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English Daily



"SC Is Chief Justice-Centric, Needs to Change": Justice



New Delhi, (HS) : Making an important observation and calling for reform, Supreme Court judge AS Oka, whose last working day was on Friday, said the court is Chief Justice-centric and needs to change. Justice Oka also hinted that this change may come under the new Chief Justice, BR Gavai, who took charge earlier this month and will remain in the post until his retirement in November. Speaking at his farewell organised by the Supreme Court Bar Association, Justice Oka said High Courts function more democratically than the Supreme Court.

"The high courts function through committees, while the Supreme Court is Chief Justice of India-centric. It needs to change. You will see this change with the new CJI," he said, adding, "I am very happy that Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna (who retired on May 13) took us forward on the path of transparency. He took decisions after taking every judge of the Supreme Court into confidence. Justice Gavai has democratic values in his blood." Pointing out other areas in which the top tier of the judiciary could improve, Justice Oka said the Supreme Court and the High Courts have ignored the trial courts. "We should also think about trial courts and the common man. There are too many cases pending in our trial and district courts... Never call a trial court a subordinate court. This is against constitutional values... It is a difficult task to punish someone after 20 years," he explained. Recalling his judicial journey, Justice Oka said many people had asked him how he was feeling about demitting office. "Judges have the freedom to do justice and you don't have that freedom when you are no longer a judge. After 21 years and nine months, and having been a judge of three constitutional courts, judgeship becomes life, and life becomes judgeship."

He emphasised that he had no regrets that he became a judge and gave up what would have probably been a more financially rewarding career "When a successful lawyer

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Northeast Transformed From Backward Frontier Region To Growth Front-Runner: PM



New Delhi, (HS) : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday gave a clarion call to India Inc. to reap the first mover advantage for investing in the northeast states as the region has been transformed, in the last 11 years, from a backward "frontier region to a growth front-runner." Addressing the Rising North East Investors Summit in the national capital, PM Modi said the

government's policy had accorded priority in development to the northeast, as a result of which the region has now come to the centre stage of India's growth story.

He highlighted that as part of this policy, Union Cabinet ministers had visited the northeast states more than 700 times, and he also had made a night stay mandatory for them

during their visit. This enabled the Centre to get a first-hand feel of the ground reality and the aspirations of the people in drawing up the strategy for development, he explained. The development of the northeast is not only a brick and mortar story reflected in the massive infrastructure development of the region, but also an "emotional connect" which has resulted in

the remarkable growth in the region, he remarked. PM Modi said the infrastructure revolution in the northeast has now transformed the long-time backward region into a land of opportunity. The PM highlighted that more than 11,000 km of highways, hundreds of km of railway lines and the development of waterways formed part of this infrastructure development that has increased connectivity in the region. Besides, the large number of mobile towers providing 4G and 5G connectivity and a 1600 km pipeline gas grid have been constructed in the state.

This infrastructure is the backbone that industry can now use to take the development further, as there is now adequate power, highways and logistics in the region. He also highlighted that peace has returned to the region as over 10,000 youths have given up guns to come back to the mainstream, as the government has followed a zero tolerance policy towards

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CM Reviews Works Projects for Bhubaneswar-Cuttack Twin City



Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi today reviewed various ongoing projects of the Works Department in the Bhubaneswar-Cuttack Twin City at Lok Seva Bhawan. The meeting focused on discussions regarding the integrated development plan for Bhubaneswar and the traffic decongestion plan.

The proposed projects include an elevated corridor from Jayadev Vihar to Nandankanan, construction of a road along the Daya West Canal from Patia Station Chhak to Suanga Mouza, widening of the Sundarpada-Jatni road, and the construction of three

flyovers at Kalpana Chhak, Museum, and Shishu Bhawan Chhak, along with an underpass at AG Chhak. Additionally, work is underway on a left parallel road from the Institute of Mathematics via Pathargadia, Utkal Hospital, and Rail Vihar to Ekamra Kanan. Plans have also been made for three right access roads from Damana to Press Chhak, Kalarahanga to Barimunda, and Kelucharan Park to Barimunda. Furthermore, an inner ring road will be constructed. The Chief Minister expressed optimism that these projects will address the growing traffic issues in Bhubaneswar and contribute

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OAS officer Anuj Kumar Das Pattanaik appointed as I&PR Director



Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : The additional charge of Director of Information and Public Relations (I&PR) Department given to senior OAS officer Debaprasad Dash has been taken back as the Odisha government appointed Anuj Kumar Das Pattanaik as the new Director of the Department. As per a fresh

notification issued by the General Administration & Public Grievance (GA&PG) Department, Anuj Kumar, who is currently serving as State Nodal Officer, PM Poshan and MM Poshan, has been transferred and posted as Director of the I&PR department.

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Sabitri holiday on May 26 confirms Odisha Government

Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : The controversy relating to the date of Sabitri has finally been laid to rest as the Government of Odisha has declared holiday on May 26. This has been done in consultation with Puri Mukti

Mandap and other religious institutions and after verification of the Hindu almanac (Panji) The release from the office of the Chief Minister read as follows, "Chief Minister Mohan Charan

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CM Spearheads Conservation Efforts for Puri Govardhan Peeth

Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : In a significant move to preserve Odisha's spiritual and cultural heritage, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi chaired a crucial meeting at Lok Seva Bhawan to discuss the conservation, security, and development of the revered Govardhan Peeth, located in Bali Sahi, Puri.

The Shankaracharya Peeth, a cornerstone of Sanatan Dharma and Advaita Vedanta, is set to receive focused attention to ensure its legacy endures for future generations. The meeting addressed several critical aspects of the Peeth's preservation and growth. Key discussions centered on enhancing security measures for the Peeth, protecting the sacred samadhi sites of previous Shankaracharyas, strengthening arrangements for the safety of the Jagadguru, and developing the Govardhan Goshala within the Peeth premises. Additionally, plans were outlined to beautify the Mahodadhi Sandhya Aarti site to make it more appealing for devotees and tourists. Chief Minister Majhi emphasised the importance of safeguarding Sanatan Dharma and promoting Advaita Vedanta, underscoring the Peeth's role as a spiritual and cultural



institution. He directed the Shankaracharya Peeth Trust Board to collaborate closely with the state government and submit detailed proposals outlining necessary actions for the Peeth's development. To ensure seamless execution, he instructed all relevant departments and the Puri district administration to work in coordination. A key focus of the meeting was enhancing the security of the Jagadguru, with the Chief Minister stressing the need to fortify existing arrangements. He also directed the Puri District Collector to prepare a comprehensive report on the infrastructural and peripheral development of the Peeth. Furthermore, the Mahodadhi

Sandhya Aarti site, a significant spiritual landmark, is slated for upgrades to enhance its appeal and accessibility for devotees and visitors. "All necessary steps for the development of the Govardhan Peeth will be undertaken with utmost priority," Chief Minister Majhi affirmed, signalling the state's commitment to preserving this sacred institution. The meeting saw participation from prominent figures, including Minister for Works, Excise, and Law Prithviraj Harichandan, Puri MP Dr. Sambit Patra, Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja, Additional Chief Secretary of Revenue and Disaster Management Deo Ranjan

Kumar Singh, Shree Jagannath Temple Administrator and Principal Secretary Dr. Arabinda Padhee, and other senior officials. Representatives from the Govardhan Peeth, including Pandit Matruprasad Mishra, Brahmachari Suyas Prashant, and Raghunath Mahanti, were also present.

The discussions reflect Odisha's broader vision to preserve its rich spiritual heritage while ensuring the Govardhan Peeth remains a vibrant centre for devotees and a symbol of cultural pride. With coordinated efforts between the government, district administration, and the Peeth's trust, the state aims to elevate the Peeth's stature while safeguarding its sanctity for generations to come.

Application Process For +2 Admissions Begins Tomorrow

Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : The Directorate of Higher Secondary Education, Odisha, has announced that the application process for admissions to plus two courses will commence on May 24 (Saturday) and will continue till June 30. The application process will be conducted online, and students can apply on the SAMS portal (www.samsodisha.gov.in). The first merit list is expected to be released on July 7, and the admission process will take place from July 8 to 14. Classroom teaching for the first year of plus two is scheduled to begin on July 24. The notification has been issued for over 1,600 higher secondary schools in the state, including self-financing colleges and vocational education colleges. Students are advised to carefully read the Common Application Form (CAF) before filling it out, as only online applications will be accepted. No offline forms will be entertained. Students can access the CAF on the SAMS portal from May 24 and apply till June 30. The Directorate of Higher Secondary Education has urged students to follow the guidelines and ensure the timely submission of their applications.

Operation Sindoor Sparked Panic in Pakistan Army, Intercept Reveals Post



the commander reportedly replied, "The office will open later, save your lives first." The 75th Infantry Brigade, based near Muzaffarabad, was among the units targeted in the Indian

Army's assault on terror infrastructure across the border. Multiple camps, including those in the Sawai Nala area and Syedna Bilal Camp, were destroyed in the attack, eliminating more than

100 terrorists and decimating two key launch pads. In another intercepted communication shared by the Indian Army with IANS, junior Pakistani officers could be heard saying: "Our commander sahab escaped with great difficulty. He's offering namaz in a mosque. He's sent his men here and said he will return only when things calm down." The panic was compounded by casualties within the Pakistani Army. One intercept confirmed the death of Captain Hasnain Shah of the 16th Baloch Regiment, who was killed in the Haji Peer sector. His body was reportedly brought back to Abbottabad by the 6th Pakistani

Brigade. Indian Army officials estimate that at least 64 Pakistani soldiers were killed and over 96 wounded in India's retaliatory strikes. As per the army, India did not target civilian or non-military infrastructure, focusing solely on terror hubs and those providing cover to militants.

Operation Sindoor was launched in response to the brutal killing of 26 Indian tourists in Pahalgam on April 22 by Pakistan-backed terrorists. In a swift counteroffensive, Indian forces struck nine terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, neutralising top terrorists and dismantling

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Ukraine War

Last year, US President Donald Trump claimed he would end the war in Ukraine within "24 hours". More recently, he suggested that the conflict could only be resolved through an in-person meeting between himself and Russian President Vladimir Putin. Following a two-hour phone call with Putin on Monday, Trump said that any peace agreement would have to be negotiated directly between Russia and Ukraine. This sudden pivot away from his earlier stance underscores the complex nature of the ongoing deadlock between Ukraine and Russia. Even as Trump posted on social media that Kyiv and Moscow would "immediately start" negotiations for a ceasefire, Putin rejected a US-proposed 30-day unconditional ceasefire - one Ukraine has already agreed to. The Russian President has consistently rejected such proposals, arguing that a temporary halt would allow Ukraine time to regroup and rearm. He instead reiterated on Monday Moscow's demand for addressing what he calls the "root causes" of the conflict. In February, Trump had announced that peace talks would begin "immediately". Back then, however, Kyiv was not invited to the table, prompting European leaders to rally around Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Today, both Trump and Zelenskyy appear to have moved on from their infamous televised spat in late February, and they recently signed the much-touted critical minerals deal. Washington is now making efforts to bring both Kyiv and Moscow into direct negotiations. Yet, the core obstacles to peace remain unchanged: Russia currently occupies about a fifth of Ukraine and insists that Kyiv cede this land, which would eventually be rendered permanently "neutral". Ukraine insists on a full Russian withdrawal and seeks NATO membership as a long-term security guarantee. There is no quick fix. Less than a week ago, Russia and Ukraine held their first direct peace talks (proposed by Putin) since 2022 in Istanbul. While they failed to make meaningful progress on the territory issue, the two delegations agreed to exchange 1,000 prisoners of war each.

A Ukrainian delegate reportedly described Moscow's demands as "detached from reality". Still, the mere fact that these direct talks took place is significant. The next crucial step must be securing an immediate ceasefire - creating the space needed to tackle the more difficult questions surrounding a lasting peace agreement. Putin reportedly declined to attend the Istanbul meeting despite being invited by Zelenskyy. For a way out, leadership must rise above optics and meaningful engagement must be prioritised.

24th May

Brother's Day



May 24 is National Brother's Day, so call your brother and tell him you love him, even though he'll say you're weird afterwards. When you were younger, you argued over LEGOs or whose turn it was to sit in the front seat. Yet in some strange way, those childhood squabbles served to make you closer over the years. Your lovable but insufferably annoying brother gets his own day on National Brother's Day on May 24. You love 'em, you hate 'em; they can often be your nemesis, especially when they poke fun at you in front of your crush. But we know they'll pull through for you when needed and they love you just as much as you love them (although they may never admit it).

"Sometimes being a brother is even better than being a superhero." - Marc Brown, author and illustrator of children's books. The word 'brother' stems from the Latin root 'frater' and the Proto-Germanic word 'brothar,' which itself comes from the Proto-Indo-European root 'bhrater.' Regardless of origin, both in words and in blood, our brothers have our backs over and over again. They're our closest friends and, sometimes, the most annoying people we know. But we love them anyway. Even some of the most famous people in history had brothers to lean on and be annoyed by. Brother's Day has been celebrated on May 24 since the year 2005. Although the exact details of the holiday are unknown, it was Alabama-based C. Daniel Rhodes who had first organized the holiday and its proceedings. In some regions, National Brother's Day is an unofficial holiday. It is not to be confused with National Siblings Day, which takes place in April. You are lucky if you are blessed with having a strong unbreakable bond with your brother. Fortunately, there are other people who can sometimes fill the void of a brother in our lives and serve as one to us, like a cousin, brother-in-law, or a friend. In fact, everyone should have that one brotherly person in their lives who they can count on for some sincere advice or who can get them out of a pickle. For all their quirks and annoyances, a brother is sometimes your best secret keeper and will never expose you or leave you behind. Feel free to go all out on this day with the mushy stuff in expressing your affection for your brother and his importance in your life.

Brotherhood is also very strong among men. Whether it is a blood relation or not, men take their 'bro code' VERY seriously. Really, there isn't much that can ever come between a strong brotherhood in the long term. This theme has inspired countless movies, books, paintings, plays, and TV series like the aptly named "Band of Brothers." History has many distinguished brother duos and groups. Stories told by the Brothers Grimm are famous to this day, and advancement in flying and aeronautics wouldn't have been possible without the Wright brothers putting their minds together. National Brothers Day is mostly observed in the United States, but many other countries around the world also acknowledge the day. Australia, Russia, Asian countries like India, and European countries like France and Germany all celebrate brothers on May 24. "When brothers agree, no fortress is so strong as their common life." - Antisthenes, Greek philosopher and star pupil of Socrates.

"Influencers, wake up! Responsibility should also go viral"



Dr. Satyawan Saurabh

Today, the influence of influencers on social media is rapidly increasing on society and politics. They influence public opinion without any accountability, especially in elections. Unlike traditional media, there is no clear code of conduct for them. In such a situation, to maintain the transparency and fairness of democracy, it is important that they are also monitored and accountable. The Election Commission and the government should take concrete steps in this direction. Along with freedom of social media, responsibility is equally important.

In today's digital age, social media has become an integral part of our lives. It is not only a powerful medium of communication, but has also become an important platform for public opinion formation, social awareness and political debate. The influence of influencers on platforms like Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and Facebook is no longer limited to entertainment, but they have also started guiding

public thinking on social and political matters. In such a situation, it is natural to ask whether these influencers should have any moral or legal accountability? Should they also follow impartiality like is expected from journalists? Social media influencers are people who have thousands or millions of followers. Their thoughts, reactions, reviews and comments influence people. Many brands and companies promote their products with the help of these influencers. Now this influence is not only economic, but it has also penetrated deeply into the social and political sphere. In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections and the assembly elections in many states, it was clearly seen how social media influencers are playing the role of campaigners for political parties. They directly share posts, make videos or conduct live debates in support or opposition of a particular party. Most of these posts contain promotional material, but it is not clear whether it is 'paid' or not. There is a guideline of the Election Commission to monitor paid news in traditional media, but this new world of social media does not have this control. The Supreme Court and various High Courts have also expressed concern from time to time about the monitoring of misinformation, hate speech and election campaigns on social media. Technology may have given people freedom of expression, but when this freedom is exercised without any responsibility, it starts weakening democracy. Today, anyone can become a



journalist - with a smartphone and an internet connection. In such a situation, there is a thin line between journalism and the role of influencers, which needs to be clearly marked. There is a code of conduct for journalists, there is a Press Council, there is accountability of news organizations. But no such mechanism exists for social media influencers.

Two things are important here - one, the freedom of influencers and second, their responsibility. Freedom does not mean that they spread any kind of information or idea without checking the facts. If they are propagating a political ideology or influencing public opinion in favor of a particular party, then it is important that they do it in a transparent manner and it is clear that they are working under an agenda. Apart from this, considering the posts or videos of influencers as paid promotion, the Election Commission should

also make clear rules for this. Just as the fee for advertisements in TV and newspapers is fixed and its declaration is mandatory, in the same way promotional posts on social media should also be monitored. After all, the strength of democracy lies in its transparency and fairness. If any medium - be it traditional media or social media - behaves in a biased manner, it affects public opinion and weakens the roots of democracy. On the other hand, many influencers may argue that they are free citizens and have the right to support any idea. This argument is correct to some extent, but when a person or group is influencing the opinion of millions of people through their ideas, then they also have a social and moral responsibility. Influencers must understand that their words are not limited to entertainment or promotion of beauty products, but they can also influence social concerns and democratic processes. With this

influence, they must also accept accountability.

It is time that the government, Election Commission, and society take concrete steps in this direction. Social media platforms should also monitor the activities of their users and make technical arrangements to identify paid advertising. Also, a framework should be created that brings influencers under the ambit of code of conduct and also binds them to transparency and fairness. The need of the hour is that we should not only talk about freedom of expression but also give equal importance to its responsibility and accountability. For the success of democracy, it is essential that every platform, every medium and every voice is fair, responsible and truthful - be it a newspaper editorial, a TV debate or an Instagram post.

Poet, freelance journalist and columnist, Haryana

SAVITRI AMABASYA -FAITH in the FESTIVAL...

Trilochan Sahu

Savitri Brata, commonly known as "Bata Savitri Brata," is a significant celebration observed across India. This auspicious occasion is particularly cherished by Sadhava women, who honour the Bata tree, also recognised as the Bara tree. It is believed that worshipping this tree on Savitri Brata brings blessings of good fortune. One of the key rituals involves Sadhava women tying a thread around the tree, symbolising their prayers and hopes for prosperity and well-being.

In the epic Mahabharata, we find the inspiring tale of King Ashwapati, who ruled over the Madra country. In his desire for a child, he organised a yagna to invoke the goddess Savitri, who eventually appeared to him. Upon her arrival, she urged Ashwapati to request a suitable groom for his future child. Though the king longed for a son, the goddess informed him that it would not be possible, yet blessed him with a virtuous daughter. This led to the birth of a remarkable girl named Savitri, whom Ashwapati cherished as a blessing from the goddess. As Savitri grew into adulthood, her father encouraged her to seek a husband. Determined and resolute, she ventured forth with her companions to find a suitable mate. Satyavan, the son of Dyumatsen, the king of Shalva, faced challenges during his early life when his father became blind due to divine misfortune, forcing them into a life of seclusion in the forest. Despite this, Satyavan showed unwavering devotion to his parents, living modestly on fruits and roots. During her travels, Savitri encountered Satyavan and was deeply moved by his commitment to caring for his father and his virtuous character. Choosing love over material wealth, she resolved to marry him. After returning to inform her father of her choice, sage Narada



warned her that Satyavan had only one year to live, urging Savitri to reconsider. Nevertheless, Savitri stood firm in her decision, and with the blessing of both families, the couple wed and settled into a humble life in a hut in Tapovan, where Savitri devoted herself to her in-laws.

In Sanatana Dharma, Sati Savitri is celebrated as one of the five revered Satis: Anusuya- Honoured as the epitome of devotion, she was the wife of sage Atri and demonstrated her power of Sati-vows by transforming the three goddesses into boys to teach them a lesson about humility. Draupadi- The daughter of King Drupada, she is renowned for her steadfastness and virtue as the wife of the five Pandavas, embodying the qualities of a great Satibrata. Sulakhana- As the wife of Meghnad (Indrajit), Ravana's son, she also holds the title of a Sati. Savitri - The dedicated daughter of Maharaja Ashwapati, Savitri's extraordinary virtues enabled her to bring her husband Satyavan back from the clutches of Yama, the god of death. Manadodri- Another distinguished Sati, she was Ravana's wife.

The festival of Savitri Amavasya, or Savitri Brata, is a significant observance for married women in Odisha. Occurring on the no-moon day of the month of Jyestha, this

fast is undertaken with great reverence. On this auspicious day, married women participate by fasting and recounting the tale of Savitri and Satyavan, seeking blessings for their husbands' long lives. As Savitri's first wedding anniversary approached, she engaged in a three-night fast. On the final day, as they gathered fruits and herbs, Satyavan fell asleep in her lap-this was the moment he passed away. Undeterred, Savitri continued to hold her husband's head, refusing to let go even when Yama's messengers arrived for him. When Yama himself appeared to take Satyavan, Savitri, driven by her devotion, followed him and was granted three boons. Instead of asking for Satyavan's life, she prioritised her family's needs and insisted on her husband's return. Moved by her unwavering love, Yama ultimately restored Satyavan to life.

Savitri Osha is celebrated on Jyestha Amavasya, where women observe a fast and engage in prayers until the afternoon. After completing their rituals, they may enjoy fruits like bananas, mangoes, pineapples and other village fruits. The story of Savitri and Satyavan is recited either beneath the moonlight or at home during the fasting period, with devotion directed towards Maa Savitri, the goddess worshipped during this puja.

Bargarh District

Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam

Bijayalaxmi Satapathy

Was the Bhagavat Gita told only for Arjuna? Probably not. Though Arjuna was a reason, it enlightened all with the wisdom the almighty had. Lord Krishna wanted to spread the message to every human being on this planet. The phrase Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam exactly reflects the same meaning. In our actions, we must not think only about 'I', but about every human being. And so the entire world becomes our family.

One world, one family. It calls us to transcend from 'I' to 'us'. We should think like 'The world is my family'. The world is like a small, correctly knit nuclear family system with everyone being equal. All humanity is one family. The scriptures have a comprehensive meaning of this phrase. Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam is made up of 3 Sanskrit words: 'Vasudha' means the 'Earth', 'Eva' means like or emphasizing, 'Kutumbakam' means large extended family. It has been derived from the Mahaupanishada and also finds mention in many other scriptures and literacy works of Indian culture. It is a duty beyond 'I' It suggests a duty to the person who has attained the highest level of spiritual progress. It is, hence, becomes the duty of a citizen of this world to perform the duties towards the betterment of this world.

Celebration of motherhood in World Family The word mother is dearer to our heart. Mother plays an important role in the life of society, family, and life of an individual. Every child has affection towards the mother. Hinduism says, ("Janani Janmabhumi-shcha Swargadapi Gariyasi") meaning the mother and the motherlands are superior to the heavens. Without a mother, there is no creation. So the mother is important for the entire mankind. Every culture and religion of the world gives special importance to mothers.



The phrase Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam asks us to pay respect for the mother earth.

Respect for women is one of the central ideas of the Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. In India, there are so many rivers called Ganga, Brahmaputra, Sarasvati are named after women. Purana mentions that where women are worshipped, gods are pleased; but where they are not honored, no sacred right yields reward. In Rigveda, women have been given equal status as men. In the Rigvedic family, the matriarch occupied the central place, and many warriors were named after their mothers. In the Vedic age, there were many Rishika meaning women sages. These women were the fountainhead of wisdom. Their contribution was not limited to the Indian tradition but is open for the world family.

So, for a world to be one family, we must cultivate peace, truth, togetherness among every human being. We can stand out many problems by following the meaning embodied in the phrase. Also, we can easily pass the taste of times. Share and care is the core philosophy behind the phrase. Everybody must be happy and live in harmony. Embrace the diversity Diversity of culture and tradition is our pride. Respecting and celebrating cultures is the beauty of diversity. This is what means by respecting humanity and being human. To take out the world from the darkness of ignorance to the light of wisdom, our forefathers have given us the phrase of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.

Khariar Road, Nuapada, Mob. : 9668766870

Startup Odisha signs MoU with PhonePe to digitally empower startups

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): Taking a significant step towards digitally empowering startups, 'Startup Odisha', a Government of Odisha initiative under the MSME Department, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with one of India's leading digital payment platforms 'PhonePe Private Limited'.

The signing ceremony took place at the O-Hub Building in Bhubaneswar. This reflects the vision and leadership of Hemant Sharma, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, MSME Department, Government of Odisha, and Chairman, Startup Odisha, who has been consistently spearheading efforts to bring global and national corporate partnerships to Odisha. His strategic approach focuses on fostering innovation, building institutional linkages, creating



impactful opportunities, and nurturing the startup ecosystem in Odisha. More importantly,

this MoU signing ceremony with PhonePe Private Limited will ensure ease of doing business and enable startups registered with Startup Odisha to seamlessly access PhonePe's suite of digital payment and business technology services, helping them streamline operations, enhance

customer experience, and scale faster. The MoU was formally signed by Kamaljit Das, OAS (S), Chief Administrative Officer, Startup Odisha, and Yuvraj Singh Shekhawat,

Chief Business Officer, Merchant Business at PhonePe Private Limited. As part of the agreement, Startup Odisha will refer eligible startups to PhonePe, and PhonePe will

provide on-boarding support and access to its cutting-edge digital infrastructure. Through this MoU, startups registered with Startup Odisha will be able to access PhonePe's wide range of services including payment technology solutions, marketing, and promotional support, subject to the platform's onboarding policies and verification processes.

This MoU will also facilitates seamless digital payment services for startups across various platforms, thereby fostering a cashless and technology-driven business environment. With this partnership, Startup Odisha continues to build a digitally inclusive, innovation-driven startup ecosystem, reinforcing its commitment to positioning Odisha among the top startup hubs in India.

International conference on Odisha's ties with Southeast Asia from May 24



Through in-depth discussions, the conference seeks to revisit and re-establish the age-old linkages Odisha shared with the nations of South East Asia. The conference will feature multiple plenary sessions covering diverse themes such as historical connections, cultural exchanges and literary linkages. A special focus will be given to ancient maritime trade which historically positioned

Odisha as a vital hub of commerce and trade. This international conference is expected to serve as a pivotal platform for academic engagement, regional cooperation and cultural rediscovery. By revisiting shared civilisational narratives, it reaffirms Odisha's enduring contribution to India's maritime history and its historical role in shaping the cultural contours of Southeast Asia.

Crafts Council of Odisha to Host "Master Crafters" Exhibition on May 24-25, 2025

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): The Crafts Council of Odisha is proud to announce "Master Crafters", a premier two-day exhibition of celebrating the excellence of Odisha's traditional crafts and artisans. The event will be held on May 24 and 25, 2025, at the Banquet Hall, Bhubaneswar Club, from 11:00 AM to 8:00 PM."

Master-Crafters" will feature 20 master crafts persons, including national and state award winners, showcasing a diverse range of Odisha's handicrafts. Art forms such as Pattachitra, Palmleaf Engraving, Terracotta, Stone and Wood Carving, Appliqué, Golden Grass, Sabai Grass, Silver Filigree, Seashell Art, Dhokra Casting, Tribal Painting, and Handwoven Ikat will be on display and sale. The event aims to promote excellence in craftsmanship,



provide marketing opportunities during the lean season, and encourage direct interaction between artisans and buyers. This initiative will not only support the artisans financially but also elevate the profile of Odisha's traditional crafts. The inauguration ceremony held at 5:00 PM on May 24, graced by Mrs. Anu Garg, IAS - Development Commissioner-cum-Additional Chief Secretary as Chief Guest along with Mr. Santosh Kumar Mohapatra, IAS (Retd) - Chairman, Crafts Council of Odisha, Mrs. Poonam Guha

Tapas Kumar, IAS - Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Handloom, Textiles & Handicrafts Department as Guest of Honour and Mrs. Pranatee Chhotray, IAS - Director of Handicrafts. The Crafts Council of Odisha, affiliated with the Crafts Council of India and the World Craft Council, is dedicated to the preservation, promotion, and sustainable development of the state's rich craft traditions.

The Council supports artisans through skill development, market linkage, innovation, and advocacy for inclusive growth. This event is expected to attract craft enthusiasts, collectors, connoisseurs, and members of the public eager to experience and support the living heritage of Odisha's crafts.

Odisha Crime Branch Arrests Two From MP In 1.5 Cr Cyber Fraud Case



trading, including investments in Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) and Over-The-Counter (OTC) trades. The victim was persuaded to transfer Rs. 1,50,50,000 to the fraudsters. Despite incurring initial losses, he was coerced into investing more. When he attempted to withdraw his funds, the fraudsters demanded additional payments and refused to release his money, leading him to realize he had been scammed. Led by Deputy Superintendent of Police Diptimayee Mallick, the investigating team meticulously analyzed

transaction details and digital evidence. Their efforts led to a crackdown in Ratlam and Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, where they identified and arrested two key perpetrators: Tayyab Khan (23) from Bhopal and Firoz Khan (36) from Ratlam. The accused, who posed as trade analysts, allegedly defrauded the complainant of Rs. 1,50,50,000 through their investment scam. Both Tayyab and Firoz have been brought to Odisha on transit remand from courts in Ratlam and Bhopal and were presented before the SDJM Court in

Bhubaneswar. The investigation has resulted in the seizure of several incriminating items, including mobile phones, SIM cards, Aadhar cards, and PAN cards. The team has also frozen multiple bank accounts linked to the fraudsters.

The probe is ongoing, with efforts focused on uncovering additional accomplices, tracing the money trail, and exploring the case's wider ramifications across India. The Odisha Crime Branch has issued a public advisory, urging citizens to exercise caution with unsolicited investment offers on social media and messaging platforms. The public is encouraged to verify investment opportunities thoroughly and report suspicious activities to the nearest police station or the Cyber Helpline at 1930.

179th SLBC Meeting of Odisha State held

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): The 179th State Level Bankers' Committee Meeting along with the Special SLBC on Financial Inclusion & Financial Literacy of Odisha convened on May 23, 2025 at Hotel Mayfair, Bhubaneswar. The Executive Director of UCO Bank cum Chairman SLBC Odisha Vijaykumar Nivrutti Kamble informed that the State has achieved Rs.1.94 lac Crore under Annual Credit Plan for FY 2024-25 which is 92.61% of the target.

Banks in the state have achieved 102.27% under Agriculture and 92.68% under MSME target. Under social security schemes, the achievement of banks is remarkable with PMJJBY at 129.83%, PMSBY at 116.64%, APY at 110.85% and PMJDY at 106.01% along with the



settlement of over 27,000 claims under PMJJBY and PMSBY. Kamble shared that SLBC Odisha has been conferred with the Award of Excellence by PFRDA for outstanding performance in APY. He further informed that SLBC has introduced performance awards for top-performing banks and Lead District Managers to recognize and promote excellence. For FY 2024-25, State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, UCO Bank, LDM Puri, LDM Cuttack, and

LDM Ganjam are awarded as top performers. The Development Commissioner cum Additional Chief Secretary, Govt. of Odisha Anu Garg informed that for the FY 2025-26 ACP target has been fixed at Rs.2.52 lakh Crore and advised banks to focus on inclusive growth across the geography with special emphasis on Agri & MSME sector which generates more employment opportunities. The Regional Director, RBI, Bhubaneswar Dr. Sarada Prasan Mohanty

emphasized the importance of achievement of ACP target for the development of the State and advised banks to put effort from the beginning to achieve the target for the current year. He appreciated the efforts of the LDMs for conducting town hall meetings to resolve the issues of MSME entrepreneurs at the district level. The Principal Secretary Finance Department, Govt. of Odisha, Saswat Mishra advised banks to focus on Social Security Scheme enrollment and

hassle free claim settlement. He also emphasized for increasing CGTMSE coverage and MUDRA loan disbursement. The Principal Secretary, Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment, Govt. of Odisha, Dr. Arabinda Kumar Padhee, highlighted three key focus areas:

the new Progressive & Inclusive Cold Storage Scheme, promotion of agri-entrepreneurs through the MKUY scheme, and the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund Scheme. The Principal Secretary, F & ARD Deptt., Govt. of Odisha, Suresh Kumar Vashishth emphasized on increase in KCC saturation and allied sector advance. The Principal Secretary, Commerce & Transport Deptt., Govt. of Odisha, Usha Padhee informed that Govt. of Odisha is under process of finalizing two schemes

namely 'AMA SuVahak' and 'e-Bus Interest Subvention' aimed at holistic development and citizen welfare and requested all banks for their suggestion for improvement in the schemes. The Chief General Manager, NABARD,

Bhubaneswar informed that NABARD is providing reimbursement under Financial Inclusion Fund and appealed banks for maximum utilization of the same for creation of financial awareness among the general public. The General Manager UCO Bank and Convenor SLBC Odisha, Goutam Patra discussed the performance of all banks for the Financial Year ended March 2025. Finally, the in-charge, SLBC, Odisha Lingaraj Nayak extended vote of thanks to the dignitaries and all participants of the meeting.

Odisha govt comes up with action plan for management of flood & water logging in urban areas

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): Odisha government has come up with action plan for management of possible flood and water logging in urban areas during Monsoon-2025. The State government issued the action plan as the probabilistic forecasts for the southwest monsoon season (June to September) of 2025 indicates that most parts of the State of Odisha may experience above-normal rainfall and the urban areas/pockets may experience waterlogging and flood-like situations due to heavy-rain, flood situations. In light of the potential risks arising from excessive rainfall, floods, and cyclones, it is imperative to undertake following preventive and preparatory measures on an urgent basis, said Director Municipal Administration (i/c) Debasis Singh to the Municipal Commissioners of all Municipal Corporations and the Executive Officers of all Municipalities / N.A.Cs. ULBs shall inspect all drainage channels under their jurisdiction and ensure timely desilting and necessary clearance of choked or clogged sections to maintain proper flow and prevent waterlogging. Ensure 100% verification of all drains and manholes (both open and

covered) within the ULB jurisdiction. For closed drains and manholes, check for any damage or vulnerability in the covers that could pose safety risks. Undertake immediate repair and covering of damaged or open manholes and drains. Where repair is not immediately feasible, install appropriate warning signage to caution the public. Ensure covering of drains with slabs and installation of safety nets at vulnerable points with adequate warning signage to prevent accidents. Strictly monitor and prevent the piling of construction and demolition debris inside drains and along roadsides. Remove encroachments obstructing the flow of storm water, rainwater, or wastewater in drain channels. Initiate legal proceedings, wherever necessary, against defaulters to prevent further encroachments. Install bar screens in secondary/tertiary drains and wire mesh at outfalls to filter solid waste. Ensure proper disposal of collected waste and map human resources to regularly clear screens, especially during heavy rainfall. ULBs shall notify the concerned department such as the Drainage Division or Minor Irrigation Division of Water Resources Department of



any choked or clogged drainage channels identified during inspection that fall outside their jurisdiction, to ensure appropriate follow-up action. Take all possible measures to clear urban roads blocked due to tree falling and other reasons immediately after cyclone. Co-ordinate with Fire Services and other line Departments for logistic assistance like tree-cutters etc. Any damaged urban roads should be restored to motorable conditions within 72 hours after cyclone/flood utilizing own funds or any permissible grants. Supply of drinking water to affected areas must be ensured by the PHEO/WATCO in close co-ordination with ULBs. Any damage to Water Supply System be repair and restored within least possible time. Identification of Flood-Prone/

Vulnerable Points and De-Watering Arrangements: Identify waterlogging prone and low-lying areas. Deploy pump sets in advance at strategic locations to ensure prompt de-watering during emergencies. Identify zones for cities and designated zone level officers may be assigned to carry out emergency services during cyclone/flood situations. Verify operational status of equipment like pump sets, DG sets, Generator & inflatable tower light and prepare a list of inventories of machines and equipment available with the ULBs and other line Departments. Arrangement and management of shelters: ULBs having MCS/MFS shall utilize them, during time of emergency. In addition, ULBs shall Identify public buildings like schools/colleges for use as shelters

for evacuated people during cyclone/flood situations. Inspect structural stability of all cyclone shelter and carry out necessary repairs if needed, ensure proper electrification, drinking water supply systems, approach roads and display clear and visible signage to guide people to shelters during emergencies. Sanitation of all facilities, including clean and functional toilets be ensured. Lady home guards/security personnel may be deployed in the shelters to take care of women, children, old and other vulnerable people. Local volunteers, WSHG members must be identified, briefed and deployed in all the shelters. Provision of cooked food in the shelter may be made in case the evacuated persons are required to stay more than a day. In the rainy season, due to flood like situation, there may be outbreak of common vector-borne diseases like malaria, dengue & Japanese encephalitis & water borne diseases like diarrhea and jaundice. Following works may be undertaken to address the issue. Waterlogging in habitation areas should be completely avoided during the rainy season to prevent outbreaks of vector-borne

diseases. Proper sanitation measures must be taken with utmost care, ensuring cooperation from all relevant departments. Apply larvicides and bleaching powder in waterlogged areas, cover and seal septic tanks and soak pits, and ensure that water containers are properly covered to prevent mosquito breeding. Ensure proper disposal of garbage and unused items such as plastic containers and tyres near households, which can collect stagnant water and become mosquito breeding grounds. Conduct regular fogging activities

in ULB areas as a priority measure to control mosquito populations and reduce the risk of disease outbreaks. All ULBs are requested for opening of Control Room headed by dedicated officer in charge of Control Room. This Control Room shall be managed by officials on roster duty basis during the operation period. The Control Room should become very active and provide all necessary assistance & coordination to public during monsoon and emergency situations.

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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RWS&S DIVISION, KENDRAPARA.
At : Ichhapur, Post : Shree Baladevjeu, Email: eerwsskendrapara@gmail.com

Identification No.RWS/19/2025-26

Letter No. 3079 / Dated: 14/5/2025

1st Corrigendum

This corrigendum has been made for the NIT-19 invited online vide this office letter No. 2997 / Dated. 15.05.2025 with date of selling on dt. 21.05.2025, date of clarification on dt. 23.05.2025, / date of closing on dt. 04.06.2025 and date of opening on dt. 05.06.2025 against which tender value and EMD has been modified is mentioned below. All other terms and condition remain unaltered.

No	Name of Work	Tender Value	Revised Tender Value as per corrigendum	EMD@1%	Revised EMD@1% as per corrigendum
1	External Electrification of 40 LPCD Retrofitting RPWS Scheme to Karandipatna Zone-II at Samalia under Marshaghai Block in Kendrapara District. (JMD)	Rs.11.04 Lakhs	Rs. 11.79 Lakhs	Rs.11100/-	Rs.11800/-

OIPR: 25004/11/0034/2526

Er. B. K. Nayak
Executive Engineer
RWS&S Division Kendrapara

Voices of protest rise against lawbreakers in Paradip Port and Dock Workers Union



Paradip, (DMC): For the past few days, a dispute over the leadership of a major labor union in Paradip has been intensifying. In this regard, a dispute has arisen between two groups of the Paradip Port and Dock Workers Union. In a press conference organized on Thursday, the general secretary of the union, Niranjan Mohapatra, alleged that while Sanatan Behera, who is not in the port's service, is sitting as

the general secretary of the union, no work can be done in an orderly manner. They have also alleged that if anyone in the union protests, they are threatened them in return. A complaint was filed in the name of Sanatan Behera at the Paradip Model Police Station. To resolve this problems within 15 days, the administration formed a four-member team and issued instructions that neither group of

the union can hold any meeting or use any equipment of the union until the investigation is not completed. But it was alleged that Sanatan's group is ignored the administration direction and creating disturbances.

On the other hand, Niranjan stated in a press briefing that Sanatan Behera has created a threat to our lives due to this incident and expressed his hope in the law. The union leaders Niranjan Mohapatra, members Branchi Narayan Sundaraya, Kalu Charan Baral, Yudhishtira Biswal have requested the administration to intervene in this incident and resolve the dispute as soon as possible.

Vigilance Raids 8 Locations Linked to R&B Junior Engineer in Disproportionate Assets Case

Nuapada/Khariar Road, (DMC): Odisha Vigilance officials on Friday launched simultaneous raids at eight different locations across the state in connection with a disproportionate assets (DA) case against Susanta Kumar Sethy, a Junior Engineer (JE) with the Roads and Buildings (R&B) Division in Khariar, Nuapada District. The raids are being conducted based on allegations that Sethy has amassed assets beyond his known sources of income. The operation is being carried out by multiple special teams under the leadership of seven Deputy Superintendents of Police (DSPs), supported by three Inspectors, ten Assistant Sub-Inspectors, and other staff, following search warrants issued by the Special Vigilance Judge, Bhubaneswar. Locations Under Vigilance Scanner: Triple-storey residential building in Gangotri Nagar, Bhubaneswar, Under-construction house also at Gangotri Nagar, Bhubaneswar, Farmhouse in Pipili, Puri district, House of a relative at Brahmeswarpatna (Brit Colony), Bhubaneswar, Office chamber of Sethy at R&B Sub-Division, Nuapada, Government quarter in Nuapada, Residence of an associate at Kedar Lane, Bhubaneswar, Another associate's house at Garage Chhachh, Bhubaneswar. Vigilance sources said the investigation is in a preliminary stage, and a comprehensive assessment of assets—both movable and immovable—is underway. Documents, bank records, and other materials found during the searches are being scrutinized to determine the extent of alleged financial irregularities.

150 Persons Returned to Hindu



Paralakhemundi, (DMC): Few years back 29 families consisted of 150 males & females, who changed their religion & now back

to Hindu religion. At Mohagonda village of Mohana block of Gajapati district on all rituals such pious puja done. President Bipra Mallick, Handia Kendra President Juria Mallick, Sarbat President Kabiraj Mallick, Satakendra President, Secretary Chaitanya Mallick, Cashier Muna Mallick, chief guest Purnachandra Mallick, Hari Mallick, adviser Umesh Mallick taught them about Gita. More than 5000 Hindu lovers were present.

Fast Onto Death Reached 3rd Day in front of Paralakhemundi Municipality

Paralakhemundi, (DMC): In front of Paralakhemundi Municipality office from 14th ward of Sanjay Gandhi colony inhabitants started hunger strike for domicile documents, electricity & drinking water connections. Since Wednesday they are on strike. On 3rd day on extreme heat among them, 5 persons health deteriorated.

They are Sujit Kumar Pradhan, Alliana Bhanu, PPadma, PRAulamma, MSimachalam. Sub Collector, Tehsildar, Executive Officer of Paralakhemundi Municipality tried to compromise them. But they are determined to give on writing. So those officers said to talk with Collector Gajapati & back.



Farmers are worried about the rain forecast - 2.5 lakh bags of paddy are lying in the market !

Bargarh, (DMC): The Rabi paddy harvesting process, which began on May 4, is still ongoing after a week. The farmers are understandably anxious as changing weather patterns have affected their peace of mind. Adding to their worries is the pressing issue of the vast quantities of paddy that are lying unsold in the market.

The supply control market committee has reassured them that paddy lifting will occur soon, but the situation remains tense. It's heart-wrenching to see the farmers struggling due to insufficient infrastructure and lack of ancillary facilities. As of May 60, approximately 251493 bags of paddy remain unsold in the district's markets. The markets of Attabira RMC alone hold the highest number at 126906 bags, while Bargarh RMC sees at least 4,587 bags, and Padmapur RMC has



120000 bags. To date, the mandis of the district have received a cumulative total of 2295325 bags, with 2043835 bags of 871634 60 scarlet paddies among them, yet they still have 107472.77 quintals lying idle.

Various mandis under RMC have so far accepted 1076148 bags of quintals, and by the 22nd, 949242 bags, or 397726.73 Vishal paddy, had made their way into the market. The situation is dire, with Attabira mandis facing the same issue, currently holding 126906 bags or 53172.86 quintals of paddy. In this tumultuous time, the supply

department reported that the arrival of paddy is ongoing. On May 22, the mandis of Bargarh district processed 564688 bags of paddy, while 518149 bags were received overall. Specifically, 251862 bags arrived at the Attabira RMC, and 215715 at the Bargarh RMC, with further incoming at Padmapur RMC.

With 789707 bags or 340980.57 quintals received, it has been particularly challenging for the farmers, as 4,587 bags equate to 1,980.58 quintals in the mandis. Likewise, 424883 bags have been received across

Absconded Since 14 Years Culprit on Murder Arrested

Paralakhemundi, (DMC): At Gajapati district one Prakruti Mitra awardee killed & after 14 years that killer arrested. Under Mohana police limits at Mallipadar village one Brahman Singh was killed & accused whisked away since murder. Named Ram Bisoyi (73) of Deulakhani village arrested after 14 years.

Among 3 accused persons 2 were arrested earlier. Third accused had been whisked away. On 2011 at Mallipadar on land case that killed person breached by those accused persons & killed by continuous stone beating & cut his penis. On this incident 2 accused persons were absconded. Police was in search



of them. Third accused person was informed at Bandhapada village. So police raided that village & arrested that accused.

District level senior citizens' conference held

Puri, (DMC): Puri District Level Senior Citizens' Conference was held at The Youth Hostel this morning. Inaugurating it, ADM Protocol Nilamadhab Bhoi senior citizens are like a resource and strength to the society in terms of experience and experience. He said several steps have been taken for their safety and dignity.

There is a gap between today's generation and the elderly. In order to counter this, there is a provision to give due respect and all facilities to the seniors on the basis of our great culture and tradition, informed Mr. Bhoi. Sub Collector Raj Kishore Jena, who was one of the guests, discussed the rules, security arrangements, problem solving, etc. for senior citizens. There are many cases of family problems of seniors. He called for resolving it amicably



and maintaining peace and affection again. District Social Welfare Officer-in-charge Anita Patnaik presided over the meeting and welcomed everyone. Deputy Director information and public relations Santosh Kumar Sethi and Programme Officer Suhagi Hembram were present on the occasion. Social worker Siddharth Rai conducted the proceedings of the meeting. At the outset, the guests released

information cards for senior citizens. The newly elected district level senior citizens committee members were welcomed with the announcement of their names. At the outset, senior citizens were felicitated with uttaris and umbrellas were presented to each of them. A health check-up camp was organized for senior citizens on the occasion. Social security department personnel assisted in the task.

Paralakhemundi MLA Met Secretary RD Sanjay Singh

Paralakhemundi, (DMC): MLA Paralakhemundi Er. Rupesh Kumar Panigrahi met with Secretary cum Commissioner of Rural Development Sanjay Singh. He acknowledged him to make fast on various development planning, which still held back.

Besides that he requested him to complete pending bypass road which is highly essential to reduce crowd pulling at the heart of Gajapati district headquarter in Paralakhemundi. Secretary assured him to carry forward the project. Indeed Secretary was the Collector of Gajapati earlier & accomplished his positive feelings.

Federal Bank organized Health Camp

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): Federal Bank, Kalpana Square Branch, Bhubaneswar in association with Niva Bupa Health Insurance Company and Care Hospital Bhubaneswar, successfully organized a health camp on May 23, 2025.

The event was inaugurated by Father Francis, Vincentian Odisha Society, and Mr. Santosh Tripathy, a prominent businessman. A team of 10 doctors from Care Hospital provided comprehensive check-ups, including:- Biochemical parameter testing, General advice



from medicine and cardiology departments, ECG, Dental check-ups and Other general tests. Under the able leadership of Mr. Rituraj, Regional Head, Bhubaneswar, and Mr. Rahul

Kumar, Branch Manager, around 120 people benefited from the camp. Federal Bank is proud to contribute to this noble cause, promoting health awareness and community well-being.

From Page- 1

Northeast Transformed...

terrorism and violence. PM Modi also pointed out that the Centre had invested more than Rs 21,000 crore in the education system in the region in schools, medical colleges, IITs and technical institutes. As a result, skilled manpower was now available for industry. The two-day summit, scheduled for May 23-24, is designed to project the North Eastern Region (NER) as a dynamic and emerging investment destination. The event aims to attract both global and domestic investors by presenting the region's untapped economic potential and fostering collaboration between key stakeholders, investors, industry leaders, and policymakers. The summit marks the culmination of a series of strategic pre-summit engagements undertaken by the Central government with the active participation of all eight northeastern states. These included high-level roadshows, state roundtables, the Ambassadors' Meet, and sessions with bilateral chambers of commerce.

Roadshows leading up to the summit were successfully held in major Indian cities, including Mumbai, Bengaluru, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Guwahati, and New Delhi, to generate momentum and investor interest in the region.

CM Reviews Works...

significantly to the city's beautification. It was decided in the meeting that approximately 366 families displaced due to these construction projects will be rehabilitated and provided financial assistance. The meeting was attended by, among others, Minister of Works, Law, and Excise Prithviraj Harichandan, Minister of Housing and Urban Development Krushna Chandra Mahapatra, Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja, Development Commissioner Anu Garg, Principal Secretary of Works Department Sanjay Kumar Singh, Principal Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Usha Padhee, Principal Secretary of Finance Department Saswat Mishra, Police Commissioner S. Devadatta Singh, and other senior officials.

OAS officer Anuj...

Likewise, Surendra Kumar Panda, OAS (SS), Special Secretary to Government, Health & FW Department is transferred and posted as State Nodal Officer, PM Poshan and MM Poshan on foreign service terms & conditions. Similarly, Mitali Patra, OAS Gr.A (SB), Ex-Tahasildar, Tangi, Khordha, now joined in GA & PG Department, is posted as Administrative Officer, O/o the CDM & PHO, Baripada, Mayurbhanj. The notification further said that Ajaya Kumar Pradhan, OAS Gr.A (SB), PA, ITDA, Gunupur UoT as PA, ITDA, Rayagada is allowed to continue as PA, ITDA, Gunupur. The posting of Ajaya Kumar Pradhan, OAS Gr.A (SB) as PA, ITDA, Rayagada, made vide GA & PG Department Notification No.36014/SCS dated 28.11.2024 is hereby cancelled, it added.

Sabitri holiday...

Majhi has decided to change the official holiday for Sabitri Amavasya from May 27 to May 26. The proposal in this regard has been approved." The letter further read, "It is worth noting that this year the official holiday for Sabitri Amavasya was fixed on May 27. However, after contacting Puri Mukti Mandap and other religious institutions and calendar counting institutions, it has been informed that Savitri Amavasya will be celebrated on May 26." Therefore, the holiday date has been changed and the holiday shall be given on May 26. It is worth mentioning here that, Sabitri brata is observed to seek long life of the husband. It is a puja that is typical to the Odia society.

"SC Is Chief...

becomes a judge, they say one sacrifices. I don't accept this. When you join the judiciary, you may not get that income, but the work satisfaction you get cannot be compared to the income of a lawyer," he said. "Once you become a judge, only the Constitution and conscience govern you... In my long innings as a judge, I have never given a dissenting judgment," he added.

Operation Sindoor...

their launch infrastructure. While Indian strikes were focused on terror targets, Pakistani forces reportedly retaliated by shelling both military and civilian areas on the Indian side of the LoC, prompting further action by Indian forces to dismantle Pakistani military posts involved.

Veterinary Department not functioning properly

Jagatsinghpur, (DMC): Jagatsinghpur District is at the top in Milk Production and ranked ahead in poultry Farming. Besides that Goat & Ship Farming is domestic busyness of many families. Duck, Pig and other animal farming treated as additional family busyness of poor families. Though District is ahead in Veterinary sector but Veterinary treatment is not satisfactory in the District. Due to shortage of Staff, and infrastructure the farmers are suffering a lot. Even the animal lovers and farmers are depending upon quacks for treatment of animals.

In Jagatsinghpur District post of VAS/ AVAS, Livestock Inspector, Fodder Officer, Paravets, and Group- D employees laying vacant. Medicine supply and Preventive Vaccination system running in pen & paper. Particularly Cow population is high in the district but health facilities is miserable. Even Mobile Veterinary unit is available at headquarter but in rural base there is no facility of Mobile Veterinary service. Due to lack of supervision district Veterinary Department simply producing false data but animal health service is miserable. Farmers demanding adequate health service for animals.

Baby Child Rescued from Cradel Baby Point at DHH

Paralakhemundi, (DMC): At DHH (District Headquarter Hospital) Paralakhemundi, one baby boy rescued. Around 11am some unknown person left that baby at Cradle baby point. On precarious situation that baby stranded & cried. So nobody came to claim that baby. Later that baby handed over at child rehabilitation center in presence of District Child Welfare Committee members. As per District Child Development Project Officer Arun Kumar Tripathi's version condition of that baby is normal. He has been handed over at Ranipentha child rehabilitation center. For adoption that child will be registered & make him legally free.

SC raps Rajasthan on rising student suicides

New Delhi, (HS) : The Supreme Court on Friday grilled the Rajasthan government over the surge in student suicides in the city of Kota calling the situation "serious." A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and R Mahadevan said 14 suicide cases were reported from the city so far this year. "What are you doing as a state? Why are these children dying by suicide and only in Kota? Have you not given a thought as a state?" Justice Pardiwala asked the counsel representing state of Rajasthan. The counsel said a special investigation team (SIT) was formed in the state to examine cases of suicides. The top court was hearing a matter over the death of a 22-year-old student studying in IIT, Kharagpur. The student was found dead in hostel room on May 4. It was also dealing with another case of a girl, who was a NEET aspirant and was found dead in her room in Kota where she lived with her parents. The bench learnt that an FIR was lodged in connection with the death of IIT Kharagpur's student.

Maharashtra: 4 Maoists neutralised in encounter

Gadchiroli, (HS) : Four hardcore Maoists were neutralised in an intense exchange of fire with Gadchiroli Police and CRPF personnel near the Maharashtra-Chhattisgarh border on Friday morning, following a targeted anti-Naxal operation launched based on credible intelligence.

According to the release, the operation, led by Additional SP Ramesh, involved 12 C60 commando teams, comprising around 300 personnel, and a CRPF unit. The operation was initiated on Thursday at noon from Kawande and Nelgunda, moving towards the Indravati riverbank near the recently opened Forward Operating Base (FOB) Kawande, despite heavy rainfall in the area. On Friday morning, while laying a cordon and searching the riverbank, Maoists opened indiscriminate fire on the C60 commandos, prompting effective retaliation. The heavy exchange of fire lasted nearly two hours. A subsequent area search led to the recovery of four Maoist bodies, one automatic Self Loading Rifle, two .303 rifles, and a Bharmar. Additionally, walkie-talkies, camping materials, and Naxal literature were seized from the spot. Anti-Naxal operations and area searches are ongoing to locate remaining Maoists. Earlier on May 21, in a major blow to the Maoist insurgency, security forces in Chhattisgarh killed 27 Naxals, including CPI-Maoist General Secretary Nambala Keshav Rao alias Basavaraju, during a massive joint operation in the Abujmarh forests of Narayanpur district.

The Inspector General (IG) of Bastar Range in Chhattisgarh, P Sundarraj, on Wednesday said that the joint operation that killed 27 naxals, including CPI-M General Secretary Nambala Keshav Rao, alias Basavaraju, was carried out by District Reserve Guard (DRG) teams from Narayanpur, Dantewada, Bijapur, and Komdagaon.

Kalinga Warriors Journey to Guwahati



Bhubaneswar, With immense pleasure and pride, we are happy to share that the AOCA team is departing from Bhubaneswar to Guwahati to participate in the Assam Premier League-a visionary step with a new concept aimed at elevating Odisha Chess to the next level. This participation offers several key benefits: 1. Strengthening inter-state relationships through chess. 2. Providing our players with valuable exposure in a competitive environment. 3. Attracting corporate interest and sponsorships towards chess. 4. Creating fair opportunities for players to gain sponsorship from corporate and private sectors. 5. Increasing revenue avenues for the Association through organized events. 6. Encouraging healthy competition, as players will be auctioned based on their skill level, driving excellence. Moreover, AOCA aims to use this experience to build awareness and foster activity among chess enthusiasts.



The top court, however, questioned the four-day delay in the FIR which was registered on May 8. "Don't take these things lightly. These are very serious things," the bench said. The bench referred to a March 24 verdict of the top court which took note of recurring cases of student suicides in higher educational institutions and formed a national task force to address the mental health concerns of students and prevent such incidents.

On Friday, the bench said a prompt filing of the FIR was necessary in such cases in line with the verdict. "Why you took four days to lodge an FIR?" the bench asked a police officer concerned, present in court. The officer said the FIR was lodged and the investigation in the case was underway. "You continue with the investigation in accordance with law," the bench told him. It came on record that the IIT Kharagpur authorities alerted the police so after they learnt about the suicide. The bench, however, was not convinced with the explanation of the IIT Kharagpur counsel and the police officer. "We could have taken a very strict view of the matter. We could have even proceeded for contempt against the police officer in-charge concerned of the jurisdictional police station," it said. The bench then refrained from saying "anything further" with the FIR being lodged and progressing investigation. The investigation, it said, should be carried out expeditiously in the right direction.

Storm, Screams, Hailstones: IndiGo's 8,500 Ft/Min Drop After Pak Refusal

New Delhi, (HS) : A domestic flight from Delhi to Srinagar went through a chaotic situation on Wednesday, after the IndiGo aircraft encountered a violent hailstorm and severe turbulence, triggering multiple warnings, an 8,500-feet-per-minute descent, and a denied request for emergency passage through Pakistani airspace.

New details indicate that the flight encountered a grave in-flight emergency after flying into an intense storm. These details, announced by the civil aviation watchdog Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), suggest that the pilots were fighting multiple cockpit warnings and instrument failures after entering a hailstorm. At one stage, the IndiGo A321neo aircraft operating as Flight 6E-2142 dropped 8,500 feet per minute. The normal rate of descent is 1,500 to 3,000 feet per minute. According to an initial report from the DGCA, the flight carrying more than 220 passengers, including members of



Parliament, was cruising at 36,000 feet when it ran into adverse weather near Pathankot, close to the India-Pakistan border. According to the crew's post-flight statement submitted to the DGCA, the flight team identified significant bad weather ahead and made an urgent request to the Indian Air Force's Northern Control for a deviation towards the left, which would have

'United stand against terror': Germany vows support for India in its against terrorism

New Delhi, (HS) : In a strong show of solidarity, the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany, Johann Wadephul, on Friday condemned the Pahalgam terror attack and vowed to support India in its fight against cross-border terrorism. Speaking at a joint press conference with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in Berlin on Friday, Wadephul said, "We were all appalled by the brutal terrorist attack on India on April 22. We condemn this attack on civilians in the strongest terms. Our deepest sympathy goes out to all victims and their families." "After military attacks on both sides... and India, of course, has every right to defend itself against terrorism... the fact that a truce is in place is something we appreciate very much," he stressed. He also expressed hope that the ceasefire between India and Pakistan stands. "What is important now is that this truce remains stable, that dialogue can happen to find bilateral solutions," he said. Addressing the media, S Jaishankar reiterated that India has zero tolerance for terrorism and New Delhi will "never give in to nuclear blackmail." In an apparent response to US President Donald Trump's repeated claims on mediating the ceasefire negotiations between India and Pakistan using trade as leverage, Jaishankar said, "India will deal with Pakistan purely bilaterally" and there should be "no confusion in any quarter" in that regard. "I came to Berlin in the immediate aftermath of India responding to the Pahalgam terror attack. Let me share with you what I conveyed to Mr Wadephul in that context. India has zero tolerance for terrorism. India will never give in to nuclear blackmail," he said. "And, India will deal with Pakistan purely bilaterally. There should be no confusion in any quarter in that regard," Jaishankar said. He also said India values "Germany's understanding" that "every nation has a right to defend itself against terrorism." The Union minister is currently in Germany as part of his three-nation Europe visit.

Delhi govt issues advisory on Covid amid rise in cases



New Delhi, (HS) : The Delhi government on Friday issued an advisory on the Covid-19 disease, asking hospitals in the national capital to ensure the availability of beds, oxygen, medicines and vaccines. All health institutions have been asked to send all positive Covid-19 samples for genome sequencing to Lok Nayak Hospital.

"The hospitals must ensure preparedness in terms of availability of beds, oxygen, antibiotics, other drugs and vaccines. All equipment such as ventilators, Bi-PAP, oxygen concentrators and PSA must be in functional condition," it stated. The health department said that daily reporting of all parameters must also be done on the Delhi State Health Data Management Portal. Mild infections have been reported from several parts of India. According to the Union health ministry, a total of 257 cases were reported across the country on Wednesday, with Kerala having 95 active cases. Maharashtra reported 56 Covid cases, while Tamil Nadu logged 66. Infections were also detected in Puducherry, Delhi, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Haryana, Karnataka, and West Bengal. On Friday, Haryana reported four new covid cases, which were reported to be mild, and the concerned individuals have been kept under home observation with medical supervision. Health minister Arti Singh Rao assured that there is no need for panic and added that the state government is closely monitoring the situation. On May 19, experts from the National Centre for Disease Control, Emergency Medical Relief division, Disaster Management Cell, Indian Council of Medical Research and central government hospitals held a review meeting chaired by the director general of health services regarding the recent uptick in Covid-19 cases.

India extends airspace ban for Pakistani airlines

New Delhi, (HS) : India on Friday extended the closure of Indian airspace for Pakistani airlines, shortly after Pakistan announced the extension of the ban on Indian airlines till June 24. Indian airspace will not be available for aircraft registered in Pakistan as well as for planes operated, owned or leased by Pakistan airlines and operators till June 23, 2025, according to a NOTAM (Notice to Airmen) issued on Friday. As per the NOTAM, the ban will also be applicable to Pakistan's military aircraft. The extension follows the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) rules that restrict such closure for a month at a time.



sent four days ago and is scheduled to

taken the aircraft briefly into Pakistani airspace. That request was denied. Subsequently, the flight crew contacted Lahore Air Traffic Control directly, seeking clearance to enter Pakistani airspace for a short period to avoid the storm system. This request too was declined. With limited options and a fast-approaching thunderstorm, the pilots initially considered a return to Delhi. However, by then, the aircraft was already too close to the approaching clouds. Weighing the proximity and potential hazards, the crew decided to penetrate the weather head-on to proceed toward Srinagar. According to sources, Indian Air Force Air Traffic Control officers alerted the pilots of the IndiGo aircraft of the presence of a ban on overflights over Pakistan when the cockpit crew asked to divert West to avoid the storm front.

Subsequently, IAF flight controllers helped provide the pilots with the frequency of Lahore Air Traffic Control to the pilot. The permission to overfly Pakistan was denied by Lahore ATC. Once inside the thunderstorm, the aircraft experienced severe hail impact and violent turbulence. Several critical systems began flagging malfunctions. DGCA's preliminary assessment confirms that the aircraft suffered Angle Of Attack (AOA) fault while alternate law protection was lost. These failures were triggered by the aircraft's flight control systems as the plane was tossed vertically by intense updrafts and downdrafts. Amid this chaos, the autopilot disengaged. The crew was forced to assume full manual control under rapidly fluctuating airspeed indications and extreme stress. At one point, the aircraft entered a steep descent, recording a rate of 8,500 feet per minute. Compounding the crisis were multiple stall warnings and alerts indicating the aircraft was nearing its Maximum Operating Speed and Mach number.

YouTuber Jyoti grilled by police over Mahakal temple visit; nothing suspicious found

return tonight (Friday) or by tomorrow (Saturday)," he added. The YouTuber had shared photos and videos on various social media platforms, and police received information that she visited Mahakal Temple for obeisance in April last year, the officer said. "The place is very sensitive and sees a huge number of footfalls daily, including devotees from overseas. So it was important to grill her. We took suo motu (on its own motion) action to send a team to Hisar (where she is being grilled by different agencies)," PTI quoted Nitesh Bhargava as saying. She waited in line like any other devotee and had darshan of the deity, the ASP said. "So far, we haven't found anything suspicious

related to her Ujjain visit. The questioning was just a precautionary measure. What harm was there in that?" Bhargava asked. The 33-year-old based in Hisar and the creator of the YouTube channel 'Travel with JO,' was arrested from New Aggarsain Extension on May 16. Police have registered cases against her under the relevant sections of the Official Secrets Act and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

Malhotra is currently in police custody in Hisar. She is among 12 suspects arrested over the past two weeks from Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh on charges of espionage, linked to an ongoing investigation into a suspected Pakistan-backed spy network operating in northern India.

Is the IMF Fuelling Terror by Bailing Out Pakistan?

New Delhi, (HS) : When the International Monetary Fund (IMF) disbursed another \$1 billion instalment to Pakistan under its bailout agreement, the global financial community may have quietly cheered the move as an act of economic stabilization. But behind this seemingly standard transaction lies a profoundly disturbing question: Is the IMF indirectly legitimizing a state machinery that harbours deep-rooted ties to global terrorism?

At the centre of this storm is Lt. Gen. Ahmed Sharif Chaudhary, Pakistan's current DG ISPR. What the IMF and the world must not ignore is that he is the son of Sultan Bashiruddin Mahmood, a man internationally designated as a global terrorist. Mahmood, a Pakistani nuclear scientist once celebrated for his role in Pakistan's nuclear program, later founded Ummah Tameer-e-Nau (UTN)-an organization banned and sanctioned by the United States and the United Nations for aiding Al Qaeda and the Taliban. The evidence is not speculative; it's documented in UN Security Council reports. In August 2001, just weeks before the 9/11 attacks, Mahmood and his colleague travelled to Kandahar to meet Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri. He allegedly shared technical insights into nuclear weapons infrastructure, including the potential impact and development strategies -effectively arming Al Qaeda with the most dangerous knowledge possible. Mahmood's UTN worked closely with the Taliban and had affiliations with Al Rashid Trust and Jaish-



e-Mohammed, both terror groups with blood on their hands. He funded Taliban reconstruction efforts and frequently met with Mullah Omar, the Taliban's elusive leader. Mahmood even acted, by many accounts, as a de facto ambassador for the Taliban in Pakistan. So how does the son of such a man rise to become the public face of Pakistan's military? And more pressingly: How can the IMF, an institution tasked with safeguarding economic integrity and global stability, approve financial aid without scrutinizing such dangerous associations? The IMF must understand the broader consequences of its decisions. In propping up Pakistan's economy without demanding accountability or structural reform, it risks enabling a system where ideologues with extremist legacies retain influence. This is not just about lineage; it's about institutional tolerance for radicalism-a tolerance that has

historically cost the world dearly.

Recent threats by Al Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) to support Pakistan against India only amplify the urgency. The ideological alignment between terror groups and elements within the Pakistani establishment is not a relic of the past-it is alive and dangerous. This is not an argument against economic aid; it's a call for conditional accountability. The IMF must demand transparency, severance from extremist networks, and a demonstrated commitment to democratic and secular principles before approving further funds. The global community cannot afford to fund regimes that flirt with fundamentalism while claiming to fight it. It's time the IMF answers the hard question: Is it backing economic recovery-or inadvertently funding the infrastructure of terror?

"Maa, I Didn't Steal Chips": 12-Year-Old's Suicide Note

Kolkata, (HS) : A 12-year-old boy died by allegedly consuming pesticide after he was accused of theft and asked to do sit-ups by a shopkeeper for "stealing" a packet of chips at Panskura in Paschim Medinipur district, a police officer said Friday. Krishendu Das, a class 7 student, allegedly lifted a packet of chips from a shop at Gosaiber bazar in the Panskura area on Thursday evening after he failed to find the shopkeeper Subhankar Dikshit. He had called out "uncle I will buy chips" repeatedly without any response and finally left the shop allegedly with one packet of chips, the officer said quoting his grief-stricken mother.

He was allegedly chased by Dikshit who came back to the shop soon afterwards, slapped and asked to do sit-ups in full public view, the officer said quoting a complaint by the family. The officer said a probe is underway Das' mother was summoned to the spot and she also scolded him and slapped him while the boy claimed he picked up the junk food packet lying in a heap before the shop and would have come to pay later. He even offered to pay immediately apologising for lifting the packet without the consent of the shopowner but the shopowner accused him of lying. A sulking Krishendu then returned to his house with his mother, bolted the door of his room from inside and did not open the door. After some time his mother along with neighbours broke open the door and found him frothing from the mouth with a half-empty pesticide bottle lying on his side, the officer said, adding that a note purportedly scribbled by him in Bengali was found lying on the side. "Maa I am not a thief. I did not steal. Uncle (shopkeeper) was not around as I waited. While returning I spotted a kurkure packet lying on the road and picked it up. I love Kurkure," said the note.

Krishnendu further said, "These are my final words before leaving. Please excuse me for this act(consuming pesticide)". He was taken to Tamluk Hospital and admitted to ICU but died soon afterwards. The shopowner, also a civic volunteer associated with Bengal Police to assist in traffic management, initially claimed he did not assault the child. But after the incident became known he could not be traced as a crowd assembled before his closed shop.

Act of Terror: FBI on Killing Two Israeli Embassy Employees in US

Washington, (H.S): US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Assistant Director in Charge Steven J. Jensen on Friday called the tragic murder of two Israeli Embassy employees outside the Jewish National Museum in Washington, both an act of terror and directed violence against the Jewish community. Addressing a press conference, he stated that the matter has the full and unwavering attention of the FBI, and it will continue to pursue all leads and use all available resources to investigate the attack."

With the assistance of FBI offices across the country, we're continuing to investigate and contact the subject's associates, family members, and co-workers. We are also executing search warrants for his electronic devices and reviewing his social media accounts," Jensen said. 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. According to a statement from the US Department of Justice, the accused Rodriguez has been charged with federal and local murder offences in connection with the fatal shooting of two Israeli Embassy staff members on May 21. He is charged in the US District Court for the District of Columbia with the murder of foreign officials, causing death through the use of a firearm, and discharging a firearm during a crime of violence. The charges

were announced by US Attorney Jeanine Ferris Pirro, FBI Assistant Director in Charge Steven J. Jensen, and Metropolitan Police Department Chief Pamela Smith. "Make no mistake: This attack was targeted, anti-semitic violence. The FBI will continue to pursue all leads and use all available resources to investigate this heinous murder," said Assistant Director in Charge Jensen. Describing the attack as brutal, anti-Semitic violence which has no place in the US or anywhere in civilization, Attorney General Pamela Bondi said,

"We will follow the facts and secure the most severe possible punishment for the perpetrator of this heinous crime, which robbed two wonderful young people of a bright future together." "According to the affidavit in support of the criminal complaint, Rodriguez allegedly opened fire on the victims as they were leaving an event hosted by the American Jewish Committee, which brought together Jewish professionals and members of the diplomatic community. Both victims were employed by the

Israeli Embassy. One was an Israeli citizen and an official guest of the US government," read the statement by the US Department of Justice. "Surveillance footage reportedly shows Rodriguez walking past the victims before turning and firing multiple rounds. After the victims fell, he allegedly continued firing at close range, including as one attempted to crawl away.

Investigators recovered a 9mm handgun and 21 spent shell casings at the scene," the statement added. According to the official statement, Rodriguez entered the Museum after he committed the murders; and witnesses and surveillance video reportedly confirmed his involvement. He had flown from Chicago to Washington the day prior with the firearm declared in his checked luggage. "The case is being investigated by the FBI's Washington Field Office and the Metropolitan Police Department. It is being prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia with assistance from the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice," the statement concluded.

Israel Intercepts 2nd Missile From Yemen in One Day



Jerusalem, (H.S): Israel's military has said that a missile launched from Yemen had been intercepted by the country's aerial defence system, marking the second missile attack by Houthi forces on Israel within the same day. The missile, launched around Thursday noon, triggered air raid sirens in the Jerusalem area, several settlements in the occupied West Bank, and the Dead Sea region, Israeli police said. Israel's Magen David Adom rescue service reported that no injuries were sustained, Xinhua news agency reported."

A missile launched from Yemen was intercepted," the military said in a statement, adding that sirens were activated "in accordance with protocol". Overnight between Wednesday and Thursday, the military also intercepted another missile launched from Yemen toward Israel. Houthi forces in Yemen have pledged to cease attacks on US vessels but have continued firing missiles at Israel, citing solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza. The ongoing Israeli offensive, which began 19 months ago, has resulted in the deaths of more than 53,000

people, according to Gaza health authorities. Israel has conducted a series of retaliatory airstrikes in Yemen, including one in May on the capital, Sanaa, which damaged the main international airport and left several people dead. The Houthis took responsibility for both missile attacks, saying it had targeted Ben Gurion Airport. The Iran-backed group also claimed to have launched two drones at Israel Thursday overnight.

There were no reports of drones reaching Israel from Yemen on Wednesday. On Friday, the Israeli Air Force struck the Houthi-controlled Hodeida and Salif ports in Yemen in response to the Iran-backed group's repeated attacks on Israel. The Houthis vowed to respond. Earlier this month, a Houthi missile slipped through air defences and landed in the grounds of Ben Gurion Airport, injuring six people, none of them

seriously. A slew of international carriers promptly halted services to Israel, though some have since said they will resume operations. Israel responded to that attack with strikes on Sanaa airport, causing an estimated \$500 million worth of damage. The Houthis - whose slogan calls for "Death to America, Death to Israel, (and) a Curse on the Jews" - began attacking Israel and general maritime traffic in November 2023, a month after the October 7 Hamas massacre.

The Houthis held their fire when a ceasefire was reached between Israel and Hamas in January 2025. By that point, they had fired more than 40 ballistic missiles and dozens of attack drones and cruise missiles at Israel, including one that killed a civilian and wounded several others in Tel Aviv in July, prompting Israel's first strike in Yemen. Since March 18, when the IDF resumed its offensive against Hamas in the Gaza Strip, the Houthis in Yemen have launched 37 ballistic missiles and at least 10 drones at Israel. Several of the missiles have fallen short.

2 Killed, 8 Injured After Small Plane Crashes Neighbourhood in San Diego

Los Angeles, (H.S): At least two people were killed and eight others were injured after a small plane crashed into a neighbourhood in US southwestern city of San Diego, authorities said. The incident took place early Thursday morning. The crash occurred around 3:45 a.m. local time in a military housing complex in the Tierrasanta neighbourhood, local officials said.

The crash site is a little more than 2 miles east of Montgomery-Gibbs Executive Airport, Xinhua news agency reported. Police said they believed no one on the ground was killed but could not immediately confirm that. The San Diego Police Department said in a post on X that the crash also damaged around 10 buildings in the neighbourhood. Local officials confirmed that the small plane a Cessna jet, crashed into the Murphy Canyon neighbourhood just before 4 a.m. local time. The crash sparked fires



in multiple residences and vehicles, Dan Eddy, assistant chief of the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department, told the media. "We have jet fuel all over the place. We have hazmat on scene right now, and we've asked for more resources to come for that," Eddy said. Eddy said that all of the fatalities were on the plane, which could hold up to 10 people. Officials do not yet know how many were on board. About 100 local residents were evacuated following the crash. Officials confirmed that the affected residences were military housing units. The tract where the crash occurred is managed by Liberty Military Housing, officials said. "We are actively

working with all military families affected, specifically within this region, because they may be out of their homes for a while," said Captain Bob Heely, commanding officer of Naval Base San Diego. Heely said he was working with Liberty Military Housing and the Red Cross to provide temporary housing to the affected families. "As you can see, the damage behind us is incredibly significant, was life-threatening, and thank God nobody on the ground was killed," Raul Campillo, a member of the San Diego City Council, said at a news conference near the crash site. The crash will be investigated by the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board.

US House of Representatives Passes Sweeping Tax-Cut Bill Amid Warning From Budget Group

Washington, (H.S): The Republican-controlled US House of Representatives has narrowly passed a sweeping tax and spending bill, despite prior warnings from budget groups that the legislation would significantly increase federal debt. The bill was approved by a vote of 215 to 214, Xinhua news agency reported. All Democratic lawmakers and two Republican lawmakers voted against it, while one Republican lawmaker voted "present," neither for nor against the bill.

The bill extends the corporate and individual tax cuts enacted during US President Donald Trump's first term in 2017, while adding new tax breaks for tips, overtime and car loans. It also increases defence spending and allocates additional funds for deporting immigrants. Additionally, the bill repeals many green energy policies championed by former US President Joe Biden and raises the eligibility thresholds for low-income individuals to



access healthcare and food assistance programs, in an attempt to reduce federal expenditures. The bill is sent to the Republican-controlled Senate, where it will likely face modifications. "THE ONE, BIG, BEAUTIFUL BILL has PASSED the House of Representatives! This is arguably the most significant piece of Legislation that will ever be signed in the History of our Country!" Trump wrote on his social platform Truth Social. Meanwhile, budget groups have

expressed deep concern. "The House's reconciliation framework has been an insult to fiscal responsibility, adding more than \$3 trillion to the debt and setting up a massive cliff of tax cuts and spending expirations that could cost trillions more to extend," Maya MacGuineas, President of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, said in a statement on Wednesday. According to the latest data from the Treasury Department, the US national debt has surpassed \$36.2 trillion. With

the House majority standing at 220-212, Speaker Mike Johnson had little room for dissent and made last-minute concessions to satisfy various Republican factions. Johnson described the bill as "generational, truly nation-shaping legislation," emphasising its significance in shaping America's future.

The 1,100-page bill enshrines much of Donald Trump's populist campaign promises, including new tax breaks on tips and car loans, increased military spending, and enhanced border enforcement. It extends the corporate and individual tax cuts enacted in 2017 and repeals many green-energy incentives introduced under former US President Joe Biden. However, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) projects that the tax-cut bill will add approximately \$3.8 trillion to the federal debt over the next decade, on top of the existing \$36.2 trillion.

After India's Objections, IMF Justifies Bailout Package To Pakistan

New Delhi, (H.S): Amid India's objections to the International Monetary Fund bailout package to Pakistan, the IMF has said the debt-ridden country "met all the required targets" to receive the latest loan instalment. The IMF recently gave the nod to a \$ 1 billion (over Rs 8,000 crore) bailout package to Pakistan even as India expressed reservations. The bailout came when Pakistan was retaliating to India's Operation Sindoor - a military strike on terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK).

India had asked it to reconsider the bailout as Pakistan allows terrorists to use its soil for launching state-sponsored attacks against Indian citizens. Last week, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said that the aid to Pakistan is a "form of indirect funding to terror" and had cautioned the international agencies, including the IMF. The global lender disbursed \$2.1 billion to Pakistan in two tranches under its Extended Fund Facility



(EFF) programme. The IMF and Pakistan last year signed a deal for \$7 billion under the EFF. Defending its loan, IMF's director of the communications department, Julie Kozack, said on Thursday, "Our Board found that Pakistan had indeed met all of the targets. It had made progress on some of the reforms, and for that reason, the Board went ahead and approved the programme." Kozack also made a short statement with regards to the conflict between India and Pakistan and hoped for a peaceful resolution between the two countries. "With respect to Pakistan and the conflict with India, I want to start here by first expressing our regrets and

sympathies for the loss of life and for the human toll from the recent conflict. We do hope for a peaceful resolution of the conflict," she said. She said the IMF Executive Board had approved Pakistan's EFF program in September of 2024. And the first review at that time was planned for the first quarter of 2025. "Consistent with that timeline, on March 25th of 2025, the IMF Staff and the Pakistani authorities reached a Staff-Level Agreement on the First Review for the EFF. That agreement, that Staff-Level Agreement, was then presented to our Executive Board, and our Executive Board completed the review on May 9th. As a result of the completion

of that review, Pakistan received the disbursement at that time." She said it was part of a standard procedure under programmes that the IMF Executive Board conducts periodic reviews of lending programs to assess their progress. "And they particularly look at whether the program is on track, whether the conditions under the program have been met, and whether any policy changes are needed to bring the program back on track.

And in the case of Pakistan, our Board found that Pakistan had indeed met all of the targets. It had made progress on some of the reforms, and for that reason, the Board went ahead and approved the program," she said. Kozack said that there was a sufficient consensus at the Board to allow the IMF to move forward or for the Board to decide to move forward and complete Pakistan's review. She, however, added that any deviation from the established programme conditions would impact future reviews for Pakistan.

Pak Army Spokesman Parrots Hafiz Saeed's Comments, Warns India Over Indus Waters Treaty Suspension

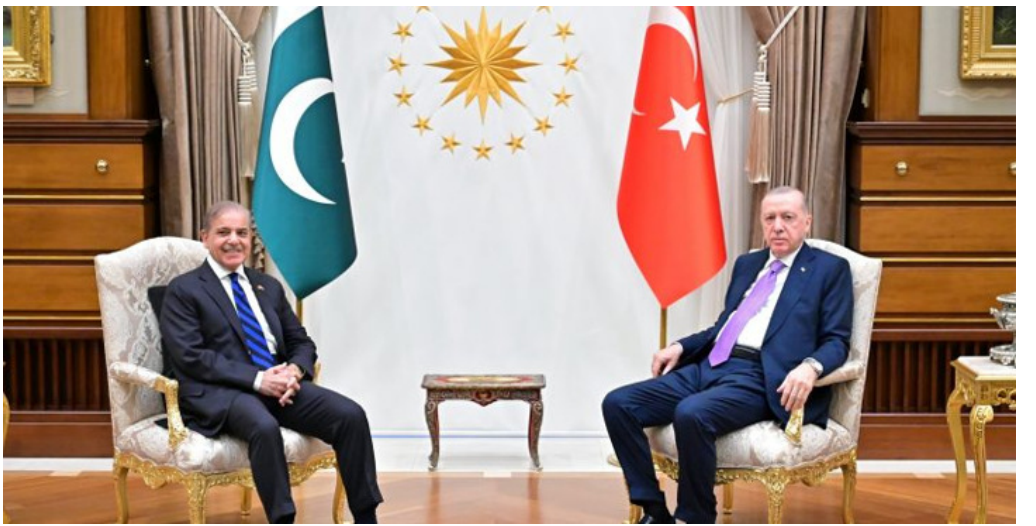
Islamabad, (H.S): Pakistani military spokesperson Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry has issued a warning to India similar to that used by Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist Hafiz Saeed. He was speaking at a public gathering over India's decision to keep the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance till Islamabad abjures terrorism and stop aiding, funding and supporting terrorist groups emanating from its soil. Chaudhry reportedly made the comments during a speech at a university in Pakistan. Referring to India's recent move to suspend the water-sharing

treaty following a deadly terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam, he said, "If you block our water, we will choke your breath." His statement mirrors the hostile rhetoric used by LeT founder Hafiz Saeed, the mastermind of the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, known for his inflammatory speeches against India and the US. In a video, making rounds on social media X, Hafiz Saeed can be heard saying those same words. The statements come as India suspended parts of the Indus Waters Treaty on April 23, a day after the terror attack in

Pahalgam killed 26 people. The treaty, signed in 1960 and brokered by the World Bank, governs the sharing of the Indus River and its tributaries between the two countries. Meanwhile, New Delhi has repeatedly said "blood and water cannot flow together; talk and terror cannot go together," signalling a tougher stance on Pakistan's alleged support for cross-border terrorism. Suspension was a part of countermeasures taken against Islamabad, including "Operation Sindoor" on May 7 that targeted nine terror hideouts in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir. India's

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Thursday declared that any future dialogue with Pakistan will focus solely on the vacation of illegally occupied Indian territory in Jammu and Kashmir. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stated firmly that "terror and talks can't coexist," highlighting that India remains open only to discussions on the extradition of wanted terrorists already listed and shared with Islamabad. Clarifying India's stance on the Kashmir issue, Jaiswal underlined, "Any bilateral discussion will only be on the vacation of illegally occupied Indian territory by Pakistan."

Expect Turkey To Strongly Urge Pakistan To End Its Support To Cross-Border Terrorism: MEA



New Delhi, (H.S): India on Thursday emphasised that it expects Turkey to "strongly urge" Pakistan to end its support to cross-border terrorism and take credible and verifiable actions against the terror ecosystem it has harboured for decades. "We expect Turkey to strongly urge Pakistan to end its support to cross-border terrorism and take credible and verifiable actions against the terror ecosystem it has harboured for decades.

Relations are built on the basis of sensitivities to each other's concerns," Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stated during a weekly media briefing in New Delhi. Led by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Turkey has openly backed Pakistan's aggression and military response to India's decisive Operation Sindoor targeting Pakistani terror infrastructure. Last week, in a strong retaliatory measure, the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) revoked the security clearance of

Celebi Airport Services India Pvt Ltd offering ground handling services at nine airports, in the interest of national security. The order came days after Turkey backed Islamabad and condemned India's Operation Sindoor launched to avenge the killing of 26 innocent people in the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack. The drones launched by Pakistan on a large-scale targeting Indian regions and military bases earlier this month - all attacks successfully thwarted by India's air defence systems - were also sourced from Turkey."

This (Celebi) matter has been discussed with the Turkish Embassy here and our Ministry of External Affairs. However, I understand that this particular decision was taken by the Civil Aviation Security, as they are mandated to handle security issues," Jaiswal mentioned on Thursday. Under Erdogan's rule, Turkey has undergone a dramatic transformation from a relatively secular, pro-Western democracy to a country moving towards

Islamist populism. Central to this transformation has been Erdogan's use of the media as a strategic weapon, both at domestic and international fronts. Ankara's military, diplomatic and media support to Islamabad has added fuel to fire over the past few weeks. Erdogan met Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif hours after the Pahalgam attack which was conducted by The Resistance Front (TRF), an extended group of Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

Post Operation Sindoor, Erdogan vocally condemned India's air strikes, reiterating solidarity with Pakistan during a call with Sharif. Earlier, six Turkish C-130 Hercules military transport aircraft, possibly carrying an arms shipment, landed at Karachi airport on April 27 and on May 2. A Turkish warship, TCG Buyukada (F-512), the second ship of the Ada-class ASW corvettes of the Turkish Navy, had also docked at Karachi.

27,000 Crore Government Securities Auction Fully Subscribed



New Delhi, (H.S): Government securities (G-sec) auctioned Rs. 27,000 crore bonds in two tranches on Friday. On May 22, it was fully subscribed, reflecting strong investor demand. The cut off price for both bonds was above par. The 6.75 per cent G-sec with a notified amount of Rs 15,000 crore, maturing in 2029, was sold at a cut-off price of Rs 103.49, yielding 5.8675 per cent. The 7.09 per cent G-sec with a notified amount of Rs 12,000

crore, maturing in 2054, was sold at a cut off price of Rs 103.39, yielding 6.8197 per cent. The bond yield is the return an investor expects to receive each year over its term to maturity. As per the auction results, the development of primary dealers was stated as 'NIL' for both the bonds, indicating healthy demand for G-sec from the investor community. Primary Dealers, commonly referred to as PDs, are financial institutions authorised by the

RBI to buy and sell government securities. The underwriting auction was conducted through multiple price-based methods on May 23 (Friday) between 09:00 A.M. and 09:30 A.M.Bids under the Additional Competitive Underwriting (ACU) auction were done electronically through the Core Banking Solution (E-Kuber) System.

Earlier this year, on March 27, the government had notified the indicative calendar for the issuance of government-dated securities, including Sovereign Green Bonds (SGRBs), for the first half of the fiscal year 2025-26 (April 1, 2025, to September 30, 2025). The indicative calendar for such auctions is released beforehand in order to enable institutional and retail investors to plan their investments efficiently and to provide transparency and stability to the Government Securities market.

JSW Steel Q4 results: Net profit rises 16% to 1,503 crore, revenue falls 3%

New Delhi, (H.S): JSW Group-backed steel major JSW Steel Ltd on May 23 reported a net profit of Rs 1,503 crore for the fourth quarter of FY25. This marks a rise of around 16 percent from the Rs 1,299 crore net profit reported in Q4 of previous financial year. Revenue from operations however fell around 3 percent on-year to Rs 44,819 crore during the quarter during review.

JSW Steel had reported revenue from operations at Rs 46,269 crore for the corresponding quarter of FY24. Most steelmakers reported weakness in their topline for the quarter, owing to steel prices failing to gain momentum amid weakness in demand and cheap imports from China and south-east Asia.Operating earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortisation



(EBITDA) for the reporting quarter on a consolidated basis were Rs 6,378 crore, higher compared to Rs 6,124 crore in the same period a year ago. The operating EBITDA margin for the quarter was 14.23 percent, higher than the 13.2 percent reported a year ago, as input costs showed a decline year-on-year, despite sluggishness in pricing.Despite JSW Steel

experiencing a setback in its acquisition of Bhushan Power and Steel Ltd (BPSL) through the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) process after the Supreme Court ordered the BPSL's liquidation, the company said in a press release that it sees legal remedies to the apex court judgment on May 2.The company also did not make any provisions related to

the BPSL judgment in its balance sheet, saying in an accompanying note to the balance sheet that the recoverable amount is sufficient to cover the carrying value of assets under BPSL, valued at Rs 14,091 crore as on March 31, 2025. The results were released in the post market hours of May 23.

The shares of the company had closed in the green with marginal gains at Rs 1,007.90 apiece.Along with the Q4 results, the company announced a final dividend of Rs 2.8 per equity share for the financial year 2025. Further, the company's board has approved the plan to raise long-term funds by issuing non-convertible debentures worth up to Rs 7,000 crore, and/or equity shares and/or convertible securities worth up to Rs 7,000 crore.

India's power transmission body flags regulatory hurdles in equipment procurement

New Delhi, (H.S): India's power transmission sector is facing acute supply-side bottlenecks, especially in procuring High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) equipment critical for carrying renewable energy over long distances, raising concerns over the country's ability to meet its 2030 renewable energy targets. The Electric Power Transmission Association (EPTA) has urged the Power Ministry to provide a level-playing field in procurement policies, highlighting a regulatory mismatch that allows renewable energy (RE) developers to bypass subcontracting restrictions, while transmission companies remain bound by them.

The association has called for a temporary exemption from these restrictions until December 2030, to help transmission developers procure key HVDC components without delay. "This mismatch between generation and transmission is hurting the overall power sector and delaying addition of capacity," said an official from a leading transmission company, reported PTI. According to the official, while RE projects are built in 12-18 months, transmission lines often take 3-4 years, and HVDC systems even longer. The issue stems from restrictions on suppliers and subcontractors



from countries sharing land borders with India, particularly China, which is a major source of HVDC equipment. Although these curbs apply to central ministries, autonomous bodies, and public-private partnership (PPP) projects, they also extend to transmission developers operating under the fully privately funded Build-Own-Operate-Transfer (BOOT) model, leaving them similarly affected.

The EPTA noted that renewable developers are exempt from these restrictions, following a 2022 clarification by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. It stated that while SECI's procurement qualifies as public procurement, the contracts don't fall under "works contracts,"

thereby allowing unrestricted subcontracting, including from China. Transmission developers, on the other hand, continue to face full restrictions under tariff-based competitive bidding (TBCB). "Despite TBCB projects not being PPPs, the transmission service providers cannot procure or subcontract from countries sharing land borders with India, thereby severely limiting supplier choices," said an industry official.

This asymmetry, industry players say, has created a systemic gap between RE generation and transmission readiness, particularly in HVDC-dependent regions like Rajasthan and Khavda in Gujarat. At present, only two domestic OEMs offer LCC-based HVDC systems, while global

manufacturers in Europe and the US are booked until 2030, amid surging renewable installations in the West. As a result, the constrained market is pushing project costs higher, with tariffs reaching up to 17% above levelised rates, and project timelines extending up to six years. "HVDC projects are vital for renewable energy development, and must be governed by the same procurement norms as RE projects," EPTA said in its representation to the Power Ministry. Data from two recently concluded HVDC bids show that it took 19 months just to finalise the tender, with an overall implementation window of 54 months.

The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) has also acknowledged the issue, noting that HVDC component supply constraints are inflating project costs and justifying higher bids.Calling for urgent policy harmonisation, EPTA Director General G P Upadhyaya said: "A systemic gap has emerged between generation readiness and transmission infrastructure timelines, particularly for HVDC-dependent RE zones like Rajasthan and Khavda in Gujarat. The timely execution of HVDC systems is a critical path for achieving India's renewable energy targets."

On Biodiversity Day, Vedanta Aluminium Announces Multiple Initiatives to Protect Wildlife & Restore Habitats Across Its Operations

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): On the International Day for Biological Diversity, Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest aluminium producer, announces a series of initiatives dedicated to preserving biodiversity and restoring natural habitats across its operational regions. The company has undertaken wide-ranging measures such as rescuing and safely releasing over a thousand reptiles and small wildlife, developing greenbelts, conducting pond cleaning drives, reintroducing native species, launching large-scale afforestation efforts, and implementing educational outreach programs in local communities to foster a culture of ecological stewardship.

This year's theme, "Harmony with nature and sustainable development" echoes Vedanta Aluminium's commitment to aligning industrial growth with ecological responsibility. Vedanta Aluminium has partnered with PwC India to revise existing Biodiversity Management Plans at its operational sites. These plans are part of Vedanta's broader strategy to restore ecological balance and conserve biodiversity for achieving No Net Loss (NNL). Commenting on the achievements of the past year and Vedanta Aluminium's ongoing biodiversity initiatives, Rajiv Kumar, CEO, Vedanta Aluminium, said, "Our commitment to biodiversity goes beyond compliance, it is woven



into the very fabric of our operations. Over the past year, we have made significant strides in protecting and nurturing the ecosystems around our sites. As we move forward, we remain focused on fostering a positive environmental legacy for future generations, working closely with our partners and communities to ensure that biodiversity remains at the heart of our growth trajectory."

At Jharsuguda, Odisha, home to the company's mega aluminium plant, the team is organizing pond restoration activities in 30 villages as part of the International Day for Biological Diversity celebrations. This community-driven initiative aims to improve water quality and support healthy aquatic ecosystems, reinforcing the company's commitment to improving both environmental and community well-being. Further enriching the region's green cover, an avenue plantation

drive will be held spanning across 1.2km on both sides of the road. Additionally, plans are underway for the renovation and beautification of two gardens at Jharsuguda, creating vibrant, green spaces for the community to enjoy. At its Jamkhani coal operations in Sundargarh, Odisha, Vedanta Aluminium has adopted the innovative Miyawaki method of afforestation, planting a diverse mix of native trees, sub-trees, and shrubs at high density to create fast-growing, self-sustaining forests.

The project began with 3.65 lakh saplings across 18 hectares along the mine's periphery. This greenbelt will act as a biodiversity hotspot and model for regenerative environmental practices in mining areas. At BALCO, a unit of Vedanta Aluminium located in Korba, Chhattisgarh, a dedicated Animal Rescue Team of trained snake-handlers serves as a rapid response unit across the smelter,

township, and nearby areas. Focused on protecting both wildlife and people, the team rescued and safely released over a thousand snakes and other small animals in the past year. Additionally, over 60 hectares of unoperational tailing dams have been reclaimed through plantations of native species like Siras, Sheesam, Karanj, Gulmohar, and Neem.Vedanta Aluminium also places a strong emphasis on environmental education and community involvement.

Regular outreach programs are conducted for local school children and families of employees, engaging them in tree plantation drives, nature walks, and awareness activities such as Hug-a-Tree and human-chain events. These initiatives are designed to foster a deep-rooted sense of nature consciousness among the next generation. Through these comprehensive initiatives, ranging from wildlife rescue and habitat restoration to scientific afforestation and community engagement, Vedanta Aluminium continues to set industry benchmarks in sustainable development. The company's ongoing efforts reflect its belief that economic progress and ecological preservation must go hand in hand, ensuring a greener, more resilient future for all, under its broader "Transforming for Good" vision that seeks to work towards "Transforming the Planet".

Union Minister Shri Manohar Lal Reviews Karnataka's Power Sector, Urges Financial Reforms & Faster Smart Meter Rollout

New Delhi, (H.S): Hon'ble Union Minister of Power, Shri Manohar Lal, conducted a comprehensive review of the power sector in the State of Karnataka today in Bengaluru. The review meeting was attended by Shri Shripad Naik, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy; Shri K. J. George, Hon'ble Minister of Energy, Karnataka; and senior officials from the Government of India, the State Government, and REC Ltd.

During the meeting, the State Government made a detailed presentation on the current status of power generation, transmission, and distribution in Karnataka. Issues such as the generation mix, challenges in Right of Way (RoW) for transmission infrastructure, and the need for support in improving distribution infrastructure were discussed. Hon'ble Union Minister Shri Manohar Lal congratulated the State for its increasing share of renewable energy in the power mix. He emphasized that the visit aimed at better understanding of



the ground-level issues and exploring new initiatives to strengthen power supply in the State.The Hon'ble Minister urged the State to take steps to reduce annual financial losses of its power utilities and work towards implementing cost-reflective tariffs.

He underlined the importance of timely clearance of dues and subsidies related to Government departments and advised the State to saturate prepaid smart meters across all Government establishments, including local bodies and colonies, by August 2025. He also emphasized the need for a centralized payment mechanism for efficient management of Government

electricity dues.Shri Manohar Lal further directed the State to expedite the rollout of smart metering for commercial, industrial, and other consumer categories in a time-bound manner.

He advised early resolution of RoW issues impeding transmission infrastructure and called for the adoption of the compensation mechanism issued by the Government of India.The Union Minister assured continued support from the Government of India for strengthening the power sector in Karnataka and reaffirmed the Centre's commitment to the welfare and development of the State and its people.

Naver Founder, Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang Discuss AI Cooperation

Seoul, (H.S): Lee Hae-jin, founder of South Korea's top portal Naver Corp., met with Nvidia Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Jensen Huang in Taiwan on Thursday to discuss cooperation in artificial intelligence (AI) and other key areas, industry sources said. During the meeting, Lee, who serves as chairman of the company's board, discussed with Jensen Huang and other Nvidia officials ways to enhance cooperation and explore potential collaboration in sovereign AI and other areas, according to the sources, reports Yonhap news agency.Lee was in Taiwan to attend the Computex 2025 tech exhibition in Taiwan, accompanied by Naver CEO Choi Soo-yeon and other top executives, they added.It marks Lee's first known overseas business trip since his appointment as the board

chairman in March. The appointment was widely seen as a strategic move to lead the company through intensifying global competition in big tech and artificial intelligence (AI).Lee previously met with Huang at Nvidia's U.S. headquarters in June 2024 while serving as Naver's global investment officer.Then, the two discussed issues related to sovereign AI, which refers to the concept of building regionally customized AI models that reflect local culture and values, and comply with local regulations.

Naver is expected to bolster the development of HyperClova X, the company's proprietary large language model (LLM) first introduced in 2023. The company aims to integrate AI across key services, including search and commerce platforms, to enhance

its existing ecosystem.Meanwhile, Hae-jin returned to the company's board as chairperson in March, signalling a push for a sovereign artificial intelligence (AI) strategy within the domestic tech industry.Lee's appointment as the chair of Naver Corp.'s board was confirmed at the company's annual general shareholders' meeting held in Seongnam, south of Seoul. Lee, who has been serving as the company's global investment officer (GIO), will oversee Naver's overarching business strategies.

He had previously stepped down as board chairperson in March 2017 and left the board entirely in 2018 to focus on expanding Naver's global footprint in his role as GIO. His return comes amid growing concerns that South Korea is falling behind global tech giants in the fast-evolving space of AI model development.

Indian Stock Market Opens Higher, Nifty Above 24,700

Mumbai, (H.S): The Indian benchmark indices opened higher on Friday amid mixed global cues, as buying was seen in the FMCG, IT and auto sectors in the early trade.At around 9.29 am, Sensex was trading 281.75 points or 0.35 per cent up at 81,233.74 while the Nifty added 109.75 point or 0.45 per cent at 24,719.45.Nifty Bank was up 69.85 points or 0.13 per cent at 55,011.15 The Nifty Midcap 100 index was trading at 56,582.95 after adding 258.10 points or 0.46 per cent. Nifty Smallcap 100 index was at 17,561.40 after climbing 58.30 points or 0.33 per cent.According to analysts, the silver lining from the market perspective is India's strong macros, particularly the resilient growth and declining inflation

and interest rates.In the Sensex pack, ITC, Adani Ports, Infosys, PowerGrid, Tech Mahindra, Tata Steel, SBI, HCL Tech, UltraTech Cement, Tata Motors and Eternal were the top gainers. Whereas, Sun Pharma, M&M, NTPC, Bajaj Finance, Bharti Airtel, Maruti Suzuki and ICICI Bank were the top losers.In the Asian markets, China, Hong Kong, Bangkok, Seoul, Jakarta and Japan were trading in green.In the last trading session, Dow Jones in the US closed at 41,859.09, down 1.35 points, or 0.00 per cent. The S&P 500 ended with a loss of 2.60 points, or 0.04 per cent, at 5,842.01 and the Nasdaq closed at 18,925.74, up 53.09 points, or 0.28 per cent."US stocks closed mixed on Thursday after a volatile session, with major indices

erasing early losses as Treasury yields retreated from recent highs following the House passage of President Trump's tax and spending legislation," said experts.On the institutional front, foreign institutional investors (FIIs) were net sellers as they sold equities worth 5,045.36 crore on May 22, while domestic institutional investors (DIIs) purchased equities worth 3,715.00 crore."Even when the market turns weak, domestic demand driven segments like financials, telecom, aviation etc are resilient and this is reflected in the strength in the stock prices of the big boys in these segments like ICICI Bank, Bharti Airtel and Interglobe Aviation. This message from the market is important," said Dr VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Ltd.



Alia channels vintage glamour for her debut at Cannes Film Festival

Alia Bhatt made a gorgeous debut at the 78th edition of the Cannes Film Festival. She is attending as one of the L'Oreal ambassadors. All eyes are on Alia Bhatt at Cannes! The actor made her much-anticipated debut at the Cannes Film Festival on the second-last day, and did not disappoint with her stunning look. Alia chose a light yellow embroidered gown with flower motifs stitched all over it.

Alia shared a sneak peak of her outfit on her Instagram Stories. The black-and-white picture gave a hint of the stunning ensemble, as she posed with a hand fan which had the L'Oreal quote 'I'm worth it'. Soon, pictures and videos of the actor making her way out of the entrance of the hotel surfaced on X, which gave a full look of her stunning look for the debut. Alia had earlier shared her excitement about her Cannes debut on Instagram Stories.

She posted a photo of her Gucci bag packed with essentials, including books and a tote full of beauty products, with 'I'm worth it' written over it. Sharing the image, she wrote, "Off we go..." Alia's appearance at the festival comes days after speculation that she might skip the film festival in solidarity with India after the Pahalgam terror attack strained India-Pakistan relations.

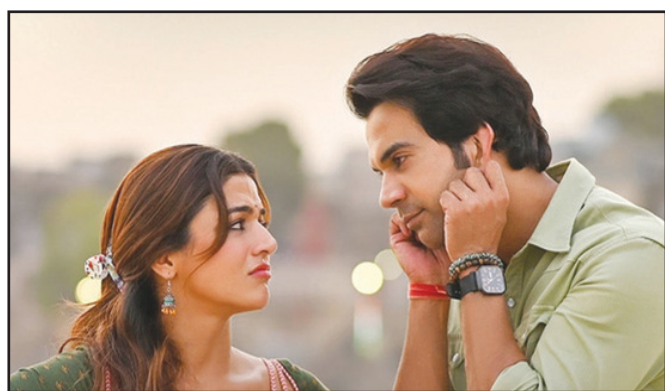
Speaking about her debut

at a media interaction, Alia had shared, "There's something absolutely special about firsts - and I'm so excited to make my Festival de Cannes debut this year, an iconic celebration of cinema and self-expression. It is such an honour to represent L'Oréal Paris at the Festival with this year's theme, 'Lights, Beauty and Action'. To me, beauty is about celebrating individuality, confidence and self worth. It's limitless, it's unique. I'm proud to stand

with a brand that celebrates every woman's journey and empowers them to shine in their own light." Alia's appearance at the festival comes days after speculation that she might skip the film festival in solidarity with India after the Pahalgam terror attack strained India-Pakistan relations.

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Bhool Chuk Maaf Review: Rajkummar-Wamiqa's Film Goes Round in Circles



Cobbling together rough and random elements from a mystifying mish-mash of genres, this Maddock Films dramedy seeks to achieve what the banner did in the recent past with a blend of horror and humour in Stree and its sequel, the biggest hit of actor Rajkummar Rao's career.

As an absurd caper playing out in the realms of fantasy and in the bustling streets, ghats and marketplaces of Banaras, it isn't madcap enough. And as a time-loop comedy, it goes completely overboard with its central premise without being able to create a logical context for the

perplexing goings-on in the life of a lad trapped in a limbo. It isn't only owing to its outlandish plot that Bhool Chuk Maaf is a tad difficult to comprehend and decipher. It goes round and round in circles. What that leads to isn't a pretty sight despite the energy that Rajkummar Rao packs into the lead performance and the steady support that Wamiqa Gabbi extends to him. The lead pair does its best to lift the film out of its wobbly ways, but only with sporadic success. Bhool Chuk Maaf also has the services of a bunch of other able actors whose sense of comic timing is

flawless. However, the script written by director Karan Sharma is way too contrived and all over the place to make the most of the presence of the likes of Seema Pahwa, Raghubir Yadav, Sanjay Mishra (in a special appearance) and Ishtiyak Khan.

Notwithstanding the limited opportunities granted to them, these actors, especially Pahwa as the hero's mother and Mishra as an avuncular and smarmy employment broker, add some superficial sparkle to the proceedings. But what the film needed much more of was a sturdier narrative spine. The tone of the film is terribly erratic. Not only is it generally unfunny, but it also oscillates awkwardly between the droll and the solemn. Romantic moments and familial clashes are interspersed with religious homilies as the baffled male protagonist tries to figure out why his life has screeched to a standstill. He seeks divine intervention and vows to do a good deed if his wish is granted. But when the time comes for him to fulfil his pledge, he lets things drift.

Paresh 'did not shoot for Hera Pheri 3', confirms source

The drama surrounding veteran actor Paresh Rawal's withdrawal from Priyadarshan's Hera Pheri 3 is nowhere close to ending. After reports said that Akshay Kumar, one of the other leads, is suing Paresh for breach of trust, a source close to the latter has denied that he 'walked out' of the project.

A close source to Paresh Rawal said, "Calling someone like Paresh Rawal, a stalwart with four decades of iconic work, 'unprofessional' is not just unfair, it's laughable. Let's be clear: the film hadn't even started. There was a promo shoot, not a film schedule. The real shoot is planned sometime next year. So, the idea that he 'walked out' is just... worst theatrical imagination at best. He exited long before the tent was even pitched, before the lights, camera, and chaos of the circus rolled into town." The statement comes after Akshay Kumar's legal representative warned of 'severe legal consequences' to Paresh Rawal for walking out of the film.



"There were contracts entered into for the shooting of the trailer. In fact, there was some portion of about three-and-a-half minutes of the film itself that had been shot. Suddenly, a few days ago, we received a notice from Paresh ji saying that he is no longer associated with the film and doesn't want to be associated with the film. So it's taken everybody by shock and surprise, of course," Pooja Tidke, Joint Managing Partner of Parinam Law Associate, which represents Akshay's banner, told.

The source counters the

claim that Paresh Rawal shot for the film. "Paresh Rawal is someone who's built his career one role at a time not on headlines, but on honesty, discipline, and sheer craft. He doesn't need the noise. And certainly doesn't thrive on it," they added. Paresh portrayed Baburao Ganpatrao Apte in the first two instalments, which were released in 2000 and 2006, respectively. The first film was directed by Priyadarshan, who is also attached to the third instalment. The successful franchise also stars Suniel Shetty in the lead.

Param Sundari Leaked Teaser: Sidharth & Janhvi win internet



Fresh onscreen pairs are always welcomed with open arms. So when it was announced that the very handsome Sidharth Malhotra and the drop-dead gorgeous Janhvi Kapoor are coming together for the first time in Param Sundari, fans were beyond excited! According to buzz, the film backed by

Maddock is a romantic comedy. In the first look, we were introduced to Sidharth as Punjabi munda Param and Janhvi as South beauty Sundari. Soon we witnessed their cute chemistry in behind the scene pictures and videos. Well, we have now got our hands on the much-awaited teaser!

The teaser of Sidharth

Malhotra and Janhvi Kapoor's upcoming film Param Sundari was attached to Rajkummar Rao and Wamiqa Gabbi's Bhool Chuk Maaf, which arrived in theatres today. Much to the delight of fans, many members of the audience leaked the teaser on social media where we witnessed a glimpse of Sidharth and Janhvi's magical jodi. They look amazing together and the vibe of the teaser has definitely won the internet over, leaving us wanting more. The clip begins with Sidharth flaunting his abs as he works out, moving on to Janhvi's beautiful eyes. The highlights are their chemistry and the soulful background score. This surely looks exciting. We can't wait to witness Sidharth and Janhvi's love story in theatres when Param Sundari releases on July 25.

'Easier to work with one captain in all formats': Gambhir on Test skipper



Mumbai, (HS) : Team India head coach Gautam Gambhir looks set to be joined by a batch of youngsters as the senior national team prepares for the 5-match Test series in England. With veteran stalwarts like Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, and Ravichandran Ashwin no longer a part of the team in the longest format, the situation gives some youngsters an opportunity to put their hand up and take up the challenge. While Gambhir admitted that replacing Rohit and Kohli is a tough task, he is confident of the next generation stepping up.

"And yes, we've got to be without two senior players. And sometimes I believe that it's the opportunity for some other people to put their hand up and say, Okay, I'm ready for it. So yes, it will be tough, but then there'll be people putting their hand up for sure because this question was asked to me before," said Gambhir while speaking to Cricket Next. Gambhir cited the example of India's successful ICC Champions Trophy outing

New Delhi, (HS) : In what could turn out to be damning news for Team India just before they announce their Test squad for the England tour, pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah has reportedly informed the BCCI selectors, led by former pacer Ajit Agarkar, that he would not be able to play all five Tests in England. Bumrah, who got injured midway through the fifth and final Test against Australia in Sydney and missed the Champions Trophy and the first few matches of IPL, feels his body can no longer go through the rigours of a five-match Test series.

According to The Indian Express, Bumrah will only play three of the five Tests against England. "Jasprit Bumrah has already informed the board that his body can't take the toll of more than three Test matches," the report claimed. This all but takes him out of the captaincy race. Bumrah, who is currently the vice-captain of India's Test side, led India in two matches in Australia, and if he didn't hurt his back in the Sydney Test, he was the first-choice to take over from Rohit Sharma as the next Test captain. But the recurrence of a back injury that had kept him away from cricket for more than a year has changed things. The selectors did not want a captain who was unsure of playing



all matches due to workload management. Therefore, Shubman Gill reportedly became the leader in the Test captaincy race.

Apart from Bumrah's unavailability, Mohammed Shami's fitness is also a cause of concern for India. The veteran fast bowler, who missed the T20 World Cup and the Australia tour due to an ankle injury, is reportedly not ready to bowl long spells in red-ball cricket and therefore, might not be picked in the Test squad. "Shami is bowling four overs in IPL for Sunrisers Hyderabad but the board and selectors don't know whether he can bowl more than 10 overs in a day. Test matches in England may demand longer spells from the pacers and we can't take chances," a source in the board informed.

Mathews to Retire from Tests after Game against Bangladesh

Colombo, (HS) : Veteran Sri Lankan all-rounder Angelo Mathews on Friday announced that the first Test against Bangladesh next month will be his last five-day game as he makes way for younger talent in the traditional format with a "grateful heart and unforgettable memories." The 37-year-old will, however, continue to play white-ball cricket for his country. His final Test appearance will be in Galle from June 17 to 21. "With a grateful heart and unforgettable memories. It is time for me to say goodbye to the most cherished format of the game, International Test Cricket!...The first Test match against Bangladesh in June will be my last red-ball appearance for my country," he posted on 'X'. "Whilst I bid adieu to the Test format, as discussed with selectors I will remain available for selection for the white ball format, if and when my country needs me. "I believe this Test team is a talented side with many future and present greats playing the game. Now seems like the best time to make way for a younger player to take the mantle to shine for our nation," he added.

Hockey India Masters Cup to Begin from June 18



New Delhi, (HS) : Hockey India on Friday announced the venue and dates for the first-ever Hockey India Masters Cup 2025 (Men & Women). The inaugural edition of this tournament will be hosted by the Hockey Unit of Tamil Nadu in Chennai from June 18 to 27.

This event marks a new chapter in Indian hockey, offering a dedicated platform for veteran players. With competitions in both men's and women's categories, the Hockey India Masters Cup is poised

to be a celebration of longevity, passion, and the enduring love for the game. The names of the teams for both categories will be released shortly. As per the regulations, a player must be aged 40 and above to compete in the men's category and 35 and above in the women's category. To participate in the event, players must register through their respective State Member Units. The competition will follow a league-cum-knockout format, with pools structured based on the final number of participating teams.

Former Indian women's hockey captain Asunta Lakra expressed her excitement for the tournament and said, "Being part of the first-ever Hockey India Masters Cup is a deeply emotional and exciting moment for me. Hockey has shaped who I am, and to have the chance to return to the field, surrounded by fellow veterans who've shared similar journeys, is truly special. "This tournament isn't just about competition-it's about legacy, passion, and the lifelong bond we all have with the sport.

Cricketer Deepti accuses teammate Arushi of theft, files FIR

Agra, (HS) : India women's cricket team's star player Deepti Sharma has accused Delhi and UP Warriorz batter Arushi Goel of fraud. The all-rounder has claimed that Goel duped her for more than 25 lakhs and also broke into her flat in Agra to steal valuables. The stolen valuables included gold and silver jewellery and 2 lakh in foreign currency. She has also accused Goel of trespassing into her private property, a flat in Agra's Sadar area, in an FIR lodged recently.

According to the FIR, Goel has been accused of theft, house breaking, criminal breach of trust and insult under various sections of the BNS, which has replaced the Criminal Procedure Code. The complaint was lodged by Deepti's brother Sumit, on her behalf in Agra. Deepti is currently busy with the national team in Bengaluru, and is also a Deputy Superintendent of Police for Uttar Pradesh.

