from the disobedient. They are concerned with what comes in the wake of death; they focus their attention on gaining honourable position in the life after death.

Those who disregard the existence of God and the Hereafter, on the other hand, are caught up in worldly affairs. Their ultimate ambition is worldly honour and prestige. Under present circumstances, those who have consolidated their position on earth seem to be successful, but death will shatter this façade. It will become clear that those who seemed to have no base in the world were in fact standing on the most solid of foundations, while the position of those who had reached a high status in the world will be exposed as false.

Death will obliterate everything; afterwards only that which has some worth in the after-life will remain. Complete surrender - We are obsessed with the world, which meets our eyes. We fail to pay attention to the call of truth. If we were to see the next life with our worldly vision, we would immediately submit to God. We would realise that if we do not submit to Him today, we will have to do so in the future world, when submission will profit no one.

Psychiatrist, The Brain Foundation, Purighat Road, Cuttack

Progressing from formal to pure devotion

Utkalananda Ajaya Kumar Behera

Cultivated devotion is called vaedhi bhakti, formal devotion. With this, a person can approach Parama Purusha, Supreme Consciousness, but cannot become one with Him. To attain oneness, a sadhaka, requires raganuga bhakti or ragatmika bhakti, that is, ardent devotion that comes from within. Unless a sadhaka has ardent devotion for Parama Purusha, it is not possible to become one with Him.

When a sadhaka performs action, devotion awakens. This is the beginning of vaedhi bhakti. For example, some people pray, "O Parama Purusha, my neighbour's child has passed the school examination, but my child has failed. The teacher has made my child fail intentionally. Let that teacher be destroyed." This is tamasic, static bhakti. With this kind of bhakti you will attain

neither liberation nor salvation because you did not want either one. In rajasic devotion one does not think of harming anyone, but asks for a mundane favour for oneself. For example, one may pray to the Lord, "O Lord, please bless me so that I can score high marks in my exams and thereby procure a good job." To ask for worldly favours as a result of one's crude devotion to the Lord is not at all desirable.

The Lord may or may not fulfill your desires, but one thing is certain: you will never attain liberation or salvation because you did not desire it. All of this comes within the scope of vaedhi bhakti. There is a lack of genuine love for Parama Purusha in all these types of formal devotion. Shuddha bhakti, pure devotion, is para bhakti, the highest devotion for the Lord. The first stage of shuddha bhakti is raganuga bhakti. Now the devotee

says, "I love Parama Purusha. This is nothing to hide, nor is it anything to brag and boast about. I love Him because it makes me happy." This is raganuga bhakti. "I don't ask for anything, not even liberation or salvation. I love Him because that brings me joy." In the highest stage of devotion, the ideation is, "I love Parama Purusha because it makes Him happy.

I meditate on Him thinking that my meditation will bring joy to Him. This is my sole intention." This is ragatmika bhakti. When a devotee moves towards Parama Purusha with intense yearning for Him, it is called radha bhava. When a devotee finally reaches Parama Purusha by virtue of this intense radha bhava, it is called the union between Radha and Krishna.

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Life is a Challenge, meet it

Life is a challenge where you have to face every situation as a challenger, who has to come out from every hurdle coming in their way. And always remember every problem has a solution, the thing is that you have to understand the opportunities that has given to you. Usually, what happens with us? Whenever we trapped into an awful situation we get anxious and in that hustle-bustle we take wrong decisions which would have an adverse impact on our life too.

Thus, it is said that while taking an important decision, you should analyze every aspect and then take a right decision. Let us do not waste our time in discussing the things or worries that probably can't happen and the reason why it would be unwise to expect any change in that person or circumstances. Better to accept the fact that still there are things that can happen to change our life for better, options may be clearly positive. Troubles are just as waves in sea who have covered half of the globe in effort to touch you, it may be soothing or you just avoid the waves who have crossed half of the world to touch you, by stepping back.

Challenges are in fact to test your guts, so put best foot forward, rely on the best judgement. So once you have made up your mind about a matter, it will change way to reach different conclusions after carefully considering the matters in hand. Conventional wisdom tells us that we should put the past behind us? But why? Would it not make more sense to put it in front of us so that we can keep an eye on it? The past is as consistent as a chameleon, and as trustworthy as a politician. It answers its questions according to who happens to be doing the asking and what it suspects they want to hear. History is about to rewrite itself once more. Always consider your life as a god's gift and whatever we are today is just because of his grace



Kishore Kumar Jena

and love. We think that life is very difficult and full of hurdles but you know what when we eat something, we may wish to have some sweet as well as some spicy food then why we cannot make our life like a spicy food. Without adding a spice in a life you may find it boring and confined. There is no doubt that life is very beautiful then why we get anxious about difficulties and hurdles that we face in our life.

It is a part of life that one has to tackle difficulties. There is no human being on this earth who has not faced struggle, failure and problems. But the one who has overcome from it can lead towards the success. All these difficulties are designed to test your courage, patience and your temperament. These situations make you a better and a successful person.

One who faces difficulties with courage and accepts success without letting it go to its head is the one who experience real happiness, contentment and peace in life. According to Bhagawan Sri Satya Sai Baba, "Life is an opportunity, life is precious. So live your life to the fullest and live the way you want. And always remember, those, who accept these, Challenges and Succeed, are the ones. Thus, enjoy life but also be prepared to handle any situation.

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KIMS Unveils Advanced CO2 Laser Equipment for Bloodless ENT Surgeries & Faster Recovery



Bhubaneswar, (DMC): In a major boost to advanced surgical care, a state-of-the-art CO2 laser machine for ENT and cancer surgeries was inaugurated today at the Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) by the Founder of KIIT, KISS, and KIMS, Dr. Achyuta Samanta. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Kabikanta Samantaray, Head of the Department of ENT, highlighted the wide-ranging capabilities of the new equipment. "The CO2 laser is one of the most advanced tools in ENT and cancer surgery. With this latest and best-in-class technology, we can perform all types of

microsurgeries, including voice surgeries and complex vocal cord procedures," he said. Dr. Samantaray explained that the laser allows for precise, bloodless operations, especially in tongue, cheek, and vocal cord cancers. It is particularly effective for both early-stage and advanced cancers. "This technology ensures better outcomes and faster recovery for patients," he added. Affordability and accessibility are key priorities at KIMS. "While people often travel to cities like Mumbai or Delhi for laser surgeries, incurring high treatment and accommodation costs—we are now

offering the same high-quality laser surgeries here at KIMS for just Rs 30,000," Dr. Samantaray stated. The laser-based treatments will be available 24x7, providing continuous care for patients in need. "There is a growing demand for laser surgery, and with this facility, we aim to offer enhanced quality of life through precise and minimally invasive treatment," he affirmed. Senior functionaries of KIMS were present at the inaugural function. They included KIMS Principal Prof Dr R C Das, Medical Superintendent Dr Manas Ranjan Behera and others.

MP Aparajita Sarangi Flags off Tricolour Bike Rally in Support of Operation Sindoor

Khordha, (DMC): While the Indian government's Operation Sindoor has brought great success in protesting the terrorist attack in Pahalgao, Jammu & Kashmir, the value of every citizen in the security of India is unforgettable, said Bhubaneswar MP, Ms. Aparajita Sarangi in her speech while participating as the chief guest in support of Operation Sindoor in the bike rally organized by the Khordha district administration at P.N. Autonomous College premises today.

The bike rally accompanied by the rousing sounds of Desh Bhakti Nara and slogans, passed through Mukunda Prasad, Chandichua, New Bus Stand, Block Chhaka, around 5 km of the road. The statue of the eminent freedom fighter and Bapji Pandit Narayan Mishra was inaugurated by the chief guest MP, Ms. Sarangi, MLA, Khordha, Prasanta Kumar Jagdebh, Collector, Khordha, Chanchala Rana unveiled the



statue of Narayan Mishra. From there, they reached the District Cultural Office premises via B.R. Ambedkar Road & inaugurated the District Library & District Cultural Office Renovation House built at a cost of 1 crore 5 lakhs in accordance with the State Odia Language, Literature & Culture Department.

Saying that the district library will play an important role in educating the students, the MP said that in the coming days, libraries will be opened in every block & the processing system will be simplified for the students to acquire knowledge & build their future. Collector, Mr. Rana,

praised the MP for such an innovative scheme. Similarly, the MP mentioned that the sacrifice of freedom fighter Pandit Narayan Mishra is unmatched & thanked the revered khordha native Pandit Mishra for his dedicated service to the country. She said that Pandit Mishra will remain forever in the minds of the people.

MLA, Prasanta Kumar Jagdebh joined the meeting organized at the district library premises & discussed the main purpose of the Tricolour bike rally, saying that India's integrity & Operation Sindoor have brought the entire world to a

National Stock Exchange of India and Government of Odisha Sign MOU to enhance Financial Literacy through Investor Awareness Programs & Student Skilling in the BFSI sector across Odisha

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): India's leading stock exchange, the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and the Government of Odisha signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance Financial Literacy through Investor Awareness Programs and to implement the Student Skilling Programs for the youth across Odisha. This MOU was exchanged between Shri Sriram Krishnan, Chief Business Development Officer,

NSE and Shri Prashant Kishore Mohapatra, Special Secretary, Govt. of Odisha in the distinguished presence of Suryabanshi Suraj, Hon'ble Minister of State (I/C), Higher Education, Sports & Youth Services, Odia language, Literature & Culture, Govt. of Odisha, today at Bhubaneswar. As part of the understanding, NSE with the support of the Government of Odisha shall conduct awareness drive through seminars, camps, knowledge sessions, road shows, workshops to spread financial literacy and investor awareness. This MoU also aims to empower the youth with



industry-relevant skills and enhance their employability in the BFSI sector. Odisha has an expanding financial ecosystem and it is imperative to empower the students, investors and corporates. This understanding embraces various fabrics of the financial ecosystem targeting various stakeholders.

This multifaceted MoU is a step towards enhancing financial literacy, promoting investor awareness and fostering empowerment of the existing and new investors. Additionally, the MoU focuses on preparing youth with essential skills through NSE's Student Skilling Program—an initiative aligned

with the central government's vision of unlocking human capital and enabling both employability and self-employment in the BFSI sector. Shri Suryabanshi Suraj, Hon'ble Minister of State (I/C), Higher Education, Sports & Youth Services, Odia language, literature & Culture, Govt. of Odisha said,

"The Government of Odisha is proud to partner with NSE to drive financial literacy, investor awareness and student skilling in our region. This MoU is not just about expanding financial knowledge; it is about empowering our students with the knowledge and skills they

need with respect to financial sector. Together, we are creating a robust financial ecosystem that will pave the way for sustainable growth in Odisha". Shri Sriram Krishnan, Chief Business Development Officer, NSE said, "Our collaboration with the Government of Odisha highlights our shared dedication of boosting financial literacy and empowering investors. Through initiatives like investor awareness programs and the Student Skilling Program, we are fostering a well-informed community for both seasoned and new investors.

Moreover, we are also committed to equipping the youth of Odisha with the vital skills needed to thrive in today's ever-evolving financial landscape." From April 2024 to March 2025, NSE conducted 14,679 Investor Awareness Programs across all 36 states & Union Territories in 14 languages, reaching more than 8 lakh participants. Under the Student Skilling Program more than 7500 students have been trained across various states.

Principal Secy Usha Padhee Emphasizes Convergence of Goals For 'Viksit Odisha'

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): Principal Secretary Usha Padhee convened a joint review meeting with senior officials of the Commerce & Transport and Housing & Urban Development Departments. The meeting focused on fostering greater convergence between departmental initiatives in alignment with the Chief Minister's vision of a 'Viksit Odisha'.

Among the key areas discussed was the timely disbursement of pensions under various social security schemes—reflecting the government's unwavering commitment to protecting the dignity and welfare of the elderly and vulnerable. The review also underscored the critical importance of strengthening operations and maintenance (O&M) practices, particularly in urban infrastructure and transport services, to ensure long-term sustainability and uninterrupted



service delivery. The meeting highlighted the role of technology and integrated data systems in enhancing administrative efficiency.

Real-time monitoring and data-driven governance were identified as essential tools for boosting transparency, enabling informed decision-making, and improving overall service outcomes across sectors. Padhee emphasized the importance of inter-departmental collaboration and outcome-oriented planning in advancing development that is inclusive, resilient, and sustainable. She reiterated that innovation, institutional

capacity-building, and meaningful citizen engagement must form the bedrock of a future-ready Odisha. "The convergence of goals across departments is essential for building an Odisha that is not just developed, but also equitable and efficient.

Our focus remains on systems that deliver with speed, empathy, and accountability," she said. The joint review reaffirmed the government's commitment to transformative governance that uplifts communities and lays a robust foundation for Odisha's sustained and inclusive growth.

Minister Reviews CRUT Progress, Pushes For Smart, Sustainable Urban Transport



Bhubaneswar, (DMC): The Housing & Urban Development Department and Public Enterprises Minister, Dr. Krushna Chandra Mahapatra, visited the head office of Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT) on Thursday in Bhubaneswar to review ongoing activities and the progress of urban mobility initiatives in the state.

During the visit, Dr. Mahapatra conducted a detailed review of CRUT's operations, with particular focus on infrastructure expansion to eight additional towns, depot construction, and implementation of technology-driven services. CRUT Managing Director Dr. N. Thirumala Naik briefed the Minister on the status of electric bus depots being developed in Naraj, Pokhariput, Chhend, Rourkela, Haldiapadar, Berhampur, and Sambalpur. He also outlined the proposed

expansion of bus services to Keonjhar, Baripada, Angul, and Jharsuguda under the first phase of growth. Dr. Mahapatra also visited the Command Control Centre, where he reviewed real-time bus tracking and passenger grievance redressal systems linked to Odisha Yatri and CRUT. He praised the integration of digital technologies that facilitate responsive and commuter-friendly operations.

Highlighting revenue protection, the Minister stressed strict measures against ticketless travel. He further recommended the introduction of Key Performance Indicator (KPI)-based incentives for bus crew, to be aligned with commuter feedback, to enhance service quality and staff motivation. To strengthen driver professionalism, Dr. Mahapatra called for compulsory refresher training for all CRUT Heavy Motor Vehicle (HMTV) drivers at the state's four government

driving institutes. He also underscored the importance of behavioral training modules to ensure courteous passenger interactions. A significant part of the review centered on digitalization. The Minister urged CRUT to increase digital transactions to 50% by year-end and reviewed proposed interventions, including: CRUT currently operates 560 Ama Buses—including 380 diesel and 180 electric vehicles—across 106 routes serving the Capital Region, Rourkela, Berhampur, and Sambalpur.

Dr. Mahapatra commended CRUT's ongoing efforts in transforming public transport in Odisha and reiterated the government's commitment to the Viksit Odisha vision—focused on smart, green, and inclusive urban mobility. CRUT General Managers Sanjay Biswal (O&M) and Sahadev Samadhia (P&A), along with senior officials, were present during the review meeting.

Howrah-Puri Vande Bharat Express will run with 20 Coaches

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): In response to the increasing demand and continued popularity among passengers and tourists, it has been decided to run Puri–Howrah Vande Bharat Express with 20 coaches, effective May 16, 2025 by by augmenting four additional AC Chair Car Coaches. On augmentation, the upgraded rake



composition of Puri Howrah Vande Bharat Express will have

16 AC Chair Car Coaches, 2 Executive Chair Car Coaches and 2 Crew & AC Chair Car Coaches. This expansion includes the addition of four AC Chair Car Coaches, aimed at accommodating the growing number of passengers traveling on this prestigious semi-high-speed service. The decision was taken after a thorough review of

passenger patronization and travel demand, highlighting the Puri–Howrah Vande Bharat Express as one of the most sought-after routes for both daily commuters and tourists. The enhanced capacity is expected to improve travel convenience, reduce waitlists and further popularize this premium train service.

What Does the SEBC Reservation of the Majhi Government Signify?

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): On Wednesday, the Odisha cabinet sanctioned a reservation of 11.25% specifically for students belonging to Socially and Economically Backward Classes (SEBC), also referred to as Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in other states, in higher educational institutions, starting from the academic session of 2025-26. The cabinet, led by Chief Minister Mohan Majhi, indicated that this initiative is intended to enhance access, equity, and inclusion in higher education, boost the Gross Enrolment Ratio, and provide greater opportunities for marginalized and disadvantaged communities in Odisha.

This reservation policy will be consistently applied across all state public universities and government-supported institutions across various departments, including School & Mass Education, Higher Education, Odia Language and Literature & Culture, and Sports & Youth Services. Through this

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decision, the state government has guaranteed that reservations will be allocated to students from various categories, including Scheduled Tribes (22.5%), Scheduled Castes (16.25%), and Socially and Economically Backward Classes (11.25%). This initiative raises Odisha's overall reservation quota in higher education to 50%, in accordance with the Supreme Court's limit for vertical reservations.

Currently, the state offers a 5% horizontal reservation for individuals with disabilities and a 1% horizontal reservation for the children of ex-servicemen and war veterans. In Odisha, the terms Socially and Economically Backward Classes (SEBCs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) are used interchangeably. While both the central government and all states provide reservations for OBCs in education following the Supreme Court ruling in 2008,

Odisha was notably the only state that did not extend any reservation to SEBC/OBC for admission into educational institutions, despite granting them an 11.25% reservation in government employment. The emphasis on job reservations was a reaction to the political pressures from SEBC communities, who viewed employment as a crucial avenue for economic advancement.

Although educational quotas are significant, their urgency has only recently increased. Political analysts noted that for more than twenty years, Odisha's political scene, led by the Biju Janata Dal (BJD), has not prioritized educational quotas for SEBCs due to the competing interests of SC and ST communities, which constitute a substantial electoral constituency. The BJD concentrated on unifying tribal communities and Dalits through

the implementation of existing reservations and welfare programs, deliberately steering clear of the divisive topic of SEBC quotas. The call for educational reservations for SEBCs has only recently gained momentum, driven by advocacy groups for OBCs and a 2023 survey that revealed 39.31% of the state's population as socially and educationally disadvantaged," stated esteemed political science professor SP Dash.

The SEBC reservation responds to the demands of OBC advocacy groups, who have campaigned for equality with the central government's 27% reservation for OBCs in employment and education. Although the proposed 11.25% quota falls short of the 27% sought, experts believe it represents a meaningful advancement towards fulfilling these demands, which could help alleviate social tensions and political pressures.

Tribute to Army, Minister Sampad Swain joins grand Parakram Rally at Paradip

Paradip, (DMC) : The valor, bravery and strength of our brave and courageous soldiers in the success of the anti-terrorism war "Operation Sindoor" has made the entire country proud. In honor of this immense sacrifice and dedication of the Indian Army, Paradip MLA and Industries Minister Sampad Chandra Swain participated in a grand "Parakram Rally" organized by Paradip Municipality from Paradip sea beach to Gopabandhu Stadium. To boost moral courage of Indian Army, a grand motorcycle rally was flagged off by the Minister Shri Swain. The rally started from the beach and playing around the

port city and culminated at the Gopabandhu Stadium. The large gathering of police, NCC, Scout-guides, students of various educational institutions, volunteers, sportspersons, media representatives, public representatives and the general public in this procession showed the immense patriotism and respect of Indians towards the Army. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Shri Swain said that this sense of unity and nationalism will further strengthen the morale of the army. This procession will further strengthen the country's campaign against terrorism. When all Indians, irrespective of caste, religion and colour, unite



under the tricolor, then no evil force in the world can stop us, the Minister asserted. The event was coordinated by Basant Biswal, Chairman, Paradip Municipality and Paradip Additional District Magistrate Niranjana Behera, Police ASP Smriti Ranjan Kar, Municipal Executive Officer Abhishek Panda, Paradip Model Police station IIC Kabuli Barik, Minister's representative Sarbeswar Baliarsingh, Paradip BJP President and councillor Subrat Pradhan, Paradip Port Trustee Sunil Kant Das, Senior Sports person Ravi Das, Sanjay Das were the instrumental in making this program a success.

Kuber ABDO Asit Patra under Vigilant Raids



Jajpur, (DMC) : On the allegation of acquisition disproportionate assets (DA) beyond his known sources of income by Sri Asit Kumar Patra, Addl. Block Development Officer(ABDO), Dharmasala Block, simultaneous searches are being conducted by Odisha Vigilance led by 8 DSPs, 9 Inspectors, and other supporting staff on the strength

of search warrants issued by Hon'ble Special Judge, Vigilance, Cuttack at his following 7 places in Jajpur, Cuttack, Bhadrak & Bhubaneswar . During raids One four storeyed building with area approx. 6000 Sqft located at Chorda, Jajpur Road , One 2-BHK Flat No.404(A) with area approx. 1000 Sqft at 4th floor in Metro Avenue Apartment, Chauliganj, Cuttack ,One newly constructed

double storeyed building with area approx. 4000 Sqft at Jajpur road in the year 2023-24 ,One triple storeyed building with area approx. 2000 Sqft at his native village Garadeswar ,Jajpur town ,One shopping complex recently constructed comprising 2 rooms with total area 300 Sqft at Jajpur road , 5 nos. of high value plots including 4 plots in posh area of Jajpur road and 1 in Danagadi town., Gold ornaments 200 gms ,Cash of Rs.1,85,000/- ,Bank deposits over Rs.65 lakhs ,2 no's of two wheelers have been detected and attached by the team . However it was a good step taken by the Vigilance . In Jajpur there are many corrupted officers in R & B Baruan division , Some JEE in Bari block ,VLWs those are regular involved in Corruption , they should be also raided by the unit ,citizens in the district reacted . One of a social youth in Bari alleges that vigilance should take an keen eyes at Bari - Bidrupa Road works where the divisional officer has taken highest PCs for why local people dissatisfied .

Drinking water crisis R. Udayagiri villagers blocked highway

Paralakhemundi, (DMC) : Drinking water crisis R Udayagiri villagers for five hours blocked on NH-326A between Berhampur and Paralakhemundi . As residents of R Udayagiri in Gajapati district staged a protest against acute water shortage. Demonstrators placed empty buckets, pots and benches across the highway, for-cing vehicles to halt on both sides. The protesters demanded 24-hour water supply for R Udayagiri, which currently receives limited service from the rural water supply and sanitation department. "The current supply is so brief that we can't even fill a single bucket. Many residents at the tail end of the pipeline are forced to fetch water from ponds," said a pro-tester. The blockade was lifted after block development officer Lariman Kharsel and local police assured immediate action, including water supply through tankers to affected areas. A senior official said that unauthorized use of motor pumps by some villagers has contributed to the water shortage in tail-end areas. Kharsel said water lifting has been reduced to 50% due to extreme heat. "Despite challenges, we're maintaining water supply twice daily. We're working with RWSS junior engineers to address the shortage," he said, adding that a new 1 lakh litre capacity overhead tank has been constructed.

Country Liquor Destroyed:Joint Raid by Odisha & AP Excise Staff

Paralakhemundi, (DMC) : Under Garabandha police limits of Gajapati district huge country liquor seized. On joint raid both by Odisha & Andhrapradesh Excise with Police staff at Burujholi, Maringi, Soura Talsing, Gothei & under Paralakhemundi police limits at Singipur those liquor dens raided & 1300 litres of country liquor seized & later destroyed. But no one arrested on this incident.

NTPC Talcher Kaniha Inaugurated Girl Empowerment Mission 2025



Talcher, (DMC) : NTPC Talcher Kaniha kick started the Girl Empowerment Mission (GEM) 2025, a four-week long CSR initiative aimed at empowering 120 girls from 25 govt schools of neighboring villages. The program, running from May 13 to June 9, is designed to provide holistic development to these girls through education, extracurricular activities and life skills. The program is being implemented in partnership with M/S Tanvi Consultancy Services Pvt Limited, Bhubaneswar, the agency offering a range of consulting services, including HR and CSR. The inaugural ceremony was held on May 13, 2025, with a welcome address by Shri Navneet Kumar, HOHR, who extended a warm welcome to all attendees. Distinguished guests at the event included Shri Arindam Sinha, RED (ER-II), who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest; Smt. Rupali Sinha, President, Vasudha Mahila Mandal; Shri K. Narasimha Reddy, Executive

Director, NTPC Talcher Kaniha; and other officials from NTPC. Shri K. Narasimha Reddy expressed gratitude to all participants and supporters of the GEM 2025 initiative, acknowledging their contributions to the program's success. Shri Arindam Sinha, RED (ER-II), emphasized the importance of initiatives like GEM in empowering girls and breaking societal barriers. During the program, previous batch GEM girls shared their experiences with the school principals. Two GEM students from the previous batches were felicitated for their achievements: Ankita Pradhan, Class IX, for

securing 7th position in the district out of the top ten scholarships in the State Government Mathematics Olympiad; second, Dumni Hansda, Class IX, for securing 1st position in state athletics and being selected to participate in the national level SGFI. She was also selected by the State Olympic Association for the national games. The ceremony also featured the unveiling of a digital version of Odia GEM comic book by RED (ER-II), aimed at educating young minds about social issues and the importance of community development. Additionally, a cultural program was also organized."

OAV Rengali student state topper in class XII Commerce in OAVs



and Monalisa Budhia—achieved a perfect 100 out of 100 marks in Painting. A whopping 94.44% of passed students in this stream scored above 60% marks. In the Science stream, Chanchal Khamari topped the school with a score of

86.4%, while Asmit Kumar Sharma secured a perfect 100/100 marks in IT. An impressive 95.45% of passed students scored above 60%. In Class X, Adyasa Panda and Smrutirekha Sahu emerged as joint toppers with 95.4% marks each. Six students scored above 90%, and three students—Smutirekha Sahu, Lakshmi Priya Sahu and Trisharani Padhan scored a perfect 100/100 marks in IT. Additionally, 76.66% of passed students secured more than 60%. Following the announcement of the results, Principal Shri Ramani Kanta Sahu extended heartfelt congratulations to all students, parents, and teachers, and wished the achievers a bright and successful future ahead.



& Dedication of Indian Defence every Indian citizen participated with patriot feeling to encourage Indian soldiers. The Solidarity rally

ended at Zilla parishad Office with enthusiasm and thousand of byke participated with tri-colour of different category.

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'Blocks Are The

employment are provided annually using human labour. "This will curb migration and offer livelihood support where it's needed most," he said, calling for regular field inspections and inter-departmental coordination. Panchayati Raj Minister Rabi Narayan Naik echoed the CM's message, citing Mahatma Gandhi's belief that national progress depends on the development of villages. "The Chief Minister's vision must become your priority," he urged the attending officers. Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja added that rural development remains the cornerstone of Odisha's growth strategy. "Take the mantra of development to every block," he instructed. The two-day workshop brought together CDOs from all 30 districts and BDOs from 314 blocks of the state. Commissioner-cum-Secretary of the Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Department Girish S.N gave the welcome address, with Director of Drinking Water and Sanitation Vineet Bhardwaj proposing the vote of thanks. The conference marks a significant step in the state's efforts to build a more responsive, accountable, and grassroots-driven governance system.

"Are Nukes Safe

like to bow to the supreme sacrifice of the brave jawans while they fought terrorism and terrorists. I pay respect to their memory. I also pay respect to the innocent civilians who were killed in Pahalgam. I also salute the valour of the injured soldiers and pray to God that they may recover at the earliest," he said. Calling Operation Sindoor a "big commitment",

the Defence Minister said, "This is the biggest Operation against terror. We will go to any extent to end terrorism. Pakistan has to stop sheltering terrorists." PM Modi on Pakistan's "nuclear blackmail" PM Modi, during an address to the nation on Operation Sindoor, outlined the terms under which India will engage with Pakistan in the future and said it will not tolerate any "nuclear blackmail" from Islamabad. In his 22-minute-long speech, he outlined three principles of security doctrine, which have undergone a paradigm shift after Operation Sindoor. "Firstly, any terrorist attack on India will be met with a strong and resolute response. India will retaliate on its own terms, targeting terror hubs at their roots. Secondly, 'India will not be intimidated by nuclear threats."

Any terrorist safe haven operating under this pretext will face precise and decisive strikes, and thirdly, India will no longer see terrorist leaders and the governments sheltering them as separate entities". Earlier this week, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Punjab's Adampur air base and interacted with soldiers. Adampur was among the air force stations that Pakistan attempted to attack on the intervening night of May 9 and 10 after India's "Operation Sindoor". Pakistan also claimed that its hypersonic missiles fired from JF-17 fighter jets destroyed India's S-400 air defence system in Adampur - a charge rejected by the Indian officials. PM Modi delivered a strong message from the tarmac at the Adampur Air Force base."

Our intent is clear...if there is another attack, India will respond. We saw this after the terror attack on an Army base in J&K's Uri in 2016 and Balakot airstrikes (after the 2019 Pulwama attack). Operation Sindoor is the new normal," the PM said, emphasising it will become a policy of Indian governments to take "decisive action against state-sponsored terror attacks

IMD predicts

one or two places over the districts of Nuapada, Kandhamal, Boudh, Nayagarh, Khordha, Puri, Dhenkanal, Cuttack, Jajpur, and Bargarh. 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, Nawarangapur, Rayagada, Gajapati, Ganjam, Nayagarh, and Mayurbhanj. Thunderstorm with lightning with gusty surface wind speed reaching 30- 40 kmph very likely to occur in the afternoon/evening hours at one or two places over the districts of Nuapada, Balangir, Boudh, Angul, Keonjhar, Sonepur, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Khordha, and Puri. Thunderstorm with lightning with gusty surface wind speed reaching 30- 40 kmph very likely to occur in the afternoon/evening hours at one or two places over the districts of Koraput, Rayagada, Gajapati, Ganjam and Nayagarh. Thunderstorm with lightning with gusty surface wind speed reaching 30- 40 kmph very likely to occur in the afternoon/evening hours at one or two places over the districts of Sundargarh, Keonjhar, and Mayurbhanj. The Met Department has predicted that there will be no major change in maximum (day) temperature across Odisha for the next 6 to 7 days.

TPSODL and MKCG Medical College Join Hands to Collect 118 Units of Blood

Berhampur, (DMC) : To mark World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, TPSODL (TP Southern Odisha Distribution Limited), in collaboration with MKCG Medical College & Hospital and



SOCH – A voluntary Organisations of MKCG MCH students, organized a blood donation camp at the premises of MKCG Medical College, Berhampur. The event was inaugurated by Dr. Suchitra Das, Dean of MKCG Medical College & Hospital, in the presence of senior medical professionals, TPSODL employees, and enthusiastic medical students. The camp reflected true community spirit, bringing together people from different walks of life for a common cause – to save lives. In total, 118 units of blood were collected, which will go a long way in supporting emergency needs and critical care services in hospitals. This noble initiative witnessed active participation from TPSODL employees, medical students, doctors, and volunteers who came forward with selfless intent and a strong sense of social responsibility. Mr. Amit Kumar Garg, CEO of TPSODL, said, "Blood donation is a profound act of service to humanity. It is our collective duty to support each other in times of need. At TPSODL, we are proud to stand for such causes that foster compassion, save lives, and strengthen the fabric of our community." Dr. Suchitra Das also appreciated the initiative and encouraged the youth and healthcare workers to continue their support for such events. Through these activities, TPSODL aims to establish a culture of empathy, volunteerism, and social solidarity among its employees and the community at large.

Solidarity Byke rally at Jagatsinghpur

Jagatsinghpur, (DMC) : To-day one Byke rally with Tri Colour inaugurated at Naba Krushna Choudhury Stadium by local MLA Amarendra

Das at 8 AM. After success of Operation Sindoor the heroism of Indian Defence made the Indian feel proud. To Commemorate the heroism

India Thanks Honduras For Expressing 'Strong Solidarity' Over Pahalgam Attack

New Delhi, (H.S): Having placed high emphasis on international cooperation in combating the menace of terrorism, India on Thursday thanked Honduras for expressing solidarity with India after the heinous terrorist attack in Pahalgam on April 22 in which 25 Indians and one Nepali citizen were killed and a number of others sustained injuries."Let me first acknowledge the statement of solidarity we heard from your country regarding the cowardly terrorist attack in Pahalgam. We particularly value your public commitment to opposing terrorism in all its forms and your recognition that such acts are completely unacceptable in any civilized society.

We deeply appreciate your support and solidarity as we continue to combat terrorism in our region today," External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar said during the joint inauguration of the Embassy of Honduras along with the country's Foreign Minister Eduardo Enrique Reina Garcia in New Delhi, on Thursday. Jaishankar stated that the opening of the Embassy is not just a ceremonial event but stands as a testament to the shared vision and mutual commitment of the two nations to deepen bilateral ties, strengthen institutional



linkages, and expand the scope of cooperation between both countries."It reflects our common aspiration to build partnerships not only with Honduras but with the wider region - relationships that transcend geography and embody the values of mutual respect, solidarity, and shared progress," he said.

He stated that India-Honduras collaboration on the global stage, including in the United Nations, has found many meaningful expressions."We value the consistent support we receive from Honduras in various multilateral activities. The Indian diaspora in Honduras is small, but it is vibrant, and it contributes

significantly to the local economy as well as serves as a living bridge of friendship. We are very encouraged today to see enthusiasm for Indian culture in Honduras, widespread interest in Yoga and traditional Indian wellness practices.

The establishment of an Embassy in India will serve to make the living bridge more effective," the EAM said. Highlighting the economic engagements, the EAM said that it has grown steadily and has been underpinned by trade, investment and technical cooperation." Bilateral trade is today a little in excess of approximately \$300 million dollars. We have a

diversified basket which includes pharmaceuticals, textiles, automobiles and machinery, while we import coffee, wood and leather from Honduras. This commercial exchange highlights the considerable potential in areas such as agriculture, business, renewable energy, health care, information technology, and manufacturing," he added. Recognising the need to strengthen business-to-business practices, the EAM further said that the strategic location of Honduras and its favourable investment climate and demand for sustainable solutions make the country an attractive destination."

The opening of the Embassy of Honduras in New Delhi will go a long way to facilitate trade promotion, encourage businesspeople to use the Embassy as a hub for matchmaking, which would provide institutional support to undertake greater initiative activities and engagements," EAM remarked."I think for us, it is very good that we have a new Embassy here. Honduras is a country where business is growing, and they are politically supportive of us. They were one of the countries that expressed very strong solidarity regarding the Pahalgam attack," EAM said.

Sabarimala Temple Gold Lockets Worth Over 3 Crore Sold In A Week



Sabarimala, (H.S): The sale of gold lockets with the picture of Lord Ayyappa drew a tremendous response, with the Travancore Devasom Board (TDB) earning over Rs 3 crore in just one week. The gold lockets are blessed at the sanctum sanctorum of the famed temple on a hilltop in the Pathanamthitta district.

The TDB, which manages the temple affairs, pointed out that in a week, 56 sovereigns of gold were used to make 184 gold lockets, which come in three varieties. The two-gram gold locket found the maximum buyers, as 155 people purchased it, followed by the four-gram gold locket bought by 22 people, while seven people opted for the eight-gram gold locket. The TDB

pointed out that orders can be made online through the ww.sabarimalaonline.org website or can be booked in the temple office. The two-gram locket costs Rs 19,300, the four-gram Rs 38,600, and the eight-gram costs Rs 77,200. Situated on the mountain ranges of the Western Ghats at an altitude of 3,000 feet above sea level,

the famed Sabarimala temple is a four km uphill trek from Pampa in the Pathanamthitta district, which is around 100 km from the Kerala capital. Currently, girls and women between the ages of 10 and 50 are not allowed entry into the hilltop shrine. The temple dedicated to Lord Ayyappa is accessible only on foot from the Pampa River. As

per practice, before setting off to the holy shrine, a pilgrim normally undertakes an intense 41-day penance where he/she does not wear footwear, dons a black dhoti/black top and sticks to strict vegetarian food. Every pilgrim carries 'Irumudi' on his/her head, which is a prayer kit that contains coconuts which are broken just before climbing the 18 steps to the shrine.

Without it, no one is allowed to step onto the holy 18 steps at the 'Sannidhanam'. Over the years, some traditions at the famed temple have changed. While for many years, this temple used to open only in the second half of November and close around the middle of January, it is now open for a few days at the beginning of every Malayalam month.

Govt's First Monthly Data Series Pegs Unemployment At 5.1 Pc In April

New Delhi, (H.S): The government on Thursday said that Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) in current weekly status (CWS), an indicator of employment, among persons of age 15 years and above was 55.6 per cent during April, LFPR for rural areas was 58 per cent and LFPR in urban areas was 50.7 per cent during the month for persons of the same age group. The data also includes rural job figures, for the first time ever, to widen the coverage, according to new series based on monthly data, released by the Ministry of Statistics. The Unemployment Rate (UR) in CWS among persons of age 15 years and above was 5.1 per cent in April. The male UR was a tad higher at 5.2 per cent compared to the female UR of 5.0 per cent at the country level, the data showed. The unemployment rate (UR) in urban areas was 6.4 per cent during October-December,

2024 of the old series which were compiled on a quarterly basis. LFPR in CWS for males of age 15 years and above in rural and urban areas were 79 per cent and 75.3 per cent, respectively, while LFPR among females of age 15 years and above for rural areas was 38.2 per cent during April. Worker Population Ratio (WPR) in CWS in rural areas among persons of age 15 years and above was 55.4 per cent. WPR in urban areas among persons of the same age group was 47.4 per cent with the overall WPR at the country level observed as 52.8 per cent during April, as per the data. WPR for female of age 15 years and above for rural and urban areas were 36.8 per cent and 23.5 per cent, respectively, during the month and the overall female WPR of the same age group at the country level was observed as 32.5 per cent. Considering the need for generation of high frequency labour force indicators with

enhanced coverage, the sampling methodology of Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) has been revamped from January 2025. The revamped PLFS design is envisaged to estimate the key employment and unemployment indicators (Labour Force Participation Rate, Worker Population Ratio and Unemployment Rate) on a monthly basis for rural and urban areas in the CWS at all India level. The monthly results are planned to be released in the form of monthly bulletins of PLFS. The present monthly bulletin is the first in the series for the month April 2025. A rotational panel sampling design has been adopted in PLFS for both rural and urban areas from January 2025. In this rotational panel scheme, each selected household is visited four times in four consecutive months - one with first visit schedule and other three with the revisit schedule.

Army, NDRF Join Forces For Disaster Relief Excellence In Nagaland

Kohima, (H.S): In a resounding testament to the spirit of collaboration and preparedness, Indian Army engineers under the Spear Corps collaborated with the elite National Disaster Relief Force (NDRF) to orchestrate a groundbreaking disaster relief exercise, aptly christened 'Exercise Raahat'. Defence spokesman Lt Col Amit Shukla on Thursday said that the meticulously planned 3-day exercise was held in Rangapahar Military Station in Nagaland from May 13 to 15 May, marking a new paradigm in the field of disaster management and response.'

Exercise 'Raahat' was conceived with a singular vision of elevating the readiness and efficiency of disaster relief operations, especially with the looming spectre of the monsoon season. Lt Col Shukla said that the exercise showcased a master class in synergy, drawing on the rich tapestry of experience and expertise of the Indian Army and NDRF. By leveraging each other's



strengths and sharing invaluable lessons from past endeavours, the two organisations have set a new benchmark in disaster relief operations, he said. The exercise unfolded over three action-packed days, with May 13 and 14 being dedicated to intensive planning sessions."

Here, the sharpest minds from both forces engaged in spirited discussions, war-gamed complex scenarios and dissected real-life case studies. Group discussions fostered dynamic responses, ensuring that every conceivable challenge was met with innovative solutions," the Defence

spokesman said. He said that the culmination of 'Exercise Raahat' on May 15 witnessed a lecture-cum-demonstration. The sappers showcased a dazzling array of cutting-edge equipment and demonstrated the full spectrum of relief operations, including rescue missions and critical medical assistance.

Whereas, the skilled troops of NDRF exhibited their prowess with niche disaster relief equipment, underscoring their readiness to tackle any emergency. The spokesman said that the demonstration was further enriched by the enthusiastic

participation of flood relief columns from various units of the Spear Corps, reinforcing the emphasis on inter-agency cooperation. Lt Gen Abhijit S Pendharkar, GOC, Spear Corps, addressed the participants and lauded the professionalism and dedication of all participants, duly emphasising that this exercise would catalyse enhanced preparedness and seamless synergy between Army and NDRF.

The GOC noted that the integration of new technologies would further empower both organisations to respond swiftly and effectively to any kind of disaster. 'Exercise Raahat' stands as a shining beacon of what can be achieved when vision, expertise and teamwork converge. As the monsoon season approaches, the lessons learned and bonds forged during this exercise will undoubtedly translate into lives saved and communities protected, the Defence spokesman stated.

70 Orchid Species Documented In Assam's Kaziranga National Park

Guwahati, (H.S): In a recent survey, conducted in Assam's Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve (KNPTR), a UNESCO World Heritage site, 70 orchid species across 36 genera were documented, officials said here on Thursday. KNPTR Director Sonali Ghosh said that in the recent efforts for systematic documentation of Kaziranga's rich floristic and faunal assemblages, a rapid survey on orchids has revealed interesting results, with the visual survey reporting new records, especially for grassland and woodland areas.

She said that 70 orchid species across 36 genera within Kaziranga, of which 46 species are epiphytes and 24 are terrestrial, have been recorded in the study. According to the official orchids like *Acanthophippium* *ylhetense*, *Aerides* *odorata*, *Biermanni* *abimaculata*, *Bulbophyllum* *ornatissimum*, *Cleisostoma* *appendiculatum*, *Dendrobium* *jenkinsii*, *Eulophiakamarupa*, *Peristylus* *constrictus*, *Phalaenopsis* *mannii*, *Zeuxine* *membranacea* etc. have been recorded in the survey. Led by Khyanjeet Gogoi, a renowned orchid conservationist and Range officers of Bagori, Bibit Dihingia and Kohora Bibhuti Ranjan Gogoi, the visual survey reported new records, especially for grassland and woodland areas, Ghosh said. She said that



terrestrial orchids such as *Eulophia* *dabia*, *Zeuxinelindleyana*, and *Nervilia* *Juliana* thrive in the grasslands along the river banks, while others like *Acanthophippium* *striatum* and *Hetaeria* *affinis* flourish on the dense forest floor. Notably, species like *Biermanni* *abimaculata*, *Eulophiakamarupa*, and *Zeuxinelindleyana* are endemic to India, while *Bulbophyllum* *ornatissimum* and *Erythrododonei*, *Eulophiakamarupa* and *Zeuxine* *membranacea* are considered rare in Assam. KNPTR Director said that the orchid survey was preceded by a unique conservation outreach program that focused on familiarising local students with the orchid and butterfly diversity in the landscape. The Orchid and Butterfly Walk, held on April 18 and 19 in Panbari, welcomed over 50 enthusiastic students from

various schools and colleges in the region. During this event, three brochures highlighting the birds of Panbari, butterflies of Kaziranga and Orchids of Kaziranga were released. These informative brochures aim to enhance awareness and appreciation of the rich biodiversity found in this region, the official said.

Participants enjoyed guided safaris in Panbari, immersing themselves in the natural beauty of the park while observing orchids and butterflies along the vibrant flora and fauna. Expert talks on orchids and butterflies were delivered by renowned speakers Khyanjeet Gogoi and Monsoon Jyoti Gogoi, who shared their extensive knowledge and passion. Assam's Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary in a social media post said: "Kaziranga National Park & Tiger Reserve

just got even more amazing! A recent survey has revealed 70 species of orchids across 36 genera, making it one of the richest orchid collections in northeast India." "This vibrant floral discovery adds a new layer to Kaziranga's already iconic wildlife.

A true testament to the park's thriving biodiversity and unwavering conservation efforts!" the minister said. The KNPTR comprises three forest divisions - the Eastern Assam Wildlife Division, Bokakhat; the Bishwanath Wildlife Division, Biswanath Chariali; and the Nagaon Wildlife Division, Nagaon. Home to a remarkable population of the "Big Five," it comprises 2,613 Greater One-horned Rhinoceroses as of the 2022 census, 104 Bengal Tigers in 2022, 1,228 Asian Elephants in 2024, 2,565 Wild Water Buffalos in 2022, and 1,129 Eastern Swamp Deer also recorded in 2022.

ED Seizes 32 Cr Assets In Raids On Builders, Officials In Maha's Vasai-Virar City Land Scam

Mumbai, (H.S): In a massive action against builders and their local henchmen, the ED on Thursday searched 13 different premises across Mumbai and Hyderabad, seizing cash and jewels worth nearly Rs 32 crore in a case related to illegal construction of homes and offices on government land in Vasai-Virar City. The accused duped home and office buyers by fabricating documents and carrying out construction on government and private land and selling these illegal properties to them, said an ED official.

adding that 41 such illegal buildings were pulled down by civic agencies in February. The case pertains to "illegal construction of residential cum commercial buildings on government and private land" under jurisdiction of "Vasai Virar Municipal Corporation (VVMC)" since 2009, said an ED official.

It has been found that the key perpetrators of the large-scale scam in the jurisdiction of Vasai Virar Municipal Corporation are Sitaram Gupta, Arun Gupta and others, including the civic agency's Deputy Director of Town Planning, Y.S. Reddy. During searches at Reddy's premises, Rs 8.6 crore and diamond-studded Jewellery and bullion worth Rs 23.25 crore were seized, said an official. Over



a period of time, 41 illegal buildings were constructed on the land reserved for "Sewage Treatment Plant" and "Dumping Ground" as per the approved development plan of Vasai Virar City, he said. The Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Mumbai Zonal Office, carried out the multi-city searches under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, over two days, starting Wednesday.

Giving details of the seizure, the ED said investigators confiscated Rs 9.04 crore cash and Rs 23.25 crore worth of diamond-studded jewellery and bullion and a large number of incriminating documents. The ED initiated an investigation based on multiple FIRs registered by the Mira Bhayandar Police Commissionerate against builders, local henchmen and others. The accused builders and developers deceived the general public at large by constructing illegal buildings on government

and private land and subsequently selling them to the general public by fabricating approval documents. "Even with prior knowledge that these buildings were unauthorised and would eventually be demolished, the developers misled the people by selling rooms in these buildings, thereby committing serious fraud," said the ED in a statement. The federal agency said the Bombay High Court had on July 8, 2024, ordered the demolition of all 41 buildings.

Thereafter, an SLP was filed before the Supreme Court by the families residing in 41 illegal buildings, which was dismissed. The demolition of all 41 buildings was completed by VVMC on February 20, 2025. Maharashtra's fifth largest city, Vasai-Virar, is an agglomeration of four previously governed municipal councils: Vasai (Bassein), Virar, Nallasopara and Navghar-Manikpur, as well as a few towns to the east and west of the urban area. It lies in the Konkan division.

Russia-Ukraine Conflict Can Be Solved Diplomatically; Marco Rubio

Istanbul, (H.S): US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Thursday said that the conflict between Russia and Ukraine cannot be solved militarily. "There is no military solution to the Russia-Ukraine conflict. This war is going to end not through a military solution, but through a diplomatic one," said the top US diplomat as he arrived in Antalya for an informal meeting of NATO foreign ministers.

Rubio further stated that the US hopes that progress will soon be made in the negotiation process, noting the situation around the settlement of the Ukrainian conflict remains complicated. Speaking to reporters in the Kremlin in the early hours of May 11, Russian President Vladimir Putin proposed to the Kyiv authorities to resume direct talks suspended in 2022, without preconditions on Thursday in Istanbul. Russian Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Maria Zakharova on Thursday said that the Russian delegation has arrived in Istanbul for talks on Ukraine and is ready for



serious work. "As we have already stated, the Russian side is ready to negotiate in earnest. The Russian delegation has arrived in Istanbul and is ready for serious work," Zakharova said, addressing a news briefing. The Russian President proposed restarting those direct talks in Istanbul on May 15 without delay or any preliminary conditions.

As the Russian President emphasised, the purpose of these talks is to, direct quote, eliminate the root causes of the conflict, to reach the establishment of a long-term lasting peace for a historical perspective," she added. The Russian delegation, headed by

presidential aide Vladimir Medinsky, includes Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Galuzin, head of the Main Directorate of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces Igor Kostyukov, and Deputy Defence Minister Alexander Fomin. However, Putin has decided to skip the visit.

Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump said the talks, which will be held in Istanbul, will be productive. "Marco (Rubio) is going to be going there, others are going to be going, and we'll see if we can get it done... Very importantly, talks are being held in Turkey later this week, probably on

Thursday, and they could produce some pretty good results," he told a bilateral investment forum in Saudi Arabia, without elaborating. Addressing reporters, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that on Wednesday evening, President Putin held a meeting to discuss arrangements for talks with Ukraine, due to take place in Istanbul. "Prior to the departure of our delegation for Istanbul last evening, President Putin chaired a meeting on arrangements for upcoming talks with Ukraine," he said.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky also took to his social media on Wednesday night, stating that he would hold discussions with his team on the format of the Istanbul meeting. "Today, we held several meetings with the team regarding the format in Turkey. I am waiting to see who will come from Russia, and then I will decide which steps Ukraine should take. So far, the signals from them in the media are unconvincing," Zelensky posted on X.

Torrential Rains Claim 9 Lives, Affect 24,000 More In Somalia: UN



partners in Somalia to scale back or even close critical programs. The \$1.4-billion Somalia Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan is 11 per cent funded, with only \$158 million received to date. OCHA said Somalia's humanitarian crisis is among the world's most complex, driven by cycles of internal conflict and climate shocks that drive displacement and undermine development efforts.

The cumulative effect of both violence and climate shocks continues to drive displacement and destroy livelihoods, leaving millions of people in urgent need of assistance. The humanitarians said these shocks' increased frequency and severity have left large population segments in

prolonged states of risk and vulnerability. Light to heavy Gu (April to June) seasonal rains have triggered localised flooding in several parts of the country since mid-April. The UN agency said the Somali government has formed a committee that includes federal ministers and regional officials to respond to the flooding crisis.

Somalia, a country where nearly two-thirds of the population depends on agriculture for their livelihoods, has experienced extreme climate shocks in the past, including prolonged dry seasons causing drought and heavy rains leading to flooding, media reported. Many communities, initially displaced by drought or conflict, have been displaced a second or third time by floods or renewed violence.

US Announces \$243.5 Bn Deals With Qatar



Washington, (H.S): The US has announced deals totaling more than \$243.5 billion with Qatar, calling the series of agreements with the Gulf Arab country will generate an economic exchange worth at least \$1.2 trillion. The White House said in a press statement on Wednesday that Boeing and GE Aerospace secured a \$96 billion agreement to sell Qatar Airways up to 210 Boeing 787 Dreamliner and 777X aircraft powered by GE Aerospace engines.

The White House noted it is "Boeing's largest-ever widebody order and largest-ever 787 order". "The landmark deals celebrated today will drive innovation and prosperity for generations, bolster American manufacturing and technological leadership, and put America on the path to a new Golden Age," the White House said. Trump has focused much of his energy

on the trip in securing investment dollars, while praising Gulf states for seeking a deeper partnership with the US, Xinhua news agency reported. American multinational technology-focused defence, intelligence, and infrastructure engineering firm Parson won 30 projects worth up to \$97 billion in Qatar, while energy services company McDermott secured seven active projects worth \$8.5 billion.

Quantinuum finalised a joint venture agreement with Al Rabban Capital, a prominent Qatari company, to invest up to \$1 billion in state-of-the-art quantum technologies and workforce development in the US, according to the press statement. The US and Qatar also signed a series of defence cooperation agreements, including a \$1 billion agreement with Raytheon for Qatar's acquisition of counter-drone

capabilities and a nearly \$2-billion agreement with General Atomics for Qatar's acquisition of the MQ-9B remotely piloted aircraft system. In addition, the two countries signed a statement of intent to further strengthen their security partnership, outlining more than \$38 billion in potential investments including support for burden-sharing at Al Udeid Air Base and future defence capabilities related to air defence and maritime security.

Al Udeid Air Base is reportedly the largest US military base in the Middle East. US President Donald Trump on Wednesday landed in Doha, Qatar, on the second day of his Middle East tour after his visit in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday. In 2022, Qatar became the third country in the Gulf region, after Bahrain and Kuwait, to be designated a major non-NATO ally by the US.

South Korean Military Chief Inspects Naval Readiness, Calls For Deterrence Against North Korea

Seoul, (H.S): South Korea's top military officer inspected naval units and the submarine command on Thursday, urging firm naval readiness to deter any provocations by North Korea, the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said. JCS Chairman Adm. Kim Myung-soo made the call as he boarded the ROKS Jeongjo the Great destroyer and visited the submarine force command, the Jinhae Naval Base Command and the naval special warfare flotilla based in Jinhae, some 310 kilometres southeast of Seoul, according to the JCS.

Boarding the destroyer, Kim urged troops to familiarise themselves with the warship's combat system and equipment to preemptively deter and respond to the North's nuclear and missile threats. The 8,200-tonne Aegis destroyer, armed with an advanced missile interception platform, was delivered to the Navy in November last year and is expected to be deployed by



December. While visiting the submarine force command, Kim instructed the command to maintain a firm readiness posture against the enemy's potential provocations, Yonhap news agency reported.

As part of the visit, Kim also conducted a command flight on the P-8A Poseidon maritime surveillance aircraft, the JCS said. The Navy completed its acquisition of six P-8As last year with an aim to deploy them this year. Dubbed the "submarine killer," the P-8A is capable of conducting an array of missions,

including anti-submarine, anti-surface, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance operations. Earlier on Wednesday, North Korean leader Kim Jong-un had supervised combined tactical drills of special operations, stressing that the most "crucial" task for the North's armed forces is to make full preparations for war.

The combined tactical drills of special operations and tank subunits' joint fire strike demonstration took place the previous day. "Saying that our revolutionary armed forces are

now in charge of not a few fronts, but the most important among them is the anti-imperialist class front and making full preparations for war is the most crucial task," Kim was quoted as saying by the KCNA. He also said the combat drills will help "turn the whole army into an elite ranks." Photos carried by state media showed North Korean troops in camouflage suits operating drones.

South Korea's spy agency earlier said it detected signs of North Korean troops deployed to Russia learning drone operations and tactics from Moscow. Last month, North Korea acknowledged for the first time that it had sent troops to Russia to fight against Ukrainian forces. During a visit to the Russian Embassy in Pyongyang last week, Kim said the North's involvement in the war was "justifiable," calling it an exercise of sovereign rights under a mutual defence treaty with Moscow.

Indian Delegation At UN Presents Case For Declaring TRF A Terrorist Organisation

United Nations, (H.S): A delegation from India met with the top UN counter-terrorism officials on Wednesday for a wide-ranging discussion on cooperation in fighting terrorism in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terrorist attack by The Resistance Front. During their discussions with the Indian delegation, Under-Secretary-General Vladimir Voronkov of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and Assistant Secretary-General Natalia Gherman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) focused on cooperation,

"particularly in support of implementing key Security Council counter-terrorism resolutions and the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy," a readout of the meeting from UNOCT said. Voronkov and Gherman expressed their condolences for the victims of the terrorist attack last month in Pahalgam that killed 26 people. The delegation from India, which includes intelligence officials, was at the UN headquarters to present India's case for declaring The Resistance



Front (TRF), the perpetrator of the Pahalgam massacre, an international terrorist organisation and sanctioning it, according to sources at the UN. The TRF, an affiliate of the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT), which has been listed as an international terrorist organisation by the UN.

The delegation was also meeting on Wednesday with the monitoring team of the Security Council panel known as the 1267 Committee that sanctions terrorist groups and those associated with them, the sources said. The team, the sources said, is presenting the committee with evidence of TRF carrying out Pahalgam attack and its other activities. The committee is named after Security Council Resolution

1267 that calls for action against the Islamic State or Da'esh, and Al-Qaida, and groups and people associated with them. The delegation was also meeting with diplomats from UN members to press for declaring TRF a terrorist organisation.

The readout from UNOCT of the meetings with the Indian delegation said that for India and the UN counter-terrorism agencies the "key areas of cooperation include UNOCT-led technical capacity-building initiatives supported by India - such as cybersecurity, countering terrorist travel, supporting victims of terrorism, and countering the financing of terrorism". The delegation and the UN officials also "discussed efforts to counter the use of new

and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes," the readout said. These goals were set out in the 2022 Delhi Declaration adopted by the UN Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee chaired by India when it met in the Indian capital and paid special attention to emerging terrorist threats through use of emerging technologies. The declaration also called for the development of guiding principles to be prepared with CTED's support on threats posed by unmanned aircraft systems and the use of emerging financial technologies for terrorist activities.

LeT was listed as an international terrorist organisation in 2005 and sanctioned. The sanctions list includes 27 names under which LeT operates, including Pasha-e-Kashmir, and variations of Jamaat-ud-Dawa. About a dozen individuals associated with it, including its leader Hafeez Mohammed Saeed, have also been sanctioned along with three organisations linked to it, including Jaish-e-Mohammed and Harkat-ul-Mujahideen. The sanctions include freezing of their assets and travel ban.

Hezbollah Member Killed In Israeli Airstrike on Southern Lebanon

Beirut, (H.S): An Israeli drone strike killed a Hezbollah member in southern Lebanon on Wednesday, targeting a vehicle near Qaaqaait al-Jsir in the Wadi al-Hujayr area, Lebanese security and official sources said. Lebanon's state-run National News Agency (NNA) reported that "an enemy drone targeted a car at the entrance of Wadi al-Hujayr near Qaaqaait al-Jsir in the Nabatieh district this morning."

The Lebanese Ministry of Health's Public Health Emergency Operations Center confirmed one fatality in the strike. Civil Defence officials said the vehicle caught fire, and the body was transported to a hospital in Nabatieh. A Lebanese security source told Xinhua that the deceased was identified as Hussein Nehmeh Milhem Shomran,

a Hezbollah member from Qaaqaait al-Jsir. Also on Wednesday, the Israeli military said it had carried out the strike, describing the target as a senior Hezbollah figure. "Israeli Defense Forces aircraft carried out an attack in the area of Qaaqaait al-



Jisir in southern Lebanon, eliminating a member of the Hezbollah terrorist organization who held the position of commander of the Qabrikha compound," Israeli army spokesperson Avichay Adraee said on social media platform X.

In a separate incident, the NNA reported that an Israeli drone crashed due to a technical malfunction and exploded inside a home in the town of Shebaa, in the Hasbaya district. No casualties were reported, though material damage was sustained. The cross-border strikes come despite a ceasefire agreement reached on November

27, 2024, intended to halt more than a year of hostilities tied to the war in Gaza. The truce, mediated by the US and France, had largely held, though sporadic flare-ups have continued. Israel has said its strikes are intended to neutralize Hezbollah threats.

However, the Lebanese government and several Arab states have accused Israel of repeatedly violating the ceasefire agreement. Despite the truce's provision requiring a full Israeli withdrawal, Israeli forces continue to hold several strategically important positions in southern Lebanon.

Gold Prices Drop Sharply By 2,375 Per 10 Grams; Silver Also Falls



New Delhi, (H.S): Gold buyers in India have a reason to cheer as prices of the yellow metal saw a significant drop on Thursday. The price of 24-carat gold fell by Rs 2,375 per 10 grams, bringing it down to Rs 91,484 from Rs 93,859, according to the India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA). The decline wasn't limited to just 24-carat gold. The price of 22-carat gold also dropped, now standing at Rs 83,799 per 10 grams, down from Rs 85,975. Similarly, 18-carat gold saw its price fall to Rs

68,613 from Rs 70,394 per 10 grams. This marks a sharp turnaround from just a few weeks ago, when on April 22, the price of 24-carat gold had surged close to the Rs 1 lakh mark. Silver too mirrored the downtrend that was being faced by the yellow metal. Prices for one kilogram of silver declined by Rs 2,297 to Rs 94,103 from Rs 96,400 per kg. The decline in precious metal prices extended to the futures market in the country as well. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold futures for June 5,

fell 1 per cent to Rs 91,325, while silver futures for July 4, dropped by a similar margin to Rs 94,458 per kg. Market analysts attribute this fall in gold prices to easing tensions in global trade, particularly between the United States and China, which had earlier set the prices of the yellow and silver metals skyrocketing. As geopolitical uncertainty decreases, the appeal of safe-haven assets like gold tends to weaken.

In international markets, gold has dropped to its lowest level in a month. On COMEX, gold was trading down by 1.1 per cent at \$3,141.35 per ounce. This is a steep drop from its recent peak of around \$3,500 per ounce seen on April 22. The sudden drop in gold and silver prices could spur demand in the domestic market, especially with the wedding season ongoing and Akshaya Tritiya just past - both traditionally strong periods for gold purchases.

India's wholesale inflation rate hits one-year low of 0.85% in April; a quick look at kitchen prices

New Delhi, (H.S): India's wholesale inflation eased further to 0.85% in April on an annual basis as against a four-month low of 2.05% in March, the government data showed on Wednesday. "Positive rate of inflation in April, 2025 is primarily due to increase in prices of manufacture of food products, other manufacturing, chemicals and chemical products, manufacture of other transport equipment and manufacture of machinery and equipment etc," the press release said.

On a sequential basis, the wholesale price index-based inflation rate contracted 0.19%. The inflation rate for manufactured products, which accounts for over 60% of this inflation basket, stood at 2.62% in April. Primary articles inflation in April contracted to 1.44% from a growth of 0.76% in March. Inflation rate for fuel and power contracted 2.18% in April as against a growth of



0.20% in March. With inflation rate coming down, here's a look at India's kitchen: Inflation rate for vegetable prices contracted 18.26% in April as against -15.88% in the previous month.

Onion inflation in the month of April eased to 0.20% as compared to 26.65% in March, while potato inflation stood at (-)6.77 per cent from 27.54 per cent during the same period. Inflation rate for pulses fell to 5.57% as against (-)2.98% last month. Cereal prices in April stood at 3.81%. Meanwhile,

India's retail inflation dropped to a 69-month low of 3.16% in April, down from 3.34% in March. The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) in April said that the inflation has declined, supported by a favourable outlook on food and is expected to moderate in FY26,

offering further relief to Indian households. RBI MPC has forecast inflation at 4% for the fiscal year 2025-26, as against 4.2% forecasted in the February meeting. For the four quarters of

FY26, the RBI MPC has projected inflation to be at 3.6% in the first quarter; Q2 at 3.9%; Q3 at 3.8% and Q4 at 4.4% with risks evenly balanced. "MPC noted that inflation below the target currently, supported by huge fall in food prices. Moreover, there is decisive improvement in inflation outlook. As per projections, there is now greater confidence of durable alignment of headline inflation with target of 4% over 12 months horizon,"

said RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra. The Economic Survey for 2024-25, released earlier in January, projected that food inflation would soften in the final quarter of FY25. However, the report also cautioned that global uncertainties continue to pose risks to India's economic stability. Factors such as a weakening rupee, global economic uncertainty, inflation volatility, and declining foreign investment remain key macroeconomic challenges.

SEBI Warns Investors As Strata Gives Up SM REIT Licence

Mumbai, (H.S): The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has issued a warning to investors regarding Strata, a commercial real estate platform founded by Sudarshan Lodha and Priyanka Rathore, after the company surrendered its licence as a small and medium real estate investment trust (SM REIT) due to a legal controversy. "Pursuant to certain news reports and review of certain legal proceedings against the promoter of SM REIT,



SEBI engaged with Strata SM REIT, its independent director, compliance and other officers and the trustee. After the engagement and discussions, Strata SM REIT has surrendered its certificate of registration as an SM REIT and will not hold out or represent itself as a SEBI-regulated intermediary," SEBI said in a statement. "This communication is being issued in the interest of investors advising

them to exercise caution while dealing with the entity," SEBI said. Strata had registered as a Small and Medium Real Estate Investment Trust (SM REIT), a new framework introduced by Sebi for fractional ownership platforms to offer real estate investment products. However, following certain concerns and discussions with Sebi, Strata has surrendered its registration. Strata received Sebi approval in January

and had planned to launch six schemes during the current financial year. So far, it has not yet launched any SM REIT schemes nor migrated any pre-existing fractional real estate entities to the SM REIT framework, the SEBI statement added. The legal dispute involving SM REIT arose with a Tamil Nadu-based real estate firm engaged in acquiring and developing land for industrial and

warehousing projects. According to the anticipatory bail order of the Madras High Court, a case was filed against Lodha for allegedly seeking information by impersonating as a SEBI official and creating a fake email ID under her name. However, Lodha's counsels denied the allegations and argued that as the complainant did not succeed in arbitration and other civil proceedings, it filed a 'false complaint' in order to 'arm-twist and give a criminal colour to the dispute.'"

In light of the ongoing matter, we have voluntarily surrendered our SM REIT licence without admitting or denying any wrongdoing, as a measure of abundant caution. Upon conclusion of the current litigation, we intend to apply for a fresh licence at a future date. This matter does not affect the existing investments with Everstrat," Strata said in a statement on Wednesday.

DPIIT Clears 187 Startups For Tax Relief Under Revised Section 80-IAC Framework

New Delhi, (PIB): In a significant boost to India's startup ecosystem, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has approved 187 startups for income tax exemption under the revamped Section 80-IAC of the Income Tax Act. Notably, the decision came during the 80th meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Board (IMB), held on 30th April 2025.

According to a spokesperson of DPIIT, the tax benefit allows eligible startups a 100% income tax deduction on profits for any three consecutive years within a ten-year window from the date of incorporation. The scheme is designed to support emerging businesses in their formative years, encouraging innovation, job creation, and wealth

generation. Of the total approvals, 75 startups were cleared during the 79th IMB meeting and 112 during 80th such meeting. With this, over 3,700 startups have now been granted exemptions since the scheme's inception. In a key announcement during the Union Budget 2025-26, the government extended the eligibility window for startups to claim benefits under Section 80-IAC.

Startups incorporated before 1st April 2030 are now eligible to apply, giving more time and opportunity to new ventures to benefit from this financial relief. Pertinently, the revised evaluation framework introduced by DPIIT has made the application process more structured and transparent. Complete applications are now reviewed within 120 days,

ensuring faster decision-making and reducing procedural delays. Startups that were not approved in the latest round have been encouraged to reassess and refine their applications. The DPIIT has advised applicants to focus on demonstrating technological innovation, market potential, scalability, and a clear contribution to employment and economic growth.

The government's continued support underlines its commitment to fostering a robust, future-ready startup environment aligned with the vision of a self-reliant and innovation-led New India. Further information on the tax exemption process, eligibility criteria, and application details is available on the official Startup India portal, the spokesperson added.

Stock Market Surges After Trump's India Trade Deal Claim, Nifty Above 25,000

Mumbai, (H.S): Domestic stock markets closed sharply higher on Thursday after US President Donald Trump claimed that India has agreed to reduce tariffs to zero on a range of American goods as part of the bilateral trade deal. The announcement lifted investor sentiment. The Sensex surged by 1,200.18 points, or 1.48 per cent, to end the day at 82,530.74. During the session, the index touched an intra-day high of 82,718.14. The Nifty index also saw strong gains, closing above the 25,000 mark for the first time after October 2024, ending at 25,062.10. The index gained

395.20 points, or 1.6 per cent, and traded in a range between 24,494.45 and 25,116.25 during the session. The recent consolidation breakout, along with a move above the swing high, has increased the probability of the index reaching 25,690 in the short term, market expert said. "Immediate resistance is placed at 25,360, above which further upside potential may be unlocked. On the downside, 24,400 is expected to act as strong support in the short to medium term," Rupak De of LKP Securities stated. On the 30 Sensex constituent stocks, Tata Motors led the gains with a 4.16 per cent

jump, followed by HCL Technologies, which rose 3.37 per cent. Eternal gained 2.22 per cent, while Adani Ports added 2.19 per cent. Other notable gainers include Maruti Suzuki India, Asian Paints, ICICI Bank and more. On the downside, IndusInd Bank was the only loser with a drop of 0.16 per cent. Mid- and small-cap stocks also participated in the rally. The Nifty Midcap100 index rose 0.70 per cent, and the Nifty Smallcap100 gained 0.54 per cent. All sectoral indices on the NSE ended in positive territory - showing broad-based buying. Market volatility also eased.

Expanding Horizons: Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Limited Opens New Outlet in Brahmapur, Ganjam, Odisha

Brahmapur, (DMC): Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Limited proudly announces the inauguration of its new banking outlet in Brahmapur, Odisha. With this launch, the Bank has foot printed 102 banking outlets in Odisha and 1,095 outlets nationwide. Residents of Brahmapur will benefit from a comprehensive suite of banking products, including savings accounts, current accounts, fixed deposits, and recurring deposits. The Bank also provides various loan products, such as housing loans, business loans, loan against property, credit, insurance, and investment products. The Bank's infrastructure, digital banking capabilities, and ATM network



ensure a seamless banking experience. Commenting on the expansion, Mr. Govind Singh, MD & CEO, Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Limited, said, "The inauguration of our new banking outlet in Brahmapur highlights our

continued efforts to foster financial inclusion in Odisha. Brahmapur, a bustling city in the Ganjam district with strong commercial and cultural roots, represents a vibrant community with growing financial aspirations. With the support of our tailored financial services, we aim to empower individuals, promote economic development, and strengthen the region's financial ecosystem. "These banking outlets will offer micro-banking loans for business development services to underprivileged or low-income individuals or groups who have limited access to financial services. The JLG model of group lending involves a peer-

guarantee loan model enabling individuals to take loans without providing collateral or security on an individual basis, while promoting credit discipline through mutual support within the group and prompt repayment of their loans. Customers can access banking services through various channels such as Banking Outlets, Micro ATMs (during banking hours), Internet banking, Mobile banking, Unified Payment Interface (UPI) and the Call Centre. Additionally, the Bank provides facilities for customers to open a bank account without visiting the banking outlet through the tablet-based application-assisted model, "Digi On-Boarding".

Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises invites applications from MSMEs for National Award 2024

New Delhi, (PIB): The Ministry of MSME recognizes the contributions of MSME entrepreneurs for their outstanding performance and motivate and encourage them by conferring awards at the National Level. At present there is a provision of 35 Nos. of National Awards to MSMEs in different categories. There is special provision of Awards to MSMEs led by Women Entrepreneurs, SC / ST Entrepreneurs and MSME Entrepreneurs from North Eastern Region. Under the Scheme, Awardee MSMEs are felicitated with Trophy & Certificate apart from Cash Prize of Rs. 3.0 lakh (First Prize), Rs. 2.0 lakh (Second Prize) and Rs. 1.0 lakh (Third Prize). The Applications for National Award for the year 2024 from MSMEs in different categories have been invited from 14.04.2025 to 20.05.2025 through National



Award portal (https://dashboard.msme.gov.in/na/Ent_index.aspx). The interested MSMEs can also submit their applications through Rashtriya Puraskar Portal of Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) (<https://awards.gov.in/>). Details are available on www.dcmsme.gov.in. For any clarification, the interested MSMEs may contact nearby MSME - Development and Facilitation Office (MSME-DFO) or at Tel. No.011-23063342.

"Complicated, Nothing Decided Till...": S Jaishankar On India-US Trade Deal

New Delhi, (H.S): Talks over an India-United States trade deal are ongoing, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said Thursday, labelling them 'complicated' and warning "nothing is decided till everything is..." "Any trade deal has to be mutually beneficial; it has to work for both countries. That would be our expectation from any trade deal. Until that is done, any judgement will be premature,"

Mr Jaishankar told reporters this evening at the opening of the Honduras' new embassy in New Delhi. A confirmed India-US trade deal would be a major event at any time, but more so since Donald Trump returned to power in Washington, D.C., bringing with him a slew of tariffs to counter duties other countries - including India, whom he decried as 'a very big abuser' - impose on the import of US goods. Trump imposed 'reciprocal tariffs' on India - worth around 27 per cent - in April. These tariffs were later suspended, as they were for many other nations in a similar

situation, till July 9. However, the 10 per cent baseline tariff imposed on all countries on April 2 remains in effect, in addition to the 25 per cent taxes on steel, aluminium, and auto components. India reacted by lowering tariffs on some American goods, including motorcycles and bourbon whiskey, but the government later delinked the revision of duties and Trump's tariff threats.

More pertinently, India also said it would not retaliate to the US' tariffs, as others had, opting instead to reinforce the messaging to Washington, that 'Delhi wants to remain a trusted trading partner...' 'Since then the two countries have been working to expedite an agreement that Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi believe will push bilateral trade to over \$500 billion by 2030. The biggest step in that direction was in April: US Vice President JD Vance was in India and met the Prime Minister, after which he said terms of reference had been finalised. Days later



Trump indicated a deal - as part of which India may give the US 'forward most-favoured nation' status - was imminent. "I think we'll have a deal with India... they want to make a deal," he declared. The deal, when it is struck, is expected to cover 24 categories of goods traded between India and the US, which include farm products like soybeans and corn, and military equipment. In return, Delhi has asked for favourable tariffs for labour-intensive sectors like textiles, toys, leather goods, furniture, gems and jewellery, and

automotive components. Meanwhile, talks over the deal are also playing out over India and Pakistan's 100-hour war last week - the fallout of the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack and Delhi's military response, Operation Sindoor. The conflict, which was heading towards a full-blown war, settled into a ceasefire for which Trump (repeatedly and falsely) claimed credit, including the use of trade to force both sides to stand down. New Delhi has announced a Free Trade Agreement with the United Kingdom. Under the deal, India

and the UK will get liberal market access and eased trade restrictions, and the sectors that will likely benefit most are food processing, food and beverages, and automobiles. India has agreed to slash levies on 90 per cent of British products sold in the country, from medical devices to machinery, with 85 per cent of those becoming tariff-free within a decade.

Britain has agreed to reduce tariffs too, which will leave around 99 per cent of Indian exports facing zero duties. One of the Indian industries that will benefit most is the textile industry that employs millions. In addition, Delhi has also signed a \$100 billion deal with the European Free Trade Association, which is a group of four European countries that are not part of the European Union. These nations are Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland. The EU and India are working on a free trade deal too.



Rupali Ganguly Becomes First Celebrity To Call For Turkey Boycott Amid Rising Indo-Pak Tensions

Television star Rupali Ganguly has become the first Indian celebrity to publicly call for a boycott of Turkey, urging fellow celebrities, influencers, and travelers to cancel their bookings to the country. Taking to social media, the Anupamaa actress made a strong appeal, stating that this is the least that can be done as Indians in response to ongoing rising tensions between India and Pakistan. Rupali wrote on her

X handle, "Can we please cancel our bookings for Turkey. This is my request to all Indian Celebs/Influencers/ Travellers. This is the least we can do as Indians. #BoycottTurkey." Her post quickly sparked conversations online, with many applauding her for taking a bold stand. One user commented on Ganguly's post, "Absolutely! If we're serious about standing against terror, Indigo and all Indian airlines must

immediately suspend flights to Turkey. We can't let our hard-earned money fund those who support attacks on our soldiers. #BoycottTurkey — let's make it loud and clear." On May 9, Television actor Kushal Tandon's parents showed their support for the growing calls to boycott Turkey, following the country's stance in favor of Pakistan after India's Operation Sindoor. His mother, Sandhya Tandon,

decided to cancel her planned trip to Turkey with friends, despite the financial loss involved due to non-refundable bookings. The actor wrote on his Instagram, "My mom and her friends were planning to go next month, and now they have cancelled their whole trip, even with no refunds getting back from the hotels and airlines. Remember, do your bits." Turkey and Azerbaijan issued statements on May 8 in which both nations

expressed support for Pakistan and criticized India's airstrikes targeting terror camps. Turkey's Ministry of Foreign Affairs described the operation as a "provocative step," while Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry extended sympathies to the families reportedly affected by the strikes. The statements drew sharp criticism across Indian social media platforms, intensifying public anger and fueling a growing call to boycott Turkey.

Hema Malini Discusses Future Of The World At MIT School Of Engineering



Veteran actress and BJP MP Hema Malini visited the MIT School of Engineering in Mathura, where she said that she discussed the "future of our world." Taking to Instagram, Hema shared a group picture with the Dean of Engineering, inaugural chief officer of Innovation and Strategy and other officials. The actress-turned politician stunned in a pink pearl hued saree as she stood in the middle to pose for a picture. She wrote as the caption: "Was at MIT yesterday with Anantha Chandrakasan, Dean of Engineering and inaugural chief officer of Innovation and Strategy and other officials. Was a guest at a fireside chat with select minds of Harvard and MIT at the

Thomas Tull concert hall discussing the future of our world. With me was Anuradha Palakruthi." "Was delighted to see a few Mathura residents among the audience. #mit #Mathura," she concluded the post. Earlier this month, Hema heaped praise on PM Modi and the Indian Armed Forces following the successful execution of Operation Sindoor. Taking to X, Hema Malini wrote, "Koti Pranam to our powerful Army and our Airforce who have given a fitting reply to the terrorists who had taken the lives of innocent tourists and had in one evil stroke, widowed 26 of our women." "Yes! Modi ji launched the most effective Operation

Sindoor against the enemy, thus avenging the innocent citizens who were massacred mercilessly in Pahalgalam. The entire nation has risen as one in support of the govt action. Jai Hind! Jai Bharat!" Operation Sindoor is the code name for the precise and strategic retaliatory strikes carried out by Indian armed forces on May 7, targeting nine key terror installations across Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. On the acting front, the actress was last seen in "Shimla Mirchi," which released in 2020. Directed by Ramesh Sippy, the romantic-drama also stars Rajkumar Rao and Rakul Preet Singh. The film marked Sippy's return to direction after a 25-year gap.

Kangana Ranaut tweets on Donald Trump; deletes it, expressing regret



BJP parliamentarian Kangana Ranaut on Thursday informed about taking down a tweet as well as an Instagram post, at the behest of party president J.P. Nadda, which she posted about US President Donald Trump earlier in the day. The BJP MP from Mandi LS seat, apparently, made a distasteful comment on US President Donald Trump and was forced to retract after it received backlash on social media and also sent alarm bells ringing in the party ranks over the possible fallout of her Trump-Modi 'comparison' remarks. The party is already

battling to contain the damages, ignited by senior party leader and MP minister Vijay Shah's controversial remarks on Colonel Sophiya Qureshi. Kangana took to X to announce that she deleted the tweet about Donald Trump, on the party president's directions and also dubbed it as personal opinion. "JP Nadda ji called and asked me to delete the tweet I had posted regarding Trump asking Apple CEO Tim Cook not to manufacture in India. I regret posting that very personal opinion of mine, as per instructions, I immediately deleted it from

Instagram as well," she informed in a post on X. Kangana was apparently miffed over US President Donald's appeal to Apple CEO Tim Cook to stop 'contributing' to the 'Make In India' campaign and rather focus on the homeland. Though Kangana's post has been deleted now, a couple of viral screenshots claim that she drew a comparison between Donald Trump and PM Modi and also projected the US President as 'inferior' to the Indian counterpart. "What could be the reason for this love loss? Is this personal jealousy or diplomatic insecurity?" she asked, some X handles claimed. Notably, the US President recently at a business event in Doha, made an appeal to Apple CEO Tim Cook to focus on 'building' America and not India because of its abruptly high tariffs. Trump's nudge to Apple against manufacturing in India comes at a critical juncture, when the iPhone maker is contemplating expanding its India production, shifting base from Beijing to tackle the tariff war between the US and China.

Ananya Panday shares her dilemma after getting all dolled up

Actress Ananya Panday revealed her dilemma after getting all dolled up. She shared that even after getting ready, she has nowhere to go. The diva took to her Instagram account and dropped a couple of selfies looking drop-dead gorgeous in a stunning sleeveless yellow dress with a low neckline and open weaves. Ananya's matt makeup with a brown undertone complemented the dress perfectly. Her

high-glam look was tied up with open, wavy hair, along with gold earrings and a complimentary ring. "All dolled up and nowhere to go (song is for Riot not myself)," she captioned the post. The "CTRL" actress also dropped a couple of snaps of her furry friend, Riot on IG. Reacting to the post, Ananya's mother, Bhavna Pandey, and Navya Naveli Nanda shared three heart eyes emojis in the comment box.

Shafali Makes Comeback Into India's T20I Team For England Tour, Sayali Added To Both Squads

Mumbai, (HS) : Big-hitting opener Shafali Verma has made a comeback into India's T20I team for the upcoming tour of England, starting on June 28. India will play five T20Is and three ODIs against England, who have a new captain and head coach in Nat Sciver-Brunt and Charlotte Edwards respectively. Though Shafali is only named for the T20I leg of the tour, pacer Sayali Satghare has made it to both squads, adding some heft to India's fast bowling stocks, depleted due to Renuka Singh Thakur and Titas Sadhu still nursing injuries. Shafali had been out of the national set-up after last year's T20 World Cup in the UAE, where India failed to enter the semi-finals. After strong showings in the domestic 20-over and 50-over matches, Shafali amassed 304 runs from nine innings with a strike rate of 152.76 for Delhi Capitals (DC) in WPL 2025, and finished at fourth place in the run-scorers' charts. That strong showing in



this year's WPL has propelled the Neetu David-led selection committee to bring back Shafali into the shortest format scheme of things. Apart from Shafali and Sayali, Sree Charani, Shuchi Upadhyay, and Kranti Goud are the newbies in the T20I team while Sneha Rana, Harleen Deol and Amanjot Kaur also find spots in the side after varying gaps. For the ODIs, barring

Sayali's addition, the selectors have chosen to retain the side which won the recent tri-series in Sri Lanka, which featured South Africa as the third team. The three ODIs against England provide ample chances for India to fine-tune their combinations ahead of this year's ODI World Cup, to be held on their home soil in September-October. India's five T20Is against

England will be held at Trent Bridge, Bristol County Ground, The Oval, Old Trafford and Edgbaston from June 28 to July 12. The three ODIs between the two teams are slated to take place in Southampton, Lord's and Chester-le-Street from July 16-22. India's women's T20I squad for England tour: Harmanpreet Kaur (C), Smriti Mandhana (VC), Shafali Verma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Richa Ghosh (WK), Yastika Bhatia (WK), Harleen Deol, Deepti Sharma, Sneha Rana, Sree Charani, Shuchi Upadhyay, Amanjot Kaur, Arundhati Reddy, Kranti Gaud, and Sayali Satghare India's ODI Squad for England tour: Harmanpreet Kaur (C), Smriti Mandhana (VC), Pratika Rawal, Harleen Deol, Jemimah Rodrigues, Richa Ghosh (WK), Yastika Bhatia (WK), Tejal Hasabnis, Deepti Sharma, Sneha Rana, Sree Charani, Shuchi Upadhyay, Amanjot Kaur, Arundhati Reddy, Kranti Gaud, and Sayali Satghare

India Clinch Fourth Straight Win In Samarth Championship For Blind Cricket

Bengaluru, (HS) : Team India continued its dominant run in the 2nd edition of the Samarth Championship for Blind Cricket with a resounding 171-run win over South Africa at Sai Krishnan Cricket Stadium, Bengaluru—marking their fourth consecutive win in the league stage. Opting to bat first, India set an imposing target of 243/7 in 20 overs, led by a spectacular 102 off 43 balls from Sonu Rawat (B2) and a solid 74 off 47 by Dinesh Rathva (B3). In response, South Africa collapsed to 72 all out in 13.2 overs. The Indian bowlers, Gambheer Singh Chauhan and Devraj Pal, picked up three wickets each, dismantling the opposition with precision. With four wins in four matches, India remains unbeaten and firmly atop the leaderboard, strengthening their title contention. The series, a five-match international



bilateral tournament between the Indian Men's Blind Cricket Team and the South African Men's Blind Cricket Team, is organised under the 'Samarth by Hyundai' initiative and in partnership with the Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI) and Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled. In the first edition of

the Samarth Championship for Blind Cricket, the Indian men's blind cricket team emerged as winners against the Sri Lankan men's blind cricket team. The second edition will be a five-match series with South Africa. The next match will also be played at the Sai Krishnan Cricket Stadium, Muddenahalli, Bengaluru,

with the series ending on May 16. The second edition of the Samarth Championship for Blind Cricket will give the athletes a platform to showcase their talent while encouraging many more with their unbreakable spirit. The second edition of the Samarth Championship for Blind Cricket kicked off today at the Sai Krishnan Cricket Academy in Bengaluru with India beating South Africa by eight wickets, with Deepak Malik contributing an explosive 82 off 48 balls and Manish Kumar adding a quick-fire 45 runs. India delivered a commanding performance in the second league match, defeating South Africa by 65 runs. In the high-energy league match held at Sai Krishnan Cricket Stadium on Wednesday, India overpowered South Africa by 7 wickets, marking 3 wins out of 5 league matches, with just 2 games remaining.

KIYG 2025: Haryana Fencing Teams Claim All Three Gold On Final Day Of Competition

Rajgir, (HS) : Haryana signed off the fencing competition in the Khelo India Youth Games 2025 Bihar by winning all three gold medals on the final day in the Indoor Stadium at the Rajgir Sports Complex here on Thursday. Haryana boys clinched gold in the saber team competition while the girls topped in epee and foil events. Haryana thus ended the competition with seven gold, two silver and three bronze medals. Maharashtra finished with two gold, two silver and three silver. Chandigarh, Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan picked up one gold medal each to be among the top five teams



in the Fencing competition in this edition. The Haryana girls epee team captain Deepanshi said the fencers were grateful for the coaching staff's efforts. "Our team attributes its success to our coaches' training and guidance. This is my second consecutive gold medal in the team event, and I'm proud of our back-to-back victories," she said. Men's saber

team captain Ujjwal was expectedly thrilled with his team's performance. "It was my first time in Khelo India, and I was fortunate enough to secure the gold medal through teamwork and determination. I'd like to thank our coaches, Kapil sir, Rajpal Yadav sir, Narendra Singh sir, and Suresh sir, who were instrumental in our win," he said. Haryana Head Coach Narendra Singh beamed with pride. "Our fencers played well, reflecting in our results. Haryana has consistently dominated previous Khelo India Youth Games editions, and this time was no different.

I'm proud of each fencer's determination and mindset, which made this achievement possible," he said. This is the first time that Bihar hosted the Khelo India Youth Games, which features 27 types of games. As part of the event, a significant focus was on fencing, which was scheduled from May 11 to 15.