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English Daily



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurates, lays foundation stone & dedicates development projects worth 26,000 crore in Bikaner, Rajasthan

Rajasthan, 22/5 (H.S): The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated, laid the foundation stone and dedicated to the nation multiple development projects worth Rs 26,000 crore in Bikaner, Rajasthan today. Addressing the gathering at the event, acknowledging the significant participation of people from 18 states and union territories who joined online. He highlighted the presence of several governors, chief ministers, lieutenant governors, and other public representatives. The Prime Minister extended his greetings to all esteemed dignitaries and citizens connected from across the country. Shri Modi stated that he arrived at the event after seeking the blessings of Karni Mata, emphasizing that these blessings further strengthen the nation's resolve to build a developed India. Mentioning the inauguration and foundation stone laying of development projects worth 26,000 crore, he underscored their significance in advancing the country's growth. He extended his congratulations to the citizens for these transformative initiatives.



Highlighting the ongoing transformation of India's infrastructure, emphasizing the nation's commitment to modernization, the Prime Minister pointed to the rapid advancements in roads, airports, railways, and railway stations over the past 11 years. "India is now investing six times more in infrastructure development compared to previous years, a progress that has captured global attention", remarked the Prime Minister, pointing out iconic infrastructure projects across the country, citing the remarkable

Chenab Bridge in the north, the Sela Tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh, and the Bogibel Bridge in Assam in the east. In western India, he noted the Atal Setu in Mumbai, while in the south, he highlighted the Pamban Bridge, India's first of its kind. Emphasising India's continuous efforts to modernize its railway network, Shri Modi underlined the introduction of Vande Bharat, Amrit Bharat, and Namoo Bharat trains as symbols of the country's new speed and progress. He remarked that nearly 70 routes now operate

Vande Bharat trains, bringing modern rail connectivity to remote regions. He further pointed out the significant infrastructure advancements over the past 11 years, including the construction of hundreds of road overbridges and underbridges, as well as the laying of over 34,000 kilometers of new railway tracks. He noted that unmanned level crossings on broad gauge lines have been eliminated, enhancing safety. Shri Modi also highlighted the swift development of dedicated freight corridors to streamline

cargo transportation and the ongoing construction of India's first bullet train project. Alongside these efforts, the modernization of more than 1,300 railway stations is being carried out to improve passenger experience. Prime Minister stressed that the modernized railway stations have been named Amrit Bharat Stations and that over 100 such stations have been completed. He noted that social media users have witnessed the striking transformation of these stations, which serve as showcases of local art and history. He pointed out significant examples, including Rajasthan's Mandalgarh station, reflecting the grandeur of Rajput traditions, and Bihar's Thawe station, depicting the sacred presence of Maa Thawewali along with Madhubani artwork. The Orchha railway station in Madhya Pradesh exudes the divine essence of Lord Ram, while the design of Srirangam station draws inspiration from the Sri Ranganatha Swamy temple. Gujarat's Dakor station pays homage to Ranchhodrai ji, Tiruvannamalai station follows Dravidian architectural principles. **Continued P-4**

Odisha CM Launches 1.15 Lakh Cr Worth Industrial Projects in Jajpur



Jajpur, 22/5 (DMC): In a landmark push to position Odisha as a leading industrial hub in India, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi today inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for 24 industrial projects in Kalinganagar, Jajpur district, with a staggering investment of ₹1.15 lakh crore. According to an official press release, these projects, spanning critical sectors like steel, solar energy, chemicals, and food processing, are set to create 36,000 jobs, marking a transformative milestone in Odisha's economic journey. The grand event, attended by over 20,000 people, was graced by Minister for Industries Sampad Chandra Swain, Minister for Textiles, Handlooms & Handicrafts Pradeep Bala Samanta, Jajpur MP Rabintra Narayan Behera, and prominent industry leaders. The enthusiastic turnout reflected strong public support for Odisha's industrial ambitions. Speaking at the ceremony, Chief Minister Majhi declared, "Today, Odisha stands at a historic turning point. These projects worth ₹1.15 lakh crore are not just foundation stones—they are the building blocks of our future. With 36,000 jobs, we are ensuring our youth can thrive with pride in their homeland. In just 113 days, we've turned promises into progress, showcasing our government's dedication to action over words. Kalinganagar is now the economic lifeline of a self-reliant Odisha." The projects, strategically located across Kalinganagar, Danagadi, and Badachana, include major ventures like Tata Steel Ltd's ₹47,599 crore expansion of its 5 MTPA Integrated Steel Plant, expected to generate 4,625 jobs, and Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited's ₹61,769 crore steel plant expansion, set to create 14,000 jobs. Global players like Linde India Limited (425 crore), TYK Ceramics India Pvt Ltd from Japan (₹57 crore), and Almamet India Pvt Ltd from Germany (₹50.6 crore) are also investing in cutting-edge **Continued P-4**

Thunderstorms, Lightning, Gusty Winds To Lash Odisha Dists Till May 29: IMD

Bhubaneswar, 22/5 (DMC): The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a yellow warning for several districts of Odisha, forecasting thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds reaching 40-50 kmph during the afternoon and evening hours till May 29. In its midday bulletin on Thursday, the IMD also indicated the formation of a low-pressure area over the west-central and adjoining north Bay of Bengal around May 27. The system is likely to intensify further over the following two days. May 23: Thunderstorms with lightning and gusty winds are likely to affect one or two locations in Sonepur, Boudh, Nuapada, Balangir, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Nabarangpur, Rayagada, Koraput, Malkangiri, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam, and Gajapati. May 24: Similar weather conditions are expected in Ganjam, Gajapati, Kandhamal, Rayagada, Koraput, Malkangiri, Kalahandi, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Sundargarh, Balasore, Bhadrak, and Jajpur. May 25: Thunderstorm activity is forecast for Bargarh, Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Sonepur, Boudh, Nuapada, Balangir, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Nabarangpur, Rayagada, Koraput, Malkangiri, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur. May 26: The warning covers Nuapada, Balangir, Bargarh, Sonepur,

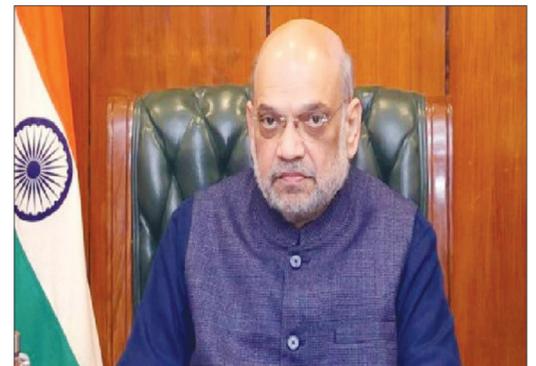
Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam, Gajapati, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Sundargarh, Angul, and Dhenkanal. Additionally, hot and humid conditions may prevail in parts of Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam, and Gajapati. May 24: Similar weather conditions are expected in Ganjam, Gajapati, Kandhamal, Rayagada, Koraput, Malkangiri, Kalahandi, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Sundargarh, Balasore, Bhadrak, and Jajpur. May 25: Thunderstorm activity is forecast for Bargarh, Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Sonepur, Boudh, Nuapada, Balangir, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Nabarangpur, Rayagada, Koraput, Malkangiri, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur. May 26: The warning covers Nuapada, Balangir, Bargarh, Sonepur,

Sambalpur, Jharsuguda, Sundargarh, Deogarh, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Balasore, Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Nabarangpur, Ganjam, and Gajapati. May 27 to May 29: Thunderstorms with lightning and gusty winds are expected to continue at one or two locations across Odisha during the afternoon and evening hours. In terms of temperature, the IMD forecasts no major change in the maximum (daytime) temperature over the next 24 hours. This is expected to be followed by a fall of 2-3°C over the subsequent four days, with no significant change expected thereafter for the next two days. The IMD has advised the public and local authorities to remain alert and take necessary precautions, especially during afternoon and evening hours, when weather activity is likely to peak.

HM Shah Reviews Yamuna Cleaning, Reiterates PM Modi's Promise To Revive River

New Delhi, 22/5 (H.S): The Yamuna is not just a river but also a symbol of faith for us and that is why its cleanliness is a priority for Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government, Home Minister Amit Shah said on Thursday after reviewing progress on installing 32 real-time water quality monitoring stations. Chairing a high-level meeting, HM Shah directed a holistic approach to clean the Yamuna, ensure drinking water supply, and improve sewage systems in Delhi. An official source said that 10 water quality monitoring stations shall be set up on the Yamuna while the remaining 22 stations shall monitor the water quality in major drains falling into the river. The water monitoring station sites for the river will include Okhla Barrage, ITO Bridge, Palla, ISBT Bridge and

Nizamuddin Bridge. The meeting chaired by HM Shah was attended by Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal, Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, Union Home Secretary, Secretaries of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and Ministry of Jal Shakti, Delhi's Chief Secretary, and several senior officials from the Central and Delhi governments. HM Shah said that the Ministry of Jal Shakti should develop a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for all Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs), establishing standards for their quality, maintenance, and discharge. He emphasised that this SOP should also be shared with other states. He stressed that plans for the Yamuna, drinking water, and drainage in



Delhi should be made with a 20-year vision. He highlighted the crucial role of the Delhi Jal Board in cleaning the Yamuna and emphasised the need to strengthen it, directing the immediate filling of vacant posts in the Board. The Home Minister underscored the need to enhance Delhi's water distribution efficiency, stating that

effective water management is essential to ensure drinking water supply across the city. He said, for water supply in Delhi, the Jal Board should strengthen the water distribution structure along with preventing leakage in the pipelines. HM Shah also emphasised the use of world-class technology for desilting drains.

CM Majhi Hails Five Odia Youths Featured In Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia



Bhubaneswar, 22/5 (DMC): Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Thursday extended his congratulations and best wishes to five young innovators from the state who have been named in the Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia 2025 list. The honourees include IG Drones Co-Founders Bodhisattwa Sanghapriya and Om Prakash, Young Tinker Foundation Co-Founders Anil Pradhan and Vaishali Sharma, and SpaceFields Founder Apurwa Masook. They have been recognised for their outstanding contributions in the fields of technology, education, and aerospace. Taking to social media platform X (formerly Twitter), Chief Minister Majhi lauded their achievements, stating, "Your tireless hard work, innovative thinking, and vision have brought glory to Odisha on the global stage. Your exemplary success will inspire our youth to be ambitious and follow new paths. May this extraordinary achievement serve as a source of inspiration for generations to come. Wishing you a bright future and continued growth." Bodhisattwa Sanghapriya and Om Prakash are co-founders of IG Drones, a Noida-based startup that has developed four drone models designed for mapping, surveillance, and agricultural spraying. The company's flagship product, 'JAGA', is a 5G-enabled surveillance drone that enhances communication and data transmission. IG Drones raised \$1 million in seed funding last year from a group of investors led by India Accelerator. **Continued P-4**

No Puja for Lord Shri Ram as the place is sealed

Bhubaneswar, 22/5 (DMC): The Keshriya Hindu Vahini Organization had set up an office that attracted saints and sages, hosting programs to promote Hindu culture, including worship and readings of Ramcharit Manas and Hanuman Chalisa. They were also engaged in cow protection activities. Recently, the government house was forcibly sealed, with officials from GA, BDA, and BMC entering the site. The worship materials were locked away, and an image of Lord Shri Ram was also damaged. The office was being operated from a government quarter. After submitting a formal request for official allotment on 25/9/2024 and with no action in sight the KH Vahini officials met the GA department director who stated that the allotment was closed and they would be prioritized when it reopened. If no allotment was available, a notice to vacate would be issued. No notice, warning or phone call was given about the sealing, and no details were shared. An employee broke the lock, entered the house, and discarded the room's contents,

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and left illegally. Many saints and scholars had celebrated Shri Ram's establishment in this office. But now no puja can be performed for the Lord as the office is sealed. The media was present that day and witnessed the wrongs done to Lord Shri Ram but did not raise any question. This incident has upset Hindu Keshariya Vahini personnel and devotees. Dr. Akshay Patnaik, President of Keshariya Hindu Vahini, expressed frustration over the lack of attention from authorities and media, feeling they disrespected Lord Shri Ram.

Maoist Killing

Since it assumed office in December 2023, Chhattisgarh's Vishnu Deo Sai government has mounted a concerted offensive against Maoist militants. Last year, 219 left-wing extremists (LWE) were killed, the highest in a year since the formation of the state. The operations intensified this year. On Wednesday, in perhaps the most significant anti-Maoist offensive in recent years, CPI (Maoist) general secretary Nambala Keshava Rao, alias Basavaraju, along with 26 other Maoist cadres, was killed. Basavaraju played a key role in some of the most brutal Maoist operations in the past 15 years, including the 2010 massacre that claimed the lives of 76 CRPF jawans and the 2013 Jhiram Ghati attack, which wiped out almost the entire Congress leadership in the state. In the past year-and-a-half, however, the extremists suffered a string of reverses in operations spearheaded by Basavaraju. Now, the CPI (Maoist) general secretary's death could mark a turning point. Chhattisgarh may be on track to meeting Union Home Minister Amit Shah's target of eliminating Maoism by March next year. Chhattisgarh, especially its Bastar, Narayanpur, Dantewada and Bijapur districts, is among the few remaining Maoist bastions in the country. The movement has lost steam in its erstwhile strongholds in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. This has led to several top leaders shifting base. Basavaraju, born in Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh and a graduate of the Regional Engineering College, Warangal, was amongst them. Chhattisgarh's geography - a forested area bordering Maharashtra, Odisha and Telangana, with poor transport and communication facilities - and the economic deprivation of a large section of the state's people, allowed insurgents to gain a foothold. The state government's complacency in the early years of this century also aided the spread of left-wing extremism. Instead of strengthening the security forces and initiating welfare measures, precious time was wasted on strategies such as arming civilian militias - the Salwa Judum, for instance. However, like in other parts of the country, their recourse to violence and failure to recognise the resilience of democratic institutions worked against LWEs. The political will to counter the insurgents has firmed up - increasing inroads made by the security forces owe to greater coordination between the security forces of the Centre and the state. A network of base camps has ended the security vacuum in the forested areas, and at the same time, roads and mobile towers have put large parts of Maoist-affected areas on the developmental map. The state government has also started a policy of rehabilitating Maoists who surrender - they are provided houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, skill development programmes have special provisions for them, and companies are given incentives to hire former LWEs. Last year, more than 800 Maoists gave up arms in Chhattisgarh.

With Basavaraju's death, the Maoists may be headless, but the Centre and the state government cannot afford to let their guard down. They must keep up the security measures while sharpening the strongest weapon against extremism - development.

23th May

National Road Trip Day



There's nothing quite like celebrating the joy of being on the open road! Wheels on the highway, windows rolled down, map in hand and music blasting. Short or long, on your own or with a group, road trips provide the opportunity to get away and be free, even if just for a little weekend getaway. National Road Trip Day brings awareness and attention to the fun and adventure of spending time on the road! Have fun and enjoy National Road Trip Day with some of these ideas for making the most of the day: Pack those snacks and get ready for some family fun! While today's world offers all sorts of comfort and convenience, perhaps this road trip can be a special one with a blast from the past. Go retro by turning off smart phones, getting rid of headphones, and engaging in some fun activities with the group. Enjoy some road trip games, sing some silly songs, and even roll down the windows and stick your feet out for a few minutes! Unfortunately, it's impossible to roll back time enough to pay only \$.60 per gallon to fill up the gas tank! But cars are certainly more fuel efficient than they used to be, so that should help balance things out a little. Those who don't have the ability to head out on a road trip in honor of National Road Trip Day might want to observe the day by accessing road-trip-style entertainment. Check out some of these movies that pay honor to the mighty American road trip: Vacation (1983). Chevy Chase heads up an all star cast in this classic road trip movie from National Lampoon. We're the Millers (2013). What can go wrong when a drug dealer recruits a fake family to make an illegal road trip to Mexico? Little Miss Sunshine (2006). This drama comedy follows a family's adventure across the country to enter their daughter into a beauty pageant. Road trips have been around since the time that vehicles were able to be driven for distances. Though they have been made easier by convenient gas stations and smoothly paved interstate highways, road trips have been an enjoyment for over a century. In fact, the first record of a road trip happened in 1903 when Horatio Nelson Jackson took a road trip from San Francisco to New York. Of course, his traveling companions for the 63 day road trip were his mechanic and his dog! When Route 66 opened up in the United States in the 1930s, and as the automobile industry grew over the next decades, road trips became more prevalent. With memories like packing a picnic, singing songs, playing the license plate game and riding backwards in the 'way-back' seat of the station wagon, road trips bring with them a certain type of nostalgia for many Americans. National Road Trip Day started a bit more recently, though. The brain child of Pilot Flying J travel centers, this event was first celebrated in 2019.

India's Ascendancy in Global Power Politics

Political Dairy



Tejeswar Patnaik

As the world finds itself increasingly drawn into the quagmire of global politics, India too recalibrates its diplomatic stance in response to rapidly evolving circumstances. This shift is not merely a strategic adjustment, but a necessity-India aspires to become the third-largest economy by 2030 and must align its foreign and defence policies accordingly. With its rising economic and military strength, India is no longer a passive participant in world affairs but a key player asserting its national interests with confidence. Yet, India's rise has not been welcomed uniformly.

The United States, China, and several Western powers are visibly uneasy with New Delhi's growing assertiveness. While the U.S. publicly promotes strategic cooperation with India, it quietly advances ties with Pakistan and Turkey, nations that either sponsor or support terrorism. Quite a lot of developments are taking place on the global landscape, and India stands firm in the middle of this shifting terrain. The recent conflict between India and Pakistan has once again revealed the contradictions in American diplomacy. The U.S. seeks India as a proxy to counterbalance China's dominance in Asia, yet continues to extend military and financial support to Pakistan, a country that has long provided a haven to terrorist organisations. History is replete with examples

where, under the pretext of pursuing national interest, deep-state actors have supported terrorist networks. America's decades-long alliance with Pakistan is a prime example. Under Trump's second term, there appears to be a carefully devised strategy to keep India in check. He wants India to do trade with both India and Pakistan. Despite India's repeated demands for international action against Pakistan-sponsored terrorism, Washington's actions tell a different story. Even during the recent Indo-Pak conflict, Pakistan managed to secure a \$100 billion IMF bailout-allegedly with U.S. influence. While the IMF imposed eleven stringent conditions, including investments in human development and capping defence spending below 12% of the national budget, analysts doubt Pakistan's ability to comply. Double Standards and Strategic Calculations.....

Trump's praise of Pakistan's leadership-placing it on par with India's-has further strained bilateral ties. His approval of missile sales to Turkey, a vocal backer of Pakistan, underlines a dangerous principle in modern diplomacy: "Everything is fair in national interest," thus reinforcing the Machiavellian notion that the end justifies the means. It is an irony that Turkey, a state which openly supports Pakistan, a hub of terrorism, is still a key NATO member.

The West remains conspicuously silent on this paradox. Trump's recent meeting with Syria's president, formerly associated with al-Qaeda and once carrying a \$10 million U.S. bounty, and the subsequent lifting of sanctions on Syria further proves that in diplomacy, national interest is the sole guiding principle, and no one remains untouchable. Meanwhile, European nations' lukewarm response to India's fight against cross-border terrorism is equally disheartening, thus amounting to hypocrisy. Their reluctance to openly support India suggests a self-centred approach to foreign



relations-one that prioritises convenience over principle. India's Military Edge: A Turning Point.....

In this complex geopolitical environment, India's growing military prowess stands as a pillar of strength. Its air defence superiority, bolstered by the successful deployment of Akash and BrahMos missiles in Operation Sindoor, has drawn attention from global defence analysts. The precision strikes on Pakistan's major air bases have redefined India's strategic posture and demonstrated its advanced capabilities. The superior striking capabilities of these missiles are not just deterrents-they are messages.

They signify India's refusal to be bullied into passive diplomacy. In a world where perception shapes power, India's military achievements are now shifting global narratives in its favour. India's air defence advancements are expected to result in a substantial rise in its defence exports. What especially unsettles Washington is India's drive for strategic autonomy-its determination to indigenize the defence ecosystem and reduce dependency on Western arms suppliers. India is no longer content with being a junior partner in a global alliance; it is now pursuing an independent, nation-first policy.

India has maintained that any trade deal should be mutually beneficial, thus signalling India's stance. In recent developments, Trump's imposition of a 100% tariff on Indian exports and his pressure on Apple to reconsider its investment in India reflect attempts to curb India's economic rise. Our external Minister has stated that any trade deal has to be mutually beneficial. During Trump's second term, America

has resumed supplying parts for Pakistan's F-16s and even offered to mediate the Kashmir issue-something India firmly rejects. India's refusal to accept third-party mediation has once again demonstrated its diplomatic strength. India asserted that any bilateral talks with Pakistan should be related to terrorism and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. India also defied the West's economic sanctions against Russia and Iran, thus maintaining its independent diplomatic assertiveness.

This was evident in India's bold decision to continue importing oil from Russia and Iran, despite Western sanctions. India, like America, is putting its national interest first. It abstained multiple times from voting on UN resolutions condemning Russia's aggression in Ukraine, signalling its desire to preserve a long-standing partnership with Moscow, a reliable supplier of defence equipment, unrefined oil and diplomatic support.

Countering Narratives and Reclaiming Space

The narrative war has become just as important as conventional military strategy. A major section of Western and U.S. media has long been adopting a biased approach that attempts to pull down the image of India which is world's largest democracy, 5th largest economy and the fourth largest military power. But India has not remained silent. It has been unmasking these media biases, confronting them with facts, and promoting its version of events to global audiences. India has launched an international outreach following Operation Sindoor. The government has formed seven committees, comprising 60 members from all political parties, to visit strategic regions across the globe. Their mission is

to apprise foreign governments about India's firm stance on Pakistan-sponsored terrorism and the decision to pause the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)-a symbolic and strategic move. India's outreach efforts are designed to counter Western and Pakistani narratives and build a global consensus around its security concerns. It is also in talks with the Taliban regime in Afghanistan to diplomatically isolate Pakistan, while simultaneously applying economic pressure on Turkey and Bangladesh for their indirect support of anti-India elements. India's New Diplomatic Doctrine India's foreign policy has matured into a bold doctrine of assertive realism. It now follows a "tit for tat" approach-supplying arms and ammunition to enemies of its adversaries, aligning economic interests with political goals, and engaging with both East and West on its terms.

Its recent free trade agreements with the European Union, the Middle East, Latin American and African nations are part of a calculated effort to diversify alliances and reduce vulnerability to geopolitical coercion. There are Zero tolerance for terrorism is now India's new normal. It has made it clear that any provocation from Pakistan will be met with decisive retaliation. The government's readiness to strike back-diplomatically, economically, and militarily-marks a new era in India's global positioning.

The Decade of India India's consistent GDP growth, robust space and tech advancements, and a dynamic young workforce position it as a power to reckon with. No longer content with moral high ground alone, New Delhi now operates from a position of hard power and strategic clarity. This decade belongs to India. A new India is rising-strong, self-reliant and capable of navigating a complex global order with both economic and military strength. In the evolving world of diplomacy and defence, India is now poised to script its own story on its terms.

Sri Patnaik is a freelance writer

With faith, on the wings of a prayer Love is what we do

Dr. Prafulla Kumar Das

Since ancient days prayer is considered as the medium of harmonious relationship maintained by people with the Almighty. During crisis, people pray through vocal or mental communication with their beloved deities, to recover from such crises. Research throws light on what makes prayer measurably useful to human beings, especially in current times when there is lack of mental peace. Prayer, when done with right attitude and intent, can do a lot for people, especially for youth whose intellectual capacity hinges on their ability to embrace reality.

Prayer can be a powerful force for change in our lives and the importance of doing it on a daily basis should be instilled in our children. Focus and concentration is the most vital outcome of prayer. Prayers enable us to send out powerful vibrations into the world and contribute to peace and social harmony. One may pray loudly, but silent prayers are better. In silence, we come closer to God and make ourselves heard.

We pray for communion with God with single-minded devotion. It is the wings of our prayers that count, wings that help us fly to make the impossible possible. Wings that take us to that unreachable; these are the wings on which we must soar ever so gently, ever so slowly, but ever forward, ever higher inch by inch; wings that could be so



often injured, sometimes weakened, sometimes aching to fold in defeat, even broken. And then prayer somehow opens them again. As prayer opens doors and clears the clouds along the way, as prayer guides our thinking, as prayer carries us on the wings of success to that unreachable star, it infuses further hope and faith in God. In schools there are morning assemblies where all students and teachers gather and pray. Prayer is a way to influence students to make wise choices and excel in their studies.

It makes students feel fresh, energetic and spiritual to start his day with positive vibrations. Prayer grants the time to flow with pleasing power and purifies the climate of school, creating favourable educational environment. School time prayer brings students and teachers in discipline and guides them with good practices. God is pure love. As the indweller of everything, he promptly responds to every call and every pull of your love and need for help. In whatever way

we invoke the Supreme, he returns our love and devotion. Nothing moves him as strongly as a call from a distressed soul. At times we do feel that God has abandoned us and our faith is put to great test. We become frustrated that God's help has not reached us in time. On such occasions some people lose their faith and develop resentment towards God. The fault perhaps lies with us and our weak minds. It is not God who does not listen. It is we who are not sensitive enough to discern his response.

It is we who are incapable of breaking out of our own limited thinking and the veil of self-induced illusions to see Truth as it is. God is ever-attentive. It is we who are asleep and who need to be awakened from our deep slumber of egoism and selfishness to pay attention to the messages coming from Him. Consultant Radiologist, MRI Center, SCB Medicinal College, Cuttack

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Aparna Nayak
Life is incredible blend of courage and love to live it naturally. Love and life are not separate but identical ones. Love soothes the unease secretly. The amount of love in our being is a manifestation of our relationship with life. It is the way we love, admire and respect it. When we consider life and love as one, we invoke more love else life is often unpredictable. However, there is always something to be learnt out of everything as every experience is invaluable. The love makes us cool. The life has no meaning without it. One can love in millions of ways. We overwhelm life when we love without choice. An anonymous quote says "love is life and if you miss love, you miss life." The love being universal language makes everything a sheer possibility.

One can love all when one is in deep love with life. Love is the very next level of life. The God or The Nature or The Beyond being the epitome of love has lovingly created the creation. There is nothing but life in whole universe. It cannot be truly felt without love; it being essence of creation. But are we really in the realm of love or just keep on harping for its sake? It needs profound thinking. Love is special and needs something very special all the time. It is said that love is not what you say. Love is what you do. Love for the sake of love is artificiality. The eternal abode of love is heart but mind has come in between and taken over it as we are awfully indulged with it. We often love people with mind and suffer. It needs absolute purity. It is not everybody's cup of tea.

There is no scope for any playfulness. A real life quote says that although we are socially connected with lot of people but practically alone. To be in social contact and to be in 'love' are poles apart. A reality check confirms this abundantly. Love is what we do consciously. We often mismatch love with attachment. Attachment is not love but deep sleep. All attachments, sooner or later, turn unreal and become reason for our untold miseries. The sooner we comprehend it, the better. We all know it but think we are more intelligent than life. We forget that a part cannot supersede the whole. Love is altogether different phenomenon. It is independent of attachments. It is a possibility only when we go all-out to dissolve our mind and live from our heart center. That is why love is unparalleled. It always enjoys giving, just as flowers enjoy releasing their fragrance. As a matter of fact, all givers are happy. The 'no-mind' is our very true nature. Love happens when we don't think but love everyone. A beautiful quote says "Love is not about somebody. Love is not some kind of act; Love is the way you are."

Main Sagar, Pan Road, No.-3, Balaji Departmental Store, New Delhi-110046

No Need To Panic, Patient Stable: Odisha Health Dept on Bhubaneswar's First COVID-19 Case

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): Following the confirmation of the first COVID-19 case in the state capital, the Odisha Health and Family Welfare Department has urged residents to remain calm and the patient is in stable condition. Commissioner-cum-Secretary of the Health and Family Welfare Department Aswathy S., addressed the media on Thursday, reassuring the public that there is no immediate cause for concern.



no need to panic." She further clarified that no official advisory has been issued by the Centre so far." We are maintaining strict surveillance. Once guidelines are issued by the Government of India, we will implement them accordingly. The patient who tested positive is recovering well. The new variant does not appear to pose increased health risks," she added. Highlighting the importance of vigilance in public health management, the Commissioner noted that the

current situation does not warrant drastic measures." Sporadic and isolated cases of COVID-19 have continued to be detected in various parts of the country since the decline of the pandemic's peak in 2020-21. Since then, the disease has been well controlled and contained in Odisha. The rollout of free vaccines, mass vaccination campaigns, and sustained government efforts have significantly reduced the spread and burden of the disease in the state," she said. According

to the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO), these sporadic cases involve mild forms of known, pre-existing strains. They do not pose any serious health threat.

Neither the NCDC nor the WHO has issued any new or additional advisories regarding these sporadic cases. The health department remains fully prepared to address any cases as and when they are detected. She also confirmed that health authorities would ramp up efforts only if further cases emerge or new directives are issued. "As of now, only one case has been reported. We will increase our response measures if and when it becomes necessary. At this time, no such advisories have been received," she concluded.

KISS Achieves Impressive Results in CHSE +2 Exams; Girls Outshine Boys

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): The Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) has once again demonstrated academic excellence with stellar results in the CHSE Odisha Plus-Two Examinations, the results of which were declared on Wednesday. Continuing its tradition of success, KISS recorded an impressive performance across all three streams-Science, Arts, and Commerce.

Notably, girl students outperformed boys in this year's examinations, reinforcing the institute's commitment to empowering young women through education. Pramila Khila topped the Arts stream with 84 per cent, while Krishna Kahnar



secured the highest marks in the Science stream with 89 per cent. In the Commerce stream, Jema Singh emerged as the topper with 87 per cent. In terms of first division results, KISS saw a marked improvement from last year.

In the Science stream, 171 students secured first division, while in the Commerce stream, 182 students secured first division. In the Arts stream, 222

students secured first division marks. In all, 1870 students appeared in the exams. Congratulating the students on their outstanding performance, the Founder of KIIT and KISS, Dr. Achyuta Samanta, expressed his happiness and pride.

"These results reflect the relentless dedication of our teachers and staff, as well as the hard work and perseverance of our students," he said.

OCCL Marks 63rd Foundation Day With Vision For 2047



Bhubaneswar, (DMC): The Odisha Construction Corporation Ltd. (OCCL) celebrated its 63rd Foundation Day on Thursday with a special workshop on "Vision OCCL @ 2036 and Vision OCCL @ 2047" held at the World Skill Centre in Bhubaneswar. According to an official press release, the event was an important milestone for the organization as it reflected on over six decades of achievements while laying out ambitious plans for the future. Development Commissioner-cum-Additional Chief Secretary and Chairperson of OCCL, Anu Garg, presided over the event as the chief guest. In her address, Garg congratulated the OCCL team for their contributions and highlighted the need for the corporation to

strengthen its technical capacity. She stressed the importance of including mechanical experts in key operational areas and improving the quality of work to match national standards. She added that OCCL's growing ability to take up infrastructure projects across departments, not only within Odisha but also outside the state is a sign of its growing self-sufficiency and reputation. The Managing Director of OCCL, Bibhuti Bhusan Dash, opened the event with a presentation on the journey of the organization since its founding in 1962. He spoke about OCCL's consistent record of success and its significant role in the state's infrastructure development, particularly in

irrigation, power, roads, and building construction. The workshop also featured a series of expert presentations by senior professionals from engineering and academic fields. They shared insights on how OCCL can modernize its operations, adapt to emerging technologies, and expand its footprint nationally. Their inputs were followed by a vibrant brainstorming session that saw participation from senior officials of the Water Resources Department, including Engineers-in-Chief, Chief Engineers, and Additional Chief Engineers, along with members of OCCL and other dignitaries. Discussions focused on defining OCCL's future course and strengthening its ability to deliver high-quality infrastructure in a competitive environment. The Foundation Day workshop marked a turning point in OCCL's journey, reinforcing its commitment to quality, innovation, and growth. It reflected a shared vision of transforming OCCL into a nationally recognized construction leader by 2047, while continuing to serve as a pillar of Odisha's development.

Post Historic Financial Results NALCO CMD focuses on completion of strategic project expansions

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), the Navratna CPSE under the Ministry of Mines, Govt of India, has achieved a historic milestone in its performance for the financial year 2024-25, marking a new era of operational excellence and strategic growth. This outstanding achievement underscores the company's resilience, operational excellence, and unwavering focus on value creation.

According to the audited financial results declared yesterday, NALCO has achieved an all-time high financial milestone, setting a new benchmark by recording its highest-ever net profit of Rs. 5,325 crore, reflecting a robust year-on-year (YoY) increase of 158% percent. The Company also reported highest ever revenue from operations of Rs. 16,788 crore for FY 25. Addressing the employees on this stupendous achievement, Shri Brijendra Pratap Singh, CMD, NALCO, extended heartfelt congratulations and said that the record-breaking



performance underscores the power of cohesive teamwork, prudent financial management, commitment, and alignment with NALCO's strategic vision. This remarkable achievement is a moment of pride not only for NALCO but also for every employee, our valued stakeholders, Ministry of Mines, Govt of India and our home state Odisha.

Reaffirming NALCO's strong commitment to long-term sustainable growth, Shri Singh, stated that while this year's exceptional performance was supported by favourable alumina and aluminium prices, the long-

term success relies on agility, operational excellence, and consistent delivery of high performance. Giving thrust on expansion activities of NALCO, he outlined key strategic initiatives poised to drive NALCO's next phase of growth, including the 5th Stream expansion of the Alumina Refinery,

the operationalization of the Pottangi Bauxite Mines, and the proposed expansion of the existing Smelter Plant and Captive Power Plant. "These forward-looking projects, will establish a strong foundation for sustainable and resilient growth,

further strengthening NALCO's leadership in the global aluminium sector", he said. The senior leadership including Shri Sadashiv Samantaray, Director (Commercial), Shri Pankaj Kumar Sharma, Director (Production), Shri Jagdish Arora, Director(P&T),

Dr. Tapas Kumar Pattanayak, Director (HR) and Shri Pranab Jyoti Nath, IAS, CVO, were also present on the occasion and acknowledged the efforts of NALCO collective and extended their heartfelt congratulations to NALCO team for maintaining a competitive edge in performance and productivity.

ASI caught red-handed taking bribe in Cuttack

Cuttack, (DMC): Odisha Vigilance on Thursday arrested an Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) of Tigris Police Station in Cuttack district while he was allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 5,000. The arrested officer has been identified as Pradeep Kumar Behera. According to an official release, Behera was caught red-handed by Vigilance officials while accepting the bribe from a complainant over a village dispute.



set up a trap and apprehended Behera during the transaction. The entire bribe amount of Rs 5,000 was recovered from his possession and seized as evidence.

Both parties involved in the dispute had earlier filed counter reports, which were later resolved amicably through mutual compromise. However, despite the matter being settled, ASI Behera allegedly demanded a bribe from one of the complainants to avoid initiating action based on the previous counter report. Acting swiftly on the complaint received, the Vigilance department

Following his arrest, simultaneous searches were launched at three locations associated with the ASI to investigate any disproportionate assets. A case has been registered under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018, at the Cuttack Vigilance Police Station (Case No. 12/21.5.2025).

T S Shanbhogue Appointed as the Co-Chair of FICCI Odisha State Council

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr T S Shanbhogue, Head of Greenfield Projects Odisha & Technical Support at ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India, as the new Co-Chair of the FICCI Odisha State Council.

Mr Shanbhogue brings with him over four decades of rich industry experience and a distinguished career across major steel and mining companies, including JSW Steel, Essar Steel, JSPL, and Kudremukh Iron Ore Company (KIOCL).

At ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India, he is currently leading strategic growth initiatives in Odisha, including the setting up of an integrated steel plant in Kendrapara, a project of immense economic significance for the state. A B-Tech graduate from NIT Karnataka, Mr. Shanbhogue is known for his deep technical acumen and project leadership in greenfield steel plant development, beneficiation, and palletisation. He has closely collaborated with international research and technology institutions such as JK-Tech (Australia), COREM (USA), and KOBELCO (Japan), and has been a frequent contributor to global technical forums. Mr. Shanbhogue's appointment is expected to bolster FICCI Odisha's mission of promoting industry-led sustainable development in the state.



Bhubaneswar's Nicco Park and lake area set for major revamp



Bhubaneswar, (DMC): In a bold step to enhance tourism and infrastructure, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi unveiled an ambitious development plan for Nicco Park and the adjacent Bhubaneswar Lake area on Wednesday. The project aims to transform the region into a world-class destination that will attract both local visitors and international tourists.

Spanning over 3,260 hectares, the first phase of the project will focus on revitalizing Nicco Park. The development plan includes a wide range of modern amenities designed to boost the area's appeal. Among the planned upgrades are improved lighting, beautification efforts around the lake, cycling tracks, an Ayurvedic park, foot overbridges, fine dining restaurants, hotels, and other cutting-edge facilities. "This project will create a modern, eco-friendly, and vibrant tourism hub, elevating Bhubaneswar's reputation and establishing it as a premier destination for visitors from within the state and beyond," the Chief Minister said. The announcement was made in a meeting attended by several key officials, including Minister for Housing and Urban Development Krishna Chandra Mohapatra, Principal Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Usha Padhee, Principal Secretary Manoj Ahuja, Vice Chairman of the Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) N. Thirumala Naik, and Commissioner of the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Rajesh Prabhakar Patil.

India planning modular space station by 2035: ISRO Chairman

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is planning to put in space the Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS), a modular space station, by 2035, ISRO's Chairman and Secretary of the Department of Space, Dr. V. Narayanan, said on Wednesday. The launching of BAS will enhance India's presence in space research and foster advancement in space technology, Dr. Narayanan said while having an interaction with students, researchers and faculty members of Siksha 'O' Anusandhan Deemed to be University (SOA) here. "India's first ever human space flight mission, 'Gaganyaan' is expected to be launched in March 2027 for which four test pilots are undergoing training to be astronauts," he informed. This will be preceded by launching of uncrewed missions to test systems as India's objective is to become a global space power by 2047, Dr. Narayanan said adding only Russia, the United States and China had been successful to independently launch humans into space till now. Dr. Narayanan, a rocket propulsion expert, said though India's



space program had started in 1962, it had traversed a long way technologically since then and was contemplating to take an Indian to the Moon and bring him back safely. Pointing out that ISRO was established in 1969 by when the US had already become successful in putting Neil Armstrong on the Moon, he said despite the late start ISRO had made phenomenal progress and succeeded in putting the first 35 kg satellite in space in 1980. "Since then, India has been able to develop six generations of launch vehicles and created a record by conceiving a 40-storey high rocket in only 27 days," he said. There was a time, Dr. Narayanan said, when India was mocked, insulted and denied access to cryogenic engine technology. But India had, since then, been able to develop three such engines, two of them

indigenously. "India is the only country which soft landed Chandrayaan-3 on Moon's south pole and is the first to find water molecules on the lunar surface," he said adding the country created a world record by placing more than 100 satellites in space on a single mission. India is also the only nation to have reached Mars' orbit in its very first attempt, Dr. Narayanan said. Chandrayaan-4, Dr. Narayanan said, would be a complex mission as it would be expected to bring back lunar sample. India planned to launch Chandrayaan-5 in collaboration with Japan. One of ISRO's significant achievement has been the successful completion of docking experiment involving two satellites which was executed with exceptional precision on January 16, 2025. The docking happened when the satellites were travelling at a speed of 28,400 km per hour, he said. Subsequently, ISRO scientists successfully conducted the undocking experiment in a circular orbit, Dr. Narayanan said. Prof. Damodar Acharya, Chairman of SOA's International Advisory Board and former Director of IIT, Kharagpur was present. SOA's Vice-Chancellor Prof. Pradipta Kumar Nanda welcomed Dr. Narayanan while Prof. Renu Sharma, Additional Dean (Student Affairs), proposed the vote of thanks. Prof. Jyoti Ranjan Das, Dean (Students' Welfare) conducted the program.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, LOWER INDRA CANAL DIVISION, KHARIAR e-Procurement Notice No. SELICD-03/2025-26, Dt. 20.05.2025 e-mail address: - eeliced.khr@gmail.com				
No - 1784		Date: 20.05.2025		
1. Type/Nature of work:	Civil Work / Canal Works			
2. Total No. of works:	05 (Five) Nos.			
3. Approx. value of works:	Rs. 6.09 Lakh to Rs. 21.94 Lakh (Excluding GST).			
4. Period of completion:	02 (Two) Calendar months.			
5. Classification of bidders:	"D", "C" & "B" Class Contractor only.			
Other details as follows:				
Procurement Officer.	e-Procurement Notice No.	Availability & Submission of bids in online.		Date & time of opening of tender.
		From	To	
1	2	3	4	5
Superintending Engineer, Lower Indra Canal Division Khariar, Dist:-Nuapada, Odisha.	SELICD-03/2025-26	26.05.2025 from 10.00 AM	04.06.2025 up to 5.00 PM	05.06.2025 at 11.00AM
N.B: Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in . Any addendum/ Corrigendum/ Cancellation to the above notice will be published in the Govt. website www.tendersodisha.gov.in				
(Er. Soumya Kishore Jaipuria) Superintending Engineer, Lower Indra Canal Division, Khariar				
OIPR- 32335/11/0002/2526				

Governor Reviews Progress of Various Developmental Works in Khordha Dist

Khordha, (DMC) : Governor of Odisha, Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati on Thursday conducted a comprehensive reviews of several developmental works in Khordha district. A meeting is underway at the conference hall of Zilla Parishad, Khordha, where administrative officials are assessing the effective implementation of central & state govt. schemes & their reach to the beneficiaries. Reviewing the progress of implementation of the schemes in the district, the governor emphasized on creating awareness among people about the schemes & how they can avail their benefits. Briefing media persons after the



meeting the governor stated that the implementation of welfare schemes of the central & state govt. in the district is satisfactory

& praised the district administration of Khordha acknowledging their contributions of various initiatives &

development efforts. The meeting was attended by Minister Prithviraj Harichandan, MLA, Ekamra (BBSR) Babu

Singh, MLA, Khordha, Prasanta Kumar Jagdev, Collector, Chanchala Rana, SP, Ms. Sagarika Nath, Zilla Parishad Chief Development & Executive Officer, Joyti Shankar Sahu & senior official's. Governor held discussion with the citizens, intellectual masses, different community members regarding the improvement & over all development works in the district. Later, the visit the house of PMAY (Urban) beneficiary of Ward no-4 under Khordha municipality & the house of the PMAY (Grameen) beneficiary of village Kumbhilo under Khordha Panchayat Samiti.

Annual Conference of BBMS held in Paradip Rakes Pattnaik & Srikant Roy re-elected as President & General Secretary



Paradip, (DMC) : The annual conference of the Bharatiya Bandar Mazdoor Sangh (BBMS) was held at the association office premises in Madhuban on Wednesday evening. In the meeting organized under the chairmanship of the association president Rakesh Pattnaik, BMS All India President, Paradip BBMS General Secretary and Paradip Port Trustee Srikant Roy delivered his speech on

various issues of the workers and their solutions. On the occasion, new office bearers were declared for two years. In this context, Rakesh Kumar Pattnaik was re-elected as the President and Srikant Roy as the General Secretary of BBMS while Hatta Kishore Sethy was elected as the Working President, Deviprasanna Majhi, Sanjayita Routray, Ranjit Kumar Mallick, Ramakant Nayak as the

Vice President, Sarada Prasanna Das, Mahendra Kumar Nayak as the Asst. General Secretaries, Bhavendra Dash, Somnath Swain as the Organization Secretary, Biswajit Mohapatra, Babar Behera, Prithvi Prasad Singh, Biranchi Narayan Mohapatra as the secretary, Kirti Chandra Dash as the Treasurer, Smriti Ranjan Tripathy was elected as the Treasurer, while Vikram Parida, P.K. Jena, Mitran Tarai, Palu Soren, Pradeep Kumar Mallick, Prashant Kumar Pradhan, Muralidhar Behera, Sukant Kumar Pradhan, Nityananda Sahu, T.K. Mahapatra, Joyti Ranjan Swain, Abakash Nayak, Durmulya Maharaja, Ugrasen Nayak, Banamali Swain have been unanimously elected as members of the executive committee.

Falling into a big place is not an accident: Chief Administrator

Puri, (DMC) : world famous There are very few days left for the Rath Yatra. For this, from Rajendraabhishek Niti schedule till Niladribe And the system got chhatisha Approval of investment. Wednesday Chief Administrator of The Temple Office Presided over by Dr. Arvind Padhi Niladri Niwas sitting in the meeting room The approval was given at the meeting. In this year's arrangement Slightly changed than before. Special emphasis on disciplined reach given. Will stay during the visit Only specific and necessary The good of the number of servitors of each participant for supervision. One senior officer each for Will be



in charge. Temple Police They will also cooperate in this. senior Officer, Bhoi, Caretaker Chief Charnal is in charge of reviewing and monitoring will stay, to avoid mishaps That such a step has been taken The chief administrator informed. Similarly, disciplined water on bathing full moon Emphasis has also been laid on it. Chief Administrator after the meeting Speaking to the media,

Adap last year The Lord's Big Thakur when he arrives The fall is not an accident. It will be called an accident. Such an accident Senior servitors to avoid Various proposals were made. it In view of the administration to also take steps decided. District Collector in the meeting and deputy head of the Temple office. Administrator Siddharth Shankar Swani, SP Vineet Agarwal was also present.

7th Meeting of the 6th Zilla Parishad Held

Bargarh, (DMC) : The 7th Zilla Parishad council meeting was conducted in the local district council conference room under the chairmanship of Zilla Parishad Chairperson Mrs. Manini Bhoi. Present at the meeting were Collector Mr. Aditya Goyal, Honorable MLA Bargarh Mr. Ashwini Kumar Sharangi, Honorable MLA Attabira Mr. Nihar Ranjan Mahanand, Padampur MLA Mrs. Barsha Rani Singh Bariha, Honorable MLA Bijepur Mr. Sanath Kumar Gadatia, MP Representative Mr. Sureshwar

Shetpathi, Bhatli MLA representative Mr. Gunaru Pradhan, Zilla Parishad Vice President Mr. Mohan Lohan, Zilla Parishad Chief Development Officer and Executive Officer Mr. Lalat Kumar Loha, along with various district officials, municipal chairpersons, and block representatives. Zilla Parishad Chief Development Officer Mr. Loha welcomed all attendees and outlined the agenda for the meeting. Chairperson Mrs. Bhoi emphasised the importance of collaboration among people's representatives and officials to

improve the Bargarh district. During the meeting, District Education Officer Mr. Biswanath Sahu provided an update on the Education Department's operations and presented the pass rates for students in the most recent 10th-grade examination. Attendees requested an inquiry into the lack of results for students from Padampur Public School and Bandhupali Odisha Model School. District Forest Officer Mr. Vikram Patnaik reported on the district's tree planting initiatives, wildlife protection efforts, and the anticipated wildlife attacks in the

coming days. District Chief Medical and Public Health Officer Dr. Prashant Kumar Das discussed vacancies for doctors in the district hospital, polio diagnosis, maternity services, the RBKS medical system, vaccination initiatives, and the progress of Ayushman health insurance card distribution. Mr. Gadatia called for improvements in the district's dialysis and ICU services, ensuring that doctors work regularly in all hospitals, and ensuring the availability of medicines under the Niramaya Yojana. Following a presentation

by the DSSO Tahir Hussain on the number of beneficiaries for disabled and old-age allowances in district, representatives directed the state government to enhance allowances for online applicants. In light of the ongoing summer, Executive Engineer Sridhar Behera reported on drinking water supply to residents. The TPWODL Zonal Head presented updates on power supply progress and the PM Suryaghar Yojana, in collaboration with the Irrigation Department, including expediting borewell water supply.

CM Approved Caste Certificate for Gajapati Sudha Sabar



Paralakhemundi, (DMC) : Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi approved caste certificate for Su godha Sabar community. At Mohana block more such community are staying. Years together they are aloof from getting reservation certificate On 19th May 2025 they complained before Manas Mahanty Organizing Secretary of BJP on his visit to Mohana. Later this complain reached at Chief Minister, who announced his approval. At Mohana in presence of Sub Collector Anup Panda, Chakradhar Padhi Tehsildar assured on caste certificate. So Sudha Sabar community people acknowledged their gratitude to CM & all officers.

Corruption Scandal Rocks Odisha's Watershed Department

Rayagada, (DMC) : A massive corruption scandal has hit the Watershed Development Department in Odisha's Rayagada district, with allegations of large-scale embezzlement of funds meant for farm pond excavation under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS). Four government officials, including an Assistant Project Director and three others, have been apprehended for allegedly siphoning off over Rs 20 lakh meant for farm pond excavation. The accused officials have been identified as Rajendra Nath Naik, Assistant Project Director-cum-Project Implementing Agency (Class-I), Jogendra Khosla and Deepak Kumar Sahoo, both Soil Conservation Overseers, and Srikumar Nayak, Soil Conservation Extension Worker. The corruption appears to be widespread, with



reports surfacing of irregularities in various projects, including Silver Oak tree plantation and coffee sapling plantation. Key allegations include: Widespread corruption in Watershed Department projects - Irregularities in Silver Oak tree plantation and coffee sapling plantation Involvement of high-ranking officials suspected - Low-level officials already apprehended The public and intellectuals are demanding accountability, wondering when those responsible

will be brought to justice. The issue has sparked a wave of criticism, with many calling for a thorough investigation and strict action against those involved. The Koraput Vigilance has registered a case against the accused officials, and further investigation is in progress. As the investigation continues, the public awaits answers on the extent of corruption and the accountability of those involved. Stay tuned for more updates on this developing story!

From Page- 1

Odisha CM Launches

facilities, boosting Odisha's industrial ecosystem with advanced technology and foreign capital. Minister Sampad Chandra Swain emphasized the broader impact, stating, "Odisha is riding a new wave of industrial growth. These investments are not just about factories—they're about jobs, pride, and progress for every Odia. From global giants to local MSMEs, we are building a self-reliant Odisha." Minister Pradeep Balsamant added that the state remains committed to balancing industrial growth with the upliftment of traditional sectors like textiles and handicrafts. The rapid grounding of these projects, just four months after the Utkarsh Odisha-Make in Odisha Conclave 2025, highlights the state's investor-friendly policies, robust infrastructure, and proactive governance. With its deep-draft ports and industrial corridors, Odisha is cementing its position as a strategic investment hub in eastern India, poised for inclusive and sustainable growth.

CM Majhi Hails

Its clientele includes government agencies, universities, and private enterprises. Anil Pradhan and Vaishali Sharma, co-founders of the Young Tinker Foundation, are working to ignite scientific curiosity among students in rural India. The foundation distributes STEM learning kits to schools and community centres, and operates 'Tinker on Wheels'-a mobile STEM workshop that has reached over 50 schools. Notably, the foundation sent a team to the 2023 NASA Rover Challenge, where the students won a social media award in the high school division. Apurwa Masook, founder of Bangalore-based SpaceFields, has been recognised for his work in developing next-generation fuel systems and propulsion technologies for space missions, commercial aviation, and defence applications. Founded in 2021, the company has raised \$1.4 million in funding, including an \$800,000 seed round from investors such as HVB 88 Angels and O2 Angels Network. The recognition of these young entrepreneurs in a prestigious global list underscores the growing talent pool in Odisha and highlights the state's rising presence in innovation-driven sectors.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra

and Begumpet station embodies the architectural legacy of the Kakatiya dynasty. The Prime Minister underscored that these Amrit Bharat Stations not only preserve India's thousands-of-years-old heritage but also serve as catalysts for tourism growth across states, creating new employment opportunities for youth. He urged the people to ensure the cleanliness and safety of the stations as they were the true owners of these infrastructure.

Underlining that government investments in infrastructure not only drive development but also create employment opportunities and boost business activities, Shri Modi emphasized that the thousands of crores being spent are directly benefiting workers, shopkeepers, factory employees, and those involved in transport sectors such as truck and tempo operators. He noted that once infrastructure projects are completed, the benefits multiply. Farmers can transport their produce to markets at lower costs, reducing wastage. Well-developed roads and expanded railway networks attract new industries and significantly boost tourism. He underscored that infrastructure spending ultimately benefits every household, with young people gaining the most from emerging economic opportunities. Shri Modi highlighted the substantial benefits Rajasthan is gaining from ongoing infrastructure development. He noted that high-quality roads are being constructed across villages and even in border areas. Over the past 11 years, approximately ₹70,000 crore has been invested in Rajasthan's road infrastructure alone. He stated that the central government is set to spend nearly ₹10,000 crore on railway development in the state this year, marking a 15-fold increase compared to pre-2014 levels. He remarked on the flagging-off of a new train connecting Bikaner to Mumbai, further enhancing connectivity. Additionally, he emphasized the launch and foundation stone laying of various health, water, and electricity projects in multiple regions. These initiatives aim to accelerate the progress of both urban and rural areas of Rajasthan, ensuring that young people find promising opportunities within their own cities and towns. Underlining the accelerated industrial development in Rajasthan under the Union and State governments, the Prime Minister noted that Chief Minister Shri Bhajanlal Sharma's administration has introduced new industrial policies across various sectors, which will benefit regions like Bikaner. He emphasized that Bikaner Bhujia and Bikaner Rasgullas will expand their global recognition, further strengthening the state's food processing industry. The Prime Minister remarked that Rajasthan's refinery project is in its final stages, positioning the state as a key hub for petroleum-based industries. He also underscored the significance of the six-lane economic corridor from Amritsar to Jamnagar, passing through Shri Ganganagar, Hanumangarh, Bikaner, Jodhpur, Barmer, and Jalore. Additionally, he highlighted the near-completion of the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway in Rajasthan, stating that these connectivity projects will elevate the state's industrial growth to new heights. Shri Modi highlighted the rapid progress of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana in Rajasthan, noting that over 40,000 people in the state have already benefited from this initiative, which has eliminated their electricity bills and provided them an opportunity to generate income through solar power. He remarked on the inauguration and foundation stone laying of several power-related projects, emphasizing that these developments will further enhance Rajasthan's electricity supply. He underscored that the increasing power generation in the state is playing a crucial role in accelerating industrial growth. Underlining the historical significance of Rajasthan's land, Shri Modi recalled the visionary efforts of Maharaja Ganga Singh in transforming desert terrain into fertile landscapes. He highlighted the critical importance of water for the region and its role in advancing the development of areas such as Bikaner, Shri Ganganagar, Hanumangarh, and western Rajasthan.

Farmers daughter Secures 90 Percent in Plus Two

Jajpur, (DMC) : Raseswari Dash, the daughter of Rajkishore Dash a marginal farmer from Kimbhiripal in Bari block has set an example for other girls by scoring 90 per cent marks in this year Plus Two Arts Result declared on Wednesday. Raseswari who secured the first position in her college is a brilliant student of Santhan Mahavidyalay, Bainsiria. Due to her regular hard works and sincerity She able to achieve this position, Teachers of Santhan Mahavidyalay said. I am glad that my parents are elated with my results. Though they have never forced me to study, they were confident that I will score good marks in the examination, Raseswari said. She also expressed her gratitude to her teachers, who she said cleared all her doubts patiently. I could score well due to the support of my teachers. They had given me the liberty to pester them with questions anytime even over the phone, she said, In future She aims to be an IAS and works for general people.



Centre Okays 10,900 Electric Buses For Five Cities



New Delhi, (H.S): The Ministry of Heavy Industries on Thursday assured that approximately 4,500 electric buses will be provided to Bengaluru, 2,000 to Hyderabad, 2,800 to Delhi, 1,000 to Ahmedabad and 600 to Surat under the current phase of the PM e-Drive Scheme. The decision was taken at a meeting chaired by Union Minister for Heavy Industries H.D. Kumaraswamy on the rollout of electric buses. "The session focused on the states of Telangana, Karnataka, Delhi, and Gujarat—marking a strong step forward in advancing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for clean and inclusive urban transport solutions across India," according to an official statement issued

after the meeting. "Thanks to the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is now taking bold strides toward sustainable urban mobility. From Bengaluru to Delhi, cities are actively embracing electric buses to make public transport cleaner, smarter, and more efficient," said Kumaraswamy. "We are not merely allocating electric buses—we are shaping the future of India's transport system with innovation and environmental consciousness," the Union Minister said. "With close coordination between the Centre and states like Telangana, Karnataka, Delhi, and Gujarat, we are determined to deliver on the PM e-Drive promise," he added. The PM e-Drive initiative

aims to deploy 14,028 electric buses with a total financial outlay of Rs 10,900 crore over a two-year period from April 2024 to March 2026. The minister said the scheme represents one of the world's largest national efforts to electrify public transport at scale and the government was committed to timely delivery, operational readiness, and strategic partnerships with all participating states. The Ministry of Heavy Industry (MHI) has also introduced E-vouchers for EV buyers to avail the demand incentive under the scheme.

Under the PM e-drive scheme an allocation of Rs 500 crore each has been done for the deployment of e-ambulances and e-trucks as well. This is new initiative of the Centre to promote the use of e-ambulances for comfortable patient transport. Similarly, e-trucks have also been introduced under the scheme since trucks are major contributors to air pollution. To avail subsidy on e-truck submission of a scrapping certificate from Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) approved vehicles scrapping centres (RVSF) has been made mandatory.

Indus Treaty Will Remain In Abeyance Until Pakistan Abjures Support For Cross-Border Terrorism: MEA

New Delhi, (H.S): India on Thursday reiterated that any India-Pakistan engagement has to be bilateral, at the same time making it clear once again that the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) will remain in abeyance until Pakistan "credibly and irrevocably abjures" its support for cross-border terrorism. "Any India-Pakistan engagement has to be bilateral. At the same time, I would like to remind you that talks and terror don't go together.

On terrorism itself, as I had said earlier, we are open to discussing the handing over to India of noted terrorists whose list was given to Pakistan some years ago," Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stated during a weekly media briefing in New Delhi. "I would also like to underline that any bilateral discussion on Jammu and Kashmir will only be on the vacation of illegally-occupied Indian territory by Pakistan. On the question of the Indus Waters



Treaty, I am again repeating myself, it will remain in abeyance until Pakistan credibly and irrevocably abjures its support for cross-border terrorism. As our Prime Minister has said, water and blood cannot flow together, trade and terror also cannot go together" he added. India's strong response came a few hours after Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif proposed Saudi Arabia as a neutral venue for talks with India, stating that the United States could take lead as a mediator between the two countries. Talking to

journalists in Islamabad, Sharif said that if there are going to be talks between India and Pakistan, they will be at the National Security Advisors (NSA) level, adding that the agenda of the talks would be focused on Kashmir, water, terrorism, and trade. Shehbaz also said that the tensions between India and Pakistan are de-escalating in phases since the Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) on both sides started engaging with each other. "If talks were held between the two arch

rivals, the National Security Advisor will lead Pakistan's side in the process. Saudi Arabia can be a neutral venue with the US leading mediations. But India has not agreed to any neutral venue for talks till now," he said. "The agenda of the talks would be Kashmir, water, trade, and terrorism. These will be the key points during Pakistan-India talks," Sharif added.

Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi reiterated India's firm stance against terrorism, saying there would be no talks or trade with Islamabad unless it relinquishes its illegal occupation of Kashmir. "If there is to be any talk, it will be on Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). If Pakistan continues to export terrorists, it will be left begging for every penny. It will not get a single drop of Indian water," he said while addressing a massive public rally in Rajasthan's Bikaner. PM Modi also made it clear that "playing with the blood of Indians will cost Pakistan dearly".

Centre Takes Action Over The Collapse of NH 66

Thiruvananthapuram, (H.S): The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways on Thursday took action against the Hyderabad-based KNR Constructions Limited after the National Highway 66 in Kerala, which they are constructing, started to collapse at a few places. Sources said that apart from banning the construction company, the consultants to the project, Highway Engineering Company, have also been banned.

Likewise, two top officials attached to the project, the Construction Project Manager M. Amarnath Reddy and team leader Raj Kumar, have also been suspended. On May 19, the under-construction National Highway 66 at Kooriyad in Malappuram district collapsed, while the retaining wall and service road sank in. Lok Sabha member from Malappuram district E.T. Mohammed Basheer, early this week, called on Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari and expressed concerns about the construction of the highway. Gadkari had assured the Basheer of prompt action, which was taken on Thursday. On



Wednesday, Kerala Congress president Sunny Joseph asked the Pinarayi Vijayan government to ensure responsibilities are fixed. Meanwhile, the protesters targeted the State Public Works Department Minister P.A. Mohammed Riyas, who is also Vijayan's son-in-law.

He always took credit for the massive road development that has taken place since he became the Minister in 2021. Vijayan was also criticised by various stakeholders. However, Minister Riyas pointed out that the Congress-led UDF has always been against this project, as during their tenure, they were unable to do anything. "After the incident

happened, Congress saw it as a good opportunity to criticise us. But they should realise that this is a challenge against the people. We will go forward resolving all the issues," said Riyas. The Centre has also appointed veteran former IIT Delhi Professor K.R. Rao, an expert in roads and construction, to conduct an in-depth study of the incident.

Congress Lok Sabha member Shafi Parambil welcomed the appointment, saying, "This decision was expected. There has to be a detailed examination of the projects. In the Parliament, we have brought this up on a few occasions. We are hoping that things will now go forward smoothly."

Imphal, (H.S): The 48-hour state-wide shutdown, called by Meitei community umbrella body Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI) in protest against the removal of the state's name from a government bus on Tuesday, badly affected normal life in five to six districts of Manipur's valley region on Thursday, officials said. A senior police official said that most markets, shops, business establishments, educational institutions, and government and private offices were closed, and public transport remained off the roads in the valley region, inhabited by the Meitei community.

COCOMI supporters came out on the streets to enforce the shutdown, and they urged the people to remain inside their homes. The bandh supporters also burned tyres on the roads at different places in the state capital, Imphal. The official said that so far, there has been no major incident in connection with the bandh. As per the call of the COCOMI, the shutdown started on Wednesday midnight, and it had almost no effect in Kuki-Zo-Hmar and Naga-dominated hill areas.

The state government has deployed a huge contingent of central and state forces to prevent any untoward incident relating to the shutdown. Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) personnel have been deployed in all strategic locations in Imphal East and



Imphal West districts, including the Raj Bhavan, Civil Secretariat, police headquarters and offices of important officials. Meanwhile, a media team, en route to cover the opening ceremony of the five-day-long Shirui Lily Festival in Ukhrul district on Tuesday, was forced to return to Imphal, allegedly after some security personnel blocked their bus at Gwaltabi in Imphal East district. The All Manipur Working Journalists Union (AMWJU) and the Editors Guild Manipur (EGM), in a joint letter to Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla on Tuesday, said that the security personnel instructed the media team to hide the "Manipur State Transport Corporation" signage on the front of the bus carrying 20 journalists and some Information Department officials.

Reacting strongly, the AMWJU and the EGM organised a "pen down" protest on Wednesday against the "disrespectful behaviour" by the security personnel towards the press and the people of Manipur.

The Manipur government on Wednesday constituted a two-member inquiry committee to probe the issue. The committee, comprising Commissioner, Home, N. Ashok Kumar, and Information Technology Secretary Th. Kirankumar Singh, would submit their report within 15 days. "The committee shall look into lapses, if any, and suggest measures to prevent recurrence of such a situation in future," Chief Secretary Prashant Kumar Singh said in the order. Condemning the reported removal of the word "Manipur"

from a state transport bus by the security personnel, COCOMI Convenor Khuraijam Athouba demanded a formal apology from Governor Bhalla. The leading Meitei community body also called for the immediate resignation of Security Advisor Kuldip Singh, Chief Secretary and Director General of Police Rajiv Singh, holding them responsible for failing to protect the dignity and integrity of the state of Manipur.

Opposition Congress, its Lok Sabha member Angomcha Bimol Akoijam, BJP's Rajya Sabha member from Manipur Maharaja Sanajaoba Leishemba, former Chief Minister N. Biren Singh and many other leaders and organisations protested the incident. In view of the 5-day long (May 20 to 24) Shirui Lily Festival,

the Manipur government has taken huge security measures after reported threats by some individuals and organisations to the Meitei community against entering Kuki tribal-dominated areas during the festival. Shirui Lily Festival, mostly organised by the Meitei community, is celebrated in honour of the state flower, the Shirui Lily. Underlining its ecological importance, the celebration takes place during the peak blooming season of the rare and endangered flower that can only be found in Manipur. The lily grows on top of the Shirui hills in Ukhrul district and cannot be replanted anywhere else in the world.

Custodial Death In Jharkhand's Deoghar Sparks Public Outrage & Protest



Deoghar, (H.S): The alleged custodial death of a man in Jharkhand's Deoghar district triggered massive public anger on Thursday, as hundreds of residents poured onto the streets demanding justice and action against the police personnel involved. The deceased, identified as 35-year-old Meraj Ansari, was detained by the district's cyber police on Wednesday morning in connection with a cybercrime case. According to a police official, Ansari's health reportedly deteriorated during custody, and he was admitted to a hospital late Wednesday night, where he later died. However, local residents and family

members allege that Ansari was subjected to police brutality, which led to his death. No senior police officer has issued an official statement on the matter so far. The situation escalated on Thursday morning after the police returned to Palojori with Meraj's body following a post-mortem. His family members, accompanied by a large group of locals, staged a road blockade on the main road in the Palojori police station area. Protesters raised slogans, accused the police of custodial torture, and demanded strict action against the officers responsible. As the protest grew in intensity, police resorted to firing tear gas shells and lathi-charging demonstrators

to disperse the crowd and clear the road. Additional police forces were deployed in and around the Palojori area to maintain order. According to villagers from Dudhni, where Meraj lived, a joint team from the Cyber Police and Palojori police station had conducted a raid in the village and detained four persons, including Meraj Ansari. His family was informed only the next morning that he had fallen ill in custody and was taken to the hospital, where he was declared dead.

Meraj's elder brother, Mehboob Ansari, alleged that police began assaulting Meraj immediately after detaining him. He also claimed that locals who tried to intervene or question the detention were also mistreated. "Meraj has left behind a grieving wife and four children. His sudden death has left the family shattered. The police must be held accountable, and the family should be provided with compensation," demanded a protester.

Soldier Killed, Two Injured Ongoing Gunfight In J&K's Kishtwar

Jammu, (H.S): A soldier was killed and two others injured on Thursday in an ongoing gunfight between the joint security forces & terrorists in J&K's Kishtwar district, officials said. Officials said that the soldier was martyred in the encounter in the Singhpora Chatroo area of Kishtwar. "Army jawan martyred in ongoing Kishtwar encounter has been identified as Sepoy Gaykar Sandip Pandurang, resident of village Karandi tehsil, Akole, Ahmednagar district, Maharashtra.

The injured soldiers have been shifted to the hospital. The encounter is going on," an official said. Earlier reports had said that two terrorists were killed in this encounter. However, the report has still not been officially confirmed. Joint forces, including 2 Para, 11 Rashtriya Rifles, 7 Assam Rifles, and the Special Operations Group (SOG) of J&K Police, started the operation against Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terrorists, reportedly three to four in number, in the Singhpora Chatroo area in the morning. Officials said that the joint security forces launched a



cordon and search operation (CASO) after getting specific information about the presence of a group of three to four terrorists. "The cordon was tightened to engage the terrorists and to ensure that they are unable to escape. As the joint forces came closer, the hiding terrorists opened fire, triggering an encounter which is now going on. Three to four Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terrorists are reported to be holed up," an official said earlier. Naming the operation "Op Trashi", the White Knight Corps of the Indian Army, in a post on its X handle, said: "Contact has been established with #terrorists during a joint #operation with

@JmuKmrPolice at #Chhatru, #Kishtwar today morning. Additional troops have been inducted, and operations are ongoing to neutralize the terrorists. "Joint forces have started aggressive operations against terrorists, their overground workers (OGWs) and sympathisers in Jammu and Kashmir. These operations were intensified after April 22, when Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists segregated tourists on the basis of religion and killed 26 civilians, including 25 tourists and a local, in Baisaran meadow of Pahalgam. The cowardly terrorist act outraged the entire nation. India launched precision-guided

targeted attacks on terrorist infrastructure in Muridke near Lahore, Bahawalpur, Kotli, and Muzaffarabad in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). Pakistan responded by heavy mortar shelling on the Line of Control (LoC) and the International Border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir, targeting civilian facilities. A total of 200 houses and shops were destroyed in Pakistani shelling, while hundreds of border residents were forced to abandon their villages to run to safer locations.

The border residents have not fully returned to their homes yet as the security forces are still defusing unexploded Pakistan shells in Poonch, Rajouri, Baramulla, and Kupwara districts. India agreed to a ceasefire arrived at by the DGMOs of the two countries on June 12. But, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has made it clear that the understanding will be respected only as long as Pakistan does not allow any terrorist activity on its soil against India. He said that this was a probation period for Pakistan.

NIA files supplementary terror charges against 2 Kerala CPI(Maoist) rebels

New Delhi, (H.S): A Special NIA court in Kerala received a fresh set of charges related to waging war against the government against two accused in the 2022 case related to the recruitment of youths for the armed wing of the banned CPI (Maoist) terrorist organisation, an official said on Thursday. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) said the supplementary charge sheet was filed before the NIA Special Court, Ernakulam,

against R. Ragavendran alias Raghavendra alias Gautham alias Murukesh alias Raghavendran and B.G. Krishnamurthy alias Vijay alias Babanna alias Baskar alias Kumara alias Gangadhara alias Gopal Rao. Krishnamurthy, a Central Committee Member of the CPI (Maoist), provided arms and ideological training to other accused in the forests of the Western Ghats, to equip them to wage war against the nation, said the NIA in a statement. Hailing

from Chikkamangalur district of Karnataka, he had been inducted into the Kabani Dalam squad of CPI (Maoist) to organise terrorist camps and train the Under Ground (UG) cadres of the banned outfit, it said. Ragavendran of Vellore, Tamil Nadu, was a part of the terror camp, said the NIA. The NIA charged them under sections 18, 18B, 20, 38, and 39 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act with conspiracy to commit terrorist acts and other offences.

Terrorism Cannot Be Justified For any Reason, Japanese Foreign Minister in Meeting with Indian Delegation

Tokyo, (H.S): Japan, which shares a 'Special Strategic and Global Partnership' with India on Thursday condemned in the strongest terms the growing threat of terrorism as the country hosted a visiting delegation of Indian Parliamentarians led by Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Kumar Jha.

The all-party parliamentary delegation from India, which arrived in Tokyo earlier in the day, called on Japanese Foreign Minister Takeshi Iwaya, reaffirming India's unwavering stand against terrorism under Operation Sindoor's global outreach campaign that aims at exposing Pakistan and the global terror outfits operating from its soil. At the beginning, Iwaya offered his condolences to those who lost their lives in the terrorist attack in Kashmir and offered his sympathies to those who were injured. "Minister Iwaya also stated that terrorism cannot be



justified for any reason, that Japan firmly condemns terrorist acts in all forms, and that Japan is determined to join hands with the international community, including India, in a firm fight against terrorism," read a statement issued by the Japanese Foreign Ministry after the meeting.

As Iwaya welcomed the recent agreement by India and Pakistan to suspend military operations and mentioned that he had held telephone talks with External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar and Pakistan Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, hoping that the issue would be resolved

through dialogue for the sake of peace and stability in South Asia, Jha, a Janata Dal (United) MP, explained in detail India's position on the current situation. Interestingly,

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri is also in Tokyo and held the Foreign Secretary-Vice Minister Dialogue with Japan's Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, Takehiro Funakoshi. While exchanging views on recent regional situations, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region, Misri also conveyed India's message on zero tolerance for terror. Meanwhile, the all-party parliamentary delegation from India also held

key talks with Takashi Endo, Chairman of the Japanese House of Representatives Committee on National Security. Iwaya emphasised the need to bring perpetrators of terror to justice and voiced strong support for India's response to the Pahalgalam attack. "Reiterated our national resolve to act firmly against terror and those who support it. Grateful for Japan's support and for calling for justice against perpetrators of such acts," Jha posted on X after the meeting.

The delegation also includes BJP MPs Aparajita Sarangi and Brij Lal, Trinamool Congress MP Abhishek Banerjee, CPI(M) Rajya Sabha member John Barittas, and senior Congress leader Salman Khurshid. Their visit marks the beginning of India's unprecedented diplomatic campaign to expose Pakistan's sustained role in cross-border terrorism following the April 22 Pahalgalam attack.

Grateful for India's commitment, support to Pandemic Accord: WHO chief

New Delhi, (H.S): Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), has thanked India for its commitment and support to the historic Pandemic Accord. After three years of negotiations, the Agreement was adopted by consensus by member countries of the WHO at the 78th World Health Assembly (WHA) in Geneva this week.

India is also a signatory to this treaty, which has been in talks since the Covid-19 outbreak, which killed millions of people worldwide. The treaty aims to bridge global healthcare gaps and inequities in case of future pandemics. "Namaste, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, for joining us virtually at a historic 78th WHA when the Pandemic Accord was adopted. We are grateful for India's commitment and support to the WHO," the WHO chief said in a post on social



media platform X. Addressing the WHA, via videoconferencing, PM Modi said the WHO Pandemic Treaty is a shared commitment that requires greater global cooperation. "The WHO Pandemic Treaty is a shared commitment to fighting future pandemics through greater global cooperation," said PM Modi, while extending his congratulations on the successful negotiations of the treaty. He also expressed India's willingness to share its learnings and best practices with the world, especially with the Global South. The Prime Minister emphasised the importance of

building a healthy planet while ensuring that no one is left behind. "The future of a healthy world depends on inclusion, an integrated vision, and collaboration," he said. Meanwhile, the Union Health Secretary Punya Salila Srivastava, who led the Indian delegation at the WHA also congratulated the WHO and member states on the historic progress made toward advancing the Pandemic Treaty.

Srivastava emphasised the importance of confronting future health challenges with a commitment to ensuring that no one is left behind. "The Pandemic agreement must ensure equitable access to medical countermeasures, timely and transparent data and pathogen sharing; and promote technology sharing and capacity building, particularly for the Global South," she said. She also reaffirmed India's commitment to global health equity at the 78th WHA.

Vatican May Host Russia-Ukraine Peace Talks Next Week: Finnish President

Helsinki, (H.S): Technical-level talks involving Russia and Ukraine may take place as early as next week at the Vatican, Finnish President Alexander Stubb said in an interview with national broadcaster Yle. Stubb said on Wednesday evening that the talks would likely include representatives from the US and European countries, calling the potential meeting a positive step toward broader international engagement in efforts to end the conflict in Ukraine. "It is very probable that next week, for example at the Vatican, there will be a technical meeting involving Ukrainians,

Russians, Americans, and Europeans," he added. He emphasised the growing role of European countries in the peace process. "We are entering a phase where Europe is also involved - and that is what we have been hoping for from the beginning," Stubb said. On Monday, US President Donald Trump held a phone call with several European leaders

including Stubb. The new Pope, Leo XIV, said earlier on Wednesday that the Holy See is ready to promote the peace process in Ukraine, including to host talks. US President Donald Trump welcomed this initiative. Talks between Russia and Ukraine were held in Istanbul on May 16. On May 19, Russian President Vladimir Putin held a more than two-hour phone call with Trump where the two leaders discussed ways of settling the conflict in Ukraine. Following this call, the US president spoke to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and a number of European leaders, with Stubb being among them, to inform them about his conversation with Putin. Stubb maintained that the US has not abandoned its role as a mediator in settling Russia's war against Ukraine. "There are now more mediators," he noted. "Earlier, only the US played that role. Now Europe is also participating." Earlier on May 21, Pope Leo XIV said he was

prepared to host the next round of Ukraine-Russia talks at the Vatican following a conversation with Italy's PM Giorgia Meloni. On May 16, Pope Leo XIV had proposed that Ukraine and Russia hold peace negotiations at the Vatican after Russian President Putin refused to fly to Istanbul to meet with Ukrainian President Zelenskyy. The same day, Ukrainian and Russian delegations met for the first time in more than three years, sitting down for talks brokered by Turkey. Ukraine's Defence Minister and head of its delegation, Rustem Umerov, said that the key topics were a 30-day ceasefire and POW exchanges. Turkey's Foreign Minister later said the delegations agreed on a follow-up meeting and that the ceasefire conditions would be exchanged in writing. Several media outlets reported that during the talks Russia demanded the withdrawal of Ukrainian forces from Luhansk, Donetsk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhya regions.

North Korea Fires Multiple Cruise Missiles after Failed Warship Launch

Seoul, (H.S): North Korea fired multiple cruise missiles toward the East Sea on Thursday, South Korea's military said, a day after a "serious" accident occurred during Pyongyang's launch of a new warship. The launches took place as North Korea said earlier in the day that parts of a new naval destroyer were "crushed" during its launch ceremony Wednesday, with the North's leader Kim Jong-un calling it a "criminal act" that could not be tolerated.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said it detected the North's missile launches at about 9 a.m. from the Sondok area in South Hamgyong Province, without providing further details, such as the number of missiles fired. The military believes the missiles may have been fired from a maritime platform and are conducting a detailed analysis with US intelligence authorities. In February last year, North Korea test-fired a new surface-to-sea



missile, named Padasuri-6. Authorities are looking into the possibility that the latest launch may have involved a variant of the anti-ship missile. The JCS said it is closely monitoring North Korean activities so that Pyongyang does not "misjudge" the current security situation, adding that it is maintaining the capabilities to "overwhelmingly" respond to any provocation. North Korea has staged a series of military demonstrations this month, including the launch of

multiple short-range ballistic missiles into the East Sea on May 8. The South's military usually does not immediately announce North Korean cruise missile launches, compared with ballistic ones, which are banned under UN Security Council resolutions, Yonhap news agency reported. Earlier on May 17, North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un oversaw anti-air combat and air raid drills by an air force flight group this week, stressing the need for constant and stronger war preparations

across all military units. Kim gave the guidance during his visit on Thursday to the flight group under the Guards 1st Air Division of the Korean People's Army, calling on "all the units of the entire army to bring about a radical turn in the preparations for war in constant war posture," the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said.

The drills were aimed at familiarising flying corps as well as anti-air missile, radar, and electronic warfare subunits with the mission to detect, track, and destroy enemy cruise missiles and suicide drones, according to the KCNA. The drills included a test of a new-type long-range precision glide-guided bomb and a target attack exercise, as well as a training program for destroying enemy drones with a helicopter, precision bombing of naval targets, and a demonstration flight of strategic reconnaissance drones and multipurpose drones, the KCNA said.

FS Vikram Misri Meets Japanese Vice Foreign Minister, Conveys India's Message on Zero Tolerance For Terrorism

Tokyo, (H.S): Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri met Japanese Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Takehiro Funakoshi in Tokyo on Thursday for their annual bilateral dialogue and highlighted India's stance on zero tolerance towards terrorism. "Vikram Misri, Foreign Secretary, joins Takehiro Funakoshi, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, Government of Japan, for the Foreign Secretary-Vice Minister Dialogue in Tokyo.

Discussions covered advancing the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership and conveying India's message on zero tolerance for terror," the Indian Embassy in Japan posted on X. Meanwhile, the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that the participants discussed further deepening the bilateral relations in a wide range of aspects, including security, economic, and people-to-people exchanges, under the Japan-India Special Strategic Global Partnership, and exchanged views on recent regional



developments, mainly in the Indo-Pacific. Misri also held a meeting with Japanese Senior Deputy Foreign Minister Hiroyuki Namazu and exchanged views on India-Japan strategic cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region and other issues of common interest. "India and Japan share 'Special Strategic and Global Partnership' based on the shared values of democracy, freedom and the rule of law. Defence has emerged as one of the most important pillars in

this relationship. Strengthened India-Japan defence partnership is vital for ensuring a free, open, inclusive and prosperous Indo-Pacific in the prevailing global environment," according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). Meanwhile, earlier in the day, an all-party parliamentary delegation led by Janata Dal (United) MP Sanjay Kumar Jha arrived in Tokyo, marking the start of India's massive diplomatic outreach on 'Operation Sindoor.' The

delegation also met top Japanese leaders, reaffirming India's unwavering stand against terrorism under the global outreach campaign of Operation Sindoor. Japan also condemned in the strongest terms the growing threat of terrorism as the country hosted a visiting delegation of Indian Parliamentarians. "Minister Iwaya also stated that terrorism cannot be justified for any reason, that Japan firmly condemns terrorist acts in all forms, and that Japan is determined to join hands with the international community, including India, in a firm fight against terrorism, read a statement issued by the Japanese Foreign Ministry after the meeting.

Iwaya welcomed the recent agreement by India and Pakistan to suspend military operations and mentioned that he had held telephone talks with External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar and Pakistan Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, hoping that the issue would be resolved through dialogue for the sake of peace and stability in South Asia.

EAM Jaishankar Meets Danish Counterpart Rasmussen, Hails Denmark's Support Against Terrorism



Denmark, (H.S): External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar met the Danish Foreign Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen here on Wednesday (local time) to discuss India and Denmark relations and also lauded Denmark's strong solidarity and support on combatting terrorism. "Delighted to meet FM Lars Lokke Rasmussen in Copenhagen this evening. Denmark's strong solidarity and support on combatting terrorism has been truly commendable.

Our wide-ranging conversation on bilateral ties and global issues testifies to the strength of our relationship," EAM Jaishankar said on Wednesday evening in a post on X. The EAM arrived here on Tuesday evening in the second leg of his three-nation tour to the Netherlands, Denmark and Germany. Earlier in the day, the EAM met with the Speaker of the Danish Parliament Folketing, Soren Gade, expressing appreciation for Denmark's

solidarity against terrorism. "A very warm meeting with Speaker Soren Gade in Copenhagen today. Appreciate his solidarity as India resolutely combats terrorism. Also value his sustained support for building India-Denmark relations," EAM Jaishankar said in another post on X.

Later on Wednesday, EAM Jaishankar engaged with the Indian community in Copenhagen, noting their role in enhancing cultural connections. "Great to meet with Indian community representatives in Copenhagen. They hold the Indian flag high in Denmark and shape our positive image in this country," he added. EAM Jaishankar arrived in Denmark on Wednesday after concluding a successful two-day official visit to the Netherlands from May 19 to 20. Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen received the EAM, and key discussions focused on advancing the India-Denmark Green Strategic Partnership. This underscored

both nations' commitment to deepening bilateral cooperation and addressing global challenges. Following this, Jaishankar met with Morten Bodskov, the Danish Minister for Industry, Business and Financial Affairs, in Copenhagen. Both Ministers discussed deepening existing areas of cooperation and exploring new possibilities. "I was Pleased to meet Minister for Industry, Business and Financial Affairs Morten Bodskov in Copenhagen today.

We discussed deepening existing areas of cooperation and exploring new possibilities," EAM Jaishankar wrote on X. EAM Jaishankar is on an official visit to the Netherlands, Denmark, and Germany from May 19 to 24. In a post on X, EAM Jaishankar thanked Prime Minister Frederiksen for "warmly receiving" him in Copenhagen. During the meeting, EAM Jaishankar also conveyed personal greetings from Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Shooter who killed Israeli embassy staff members in Washington shouted 'free Palestine'

Washington, (H.S): Two members of the Israeli embassy staff were fatally shot Wednesday night in Washington DC by a man who, the police said, had chanted "Free Palestine". The shooting took place outside an event hosted by the American Jewish Committee for young diplomats at the Lillian and Albert Small Capital Jewish Museum.

The single shooter was identified by police as 30-year-old Elias Rodriguez of Chicago. Metropolitan Police Chief Pamela Smith said at a news briefing the suspect shouted "Free, free Palestine!" while being taken into custody. The victims were Sarah Lynn Milgrim and her partner Yaron Lischinsky,



who both worked at the Israeli embassy in Washington. "These horrible D.C. killings, based obviously on antisemitism, must end. NOW! Hatred and Radicalism have no place in the USA. Condolences to the families of the victims. So sad that such things as this can happen! God Bless You ALL!" President Donald Trump wrote in a post

on Truth Social early Thursday morning. "We will follow the facts. We will follow the law, and this defendant will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law," said Attorney General Pam Bondi. The Wall Street Journal said Milgrim worked at the Department of Public Diplomacy in the embassy and Lischinsky immigrated to Israel from

Germany at age 16, and served in the Israeli military. He completed his undergraduate and master degrees in Israel, before moving to Washington to work as a research assistant for the embassy's political department in September 2022.

"We are a resilient people," Israeli Ambassador to Washington Yechiel said at the news briefing with US authorities. "Together we won't be afraid and we will stand and we will overcome the moral depravity of people who think they are going to achieve political gains through murder." The Journal reported that the Ambassador also said that Lischinsky had just bought an engagement ring for Milgrim and was going to propose in Jerusalem next week.

"CemHack for Green Infra" Hackathon Launched to Drive Innovation in Cement & Construction Sector

New Delhi, (PIB): A first-of-its-kind national-level hackathon titled "CemHack for Green Infra" was launched on 20th May 2025 by Joint Secretary, DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Shri Sanjiv at the National Council for Cement and Building Materials (NCB), Ballabgarh. Speaking at the occasion, Shri Sanjiv congratulated NCB Incubation Centre on completing its first year and lauded the initiative to promote innovation in the cement and construction sectors.

He encouraged reputed institutes like IITs, NITs, and regional technical universities to participate and expressed hope that the hackathon would result in promising startup success stories. Organised by the NCB Incubation Centre (NCB-IC), the hackathon aims to provide an umbrella platform to support entrepreneurship and



commercialization of grassroots innovations in cement, construction, and allied sectors. Dr. Kapil Kukreja, GM & In-charge, NCB-IC, shared details of the two-track competition-one for startups, professionals, and individuals; the other for students and academia-focused on solving real-world problems in the cement sector. Participation is free of cost. The hackathon themes

include Green Cement, Green Process, Green Concrete, Carbon Capture & Storage, Logistics & Supply Chain, and achieving Net Zero targets. Cash rewards of up to ₹1 lakh and incubation or mentoring opportunities at NCB-IC are on offer. Registrations are open from 20th May to 20th July 2025 at <https://www.ncbindia.com/cemhack.php>. NCB, under

DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, is India's apex R&D organization for cement and building materials, with expertise spanning raw materials to rehabilitation of built structures. Dr. L P Singh, Director General, NCB, emphasized the importance of the hackathon in driving sustainability and highlighted recent milestones, including a DST-funded CCU test bed project with IIT Roorkee and JK Cement Ltd.

He announced the upcoming establishment of a Centre of Excellence for CCU at NCB. The event was attended by Director, IIT Roorkee, Prof. K K Pant; Chairman-NCB & MD-Shree Cement Ltd., Shri Neeraj Akhouri; and Director General, NCB, Dr. L P Singh. The event witnessed participation from research scholars, students, industry leaders, and NCB scientists.

India Increasingly Positioned To Function As A 'Connector Country': RBI

New Delhi, (HS): In the midst of global trade realignments and industrial policy shifts, India is increasingly positioned to function as a "connector country" that can become a key intermediary in sectors such as technology, digital services, and pharmaceuticals, according to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Indian economy continues to be ring-fenced by stability encompassing monetary, financial and political stability; policy consistency and certainty; congenial business environment; and strong macroeconomic fundamentals along with a policy ecosystem that is transparent, rule-based, and forward-looking, said the 'State of the Economy' report by the central bank. According to IMF projections of April 2025, India is projected to remain the fastest-growing major

economy this year and is likely to surpass Japan this year to become the world's fourth-largest economy. Inflation pressure has eased significantly and is poised for a durable alignment with the target in 2025-26. Consumers and businesses remain confident, supportive for a strengthening of economic activity. Moreover, the measures undertaken by the Reserve Bank since January 2025 have significantly eased liquidity conditions and calmed financial markets.

System liquidity has remained in surplus since end-March 2025. Amidst uncertainties on global capital flows, it is noteworthy that domestic institutional investors (DIIs) have surpassed FPIs in ownership of Nifty-500 companies in March 2025. This marks a structural shift in Indian equity markets as DIIs,

including mutual funds and insurance companies, increasingly offset the volatility caused by FPIs, with retail and systematic investment plan (SIP) flows providing a steady long-term investment base. Domestic financial markets sentiments have witnessed a turnaround amidst easing India-Pakistan tensions, an improvement in the global trade scenario, and softer domestic inflation, said the Reserve Bank.

According to the RBI, in this scenario, the recent completion of a free trade agreement with the UK points to a strengthening of bilateral trade linkages. "Going forward, notwithstanding the daunting challenges on the horizon, India stands well-positioned to navigate the ongoing global headwinds with confidence, ready to harness emerging opportunities and consolidate its role as a key driver of global growth."

Railways are part of our economy and our identity: MoS Dr. Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani



New Delhi, (PIB): Union Minister of State for Rural Development and Communications Dr. Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani has said the Indian railways are not just a part of our economy but also a part of our identity.

Speaking after the virtual inauguration of the Sullurupeta railway station (redeveloped under the Amrit Bharat Station scheme) in Andhra Pradesh by the Prime Minister today, the Union Minister said the Indian Railways carry over two crore passengers everyday and it is the largest employers in the world. Stating that in today's India,

infrastructure is not just about convenience-it is about confidence, the Minister said we need stations that are accessible, efficient, and reflective of our national pride. "Under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the railways have been placed at the heart of India's development agenda.

His approach has been clear: transform railway infrastructure, enhance passenger experience, and integrate stations with India's broader urban renewal", the Minister said. The Amrit Bharat Station Scheme was conceptualised to reimagine over

1,300 stations across India, Shri Pemmasani has informed that the redevelopment of Sullurupeta railway station was taken up at a cost Rs.14.5 Crore. This station occupies a distinctive place on the Indian railway map as it lies in the sacred district of Tirupati and serves as the nearest station to Sriharikota, India's premier spaceport. Referring to various railway projects taken up in the state of Andhra Pradesh in the last 11 years, the Minister has elaborated that the budget allocation rose to Rs.9,417 Crore in 2025-26 which is more than 10 times than that allocated in 2009-14.

A total of 414 KMs of new rail lines were added, 1,217 KMs doubled and at total of 3,748 KMs line electrified. A total of 41 projects, amounting to Rs 34,700 crore, have been sanctioned in the last 11 years. Under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme alone, a record breaking 73 stations in Andhra Pradesh are being redeveloped, he added.

India Post Payments Bank Partners with Aditya Birla Capital Limited to Simplify Accessibility to Loan Products across India

New Delhi, (PIB): India Post Payments Bank (IPPB), a Government of India undertaking and Aditya Birla Capital Limited ('ABCL'), India's leading diversified financial service company has announced their strategic partnership to broaden the reach and accessibility to loan products across Bharat.

This partnership integrates Aditya Birla Capital's diverse suite of lending products with IPPB's extensive network and digital infrastructure, aiming to provide seamless credit access to IPPB customers nationwide. Through this collaboration, IPPB will provide referral service for Aditya Birla Capital's wide range of loan solutions including personal loans, business loans, and loan against property to its existing customer base. IPPB Customers will be able to avail loan facilities through Aditya Birla Capital's state-of-the-art digital platforms ensuring a streamlined process for quick approvals, minimal documentation and hassle-free disbursement. This ecosystem integrates cutting-edge

AI and data analytics to offer personalized financial solutions, catering to the diverse needs of customers across the length and breadth of the country. Sharing his thoughts on the partnership, Mr. R. Viswesvaran, MD & CEO, India Post Payments Bank, said, "We are delighted to partner with Aditya Birla Capital to bring their diverse suite of lending products to our customers. This partnership will ensure that our customers will have easy access to credit through a simplified digital loan application process with flexible options.

This collaboration is consistent with our vision of ensuring that full suite of best-in-class banking products and services are available to every common man in India." Mr. Rakesh Singh, Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer (Designate) - NBFC, Aditya Birla Capital Limited, said, "This partnership aligns with our vision to enhance financial inclusion and provide easy access to credit for individuals and businesses. Leveraging India Post Payments

Bank's extensive reach and our simplified digital loan application process, we aim to serve a larger customer base with convenient and flexible loan options." This collaboration highlights IPPB's and Aditya Birla Capital's shared commitment to strengthening financial accessibility and fostering growth for individuals. IPPB will act as a lead referral partner to ABCL on non-risk participation basis, with credit sanction on sole discretion of ABCL.

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has been established under the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communication with 100% equity owned by Government of India. IPPB was launched on September 1, 2018. The bank has been set up with the vision to build the most accessible, affordable and trusted bank for the common man in India. The fundamental mandate of India Post Payments Bank is to remove barriers for the unbanked & underbanked and reach the last mile leveraging the Postal network comprising

~1,65,000 Post Offices (~140,000 in rural areas) and ~3,00,000 Postal employees. IPPB's reach and its operating model is built on the key pillars of India Stack - enabling Paperless, Cashless and Presence-less banking in a simple and secure manner at the customers' doorstep, through a CBS-integrated smartphone and biometric device.

Leveraging frugal innovation and with a high focus on ease of banking for the masses, IPPB delivers simple and affordable banking solutions through intuitive interfaces available in 13 languages to 11 Crore customers across 5.57 lakh villages & towns in India. IPPB is committed to provide a fillip to a less cash economy and contribute to the vision of Digital India. India will prosper when every citizen has equal opportunity to become financially secure and empowered. Our motto stands true - Every customer is important; every transaction is significant, and every deposit is valuable. Reach us at: marketing@ippbonline.in

Probing possible violations in IndusInd Bank case: SEBI Chairman

New Delhi, (HS): The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is investigating possible violations in the IndusInd Bank case, following the bank's disclosure of suspected fraud and concerns over insider trading, SEBI Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey said here on Thursday.

He said that while the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is looking into the accounting discrepancies, SEBI is also doing its part as per its authority. While addressing the media on the sidelines of Assocham's '16th Capital Market Conference' here, Pandey said, "It is RBI's remit, but if there are any serious violations by anyone, SEBI is looking into it." These



developments come after IndusInd Bank revealed a suspected fraud involving some of its own employees. The bank reported a net loss of Rs 2,328.92 crore for the fourth quarter of the financial year 2024-25 (Q4 FY25). This is the bank's first financial result since uncovering serious accounting irregularities. The issue has led to high-level resignations, regulatory investigations, and multiple audits. During a post-earnings

call, the bank's board said it suspects that certain employees involved in financial reporting and accounting may have committed fraud. The board has reported the matter to regulatory and investigative agencies and is following all legal procedures.

According to the internal audit committee, the initial investigation suggests that some senior officials, including former Key Managerial Personnel (KMP), may have bypassed internal controls and hid wrongful accounting practices from the board and auditors over a period of time. The audit department revealed on May 21 that Rs 172.58 crore had been wrongly recorded as fee income in the

bank's microfinance division across three quarters ending December 2024. This error was corrected in the fourth quarter, contributing to the huge loss reported. IndusInd Bank chairman Sunil Mehta said the board is taking the issue very seriously. He added that steps are being taken to avoid such lapses in the future, and that improving the bank's governance culture is now a top priority.

The bank is also reviewing the roles and responsibilities of employees involved and will take strict action as per its internal code of conduct. Mehta also informed that the bank's board will send its recommendation for the appointment of a new CEO to the RBI by June 30.

Corporate Investments Surge To 28.50 Lakh Crore in FY25

New Delhi, (HS): There has been a steady increase in corporate investments during 2024-25, with core infrastructure industries playing a lead role in the growth, according to a report compiled by the Bank of Baroda's economic research department.

The report, based on data from 1,393 companies across 122 industries, estimates that gross fixed assets, including capital work in progress, increased by 7.6 per cent to Rs 28.50 lakh crore in FY 25 compared with Rs 26.49 lakh crore for FY24. Refineries accounted for the largest share of fixed assets at 31 per cent, followed by telecom services with 8.6 per cent, iron and steel products (5.9 per cent), cement (5.4 per cent), and power (4.8 per cent). These five sectors constituted 56 per cent of the total

fixed assets, the key contribution of core infrastructure industries to capital formation." Most of the leading sectors in terms of being those that drive investment in the country are in the infrastructure space and have registered impressive growth rates," the report states.

The next five industries by share of fixed assets - public sector banks, private sector banks, chemicals, industrial gases, and non-ferrous metals - collectively accounted for another 14.5 per cent. Passenger cars, FMCG, pharmaceuticals, IT software, and sponge iron made up another 10.4 per cent of fixed assets. These five industries represented close to 81 per cent of corporate fixed assets in FY25, indicating their key role in driving capital expenditure. "The picture is diverse for consumer-

oriented industries, which should show more traction in the coming year (FY26) when consumption shows a revival. Demand in some of these sectors has been mixed, especially in urban areas, and the measures announced by the government, as well as declining inflation, should help to reverse the same," the report said.

Sectors like cement, passenger cars, banks, drugs and pharma, steel, sponge iron and refineries outpaced the average growth in fixed assets, according to the report. "In case of cement and steel, the linkage was with government capex, where fresh capacities were set up to meet rising demand. In the case of refineries, it was part of the drive to invest in capital for expansion purposes.

Indian economy shows resilience despite weak global growth: RBI

New Delhi, (HS): The global growth continues to face headwinds with persistent trade frictions, heightened policy uncertainty, and weak consumer sentiment weighing on the outlook. Despite this, the Indian economy is exhibiting resilience even after high trade and tariff-related concerns, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has said.

Persistent trade frictions, heightened policy uncertainty, and weak consumer sentiment continue to create headwinds for global growth. "Amidst these challenges, the Indian economy exhibited resilience. Various high frequency indicators of industrial and services sectors sustained their momentum in April," according to the RBI Bulletin. A bumper rabi harvest and higher acreage for summer crops, coupled with favourable southwest monsoon forecasts for 2025, augur well for the



agriculture sector. Headline CPI inflation fell for the sixth consecutive month to its lowest since July 2019, primarily driven by the sustained easing in food prices. Domestic financial market sentiments, which remained on edge in April, witnessed a turnaround since the third week of May, said the Bulletin. The year-on-year inflation rates based on the all-India consumer price index for agricultural labourers (CPI-AL) and rural labourers (CPI-RL) for April this year eased further to 3.48 per cent and 3.53 per cent, respectively - compared to 7.03 per cent and 6.96 per cent in April 2024 -

bringing respite to poor households. Also, the domestic equity market, which declined initially in response to the tariff announcements by the US, gained momentum in the second half of April in the wake of robust corporate earnings reports for Q4 by some banking and financial sector companies.

Moreover, the growth rate in notes in circulation (NiC, in value terms) during 2014-2024 was significantly lower as compared to that in the previous two decades. The growth in NiC was noticeably higher than that in GDP during 1994 - 2004; the gap, however, has significantly reduced in the next two decades. There exists positive relationship between nightlights and taxes and also between nightlights and GDP. It means that formal economic activity reduces the use of banknotes, said the Bulletin.

Business Activity In India Surges To 13-Month High In May: HSBC Composite PMI

New Delhi, (HS): The HSBC Flash India Composite Output Index - which measures the month-on-month change in the combined output of India's manufacturing and service sectors - on Thursday reported robust business activity in May in the country, climbing to a 13-month high of 61.2, compared with 59.7 in the previous month.

At 61.2 in May, the HSBC Index showcased a sharp rate of expansion in private sector activity. "The increase was the most pronounced since April 2024. There was a mild loss of growth momentum in the manufacturing industry but service providers reported the fastest rise in output in 14 months," according to a HSBC Flash India PMI note. The HSBC Flash India Manufacturing PMI was little changed from April's reading of 58.2. At 58.3 in May,



the latest figure was consistent with a sharp improvement in the health of the sector. Private sector growth in India moved up a gear during May, boosted by an acceleration in the service economy. Strong inlets of new business, both from domestic and international markets, induced quicker expansions in business activity and employment. There was also an improvement in business confidence for the first time since January, said the

HSBC. "India's flash PMI indicate another month of strong economic performance. Growth in production and new orders among manufacturing firms remains robust, despite a marginal cooling from the rates of increase observed in April," said Pranjal Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC. Notably, there is a firm pick-up in the employment, especially in the service sector, suggesting healthy job creation accompanies the expansion of

both India's manufacturing and service sectors, Bhandari added. While goods producers indicated the slowest increase in output for three months during May, service providers reported the fastest rise since March 2024. At the composite level, the latest upturn was the quickest in just over a year.

Monitored companies attributed growth to buoyant demand, investment in technology and expanded capacities, according to the note. "Underlying data indicated that ongoing job creation enabled companies to stay on top of their workloads in May. Not only did employment continued to increase, but growth also hit a fresh series record (since December 2005). Anecdotal evidence showed that full- and part-time staff had been recruited on permanent and temporary bases," said the HSBC report.



Aishwarya Rai Makes For A True Indian Beauty In An Elegant Saree At Cannes 2025

Actress Aishwarya Rai Bachchan has been the face of true Indian beauty internationally for decades now. Going back to her roots, the former Miss World decided to walk the Cannes red carpet this year as a perfect Indian married woman in saree and sindoor. The 'Guru' actress left everyone stunned as she appeared in a classic ivory handloom saree with

golden embellishment, which she paired with a matching full sleeves blouse, and a drape style dupatta. Aish matched the saree with a red choker, accompanying it with a stunning ruby necklace and matching earrings. We could also see a complimentary ring in her hand as she waved at the cameras on the red carpet. She was seen wearing a dark lipstick with a red tint, along

with some light blush, eyeshadow, and a thick eyeliner. Aishwarya kept her hair open, with a thick layer of sindoor in the parting. Designer Manish Malhotra shared some pictures of Aish from Cannes on his Instagram handle and wrote, "The OG Indian Queen of Cannes @aishwaryarai Bachchan_arb embraces Classic White Handloom in a handwoven

kadwa ivory Handloom Banarasi saree with a handwoven tissue drape and imperial heirloom of rubies from @manishmalhotrajewellery #mymmsaree." With her latest appearances, Aishwarya has successfully paid tribute to her Indian roots. The "Dhoom 2" actress has managed to set trends with her Cannes appearances over the years. Aishwarya made her 22nd

appearance at the film festival as the global ambassador for Loreal Paris. She made her Cannes debut in 2002 when Sanjay Leela Bhansali's "Devdas", co-starring Shah Rukh Khan and Madhuri Dixit premiered at the festival. While Aishwarya has received a lot of praise for some of her looks at the event, in the last few years, she has also been subjected to a lot of criticism for her choice of attire.

Work On Jailer 2 Likely To Go On Until December: Rajinikanth

Superstar Rajinikanth has said that work on his eagerly awaited film, 'Jailer 2', being directed by Nelson, is likely to go on until December this year. Talking to reporters while making his way out of the Chennai airport on Thursday, Rajinikanth said, "Shooting of Jailer 2 is progressing well. It will be December by the time the film ends." Jailer 2 has triggered huge interest, thanks to the phenomenal reach of the first part of the film, which went on to emerge a huge blockbuster, raking in around Rs 650 crores. Shooting of the second part of 'Jailer' began in Chennai first. Sun Pictures, the production house producing the action entertainer, had announced that shooting for the film had commenced on March 10 this year. Interest in the film peaked when Sun Pictures released an exceptionally interesting teaser that was both



funny and thrilling. Not long after this, actress Ramya Krishnan shared a story on her first day of shooting for the second part of the film which was going on at Attapaadi in Kerala. She said, "26 years of Padayappa and the first day shoot of Jailer 2." Ramya Krishnan plays the character of Vijaya Pandian a.k.a Viji, the wife of Rajinikanth's character Muthuvel Pandian, in the film. Sources say that actress Mirnaa,

who plays Swetha Pandian, Rajinikanth's daughter-in-law in the film, too will have a pivotal role in the sequel. Kannada superstar Dr Shiva Rajkumar and Malayalam superstar Mohanlal too are expected to be a part of Jailer 2 as well although there has been no official confirmation in this regard. Anirudh, whose music played a vital role in making the first part emerge a blockbuster, is scoring the music for the second part as well.

Karan Tacker Recalls A 'Heart-Pounding' Moment From His Cannes Red Carpet Debut



Popular television actor Karan Tacker recently made his debut at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival, and the experience left a lasting impression on him. Recalling the heart-pounding moment he stepped onto the iconic red carpet, the actor described it as an unforgettable milestone in his career. Tacker marked a remarkable debut at the esteemed Film Festival with his film 'Tanvi: The Great,' directed by veteran actor and filmmaker Anupam Kher. The 'Ek Hazaron Main Meri Behna Hai' actor walked the red carpet dressed in a classic white tuxedo designed by Manish Malhotra. Speaking about

his debut at Cannes, Karan Tacker shared, "Walking the red carpet at Cannes with Tanvi: The Great was a dream come true. Before stepping onto the red carpet, I used to wonder what all the hype was about but the moment I got there, I understood it completely. I couldn't believe how fast my heart was pounding." "I didn't expect to feel so overwhelmed, but the energy was unreal especially with my idols, Denzel Washington and Spike Lee, right beside me. It's an experience I'll never forget. A huge thank you to Anupam Kher sir and the entire team for trusting me with such a soulful film," he added. Karan also shared

his photos from the red carpet on Instagram, writing, "Firsts are always special." In one of the images, he is seen posing with veteran actor Boman Irani. Anupam Kher's directorial 'Tanvi The Great' had its world premiere at the Cannes Film Festival. The film was screened at the 2025 Marché du Film. In the emotional drama, Karan Tacker will be seen playing the role of Captain Samar Raina. Speaking about the project, Karan shared in a statement, "It was always my dream to have collaborated with Anupam Sir in some way on celluloid. I have always been a fan of his since the time as a young adult when I watch Saaransh to watching him in DDLJ and to all the fantastic work that he does globally and the representation that he's commanded over the years! I never thought that it would come with such a beautiful pleasure of being directed by him and to get to play Capt. Samar Pratap Raina, a role I loved. I am truly humbled and grateful to be a part of such a beautiful and sensitively narrative, #TanviTheGreat, I can't wait for the world to witness it."

Is Salman Khan Going To Replace Amitabh Bachchan As 'Kaun Banega Crorepati' Host?

After impressing fans with his hosting skills in 'Bigg Boss', 'Sikandar' star Salman Khan could be replacing Amitabh Bachchan as 'Kaun Banega Crorepati' (KBC) host. Reports suggest that the KBC makers are in talks with Salman for the new role. According to an insider, Amitabh, who has been hosting KBC since its inception in 2000, will be stepping down due to some personal reasons. "Salman Khan is the king of the small screen, and the best face to replace Amitabh Bachchan is him, as he also has a strong connect with the audience in the smaller centres. Earlier, Shah Rukh Khan has also



hosted KBC, and if everything goes well, Salman will be the newest to take the television sets by storm," a source was quoted as saying by Bollywood Hungama. "Get ready to tune into Sony as Salman Khan might host the biggest

and most popular quiz show of India as Amitabh Bachchan will be stepping back from KBC due to personal reasons," the source added. There has been no word yet from Sony TV regarding the new host.

IPL 25: Santner, Bumrah, Surya Star As MI Storm Into Playoffs With A 59-Run Win Over DC

Mumbai, (HS): Mumbai Indians stormed into the Playoffs as Mitchell Santner and Jasprit Bumrah claimed three wickets apiece after a brilliant unbeaten 73 by Suryakumar to guide their team to a commanding 59-run victory over Delhi Capitals in Match 63 of Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 at the Wankhede Stadium on Wednesday. Mumbai Indians were in trouble in the 18th over as Delhi Capitals had kept them under a tight leash, and it was looking like they may not reach 150 as they were struggling at 132/5 with two overs to go. But Suryakumar Yadav, who hammered a 43-ball 73, and Naman Dhir (24* off 8) blasted 48 runs in the last two overs to help Mumbai reach 180/5 in 20 overs. That proved a turning point in the match because it gave the five-time champions a big boost. Mumbai Indians came back strongly with the ball, used the conditions superbly, and with Santner picking 3-11 and Bumrah bagging 3-12, bundled out Delhi Capitals for 121 in 18.2 overs to win by 59 runs as rain, which had threatened all through the evening, came down in a drizzle. Mumbai Indians, who had a forgettable campaign in 2024 and had started with one win in five matches this season, scripted a tremendous turnaround with a six match unbeaten run as they clinched a well-deserved spot in the playoffs. Delhi Capitals missed their captain, Axar Patel a lot as he would have loved bowling on



this wicket and could have helped them restrict Mumbai Indians to a smaller total. But that was not to be again as Delhi lost their way after making a strong start, which has been the story of their IPL 2025 campaign. The dew was expected to ease up things for the chase, but with the skies still overcast, it did not have any impact as Mumbai Indians bowled superbly to register a memorable victory. Delhi got off to a poor start and were 49/3 at the end of the Power-play. Deepak Chahar struck in the second over as stand-in skipper Faf du Plessis departed, trying to blast a slower one on the length but ended up offering a tame catch to Mitchell Santner. K.L. Rahul, Delhi Capitals' best batter this season, surprisingly came in as an Impact Substitute, struck two boundaries in his six-ball 11 before Boult did him in, extracting an edge behind with a

scrambled seam delivery as the batter skips down the pitch but could manage only an agricultural swipe. From 20/2, Delhi Capitals continued to stumble, as Will Jacks struck in the fifth over, getting Abhishek Porel for six with a neat stumping, ruled by DRS on review, as the Englishman drew the batter with a looped-up delivery. Santner, who varied his flight and controlled pace well, and Bumrah, efficient as usual, were at their inspired best on Wednesday and took over after that. They struck at regular intervals and had DC under pressure always. Vipraj Nigam, who struck an 11-ball 20 to add to his superb bowling, and Sameer Rizvi played small cameos, but in the end it was not enough. Rizvi hit six boundaries and one six for 39 off 35 balls was the top-scorer for Delhi Capitals but his effort was too little and too late. Earlier,

Rohit Sharma lasted just five deliveries in his first match at the venue after the MCA unveiled a stand in his name. He tried to run down a length delivery angled across outside off-stump, edging behind an easy chance to Abhishek Porel to give Bangladesh pacer Mustafizur Rahman his first wicket of IPL 2025. Will Jacks (21 off 13), who struck Vipraj Nigam for a couple of uppish fours and also dumped one over the rope at deep square-leg, lobbed a wide and slow one to Nigam at mid-off to give Mukesh Kumar his first wicket of the match. Rickelton, looking composed at the other end, carted Dushmantha Chameera for two big sixes — first over the bowler's head and the next over long-off — departed soon after the Power-play, falling to the guile of Kuldeep Yadav for 25 off 18, and MI were down to 58/3. Suryakumar Yadav, who played some good shots and survived a DRS review, and Tilak Varma, who struggled to get into a rhythm, took MI past the 100-run mark, hitting a four here and a six there. Delhi Capitals kept a tight leash on the proceedings with Kuldeep Yadav (1-22 off 4) and Vipraj Nigam (0-25 off 4) bowling tidy spells. SKY and Varma shared a 55-run partnership for the fourth wicket before Varma (21 off 13) fell in the 15th over, trying to score a boundary off Mukesh Kumar. Mumbai could manage only 64/2 in the middle overs as the going was painstakingly slow.

Jr Shooting World Cup: Kanak Upstages Double Olympian To Nail India's First Gold

Suhl (Germany), (HS): Kanak, yet another upcoming talent from Haryana, won India their first gold of the ongoing International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Cup in Suhl, Germany, shooting 239.0 in the 24-shot eight-women 10m air pistol final, to upstage Anna Dulce of Moldova, a two-time Olympian and reigning European Champion by a margin of 1.7 points. Chinese Taipei's Chen Yen-Ching won bronze. Earlier India had two shooters qualify for the junior women's air pistol final with Prachi qualifying a spot behind Kanak in fifth as the two shot scores of 571 and 572 respectively. Kanak, a junior world championship silver medalist in Lima last year, then showed her experience at this level, by bringing out the big 10s when it mattered



most towards the closing stages of the final, to win in a canter in the end. "I was a little bit nervous in the beginning but I am happy that I was able to close out well," she said in the post-match interview. In-fact it was Prachi who was always in the top three from the beginning of the final and looked more likely to medal, however the 15th single shot changed everything. It took Kanak to the lead with a soaring 10.5 and Prachi down to fighting for survival as she fired an 8.6. As Prachi fell away, Kanak then shot three high 10s, one slim 10.1 and three high 9s (9.7, 9.8, 9.9) in her next nine shots to pull away from the field as the chasing pack struggled for any sort of consistency. She closed with a 9.4 which will not please her coaches but by then the match was almost in the bag.

Shifting IPL final from Kolkata to Ahmedabad a political conspiracy: Bengal Minister

Kolkata, (HS): The decision of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to shift the final match of the Indian Premier League (IPL) on June 3 from Eden Gardens in Kolkata to Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad is a conspiracy against the West Bengal government, the Power and Sports Minister Arup Biswas said on Thursday. He said that different reasons are being floated for the decision to change the

venue of the IPL final. "The BCCI is claiming that the likely weather condition in Kolkata on the day of the final match was the reason behind the decision. On the other hand, a senior BJP leader claimed that the venue was shifted due to security reasons. Who is correct?" Biswas said while speaking to the media persons. West Bengal BJP chief and the Union Minister, Sukanta Majumdar, had earlier claimed in an X post that security reasons

prompted the change in the venue of the IPL final. However, Majumdar deleted the post. Meanwhile, Biswas claimed that the decision to change the venue of the IPL final is a result of the BJP's narrow political strategies against Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. "This move is an insult to the West Bengal cricket lovers," said the minister. He said that till now, the Union government had been depriving the West Bengal government of central funds under

different centrally-sponsored projects. "Now they have deprived the sports lovers of West Bengal as well. I do not know when BCCI became a weather expert. In reality, the BJP is jealous of the Chief Minister and the development activities going on in West Bengal under her leadership," he said. Biswas said that the Union government does not want to miss a single opportunity to heckle the state government.