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English Daily



SC order to probe police fake encounter cases



New Delhi, (HS) : The Supreme Court on Wednesday ordered the Assam Human Rights Commission (AHRC) to enquire into the allegations of "fake" encounters in the state. A Bench headed by Justice Surya Kant set aside the decision passed by the full Bench of the AHRC in January 2022 which had disposed of the issue of alleged fake encounters in the state on the pretext that the same was sub-judice before the Gauhati High Court. "The matter is directed to be reinstated on the Board of the AHRC for necessary enquiry into the allegations independently and expeditiously, in accordance with law," ordered the Bench, also comprising Justice N.K. Singh.

The apex court directed the AHRC to issue a public notice inviting all aggrieved individuals (victims and their family members) to come forward and furnish relevant information or evidence before the state human rights body. "The notice shall be published in at least one national English daily and one prominent vernacular newspaper with wide circulation throughout the State of Assam. The publication of such a notice shall be carried out in a manner that is accessible and understandable to the general public, including those residing in remote and conflict-prone areas," it ordered. The Justice Kant-led Bench told AHRC to adopt robust measures akin to witness protection protocols to safeguard the privacy, safety and security of those participating in the process. "We trust that the AHRC will proceed with the highest degree of sensitivity, impartiality, and diligence, thereby reinforcing public faith in the institutional mechanisms for protecting human rights," said the top court. Further, it ordered the Assam government to extend full cooperation to the AHRC and ensure that all logistical, financial, and administrative requirements for such an investigation are promptly and adequately met. The apex court directed the state government to provide access to records, facilitate the availability of forensic and expert resources, and remove any institutional barriers that may hinder the functioning of AHRC. Earlier in January 2023, the Gauhati High Court had dismissed the appellant's Public Interest Litigation (PIL) alleging that as many as 80 fake encounters took place in Assam, between May 2021 and December 2021, and during these encounters, 28 people were killed and 48 were left injured.

The PIL had sought records of all alleged fake encounters in Assam, registration of FIRs against the

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PM chairs PRAGATI meet, reviews three major infrastructure projects worth over Rs 62,000 crore

New Delhi, (HS) : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday chaired a meeting of the Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation, involving the Central and state governments. During the meeting, the prime minister reviewed three major infrastructure projects with a cumulative cost of over Rs 62,000 crore, spanning over sectors of Road Transport, Power, and Water Resources located across various States and UTs.

Emphasizing the strategic importance of these projects, he called for concerted efforts to overcome implementation bottlenecks to ensure their timely completion. Highlighting the adverse impact of project delays, the prime minister reiterated that such setbacks not only inflate costs but also deprive citizens of essential services and infrastructure. He urged all stakeholders to prioritize efficiency and accountability, stressing that timely delivery is critical to maximizing socio-economic outcomes. During a



review of public grievances linked to the Real Estate Regulatory Authority, he emphasized the need to improve the quality and timeliness of grievance disposal to ensure justice and fairness for homebuyers. He asked state governments to ensure mandatory registration of all eligible real estate projects under the RERA Act. He emphasized that strict compliance with RERA provisions is critical for restoring

trust in the housing market. The prime minister also examined notable best practices related to the development of the Semiconductor Ecosystem in India. He emphasized that such initiatives can serve as a guiding model for others and inspire broader adoption across states and UTs, thereby strengthening the National Semiconductor Mission. Up to the present PRAGATI meetings, 373 projects having a total cost of

around Rs 20.64 lakh crore have been reviewed.

Another The BJP has unveiled an ambitious nationwide outreach campaign titled '11 Years of Modi Government - Sankalp Se Siddhi' to commemorate Prime Minister Narendra Modi's completion of 11 years in office. The initiative, aimed at celebrating key governance milestones and projecting the vision of Viksit Bharat, was announced through an official circular by BJP National General Secretary Arun Singh. The campaign will also spotlight the recent success of Operation Sindoor, with the PM stating, "The bravery and courage displayed by our forces during Operation Sindoor has made every Indian proud. The destruction caused to enemy terrorist camps across the border with great precision was mind-blowing. Operation Sindoor has globally given a new paradigm to fight against terrorism." As part of the campaign, an extensive roadmap of activities and deadlines has been laid out. State-

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CM Lauds MSP Hike for 14 Kharif Crops in 2025-26 Season



Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi expressed heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs for approving an increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for 14 Kharif crops for the 2025-26 marketing season. In a post on X, Majhi highlighted the decision as a significant step toward supporting farmers and fostering agricultural growth across India, aligning with the vision of a #ViksitBharat by 2047.

The MSP hike comes as

part of the central government's ongoing efforts to ensure farmers receive fair remuneration for their produce, especially amidst challenges like fluctuating market prices and surplus stocks. Majhi emphasised the transformative potential of the MSP hike for farmers in his state and beyond. Odisha, with its significant agricultural base, stands to benefit from this policy, particularly for crops like paddy, which dominate Kharif cultivation in the region. The decision is expected to provide financial stability to farmers,

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No Abnormal Rise in Covid-19 Cases at Odisha: Health Director



Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : Amid reports of five persons testing positive for Covid-19 in Odisha, State Public Health Director Dr. Nilakantha Mishra on Wednesday urged the public to remain calm, stating that there is no abnormal surge in cases and the situation is under control. "We did not receive any report. However, once the cases were reported, we initiated testing and inquiries. So far, there is no unusual increase in Covid-19 cases. There is no reason to panic," Dr. Mishra said while addressing the media. He clarified that the Government of India has not issued any new guidelines and reassured that the detected variant, JN.1, is not a cause for alarm. "This is a normal variant already present in India. The patient identified with JN.1 is in stable condition and expected to be discharged soon. The disease is not spreading rapidly and no alarming trends have been observed in the state," he added. Dr. Mishra appealed to the media not to exaggerate the situation, emphasizing that verified data should guide public communication. "If any new cases are detected, we confirm them via RT-PCR (Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction) and conduct genome sequencing before making official announcements." He further noted that guidelines issued in 2022 remain in effect and new directives will be communicated as and when issued by the central government, WHO, or ICMR. "People, especially those with weakened immune systems, should continue to follow preventive measures. At present, the health system is functioning well, and there is no need for panic," Dr. Mishra concluded.

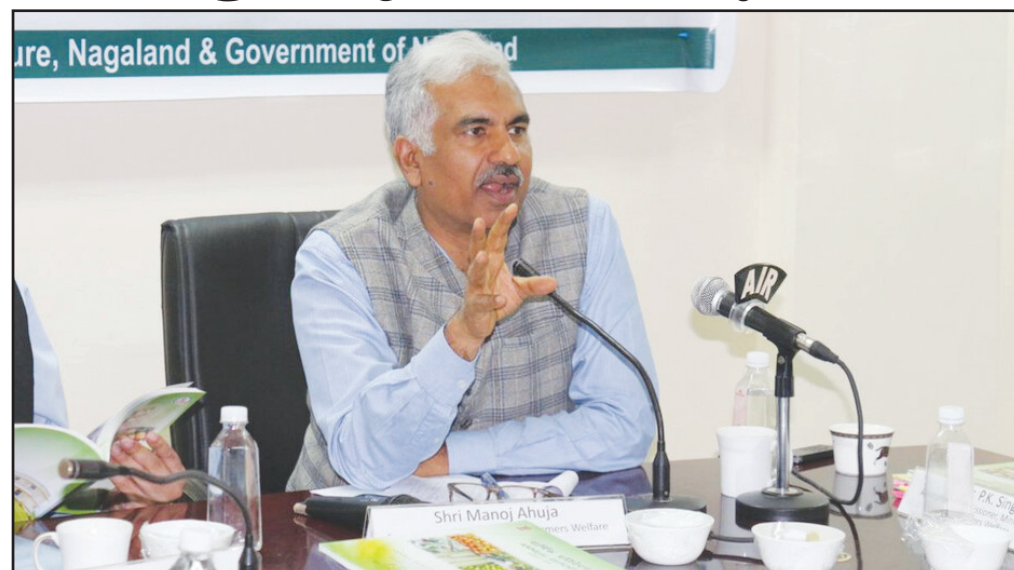
Cabinet decision: Odisha raises upper age limit for govt jobs to 42 years

Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : The Odisha Cabinet led by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi today approved five proposals of various departments.

The Cabinet gave its nod to a proposal to raise the upper age limit for entry into various government services in Odisha to 42 years from the existing 32 years, said Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja. The upper age limit for entry into government services in the state is governed under the Odisha Civil Service (Fixation of Upper Age Limit) Rules-1989. As per the rules, the upper age limit for entry into government jobs is 32 years. The state government had received several representations from various quarters to raise the upper age limit so as to enable the overaged aspirants to participate in the recruitment process, said the Chief Secretary. After careful consideration, the state government has decided to enhance the upper age limit to 42 years from 32 years, he added. "The above upper age limit will be relaxed further for candidates of ST, SC, SEBC, Women, Ex-Servicemen and PwDs," revealed the Chief Secretary.

However, the enhancement in the upper age limit will not be

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Odisha Cabinet Approves Creation of Odisha Ophthalmic Service Rules 2025

Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : In a significant move to enhance healthcare services in the state, the State Cabinet has approved the proposal for creation of the Odisha Ophthalmic Service (Methods of Recruitment and Conditions of Service) Rules, 2025.

The decision aims to provide better healthcare services to the public and meet the Indian Public Health Standard (IPHS). Currently, 197 Ophthalmic Assistants are working in various healthcare facilities across the state. With this approval, 141 additional

base-level posts and 200 promotional posts will be created, resulting in a total of 338 base-level posts and 538 posts in the Odisha Ophthalmic Service Cadre.

The creation of the Odisha Ophthalmic Service Cadre is expected to provide job security and career advancement opportunities to eligible Ophthalmic Assistants. Moreover, it will facilitate new recruitment of Ophthalmic Officers, ultimately benefiting the public by improving eye care services.

Monsoon Hits Odisha 14 Days Early, Heavy Rainfall Warning Issued Until May 30

Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : The southwest monsoon has made an early entry into Odisha, arriving 14 days ahead of its usual schedule, bringing much-needed relief from the summer heat but also triggering warnings for heavy rainfall across the state. According to the Regional Meteorological Centre in Bhubaneswar, the monsoon has fully advanced into Malkangiri and Koraput districts, while partially covering Kalahandi, Nabarangpur, Gajapati, and Rayagada. Favourable weather conditions are expected to propel the monsoon across the entire state within the next two days, a rare occurrence in May, previously recorded only twice

since 1960 - in 1999 and 2009.

The early onset, which began with the monsoon hitting Kerala on May 24, 2025, has been attributed to conducive atmospheric conditions. The monsoon's northern limit currently passes through Mumbai, Ahlyanagar, Adilabad, Dantewada, Rayagada, Agartala, and Goalpara, with further advancement expected into parts of Chhattisgarh, Odisha, northeastern states, West Bengal, and Sikkim in the coming days. Manorama Mohanty, Director of the Regional Meteorological Centre, stated, "The southwest monsoon has touched Odisha, with significant progress in southern districts. The weather



remains favourable for its rapid spread across the state." On Wednesday, southern Odisha districts, particularly Malkangiri and Koraput, experienced widespread monsoon showers. A well-marked low-pressure area

over the northwest Bay of Bengal intensified rainfall, with districts like Gajapati, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Rayagada, Nabarangpur, Ganjam, Nayagarh, Khordha, Cuttack, and Puri recording light to moderate rain

accompanied by thunderstorms. Angul recorded the highest rainfall at 74 mm, followed by Dhenkanal (43 mm), Chhatrapur (34 mm), Puri and Gopalpur (29.5 mm), and Khordha (21 mm). The low-pressure system is expected to intensify into a depression by Thursday, prompting the Regional Meteorological Centre to issue a heavy rainfall warning until May 30. An orange warning has been issued for Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Bhadrak, and Kendrapara, anticipating heavy rain, thunderstorms, and winds of 50-60 kmph. A yellow warning covers Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Bargarh, Sambalpur, Deogarh, Puri,

Khordha, Nayagarh, Ganjam, Gajapati, Sonepur, Boudh, Nuapada, Balangir, Kalahandi, and Rayagada. The weather department predicts no significant change in temperatures for the next week, ensuring continued relief from heat. The active low-pressure area, coupled with a cyclonic circulation extending up to 7.6 km above sea level, is driving the intense rainfall. A trough from western Rajasthan to northern Chhattisgarh via eastern Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh is further contributing to the wet spell. This early monsoon arrival, combined with the looming depression, has raised concerns about potential flooding in low-lying areas, urging authorities to stay vigilant.

Mother Tongue

Indian education urgently needs to address a range of challenges: Equipping students with future-ready skills, improving learning outcomes and critical thinking skills, integrating artificial intelligence (AI) into classrooms, and closing the gap between academic learning and employability. At this time, the Centre's push to mandate mother tongue-based instruction at the foundational level is potentially misdirected. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has instructed schools to map students' mother tongues and design early-grade instructions around them by the end of the summer break. While this move aligns with the National Education Policy 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework for School Education's advocacy of foundational learning in the home language, mother tongue, or regional language at least until Class II, it risks diverting attention and resources from far more critical priorities. The pedagogical value of foundational literacy in a familiar language is well established, but in certain contexts. International models, from Ethiopia to the Philippines, and local experiments, such as Odisha's successful 2006 mother tongue-based multilingual education pilot programme, validate the benefits of this approach. However, these models often operate in relatively homogeneous linguistic settings or are tightly focused on marginalised groups. Applying the same logic uniformly across India's vast multilingual CBSE ecosystem introduces significant complexities. In cities and towns where classrooms host students from a wide array of linguistic backgrounds, the logistics of assigning instructions by mother tongue or home language are deeply problematic. They raise practical questions - how should a classroom with multiple languages be managed? Which language should be prioritised? Trained personnel, multilingual teaching resources and dynamic classroom strategies continue to be in short supply. The result could be inconsistent, confused, and uneven learning experiences - the opposite of what foundational education requires. The move risks sidelining an even more urgent national conversation: How to adapt the classroom to the realities of rapid technological changes and geopolitical churn. While the world races to integrate AI into pedagogy, enhance digital literacy, and prepare students for jobs that don't yet exist, India's education system is at risk of being bogged down in language politics. For better or worse, English remains the language of aspiration, global communication, and economic mobility for millions of Indian families. An inflexible emphasis on mother-tongue instruction could set back long-term prospects for students, especially those from economically weaker sections for whom an English-medium education remains key to social advancement.

In West Bengal, for instance, the Left Front government's rigid implementation of Bengali-medium primary education in government schools in the 1980s left generations with poor English proficiency. This became a disadvantage in white-collar employment, forcing a policy reversal in later years. In a country of India's diversity, any pedagogical shift, especially those directed at early learners, must be well thought out. The CBSE's move, without addressing deeper systemic needs, risks derailing India's educational progress. Policymakers must focus on what matters most: Building a modern, inclusive and intuitive education system that prepares students for the world they will inherit.

29th May

Mount Everest Day

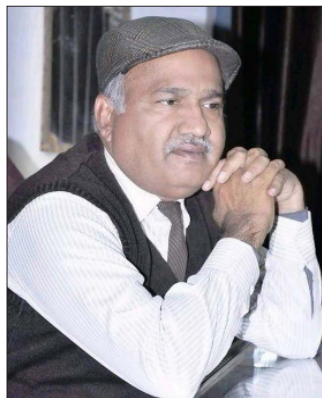


Mount Everest Day is celebrated every year on May 29. The date was chosen to honor the mountain climbers Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay Sherpa who climbed the mountain on that day in 1953. Climbing Mount Everest is an accomplishment many people dream of but only a few achieve. Climbing the tallest mountain in the world comes with some life-threatening risks. It requires very good physical fitness. The climbers who make it usually have trained for many years before attempting the tallest mountain. It can take a good climber about two months to reach the peak.

Mount Everest is known for being the highest mountain above sea level. It stands tall in the Mahalangur Himal sub-range of the Himalayas. Its height is about 29,000 feet. Many climbers are attracted to the mountain, including highly experienced mountaineers. There are two routes to climb the mountain. The first is the standard route which approaches the summit from the southeast in Nepal. The other route approaches it from the north in Tibet. Climbing the mountain requires substantial technical climbing skills. It also comes with significant risks such as altitude sickness, weather, wind, and hazards from avalanches and the Khumbu Icefall. Some mountaineers have attempted the climb and have not made it back.

Mount Everest Day is a chance to celebrate the brave climbers who attempt the mighty Everest. They are a reminder that anything is possible when you are determined. The holiday signifies bravery and endurance. It takes a lot of courage to embark on a dangerous climb like Mount Everest. People all over the world can be inspired to take more chances and go after their dreams. It shows people that they can face any challenges they may be facing in their lives. The holiday raises awareness about the natural wonder. This eventually leads to support that can aid the mountain's preservation. Preserving the environment's natural treasures is important for our society and future generations.

A knock of change in the language of justice



Vijay Garg

Hindi experiment in Rashtrapati Bhavan on May 14 created a new history. The oath-taking ceremony of Justice Bhushan Ramakrishna Gawai became historic as the 52nd Chief Justice of the country. He started a new tradition by taking oath in Hindi. So far, all the Chief Justice has been taking oath in English only.

Major personalities like the Prime Minister of the country, President, Vice President, Governor of the States and Chief Minister have already been sworn in in Hindi, but the highest post of the judiciary was untouched by it so far. Justice Gawai, who belongs to Vidarbha region of Maharashtra, broke that tradition by taking oath in Hindi and gave respect to Hindi, neglected in the judiciary so far. His decision is being welcomed by various social organizations. Using the mother

tongue in her swearing-in, Justice Gawai has filled the lovers of millions of Hindi and other Indian languages of the country with a new hope. People hope that all Indian languages including Hindi in the judiciary under their leadership will receive due respect and space. It is ironic that hearing has been allowed in Hindi in the courts of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) six years ago, while the Supreme Judiciary of India is still limited to English today. Expectations from Justice Gawai are also because there are important rights inherent in his post. The language of proceedings in any High Court cannot become local without the consent of the Chief Justice. According to Article 348(1)(a) of the Constitution, the proceedings of the Supreme Court and all High Court will be done in English only.

However, part (2) of the same paragraph also provides that if a state wants to do judicial work in its official language, the Governor can obtain the consent of the President and allow the use of Hindi or other official language of the state in the proceedings of the concerned High Court. Section 7 of the Official Language Act, 1963 also provides similar provision. Under this, the Governor, with the prior consent of the President, may permit English as well as Hindi or other use of the State for the judgment or orders of the High Court. Unfortunately,



despite these constitutional and legal provisions, the use of them has been very limited till date. Under the provisions of the Constitution Hindi was to get permission to function throughout the country as an ol from January 26, 1965. But with sharp opposition against it, Tamil Nadu's Dravid politics jumped into the ground. However, when he realised that it would not be appropriate to do so on Republic Day, he did so one day earlier i.e. on January 25. The Cabinet Committee was constituted for consideration of policy because of such disputes arising out of the ol who in his meeting dated May 21, 1965 decided that the consent of the Chief Justice of the country should be obtained on a proposal

relating to the use of any language other than English in the High Court. In the eyes of Indian language lovers, this provision is the biggest obstacle in the way of becoming the language of justice of Indian languages. The functioning permit in Hindi under the Samvidhanik provision was first achieved to Rajasthan, which was allowed to take action in Hindi in 1950. Hindi proceedings were allowed in the Allahabad High Court in 1969, while Madhya Pradesh received 1971 and Bihar in 1972. There are many states that asked for permission to take action in their high court in their languages from time to time, but they only got failure. Although the enthusiasm of Indian language lovers did not

diminish despite all the constitutional provisions and their hindrance. They have been demanding Indian languages to form the language of judiciary. It has also affected the higher judiciary. Of course judicial proceedings are not happening in Indian languages, but the jurisdiction has moved towards making smooth access to common people till decisions and judicial proceedings.

Under this, the proceedings and decisions are being promoted to translation from English to regional languages. The Supreme Court has constituted an AI assisted legal translation advisory committee under the chairmanship of Justice Abhay S Oka. Through this, thousands of decisions, etc., are being translated in 16 languages so far. Like Oka committee all highcourts have also made committees for their translation here. The Bar Council of India under the Ministry of Law and Justice has taken place before the former Chief Justice of the country, Justice S.A. Bobde chaired by 'Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti' has also formed. This committee is developing a similar vocabulary for all Indian languages with an aim to translate legal content into regional languages.

Retired Principal Educational Columnist Eminent Educationist street kour Chand MHR Malout Punjab

Desires Are a Prison

Kishore Kumar Jena

What is the meaning of "Ceiling on Desires"? Man is deluded by his unlimited desires. He is living in a dream world. He is forgetting the Supreme Consciousness. That is why it is important to keep our desires under control, to place a ceiling on them. We are spending too much money. Instead of inordinate spending for our own pleasure, we should be spending for the relief of the poor and needy. This is the real meaning of "Ceiling on Desires." Do not make the mistake of thinking that giving money is all that is needed, however. Do not give to others while allowing your own desires to continue to multiply. Curtail your desires, as materialistic desires lead to a restless and disastrous life. Desires are a prison. Man can be freed only by limiting his wants. You should have desire only for life's bare necessities.

First, food. Eat only what you need to eat. Don't be greedy. Do not take more than you can eat and waste the rest, because wasting food is a great sin. The surplus food can feed another stomach. Do not waste food, because food is God, life is God, and man is born from food. Food is the main source of man's life, body, mind, and character. The gross part of the food, which is the major portion of the food consumed by the body, is thrown out as waste matter. A minute amount of the food, which is the subtle part, is assimilated by the body and flows as blood. And a minuscule amount, which is the subtlest part of the food, makes up the mind. Therefore the mind is the reflection of the food consumed. The reason for the present beastly and demonic tendencies in our minds is because of the food we consume. Instead



of kindness, compassion, love, and patience, only bad qualities such as hatred and attachment are being perpetrated. Therefore the quality of the food that we eat should be very pure, very clean, very sanctified, and satwic. Man receives real nourishment from such food. A large part of the water we drink is expelled as urine. A minute part of the water consumed becomes the life force. Therefore the nature of the food and water that we take in decides our character. Only by controlling the quality of our food and water can we attain Divinity. That is why food is said to be God. Hence to waste food is to waste God. Do not waste food. Eat only what you need, and be sure that what you eat is satwic. Give any surplus food to those in need. Second, money. Indians consider money or wealth as the Goddess Lakshmi. Do not misuse money. By doing so you will only become a slave to bad qualities, bad ideas, and bad habits. Use your money wisely for good deeds. Do not waste money, as misuse of money is evil. It will lead you along the wrong path. Third, time. The most important, the most needed factor is time. One should not waste time. Time should be spent in a useful manner. Time should be sanctified because everything in

this creation is dependent on time. Even our scriptures say that God is referred to as time and as non-time. God is not limited by time. He is beyond time; He is time; He restricts time. Time is the embodiment of God. Everything depends on time. The main reason for man's birth and death is time. Time is the main factor in our growth. If we waste time, our lives will be wasted. Therefore time is an essential part of our life. Do not degrade time by spending it participating in unnecessary conversations, or by getting involved in others' personal matters. The truth behind the saying "Don't waste time" is that no time should be wasted in evil thoughts and acts. Instead, make use of time in an efficient way.

Fourth, energy. Our physical, mental, and spiritual energies should never be wasted. You might ask me, "How are we wasting our energies?" If you see bad things, your energy is wasted. Hearing bad things, speaking evil, thinking evil thoughts, and doing evil deeds wastes your energy. Conserve your energy in all these five areas, and make your life more meaningful.

Advocate, Bangali Sahi, Cuttack

Soura Chandra Mohapatra

Do all work as actors in a play, keeping your identity separate and to attached to your personality or your role. Remember that the whole thing is just a play and the Lord has assigned you a part; act well your part, there all your duty ends. He has designed

Attitude Towards Work

the play and He enjoys it. The ideal should be hands dedicated to hard work, heads educated to service and hearts full of compassion. What ever work you have to do. You should do it with pleasure and liking. Man must work every moment of his life, he can not

avoid this burden. His very existence depends upon action exertion, work. Each man in a anenterprise must resolve to use his skill and intelligence for the discharge of his obligation. On your part be immersed in the duties entrusted to you, remember

that it is Swami's work when you discharge your duties. Be convinced that the work is Mine, then health and happiness will be added unto you. Discharging your duties in a religious manner is, in itself, a service. One should regard service as performing

one's duties properly and working enough to justify the pay one gets. If a person works conscientiously every minute of the day, doing the job he is hired to do that is service. Whatever you do wherever you are placed, believe that God has put you there for that work.

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Prof. Dr. Samrat Kar

It is quite fascinating to watch the movement of the herd. If you observe closely, you will see one from the herd a bit ahead and in close-knit formations the rest will trail closely behind, refusing to break free and also uninterested in adopting a new leader even in their specified rows. Their thinking is even more alluring. They think exactly like the chap slightly ahead, they collectively refuse to entertain new opinions and ideas. Nobody dares to speak a word against the leader, if they do, they will be dropped from the herd. However archaic the leader's thoughts may be, it is easily adopted by the herd in collective glee come what may.

There are many groups and parties who bear the insignia of the herd. This has been their biggest peril and results are evident. The Congress party for one adopted this mentality completely and the result is for all to see. Of course, the other confusion that did exist within the Congress party was they could not accurately identify the leader of the herd. They believed that they were being led by a young calf when in reality they were being led by the matriarch. In this breakdown of command prevailed utter confusion and lack of respect for the newly ornamented leader. And even in defeat the herd mentality has been abundantly transparent. If the leader of the herd declares that all but the leader was responsible for leading the herd into a sinking-sand, then this manifests as absolute truth.

Some are so engrossed with the idea of collective identity that they cannot perceive anything else. It needs certain amount of character, attitude and vision to break free from the shackles of restraint. The herd mentality inspires blind allegiance. We see this in our day-

to-day lives. If we question acts of bamboozlement, we are in turned questioned for our actions by the herd. We are accused of either being out of line or for not conforming to social dictums passed by the herd. It takes a strong individual to ignore counter accusations and press on without compromising on his / her core belief. They represent a very few percentage of this society. In a recent personal issue, a friend & I have pursued a case where we have exposed certain financial irregularities and rigging practised by so called respectable people of this society. Supposedly respectable individuals have stooped to nadir levels and have indulged in acts of forgery and fabrication. And not surprisingly, the herd have refuted our claims despite enough and more evidence. Both their egos and their alter egos have received a sudden jolt and they adorn blinkers. I already have filed a case against a few individuals who have intimidated me. No, we are not dissuaded in the least, in fact lets say we are more determined that ever before and we know how to take matters to a logical conclusion. We take great pride in the way we think especially because it does not conform to the herd's thinking; that the place of the woman is in the kitchen or at the feet of her man. The herd mentality is also hard mentality. It will not soften easily. It needs many individuals to break away from hives and resist collective challenge. It needs gumption to resist popular notions and beliefs. Crowd wisdom is not always right. When people become sheeple, they seldom realize Pied Piper is leading them over the cliff. – "We are sheep in a herd of sheep, but Clytemnestra, Electra and Death are burnt like star-names in the sky" – Hilda Doolittle

Psychiatrist, The Brain Foundation, Purigat Road, Cuttack

Odisha Launches 'ANKUR' To Build Resilient And Citizen-Centric Cities By 2036

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): In a landmark step towards redefining the future of urban development in Odisha, the Housing & Urban Development Department today launched ANKUR - Atal Network for Knowledge, Urbanization & Reform, a strategic initiative designed to catalyze inclusive, sustainable, and innovative urban growth across the state. MoUs were signed between the department and six leading institutions and organizations working in the urban development ecosystem- Sajith Sukumaran, Director, State Programs, Janaagraha;

Viraj Tyagi, CEO, eGOV Foundation; Parul Agarwala, Country Programme Manager, UN-Habitat, India; Manvita Baradi, Founder-Director, UMC (Urban Management Centre); Bhuvana Anand, Founder-Director, Prosperiti; and Devjit Mitra, Socrates Foundations. Krushna Chandra Mahapatra, Minister, Housing & Urban Development graced as Chief Guest. Speaking on the occasion Mahapatra told "ANKUR" represents a collective promise - to build cities that are efficient, smart, and above all, citizen-centric. This is a



movement towards a Viksit Odisha, co-authored by communities, institutions, and government alike. "Usha Padhee, Principal Secretary, H&UD Department in her well come address highlighted on the programme being launched today. She told that the genesis of ANKUR was not a single moment, but rather a series of reflections, conversations, and collaborations.

It was born from a growing realization within our department - that the pace and complexity of urbanization in Odisha required new thinking, new partnerships, and new platforms. Over the past year, through internal consultations and engagements with experts, practitioners, and

institutions across the country and beyond, a vision began to take shape. ANKUR emerged as an answer to those questions - a platform to co-create solutions, to institutionalize innovation, and to sustain partnerships that can carry us through the next decade of urban growth.

As Odisha's urban population is projected to triple by 2036, ANKUR has been envisioned as a transformative platform to co-create resilient, livable, and future-ready cities. Anchored in the values of collaborative governance, ANKUR aligns with the national aspiration of Viksit Bharat @2047, while responding to Odisha's unique socio-economic and urban context. It will strengthen four strategic

pillars of urban development- capacity building, knowledge & research, implementation support and innovation. Inspired by the legacy of Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee and under the visionary leadership of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, ANKUR will serve as the institutional backbone to drive reform, innovation, and evidence-based urban decision-making in the state.

In addition, the Government acknowledged the long-standing support of organizations such as the National Institute of Urban Affairs, Tata Steel Foundation, World Resources Institute and others who have contributed significantly to Odisha's urban evolution.

ANKUR is poised to become the nerve centre of Odisha's urban reform agenda. With a commitment to decentralization, inclusivity, and knowledge-led action, the initiative will foster a new era of urban partnerships- ensuring that no city, and no citizen, is left behind. The Senior Officers of the department & leading national and international partners were present during the MoU signing ceremony held in the 8th Floor Conference Hall of Kharabela Bhawan.

Odisha Guv Urges Officers To Master Welfare Schemes For Better Outreach

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): Odisha Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati on Wednesday emphasized the need for officers to acquire in-depth knowledge of all government development and welfare schemes to effectively support the poor and marginalized communities. Kambhampati was speaking at a training program for Additional District Welfare Officers and Assistant Labour Officers, organized by the Gopabandhu Academy of Administration at New Abhishek Hall, Raj Bhavan.

Addressing 90 officers in training, the Governor underlined the importance of going beyond the boundaries of their individual departments to gain a comprehensive understanding of both central and state schemes. This, he noted, would empower them to communicate effectively with citizens, ensuring maximum outreach and benefit. The Governor specifically cited flagship schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, and the Subhadra Yojana, noting their impact on women, workers, Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes, and other underprivileged



groups. He urged officers to act as enablers, making sure that the benefits of these initiatives reach the intended beneficiaries. He also directed the Gopabandhu Academy to compile all welfare schemes into a single reference booklet, which could be distributed among trainees for better awareness and implementation. Addressing the Additional District Welfare Officers, the Governor highlighted their crucial role in advancing the interests of Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes, backward classes, and minorities. He called for increased efforts in facilitating scholarships, legal aid, compensation, inter-caste marriage incentives, and insurance for vulnerable tribal groups. Speaking to Assistant Labour Officers, the Governor

described them as "guardians of workers' rights" and encouraged them to enforce labor laws rigorously, ensure fair wages, promote workplace safety, and protect workers-especially those in the unorganized sector. The event witnessed participation from 63 Assistant Labour Officers and 27 Additional District Welfare Officers. The Governor personally interacted with each officer, reflecting his commitment to engaging directly with the administrative machinery. The Governor's Principal Secretary, NTS Rajput, and the Additional Director of the Gopabandhu Academy of Administration, Shiv Narayan Sahu, were present. Sahu delivered the introductory address, setting the tone for the interactive and impactful session.

No Abnormal Rise In Covid-19 Cases In Odisha: Health Director

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): Amid reports of five persons testing positive for Covid-19 in Odisha, State Public Health Director Dr. Nilakantha Mishra on Wednesday urged the public to remain calm, stating that there is no abnormal surge in cases and the situation is under control. "We did not receive any report. However, once the cases were reported, we initiated testing and inquiries.

So far, there is no unusual increase in Covid-19 cases. There is no reason to panic," Dr. Mishra said while addressing the media. He clarified that the Government of India has not issued any new guidelines and reassured that the detected variant, JN.1, is not a cause for alarm. "This is a normal variant already present in India. The patient identified with JN.1 is in stable condition and expected to be discharged soon. The disease is not spreading rapidly and no



alarming trends have been observed in the state," he added. Dr. Mishra appealed to the media not to exaggerate the situation, emphasizing that verified data should guide public communication."

If any new cases are detected, we confirm them via RT-PCR (Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction) and conduct genome sequencing before making official

announcements. "He further noted that guidelines issued in 2022 remain in effect and new directives will be communicated as and when issued by the central government, WHO, or ICMR."

People, especially those with weakened immune systems, should continue to follow preventive measures. At present, the health system is functioning well, and there is no need for panic," Dr. Mishra concluded.

AIIMS Bhubaneswar to use AI for early detection of Thyroid disorders



Bhubaneswar, (DMC): Artificial Intelligence (AI) is poised to revolutionize the early detection and treatment of thyroid-related illnesses, according to AIIMS

Bhubaneswar Executive Director Ashutosh Biswas. Speaking on Wednesday, Dr. Biswas emphasized the transformative potential of AI in the realm of

personalized healthcare, particularly in managing hypothyroidism-a condition that impacts roughly one in ten adults in India. "The AI-based diagnostic system, soon to be implemented at AIIMS Bhubaneswar, will enhance early detection, monitor disease progression, and facilitate outcome-driven treatment. This innovation will be especially valuable for patients in rural and underserved regions," he said.

Odisha Showcases 'Housing For All' Strategy At ADB Forum In Manila

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): The Asian Development Bank's Water and Urban Development Forum (AWUF) 2025 held today at ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, brought global attention to the urgent need for affordable housing solutions in urban areas. According to an official press release, the forum served as a collaborative platform to deliberate on sustainable and inclusive strategies to ensure 'Housing for All',

particularly for the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and Lower Income Groups (LIG) who often face barriers to owning a pucca house due to high construction and property costs. The deliberations went beyond housing and focused on integrating key urban development components such as improving living standards, access to healthcare and education, skill development, and livelihood opportunities, essential for holistic urban transformation. Panelists and experts from leading global institutions and countries-



including UN-Habitat, Malaysia, India, and the Netherlands-shared innovative practices and experiences. These insights aimed to inform future housing policies and foster regional and international collaboration. Representing the Government of Odisha, Debasis Singh, Additional Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department, addressed the global gathering and highlighted Odisha's exemplary journey toward achieving the vision of 'Housing for All'.

His presentation covered: The State's key achievements under various affordable housing initiatives; Challenges and constraints in addressing urban

housing needs; Innovative models adopted to ensure inclusivity and sustainability; The strategic roadmap and opportunities ahead to scale housing solutions. Singh emphasized Odisha's commitment to creating resilient and inclusive urban spaces that uplift the quality of life for all, particularly the urban poor.

He also called for stronger cooperation at national, regional, and city levels to accelerate progress toward the global housing agenda. The session concluded with an agreement on the need for multi-level partnerships and knowledge sharing to address the housing crisis and build cities that are equitable, liveable, and future-ready.

Bhubaneswar/Singapore, (DMC): RR Events Cine Production (RRECP) with the support of Odia Society of Singapore (OSS) hosted Five Star Film Awards presentation Ceremony in Singapore with much pomp, myriad splendour and massive fanfare. Stream of appreciation has been pouring in from Odisha to Singapore over the stupendous success of the supersonic Show. This was the second occasion of holding the Awards Ceremony of Odia Cinema in outside the Country.

The theme of Singapore Ceremony was Odia Pride in abroad. The main Organiser of the Mega Event, Founder Chairman of RRECP and Renowned movie producer Ramesh Barik observed that the sole aim of holding this Award Ceremony outside the Country is to earn honour and recognition for talented Odia Cine Artists in International platform. The Award Ceremony at Singapore showcased spectacular and spellbinding presentations of Odisha's rich art, vibrant culture, lofty tradition, amazing



heritage, magnificent music, mesmerizing dance and awesome acting skill. The remarkable cultural Jamboori entitled 'Five Star Film Awards 2025 Singapore' was held at Quantum Arena Auditorium of One World International School in Singapore.

The gigantic Auditorium was decked up aesthetically and elegantly befitting to the grand occasion. The Mammoth celebration was graced by senior officials of RRECP, leaders of Odia Society of Singapore, Eminent NROs and hundreds of Odias residing in Singapore. Since the Ollywood Award Ceremony was being held for the first time in Singapore,

unusual interest, unexpected enthusiasm and unprecedented excitements were witnessed among the Organisers and participants. The entire ambience and atmosphere was agog with Festive fervour and celebratory fever. In the beginning one minute silence was observed in the memory of Pehalgam victims.

The much awaited Star studded ceremony commenced with the showing of Five Star Award trophies by the invited guests and hosts. The Distinguished Guests include Chairman of the Executive Committee of Indian Activities in Singapore K. Ramamoorthy, MLAs Prasanta Kumar Jagadev and Akash Das Nayak, veteran

Actress Mahasweta Ray, Chairman of World Odisha Society Kishore Dwibedi, Senior Cine artist Snigdha Mohanty Bose, Founder of Kaizen Group Swadeep Chhotray and Senior Journalist Manoranjan Mishra.

The hosts, Chairman of RRECP Ramesh Barik, President and Secretary Of OSS Subrat Nayak And Hemant Rout were present on the Dias. Addressing the gathering Chief Guest K. Ramamoorthy lauded the exquisite art and exuberant culture of Odisha. Mahasweta Ray gave a clarion call to Salute our brave soldiers for their sterling role in providing safety and security to the Nation.

Utkal Hospital Launches 'Two Minute Action for Oral Cancer Protection'

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): In a timely and impactful initiative, Utkal Hospital, in association with Merck Specialities Private Limited has launched the "Two-Minute Action for Oral Cancer Protection" 2 campaign with the hashtag #ActAgainstOralCancer on the note of World No Tobacco Day. This nationwide effort aims to tackle the alarming rise in oral cancer cases by encouraging individuals to perform a quick self-check using mirrors that are almost always available to one and all. Experts are urging the public to look for warning signs such as white or red patches in the mouth, non-healing ulcers or unexplained bleeding, persistent swelling or voice changes.

The message is clear: Feel, Look, and Act. Early detection through a quick mirror check can make all the difference between timely treatment and a missed opportunity. By turning mirrors into tools of awareness, the experts are empowering individuals to take charge of their health in just two minutes because early action can save lives. Through this initiative, patients who are visiting hospitals can also activate this self-check-up where mirrors will be strategically placed in the hospital waiting areas. During the launch of the campaign Dr. Sanjib Kumar Mishra, Director & Senior Consultant Radiation Oncology, Dr. Chinmaya Kumar Pani, Consultant - Medical Oncology & BMT, Dr. Sanjaya Kumar Mishra, Director & Senior Consultant - Radiation



Oncology, and medical staff, were present. India is the world's capital of Head and neck cancer³. Every year, around 2 lakh patient sardonely diagnosed with Head and neck cancer, which is the highest compared to any other country.

In 2022, simply the number of Lip and oral cavity cancer cases were more than a lakh (65%). Adding the rest of the head and neck cancer sub-sites, the numbers will be nothing less than 20-25% of the total male cancers in our country. Unfortunately, in India, around 60 to 70% of patients already have advanced disease (stage 3-4) at the time of diagnosis.⁴ "With increasing burden of oral cancer cases in the country, early diagnosis is paramount. Oral Visual Inspection (OVI), mouth self-examination, biopsy and histo-pathological examination enable detection at early stages, facilitating timely intervention. It is also important to

integrate palliative care early in the treatment process. Palliative care for oral cancer includes pain management, nutritional support, emotional counseling, and assistance with speech and swallowing to improve the patient's quality of life.

Early palliative care not only alleviates pain but also enhances the overall quality of life for patients, aiding in informed decision-making throughout the disease trajectory. There should be awareness and accessibility of palliative services to ensure holistic support for patients and their families," said Dr. Sanjib Kumar Mishra, Director & Senior Consultant Radiation Oncology, Utkal Hospital. "This campaign encourages individuals to follow the simple 2-minute self-check every month as early detection is best prevention. LOOK at the entire mouth in mirror for white or red patches in the mouth, ulcers that don't heal within

2 weeks and unusual bleeding or loose teeth. FEEL for changes, like lumps or swelling in the jaw or neck, hoarseness or voice change, persistent pain in ear or when swallowing. ACT with urgency if you notice signs, and don't delay. Visit the doctor to rule them out as early check equals to better chances of cure," said Dr. Chinmaya Kumar Pani, Consultant - Medical Oncology & BMT, Utkal Hospital."

Radiation therapy plays a crucial role in the treatment of head and neck cancers by targeting tumors precisely while preserving surrounding healthy tissues. Early-stage detection combined with timely radiation treatment significantly improves outcomes. We are committed to delivering advanced, patient-centered cancer care," said Dr. Sanjaya Kumar Mishra, Director & Senior Consultant - Radiation Oncology, Utkal Hospital.

Industry Minister holds review meeting on Paradip Constituency Level Development



Paradip, (DMC): The review meeting of the Paradip Assembly Constituency Level Development Committee was held at Special Circuit House in Paradip on Tuesday evening. The meeting was presided over by Sampad Chandra Swain, Minister for Industries, Skill Development & Technical Education, Govt. Of Odisha. He emphasis on proper coordination between district

administration, public representatives and sincere efforts of departmental officers to implement various development schemes of the government in the district. In the meeting, Minister Shri Swain reviewed the progress and implementation of development works. He asked the departmental officers about the details of how much the target

given by the government has been achieved. In this meeting, all the departmental officers were present and participated in the discussion and informed about the functioning of their respective departments. In this meeting, all the departmental officers of the district including Jagatsinghpur SP Bhabani Sankar Udgata, Paradip ADM Niranjan Behera, Zilla Pasisad Chief Development and Executive Officer Ravi Narayan Jethi, Deputy Collector Prasant Kumar Tarai, Paradip Municipality Chairman Basant Biswal,

Paradip Municipal Executive Officer Abhishek Panda, Kujang Block Development Officer Dipak Prasad Swain, Kujang Tehsildar Swarup Nanda Behera were present. The Minister clarified that the contribution of the Paradip Assembly Constituency must be ensured to achieve the goals of 'Prosperous Odisha' by 2036 and 'Developed Odisha' by 2047.

Bari's Kid makes into India Book of Records

Jajpur, (DMC): Age is just a number, at Two Years of age toddler Shreyans of Jajpur district's Bodua area has secured his name in India Book of Records for his memory skills. Shreyans has bagged this achievement along with the IBR trophy, ID cards, Medals and other gifts by the organisation. Lopamudra Mohanty, Mother to Shreyans, speaking to Press said, Shreyans abilities have not only given him recognition locally, but his name has spread far and wide. Not only has he attained this recognition but also has been certified by the prestigious Indian Book of Records. When children of his age are busy with mobile Phones, Our Shreyans can identify diverse images of colours, animals, flag, fruits, shapes and different countries



names and their capitals, national anthems, and spiritual shlokas. Shreyans father Soubhagya Pradhan who serves in Indian Army along with family also praised over their son's brilliant activities and needs all blessings.

TPWODL Boosts Power Reliability in Sambalpur District

Burla, (DMC): TP Western Odisha Distribution Limited (TPWODL) has successfully commissioned two key power distribution infrastructure projects for enhancement of electricity reliability in Sambalpur district. Both projects cost the company approximately ₹6 crore. Recently a newly energized 33kV link line connecting the Khandokata Grid Substation to Jamankira feeder. This alternate supply route will ease pressure on the overloaded Kuchinda PSS, ensuring consistent service for over 13,000 direct consumers and benefiting nearly 37,000 additional consumers, including 2,500 agricultural lift irrigation connections. In a second key initiative, TPWODL has launched a new 11kV industrial feeder extending 12.3 circuit kilometres from Katarbaga PSS



to Gumloi DTR in Rengali section of Sambalpur East Electrical Division. This feeder now serves industrial consumers along the growing Jharsuguda-Sambalpur corridor, allowing with the existing line to focus solely on domestic demand, reducing

outages and voltage fluctuations. These initiatives have marked a major step in strengthening TPWODL's power distribution network, improving supply quality, and supporting the region's residential, industrial, and agricultural consumers at large.

4 Died & 36 Injured on Separate Accident at Gajapati

Paralakhemundi, (DMC): At Mohana & Gosani blocks on separate accidents 4 persons died & 36 are injured. At Mohana block near Luhagudi one mini truck slipped where one died & three persons are injured. Deceased driver name was Kiran Mohanty belonged to Pudemari of Ganjam district. Those injured persons are Badal Nayak of Pudemari, Pabitra Mallick & Sribacha Mallick of Rajanapalli village.

That truck loaded with kirana items & was coming from Brahmapur to Mohana. Due to break fall that truck slipped on 326 NH. Under truck driver crushed & rest 3 injured. Similarly after attending feast one Pick up van lost control & 27 passengers injured. They left one daughter from Gubel village & reached at Dengli village. They left their daughter & after marriage feast they were returning. At Lakhari ghat section that vehicle lost control & one Samant Majhi of Gubel village



died. Rest injured admitted at Birikote hospital. On third such incident at Dengama village one bike rider died which collided with a van under Adava police limits of Gajapati district. Binod Gomango & Jisoyo Sabaro were going by bike to their village & collided with a van. Locals admitted both at Chandragiri hospital where Binod died. Jisoyo referred to Brahmapur. Chandragiri Outpost staff seized deceased body. Investigation is going on. At Arsiling ghat under Garabandha police limits one auto

overturned where a woman died & 5 persons injured. They are from Maringi & attended marriage at Lumudasing of Koinpur panchayat of Rayagada block. On return st Arsiling they faced accident. Locals admitted them at Garabandha hospital. Doctor declared dead to Sujata Sabar (26). Those serious injured persons referred to DHH Paralakhemundi. On that auto out of 15,13 women were the passengers. Driver Chiranjibilu Sabar fled away from scene. IIC Garabandha started investigation.

70th & 71st of Adoption Children by Interstate Couples at Gajapati

Paralakhemundi, (DMC): At Gajapati district headquarter Collector Bijay Kumar Dash handed over Maharashtra couple a baby for adoption. Being 70th adoption that child rescued near Paralakhemundi railway station 3 months back. Later that child kept at Ranipentha rehabilitation centre. Through portal publicity forecasted as a result this couple showed interest for adoption. Since last 3 years they registered through online. After producing legal documents & proper verification Collector handed over the child. Similarly for 71st adoption through portal publication one Gujarat couple showed their interest for adoption. One 11 years girl who had been under care & protection by Utkal Balashram rehabilitation centre of Paralakhemundi, handed over to the couple by Collector Gajapati after legal documents verification. On both programs ADM Phalguni Majhi, CWC Chairman Aswini Kumar Mahapatra, DCPO Arun Kumar Tripathi, members of Child Protection Unit & rehabilitation centres staff of respective institutes were present. After receiving the baby both couples seemed happy.



Rayagada Launches Awareness Campaign on Lightning & Thunderstorm Safety

Rayagada, (DMC): In a bid to raise awareness about lightning and thunderstorm safety, the Rayagada district administration, in collaboration with the Information and Public Relations Department, launched a special awareness campaign today. District Collector Parul Patwari flagged off a rath (chariot) that will travel to all blocks, gram panchayats, and urban areas in the district to spread awareness on disaster management and safety measures.

The campaign aims to educate people on how to stay safe during lightning and thunderstorms, which are common in the region. The rath will cover all parts of the district, disseminating crucial information on disaster preparedness and response. District Collector Patwari emphasized that ensuring the safety of all citizens is the top priority, especially during the



monsoon season when lightning strikes are frequent. "We urge everyone to take necessary precautions and stay informed about weather forecasts and warnings," she said.

The launch ceremony was attended by Additional District Collector Naveen Chandra Nayak, Nihar Ranjan Kahar, Gunupur Sub-Collector Kiran Deep Kaur, Rayagada Sub-Collector Ramesh Kumar Jena, Deputy Director and

District Information and Public Relations Officer Basant Kumar Pradhan, District Emergency Officer Manoj Kumar Nahak, and other officials.

The campaign will be managed by Rajendra Dora, Ranjit Piribaka, and Chandrashekhar Gudla, among others. The district administration's efforts aim to minimize the risks associated with lightning and thunderstorms, ensuring a safer community for all.

Drainage System is a threat in rainy season at Jagatsinghpur

Jagatsinghpur, Arival of Mansoon in Odisha will create problem in rainy season for Jagatsinghpur District headquarter. As drainage system disrupted at Jagatsinghpur Municipality due to encroachment by powerful people. Drainage department and district administration failed to restore drain area. In rainy season drainage of exes rain water create problem for administration and Municipality authorities engaged for rescue & relief operation. As per information three major drainage system namely Nagapur Drainage, Panisalia Drainage and Madhapur Drainage are there. In the year 2023-24 dead Alaka river converted in to Alaka drainage. But all the drainage system failed to drain exes water from municipal area. Nagapur, Panisalia and Madhapur drain bed unauthorised by encroach by powerful men and administration failed to evacuate. Even box-type drainage system of Panisalia drain on the halfway mark inspite of financial allotment due to demarcation of drainage bed. In dead Alaka river bed creation of new Alaka drainage is another problem for district headquarter. But district administration and Drainage department not even concious about the fact. No review or preparatory meeting taken by district administration even at the arrival of mansoon.

Punjilal meher given life imprisonment in Patnagarh Parcel bomb case

Bolangir, (DMC): The Patnagarh Additional District Judge (ADJ) Court on Wednesday found Punjilal Meher the prime accused in the sensational parcel bomb blast case of Patnagarh 23rd February 2018, guilty and sentenced him to life imprisonment. The ADJ court found Punjilal Meher guilty under Sections 302, 307, and 201 of the IPC, and the Explosive Substances Act. The court also imposed a fine of Rs 50,000 on Punjilal.

On February 23, 2018 newlywed couple, software engineer Soumyasekhar and his wife Reema Rani, received a parcel. Out of curiosity, Soumyasekhar opened the parcel thinking it was a wedding gift, which was the parcel bomb and it exploded. Soumyasekhar and his 85-year-old grandmother Jemamani Sahu were killed, while Reema, who was sitting next to Soumyasekhar, was severely injured. After the investigation by local police, the case was handed over to Crime Branch which started investigation. Crime branch arrested Punjilal Meher in April 2018. Punjilal Meher was principal and English lecturer at Jyoti Vikas College, Bhainsaha was behind the attack. Meher was upset because Soumyasekhar's



mother, Sanjukta Sahu, became the Principal of that college, which hurt him. Crime branch found that Punjilal meher plotted the attack as revenge against the Sahu family. To take revenge, Meher spent months researching how to make explosives. He bought chemicals and firecrackers and even traveled to Raipur to send the bomb parcel under a fake identity.

He did all this to hide his involvement and avoid getting caught. Rabindra Sahu, Soumya's father, expressed relief but also profound grief. "No punishment can bring back my son or my mother," he said, his voice heavy with emotion. "But I hope this serves as a lesson that such hatred and jealousy have no place in our society. Unless the sentence is commuted in the future by any court/due process of law, Punjilal Meher will be in jail till his death.

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CM Lauds...

many of whom rely on MSP as a safety net against market volatility. For Odisha, the MSP hike holds particular significance. The state has a history of agricultural challenges, including inadequate procurement infrastructure and reliance on middlemen, which often leave farmers vulnerable to distress sales.

As India progresses toward its Viksit Bharat goals, policies like the MSP hike for Kharif crops signal the government's commitment to agricultural growth. However, ensuring that these benefits reach small and marginal farmers, particularly in states like Odisha, will require sustained efforts in procurement, infrastructure, and technology adoption.

PM chairs...

level committees must be formed by May 29, district teams and mandal committees by June 3. State workshops are to be completed by June 2 and district workshops by June 5. BJP national president J.P. Nadda is scheduled to address a press interaction in Delhi on June 7 or 8.

SC order to...

erring police officials and an independent investigation against such officials in compliance with the guidelines laid down by the apex court in the case of People's Union for Civil Liberties vs. State of Maharashtra. Though, the Gauhati High Court held that the PIL was premature and the documents placed on record only made out vague assertions, it had directed that the appellant will be provided all legally-permissible documents in connection with all such cases, if so applied.

Cabinet decision...

applicable for jobs, where a higher upper age limit has been prescribed by the government. Similarly, the enhancement in the upper age limit will not be applicable for uniformed services including police, fire services, forest and excise services.

Gajapati Migrant Died at Hyderabad

Paralakhemundi, (DMC): At Hyderabad one migrant labourer Suresh Kumar Lima (50) of Serango village of Gumma block of Gajapati district died. Bereaved family members requested district administration to bring his body to their home.

Uncertainty Turns to Action: Rainbow School Students Rally at Collector's Office!



Bargarh, (DMC): A determined group of students from Rainbow Public School made their voices heard on Wednesday at 1 PM as they marched to the Collector's office, fueled by a mix of hope and urgency. With their exam results still under wraps, these passionate students and their supportive parents were not there to sit quietly—they were ready to demand answers! After the thrilling announcement of CBSE results for many students on the 13th, a cloud of uncertainty hung over 1,185 students from six schools in Bargarh district, including those at Rainbow Public School. Feeling the weight of their future hanging in the balance, the students and parents voiced their concerns fiercely, even warning of a hunger strike if their situation wasn't addressed. The air was thick with anticipation as they sought the Collector's intervention, determined to turn their uncertain fate into a brighter future!

TPNODL Amplifies Commitment to Public and Employee Safety Through Street Plays

Balasore, (DMC): TP Northern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPNODL), a joint venture of Tata Power and the Government of Odisha, has reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to ensuring not only the delivery of quality power supply across Northern Odisha but also the safety and well-being of its employees and the general public. In response to a recent survey that revealed rising cases of electrical accidents—particularly due to construction work and illegal hooking near transformers—TPNODL has intensified its safety awareness initiatives.

The study highlighted that a significant number of these incidents stem from a lack of awareness about electrical safety protocols among citizens. Taking this issue with utmost seriousness and empathy, TPNODL has constituted dedicated safety committees tasked with implementing proactive safety measures. One of the most impactful steps being taken is the launch of traditional street plays (Pathapranta Natakas) across various locations in the region. These culturally resonant performances aim to educate communities on electrical safety in an engaging and accessible manner, bringing awareness to the doorstep of every household. TPNODL is also extending its awareness programs to schools,



educating young minds on the importance of electrical safety and responsible behaviour around electrical installations. Internally, TPNODL is leaving no stone unturned to protect its field staff. Every ground-level employee is provided with complete safety gear including helmets, gloves, harnesses, and safety shoes. The company has made it mandatory that no on-ground work be performed without proper safety measures. To foster community participation in promoting safety, TPNODL has launched an innovative citizen-driven safety monitoring initiative. Members of the public are encouraged to capture photos or videos if they observe any employee working without safety gear and send it to WhatsApp number: 9124254011. In recognition of their vigilance, the company rewards consumers who report such unsafe practices. This initiative underscores TPNODL's human-centric approach prioritizing lives, listening to the community and acting with integrity. The street plays are just one of many steps in a broader mission to make Northern Odisha not only electrified but also safe and aware.

First Covid death reported in Chandigarh



CHANDIGARH, (HS) : A 40-year-old man who had tested positive for Covid died early this morning at the Government Medical College and Hospital (GMCH), Sector 32, Chandigarh. The man, originally from Firozabad in Uttar Pradesh, had been referred to GMCH from Ludhiana after testing positive for Covid. He was admitted to the Covid unit of the hospital, where he was kept in isolation. This marks the first confirmed Covid-related death in Chandigarh. Sources said the hospital authorities have not yet confirmed whether the infection was caused by the latest JN.1 variant. Confirming the death, Medical Superintendent of Government Medical College and Hospital (GMCH), Sector 32, GP Thami said the patient had been admitted to the hospital two days ago with severe respiratory problems. He tested positive for COVID-19 on Tuesday and died today. "We tested him on the second day as he came with respiratory issues and was put on a ventilator and was immediately placed in isolation within the Covid ward. He had no reported comorbidities, raising further concerns about the virulence of the current strain," said Thami. Health authorities are now expected to intensify monitoring and response measures to prevent further spread. Two ventilators had been set up in anticipation of any emergency care needs. As of May 27, Haryana has reported a total of 12 confirmed COVID-19 cases

BJP defends: 'Attacked because he kept India first, not Gandhi family'



leader Udit Raj had taken to X to criticise Tharoor's claim that India had crossed the Line of Control between India and Pakistan for the first time in 2016. He had also called Tharoor a "BJP super spokesperson," and stated that he had diminished the history of the Congress. BJP national spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla reacted sharply to Udit Raj's comments on Tharoor, claiming that the Congress was "launching missiles at its leader" at the behest of Rahul Gandhi. He also alleged that the party seemed more eager to give a "clean chit" to Pakistan. "Shashi Tharoor is being attacked at the behest of Rahul Gandhi because Shashi Tharoor kept India first, not (Gandhi) family. He talked about national interest, not his party's interest. He is being attacked because he kept national policy above the vote bank (politics)," Poonawalla told PTL. "Today, the Congress, while talking like Pakistan's DG ISPR (Ahmed Sharif Choudhry), is launching missiles at its own leader (Shashi Tharoor). It won't say a word against Pakistan. It will give clean chit to Pakistan," Poonawalla added. Congress leader and Kerala MP Shashi Tharoor, during an event in Panama, stated that India had breached the Line of Control for the first time during a 2016 surgical strike in Uri. Tharoor was speaking as a representative of the Indian government, which had sent multi-party delegations to various countries to defend India's stance and warn countries of Pakistan's links to terrorism, in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack. Raj, who took umbrage at Tharoor's remarks, took to X, saying, "My dear Shashi Tharoor, Alas! I could prevail upon PM Modi to declare you as super spokesperson of BJP, even declaring (you) as foreign minister before landing in India. How could you denigrate the golden history of Congress by saying that before PM Modi, India never crossed LoC and International border."

Debt, Superstition: Suicide Pacts That Shook India

CHANDIGARH, (HS) : From an entrepreneur a few years ago to working as a taxi driver, the fall in his fortunes was steep and grim. Along the way, he also accumulated a crushing load of debt. It proved the final straw that broke him, like the proverbial camel's back. Failing to spot the silver lining amid the clear and ever-present doom, he decided to put an end to his suffering in an alliance with six other family members. Praveen Mittal, 41, his wife Reena, 40, their three minor children - twin girls Dalisha and Dhruvi, 11, and son Hardik, 13 - and his parents Desraj, 70, and Vimla, 68, died in a mass suicide pact on Monday night in Haryana's Panchkula. The family left behind a note, requesting that the last rites be performed by Mr Mittal's cousin Sandeep Agarwal, whom he spoke to five days ago. Mr Mittal had set up a scrap factory in Himachal Pradesh's Baddi, which was later seized by the bank due to increasing debt. A Rs 20 crore debt, said his cousin Sandeep Agarwal.

44 MLAs ready to form new government in Manipur

GUWAHATI, (HS) : Forty-four MLAs are ready to form a new government in Manipur, BJP legislator Thokchom Radheshyam Singh claimed on Wednesday after meeting Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla. Ten MLAs from Manipur met Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla at the Raj Bhavan in Imphal on Wednesday, demanding the formation of a "popular" government in the state. The delegation included seven MLAs from the BJP, two from the National People's Party, and an independent legislator.

BJP legislator Thokchom Radheshyam Singh, who was part of the delegation, told the media that 44 MLAs were ready to form a new government. The Manipur Assembly has 60 seats, one of which is lying vacant following the death of an MLA. "We



conveyed to the governor that 44 MLAs are ready. This is akin to staking a claim," Singh said. He claimed that all MLAs, except the 10 from the Kuki-Zo community and five from the

Congress, favoured the installation of the government. Singh also mentioned that the Centre could reimpose President's Rule if a popular government failed. He left the matter of

Allahabad HC Bar Association backs proposed impeachment move against Justice Varma

LUCKNOW, (HS) : Calling the proposed impeachment motion to be brought against Justice Yashwant Varma over the alleged recovery of huge cache of cash from his residence in New Delhi, a step towards keeping people's faith in judiciary intact, Allahabad High Court Bar Association welcomed the move and supported it. Saying that people's trust was the foundation of the power of judiciary, Anil Tiwari, the president of Allahabad High Court Bar Association, said that such a move would make the people feel that their voice was heard at the highest level.

"It is a step towards the victory of the public and the cause," said Tiwari while appealing to all the political parties to vote in favour of the impeachment. Notably, Justice Varma came under the limelight when, on March 21, media was replete with reports of a fire at a storeroom in the outhouse of his official bungalow and subsequent recovery of sacks of cash currencies. The then Chief Justice of India, Justice Sanjiv Khanna, took cognisance of the matter and on March 22 initiated an in-house inquiry against the judge by a panel of three High Court judges to examine the allegations against Justice Varma. Justice Varma, however, denied possession of cash and claimed it to be a conspiracy against him. On March 24, the Delhi High Court passed an order stripping Justice Varma of all judicial work in pursuance of directions from the Supreme Court of India. Subsequently, the Supreme Court collegiums recommended transfer of Justice Varma to the



Allahabad High Court. Amid strong opposition by Bar Association, Justice Varma was administered oath by the chief justice of the Allahabad High Court in his chamber on April 5, 2025.

Unlike the usual public oath-taking ceremonies organized for judges, an event attended by various dignitaries, Justice Varma took his oath in a private setting, within chamber. Justice Varma, who originally belonged to the Allahabad High Court and took oath as judge here in 2014, was transferred to the Delhi High Court in 2021. However, after being transferred to Allahabad High Court, the then CJI directed the Allahabad High Court Chief Justice not to assign judicial work to Justice Varma. Now the in-house inquiry panel of three high court judges has submitted its report to the Chief Justice of India, who, in turn, submitted it the President of India.

Three Indians go missing in Tehran, India raises issue with Iran government

New Delhi, (HS) : Three Indians who had travelled to Iran - from Punjab's Sangrur, Hoshiarpur and SBS Nagar - are missing, the Indian Embassy in Tehran has confirmed, adding that efforts are on to trace them "urgently". Moreover, the External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, according to a report, raised the issue directly with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Majid Ravanchi during a recent diplomatic engagement in New Delhi.

The three missing men have been identified as: Hushanpreet Singh (Sangrur), Jaspal Singh (SBS Nagar) and Amritpal Singh (Hoshiarpur).



They all went missing on May 1, shortly after landing in Tehran. "Family members of 3 Indian citizens

"who will lead the government" to the BJP's central leadership. Independent MLA Sapam Nishikanta Singh said they had appealed to the governor for early government formation. "All the NDA MLAs are keen on the installation of a popular government in the interest of Manipur. We need the support of the public because without it, things would be a little difficult to have quick and smooth government formation," he said. "We gave him a paper, signed by 22 MLAs. This is the same paper that we gave to the Prime Minister. Some are not here (today), but everybody is by and large together in this. They want a popular government. It is for people's welfare," the MLA further stated. Ahead of the imposition of President's Rule in February, the BJP was unable to reach a consensus on the leadership issue.

Kamal Haasan Set to Enter Rajya Sabha



Chennai, (HS) : Tamil Nadu's ruling DMK on Tuesday announced the name of actor-turned-politician Kamal Haasan as one of the four candidates for the Rajya Sabha elections scheduled to be held on June 19. The announcement was made by the Chief Minister and DMK Chief, M.K. Stalin. Of the four Rajya Sabha seats up for election from Tamil Nadu, the DMK will contest three, while the fourth seat has been allocated to the Makkal Needhi Maiam (MNM) as part of an existing electoral understanding between the two parties.

SpaceX's Starship Fails 3rd Time, Musk Blames Fuel Leak As Megarocket Explodes

New Delhi, (HS) : Even as SpaceX's Starship flight exploded during splashdown on its ninth test on Wednesday, the company's founder Elon Musk blamed it on fuel leaks. This is the third time in a row that Starship flight has faced issues during the test flight. The company's last two test flights - the seventh (January) and eighth (March) test flight - also ended prematurely with the destruction of the aircraft. The ninth test flight of Starship - which blasted off at about 7:36 p.m. EDT (5:06am IST) from the company's Starbase launch site in Texas - successfully reached orbit, flying farther than on its two previous attempts.

However, the spacecraft's payload bay door failed to open, preventing the planned release of simulated Starlink satellites. Around 30 minutes into the mission, SpaceX confirmed a fuel tank leak aboard the vehicle. The first-stage Super Heavy booster exploded shortly before its expected splashdown, and live video showed the upper-stage vehicle spinning uncontrollably before its planned re-entry through Earth's atmosphere, due to fuel leaks. "Leaks caused loss of main tank pressure during the coast and re-entry phase," Musk shared in a post on his social media platform X. "Contact with the booster was lost shortly after the start of the landing burn when it experienced a rapid unscheduled disassembly approximately 6 minutes after launch, bringing an end to the first reflight of a Super Heavy booster," SpaceX said in a statement. However, Musk called the flight an achievement and noted that there had been no loss to the heat shield tiles.

"Starship made it to the scheduled ship engine cutoff, so big improvement over the last flight! Also, no significant loss of heat shield tiles during ascent. Lot of good data to review," Musk said. SpaceX noted that the company "will continue to review data and work toward our next flight test". Standing 403 feet (123 meters) tall, Starship and heavy booster - the world's biggest and most powerful rocket system. It will launch the moon lander for NASA's Artemis 3 mission that aims to land astronauts on the Moon by 2026.

Lokpal's Clean Chit to Ex-SEBI Chief in Alleged Market Fraud Case

New Delhi, (HS) : Anti-corruption ombudsman Lokpal on Wednesday disposed of complaints alleging impropriety and conflict of interest against former SEBI chief Madhabi Puri Buch based on a Hindenburg Research report, terming the charges as "presumptions and assumptions" not supported by any verifiable material. The Lokpal said that the complaints, including the one by Trinamool MP Mahua Moitra, filed last year were essentially founded on the report "by a known short seller trader

whose focus was to expose or corner Adani Group of Companies". In its report published on August 10, 2024, Hindenburg Research alleged that Ms Buch and her husband had stakes in obscure offshore funds used in the alleged money-siphoning scandal involving the Adani Group. They had denied the allegations saying the short-seller was attacking the capital markets regulator's credibility and attempting a character assassination. The Adani Group had also termed the allegations as malicious and manipulation of

selective public information. In its Wednesday order, the Lokpal "concluded that the allegations in the complaint(s) are more on presumptions and assumptions and not supported by any verifiable material and do not attract the ingredients of the offences... so as to direct an investigation therefore". Accordingly, these complaints are disposed of, said the order by a six-member bench headed by Lokpal chairperson Justice AM Khanwilkar. Ms Buch, who took over as the chief of the Securities and Exchange Board of India

(SEBI) on March 2, 2022, demitted office on February 28, this year after the completion of her tenure. Referring to an earlier order in this regard, the Lokpal said that the Hindenburg report by itself cannot be made the sole basis to escalate action against Ms Buch. "The complainant(s) being conscious of this position advisedly attempted to articulate allegations independent of the stated report but the analysis of the allegations by us, ended with a finding that the same are untenable, unsubstantiated and bordering on frivolity," the order said.

India to Receive Above Normal Rainfall This Monsoon

New Delhi, (HS) : Southwest monsoon rainfall over India is expected to be 106 per cent of the Long Period Average, India Meteorological Department said. This projection is more than the 105 per cent forecast in the April update. The Long Period Average rainfall in India is 868.6 mm. The IMD said that above normal rainfall is most likely over the country as a whole during the monsoon season (June to September) 2025.

Region wise, the southwest monsoon rainfall is projected to be above normal over Central India and South Peninsular India (>106 per cent of Long Period Average), normal over Northwest India (92-108 per cent of Long Period Average) and below normal over Northeast India (<94% of LPA). >94 per cent of Long Period Average). "During June to September 2025, normal to above normal rainfall is very likely over most parts of the country except some areas of Northwest and East India and many areas of Northeast India where below normal rainfall is very likely," IMD said in a

statement. In forecast for June, the state-owned weather office said the average rainfall for the country is most likely to be above normal (>108 per cent of the Long Period Average). "During June 2025, Normal to above normal monthly rainfall is very likely over most parts of the country, except some southern parts of peninsular India and parts of Northwest and Northeast India, where below normal rainfall is likely," IMD said. IMD will issue the forecast for the July rainfall in the last week of June. The country as a whole received 28.3 per cent higher rainfall since March at 155 mm. Northwest India; East and Northeast India received deficient rainfall, while central India and South peninsular India received excess rainfall. Above-normal rainfall carries benefits for agriculture and water resources but also poses risks such as flooding, disruptions to transportation, public health concerns, and harm to ecosystems. Meanwhile, the southwest monsoon hit Kerala on May 24, a week earlier than usual, marking its earliest arrival on the Indian mainland since 2009.



The normal onset date for the southwest monsoon is June 1. Monsoons are a key indicator that helps analysts gauge the economic outlook of the country's manufacturing and agricultural sectors. As per the latest IMD update, meteorological conditions are favourable for further advance of Southwest Monsoon into remaining parts of central

Arabian Sea, some more parts of Maharashtra, remaining parts of Karnataka, some more parts of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, some parts of Chhattisgarh and Odisha, most parts of westcentral and some more parts of North Bay of Bengal and remaining parts of Northeastern states and some parts of West Bengal and Sikkim during next 2-3

days. During the past five years, the monsoon has onset early on two occasions - 2022 and 2024. In 2022 and 2024, the monsoon onset was May 29 and May 30, as per IMD data. IMD has been issuing operational forecasts for the date of monsoon onset over Kerala from 2005 onwards. In 2024, the southwest monsoon rains in India hit a four-year high, experiencing about 108 per cent of the long-period average at 934.8 mm, data made available by the state-run weather bureau showed.

IMD's operational forecasts of the monsoon onset date over Kerala during the past 20 years (2005-2024) were correct except in 2015. Forecast verification for the recent 5 years (2020-2024) is in the table below. Above-normal monsoon rains help farmers to sow more crops this Kharif season, which bodes well for the overall agriculture sector. Agriculture is the mainstay source of livelihoods for millions of Indians. Traditionally, Indian agriculture, especially the Kharif season, relies heavily on monsoon rainfall.

Australian Conservative Parties Reunite As Coalition Following Brief Split

Canberra, (H.S): Australia's two largest conservative political parties have reformed their partnership days after splitting for the first time since the 1980s. The Liberal and National parties on Wednesday reached an agreement on a deal to reunite as a coalition and serve together as the opposition in the 48th federal parliament. Addressing a press conference in Canberra, Liberal leader Sussan Ley said it would be a "great partnership going forward."

It comes eight days after Nationals leader David Littleproud announced that the party had voted not to enter a coalition partnership with the Liberals for the 48th parliament following the May 3 general election, which the governing center-left Labour Party won in a landslide. That marked the first time since 1987 that the two parties had split. The Nationals' decision to abandon the coalition came after negotiations between Littleproud and Ley on



the terms of the partnership, which is renewed before each new term of parliament, broke down amid disagreements on four key policy issues. Littleproud had demanded that a renewed coalition retain its election policies on building nuclear power plants, investing in regional Australia, divestiture powers for supermarkets, and improving mobile coverage in rural areas. In the days following the split, the Liberals agreed in principle to the policy demands. Littleproud

said on Wednesday that negotiations between him and Ley in the last week "laid the boundaries" and that now is the time for the coalition to "take on" the government. The coalition will hold at least 43 out of the 150 seats in the lower house of the federal parliament, with votes in one more seat where the Liberal candidate is ahead by a slim margin set to be recounted, Xinhua news agency reported. Labour will hold 94 seats, equalling the record-high held by any party in Australian history.

Trump Says Putin Is 'Playing With Fire' As Conflict In Ukraine Continues

Washington, (H.S): US President Donald Trump warned Russian President Vladimir Putin that he is "playing with fire" as the Russia-Ukraine conflict shows no immediate signs of ending. "What Vladimir Putin doesn't realize is that if it weren't for me, lots of really bad things would have already happened to Russia, and I mean REALLY BAD. He's playing with fire!"

Trump wrote in a Truth Social post on Tuesday. Trump on Sunday made harsh remarks on both Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, Xinhua news agency reported. "I'm not happy with what Putin's doing," Trump told



reporters before he took Air Force One from Morristown, New Jersey back to Washington. "I don't know what the hell happened to Putin," he said. Later on Sunday evening, Trump wrote in a Truth Social post that Putin "has gone absolutely CRAZY!"

He then turned to Zelensky, saying he was doing his country "no favors by talking the way

he does," a reference to statements Zelensky made earlier on Sunday criticizing US silence on the latest Russian attacks. The Trump administration has warned in recent months that it could walk away from the frustrating negotiations for a cease-fire between Russia and Ukraine. In response to Trump's escalating criticism,

Russian Security Council Deputy Chairman Dmitry Medvedev wrote in a social media post on Tuesday that "Regarding Trump's words about Putin 'playing with fire' and 'really bad things' happening to Russia. I only know of one REALLY BAD thing - WWII. I hope Trump understands this."

Jordan, Finland Discuss Bilateral Ties, Gaza Ceasefire Efforts

Amman, (H.S): Jordanian Minister of Foreign Affairs Ayman Safadi and his Finnish counterpart Elina Valtonen met here on Tuesday to discuss ongoing efforts to reach a ceasefire in Gaza, bilateral cooperation, and regional developments, according to a statement by the Jordanian Foreign Ministry.

During the talks, Safadi and Valtonen emphasised the urgent need for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza, and the immediate and sufficient delivery of humanitarian aid to the Strip. They also discussed regional and international diplomatic efforts ahead of the international conference on the Palestinian question, which will be co-chaired by Saudi Arabia and France in New York in June, expressing hope that the summit would yield tangible progress toward a just and lasting peace based on the two-state solution,



the statement said. Both sides stressed the importance of enhancing cooperation between Jordan and Finland across various sectors, both bilaterally and within the framework of the strategic partnership with the European Union. They also reiterated their shared commitment to multilateral cooperation and the promotion of international law, Xinhua news agency reported. The two Ministers reviewed preparations for a high-level side event co-

hosted by Jordan and Finland during the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly. The event will mark the 10th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace, and Security. Discussions also touched on the situation in Syria. Safadi emphasised the need to support Syria's reconstruction on the basis of principles that preserve the country's unity, security and stability, while combating terrorism and

FS Misri In US, Discusses Boosting Strategic Tech Ties, Trade Dialogue

Washington, (H.S): Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on Wednesday (India time) met with US Under Secretary Jeffrey Kessler to discuss the early convening of the India-US Strategic Trade Dialogue and explore ways to deepen bilateral cooperation in critical and emerging technologies. The engagement marked a significant step toward advancing high-level collaboration between New Delhi and Washington in areas of strategic importance.

The meeting, held in Washington, focused on strengthening existing frameworks and building momentum on key tech and trade initiatives between the two nations. The Indian Embassy in Washington took to X, stating, "Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri met Under Secretary Jeffrey Kessler to advance India-US cooperation in critical & emerging technologies. They also discussed early convening of the



India-US Strategic Trade Dialogue to deepen tech & trade collaboration." Misri is currently on a three-day visit to the United States, during which he is scheduled to meet senior officials of the Trump administration. According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), his visit comes as a follow-up to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's trip to the US in February 2025, where both leaders launched the 'India-US COMPACT - Catalysing Opportunities for Military

Partnership, Accelerated Commerce and Technology' - a framework designed to enhance strategic cooperation for the 21st century. During that visit, PM Modi and US President Donald Trump jointly unveiled the 'US-India COMPACT for the 21st Century', which aims to catalyse transformative progress across military, commercial, and technological domains. This was PM Modi's first official trip to the US since President Trump's second inauguration in January

2025. Notably, PM Modi was among the earliest world leaders to be invited to the US following the new administration's formation, with the visit occurring within just three weeks of Trump's swearing-in. This visit follows President Trump's recent claims that his administration brokered the ceasefire agreement between India and Pakistan earlier this month.

New Delhi, however, has consistently maintained that the ceasefire understanding was the result of Pakistan's urgent appeals to end hostilities, after sustained and intense Indian military strikes on Pakistani air bases during Operation Sindoor. Indian authorities have stressed that Islamabad was compelled to seek a ceasefire due to the pressure it faced from the precision offensive. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar had also clarified last week that while the US had reached out to India between May 7 and 10, it was not the only country to do so.

Cambodia Records Fourth Death of H5N1 Bird Flu in 2025

Phnom Penh, (H.S): An 11-year-old boy from Cambodia's Kampong Speu province died of H5N1 human avian influenza, becoming the fourth human death from the virus so far this year, the country's Ministry of Health said in a press statement released on Wednesday.

A laboratory result from the Pasteur Institute of Cambodia showed on May 27, 2025, that the boy was positive for the H5N1 virus," the statement said. The ill-fated boy lived in Samraong Tong district's Srey Sampoung village." According to queries, chickens and ducks near the patient's house had gotten sick and died subsequently a week before the boy fell ill," the statement said. Health authorities are looking into the source of the infection and examining any



suspected cases or people who have been in contact with the victim in order to prevent an outbreak in the community, it added. The Southeast Asian country recorded a total of four human cases of H5N1 so far this year, with all deaths, and all patients reportedly had a history of recent exposure to sick or dead poultry prior to their illness, Xinhua news agency reported. H5N1 influenza is a flu that normally spreads between sick

poultry, but can sometimes spread from poultry to humans. Its symptoms include fever, cough, runny nose, and severe respiratory illness. The Ministry of Health called on people to be extra vigilant and not to eat ill or dead poultry, saying that bird flu still threatens people's health. From 2003 to date, there were 76 cases of human infection with H5N1 influenza, including 47 deaths in the kingdom, according to the Ministry of Health. Since

2022, there have been increasing reports of deadly outbreaks among mammals also caused by influenza A(H5) - including influenza A(H5N1) - viruses. There are likely to be more outbreaks that have not been detected or reported.

Both land and sea mammals have been affected, including outbreaks in farmed fur animals, seals, sea lions, and detections in other wild and domestic animals such as foxes, bears, otters, raccoons, cats, dogs, cows, goats and others. Almost all cases of H5N1 virus infection in people have been associated with close contact with infected live or dead birds, or H5N1-contaminated environments, for example, live bird markets. There have been some instances of spread from infected mammals to humans as well.

Israeli warplanes attack Houthi targets in Sanaa's airport

Jerusalem, (H.S): Israeli warplanes on Wednesday struck Sanaa's main airport in Yemen and several aircraft belonging to the Houthi forces, Israel's military said in a statement. The attack destroyed the last aircraft used by the Houthi forces, Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz said in a separate statement. The strike was part of what Israel called "Operation Golden Jewel," a campaign that aims to degrade the Houthis' ability to launch further attacks on Israel, said Katz.

This is a clear message and a direct continuation of the policy we have set: whoever fires at Israel will pay a heavy price," Katz warned. He said Israel would continue targeting Yemeni ports and strategic infrastructure used by the Houthis and their allies. "The airport in Sanaa will be destroyed again and again," Katz also warned that the Houthis would be "under a naval and aerial blockade"/Khaled al-Shaief, Houthi general director of



Sanaa International Airport, confirmed that the fourth plane of Yemen's national Yemenia Airline company was destroyed by the Israeli airstrikes Wednesday morning. "The ... (Israeli) enemy targeted the last Yemenia Airlines' plane operating at Sanaa International Airport and destroyed it," al-Shaief wrote on social platform X. He posted a picture showing the plane destroyed with fire and smoke rising from it in the airport. Israel's Army Radio reported that the Houthis have launched seven ballistic missiles and several drones toward Israeli territory over the

past two weeks. Most of the projectiles were intercepted, and no major damage or casualties were reported. The Houthis, who control much of northern Yemen, have been targeting Israel since November 2023 in what they call an act of solidarity with Palestinians. The group has said it would cease the attacks if Israel ends its military operations and blockade of Gaza, Xinhua news agency reported. Israel has carried out several major airstrikes in Yemen. Its latest strike, two weeks ago, targeted the international airport in Sanaa, rendering it inoperable.

Israeli Forces Raid Money Exchange Companies In West Bank

Ramallah, (H.S): Israeli forces carried out a large-scale operation on Tuesday targeting money exchange companies in the West Bank, in what Israeli media described as part of a campaign to disrupt financial networks allegedly linked to Palestinian factions.

According to Palestinian sources, the raids took place in Ramallah, Nablus, Hebron, Tubas, Tulkarm, Jenin, Bethlehem and Qalqilya, during which Israeli forces raid the offices of money exchange companies, arrested several shop owners, and confiscated millions of shekels. In Nablus, 32-year-old Mahmoud al-Kharaz died after being shot in the neck by Israeli forces, the Ramallah-based Palestinian Health Ministry said. The Palestinian Red Crescent Society said in a press statement that nine people were injured by bullets, and more than 15 others suffered from tear gas inhalation during the raid on Nablus. The



Israeli military did not issue an official comment on the raids, Xinhua news agency reported. However, Israeli radio Kan reported the Israeli operation across the West Bank against the financing of "terrorism". Israel has accused money exchange shops of facilitating the transfer of funds to Palestinian factions, including Hamas, an allegation denied by business owners, who insist they comply with financial regulations. In a separate incident

in Jericho, 20-year-old Mohammed Jalaytah was fatally shot by Israeli army during a raid on the al-Arab neighbourhood, according to Palestinian medical sources. Eyewitnesses told Xinhua that the Israeli army stormed the neighbourhood at dawn, raided several homes, and fired live ammunition and sound bombs. Meanwhile, Palestinian National Liberation Movement (Fatah) declared a general strike in the Jericho area in a statement

mourning Jalaytah's death. The Israeli army has not commented on this incident yet. The development coincided with settler attacks on agricultural land and the establishment of a new settlement outpost east of Ramallah, fueling tensions in the area and raising concerns that Israel is seeking to expand its control over the West Bank. The raids on foreign exchanges came as Israel continued its intensified military campaign in Gaza, killing more than 54,000 Palestinians since the war began on October 7, 2023, as tens of thousands of people starve in the besieged enclave.

Israeli Army Radio on Tuesday said Israel conducted the raids on foreign exchanges on suspicions that the shops supported "terrorism". The radio station also said the operation resulted in the confiscation of large amounts of money designated for "terrorism infrastructure" in the West Bank.

United Nations, (H.S): The humanitarian crisis in Sudan is deepening as fighting, displacement and health emergencies fuel needs, the world body warned. In North Darfur state, artillery shelling continues to affect residential areas of El Fasher city and the Abu Shouk camp for internally displaced people. Daily civilian casualties are reported, and recent days have seen an intensification of night bombardments, said the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) on Tuesday.

Humanitarian partners on the ground report that access to education remains severely constrained in North Darfur. Since the conflict began in April 2023, a quarter of a million children have lost access to learning, said OCHA. In South Kordofan state, the International Organisation for Migration reported last week that about 2,800 people, primarily women



and children, fled renewed fighting in the town of Dibebad. The situation in the state capital of Kadugli has also seriously deteriorated in recent weeks, with intense shelling and humanitarian access largely cut off, said the office. In Northern state, authorities report that about 6,000 people who fled from North Darfur, Khartoum and West Kordofan states due to insecurity arrived in Ad Dabbah locality between May 12 and 22, it said. Meanwhile, the cholera outbreak in Khartoum state is worsening at an alarming rate. Humanitarian partners in the state report an 80 per cent increase in suspected cases over the past two weeks, bringing the total to more

than 8,500, it said. In Blue Nile state, some 8,500 Sudanese refugees have returned from South Sudan since late April. A recent inter-agency assessment by the United Nations and its partners found high rates of acute respiratory infections, malaria and skin conditions among these returnees. The lack of mosquito nets, proper shelter, and water, sanitation and hygiene facilities is significantly increasing the risk of disease outbreaks, said OCHA. Xinhua news agency reported. The office calls for increased, flexible and timely funding to scale up the humanitarian response as well as unimpeded access via all necessary routes so that aid workers can reach people in need, it said.

India's Data Centre Capacity To Cross 4,500 MW By 2030 With \$20-25 Bn Investments

Bengaluru, (H.S): India's data centre (DC) market capacity across top seven cities is expected to cross 4,500 MW by 2030, attracting investments to the tune of \$20-25 billion the next 5-6 years, a report showed on Wednesday.This is likely to translate into real estate footprint of around 55 million square feet in the next 5-6 years, according to the report by Colliers.

DC capacity has grown over 4 times times in the last 6-7 years and stands at 1,263 MW (as of April). This growth is driven by the surge in demand for digital and cloud services, increasing adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) and Internet of Things (IoT), and higher internet penetration, supported by favourable government policies. At the city level, Mumbai continued to account for majority of the DC



capacity with 41 per cent share, followed by Chennai and Delhi-NCR at 23 per cent and 14 per cent, respectively.This rapid expansion in capacity has resulted in over 3X times increase in real estate footprint over the last 6-7 years, across top seven DC markets of the country, taking it to 16 million square feet, the report mentioned."India is

becoming a global DC hotspot, fuelled by rapid digitalisation, data localisation norms and strong government support," said Jatin Shah, Chief Operating Officer, Colliers India. Undoubtedly, India's strategic advantages such as availability of land parcels, power supply for usage and availability of skilled talent, reinforces its position as one of

the preferred destination for data centres in the APAC region. "Interestingly, the market is expanding beyond large-scale colocation facilities and hyperscalers to edge data centres driven by increasing need for lower latency, real-time analysis, enhanced app performance, and business agility," said Shah.

In terms of geographical spread, 44 per cent of the new supply since 2020 was concentrated in Mumbai. This was followed by Chennai and Delhi-NCR which together accounted for 42 per cent of the capacity addition since 2020. In the next 5-6 years too, majority of the primary DC markets are set to witness significant influx of new supply. Hyderabad, specifically, is likely to see significant traction and emerge as a major hub, in addition to cities such as Mumbai, Chennai and Delhi-NCR.

PM Modi-led Cabinet Approves Minimum Support Prices For Kharif Crops For Marketing Season 2025-26

New Delhi, (PIB): : The Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Cabinet has approved a Rs 69 per quintal increase in the minimum support price (MSP) for 14 kharif crops for the upcoming Kharif 2025-26 marketing season. The Cabinet approved hike in paddy MSP by Rs 69 per quintal to Rs 2,369 for 2025-26 Kharif season. The decision was taken by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Adding further, the Cabinet also approved the continuation of the Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS) for the financial year 2025-26, maintaining the existing 1.5% interest subvention. It also cleared the necessary funding arrangements for the scheme. Along with the hike in paddy



prices, the Cabinet has approved increased Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for 13 other Kharif crops. Nigarseed saw the highest rise of Rs 820 per quintal, followed by ragi (Rs 596), cotton (Rs 589), and sesamum (Rs 579). These revisions reflect the government's push to boost farmers' incomes and promote crop diversification for better nutrition. Among cereals, the MSP for jowar (hybrid and maldandi) was increased by Rs 328 per quintal, bajra by Rs

150, and maize by Rs 175.The MSP hike for the 2025-26 Kharif marketing season aligns with the Union Budget 2018-19 policy of setting MSPs at least 1.5 times the all-India weighted average cost of production. The highest estimated returns over production costs are expected from bajra (63%), followed by maize (59%), tur (59%), and urad (53%), while other crops are expected to offer around 50% profit margins.

Close To The Finish Line On Breakthrough India-US Trade Deal: Kevin Hassett

New Delhi, (H.S): India is nearing the finish line to clinch a breakthrough trade deal with the US, National Economic Council Director Kevin Hassett said on Tuesday.Hassett's comments came as the Donald Trump administration signals readiness to slash tariffs to 10 per cent or lower for nations offering robust trade proposals.

Hassett, the White House economic advisor, told CNBC that a trade and tariff deal between the US and India is "close to the finish line."He also said that the Trump administration does not want to "harm Apple" with tariffs. "In the end, we'll see what happens, we'll see what the update is, but we don't want to harm Apple," he was quoted as saying.India and the US have made progress



on concluding a mutually beneficial trade agreement, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said last week, amid talks with the US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick towards the first tranche of Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA).

India presents a compelling case to the US for a bilateral trade deal, given the outlook on growth and demography. The union minister stated that the two nations are "committed to enhancing opportunities for our

businesses and people".India and the US are working to sign the first tranche of BTA to bring down tariffs before the agreed timeline of the fall of 2025, as the the terms of reference for the pact have already been finalised.If both the countries come to an agreement on reducing tariffs, it would lead to higher trade for US and India.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump have set an ambitious target of \$500 billion bilateral trade by 2030 in a joint statement during the Indian PM's recent visit to Washington, DC.The US President claimed recently that India offered to remove all tariffs on American goods, but added that he was in no rush to finalise a trade deal despite the apparent breakthrough.

India's FDI Inflows Jump 14 Per Cent To Cross \$81 Billion In 2024-25

New Delhi, (H.S): India's FDI inflows increased to \$81.04 billion in FY 2024-25, marking a 14 per cent increase from \$71.28 billion in FY 2023-24, according to a statement issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Tuesday.There has been a steady rise in the annual flow of FDI into the country over the last 11 years, from \$36.05 billion in FY 2013-14, due to the investor-friendly policy, under which most sectors are open for 100 per cent FDI through the automatic route, the statement said.The services sector emerged as the top recipient of FDI equity in FY 2024-25, attracting 19 per cent of total inflows, followed by computer software and hardware (16 per cent), and trading (8 per cent). FDI into the services sector rose by 40.77 per cent to \$9.35 billion from \$6.64 billion in the previous year.India is also becoming a hub for manufacturing



FDI, which grew by 18 per cent in FY 2024-25, reaching \$19.04 billion compared to \$16.12 billion in FY 2023-24.Maharashtra accounted for the highest share (39 per cent) of total FDI equity inflows in FY 2024-25, followed by Karnataka (13 per cent) and Delhi (12 per cent). Among source countries, Singapore led with a 30 per cent share, followed by Mauritius (17 per cent) and the United States

(11 per cent). Over the last eleven financial years (2014-25), India attracted FDI worth \$748.78 billion, reflecting a 143 per cent increase over the previous eleven years (2003-14), which saw \$308.38 billion in inflows. This constitutes nearly 70 per cent of the total \$1,072.36 billion in FDI received over the past 25 years.Additionally, the number of source countries for FDI increased from 89 in FY

2013-14 to 112 in FY 2024-25, underscoring India's growing global appeal as an investment destination.In the regulatory domain, the government has undertaken transformative reforms across multiple sectors to liberalise FDI norms. Between 2014 and 2019, significant reforms included increased FDI caps in defence, insurance, and pension sectors, and liberalised policies for construction, civil aviation, and single-brand retail trading, the statement said.From 2019 to 2024, notable measures included allowing 100 per cent FDI under the automatic route in coal mining, contract manufacturing, and insurance intermediaries. In 2025, the Union Budget proposed increasing the FDI limit from 74 per cent to 100 per cent for companies investing their entire premium within India, the statement added.

BC Jindal Group Wins 150 MW Round-The-Clock Tender from Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited

New Delhi, (H.S): BC Jindal Group, one of India's leading business conglomerates with over Rs. 18,000 crore turnover, has announced that it has won a 150 MW Round-the-Clock (RTC) project in reverse auction conducted by Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI).

The project is part of SECI's 1200 MW RTC renewable energy project, the tender for which was floated in November last year.The Group has bagged 150 MW of the total capacity requirement at a tariff

of Rs 5.07/kWh. As part of the project, the Group will be responsible for setting up Inter-State Transmission System (ISTS)-connected renewable energy power projects which would entail building transmission networks and establishing interconnection or delivery points with the ISTS network.

As per the stated terms, the B C Jindal Group will be responsible for land identification for the RTC project, project installation and ownership, necessary

approvals, and interconnection with the ISTS network, for power supply to DISCOMS tied up for this Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) through SECI.Commenting on the announcement, the spokesperson of BC Jindal Group, said "Securing the 150 MW-RTC project after competitive bidding is a reaffirmation of our unflinching commitment to delivering robust and reliable renewable energy solutions.

This project win gives a big push to our goal of playing a



key role in supporting India's transition to clean energy and assisting the country achieve its renewable energy target of 500 GW by 2030."Recently, Jindal India Renewable Energy (JIRE), the Group's renewable energy arm, also won a 300 MW solar plus storage project from state-

owned, SJVN. The project is part of SJVN's 1200 MW inter-state transmission system-connected solar power projects tender with 600 MW/2400 MW of battery energy storage systems (BESS).

In addition, JIRE also recently received a Letter of Acceptance (LoA) for a 300 MW solar plus storage project from state-owned enterprise NHPC. This project is part of NHPC's 1200 MW inter-state transmission system (ISTS)-connected solar power initiative, which includes 600

MW/1200 MW energy storage systems." These project wins highlight the Group's capabilities and expertise in implementing crucial projects across solar, wind, hybrid, RTC, and FDRE platforms," the spokesperson added.

In line with its strategic growth plan, the B C Jindal group intends to invest \$2.5 billion in the renewable energy sector by 2030. This investment aims to meet India's growing energy demand while improving grid stability through advanced battery

energy storage systems. Additionally, the group through JIRE is setting up a solar cell and module manufacturing plant in Maharashtra, with a planned annual capacity of 2 GW. The facility is expected to be operational by September 2026.

To further strengthen the group's renewable energy portfolio,

JIRE is exploring the expansion of its operational assets across India. This expansion, slated for completion within the next four years, will be funded through internal accruals and debt.

These UPI Transactions Will Have Limits Under NPCI's New API Rules Starting THIS Date

New Delhi, (H.S): UPI users from July 31, 2025 will see new limits on how often they can perform non-financial actions like checking balances or viewing transaction statuses. This move was announced by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) is part of a new framework to better manage API usage and ensure smoother UPI services especially during peak hours. NPCI, in a circular dated May 21, 2025 asked all banks and payment service providers (PSPs) to keep a close check on the usage of ten high-frequency APIs on the UPI network.

These are requests made by users or systems and the move is aimed at managing network traffic, according to an ET report. These APIs include services like balance checks, autopay mandate processing, transaction status updates, and account listings. Banks and PSPs have until July 31 to follow the new rules or they could face penalties, or API restrictions, or even a halt on adding new customers. The circular stated that PSP banks and acquiring banks must keep a close watch on all API requests sent to the UPI system - whether triggered by customers or by the banks' own systems - and make sure they're used appropriately, keeping in mind the speed and



number of transactions per second.PSPs must also submit a confirmation by August 31, stating that system-initiated API requests are properly controlled and managed. One of the key changes is a new limit on balance checks - users will now be allowed up to 50 balance enquiries per app, per day.

So, if you use multiple UPI apps like Paytm and PhonePe, you can check your balance up to 50 times on each app daily."This might be an inconvenience to traders and other users who check their balances or transactions extremely frequently," says Musharraf Hussain, Chief Operating Officer, Ezeepay. "However, this is being done so that UPI's infrastructure core remains stable and available for use by all."The circular asks apps

to limit balance checks during busy hours (10 AM-1 PM and 5 PM-9:30 PM). Instead, banks will send updated balance info with every successful transaction. While this helps ease the system, it might mean users can't get real-time balance updates whenever they want."

Customers might not be able to get a real-time, updated balance of their accounts on PSP apps," said Pavan Kumar, Chief Product Officer at NPST. Still, NPCI has assured that customers will keep receiving accurate balance updates even after these changes are made.Autopay mandates, which are used for regular payments like SIPs or subscriptions will now be processed only during non-peak hours. However, customers can still set them up anytime they want.The circular explains that for

autopay mandates, only one attempt plus up to three retries are allowed, and these can happen only during non-peak hours with controlled speed. For transaction status checks, banks and PSPs must wait 90 seconds after a transaction is authenticated before the first status check, and limit status checks to three times within two hours.To prevent unnecessary repeated attempts, some error codes will now cause transactions to be marked as failed. Additionally, acquiring banks must complete an annual audit by CERT-In approved auditors, with the first audit scheduled by August 31 this year.

Another important API being controlled is the account listing request, which lets users see all accounts linked to their mobile number. This will now be limited to 25 times per app per customer each day. Users can only make this request after choosing their bank in the app, and any repeated attempts require the customer's clear permission.These new rules are part of NPCI's plan to improve its backend systems as real-time payments grow. By setting limits on frequent API requests, NPCI hopes to provide a smoother and more reliable experience for users, especially during busy times.

India's Index of industrial production records growth of 2.7% in April 2025

New Delhi, (H.S): As per the revised calendar, the Quick Estimate of Index of Industrial Production (IIP) will now be released on 28th of every month (or next working day if 28th is a holiday). The index is compiled with data received from source agencies, which in turn receive the data from the producing factories/ establishments. These Quick Estimates will undergo revision in subsequent releases as per the revision policy of IIP.

The IIP growth rate for the month of April 2025 is 2.7 percent which was 3.0 percent (Quick Estimate) in the month of March 2025.The growth rates of the three sectors, Mining, Manufacturing and Electricity for the month of April 2025 are (-)0.2 percent, 3.4 percent and 1.1 percent respectively. The Quick Estimates of IIP stands at 152.0 against 148.0 in April 2024. The Indices of Industrial Production for the Mining, Manufacturing and Electricity sectors for the month of April 2025 stand at 130.6, 149.5 and 214.4 respectively. Within the manufacturing sector, 16 out of 23 industry groups at NIC 2 digit-level have recorded a positive growth in April 2025 over April 2024. The top three positive contributors for the month of April 2025 are -

"Manufacture of basic metals" (4.9%), "Manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers" (15.4%) and "Manufacture of machinery and equipment n.e.c." (17.0%). In the industry group "Manufacture of basic metals", item groups "Pipes and tubes of Steel", "MS blooms/ billets/ ingots/ pencil ingots", "Flat products of Alloy Steel "have shown significant contribution in growth.In the industry group "Manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers", item groups "Auto components/ spares and accessories",

"Axle", "Commercial Vehicles" have shown significant contribution in growth.In the industry group "Manufacture of machinery and equipment n.e.c." item groups "Machine tools for turning, drilling, etc. (other than lathes)", "Lathes", "Stationary and internal combustion piston engines not for motor vehicles" have shown significant contribution in growth. As per the use base classification, the indices stand at 151.6 for Primary Goods, 114.3 for Capital Goods, 164.2 for Intermediate Goods and 191.6 for Infrastructure/ Construction Goods for the month of April 2025. Further, the indices for Consumer

durables and Consumer non-durables stand at 127.2 and 148.4 respectively.The corresponding growth rates of IIP as per Use-based classification in April 2025 over April 2024 are (-)0.4 percent in Primary goods, 20.3 percent in Capital goods, 4.1 percent in Intermediate goods, 4.0 percent in Infrastructure/ Construction Goods, 6.4 percent in Consumer durables and (-)1.7 percent in Consumer non-durables (Statement III). Based on use-based classification, top three positive contributors to the growth of IIP for the month of April 2025 are Capital goods, Intermediate goods, Consumer durables. Monthly Indices and Growth Rate (in %) of IIP for the last 13 months. Along with the Quick Estimate of IIP for the month of April 2025, the indices for March 2025 have

undergone final revision in the light of the updated data received from the source agencies. Significant improvement has been observed in indices for March 2025 which was computed at a weighted response rate of 93% as compared to 88% at the time of quick estimate.The Quick Estimate for April 2025, has been compiled at weighted response rate of 88 percent. Release of the Index for May 2025 will be on Monday, 30th June 2025.



Spirit controversy, Deepika reveals kind of people she wants to collaborate with

Since the last few days, Bollywood actor Deepika Padukone has been in the news in association with Sandeep Reddy Vanga's upcoming film Spirit. Initially buzz suggested that Deepika was roped in opposite Prabhas. But she later walked out and Triptii Dimri was cast as the female lead. Soon there were rumours that Deepika opted out of Spirit because she was uncomfortable with bold scenes. This resulted in an angry tweet by Sandeep, which netizens guessed was an attack on DP. Well, amid the crazy controversy, Deepika has now revealed what kind of people she wants to collaborate with.

In a recent chat with Harper's Bazaar, Deepika Padukone was asked how she balances work schedule with her personal life. To this, the new mom replied, "I just listen to my gut, to what feels right. I think it's easier said than done but I think it's when you shut out the noise around you and you just listen to your gut, I think the answers

are always there. So I think, you know, wanting to collaborate with people that I know I'm going to have a good time working with, surrounding myself with family and friends and being authentic, I think is how I'm able to find my balance." In her response, she said, "What keeps me balanced is just being truthful, authentic. Whenever I'm faced with complicated or difficult situations, to be able to listen to my inner voice and just stand by

decisions that really give me a lot of peace is when I feel most in equilibrium." There were reports of Padukone about starring in Spirit. Last week, amid speculation of a deadlock with Vanga over remuneration issues and working hours, Animal actor Triptii Dimri was roped in as the film's female lead.

On the work front, Deepika is out of Spirit but she does have another exciting project in her kitty. Reports suggest that the actor, who welcomed her daughter Dua Padukone Singh with husband Ranveer Singh last year, is all set to make her comeback on the silver screen with Shah Rukh Khan's next film King. Helmed by Siddharth Anand, the project marks SRK's first ever film with his darling daughter Suhana Khan. Deepika is also expected to reunite with Prabhas and Amitabh Bachchan in Kalki 2898 AD: Part 2, the much-awaited sequel to Nag Ashwin's Kalki 2898 AD (2024).

Kamal breaks silence on Kannada-Tamil row: 'Love will never apologise'

Actor Kamal Haasan found himself in a soup after he made a comment regarding Kannada language during the promotion of his upcoming film Thug Life. The actor compared Tamil and Kannada languages, leading to pro-Kannada groups slamming him and even demanding a ban on the film in Karnataka. Now the actor has reacted to the backlash and said that he did not mean 'anything' and it was made with a lot of love.

Speaking to reporters, Kamal said as per news agency PTI, "I think what I said was said with a lot of love. Historians have taught me the language history...I didn't mean anything. And, let me tell you, Tamil Nadu is a place which has been open. I don't say there is no other state like this. But a very rare state where a Menon (MG Ramachandran) has been our Chief Minister...a Reddy (Omandur Ramasamy Reddiyar) has been our Chief Minister, a Tamilian (M



Karunanidhi) has been our Chief Minister and then a Kannadiga Iyengar has been our CM from Mandya."

He went on to add, "So lets leave all this very in-depth discussions to historians, archaeologists and language experts. If you look at it from the northern point of view, according to them it is right, if you look at it from Thenkumari (south), then what I say is right. There is a third angle to it-- the

scholars, the language experts. This is not an answer, an explanation. Love will never apologise." Thug Life marks Kamal's first collaboration with Mani Ratnam in 37 years after Nayakan. It also stars Silambarasan, Trisha Krishnan, Abhirami, Aishwarya Lekshmi, Ashok Selvan, Joju George, Nassar, Ali Fazal, Pankaj Tripathi, Rohit Saraf and Baburaj. Thug Life is set to release worldwide on June 5.

Hrithik to collaborate with Hombale Films banner Kantara, KGF



Bollywood superstar Hrithik Roshan is all set to join hands with Hombale Films who have given hits like KGF franchise and Kantara. The production house made the announcement with a statement and shared that the upcoming film will be a tale of "grit, grandeur and glory" set to unfold where intensity meets imagination.

The production house took to its social media and shared the statement. They captioned it as, They call him the Greek God. He's ruled hearts, shattered limits and we see the phenomenon he truly is! We are proud to welcome

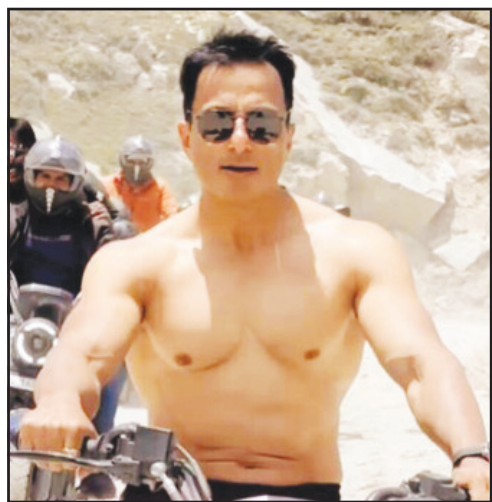
@iHrithik to the @hombalefilms family for a collaboration, years in the making. A tale of grit, grandeur and glory is set to unfold, where intensity meets imagination, the Big Bang begins. The War star, who is excited to be a part of this project told Variety, "Hombale has been home to some very unique stories over the years. I'm looking forward to partnering with them and delivering a cinematic experience for our audience. We are dreaming big, and committed to bringing the vision to life." The makers did not reveal the name or genre of the film but

excited fans started to speculate about the plotlines. One fan wrote, "Just imagine Hrithik vs Rocky Bhai in KGF 3". Another fan said, "What if Prabhas×Hrithik Happens". A third fan celebrated the collaboration between north and south films and wrote, "This is the future. This is how we unlock the true potential of INDIAN CINEMA. Dropping the north and south exterior and creating ART. Looking forward to it. Awaiting the historic CINEMA that is to come (sic)." Another fan contemplated, "Salaar 2 loading.....? With Hrithik Roshan". One fan wrote, "Just imagining if this were a #PrashanthNeel project! And what if it's part of the Salaar or KGF universe too!?"

Hrithik Roshan is gearing up for the release of his upcoming spy thriller War 2. Directed by Ayan Mukerji, the film also stars Jr NTR and Kiara Advani in lead roles. It is scheduled to release in cinemas on August 14.

Sonu in Legal Trouble Bike Riding Without Helmet

Sonu Sood has drawn flak after a viral video of him riding a bike without helmet or safety gear in the Spiti Valley, Himachal Pradesh went viral on social media. What surprised the Internet was Sonu Sood earlier had advocated for road safety and responsible travel. In the viral video, Sonu Sood is seen riding a bike without a shirt. With a pair of sunglasses on, the actor is seen leading a group of riders in the snow-capped valley. The clip was shared by an Instagram page titled 'Ride With Victor'. In other videos shared on the page, Sonu Sood is seen wearing helmet and a safety gear. However, in the said video where he's seen without helmet prompted backlash on social media. An X user wrote, "So will @himachalpolice take any action on @SonuSood for riding naked without a helmet in Spiti? No protective gear, no clothes - for god knows what he is trying to promote. Are celebrities above the law?" Another user wrote, "He is trying to revive his flop career, this is the trailer before he opens his OF account?" "What a foolish thing to do. Attention seeking behaviour," read another post. Another comment read, "This useless fellow is starved of attention! What an obscene & desperate way to grab eyeballs!" The Lahaul-Spiti police, in an official post on X (formerly Twitter),



acknowledged the viral video and announced an investigation was underway. The statement read, "A video is going viral on social media in which a Bollywood actor is seen violating traffic rules in Lahaul-Spiti district. According to preliminary information, the video appears to be from the year 2023. The task of investigating the authenticity has been handed over to DySP Headquarters, Kyelang."

Rohit, Virat Personally Requested Gambhir for Team Member's Return, BCCI Agreed

New Delhi, (HS) : India are all set to face England in the upcoming five-match Test series, kick-starting from June 20 in Leeds. This series will be a special one as it will mark the beginning of India's campaign in the 2025-27 cycle of the World Test Championship (WTC). Apart from this, this series will also be the first one after skipper Rohit Sharma and star batter Virat Kohli's Test retirement. With Shubman Gill being named as the new captain, Team India will start a new phase.

Before Rohit and Virat announced their respective retirements, the BCCI axed the Indian support staff, which included assistant coach Abhishek Nayar and fielding coach T Dilip. However, the BCCI later decided to reappoint T Dilip as the team's fielding coach for the upcoming tour of England after failing to zero in on a suitable replacement. According to a report by PTI, it was stated that the BCCI was very keen to rope in a foreign name as the new fielding coach, but the governing body could not do it at the required time. However, a new report from Cricbuzz has now stated that the move behind



reappointing T Dilip was pushed by the former skipper Rohit Sharma. As per the report, Rohit made a special request to head coach Gautam Gambhir, requesting a one-year extension for the Hyderabad-based coach. It was also reported that after Dilip's exit, BCCI was looking to appoint Ryan ten Doeschate as the fielding coach. However, he will now continue as the assistant coach to Gambhir. With only a few matches scheduled between now and October 2027, maintaining fitness and form will

likely be challenging for Kohli and Rohit. Yes, there is the IPL every year, but with diminishing numbers of one-day internationals - India play at least 27 matches until December 2026 - and age being a concern, along with a lack of match practice, an uphill climb awaits Kohli and Rohit.

During his earlier stint, Dilip had introduced some populist measures, such as giving medals for the best fielder on a match day or bringing in some legendary figures to distribute those medals. Talking about

Tests against England, newly-appointed Test skipper Shubman Gill and reserve batter B Sai Sudharsan could miss India A's second four-day game against England Lions, beginning on June 6. They are part of the Gujarat Titans. If GT qualify for the final, which is scheduled on June 3 at Ahmedabad, it will be tough for both Gill and Sudharsan to join the India A ahead of the match. Moreover, they will have to quickly adapt to different conditions in England to the red-ball format.

Indian Rowers Dominate Day 1 of Asian Indoor Regatta with 9 Gold, 5 Silver, 1 Bronze

Mumbai, (HS) : India made a sensational start in the Asian Indoor Rowing Championship 2025, bagging 15 medals, including nine gold, in various categories in the mega event that started at Pattaya, Thailand, on Wednesday. India ruled the waters and generated a medal rush in the fiercely-competed opening day, which ended on a glorious note for Team India as it ended with nine gold, five silver and one bronze, according to information provided by the Rowing Federation of India. India finished at the top of the table on the first day of the championship. A total of 11 nations, including South Korea, Iran, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Pakistan, United Arab Emirates, host Thailand and India, are participating in the week-long sporting extravaganza. The gold medals for India were won by Master Saksham in Boys' Under-17, Gursewak Singh in Under-19 men, Ms. Gouri Nanda in women's Under-19, Konganapalle Narayana in Para PR3 men, Ms. Anita in Para PR3 women, Anyatam Rajkumar in Para PR3 ID men and Siddharth Sunil in Masters 30-39 age group. Paspula Krishna Rao won gold in the Masters 50-59 lightweight men, as did James Joseph in the Masters 60+ men. The Indian squad is coached by Olympian P.T. Paulose, while Sudip Naha is the Manager.

Pant, Entire LSG Team Penalised by Code of Conduct Breach

Lucknow, (HS) : Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) captain Rishabh Pant has been fined after his team maintained a slow over-rate during their match in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 against Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium, Lucknow on Tuesday, according to an IPL media advisory. As it was his team's third offence of the season under the IPL's Code of Conduct relating to minimum over-rate offences, Rishabh Pant was fined 30 Lakh. The remaining members of the Playing



XI, including the Impact Player, were each individually fined 12 Lakh or 50 per cent of their respective match fees, whichever is lesser. Coming to the match, with a six-run defeat against

Royal Challengers Bengaluru, Lucknow's topsy-turvy IPL 2025 campaign ended on a bitter note in their home den. Churning out five victories out of their eight fixtures and then standing with a solitary win in the last six fixtures ruled them out of the race for the playoffs.

Stand-in RCB captain Jitesh Sharma arguably played the knock of his life and lifted Royal Challengers Bengaluru to a handsome victory as they overcame Lucknow Super Giants with a six-wicket triumph in the final group stage game of the 18th season of the Indian Premier League (IPL).

Rupal, Pooja win silver, Yoonus bags bronze at Asian Athletics Championships

GUMI, (HS) : India added three more medals to its tally on day two of the Asian Athletics Championships with Rupal Chaudhary and Pooja winning silver, and Yoonus Shah claiming bronze here on Wednesday. Quarter-miler Rupal opened India's account for the day, clocking 52.68 seconds to finish second in the women's 400m final. Fellow Indian Vithya Ramraj was placed fifth with a time of 53.00 seconds. The gold went to Japan's Nanako Matsumoto (52.17s), while Uzbekistan's Jonbibi Hukmova (52.79s) took bronze. Pooja secured



by becoming the first Indian to win two medals in the decathlon at the Asian Athletics Championships. The national record-holder secured silver with 7,618 points, adding to his bronze from the 2023 edition. In a nail-biting finish, Tejaswin entered the final 1500m event in third place but surged ahead with a time of 4:37.99, earning 693 points to claim silver. His podium finish contributed to India's growing medal tally at the championships. China's Fei Xiang clinched gold with 7,634 points, while Japan's Keisuke Okuda took bronze with 7,602 points. The event underscored the rising dominance of Indian

Tejaswin's 2 Decathlon Medals

India's second silver with a time of 4:10. 83 in the women's 1500m, while Yoonus Shah clocked 3:43. 03 in the men's 1500m to finish third. National record holder Gulveer Singh snared India's first gold with a top finish in the men's 10,000m event, while Servin Sebastian clinched the 20km race walk bronze on the opening day of the competition.

Tejaswin Shankar etched his name in history

athletes on the continental stage.

