



SC Temporarily Halts Deportation of A Family to Pakistan



New Delhi, (HS) : The Supreme Court on Friday came to the rescue of a family detained for deportation to Pakistan, after it claimed that they were holding Indian passports and Aadhaar cards. The Union government, in response to the deadly terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's (J&K) Pahalgam, has revoked all valid visas issued by India to Pakistani nationals starting April 27 and had directed all states and Union Territories for their immediate removal. In the writ petition filed before the top court, the petitioners claimed that they are Indian nationals, and were residents of Mirpur till the year 1997 but later moved to the city of Srinagar in J&K. The family had received a notice on April 25 from the Foreign Registration Office (FRO) in Srinagar asking them to leave India on expiration of their visa on the premise that they are Pakistani nationals. Further, the lead petitioner, who obtained an MBA from IIM, Kerala and is presently working in Bengaluru, claimed that his father, mother, elder sister and younger sisters were arrested by the J&K Police illegally on April 29 at around 9 pm. The plea stated the family members were taken to the India-Pakistan Border on April 30 at around 12.20 pm and are at present being forced to leave India from the border. In an interim relief, a Bench of Justices Surya Kant and NK Singh ordered that no coercive measures be taken against the petitioners till verification of documents. "Since factual pleas raised require verification, including genuineness of documents, we dispose of the present writ petition at this stage without expressing any opinion on merits, with a direction to authorities to verify the documents or any other relevant facts that may be brought to their notice." Let an appropriate decision be taken at the earliest, though we are not stating any timeline," ordered the Justice Kant-led Bench.

Learnt a Lot from Naidu's Technology Initiatives as Gujarat CM: PM



Amaravati, (HS) : Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for multiple development projects worth over Rs 58,000 crore in Amaravati. The projects, aimed at bolstering Andhra Pradesh's infrastructure, emphasise advancements in transportation, defence, agriculture, technology, and cultural initiatives. PM Modi on Friday heaped praise on Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for his technology initiatives and revealed that as the newly-elected Chief Minister of Gujarat, he used to closely monitor them. Addressing the public meeting after re-launching Amaravati capital works here, the Prime

Minister said that he learnt a lot from the initiatives taken by Naidu when the latter was the Chief Minister of united Andhra Pradesh. "When I was newly elected Chief Minister of Gujarat, I was very closely monitoring what initiatives Chandrababu Naidu was taking in Hyderabad. I learned a lot, and today, I got the opportunity to implement them," the Prime Minister said. Naidu became emotional when the Prime Minister was praising him. The Prime Minister was responding to the words of appreciation used by Chandrababu Naidu for him during his speech. "Technology means only Narendra Modi Ji. No other politician can understand technology. Only

Modi Ji is understanding technology," said the Chief Minister while referring to his initiatives to promote semiconductors, the Jan Dhan Model, integration of Aadhaar with mobile, and UPI. Stating that he started HITEC City in Hyderabad, Naidu told the Prime Minister that he was now starting Quantum Valley in Amaravati. "We are focusing on AI. You are always guiding me that AI is the gamechanger," he said. During his speech, the Prime Minister also praised Naidu for adopting future technology, taking up projects on a large scale and executing them quickly with efficiency. The Prime Minister also accepted Naidu's invitation to attend International Yoga Day on June

21 in Andhra Pradesh. "I am thankful to N Chandrababu Naidu, the Andhra Pradesh government and the people of the state for inviting us to organise the country's most important event for International Yoga Day in Andhra Pradesh. Like I have said, I will perform Yoga on June 21 with the people of Andhra Pradesh," he said. The Prime Minister, who laid foundation stone or inaugurated projects worth nearly Rs 60,000 crore, stated that he sees Amaravati not just as a city but dream coming true. He termed the projects a strong foundation of Andhra Pradesh's aspirations and Viksit Bharat's hopes. "Amaravati is the capital of Indralok, and it is not merely a coincidence that Amaravati is the capital of Andhra Pradesh. It is a sign of the establishment of Swarna Andhra," he said. The Prime Minister said that "Swarna Andhra" will strengthen the pathway for Viksit Bharat, and Amaravati will empower the vision of "Swarna Andhra". "Amaravati is going to be a city where the dreams of the youths will get fulfilled. Amaravati will emerge as a leading city in sectors such as information technology, Continued P-4

Odisha HSC Results Announced 94.93% Pass, 3,273 Schools Score 100%



Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : The Board of Secondary Education (BSE), Odisha on Friday announced the results of the 2025 High School Certificate (HSC) examinations, with an impressive 3,273 high schools across the state achieving a 100% pass rate. School and Mass Education Minister Nityananda Gond shared the results today, highlighting the strong performance of government schools in this year's matriculation exams. Of the 3,273 schools with perfect results, 1,802 are government high schools, 1,154 are

government-aided, and 317 are unaided institutions. "Government schools have outperformed aided and unaided schools in terms of pass percentage, and notably, no school in the state recorded a zero percent result this year," Minister Gond stated. A total of 5,02,417 students appeared for the 2025 HSC exams, with 4,84,863 successfully clearing the tests, resulting in an overall pass percentage of 94.93%. Out of them, 2,44,612 girls passed, while 2,40,291 boys passed. The pass percentage for girls Continued P-4

Odisha Govt Orders Inquiry Into Digha Jagannath Temple Controversy



Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : The State Government has directed the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA), Puri, to conduct an internal inquiry into the controversy surrounding the Digha Jagannath temple in West Bengal. The idols of the trinity using surplus neem wood from the Nabakalebar ritual and its naming as "Jagannath Dham Digha" have sparked widespread debate and opposition. Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan has instructed SJTA Chief Administrator Dr. Arabinda

Kumar Padhee to investigate the matter and bring the truth to light. The Minister stated that the controversy has hurt the sentiments of the Jagannath-loving devotees and the people of Odisha. The inquiry aims to identify those responsible for the incident and take necessary action, including punishment, with the permission of the state government. The government's decision comes amid growing concerns over the temple's construction and the involvement of servitors from Puri in the Continued P-4

UGC Constitutes Fact-Finding Committee to Investigate Student Suicides at KIIT

Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : The University Grants Commission (UGC) has formed a Fact-Finding Committee to investigate the recent student suicides at Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT), Bhubaneswar. The committee, chaired by Prof. Nageshwar Rao, former Vice Chancellor of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), will examine the circumstances surrounding the incidents and suggest measures to prevent such incidents in the future. The committee members include Prof. Shashikala Wanjari, Vice Chancellor, National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA), Prof. HCS Rathore, former Vice Chancellor, Central University of South Bihar, Dr. Sunita Siwach, Joint Secretary, University Grants Commission, as the coordinating officer. "In view of the two consecutive suicide



incidents at Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT), Bhubaneswar on February 16, 2025 and May 1, 2025, the University Grants Commission (UGC), as the regulatory body, has decided to constitute a fact-finding committee to examine the circumstances surrounding these incidents and ensure compliance with student welfare and safety regulations and further suggesting measures to prevent such incidents," read an order issued

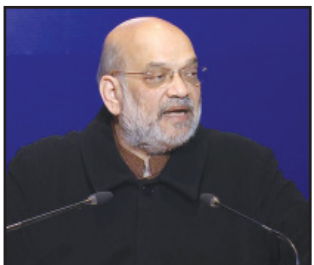
by the UGC. The committee will investigate the following aspects:- Institutional policies and academic pressure - Grievance redressal mechanisms and student support structures - Mental health support system, including counseling services and crisis intervention frameworks - Compliance with student welfare and safety regulations - Implementation of student safety and well-being policies The panel will also engage

with stakeholders, including students, faculty, and administrators, to assess the institutional culture and challenges faced. The UGC has directed the committee to submit a detailed report with findings and recommendations within 10 days. The UGC's decision comes after two consecutive student suicides at KIIT, one on February 16, 2025, and another on May 1, 2025. The Foreign Affairs Minister of Nepal, Arzu Rana Deuba, expressed deep sadness over the death of Prisha Shah, a Nepali student studying at Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) University and initiated diplomatic initiatives to investigate the truth behind the incident. As per reports, the body of Prisha, a Nepali student pursuing a B.Tech course at the institution, was found in her hostel room number 111 of campus number 4, and the Continued P-4

Union Home Minister Amit Shah to make a two-day visit to Odisha

Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : Union Home Minister Amit Shah will come to Odisha on a two-day visit beginning from May 10, informed state BJP President Manmohan Samal on Friday. While speaking to the newsmen about the visit of the Union Minister, Samal said

that Shah will reach Bhubaneswar on May 10 and will lay the foundation stone for a forensic university in Jatani. Later in the evening, he will offer prayers at Puri Jagannath Temple, and will have night halt there, the state BJP President said. On the



next day i.e on May 11, the Union Home Minister will make a visit to the Maa Samaleswari temple and after offering prayers at the shrine, he will lay foundation stones of several projects in Sambalpur, Samal added. As per his schedule, Shah

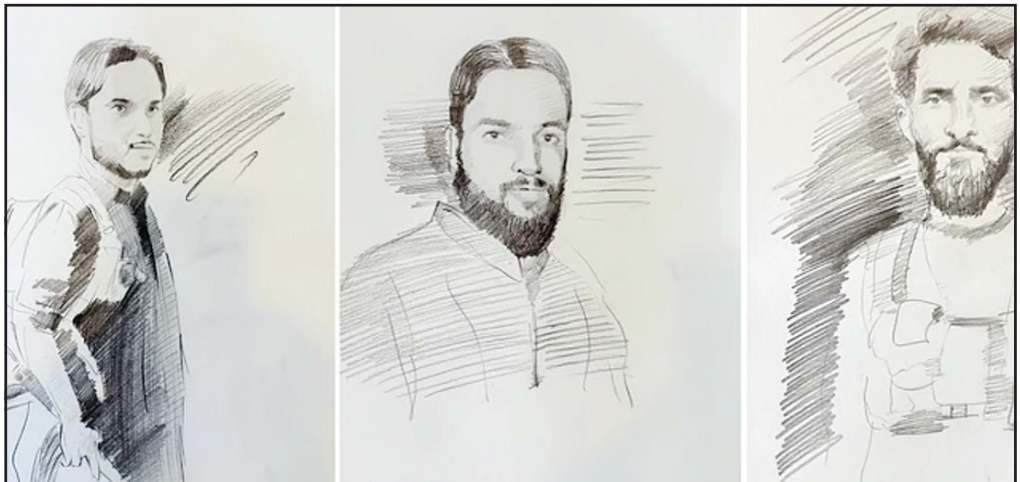
will return to Bhubaneswar from Sambalpur to address a public meeting at Janata Maidan and lay foundation stones of various projects. The Union Home Minister is also expected to meet some state leaders of the saffron party before leaving for Delhi. A

meeting over Amit Shah's visit to the State was held at the party office which was attended by Chief Minister Mohan Majhi, Deputy Chief Ministers Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo and Pravati Parida and BJP's state in-charge Vijaypal Singh Tomar.

Pahalgam attack planned by LeT with ISI, Pak Army help: NIA

New Delhi, (HS) : The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has, in its preliminary report, confirmed the involvement of Pakistan-based terror group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), and the Pakistan Army in the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that claimed 26 lives, sources said on Friday. The federal anti-terror agency has identified around 20 overground workers (OGWs) from the Kashmir Valley who allegedly provided logistical support to the attackers. These individuals are currently being interrogated, the sources added. The NIA is also preparing to

question two key OGWs - Nisar Ahmad alias Haji and Mushtaq Hussain - both currently lodged in Kot Bhalwal Jail in Jammu. According to officials, the duo are known LeT associates and were earlier arrested for aiding terrorists involved in the 2023 attacks on Army convoys in Bhata Dhurian and Totagali. As per the NIA's findings, the Pahalgam attack was planned by the LeT with active support and direction from Pakistani state actors, including the ISI and the Army. Two prime suspects - Hashmi Musa alias Suleman and Ali Bhai alias Talha Bhai - have been identified as Pakistani nationals who were in constant



communication with handlers across the border, receiving instructions on logistics, timing,

and execution. Investigations revealed that the attackers infiltrated weeks before the

assault and were supported by a network of local OGWs who provided them with shelter,

conducted reconnaissance, and facilitated movement. Sources said the terrorists reached Pahalgam around April 15 and surveyed four potential sites - Baisaran Valley, Aru Valley, Betaab Valley, and a local amusement park. They ultimately chose Baisaran due to a thin security presence. The NIA has recovered over 40 cartridges from the site, which have been sent for ballistic and chemical analysis. Investigators also conducted 3D mapping of the area and extracted tower dump data from nearby mobile towers. A source said, "Satellite phone activity in the region

spiked in the days leading up to the attack. At least three satellite phones were operational in and around Baisaran and signals from two have been traced and analysed." So far, over 2,800 individuals have been questioned. More than 150 remain in custody, including suspected OGWs and persons linked to banned groups such as Jamaat-e-Islami and various Hurriyat factions. The agency is also reviewing CCTV footage from transit points and public locations in and around Pahalgam, as well as data from regional security checkpoints to track movement patterns. Continued P-4

NEW PM

When Justin Trudeau resigned as Prime Minister of Canada in January amid plummeting approval ratings, many considered the Liberal Party dead and buried ahead of general elections in that country. His replacement, Mark Carney, an unelected former central banker, faced the formidable task of rescuing a flailing economy and reviving a fractured party. Then came Donald Trump. As the US President began his second term, Canadian political discourse pivoted towards national pride in response to Trump's provocations, which included a suggestion to annex Canada as the 51st American state and a wave of new tariffs. These developments rallied Canadians and gave Carney a platform. Riding a wave of anti-Trump sentiment, he has led the Liberals to a surprising, albeit narrow, electoral victory.

Carney may have emerged as the face of the Liberal Party's resurrection, but his challenges are far from over. He must now confront serious economic headwinds and navigate an increasingly unpredictable global landscape shaped by Canada's southern neighbour. For India, a significant aspect of the election was the downfall of Jagmeet Singh, leader of the New Democratic Party (NDP), who lost the parliamentary seat he had held since 2019. The NDP supported Trudeau's minority government from 2021 to 2024, but this time failed to meet the 12-seat threshold required for official party status. With both Singh and Trudeau now relegated to a back seat, Carney's election offers a potential reset in India-Canada relations, which have been strained for one-and-a-half years after Trudeau's unsubstantiated allegations against India over the killing of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar. Nearly two million people of Indian origin live in Canada, and over four lakh Indian students currently study there. Beyond strong people-to-people ties, key sectors of collaboration include pharmaceuticals, agri-tech, energy and climate change mitigation. Notably, trade between the two countries has remained largely unaffected by the diplomatic fallout. Canada has identified India as a critical regional partner in its Indo-Pacific Strategy, citing a shared interest in countering China's expanding influence. Carney's election, therefore, is an opportunity for renewed cooperation - provided Canada is willing to address India's legitimate security concerns on the Khalistan issue. He has already signalled his intent to "rebuild" ties with India, calling the relationship "incredibly important". Whether his government can go beyond the diplomatic gridlock of the Trudeau era and forge a meaningful alliance remains to be seen.

3rd May

Constitution Memorial Day



There's no doubt that violence and war have taken away too much, and this is why we take a moment to ponder life during Japan's Constitution Memorial Day on May 3. Sociopolitical rifts cause too much loss, no matter what side of the conflict you're on. Japan's case is no different. Not only did the country inflict violence on other nations, but it also suffered gravely in return. Japan woke up one day to the loss of its cities, Hiroshima and Nagasaki - with many families torn apart, children orphaned, family members missing or (assumed) dead. The U.S. attacked the two cities with atomic bombs successively. Around 226,000 were killed, most of whom were mere civilians. After facing unprecedented losses, Japan surrendered in 1945, building a new constitution that would focus on civilian's welfare and peace.

Japan's Constitution Memorial Day is held every year on May 3. It is a national holiday and it is the second day in the Golden Week of Japan. Memorial Day is special because it celebrates the new constitution that was drafted and brought into legislation after Japan's emperor, Emperor Showa, surrendered to the Allied Forces, namely the U.S., in 1945. It took a period of two years for the new constitution to be finalized and ratified. Finally, on May 3, 1945, the new constitution replaced the older one, which was known as the Meiji Constitution. The Meiji Constitution put much emphasis on conquering other nations through violence and war. It did not have much regard for its civilians and their well-being. On the other hand, the newer constitution focused on upholding the sovereignty of its people, protecting them, and resolving any international conflicts without the use of weapons. The people of Japan also favored democracy as it would allow them to not only choose their own leaders but also choose those sets of principles that served them and their future generations well.

Originally, Constitution Memorial Day was meant to be commemorated on November 3 as that was the day when the new constitution was finalized. Many people lobbied for November 3 but it was not chosen because this was also the day when the war crime trials of imperial officers began. Thus, May 3 was finally chosen as it also happened to be the day on which the new constitution replaced the older one. As May 3 is a public holiday, many people also visit the constitution building to take pictures and experience the history. This is the only day when the building and the constitution documents are open to the public.

Demystifying the American bond market crisis



Suresh Chandra Sarangi

The world in the current phase is at the edge of chaos. It all happened With the onset of Covid Pandemic, then the Russia-Ukraine war, and thereafter the Israel- Palestine war and currently, the Trump's reciprocal tariff, and China's retaliatory tariff and a full blown trade war. Patiently observing the situation and examining them and reflecting on that leads to a conclusion that the international macroeconomics is entering into an age of turbulence and uncertainty. and has entered in to an interesting phase, in the post world war 2 period. At a time, when the benefits of the limited growth is growing unevenly across the globe, the trade war has pulled the curtain on globalisation, with uncertainty hovering around the corner. Emerging economies and markets are at a loss, and low income groups have lost hopes. It is a truism that in an interconnected world of anemic growth, this ,may lead to the growth of terrorism, income inequality, rabid protectionism, and rampant isolationism.

The US treasury, like India's RBI, as the monetary authority in case of India, offers for sale of various securities of different maturities with different rates, to provide funds to the government coffers. This Is christened as the government's borrowing

programme, to make up for the shortfall in revenue receipts. The same is known as fiscal deficit and the borrowing creates a debt burden on the government, and the same is administered by the RBI. Before entering into the dynamics of the American treasury and the bond market fiasco let us first try to understand the bond dynamics in an example. It is a well settled norm that when the bond prices goes down, the yield on bond increases. When bond prices goes up, the yield get reduced and it's an inverse equation. For example, all securities have a face value of Rs 100 and they carry a fixed coupon rate of interest. Suppose, rs 8.58 2030, a bond is issued at a coupon rate of interest of 8.58%. Where 2030 is the end of the term of payment and it applies an interest of 8.58%. If kept up to maturity, then the interest is paid. Suppose on behalf of the treasury, interest is paid on yearly basis and the last amount of interest and principal is paid in the last. Upon maturity, it happens that, presuming the fact that the one is kept till maturity. However the bond holder has the option to sell it at any point of time, depending upon his requirement. In the instant case, this security, the bond, is traded in the market, market conditions apply, with interest rising to 8.75% then the bond price will go down by 2 rupees that the bond value shall be Rs 98 instead of Rs 100.

US treasury bonds are one - long term government debt securities issued by the US department of treasury to finance government spending. This works as a benchmark or reference point for many treasuries across the world. The type of treasury securities are treasury bills which are short term securities spanning between 4 weeks to 52 weeks. Medium Term securities are treasury notes with a term of 2,3,5, or 10 years. The bonds are long term securities with term ties of 20 to 30 years, and treasury



inflation protected securities are inflation indexed with maturities of 5,10 ,30 years, that is a protection against inflation. The beauty of the bonds are that they are low risk government securities, with promise of fixed income and there is an inbuilt liquidity attached to it. The US bond crisis arose after April 7th., when Trump increased the tariff on liberation day , April second. There was a prompt knee jerk reaction and there was massive sell off in US bond market, which was faltering. Bond prices fell down with yield skyrocketing creating a pressure on government revenues. This led Trump to pause tariffs for a period of 90 days. It was not just about the falling bond market, but the bond market dynamics that became a decisive factor. The index fell bout 20% from February 25. the bond yields was rising. The American treasury, sold some 58 billions 3 year bonds. with rising yields and falling bond prices, there was not enough buyer in the market and the government sinks and the fed had to absorb the remaining unsold amount. A crisis like the SPV crisis was looming large on the horizon. That means, American bond which was the darling of the world market and in particular the sovereign government could not generate enough interest to participate. This was a tremendous shift. Japan's the top holder of US bonds, amounting 1.08 trillions, then

China with 670 billions invested in US bonds. uK remains 2nd with 740 billions. Bond prices rose on April 1st and yields fall just before the liberation day on 2nd April. Then the bond yields fell from 4.1% to 3.8% . From April 8th the bond prices started to fall. There is technical reason for the same as per the experts. The large hedge funds. There is a technical reason behind the same. The large hedge work with borrowed funds. When market plummeted from April 1 to April 7 this funds get a margin call due to excessive volatility, leading to sell, as a result of which the bond prices fell with the yields rising. The Conspiracy theory also speaks that countries like China, who have substantial exposure to US bonds tried to put pressure on selling US one's , that would have further exacerbated the problem. Japan and other countries also sold US treasuries. With high yield inflation was raising its ugly head for which Jerome Powell, the fed chairman, remarked let us not meddle with treasury. It S corporate bonds, which are better priced than the sovereign bonds, also observed that the funds for the corporate market are drying up. There we're no buyers. If the bond market would have crashed, then there would have been an immediate impact on the American treasury, inflation, stock market and the world economy, when one analyses the larger picture ,like the

SPV crisis There could have been a liquidity crisis of immense proportion as crisis was looming and confidence in the market economy was ebbing. Hence, Trump said that the bond market is very tricky and complex for which he had no alternative but to cautiously suspended the tariffs for a temporary period of 90 days , sans China. Even some experts said that if the bond market would have felled then that would have necessarily the end of dollar as a reserve currency. Dedollarization, it appeared was coming automatically. This led to pupressure in Trump's otherwise tempestuous stiff programme and consequent trade war. This de-escalated the tension to some extent. Ernst and young speaks that there may be a 0.8% gdp growth this year. Indian rupee which continuously remained depreciated has shown some signs of resilience, as previously, the dollar was strengthening and now Rupee is strengthening.

This imperative for fulfilling human demands and improve social life. That necessitates lot of expenditure and more particularly, in the modern welfare state and fiscal deficit therefore, has become more common. When capital, labour and productivity are eroding against unprecedented global headwinds, Trump's tariff has untimely and brought a new challenge for a fatigued World. Zonathan Haidt's book speaks about the anxiety of the next generation. The debt ent to GDP ratio is increasing and interest payments this year would eat up to 30% of the Federal budget. Therefore, in the case of US and the world economy, The American president has to keep a close eye on the bond market, while negotiating tariffs in the coming days. Then Aldous Huxely's Brave New World May be a reality.

The writer is a former General Manager, Bank of India

Win War with Peace : 'Yogastha kurukarmani'

Dr. Umesh Chandra Patra

If we can get access to the peaceful space inside us, then outer peace can become a reality, says Bhagwan Sri Sri Thakur Ankulchandra. It has been over near about one year since the Ukraine-Russia war began and still, there is no sign of a resolution. The massive human suffering it has brought in its wake reiterates the undeniable lesson of history that war is not a way to resolve conflicts. Force and aggression can never bring a lasting solution. In the past, many emperors have tried to conquer the world with force and they have all failed in the long run.

Leaders have to realise that they don't need to resort to force to establish their power. Embracing peace isn't a sign of weakness. Rather, it is aggression that often proves to be a shortcoming in a leader, as it comes in the way of winning over the minds and hearts of people. And without winning the minds and hearts of the population of the country, one cannot be a true leader. People do like a strong leader. However, strong leadership does not mean autocracy, irresponsibility and inflicting indiscriminate violence. The strong one will always be confident and one can exuberate with such confidence only when there is peace. That confidence is a true sign of strength. There is a difference between building strong self-defence and being aggressive. We have the ancient philosophy of Chaturupaya which enunciates Saam, conciliation; Daam, incentive; Dand, punishment; and Bhed, manipulation, as four



effective ways of addressing a conflicting situation. To establish dharma, all the four means are permitted. But taking the option of dand right away is an unintelligent way. Fight, but with peace. Peace is an ornament of the brave warrior. In the Bhagwad Gita, Krishn tells Arjun to fight but without feverishness, with peace in his heart. He said: 'Yogastha kurukarmani' - be established in the Self, in yog, in peace, and then act and fight without feverishness if need be. War is the worst act of reason. Wars happen because of some perceived threats or because of the adamancy or arrogance of leaders. Whenever there is a conflict, it indicates a certain chasm between communities or between nations. When warring leaders take a unilateral view and become rigid and arrogant, the differences only escalate. Talk to any of the warring parties, and they will convince you that they are right. But they don't see it from the other side's point of view. A mutual resolution of conflict cannot happen if the views of only one side are considered. Here, people who are neutral or who have gained trust on both sides can play a vital

role in bridging the gap. The focus should be to bring the parties to take up the common agreeable issues first so that the contentious ones can be looked into with more patience and harmony. For conflict resolution, mediators don't need courage as much as they need communication skills.

When we talk of world peace, we often forget an essential truth. Outer peace is not possible without individuals being at peace with themselves. Here, spirituality has an important role. Spirituality is not only a powerful force that brings people together, but also offers methods and techniques to handle stress, anger and aggression and get rid of negative emotions within us. If people can get access to the peaceful space inside them, then outer peace can become a reality. We need to include peace education in our school curriculum. We spend so much on defence budgets. Even if a minuscule percentage of that budget is spent on peace education, a lot could be achieved.

Prof. Hepatology Deptt. S.C.B. Medical College, Cuttack

Every one of us is responsible for war

Puspamitra Mohapatra

For man to change radically, fundamentally, there must be a mutation in the very brain cells of his mind. And that has been going on; people have said you must change, you must act, you must change your mind, your heart, you must be something totally different. This has been preached for thousands of years by men who were serious, very earnest, as well as by charlatans who were out to exploit people. And we have reached a point when we have no time at all. Please understand this. We haven't time to make this change gradually. Intellectuals throughout the world have realised this, that man is on the edge of a precipice, that he is going to destroy himself. No religions, no gods, no saviours, no masters and all the nonsense of gurus, are going to prevent it. Intellectuals say we must invent a new, golden drug that will bring about a complete chemical change; and scientists are probably going to find such a drug.

Now although the whole physical organism is a biochemical result, can a super drug make you love, make you kind, generous, gentle, non-violent? I do not think so; a drug cannot make one human being love another. Love is not a product of thought. Love is not something which can be cultivated as you would cultivate a flower in a garden. Love cannot be bought in a drugstore and love is the only thing that is going to save man, not all the religious tricks, neither the rituals nor the army.

One may escape to concerts, museums, to various kinds of entertainment – all to no avail for man is now facing a tremendous problem; whether he can radically change, bring about a total mutation in his whole consciousness, not tomorrow, nor a few years hence, but now! That is the main issue; whether man, whatever country he inhabits, with all the beauty of the land, can bring about such a radical mutation within himself immediately. That is the problem, not your beliefs, ideologies, gods, saviours, priests and rituals; they no longer have any meaning. So, during these talks, if you are at all serious, we are going to try to find out if it is at all possible for man – that is you and I – to change our whole way of thinking, our whole way of living, not verbally, not intellectually but actually, because life is relationship; and without relationship, there is no life. This applies even to the monk in his monastery, which is really a mode of escape; even he is related.

Relationship means life, and when there is conflict in that relationship, whether it be within yourself, or with your husband, your wife, your neighbour or with anybody, then life becomes a battlefield. Everybody is responsible for war because we are human beings and we have created wars; that's part of our life. And to say the Americans are dreadful people, violent people – well, so are you! You don't feel this responsibility at all!

Advocate, Orissa High Court, Cuttack

Design a Digital Clock for Indian Railways - Win 5 Lakh!

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): Indian Railways has announced a nationwide competition to design new digital clocks, which are to be installed across all railway stations in the country. Railway has invited entries from the creative people.

This competition aims to standardize the digital clocks used on platforms and stations and will be open to three categories of participants: professionals, college/university students, and school students. One grand winner, whose design gets selected for use across Indian Railways, will

receive a first prize of ₹5 lakh. Additionally, each of the three categories will have five consolation prizes of ₹50,000 each. Participants must submit their designs online between May 1 and May 31.

According to Mr. Dilip Kumar, Executive Director (Information & Publicity), Railway Board, entries must be submitted in high resolution without any watermark or logo, along with a certificate of originality. Participants are allowed to submit multiple designs,

and each entry must be accompanied by a brief concept note explaining the theme and idea behind the design. It is essential that all submitted designs are original and do not violate any intellectual property rights or copyrights.

In the school category, students up to class 12 are eligible and must upload a valid school ID card. The college category includes individuals currently enrolled in any recognized university or college. All others will fall under the professional category.

New Zonal Head of UCO Bank

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): Bhagwat Singh Bhakuni, DGM has taken over as the new Zonal Head of the Bhubaneswar Zone, UCO Bank. Prior to this appointment, he served as Branch Head at the Flagship Corporate Centre in New Delhi. Joining UCO Bank as a Probationary Officer in 2006, Bhakuni has gained extensive experience working across various regions, including Uttarakhand, New Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, and



Chandigarh. With over a decade of experience as a Branch Head, he has successfully managed branches of varying sizes. As an accomplished banker, Bhakuni has a strong interest in credit, forex and International trade. In his new role as Zonal Manager, he is expected to focus on large credit, medium credit, agriculture, retail, MSME loans and CASA, tailored to the specific needs of the Bhubaneswar zone.

KISS Students Excel in 10th Board Exam: Achieve 100% Results for 18 Consecutive Years

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) has posted a 100% result in the 10th Board Examination conducted by the Board of Secondary Education (BSE), Odisha, results of which were declared today. While the average pass rate in Odisha is 94.93 percent, the KISS has once again attained 100 percent success rate. This achievement signifies the 18th consecutive year in which KISS students have achieved 100 percent results in the Matric examination. This year, a total of 1,900 students from the school appeared for the examination. Among them, 41% secured over 60 per cent marks, while the remaining students scored over 50 per cent and passed in the second



division. KISS student Khairani Majhi from Keonjhar emerged as the school topper with an impressive score of 560 marks. Notably, 201 students belonging to the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG), such as Saura, Bonda, Juang, Khadia, Lodha, and Paudi Bhuyan have performed exceptionally well. It is also

noteworthy that students from the neighboring state of Jharkhand, who are studying at KISS, have achieved excellent results in the Matric exam. Most of these students are the first learners in their families, becoming the first generation to pursue formal education. Their success is a testament to the strong academic foundation and

nurturing environment provided by KISS. Teachers and staff have taken care of them with exceptional dedication, guiding and mentoring them to overcome challenges and build a solid base for future academic pursuits. Expressing joy over the results, KIIT & KISS Founder Dr. Achyuta Samanta congratulated all the successful students. He attributed the consistent success of KISS to the dedication of the teachers and staff, their timely guidance, and the tireless efforts of the students. Dr. Samanta extended his heartfelt thanks to all the teachers, staff, and students for their relentless commitment and contribution to this remarkable achievement.

High-Level Meeting Held To Plan Celebrations For Completion One Year of The Govt

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): A high-level meeting was convened today under the chairpersonship of Usha Padhee, Principal Secretary, Housing & Urban Development and Commerce & Transport Departments, to discuss the roadmap for celebrating the completion of one year of the present Government in Odisha. Senior officials from both departments actively participated in the deliberations.

Padhee underscored the importance of organizing the celebrations in a meaningful, inclusive, and impactful manner, showcasing the Government's achievements over the past year. She emphasized that the proposed activities should reflect the administration's dedication to development, transparency, good governance, and public welfare. A broad range of activities were

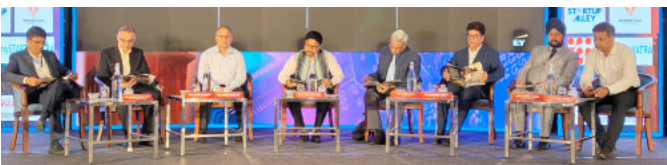


proposed during the meeting, including: Public outreach programmes across all 115 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), RTO regions, and Port areas to highlight key developmental milestones. Exhibitions and multimedia campaigns to display success stories and transformative initiatives. Foundation stone laying and inauguration ceremonies for major projects across sectors. Audio-visual presentations to

document and communicate departmental achievements. Citizen engagement initiatives and departmental events, particularly in housing, sanitation, transport, and urban development. Cultural programmes and felicitation of distinguished individuals from various fields. Padhee directed all departments to prepare sector-specific action plans and ensure maximum public participation in the planned activities. The celebration is envisioned as a citizen-centric, inclusive, and participatory event that reflects the spirit of democratic governance and service delivery. The meeting concluded with an agreement to finalize a comprehensive calendar of events, ensuring close coordination among all concerned departments and stakeholders.

Semiconductor production to start in couple of year: IT Minister

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): Odisha, which is known to formulate better policies for investors, will start production of semiconductors in the next couple of years, state Information Technology Minister Dr Mukesh Mahaling said. Addressing the summit titled 'From Temple to Tech', he said Odisha is in a very good position in the field of digital infrastructure, skill development and start-ups. Leading IT companies have set up their centers in the state. He also invited IT companies to invest in Odisha and assured all support from the government. He also informed that Odisha Industries Support Cell also to facilitate IT sectors investors. "In a milestone initiative to drive Odisha's emergence as a global hub for electronics manufacturing and IT services, the Department of Electronics & Information Technology (E&IT), Government of Odisha, in collaboration with the Electronics



and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC), successfully hosted the 'From Temples to Tech' summit at The Crown, Bhubaneswar. The event gathered top government officials, industry leaders, academic experts, and startups from across India and abroad, aiming to catalyze the state's transition into a tech-driven economy. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Vishal Kumar Dev, Principal Secretary, Department of Information Technology highlighted the growing contribution of the services sector towards the State Gross Domestic Product (GSDP) and the growth therein in the coming days. He spoke about the various benefits and incentives available to investors in the state's

IT policy and semiconductor policy. He said that the incentives given by the Government of Odisha to the industry are among the best in the country. Speaking on the occasion, Joint Secretary to the Government of India, Manish Chadha presented a comparative picture of the country's hardware production and said that a few years ago there were many challenges about it. But after the central government came up with attractive policies, India has made considerable progress in electronics manufacturing. 99% of mobile phones used in India are made within the country. He said India's contribution to smartphone manufacturing has been increasing steadily. Executive Director of ESC Gurmeet Singh,

Chairman (Global Outreach) Sandeep Narula, ESC Chairman Veer Sagar and ESC (Eastern) Chairman Dr Ashwini Kumar Rath and others were present on the occasion. Among the key highlights was the launch of the Odisha Industry Support Cell by ESC, aimed at providing export guidance, global market access, mentoring, and standards compliance support for local electronics and IT enterprises. The event also saw the unveiling of a white paper titled "Electronics and Software Exports from India and Odisha," offering a data-backed roadmap for expanding the state's export capabilities. Additionally, Six Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were signed between ESC and leading academic institutions including IIT Bhubaneswar, IIT Bhubaneswar, OTR, BPUR, VSSUT, and the World Trade Center Bhubaneswar, to promote

industry-academia collaboration and skill development. The summit featured impactful discussions through an open house with startup founders and CXOs, along with two insightful panel sessions. One focused on enhancing global competitiveness through hardware innovation, and another on building Odisha into a tech and talent powerhouse. Representatives from Atlanta Systems, InfoPower Tech, Ernst & Young, MeitY, ESSCI, and global accelerator Plug and Play contributed valuable perspectives. Shri Manoj Kumar, Deputy CEO of the Government e-Marketplace (GeM), provided guidance to MSMEs and startups on leveraging GeM for government procurement. A startup showcase highlighted ten high-potential electronics and IT startups from Odisha, presenting their innovative solutions to investors and mentors, further reinforcing the state's growing deep-tech ecosystem.

'Akhil Chakra-Odisha' Reaches Freedom Fighter's Village

Khordha, (DMC): Bajpur village under Khordha Panchayat Samiti was on Friday granted 'Saraswat Tirth Khetra' status by 'Akhil Chakra-Odisha', a well-established organisation in Jajpur region. The status was conferred on Bajpur village under Khordha Panchayat Samiti during a ceremony organised on the occasion of the 57th death anniversary of the great freedom fighter and Kabi Gaurav Pandit Narayan Mishra. As a result, there has been a wave of joy among the people of the panchayat. Initially, the 'Saraswat Tirtha Kshetra' plaque, Akhil Chakra-Odisha President Rajyavardhan Dhal Mahapatra were unveiled the Utkalamani Pandit Gopabandhu Dash statue at the birth place of freedom fighter Pandit Narayan Mishra, by Secretary Harekrushna Panda. Later, floral wreaths were offered to the clock, cart, bed, etc. used by Pandit Mishra. On this occasion, floral wreaths were offered to the statues of freedom fighter Pandit Laxminarayan Mishra. Later, the guests garlanded the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav memorial plaque installed by the Central Government in the Bajpur High School campus. In this context, in a meeting organized at the Bajpur Youth Association premises, the chief guest was All India Radio singer Basanta Das, Narayan Smiti Parishad trustee Dr. Dharendra Nanda, Rabindra Parida, social activist Akshay Kumar Dash, Sukanti Pattnaik, and Nirakar Das, discussed why Bajpur was given the status of a Saraswat Teerthakhetra. BJP leader Rajib Lochan Sarangi demanded that a historical monument be erected in Bajpur. On this occasion, Sarangdhara Mohapatra, Gopal Krushna Das, Manorma Nanda, Bhagirathi Mangaraj, Umashankar Prasad were the prominent participants and demanded that the village be declared a memorial of the freedom struggle. At the end of the program Carmel English School student Saurabha Mishra proposed the vote of thanks.

Odisha Agriculture Dept Signs MoUs With Four Corporations To Boost Farm Sector In FY 2025-26



Bhubaneswar, (DMC): The Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment, Government of Odisha, signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with four key state corporations for the financial year 2025-26, reaffirming its commitment to strengthening agricultural infrastructure and empowering farmers across the state. The MoUs were signed at Lok Seva Bhavan in the presence of Deputy Chief Minister and Agriculture Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo.

The corporations involved include Odisha Agro-Industries Corporation (OAIC), Agricultural Promotion and Investment Corporation of Odisha Limited (APICOL), Odisha State Seeds Corporation Limited (OSSC), and Odisha State Cashew Development Corporation Limited (OSCDCL). Speaking at the event, Singh Deo lauded the efforts of the affiliated corporations and felicitated the Managing Directors of OAIC and APICOL for their outstanding

performance in the previous financial year. He highlighted that the department had utilized 94.7% of its approved budget-one of the highest among state departments-and expressed confidence that this momentum of progress would continue. Odisha Agro-Industries Corporation has set a target of achieving a turnover of ₹1,000 crore during FY 2025-26. This includes the procurement of 45,000 tonnes of fertilizers, organic fertilizers, and pesticides worth ₹20 crore, as well as the distribution of 7,000 tractors, 1,000 power tillers, and various agricultural machinery.

The corporation also plans to implement 5,200 electric-powered small lift irrigation projects, 4,800 solar water tank projects, and 1,000 shallow tube well projects, alongside construction work worth ₹30 crore. The partnership with Odisha State Seeds Corporation Limited aims to enhance the seed production and supply chain in the state. The department will ensure the timely availability of certified seeds and promote seed replacement and varietal improvement through coordinated farmer awareness campaigns. A turnover target of

₹56 crore has been set under this collaboration. The Agricultural Promotion and Investment Corporation of Odisha Limited plans to create 6,500 new agribusiness enterprises in the coming year. Subsidies worth ₹250 crore will be provided, including ₹200 crore under the Mukhyamantri Krushi Udyog Yojana (MKUY) and ₹50 crore under the Cold Storage Support Scheme. Meanwhile, the Odisha State Cashew Development Corporation Ltd will undertake hybrid cashew replantation over 500 hectares and maintain plantations across more than 1,336 hectares. It has also set a target to produce 35 lakh hybrid cashew grafts through its 20 clonal nurseries. The event was attended by Principal Secretary of the Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment Department Dr Arabinda Kumar Padhee, Director of Agriculture Shubham Saxena, Director of Horticulture Nikhil Pawan Kalyan, and other senior department officials.

Birla School of Law Organises 5th Intra Moot Court Competition

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): The Birla School of Law, Birla Global University, Bhubaneswar, successfully conducted the 5th BSOL Intra Moot Court Competition from 24th to 25th April 2025. A total of 26 teams from across five batches of the School of Law participated in the event, which witnessed spirited advocacy and legal argumentation by the students.

The moot problem was based on the Law of Contracts and Arbitration, providing the participants with an opportunity to engage with complex legal issues and demonstrate their research and oratory skills. The semi-final and final rounds were judged by an esteemed panel of academicians and legal professionals. The panel



comprised Mr. Siddhant Sarangi, Advocate, High Court of Orissa; Mr. Sagar Sangam Mohanty, Head of Legal, Metro Group; Ms. Chinmayee Das, Assistant Professor, SNIL, SOA Deemed to be University, Bhubaneswar; and Mr. Ambarish Mangaraj, Assistant Professor, SNIL, SOA Deemed to be University. The judges were felicitated by Prof. (Dr.) B.K. Das, Registrar, Birla

Global University, and Prof. (Dr.) Sukanta Kumar Nanda, Dean, Birla School of Law. The results of the competition will be announced on 28th April 2025, which is also observed as Lawyers' Day. The event was a testament to the institution's commitment to promoting experiential legal education and nurturing future leaders in the field of law.

Konark, Visakha & Bhubaneswar-Visakhapatnam Inter City will now originate and terminate



Bhubaneswar, (DMC): In an important alert for the train passengers, the East Coast Railways (ECOR) has decided to change the terminal point for three trains at Bhubaneswar New Station instead of the existing Bhubaneswar Main Station. The three trains which will originate and terminate at Bhubaneswar New Station are - 11020/11019 Bhubaneswar-CSMT Mumbai-Bhubaneswar Konark Express, 17015/17016 Bhubaneswar-Secunderabad-Bhubaneswar Visakha Express and 22819/22820 Bhubaneswar-Visakhapatnam-Bhubaneswar Inter City Express. 11019 Mumbai-Bhubaneswar Konark Express from Mumbai w.e.f. 11th May will terminate at Bhubaneswar New Station. After reaching Bhubaneswar Main Station at its scheduled time, this train will leave at 2355hrs, towards Bhubaneswar New. This

Secunderabad w.e.f. 11th May will terminate at Bhubaneswar New Station. After reaching at Bhubaneswar Main Station at its scheduled time, this train will leave at 1600hrs, towards Bhubaneswar New. This train will reach at Mancheswar at 0002hrs and will leave at 0004hrs and thereafter will arrive at Bhubaneswar New Station at 0020hrs. Likewise, 11020 Bhubaneswar-Mumbai Konark Express will originate at 1440hrs from Bhubaneswar New Station w.e.f. 12th May 2025 instead of Bhubaneswar Main Station. This train will arrive at Mancheswar at 1448hrs and will leave at 1450hrs towards Bhubaneswar Main Station. After reaching Bhubaneswar Main Station at 1500hrs, this train will leave towards Mumbai on its earlier scheduled time. Similarly, 17016 Secunderabad-Bhubaneswar Visakha Express from

Bhubaneswar Inter City Express from Visakhapatnam w.e.f. 12th May will terminate at Bhubaneswar New Station. After reaching at Bhubaneswar Main Station at its scheduled time, this train will leave at 0015hrs, towards Bhubaneswar New. This train will reach at Mancheswar at 0020hrs and will leave at 0022hrs and thereafter will arrive at Bhubaneswar New Station at 0035hrs. 22819 Bhubaneswar-Visakhapatnam Inter City Express will originate at 0715hrs from Bhubaneswar New Station w.e.f. 12th May 2025 instead of Bhubaneswar Main Station. This train will arrive at Mancheswar at 0718hrs and will leave at 0720hrs towards Bhubaneswar Main Station. After reaching Bhubaneswar Main Station at 0725hrs, this train will leave towards Mumbai on its earlier scheduled time at 0745hrs.

International Labour day- 980 Nirman Sramik get assistance

Jagatsinghpur, (DMC): District level International Labour day celebrated at Adikavi Saraladas Sanskruti bhawan by Labour department and Collector J. Sonal presided over the meeting. MP, Jagatsinghpur Bibhu Prasad Tarai, local MLA Amarendra Das, President Zilla Parishad Manoj Bhoi, Chairman Municipality Archana Singh joined as guest and address the gathering. They said about different schemes by Labour welfare Department. DLO Smruti rekha Nayak, DLC Baba Ananda ranjan Das, DLO Santosh Kumar Mohanty and all the staff of District Labour Office present there. 3 Crore, 31 lakhs 88 thousand financial assistance given to 980 Nirman Sramik in this occasion.



OSL Group collects 2000 units of blood on the 72nd birthday of eminent industrialist Mahimananda Mishra



Paradip, (DMC): The 72nd birthday of OSL Group founder and prominent industrialist Mahimananda Mishra was celebrated with great enthusiasm on Wednesday on the holy day of Akshaya Tritiya. On this occasion, employees of OSL Group companies, well-wishers, and many dignitaries visited Mr. Mishra's residence in Odia Bazaar,

Cuttack to extend their greetings and good wishes. To make this day a memorable one, all the employees of OSL Group organized a huge blood donation camp in their branches, offices and company premises. More than 2000 units of blood were collected in this series, which has created a record. The blood donation camps were conducted by experienced

Dhamra Port Introduces Automated Road Sweeping Machine

Dhamra, (DMC): On the auspicious occasion of Akshaya Tritiya, Dhamra Port proudly announced the introduction of its Automated Road Sweeping Machine, marking a significant step toward enhanced environmental sustainability and cleanliness in the region. This state-of-the-art equipment features dual side brushes, an additional rear brush, and a powerful suction system integrated with a water sprinkling mechanism. Designed to operate 24 hours a day, the machine is set to dramatically reduce fugitive dust on roads, thereby improving air quality and contributing to pollution control efforts in and



around the port." This initiative reinforces our commitment to maintaining a cleaner, healthier environment for our community," a port official said. "We believe in the power of technology to support environmental stewardship." Official sources said. Over the years, Dhamra Port has consistently undertaken various cleanliness drives in its peripheral areas. Additionally,

it frequently organizes drawing and quiz competitions on themes related to climate change and the environment, aiming to spread awareness and encourage community participation, especially among the youth. This new development highlights Dhamra Port's ongoing efforts to integrate innovation with environmental responsibility.

Agitation Against Hierarchy Action by Police

Paralakhemundi, (DMC): At Gangabada panchayat of Rayagada block of Gajapati district due to irregularities of teacher Sarpanch locked 3 schools of Manikapur, Champapur & Sagadia villages. Later teachers of that school brought those liquor addicted goons & attacked one villager Laxman Sabar. He had been admitted in hospital. Later Sarpanch of Gangabada lodged a complain against those teachers at Garabandha Police Station. Instead of taking action those teachers remained safe. On retrospect with the help of police administration opened the lock of schools. Villagers complained before DEO & Gajapati district administration.

Also they met IG of Southern Division at Brahmapur & lodged same complain. But so far no action has been taken. So led by Haribandhu Karjee Sarpanch of Gangabada panchayat & other villagers with PRI members met Collector Gajapati district to take stringent action & bring quality education. Collector assured to look after the case. President of Gajapati district Sarpanch association Kedar Sabar & Santundi Sarpanch Sanghamitra Sabar said that they would move to block the road, if firm action has not been taken against teachers. Among others Chairperson Purnabasi Nayak & Vice Chairman Jyoti Prasad Pani of Rayagada block were present.



20 Feet Length King Cobra Rescued from SSDHSS

Paralakhemundi, (DMC): At SSD Higher Secondary School of Rayagada of Gajapati district a king cobra snake of 20 feet length found. No sooner staff locked that snake in the classroom & called snake helpline staff.

Jagannath Sahu & Ramachandra Sahu from Chikiti of Ganjam district came. They, too, troubled to catch that snake. After half an hour they caught that snake. To see that poison reptile crowd filled at school.



The Collector expressed satisfaction over the hospital's preparedness and collaborative approach. She emphasized the crucial role Christian Hospital plays in reaching underserved populations and affirmed that her administration will work closely with the institution to ensure that no eligible patient is left out of the scheme's coverage.

The hospital administration extended a warm welcome to Mrs. Patwari and appreciated her proactive engagement and commitment to healthcare. With this collaborative spirit, it is hoped that a significantly larger number of people in the region will now benefit from Ayushman Bharat, ensuring better access to quality medical care across southern Odisha.

DM Parul Patawari Visits Christian Hospital Reviews Ayushman Bharat Implementation

Rayagada, (DMC): In a significant move aimed at enhancing healthcare accessibility under the newly implemented Ayushman Bharat scheme, Rayagada District Collector Mrs. Parul Patwari, IAS, paid an official visit to the renowned Christian Hospital, Bissamcuttack.

This institution stands as the most trusted and widely accessed private healthcare institution in South Odisha, serving not only the people of Rayagada but also drawing patients from Kalahandi, Titlagarh, Balangir, Phulbani, Gajapati, and several other adjoining regions. With an average daily footfall of nearly there thousand, the hospital has become a lifeline for many, particularly those in remote and tribal regions. Following the



Odisha government's transition from BSKY to the statewide Ayushman Bharat scheme, the Collector's visit gains special importance. Her presence underlined the administration's commitment to ensuring a smooth and widespread implementation of the Ayushman Bharat initiative. During her visit, Mrs. Patwari engaged in detailed discussions with the hospital authorities, including Hospital

Superintendent Dr. Sunil Jeevanmal, Deputy Superintendent Dr. Pragnya Jeevanmal, the Manager CHB Chandra Sekhar Ray, the Nursing Superintendent, and other senior staff. Key issues such as scheme outreach, technical bottlenecks, beneficiary registration, addressing public misconceptions, and maximizing patient inclusion were thoroughly deliberated. Sources indicate that

The first coordination meeting of the Rath Yatra was held

Puri, (DMC): This year's world famous Rath Yatra will be held on June 27 and bahuda yatra on July 5. Sunabesh will be held on July 6 and Niladri Bije on July 8. Devasnan Purnima will be held on June 11. Therefore, the first coordination meeting for the systematic management of Devasnan Purnima to Rath Yatra, Bahuda Yatra, Sunabesh and Niladri BJ was held at The Town Hall this morning.

Presiding over the meeting, Central Revenue Commissioner B. Parameswaran advised all of them to do all the work of the Lord in a very disciplined manner by maintaining harmony among each of them in the ongoing Rath Yatra. He suggested that the responsibilities being given to various departments should be completed on priority basis. He said that we will make the rath yatra a success with mutual harmony. District Collector Siddharth Shankar Swain welcomed everyone and informed about the preparations of the district administration for the Rath Yatra. Commenting on the collection of chariotwood, construction of chariots,



collection and supply of various materials for the rath yatra, collection of rathkapada, niti execution, chariot pulling, niti-pulling, niti administrator Jitendra Kumar Sahu said that a total of 865 pieces of wood were required for the three chariots, while another 814 pieces of wood were needed as there was a sacrifice of 51 pieces of wood last year. In the meantime, 326 pieces of wood have been received. He informed that these timbers are being supplied by the forest department in a phased manner. Health and sanitation, drinking water supply, electricity supply, transport system, repair and improvement of roads, parking lots, maintaining

peace and order, train movement system, live broadcasting of Rath Yatra, provision of temporary information center for passenger convenience, organizing cultural programs and exhibitions, organizing of Pallishree Mela and exhibition, voluntary deployment, etc. Through the Shri Jagannath Van Project, the status of the chariot wood, construction and repair of roads, opening of burn units and barn fences in Puri Main Hospital, appointment of doctors and other staff, sanitation, repair and cleaning of drains, uninterrupted power supply, uninterrupted power supply, railway department providing information about train operations

through various LED screens in the city, capturing of autos and totes violating the law. Among others, Inspector General of Police Central Region Praveen Kumar, Chief Executive Officer of Ormas Chakravarti Singh Rathore, SP Vineet Agarwal, Railway SP Vivekanand Sharma, Devottar Commissioner Lalatendu Jena, Deputy Director General of Doordarshan Narsinh Jethi, Additional Secretary Housing and Municipal Development Vinay Kumar Das, Director Of Public Health Dr. Nilakantha Mishra were present on the occasion. Temple servitors, dignitaries, media persons and officials of various departments participated in the

discussion. ADM Revenue Dr Sarat Chandra Mohapatra thanked all of them. Deputy director of information and public relations Santosh Kumar Sethi conducted the meeting as per the agenda on the directions of the RDC. The meeting was attended by ADM Administration Sarat Chandra Behera, ADM Nilamadhab Bhoi, Chief Development Officer and Executive Officer of Zilla Parishad Priyaranjan Prusty, Sub Collector Raj Kishore Jena, Additional Deputy Collector Nilamadhab Majhi, Deputy Collector Priyadarshini Mallik, Sahdev Sahu, District Level Officers and other departmental officers.

From Page- 1

Learnt a Lot from...

artificial intelligence, green energy, clean industry, education and healthcare," he said, adding that the Central government is providing all the assistance to the state government to provide the infrastructure needed for these sectors. PM Modi said NTR (TDP founder and former Chief Minister N.T. Rama Rao) envisioned a developed Andhra Pradesh. "Together, we need to make Amaravati and Andhra Pradesh the growth engine of Viksit Bharat. We need to fulfil the dream of NTR Garu," he said. He claimed that during the past 10 years, India has focused on physical, digital and social infrastructure. He noted that India is among those nations whose infrastructure is developing rapidly, and Andhra Pradesh is also getting benefits from this. "

Odisha HSC Results...

was 96%, while the pass percentage for boys was 94%. This year's pass percentage is slightly lower than last year's pass rate of 96.27%, when 5,29,209 out of 5,39,152 students passed the exams. This year, 17,384 students failed to clear the exams, compared to 9,701 in 2024, according to BSE data. The Minister commended the efforts of students, teachers, and school administrations for their dedication, particularly in government schools, which led the way in achieving outstanding results. The BSE's efforts to ensure a fair and efficient examination process were also acknowledged.

UGC Constitutes...

incident is currently under investigation. The deceased student was reportedly from Birgunj, Nepal. The reason behind her death has not been confirmed yet, and the police have initiated an investigation into the circumstances surrounding her death. The incident, suspected to be a case of suicide, has sent shockwaves through the KIIT University community and beyond.

Odisha Govt Orders...

consecration ceremony. Upon returning to Puri, Mahapatra told the media misrepresented his earlier remarks. He emphasised that 'Brahma' exists only within the Puri Jagannath temple.

Pahalgam attack...

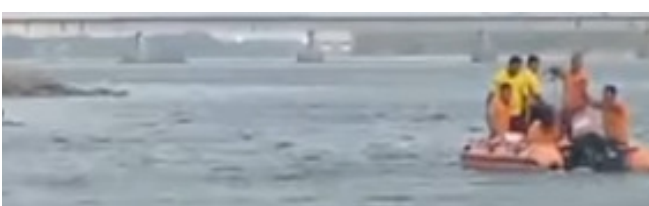
Officials said a possible link is being explored between the Pahalgam attackers and those responsible for the Rajouri-Poonch convoy strikes. This line of inquiry has brought renewed focus on the interplay of Nisar and Mushtaq. Meanwhile, security forces suspect the terrorists may be hiding in natural caves and forested hideouts. Intensive search operations have been ongoing for over 10 days across dense forest areas in Baisaran Valley, Taranau Haptgund, Dawroo, and surrounding regions.

District Level Labour Day Observed



Paralakhemundi, (DMC): At Gajapati district headquarter International Labour Day held at UBSETI conference hall. Presided by Collector Bijay Kumar Dash, MLA Paralakhemundi graced as chief guest where Zilla Parishad President Gavra Tirupati Rao, District Labour Officer Bharati Behera, Chairperson of Paralakhemundi Municipal Council Nirmala Sethi, Amit Kumar Nayak Asst. Labour Officer (ALO) Mohana, Madanmohan Tudu ALO Rayagada graced on dias. Speakers extolled on various schemes for labour class. Need for registration which will be an advanced support. On this occasion 384 beneficiaries supported on marriage, maternity care, funeral rites. Through DBT mode directly to their accounts 1 crore 77 lakh 35 thousand 600 deposited. Among them for education 236 beneficiaries are supported with 19 lakh 60 thousand 600 deposited. For marriage 46 beneficiaries sanctioned 23 lakhs. For maternity care benefits 4 beneficiaries got 40 thousands. For death 48 beneficiaries got 1 crore 26 lakh & for funeral rites 47 beneficiaries got 2 lakh 35 thousand & 3 unskilled laborers got 6 lakhs. New 50 registered laborers got their ID. More than 350 laborers attended. All beneficiaries complimented district administration to support them.

Out of 8 youths 7 rescued from Mohanadi



Jagatsinghpur, (DMC): To-day at about 12 AM 8 no of Youths from Sampur village under Jagatsinghpur block went to Pin pur ghat near Mahal hat on upper side of Mohanadi. At the time of bathing at Pinpur ghat suddenly they drowned by the force of water. It was a deep channel and local people somehow rescued 7 youths but one young man still missing.

Though Fire station of Raghunath pur reached at the spot but due to absence of Oxygen cylinder, Life jacket and poor quality boat they could not rescued the youth. Local people are aggrieved by the negligence of Fire Service. Serch operation continuing by Fire team of Tirtol & Kujang. The missing youth is Amit Mallick and he belongs to Sampur village.

Ambulance for Deceased Transportation Came from 50 Kms

Paralakhemundi, (DMC): At Khajuripada CHC one patient of Nuagada named Laxman Sabar came for treatment. During treatment he died. So his family called for ambulance to pick up his dead body. The ambulance, which is in that hospital is dormant. So ambulance kept at Chandragiri CHC, which is at 50 kms distance from Khajuripada called. Deceased's family waited for long hours to take dead body to their home, which is 5 kms from Khajuripada. While interacted with Medical Officer of Khajuripada CHC Dr. Trishul Senapati, he said that there are 2 ambulances available in the district. So it is difficult to avail ambulance in time. They are trying to bring another ambulance for CHC.

Threat of Indian strike empties a scenic valley in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir of summer tourists



MUZAFFARABAD, (HS) : Neelum Valley in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir attracts some 300,000 tourists each summer who marvel at its natural beauty. But the threat of war with India has emptied its hotels. Terrorists last week killed 26 tourists in the Indian resort town of Pahalgam, fueling tensions between the nuclear-armed nations after India blamed Pakistan for the attack, a charge Pakistan denies.

Neelum Valley is less than 3 kilometers (1.8 miles) from the Line of Control, the de facto border that divides the two nations, making it vulnerable to any military activity. Hotel owner Rafaqat Hussain said Thursday the crisis has hit the tourism industry hard. "Most tourists have left and returned to their cities because there is a risk of war." Authorities in Jammu and Kashmir temporarily shuttered 48 tourist resorts following the attack as a precaution. No such order has come from Pakistani authorities. Bazaars in the Pakistani border town of Chakothi were open for business, although people were concerned. "First of all, our prayer is for peace, as war always affects civilians first," shop owner Bashir Mughal told The Associated Press, saying he would fight alongside the army in the event of conflict.

Pakistan used to help residents to build bunkers near their homes during periods of intense cross-border firing. But the population has grown and some homes lack shelters. "Local casualties could be devastating if war breaks out," Mughal warned. Saqqa Naseer, also from Chakothi, shuddered at the childhood memories of frequent firing across the border. "Now, as a mother, I find myself facing the same fears," she said. She remembered Indian shells striking the picturesque valley when the two countries came close to war in 2019. She has a bunker at her home. "If war comes, we will stay here. We won't run away," she said.

A Spiritual Journey of CHAR DHAM with Indian Railways

New Delhi, (HS) : Fulfilling the spiritual aspirations of thousands, Indian Railways is set to re-operate the Bharat Gaurav Deluxe AC Tourist Train on the iconic Char Dham Yatra circuit, covering Badrinath, Jagannath Puri, Rameshwaram, and Dwarkadhish. The tour will commence on May 27, 2025, from Delhi Safdarjung Railway Station, shortly after the opening of the Badrinath Dham in the first week of May.

Spanning 17 days, this train will be operated by Indian railways' tourism and catering cooperation. One can book tickets from irctc website. This all-inclusive pilgrimage will offer devotees an opportunity to visit: Badrinath: including the sacred Badrinath temple, Mana Village and Joshimath. Rishikesh,

4 killed, 12 injured as pickup van overturns in MP's Vidisha

Vidisha, (HS) : Four people died while 12 others sustained injuries after a pickup van carrying Baratis overturned in Madhya Pradesh's Vidisha district, an official said. The accident occurred near Aari Ghat under Lateri police station in the district at around 10 pm on Thursday. Sixteen people were travelling in the vehicle to attend a wedding ceremony in Sironj in the district of Indore from Mhow. While returning from here, the driver lost control and it overturned, the police added. Upon receiving the information about the incident, the police reached the spot and sent the injured to the hospital. Three people died on the spot,



and one more died on the way to the hospital. Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP), Prashant Chaubey said, "A pick up van carrying 16 people overturned near Aari Ghat, Lateri at

around 10 pm on Thursday, in which four people died and 12 others sustained injuries. They came here in Sironj in the district as a part of a wedding procession from Indore's Mhow.

Assam: Voting starts for first phase of Panchayat polls

Guwahati, (HS) : The voting has started for the first phase of panchayat polls in 14 districts of Assam on Friday. Long queues of voters were visible in most polling stations on Friday morning. The first phase of the panchayat elections is being held in 14 districts of the state: Sonitpur, Biswanath, Dhemaji, Lakhimpur, Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, Sivasagar, Charaideo, Jorhat, Majuli, Golaghat, Cachar, Hailakandi, and Sribhum. The Assam State Election Commission has made all arrangements to conduct a free and fair election. Security personnel have been deployed in each polling station. The second phase of the polls will be held on May 7 in the remaining 13 districts, and the counting

of votes will take place on May 11. More than 1.80 crore voters, including 90.71 lakh male voters, 89.65 lakh female voters and 408 other voters, will exercise their franchise in 25007 polling stations in both phases. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) already secured 37 Zila Parishad seats - 35 by the BJP and two by Asom Gana Parishad (AGP). The NDA has also secured 288 Anchalik Panchayat seats (259 by BJP and 29 by AGP) unopposed. Earlier, Assam State Election Commissioner said that an adequate number of security personnel will be deployed, along with over 1.20 lakh polling personnel, to ensure the

smooth conduct of the election. On April 18, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma expressed confidence that the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) is poised to sweep the upcoming panchayat polls in the state. "The NDA has already secured 37 Zila Parishad (35 BJP and 2 AGP) and 288 Anchalik Panchayat (259 BJP and 29 AGP) seats unopposed. This is a massive and unprecedented mandate in Assam's political history. It reflects the immense trust and overwhelming love that the people of Assam have for the NDA and for our Prime Minister, Narendra Modi," the Assam CM said on X.

Manipur tightens security ahead of second anniversary of ethnic violence

GUWAHATI, (HS) : Security has been heightened in Manipur on the eve of the second anniversary of the state's ethnic violence.

Police have intensified the frisking of vehicles at key locations in the Imphal Valley, Churachandpur, and Kangpokpi districts in an effort to thwart any untoward incidents, officials said. Kuki-Zo organisations will observe May 3 as "Separation Day," while two student organisations from the community have called for a shutdown of all educational institutions, shops, and commercial establishments in Kuki areas on that day. In the Meitei-majority Imphal Valley, the Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity will organise a people's convention, where civil society leaders, scholars, eminent personalities, and internally displaced people will deliver speeches. A candlelight tribute will also be held to honour the victims of the conflict. Meanwhile, the Thadou Inpi Manipur, the apex body of the Thadou community, has appealed to the public to collectively observe May 3 as



"Peace Day" each year, instead of different communities commemorating it in an antagonistic and communal manner. "As we observe May 3 this year and pray for peace, we honour the memory of those who have fallen victim to the tragic violence and extend our deepest empathy to the survivors and their families," the tribal organisation said in a statement. The ethnic violence erupted on May 3, 2023, following a

solidarity march held in the hill districts by tribals protesting the state government's alleged move to grant Scheduled Tribe status to the majority Meitei community. The violence left over 250 people dead and displaced around 60,000 others. A large number of the displaced remain in relief camps, as the state continues to be ethnically divided. Meiteis and Kuki-Zo tribals are still unable to enter each other's areas.

'If India attacks Pakistan, Bangladesh will...': Muhammad Yunus aide's 'northeast' warning over Pahalgam terror attack

New Delhi, (HS) : ALM Fazlur Rahman, a retired Bangladeshi major general, suggested that his country should invade and occupy all seven northeastern states of India if New Delhi attacks Pakistan, as a retaliation for the terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam that killed 26 people.

Rahman, a former head of the Bangladesh Rifles (now Border Guard Bangladesh) is considered close to Bangladesh chief advisor Muhammad Yunus, also called for cooperation with China to achieve the wild idea. "If India attacks Pakistan, Bangladesh will have to occupy seven states of northeast India. In this regard, I feel it is necessary to start discussions on joint military arrangement with China," Rahman, the chairperson of the National Independent



Commission, wrote in Bengali on Facebook. Rahman's comments come at a time when New Delhi and Dhaka try to set differences aside and improve bilateral relations which sunk to new

"Employee Has No Right to be Promoted, But Considered": SC

New Delhi, (HS) : The Supreme Court on Friday said while an employee did not possess a right to promotion, they had the right to be considered for promotion unless disqualified. A bench of Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and K Vinod Chandran was dealing with an appeal filed by a police constable in Tamil Nadu who was aggrieved by the denial of consideration of promotion for the sub-inspector's post. "It is trite that the employee has no right to be promoted but has a right to be considered, when selections for promotions are carried out, unless disqualified; which right has been impinged, unjustly, in the above case," it said. The top court observed he had faced both departmental and criminal action for allegedly thrashing a colleague during their posting at a check post. While in the criminal case, the appellant was arrested but acquitted later, the government set aside the punishment stemming from the departmental proceedings in 2009, it noted.



However, the superintended of police said the appellant was not considered for promotion since he was disentitled in line with the rules for reason of a punishment of postponement of next increment for one year without cumulative effect, imposed in May 2005. The appellant's punishment, the bench said, was interfered with and was set aside in November 2009. "In such circumstances, the appellant could not have been disentitled from a consideration in the year 2019," the bench's verdict said. It added, "In the above circumstances we are of the opinion that the appellant must be considered for promotion, de hors any disentitlement due to his having become overaged." The consideration will be made and if found eligible, he shall be promoted from 2019 and consequential benefits shall also be paid to him, since it was not his fault that the authority denied his consideration for promotion based on a punishment which was already set aside, the bench said. The bench allowed the man's appeal challenging an order of the Madras High Court passed on October, 2023, dismissing his plea to consider him for promotion as an in-service candidate.

The top court said he was initially appointed in March 2002 and was eligible for consideration in 2019 when a notification was issued for considering eligible constables for in-service promotion in 20 percent departmental quota.

Delhi court issues notice to Sonia

Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi

New Delhi, (HS) : A Delhi court on Friday issued notices to Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi in the National Herald money laundering case, marking a rare instance where the accused will be heard before the court considers taking cognisance of the charges. Special Judge (PC Act) Vishal Gogne of the Rouse Avenue Court also issued notices to senior Congress leader Sam Pitroda, Suman Dubey, Sunil Bhandari, and the companies Young Indian and Dotex Merchandise Pvt Ltd, all named in the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) prosecution complaint. The judge said that those named by the ED have the right to be heard before cognisance is taken. He described this right as a "crucial part of ensuring a fair trial." During the hearing, Additional Solicitor General SV Raju, appearing for the ED, cited a previous case in which no notice was issued before summons, resulting in the Supreme Court staying the proceedings. In contrast, he supported issuing notice in the current case in line with Section 223, as interpreted in the Tarsem Lal judgment.

SC Refuses to Entertain Fresh Plea Against Waqf (Amendment) Act

New Delhi, (HS) : The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a fresh petition challenging the recent amendments to the Waqf Act, 1995. A bench, headed by CJI Sanjiv Khanna, told the petitioner that it cannot deal with hundreds of petitions on the same issue and that the petitioner may choose to file an intervention application in the petitions challenging the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, if so advised. The CJI Khanna-led Bench, on April 17, the previous date of hearing, decided to treat five writ petitions as lead cases and said that other pleas will be treated as intervention applications. Further, it ordered the apex court registry to rename the cause titles of the proceedings as "In Re: The Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025".

The Bench, also comprising Justices Sanjay Kumar and K.V. Viswanathan,

granted a week's time to the Centre and state governments and the Waqf Boards to file their preliminary reply. During the course of the hearing, the Union government assured the Supreme Court that it would not de-notify provisions related to 'waqf by user' or include non-Muslim members in the Waqf Board. Posting the matter for further hearing on May 5, the apex court said that the hearing fixed on the next date will be a preliminary hearing and, if required, interim orders will be passed. In its preliminary affidavit, the Centre said that it brought amendments to prevent abuse of waqf legislation, which resulted in the encroachment of government properties, apart from ensuring that the Waqf Boards in the country are properly administered and function with transparency. "It is submitted that there have been reported misuse of waqf



provisions to encroach on private properties and government properties. It is really shocking to know that after the amendment brought in the year 2013, there is a 116 per cent rise in waqf area," the Union Ministry of Minority Affairs said. The Centre, in its reply document

filed before the top court, said that it was found that most of the Waqf Boards have been functioning in the "most non-transparent manner" and have either not uploaded the details in public domain or have uploaded partial details. The Union government said that under the

old regime, due to the absence of adequate safeguards, government properties and even private properties were declared as waqf properties. "The provisions of Sections 3A, 3B and 3C take care of the said situation which has been prevailing since several decades. It is submitted that there are startling examples whereby the government lands or even the private lands were declared as waqf properties," it said in the affidavit. The Union government said that the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, was passed with the objective of modernising the management of waqf properties in India through transparent, efficient and inclusive measures. It argued that the reforms introduced are directed solely at the secular and administrative aspects of waqf institutions - such as property management, record-keeping, and

governance structures - without impinging upon any essential religious practices or tenets of the Islamic faith.

The preliminary reply document filed by the Union government said that before introducing the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, there has been a detailed executive level and Parliamentary level exercise in order to understand the problems plaguing the previous statutory regime, the consequences, and the appropriate measures that were required to remedy the same. The Centre contended that the "primary religious right being the right to make a dedication is not interfered with, and neither is the administration of any specific waqf interfered with as the same continues to be vested with the mutawalli as per the purpose behind such waqf".

Wagah Border To Remain Open For Our Citizens Returning From India: Pakistan Foreign Office

Islamabad, (H.S): Pakistan has announced to keep the Wagah Border crossing open for its citizens returning from India after New Delhi revoked their visas following the terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam that claimed 26 lives. The decision comes after many Pakistani nationals in India were stranded on the Indian side of the border in Attari.

As per the statement issued by Pakistan Foreign Office, "Many Pakistani patients had to return without completing their treatment and there have been reports of families separated with some children left apart from one of their parents", adding that "while the deadline for the return of Pakistani nationals from India was April 30, the Wagah border in Lahore will remain open to receive its citizens if the Indian authorities allow them to cross the border from their side." "Wagah border will remain open for Pakistani citizens in the



future," stated the Pakistan Foreign Office." The Indian decision to revoke visas of Pakistani citizens is creating serious humanitarian challenges," the Foreign Office maintained.

India and Pakistan announced the cancellation of visas of each other's nationals, as part of a response after the Pahalgam terror attack and escalating tensions. After India cancelled all visas issued to Pakistani citizens with immediate effect and put a deadline of April 30 for them to return to Islamabad, the move

was reciprocated, leaving hundreds of families on both sides in a rush to cut short their stays and pack up to leave the country.

Reports revealed that many Pakistani families, who had travelled to India for medical treatment, had to return in these circumstances, while many others are still stranded on the Indian side of the border. A Pakistani family that travelled to India for the heart treatment of their two children had to return without receiving the medical care, media reports said." My children are

innocent in this situation. We had to return to Pakistan without the medical treatment for my two sons, who need treatment urgently. I appeal to the Pakistan government to arrange the treatment in another country," said Shahid Ali, father of the two ailing sons. "They have a heart condition, and their treatment was possible in New Delhi because of the advanced medical treatment facilities there.

But after the Pahalgam incident, we were told to return to Pakistan immediately," he added. Moreover, many Pakistani nationals who married in India are forced to be separated from their families. In many cases, one of the parents, who is a Pakistani national living in India, has to return without family due to the orders of both governments. As per reports, there are thousands of Pakistani nationals still present in India who are trying to return to Pakistan.

Bangladesh: ICT Issues Show Cause Notice To Hasina

Dhaka, (H.S): The International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) of Bangladesh on Thursday issued a show-cause notice to former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Shakil Alam Bulbul, a leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) - the banned student wing of Awami League - in an alleged contempt of court case.

Local media reported that ICT Prosecutor Gazi MH Tamim has instructed both individuals to respond to the show cause notice by May 15. The tribunal, headed by its Chairman Justice Golam Mortuza Mozumder, passed the order on the content of a viral audio clip leaked on social media that featured the former Prime Minister, through which she allegedly interfered in the judicial process and issued threats to the tribunal. "The investigation agency conducted forensic tests and confirmed the voice belongs to Sheikh Hasina," the ICT prosecutor said. The Muhammad Yunus-led interim government has



issued several arrest warrants against the former PM, her family members, and the Awami League supporters after coming to power in August, last year. Last month, a tribunal of Bangladesh issued an arrest warrant against Hasina and four others, including former Inspector General of Police (IGP) Benazir Ahmed, for an alleged mass killing at Shapla Chatter in Dhaka in 2013.

In January, a special tribunal in Dhaka ordered an arrest warrant for former Prime Minister Hasina and 11 other people over incidents of enforced disappearances. Ironically, the tribunal was established by the government led by Sheikh Hasina under the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act to provide for the detection, prosecution and punishment of persons responsible

for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and other crimes under International Law committed by the Pakistani Army, with the help of their local collaborators, in the territory of Bangladesh during the 1971 Liberation War. Analysts reckon the developments as a major political vendetta being pursued by the interim government led by Yunus as several cases were filed against the former PM and her supporters on frivolous grounds immediately after her ouster in August 2024.

A leading voice in the struggle to restore democracy in the country, Hasina, the daughter of Bangladesh's founder Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, had to flee the country in an ignominious manner and seek refuge in India on August 5. While addressing the Awami League supporters online from India in February, the ousted Prime Minister accused the Yunus-led interim government of turning the nation into an alleged hub of "terrorism" and "lawlessness".

653 Survivors Saved By Rescuers in Myanmar Earthquake



Yangon, (H.S): A total of 653 survivors have been rescued by emergency teams following Myanmar's 7.7-magnitude earthquake, the state-owned daily Myanma Alinn reported on Friday. Both local and international rescue teams carried out search and rescue operations. They were also able to retrieve 779 bodies as of Thursday, the report added. A 7.7-magnitude earthquake struck Myanmar on March 28.

As of May 1, the disaster has claimed 3,835 lives and injured 5,105 people, with 105 others still unaccounted for, Xinhua news agency reported. Myanmar has experienced a total of 157 aftershocks following the devastating 7.7 magnitude earthquake on March 28. The aftershocks ranged from magnitude 2.8 to 7.5, the department said. More than 200,000 people have been displaced after a powerful 7.7 magnitude earthquake struck

central Myanmar on March 28, according to the country's National Disaster Management Committee (NDMC). At the committee's third meeting of the year, held on Friday in Nay Pyi Taw, NDMC Chairman Vice Senior General Soe Win said the earthquake caused widespread destruction across 10 regions and states, including Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Magway and Shan. The earthquake destroyed or damaged over 63,000 homes, 6,700 schools, 5,400 monasteries, 5,300 pagodas, and hundreds of other religious buildings, hospitals, bridges, roads, and dams, he said.

International medical teams, including 337 foreign personnel, have set up temporary hospitals in the worst-affected areas and are providing care alongside local health workers. Following a request for international assistance by the Myanmar government, 2,095 rescue workers from 26 countries and regions

have arrived in Myanmar, bringing over 3,800 tonnes of relief supplies using 147 planes, seven ships, and 23 vehicles, he added. Authorities are inspecting damaged buildings using a colour-coded system - blue, orange, and red - to assess structural damage and guide repairs. Temporary housing, including bashes and modular shelters, is being built for displaced staff and residents, while plans are underway to reconstruct homes using earthquake-resistant designs based on soil testing and fault-line assessments.

Under 'Operation Brahma', India was the first responder to the earthquake-hit Myanmar and has provided relief supplies of over 750 MT including essential medicines, food grain, ready-to-eat meals, tents, blankets, gensets, rapidly deployable surgical and medical shelters, water sanitation and hygiene services, drinking water, essential clothing, prefabricated office/residential structures, etc.

US V-P Vance Hopes Pakistan Will Cooperate With India on Probe in Pahalgam Terror Attack



Washington, (H.S): US Vice-President J.D. Vance has said that the US hopes that Pakistan would cooperate with India to hunt down the Pakistan-based terrorists responsible for the terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam last month. "Our hope here is that India responds to this terrorist attack in a way that doesn't lead to a broader regional conflict," Vance said on Thursday in an interview on Fox News' "Special Report with Bret Baier" show."

And we hope, frankly, that Pakistan, to the extent that they're responsible, cooperates with India to make sure that the terrorists sometimes operating in their territory are hunted down and dealt with," the US Vice-President added. During the interview with Fox News, Vance made his public remark on the attack, which left 26 people dead. Vance and his family was in India on a four-day visit when

the carnage - the worst since the Pulwama attack on CRPF personnel in 2019 - took place. The Vice-President's remarks assume significance amid rising tensions between India and Pakistan in the aftermath of the Pahalgam attack. Vance, who was in India last month, had then condemned the attack and expressed solidarity with the victims and their families in a post on X.

The Pahalgam attack, which claimed the lives of 25 tourists and one local, was one of the deadliest attacks on civilians in the Kashmir Valley in recent times. The terrorists had planned the attack on a scenic meadow which required hiking or using a pony service to get to the spot. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio spoke with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday, amid escalating tensions between the

two countries following the Pahalgam terror attack that claimed 26 lives. Rubio asked Pakistani officials to cooperate in the investigation and work to de-escalate tensions between them. In his first public remarks on the attack, Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said that India will give a fitting and precise response to every act of terrorism. Sending a strong warning to terrorists, Amit Shah said, "If anyone thinks that a cowardly attack is their victory, they must remember this is Narendra Modi's India - and revenge will be taken, one by one." Prime Minister Narendra Modi has vowed to "pursue" the perpetrators and their backers "to the ends of the earth".

India downgraded its ties with Pakistan following the Pahalgam attack and took several diplomatic measures, including the pausing of the Indus Waters Treaty, expelling all Pakistani military attaches, closing its airspace to Pakistani airlines and the shutting down of the Attari-Wagah border. In response, Pakistan undertook tit-for-tat measures and suspended the Simla Agreement. India on Thursday relaxed its deadline allowing Pakistani nationals to return to Pakistan via the Attari-Wagah border. But, Pakistan has not yet reciprocated with the same measure by allowing Indian nationals into the country.

New York, (H.S): A judge has given the US government a day's notice to come up with answers regarding the detention of an Indian academic whose deportation was temporarily blocked. Federal Judge Patricia Tolleriver Giles on Thursday ordered government lawyers to explain why Badar Khan Suri was moved from a detention facility in Virginia, where he lives, to Louisiana and to Texas after his arrest in March.

Immigration authorities want to deport him because they allege that he has links to Hamas, which the US has declared is a Palestinian terrorist organisation. He is a postdoctoral fellow at Georgetown University in Washington. Giles, who had earlier stayed his deportation, was hearing an appeal by Suri's lawyers to bring him back to Virginia and stop his deportation. Government lawyers want the case against his deportation moved to a court in Texas, where



he is now held. Suri's lawyers fear that he is at greater risk of being deported because the courts in Texas are considered more conservative and could be sympathetic to the government. Giles raised questions about the claims of overcrowding in the Virginia detention centre for moving him to a Texas facility where he was given a cot in a TV room, while he had a room to himself in Virginia. She asked, "Are they moved like that in the middle of the night? Is that normal?" Suri has a PhD from New Delhi's Jamia Milia University and was teaching a

course on 'Majoritarianism and Minority Rights in South Asia' at Georgetown University. He is married to a US citizen, Mafheze Saleh whose father Ahmed Yousef was an adviser to the Hamas-run administration in Gaza, creating a link to Hamas in the view of the government. Homeland Security Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin accused Suri of disseminating "Hamas propaganda and promoting anti-Semitism on social media." There has been an outpouring of support for him, including from some Jewish religious leaders who wrote a letter supporting

him. When his case was being heard in the Alexandria court, his supporters held a demonstration outside to demand his release. Democrat Representative Don Beyer, a Democrat member of the Virginia State House of Representatives, who addressed the protesters, said, "It is Kafkaesque when somebody can be kidnapped without reason, without acknowledgment, without charges."

President Donald Trump's administration has said that it was pausing the deportation of students caught in the deportation dragnet for having committed even minor offences, but it does not seem to apply to those already in the deportation proceedings like Suri. A judge in Vermont State ordered on Wednesday the release of a Palestinian student with a green card who led the anti-Israel protest at Columbia University pending the final decision on his case.

Pahalgam Terror Attack: World Stands In Solidarity With India



homage to the innocent civilians killed in Pahalgam terrorist attack. The members of the Indian community in Hungary, along with 'friends of India', gathered to display solidarity with India and offered prayers for the victims.

Members of the Indian Community in the Consulate General of India in Russia's Saint Petersburg also observed a two-minute silence in memory of the terror victims. "CGI, Saint

Petersburg held a prayer meeting to pay homage to the victims of the Pahalgam terrorist attack.

A two-minute silence was observed and members of the Indian diaspora in Saint Petersburg offered their shradhanjali," Consulate General of India in Saint Petersburg posted on X. In Algeria, members of IRCON International Limited, an Indian infrastructure company, and their families, in a solemn gesture of solidarity and respect,

offered tributes to the 26 innocent civilians brutally killed in the Pahalgam terrorist attack. They also affirmed to stand united against terror.

Expressing that the world stands in solidarity with India in a ceremony organised on Thursday, several German leaders and the Indian diaspora paid homage to the innocent civilians killed in the terror attack." Finance Senator of Hamburg, Andreas Dressel, members of the Hamburger Senate, friends of India, and Indian diaspora joined in large numbers to pay homage to the innocent lives lost in the recent Pahalgam terror attack. The world stands in solidarity with India," the Consulate General of India in Hamburg posted on X.

UNSC President: Meeting on India-Pakistan Tensions Possible

United Nations, (H.S): UN Security Council President Evangelos Sekeris has said that the Council is seriously concerned with the rising tensions between India and Pakistan and a meeting on the situation is possible. Asked on Thursday if there would be a meeting on the tense situation in South Asia, he said, "With the plain logic, this is something which might probably happen."

Sekeris, who is a Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations, was speaking at a news conference after assuming the rotating Council presidency for the month. India on principle would be opposed to a meeting of the Council on the issue because it considers that disputes with Pakistan are bilateral matters under the 1972 Simla Agreement between its leaders and there should be no third-party involvement. However, the Council is empowered under the UN Charter



to convene a meeting on the issue. But beyond that as a practical matter the Council will not be able to take any action since permanent members - other than possibly China - would not want to directly get involved in deference to India.

Sekeris noted that Pakistan is on the Council as an elected member. He conceded, "It's a difficult subject, but we are very receptive to any request (for a meeting). And if the meeting with Security Council will take place in any form, we will still (hold the) debate, as President, you know, in a way to being

faithful to a mandate." He added that it could also be "an opportunity to have views expressed, and this might help to diffuse tensions." "We are also seriously concerned with the growing bilateral tension," Sekeris said.

If the situation is not de-escalating, calling for extraordinary Security Council meeting, this is something which can come as a consequence," he said, because international peace was essentially its mandate. He said that the Council had last month strongly condemned the "heinous" terrorist attack at

Pahalgam as had Greece." We condemn terrorism in all its forms, everywhere it's happening," he added. He was asked if the Council's statement condemning the terrorist attack did not mention the perpetrators because of "Pakistan as a member using its leverage" to take out mention of The Resistance Front, a Lashkar-e-Toiba-linked outfit, which owned responsibility for the attack, and if moves like it would undermine global efforts to hold specific terror groups responsible. Sekeris said,

"A press statement of whichever text, which is adopted by consensus unanimity, then of course, you cannot comment on the various stages of the negotiation, because in internal document." "For me, the important thing that we have is, this press statement was issued because, as you said, having the Security Council one member state, which is part of this conflict, of course, then you could expect another outcome," he added.

Coal Production From Captive, Commercial Mines Shows Robust Growth In April

New Delhi, (PIB): Coal production from captive and commercial mines in the country stood at 14.01 million tonnes (MT) in April, while coal dispatch was recorded at 16.81 million tonnes (MT), reflecting a robust start to FY2025-26, the government data showed on Friday. This marks a notable year-on-year growth compared to April figures from FY 2023-24 and FY 2022-23, underlining the sector's upward trajectory.

The Coal Ministry attributed this success to continuous policy interventions, close monitoring, and handholding of stakeholders to fast-track operational clearances and enhance production capacity. One of the key contributors to this achievement is the commencement of operations in

newly developed coal blocks. Kotre Basantpur Pachmo block of Central Coalfields Limited (CCL), with a Peak Rated Capacity (PRC) of 5 MT per annum (opencast), started operations on April 15, 2025. Naini coal block of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), with a PRC of 10 MT per annum (opencast), commenced operations on April 16.

The overall coal production in India during April reached 81.57 million tonnes (MT), marking an increase of 3.63 per cent over the 78.71 MT produced in the corresponding period of the previous year. India's total coal dispatch during April reached 86.64 MT, demonstrating a steady increase from 85.11 MT recorded during April 2024 in

FY2025-26. As on April 30, the coal stock held by coal companies witnessed a notable surge, reaching 125.76 MT in FY 2025-26, as compared to 102.41 MT during the corresponding period of the previous year. India's coal imports during April to December 2024 declined by 8.4 per cent to 183.42 million tonnes (MT) from 200.19 MT in the same period of previous financial year due to the increase in domestic production.

Going forward, the ministry reaffirms its commitment to unlocking the full potential of captive and commercial coal mining in India. The focus remains on ensuring seamless production, minimising supply disruptions, and contributing significantly to the country's growing energy demand.

India & EU Reaffirms Commitment to Conclude Ambitious FTA by the End of 2025, Deepen Strategic Trade Ties

New Delhi, (PIB): Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce & Industry of India, and Mr. Maroš Šefovi, European Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security, engaged in a forward-looking and substantive dialogue to address global trade challenges and reaffirm their shared resolve to conclude the India-European Union Free Trade Agreement (FTA) by the end of 2025.

This commitment builds on the strategic direction given by Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi and President of the European Commission, Ms. Ursula von der Leyen during the landmark visit of the EU College of Commissioners to New Delhi in February 2025. The high-level

engagement underscores the strategic importance both partners attach to building a commercially meaningful, mutually beneficial, balanced, and a fair trade partnership that supports economic resilience and inclusive growth.

The meeting highlighted the progress made across multiple negotiating tracks and emphasized the importance of maintaining the ongoing momentum through monthly negotiating rounds and continued virtual engagement. Both sides reiterated their aim to address pending issues in a spirit of mutual respect and pragmatism, including at the next round scheduled to be held from 12-16

May 2025 in New Delhi. India emphasized that meaningful progress in trade negotiations requires equal focus on non-tariff barriers (NTBs) alongside tariff discussions and regulatory frameworks must be inclusive, proportionate, and avoid restricting trade.

The India-EU FTA aspires to reflect the evolving realities of global commerce by supporting digital transition, promoting diversified and resilient supply chains. Both sides expressed optimism that the agreement, once concluded, will serve as a transformative pillar of the broader India-EU strategic partnership, enhancing market access, supporting regulatory

cooperation, and fostering innovation and competitiveness on both sides. Both sides acknowledged the crucial role of investment flows and people-to-people mobility in sustaining economic vitality. In the spirit of India's emergence as a

"Vishwa Mitra"-a partner to the world-and aligning with its 2047 development goals, the India-EU FTA is seen as an instrument to promote diversified production networks and uphold fair trade principles. As India continues to broaden its footprint through multiple free trade deals, this dialogue reflects its broader vision of shaping a future-ready framework aligned with national priorities and global aspirations.

Record GST Collection Showcases Resilience of Indian Economy: FM Sitharaman

New Delhi, (H.S): The record GST collection in April showcases the resilience of the Indian economy and the effectiveness of cooperative federalism, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Thursday. Gross GST collections for April stood at Rs 2.36 lakh crore, marking a 12.6 per cent increase over the gross collection of Rs 2.10 lakh crore in April 2024.

Net GST collections for April 2025 reached Rs 2.09 lakh crore, reflecting a 9.1 per cent growth compared to the net collection of Rs 1.92 lakh crore in April 2024. "Deepest gratitude to the taxpayers whose contributions and faith in the GST architecture drive the nation's progress. Their contributions reflect a shared commitment to building a Viksit Bharat," FM Sitharaman said in



a post on social media platform X. "Congratulations and sincere regards to the dedicated efforts Finance Ministers of all states and state GST authorities, who remain equal partners in India's GST framework".

The Finance Minister also acknowledged the efforts of the field formations of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) for their sincere efforts. The increase in GST collections was driven by

the higher level of economic activity and better compliance. GST collections from domestic transactions in April this year increased by 10.7 per cent to Rs 1.9 lakh crore, while revenue from imported goods shot up by 20.8 per cent to Rs 46,913 crore.

Refund issuance rose 48.3 per cent to Rs 27,341 crore during April. GST collections went up by 9.9 per cent to Rs 1.96 lakh crore during March this year compared to the same

month of the previous year, reflecting the higher level of economic activity and better compliance. Sequentially, the GST collections were 6.8 per cent higher than the Rs 1.84 lakh crore revenue recorded in February this year.

Gross GST revenue in March included Rs 38,100 crore from Central GST, Rs 49,900 crore from State GST, Rs 95,900 crore from Integrated GST, and Rs 12,300 crore from compensation cess. In comparison, February saw Central GST collections at Rs 35,204 crore, State GST (Rs 43,704 crore), Integrated GST (Rs 90,870 crore), and compensation cess (Rs 13,868 crore).

Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh were the top five contributors to GST collections in March.

Oil Firms Slash Commercial LPG, Jet Fuel Prices

New Delhi, (H.S): Public sector oil companies on Thursday slashed the price of commercial LPG by Rs 14.50 per 19-kg cylinder while the price of jet fuel for airlines was cut by 4.4 per cent. The price of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) was reduced by around Rs 3,954.38 per kilolitre (1,000 litres) to Rs 85,486.80 per kl, which will come as a shot in the arm for commercial airlines such as Air India and IndiGo as fuel accounts for around 30 per cent of their operational costs.

The price cut follows a steep 6.15 per cent (Rs 5,870.54 per kl) reduction effected on April 1. These two reductions have effectively offset the price increases that occurred earlier this year. The reduction in fuel prices comes against the backdrop of crude oil prices having fallen to a four-year low in the global



market with the benchmark Brent crude hovering at around to \$63 a barrel, the lowest since April 2021. Oil prices have declined as demand has declined amid the global slowdown. Oil prices have slumped as demand has declined amid the global slowdown.

Saudi Arabia, one of the world's biggest oil producers, has also indicated that it won't shore up oil prices with any more supply cuts as it is ready

to face a prolonged period of low prices. This is expected to come in the way of the OPEC oil cartel from influencing prices.

The decline in oil prices augurs well for the Indian economy as the country imports around 85 per cent of its crude requirement, and any decline in oil prices leads to a reduction in the country's import bill. This, in turn leads to a lowering of the current

account deficit (CAD) and strengthening of the rupee. India is currently the third-largest importer of oil. Apart from strengthening the external balance, a decline in oil prices also leads to lower prices of petrol, diesel and jet fuel in the domestic market, which eases inflation in the country. To raise more resources, the government had last month increased the excise duty on petrol and diesel, which is being borne by the public sector oil companies - Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum, and Hindustan Petroleum.

Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri stated that the government-owned oil marketing companies will absorb the increase in excise duty on petrol and diesel, as their input costs have come down due to the decline in crude oil prices in the global market.

New Delhi, (H.S): India's total exports have touched an all-time high of \$824.9 billion in the financial year 2024-25, as per the latest data released by the Reserve Bank of India which includes the services trade for March 2025. This marks a growth of 6.01 per cent over the previous year's export figure of \$778.1 billion. Services exports continued to drive the growth momentum, reaching a historic high of \$387.5 billion in 2024-25, up 13.6 per cent from \$341.1 billion in the previous year.

For March 2025, services exports stood at \$35.6 billion, reflecting a year-on-year growth of 18.6 per cent compared to \$30.0 billion in March 2024, the latest RBI figures show. In 2024-25, merchandise exports excluding petroleum products rose to a record \$374.1 billion, registering a 6 per cent increase from \$352.9 billion in 2023-24 - the highest ever annual non-petroleum merchandise exports. Earlier figures released by the Commerce Ministry on April 15 estimated that India's total exports of goods and services increased by 5.5 per cent to a record \$820.93 billion during the



financial year ended March 31, 2025. However, the actual figures for services exports had not been compiled by the RBI at the time and an extrapolated estimate was used to calculate the exports. With the real figures now coming in, the total value has gone up. Meanwhile, going ahead while the hike in US tariffs announced by President Donald Trump is expected to hit world trade,

India and the US are at an advanced stage of reaching a bilateral trade agreement soon. As part of ongoing discussions, representatives of India's Department of Commerce and the Office of the US Trade Representative held fruitful discussions, at a meeting in Washington, from April 23-25, to conclude the first tranche of the Bilateral Trade Agreement by Fall

(Sept-Oct) of 2025. This follows earlier bilateral discussions held in March 2025 in New Delhi. During the meetings in Washington, D.C., the team had fruitful discussions on wide-ranging subjects covering tariff and non-tariff matters.

The team discussed the pathway for concluding the first tranche of the mutually beneficial, multi-sector Bilateral Trade Agreement by Fall of 2025, including through opportunities for early mutual wins," the statement said. While productive sectoral expert-level engagements have taken place through the virtual format, in-person sectoral engagements are planned from the end of May, according to an official statement.

Nifty Waves Index Launched To Track Media, Gaming & Entertainment Sector

Mumbai, (H.S): The National Stock Exchange (NSE) on Friday launched a new stock market index called the 'Nifty Waves Index' to track the performance of companies in the media, entertainment and gaming industry. As per NSE's factsheet, the Nifty Waves Index includes 43 companies, all from the media, entertainment and publication sectors. These sectors together hold 100 per cent weight in the index. The base value of the index has been set at 1,000. The launch took

place during the World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES) 2025, which is being held in Mumbai from May 1 to May 4. Speaking at the event, NSE MD and CEO Ashish Kumar Chauhan said, "Nifty Waves now consists of 43 companies, but over a period it could become 10 or hundred times more going forward." It offers us a benchmark to understand market trends and unlock the full potential of India's creative economy," Chauhan added. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis also expressed

his happiness over 'WAVES 2025' being hosted in Mumbai. "India's next significant export is its imagination - our stories, music, innovation, and creative spirit. Through WAVES, we are building a bridge between our rich cultural heritage and our boundless digital future," Fadnavis stated. He said, "I am very delighted that 'WAVES 2025' was organised here. Maharashtra government has signed many MoUs and the most important ones are with NSE."

Rupee Hits 7-Month High Against US Dollar Amid Foreign Fund Inflows



New Delhi, (H.S): The rupee continued to strengthen against the US dollar, rising by 40 paise on Friday and breaching the 84-mark. This is the first time in seven months that the rupee has traded below the 84-level against the greenback. The local currency opened at 84.09 and touched 83.90 during early trade. In the previous session, the rupee had closed at 84.49 against the dollar. Experts say the rupee's upward movement is supported by increased foreign investments in Indian debt and equity markets, along with positive updates on trade talks between India and the United States. Despite the dollar index remaining firm, the rupee strengthened on expectations that India could emerge as a key alternative to China in US trade flows, boosting confidence in

Indian markets," experts mentioned. The last time the rupee saw this level was on October 1, 2024, when it had touched 83.82 against the dollar. After a period of global market volatility, foreign institutional investors (FIIs) have returned strongly to Indian markets. In the last 11 trading sessions alone, FIIs have invested Rs 37,375 crore in Indian equities and bonds.

Adding to the rupee's strength is the weakness in the US dollar index, which has dropped below 100 and is hovering around 99. The dollar index reflects the performance of the US dollar against six major global currencies. Meanwhile, in a recent interview with American media, US trade negotiator Jamieson Greer said that India and the US are close to finalising a trade agreement, though it hasn't been concluded yet. Greer mentioned that talks are ongoing with India. "I have a standing call with India's Commerce and Industry Minister (Piyush Goyal). I sent my team to India for a week.

Vedanta Aluminium Enhances Community & Employee Well-being Amid Summer Heat in Jharsuguda

Jharsuguda, (H.S): Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, has implemented several measures to ensure easier drinking water access for local communities and safeguard the wellbeing of its workforce at its Jharsuguda operations. This comes in response to the extreme temperatures in the region during the ongoing summer season.

Prolonged exposure to high heat and humidity can have adverse effects on the human body, leading to conditions such as severe exhaustion and body cramps. To address the crucial need for sufficient hydration during heat wave conditions, the company has set up multiple water kiosks in high-footfall public areas within the nearby villages. These kiosks will help ensure uninterrupted access to clean, safe drinking water - offering much-needed relief to residents in battling extreme summer conditions. Within its plant operations, Vedanta has also rolled out a comprehensive 'Summer Well-being Programme' to support employees and



business partners working in high-temperature environments. The initiative includes the installation of ORS (Oral Rehydration Solution) stations that help recharge the body's electrolytes and chilled water dispensers across several critical work zones, helping employees and business partners maintain their hydration levels and preventing heat-related discomfort. Reiterating the importance of this initiative, Sunil Gupta, Chief Operating Officer, Vedanta Aluminium "At Vedanta,

we are deeply committed to the well-being of the communities around us and also of our team members, and are continuously looking for new avenues to address their needs. The water kiosks are an essential initiative to ensure that our community members have access to clean drinking water for adequate relief during the summer season. It is a direct reflection of our core aim, which is to positively impact the lives of those we serve." Acknowledging the company's efforts towards employees and

community members, Sanjeet Mohapatra of Shree Krishna Enterprises - a business partner engaged with the company, said, "This summer has been unbearably hot, but the water kiosks set up by Vedanta has been a lifesaver. It is especially important for our elderly and children to stay hydrated during this period, and we are incredibly grateful for this support during such a difficult time." These efforts highlight Vedanta Aluminium's commitment to integrating sustainable actions with operational excellence. By

maintaining a continuous focus on the health, safety, and well-being of its workforce and surrounding communities, Vedanta remains dedicated to its long-term goal of creating shared value through responsible business practices. Vedanta Aluminium, a business of Vedanta Limited, is India's largest producer of aluminium, manufacturing more than half of India's aluminium i.e., 2.42 million tonnes in FY25. It is a leader in value-added aluminium products that find critical applications in core industries.

Vedanta Aluminium ranks 2nd in the S&P Global Corporate Sustainability Assessment 2024 world rankings for the aluminium industry, a reflection of its leading sustainable development practices. With its world-class aluminium smelters, alumina refinery and power plants in India, the company fulfils its mission of spurring emerging applications of aluminium as the 'Metal of the Future' for a greener tomorrow.

Kareena wants global audience to watch Jab We Met

Kareena Kapoor Khan and Shahid Kapoor starrer Jab We Met remains one of the most beloved films, which made us fall in love with romance and celebrated love in its truest form. Kareena Kapoor wants the global audience to watch Jab We Met because it embodies the spirit of a young Indian girl.

Years have passed since the film's release, but the iconic characters of Kareena Kapoor's Geet and Shahid Kapoor's Aditya Kashyap are still etched in the minds and hearts of all Bollywood lovers. During a panel

moderated by filmmaker Karan Johar at the ongoing WAVES 2025, Kareena talked about the film's lasting impact and shared how it captures the essence of a spirited Punjabi girl. She opened the one film she would like the global audience to watch, saying, "I would say Jab We Met because somewhere it embodies the spirit of a young Indian girl, a young Punjabi girl, and every girl has this spark in her, that dream in her eyes. Also, the freedom to choose what she wanted..she has the right to.. feel love, just as she wanted. I think it connected with

everyone for a reason, and I believe it will continue to connect with people worldwide."

The 2007 film, written and directed by Imtiaz Ali, revolves around Aditya Kashyap (Shahid), a heartbroken tycoon who aimlessly boards a train after attending his ex-girlfriend's wedding. On board, he meets Geet Dhillon (Kareena), a spontaneous girl who plans to elope with her lover. He gets pulled into her rollercoaster life and gradually falls in love with her as she shows him a more fulfilling and entertaining way of

living.

Geet was a chatterbox, crazy young girl, and Aditya was the opposite. The well-known saying 'Opposites attract' truly worked for the plot. The film's songs were also hits. From Ye Ishq Hai to Mauja Hi Mauja, Tum Se Hi, and Aaoge Jab Tum, each track from 'Jab We Met' weaved magic. Over the years, the film has developed a cult status.

Kareena also mentioned the possibility of working in Hollywood, saying, "I think it just organically did not happen. Films are my passion--they run

in my veins. I was born into this family. Times are changing, and you never know. Chasing something has never been a part of my personality, but if it's meant to happen, maybe a Hindi-English film will come along. After all, even Spielberg is watching our movies!" WAVES 2025 is India's first-of-its-kind international summit dedicated to the audio-visual and entertainment sectors. It brings together over 10,000 delegates, 1,000 creators, 300 companies, and 350 startups, creating a powerful cross-sectoral network.

Malayalam actor Vishnu Prasad Dies

Renowned Malayalam film and television actor Vishnu Prasad died on Friday morning at a private hospital in Kochi. He was undergoing treatment for liver disease and had been in critical condition for the past few days. The news of his demise was shared by actor Kishor Satya on social media.

"Priyapettavare, Oru sankada vaartha... Vishnu Prasad anantharichu. Kurachu naalukalaayi rogabadhithanaayi chikilsayil aayirunnu. Aadarajjalikal... Adhehathinte akaala viyogam neridaan kudumbathinu shakthiyundaavatte ennum praarthikkunnu (Dear friends, a sad news... Vishnu Prasad has passed away. He had been undergoing treatment for an



illness for quite some time now. My condolences... I pray that his family gains the strength to bear his untimely demise". Kishor wrote on Instagram, along with a photo of the late actor. Vishnu Prasad's family had been preparing for a liver transplant. His daughter had volunteered to

donate a part of her liver, but the family was struggling to raise the required Rs 30 lakh for the surgery.

The Association of Television Media Artists (ATMA) had launched a fundraising campaign, but his condition worsened on Thursday. He is survived by his daughters, Abhirami and Ananika. Vishnu Prasad was known for his roles in several Malayalam and Tamil films, including Kasi (2001), Kaiyethum Doorath (2002), Runway (2004), Mambazhakkalam (2004), Ben Johnson (2005), Lokanathan IAS (2005), Pathaka (2006), and Lion (2006). He was also a well-known face in Malayalam television serials.

Raid 2 worldwide box office collection 25 cr on day 1



Raid 2 worldwide box office collection day 1: Raj Kumar Gupta's sequel to his 2018 film Raid, titled Raid 2, was released in theatres on May 1. The film starring Ajay Devgn, Riteish Deshmukh and Vaani Kapoor in the lead roles beat the lifetime collection of Ajay's 2024 film, Auron Mein Kahan Dum Tha. According to Sacnilk, Raid 2 has collected ₹25.75 crore worldwide on day 1.

The trade website reports that Raid 2 collected 19.25 crore net and 22.75 crore gross in India on its opening day. The film brought in 3 crore from overseas, taking its total to 25.75 crore worldwide. This beats the lifetime haul of Auron Mein... which made 15.79 crore worldwide. Singham Again still takes the cake, given its 43.40 crore net haul in India and 52.20 crore gross collection worldwide on opening day. But

Ajay's other recent films, Shaitaan and Maidaan, made 21.50 crore and 10.40 crore respectively on the opening day, meaning Raid 2 has beaten them both. Raid 2 registered a 34.36% Hindi occupancy in India on Thursday, with the night shows registering a strong 42.00%. Given that the film has the advantage of a long weekend now, it remains to be seen how much it collects by the end of it.

Raid 2 is set seven years after the events of the first film and sees the return of IRS officer Amay Patnaik, who follows another white collar crime. Much like the first film, the sequel also follows a raid conducted by the Income Tax Department. Ajay plays the lead character while Vaani plays his wife Malini, and Ritesh plays the antagonist, Manohar Dhankar alias Dada Manohar Bhai.

HIT 3 Becomes Nani's Second-Highest Opener after Dasara

The third installment of the crime drama series HIT, starring Nani, has opened to a strong response at the box office. According to industry tracker Sacnilk, the film collected Rs 18 crore nett in India on its first day. In comparison, the previous film in the series, HIT: The Second Case, which featured Adivi Sesh, had earned Rs 6.4 crore on its opening day.

For Nani, this marks his second-highest opening after Dasara, which had collected Rs 23.2 crore on its release day. The film also saw impressive occupancy rates across Telugu-speaking regions. The average occupancy for the day stood at 87.98%, with morning and afternoon shows recording 79% and 92%, respectively. Evening and night shows maintained the momentum with 91% and 88% occupancy. These numbers are a significant jump from the prequel's average of 45%.

Housefull 5 teaser: Akshay is back with his gang, Nana 'steals the show' for fans

Sajid Nadiadwala is back with Housefull 5. As his successful franchise marked 15 years, the makers dropped a teaser of the fifth instalment of the franchise, Housefull 5. The over one-minute-long teaser introduces the star cast of the film. It features Akshay Kumar, Abhishek Bachchan, Riteish Deshmukh, Jacqueline Fernandez, Sonam Bajwa, Nargis Fakhri, Sanjay Dutt, Jackie Shroff, Nana Patekar, Chitrangada Singh, Fardeen Khan, Chunky Pandey, Johnny Lever, Shreyas Talpade, Dino Morea, Ranjeet, Soundarya Sharma, Nikitin Dheer, and Akashdeep Sabir. It also gives a glimpse of a masked 'killer'. The teaser promises "five times the madness, mayhem, and mirth." It is said to be "killer comedy." Housefull 5 takes place on a luxurious cruise, offering a mix of comedy, outrageous



characters, and a plot twist with a killer.

Sharing the teaser, Nadiadwala Grandson wrote on Instagram: "15 Years Ago Today... The Madness Began! India's Biggest Franchise is back with the 5th instalment, and this time it is not just chaos and comedy... but a KILLER Comedy! Here's presenting the teaser of #Housefull5. #Housefull5 releases in cinemas near you on 6th June 2025!"

Reacting to the teaser, a user commented, "Nana Saaab! One glimpse is enough!" "After watching Nana Patekar Sir, I can confidently say--comedy will be in full supply," added another one. Someone else said, "I had been waiting for 5 years, and today it finally ended." Housefull is directed by Tarun Mansukhani. It is backed by Sajid Nadiadwala under his banner Nadiadwala Grandson Entertainment.

Kalinga Super Cup Final: Goa & Jamshedpur Face Off

Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : After 13 days of relentless action, 15 contenders have been reduced to two, come the final day of the Kalinga Super Cup 2025. The 2019 champions FC Goa will take on first-time finalists Jamshedpur FC in the summit clash on Saturday. The winner of the match will also qualify for the 2025-26 AFC Champions League Two Preliminary Round. On one hand are FC Goa, aiming not only to become the first team to win this trophy twice but also to end their four-year absence from continental football. The Gaurs' sole campaign in Asia came in the 2021 AFC Champions League. On the other hand, Jamshedpur FC are in uncharted territory, ending a run of two semi-final losses in the Super Cup to reach their first-ever final in any competition in the club's eight-year history. Having missed out on qualifying for the AFC Champions League after a play-off defeat in 2023, the Men of Steel now have another golden chance to earn their maiden ticket to Asia.

"For us, it's very important because it would be the first time that we qualify for an Asian competition, so we'll try to give our best," said Jamshedpur FC head coach Khalid Jamil in the pre-match press conference on Friday. His counterpart, FC Goa head coach Manolo Marquez, said, "When you have this opportunity (to qualify for Asia), obviously you have to be



very motivated. FC Goa already played in the Champions League four years ago. Jamshedpur never did. But both teams would want to make it to this competition." It would be the fourth meeting between FC Goa and Jamshedpur FC in the Super Cup, making it the joint most-played fixture in the tournament's history. If the past three matches, where a staggering 21 goals were scored, are anything to go by, one can definitely expect fireworks on Saturday as well. The Gaurs came out on top in both quarter-final clashes in the 2018 and 2019 editions, winning 5-1 and 4-3, respectively. In the 2023 group stage in Kozhikode, the Red Miners bagged a 5-3 victory. However, this season in the ISL, Jamshedpur did the double over Goa, winning 2-1 in Fatorda and 3-1 at the Furnace. "Fifteen teams

tried to win the tournament. We knew that we had to win four games and, thanks to the team, we've already won three. There are no easy games here. Let's see what happens," said Marquez. FC Goa captain and defender Odei Onaandia said, "From the beginning, we said that we wanted to win this tournament. So now we are here in the final and prepared to do it. We know that we will face a very good team, who had an amazing season. We know the quality of the players. So we are prepared for a tough game." Jamil said, "There are no predictions. Everybody knows it's an important game for both of us, and we have to get a positive result. We need to be confident." Nikhil Barla, Jamshedpur's 21-year-old forward, said, "It is a great feeling for me to play this final. I joined

the academy in 2018, and now I'm playing for the senior team. It is a proud moment for me and my family. "Unlike so far in the tournament, when the matches ending in a draw after 90 minutes went straight to penalties, the final will have 30 minutes of extra time. While Jamshedpur have already tasted a victory in the quarter-final against NorthEast United FC, Marquez also has good memories from 12 yards, winning the 2021-22 ISL Cup on penalties with Hyderabad.

"There's always a possibility for penalties. I don't agree when people say penalties are a lottery. For me, it's not. If there's a good goalkeeper, and some player is tired, you have to be calm. You've got to show your quality at that moment and be prepared for all situations," said Marquez.

ECB Bars Transgender Players from Women's Cricket



ECB's decision came less than 24 hours after the Football Association (FA) took a similar resolution. A statement issued by ECB said that it is announcing a change to its regulations on the eligibility of transgender players after an "updated legal position" following the recent Supreme Court ruling. "With immediate effect, only those whose biological sex is female will be eligible to play in women's cricket and girls' cricket matches. Transgender women and girls can continue playing in open and mixed cricket," the ECB statement said. The ECB said while it was all for inclusivity in sports, the Supreme Court decision has prompted it to formulate new rules for women's and girls' cricket. "Our regulations for recreational cricket have always aimed at ensuring that cricket remains as inclusive a sport as possible. These included measures to manage disparities, irrespective of someone's gender, and safeguard the enjoyment of all players. "However, given the new advice received about the impact of the Supreme Court ruling, we believe the changes announced today are necessary."

New Delhi, (HS) : The

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) on Friday banned transgenders from competing in women's and girls' matches with immediate effect, complying with a recent Supreme Court ruling that excludes them from the legal definition of women. The ECB's decision came less than 24 hours after the Football Association (FA) took a similar resolution. A statement issued by ECB said that it is announcing a change to its regulations on the eligibility of transgender players after an "updated legal position" following the recent Supreme Court ruling. "With immediate effect, only those whose biological sex is female will be eligible to play in women's cricket and girls' cricket matches. Transgender women and girls can continue playing in open and mixed cricket," the ECB statement said. The ECB said while it was all for inclusivity in sports, the Supreme Court decision has prompted it to formulate new rules for women's and girls' cricket. "Our regulations for recreational cricket have always aimed at ensuring that cricket remains as inclusive a sport as possible. These included measures to manage disparities, irrespective of someone's gender, and safeguard the enjoyment of all players. "However, given the new advice received about the impact of the Supreme Court ruling, we believe the changes announced today are necessary."

Sreesanth Suspended by KCA for Three Years

Kochi (HS) : The Kerala Cricket Association (KCA) has decided to suspend former Indian cricketer S. Sreesanth from all association-related cricket activities for a period of three years. The decision was made in a special general body meeting held in Kochi on April 30, following Sreesanth's controversial remarks regarding the KCA in response to Sanju Samson's exclusion from India's squad for the ICC Champions Trophy 2025. Sreesanth, who co-owns the Aries Kollam Sailors franchise in the Kerala Cricket League (KCL), expressed frustration over Samson's omission, making statements that the KCA deemed "scandalous." Despite this, the KCA announced that it would not take action against the Aries Kollam Sailors and Alleppey Ripples franchises after finding their responses to previous show-cause notices satisfactory. In addition, the KCA has warned franchises to exercise caution in selecting new management members. Further, the association plans to file a compensation case against Samson Viswanath, Sanju Samson's father, citing unfounded allegations against the KCA that were publicly aired. The decision has sparked mixed reactions, with supporters of Samson criticising the association's handling of player selection issues. Meanwhile, KCA remains firm in its stance, stating that such conduct will not be tolerated within the organisation.



Asia Cup 2025 likely to be scrapped amid India & Pakistan

New Delhi, (HS) : Amid the ongoing political tensions between India and Pakistan, there is no certainty over the future of the Asia Cup 2025 be played in September. As per sources, one of cricket's premier multi-nation tournaments is under threat of being scrapped. The Asia Cup 2025 is set to be played in September, with Sri Lanka or the UAE expected to be the venue for the 8-team tournament.

According to media reports,



the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) may not be

given a green signal to play against Pakistan. Generally, the BCCI sends the India cricket team for any series or tournament after getting permission from the Indian government. One of the reasons why Team India hasn't toured Pakistan is because the Indian government fears for the safety of the cricketers. In the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22, the relationship between the two nations is at its worst. In such

circumstances, it isn't guaranteed that the Indian government will allow the BCCI to play against Pakistan in the Asia Cup.

Without a potential India vs Pakistan match, the value of the competition takes a severe hit. The encounter between the arch-rivals make it extremely lucrative for the broadcasters. It has been learnt that without the arch-rivals clash, there is no purpose in organising the Asia Cup.