



**India not dharamshala: SC rejects Lanka Man national's**

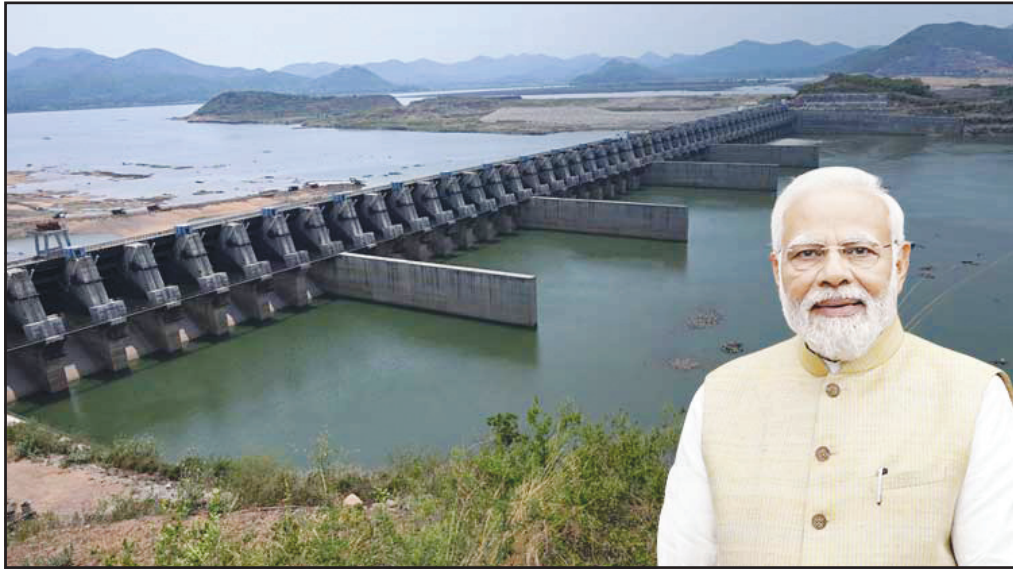


**New Delhi, (HS) :** "India is not a dharamshala (free shelter) that can accommodate refugees from all over the world," the Supreme Court observed on Monday while dismissing a Sri Lankan national's plea seeking direction to take refuge here, as he claimed that his life was in danger in his home country. A two-judge bench of the top court, led by Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice K Vinod Chandran, observed that India cannot afford to host refugees as it is already struggling to manage its population of 140 crore.

"This is not a dharamshala, where we can entertain foreign nationals from everywhere. Please go to some other country," the bench stated. The apex court responded to a plea filed by the Sri Lankan man challenging an order issued by the Madras High Court directing him to leave India immediately after completing a seven-year prison sentence under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA). The petitioner was arrested by Indian prosecuting agencies here in 2015 following suspicions of the man's alleged links to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), a banned terrorist organisation in Sri Lanka. After the trial concluded in 2018, a sessions court convicted him under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and sentenced him to 10 years in jail. In 2022, however, the Madras High Court reduced his jail sentence to seven years. It had asked him to leave the country as soon as his sentence was over and directed him to stay in a refugee camp before his deportation. His lawyer told the apex court that he had been under detention for nearly three years after his sentence, without any initiation of deportation proceedings. The counsel further submitted to the bench that the petitioner was a refugee and that his wife and children had already settled in India. "What is your right to settle here?" the court pointed out and remarked.

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**Polavaram Dispute: PM to Hold Meeting with CM of 4 States on May 28**



**Bhubaneswar, (DMC) :** In a significant development, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to chair a high-level meeting on May 28 to discuss the long-pending Polavaram project. The meeting will bring together the Chief Ministers of four states- Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Chhattisgarh-amid rising inter-state tensions over land submergence and displacement issues associated

with the project. This will be PM Modi's first meeting specifically focused on the Polavaram project, which has been declared a national project. However, the neighbouring states including Odisha have raised strong objections, citing the risk of submergence of villages and displacement of tribal populations in their respective territories.

Despite several rounds of

discussions at senior bureaucratic levels, a consensus has remained elusive. Multiple petitions filed by Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and Telangana are currently pending before the Supreme Court. Although Andhra Pradesh had proposed constructing a protective embankment near the potentially affected villages, Odisha and Chhattisgarh remain firm on their demands for proper land acquisition and rehabilitation

processes. Polavaram was accorded national project status as part of the assurances made during the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh. With the NDA government now back in power in the state, the pace of work has picked up, compelling the central government to seek swift resolution of inter-state disputes to complete the project within the stipulated timeframe. For the first time, the Prime Minister will directly interact with all four Chief Ministers to push for a unified and amicable solution. According to sources, the Chief Secretaries of the respective states have already been briefed via video conferencing about the upcoming meeting.

In addition to the Chief Ministers, their irrigation ministers and senior officials, top representatives from the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti, the Central Water Commission, and the Polavaram Project Authority will also be present. Officials in the Water Resources Department are hopeful that the Prime Minister's direct involvement will

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**No Communication Received on PM's Polavaram Meet: CM**



**Bhubaneswar, (DMC) :** Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Monday clarified that he has not received any official communication regarding a proposed meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Chief Ministers of four states to discuss the Polavaram Project. Responding to media queries, Majhi said there has been no message from the Centre about the Prime Minister holding a meeting with the Chief Ministers of Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Chhattisgarh on May 28. Some national media reports had suggested that the Prime Minister would hold a video conference with the four Chief Ministers on that date to

address issues related to the Polavaram Project. Majhi stated that while there might be discussions at the level of Chief Secretaries and senior officials, he has no information about any confirmed meeting involving the Chief Ministers. He added that if such a meeting is held in the future, Odisha will definitely take part and present its concerns in the best interest of the state. The Polavaram Project, a major irrigation and multipurpose project on the Godavari River, has remained a contentious issue. While it is seen as a crucial project for Andhra Pradesh, neighbouring states like Odisha, Telangana, and Chhattisgarh have raised objections over the submergence of villages and forest areas.

**CM Leads 11th Grievance Hearing, Disburses Rs. 13.5 Lakh in Aid**

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC) :** Odisha CM Mohan Charan Majhi led the 11th round of the People's Chief Minister's Grievance Hearing Program today at the newly established grievance room in Unit-2, Bhubaneswar. The event, marked by compassion and efficiency, saw the Chief Minister personally address the concerns of 1,000 registered complainants, reinforcing the state government's commitment to resolving public grievances swiftly and effectively.

A Day of Action and Empathy  
The program began with Chief Minister Majhi arriving early to meet differently-abled

individuals and those suffering from chronic illnesses waiting outside the venue. His hands-on approach set the tone for the day, as he listened intently to their concerns and ensured immediate assistance. Through the innovative Single Window System, 14 individuals received a total of Rs. 13.5 lakh from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund for medical expenses. Beneficiaries included Santosh Biswal of Nayagarh (Rs. 50,000), Bishnu Charan Sahu of Jajpur (Rs. 1 lakh), and Naveen Kumar Sethi of Keonjhar (Rs. 2 lakh), among others. The Chief Minister's empathetic engagement left a lasting impact. "The experience of good governance was shining



in their eyes," an official noted, as people expressed gratitude for the opportunity to interact directly with their leader. Majhi's reassuring words and prompt directives to departmental ministers and secretaries ensured that grievances were not just

heard but acted upon. The grievance hearing was a collaborative effort, with six senior ministers and top officials working alongside the Chief Minister. Present were Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari, Housing

**IMD Warns of Thunderstorms with Lightning Till May 24**

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC) :** The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued an orange and yellow warning for several districts in Odisha, predicting moderate to light thunderstorms with lightning, hail, and strong winds accompanied by light to moderate rain till May 24.

Below is a date-wise weather prediction:  
May 20: Thunderstorm with lightning with surface wind speed reaching 40- 50 kmph gusting to 60 kmph is very likely to occur in the afternoon/evening hours at one or

two places over the districts of Balasore, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Bhadrak, Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada and Gajapati. These districts have been issued orange warnings. Thunderstorm with lightning with surface wind speed reaching 30-40 kmph gusting to 50 kmph is very likely to occur in the afternoon/evening hours at one or two places over the districts of Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam, Nabarangapur, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Jharsuguda,

Sundargarh and Sambalpur. These districts are under yellow alert. Besides, hot and humid conditions are very likely to prevail at one or two places over the districts of Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam and Gajapati. May 21: Thunderstorm with lightning with gusty surface wind speed reaching 40-50 kmph is very likely to occur in the afternoon/evening hours at one or two places over the districts of Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam, Gajapati, Sonepur, Boudh,

Nuapada, Balangir, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Nabarangapur, Rayagada, Koraput, Malkangiri, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar and Sundargarh. These districts are under yellow alert. Hot and humid conditions are very likely to prevail at one or two places over the districts of Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam and Gajapati. These districts have been issued yellow warnings. May 22: Thunderstorm with lightning with surface wind speed

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**Chaka-Akha Dera Ritual Marks Milestone in Rath Yatra Preparations**



**Bhubaneswar, (DMC) :** The sacred town of Puri witnessed the performance of the Chaka-Akha Dera ritual on

Monday, marking an important step in the construction of the grand chariots for Lord

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**No nuclear signalling from Pakistan, US didn't mediate truce**

**NEW DELHI, (HS) :** Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri told a parliamentary committee on Monday that the conflict between India and Pakistan was always in the conventional domain, and there was no nuclear signalling by the neighbouring country, sources said. The sources said Misri reiterated the government's stand that the decision to stop military actions was taken at a bilateral level, as some opposition members questioned US President Donald Trump's repeated assertions about his administration's role in stopping the conflict. When some opposition members of the Standing Committee on External Affairs, which is headed by

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, prodded him on the US leader's repeated attempts to take centre stage, India's top diplomat quipped that Trump did not seek his consent for doing so.

No other country, the foreign ministry in its presentation said, has "any locus standi" to comment on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir, a clear repudiation of the US' suggestion for mediation between India and Pakistan. The US leader had even claimed that his country stopped a likely nuclear war that could have killed millions of people. Several members, mostly from the opposition, raised questions related to the Pahalgam terror attack, whether Pakistan used



Chinese platforms, the hostile stand of Turkiye and Azerbaijan against India, Pakistan's success in getting an IMF loan, and social media-dominated discourse on a

host of issues. An opposition member asked why the Indian government has not come out strongly to rebut Trump. The foreign ministry, though, has

made it clear in its earlier briefings that India and Pakistan agreed on the cessation of firing bilaterally, a point reiterated by Misri who noted the decision was taken at the DGMO-level talks at the request of the neighbouring country. Replying to queries from members, Misri said the conflict between India and Pakistan was always in the conventional domain, and there was no nuclear signalling by the neighbouring country. Tharoor later told reporters after the three-hour meeting, which he said was attended by a record 24 members, that the committee unanimously expressed solidarity with Misri in the face of "unwarranted attacks" he had faced online after

the two sides agreed to stop military actions. The foreign secretary and his family, including his young daughter, faced heavy trolling from right-wing social media handles after India and Pakistan reached an understanding on May 10 to halt all military actions. Several political leaders, former bureaucrats and defence veterans has condemned the attack and expressed solidarity with Vikram Misri. The committee wanted to pass a formal resolution, but the IFS officer objected to it. Some MPs, the sources said, asked if Pakistan used Chinese platforms in the conflict. Misri said it did not matter as India hammered

Pakistani air bases. To a question about Pakistan managing to secure a loan from the IMF, he said India opposed it but different countries are guided by their own interests, sources said. To questions about Turkiye's adversarial stand against India, he said the country had traditionally not been a supporter of India and added that he did not foresee any chance of improvement in Indo-Pak ties due to the neighbouring country's continuous display of hostility. The ministry said in its presentation that India witnessed last year alone at least 24 terrorist attacks linked to Pakistan-based terror organisations, leading to the death of 24 security

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## After Kohli

Whether Virat Kohli - who has just bid goodbye from the Test stage as one of its greatest - was batting, setting the field, instructing bowlers, casually talking, guffawing or prowling the far-flung outposts of the ground, he bristled with an unstoppable enthusiasm. As though an invisible field of energy was fuelling and guiding him, drawing in the audience, their eyes, heads and hearts. India rode the crest of the Virat wave to notch several famous wins, at home and abroad, for 14 years. As much as his batting - the refined splendour of strokes, the fusion of classicism with modernity that would be a thesis for ambitious young batsmen - India will miss the unwavering and infectious energy that defined him. So will world cricket. Virat burst forth at a time when Test cricket suffered existential pangs, when gifted cricketers were forsaking long-form rigours for the lucre and instant gratification of the shorter versions, when even the finest were picking and choosing their preferred formats. But Virat showed that they could be successful across formats, if they had the will and wisdom. He walked the talk by scaling the tops of batting charts in every format. He was passionate about Test cricket, spoke openly about its primacy over other formats, endorsed it in interviews and press conferences, took every opportunity to implore the next generation to focus on the longer game, and most importantly, cared about it. As powerful a cricketer as he is, his voice was taken seriously in the game's decision-making corridors. World cricket, thus, has lost one of its most vociferous advocates and ardent champions. He made crowds flock to watch Test matches and he kept the TRPs soaring much to the broadcasters' relief, as though preserving Test cricket was as big a mission as scoring hundreds and winning games.

He leaves not a hole or a crack at the heart of Indian batting, but an emptiness that will be difficult to fill. There is no heir-apparent, and even if there was one, he would have been crushed under the immaculate burden of being the successor to Kohli. In a way, it's a tribute to Kohli's greatness that he did not make the country miss Sachin Tendulkar for years. He was not quite Tendulkar, but he was the closest India had to him. Now India waits for someone who could be the closest they can to Kohli. Someone eventually will rise in this cricket-mad land, but to recreate the unblinking energy of Kohli could be a near impossible act.

20th May

## Clinical Trials Day



Clinical Trials Day is observed on May 20 every year to mark the anniversary of the day in 1747 when James Lind conducted the first randomized clinical study. On Clinical Trials Day, take a moment to recognize the accomplishments of clinical research professionals in public health and medicine by recognizing their efforts in clinical trials. It is also a day to express gratitude to clinical research experts for their contributions to the advancement of public health through their work. The goal is to make this a primary focus for international communication activities, meetings, discussions, and celebrations of clinical research over this period as well.

This day has a long and illustrious history, as it commemorates and commemorates an event that occurred hundreds of years ago, in the 1700s, to be exact. In 1747, a surgeon named James Lind was serving on the H.M.S. Salisbury, which was a ship in the Royal Navy of the United Kingdom. The ship's seamen were patrolling the English channel at a time when it was not uncommon for them to be struck down by the feared scurvy and, in some cases, to die as a result of it. Scurvy is a debilitating disease that is caused mostly by a deficiency of vitamin C. Those who die as a result of gum disease usually do so as a result of an infection produced by the condition and the bleeding that it causes.

James Lind, a pioneer in naval hygiene, believed he had figured out how to treat it - but he needed proof. As a result, he gathered a group of 12 affected males to whom he administered his test, which included some citrus fruits and others that were not. Lind assigned two men to each of six distinct daily treatments for a total of fourteen days without disclosing the mechanism by which he made the selection. 1.1 liters of cider; 25 milliliters of elixir vitriol (diluted sulfuric acid); 18 milliliters of vinegar three times throughout the day before meals; half a pint of seawater; two oranges and one lemon consumed daily for six days only (or until the supply was exhausted); and a medicinal paste consisting of garlic, mustard seed, dried radish root, and gum myrrh were used as treatment. According to Lind's assessment of the research, those who were given citrus fruits reported the most immediate and noticeable impacts. This was the first clinical trial conducted.

# Reservation: Generational Privilege or Real Justice?



Dr. Satyawan Saurabh

Reservation is an important means of eliminating the inequalities prevailing in Indian society for centuries and bringing the deprived communities into the mainstream. But over time it is becoming a generational privilege, leaving the truly needy deprived. The necessity of an economic basis and periodic review can make this system more equitable. If we want to build an empowered and equitable society, serious efforts will have to be made towards reforming and restructuring the reservation policy. The issue of reservation in India has always been a sensitive and controversial topic. It is considered an important tool for social justice, economic equality, and redressal of historical oppression. But as time passed, the concept of reservation seems to have deviated from its original objectives. Recently, the statement of Supreme Court judge Justice B.R. Gavai takes this debate in a new direction, in which he said that the decision to exclude affluent people from reservation should be taken by the Parliament. His statement

raises many questions-is the real benefit of reservation reaching the class for which it was created? Does this system now demand reform and reconsideration?

The basic purpose of reservation: Reservation was introduced with the aim of eliminating the deep social inequalities prevalent in Indian society and bringing the deprived communities into the mainstream for centuries. It was a means by which social, educational, and economic backwardness could be removed and all sections of the society could get equal opportunities. Constitution maker Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar presented reservation as a temporary measure so that Dalits, tribals, and backward classes could get justice and opportunities. His aim was to create a society where there is no place for caste discrimination and social oppression. It was not limited only to government jobs and education but was a bold step towards a holistic social reform.

The real face of the problem: But, gradually, this system is becoming a generational privilege for those families who have already been empowered. Justice Gavai's observation that when a person becomes an IAS or IPS, his children do not face the hardships of the same society points to an important truth. An officer's family is far removed from the real underprivileged due to higher education, a better lifestyle, and easy access to resources. This situation can be seen not only in government services but also in the private sector, higher education institutions, and other professional sectors. In such a situation, the question arises



whether it is justified for these families to continue getting the benefit of reservation.

The necessity of economic support: The main objective of reservation was not only to eliminate caste discrimination but also to eliminate economic inequality. But today the basis of reservation is mostly based on caste identity, whereas in reality economic status should also be an important factor. Talking about excluding the affluent classes from reservation can be a necessary step in this direction so that the benefits can reach the people who are really in need. This approach will not only ensure a more equitable distribution of resources but will also promote a sense of real equality and justice in the society.

Social challenges of reservation: The system of reservation often falls prey to political gains and vote bank politics. This leaves the truly

needy sections behind. In addition, a kind of class division has started emerging even within the reserved categories, where some families are continuously taking advantage of this facility, while others are still marginalized. This trend not only weakens the basic purpose of reservation but also increases social tension and a sense of injustice.

Responsibility of Parliament: Now the time has come for the Parliament to seriously consider this issue. It has to be decided whether the benefit of reservation should be limited to those families who are actually deprived and backward. This change will be in line with the basic spirit of social justice for which the system of reservation was created. This decision is important not only from a legal but also from a moral and social point of view. Also, it demands a system that can review the relevance of reservations from

time to time.

Direction of solution: The benefit of reservation should be limited to one generation only. Caste and economic backwardness should be properly assessed by including an economic basis. Children from affluent families should be kept out of the reservation so that its benefits reach the real needy. Reservation should be reviewed at a fixed period so that its real beneficiaries can be identified. Inclusive policies in education and employment should be promoted so that all sections can get equal opportunities. Transparent research and surveys should be conducted from time to time on the effectiveness of reservation so that the status of its real beneficiaries can be assessed. Education and skill development should be improved at the regional and rural level so that the real potential of the deprived sections can be enhanced. Reservation policy should be viewed from a long-term and impartial perspective by limiting political interference.

A new dawn: Reservation is a sensitive and complex subject, but its framework needs to change with time. Justice Gavai's statement points to an important debate that can shape the progress of our society and the new definition of justice. If we truly want to build an equitable society, we must reform and restructure the policy of reservation with time. This will not only respect the basic objectives of the Constitution but also be a necessary step towards a better and more just society.

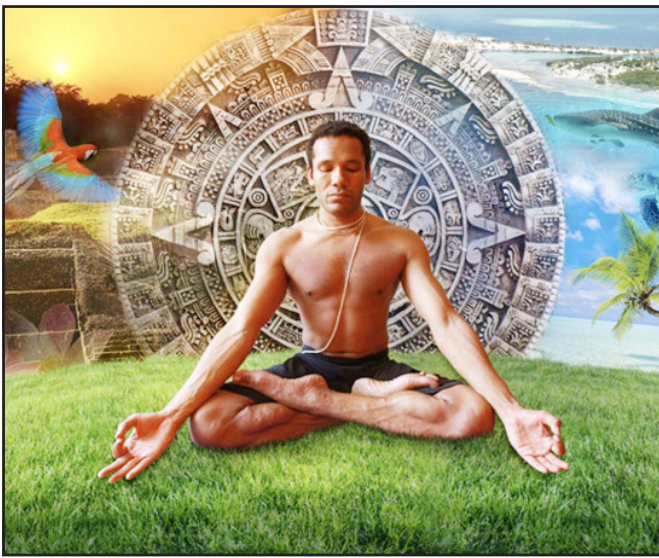
*Poet, freelance journalist and columnist, Haryana*

## Importance and Benefits of Pranayama

Dr. Ram Prasad Ray

There is no purificatory action greater than Pranayama. Pranayama gives purity and the light of knowledge shines. The Karma of the Yogi, which covers up the discriminative knowledge is destroyed as he practises Pranayama. By the magic panorama of desire, the essence, which is luminous by nature is covered up and the Jiva or individual soul is directed towards vice. This Karma of the Yogi which covers up the Light and binds him to repeated births, becomes attenuated by the practice of Pranayama every moment and is destroyed eventually. The afflictions and sins constitute the cover according to Vachaspati. Manu says: "Let the defects be burnt up by Pranayama." Vishnu Purana speaks of Pranayama as an accessory to Yoga: "He who wants the air known as Prana by practice is said to have secured Pranayama."

"Dharanasu cha योग्या manasah—The mind becomes fit for concentration" (Yoga Sutras, II-53). You will be able to concentrate the mind, nicely after this veil of the light has been removed. The mind will be quite steady like the flame in a windless place as the disturbing energy has been removed. The word Pranayama is sometimes used collectively for inhalation, retention and exhalation of breath and sometimes for each of these severally. When the Prana Vayu moves in the Akasa-Tattva, the breathing will be lessened. At this time it will be easy to stop the breath. The velocity of the mind will be slowly lessened by Pranayama. It will induce Vairagya. If you can suspend one inch or digit of breath inside, you will obtain the powers of foretelling; if you can suspend two inches within, you will get the power of thought-reading, for suspending the breath for three



inches, levitation; for four inches, psychometry, clairaudience, etc; for five inches, moving about unseen by anybody in the world; for six inches, the power of 'Kaya Siddhi'; for seven inches, entering the body of another man (Parakaya Pravasa); for eight inches, the power to remain always young; for nine inches, the power to make Devas to work as your servants; for ten inches Anima, Mahima and other Siddhis; and for eleven inches, you will attain oneness with Paramatman. When through great practice the Yogi can perform Kumbhaka for full three hours, then he can balance himself on his thumb. He undoubtedly attains all kinds of Siddhis. Just as fire destroys the fuel, so also Pranayama destroys the bundles of sins. Pratyahara makes the mind calm. Dharana steadies the mind. Dhyana makes one forget the body and the world. Samadhi brings infinite Bliss, Knowledge, Peace and Liberation. During Yogic Samadhi, the flame of the Yogagni (fire of Yoga) extending from navel to the head melts the Amrita in the Brahmarandhra. The Yogi drinks this with joy and ecstasy. He can remain without food and drink for months by drinking this Yogic nectar alone. The body becomes lean, strong and healthy. Too much fat is

reduced. There is lustre in the face.

If you are habituated to answer the call of nature, late, you can do so after finishing the Yogic exercises. 13. First do Japa and meditation. Then you can take to Asana and Pranayama exercises. Then finish the course of practice by another short sitting in meditation. 14. Asanas and Pranayama remove all sorts of diseases, improve health, energise digestion, invigorate the nerves, straighten the Sushumna Nadi, remove Rajas and awaken Kundalini. Practice of Asanas and Pranayama bestows good health and steady mind. "This is brought about by means of the subjugation of the body and the senses, the service to a good Guru, the hearing of Vedantic doctrine and constant meditation thereon" (Niralamba Upanishad). "If you are really sincere and if you wish to have a quick, sure success, you must have a systematic routine for Asana, Pranayama, Japa, Meditation, Svadhyaya, etc. You must be very careful in keeping up Brahmacharya. Effective means to control the mind are the attainment of spiritual knowledge, association with the wise, the entire abdication of all Vasanas and control of Prana" (Muktikopanishad).

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## Desireless Living

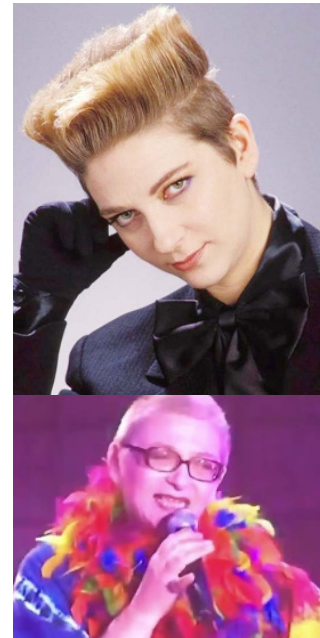
Dr. Prafulla Kumar Das

"Those who are unmoved by happiness and sorrow, those who remain uninfluenced by them are worthy of salvation. For a man when there is no question of Happiness or Sorrow, such a desireless person is imperturbable."— Bhagvad Gita

Desires! Our lives are plagued by them. In the past, our wants were few and our desires were also few. As man progressed in commerce and science, new inventions took place. These inventions were commercialized, advertised and sold and our desires also increased. Regular exposure to media, advertisement, drop in values of simple living and high thinking has increased our desires to Himalayan heights. Some of us work hard to realize our dreams and fulfil our desires. Others seek to achieve them through grace of God only. Yet others grab and seize the objects of desires from others and fulfill their own desires. Whether we work or pray or steal or grab, we seek for fulfilment of our ever increasing desires.

We must realise that it is impossible to be content and satisfied when we chase desires. When we achieve a desire, there is happiness only for a short period of time and then restlessness sets in. We begin chasing new desires. It is normal to want something bigger, better and newer each time. It is also human nature to want something that is opposite to what we sought the first time. After all we are well known for our contrary nature. This story of a man who did tapas and sought boons from Lord Shiva teaches us a great deal about desires and their fulfilment. Most importantly, it teaches us what to seek from God when we do tapas!

We were often told this by our elders when we were growing up. But then, why do we let the sad news affect our mind when



the happy news is somewhere in the back of our mind? Why do we do not handle sorrows in the same way as we handle happiness? Everyone is pointing fingers at the materialistic word. But why can't we take what is good and necessary from both the past and the present to live the future or rather the better present.

Often we see people around us who are always tensed and are trying to live life without any sorrows. But in reality, not happiness rather sorrows or problems makes the man strong. When ever we are sad we always to make ourselves happy by going for shopping or buying a new car, etc. But these are all temporary feelings. The feeling of desireless should come from within. Lets just try an exercise today - whenever we are not feeling happy lets not respond to the bad feelings. And whenever we are feeling happy lets not go with the flow of extreme happiness. So, lets live like nothing is affecting us, nor happiness nor sorrows to live a wonderful life. "Good people goes through trial, they do not suffer" - Lord Krishna.

*Consultant Radiologist, MRI Center, SCB Medical College, Cuttack*



## Odia Film Industry Focuses on OTT Growth & Digital Content at Key Development Meeting



**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):** The future of Odia cinema took center stage today at a significant meeting held at Sanskruti Bhavan's conference hall, organized by the Odia Language, Literature, and Culture Department.

With an emphasis on expanding the reach of Odia films in the digital age, the meeting explored ways to enhance the promotion of Odia cinema, while placing a strong focus on OTT (Over-the-Top) platforms and digital content. The meeting, presided over by renowned Odia film

actor and Digapahandi MLA Sidhanta Mohapatra, saw participation from key figures in the film industry, including producers, directors, actors, actresses, writers, and musicians.

Together, they discussed several strategies for Odia cinema's evolution, emphasizing the growing importance of digital platforms. Expanding the presence of Odia cinema on OTT platforms to reach a global audience. The development of a dedicated platform to showcase and promote Odia digital content, especially films, web

series, and short films. Proposals to support the production of content specifically designed for digital platforms and to streamline the process for filmmakers to distribute their work digitally.

Increasing the number of cinema halls while keeping digital platforms in mind for broader access. Creating a platform to enhance the promotion of Odia content, specifically for digital consumption, to meet the growing demand in the OTT space. The meeting also addressed the need for government support in

producing films rooted in authentic Odia stories. There were suggestions for creating a sustainable ecosystem for filmmakers, including subsidies for film production and support for the transition to digital distribution channels. The meeting featured prominent personalities from the Odia film industry, such as actors Arindam Roy, Sabyasachi Mishra, Archita Sahu, Pinky Pradhan, Anu Choudhury and Harihar Mohapatra, alongside musician Debasish Mahapatra.

Also present were Panchanan Nayak, former Doordarshan director Deepti Mishra, Director of the Odia Language, Literature, and Culture Department Bijaya Ketan Upadhyaya, Special Secretary Deba Prasad Dash, Deputy Director Devjani Bhuyan and Secretary of Odisha Sahitya Akademi Dr. Chandrasekhar Hota. The meeting concluded with a unified vision to ensure that Odia cinema thrives in both traditional and digital spaces, setting the stage for a more globally connected and innovative film ecosystem.

## Odisha launches crackdown on illegal Bangladeshi immigrants



**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):** The Odisha government has launched a statewide initiative to identify and deport illegal Bangladeshi immigrants, with the Special Task Force (STF) of the Crime Branch appointed as the nodal agency for the operation. Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan confirmed the state's firm stance, stating, "Under no circumstances will non-citizens be allowed to reside in Odisha. Once identified, they will be deported as per legal procedures."

STF Deputy Inspector General Pinak Mishra informed that several infiltration hotspots have already been identified, particularly in coastal regions. The STF is working in close coordination with district police, the Indian Coast Guard, and other enforcement agencies to begin a thorough identification drive. STF is closely monitoring the situation. We recently apprehended 10 Bangladeshi nationals and registered a case. Given Odisha's long coastline, we remain alert and are in constant touch with multiple agencies," Mishra said. According to official data, 3,738 illegal Bangladeshi infiltrators have already been identified in various districts,

especially in Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Bhadrak, Balasore, Puri, and Ganjam—all coastal areas vulnerable to unauthorized entry. In a significant arrest on March 9, 10 Bangladeshi nationals, including three women and a juvenile, were detained at Bhubaneswar Railway Station for entering the state without valid documents.

To intensify the crackdown, the state government has directed all District Collectors and Superintendents of Police to form block-level committees to detect and report illegal immigrants within their jurisdictions. While the state continues to shelter over 1.57 lakh Bangladeshi refugees who were legally resettled post-Independence, primarily in

Malkangiri and Nabarangpur districts, concerns have grown over undocumented immigrants who have found employment in the construction sector across coastal Odisha. Minister Harichandan also stated that engineering and construction firms operating in Odisha will be asked to submit detailed reports on Bangladeshi nationals working with them.

These reports will be carefully examined to verify the legal status of all such individuals. The government's latest move underscores its commitment to national security and demographic regulation amid rising concerns over illegal immigration in sensitive border and coastal regions.

## Four arrested for attacking man over previous enmity over cricket match in Bhubaneswar



**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):** Commissionerate Police on Monday arrested as many as four persons on charges of attacking a man over previous enmity over a cricket match in Bhubaneswar. The arrested persons have been identified as Md. Raja (28) of Ghoradia village under Delanga Police Station of Puri district, who at present stays at Jharanasahi Basti, Shiushubhan Chhaka, MD Saddam (30) of Danagahira village under Pipili Police Station of Puri district, who at present stays at Jharanasahi Basti, Shiushubhan Chhaka, Ramu @

Nasamuddin Saha (25) of Gop in Puri district, who at present stays at Near Tarini Temple, Jharana Basti, and Chumu @ Ajamussin Saha of Gop who at present stays near Tarini Temple, Jharana Basti, PS- Capital, Bhubaneswar. Police also seized two numbers of swords and two motorcycles.

One Biki Nayak alleged that one SK Raja, SK Sadam, Guna Singh, and other, came in a Swift car and motorcycles, suddenly attacked him while he was having tiff in near New Forest Park. They assaulted him brutally with swords with an intention to kill. Though Biki tried to flee, he was chased down and assaulted

again, causing severe bleeding injuries on his head, hand, and leg. Locals gathered at the spot, prompting the accused to flee. The injured victim was immediately shifted to Capital Hospital for treatment. Based on the complaint of his sister, a case Airport PS Case No-144, dtd. 12.05.2025, U/S-115(2)/109/351(2)/351(3)/3(5) BNS turned to Sec-115(2)/109/351(2)/351(3)/61(2)/111 BNS/R/w. Sec-25(1)(a) Arms Act was registered and investigation was initiated.

During investigation, a special team comprising the Special Squad, ACP Zone-II, IIC Airport, and POPD team of Airport PS conducted raids and apprehended to the accused persons. The investigation revealed that previous enmity over a cricket match between the victim and accused Guna and Md. Raja led to the attack. Earlier, accused Ismile Mahammad @ Sawan had been arrested and forwarded to the court on May 14. Raids are going on to apprehend the remaining accused.

## Bhubaneswar Metro Rail project puts brakes on elevated road corridor plans



**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):** The Elevated Road Corridor project in Bhubaneswar has encountered delays, and structural changes are very likely to be incorporated in it due to the metro rail project in the Capital City. Works Minister Prithviraj Harichandan informed on Monday. Initially scheduled to start in May, the project aims connect Jayadev Vihar to Nandankanan.

Although the tendering process was completed, the need for structural modifications to accommodate a future metro train line has necessitated a redesign. What necessitated structural modifications? Except for redesigning the elevated road corridor project, the basic concept remains untouched. Consequently, the prior tender has been cancelled, and a new tender will be floated shortly. Discussions at a high level are ongoing to address this issue. "If we proceed with the old

structure, the projected cost would be approximately Rs 1,800 crore. However, adopting a new structure might inflate the expenses to around Rs 2,700 crore," the Works Minister stated while speaking to OTV. "Tender for the elevated road corridor project was already floated.

Structural design issues have emerged in the meantime to accommodate the Metro Rail Project. Hence, the tender was cancelled and a fresh tender will be floated soon," Minister Harichandan said. "It is yet to be finalised whether there will be separate corridors for both the

projects or there will be an integrated corridor instead. A decision is anticipated soon, and the new tendering process will be expedited," the Works Minister added. Worth mentioning, Odisha government had previously unveiled a robust infrastructure plan valued at approximately Rs 7,000 Crore to address traffic congestion in Bhubaneswar.

This was expressed on January 31 by the Works Minister amid growing concerns over traffic management in the Capital City. The ambitious elevated corridor will connect Jaydev Vihar to Nandankanan, with flyovers at Kalpana Square and Museum Square. A new road over-bridge (ROB) on Museum Road, an underground road (subway) at AG Square, and development of inner and outer ring roads are parts of the proposed development works.

## Acid attack attempt on woman foiled in Bhubaneswar, local residents overpower accused



**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):** An acid attack attempt on a woman was thwarted by quick-thinking locals at the Saheed Nagar area in Bhubaneswar on Sunday. The local people reportedly overpowered the accused youth and handed him over to the police. As per reports, the youth, along with two of his associates, allegedly tried to throw

acid on the victim woman's face due to unrequited love. However, the local residents acted decisively, restraining the alleged perpetrators and subsequently handing the main accused over to the police. The young woman involved in the incident has reportedly filed a formal complaint with the Saheed Nagar police station. She has called

for stringent action against the accused, emphasising the need for justice in such violent acts. "I had a friendship with the boy. However, he got married. When I saw his marriage pictures and invitation card, I discarded my friendship with him. However, he got angry with me and said that he was forced to get married due to family pressure. He further told me that she wanted to marry me," said the woman. "When I refused his proposal, she made my pictures viral and tormented me. He also threatened me. I have already given him Rs 50,000 not to make my pictures viral. However, he is still making my pictures viral. He even tried to throw acid on my face with two of his associates today. I have filed a complaint against him at the police station. Stern action should be taken against him," she added.

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):** A suspected drone was reportedly seen flying over the Lingaraj Temple in Bhubaneswar for about 15 minutes triggering security scare among the sevayats and devotees in the shrine. Some servitors spotted the suspected drone hovering over the Lingaraj Temple for about 15 minutes from 5.15 PM to 5.30 PM and

captured the visuals in their respective mobile phones. Soon, they informed about it to the Lingaraj Police and shared the visual of the drone with them. Without any delay, a team of cops rushed to the Lingaraj Temple to investigate the incident but before the arrival of the cops, the drone had vanished from the locality. However, it

is not immediately known who and under what circumstances used the drone over the temple, which is considered as a very sensitive place in Odisha. Even the State police has imposed a ban on the use of such drones in the locality in the wake of the tension between India and Pakistan following the Pahalgam terrorist attack.

## Two Collector office staff held for duping rape survivor of 1 Lakh



**Cuttack, (DMC):** Two employees of the Cuttack District Collector's office have been arrested for allegedly embezzling compensation funds meant for a rape survivor. The duo reportedly duped the survivor of ?1 lakh, promising to expedite the release of the financial assistance. The matter came to light after the survivor filed a written complaint at Lalbag

Police Station. Acting on the complaint, police apprehended one accused on Sunday and the other on Monday. The arrested individuals have been identified as Amiya Kumar Sahu and Sangeeta Singh. According to police sources, both have confessed to their involvement in the fraudulent transaction. Additional DCP Amarendra Panda confirmed the arrests and said further investigation is underway.

## Vedanta Chairman Anil Agarwal highlights Aluminium's strategic importance amid global trade war, calls for policy push to make India the aluminium hub of the world

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):** Vedanta Chairman Anil Agarwal has drawn attention to the strategic role of aluminium and steel in the ongoing global trade war, underscoring the opportunity for India to position itself as the world's aluminium hub.

In his LinkedIn post, Mr. Agarwal shed light on how aluminium and steel have emerged as key commodities in the trade standoff, particularly between the US and its trading partners. With the United States imposing a steep 25% tariff on steel and aluminium imports from all countries including close allies like Canada and Mexico, the global metals market is facing

widespread disruption. In response, India has implemented a 12% safeguard duty on steel imports to protect its domestic industry. Mr. Agarwal praised this move, stating, "I commend the government for proactively imposing a safeguard duty on steel.

I am confident that the government will consider a similar step for aluminium." He emphasized that aluminium, due to its lightweight and recyclable nature, is poised to surpass steel in strategic value. "Modern economies are built on these two metals be it airports, railways, homes, vehicles, or mobile phones. But aluminium has the

edge, and with India's massive bauxite reserves, we are well-positioned to lead globally," he said. A striking visual accompanying his post highlighted the top bauxite-producing nations, with India holding significant potential alongside leaders like Australia, Guinea, and China.

Mr. Agarwal pointed out that countries losing access to traditional markets due to tariff barriers will seek alternative destinations like India, making it critical for policymakers to support the domestic aluminium sector. "With our vast bauxite resources, India can become the aluminium capital of the world. This will not only enhance our

global standing but also unlock a robust downstream industry that creates jobs and fuels economic growth," his post mentioned. Vedanta Aluminium, a key player in India's aluminium industry, has been at the forefront of this transformation, investing heavily in refining and smelting infrastructure.

Mr. Agarwal's call for focused policy support aims to catalyse further development in the sector and leverage India's mineral wealth for long-term strategic advantage. As global trade realigns, Mr. Agarwal's message reiterates the need for India to seize this moment and establish itself as a leader in the future of metals and manufacturing.

## Odisha Deputy CM in Bhutan to attend labour conference

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):** Odisha Deputy CM Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo attends the South Asia Labour Mobility Conference in Bhutan, representing India. Discussions focus on labour mobility challenges and migration policies. Odisha Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo on Monday reached Bhutan to attend the South Asia Labour Mobility Conference, organised by the World Bank, officials said. He is representing India in the two-day international conference being held in Thimphu on May 20 and 21, an official statement said. Singh Deo, who is also the state Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment and Energy, chairs the Task Force on Distressed Migration set up by the Odisha government. During the conference, he will engage in discussions on key labour mobility issues and represent India's perspective on challenges and policy frameworks related to migration, it added. "Participation in the conference will be very helpful in finding a permanent solution



and formulating policies to address the problems faced by migrant workers," the statement said. Chitra Arumugam, principal secretary, Labour and Employees' State Insurance department, is accompanying Singh Deo. Around 100 people, including representatives from Bhutan, West Asian countries, North Africa, Italy, Australia, United Arab Emirates, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Jamaica, Bangladesh, representatives of the World Bank and government officials are expected to participate in the conference, officials said.



## Private Bus Dashed with Side Hills :3 Injured

**Paralakhemundi, (DMC) :** Under Rayagada police limits of Gajapati district one Ispat bus plying from Bhubaneswar to Paralakhemundi lost control & at Marlabaghat section dashed with nearest hill. 25 passengers were in the bus. 10 passengers, including conductor, were injured & among them 3 persons are serious. All injured persons transported to Rayagada CHC. Those injured persons are Sadanand Nayak (52) & PBhaskar (53) of Kashinagar & Santos Sahu (38) of Puri, Juria Nayak (27) of Rayagada, Miluniar Roito (38) of Ruguda & Dharmendra Patnaik (38) of Bhubaneswar. Among them 3 patients referred to DHH Paralakhemundi. For 45 minutes patients stranded at Rayagada CHC, due to absence of medical staff; said Sadanand Nayak.



## The three chariots in the shrine are wheeled akha dera niti Poojapanda servant wins rathakhala with sriju's command

**Puri, (DMC) :** On the occasion of The Lord's Bhauri Yatra today, the wheel of three chariots was completed at the shrine. After the morning dhoop, the pujapanda servants from the temple took the orders of Shriju and conquered the rathakhala.

After this, two wheels of three chariots went to the dera with one akh dera. After the completion of today's Chak Akh Dera policy, other works of construction of the chariot have started. On the last day of the Outer Chandan Yatra of the Lord, i.e. during the Bhauni Yatra, bhudevi, the moving idols of The



Lord, Shri Devi, Ramakrishna and Madannohan's panch Mahadev Narendra played 21 rounds of water sports in the pool. In view of the huge gathering of devotees in the Bhauri Yatra, the niti administration has made elaborate

security arrangements in view of the huge gathering of devotees in the procession. In this occasion Temple Chief Administrator Dr. Aravinda Padhi, Collector Siddhartha Sankar Swani, SP Binit Agarwal with other officials were present.

## Interstate Culprit on Stolen Gold Strangled



**Paralakhemundi, (DMC) :** Gajapati police has an incredible achievement to disclose interstate racket on gold looting. On a press meeting SP Gajapati Jatindra Kumar

Panda detailed on pandora box. Regarding theft of gold at Kashinagar & continuously at Gurandi police limits one Upaluri Govind Kumar of Mandasa police limits of

Srikakulam district of Andhrapradesh has been arrested. Several cases at Gurandi, Kashinagar & Paralakhemundi Police Stations registered on gold stolen. From him one Hero Glamor motor cycle & a mobile set with huge gold chains those stolen by him seized.

Since last 6 months such stealing incident reported at above police stations where on daring day light gold chains had been snatched away, which Gajapati Police had a boiling adventure to search the goon. At last such hard core culprit arrested.

## Low Quality Work on Biju Setu Yojana at Gajapati

**Paralakhemundi, (DMC) :** At Mohana block of Gajapati district low quality of work on guard wall bridge found. In between Gundriguda to Mohana a bridge constructed on. But due to callousness & lack of quality works that bridge seeing cracking. So area villagers of Gundriguda, Badheipur, Nuasahi & Dhanupanka villages are dependent on that bridge which is over Harbhanghi river. Students & local people non their daily marketing with other works at block office of 2 kms road. While interacted Executive Engineer (EE) RD Umasankar Mallick, he remained silent. During previous EE period that work done after several complains. Since last one & half year back that bridge constructed with a tune of 3 crores & more budget. False bills done for which such low quality works found, saying local villagers. They demanded stringent enquiry.

## OJU Executive Body Meeting held in Paradip



**Paradip, (DMC) :** The executive body meeting of the Odisha Journalists' Union (OJU), Paradip branch was held at the union office premises on Sunday. The meeting was presided over by Karmeswar Swain, President, OJU of Paradip unit.

On the occasion, OJU State President Shashi Bhushan Praharaj was attending the program as the chief guest, while State General Secretary Secretary Duryodhan Maharana and District Executive Member Surendra Kumar Biswal were

present as the guests of honor. The chief guest Shri Praharaj discussed problems of journalists, and the need for all journalists to come together and present their demands to the government and apply pressure to achieve their demands.

The guests expressed their views on how to strengthen the Paradip organization and how all the journalist of the Paradip unit will continue to cooperate in the future. The program was conducted by journalist Alok Chandra Mohapatra, while

Sameer Kumar Mohanty proposed the vote of thanks. Finally, the names of the new officers of OJU Paradip branch were announced. Karmaswar Swain as the president, Alok Mohapatra as working president, Prashant Das as vice president, Sameer Kumar Mohanty as the general secretary,

Santosh Kumar Behera as the Asst. Secretary, Jitendra Sahu as the joint secretary, Govind Nath as treasurer. Similarly, Ajit Kumar Das, Chitta Ranjan Swain, Basant Kumar Sahu, Batakrishna Das, Sushil Kumar Patnaik were selected as the advisors and Devadatta Samantaray, Niranjan Acharya, Purushottam Satapathy, Trilochan Swain and Parvathy Kumar Mahapatra names were declared as the executive committee member and Arun Kumar Swain as the legal advisor.

## The 12th International Day of "Art of Giving" was celebrated today with great enthusiasm and grandeur in Rayagada city



**Rayagada, (DMC) :** The 12th International Day of "Art of Giving" was celebrated today with great enthusiasm and grandeur in Rayagada city. On this occasion, a beautiful philosophy of spreading peace and joy in society was promoted. Initiated in 2013, this movement aims to spread the importance of compassion, service, and selfless giving to all sections of society.

The district-level "Art of Giving" program was organized in the premises of the Rayagada Block Office under the chairmanship of Kalinga TV Bureau Head, Rayagada, Mr. Amulya Ratna Sahu. The event was graced by the presence of Mr. Nihar Ranjan Kanhara, Additional District Magistrate (ADM) of Rayagada, as the Chief Guest. He highlighted the

significance of the "Art of Giving" initiative and praised the tireless efforts and generosity of Dr. Achyuta Samanta, the founder of KISS, KIIT, and KIMS, in taking this philosophy forward. The event was also attended by the President of KISS Parents' Association, Majhi Pedikaka, as a Guest of Honour, along with other dignitaries including Budu Kondagiri.

On this occasion, both Mr. Nihar Ranjan Kanhara and Mr. Pitambar Behera, HR Director of Utkal Alumina, were honored for their contributions. A book titled "Art of Giving", authored by Dr. Achyuta Samanta, was also officially released during the program. To further spread awareness about the philosophy of "Art of Giving," a special awareness program was conducted

at the NCC camp being held at the campus of Rayagada Autonomous College. NCC girl cadets participated in this session and discussed how Dr. Samanta has spread the message of helping others globally through this unique art. Captain Ritarani Mishra of NCC coordinated and supported the entire event. Similarly, a separate "Art of Giving" program was also conducted in the premises of Seva Samaj Girls' Orphanage. An awareness session was organized for the girl students present there.

During the event, gifts were distributed to the orphanage residents on behalf of former KISS student Amaravati Ulaka, Junior Engineer Girija Sankar Pati from Kalyansinghpur block, and the Bureau Head of Kalinga TV. The girl students also discussed how Dr. Achyuta Samanta's philosophy, ideals, and spirit of service can inspire them in their own lives. Contributors like Rajeswari Dalai, Diptimayi Pradhan, and Sabita Sabar supported the program. The District Coordinator of KISS, Mr. Ronit Sabar, conducted the entire event and extended his thanks to all the attendees and participants.

## Gaon re Prashasan : Panchayat Level Public Grievances hearing Program organised



**Nuapada/Khariar Road, (DMC) :** A Panchayat level public grievances hearing programme was organised by the Block administration Nuapada at the campus of Budhipali Gram Panchayat Office in Nuapada District on Monday. The programme was held under the Presidenship of Nuapada Block Chairperson Tareshwari Sahu. Nuapada BDO Rohita Bhoi heard the grievances of the people present.

Grievances were related to problems of PMAY beneficiaries, Subhadra Yojna, MGNREGS works etc. Sarpanch of Budhipali GP Bodhankar Sahu, Zilla Parishad Member Uma Thakur, APO Nuapada Block Meenalal Chandrakar, PEO Subhalaxmi Sahu, Agriculture Overseer Budhipali GP Bodhnibati Sahu, Samiti Member Kanti Sahu, GRS Kajal Hans, Krushak Saathi Rohit Sahu along with hundreds of villagers of the Panchayat were present.

## Jt. Grievances at PAntarada



**Paralakhemundi, (DMC) :** At Pantarada panchayat of Nuagada block of Gajapati district joint grievances held. Chaired by Collector Gajapati Bijay Kumar Dash among others SP Jatindra Kumar Panda, CDO of ZP Sankar Kerketa were on dias. Along with PAntarada Keredango, Nuagada & Luhangar panchayats grievances received. Among 46 grievances personal 13 & community level 33 received. 4 grievances sorted out at spot. Others to sort out instructed by Collector. Among others Chairperson of Nuagada block Malati Pradhan, BDO Loknath Sabar, Tehsildar Monalisha Achary & CDMO Dr. Md. Mubarak Ali, DSSO Santosh Kumar Nayak, local Sarpanchs & other PRI members with line department officers were present.

## Collector Bargarh's Joint Grievance Redressal Camp



**Bargarh, (DMC) :** A successful public grievance redressal camp was held at the Sohela Panchayat Samiti office, chaired by District Collector Shri Aditya Goyal. The event brought together key officials, including Padmapur Additional District Collector Shri Krupal Motiram Chauhan, District Council Chief Development Officer and Executive Officer Shri Lalat Kumar Paha, Padmapur Sub-District Collector Sneha Arugula, Sub-District Security Officer Shri Pranab Shabar, District Chief Medical Officer Dr. Prashant Kumar Dash, and Community Development Officer Karishma Bhesra, all dedicated to addressing the concerns of residents. During the camp, a total of 63 grievances were recorded, covering a wide range of important issues such as irrigation, electricity supply, drinking water, ration cards, and allowances for the elderly and disabled, as well as road construction and agriculture. Out of these, 38 were individual concerns while 25 represented collective community issues. The District Collector directed the relevant divisional officers to take prompt action to resolve these matters, demonstrating a strong commitment to improving the quality of life for constituents in the area.

## Joint Public Grievance at Collectriate

**Jagatsinghpur, (DMC) :** Joint Public Grievance camp organised to-day at Sadbhavana Sabha gruha of Collectriate and Collector cum District Magistrate Presided over Joint Grievance. Total 72 Grievance registered to-day & out of them 66 Individual complain and others group complain. Mainly Ration Card, Awas Yojana, Pension grievance were there. Out of them 24 Grievance taken for discussion and 13 Grievances solved at the spot. Jagatsinghpur SP, Zilla Parishad Development Officer, ADM, Line Department Officers and BDO, Tahasildar present there.

## From Page- 1

## India not...

During the course of the hearing, his lawyer even pleaded to the apex court that under the Constitution's Article 21 (Protection of life and liberty) and Article 19, which grants fundamental rights, including freedom of speech and movement, he can avail certain remedies. But Justice Datta, refusing the contentions, told him the petitioner's detention does not violate Article 21 because he was taken into custody as per law. The court clarified that the remedy available under Article 19 can be exercised by only to Indian citizens.

## Polavaram Dispute...

help break the current deadlock and expedite ongoing project work that has faced repeated interruptions. Ahead of the meeting, Odisha has held a preparatory session under Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi to finalise its stance. It is learnt that several petitions filed by Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Telangana regarding the Polavaram Project are currently pending in the Supreme Court.

## CM Leads 11th...

Hearing Program. Majhi also announced plans to expand the initiative to regional levels, ensuring that even those in remote areas can access this platform. "Helping the poor and helpless is our government's priority," he affirmed, emphasising the program's role in uplifting marginalised communities. The human stories behind the numbers were particularly moving. For instance, Kamala Nayak from Nabarangpur, who received Rs. 1 lakh for medical treatment, expressed relief at the swift assistance. Similarly, Suresh Kumar Jena from Cuttack, granted Rs. 50,000, spoke of the hope restored by the Chief Minister's intervention. These instances highlighted the program's tangible impact on vulnerable citizens. The Single Window System proved instrumental in streamlining aid delivery, particularly for those unable to navigate complex bureaucratic processes. By prioritising differently-abled individuals and the chronically ill, the government demonstrated a model of inclusive governance.

## Chaka-Akha Dera...

Jagannath's annual Rath Yatra. This ritual, conducted during the auspicious Bhauri Yatra, signifies the completion of a traditional milestone in the chariot-making process. In accordance with age-old customs, the Agyan Mala (a garland symbolizing divine order) was ceremoniously transported to the Ratha Khala (chariot-making yard), symbolizing the divine approval to proceed with the construction of the chariots.

## IMD Warns of ...

reaching 40- 50 kmph gusting to 60 kmph is very likely to occur in the afternoon/evening hours at one or two places over the districts of Ganjam, Gajapati, Rayagada, Koraput, Malkangiri, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar and Nabarangapur. These districts are under an orange warning. "Thunderstorm with lightning with surface wind speed reaching 30-40 kmph is very likely to occur in the afternoon/evening hours at one or two places over the districts of Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Sonepur, Boudh, Nuapada, Balangir, Kalahandi, Kandhamal and Sundargarh", read the IMD prediction for the day. These districts have been issued yellow warnings.

## No nuclear...

personnel and 30 civilians. "Terrorists are found to be using military grade weapons, assistance through drones, secure communication equipment, navigational aids, steel-coated bullets and assistance in infiltration through coordinated ceasefire violations by Pakistani troops," it said, seeking to establish the help provided by the Pakistani state in terror activities.

Misri was also dismissive of the opposition's criticism of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi citing a comment by him to claim that Pakistan was informed about Operation Sindoor and asking how many planes India lost due to this. The minister is being quoted in wrong context, he said, adding that a contact was made with Pakistan at the DGMO level only after the strikes on terror sites on May 7. The meeting was attended by a number of lawmakers, including the TMC's Abhishek Banerjee, the Congress' Rajeev Shukla and Deepender Hooda, AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi, and the BJP's Aparajita Sarangi and Arun Govil.

## 9 days Gayatri Pariwar training camp concluded at Paradip

**Paradip, (DMC) :** A nine-days spiritual training camp as "Sadhana Shivir" which was started on 10th May at Gayatri Nagar, Bijaychandrapur, Paradip has been concluded on 18th May. The aim of the programme was to spread and promote spiritual upliftment and moral development through various disciplines and practice of Gayatri upasana through trained Gayatri Pariwar members in nearby localities. More than 150 no Gayatri pariwar families of this area actively participated in this nine days training session from morning to evening.

The coordinators as well as learned specialists from Shantikunj Haridwar and Odisha state like Shri. Seshadev Badhei, Shri Balaram Sahoo Goutam, Shri Rabindra Kumar Gauda and Shri Saroj kumar Pradhan were present and trained the participants about the moral education, intellectual refinement, personality development, Sangeeta, dafla, harmonium, Gayatri upasana, Dhayan, Sadhana, Yoga, karmakanda bhaskar, Boudhik Sanskars viz. Annaprashashan, Vidhyarambha, Upanayan, Marriage, Vanprashsthaand Shradhakarm. Everyday Satsanga programme was scheduled where general public, local intellectuals and other devotees had participated



and were self inspired for soothing and uplifting in the Gayatri Pariwar to achieve enlightenment, peace and prosperity in their life. Invited coordinators taught how Gayatri mantra has numerous benefits like spiritual purification, mental and physical well-being, positive effects on brain function, increased prefrontal cortex activity, potentially sharpening decision-making and reducing stress and anxiety.

In the last day evening several patriotic and anti drugs campaign related group dance, sangeeta and drama (Raja Harischandra) were played under the direction of Rabindra Guruji which was so appreciated. The programme was coordinated by Paradeep Gayatri Pariwar unit head, Prof. Pradip Kumar Mohanty, chief coordinator, Shri Prasanna Kumar Routray, Prakash Kumar Routray, Shri Babulati Hati, Shri Dibakar Baliyar Singh, Shri Debaguru Nayak, Shri Ashok Kumar Dutta, Shri Kartik Chandra Mohanty, Shri Pradipta Kumar Parida, Debaguru Nayak and Sanjukata Routray.



## 2 Terror Associates Arrested in J&K's Shopian



**Srinagar, (HS) :** Two terror associates were arrested in Jammu and Kashmir's Shopian district, said police on Monday, adding that arms and ammunition were recovered from them.

Police in Shopian district said on X, "In a notable operation against terrorism a joint naka comprising SOG Shopian, CRPF 178 BN & 34 RR two suspected persons arrested. Upon their search 04 hand grenades, 02 pistols, 43 live rounds & other incriminating materials recovered & accordingly an FIR registered." Joint forces have started aggressive operations against terrorists, their overground workers (OGWs) and their sympathisers across the union territory. These operations are jointly carried out by the army, police and the security forces. Last week, six terrorists were killed in two back-to-back operations in Shopian and Pulwama districts. The slain terrorists included the operational commander of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). The LeT terrorists on April 22 killed 26 civilians, including a local, in Baisaran meadow of Pahalgalam after segregating them on the basis of religion. This was followed by precision-guided targeted strikes at terrorists' headquarters by the Indian armed forces deep inside Pakistan, including Muridke near Lahore, Kotli, and Muzaffarabad in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK). Pakistan reacted by indiscriminate mortar shelling on the Line of Control (LoC) and the International Border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir. Over 200 houses and shops were destroyed in Pakistan's mortar shelling on civilian facilities in Poonch, Rajouri, Baramulla and Kupwara districts. Hundreds of border residents were forced to abandon their homes, livestock and agricultural fields.

These civilians are yet to fully return to their villages as the security forces are still defusing unexploded mortar shells in the border villages. On May 12, the DGMOs of the two countries agreed to a ceasefire after which guns on both sides fell silent. The ceasefire is holding well, although India has made it clear that the understanding will last only as long as Pakistan does not allow terrorist activity against India from its soil.

## Shashi Tharoor after Vikram Misri's online trolling condemned at Parliamentary panel meet



**New Delhi, (HS) :** Vikram Misri briefed the panel, chaired by Congress member Shashi Tharoor, on the 'current foreign policy developments regarding India and Pakistan' Parliament's Standing Committee on External Affairs unanimously condemned the online trolling of foreign secretary Vikram Misri and praised his professional conduct during a meeting on Monday to discuss the foreign policy developments post India's "Operation Sindoor."

Vikram Misri led the Centre's press briefings on India's recent military action against Pakistan over the April 22 Pahalgalam terror attack. The diplomat was trolled online by a section of users after India-Pakistan ceasefire understanding, and his daughter's number was shared, prompting the foreign secretary to turn his X account into a "protected" one. The panel wanted to pass a resolution against the social media attacks against Vikram Misri. But Misri himself requested that he did not wish the panel to do it, Shashi Tharoor said after the meeting. Panel chairperson and Congress leader Shashi Tharoor said, "There was even a desire to have a resolution expressing

## Indian Tanks Operated from LoC During Op Sindoor, Took out Pak Posts

**Jammu, (HS):** T-72 tanks had rolled up to the Line of Control and took part in the May 7 Operation Sindoor that had destroyed terror bases in 9 locations in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir, an officer of the Indian army has told in an exclusive interview. The tanks - and the BMP-2 armoured personnel carriers - still deployed along the LoC -- indicate the high prepared status of the army despite the ongoing ceasefire with Pakistan.

Speaking to a Colonel, whose name is not being revealed due to security concerns, said they were put in position ahead of Operation Sindoor to take on specific targets marked out by the army. In the operation, their key role was to destroy the routes through which terrorists could infiltrate into India - as a pre-emptive measure. "We also hit enemy posts which were facilitating infiltration. We know which posts are used as bases for infiltration by the enemy. An informed call was taken -- and the targets were hit," he told. Given their deadly accuracy, the tanks, he said, were used sparingly to prevent escalation. The T-72s are fitted with 125 mm guns "and we also have missiles that have a range of 4000 meters," he said. "Only a fraction of the equipment was used for to combat ceasefire violation... 300-mm guns and 4000-metre missiles can have devastating effect on the enemy," he said, pointing to India's measured response. He also indicated that the men and equipment were ready to roll whenever orders came. Operation Sindoor was launched on May 7 - a retaliation against the horrific terror attack on tourists in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgalam, in which 25 Indians and one Nepali tourist had died on April 22. The



Indian reprisal had taken out the headquarters of Lashkar e-Taiba - a proxy of which had claimed responsibility for the Pahalgalam attack - and Jaish-e Mohammad. More than 100 terrorists were killed, a handful of them wanted for various attacks in India including the 1999 hijack of an Indian Airlines plane to Kandahar in Afghanistan. While the role of the Air Force, and the infantry division of the army was known and applauded, very little was known about the part played by the armoured division. India had said its action was "focused, measured and non-escalatory".

Pakistan attempted to hit back immediately with missiles and drones but was trounced. A ceasefire was worked out on May 10. The Centre is now sending a team of 51 political leaders, parliamentarians and former ministers, cutting across party lines, who would travel to key nations to put across India's resolve to tackle terrorism against the backdrop of Operation Sindoor.

## 2 IEDs of 5 kgs each planted by Naxalites destroyed in Chhattisgarh

**Gariaband, (HS) :** The Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS) team of the security force destroyed two Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) of 5 kg in the forests of village Gaurmund in Chhattisgarh on Sunday, Police said. Foiling the plans of the Naxalites, two IEDs of 5 kg were destroyed for security by the BDS team of the security force, the police said. In the Naxal eradication campaign, on Sunday, on the information of the presence of Naxalites in the forests of village Gaurmund under Thana Mainpur area, a joint team of district force and F company of 65 battalion CRPF under the leadership of Assistant Commandant Sudhir Kumar left for the campaign in the forest of Gaurmund. "

## Vlogger, Student, Businessman, Guard: 9 'Pak Spies' Arrested by India

**New Delhi, (HS) :** Indian authorities have arrested at least nine people from across three states for allegedly spying for Pakistan amid increased surveillance on espionage activities in the aftermath of the Pahalgalam terror attack. At least four of these arrests were made in Haryana, three in Punjab, and one in Uttar Pradesh. After the arrest of a travel vlogger suspected of spying, Hissar police had sounded an alarm that young influencers were being targeted by enemy countries. For easy money, such influencers go on the wrong path, Hissar SP Shashank Kumar Sawan had told reporters.

Here are the nine 'spies' arrested in recent times: Jyoti Malhotra: Travel vlogger Jyoti Malhotra, who runs a YouTube channel called 'Travel with JO', is from Hissar, Haryana. She was arrested last week for sharing Indian military information with Pakistan. The 33-year-old had come in contact with an official from the Pakistan High Commission and had visited Pakistan at least twice, said police. Pakistani intelligence operatives were trying to develop her as their asset



in India, they added.

Davender Singh: Davendra Singh Dhillon, 25, is a student of political science at Khalsa College in Patiala. On May 12, he was arrested in Haryana's Kaithal for uploading photos of a pistol and guns on Facebook. It emerged during his questioning that he had visited Pakistan last November and had shared sensitive information with the officers of the Inter Services Intelligence (ISI)

spy agency, including pictures of the Patiala military cantonment.

Nauman Ilahi: Nauman Ilahi, 24, who worked as a security guard in Haryana, was arrested a few days earlier from Panipat. Reports suggest he was in touch with an ISI handler in Pakistan. The resident of Uttar Pradesh used to receive money from Pakistan in the account of his brother-in-law for supplying information to Islamabad,

## India's suspension of IWT, China plans to accelerate construction of dam in Pakistan

**New Delhi, (HS) :** China has announced plans to accelerate work on a "flagship" dam in Pakistan to ease pressure on its all-weather ally, weeks after India placed the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) in abeyance following the Pahalgalam terror attack, according to a media report.



The state-owned China Energy Engineering Corporation has been working on the Mohmand Hydropower Project in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in north-western Pakistan since 2019. The project was scheduled to be completed next year. On Saturday, state broadcaster CCTV reported that concrete filling on the dam had started, marking "a critical construction milestone and a phase of accelerated development for this national flagship project of Pakistan", the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported. The project officially began in September 2019 and was scheduled to be completed next year. The move comes ahead of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar's visit to Beijing on Monday for talks with top Chinese diplomat Wang Yi.

China's move followed India's announcement to suspend the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty after the deadly

militant attack on tourists at Pahalgalam on April 22. The Mohmand dam in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province is designed to serve as a multi-purpose facility for power generation, flood control, irrigation and water supply and is designed to generate an estimated 800MW of hydropower and supply 300 million gallons a day of drinking water to Peshawar, the capital and largest city of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Under the Indus Water Treaty, Pakistan has access to the waters of the Indus and Jhelum and Chenab rivers, while India is entitled to use those from the eastern Ravi, Sutlej and Beas rivers. Waters from the rivers constitute about 80 per cent of drinking and irrigation supplies to Pakistan. Days after the Pahalgalam terror attack on April 22, India informed Pakistan of its decision to keep the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance with immediate effect, saying Pakistan has breached the conditions of the treaty.

according to the police.

Arman: Arman, 23, was arrested in Haryana's Nuh on May 16 based on intelligence inputs. The police said that he was found passing sensitive information to Pakistan during the heightened tensions between the two nations. Cops say they have evidence to support their claim, and the suspect is being further probed.

Tarif: Tarif was the second accused to be arrested from Haryana's Nuh. He was picked up from the Kangarka village in the Tawadu subdivision, two days after Arman's arrest. Cops said that on seeing the police, he had tried to delete some chats on his mobile. Some data from Pakistani WhatsApp numbers was also deleted from his phone, investigation has revealed.

Shahzad: Shahzad, a businessman in Uttar Pradesh's Rampur, was arrested in Moradabad by the Special Task Force (STF) on Sunday. He had passed sensitive information related to national security to his handlers, the STF said. He had travelled to Pakistan multiple times and was allegedly involved in the smuggling of cosmetics, clothes, and

spices.

Mohammad Murtaza Ali: Mohammad Murtaza Ali was arrested during a raid by the Gujarat Police in Jalandhar. His arrest followed intelligence inputs that he was spying for Pakistan's ISI. Reports suggest he did so through a mobile app that he had developed himself. Four mobile phones and three SIM cards were found with him. Besides, two others identified as Gazala and Yamin Mohammad have also been arrested from Punjab on similar charges. The arrests assume significance following days of heightened tensions between India and Pakistan. India had blamed Pakistan's terror infrastructure after the role of a terror group linked to Islamabad emerged in the Pahalgalam massacre.

In response to the attack, India had launched Operation Sindoor to strike terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir. Pakistan soon launched a massive missile and drone attack, but the threats were thwarted. In retaliation, Indian forces struck airfields in Pakistan. A ceasefire on May 10 ended the hostilities after four days.

## "Better Safe Than...": Court on Centre's Move Against Turkey-Based Firm

**New Delhi, (HS) :** It is better to be safe than sorry, the Delhi high court remarked on Monday, as it heard a petition by Turkey-based company Celebi Airport Services India Pvt Ltd against the revocation of its security clearance in the wake of the country's support to Pakistan amid tensions with India. On May 15, the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) revoked Celebi's security clearance, citing "national security", days after Turkey backed Pakistan and condemned India's strikes on terror camps in the neighbouring country and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir. The security clearance to the company was given in November 2022.

"The rule is better safe than sorry," a single bench of justice Sachin Datta told senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi who appeared for the aviation firm. Celebi operated in the Indian aviation sector for more years, offering its services at nine airports and employing over 10,000 people. It handles around 58,000 flights and 5,40,00 tonnes of cargo annually in India, PTI quoted its website as saying.

**New Delhi, (HS) :** Doubling down on his attack on External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar, senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi today reiterated his earlier claim that the Centre informed Pakistan "at the start" of Operation Sindoor and said this wasn't a "lapse", but a "crime". This drew a sharp response from the government, which called it "an utter misrepresentation of facts". The BJP has said the Leader of Opposition's misrepresentation of the minister's remarks "reeks of malafide intent" and questioned the timing of this charge.

On Saturday, Mr Gandhi shared a



The court's remarks came as Mr Rohtagi said public perception cannot be used to take away employment. "We are not a rogue company," he said. "No reason mentioned, no opportunity of hearing given. It appears that it is because of public perception because the shareholding of this company is of Turkish nationals," he added. The lawyer said his client has been operating in India for 17 years. "My lords, there is a procedure that must be followed. One cannot trample my business with a

two-line letter without notice," he said. The bench, however, observed that a prior notice may prove counter-productive amid apprehensions over the nation's security. If such a notice is served, then it may hasten one to do what is apprehended, it said. Appearing for the Centre, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said the petitioner deals with operations at airports. "Every such person knows the nook and cranny of aircraft and airports. Passenger's luggage is not cargo. All flights are passenger-

cum-cargo," he said. "We are dealing with the most delicate subject of civil aviation and national security and sovereignty of the nation," he added.

Mr Mehta also referred to BCAS' notice to Celebi that said the right to issue a security clearance lies solely with the Civil Aviation Ministry. The ministry, he added, reserves the right to revoke the clearance without any specific reason. In matters involving national security, there cannot be a "doctrine of proportionality", the Solicitor General said. As Mr Rohatgi maintained that Celebi employs Indian citizens to handle services across the nine airports, his opponent said: "Who controls and who gives instructions, that matters." "The enemy can make 10 attempts and has to succeed in one. Security agencies have to succeed on all 10 occasions. National security based on civil aviation security has to be placed on the highest pedestal," he said. The High Court adjourned the matter till May 21. It also asked the Centre under which provisions did it revoke the security clearance to Celebi.

## "Silence Is Damning": Rahul Targets S Jaishankar Again, BJP Replies



video of Dr Jaishankar interacting with the media. "At the start of the operation,

we have sent a message to Pakistan, saying we are striking at infrastructure

and we are not striking at the military, so the military has an option of standing out and not interfering in this process. They chose not to take good advice." Sharing the video, Mr Gandhi said in a post, "Informing Pakistan at the start of our attack was a crime. EAM has publicly admitted that GOI did it. Who authorised it? How many aircraft did our airforce lose as a result?" he asked. Reposting the video today, Mr Gandhi said the External Affairs Minister's "silence isn't just telling - it's damning". "So I'll ask again: How many Indian aircraft did we lose because Pakistan knew? This wasn't a lapse. It was a crime.



## Iran's Supreme Leader: Trump Lied About Using Power To Ensure Peace

**Tehran, (H.S):** Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei has denounced as "a lie" US President Donald Trump's recent claim that he sought to use power to ensure peace, citing the Trump administration's support for the killings in the Gaza Strip.

Khamenei made the remarks on Saturday at a meeting with a large number of teachers in Tehran, while reacting to Trump's comments on wanting peace in the region during his tour of West Asia earlier this week, according to footage of his remarks published on his website. "The recent remarks of the US President during his visit to the region are a disgrace to the speaker and a disgrace to the American nation," he said during a public event on Saturday in Tehran, according to Iran's state news agency IRNA. "Trump said he wants to use power for peace; he lied. He and other US



officials, and US administrations have used power to support the killings in Gaza, for warmongering in any place they can, and to back their mercenaries," the Iranian leader said. Khamenei reiterated his threats against Israel, calling it "the Zionist regime," and "a dangerous and malignant cancerous tumor in this region (that) must and will be uprooted." He expressed confidence that with the

determination and efforts of regional countries, the US must and will leave the region, Xinhua news agency reported. Earlier this week, Trump visited three Gulf Arab states - Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates, which are located in West Asia. In remarks in the Saudi capital Riyadh on Tuesday, Trump described Iran as the "most destructive force" in the Middle East and accused it of fueling regional instability,

vowing that the US would never let Iran obtain a nuclear weapon. However, Trump wants to avoid a deal with Iran that resembles the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which was reached during Barack Obama's presidency and included the European Union and China. Trump withdrew from the JCPOA in 2018 and reimposed sanctions on Tehran. The following year, Iran stopped complying with the broken deal.

Iran's Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi said on Saturday that the country won't renounce its right to a peaceful nuclear program, but guaranteed good faith in negotiations with the US. The trading of accusations between Tehran and Washington comes as the two sides have held four rounds of indirect talks on Tehran's nuclear program and the lifting of US sanctions over the past weeks, with mediation from Oman.

## South Korea Needs 'Win-Win' Strategy For Shipbuilding Partnership With US

**Seoul, (H.S):** South Korea should establish a detailed "win-win" strategy to seize business opportunities amid the United States' push to revitalise its shipbuilding industry, a local business lobby said on Monday. The recommendation follows a recent meeting between U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer and top executives from major Korean shipbuilders HD Hyundai and Hanwha Ocean Co. to discuss cooperation in shipbuilding, reports Yonhap news agency.

The Korean government and shipbuilding companies need to present sector-specific proposals aligned with the U.S. government's plans to build new vessels, in order to create mutually beneficial synergies," the Federation of Korean Industries (FKI) said, citing a new report. According to the report, the U.S. is expected to place orders for between 403 and 448 vessels by 2037, including



commercial ships, liquefied natural gas (LNG) carriers and naval ships. The projected orders include 100 commercial vessels, 42 to 65 LNG carriers, 10 icebreakers, 129 combat ships and 67 vessels for the National Defense Reserve Fleet.

The number of U.S. vessel orders is likely to increase further as the country aims to expand its commercial fleet to 250 ships under the SHIPS for America Act, proposed in April. The act also mandates that by 2047, 15 percent of outbound U.S. LNG shipments must be transported on domestically built vessels. Additionally, the U.S. Navy recently announced plans to procure 364 new ships over the

next 30 years. In January, U.S. President Donald Trump pledged that the U.S. would order 40 large icebreakers. "Korean shipbuilders should engage in close consultations with the U.S. government when participating in local shipbuilding projects and ensure consistent support from U.S. authorities,"

Professor Ryu Min-chul of Korea Maritime and Ocean University said in the report titled "Analysis of the U.S. Shipbuilding Industry and Implications for Korea-U.S. Cooperation." Ryu also warned that Korean companies must be mindful of potential business risks stemming from possible changes in U.S. shipbuilding policies.

## South Korea Says North Korea Likely Received Russian Support For Air-To-Air Missiles

**Seoul, (H.S):** South Korea's military on Monday raised the possibility that North Korea received technological assistance from Russia in developing a new air-to-air missile following the North's test of the weapon last week.

On Saturday, the North's state media reported North Korean leader Kim Jong-un oversaw anti-air combat and air raid drills by an air force flight group earlier in the week, unveiling what appeared to be a live-fire drill involving a new air-to-air missile launched from a MiG-29 fighter jet. Kim was accompanied by a group of party and military officials, including Ri Pyong-chol, general adviser for the munitions policy of the ruling Workers' Party's Central



Committee, and Kim Yong-hwan, president of the Academy of Defence Sciences. "We believe there is an association," Col. Lee Sung-jun, spokesperson for the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS), told a regular press briefing, when asked whether the North received arms and advanced technology from Russia in exchange for its troop

deployment. Lee said, however, that further analysis is necessary to determine the extent and scope of Russia's possible technological assistance. The JCS official added that it will likely take "considerable" time for the North to deploy such weapons systems for combat use, Yonhap news agency reported. "There have been

many cases in which the North attempted to deceive or exaggerate... issues in securing parts and material have led to delays in deployment," he said. "We believe the weapons systems will also take considerable time (to be operational)." South Korea is seeking to develop its own air-to-air missile system,

with defence authorities aiming to complete a research project to build a short-range air-to-air missile system by 2032 and deploy it by 2035. The North's latest drills came as Kim has been highlighting the importance of modernising conventional weapons, as he recently made a series of public visits to military units and munitions factories and emphasised stronger war preparations.

## North Korea's Kim could face war crime probe for supporting Russia's war against Ukraine: Former ICC chief

**Seoul, (H.S):** North Korean leader Kim Jong-un could face a war crime probe at the Hague-based International Criminal Court (ICC) for supporting Russia's war against Ukraine, a former chief of the ICC said Monday, adding that it is the right time for Kim to be brought to justice.

Song Sang-hyun, former president of the ICC, made the remarks at an international conference in Seoul, as North Korea confirmed for the first time last month that it has deployed troops to Russia to support Moscow's war against Ukraine. Kim has not yet been referred to the ICC despite his human rights violations in North Korea, but legal standards have been met now for Ukraine to pursue a case against



him at the ICC over the North's assistance in the Russia-Ukraine war, the former ICC president noted. "The time is right to bring Kim Jong-un before the ICC," Song said in his keynote speech at the event, adding that Pyongyang's military assistance to Russia provided Ukraine with the legal standards to file a complaint against

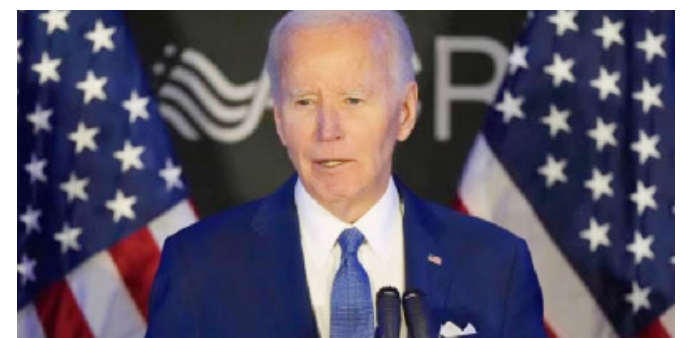
North Korea as a victim. "There is an opportunity for Ukrainian authorities, as the victim, to file a complaint against North Korea with the ICC," Song said. "While a complaint filed by Ukraine would be very ideal, the ICC also has the authority to initiate an independent investigation." In March 2023, the ICC issued an arrest warrant for

Russian President Vladimir Putin over suspected war crimes connected to Russia's war against Ukraine, Yonhap news agency reported. Since late last year, North Korea has deployed thousands of troops to fight alongside Russian forces in the war, with Pyongyang and Moscow officially confirming the troop deployment last month.

Without a statute of limitations, an ICC arrest warrant requires the accused to "carry the stigma for their entire life" and imposes "significant psychological punishment" by prohibiting them from setting foot in 124 ICC member countries, Song noted. He also urged the ICC to respond more actively to war crimes committed by the North Korean leadership and their accomplices.

**Washington, (H.S):** Former US President Joe Biden has been diagnosed with a relatively aggressive form of prostate cancer, his office said in a statement. Last week, President Joe Biden was seen for a new finding of a prostate nodule after experiencing increasing urinary symptoms," said a statement from Biden's office. On Friday, he was diagnosed with prostate cancer, characterised by a Gleason score of 9 (grade Group 5) with metastasis to the bone.

"While this represents a more aggressive form of the disease, the cancer appears to be hormone-sensitive, which allows for effective management," the statement went on to say. "The president and his family are reviewing treatment options with his physicians." President Biden is 82 and was the oldest president in the US, when he left office earlier this year, making way for President Donald Trump to return to the White House for a second term, defeating Vice-



President Kamala Harris. The announcement was received with shock and sadness across party lines. "Melania and I are saddened to hear about Joe Biden's recent medical diagnosis," President Trump wrote in a post on Truth Social. "

We extend our warmest and best wishes to Jill and the family, and we wish Joe a fast and successful recovery," he added. "Praying for Joe Biden and his family to defeat the cancer he's recently been diagnosed with," Ro Khanna, a Democratic lawmaker, wrote on X. "He and Jill have always been fighters, and

I am confident they will meet this challenge with grit and grace," he added. The Sunday announcement came amidst renewed interest in President Biden's health while he was still in office.

Questions are being raised about his mental fitness and acuity, with many Democrats expressing surprise and dismay. President Biden lost his son Beau Biden to cancer in 2015, and he has since led a moonshot initiative for cancer cure, first as vice-president in President Barack Obama's White House and then as president since 2021.

## Two dead, one missing after train hits pedestrians in US

**Columbus, (H.S):** Two people were killed and one person remains missing after multiple pedestrians were struck by a train in Fremont, Ohio, authorities confirmed. The tragic incident occurred around 7 p.m. on Sunday near the Miles Newton Bridge in Fremont, a city located between Toledo and Cleveland along Lake Erie. The Fremont Police Department, in coordination with other emergency responders, launched a search operation in the area, focusing on the Sandusky River, where one individual is believed to be missing.

Fremont Mayor Danny Sanchez confirmed the two fatalities, noting that both victims were adults. However, the identities of the deceased have not yet been released, pending notification of their families. Mayor Sanchez did not provide details on how many others may have been injured or required medical attention following the incident. Following the collision,



authorities immediately closed the Miles Newton Bridge to facilitate search and recovery operations. Fremont Police issued a public advisory on X, urging residents and bystanders to avoid the area as emergency personnel continued their work. "Due to an ongoing emergency response, the Miles Newton Bridge is closed. Please stay clear of the area to allow crews to conduct their operations safely," the department posted. Several law enforcement and emergency

agencies responded to the scene, and the investigation into the cause and circumstances of the incident is ongoing. Officials have not yet disclosed how many people were on or near the tracks at the time the train passed. The incident has drawn local attention as authorities continue to search for the missing person and determine the sequence of events that led to the tragedy. More information is expected to be released once families are notified and further details are confirmed by the police.

## Meloni Hosts Trilateral Talks Between US & EU Amid Pope Leo XIV's Inaugural Mass

**Rome, (DMC):** In a significant diplomatic gesture underscoring renewed transatlantic dialogue, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni hosted US Vice President J.D. Vance and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen for high-level talks in Rome on Sunday. The meeting, held as a side event to the historic inaugural mass (formerly known as enthronement) of Pope Leo XIV - the first American to hold the papacy - marked a potential turning point in the US-EU relations, with trade, defence, and global security topping the agenda.

Speaking to the press at the opening of the talks, Prime Minister Meloni emphasised the symbolic and strategic importance of the meeting. "I am proud to host two of the most important leaders representing the US and the European Union. There are many issues to address, many challenges to overcome, but above all, a shared recognition of how vital our transatlantic relationship is - especially for a West that seeks to remain united and influential on the global stage," said the Italian Prime Minister. Meloni framed the meeting as a "new beginning" - particularly in the realm of trade,



where tensions have persisted in recent years. While acknowledging that trade negotiations fall under the purview of the European Commission, she highlighted Italy's role as a facilitator of dialogue. "Today is about building bridges," she added. Meloni has been known as the "Trump whisperer" and was one of the only European leaders present at President Trump's inauguration.

She visited Trump for a bilateral visit in April, where he accepted Italy's invitation as the venue for trade talks with the European Union. US Vice President J.D. Vance, representing the Trump administration, echoed Meloni's spirit of cooperation. Praising the solemnity and unity displayed at Pope Leo XIV's inaugural Mass, he lauded Italy's hospitality and reaffirmed the strength of the US-Italy alliance. "We're thrilled to be here on such a

momentous day. This meeting is not just about resolving disagreements, though we have a few, especially on trade, but also about reaffirming our shared commitments. Europe remains a vital partner for the US, and we hope this dialogue sets the stage for long-term cooperation and mutual advantage,"

Vance said. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen struck a similarly collaborative tone, pointing to the scale and depth of existing economic ties. "We already share the largest trade relationship in the world, exceeding \$1.5 trillion annually," she noted. While recognising that technical negotiations can be complex, "the devil is in the details," she quipped. She also expressed optimism that the discussions would yield a balanced and mutually beneficial agreement. Von

der Leyen also raised two critical geopolitical concerns: the war in Ukraine and European defence readiness. She praised ongoing US-EU coordination on Ukraine and emphasised the need for sustained momentum toward a "just and lasting peace." On defence, she highlighted new Commission initiatives to boost military investment among EU member states, stating, "A stronger Europe always means a stronger NATO."

The trilateral talks, though informal, represent a noteworthy attempt to recalibrate US-EU relations amid a shifting global landscape. That the discussions took place on the margins of Pope Leo XIV's enthronement only heightened the symbolism: a union of religious tradition and geopolitical renewal. Separately, it has been communicated that VP Vance met with the Ukrainian President Zelensky for 30 minutes. A historic informal Trump-Zelensky meeting made front pages when the men met alone in St. Peter's during Pope Francis's funeral. Meanwhile, the Italian Prime Minister Meloni concluded, "This is a first meeting - but we hope it will not be the last."

## Car Bomb Targets Frontier Corps, Leaves Several People Dead in Balochistan

**Quetta, (H.S):** A car bomb explosion in Gulistan Area of Qila Abdullah, a border area of Pakistan's Balochistan province with Afghanistan, has killed at least four people and injured more than 20 others, eight of them critically injured.

The explosion occurred in Jabbar commercial market situated on the Quetta-Chaman National Highway in Gulistan town, adjacent to the fort of Pakistan's Frontier Corps (FC). As per details, the massive explosion destroyed many shops and vehicles parked in the area and walls of the FC Fort were also damaged. Locals said that many shops in the market also caught fire. Sources stated that the target of the attack was also a tribal warlord Faizullah Ghabizai, a pro-government leader, who

was present in the market when the car bomb exploded. However, Ghabizai remained safe while one of his guards was killed and others were injured in the explosion. Apparently, the attackers wanted to target the back wall of the FC fort located adjacent to the commercial market. After the huge blast, security forces engaged in heavy exchange of fire with the attackers,"

said Muhammad Riaz Dawar, Deputy Commissioner Qila Abdullah. "An Improvised Explosive Device (IED) was fitted in the car and was used for the explosion. It seems like the car was detonated with a remote control," he added. The banned terror outfit, Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) claimed responsibility for the attack on the FC Fort and the levies are

investigating into the incident while security in and around Qila Abdullah and Chaman has been beefed up. Analysts say that there is a clear coordination between the proscribed Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) and the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), who have intensified their attacks in the recent past."

TTP footprints deep inside Balochistan re-establish the fact that both TTP and the BLA are in allegiance and operating in coordination against the Pakistani security forces. We also have seen the other separatist groups in Sindh province - including the Sindh Desh Revolution Army which has connections with the BLA and TTP - starting to carry out targeted killings in areas bordered with India," said analyst Qamar Cheema."



## India Expected To Clock 6.9 Pc GDP Growth in Q4 Of FY25

**New Delhi, (H.S):** India's GDP growth is expected to increase to 6.9 per cent in Q4 FY2025 from 6.2 per cent in Q3 FY2025 despite the enhanced global uncertainty due to the US tariff turmoil during the quarter, according to an ICRA report released on Monday.The report also highlights an increase in consumer sentiment in both the rural and urban areas.

ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar said, "In a quarter characterised by enhanced uncertainty on the global front, ICRA estimates India's GDP growth to have risen to 6.9 per cent in Q4 FY2025 from 6.2 per cent in Q3 FY2025. Both private consumption and trends for investment activity were uneven in Q4 FY2025, with the latter partly owing to tariff-related uncertainty."While the robust increase in the output of most rabi crops is likely to have boosted the agri-GVA growth in Q4 FY2025, the tepid pace of expansion in the industrial



volume growth as well as the deterioration in the performance of several service-sector indicators is expected to have weighed on the GVA growth of these segments," she added. Based on the available data for the Centre's indirect taxes and subsidies, ICRA estimates that the growth in net indirect taxes rose quite sharply in the quarter from 6.8 per cent in Q3 FY2025, aided by a sharp contraction in the Centre's subsidy disbursement (-33 per cent in Q4 FY2025 vs. +31.1 per cent in Q3 FY2025. Against the backdrop of trade-related uncertainty

triggered by the US tariffs, India's investment activity showcased a mixed trend in Q4 FY2025. The year-on-year performance of six of the 11 investment-related high-frequency indicators improved in Q4 over Q3, mostly pertaining to the construction sector, including infrastructure/construction goods' output, cement production, and finished steel consumption.Additionally, state-investor meets in Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, and West Bengal pushed up project announcements to record levels of Rs 19.2 lakh crore in Q4 FY2025 (vs Rs 16.1 lakh crore in

Q4 FY2024).The Centre's capex in Q4 FY2025 reflected in the revised budget estimate, would imply a healthy YoY growth of around 21 per cent during the quarter.While the pace of YoY expansion of services exports slowed to 14.1 per cent in Q4 FY2025 from 17.9 per cent in Q3 FY2025, it continued to print in double digits for the third consecutive quarter. Notably, services exports stood at \$102.0 billion in Q4 FY2025, the highest level seen in the Q4 of any fiscal, the report points out.

Rural sentiments, as reflected in the Current Situation Index (CSI), improved somewhat in January 2025, likely aided by cash flows from the kharif harvest and favourable trends in rabi sowing and output.Interestingly, the March 2025 round of the RBI's Urban Consumer Confidence Survey, which is conducted in 19 major cities, revealed that urban consumer sentiments improved further, with the CSI rising to 95.5 from 93.7 in January 2025, the report added.

## FTA Likely To Double India's Apparel, Textile Exports To UK



**New Delhi:** India's apparel and home textiles exports to the UK are expected to double from the current levels in the next 5-6 years, with the bilateral free trade agreement (FTA) scheduled to become operational in calendar year 2026, according to an ICRA report. Currently, Indian textile exports to the UK face 8-12 per cent duties, but with 99 per cent of goods, including textiles, gaining zero-duty access under the FTA, India will achieve parity with competitors like Bangladesh, Vietnam and Pakistan, the report states.

China leads UK textile imports with a 25 per cent market share, closely followed by Bangladesh, which has a 22 per cent share. Turkey and Pakistan, with 8 per cent and 6.8 per cent share respectively, are the other major exporters. The FTA will enable India's textile exports to become more competitive in the UK, leading to an increase in market share. India is currently the 12th largest trading partner of the UK and ranks fifth in

apparel and home textiles imports, with \$1.4 billion worth of exports in 2024, which constitutes a 6.6 per cent share of the UK's textile imports.While the US and EU remain dominant markets with a 61 per cent share in 2024, the UK's share is expected to rise to 11-12 per cent by 2027, reflecting an 11 per cent compound annual rate of growth (CAGR).

The bilateral trade deal, finalised on May 6, after three years of negotiations, will provide concessional or zero-duty access on select goods, boosting trade volumes and earnings. India's Textile and Apparel (T&A) exports have continued their upward

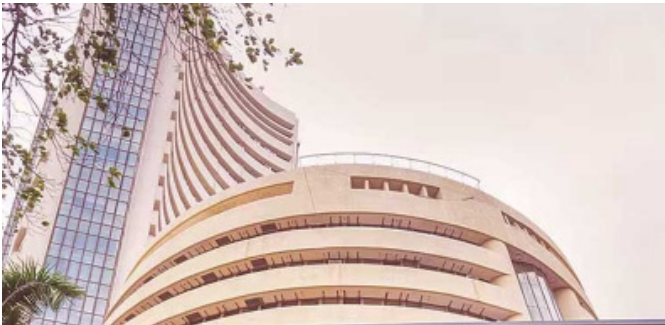
trajectory, recording a growth of 7.45 per cent in April 2025 compared to the same month of the previous year. This positive trend was primarily driven by the strong performance of the apparel segment, which registered a robust 14.43 per cent growth year-on-year, an analysis of the data released by the Ministry of Commerce showed."

The current growth of 14.43 per cent in apparel exports seems to be mainly driven by increased shipments to the United States, following the announcement of reciprocal tariff measures by the US administration." Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) chairman Rakesh Mehra said.

## Sensex, Nifty End Lower Over Profit Booking

**Mumbai, (H.S):** The Indian stock market began the week on a weak note as benchmark indices ended lower on Monday, mainly due to profit booking at higher levels.The Sensex fell by 271.17 points, or 0.33 per cent, to close at 82,059.42. The Nifty also ended in negative territory, falling by 74.35 points or 0.30 per cent to settle at 24,944.85."

Technically, the index appears to be in a consolidation phase, which may continue for the next few days. The index may remain under pressure unless it reclaims the 25,000 level," Rupak De of LKP Securities said."On the downside, the Nifty could drift toward the 24,800-24,750 zone. A deeper correction may be likely if it breaks below 24,750. Conversely, a move above 25,000 could trigger a rally toward the 25,250-25,350 range," he added. Several major stocks saw declines on the 30-share index, including Infosys, which



slipped 1.95 per cent, and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), which was down by 1.20 per cent.Tech Mahindra dropped 1.19 per cent and Asian Paints lost nearly 1 per cent. Eternal (formerly Zomato) also declined around 3 per cent during the intra-day session. Power Grid Corporation led the gainers with a rise of 1.27 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finance, which gained 0.91 per cent.NTPC added 0.64 per cent, State Bank of India (SBI) rose 0.32 per cent, and HDFC Bank ended slightly higher

with a 0.17 per cent gain.While the large-cap stocks saw selling pressure, the broader markets held their ground. The Nifty Smallcap100 index climbed 0.51 per cent, and the Nifty Midcap100 index managed a small gain of 0.07 per cent.This indicates that despite weakness in frontline stocks, investors showed some interest in select small and mid-sized companies. The Nifty Realty and PSU Bank indices were the top performers among sectoral indices, gaining 2.25 per cent and 1.50 per cent,

respectively. Other sectors that ended in the green included Bank Nifty, Auto, Financial Services, Metal, Pharma, and Healthcare, indicating buying interest in select segments.However, IT, FMCG, Media, Consumer Durables, and Oil and Gas ended in the red, with the Nifty IT index emerging as the worst performer, falling by 1.37 per cent.

The market volatility saw an uptick.The India VIX, often referred to as the fear gauge, jumped 4.89 per cent to close at 17.36. Meanwhile, gold prices started the week on a positive note as safe-have bids rose after Moody's downgraded the US sovereign credit rating to AA1 from AAA, while concerns over trade tariffs and middle-east geo-political tensions is likely to the bullion supported."Focus during the week will be on the US data on manufacturing/services PMI, and housing data," said Pranav Mer of JM Financial Services Ltd.

## Over 1.64 Lakh Primary Buyers, 4.2 Lakh Active Sellers Now Onboard on GeM

**New Delhi, (H.S):** Government e-Marketplace's (GeM) user base has seen a three-fold increase in recent years, with over 1.64 lakh primary buyers and 4.2 lakh active sellers now onboard, it was announced on Monday.The platform offers more than 10,000 product categories and over 330 services. India's national public procurement portal marked its 8th 'Incorporation Day' with a reaffirmation of its transformative impact on inclusive economic growth and digital governance."

From MSEs and start-ups to weavers and women-led enterprises, our journey goes beyond procurement - it's about building a more accessible, efficient and equitable marketplace for all," said Mihir Kumar, CEO, GeM. Independent assessments,



including from the World Bank and Economic Survey, validate GeM's impact, noting an average cost saving of nearly 10 per cent in government procurement. According to Kumar, over 10 lakh Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs), 1.3 lakh artisans and weavers, 1.84 lakh women entrepreneurs, and 31,000 startups are now part of the GeM ecosystem." By ensuring complete information

dissemination on bids and actively integrating diverse stakeholders - MSEs, start-ups, women entrepreneurs, self-help groups, and FPOs - GeM has redefined public procurement," he added.Nearly 97 per cent of all transactions on GeM are now free from transaction charges. Additionally, fees have been reduced by 33 per cent to 96 per cent and capped at Rs 3 lakh for orders exceeding Rs 10 crore,

significantly down from the earlier Rs 72.5 lakh.For sellers with annual turnover below Rs 1 crore, the caution money deposit has been cut by 60 per cent, with full exemptions granted to select groups. GeM's role in advancing national priorities was underscored by key transactions, including Rs 5,000 crore worth of equipment for the Akash Missile System and Rs 5,085 crore in vaccine procurement.

The platform is also enabling complex services such as drone-as-a-service for AIIMS, GIS and insurance for over 1.3 crore lives, and wet leasing of chartered flights and CT scanners, said Ministry of Commerce and Industry. GeM has now been adopted across all 36 states and union territories, with Uttar Pradesh leading the way.

## Indian Rupee Opens Stronger, Gold Prices Show Upward Trend

**New Delhi, (H.S):** The Indian rupee opened 12 paise stronger at 85.44 against the US dollar on Monday, amid a backdrop of global economic developments and market reactions. The Indian rupee closed at 85.52 a dollar on Friday. Meanwhile, gold prices increased almost 1 per cent in the morning session of trade on the domestic futures market on Monday, amid a weaker dollar and renewed fears of Donald Trump-era trade tariffs.

MCX Gold June 5 contract traded 0.95 per cent higher at Rs 93,317 per 10 grams in the morning trade. Meanwhile, the dollar index declined nearly 0.3 per cent, supporting gold prices. A decline in the US dollar makes gold cheaper in other currencies, enhancing its demand. Rahul

Kalantri, VP of commodities at Mehta Equities, said that gold has support at \$3,195-3,175 and resistance at \$3,245-3,260. Silver has support at \$32.10-31.80 and resistance at \$32.65-32.85."Gold prices climbed above \$3,220 per ounce on Monday, rebounding from last week's steepest decline in six months.

The recovery was fueled by renewed safe-haven demand after Moody's downgraded the US sovereign credit rating, citing fiscal imbalances and rising debt costs," he mentioned.Despite recent optimism from a temporary US-China tariff truce, weak US economic indicators and subdued inflation have led markets to price in additional interest rate cuts by

the Federal Reserve, offering further support to bullion." In INR, gold has support at Rs 91,850-91,480 while resistance at Rs 92,850-93,490. Silver has support at Rs 94,480-94,850 (per kg) while resistance at Rs 95,950-96,650," he added.

Gold prices have remained rangebound over the last two sessions due to a lack of positive triggers as the US reached a temporary truce with China and tensions between India and Pakistan have also eased. However, domestic buying ahead of the upcoming wedding season in India will ensure that the downside is capped and prices remain at elevated levels, said Aksha Kamboj, Vice President, India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA).

## India's Foodgrain Production Jumps 6.8 Pc To Surpass 1,663.9 Lakh Tonnes In FY25

**New Delhi, (H.S):** Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced on Monday that India's foodgrain production has increased by over 106 lakh tonnes to 1,663.91 lakh tonnes in 2024-25, which represents a 6.83 per cent increase over the corresponding figure of the previous year."In 2023-24, the country's total foodgrains production was around 15,57.6 lakh tonnes.

I am glad to tell you that in 2024-25, it has become 16,63.91 lakh tonnes," Chouhan said at a press conference here."The production of the rabi crop was 1,600.06 lakh tonnes in 2023-24, now it has increased to 1,645.27 lakh tonnes," he said.The Union Minister said that his ministry's vision was not only to meet the country's own food requirement,



but also to make India the food basket of the world. Chouhan also gave the call for "One Nation, One Agriculture and One Team" to make the country's farmers self-reliant and increase their incomes at the farmers convention - Krishi Samvaad - at Nagpur on Sunday. Chouhan said that during a 15-day campaign from May 29

to June 12, agricultural scientists will visit villages to guide farmers on sustainable farming practices and plan for the Kharif season. With 16,000 agricultural scientists under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), scientists will visit villages as a team along with agricultural extension officers to educate

farmers about new seed varieties and innovative farming practices. The government is committed to bridging the gap between laboratories and farmlands, he added. He said the Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Ministry, state Agriculture Ministries, the ICAR, Krishi Vigyan Kendra,

and all agricultural institutes should work together as a team. If all the institutions are connected, targets are set, roadmaps are made, then miracles can be made in agriculture, he added. Making another big announcement, the minister said the Centre would set up a national-level lab in Pune under the Clean Plant Programme.

This laboratory will be set up in Pune for research on the original species of plants. Emphasising increasing agricultural production, Chouhan said that the Clean Plant Programme is being run to ensure pure and disease-free nurseries. To increase production, farmers should understand the need for good quality seeds, soil testing and reduction in production costs.

## SBI cuts fixed deposit rates by 20 bps



**New Delhi, (H.S):** Country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) has cut fixed deposit rates by 20 basis points across tenors effective May 16. As per the bank's website, the cut in interest rates on retail domestic term deposits below Rs 3 crore is applicable for both general public and senior citizens. Deposits for 2 years to less than 3 years gives the maximum interest to investors at 6.7 per cent, followed by 3 years to less than 5 years which gives 6.55 per cent interest from May 16.Fixed deposits of 5 years to 10 years now get interest of 6.30 per cent for general public, while it is 6.5 per cent for deposits of duration 1 year to less than 2 years. The interest rate of specific tenor scheme of "Amrit Vrishi"(444 days) has also been revised from 7.05 per cent to 6.85 per cent effective May 16, 2025. Senior citizens and super senior citizens (aged above 80 years) are eligible for their additional benefits in rate of interest.Last month also, SBI had cut deposit rates by 10-25 basis points, taking cue from the policy rate cuts by the RBI. The Reserve Bank in April had slashed key interest rate by 25 basis points for the second time in a row to support growth facing the threat of reciprocal tariffs by the US. The policy repo rate now stands at 6 per cent.Shares of SBI were trading at Rs 793.95, up 0.27 per cent over previous close on BSE.





## Wamiqa calls working with Akshay, Priyadarshan 'childhood dream'

Actress Wamiqa Gabbi, who has wrapped up shooting for "Bhoot Bangla", called being part of Akshay Kumar and Priyadarshan's movie "a childhood dream." Wamiqa took to Instagram stories, where she shared a picture from the shoot featuring him and Akshay near a waterfall. "From hysterically enjoying all "Akshay Kumar Priyadarshan' movies all my life to now being part of their world. This had been a

childhood dream. Thank you to the coolest @ektarkapoor ma'am, the most amazing @akshaykumar sir & @priyadarshan.official sir."

She described the experience as fun and fantastic. "It was a FUNtastic experience Cannot wait for you to experience #Bhoot Bangla Aaaaand my second film with my most favourite @tabutiful ji," Added Wamiqa. On May 18, Akshay revealed that the shoot of the

film was wrapped up. Akshay shared a video on Instagram, where he could be seen shooting for a romantic song with Wamiqa. Announcing the pack-up of the horror comedy, Akshay wrote, "And that's a wrap on #BhootBangla! My seventh madcap adventure with the ever-inventive @priyadarshandir sir, my second outing with the unstoppable @EktaaRKapoor, and my first but hopefully not the last,

magical journey with the ever-surprising Wamiqa. Grateful for the madness, the magic, and the memories (sic)." Showing her gratitude for Akshay's appreciation, Gabbi penned in the comment section, "Akshaaaaaaaay sir...Thaaank you for the kind words sir...Had the best best time shooting with this team. Absolutely FUNtastic." Co-produced by Faara Sheikh and Vedant Baali, the story for "Bhoot Bangla" has been penned by

Akash A Kaushik with screenplay by Rohan Shankar, Abilash Nair, and Priyadarshan. The dialogues for the much-awaited drama have been provided by Rohan Shankar.

Along with Akshay and Gabbi, the project also has Tabu, Paresh Rawal, Sharman Joshi, Mithila Palkar, and Jaaved Jaaferi in prominent roles, along with others. "Bhoot Bangla" is slated to reach the cinema halls on April 2, 2026.

## Much-awaited War 2 teaser to come out tomorrow

Get ready for the biggest clash of Indian cinema- War 2 teaser will be out on May 20, coincidentally Jr NTR's birthday. Hrithik Roshan and Jr NTR will be starring in the much-awaited film, directed by Ayan Mukerji, along with Kiara Advani joining the cast. Reportedly, Jr NTR will release the teaser as a birthday gift to his fans. War 2 is not a mere action movie; it is part of the YRF Spy Universe, which has been growing with movies such as Ek Tha Tiger, Tiger Zinda Hai, Pathaan, and Tiger 3. Jr NTR is reported to play a pivotal character in this universe with independent movies, spin-off roles, and crossovers lined up. The Telugu superstar's character is reported to be multi-dimensional and morally grey, trying to tread the fine line between heroism and grey areas.

Hrithik Roshan, who is reprising his role as RAW agent Kabir, has spoken highly of the film, saying that War 2 is going to be bigger and better than the first part. He also complimented Jr NTR, calling him "amazing"



and "brilliant." The movie release date is August 14, 2025, and fans are waiting impatiently to see the adrenaline-pumping action and epic confrontation between Hrithik and Jr NTR. YRF Spy Universe has been growing in a grand manner, with upcoming ventures like Pathaan 2, Tiger vs Pathaan, and Alpha with Alia

Bhatt and Sharvari. Jr NTR joining the universe is a strategic step in reaching out to Pan-India audiences as envisioned by Aditya Chopra for creating a Marvel-style spy-verse based on Indian cinema. With War 2, the studio plans to take the franchise to new levels, and fans can't wait to witness what is to come.

## Shilpa Shirodkar Tests Positive for Covid-19



Actor Shilpa Shirodkar, the former 90s actor who recently appeared on the popular reality TV show Bigg Boss 18, has announced that she has tested positive for COVID-19. On Monday, Shilpa took to Instagram to share an update about her health. In a note, she said, "Hello people! I've been tested Positive for COVID". "Stay Safe and wear your masks," she added. Fans and well-wishers are pouring in good wishes and speedy

recovery messages for Shilpa Shirodkar after she shared the news of testing positive for Covid-19. The outpouring of love and support reflects her enduring connection with her audience.

"Get well soon," wrote one, another shares, "Whatt....Ohhh ma'am...plzzz tak care...be careful". "Take care," one shared, with another posted, "Get well soon Shilpa ma'am". One fan wrote "My God.... Get well soon", and another "Oh !!! Please take care Shilpa ji and get well soon, my best wishes". Shilpa Shirodkar, an Indian actress and former model, was a popular face in Hindi films from 1989 to 2000. After a 13-year hiatus, she made a comeback with Ek Mutthi Aasmaan (2013) and later participated in Bigg Boss 18 (2024). She has been married to Aparesh Ranjit since 2000 and has a daughter. Her sister, Namrata Shirodkar, is married to actor Mahesh Babu.

After her stint in Bigg Boss 18, Shilpa made headlines because of her drastic physical transformation. In March, Shilpa revealed that she shed 13-14 kg ever since her stint on the reality TV show hosted by Salman Khan.

## "Kaafir, Jihadi" People from Both Sides Abuse Me: Javed

Javed Akhtar was attending the launch of Narkatla Swarg, a book by Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut, when he candidly addressed the criticism he frequently receives from opposing ideological camps.

Speaking about the backlash he endures, Javed Akhtar revealed, "People from both sides abuse me. One calls me a Kaafir (infidel), saying that I will go to hell. The other calls me a Jihadi, asking me to go to Pakistan". Delivering his signature sharp wit, the lyricist added, "So, If I only have a choice of going either to hell or to Pakistan, I would rather like to go to hell." Clarifying that the criticism directed at him isn't limited to one ideological group, Javed Akhtar said, "People from both sides abuse me. It's not one-sided. I would be very ungrateful if I don't admit that there are people who also appreciate me. Many support me, praise me, and encourage me." However, he admitted that abuse from extremists has become a constant



in his life. "But this is also true that the extremists from this side abuse me so do the extremists from the other side. This is the reality. If even one of them stops abusing me, I will call it an anomaly and think that I must have made a mistake," he remarked.

Javed Akhtar's statement comes in the aftermath of heightened tensions between India and Pakistan. On April 22, a deadly terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu & Kashmir, took 26 lives. In response, India

launched Operation Sindoor, conducting targeted missile strikes on terror camps in Pakistan. Following a series of cross-border drone and missile strikes from both sides, a ceasefire was announced on May 10. However, Pakistan has reportedly violated the ceasefire multiple times, prompting retaliatory action by the Indian Armed Forces. As per reports, the Directors General of Military Operations (DGMOs) of New Delhi and Islamabad are expected to hold talks soon.

## BCCI Isolates Pakistan, India to Pull out from Asia Cup

**New Delhi, (HS) :** The recent hostilities between India and Pakistan on the border areas are set to have a long and lasting impact on the cricketing relations between the two countries. While India and Pakistan were already against playing bilateral cricket, the worsened political relations between the two nations have jeopardized multi-team events between the two teams too. With a Pakistan minister heading the Asian Cricket Council - the body governing cricketing affairs in the continent - the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is planning to pull out of this year's Asia Cup, in a bid to further isolate the neighbouring country.

The Asia Cup 2025 is scheduled to be held in India, but with a match against Pakistan all but out of the picture, the contest doesn't hold much significance from a financial standpoint. While countries like Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan also earn revenues from the tournament, the biggest attraction unarguably remains an India vs Pakistan clash. However, considering the current political climate, the BCCI doesn't seem to be keen on continuing with the Asia Cup plan. Such a scenario



would hurt the financials of the Asian body, led by Mohsin Naqvi, who is also the chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board. Naqvi assumed the role after Jay Shah, former secretary of the BCCI, vacated the role after being named the chairman of the International Cricket Council. "The Indian team can't play in a tournament that is organised by the ACC, whose chief is a Pakistani minister. That's the sentiment of the nation. We have verbally communicated to ACC about our withdrawal from the upcoming Women's Emerging

Teams Asia Cup, and our future participation in their events too is on hold. We are in constant touch with the Indian government," Indian Express quoted a BCCI source as saying. With most of the sponsors for the Asia Cup coming from India, the current anti-Pakistan sentiment in the country makes it quite tricky for the BCCI to go ahead with the tournament's plans.

In 2024, Sony Pictures Networks India (SPNI) bought the media rights for the Asia Cup for a fee of 170 million US dollars. However, the deal would

need to be reworked if the Asia Cup doesn't happen this year. The 2023 Asia Cup saw a hybrid model being adopted, with a part of the tournament taking place in Sri Lanka. India went on to clinch the title in Colombo while Pakistan failed to even qualify for the final.

Another Due to the continuing tensions between India and Pakistan, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has reportedly decided to skip the Women's Emerging Teams Asia Cup and even pull out from the Men's Asia Cup.

## Bumrah Lost Test Captaincy Race



**New Delhi, (HS) :** As the Test captaincy transition in the Indian team keeps everyone guessing, plenty of opinions have surfaced on the candidates, primarily Jasprit Bumrah and Shubman Gill. Bumrah looked like the natural successor as Rohit Sharma said goodbye to the format but those in the know, feel Gill is being considered as a better candidate due to the pacer's workload issue and injury troubles. Former India batting coach Sanjay Bangar, sharing his opinion on the Test captaincy situation, feels Bumrah lost No. 1 Test captaincy candidate spot because of the same reason that saw Hardik Pandya being overlooked for India's T20I captaincy -- injuries and workload.

## Gill-Sudharsan Script History, Register Sensational IPL Record

**New Delhi, (HS) :** Sai Sudharsan hit an unbeaten 108 and skipper Shubman Gill made 93 not out as Gujarat Titans booked their play-off spot in the IPL with a 10-wicket hammering of Delhi Capitals. The day marked the return of IPL action with two completed matches after Saturday's scheduled resumption ended in a washout. The T20 tournament was paused last week due a deadly conflict between India and Pakistan but officials decided to resume the tournament after a ceasefire. Gujarat's victory also ensured a spot in the play-offs for Royal Challengers Bengaluru as well as Punjab Kings, who earlier in the day won their match against Rajasthan Royals. Gill and Sudharsan became the first Indian pair to score more than 800 runs in an IPL season. Most runs by an Indian pair in an IPL season: 839 - Shubman Gill & Sai Sudharsan (GT, 2025)\*, 744 - Shikhar Dhawan & Prithvi Shaw (DC, 2021), 671 - Mayank Agarwal & KL Rahul (PBKS, 2020), 602 - Mayank Agarwal & KL Rahul (PBKS, 2021), 601 - Virat Kohli & Devdutt Padikkal (RCB, 2021) Since the pause in the IPL, the tournament has been rescheduled with the final now set to take place on June 3.

## FIH Pro League: Indian Team Ready for Tough Matches in Europe

**New Delhi, (HS) :** With the second half of the FIH Hockey Pro League 2024-25 fast approaching, Harendra Singh, head coach of the Indian women's hockey team, is charting the course for his team currently situated in sixth place on the points table. According to Harendra, the Indian team did reasonably well in the home leg of the FIH Pro League and is getting ready to take on some tough opponents in Europe. "The upcoming matches of the FIH Hockey Pro League in Europe will see the Indian women's hockey team play some tough opponents, and the team is definitely ready for it. When we go into the FIH Hockey Pro League in Europe, it will be after our tour of Australia, which is a great form of preparation, because match-practice and game time are both very valuable and will always benefit any team," Harendra told the FIH in an interview in the buildup for the next stage in the Pro League. Harendra said his players will benefit from the experience of playing in the home leg of the Pro League, which included a massive shootout win against World No.1 and Olympic champion Netherlands. "The team did well in the home leg, especially the shootout win against the Netherlands was a massive confidence booster for the team. And as we go into the European leg, the experience and knowledge from the previous phase will definitely benefit the team. We will be



playing across three different venues in London, Antwerp and Berlin during this time, and the team is working hard. With India set to play Australia, Argentina, Belgium and China in the Pro League, Harendra said going into the league, soon after a tour of Australia, would hold his team in good stead. "Coming from the Australian tour and straight into the FIH Pro League is surely going to be beneficial, but the games in Europe will also be very different in every sense of it. "Australia, Argentina, Belgium and China are all good teams and we aren't taking anything for granted, no matter what the situation is. Our preparations for the FIH Hockey Pro League are moving along at a good pace and we will continue to work towards our goals," said Harendra.

## IPL: Rishabh slammed for his poor captaincy



**Mumbai, (HS) :** Aggressive wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant has completely failed as a player and captain for Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025. Though bought for a whopping Rs 27 crore, the southpaw has so far managed just 128 runs in 11 matches at an average of 12.80 and a strike rate of 99.22. Making things worse, Pant's scoring rate is the slowest among all batters who have scored more than 100 runs this IPL season. In response, former India batter Aakash Chopra criticised Pant for his poor performance and captaincy. "It's also true that Pant was extremely animated as a captain in the last match before the IPL suspension. It seemed like he was extremely disturbed and frustrated. That's not the captain you want, one who looks frustrated on the ground.