



DUMANI MAIL

R.N.I. Regd. No.: ODIENG/2021/80182 • POSTAL Regd. No.: BN/297/24-26 • Visit us: www.dumanimail.in • epaper.dumanimail.in English Daily



Odisha Leads The Way: National Lakhpati Didi Conference-2025 Celebrates Women's Economic Empowerment



Bhubaneswar, 29/5 (DMC): "Under the visionary guidance of our Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Lakhpati Didi Yojana has paved the way for women to earn an annual income of over 1 lakh. This initiative is not just about income generation but aims to provide financial independence to women and foster leadership qualities among rural women,"

said Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi during the National Lakhpati Didi Conference-2025 today. According to an official press release, notably, the event, organized by the Mission Shakti Department at the Lok Seva Bhawan Convention Centre, saw participation from Lakhpati Didis and government

officials from 25 states and Union Territories of India. The Chief Minister stated that today's Conference is not merely a celebration of achievements but a testament to our commitment to women's leadership.

The strength and efforts of women fortify the future of families and the nation. The Lakhpati Didi Yojana is not just a welfare scheme; it is a strategy for inclusive and sustainable development. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken numerous steps to ensure women's political, social, and economic independence. The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam has been passed in Parliament to ensure women's representation in politics,

enabling at least 33% of women to be elected to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies in future elections. The Chief Minister further noted that Odisha has implemented the Lakhpati Didi Mission with dedication. By empowering around 17 lakh women as Lakhpati Didis, Odisha has secured the top position in India.

This success is a result of the dedication of women in Self-Help Groups (SHGs), the sincerity of Mission Shakti, and the efficient grassroots efforts of the Odisha Livelihoods Mission. He added that interest-free loans of up to ₹10 lakh are being provided to women in SHGs across Odisha. The revolving fund assistance has been increased from 15,000 to 30,000,

and the Community Investment Fund has been raised from 35 lakh to 60 lakh. These measures have enabled SHG members to confidently advance their businesses and livelihoods. Through Subhadra Shakti Melas, SHG women have conducted business worth lakhs, establishing their identity and boosting their confidence.

The Subhadra Shakti Café has been launched as a new livelihood model, enabling SHG women to operate large-scale cafés. The dedication and hard work of our women are now entering international markets through their businesses. He emphasized that the government is committed to providing the right environment, support, and resources for the development

of every woman in Odisha. Efforts are ongoing to promote women as entrepreneurs and leaders. The goal is to transform the Lakhpati Didi initiative into a movement for enhancing women's dignity, self-reliance, and leadership. During the event, Lakhpati Didis Bindhyabashini from Rayagada district and Shobha Digambar Kadam from Maharashtra shared their experiences and success stories. The Chief Minister felicitated outstanding Lakhpati Didis, including Shakuntala Dhal from Deogarh district, Sulami Dalabehera from Gajapati district, and Mamata Nath Sharma from Kendrapara district.

Nayagarh district, which achieved 98% Lakhpati Didi creation, was awarded first place, while Kendrapara, Cuttack, Bhadrak, and Jagatsinghpur districts, with 97% Lakhpati Didi creation, were recognized for securing second place. Additionally, Devi Prasad Nayak from the Odisha Livelihoods Mission, Bhubaneswar, was honoured as the best state-level official. During the program, the Chief Minister launched a video on Lakhpati Didis, a coffee table book, and

Continued P-4

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi lays foundation stone of City Gas Distribution project worth over 1010 crore in Alipurduar, West Bengal



West Bengal, 29/5 (H.S): In a significant step towards expanding the City Gas Distribution (CGD) network in India, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the CGD project in Alipurduar, West Bengal today. Addressing the gathering, he extended his greetings to the people of West Bengal from the historic land of Alipurduar. He highlighted the region's rich cultural significance, emphasizing that it is not only defined by its borders but also by its deep-rooted traditions and connections. The Prime Minister remarked that Alipurduar shares its boundary with Bhutan, while Assam welcomes it on the other side, flanked by the natural beauty of Jalpaiguri and the pride of Cooch Behar as integral parts of the region. He expressed his privilege to visit this prosperous land, underscoring its role in Bengal's heritage and unity."

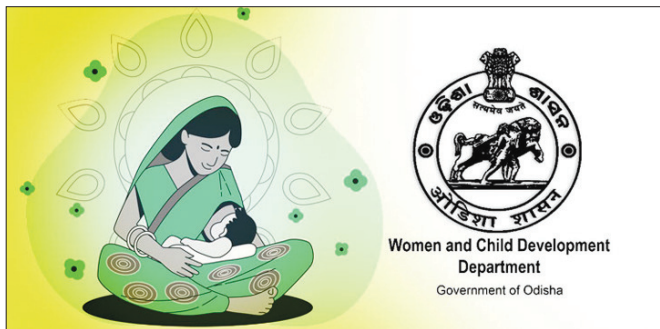
As India moves towards becoming a developed nation, Bengal's participation is both expected and essential", emphasised Shri Modi, highlighting the Central government's continuous efforts to accelerate infrastructure, innovation, and investment in the region. "Bengal's development as a foundational pillar of India's future", said Shri Modi, remarking that today marks the addition of another strong milestone in that journey. He announced the launch of the City Gas Distribution Project in Alipurduar and Cooch Behar, which will provide clean, safe, and affordable piped gas to over 2.5 lakh households. Shri Modi noted that this initiative will eliminate the concern of purchasing LPG cylinders, ensuring secure gas supply to families. Additionally, the expansion of CNG stations will enhance access to green fuel, resulting in cost savings, time efficiency and

Continued P-4

Odisha To Set Up Breastfeeding Rooms in Public Spaces

Bhubaneswar, 29/5 (DMC): The Odisha Government will soon set up dedicated breastfeeding rooms in public places such as shopping malls, railway stations, and bus stands, announced Deputy Chief Minister-cum-Minister Women & Child Development Pravati Parida. The initiative is aimed at ensuring privacy and dignity for women who need to breastfeed their babies while travelling or in public spaces.

Speaking to reporters, Parida said that the state government plans to roll out the facilities within the next two to three months. "We want to create a safe and respectful environment for mothers. Women should not feel hesitant or uncomfortable about breastfeeding their children in public," she said. This initiative follows a directive from the Supreme Court, which in March this year urged all states and union territories to implement an advisory issued by the Union Government. The



apex court emphasized that breastfeeding in public and in workplaces should not be stigmatised and directed authorities to provide appropriate facilities for mothers.

In addition to promoting breastfeeding-friendly infrastructure, the Odisha Government is also ramping up efforts to improve menstrual hygiene among adolescent girls. Parida shared that schools across the state have been instructed to install sanitary napkin vending machines on their premises. She also highlighted a social initiative

being encouraged by the state: gifting sanitary pads at weddings. "We are promoting the idea of giving sanitary pads as wedding gifts. This will help normalize their use and break social taboos," she said.

Parida noted that sanitary pads are now available at a subsidized price of ₹1 at all Jan Aushadhi stores across the state. "Earlier, many village women were unaware of the use of sanitary napkins. When families begin purchasing them just like any regular grocery item, only then will the stigma truly disappear," she added.

Nationwide 'Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan' Launched From Puri To Educate 1.5 Cr Farmers

Bhubaneswar, 29/5 (DMC): The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India, launched the 'Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan' today at the Krishi Vigyan Kendra in Sakshigopal, Puri. The event was inaugurated by Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, who planted trees under the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign.

According to an official press release, it is noteworthy that this campaign, set to continue for the next 15 days, aims to directly engage with approximately 1.5 crore farmers across the country to educate them about modern agricultural techniques and technologies. Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi stated that the Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan, running from today until June 12, is a groundbreaking initiative by the Government of India to create



awareness among farmers about modern technology and new seed varieties. Through this campaign, the government will reach out to around 1.5 crore farmers across 700 districts in India, informing them about the application of new agricultural technologies. At the district level, three teams will be formed, comprising scientists from Krishi Vigyan Kendras and departmental officials, who will collectively educate rural farmers about agriculture, horticulture, and soil conservation. Each team

will visit two villages daily, meeting 250 farmers in each village to explain various Central and State Government farmer welfare schemes, discuss initiatives, and share practical aspects of new technologies. Steps will be taken to ensure that research-based agricultural information reaches farmers effectively. Special emphasis will be placed on educating farmers about soil health testing, the use of soil health cards, fertilizer management, and

climate-resilient agriculture, the Chief Minister added. He further noted that the government is taking historic steps to provide better prices to paddy farmers and integrate them into the economic mainstream. This has been possible due to the government's commitment to introducing new schemes for farmers' welfare. Union Minister Chouhan highlighted that Odisha has set an example for the entire country.

Through the Samruddha Krushak Yojana, the government is procuring paddy from farmers at ₹3,100 per quintal, which is ₹800 more than the minimum support price (MSP). This is a significant step, as increasing farmers' income contributes to the nation's prosperity. He also mentioned that schemes like Subhadra have benefited many women in the state, emphasizing that Odisha is becoming a global model in women's empowerment and agricultural infrastructure

Continued P-4

Low-pressure system to intensify into depression today, bringing heavy rain in Odisha for 2 days

Bhubaneswar, 29/5 (DMC): A favorable low-pressure system in the Bay of Bengal is likely to turn into a depression today and move northwards, bringing heavy rain to Odisha for the next two days. Heavy to very heavy rainfall is expected in various parts of Balasore, Bhadrak, and Kendrapara districts today, prompting an orange alert for these areas.

A yellow alert has been issued for the rest of the state. Fishermen are advised to avoid venturing into the sea until tomorrow due to rough sea conditions. The SRC has directed all District Magistrates in the state to remain alert in view of the impending rain. Notably, the southwest monsoon has arrived early in Odisha, unlike its usual onset in the second week of June. The monsoon has already covered Malkangiri and Koraput districts in south Odisha and parts of Nabarangpur, Kalahandi, Rayagada, and Gajapati districts. The current weather conditions are favorable for the monsoon to advance further.



PM Modi Kicks Off Nationwide 'Lab To Land' Campaign To Boost Agriculture

New Delhi, 29/5 (H.S): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday directed the country's agricultural scientists and experts to take the "lab to land" campaign to the villages under 'Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan' in the spirit of a service to the nation and not merely as "doing a routine government job." Addressing the 'Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan', the Prime Minister highlighted that as the monsoon approaches and preparations for the Kharif season begin,

over the next 12 to 15 days, as many as 2000 teams consisting of scientists, experts, officials, and progressive farmers will travel across more than 700 districts in the country and reach millions of farmers across villages. PM Modi said that under this campaign, scientific teams will transition from lab to land, bringing comprehensive data to farmers and equipping them with advanced agricultural knowledge. He emphasised that these teams will stand ready to assist farmers before the Kharif season begins. Highlighting that agriculture has traditionally been a state subject, with each state formulating



policies and taking initiatives for farmers' welfare, PM Modi said that with rapidly changing times, India's agricultural sector also requires significant transformation. He remarked that Indian farmers have achieved record production, filling grain reserves, but the market dynamics and consumer preferences are evolving. It is, therefore, imperative to bring modern reforms to agricultural systems in collaboration with states and farmers. Underlining the significant research advancements made by India's agricultural scientists over the decades, emphasising their positive impact on farming outcomes, the Prime Minister praised progressive farmers who

have successfully experimented with new techniques, achieving impressive yields. Underscoring the importance of ensuring that scientific research and successful farming practices reach the broader farming community, the Prime Minister noted that while efforts have been ongoing, there is now a need to accelerate these initiatives with renewed energy. "Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan presents a valuable opportunity to bridge this knowledge gap, enabling farmers to benefit from cutting-edge agricultural insights," the Prime Minister stated. PM Modi emphasised that for a Viksit Bharat, India's agriculture must also evolve, highlighting several key focus areas of the central

government aimed at transforming the agricultural sector. He outlined critical issues, including ensuring fair prices for farmers' produce, strengthening the agricultural economy, and aligning crop production with national requirements. "India must not only fulfill its own needs but also emerge as a global food supplier," stated PM Modi, remarking that tackling climate change challenges, enhancing grain production with minimal water use, protecting soil health from harmful chemicals, modernising the farming techniques and taking science and technology to the fields are essential.

He emphasised that over the last 10-11 years, the government has undertaken extensive efforts in these areas. He urged all participants in the campaign to maximise farmer awareness, ensuring they are well-informed about modern agricultural advancements. Stressing the importance of providing farmers with additional sources of income beyond traditional agriculture, the Prime Minister highlighted key initiatives aimed at expanding opportunities for farmers. He

remarked that installing solar panels along field boundaries can generate additional revenue. He noted the impact of the Sweet Revolution, stating that beekeeping is benefiting farmers and must be expanded to involve more participants. The Prime Minister also stressed the need to convert agricultural residues into energy, transforming waste into wealth. He highlighted the significance of identifying suitable areas for cultivating 'Shri Anna' and enhancing value addition in agricultural products.

Prime Minister further pointed out that even non-milking cattle are now contributing to the economy through the Gobardhan Yojana, which creates income-generating opportunities. He called for widespread farmer awareness about these innovations to ensure maximum participation and benefits. "India's agriculture must become a cornerstone of a developed India," emphasised PM Modi, underscoring the magnitude of this mission. Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan will open new avenues of progress for India's farmers, driving modernisation in agriculture," he added.

Urban Planning

The monsoon arrived in Kerala on Sunday, more than a week before schedule. It took a day to advance towards Maharashtra, and reached Mumbai on Monday, 16 days before its expected arrival — the earliest onset of the season in at least 75 years. Normal life in the city, which has experienced its wettest May in the past 107 years, was thrown off gear. Its low-lying areas were inundated, public transport was badly hit, and uprooted trees aggravated traffic snarls. Much of the disruption was admittedly because the downpour was unanticipated. The city's municipality had set a deadline of June 7 to complete the desilting of drains. It was able to undertake a little more than 70 per cent of this task before the rains arrived. Since the catastrophic floods of 2005, steps taken by the BMC — widening stormwater drains and adding pumping stations, for instance — have reduced the monsoon-related problems of Mumbaiers to an extent. However, the BRIMSTOWAD project, initiated to overhaul the city's drainage system after the 2005 tragedy, remains incomplete. Designed more than 150 years ago to deal with 25 mm of rainfall per hour, spread out through the monsoon season, the city's drainage system is ill-equipped to deal with the recent changes in weather patterns — relatively short but intense downpours. On Monday, for instance, several parts of Mumbai received 170 mm to 250 mm rain. The problem gets compounded because the catchment areas of some of the natural water bodies — the Mithi River, for instance — have been taken over by real estate. Reclaiming this land might be difficult. However, stopping garbage dumping into water bodies could substantially improve their health — and ability to absorb the rains. Several parts of the country have experienced an unusually wet summer this year. Last week, Bengaluru was battered by rainfall. Like Mumbai, Karnataka's capital, too, hasn't invested much in drainage overhaul, and the city has lost most of its lakes. Similarly, Delhi, which has received nine times the normal rainfall in May, hasn't revamped its drainage system since 1976.

The crisis speaks of a governance crisis, even though the municipalities of Mumbai, Delhi, and Bengaluru are amongst the country's richest. It's time they — and their counterparts in other parts of the country — recognised that dealing with weather vagaries is a key part of their mandate. Flooding and waterlogging incidents are not irritants — these hurt the economy, affect people's livelihoods and claim lives.

30th May

National E-Bike Day



Celebrating National E-Bike Day is a rare chance to embrace three ideas that don't always meld together so seamlessly. Technology. Sustainable living. Fun. National E-Bike Day is the occasion when riders can celebrate the myriad benefits of electric bicycles. Of course, these revolutionary bikes provide riders with an eco-friendly way of getting from one place to another. But the e-bike can also offer a joyful element that you simply do not get from driving. Here are some exciting ways you can spend some of your day celebrating National E-Bike Day. What better way to celebrate than to hop on your e-bike? It's an excellent day to head out for an e-bike spin! Take a leisurely ride through the park or a trip to your local coffee shop. Do you feel spunky today? Then, head out for a more adventurous journey. Even for a longer ride, you will enjoy the ease and thrill of riding an e-bike. E-bike enthusiasts often form biking communities. National E-Bike Day is a great occasion to join such a group. It is also an incredible opportunity to organize a local bicycle ride. Such events allow you to meet fellow e-bike lovers and share your biking experiences. Use National E-Bike Day to learn a little more about the different e-bikes. You can also research their benefits and technological advancements. Knowledge about e-bikes enhances your riding experience. Additionally, it helps you make better-informed decisions about your future purchases. Use your voice, speaking up to your local officials. Advocate for additional bike-friendly infrastructure. Discuss the future of e-bike-friendlier policies within your community. Speak to them about adding bike lanes, parking facilities, and safety rules. Such changes would encourage more people to switch to e-bikes. Share your experiences and e-biking photos on social media. It's a fantastic way to spread your love for e-bikes and connect with the broader community of e-bike enthusiasts. Use the hashtag for the day to get more traction and find others with a similar interest. Celebrate by upgrading your e-bike with new accessories or gear. You can find online resources for everything from high-tech locks to stylish helmets. There is no shortage of e-bike products that can make your rides safer and add to the fun. National E-Bike Day celebrates innovation and sustainability. But it's not merely a nod to technology; instead, it celebrates the pure joy of riding a bike. Whether you're a seasoned e-biker or new to the space, welcome! This day offers a perfect opportunity to pedal into the future. And, of course, that means e-bicyclists will lead the way! The story of e-bikes dates is older than you probably think. Indeed, the e-bike's story carries us all the way back to the late nineteenth century. The first notable milestone in e-bike history happened in 1895. That was the year Ogden Bolton Jr. obtained a U.S. patent for a battery-powered bicycle with a hub motor. This innovation led to further developments, like Hosea W. Libby's design included a double electric motor. However, the e-bike story opened a new, significant chapter with the introduction of the Pedal Electric Cycle or pedal-assist in the late 20th century. That newest technology revolutionized e-bike design and functionality and ease of use. The last decade or so has brought about an ever-increasing surge in e-bike demand. This surge comes from larger factors than just the number of e-bike riders. Instead, it also stems from the many technological advancements making e-bikes more accessible and enjoyable. It doesn't hurt that many cities now have planned bike paths...or that auto prices have soared in recent years. The solution is obviously the electric bicycle. Lectric eBikes, a leading e-bike maker, decreed the first-ever National E-Bike Day in 2019. The occasion revealed the growing significance of e-bikes in our lives. Since then, this day has continued to celebrate those who choose a more sustainable and innovative transportation method.

Growing Challenges from China...India's Security Concerns

Political Dairy



Tejeswar Patnaik

A recent intelligence report from a leading U.S. defence strategist has raised serious concerns about India's national security. It identifies China as the biggest long-term threat to India, especially in the wake of recent tensions with Pakistan. While Pakistan remains a constant irritant, China's rising power, global ambitions, and close partnership with Pakistan present a more complex and lasting challenge. According to the report titled 2025 World Threat Assessment, both China and Pakistan are expanding and modernizing their militaries.

China's aim is not just to strengthen its position in Asia, but to become a global superpower that rivals the United States. In this process, India is viewed as a competitor that must be contained. China's economic rise has helped it build a strong defence industry and advanced technologies in space, cyber warfare, and artificial intelligence. It is also investing heavily in its air, sea, and land forces. The report warns that China's nuclear arsenal is expected to grow to over 1,000 warheads by 2030, and it

is actively building overseas military bases to expand its global reach. China's economy remains nearly five times larger than India's. This allows China to spend significantly more on its defence and foreign projects. For example, China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is building roads, ports, and railways across Asia, Africa, and Europe. While this helps other countries develop infrastructure, it also creates dependence on China, and in some cases, threatens their sovereignty. India has opposed the BRI, especially because of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which runs through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. This not only challenges India's territorial claims but also increases China's influence in the region.

China's Support to Pakistan.....

China's growing military and economic ties with Pakistan are another major concern for India. The report highlights that Pakistan continues to acquire weapons and military technology from China, and Turkey. China also provides political support to Pakistan at global forums, on terrorism and Kashmir issues, often opposing India's efforts such as its bid for a permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council. Pakistan considers India as its main rival and plans its national defence strategy accordingly.

The recent Indo-Pak conflict once again demonstrated India's military superiority. India's air defence systems, including Indigenous missiles, performed effectively during "Operation Sindoor," proving the country's growing self-reliance and defence readiness. Border Disputes and Historical Tensions.....



India and China share a long and difficult history, especially over unresolved border disputes. The 1962 war, the Doklam standoff in 2017, and the deadly Galwan Valley clash in 2020 are clear examples of how fragile the relationship remains. China continues to claim the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh as part of its territory, further complicating negotiations. Although the two countries have centuries-old cultural ties, their modern relationship is shaped by suspicion, competition, and conflicting interests. China wants to keep India engaged in local issues so that it cannot focus on becoming a global power.

Maritime and Economic Concerns.....

China's growing presence in the Indian Ocean is a serious worry for India. Chinese naval ships and submarines have been spotted near Indian waters, and China is also building ports and facilities in neighbouring countries like Sri Lanka and Myanmar. This is seen as part of a long-term plan to surround India and gain control of important sea routes. At the same time, trade between India and China remains high. India imports a large number of goods from China, including electronics, machinery, and chemicals. This creates a large trade imbalance,

and India must reduce its dependence on Chinese products by building local industries and encouraging domestic manufacturing.

Strengthening India's Position.....

India must adopt a multi-pronged approach to deal with these threats. First, it must increase investments in defence infrastructure, especially in border areas and coastal zones. India should also continue to develop technologies indigenously and reduce its reliance on imported weapons.

There has been positive progress in recent years. India's defence exports have grown from 660 crores in 2014 to ₹23,000 crores today, to reach ₹50,000 crores by 2030. A strong, self-reliant defence sector will not only boost national security but also help India become a major global player.

India also needs to build stronger partnerships with like-minded nations. Countries like Japan, Vietnam, Taiwan, and the Philippines are also concerned about China's actions in the region. India should deepen its cooperation with them in defence, trade, and technology. A key platform for this cooperation is the QUAD (Quadrilateral Security

Dialogue) alliance—a group that includes India, the United States, Japan, and Australia. The QUAD works on promoting peace, disaster response, climate change, and maritime security. It also serves as a counterbalance to China's influence in the Indo-Pacific region. It remains to be seen whether the alliance partners will be effective enough to support India to counter China in future.

Economic Reforms and Global Competitiveness.....

India also needs to focus on improving its economy. While China began its economic reforms in 1979, India started much later in 1991. Today, China and even smaller countries like Vietnam rank higher than India in ease of doing business. To attract more foreign investment, India must simplify rules, upgrade infrastructure, and support innovation. However, it's important to remember that India and China operate under very different systems.

India is a vibrant democracy with multiple political voices, while China is controlled by a single-party regime. This makes direct comparisons difficult but highlights the strength of India's open and democratic society. The way forward for India is to focus on upgrading defence systems and border security, boosting domestic defence production and R&D, reducing imports from China, strengthening regional and global partnerships and prioritizing new technologies like AI and cybersecurity and continuous diplomatic engagement with China.

Sri Patnaik is a freelance writer

Life is a Challenge, meet it

Life is a challenge where you have to face every situation as a challenger, who has to come out from every hurdle coming in their way. And always remember every problem has a solution, the thing is that you have to understand the opportunities that has given to you. Usually, what happens with us? Whenever we trapped into an awful situation we get anxious and in that hustle-bustle we take wrong decisions which would have an adverse impact on our life too.

Thus, it is said that while taking an important decision, you should analyze every aspect and then take a right decision. Let us do not waste our time in discussing the things or worries that probably can't happen and the reason why it would be unwise to expect any change in



Kishore Kumar Jena

that person or circumstances. Better to accept the fact that still there are things that can happen to change our life for better, options may be clearly positive. Troubles are just as waves in sea who have covered half of the globe in effort to touch you, it may be soothing or you just avoid the

waves who have crossed half of the world to touch you, by stepping back. Challenges are in fact to test your guts, so put best foot forward, rely on the best judgement. So once you have made up your mind about a matter, it will change way to reach different conclusions after carefully considering the matters in hand.

Conventional wisdom tells us that we should put the past behind us? But why? Would it not make more sense to put it in front of us so that we can keep an eye on it? The past is as consistent as a chameleon, and as trustworthy as a politician. It answers its questions according to who happens to be doing the asking and what it suspects they want to hear. History is about to rewrite itself once more. Always

consider your life as a god's gift and whatever we are today is just because of his grace and love. We think that life is very difficult and full of hurdles but you know what when we eat something, we may wish to have some sweet as well as some spicy food then why we cannot make our life like a spicy food. Without adding a spice in a life you may find it boring and confined.

There is no doubt that life is very beautiful then why we get anxious about difficulties and hurdles that we face in our life. It is a part of life that one has to tackle difficulties. There is no human being on this earth who has not faced struggle, failure and problems. But the one who has overcome from it can lead towards the success. All these difficulties are designed to test

your courage, patience and your temperament. These situations make you a better and a successful person. One who faces difficulties with courage and accepts success without letting it go to its head is the one who experiences real happiness, contentment and peace in life. According to Bhagawan Sri Satya Sai Baba,

"Life is an opportunity, life is precious. So live your life to the fullest and live the way you want. And always remember, those who accept these, Challenges and Succeed, are the ones. Thus, enjoy life but also be prepared to handle any situation.

Advocate, Bangali Sahi, Cuttack, E-mail : kishorekumarjenaadv@gmail.com

Kinds of karma and their consequences



Utkalananda Ajaya Kumar Behera

The feeling, intent and circumstances behind any action is important. To understand the deep meaning of the fruits of action, we must understand what the three types of actions are. Sanchita karma can get one

through without any intent. The environment impacts the individual. So too the company of bad or good characters. Similarly the association of pious persons will also leave some impact on the individual. If this impact is not willingly adopted, it will leave very faint and weak imprint on one's consciousness.

Another example of sanchita karma can be actions undertaken under pressure and unwillingly. The doer will not perform such acts — at work or at home — if he is not under pressure. The impact of such sanchita karma lies dormant for long periods without turning into any fruit of action. But, if similar acts or deeds are willingly performed later on, these imprints too get activated and result in fruits of action. Good and bad sanchita



karmas result in fruit or get destroyed according to other actions, depending on the intent and circumstances.

Parabdh karma are actions performed willingly and with deep intent. Their imprint on consciousness is very strong, especially if they are negative

karmas. Therefore whatever results we are getting in this life are results of our own parabdh karmas. We should not accuse fate, God or any other for the misfortune visiting us. This is the result of our own deeds some time ago or perhaps so long ago, that we have no inkling of them. Out of nowhere and suddenly the fructification of parabdh karma confronts us in the shape of death, injury, house collapse, or wealth lost.

It does not come as deliberate deeds of another person. Deliberate acts of other persons are new karma and the sudden events happening out of nowhere are result of parabdh. Kriyamana karma involves bodily acts and generally, result is instant. Hand burns on touching fire, carelessness in eating results in upset stomach

and illness, consumption of alcohol results in intoxication, and eating poison results in death. Labourer gets reward for work as salary. Acts which have no specific intent and are bodily acts are kriyamana acts. Result and fructification of sanchita karma are uncertain; those of parabdh karma are certain but timing is uncertain.

The result of kriyamana karma is immediate and sometimes instant. Pain, suffering and sorrow will look unwarranted and unwelcome because immediate impact appears bad. However in the long run, they are for the purification and reform of jivatma, for ultimate merger with Super Consciousness.

Editor The Niyati, P.C. Sarakar Lane, Arundoya Market, Cuttack

Hon'ble Agriculture Minister Launches Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan at ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneswar



Bhubaneswar, (DMC): In a landmark initiative aimed at transforming Indian agriculture, the Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Shri Shivraj Singh Chauhan, launched the Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan (VKSA-2025) at the ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA), Kausalyaganga, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

The campaign aligns with the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for a self-reliant and sustainable India, and seeks to promote the widespread adoption of advanced agricultural and fisheries technologies across the nation. Addressing the gathering, Shri Shivraj Singh Chauhan highlighted the campaign's ambitious goal to reach over 1.5 crore farmers across India through technology dissemination, capacity building, and grassroots engagement. He emphasized that fisheries is an integral pillar of India's food security and a viable pathway for

livelihood development, and stressed that all technologies developed by ICAR-CIFA must effectively reach farmers to enhance their income and build a developed and resilient fisheries sector. The inaugural ceremony was graced by several eminent dignitaries, including Shri Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo, Deputy Chief Minister and Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment & Energy, Government of Odisha;

Shri Gokulananda Mallik, Minister of Fisheries and Animal Resources Development, Government of Odisha; Shri Babu Singh, MLA, Ekamra; and Shri Ashrit Pattanayak, MLA, Pipili. From the ICAR leadership, the event witnessed the presence of Dr. M. L. Jat, Director General, ICAR & Secretary (DARE); Dr. J.K. Jena, Deputy Director General (Fisheries Science); Dr. Rajbir Singh, Deputy Director General (Agricultural Extension); and Dr. Pradip Dey, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata. The

dignitaries were formally welcomed by Dr. J.K. Jena. Shri Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo, in his remarks, expressed that the VKSA campaign is a timely intervention that will accelerate Odisha's agricultural transformation and empower farmers through greater access to innovation, infrastructure, and institutional support.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Gokulananda Mallik reiterated the Odisha Government's commitment to empowering farmers and livestock owners through free veterinary health services and proactive animal husbandry programs aimed at rural economic development. DG ICAR, Dr. M. L. Jat, described VKSA-2025 as a transformational pre-Kharif campaign that bridges cutting-edge scientific research with farmers' needs on the ground. He called upon all stakeholders to unite in realizing the vision of Viksit Krishi for a Viksit Bharat, ensuring prosperity and resilience

in Indian agriculture. More than 600 farmers and farm women from Self Help Groups participated in the scientist-farmer interaction session, gaining insights into sustainable practices, improved technologies, and integrated approaches to agriculture and aquaculture. A key highlight of the day was the release of a novel fish vaccine - "CIFA Argu VAX-I" - by the Hon'ble Agriculture Minister. Developed by ICAR-CIFA, this vaccine targets parasitic infections in fish, offering a significant breakthrough in fish health management and reducing economic losses in aquaculture.

On the sidelines, an exhibition was organized showcasing innovations and products by Self Help Groups (SHGs), KVK Khordha, and ICAR-CIFA, reflecting community involvement and grassroots innovation. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Rajbir Singh, DDG (Agricultural Extension), who expressed gratitude to all dignitaries, participants, and stakeholders for their overwhelming support in making the launch ceremony a grand success. The VKSA-2025 campaign will continue nationwide from May 29 to June 12, 2025, engaging farmers across all districts in a mission to build a resilient, inclusive, and future-ready agricultural sector. The program was coordinated by Dr. P.K. Sahoo, Director, ICAR-CIFA.

KIIT Signs MoUs with Indian Navy and Coast Guard

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): In a step towards educational empowerment and inclusive nation-building, KIIT-DU has signed separate MoUs with the Indian Navy and the Indian Coast Guard along with their respective welfare associations - the Navy Wives Welfare Association (NWWA) and the Coast Guard Welfare and Wellness Association (CGWWA). These collaborations aim to provide scholarships, reserved seats, and enhanced access to quality education for the children and dependents of defence personnel.

Under the MoU with the Indian Navy, KIIT will offer a 10 per cent tuition fee waiver for two children of deceased Navy personnel in the MBBS programme. In addition, five seats each have been reserved in BDS and BSc (Nursing), and four seats in BTech (Computer Science and Allied branches).

An unlimited number of seats in all other non-medical programmes have also been opened up to naval families with a 50 per cent scholarship on institutional fees. The agreement was formally signed by Prof. Saranjit Singh, Vice Chancellor of KIIT-DU, Shashi Tripathi, President of NWWA, and Commodore SM Urooj Athar, Naval Education



Officer. The MoU is a significant recognition of the sacrifices made by naval personnel and is designed to support their families by easing access to high-quality education. In a parallel initiative, KIIT has signed a similar MoU with the Indian Coast Guard and CGWWA, aimed at fostering academic collaboration, research, and capacity building.

As per this agreement, two MBBS seats, five BDS seats, and five BSc Nursing seats will be reserved for the wards of Coast Guard personnel, with a 10 per cent scholarship on institutional fees. In the domain of technology and allied fields,

four BTech seats in Computer Science and related branches have been earmarked. Additionally, all other non-medical programmes will be open to Coast Guard families with 50 per cent scholarships on institutional fees. Both MoUs demonstrate KIIT's commitment to national service and social responsibility.

The Founder of KIIT and KISS Dr Achyuta Samanta lauded the initiative as a heartfelt tribute to the selfless service of India's defence personnel. He emphasised that education is the most powerful tool for empowerment, and KIIT is proud to extend this support to the guardians of the nation.

Er. Lingaraj Gouda in Technical Committee for Shree Jagannath Temple Administration OP Bureau

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): A Technical Committee has been formed with members who have various expertise in Civil, Electrical, Public Health, Mechanical, Architecture, Conservation and Horticulture to assist the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration with technical matters.

Prof. (Dr). S.K. Bhattacharya, former Director of CBRI Roorkee, former Deputy Director of IIT Kharagpur, and Vice Chancellor of S.N. University, Chennai, will serve as Chairman. The civil wing

includes Dr. N.C. Pal, former E.L.C. of the Works Department, Er. J.K. Das, former EIC-cum-MD of O.B. & C.C. Ltd., Er. Lingaraj Gouda, EIC (Civil) of the Water Resources Department, Er. Bindheswar Patra, former Chief Engineer of the Works Department,

Er. Rabindra Kumar Acharya, former Chief Engineer of the Works Department, and Er. B. Asis Kumar Subudhi, former Additional Chief Engineer of the Works Department. This committee will periodically inspect the Shree

Jagannath Temple, Shree Gundic Temple, and other heritage structures related to the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration. They will provide the Temple Administration with inspection reports on technical issues and suggestions for any necessary corrective actions.

Additionally, the committee will supervise and guide the projects undertaken by ASI and share its observations. The committee's term will be valid for two years from the date this memorandum is issued.

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): The Odisha Government is taking proactive measures to ensure quality public health, particularly in the context of monsoon-related health concerns. To prepare for the potential rise in vector and water-borne diseases during the monsoon season, Health and Family Welfare Department Secretary Ms. Aswathy S. conducted a high-level review meeting at the Secretariat Conference Hall.

Looking into the preparedness made so far, the secretary directed to intensify wide awareness activities at the grassroots level and ensure a sufficient stock of required drugs at different levels, ranging from ASHA workers to Sub-centres, primary health centres, community health centres, sub-divisional and district quarter hospitals. Aswathy also directed to mobilise the community and orient them towards preventive practices involving women self-help groups (WSHGs), community leaders, and multi-purpose health workers (MPHW). She emphasized ensuring the actual use of long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs) by people at the household level.



Chief District Medical and Public Health Officers were asked to ensure this with the help of ASHA workers and MPHWs at the village and ward levels. It was decided that senior officers from the Directorate of Public Health and National Health Mission would go to the grassroots level and ensure 100% use of LLINs, availability of testing devices, sufficient stock of drugs, active surveillance, screening, and testing, etc.

The Director of Public Health was advised to draw up a detailed schedule for the movement of officers to districts, particularly those districts where a comparatively higher number of cases were detected during

previous years. It was also decided to issue advisories for proper cleaning of overhead water tanks and sanitization of water sources in residential complexes/ hostels before reopening educational institutions. The issues relating to regular water quality testing, disinfection, and monitoring in rural and urban areas were discussed in the meeting.

The activities would be carried out in a targeted campaign mode under the oversight of Mission Director Dr. Brundha D. Discussions in the meeting showed that generally, seven districts, like Rayagada, Kalahandi, Koraput, Kandhamal, Malkangiri, Gajapati, and Boudh,

recorded occurrences of more malarial cases. More than 40.49 lakh LLINs were allotted to these seven districts for covering the vulnerable population. Similarly, last year, two districts, namely Sundargarh and Khordha, reported a comparatively higher number of dengue cases. Secretary Aswathy directed especially intensifying preventive and surveillance activities in these districts.

CDMPHOs of all districts, Additional District Public Health Officers, senior officers from different directorates, National Health Mission, along with experts and consultants on vector-borne diseases, participated in the deliberations of the meeting held in hybrid mode.

Observance of MHM day -2025

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): Aiming to reduce social taboos and aware the young girl residing in urban slum pockets about the hygienic management during mensuration time an awareness drive and rangoli were organized on the eve of MHM day -2025 on dated 28th May at the dotted venue of Aurobinda Nagar Community Hall Under Ward No-9 of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation. The programme was Jointly organized by Action Aid Association, CCWD & Mahila Arogya Samiti (MAS).

Attending as guest ASHA worker Nalini Maharana shared the uses and benefits of sanitary pad and Vitamin tablets as well as Kusi Yojana implemented by Government of Odisha. Among others Kalyani Rout & Snigdha Das provided input on massive scale awareness is most essential to curb the social taboos added. Lastly Bishnupriya Samal



proposed a warm vote of thanks to all. In this awareness programme members of Bhubaneswar Young Urban Women Forum, Slum level HRDs and MAS member attended.

Minister Reviews Various Development Schemes of Central & State Govt.

Khordha, (H.S): Minister Co-operation, Handlooms, Textiles & Handicrafts, Pradeep Bala Samanta visited khordha district & reviewed various development schemes implemented by Central & State Govt. in the district of khordha at the Conference Hall of Zilla Parishad along with the district administration & senior departmental officers.

MLA, Khordha Prasanta Kumar Jagdev, Collector Chanchal Rana, Personal Secretary to the Minister Pitambar Samal were present in this review meeting. The Collector, Mr. Rana directed all the departmental officers present to inform the Minister about the progress of various development schemes & projects of their respective departments. Sunaram Hembram, Additional Commissioner of Police, BBSR, provided detailed information regarding the VVIP program & law & order situation. He stated that in the year 2025, less cases - 4371 were registered than in the years 2023-2024. Similarly, VVIP programs were held 9



times, while VIP 298 programs have been organized. In addition, law & order situation have been successfully provided during important festivals like Khandagiri Magha Saptami Mela, Ashokastami, Dola Purnima, Ram Navami, Hanuman Jayanti, Mahavibisuba Sankranti, Mahashivaratri etc. Superintendent of police, khordha, Ms. Sagarika Nath, provided details information on the law & order situation in khordha Model PS, Khordha Industrial Estate PS, Sadar PS, Baghmari PS, Begunia PS, Jankia PS, & Nirakarapur PS, Tangi PS, Nachuni PS, Balugaon

& Banpur PS of khordha Police Sub-Division. SP, Ms. Nath announced that 1632 cases have been registered this year compared to the previous year 2023-2024. DFO, Khordha, Purnima Pandian added that there are about 60/70 elephants in khordha forest division. In 2024-2025, 3866 applications were received regarding the damage caused by wild animals, & ₹20922390 was provided as financial assistance. Now, people are being provided with protection by knowing the status of elephants through drones. Zilla Parishad Chief Development & Executive Officer, Khordha, said

that the progress of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Rural) project is 70.94% while the first installment of the Antradya Griha Yojana 2024-2 has been given to 1460 beneficiaries out of a target of 1757 lakh in 5 years. In the second phase of the Amrit Sarovar Yojana, 583 have been identified. In the Lakh Pati Didi Yojana, 54792 people have been included, and 94.42% of them have been successful. 98% success in SSG-Bank connection, 1506 houses are construction under Pradhan Mantri (Urban) Yojana 1.0, while 165 project reports have been submitted under Pradhan Mantri Awas (Urban) 2.0. CDM & PHO,

Dr. Rajya Shree Pattnaik said that 789311 Ayusman cards have been received under Gopabandhu Jan Arogya Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Arogya Yojana, Vybandana Yojana 789311 card has been received, while 536265 beneficiaries have been distributed cards, achieving a success rate of 68%. Out of 516 doctor sanctioned posts in the district, 266 doctors are serving and 250 posts are remain vacant

& 74 doctors have gone for post-graduation study. Deputy Registrar, Cooperative Societies Alakanand Jena informed that 99% success was achieved in providing loans to farmers in Kharif 2024-2025, while it has achieved 97% success in Rabi 2024. 55230 farmers have been covered under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana & insured. The amount has been set at ₹178.46 crore.

Assistant Director, Handicrafts provided the details of the success of handicrafts for the past five years, while Assistant Director, Textiles reported that the number of members in the Years-2024-25 in Balia Yojana were 30915 & the product sales were 303.847 lakh. Civil Supplies Officer, Suguda Murmu informed the Minister that Ration Card EKYC success rate has been 93.7 percent & the applications of 12,92,156 new beneficiaries have been scrutinized, the remaining 39,374 applications have been completed soon & the names of 2,048 deceased beneficiaries have been removed from the list. ADM

(Revenue) Safalya Mandit Pradhan informed about the Sikim Satwa -2001, Basundhara 222, Settlement-445, Khasmahal-157, FR Titles 1970, ROR has been revised & 420 pattas have been issued to primary schools, 113 pattas to high schools, 25 pattas to higher secondary schools and 15 pattas to colleges. ADM, (Administration) Pratap Chandra Beura informed that from 1st July 2024 to 27th May 2025, 4493 grievances were received through CMO office, while 4183 were resolved & remaining 310 grievances were resolved soon.

Deputy Collector, Emergency, Sritapa Mishra, DEO, Sonamika Ray, Chief District Agriculture Officer, Rabi Narayan Senapati, Assistant Director, Horticulture Smita Mohanty, District Social Security Officer Dilip Kumar Hial, District Social Welfare Officer, Kusum Kumari Praharaj, District Welfare Officer Dr. Gitanu Mohan Dash, District Child Protection Officer, Banishree Pattnaik, General Manager, District Industrial Center Sumuchita Mallick, DLO, Idco, Fisheries

Department, Livestock Services Department, R&D, R & B, & department officials provided detailed information to the minister. The minister expressed satisfaction with the implementation of all the development schemes of the central and state governments due to their administrative efficiency in khordha district & thanked the district administration & officials for understanding the problems of the actual beneficiaries & delivering the benefits of the scheme.

He also directed all the to resolve the issue as per the Government Land Encroachment Act based on the query of khordha MLA, Prasanta Kumar Jagdev. The meeting was attended by Sub-Collector, Bhubaneswar, Dr. Manoranjan Sahu, Sub-Collector, Khordha, Kishore Kumar Panda, DI & PRO, Khordha, Laxman Kumar Behera, all senior departmental officers, senior engineers of the line department & media representatives were present.

Senior journalist Ashwini Darji from Bargarh honoured as the ICON OF ODISHA at the "TIMES ICONS OF ODISHA - 2025"

Bargarh, (DMC) : Ashwini Darji, a senior journalist and cancer survivor from Bargarh, has been honoured as the ICON OF ODISHA in the "TIMES ICONS OF ODISHA - 2025." This recognition celebrates his inspiring journey and relentless dedication to uplifting others. Having faced the challenges of cancer firsthand, Ashwini founded the Fighters Group in Bargarh, a supportive community of cancer survivors dedicated to guiding and uplifting those in need. This extraordinary group helps patients navigate treatment options while providing

essential financial and psychological support, ensuring that no one faces their battle alone. Ashwini's commitment extends beyond support; he is a passionate advocate for establishing a comprehensive cancer hospital in Bargarh, an area greatly affected by the disease. His advocacy has successfully highlighted the urgent need for such a facility, showcasing his determination to enhance the lives of many in his district. His wife speaks with admiration, seeing Ashwini as a warrior with a heart of gold. She takes immense pride in his



achievements and the positive impact he has had on the lives of cancer survivors and their families. His work embodies compassion, earning him the

'Times Icon Award.' Ashwini wears his scars as symbols of resilience, strength, and hope. Through the Fighters Group, he fosters a caring community

filled with courage, empowering others with the message: "We don't need sympathy; we need support and dignity." This powerful statement reminds us that cancer survivors are warriors deserving of respect and compassion. Ashwini's passion and commitment are making a tangible difference in many lives. His partner stands proudly by his side, offering heartfelt congratulations on this well-deserved recognition. Here's to Ashwini and all those he inspires, as they continue to uplift and touch countless lives on their journey!

Rayagada SE Held for Rs 1.5 Lakh Bribe

Rayagada, (DMC) : A team of vigilance officials caught Sahadev Kisan, Superintending Engineer of the Public Health Department in Rayagada, red-handed while accepting a bribe of Rs 1.5 lakh from a contractor on Wednesday evening. Kisan was apprehended while driving in his Scorpio vehicle (OD 18N 7957). Following the arrest, a raid was conducted at Kisan's residence in Sambalpur on Thursday morning, where documents related to Rs 50 lakh

deposited in banks and mutual funds, 100 grams of gold ornaments, and two plots in Sambalpur were seized. The vigilance team, led by DSP Sadananda Pani, Abhay Pradhan, and Inspector Sanjay Pradhan, acted on a complaint against Kisan and has been interrogating him. Kisan failed to provide a satisfactory explanation for the seized cash, and further investigation is underway. The vigilance team also searched

Kisan's office in Siriguda and seized various documents after verifying CCTV footage. Raids were also conducted at the Public Health Department office near Brahman Sahi, his official residence, and other locations. Kisan, who joined as an Assistant Engineer on March 29, 2016, had worked in Sambalpur Division, Bhawanipatna, and Rayagada. He was promoted to Executive Engineer in 2022 and posted as Superintending Engineer in Rayagada on March 1, 2025.

Youth Critically due to 11kv Electric Current

Jajpur, (DMC) : Following the alleged shock of an 11kv electric current at Shankarigada Chhak indeed Bari Tata Power . Susanta Kar , Son of Sisir Kar was electrocuted while passing the road with holding a steel rod on Wednesday evening. He was admitted to SCB Medical College & Hospital after suffering burns and found critical in Jajpur HQtr. hospital . It is reported that many electric wires in the area have been damaged and the height of the Spans are under height ,locals claimed . Due to Tata Power Bari electric division many lives have passed ,no necessary steps taken by the department . Speaking to SE Electrical he said very soon department will repair the line ,it was due to 11kv . Due to local the Lines were passed through V shape modes.



Difference among department putting people in problem



Jagatsinghpur, (DMC) : Due to negligence of National High way authorities people of Jagatsinghpur Municipality area facing lot of problem in rainy season. NH- 55 passing through Jagatsinghpur town from College Chhak to Sana barar Creating a lot problem due to water logging on NH-

55 and causing accident with communication problem. Though district administrative Officers moving by A/C cars but they are forgetting the problem of general people. It is a matter of regret that after possession of NHAI the condition of Jagatsinghpur town road becoming worst. The Dust number canal flowing by NH -55 and irrigation authorities constructed Box- type bridge cum parking area for people without knowledge of NH authorities from Bangala chhak to Rashmi cinema chhak. Due to non co-operative attitude among departments the NH- 55 passing through town causing problem. Even Municipal administration not giving importance on road safety. RTO Jagatsinghpur remain silent about water logging upon NH- 55 and regular accident. It is a matter of regret that no body raising voice about water logging on NH- 55 is one of major cause of accident. People demand that the National Highway authorities should take initiative for drainage of water from National Highway.

One Dead & Five Injured on Homeguard Physical Fitness Test

Parakakhemundi, (DMC) : At Ranipentha in SP office of Gajapati during physical fitness test one candidate Sulanta Mishal of Parishal village under Ramgiri police limits died. Running test done today for 2 kms, where from SP office towards Serango road 1 km & back to SP office, as the test. Candidates were allowed to complete within 12 minutes. For 144 post this test done where more than 200 women candidates also participated. So during running Sulanta Mishal though completed but fell ill & admitted at District Headquarter Hospital (DHH) Parakakhemundi. There

doctor declared him dead. Along with him other 5 candidates also admitted. One PSankar candidate shifted to Brahmapur MKCG Medical College & rest are safe. SP Gajapati Jatindra Kumar Panda said that all arrangements made for running, with ambulance & 2 doctors also present. Time to time during running Glucose packets also distributed, where police staff were on duty. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi declared compensation of 4 lakhs to deceased family & conveyed his condolences to grief family of Sulanta Mishal.

Farmers are concerned that rain could significantly impact grain procurement and market availability

Bargarh, (DMC) : Farmers from Bhat Handi in the Bargarh district of Odisha have raised concerns regarding the paddy purchase and sales process with the Collector. A significant number of farmers from Resham, Sihen Pali, Padhanpali, Salhepali, Areigudi, Gudaramunda, and Ichhapdar have formally submitted complaints indicating that, despite the availability of large quantities of paddy in local markets, it has not yet been harvested effectively. To date, only 315 quintals of paddy have been procured from just 8 farmers at Resham Mandi. To address this situation promptly, the farmers have proposed that the quality and weight of the paddy be assessed on the same day it is brought to the mandi. They have also requested assistance with online registration and the option to sell their paddy using the bags they provide. According to government guidelines, a daily purchase of over one thousand quintals per mandi is essential to ensure that farmers can sell their paddy within the required



timeframe. During a recent meeting, Additional District Magistrate Madhuchanda Sahu addressed the gathering of farmers, affirming the importance of their concerns. Supply Officer Acharya assured the farmers that their issues would be taken into consideration and that the government's grain purchase policy would be adhered to diligently. Following this dialogue, the farmers decided to suspend their protest but indicated that they might need to take further action if their requests

were not fulfilled. A representative from the Jai Kisan Movement also brought attention to the challenges surrounding paddy sales and the effects of unseasonal rain on the Collector. While paddy sales have been progressing slowly in the district, the unexpected rain has exacerbated the difficulties for farmers. Since the commencement of paddy sales, farmers in the Bargarh district have faced a range of challenges, including issues with tokens, crop failures, and difficulties

stemming from middlemen and millers in the marketplaces. Consequently, the expected flow of paddy to the market has been hindered. Farmers have reported experiencing various pressures when attempting to independently sell their paddy. While some farmers have successfully found buyers upon reaching the Attabira mandi yard, others have experienced unsold paddy remaining in storage. The farmers' organization has urged the District Administration to

prioritize the collection of paddy from all mandis in the district promptly. They emphasized the need for the PESC to take direct responsibility for purchasing and storing the paddy, rather than relying on intermediaries. Neglecting to act on this matter could risk leaving many farmers unable to sell their paddy, which may lead to increased frustration and unmet obligations, a concern conveyed to Collector Shri Aditya Goyal. Despite a target of purchasing 39,95,100 quintals of paddy for the first phase in the district, only 16,87,000 quintals have been sold to date. During discussions, the Collector faced inquiries regarding the participation of only five per cent of the paddy sales in certain mandis. Lingaraj, convener of the Western Odisha Farmers' Organization Coordination Committee, urged the Collector to facilitate the immediate purchase of all paddy currently held in the mandis, highlighting the potential for a serious situation if the state government does not take decisive action to support these purchases.

From Page- 1

Odisha Leads The Way

a booklet. Deputy Chief Minister and Minister of Women and Child Development Pravati Parida, in her address, said that the Lakhpati Didi Yojana is not just a program but a movement. It has brought women out of the confines of their homes and integrated them into the mainstream of development. Odisha has consistently held the top position in creating Lakhpati Didis, which is a significant achievement. Rural women are showcasing their expertise in various fields, including agriculture, animal husbandry, tailoring, and café management. Through this program, rural women are not only earning for themselves but also setting examples for others. She expressed confidence that empowered women will play a pivotal role in building a developed India and a prosperous Odisha in the future. Development Commissioner-cum-Additional Chief Secretary Anu Garg stated that emphasis is being placed on including women in the development process. The goal is not only to create Lakhpati Didis but to make women self-reliant, which is the core objective. Commissioner-cum-Secretary of the Mission Shakti Department Shalini Pandit delivered the welcome address, while Director Monika Priyadarshini proposed the vote of thanks.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra

environmental benefits. He congratulated the citizens of Alipurduar and Cooch Behar on this new beginning. "City Gas Distribution Project is not merely a pipeline initiative but a testament to the government's commitment to doorstep delivery of essential services", he emphasised. Underscoring India's remarkable advancements in the energy sector, emphasizing the country's rapid transition towards a gas-based economy, the Prime Minister highlighted that in 2014, city gas services were available in only 66 districts, whereas today, the City Gas Distribution Network has expanded to over 550 districts across the country. The Prime Minister noted that this network is now reaching villages and smaller towns, ensuring access to piped gas for millions of households. He remarked that the widespread adoption of CNG has transformed public transport, contributing to a significant reduction in pollution levels. He emphasized that this shift not only improves the health of citizens but also eases financial burdens. Stressing that the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana has accelerated India's transition towards a gas-based economy, Shri Modi highlighted that the scheme, launched in 2016, has significantly improved the lives of millions of poor women by providing them relief from smoke-filled kitchens, improving their health, and fostering dignity in household cooking spaces. Shri Modi also pointed out that in 2014, the country had fewer than 14 crore LPG connections, whereas today, the number has surpassed 31 crore, bringing the vision of universal gas access to reality. He stressed that the government has strengthened the gas distribution network nationwide, ensuring its reach to every corner of the country. Shri Modi further noted that the number of LPG distributors has more than doubled, stating that before 2014, India had fewer than 14,000 LPG distributors, while today, the number has increased to over 25,000. He emphasized that now, gas cylinders are easily available even in rural areas, making clean cooking fuel accessible to households across the nation. Prime Minister emphasized the significance of the Urja Ganga Project, calling it a revolutionary step towards a gas-based economy. He highlighted that under this initiative, gas pipelines have been extended to connect the eastern states of India, significantly enhancing gas accessibility in West Bengal and other regions. The Prime Minister noted that these efforts by the Central government have not only expanded energy access but also created new employment opportunities across urban and rural areas. He remarked that from pipeline construction to gas supply, job generation has increased at multiple levels, strengthening the industrial ecosystem reliant on gas-based industries. "India is now progressing towards a future where energy is affordable, clean, and universally accessible", the Prime Minister stated. Emphasizing that West Bengal has been a major center of India's culture, knowledge, and scientific advancements, Shri Modi asserted that the vision of a developed India cannot be realized without Bengal's growth. He noted that keeping this in mind, the Central government has initiated developmental projects worth thousands of crores over the past decade. He highlighted key infrastructure projects such as Purva Expressway, Durgapur Expressway, the modernization of Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Port, the expansion of Kolkata Metro, the transformation of New Jalpaiguri Station, and the introduction of new trains on the Doars route-all aimed at accelerating Bengal's progress. "The newly launched project is not merely a pipeline, but a lifeline of progress", said Shri Modi, reiterating the government's commitment to making life easier for citizens and ensuring a bright future for Bengal. He concluded by expressing hope that West Bengal will continue advancing towards development and extended his best wishes to the people of the state. Union Minister Dr. Sukanta Majumdar, Leader of Opposition, West Bengal Assembly, Shri Suwendu Adhikari, Member of Parliament, Alipurduar, Shri Manoj Tigga were present among other dignitaries at the event.

Nationwide 'Viksit Krishi

development. Deputy Chief Minister and Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment, Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo, stated that the Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan is a unique platform to mechanically empower farmers. The campaign, starting from Odisha, will ensure its benefits reach the state's farmers. The event was attended by notable figures, including Pipili MLA Ashrit Pattnayak, Satyabadi MLA Om Prakash Mishra, Brahmagiri MLA Upasana Mahapatra, Principal Secretary of the Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment Department Dr. Arabinda Kumar Padhee, and Vice-Chancellor of OUAT, Professor Prabhat Kumar Roul. The welcome address was delivered by Dr. Mangal Jat, Secretary of the Department of Agricultural Research and Education and Director General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, while Shubham Saxena, Director of the Agriculture Department, proposed the vote of thanks.

Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan Flagged up in Bolangir

Bolangir, (DMC) : To generate awareness among masses about the importance of soil health, ADM Bolangir Dr. Bijaya Nanda Sethi, on Thursday, flagged Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan awareness Ratha in Bolangir. Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan campaign would continue till 12th June from today, aims to educate farmers about modern technologies for major Kharif crops specific to different regions, raise awareness about beneficial government schemes and policies, guide farmers on using "soil health cards" for crop selection and balanced fertilizer application, and collect feedback to understand. The campaign will host a comprehensive programme in selected location with participation from officials and experts representing the departments of agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, irrigation, and krishi vigyan kendras and others, who would solve the farmers' problem there. Among others, Chief District Agriculture Officer (CDAO) Bolangir, Babuli Charan Sethi, Scientists from Krishi Vigyan Kendra Bolangir Dr. Satyamaya Satapathy and others officials including Deputy Director of Horticulture were present on this occasion.

Kerala Declares Liberian Ship Capsize As A State-Specific Disaster, CMFRI Begins Study

Thiruvananthapuram, (H.S): The Kerala government on Thursday declared the wreckage of the Liberian ship M/s ELSA 3 in the Arabian Sea 14.6 nautical miles off the Kerala coast as a state-specific disaster. A statement issued from the office of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the ship, M/s MSC ELSA-3, carrying more than 643 containers, was reported to have capsized on May 25 off the Kerala Coast near Thottappalli in Alappuzha District."

The maritime incident has raised serious environmental concerns, including the potential for an oil spill and drifting of debris, including cargo, along Kerala's coastline. Considering the potentially serious environmental, social, and economic impact of the ship wreckage, the Government hereby declare the wreckage of the ship M/s ELSA 3 in the



Arabian Sea 14.6 nautical miles off the Kerala coast as a State-Specific disaster," said the statement. This fresh development comes at a time when the Kerala government is seriously contemplating legal proceedings against the ship's owners after fishermen's associations have demanded appropriate compensation, fearing that the chemicals could

cause long-term damage to marine life and jeopardise their livelihoods. The Vijayan government is awaiting a response from legal experts dealing with marine topics to go forward with legal steps. On Thursday, the containers that had been cleared from near the coast of Kollam and were being readied for transportation caught fire. But the fire was quickly doused. The

vessel, which had reported listing approximately 38 nautical miles off the Kochi coast, ultimately sank into the Arabian Sea on Sunday morning. In a related development, the ICAR- Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) on Thursday launched a study to assess the changes in the marine environment following the shipwreck.

The study is currently being conducted by four different teams on the coastal areas of Ernakulam, Alappuzha, Kollam and Thiruvananthapuram districts. The teams are collecting water, phytoplankton and sediment samples from 10 stations in these districts at regular intervals for the investigation. According to CMFRI Director Grinson George, the study aims to understand various types of marine pollution associated with the shipwreck.

In Touch With Authorities In Iran To Locate Missing Indian Men: MEA

Tehran/New Delhi: India on Thursday said that it remains in touch with the authorities in Tehran for locating three Indian nationals who have gone missing in Iran. "The three Indian nationals who had landed there some time ago are missing. We are in touch with the Iranian authorities to locate them, ensure their safety and security, and facilitate their eventual return home.

We are in daily contact with the authorities there and are receiving good cooperation from the Iranian side. We are also in touch with the families of the missing people and extending all possible help." Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stated during a weekly media briefing in New Delhi. All three missing Indians hail from Punjab and have been identified as Jaspal



Singh, Hushanpreet Singh and Amritpal Singh. They all went missing on May 1, shortly after landing in Tehran, authorities have informed."

Family members of three Indian citizens have informed the Embassy of India that their relatives are missing after having travelled to Iran. The Embassy has strongly taken up this matter with the Iranian authorities and requested that the missing Indians should be urgently traced and their safety should be ensured. We are also keeping the family members regularly updated of the

efforts being made by the Embassy," the Indian Embassy in Iran said in a statement on Wednesday. According to reports, an agent in Punjab had promised the three men to send them to Australia via the Dubai-Iran route.

He had reportedly also assured them that they will be provided a stay in Iran. But the trio was kidnapped soon after landing in Iran on May 1. Families of the missing men have claimed that the kidnappers are demanding a ransom of Rs one crore and calls have been made from Pakistani numbers. India has in the past issued travel Advisory for Iran, advising all Indian nationals traveling to the country to exercise due caution, maintain contact with the Embassy of India in Tehran and the Indian Consulates.

Delhi Govt Succeeded In Building Positive Image on Eve of Completing 100 Days: BJP's Virendraa Sachdeva

New Delhi, (H.S): On the eve of completing 100 days since the BJP came to power in Delhi, State Party President Virendraa Sachdeva said here on Thursday that to assess the performance of the current government after a decade of misgovernance by the previous Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), it is a matter of satisfaction that his party has succeeded in creating a positive image of the state in a short span of time.

While addressing a press conference, Sachdeva said that after 10 years of misrule by the previous Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP government, the public entrusted the BJP with the responsibility of Delhi's development and maintenance by securing an absolute majority in February 2025 Assembly elections. He added that the current BJP government in Delhi will complete 100 days since being in power in the state. The Delhi BJP President highlighted that



the greatest achievement of the Rekha Gupta-led BJP government is that unlike former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who engaged in negative politics by blaming the Central government, the BJP, and government officials for his failures, the current BJP government led by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta is

"proactive and is addressing every issue of Delhiites". The current BJP government's work under the leadership of CM Gupta is becoming its true identity, Sachdeva said. The BJP leader added that on Friday, the Delhi government will present its roadmap for the future along with a summary of its 100-day achievements. He also highlighted several significant

achievements of the current BJP government under the leadership of CM Gupta in a span of 100 days such as issuance of Ayushman Bharat cards, providing elderly citizens with health coverage of Rs 10 lakh, allocation of a Rs 1 lakh crore mega development budget for Delhi, committed work on Yamuna river cleaning with budget allocations for installing STPs (Sewage Treatment Plants) on drains falling into the river,

reviving the crumbling DTC public transport left incomplete by the previous Kejriwal government, and stabilising the situation by operating 400 buses under the "Devi Yojana". Sachdeva also said that installation of GPS in Delhi Jal Board tankers to improve water supply in slum clusters, and launch of a Summer Action Plan to improve Delhi's overall water supply, commencement of the development of Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (Health

Temples) where people will receive free medicines, health checkups and X-ray facilities, visible changes in Delhi roads - for the first time in nearly 10 years, major cleaning drives are underway for drains and sewers. The cleaning of roads by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi has also improved, he added. A policy-level decision has been made regarding the Mahila Samman Scheme;

the budget has been allocated, a committee is working on it, and an implementation plan will be announced soon, he said. The Delhi Education Act introduced by the BJP government has raised hopes among parents in the national capital, he added. The Delhi BJP Chief said: "During the previous Kejriwal government, Ministers were only seen in press conferences. However, Ministers in the current BJP government are seen actively working in Ministries and on the ground, addressing public issues."

A New 'War' Outside of The Battlefield

New Delhi, (H.S): When in the post-Cold War era 'proxy war' emerged as the new weapon by which an opponent could be brought down - without an engagement in the 'battlefield' - this basically had two connotations. One was the resort to planned 'covert' violence through the use of terror groups that could launch what is termed as an 'asymmetric war' against the enemy and cause a serious dent in the fighting power of the latter. The other was a widening of the sphere of combat - beyond the conventional warfare - in which the opponent's economy would be damaged, the youth on the other side would be trapped in the evil consequences of narcotics and an organised campaign would be conducted to sully the image of the targeted country nationally and internationally.

Terrorism, particularly where it is based on exploitation of faith-related motivation, has now emerged as the global threat to the democratic world as a whole. Terror groups make covert attacks but they had sophisticated weapons of the kind available only with the Army in the past - this has happened because countries like Pakistan continued to blatantly use 'Islamic Terrorism' as an instrument of state policy, specially against India. The advent of social media is now hastening a form of propaganda warfare in which organised attempts were made to float 'narratives' running down the opponent's regime in a manner that its people would lose faith in it. 'Influence Operations' are now in full play as an extension of 'proxy war'. In 2020, Facebook took down a network of more than 300 accounts that were being run from China - they were posting content about US elections and also on Covid epidemic and working together to



make it more convincing for the American public than all the claims of the party in power or the government of the day, could do. Since then Artificial Intelligence-driven pro-China propaganda based on a deft exploitation of YouTube's algorithmic system for rapidly producing and publishing content, has been making a steady advance. Authentic studies like the one carried out by the Australian Strategic Policy Institution (ASPI) have revealed how an extensive network of YouTube channels promoted 'pro-China' and 'anti-US' public opinion in the English-speaking world. The current disclosure requirements about sponsored content have glaring gaps when it comes to addressing cross-border 'influence campaigns'.

Creators of content do not always provide information on who they were, where are they based and what was their background. Unrestricted spread of Artificial Intelligence (AI) propaganda could undermine truth and manipulate real world events. AI-aided 'psy ops' have the ability to 'spoof identities, survey citizens en masse and automate disinformation production'. India has strongly advocated for the idea of international regulation and monitoring of AI operations and transparency of research on AI, to minimise the chances of its misuse as a strategic weapon and to promote its advancement for

the general good of the humanity. Prime Minister Narendra Modi co-chaired AI Action Summit in Paris in February 2025, along with President of France, Emmanuel Macron, and declared that India's AI strategy was built on 'inclusivity, accessibility and affordability'. He pointed out that India had built a Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) at a very low cost. The theme of the Summit was 'developing open AI infrastructure for social, economic and environmental benefits'. Since videos are backed by a large apparatus of government agencies, state-controlled news media and other official amplifiers as is the case with China, it is not difficult for Beijing to spread propaganda messages around the world.

Funds are used to disseminate the content of the influencers. The Chinese Communist Party has marshalled diplomats and state news outlets to carry its 'narratives' forward and drown out criticism with the help of its army of shadowy assets. It is reported that classic Intelligence techniques are employed by China's Internet regulator to buy out media companies and engage foreign internet celebrities to highlight government's success in alleviating poverty and to counter reports of forced labour being used in Xinjiang's cotton farms. Even Chinese embassies in Europe and elsewhere were made to put out

propaganda to this effect in their Facebook pages. India is aware of the 'influence operations' of China and is stepping up measures to deal with them. In fact, India has to fully prepare itself for the doings of the Sino-Pakistan axis in the field of 'influence warfare'. This anti-India strategic alliance was active against India post-Pahalgam - over and above the direct support extended to Pakistan by Turkey, Azerbaijan and Malaysia, the group of countries that had an antipathy towards US and a favourable disposition for radical Islamic forces.

China has tried to push Iran towards Pakistan and strengthen its own hold in Afghanistan. Pakistan had earlier brought about a 'give and take' arrangement between the fundamentalist Taliban-led Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan and the Communist China. China supports Pakistan on Kashmir issue because of its own strategic interest in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir since the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) passed through the northern areas. China is now trying to link CPEC with its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in Afghanistan. Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) has evidently stepped up its terror offensive in both Kashmir and Punjab - the blast in Amritsar on May 27 is attributed to Babbar Khalsa International (BKI), which was known for its direct links with ISI. India has to watch out for US-Pakistan relations as much as for the collusive China-Pakistan alliance against India. In the context of a desperate Pakistan reaching out to US President Donald Trump - when the going became tough for it due to the strong retaliatory action taken by India in the wake of the terrorist attack at Pahalgam - it seemed Trump showed a certain degree of interest in Pakistan as a potential trade partner but

without doing anything against India's strategic interests. India's diplomatic strength is going to be tested in the handling of the triangular US-India-Pakistan relations - this should not be a big challenge so long as President Trump keeps India and Pakistan 'de-hyphenated'. Trump's innate aversion to 'Islamic terrorism' should add to India's advantage. Coming back to the 'influence operations' of Sino-Pakistan combine that had come to the fore, it needs to be mentioned that India needed to step up its scan of the social media - this was already being done - to detect any 'proxy war offensive' emanating from there and find ways and means of countering it on an ongoing basis.

This has to be done by the security and political leadership of the nation in a combined way since the countermeasures would involve diplomatic, trade and military-related steps to make for an integral response. Prime Minister Modi has now established that such a response would be based on zero tolerance towards terrorism, acceptance of a mutually beneficial economic relations with the US and a commitment to the holistic development of India that did not leave anyone behind. The fact that both US and Russia had given recognition to India as an emerging world power that would not get aligned with either side in a situation of potential return of the Cold War between US on the one hand and the China-led axis embracing Russia on the other, gives this country a new strength. Once again however, India's internal management seemed to be a greater challenge than the handling of international relationships because of a lack of strategic convergence between the ruling party and the opposition and the unending domestic disharmony on caste, creed and regional matters. This should be understood and quickly resolved.

Two Indian Soldiers To Be Honoured Posthumously At The UN

New Delhi, (H.S): Brigadier Amitabh Jha and Havildar Sanjay Singh will be posthumously awarded the prestigious Dag Hammarskjold Medal by the UN in New York in recognition of their supreme sacrifice in the service of global peace, a defence official said on Thursday. The official informed that Brigadier Amitabh Jha was attached to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF). "Brigadier Jha was overseeing the delicate ceasefire arrangements in the Golan Heights, while Havildar Singh was deployed with the United Nations Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO)," he said. The defence official pointed out that Havildar Singh worked to stabilise conflict-affected regions in Africa. He medaled to the fallen Indian hero will be presented on May 29, which marks the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers at the UN Headquarters in New York.

Since 1948, around 4,300 peacekeepers have lost their lives while serving under the UN flag. The Dag Hammarskjold Medal was established by UN Security Council Resolution 1121 in 1997. The award is named after the second UN Secretary-General, Dag Hammarskjold, who died in a 1961 plane crash while on a peace mission. The medal is awarded annually to military, police, and civilian personnel who make the ultimate sacrifice while serving in UN peacekeeping operations.

The defence official said that India, as one of the largest contributors to UN peacekeeping missions, has provided more than 200,000 personnel across 49 missions over the decades, and many Indian peacekeepers have been honoured with this medal in past years. Meanwhile, on Thursday, the Indian Army marked the 77th United Nations Peacekeepers Day, and a solemn wreath-laying ceremony was held at the National War Memorial. Lieutenant General Rakesh Kapoor, Deputy Chief of Army Staff (Information Systems and Coordination), paid homage to the valiant Indian soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice while serving in UN peacekeeping missions across the globe. Senior military officers and personnel from UN contingents attended the ceremony, reflecting India's enduring commitment to global peace and security.



Trump; Harvard Should Have 15 Pc Cap On Foreign Students

Washington, (H.S): US President Donald Trump said that there should be a cap of around 15 per cent on foreign students at Harvard University while continuing to pressure it to submit its list of foreign students."Harvard has to show us their lists," Trump told reporters at the White House on Wednesday.

"They have foreign students. About 31 per cent of their students are foreign-based. Almost 31 per cent. We want to know where those students come from.Are they troublemakers?" Trump claimed that many of those students were troublemakers "caused by the radical left lunatics in this country." "I think they should have a cap of maybe around 15 per cent, not 31 per cent, we have people want to go to



Harvard and other schools they can't get in because we have foreign students there," he said.After Trump returned to the White House, he has targeted many US universities, warning that those that do not adjust their policies will face funding cuts, reports Xinhua news agency.The Trump administration's main demands include eradicating

antisemitism on campus and abolishing diversity initiatives that favour minority groups.With billions of dollars in funding frozen, its tax-exempt status in jeopardy and multiple investigations underway, Harvard is facing an unprecedented crisis.On May 22, the Department of Homeland Security announced the

revocation of Harvard's eligibility for the Student and Exchange Visitor Program - one of the latest moves by the Trump administration aimed at pressuring the university.Harvard has filed a lawsuit against the federal government, and a federal judge in Massachusetts has temporarily blocked the ban, and a court hearing on the issue was scheduled for May 29.

Previously, Harvard filed a lawsuit against the administration over federal funding cuts.According to data from Harvard, as of fall 2023, international students made up more than 27 per cent of the total student population. Currently, Harvard enrolls nearly 6,800 international students and scholars from over 140 countries and regions, most of whom are pursuing graduate programs.

All Four Navy Officers Aboard Patrol Aircraft Killed After Crash in Pohang



the southern island of Jeju, but had flown to Pohang for training, a Navy official said.The Navy said it has launched an investigative unit to look into further details and grounded the P-3 maritime patrol aircraft.No civilian casualties were reported, Yonhap news agency reported.

Acting President Lee Ju-ho was briefed on the crash by acting Defence Minister Kim Seon-ho and called for all-out efforts to rescue the passengers and prevent further damage to the surrounding environment, his office said.The Navy operates 16 P-3 aircraft, dubbed the "submarine killer" for

its anti-submarine capabilities. The first eight of the 16 aircraft, labelled the P-3C, were deployed in 1995, and another eight, renovated by the defence firm Korea Aerospace Industries Ltd. and named the P-3CK, were subsequently deployed.

The aircraft that crashed on Thursday is one of the eight P-3CK aircraft in operation in Pohang and Jeju.The recent accident marks the first known crash involving a P-3 aircraft deployed by the armed service. South Korea's Transport Ministry is currently investigating the cause of the runway deviation.

US Calls For 'Fair And Reciprocal' Trade Access in Talks With India



Washington, (H.S): A senior US diplomat stressed the importance of "fair and reciprocal market access" in discussions with his Indian counterpart, who came amidst ongoing talks on a trade agreement between the two sides. Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau on Wednesday also raised the issue of illegal migrants and counternarcotics in his meeting with the visiting Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri.Deputy Secretary Landau "underscoring the importance of fair and reciprocal market access to fostering economic growth and

prosperity in both countries," Tammy Bruce, the State Department Spokesperson, said in a readout of the meeting of the two officials.The US official's emphasis on "fair and reciprocal market access" came amidst reports that the US and India are close to finalising a bilateral trade agreement.Increased access to the Indian market has been a long-running US demand, cutting across party lines.Reciprocity in trade has been a cornerstone of President Donald Trump's reshaping of America's relations with all its trading partners, including close allies and partners such as the UK,

the EU, Japan and India and competitors such as China.Earlier this week, a top US official said that a deal with India is imminent and soon.Indian Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal was in Washington earlier for talks with Howard Lutnick, the Commerce Secretary who is part of the US team conducting trade talks with multiple partner countries, along with Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer.

The US official also raised "the importance of enhanced cooperation on migration and counternarcotics," the spokesperson said without specifying. His indication was towards the previous instances where Indians were caught illegally crossing into the US, many of whom were later deported to India on American military planes. This process was captured in a heartbreaking video showing them being boarded while in shackles. The two sides also "reaffirmed their shared desire to maintain regional stability and peace."

Panama City, (H.S): Jose Raul Mulino Quintero, the President of Panama and a member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), has expressed "support for India's fight against terrorism," Congress MP Sashi Tharoor said after a delegation of members of Parliament met him.At their "constructive and productive" meeting in the Presidential Palace, Mulino "expressed his understanding and support for India's fight against terrorism,"

Tharoor, who heads the delegation, said in a post on X on Wednesday (local time). Panama's Foreign Minister Javier Martinez-Acha Vasquez, who hosted a lunch for the delegation, was at the meeting with the President along with several senior officials. Martinez-Acha "extended full support understanding of Panama on terrorism for India," Taranjit Singh Sandhu, a former ambassador to the US who is accompanying the delegation, said in an X post.They were



joined by Vice-Minister Carlos Hoyos, as well as two members of Panama's National Assembly, which was "a tribute to the regard in which India is held here," Tharoor said. During the meeting,

Tharoor passed around pictures of Pakistani officials at the funeral of Hafiz Abdul Rauf, a senior leader of the Lashkar-e-Taiba and a designated a terrorist by the United Nations Sanctions Committee."There is no greater proof of official complicity" of Pakistan with terrorism, he told

them.Pakistan military's top brass, including Lt Gen Fayyaz Hussain Shah and Maj Gen Rao Imran, and Punjab Police Inspector General Usman Anwar were among those who attended the funerals of Rauf and other terrorists killed in the Operation Sindoor hits on terrorism centres.

The parliamentary delegation was visiting this influential Central American country that is an elected member of the UN Security Council to make clear India's policy of zero-tolerance for

terrorism in the aftermath of the religiously motivated massacre of 26 people at Pahalgam by Pakistan-linked terrorists.India launched Operation Sindoor to hit the infrastructure of terrorism in Pakistan and the areas of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Islamabad launched attacks on targets in India, including temples, gurdwaras, and a convent, escalating the conflict.

Reflecting a broad national consensus on the issue, the delegation included parliamentarians from across party lines Shambhavi of the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas), Sarfaraz Ahmad of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, Milind Murli Deora of the Shiv Sena, and BJP leaders Shashank Mani Tripathi, Bhubaneswar Kalita, and Tejasvi Surya, along with GM Harish Balayogi of the Telugu Desam Party.The delegation, which has visited New York and Guyana, is to visit Colombia and Brazil and head to Washington in the quest to rally support for India against terrorism.

India's National Consensus & Collective Resolve Against Terrorism Highlighted In South Africa

Johannesburg, (H.S): The Indian all-party Parliamentary delegation, led by Nationalist Congress Party (NCP-SP) Supriya Sule on Wednesday explained the background of terror incidents in India, including the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, while conveying India's united message of zero tolerance for terrorism during a meeting with the Deputy Chairperson of the National Council of Province (NCOP) of South Africa, Poobalan Govender, and other Members of the Parliament of South Africa. The all-party

Parliamentary delegation also held a meeting with Supra Obakeng Ramoeletsi Mahumapelo the Chairperson of Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa, besides other members.The delegation led by Sule had earlier engaged with members of the Indian community in South Africa, reaffirming India's strong and unified stance against terrorism." All-party delegation led by MP Supriya Sule interacted with the Indian community in South



Africa They emphasised India's national consensus and collective resolve against terrorism in all its forms. Commended the wholehearted support of the Indian diaspora to eradicate the scourge of terrorism," the Indian High Commission in South Africa posted on X.The community

interaction in Johannesburg marked the beginning of the delegation's official engagements in South Africa.According to a statement issued by the High Commission of India in Pretoria, during the community interaction, the delegation conveyed India's zero-tolerance policy towards

cross-border terrorism and reiterated the country's commitment to counter-terrorism without escalating regional tensions." The delegation shared that Operation Sindoor, conducted by India in response, was calibrated, targeted and proportionate, demonstrating India's commitment to countering terrorism without escalating tensions. They emphasised the need to stop differentiating the terrorists and their backers and dismantling the cross-border terrorism infrastructure, developed and used against India

for several decades," the statement added.The delegation was welcomed by the Indian High Commissioner to South Africa, Prabhat Kumar on Tuesday who briefed them on the key dimensions of the India-South Africa bilateral relationship and the upcoming engagements. The all-party delegation led by Supriya Sule comprises BJP leaders Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Anurag Thakur and V. Muraleedharan, Congress leaders Manish Tewari and Anand Sharma, Telugu Desam Party's Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu,

Aam Aadmi Party leader Vikramjeet Singh Sawhney, and former diplomat Syed Akbaruddin.The delegation, a part of India's global diplomatic outreach campaign to highlight the significance of Operation Sindoor and India's continued fight against Pakistan-sponsored cross-border terrorism, reached South Africa following a successful visit to Qatar. It was earlier welcomed by Indian Consul General, Ruby Jaspreet in Cape Town for a meeting with various ministers and parliamentarians of South Africa.

Settlement of Ukraine Conflict 'Very Complicated', Admits Russian Ambassador

New Delhi, (H.S): Russia's Ambassador to India, Denis Alipov on Wednesday admitted that the settlement of the Ukraine conflict remains "very complicated" and the focus should rather be on ending the war instead of initiating short ceasefires. Accusing Kyiv of repeatedly violating ceasefires, the Russian diplomat cited the recent exchange of prisoners as a positive development. At the same time, he made it clear that a ceasefire alone would not bring peace in Ukraine.



And that was something that India eventually did. We have always stated that there cannot be any double standards on terrorism, be it a trans-border one or of any other kind. We have always stood by the side of each other on this. Last year, India also immediately expressed support for Russia after the big terror attack on one of the shopping malls in Moscow.

We also coordinate with each other at the UN. Russia has supported a draft convention that India proposed to counter terrorism which needs to be adopted, as soon as possible Denis Alipov: From what we know, India has clearly stated the goals and undertook actions after having identified the targets and the terrorists it promised to do.

As far as we know, during the operation, the S-400 system was used and the BrahMos missiles were engaged. Judging by the reports available, the performance of these weapons was exemplary. Denis Alipov: We have a joint venture for designing and producing these weapons. We are very satisfied with the results of this collaboration.

It has very promising prospects and we wish to expand on that track, as on many others that we have discussed and are in the pipeline or are being implemented already.Prime Minister Narendra Modi has clearly emerged as one of the strongest leaders in the world, his discussions with President Vladimir Putin are also quite significant given the current

circumstances ...Denis Alipov: I don't think there is anybody, anywhere in the world that doubts the credentials of Prime Minister Modi. His strong leadership is steering the country to global prominence. Both India and Russia stand for a multipolar world order without any global power or a group of countries dominating that order. They stand for an equal international relationship. This has been reinstated in the conversation President Vladimir Putin and Prime Minister Modi had on May 5.It is expected that Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov will also be in New Delhi, next month ...Denis Alipov:

The interaction between the foreign ministers is very intense. There will be visits of Russian officials to India and there is going to be high-level visits of Indian officials to Russia, this year. The leaders will also meet and have an extensive agenda for discussion, as we have always done because our relations are very diversified. The dates will be announced in due course by both sides as soon as the details are finalised.Denis Alipov: The settlement of the Ukraine conflict is very complicated. It has deep roots, very serious causes, which need to be addressed. Ceasefire,

per say, will not bring peace in Ukraine. Russia has several times initiated, proposed a ceasefire. We honoured those short ceasefires. We initiated and the Ukrainian side always violated. We are not at all sure that an extended ceasefire will succeed. But we are prepared to speak on ceasefire as a part of a broader settlement within the negotiations which we have always proposed. Actually, it was a good development that the Ukrainian side accepted our initiative and recently resumed the round of negotiations that happened in Turkey after almost three years.

It went well. We agreed on a large exchange of prisoners, which has been completed. Hopefully, the next round will also happen soon. This is something that needs to be in focus - the negotiations on the end of the war and not only on ceasefire. Ceasefire can be an element of these negotiations, but ceasefire, per se, will not bring peace in Ukraine.Denis Alipov: Our discussion on this particular topic, as on many others, is ongoing. It is a continuous one, but it would be incorrect for me and also premature to speak about the results of it at the moment.

Italian Senator Bats For Enhancing Anti-Terror Cooperation With India

Rome, (H.S): Stefania Craxi, head of Italian Senate's Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, on Wednesday proposed enhancing cooperation with India to address the global scourge of terrorism during a meeting with the visiting Indian all-party Parliamentary delegation led by BJP MP Ravi Shankar Prasad.The delegation briefed the Italian Senator about India's united stance against terrorism in all its forms, and zero tolerance against cross border terrorism."During our visit to Italy, my colleagues from the all-party delegation and I had the privilege of meeting Senator Stefania Craxi, Chair of the Senate's Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee. We apprised her of India's firm stance against terrorism in all its forms, underscoring our zero-tolerance policy towards cross-border terrorism.

Senator Craxi echoed our sentiments, emphasising the need for a unified global response to terrorism and proposing enhanced cooperation between India and Italy to tackle this pressing challenge," Prasad posted on X.Earlier in the day, the delegation landed in Rome after concluding a highly-successful visit to France and was received by India's Ambassador to Italy Vani Rao who also gave a briefing."The All-Party Parliamentary Delegation led by Ravi Shankar Prasad, MP, arrived in Rome for wide-ranging interactions. They were received by Ambassador Vani Rao.

The delegation will convey India's firm and united message against cross-border terrorism in the context of Operation Sindoor," the Indian Embassy in Rome posted on X.The nine-member delegation includes a diverse political representation, including Ravi Shankar Prasad (BJP), Daggubati Purandeswari (BJP), Priyanka Chaturvedi (Shiv Sena-UBT), Ghulam Ali Khatana (BJP), Amar Singh (Congress), Samik Bhattacharya (BJP), M. Thambidurai (AIADMK), former Union Minister M.J. Akbar and former Ambassador Pankaj Saran.In Italy, the parliamentarians will meet several top leaders, academia, think tanks, media and community members, briefing them about Operation Sindoor and India's policy of 'new normal' against terrorism.

Vedanta Aluminium conducts free eye screening camp for drivers in Jharsuguda

Jharsuguda, (DMC): Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, conducted a free eye screening camp for commercial and technical vehicle drivers at its Jharsuguda operations. The extensive initiative, which was organised in collaboration with Trilochan Netralaya, underscored the company's commitment to ensuring the health and safety of its employees, business partners and community members. Through this initiative, more than 1,500 drivers operating across various locations within the plant area have been screened for detecting potential vision-related issues.

Those diagnosed with visual impairments were provided with expert medical advice and corrective spectacles at no cost, helping fix vision-related issues and enhancing their ability to work with utmost safety and confidence. The initiative aimed to promote long-term eye health, enhance road safety, and support the overall well-being of drivers employed in various roles at the plant, who are together integral to the smooth functioning of Vedanta's logistics and supply chain operations. It was organized at a crucial time as the onset of



the monsoon season begins in the region. With heavy rains and winds increasing the possibility of unpredictable conditions while driving, the eye camp is expected to help the drivers undertake their duties in a safer manner. Sharing the impact of the initiative, Sunil Gupta, COO - Vedanta Aluminium said,

"At Vedanta, we consider our employees and business partners to be the most essential pillar of our operations. Our Sarathis- the dedicated drivers who help keep our supply chain smooth and seamless- are vital to our progress. This initiative is therefore another step towards ensuring their complete well-being, in line with our deep commitment to a culture of care." Expressing his gratitude, Mr. Gangadhar Luhar, a driver at

the company's operations, said, "I was struggling with vision issues after driving for long hours. The thorough eye tests at the camp helped diagnosed a minor vision issue, and the corrective glasses I received have made a huge difference.

Now, I can drive confidently with clear vision and reduced eye strain." As part of ongoing efforts to support its staff members and business partners, Vedanta Jharsuguda has been proactively organizing health camps, awareness programs, and safety initiatives tailored to their health and safety requirements. A key initiative among these is Suraksha Sarathi, a dedicated safety awareness program for drivers operating in and around Vedanta's operations, aimed at reinforcing

best practices in road and occupational safety. Previously, the company has launched a Light Motor Vehicle (LMV) and Heavy Motor Vehicle (HMV) simulation training centre to promote road safety among drivers working at its mega aluminium plant. These initiatives reflect Vedanta's focus on creating a secure and supportive environment for the drivers who play a critical role in keeping its operations running smoothly. 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.

Adani Electricity's 1st Digital 220 KV Substation To Power BKC, Surrounding Mumbai Areas

Mumbai: Adani Electricity on Thursday said it recently inaugurated a state-of-the-art 220 kV digital substation in the Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) to address the escalating power demands of BKC, Bandra East, Bandra West, Khar West, Santacruz East, and surrounding areas here. The substation will support commercial, residential, and infrastructure projects in BKC and adjacent areas, reinforcing Adani Electricity's role in powering Mumbai's economic and urban expansion.

This strategic infrastructure upgrade significantly enhances Mumbai's power transmission network, ensuring a reliable and efficient electricity supply for current needs and future developments. According to the company, the innovative substation utilises IEC-61850 process bus technology, leading to a remarkable 92 per cent reduction in copper cables and a 50 per cent decrease in control room footprint. The facility is equipped with an environmentally friendly 220 kV 2x125 MVA power transformer, offering enhanced fire safety, superior performance, and an extended lifespan. Built with



cutting-edge technology and smart grid capabilities, the substation will reduce transmission losses and improve overall grid stability. Further strengthening reliability, the Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (MERC) recently approved 220kV connectivity between Adani Electricity's Aarey and BKC substations.

This second connection to BKC will significantly enhance power supply redundancy in the area, solidifying Adani Electricity's position as a preferred and reliable electricity utility for Mumbai's premier business district." The commissioning of this 220 kV substation is a crucial step in securing the future electricity supply for this vibrant and rapidly expanding area of

Mumbai. As power demand continues to rise due to growing infrastructure, new buildings, and an influx of offices, we are committed to delivering dependable, high-quality, and sustainable energy solutions that will underpin the city's continued progress," said an Adani Electricity spokesperson.

The investment aligns with Adani Electricity's commitment to strengthening Mumbai's power infrastructure while ensuring uninterrupted and sustainable energy solutions for businesses and residents. Adani Electricity Mumbai Limited, part of the diversified Adani Group, serves over 3 million consumers spread across 400 sq km in Mumbai and its suburbs - meeting close to 2,300 MW of power demand with 99.99 per cent reliability, which is among the highest in the country.

Crisil Pegs India's GDP Growth At 6.5 Pc In Fiscal 2026



New Delhi, (H.S): Crisil on Thursday forecast India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth at 6.5 per cent in fiscal 2026, adding that improving domestic consumption is likely to support industrial activity. "We expect domestic consumption demand to improve driven by healthy agricultural growth, easing inflation supporting discretionary spend, rate cuts by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) and income tax relief this fiscal," the global ratings agency said in a note. The India Meteorological Department expects an above-normal monsoon this fiscal (106 per cent of long-period average), which bodes well for agricultural

production and inflation. Furthermore, according to Crisil Intelligence, crude oil prices are expected to remain subdued this fiscal, averaging \$65-\$70 per barrel compared with an average of \$78.8 per barrel in the previous fiscal. "We expect the MPC to cut the repo rate by another 50 basis points (bps) this fiscal, after 50 bps cuts until April. Bank lending rates have begun easing, which should support domestic demand," according to the note. Overall, Crisil forecasts gross domestic product (GDP) growth at 6.5 per cent in fiscal 2026, with external headwinds posing downside risks. In the month of significant tariff announcements by the United States (US), IIP growth slowed

in April. Production slowed in certain export-oriented sectors (including pharmaceuticals and chemicals), while front-loading exports benefitted others (machinery and readymade garments). Among consumer goods, durables performed better than non-durables. Industrial goods recorded a mixed performance, with output growth in capital goods picked up sharply along with a mild acceleration in intermediate goods.

Performance of export-oriented sectors was mixed in April, despite the sharp improvement in merchandise exports (9.0 per cent in April in nominal terms vs 0.7 per cent in the previous month). There was also a 6.4 per cent increase in the production of consumer durables such as electronic goods, refrigerators, and TVs during November, reflecting the higher consumer demand for these items amid rising incomes, according to data released by the Ministry of Statistics. The infrastructure sector clocked a growth of 4 per cent on the back of big-ticket government projects being implemented in the highways, railways and ports sectors.

Public Sector General Insurance Firms Collect 1.06 Lakh Crore Premium In FY25

New Delhi, (H.S): The total premium collected by public sector general insurance companies (PSGICs) has witnessed a notable rise from around Rs 80,000 crore in FY19 to nearly Rs 1.06 lakh crore in FY25, the government has said. The overall general insurance industry also reported growth, with total premium collections reaching Rs 3.07 lakh crore in FY2024-25.

In a meeting with PSGICs here, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman reviewed key performance indicators including premium collections, insurance penetration and density and incurred claims ratios. The meeting was attended by Secretary, Department of Financial Services (DFS), M. Nagaraju, and the managing directors of New India Assurance, United India Insurance, Oriental Insurance, and National Insurance, General Insurance Corporation of India (Reinsurance), Agriculture Insurance Company of India Limited, along with other senior



officials of the Finance Ministry. While general insurance penetration in India remains relatively low at 1 per cent of GDP - compared to a global average of 4.2 per cent in 2023 - insurance density has steadily improved, increasing from \$9 in 2019 to \$25 in 2023.

The Finance Minister underscored the need for PSGICs to work towards improving both penetration and density to ensure wider financial protection. Officials also presented a five-year analysis of the health insurance segment, showing consistent premium growth across Private Insurers,

Standalone Health Insurers (SAHI), and PSGICs. Incurred claims ratios, which had peaked during the Covid-19 pandemic in FY21 (PSGICs at 126 per cent and private insurers at 105 per cent), have since declined.

By FY24, these ratios had moderated to 103 per cent for PSGICs, 89 per cent for private insurers, and 65 per cent for SAHI. The PSGICs have witnessed a significant turnaround with all of them having become profitable again. While Oriental Insurance Company Ltd. (OICL) and National Insurance Company Ltd. (NICKL) started posting

quarterly profits from Q4 of FY 2023-24 and Q2 of FY 2024-25, respectively, United India Insurance Company Ltd. (UIICL) posted profit in Q3 of FY 2024-25 after a gap of 7 years. Notably, New India Assurance Company Ltd. (NIACL) has consistently maintained its position as a market leader and has been making profits regularly.

Finance Minister emphasised the urgent need for digital transformation across all PSGICs to improve service delivery and efficiency. This includes the adoption of AI-driven claim settlement systems, particularly for Motor Own Damage and Health insurance products, to ensure faster and more accurate claim resolution. The minister also emphasised the importance of leveraging advanced data analytics and artificial intelligence to develop precise pricing models and efficient claims modelling, which are essential for improved risk assessment and long-term sustainability.

RBI: Will Continue To Undertake Liquidity Management Operations

New Delhi, (H.S): The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said on Thursday it will continue to undertake liquidity management operations in sync with the monetary policy stance to keep system liquidity adequate to meet the productive requirements of the economy.

A benign inflation outlook and moderate growth warrant a monetary policy to be growth-supportive, while remaining watchful about the rapidly evolving global macroeconomic conditions, said the Central Bank in its 2024-25 annual report. "It will deploy an appropriate mix of instruments to modulate frictional as well as durable liquidity, ensuring orderly movement of money market interest rates," said the Reserve



Bank. With inflation falling below the target in February and March 2025, supported by a sharp fall in food inflation, there is now greater confidence about a durable alignment of headline inflation with the target of 4.0 per cent over a 12-month horizon. Accordingly, the RBI MPC in its April meeting unanimously voted to reduce the policy repo rate by 25 bps to 6.0 per cent. Moreover, the MPC also decided to change the stance from neutral to accommodative.

Inflation converged closer towards the target during 2024-25, aided by easing input cost pressures, proactive supply management measures by the government and continuing transmission of past monetary policy actions. Headline inflation moderated to an average of 4.6 per cent during 2024-25 from 5.4 per cent in the previous year, largely driven by a moderation in core (CPI excluding food and fuel) inflation to 3.5 per cent and

deflation in fuel at 2.5 per cent. The moderation in core inflation was broad-based across goods and services, said the RBI. For the year as a whole, liquidity conditions remained in surplus as reflected in average daily net absorption under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF), increasing to Rs 1,605 crore during 2024-25 from Rs 485 crore in the previous year.

The Reserve Bank conducted a suite of market operations, including open market operation (OMO) purchases, USD/INR buy/sell swaps, and longer tenor variable rate repo (VRR) operations, besides reducing the cash reserve ratio (CRR) by 50 bps (in two tranches of 25 bps each), to provide durable liquidity to the system.

India's Food Production Surges To Record High of 354 Million Tonnes In 2024-25



New Delhi, (H.S): India's foodgrain production is estimated to have reached 354 million tonnes in 2024-25, which is 6.6 per cent higher than last year's (2023-24) production of 332 million tonnes, according to the third advance estimates. The estimates are based on all major crops, including wheat, rice, maize, soyabean, pulses and groundnuts.

The data shows that rice production reached 1490.74 lakh metric tonnes (LMT), which is 112 LMT than the previous year. Wheat production estimation is 1175.07 LMT, higher by 42.15 LMT compared to the previous year. Coarse grains, which include jawar, bajra and ragi, recorded a 52.04 LMT increase in production at 621.40 LMT. The data further shows that total pulse production is estimated at 252.38 LMT, higher by 9.92 LMT than the previous year.

Moong production reached 38.19 LMT against last year's 35.61 LMT. The estimated production of oilseeds may reach 426.09 LMT, which is 29.40 LMT higher than last year. Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that the overall production of foodgrains is showing an increasing trend, but the increase in pulses and oilseeds output needs to be accelerated further.

Soybean and groundnut production is estimated at 151.80 LMT and 118.96 LMT, which is 21.18 LMT and 17.16 LMT higher than the previous year. The production of rapeseed and mustard reached 126.06 LMT. Data shows a record production of rice, wheat, maize, soybean, rapeseed, mustard, and sugarcane. "The third estimated production of major crops such as paddy, wheat, soybean, groundnuts, oilseeds, and pulses

is going to be a record," Chouhan said. Chouhan attributed the record production to the farmer-friendly policies of the government, which include an increase in the minimum support price of crops and the timely provision of subsidised fertilisers.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved the increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for 14 kharif crops for the marketing season 2025-26 to ensure remunerative prices to the growers for their produce. The highest absolute increase in MSP over the previous year has been recommended for nigerseed (Rs 820 per quintal), followed by Ragi (Rs 596 per quintal), Cotton (Rs 589 per quintal) and Sesamum (Rs 579 per quintal).

Trust, Deregulation Key To Achieve Long-Term Economic Prosperity: Chief Economic Advisor

New Delhi, (H.S): Trust, deregulation and reciprocity are the cornerstones of avoiding the middle-income trap and achieving long-term economic prosperity, Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) Dr V. Anantha Nageswaran said on Thursday. Speaking at the CII 'Annual Business Summit 2025' here, Dr Nageswaran emphasised India's top policy priorities for sustainable development and economic growth. "Key areas include balancing energy affordability and security with energy transition through power

sector reforms, addressing AI's impact on employment, ensuring fair income distribution, and focusing on education and skilling for the youth," he stressed. The CEA further emphasised promoting manufacturing and SMEs, enhancing food security and agricultural productivity, encouraging private sector investment, and integrating economic growth with energy policies and external dynamics are also crucial for a resilient and competitive economy." The private sector's role in nation-building is crucial and necessitates a tripartite

collaboration between the government, private sector and academia. To achieve developed economy status by 2047, the private sector must be socially responsible, ensuring balanced deployment of capital and labour," he noted. This involves fair income distribution, workplace safety, investment in research and development, and attention to mental health, among other aspects. On the macroeconomic front, the CEA emphasised that the IMF projects India to reach a \$5 trillion economy by 2027-

28. "Achieving this milestone and avoiding the middle-income trap requires improving living standards. Trust, deregulation, and reciprocity from the private sector are pivotal for fostering sustainable growth and ensuring economic resilience," he added. Siemens Limited Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Sunil Mathur, emphasised the need to improve regulatory frameworks in the country through the adoption of best practices like Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) for new regulations.



Sreeleela Set To Kickstart 'Ustaad Bhagat Singh' With Pawan Kalyan: What We Know!

The Kissik girl, Sreeleela is currently on cloud nine basking in the new-found success of her stardom which followed post Pushpa 2 chartbuster song with Allu Arjun. She is busy with her dream Bollywood debut with Kartik Aaryan in an Anurag Basu film and is all set to begin shooting for her next biggie with none other than Pawan

Kalyan. Adding to the excitement, a source revealed Sreeleela's upcoming schedule for Ustaad Bhagat Singh opposite Pawan Kalyan, "Sreeleela is gearing up to begin shooting for her much-anticipated film Ustaad Bhagat Singh alongside power star Pawan Kalyan. The shoot is scheduled to commence on June 10th and will continue for

a month-long schedule. Directed by Harish Shankar, the film is already generating massive interest and is slated for a grand release in 2026." In an interview with Elle India, when asked how she feels about being called the 'next big thing', Sreeleela said, "It's a very kind thought, and I have immense gratitude for people's faith in me. Fuel and pressure

aside, it's a responsibility — and I want to give it the best of my ability." She is on the cover of Elle India magazine's May issue. She also opened up quitting her doctor dreams to become an actor. She said, "Doctor was the first spelling I knew. That was very clear. But everyone who met me, especially my mom's colleagues, used to say, 'She's

going to get into acting for sure.' My mom would be like, 'Shhh! Don't say it in front of her!'" On the work front, Sreeleela will next be seen in an untitled film opposite Kartik Aaryan, marking her much-awaited Bollywood debut. The pairing has already sparked immense curiosity, and the film is all set to release on Diwali 2025.

Gaddar Telangana Film Awards Announced; Allu Arjun Adjudged Best Actor For 'Pushpa-2'



'Kalki 2898 AD' has bagged the best feature film award while Allu Arjun has been adjudged best leading actor for his performance in 'Pushpa-2' as the Telangana government on Thursday announced Gaddar Telangana Film Awards. Veteran actress Jayasudha, who headed the 15-member jury committee, along with Telangana Film Development Corporation (TGFD) Chairman Dil Raju, announced the awards here. Nivetha Thomas has been adjudged as the best leading actress for '35-Chinna Katha Kadu'. S.J. Surya bagged the best supporting actor award for 'Saripoda Sanivaram' while Saranya Pradeep received the best supporting actress award for her performance in 'Ambajipeta Marriage Band'. Nag Ashwin Singi Reddy got the best director award for 'Kalki 2898 AD'. Bheems Ceciroleo adjudged best music director for 'Razakar'. Sid Sriram is the best male playback singer for the song 'Nizame Ne

Chebutunna' from the film 'Ooru Peru Bhairavakona'. Shreya Goshal is the best female playback singer for the song 'Suseti Aggi Ravva' from 'Pushpa-2'. The jury picked Satya and Vennela Kishore for best comedian award for the film 'Mattu Vadalaru-2'. Venky Atluri is the best screenplay writer for 'Lucky Bhaskar' while Siva Paladugu is the best story writer for 'Music Shop Murthy'. Chandra Bose bagged the best lyricist award for 'Raju Yadav' while Vishwanath Reddy got best cinematographer award for 'Gaami'. Actor Dulquer Salmaan bagged special jury award for 'Lucky Bhasker', Ananya Nagalla for 'Pottel', Sujith and Sandeep for 'KA', Prashanth Reddy and Rajesh Kallepally for 'Raju Yadav' and Faria Abdullah for rap song in 'Mattu Vadalaru-2'. 'Pottel' and 'Lucky Bhasker' were declared second and third best feature films respectively. 'Committee Kurrollu' adjudged best feature film on

national integration, communal harmony and social uplift of depressed classes. The jury declared '35 Chinna Katha Kadu' as the best children's film and 'Razakar' as the best feature film on history. Yedu Vamsee is the best debut feature film director for 'Committee Kurrollu'. 'Aay...Mem friends andi' was picked as the best wholesome entertainment film. Gaddar Telangana Film Awards aims to honour and celebrate the cinematic brilliance of Telugu filmmakers and artists. This is the first official state-level film awards since the formation of Telangana, putting an end to the long pause since the last Nandi Awards were presented in the erstwhile united Andhra Pradesh in 2011. Jayasudha said the jury received 1,248 nominations for the awards in 11 categories. The awards will be presented on June 14. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy last year announced that Nandi awards for excellence in Telugu cinema will be revived and renamed after revolutionary poet and balladeer Gaddar, who passed away in 2023. The awards have been revived after a gap of 14 years. The government says that the awards are its commitment to recognise and promote cinematic excellence and celebrate Telangana's vibrant cultural identity, and support the creative community.

End Of An Era In South Cinema As Veteran Tamil Actor Rajesh Passes Away At 75

Veteran Tamil actor Rajesh, celebrated for his versatile performances across more than 150 films in South Indian cinema, passed away on Thursday, at the age of 75. Rajesh breathed his last at his residence in Ramapuram, Chennai. His body has been placed there for the public to pay their final respects. He is survived by his daughter Divya and son Deepak. His wife, Joan Sylvia, had predeceased him. Born on December 20, 1949, in Mannargudi in Tamil Nadu's Tiruvannur district, Rajesh began his professional journey as a schoolteacher. However, driven by a passion for acting, he eventually left teaching and made a foray into films — a decision



that marked the beginning of an illustrious and impactful career in Indian cinema. Rajesh made his acting debut in 'Aval Oru Thodarkathai' (1974), a critically-acclaimed Tamil film directed by K. Balachander. His talent was quickly recognised, and he went

on to play the lead role in 'Kanni Paruvathile' (1979), produced by Rajkannu, which marked his breakthrough as a hero. Over the decades, Rajesh became a familiar and respected figure across Tamil, Malayalam, Telugu, and other South Indian language films.

Kamal Haasan Makes A Surprising Reveal About The Script Of 'Thug Life'

Superstar Kamal Haasan recently made a surprising revelation, disclosing that the script for the upcoming film "Thug Life" was originally his own work, titled "Amar Hai." In a recent interview, Haasan, who also stars in the film, opened up about an interesting aspect of Thug Life's beginnings. Speaking with The Hollywood Reporter India, the 'Kalki 2898 AD' actor disclosed that the film was originally inspired by a script he had penned himself, called "Amar Hai." He went on to share insights into the story's original concept, offering a fresh perspective on the project. Kamal Haasan was quoted as saying, "I finished the script. It was called Amar Hai at that time. Amar hai is a pun; a man who is believed to be dead is not dead. His name is Amar, and that's the problem. The trailer says, 'The trouble with him is that he's dead.' It starts with a mysterious dead body, and then he appears and peeks in. I wrote this and that character, but he (Mani Ratnam) took it like an idea. It's like telling a joke—you say you like it, but the



final punch could be sharper." Earlier, at a promotional event in Mumbai, Mani Ratnam had shared how Kamal Haasan's vision was instrumental in developing the film's concept. Ratnam revealed, "The first thing that came was Kamal Haasan, and then Thug Life came in. So, it started from there."

My Goal Is To Help Punjab Kings Lift IPL Trophy For First Time: Shreyas Iyer

Hyderabad, (HS) : Punjab Kings captain Shreyas Iyer plays a shot during the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 match between Sunrisers Hyderabad and Punjab Kings at Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium in Hyderabad on Saturday, April 12, 2025. (Photo: IANS/Suresh Kumar) Hyderabad: Punjab Kings captain Shreyas Iyer plays a shot during the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 match between Sunrisers Hyderabad and Punjab Kings at Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium in Hyderabad on Saturday, April 12, 2025. (Photo: IANS/Suresh Kumar) New Delhi: Punjab Kings skipper Shreyas Iyer opened up about the team's renewed mindset and his motivation to end the team's title drought and bring the IPL trophy home and give fans a reason to celebrate. Iyer, the IPL 2024 winning captain for Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), was acquired by PBKS in last year's mega auction for a whopping Rs 26.75 crore. PBKS' move to break the bank for Iyer has paid off as the side has secured a top-two finish and reached the playoffs for the first time since 2014. "From the start, ever since I was picked in the auction, my desire has been clear — Punjab hasn't won the trophy yet, and my goal is to help the team lift it for the first time. I want to make the fans proud and give them a reason to celebrate —



because in the end, we all want to see that iconic Punjabi celebration," said Iyer on Star Sports. Under the captaincy of Iyer and the guidance of head coach Ricky Ponting, PBKS have reinvented its approach. Iyer and coach Ponting had worked together at Delhi Capitals previously, where they managed to enter the playoffs in the 2019 season, before becoming runners-up in the 2020 edition. Now reunited at the PBKS set-up, the Iyer-Ponting partnership has resurrected the side's fortunes and have their eyes set on a maiden IPL title. Ponting reflected on the culture shift he's driving within the team

and the collective hunger to achieve more this season, saying, "When I first took the job, the one thing I told the owners was — things are going to be different. But saying that is one thing, getting the players to buy in is another. They're the ones who actually bring change, not me. I can share ideas, create a culture, but we all have to be in it together. That's been my message from day one — from our baggage guys to our captain — we're all on the same page, working toward the same goal." "It feels like the boys have bought into that, and they're enjoying themselves. You see it around the team hotel and in the

team room — there's a lot of fun and energy. But we need to keep enjoying it and stay focused. There are still a few weeks left in the tournament. We've played good cricket, but we haven't achieved anything yet. There's still a lot more to accomplish as a team," he added. Punjab Kings will take on Royal Challengers Bengaluru in Qualifier 1 at home stadium in Mullanpur on Thursday. The team will eye to book a direct berth for the final with a win in front of home fans. The loser of the match will get another chance to aim for title clash through Qualifier 2 in Ahmedabad on Sunday.

Norway Chess: Gukesh Bounces Back In Rd 3, Beats World No. 2 Hikaru Nakamura

Stavanger, (HS) : Reigning world champion Gukesh Dommaraju took down world No. 2 Hikaru Nakamura in a seemingly equal endgame, cementing his title credentials with a bold performance. This win could not come in a better moment for the Indian prodigy following two painful losses in the first two rounds. On the opening day of Norway Chess, Gukesh suffered a loss at the hands of world No.1 Magnus Carlsen. He then lost to Arjun Erigaisi in the tension-filled all-Indian encounter but the world champion bounced back in round three with a win over Nakamura. Fabiano Caruana has rebounded impressively after losing in the first round, with another win. This time against Indian star Erigaisi. With this win, he took over the world



number 3 spot from Erigaisi in the live rating list. The only draw came between world No. 1 Magnus Carlsen and Wei Yi. Magnus Carlsen seemed to get some

pressure out of the opening but was unable to get anything substantial against Wei Yi's superb defence. In the Armageddon game, Wei Yi found a clever move. In the

following complicated position, Carlsen made a mistake and Wei Yi won a beautiful game. The Norway Chess Women's tournament again saw action with a decisive win for the Indian star Humpy Koneru against Sarasadat Khademalsharieh. Humpy Koneru managed to obtain a better position out of the opening. With excellent play, she kept adding pressure until she gained an advantage. This proved enough to secure the win. Meanwhile, both remaining games, Tingjie Lei against Anna Muzychuk, and Vaishali Rameshbabu against Ju Wenjun, were decided in Armageddon, reflecting the tightly contested nature of the women's field. Anna Muzychuk and Wenjun Ju managed to win their Armageddon games, getting the extra points.

APGC Junior C'ship: Ranveer's Good Show Takes India To Tied Second Spot In Boys Team Competition

New Delhi, (HS) : Delhi lad Ranveer Mitroo submitted a second consecutive card of two-under 69 to help India jump to tied second place in the boys' team competition along with compatriot Krish Chavla after the second round of the ongoing Asia-Pacific Golf Confederation (APGC) Junior Championship here at the Hong Kong Golf Club. With an overall total of one-under 283, the Indian duo are six strokes behind the leaders Parin Sarasmut and Warut Boonrod of Thailand. The Indian Golf Union (IGU) sent a four-member team to compete in the prestigious tournament organised by APGC. Individually, Ranveer maintained his fourth position in the individual boys' competition. Krish improved his overnight tied 16th place after posting a two-over 73 to end the second round in sole 15th position with an overall total of three-over 145. Thailand's Parin Sarasmut fired a five-under 66 to share the lead with Tuan Anh Nguyen of Vietnam with matching totals of eight-under 134. After five straight pars, Ranveer birdied the sixth hole from five feet after his



approach landed 15 yards short of the flag on the right rough. However, the 16-year-old stumbled upon a bogey on the next hole only to make amends with back-to-back birdies on the eighth and ninth holes. On the back nine, he birdied hole no. 14, 17 and 18 against a double bogey on the 10th and bogey on the 12th hole. Reflecting upon his round, Ranveer said, "Round 2 was great but I made a lot of mistakes. I made six birdies, one double bogey and two bogeys. I again shot 69 (-2). I am sitting in fourth place out of 32 amateurs after two rounds. I was decent off the tee and approach — good putting and chipping. But dropped a lot of shots from close range today." In the individual girls event, Saanvi Somu carded a three-under 69 to jump to the joint ninth spot as compatriot Kashika Mishra had a disappointing round of 10-over 82, fighting a bout of viral fever. The Indian pair of Kashika and Saanvi were ranked sole seventh with a combined score of 11-over 299 after Round 2. In the mixed team event, the Indian pair of Krish and Saanvi were lying in tied 10th position at five-over 289.