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English Daily



Three new Supreme Court judges take oath



New Delhi, (HS) : Three High Court judges - Justice NV Anjaria, Justice Vijay Bishnoi, and Justice AS Chandurkar - took oath on Friday as the judges of the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court Collegium, in its meeting held on May 26, 2025, had recommended the elevation of three High Court judges to the apex court.

On May 29, the Centre had cleared the appointment of three judges. Justice NV Anjaria, Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court, Justice Vijay Bishnoi, Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court, and Justice AS Chandurkar, judge of Bombay High Court, were recommended for elevation as judges of the Supreme Court. The Collegium, headed by Chief Justice of India BR Gavai, decided to elevate the three judges to the apex court. Justice Anjaria began practising at the Gujarat High Court in August 1988 and was appointed as an Additional Judge of the Gujarat High Court on November 21, 2011, and became a permanent judge on September 6, 2013.

He took oath as Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court on February 25, 2024. Justice Bishnoi was enrolled as an advocate on July 8, 1989, and practised at the Rajasthan High Court and the Central Administrative Tribunal in Jodhpur. He was appointed an Additional Judge of the Rajasthan High Court on January 8, 2013, and became a permanent judge on January 7, 2015. Justice Bishnoi took oath as Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court on February 5, 2024. In July 1988, Justice Chandurkar was enrolled as a lawyer and began his legal practice in Mumbai. In 1992, Justice Chandurkar shifted his practice to Nagpur. He was appointed an Additional judge of the Bombay High Court on June 21, 2013. With this, the apex court has reached its full sanctioned strength of 34 judges.

PM's warning shot at Pak: '3 rules for terror, no fear of atom bomb bluff'

Kanpur/New Delhi, (HS) : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday delivered a fiery address in Uttar Pradesh's Kanpur and said the world witnessed the raging power of India's indigenous BrahMos missile during a military confrontation with Pakistan.

"The world witnessed the power of Make in India and its weapon through Operation Sindoor. Our Indian weapons (systems), including the BrahMos missile, entered the enemy territory and caused havoc. The explosions happened on target. We have received this power from our resolve for Aatmanirbhar Bharat," PM Modi said. Highlighting India's resolve to remain self-reliant, the Prime Minister recalled times when the country relied on other nations for its safety. He said that becoming Aatmanirbhar was crucial for the country's self-respect. "There was a time when India depended on other countries for its safety. We have tried to change these circumstances. India becomes Aatmanirbhar, it is good for the economy, but it is also important for the country's self-respect," PM Modi said. Outlining India's new strategic doctrine, PM Modi laid down a three-rule framework for tackling terrorism. Every terror attack will be answered. The Armed Forces will decide



the nature and timing of the response. India will not be scared of hollow atom bomb threats. India will treat masters of terror and the government that patronises terrorists similarly. PM Modi was speaking at an event in Kanpur where he inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for 15 development projects costing 47,600 crores. He also flagged off Kanpur Metro's new corridor between Chunniganj and Nayaganj. PM Modi also targeted Pakistan directly and warned against "sponsoring" terrorism and said that India will

respond strongly to every terrorist attack. "If I say this straight in Kanpuriya: Dushman kahin bhi ho, honk diya jayega (Wherever the enemy is, they will be hit)," he said, drawing loud cheers from the audience. "India will not be scared of hollow threats of an atom bomb and won't take decisions on this basis (of such a threat). India will look at the 'aaka' of terrorism and its sponsoring government with only one view: Pakistan's state and non-state actors...this game will not work anymore," PM Modi said.

In a veiled attack on previous

governments, he said they had ignored the state's industrial needs. "The family-driven governments never thought of giving priority to industrial development and pushed the state out of the race of developing states," he said. Highlighting Uttar Pradesh's transformation into a logistics and industrial hub, Modi said, "The state already has an international airport, and with this year's budget, we've launched 'Mission Manufacturing' to further boost local business and industry." He also spoke about reforms to the Micro, Small, and

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Sikkim Bus Tragedy: Odisha CM Dispatches Spl Team to Help Affected Odia Tourists



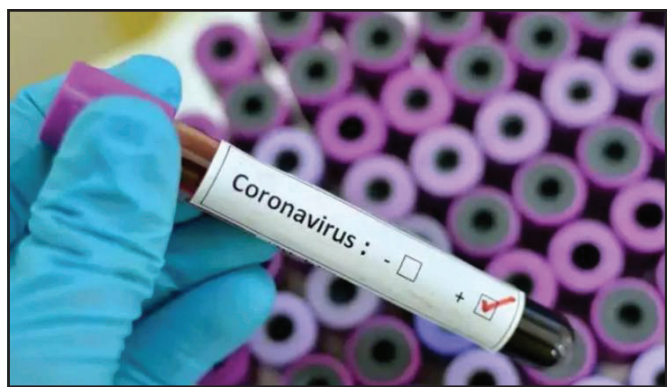
Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : Following the news of a tourist bus plunging into the Teesta River in Sikkim, Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi expressed deep sorrow and initiated discussions with the Sikkim government. Upon learning that several passengers from Odisha were on board the ill-fated bus and had gone missing, CM Majhi held discussions with Sikkim authorities to ensure the rescue, medical treatment, and repatriation of the affected tourists. To facilitate the smooth management of the rescue and relief efforts, CM Majhi has directed a special team of Odisha officials to proceed to Sikkim. This team will oversee the safety and medical care of the tourists, ensuring that all necessary support is provided during this critical time.

Odisha Govt effects minor OAS reshuffle

Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : Odisha Government effected a minor OAS reshuffle on Friday. Accordingly, the Tourism Department special Secretary Balmukunda Bhuyan was posted as the director of the Elementary Education. As per a notification issued by the General Administration and Public Grievance Department of the Government of Odisha on 30th May, 2025, Additional Secretary to Government, Women and C.D. Department Sambit Kumar Nayak was transferred and posted as the Director, Text Book Production and Marketing. Similarly, Berhampur Municipal Corporation

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Covid-19: Two New Cases Reported in Cuttack In 24 Hours



Cuttack/Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : The spectre of COVID-19 has returned to haunt Cuttack, following its resurgence in Bhubaneswar. On Friday, two individuals tested positive for the virus in the Millennium City, raising concerns among health authorities and residents alike.

The first case involves a 72-year-old resident of Nua Rausapatna, who had been suffering from cold and fever. After testing, the individual was confirmed positive for COVID-19 and is currently undergoing treatment at a private hospital. Similarly, a 44-year-old person from Jhola Sahi was identified as infected on Friday morning, also

exhibiting symptoms of a cold and fever. This patient is likewise receiving care at a private facility. According to Cuttack's Chief District Medical Officer (CDMO), Prashant Hota, both patients have been quarantined following their positive test results. "No travel history has been reported for either individual," Hota stated, emphasising the need for vigilance. This development comes amid a broader resurgence of COVID-19 across India after a three-year lull. On May 8, 2025, an elderly man in Bhubaneswar tested positive and was admitted to a private

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India will never give in to nuclear blackmail: Jaishankar



New Delhi, (HS) : External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar on Friday reiterated that India will never give in to nuclear blackmail, asserting that those who sponsor, nurture and utilise terrorism must pay a high price.

Addressing the Parul University Convocation in Gujarat's Vadodra, EAM Jaishankar said that

the recent events (Operation Sindoor) have only sharpened India's awareness about terrorism. "In Pahalgam, what we saw was an attempt to devastate the tourism economy of Kashmir, as well as an evil design of sowing religious discord," he said. EAM Jaishankar emphasised that the barbarity of the killings required an exemplary response, which was delivered by destroying terrorist command centres, especially in Bahawalpur and Muridke. "It is imperative that those who sponsor, nurture and utilise terrorism for their ends are made to pay a high cost. That it warranted a forceful response even after the 26/11 attack in Mumbai in 2008 is widely acknowledged. But times have changed, and our resolve is much stronger now. Terrorism epicentres are no longer immune. India's zero tolerance for terrorism is manifest today through its actions. We

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ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର

ବିଶ୍ୱ ତମାଖୁ ବର୍ଜନ ଦିବସ

୩୧ ମଇ ୨୦୨୫

ତମାଖୁ ବ୍ୟବହାର ଦ୍ୱାରା ଜନସମାଜ ପ୍ରତ୍ୟକ୍ଷ ଓ ପରୋକ୍ଷ ଭାବରେ ସାମାଜିକ, ଅର୍ଥନୈତିକ ଓ ଅନ୍ୟାନ୍ୟ ପାରିସାହିତ୍ୟିକ କ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ଅଗ୍ରଗତି ଅନେକ ମାତ୍ରାରେ ପ୍ରଭାବିତ ହେଉଅଛି । ଏଣୁ ତମାଖୁ ସେବନରୁ ନିବୃତ୍ତ ରହିବାପାଇଁ ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ଓ ଭବିଷ୍ୟତ ବଂଶଧରମାନଙ୍କୁ ସତର୍କ ଓ ସଚେତନ କରିବା ଜରୁରୀ ଅଟେ ।

ଧୂମପାନ ବା ତମାଖୁ ବ୍ୟବହାରର କୁପରିଣାମ :

- ପାତି, ମୁଖ ଗହ୍ୱର, ସ୍ୱରଯନ୍ତ୍ର, ଫୁସ୍‌ଫୁସ୍, ମୁତ୍ରାଶୟ ଇତ୍ୟାଦିରେ କର୍କଟ ରୋଗ ହୋଇଥାଏ ।
- ହୃଦ୍‌ଘାତ, ଯକ୍ଷ୍ମା ଓ ଫୁସ୍‌ଫୁସ୍ ରୋଗର କାରଣ ହୋଇଥାଏ ।
- ନିଫୁସକତା, ପ୍ରଜନନ ଶକ୍ତି ହ୍ରାସ ଓ ଅକାଳ ବାର୍ଦ୍ଧକ୍ୟ ଦେଖାଦେଇଥାଏ ।
- ଗର୍ଭାବସ୍ଥାରେ ତମାଖୁ ସେବନ କଲେ ଶିଶୁ ନିର୍ଜୀରିତ ସମୟ ପୂର୍ବରୁ ଜନ୍ମ ନିଏ ଓ କମ୍ ଓଜନର ହୋଇଥାଏ ।
- ଧୂମପାନ କରୁଥିବା ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି ପାଖରେ ତଳପ୍ରତଳ ହେଉଥିବା ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିମାନେ ଯେଉଁମାନେ କି ଧୂମପାନ କରନ୍ତି ନାହିଁ, ସେମାନଙ୍କର ମଧ୍ୟ ପରୋକ୍ଷ ଧୂମପାନ ଦ୍ୱାରା ହୃଦ୍‌ଘାତ ଓ ଫୁସ୍‌ଫୁସ୍ କର୍କଟରେ ଆକ୍ରାନ୍ତ ହେବାର ଅଧିକ ସମ୍ଭାବନା ଥାଏ ।
- ପରୋକ୍ଷ ଧୂମପାନ ଯୋଗୁଁ ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କର ଆକ୍ମା, ଶ୍ୱାସନଳୀଜନିତ ତୀବ୍ର ଅସୁସ୍ଥତା ଏବଂ ଅନ୍ୟାନ୍ୟ ରୋଗ ମଧ୍ୟ ଦେଖାଯାଇଥାଏ ।



ତମାଖୁ ଓ ତମାଖୁ ଉତ୍ପାଦ ବିକ୍ରିବୃଦ୍ଧି ଅପକୌଶଳର ପର୍ବାପାଶ କରିବା, ଜନ ଆବେଦନର ଶୁଣାଣି କରିବା

ଆସନ୍ତୁ, ଏକ ତମାଖୁ ମୁକ୍ତ ଓ ସ୍ୱଚ୍ଛ ପରିବେଶ ଗଠନରେ ସମସ୍ତେ ସାମିଲ ହୋଇ ସୁସ୍ଥ ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ସ୍ୱପ୍ନକୁ ସାକାର କରିବା ।

ତମାଖୁ ବର୍ଜନ, ସୁସ୍ଥ ଜୀବନ

ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ଓ ପରିବାର କଲ୍ୟାଣ ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର

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MSP Hike

With the southwest monsoon setting in over Kerala on May 24, eight days before schedule, it's just as well that the Narendra Modi government has approved the minimum support prices (MSP) for kharif crops. Unlike last year, when they were declared on June 19, the MSP announcement comes early enough this time for farmers to make informed planting decisions. Equally welcome is the MSP of paddy being hiked by only Rs 69 per quintal, as against Rs 117 and Rs 143 for the last and preceding year's crops. Ideally, given the record 63.1 million tonnes (mt) of rice in government godowns, the paddy MSP should have been frozen. The latest increase, the lowest in five years, is a second-best solution to a problem that has both economic and environmental dimensions: India is producing too much rice (public stocks at over 4.6 times the required buffer, even after exports of 20.2 mt in 2024-25, is proof), which is a water-guzzler to boot. The MSPs of other crops have been raised significantly. These range from 5.4-6 per cent for urad (black gram) and arhar (pigeon-pea), to 7.1-8.3 per cent for groundnut, maize and cotton, and 8.9-13.9 per cent for soyabean, jowar (sorghum) and ragi. When compared to the mere 3 per cent higher MSP granted for paddy, these seem quite major and well-intentioned too. India should definitely be growing more pulses and oilseeds considering the value of their imports, touching \$5.5 billion and \$17.3 billion during 2024-25. The same goes for cotton (where India has turned a net importer) and maize (the domestic consumption of which, both as feed and fuel grain, is rising faster than production). Their nutritional advantages, apart from lower water requirement and climate hardiness, make millets similarly worthy of MSPs providing fair and remunerative returns over cultivation costs. But why would farmers grow crops where the MSPs are simply on paper? Take soyabean, which is currently selling in Maharashtra's Latur market at Rs 4,300 per quintal. That's below not only the just-announced MSP of Rs 5,328, but even last year's level of Rs 4,892.

The MSP system needs a reset. The government must procure grain that is sufficient to meet its requirements for the public distribution system and open market operations. This would mean capping the quantity of produce purchased - say, 100 quintals of paddy per farmer. Over time, it should move from crop-specific MSPs to flat per-acre income support. This will incentivise farmers to grow crops that the market wants and also produce these through cost-efficient use of water, nutrients, energy and other inputs. Poultry, dairy and vegetable farmers are already doing this. There's no reason those growing regular field crops can't - with some government direct income support.

31st May

World No Tobacco Day



Each year, the World Health Organization (WHO) holds World No Tobacco Day on May 31. Their goal is to spread awareness about the risks of tobacco use and how we can make the world tobacco free. Roughly 6 million people die from tobacco-related ailments every year. And that number is projected to rise to over 8 million by 2030. But this is by no means a guarantee. The Sustainable Development Agenda aims to reduce deaths from noninfectious diseases by a third. Diseases linked to tobacco are on the list, so if we hit the target, 2030 will be a year to celebrate (oh yea!)-not only for our health, but the size of our wallets. Your average smoker drops around \$4,000 on cigarettes annually. Imagine all of the other cool holidays you could enjoy with that money (we have a few suggestions, just saying). So let's use World No Tobacco Day as a launching pad to a brighter and less smokey future!

World No Tobacco Day is an initiative by the World Health Organization and is observed on May 31 every year. The campaign aims to spread awareness about the dangers of tobacco and its negative impact on health, as well as the exploitation of the nicotine industry that is geared towards the youth in particular. It also aims to reduce the diseases and deaths caused by tobacco consumption. The World No Tobacco Day theme for 2021 is "Commit to Quit." The Member States of the World Health Organization created World No Tobacco Day in 1987 as a response to the global tobacco crisis and the diseases and deaths caused by the epidemic. The World Health Assembly passed Resolution WHA40.38 in 1987, calling for April 7 to be "World No-Smoking Day." Next, Resolution WHA42.19 was passed in 1988, issuing May 31 as an annual observance of World No Tobacco Day.

The World Health Organization reports 8 million deaths every year due to the consumption of tobacco. Tobacco is the leading cause of respiratory disorders like chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, tuberculosis, and other lung diseases. In 2008, the WHO banned any kind of advertisement or promotion of tobacco. As the world's most populated country, China is the leader in the cigarette industry. More than 30% of the total cigarettes in the world were produced and consumed in China in 2014.

"First give for free, then make slaves, then plunder"



Dr. Satyawan Saurabh

"First give for free, then make slaves, then plunder". "WhatsApp ban and digital slavery: Are we becoming bonded labourers for tech companies?"

Jio gave us a taste of cheap data and then made us addicted to it and emptied our pockets. Today WhatsApp is on the same path - "First give it for free, then make it a slave, then loot". It is time that we become not just users, but digital citizens - aware, organized and fighting for rights. Imagine that you wake up one morning and find that your WhatsApp App account has been suspended. No information, no reason, no human

interaction. Just a cold text line - "Your account has been suspended because it violates our guidelines." Now imagine, all the contacts with whom you were dependent on for your livelihood, your relationships, have been cut off in one go. This is not a fantasy, it is becoming the reality of millions of Indian users today.

WhatsApp: Convenience or intrigue?

There was a time when WhatsApp was considered the messiah of the digital revolution. No ads, no fees, and no policy burden. But today the same app has started swallowing people's time, mental peace and social circle. Accounts of millions of people are being banned without any apparent reason. If you complain, the answer comes - "We cannot help you." And then you are suggested to switch to WhatsApp Business or Premium. The question is whether this is a technical policy or a well-planned "digital loot"? "Our app, our rules": Is this democracy or dictatorship? It is true that WhatsApp is a private company. But can any company, which is used by 50 crore Indians, take

away someone's digital life at will? Can this be approved in a democratic country? Isn't this "digital sterilization"? Today, banning WhatsApp is like putting someone in jail without trial.

Repetition of Jio model: First free, then addiction, then loot: You must remember how Jio first gave free data to India, then twisted the entire market and made it expensive. After making people addicted to data, they gradually increased the prices and now every Indian is not a "customer" of Jio, but a "prisoner". Now WhatsApp is also running on the same model. First, provided free service. Then created a dependency. Now gradually the free users are being sidelined and pushed towards Premium. Isn't this "digital profiteering"? Impact on business, education and relationships. WhatsApp today is not just a chatting app: Small shopkeepers take orders from him. Teachers teach from him. The unemployed look for jobs from him. And common people maintain their relationships with him. When an account is banned, it affects not just one person but the entire social fabric.

Legal Silence: Is the Government Sleeping? The most dangerous thing is that our country does not have any strong "digital rights law" that can rein in these private tech companies. We can ask questions from the government through RTI, get justice from the court, but cannot ask WhatsApp "What was my fault?" Is this democracy? Are we just data, not humans? Governments seek votes from these companies and advertise with them, but when it comes to citizens, they maintain silence. The era of digital slavery: If you think about it, today's Indian has become a digital slave. He has a smartphone but no control over it. His data is not with him, it is with the companies. And these companies can make him a "digital untouchable" whenever they want. Just like the British government ruled India, today American tech companies rule our digital lives - and we are subjugated even though we are free.

What is the solution? A digital rights law needs to be made in which the process of account banning is fair and transparent. A Digital Ombudsman should be

appointed to hear complaints from users. The government should add accountability to the licensing conditions of such companies.

Indigenous alternatives must be developed that are in the public interest, not in the interest of profits. The public will also have to unite and spread digital awareness.

Conclusion: "The technology is ours, but why should the control be theirs?" WhatsApp is not a god that we can neither stop nor control. It is a private company, and when its use has become linked to every aspect of common people's lives, its accountability should be fixed. We have to understand that if we do not raise our voice today, then in the coming future our digital existence will be reduced to "erasing it with the press of a button". Today the fight is not just for the ban on WhatsApp, but for digital respect and freedom. And this time we must not remain silent, because the price of silence is not "freedom" but "slavery".

Poet, freelance journalist and columnist, Haryana

"Clear your lungs, clear your life – quit tobacco."

Dr. Umesh Chandra Patra

World No Tobacco Day is an annual global event observed on May 31st, dedicated to raising awareness about the detrimental effects of tobacco use on health and advocating for effective policies to reduce tobacco consumption. 31 May is the World No Tobacco Day (WNTD). This year, once again, WHO and public health champions from across the globe will come together to raise awareness about the harmful influences of the tobacco industry on youth. "Clear your lungs, clear your life – quit tobacco." This theme of WNTD 2025 is focused on advocating for an end to the targeting of youth with harmful tobacco products. This discourse provides a platform for young people, policy-makers and tobacco control advocates globally to discuss the issue and to urge governments to adopt policies that shield young people from the manipulative practices of the tobacco and related industries. Although cigarette smoking has decreased over the years due to phenomenal efforts by the tobacco control community, more must be done to safeguard these vulnerable groups.

According to 2024 data, worldwide, at least 37 million young people aged 13–15 years use some form of tobacco. In the WHO European Region, 11.5% of boys and 10.1% of girls aged 13–15 years are tobacco users (4 million). To keep making billions of dollars in revenues, the tobacco industry needs to replace the millions of customers who die and those who quit tobacco use every year. To achieve this goal, it works to create an environment that promotes uptake of its products among the next generation, including lax regulation to ensure its products are available and affordable. The industry also

Kishore Kumar Jena

The Marattas are proud people. They are eager to sacrifice their lives for their country. Under the brave leader Nanaji, the Maratta army set out to capture the Sangar Fort, which the Mughals had seized from them. The reached the fort. They threw coir ladders to the top of the fort, and through them entered the fort. The Mughals were flabbergasted.

develops products and advertising tactics that appeal to children and adolescents, reaching them through social media and streaming platforms. The consequences of youth tobacco use are dire. Nicotine is highly addictive, and early exposure increases the likelihood of dependence in adulthood. This dependence can lead to a range of health problems, including: Respiratory illnesses: Tobacco use damages the lungs, increasing the risk of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), asthma, and lung cancer. Cardiovascular disease: Tobacco use is a major risk factor for heart attacks, strokes, and other cardiovascular complications. Cancer: Tobacco use is not just linked to lung cancer but also increases the risk of cancers of the mouth, throat, esophagus, bladder, and pancreas. Mental health issues: There is a growing body of evidence linking tobacco use to depression, anxiety, and other mental health conditions. Beyond the immediate health effects, youth tobacco use poses a significant economic burden on healthcare systems. Early intervention and prevention efforts are crucial to protect future generations and ensure a healthier tomorrow. Raising Awareness: World No Tobacco Day serves as a platform to raise awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco use on health. Through educational campaigns, media outreach, and community events, the public is informed about the various diseases and conditions caused by tobacco consumption, including cancer, heart disease, respiratory illnesses, and more.

Preventing Initiation: For many individuals, tobacco addiction begins during adolescence or young adulthood. By dedicating a day to highlight the dangers of tobacco use, especially among youth, World No Tobacco Day aims to prevent initiation and discourage

experimentation with tobacco products. Early intervention and education can help shape healthier behaviors and lifestyles among future generations. Supporting Cessation Efforts: World No Tobacco Day also emphasizes the importance of supporting tobacco users in their cessation journey. Advocating for Policy Change: Another critical aspect of World No Tobacco Day is advocating for evidence-based policies and regulations to reduce tobacco consumption. From smoke-free laws and tobacco taxation to advertising bans and packaging regulations, policy interventions play a vital role in tobacco control efforts. By highlighting the effectiveness of these measures and calling for their implementation on a global scale, this observance amplifies the voice of public health advocates and policymakers. Fostering Global Collaboration: World No Tobacco Day serves as a reminder of the importance of international cooperation in tackling the tobacco epidemic. Solidarity among nations is crucial for addressing cross-border challenges posed by the tobacco industry and ensuring that everyone has access to the tools and resources needed to lead tobacco-free lives.

As we commemorate World No Tobacco Day 2025, let us reaffirm our commitment to promoting health and well-being by combating the tobacco epidemic. By raising awareness about the health risks associated with tobacco use, advocating for evidence-based policies, and supporting individuals in their cessation journey, we can create a healthier future for generations to come. Together, let us strive towards a world where tobacco no longer robs us of our health and vitality, but instead, fosters a culture of well-being and resilience.

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

Darkness for spiritual & psychological growth

Dr. Samrat Kar

Author and speaker Sister Joyce Rupp, in her book 'Little Pieces of Light ... Darkness and Personal Growth' says in a prayer at the end: "And yes, I thank you for my darkness, (the unwanted companion I shun and avoid) because this pushy intruder comes with truth and reveals my hidden treasures to me." Darkness is essential for growth, because it makes us reach into our own depths, where lay hidden treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Though our focus may be on the depths of our misery or on our lack of capacity, darkness reaches into the most tender and vulnerable corners of our beings, and draws out the truth about ourselves.

The truth is that we have potential but are weighed down by failures and weaknesses. But when we see this, the weak spots can become sources of our strength. We welcome and value illumination in our moments of darkness, but where do we turn for help? Delving deeper into ourselves, we discover that there are glimmers of light that protect and reassure us, bringing back our self-confidence. Whoever would have thought that in the blackest of moments, we would find sparks that inspire and resuscitate us? But it's true. Darkness, in many ways, is the precursor of psychological and spiritual growth. Even though things seem bleak and there is no solution in sight, hidden away, in all these circumstances, there are opportunities and invitations to grow. All we have to do is look within and discover the light. We may have produced something that was a massive flop. We may have made fools of ourselves, we may have got a crude rebuff from someone who we least expected to be unkind – yes, these are all a form of darkness. Yet, all is not lost. When confronted by the unpleasant and harsh realities of life, we step into the arena of



darkness and all of it is not individual angst but could be caused by external events and situations if, for example, one lives in an oppressive society or is faced with violence. It is here that we have to draw up the courage to do battle not just with inner demons but external threats as well.

Then there is all the good that still exists in the universe. Ever so often, deliverance has come to us from those who have accompanied us on life's pathways. Maybe, it was because they had prescience, and they could see a little ahead of us. They may have given us insights that we would never have arrived at if unassisted. The greatest truth about ourselves is that we are accepted by God where we are and the way we are in the present. He meets us at the point we turn things over to Him. The darker the night, the brighter the stars burn. We, too, encounter, as Joyce Rupp says, many points of light in our lives, howsoever bad things may seem. Sometimes, we may be depressed about something or feel that things are not going right; that there is no light at the end of the tunnel. But, it is only by experiencing such darkness that we grow to fullness of stature as human beings. Because it is darkness that reveals the real truth about us.

Psychiatrist, The Brain Foundation, Purighat Road, Cuttack

Victory out of failure

Seeing unexpectedly the onrushing Maratta army. The Marattas attacked them, exploiting their lack of preparation. The Mughals fell dead one by one. But mean while on unforeseen tragedy occurred. The brave Nanaji was fatally wounded. There was none to support him at the critical moment. He fell down

and died. The followers lost their wits. They got frightened. They began to run away in fear, without thinking for a minute. But Suryaji, brother of Nanaji, had foreseen this danger. The Maratta army could not climb down the fort, because Suryaji had cut off the coir ladders. Suryaji asked his friends

"Where are you running away? There is no way of escape. If you jump down from here you will break your neck and die. It is far better to sacrifice your life for the sake of your motherland. At least you will be remembered as great heroes after death. Don't you feel that fighting is better, now that death is certain? The

words hit the mark. There came a sudden change in the attitude of the Marattas. They turned back. With renewed vigour, they fought against the Mughals. The Mughals could not resist them, They retreated, the battle was won by the Marattas a victory that came out of a failure.

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Doctors At AIIMS Bhubaneswar Remove India's Largest Kidney Mass



Bhubaneswar, (DMC): In a groundbreaking medical feat, doctors at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Bhubaneswar have accomplished a remarkable success by removing India's largest kidney mass, weighing an astonishing 8.7 kilograms. The patient, a 50-year-old man from Nayagarh district in Odisha, was suffering from Autosomal Dominant Polycystic Kidney Disease (ADPKD), a genetic condition that led to the development of massive cysts in his kidney. The patient had been experiencing severe abdominal pain and discomfort due to the enormous size of the cystic kidney, which significantly impacted his quality of life. After a thorough evaluation, a team of skilled doctors at AIIMS Bhubaneswar, led by Dr Manoj

Kumar Das, Associate Professor of Urology, decided to undertake the high-risk surgery to remove the massive kidney mass. The complex five-hour surgery was a testament to the expertise and teamwork of the medical team. Dr Das was assisted by Dr Sambit Tripathy, Assistant Professor, and a team of resident doctors, including Dr Saharsh, Dr Mithlesh, Dr Huzaifa, Dr Sabique, and Dr Sachin. The surgical team received crucial support from an experienced anaesthesia team headed by Dr Pooja Bihani, along with contributions from resident doctors and operation theatre (OT) staff, including nurses Ms Shreya and Ms Parineeta. According to Dr Das, "This was not just a medical success but a story of trust and teamwork." He

expressed his gratitude to the patient and his family for placing their confidence in the team. Dr. Das also acknowledged the support and encouragement received from AIIMS Bhubaneswar's Executive Director, Dr. Ashutosh Biswas, and Dr. Prasant Nayak, Head of the Urology Department. Medical experts note that kidney masses of such enormous size are extremely rare and pose significant surgical challenges due to their complexity and potential complications. The successful removal of this massive kidney mass marks a record-setting event in the medical field and highlights the advanced surgical capabilities of AIIMS Bhubaneswar. Currently, the patient is stable and recovering well under the close monitoring of the medical team.

Chair Car Coach to be Augmented in Puri-Bangiriposi Express for One Month

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): In response to increasing passenger demand and to enhance travel comfort, Indian Railways has announced the temporary augmentation of one Second Class Chair Car Coach in the 12892/12891 Puri-Bangiriposi-Puri Express. Starting June 1, 2025, the train will operate from Puri with 15 coaches-an increase from the existing 14-until June 30, 2025. In the return direction, the additional coach will be attached starting from Bangiriposi on June 2, continuing through to July 1, 2025. This move comes after a detailed assessment of passenger traffic and is intended to meet the



rising travel demand, particularly from the aspirational districts served by this route. The added

Chair Car Coach will provide more seating capacity and improved convenience for daily

commuters, tourists, and long-distance travelers alike. The decision has received widespread appreciation from passengers and public representatives, many of whom have actively voiced their support for the augmentation. Positive feedback has been shared through social media platforms and official feedback channels, reflecting public approval of Indian Railways' continued commitment to responsive and efficient service delivery. Indian Railways remains dedicated to enhancing passenger amenities and looks forward to providing an even more comfortable and efficient travel experience through such timely interventions.

Odisha Gears Up For Flood Season: 24x7 Control Rooms From June 1 To October 31

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): In a bid to bolster the state's flood preparedness ahead of the monsoon, a high-level review meeting was held on Thursday. The meeting was chaired by Anu Garg, Development Commissioner-cum-Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Department of Water Resources. According to an official press release, during the meeting, it was announced that round-the-clock flood management operations will be active across all divisions, circles, and offices under the Chief Engineers of the Water Resources Department from June 1 to October 31, 2025. Control rooms will function at the Chief Engineer's Office, Engineer-in-Chief (EIC) Office, and the State Hydrological Data Centre (SHDC), located on the 8th floor of Rajiv Bhawan in Bhubaneswar. As part of the preparedness drive, joint inspections of river



embankments have been conducted by the District Administration and Water Resources officials, and the current health of the embankments has been reported to be satisfactory. Notably, no breaches were reported during the 2024 flood season, and permanent rehabilitation of previously affected or vulnerable sites has been completed. The department has also issued directives for the removal of all obstructions, including coffer dams, from rivers and drainage

channels by June 15. Mock drills have been successfully conducted to test the operational readiness of gates in all major and medium projects, barrages, and weirs, with thorough inspections completed to ensure functionality. For emergency response, flood-fighting materials such as sand filled gunny bags, brushwood (ballha), and bamboo have been pre-positioned. Heavy machinery including generators, JCBs, excavators, trucks, tractors, cutters, and water tankers have also been arranged

for deployment at short notice. To strengthen public communication, daily rainfall and flood forecasts will be disseminated in coordination with the Central Water Commission (CWC), India Meteorological Department (IMD), and the Special Relief Commissioner (SRC). Additionally, contact details of two flood control officers from each division will be shared with all concerned stakeholders to ensure timely communication during emergencies. The department also confirmed that all operations will be conducted in line with the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for effective flood management. The meeting witnessed participation from the Engineer-in-Chief of the Department of Water Resources, senior officials, and engineers from across the state, both in physical and virtual modes.

ITER ranked second in India by Times Engineering Institutes Ranking 2025



Bhubaneswar, (DMC): Institute of Technical Education and Research (ITER), faculty of engineering and technology of Siksha 'O' Anusandhan Deemed to be University (SOA) here, has

been ranked second in the country in the Times All India Engineering Institutes Ranking Survey 2025. The survey conducted by the widely circulated Times of India and published on Thursday

ranked 175 engineering institutes in the country through a research comprising three modules-desk research, factual survey and perceptual rating backed by scientifically developed analysis. ITER was also ranked second in the list of country's top 125 private engineering institutes in the same survey while it topped the list of such institutes in eastern India. SOA's faculty of engineering and technology was placed third in the list of 30 institutes in the country in the realm of research capability while it was ranked fourth in placement. SOA, which was ranked 14th in the country among

Pre-paid smart meter installation and rise in electricity bills'; Odisha Energy Department issues clarification



Bhubaneswar, (DMC): The Odisha Energy Department on Friday issued a clarification regarding a viral news item circulating on social media about the mandatory installation of prepaid smart meters by DISCOMs. The news linked the installation of these meters to a rise in electricity bills, leading to dissatisfaction and confusion among consumers. Taking to its official X (formerly Twitter),

the Odisha Energy department clarified that installation of pre-paid smart meters is not mandatory, and consumers can opt for either pre-paid or post-paid smart meters as per their convenience. The consumers are requested to extend necessary cooperation to the DISCOM officials for the smooth installation of smart meters. If a static meter has been installed at a consumer's premises and it

is functioning properly, it will not be replaced within 5 years of its installation date, the Energy department clarified. Installation of smart meters, however, not only enhances the overall efficiency and functionality of the electricity distribution system, but also enables the consumers to assess real-time energy consumption and regulate their energy consumption accordingly, according to the Energy department statement. "It is further clarified that the smart meters being installed by the DISCOMs undergo thorough quality checks and are duly certified by NABL (National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories). Therefore, the rumour of a rise in electricity bills due to the installation of smart meters is completely baseless," the tweet read.

Odisha Hosts Adoption Conclave To Strengthen Family-Based Care Framework



Bhubaneswar, (DMC): The Odisha government's Department of Women & Child Development, in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Women & Child Development, hosted the Adoption Conclave 2025, in Puri. The two-day national-level event brought together policymakers, legal experts, district officials, and development partners for the advancement of child protection reforms and strengthening adoption as a core pillar of family-based care. The conclave was inaugurated by Pravati Parida, Deputy Chief Minister, Shubha Sarma, IAS,

Principal Secretary, WCD, Odisha; Bhavna Saxena, IPS, CEO, CARA and Monisha Banerjee, IAS, Director, ICDS & Social Welfare, Odisha. Deputy Chief Minister Parida congratulated the department for organising a platform to deliberate, learn and reaffirm the commitment to ensuring that every child grows up in a loving, secure and nurturing family environment. She further stated that Odisha has made significant progress in streamlining the adoption system over the past few years. The conclave featured technical sessions led by

experts from CARA, UNICEF, and state authorities. The sessions explored policy safeguards under the JJ Act, international care reform efforts, and psychosocial support systems for adoptive families. State-level innovations from Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Maharashtra, also shared as models of scalable practice. District Collectors and ADMs from across Odisha participated in a learning exchange to present grassroots efforts that promote adoption and reduce institutional care. Chairpersons of Child Welfare Committees and District Child Protection Officers also participated in strengthening and expediting the adoption process across the state. The Adoption Conclave 2025 was expected to catalyse convergence across departments, strengthen district-level adoption mechanisms, and reinforce the state's commitment to every child's right to a family. With Odisha emerging as a leader in child-centric governance, the conclave reaffirmed the collective resolve to ensure that no child grows up without love, identity, family and belonging.

One thousand buses to roll to Puri during Rath Yatra 2025: Transport Commissioner

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): One thousand buses will ply to Puri on the occasion of the world famous Rath Yatra, informed Odisha Transport Commissioner Amitabh Thakur on Friday. As per reports, the Transport Commissioner said that one thousand buses will ply to the Puri dham on Rath Yatra 2025. All these buses will have drinking water as well as fast aid medical facilities for the passengers. Besides, checking squad and CCTV system will also be there in the buses to prevent overcrowding and theft in buses. Apart from that wheelchair and e-rickshaw facilities will also be there for the differently abled and senior citizens at the bus stand - the Transport Commissioner informed. As per reports, a joint meeting of the Transport Commissioner, State Private Bus Owners Association and Puri District SP has been held in this regard.

"Let's Talk Periods" - A Huge Success in Odisha

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): Digital Drive "Let's Talk Periods" Champions Menstrual Health in Odisha. Periods are a natural part of life for girls and women, but too often, shame and silence surround them. To challenge outdated views and foster open dialogue, IFI Foundation, OdishaLIVE, and Swasthya Plus have launched "Let's Talk Periods," a digital campaign focused on menstrual hygiene. This initiative, running from May 20 to May 29, amplifies its message as the world observes Menstrual Hygiene Day (MH Day) on May 28. The core mission aims to create a world where menstruation is no longer a barrier to a person's confidence, well-being, or aspirations. The campaign directly tackles social taboos and restrictions that girls and women face at home, work, and in society. "Let's Talk

Periods" is bringing these crucial conversations to the forefront through an engaging video series on social media channels of OdishaLIVE and Swasthya Plus Network. This series spotlights expert insights from doctors on the sensitive subject of menstruation, along with diverse perspectives and personal experiences from social workers, celebrities, and young people. It further focuses on educating the masses on the entire menstrual journey of a woman, from the first period (menarche) to her final transition called 'menopause'. The campaign dives into essential topics, including the basics of menstruation, effective hygiene management, common period-related health issues, and their treatments. It actively challenges superstitions and misinformation, empowering individuals with facts. Furthermore, it educates on

a range of modern period products, from traditional sanitary pads to sustainable options like eco-friendly menstrual cups and tampons, ensuring girls and women can make informed choices for their health. "Around the globe, menstrual hygiene is rightly gaining urgent attention, with nations stepping up with supportive policies and programs. Now is our moment to magnify this awareness, ensuring menstruation never hinders a woman's dreams. IFI Foundation is proud to spearhead this digital media initiative to tackle this vital public health issue, working together for a period-friendly world," informs Sidharth Rath, Campaign Director and CEO of Swasthya Plus Network. Despite progress in opportunities for women, a significant challenge

persists: over 50 million girls and women worldwide still lack vital knowledge about menstrual health, access to period products, and proper hygiene facilities. Financial limitations, deep-seated social customs, and a lack of awareness are major hurdles. "In this context, 'Let's Talk Periods' is a humble initiative to raise awareness and educate the masses, with a focus on the youth to break the silence," says veteran journalist and communication specialist Nilambar Rath, the Campaign Chair. Reinforcing its dedication, IFI Foundation has joined as an official partner of the 'World Menstrual Hygiene Day' initiative. The 2025 program by the foundation is supported by associate partners like Kalinga Hospital, Bhubaneswar, and Paradip Phosphates Limited.

Ganja syndicate hides behind spices shop at Unit 4 market Bhubaneswar: CP unearths truth

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): While the Odisha Excise and Police have been recovering massive drugs and cannabis from many a secluded places & en-route, the Commissionerate Police Bhubaneswar on Friday unearthed a permanent Cannabis shop in Bhubaneswar Unit 4 market. The city-based ganja syndicate was operating behind the banner of a spices store in the Unit 4 market which was functioning as a drug-hub for antisocial and wayward youths, said police. Acting on a tip-off, the Commissionerate Police, along with the Special Task Force (STF) team, conducted a joint raid on the suspicious store that was reportedly a crowd puller, on Friday and uncovered a significant quantity of processed cannabis



being sold under the guise of a grocery store, especially a spices shop. The raid led to the seizure of a huge cache of processed ganja, which was being packed into cigarettes. One accused was detained from the store for

allegedly peddling ganja and ganja-packed cigarette illegally. Interrogation to the accused is underway. Further investigation will ascertain the sources of the contraband and the whole chain of clientele, said the police.

Death Toll 2 on HG Interview at Gajapati, CM declared 4 Lakhs to each



Parakakhemundi, (DMC): During Homeguard interview of Gajapati district, physical very test of running, 6 candidates were injured. Among them one candidate Sulanta Mishal died at

District Headquarter Hospital Parakakhemundi, where another Deepak Padalu of Narayanpur under Rayagada police limits referred to Brahmapur MKCG Medical College Hospital. He died

2 Staff of MI Division Gajapati under Vigilance Net



Parakakhemundi, (DMC): 2 staff of Minor Irrigation (MI) of Superintendent Engineer Gajapati district nabbed by Odisha Vigilance for taking bribe of Rs.30000 through UPI transaction. On 29th May 2025 Suraj Prasad Jaiswal Divisional Accounts Officer & Naresh Patnaik Sr. Accountant both of Office of Superintendent Engineer of MI Division, Gajapati; for passing pending bills towards execution of works by the complainant. Contractor was earlier issued 3 work orders & one work order in the name of his relative with a tune of amount Rs.86 lakhs. Meanwhile submitted bills amount of Rs.32 lakhs, accused both account staff demanded Rs.30000 as bribe for clearance of bills through UPI transaction. So complainant knocked the door of Vigilance Department Accordingly while giving each Rs. 15000 to both through UPI transactions, amounting total Rs. 30000 in their smart phone, both staff nabbed by present Vigilance staff. Under section 7 PC (Amendment) Act 2018 case (5/2025) registered against both staff.

Fish Seller's Daughter College Topper at Gajapati in +2

Paralakhemundi, (DMC): At Gajapati district one daughter of fish seller achieved glorious feat in +2 Arts. Belongs to Adava of Mohana block one Madhusudan Behera's daughter Rasmita secured 465 marks in +2 Arts & remained topper in Hilltop College of Mohana. Father use to sale fish & he has no time to look after his daughter. But his daughter keeps faith of her parents to bring glory with her perseverance & dedication on her studies despite constraint in livelihoods. Her family has no bound of joy. Rasmita has interest to be IAS & build her career. She secured 77.5 marks. Further she will prove to continue her feat & successful on her dream to serve for society, she added.

Continuous Rain 6 Villages Detached from World by Landslide

Paralakhemundi, (DMC) : At Mohana block of Gajapati district, due to heavy & continuous rainfall by landslide 6 villages out of communication. At Kottama, Panigonda & Gordoma areas those 6 villages situated. Pajigudi ghat section of Kottama panchayat from hill due to landslide Pajigudi, Jadingi, Gotha, Tangli, Rangagudi & Tuabadi villages are out of communication. So area people requested to evacuate & clear the road communication.



Self evacuation of encroachment

Jagatsinghpur, (DMC): After regular evacuation of encroachment road and Govt properties at Jagatsinghpur Municipality area again & again encroachment has already become a practice of people. Road side vendors, private house owners and established farms regularly creating problem for communication. At Jagatsinghpur Municipality area miscreants encroached National Highway- 55 from Gandhi chhak area to Jagadhari, MDR - Jagatsinghpur- Jaipur road upto Purohit pur and Post Office Chhak to Hatbazar of Alipal road. Besides that the bye pass and other roads encroached regularly.

On the other hand Municipality authorities, NH authorities, District administration, RTO, Jagatsinghpur are silent and transferred their responsibilities to others. During this "Sabitri" festival situation was beyond control and finally Jagatsinghpur Municipality authorities came out to evacuate the encroach road. In one day they evacuated some person of town and notice private House owners and mobile vendors to evacuate the Govt. areas and on the same day allotted 52 vending houses of different vending zone. To- day surprisingly some business house in front of Govt. Girls High School are demolishing the illegal structure upon Govt. land. This is for the first time and a praiseworthy step by conscious business men & House owner in the History of Jagatsinghpur.

there during treatment. Chief Minister Odisha Mohan Charan Majhi declared both deceased candidates compensation of 4 lakhs to each bereaved families. Families of both deceased & respective villagers requested administration for employment to be given to one family member each of both families.

Situation aggravated, where SP Gajapati Jatindra Kumar Panda arranged all casualties measures during physical test where 2 doctors & ambulance deployed. Police staff, too, on duty to give Glucose & other measures during running period. Situation aggravated for the first time on interview, where such unprecedented incident occurred that succumbed 2 lives.

150 Patients examined in free Eye Checkup Camp

Nuapada/Khariar Road, (DMC): In collaboration with MGM Hospital Raipur, Pahal Sanstha Khariar Road organised a free eye checkup camp at Sahu Samaj Bhawan Campus Khariar Road in Nuapada District on Thursday. The camp aimed to extend medical assistance to rural residents of surrounding villages who face difficulty in accessing major hospitals for their eye check-ups.

Coordinator of Pahal Sanstha Rakesh Jain said a team of eye specialists and paramedical staff examined the patients and prescribed medicine. As many as 150 patients from nearby villages registered for various eye-related issues. The doctor emphasised the importance of regular eye examinations to prevent vision loss and various

Gunupur Police Crack down on ganja Trafficking, seize 850 KGS of contraband

Rayagada /Gunupur, (DMC): In a significant operation, the Gunupur Police have seized 850 kilograms of contraband ganja, one truck, three mobile phones, and Rs 7,100 in cash. Two accused persons were arrested in connection with the transportation of the illicit substance.

The seizure was made during a transportation operation, and the police have registered a case (PS Case No. 122/25) in this regard. The operation is part of the ongoing efforts by the Gunupur Police to curb ganja trafficking in the region. The arrested persons are currently



being interrogated, and further investigation is underway to uncover the network behind the illicit trade. The police have assured that strict action will be taken against those involved in ganja trafficking.



eye disorders. He raised awareness about eye care and addressed concerns such as redness, dryness, and excessive watering. Most of the patients received free medications and spectacles. As many as 50 patients were identified for cataract surgeries, which would

be performed free of cost. District Sahu Samaj Nuapada extended helping hand in this camp. Block Chairperson Tareshwari Sahu, Shyam Kesharwani, Gaiind Lal Sahu, Gajendra Sinha, Hrudananda Suna, Maya Nayak, Mamta Sahu, Manoj Kumar Daga cooperated the camp to be successful.

Vigilance Raid: RW Chief Engineer Found With 2.70 Cr Share Market Investment

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): The Odisha Vigilance Department has made significant discoveries during ongoing raids on properties linked to Baikuntha Nath Sarangi, Chief Engineer, Plan Roads, RW Department, Bhubaneswar. The investigations have revealed that an approximate amount of Rs 2.70 crores has been invested in the share market, further adding to the substantial assets uncovered during the searches.

The searches, conducted across seven locations in Angul, Bhubaneswar, and Pipili (Puri), have uncovered substantial assets, including: Other assets: One locker at Axis Bank, Angul, in the name of Sarangi's wife, still to be opened. The raids were initiated due to allegations of possession of disproportionate assets beyond known sources of income. The investigation is ongoing, with the Vigilance Technical Wing assessing the value



of the seized assets. It is pertinent to mention that Sarangi's journey in government service began as a Stipendiary Engineer in the Panchayati Raj Department, where he was initially posted to the Kaniha Block on a consolidated pay of Rs 2,000 per month. During this period, he gained valuable experience

working in various blocks across Odisha until July 1999. On October 15, 1999, Sarangi was regularized as an Assistant Engineer and posted to the PWD Division in Sundargarh. He continued to serve in different PWD divisions and the RD Sub-Division in Talcher until 2012. His dedication and expertise led to further promotions, including his appointment as Assistant Executive Engineer in 2014, posted to the RD Sub-Division in Athamallik.

He was subsequently promoted to Executive Engineer in October 2016, serving in the RD Division in Deogarh. Sarangi's career progression continued with his promotion to Additional Chief Engineer in January 2023. Most recently, he assumed the role of Chief Engineer, Plan Roads, RW Department, Odisha, Bhubaneswar, a position he has held since February 2025.

Python prey Goat

Keonjhar, (DMC): Panic spread among villagers of Khaparasahi under Sadar forest range, when a 12 feet Python tried to swallow a 30 kg goat. The goat died due to suffocation on Thursday. Villagers rescued the dead goat from its clutch. The incident took place in the Khaparakhai forest located near the village. According to the sources, some people of that village went to the forest with

goats to graze like other days on Thursday morning. Suddenly a huge python appeared and caught one goat and tried to swallow. The goat tried to escape from its clutch and made a sound. The goat after hearing the sound went to the spot and saw the goat had been wrapped around by a huge python. They shouted and tried to save the goat from it. They could not dare to go near it hearing the hissing sound. They tried to

drive the python with the help of a stick. Later the python left the place leaving the goat dead. According to the villagers, there are many reptiles living in that forest. But due to lack of protection and massive deforestation all around the area causing their number to gradually decline. They urged the forest department for their protection as well as protection of the reptiles and forest.

Cultivating the Change - The Journey of Kalipada Das



a journey of transformation. He shifted from a mono-livelihood source to adopting double cropping practices, cultivating rice and a range of vegetables. Kalipada's enthusiasm for learning and implementing sustainable practices led him to set up three vermin compost beds, allowing him to produce organic manure for continued use.

His farming includes onions, cabbage, cauliflower, Elephant Yam and other high-yield crops. Not only did he manage a successful harvest, but he also practiced seed conservation to

ensure sustainability for future seasons. In the last year alone, Kalipada earned an impressive 1,20,000 from vegetable cultivation—a testament to how community-driven, small-scale interventions can create meaningful livelihood diversification for rural farmers. His success story highlights the impact of empowering rural communities with the right resources and knowledge.

Kalipada Das stands as a beacon of resilience, innovation, and the positive impact that collaborative initiatives like those of Adani Foundation can have on individual lives and rural economies. His journey inspires many to believe that with guidance, support, and hard work, transformation is always within reach—regardless of age or background.

From Page- 1

Odisha Govt...

(BeMC) Commissioner Bhabani Prasad Mishra was transferred and posted as the State Nodal Officer, PM Poshan and MM Poshan on foreign service terms and conditions. The officers concerned are centrally relieved from their present place of posting with effect from 31 May 2025 to enable them to join in their new assignments, also said the notification by the GA & PG Department.

PM's warning...

Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector, saying it had earlier been misrepresented in ways that discouraged entrepreneurs. "We have changed that perception and expanded support through this budget. In the last 10 years, we've taken several major decisions to empower small businesses," he said. Earlier, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath welcomed the Prime Minister, extending the gratitude of the state. "The way India's new defence system has given a befitting reply to the enemy is commendable," he said. He called it the outcome of the strategic efforts initiated by the Prime Minister over the past decade. "We are proud of your (PM Modi's) leadership which has strengthened the nation's defence and global standing," Adityanath added.

India will...

will never give in to nuclear blackmail. And whatever decisions have to be taken in India's national interest are taken and will continue to be taken," he added. He pointed out that India was not alone in its fight against terrorism, as the country had the understanding from other nations of India's right to defend itself against terrorism. "In an age of narratives, it is also to be expected that friendships will be professed by many. After all, one goal of diplomacy is to maximise solidarity with other nations to strengthen one's own position. Some countries do that through collectives based on geography and history; some others invoke faith, language or culture," he said.

EAM Jaishankar emphasised that in India, it has primarily taken the form of what we call "Make in India", as well as greater usage of our products and practices. "Capabilities and confidence develop together, and advocacy of our talent and skills is very much a part of India's development," he said. He added that in the recent counter-terrorism operation - Operation Sindoor, it was notable that our indigenous technologies played a very successful part. "There could be no better refutation of those who publicly ran down 'Make in India' and undermined national self-confidence. I really hope that students going back to their respective countries carry back this message, this lesson. It may enthuse them to think of similar endeavours at home," he said.

Covid-19: Two...

hospital. Nationwide, over 300 new cases have been reported, with cities like Mumbai, Pune, Chennai, and Ahmedabad witnessing a steady rise in infections. The JN.1 variant, a sub-strain of Omicron, is driving this wave, with symptoms similar to previous strains but a potential for rapid spread, experts warn. On May 20, Mumbai reported two COVID-19-related deaths.

Globally, countries like Hong Kong, Thailand, and Singapore are also grappling with rising cases. In Singapore, sub-variants of JN.1, namely LF-7 and NB-1.8, have been detected, noted for their high transmissibility and ability to weaken immunity. LF-7, another Omicron sub-variant, is contributing to the surge. In response, Indian states are bolstering preventive measures, including increased testing and hospital bed preparedness. Health experts advise testing for COVID-19 if symptoms like fever or diarrhoea appear, as these are early indicators of infection. With the virus gaining ground, authorities urge the public to remain cautious and adhere to safety protocols.

CBI arrests ED Deputy Director Chintan Raghuvanshi in bribery case of Rs. 5 crore

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested Enforcement Directorate ED Deputy Director Chintan Raghuvanshi (IRS) in Bhubaneswar on charges of corruption. According to sources, Raghuvanshi was caught red-handed while allegedly accepting the first instalment of a bribe amounting to Rs 20 lakh. The CBI had laid a trap following a complaint and apprehended him at the scene. Investigations revealed that the bribe demand was part of a larger sum initially pegged at Rs 5 crore, which was later negotiated and settled for Rs 2 crore. The illegal gratification was reportedly sought in exchange for 'settling' a case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). CBI further stated that the bribe was routed through the ED deputy director's brother. The CBI has initiated further inquiry into the matter. In a separate incident, earlier, Odisha Vigilance intercepted Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) Pabitra Mohan Panigrahi of Chittrakonda Block in Malkangiri district and seized cash exceeding Rs 15 lakh, suspected to be ill-got. Acting on credible intelligence inputs about alleged bribe collection from contractors, a team of Odisha Vigilance officials intercepted Panigrahi near Gobindapally Chowk while he was travelling from his government residence in Chittrakonda to Bhubaneswar in a WagonR car bearing registration number OD-30-E-3096. He was reportedly taking a lift at the time. Upon interception, officials recovered Rs 5.07 lakh in cash from Panigrahi's possession. A further search at his government quarters in Chittrakonda led to the recovery of Rs 10 lakh more in cash. As Panigrahi failed to provide a satisfactory explanation for the seized amount, the entire cash was confiscated by the Vigilance team. Subsequently, searches are underway at two additional premises linked to Panigrahi from a disproportionate assets (DA) angle. He is currently being questioned to determine the source of the recovered funds. Further investigation is in progress, and a detailed report is awaited.

Farmers Affected By Unseasonal Rains To Get Compensation Soon: Revenue Minister

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): A virtual review meeting was held at the office of the Special Relief Commissioner to assess the damage to crops and properties caused by unseasonal rainfall triggered by a low-pressure system between May 27 and May 30, 2025. The meeting focused on evaluating the extent of the damage and planning compensation for affected individuals. The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo, Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari, Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Krushna Chandra Patra, Special Relief Commissioner Deoranjana Kumar Singh, Principal Secretary of the Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment Department Dr. Arabinda Kumar Padhee, Vice-Chancellor of Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology Dr. Prabhat Kumar Roul, and District Collectors from various districts, among others. They discussed the damage assessment and compensation measures. At the outset, Manorama Mohanty, Director of the Regional Branch of the India Meteorological Department, provided detailed information on the current low-pressure situation and the weather forecast for the coming days.

84 New COVID-19 Cases Reported in Maharashtra

Mumbai, (HS) : As many as 84 new COVID-19 cases were reported in Maharashtra on Friday, taking the tally of cases registered since the start of the year to 681, the state public health department said. Most of the patients have mild symptoms and people should not panic, it said in a release here.

Of the new cases, 32 were detected in Mumbai, two in Thane district, 14 in Thane Municipal Corporation limits, one in Navi Mumbai, one in Kalyan-Dombivli Municipal Corporation, two in Raigad district, one in Panvel, one in Nashik city, one in Pune district, 19 in Pune Municipal Corporation, three in Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation, two in Satara, one in Kolhapur district, one in Kolhapur Municipal Corporation, and three in Sangli Municipal Corporation limits, the department said. There are 467 active cases in the state, while the number of cases in Mumbai since January 2025 stood at 411. All diagnosed cases are of mild nature, the release said. The number of COVID-19 tests conducted since January was 10,324, of which 681 came out positive.

Since January 1, seven COVID-19 patients, including six with co-morbidities and 1 with other diseases, have died in the state. Adequate coronavirus testing and treatment facilities are available in the state and the people should not panic, the health department said.

Haryana Civil Secretariat building in Chandigarh evacuated after bomb threat

Chandigarh, (HS) : Visuals from the spot showed security personnel making announcements via loudspeakers, urging people to evacuate the premises as a precautionary measure. The Haryana Civil Secretariat premises were vacated on Friday following an email warning of a bomb threat, officials said. Visuals from the spot showed security personnel making announcements via loudspeakers, urging people to evacuate the premises as a precautionary measure. This incident comes days after a similar scare on May 22, when the Punjab and Haryana High Court also received a bomb threat. The court premises were evacuated, and proceedings were suspended. "We received a bomb threat. The lawyers and staff were asked to vacate the High Court. The court's work has been suspended until 2 pm," Gagandeep Jammu, Secretary of the Punjab & Haryana High Court Bar Association, had told.

"We Were Ready to Act after Prayers, But India Launched Brahmos": Pak PM

New Delhi, (HS) : Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, once again, publicly admitted that Indian missiles struck many targets inside Pakistan on the intervening night of May 9 and 10 - with his army being caught off-guard. The Pakistani PM claimed that they were planning to attack India at 4:30 am - just after their Fajr prayers - but before that, India launched BrahMos missiles targeting many provinces in Pakistan, including the airport in Rawalpindi.

"On the night of May 9-10, we decided to respond in a measured fashion to Indian aggression. Our armed forces were prepared to act at 4.30 in the morning after Fajr prayers to teach a lesson. But before that hour even arrived, India once again launched a missile attack using BrahMos, and hit various provinces of Pakistan, including the airport in Rawalpindi," Mr Sharif said during a speech in Azerbaijan. The Indian strikes were carried out under Operation Sindoor - a targeted military attack on terror infrastructures in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK) in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 people died. This is not the first time that Mr Sharif has admitted that Operation Sindoor caused severe damage in Pakistan. Earlier this month, he confirmed that Indian missiles struck the

Rajasthan police detains govt employee for alleged spying amid Indo-Pak tensions

Rajasthan, (HS) : Several people have been detained for questioning, and action has been taken against those found to be sending sensitive information across the border. Rajasthan Police on Friday detained a government employee, Shakur Khan, on the allegations of spying, in Jaisalmer. According to Jaisalmer Superintendent of Police (SP) Sudhir Chaudhary, Khan is undergoing interrogation. Speaking to ANI, SP Sudhir Chaudhary said, "Shakur Khan, who is a government employee, has been detained and interrogation is being done..." The police had previously appealed to the public for information regarding suspicious individuals in the area. Several people have been detained for questioning, and action has been taken against those found to be sending sensitive information across the border. "We had appealed to the public to give us information regarding the presence of any suspicious person. We have already detained many persons for interrogation, and action has been taken against those who were sending important information across the border..." said Sudhir Chaudhary.

SC orders NEET-PG 2025 to be held in single shift, cites fairness and transparency

New Delhi, (HS) : In a significant order, the Supreme Court on Friday issued directions that the post-graduate medical entrance exam scheduled on June 15 be conducted in a single shift, saying holding it in two shifts "creates arbitrariness".

A bench headed by Justice Vikram Nath directed the authorities to make arrangements for holding NEET-PG 2025 exam in one shift and to ensure that complete transparency is maintained and secured centres are identified. "Any two question papers can never be said to be having an

identical level of difficulty or ease," said the bench, also comprising Justices Sanjay Kumar and N V Anjaria. It said normalisation may be applied in exceptional cases but not in a routine manner year after year. The bench passed the order on pleas challenging a notification on holding the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Post Graduate (NEET-PG) 2025 examination in two shifts. The top court said the total number of candidates who have applied for the examination is 2,42,678 and the test is held all over the country and not in one city. "We are not ready to accept



that in the entire country and considering the technological advancement in the

BJP hails Salman Khurshid's Article 370 remarks, asks 'will Congress turn on him like Tharoor'

New Delhi, (HS) : The BJP praised Salman Khurshid for accepting that the abrogation of Article 370 was the right decision. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Friday appreciated comments made by Congress leader Salman Khurshid who had stated that the abrogation of article 370 had made positive changes in Jammu and Kashmir.

While BJP's Shehzad Poonawala said Salman Khurshid also accepts how 'Pakistan-parasti' was increasing, Amit Malviya asked if the Congress will "now turn on him for speaking an inconvenient truth, just as they did with Shashi Tharoor." "Salman Khurshid is a senior Congress leader and has been External Affairs Minister previously and today he also accepts how 'Pakistan-Parasti, Pattharbaazi and Problem of Pakistan' was



increasing. Now that Article 370 has been removed, there is Prosperity and People's voice is audible," ANI news agency quoted Shehzad Poonawala. He added, "Article 370 was a blunder of the then governments and especially Nehru, this is accepted by Salman Khurshid himself... But even today, some Congress leaders back the

'Final extension': DGCA lets IndiGo fly 2 Turkish planes for 3 more months



New Delhi, (HS) : The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Friday said that it granted a three-month extension to budget carrier IndiGo to operate two B777-300ER aircraft on a damp lease from Turkish Airlines. The aviation regulator said the decision was taken to avoid passenger inconvenience on the condition that this will be the last extension and the IndiGo will end the lease arrangement with Turkish Airlines within this duration. "...Indigo has been granted a one-time last and final extension of three months upto 31.08.2025 for these damp-leased aircraft, based on the undertaking from the airline that, they will terminate the damp lease with Turkish Airline within this extension period, and shall not seek any further extension for these operations," DGCA said.

The regulator said the airline had sought an extension of six months. There have been calls to revisit business ties with Turkey after Ankara supported Pakistan during the military confrontation with India after New Delhi carried out retaliatory strikes in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Friday's decision comes weeks after the government revoked the security clearance of Turkish ground handling service firm Celebi, citing national security. In its order, DGCA said, "Indigo is currently operating two B777-300ER aircraft under damp lease from Turkish Airline, which was permitted upto 31.05.2025. Indigo requested for a further extension of the same for another six months, which was not agreed to". IndiGo operates direct flights to Istanbul using the two wide-bodied aircraft leased from Turkish Airlines, and offers codeshare connections to Europe and the US through its partnership with the Turkish carrier.

Ankita Murder: Ex-Minister's Son, 2 Others Get Life Term

Dehradun, (HS) : An Uttarakhand court on Friday sentenced the three convicts to life imprisonment in the sensational Ankita Bhandari murder case in Pauri district in 2022. Additional District and Session Judge, Kotdwar, Reena Negi held Pulkit Arya, resort owner and son of a former BJP leader, and his two associates, Saurabh Bhaskar and Ankit Gupta, guilty of murdering Ankita, who worked as a receptionist at Vanantra Resort located in Yamkeshwar.

The court held the trio guilty under penal provisions dealing with murder (IPC Section 302), offence committed by an



enforcing authority (Section 210b) and causing disappearance of evidence (Section 201). According to the police, Ankita, 19, was killed on September 18, 2022 and her body was dumped in Chilla canal in Rishikesh, from where it was retrieved about six days after she

went missing. According to the prosecution, Ankita and Pulkit Arya had a dispute over something, after which the man, along with Bhaskar and Gupta, allegedly pushed the woman into the canal. Resort owner Pulkit is the son of former BJP leader Vinod Arya who was a minister in the Uttarakhand government till 2021. The case had made national headlines after the local people came out and protested over the murder as the law enforcement agencies were dragging their feet on the probe into the murder. On Friday, the court resembled a fortress due to heightened security, with only lawyers and family members of the victim and convicts allowed to attend the proceedings.

Had Indian Navy Been Fully Unleashed, Pakistan Would Have Been Split Into Four: Rajnath

Panaji, (HS) : Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday asserted that had the Indian Navy been fully deployed during 'Operation Sindoor', Pakistan could have been split into four parts. Speaking onboard INS Vikrant, India's first indigenously-built aircraft carrier, off the coast of Goa, the Defence Minister said, "The events of 1971 are proof that when the Indian Navy enters the battlefield, the course of history changes. If the Navy had gone into full action during 'Operation Sindoor', Pakistan would not just have been divided into two - it might have broken into four parts."

He added that 'Operation Sindoor' was not over, but merely a "pause and a warning." "If Pakistan repeats its mistake, India's response will be even harsher. And this time, Pakistan won't get a chance to recover," he said. The Defence Minister described 'Operation Sindoor' not merely as a military action, but as "India's direct assault on terrorism." "We will employ every method Pakistan can imagine, and even those it cannot," Singh said. He lauded the deployment of the INS Vikrant Carrier Battle Group as a clear demonstration of India's maritime strength and strategic intent. "Your mere preparation broke the enemy's spirit. Pakistan did not need to see action - your readiness alone stunned them," he told naval personnel. Referring to the 2008 Mumbai attacks, Singh said, "Hafiz Saeed is the mastermind of the Mumbai carnage. Justice must be done for that heinous crime committed through the sea route. But justice cannot be delivered in Pakistan." He noted that India has recently secured the extradition of Tahawwur Rana, another accused in the Mumbai attacks. "Pakistan keeps



offering dialogue - their Prime Minister reiterated it yesterday - but we've made it clear - talks will only be about terrorism and Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir. If Pakistan is serious, it must hand over terrorists like Hafiz Saeed and Masood Azhar," Singh stated. Highlighting the operational capabilities of INS Vikrant, the Minister said the carrier can accommodate more than 30 aircraft, including fighter jets and helicopters. "Standing on Vikrant, the pride of India's maritime power, fills me with happiness, pride, and confidence. As long as India's maritime borders are in your capable hands, no one can dare challenge us," Singh declared. "Within 96 hours, our Western Fleet executed multiple successful firings of surface-to-surface and surface-to-air missiles and torpedoes from both eastern and western coasts."

'Kill that woman': Shocking 2021 audio of Maharashtra doctor on Covid patient prompts probe



New Delhi, (HS) : In the viral audio between two doctors, one senior doctor can be heard saying, "Don't allow anyone to go inside, just kill that Dayami woman." Maharashtra police have registered an FIR against a senior government doctor for allegedly instructing another medic to "kill" a Covid-19 patient during the second wave of the crisis in 2021. The accused, Dr Shashikant Deshpande, who was the additional district surgeon at Udgir Government Hospital during the second wave of the pandemic, was caught in an audio clip, which surfaced online earlier this month, according to news agency PTI. The clip, which went viral on social media, allegedly captured a conversation between Dr Deshpande and Dr Shashikant Dange. In the audio, the doctor can be heard saying, "Don't allow anyone to go inside, just kill that Dayami woman." The patient in question, Kausar Fatima, was admitted with Covid-19 symptoms on April 15, 2021, and later recovered after a 10-day stay. Kausar survived. Her husband, Dayami Ajimoddin Gaussoddin, has now

registered a formal police complaint, saying he was present when the alleged conversation took place.

As per the FIR, Gaussoddin said he overheard the call while sitting beside Dr Dange, who had placed the phone on speaker while eating lunch. Deshpande allegedly not only made the shocking "kill" comment but also used caste-based slurs, which Gaussoddin said caused him deep emotional and religious hurt.

Latur police, who have begun a probe into the matter, have seized Dr Deshpande's mobile phone and issued a notice to him. His statement is currently being recorded, Inspector Dilip Gade told PTI. He added that the authenticity of the audio clip is under forensic examination. "Dr Dange is out of the district and will come tomorrow. After that, we will collect his mobile phone and conduct an inquiry," Gade said.

The case has been filed under sections pertaining to deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings, among other serious charges.

Russia Has Provided North Korea with Pantsir Air Defence System, Jammers Since Troop Deployment

Seoul, (H.S): Russia has provided North Korea with its air defence system, electronic warfare jamming devices and other military support since late last year, in blatant violations of UN sanctions amid their deepening ties, an international monitoring report released by Seoul's Foreign Ministry showed on Thursday. Since November 2024, Moscow has transferred at least one Pantsir mobile air defence system and one Pantsir-class combat vehicle to Pyongyang, the Multilateral Sanctions Monitoring Team (MSMT) said in its first report on the sanctions enforcement.

The MSMT was established in October last year with the initiative of South Korea and the United States as an alternative framework to the UN Panel of Experts on North Korean sanctions monitoring. The panel was disbanded in March of the same year due to Russia's veto. Besides South Korea and the US, nine other countries have joined the mechanism - Australia, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, and New



Zealand. The inaugural report, specifically focusing on the illegal military cooperation between Russia and the North, is the MSMT's first assessment on the sanctions enforcement since its launch. The findings were based on the intelligence and other information provided by the participating countries and data from private research institutes.

The Pantsir missile system is made up of self-propelled, medium-range surface-to-air missiles and anti-aircraft artillery systems. A South Korean lawmaker has recently mentioned the weapons systems unveiled on the North's new Choe Hyon destroyer as bearing a marked

resemblance to the Russian Pantsir system. The report also found that North Korea has supplied Russia with more than 20,000 containers worth of military supplies since September 2023.

The shipments include approximately 9 million rounds of artillery and multiple rocket launcher ammunition, more than 100 ballistic missiles and over 200 heavy artillery pieces, as well as anti-tank guided missiles and rockets, Yonhap news agency reported. These transfers make up enough supplies to equip three full brigades, the report said. Russian transport aircraft were used for the arms transfers

between November and December 2023. They include three IL-76 and three AN-124 military planes belonging to the Russian Transport Aviation Command, the report said. Russia has also provided the North with missile performance data and technical support to enhance Pyongyang's missile guidance capabilities, in a clear violation of UN Security Council (UNSC) resolutions against Pyongyang, which Russia itself voted for as a permanent UNSC member. The report stated that North Korea sent over 11,000 troops to Russia in 2024, with an additional 3,000 soldiers dispatched recently.

Those soldiers were trained by the Russian military on artillery drone countermeasures and basic infantry operations. The report said that the two countries have engaged in high-level exchanges between top military officials, suggesting the deepening ties following the signing of a bilateral defence treaty between Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un at their June summit last year. Russia provided

the North with more than 1 million barrels of fuel between March and October last year, the report said. The UNSC sanctions cap North Korea's annual imports of refined petroleum at 500,000 barrels. About 8,000 North Korean workers have been sent to Russia to work in construction, IT and other sectors, also a breach of the sanctions banning the hiring of North Koreans overseas.

The report also found that financial transactions between the two countries are being made through North Korea-owned ruble-denominated bank accounts set up in South Ossetia, a Russia-backed autonomous state in Georgia. The report is a "product of our efforts to address the monitoring gap arising from the disbandment" of the UN panel, a joint statement released by the foreign ministry read. "We underscore once again our shared determination to fully implement relevant UN Security Council resolutions ... and continue our efforts to monitor the implementation," the statement said.

Hamas Says US Ceasefire Proposal Under Review, Does Not Meet Palestinian Demands

Gaza, (H.S): A senior Hamas official said that a US proposal for a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip remains under review, even though it does not meet the core demands of the movement and the Palestinian people. Basem Naim, a member of Hamas's political bureau, said in a statement, on Thursday, that the movement had received the Israeli response to the US proposal brokered last week by US Special Envoy to the Middle East Steve Witkoff. Xinhua news agency reported. According to Naim, the Israeli position fails to address key Palestinian demands, including a complete cessation of hostilities and the lifting of the long-standing blockade on Gaza. He said the proposal would allow for the continuation of "the occupation" and humanitarian suffering, even during any temporary truce.

Nevertheless, the movement's leadership is evaluating the proposal with a sense of national responsibility, particularly in light of the ongoing violence and humanitarian crisis facing the Palestinian people," Naim said. Hamas stated earlier that it had received the updated ceasefire proposal through mediators and was assessing it in a way that reflects the interests of the Palestinian people and aims to achieve lasting peace and relief for Gaza residents. Hamas had previously said it had agreed with Mr Witkoff on a "general framework" of an agreement that would lead to a lasting ceasefire, a full Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, an influx of aid, and a transfer of power from the militant group to a politically independent committee of Palestinians.



Russia To Renovate Lenin's Tomb in Red Square

Moscow, (H.S): Lenin's Mausoleum, the iconic structure from whose rostrum generations of Soviet and Russian leaders have inspected parades on the sprawling Red Square, is set to get a \$250,000 makeover as several parts of the building require urgent repair, reports said. Russia's Ministry of Culture has signed a 20 million rubles (approx \$250,000) contract to restore the mausoleum,

where Soviet leader Vladimir Lenin's embalmed body is on display, as an inspection reported several parts are crumbling and some have mould building up due to inadequate ventilation, RT reported, citing the tender records. The restoration will address structural damage and update the site for modern use, as per the project documents. Work is expected to be completed by mid-2027. One of the most recognisable landmarks in Russia,



the red granite and black labradorite structure, which was built in 1929-30, has undergone regular maintenance and has been closed on several occasions in recent years, including for public events. As per RT, Lenin remains a divisive figure in Russian history. While some view him as a visionary who led the 1917 October Revolution to establish a fairer society, others regard him as a tyrant responsible for mass repression and death. The revolution sparked a civil war, after which Lenin's Bolsheviks consolidated control over much

of the Tsarist Russian Empire. These territories were united in 1922 to form the Soviet Union. Lenin died two years later, in 1924, and his body has remained on public display since then. The RT also cited a 2024 poll by the Russian Public Opinion Research Centre (VCIOM), where one-third of respondents support keeping Lenin in his mausoleum.

However, thirty per cent favour an immediate burial, while 27 per cent believe that a reburial should be conducted only if it would not cause controversy. Debates over the fate of Lenin's body crop up time to time. While some public figures have called for burial and alternative uses of the site, officials have consistently stated there are no current plans to rebury him. In 2021, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the regime had no plans to relocate the iconic revolutionary's remains.

Sanaa, (H.S): Yemen's Houthi group took responsibility for launching a fresh "hypersonic ballistic missile" attack against central Israel, saying it was aimed at Ben Gurion Airport. "We carried out a military operation targeting Ben Gurion Airport in central Israel, using a hypersonic ballistic missile," Houthi military spokesperson Yahya Sarea said in a statement, aired by Houthi-run al-Masirah TV.

Sarea said the group would continue its attacks "until the Israeli aggression on Gaza stops and the blockade is lifted." "We will continue to ban Israeli air traffic to and from Ben Gurion Airport," the Houthi military spokesperson added. Meanwhile, the Israeli military said in a statement that it intercepted a missile fired by Houthi forces in Yemen towards central Israel, Xinhua news agency reported. Houthi forces in Yemen fired a



missile towards central Israel Thursday night, Israel's military said in a statement, adding that Israel's aerial defence systems intercepted it. The missile triggered air raid sirens in 660 cities and communities across central Israel, including Tel Aviv, as well as several Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank, according to alerts sent by the country's Homefront Command. Sirens were also

sounded at Bloomfield Stadium in Tel Aviv, as about 30,000 fans gathered for the State Cup football final. Israel's Magen David Adom rescue service said that no casualties were reported. "A missile launched from Yemen was intercepted," the military said, adding that "sirens were sounded in accordance with protocol." Houthi forces in Yemen have pledged to halt attacks on US vessels but have

continued to fire missiles at Israel, citing solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza, where an Israeli offensive that began 19 months ago has killed more than 54,000 people, according to Gaza health authorities. Israel has carried out a series of retaliatory airstrikes in Yemen, including a strike earlier in May on the capital,

Sanaa, which damaged the country's main international airport and killed several people. On Wednesday, the Israeli air forces launched airstrikes on the Sanaa airport in the Houthi-held capital Sanaa, destroying the runway, facilities, and the last passenger plane in the airport. The Houthi group, which controls much of northern Yemen, has been targeting Israel since November 2023 to show solidarity with Palestinians amid the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict in Gaza.

India Playing Important Role In Ensuring Accountability For Attacks on Peacekeepers : UN Official

United Nations, (H.S): India plays an important role in peacekeeping operations by spearheading the campaign to bring to justice those committing crimes against peacekeepers, according to Jean-Pierre Lacroix, the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations. "The lead from India on the accountability for crime against peacekeepers" is an important contribution to peacekeeping beyond the contribution of troops and police, he said on Thursday.

India is the leader of the 39-member Group of Friends for Promoting Accountability for



Crimes Against Peacekeepers, which it founded in 2022. That same year, it pushed through the Security Council a resolution

calling on countries hosting peacekeeping operations to

investigate and prosecute attacks on peacekeepers, to provide support to those countries to deal with impunity, and to create a UN database of attacks. So far this year, five peacekeepers have been

killed in attacks. Lacroix, who was in New Delhi at the first Conference for Women Peacekeepers hosted by India this year, said that besides wanting to increase the number of women peacekeepers, the UN wanted more of them in leadership positions.

We would want to have more senior female generals, you know, applying for positions of Force Commanders", so that there could be more of them, he said. He called it a work in progress, pointing to Major General Cheryl Ann Pearce, the military adviser for the Department of Peace

Operations, who was seated next to him. Lacroix said that besides wanting to increase the number of women peacekeepers, having women in leadership roles "guarantees a more effective peacekeeping" through more empowerment of women, he said.

Of the 5,375 Indian blue helmets serving the UN, 151 are women. India contributed the first all-women Formed Police Unit (FPU) to a UN mission when they were deployed to Liberia in 2007. Kiran Bedi in 2003 became the first woman to become the UN's civilian police adviser.

2 Indian Peacekeepers Honoured Posthumously With Dag Hammarskjold Medals

United Nations, (H.S): Brigadier Amitabh Jha and Havildar Sanjay Singh, who died while serving in peacekeeping missions, were honoured with the Dag Hammarskjold medals. India's Permanent Representative P Harish received the medals on Thursday (US time) from Secretary-General Antonio Guterres at a ceremony honouring the peacekeepers who died in the service of the UN. Jha was the acting force commander of the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) that is deployed in the Golan Heights to monitor the ceasefire between Israel and Syria after the 1973 war. Guterres said, "Jha served as acting Force Commander of UNDOF in complex circumstances, following the fall of the Assad Government in Syria.

He will be remembered for his leadership and unwavering commitment to United Nations peacekeeping, including in the United Nations Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) as a military observer from 2005 to 2006. Jha "played a pivotal role in managing a critical security situation which evolved during the Syrian crisis in December 2024", a citation from India said. That month, the Damascus government of Bashar al-Assad collapsed, and the border area supervised by the UNDOF came under pressure from both Israel and disparate Syrian groups. "Jha was a man who stood his ground - as was evident from the way he handled affairs of UNDOF as the acting force commander. He will be admired by his friends and detractors," the citation said.

Singh served with MONUSCO when he died. Waibhav Anil Kale, a retired Indian Army colonel, also died last year while serving the UN in a civilian capacity in Gaza, the citation from India noted. Kale was working as a security service coordinator for the UN when the vehicle he was travelling in came under attack from Israeli forces in Gaza's Rafah region. Thursday was observed as the 77th UN Peacekeepers Day, honouring the work of 61,353 peacekeepers, of whom 5,375 hailed from India. Meanwhile, in New Delhi, the Indian Army held a ceremony at the National War Memorial to honour the memory of the Blue Helmets who died in the service of the UN. Lieutenant General Rakesh Kapoor, the deputy chief of Army Staff, led the ceremony honouring the 182 Indian peacekeepers who died while on UN missions.



Indian Delegation Interacts With Political Leaders, Ambassadors of 20 Countries

Jakarta, (H.S): The All-Party Parliamentary Delegation led by Janata Dal (United) MP Sanjay Kumar Jha on Thursday held extensive interactions with prominent think tanks and academia, Resident Ambassadors of friendly foreign missions in Jakarta, as well as with the leaders of National Mandate Party (PAN), a Modernist Muslim Party of Indonesia. The discussions marked a continuation of India's strategic outreach to garner international support against cross-border terrorism emanating from the soil of Pakistan.

The delegation interacted with the resident Ambassadors of friendly diplomatic missions of around 20 countries in Indonesia, sharing detailed insights on Operation Sindoor, and clearly explaining the role of Pakistan in the gruesome April 22 Pahalgam terror attack. They highlighted India's measured, non-escalatory, and targeted response following the Pahalgam attack. The delegation conveyed the message that terror and talks cannot go together and blood and

water cannot flow together. They urged support of the diplomatic community for bringing perpetrators of terrorism to justice, recalling the UNSC statement of April 25, which underlined the need for concerted diplomatic action against terrorism and its sponsors. Later, the visiting delegation met the leaders of the National Mandate Party (PAN) of Indonesia including Eddy Soeparno, Vice Chairman of PAN and Deputy Speaker of Indonesian People's Assembly, and Viva Yoga Mauladi, Vice Chairman of the Party and also Deputy Minister

For Transmigration Republic of Indonesia, along with other leaders and Members of Parliament from PAN sharing views on India's stance on zero tolerance for terrorism. "Pleased to lead our All-Party Parliamentary Delegation in an insightful interaction with senior leadership of Indonesia's National Mandate Party (Partai Amanat Nasional - PAN) - including Eddy Soeparno, Vice Chairman of PAN and Deputy Speaker of the Indonesian People's Assembly,



and Viva Yoga Mauladi, Vice Chairman of the party and Deputy Minister for Transmigration, along with other Members of Parliament," Jha posted on X. "We conveyed India's firm stand on zero tolerance towards terrorism, sharing the account of the Pahalgam attack - where civilians were targeted based on religion - and India's decisive response through Operation Sindoor. Both sides strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and emphasized the importance of dialogue, democracy, and regional peace," the post added. Earlier in the day, the delegation had meaningful discussions with

researchers and scholars of various think tanks and academia in Indonesia, including the Indonesian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Foreign Policy Community of Indonesia (FPCI), The Habibie Center, and Indo-Pacific Strategic Intelligence (ISI), Center for Indonesia Policy Studies (CIPS), University of Indonesia, Indonesia Air Power Studies Centre, etc. "The delegation conveyed a strong and unified national message of zero tolerance for cross-border terrorism. There was understanding of India's position and the need was expressed to

jointly combat false and fake narratives being propagated by vested interests. Responding to a query on endgame on this issue, the delegation categorically conveyed that total relinquishment of terror activities by Pakistan, dismantling of terror infrastructure within Pakistan and the vacation of Pakistan occupied Kashmir (POK) was the ultimate endgame," said Indian Embassy in Jakarta.

The delegation led by Jha also includes BJP MPs Aparajita Sarangi, Brij Lal, Hemang Joshi, and Pradan Baruah, Trinamool Congress MP Abhishek Banerjee, CPI(M) Rajya Sabha member John Barittas, senior Congress leader Salman Khurshid and Former Indian Ambassador to France, Mohan Kumar. After successfully completing their engagements in Singapore, South Korea, and Japan, the delegates are in Indonesia to highlight the significance of Operation Sindoor and India's continued fight against Pakistan-sponsored cross-border terrorism to the Indonesian leadership.

India To Remain Fastest-Growing Economy, Trade Talks With US on Track: Piyush Goyala

New Delhi, (H.S): India is an attractive investment destination and has the potential to remain the fastest-growing large economy in the world for the next 30 years, Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, has said.Goyal said the country has maintained sustained growth of 6-7 per cent and hopes to push it to 8 per cent at constant prices.Speaking at the CII 'Annual Business Summit 2025' here, the minister said that even amid international upheavals,

"we are among the better-performing emerging markets". "Today, India holds the 4th largest foreign exchange reserves in the world at about \$690 billion. Our inflation has remained below 4 per cent for the last three months. The Reserve Bank has done a commendable job balancing liquidity and currency management," he told the gathering.Goyal highlighted India as an attractive investment destination. "Over the past 20-



25 years, Indian companies have delivered nearly 20 per cent CAGR returns, making India a compulsive investment destination. FDI inflows are consistently breaking records. We are back on track on the growth trajectory, working through international trading relations," he added.The minister cited progress on various Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), including those with the UAE, Australia, the UK, the four EFTA countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland), and the ongoing

bilateral trade agreement negotiations with the US."We are well on track with our bilateral trade agreement with the USA and making fast progress with the European Union's 27-nation bloc. We have also launched negotiations with New Zealand," he stated.The EFTA countries have committed \$100 billion in foreign direct investment (FDI) to India over the next 15 years. This is expected to crystallise into a total investment of \$500 billion.Furthermore, the large ecosystem that will be created

around this investment has the potential to attract an additional \$500 billion."We are not aiming small," said Goyal, emphasising that this figure does not include investments from the Norwegian Pension Fund and represents pure FDI.He further highlighted that this is the first Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in the world to include such a forward-looking investment clause.

Goyal expressed pride at India's continued economic progress and stated that the IMF has projected that by 2027, India will be the world's third largest GDP. He added that despite global volatility, uncertainty and complexity, India remains the fastest-growing economy and continues to power global growth through growth in India.The minister underlined that growth through trade, resilient supply chains and innovation would remain incomplete without inclusive growth.

India Clocks 6.5 Pc GDP Growth In 2024-25, Q4 Growth Surges To 7.4 Pc

New Delhi, (H.S): India's GDP growth accelerated to a robust 7.4 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2024-25, as result of which the growth rate for the full financial year works out to 6.5 per cent on the back of a strong performance of the agriculture, construction, and services sectors, official data released on Friday showed.

The agriculture sector recorded a 4.6 per cent growth rate during 2024-25, up from 2.7 per cent in 2023-24 when an erratic monsoon had damaged crops. During Q4, FY 2024-25, the growth rate of the agriculture sector jumped to 5 per cent compared to 0.8 per cent in Q4 of the previous financial year, figures compiled by the Ministry of Statistics showed. The construction sector is estimated to have registered an impressive growth rate of 9.4 per cent in FY 2024-25, followed by 8.9 per cent growth rate in the 'Public Administration, Defence & Other Services' sector while the



'Financial, Real Estate & Professional Services' sector posted a 7.2 per cent growth for the financial year.During Q4 of FY 2024-25, the construction sector recorded a double-digit growth of 10.8 per cent, followed by an 8.7 per cent growth rate in the 'public administration, defence & other services' sector. The 'financial, real estate & professional services' sector registered a growth of 7.8 per cent in the fourth quarter.Reflecting the strong demand in the economy, private final consumption expenditure recorded a 7.2 per cent growth rate in FY 2024-25 as compared to a 5.6 per cent growth rate in the previous financial year. This was driven in

large measure by rural demand for goods and services shooting up due to higher incomes in the agriculture sector.Apart from the strong performance of the agriculture sector, the massive investments by the government in big ticket infrastructure projects such the highways, railways, ports and airports have helped to drive up the growth rate as India continues to be the fastest growing economy amid the global slowdown.The IMF has forecast India to be the only economy that is expected to clock an over 6 per cent growth rate in 2025-26, as the US tariff turmoil is expected to disrupt world trade and slow down the growth of the global economy.

Finance Ministry Urges RBI To Exclude Small Borrowers From New Gold Loan Norms

New Delhi, (H.S): The Finance Ministry said on Friday it has suggested that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) should exclude small borrowers of up to Rs 2 lakh from the provisions of its draft directions on lending against gold collateral. The Finance Ministry has also suggested that the implementation of the guidelines be postponed to next year."The draft directions on lending against gold collateral issued by the RBI have been examined by the Department of Financial Services (DFS) under the guidance of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

The DFS has given suggestions to the RBI to ensure that the requirements of the small gold loan borrowers are not adversely affected," the Finance Ministry said in a statement on X. DFS has also stated that such guidelines will need time to implement at the field level and hence may be suitable for implementation from January 1, 2026 only, the statement said. Further, DFS has suggested that borrowers below Rs 2 lakh may be excluded from the requirements of these proposed



directions to ensure timely and speedy disbursement of loans for such small ticket borrowers, the statement explained."RBI is reviewing the feedback received on the Draft guidelines. It is expected that concerns raised by various stakeholders, as well as the feedback received from the public, will be duly considered by the RBI before finalising the directions on the same.

The suggestions have been duly forwarded to the RBI," the statement added. Shares of Muthoot Finance and Manappuram rose on the FinMin's feedback, trading at Rs 2,136.10 and Rs 233.14 apiece, up 3.07 per cent and 0.57 per cent respectively. Earlier in April, the

RBI issued draft guidelines, seeking to establish uniform rules and regulations for getting gold loans from banks and NBFCs.However, the draft rules imposed some restrictions regarding the type of gold that is eligible as collateral and the maximum loan amount a bank or NBFC can extend.

The RBI had found some shortcomings such as weak loan appraisal mechanisms, poor monitoring of the end use of funds, and lack of transparency during gold auctions after default. The draft guidelines are now intended to harmonise norms 2,136.10 and Rs 233.14 apiece, up 3.07 per cent and 0.57 per cent respectively reflecting their respective risk-bearing capacities.

India's AI Ecosystem on The Cusp of Global Breakthrough: Ashwini Vaishnaw

New Delhi, (H.S): India's artificial intelligence (AI) ecosystem is now on the cusp of a global breakthrough, Union Minister of Electronics and IT, Ashwini Vaishnaw, has said. Opportunity given by the government will help startups - ranging from image editing, deep-tech, earth observation to conversational AI - to tap into international markets,

form global alliances and create scalable impactful solutions, the minister added.In a key stride towards advancing India's AI capabilities globally, the IndiaAI Mission - under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) - has announced the selection of 10 startups for the 'IndiaAI Startups Global Initiative', an international acceleration programme in partnership with Station F, Paris and HEC Paris."The Prime Minister



Narendra Modi's visit to the AI Action Summit in February 2024 not only signalled high-level political commitment but also demonstrated India's intent to be a shaper of global AI norms and innovation diplomacy," said the Union Minister."India's AI ecosystem is now on the cusp of a global breakthrough. Through initiatives like this, we are enabling our most promising startups to tap into international

markets, form global alliances, and create scalable, impactful solutions. This partnership of IndiaAI Mission with Station F and HEC Paris represents a new chapter in India's innovation diplomacy," Vaishnaw added. According to Abhishek Singh, MeitY Additional Secretary and CEO of IndiaAI Mission, The 'IndiaAI Startups Global Initiative' is more than an acceleration programme."It is a

bridge between India's talent and the world's innovation hubs. These 10 startups exemplify the strength, diversity, and global potential of Indian AI. We are proud to support their next leap as global AI leaders," he said.

These 10 startups have been chosen through a rigorous multi-stage selection process and will represent India's dynamic AI innovation ecosystem at Station F - the world's largest startup campus - for a four-month programme designed to support their global scale-up, market access and cross-border collaboration.The programme includes a one-month online preparation module followed by a three-month immersive residency in Paris, France.This initiative forms part of the IndiaAI Mission's broader vision to catalyse India's leadership in responsible, scalable and inclusive AI.

Stellar Performance by IFFCO in FY 2024-25, Sales of Nano Fertilizers Increased by 47 %

New Delhi, (H.S): World Number 1 Cooperative, IFFCO booked a profit of INR 3,811 Crore as profit before tax for the FY 2024-25 along with 47% increase in the sales of Nano Fertilisers. This Financial year (2024-2025) 365.09 Lakh bottles of Nano-Fertilizers were sold as compared to 248.95 Lakh bottles sold in the previous financial year (2023-2024). IFFCO recorded a Turnover of INR 41,244 Crore during the FY 24-25.Sh. Dileep Sanghani, Chairman, IFFCO during his interaction with the media said that It's a matter of proud for the entire cooperative sector of country that the stellar growth figures of IFFCO is realising the dream of "Sahakar Se Samridhhi". He informed that the Society has registered a profit of more than Rs.3000 Crores for three consecutive financial years. He further said that for the last 23 consecutive years, IFFCO has rewarded its members with a 20% dividend on the paid-up share capital-highlighting its dedication and commitment to equitable and sustainable growth. Nano-fertilizers has been the key focus area for the society with support from the Union Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, extensive awareness campaigns



and research helped the society increase the acceptance of the products among the farmers. Dr. U. S. Awasthi, MD, IFFCO stated that IFFCO will be also launching Nano NPK fertilizer in Granular form for soil application in basal dose. Nano NPK fertilizer is enriched with Magnesium, Sulphur, Zinc and Copper which would help in increasing the crop productivity & would minimize nutrient losses. This along with Liquid Nano Urea Plus and Liquid Nano DAP can eliminate the use of traditional chemical fertilisers from the soil. It will further promote balanced nutrition with higher use efficiency of primary nutrients. He further said that IFFCO will be also launching Nano Zinc, Nano Copper in Liquid form in size of 100ml bottle to fulfil the micro-nutrients need. By incorporating Nanotechnology, drone technology, AI technologies,

IFFCO is transforming the agriculture & food value chain across the country. In a short span of time, IFFCO's Nano Fertiliser has gained a global recognition, with various countries such as Brazil, Kenya and The United States of America has expressed strong interest to adopt the Nanotechnology. IFFCO has expanded its presence in over 40 countries, with superlative performance and reduced fertiliser usage recorded in the USA, Brazil, Slovenia,Mauritius, Zambia, Nepal, and Bangladesh. Apart from this, Managing Director also emphasized on the need to preserve 'Desi' Seeds (Beej) with indigenous inventions, on the same lines IFFCO has also taken an initiative to build a state-of-the-art Seed Innovation Centre at Kalol Unit. IFFCO honoured two eminent cooperators with 'IFFCO Sahakarita Ratna Award' and 'IFFCO Sahakarita Bandhu

Award' for the year 2023-24. Shri MansinhbhaiKalyanjibhai Patel is bestowed with 'IFFCO Sahakarita Ratna Award'. Shri Patel belongs to Gujarat State, and he has worked at ground level among cooperatives to make cooperative movement strong with his countless and persistent efforts. He is also the founder of Shree Mahuva Pradesh Sahakari Khand Udyog Mandali Ltd. in Gujarat. Shri Amrik Singh a familiar face of cooperative in Haryana State has been honoured with 'IFFCO Sahakarita Bandhu Award' for the year 2023-24. Shri Amrik Singh has also worked at grassroot level to strengthen the cooperative networks across the Haryana and in many northern states of India. He has also been honoured by the Haryana Government in past for his exemplary services in Agriculture Sector. IFFCO distributed over 2.5 lakh sprayers and introduced "IFFCO Kisan Drone" to provide Agri Drones for spraying IFFCO Nano Urea & Nano DAP to the farmers. IFFCO procured 1764 Drones along with Electric Three Wheelers (EVs) to facilitate application of IFFCO Nano Urea & Nano DAP (Liquid) and provided training to rural entrepreneurs to offer spray services to the farmers.

India's Household Savings May Surge To 22 Lakh Crore In FY25



Mumbai, (H.S): Net financial savings of India's household sector may reach Rs 22 lakh crore or 6.5 per cent of gross national disposable income (GNDI) in FY25 based on the current trends, according to an SBI report released on Friday.With the latest RBI annual report indicating that the household sector showed strong financial resilience,

with net savings rising to 5.1 per cent of gross national disposable income (GNDI) in FY24, the SBI report says this growing capital pool remains crucial for funding government and corporate deficits and supporting macroeconomic stability. Further, as against the increase in household liabilities to 6.1 per cent of GNDI, the gross financial savings of households increased to 11.2 per cent of GNDI in 2023-24 from 10.7 per cent in the previous year.As per the central bank report, the RBI's balance sheet expanded by 8.19 per cent in FY25, less than the

nominal GDP growth of 9.9 per cent. Despite contractions in traditional income, streams such as domestic interest and LAF earnings, strategic management of foreign exchange and efforts to mitigate rupee volatility materially enhanced surplus generation. A Rs 44,861.7 crore provision to the Contingency Fund kept realised equity healthy at 7.5 per cent of the balance sheet, enabling record Rs 2.69 lakh crore surplus transfers to the government and enhancing the fiscal space.

Further, total gold holdings were at 879.58 metric tonnes, reflecting an increase of 57.48 metric tonnes of gold during FY25. The share of gold in NFA increased to 12.0 per cent as at end-March 2025 from 8.3 per cent as at end-March 2024 due to appreciation in gold prices. Currency in circulation expanded steadily in FY25, with banknotes in circulation rising by 6 per cent in value and 5.6 per cent in

volume. Rs 500 notes dominated both value and volume. Withdrawal of Rs 2,000 notes progressed well, reclaiming 98.2 per cent of those in circulation. Increased issuance of durable Rs 10 coins alongside reduced Rs 10 notes marks a cost-effective currency shift. Counterfeit note detections fell overall by 2.4 per cent to 2.17 lakh pieces but rose for the Rs 200 and Rs 500 denominations, necessitating ongoing advancements in anti-counterfeiting technologies and enforcement mechanisms.In the digital domain,

the RBI's retail digital currency pilot, encompassing 17 banks and 60 million users, witnessed the value of the digital currency in circulation soaring by an impressive 334 per cent in FY25. The introduction of offline functionality and programmable features, coupled with the inclusion of non-bank wallet providers, augments financial inclusion and signals a transformative evolution in India's payments ecosystem.

Mumbai, (H.S): The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has strengthened its dominance in India's digital payments system with its share in the total transaction volume rising to 83.7 per cent in 2024-25 from 79.7 per cent in the previous financial year. The RBI's annual report shows that UPI facilitated 185.8 billion transactions during 2024-25, which represents a 41 per cent year-on-year increase. In value terms, UPI transactions rose to Rs 261 lakh crore from Rs 200 lakh crore in FY24. "The success of UPI placed India in a leadership position with a share of 48.5 per



cent in global real-time payments by volume," the RBI said. Total digital payments in the country, including transactions through payment systems, card networks and prepaid payment

instruments (PPIs), grew 35 per cent to 221.9 billion in FY25, from 164.4 billion transactions in FY24. In value terms, total digital payments surged 17.97 per cent to Rs 2,862 lakh crore.Credit card transactions increased to 4.7 billion in FY25 from 3.5 billion in FY24, while debit card usage saw a sharp 29.5 per cent decline, falling to 1.6 billion transactions. The share of digital transactions in the total volume of non-cash retail payments stood at 99.9 per cent in FY25 compared with 99.8 per cent in FY24.The RBI also said it remains committed to extending UPI to 20 countries by

2028-29. Acceptance of Indian UPI apps via QR codes has already been enabled in Bhutan, France, Mauritius, Nepal, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and the UAE, allowing Indian tourists, students, and business travellers to make merchant payments using their domestic UPI apps.The RBI also said that the total incidence of fraud cases declined, but fraud amounts tripled to Rs 36,014 crore, mainly due to surging advances related to fraud. In contrast, card and internet fraud volume diminished significantly from 29,802 in FY24 to 13,516 in FY25.



'It's not a big deal': Kajol opens up about turning older

Kajol is loved for being candid and outspoken. The actor, who is busy promoting her latest, Maa, recently opened up in an interview about turning older. The star in her quintessential style stated that it is not a big deal if you know where you are heading in life.

In an interview with Filmfare, the 50-year-old star reflected on ageing and whether it affects one's self-image. "It's not a big deal. A reminder of whether you are

heading in the correct direction in life. I've been moving in the correct direction," the Kuch Kuch Hota Hai actor said. Kajol also offered her perspective on cosmetic surgery. She mentioned that although it is a 'dicey' subject, one should introspect before opting for any such procedures. "Cosmetic surgery is a dicey topic. If I had a birthmark and if it was disabling me from getting somewhere, I'd get it removed. Victims of acid attacks and fire

need such surgery. Cosmetic surgery, on the other hand, is the individual's prerogative, a personal choice. But it cannot be something like I want good cheekbones, so let me have them. One should be sure whether it's necessary to change that feature of the body. If yes, then go for it." Kajol, who was last seen in Do Patti, is back with a mythological horror, Maa. The film has been directed by Vishal Furia and produced by husband Ajay

Devgn and Jyoti Subbarayan. The film's trailer, which was launched yesterday, is being appreciated for its story and horror elements. It shows Kajol as a fierce, protective mother who fights to save her daughter from the clutches of demons. Maa also stars Indraneil Sengupta, Ronit Roy, Jitin Gulati, and Kherin Sharma and is set to release in theatres on 27 June.

Another Ajay Devgn attended the trailer launch of

his wife Kajol's upcoming horror film, Maa, on Thursday. At the event held in Mumbai, the actor opened up about his daughter Nysa's future plans. Ajay Devgn, who produced Maa, was asked why he did not cast Nysa in the film. To which, the actor replied, "At the moment, she is not interested in this kind of work." In the same conversation, Kajol spoke about how her role in Maa resonated with her as a mother.

When Paresh claimed PHP lost its innocence; 'sorry to say...'



Last week, actor Paresh Rawal left fans in shock when he confirmed rumours about quitting Hera Pheri 3, the much awaited third instalment of the beloved comedy franchise starring him, Akshay Kumar and Suniel Shetty. This was followed by Akshay's production house sending Babu Bhaiya aka Paresh a legal notice, and Suniel revealing

that he learnt about Paresh's decision from his children. Well, today on Paresh's 70th birthday, let's revisit his interview from earlier this year, when he shared his honest thoughts about Hera Pheri's sequel Phir Hera Pheri (2006). In a chat with Siddharth Kannan in February this year, just days after reports about Hera Pheri 3's promo had started

doing the rounds, Paresh Rawal spoke about Phir Hera Pheri. The actor, who won hearts as Baburao aka Babu Bhaiya, shared, "Everybody was overconfident about the film. It lost its innocence. Sorry to say, but wo film nahi bani thi barabar (the film wasn't that good). I would tell Neeraj Vohra (director), tu bhar raha hai ismein (you're overstuffing this film with sequences), it isn't required. I asked him to keep the simplicity that was there in the first film. It will get messy if you overfill the film. People will laugh at anything; they will laugh if somebody is running naked, but we don't have to run naked. The sense of proportion should be on you."

Saiyaara Teaser: Ahaan & Aneet's Film is Tale of Passion and Heartbreak

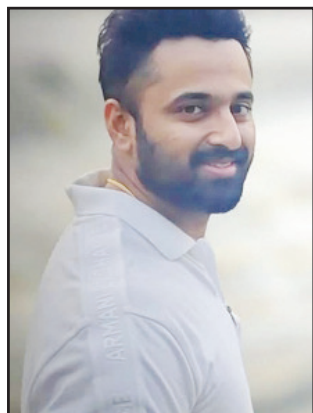
The makers of Saiyaara, which marks the debut of Ahaan Panday with Aneet Padda was released on Friday. Directed by Mohit Suri, Saiyaara showcases a glimpse of an intense love story with the onscreen couple going through a roller-coaster of joy, passion, love, sorrow and heartbreak. On Friday, Yash Raj Films dropped the teaser of the film on their social media handles, describing the film as, "An intense love story that will break your heart and heal it too". Saiyaara introduces Ahaan Panday as a new hero in the film industry with Aneet Padda, who was last seen in Big Girls Don't Cry, as the



female lead. The makers described the title of the film, giving a sneak peek into what could be the plot of the film. They said, Saiyaara means a wandering celestial body, but in poetry it's often used to describe someone dazzling and

otherworldly-a wandering star-always guiding, but out of reach. Directed by Mohit Suri, the film has been produced by YRF's CEO Akshaye Wadhani. Saiyaara is set to release on July 18, 2025 in theatres worldwide.

Unni files police complaint claiming threat to life and career



The feud between actor Unni Mukundan and his former PR manager, Vipin Kumar, seems to be escalating. Unni filed a complaint with the Kochi police, alleging that he has been getting death threats even as Vipin refuses to back down, according to a Manorama News report.

FEFKA (Film Employees Federation of Kerala) and AMMA (Association of Malayalam Movie Artists) have been trying to intervene.

According to the report, Unni filed a complaint with the police claiming that he had received death threats. He filed a complaint with the DGP claiming his life and career are under threat. He said that he received a threatening call two weeks ago. He also reportedly stated that he was asked to be 'vigilant against Vipin' and that 'women may try to file false complaints' against him. Vipin, on the other hand, refused to back down, standing firm that Unni had verbally and physically assaulted him. He also claimed that the actor had a 'bad history' and that he had 'misbehaved with many people'. According to the

publication, he also stated that Unni was wrong in believing there was no footage of the attack and that the police are looking into them by trying to intervene.

On Monday evening, Vipin filed a police complaint against Unni, alleging that he was beaten up by the actor in the parking lot of his Kochi apartment. He claimed an altercation broke out between them over a post praising Tovino Thomas' latest release Narivetta. Unni has since admitted to breaking Vipin's sunglasses but denied physical assault. He also claimed the fight between them was over rumours being spread by Vipin, claiming that his friendship with Tovino hasn't been affected by this.

Delhi Court Compounds Defamation Case Against Wrestler Bajrang Punia

New Delhi, (HS) : A Delhi court has compounded a criminal defamation complaint against wrestler Bajrang Punia after he tendered an unconditional apology to coach and complainant Naresh Dahiya. The judge on May 29 closed the case after both the parties submitted that they have decided to settle the case among themselves. "Uncontested. Compounded," the judge noted in the order. Dahiya has claimed that Punia, along with other wrestlers and people, made defamatory remarks against him at a press conference at Jantar Mantar on May 10, 2023 during



a protest against alleged sexual harassment of some women wrestlers by former Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh. Long-distance runner Gulveer

Singh shattered a decade-old meet record, high-jumper Pooja Singh delivered a personal best show, while heptathlete Nandini Agasara rose to the occasion after a setback as the trio added three more gold medals to India's kitty on the penultimate day of the 26th Asian Athletics Championships here on Friday. The country's overall tally swelled to 18, including eight gold, seven silver and three bronze medals. India look well on course to match or better the 27 medals won in the 2023 edition, having already surpassed the gold haul of six medals in that year.

PM meets cricketing prodigy Vaibhav Suryavanshi



Patna, (HS) : India's cricketing prodigy Vaibhav Suryavanshi, fresh off a stellar debut IPL season, met Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Patna Airport on Friday. In a heartfelt moment that has gone viral, the 14-year-old touched the Prime Minister's feet in a gesture of deep respect, earning admiration across social media. The meeting was shared by PM

Modi himself on X (formerly Twitter), accompanied by a warm message: "At Patna airport, met the young cricketing sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi and his family. His cricketing skills are being admired all over the nation! My best wishes to him for his future endeavours." Suryavanshi's journey has been nothing short of remarkable. Bought by the

Rajasthan Royals for ?1.1 crore during the IPL 2025 auction, he became the youngest player ever to be picked in IPL history. His selection followed impressive trials where he caught the eye of batting coach Vikram Rathour and director Zubin Bharucha. Though he sat out the first seven matches, fate intervened when Sanju Samson was injured, opening the door for Suryavanshi's debut. The team, under Rahul Dravid's mentorship, gave him full backing-and he delivered. In just seven matches, he racked up 252 runs at an average of 36 and a blistering strike rate of 206.56. His century against Gujarat Titans was hailed as one of the best innings of the season, firmly establishing him as a future star.

Named in the India U-19 squad led by Aayush Mhatre, Suryavanshi now aims to cement his place on the international stage. From being a surprise pick at the auction to sharing the stage with the Prime Minister, Vaibhav Suryavanshi's fairytale rise continues to inspire a new generation of cricketers across India.

Bumrah's Retirement Reveal ahead of Eng Tests

New Delhi, (HS) : Jasprit Bumrah is currently in action in the IPL 2025 for Mumbai Indians. After the T20 franchise league, the star fast bowler will be in action in the five-Test series against England. While it has been officially declared that Jasprit Bumrah will not be part of all the Tests, Bumrah's returns will be crucial. "Playing in England is always a different challenge," Bumrah told former Australia captain Michael Clarke on the Beyond23 cricket YouTube channel. "I always love bowling with the Dukes ball," he said. "But I don't know how much the Dukes ball is doing right now because there's always constant changes to the ball. But the weather, the swinging conditions. And then when the ball becomes soft, there's always a challenge. So I always look forward to playing in England."

India vs Eng Score, Day 1: Sarfaraz sends strong message to selectors with 50; Karun also shines

New Delhi, (HS) : Sarfaraz Khan has brought up his half-century, making a strong statement to the selectors following his omission from the England Test series. Karun Nair also scored a well-crafted fifty off 84 deliveries and continues to look composed at the crease. India will be disappointed with the early dismissal of their openers-particularly Yashasvi Jaiswal, who appeared in good touch before gifting his wicket. I Jaiswal (24) threw his wicket away after getting well settled, while skipper Abhimanyu Easwaran failed to shine and was dismissed for just 8. India's preparation for the upcoming five-match Test series against England is all set to begin with preparatory contests between India A and England Lions. The two 'A' teams will face off in two first-class matches. Bengal opener Abhimanyu Easwaran is the captain of India A while



Dhruv Jurel will serve as his deputy. Yashasvi Jaiswal, Karun Nair, Nitish Kumar Reddy, and Shardul Thakur are all part of the senior squad for the Tests against England. Hence, they would want to get some much-needed game time to prepare to the best of their ability.

Sarfaraz Khan, who has been dropped from India's main squad, will look to prove the selectors wrong by scoring runs against the England Lions and making a case for his late inclusion in the squad. Ishan Kishan, Khaleel Ahmed, and Anshul Kamboj are also part of the team that will take on the England Lions. With Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma retiring from Tests, youngsters have a chance

to step up and show their talent on the biggest stage possible. The biggest question remains who will take Virat's position at No.4. Karun Nair will be vying for a spot at No.4 hence the matches between India A and England Lions become all the more crucial for him. Somerset's James Rew will lead the England Lions for the first time. The initial 15-player Lions squad also includes Chris Woakes, who is making a return to competitive cricket after an ankle injury. After the two first-class matches against England Lions, India A will also take on the main Indian team in an intra-squad game before the first Test against England in Headingley.

Asian Athletics C'ships: Gulveer Wins Gold; Pooja's High Jump Gold



Gumi (South Korea), (HS) : Gulveer etched his name among the greats of Indian long-distance running by winning a tightly-contested men's 5000m final to add to his 10,000m gold won on the opening day of the competition.

The national-record-holding runner clocked 13:24.77sec to edge past Thailand's Kieran Tuntivate, who finished close behind at 13:24.97sec, while Japan's Nagiya Mori took bronze in 13:25.06sec. The previous championship record belonged to Qatar's Mohamed Al-Garni, who had clocked 13:34.47sec in the 2015 edition. Later, 18-year-old

Pooja jumped to a personal best of 1.89m in her penultimate attempt to finish ahead of Uzbekistan's Safina Sadullaeva (1.86m). The Haryana teen, whose father is a construction worker, has been doing well at the continental level, having earlier collected a gold at the Asian Under-23 Championships in 2023.

In the women's high jump, Pooja clinched a gold medal with a season-best effort of 1.89m. In the process, she also broke her own Under-20 national record. Moreover, the 18-year-old became the second Indian to win a medal in the high jump at the Asian Championships after

Bobby Aloysius, who won gold in 2000 and silver in 2002. Nandini Agasara then added the third gold to the day's tally after winning the women's heptathlon with 5941 points. Earlier in the day, Parul Chaudhary won silver in the women's 3000m steeplechase, clocked 9:12.46 and

set a new national record. She also held the previous record of 9:13.39, set at the 2025 Doha Diamond League. Meanwhile, Animesh Kujur stormed into the final of the men's 200m event after finishing second in the semifinal, clocking 20.81s. India are currently second in the medal tally with 18 medals, including eight gold, seven silver and three bronze, behind China's tally of 24 medals (15 gold, eight silver and three bronze).

Parul Breaks Women's Steeplechase

