



DUMANI MAIL

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

English Daily



Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese wins a second three-year term



MELBOURNE, Australia, (HS) : Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has become the first Australian prime minister to win a second consecutive three-year term in 21 years. Opposition leader Peter Dutton conceded defeat in Saturday's election, saying, "We didn't do well enough during this campaign, that much is obvious tonight, and I accept full responsibility for that."

"Earlier on, I congratulated him on his success tonight. It's an historic occasion for the Labor Party and we recognise that," he added. The Australian Electoral Commission's early projections gave the ruling center-left Labor Party 70 seats and the conservative opposition coalition 24 seats in the 150-seat House of Representatives, the lower chamber where parties need a majority to form governments. Unaligned minor parties and independent candidates appeared likely to win 13 seats. Senior government minister Jim Chalmers said the early results pointed to volatility and different contests across the nation. Opposition Sen. James McGrath expected the result would be too close to call on Saturday. "I don't think we'll know who the next prime minister of this country is definitely tonight and there'll be a number of seats we'll not know the results this coming week or even next week," McGrath said. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and opposition leader Peter Dutton will address party gatherings in Sydney and Brisbane later Saturday as the Australian Electoral Commission tallies votes. Leaders usually concede defeat and claim victory on the day of the election. Energy policy and inflation have been major issues in the campaign, with both sides agreeing the country faces a cost of living crisis. Going into the election, Labor held a narrow majority of 78 seats in a 151-seat House of Representatives.

Continued P-4

Omar Abdullah Meets PM in Aftermath of Pahalgam Terror Attack



New Delhi, (HS) : Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi to discuss the security situation in the Union Territory in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terrorist attack in which 26 civilians, mostly tourists, were killed. This is Omar Abdullah's first meeting with the Prime Minister after April 22, when terrorists killed innocent civilians after segregating them on the basis of religion in Baisaran meadow of Pahalgam.

The meeting, which took place at the Prime Minister's residence, lasted approximately 30 minutes. Sources said the two leaders discussed the evolving situation in Jammu and Kashmir and reviewed security measures to prevent future attacks. While no official statement was issued, it is believed that both stressed the need for maintaining law and order and ensuring justice for the victims. The Pahalgam attack, targeting civilians in a tourist hub, has led to heightened security across sensitive regions of Jammu and Kashmir. Tensions have

mounted between the two countries after Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists sponsored and aided by Pakistan killed 26 innocent civilians, including 25 tourists, in Baisaran meadow of Pahalgam. The entire country was outraged by the cowardly act of terrorists as Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in his first reaction to Pahalgam killings that the terrorists, their handlers and backers would be chased and hunted down to the ends of the earth. The Prime Minister has given a free hand to the country's armed forces to avenge the

Pahalgam killings. Earlier to the PM's decision to give operational free hand to the armed forces, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had a 40-minute-long meeting with the Prime Minister on Monday. The defence minister met the PM after he received a detailed briefing by the CDS on the preparedness of the country's armed forces to meet any eventuality. Continuing diplomatic and other measures against Pakistan, India has now stopped all postal exchanges with Pakistan. This is in addition to the closure of the Attari-Wagah border crossing point, putting the Indus Water Treaty in abeyance and deporting all Pakistani nationals from the country. Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha had a security review meeting with Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi in Srinagar a few days ago. The L-G asked the Army to use whatever force is required to hunt down the perpetrators of the Pahalgam terror attack. Meanwhile, to send a powerful message to terrorists, their overground workers (OGWs) and sympathisers, security forces continue demolition of the houses of terrorists. Last Friday, two

Continued P-4

Cuttack Bridge Mishap: CM Announces 5 Lakh Aid, Orders Probe



Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : A devastating accident struck the Khan Nagar area of Cuttack when a crane collapsed during the construction of a bridge, claiming the lives of three labourers and leaving two others in critical condition. According to reports, the crane was being used for the ongoing bridge construction when it suddenly gave way, trapping workers beneath its wreckage. Emergency response teams rushed to the scene, but despite their efforts, Soumya Ranjan Mallick, Shibashankar Patnaik and Subash Chandra Bhakta succumbed to their injuries.

The two surviving workers, identified as Arun Barik and Shukhil Jen, were immediately admitted to a nearby hospital, where they are currently battling for their lives.

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi expressed deep sorrow over the tragedy. In a statement released via the official CMO Odisha X handle, the Chief Minister extended his condolences to the families of the deceased and wished for the speedy recovery of the injured. "I am deeply saddened by the incident in Khan Nagar, Cuttack," the

Continued P-4

Digha Jagannath Temple Controversy: High-Level Meeting in Puri Today



Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : The controversy surrounding the new Jagannath Temple in Digha, West Bengal, has prompted a high-level meeting in Puri today. Chaired by the Chief Administrator of the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA), the meeting aims to resolve concerns about the temple's portrayal as 'Jagannath Dham.' The controversy intensified after claims surfaced that sacred wood from Puri's Nabakalebara ritual was taken to Digha and used in temple construction. This assertion has raised concerns among servitors and religious authorities, prompting Odisha's Law Minister to order an internal inquiry. Renowned sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik has also voiced opposition, appealing to Gajapati Maharaja Dibyasingha Deb to take measures to protect the sanctity of Puri's Jagannath

Temple. Legal and administrative actions against misrepresentation are likely to be considered during the meeting.

Another A complaint has reportedly been filed in the name of Daitapati Nijog secretary Ramakrishna Das Mohapatra at the Singhadwara police station in Puri of Odisha. RTI activist Jayant Kumar Dash from Satya Nagar area of Puri has filed the FIR. In the FIR Dash has alleged that the Daitapati Nijog secretary Dasmohapatra sold the surplus Daru (wood) of Nabakalebara to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee without the permission of the Puri Shrimandira administration. In the online FIR, Dash further mentioned to register a police case against Dasmohapatra under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyay Samhita (BNS). It is to be noted that recently a Lord

Continued P-4

CM Calls for Global Recognition of Indigenous Sports at WAVES 2025

Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi delivered a compelling keynote address today at the prestigious WAVES 2025 - World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit, held at the Jio World Centre in Mumbai. Speaking at the special session titled "Indigenous Sports - From India to the Global Stage," the Chief Minister spotlighted the cultural, social, and global significance of India's traditional sports.

Drawing from his own upbringing in Keonjhar, a tribal-dominated hinterland district of Odisha, the Chief Minister reflected on his early sporting experiences with kabaddi and kho-kho. "These were more than games," he said. "They were expressions of teamwork, resilience, and identity rooted in the soil of our communities." The address underscored Odisha's pioneering role in sports



development, particularly in the realm of indigenous games. Majhi proudly announced that Odisha is the first state in India to establish a dedicated High-Performance Centre for an

indigenous sport i.e. Kho Kho, in collaboration with AM/NS India. This landmark initiative redefines the narrative around traditional sports, recognizing them as professional disciplines

worthy of structured training, infrastructure, and innovation. The Chief Minister also highlighted the success of Odisha Juggernauts, the only state government-owned franchise in the Ultimate Kho Kho League, which won the league's inaugural season in 2022. "It stands as a testament to what focused support and strategic investment can achieve," he added. WAVES 2025 featured an esteemed panel of speakers in the session, including Pro Kabaddi League Commissioner Anupam Goswami, global kabaddi icon Fazel Atrachali, and indigenous sports advocate Sudhanshu Mittal. The discussion explored how India's traditional sports can be taken to international platforms, including the Olympics, with the support of athletes, media, federations, and government. Reaffirming Odisha's commitment, Shri Majhi

Continued P-4

IMD Issues Red Alert for Severe Thunderstorm in Cuttack & Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : The India Meteorological Department's (IMD) Bhubaneswar Centre issued a red alert at 9:00 PM on Saturday, warning of a severe thunderstorm likely to impact parts of Cuttack (including Cuttack city) and Khordha (including Bhubaneswar city) within the next two hours. The storm is expected to bring



hail, gusty winds reaching 60-70 kmph, lightning, and moderate to intense rainfall. The IMD cautioned that the storm may cause damage to thatched huts, minor disruptions to power and communication lines due to falling branches, waterlogging in low-lying areas, and harm to standing crops, banana, papaya

Continued P-4

India bans direct, indirect imports from Pakistan with immediate effect

New Delhi, (HS) : In response to growing tensions with Pakistan, the Indian government has completely banned all imports and transit of goods coming directly or indirectly from Pakistan. This includes all types of goods, whether they are usually allowed for import or not. The decision comes amid escalating tensions between the two nations over the Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people.

Similarly, New Delhi also suspended the exchange of all categories of mail and parcels from Pakistan through air and surface routes. The order suspending the services was issued by the Department of

Posts that operates under the Ministry of Communication. Citing "cross-border linkages" to the horrific attack, India has promised severe punishment to those involved in the strike. The decision to ban imports and transit of goods was made official through a new rule added to the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023. The ban takes effect immediately and will stay in place until the government decides otherwise. The government said the move is necessary for national security and public interest. If any exceptions are needed, they will require special approval from the Indian government. Although the ban sounds major, trade between



India and Pakistan is already very limited. In the current financial year (FY25), India has imported goods worth less than \$0.5 million from Pakistan, while

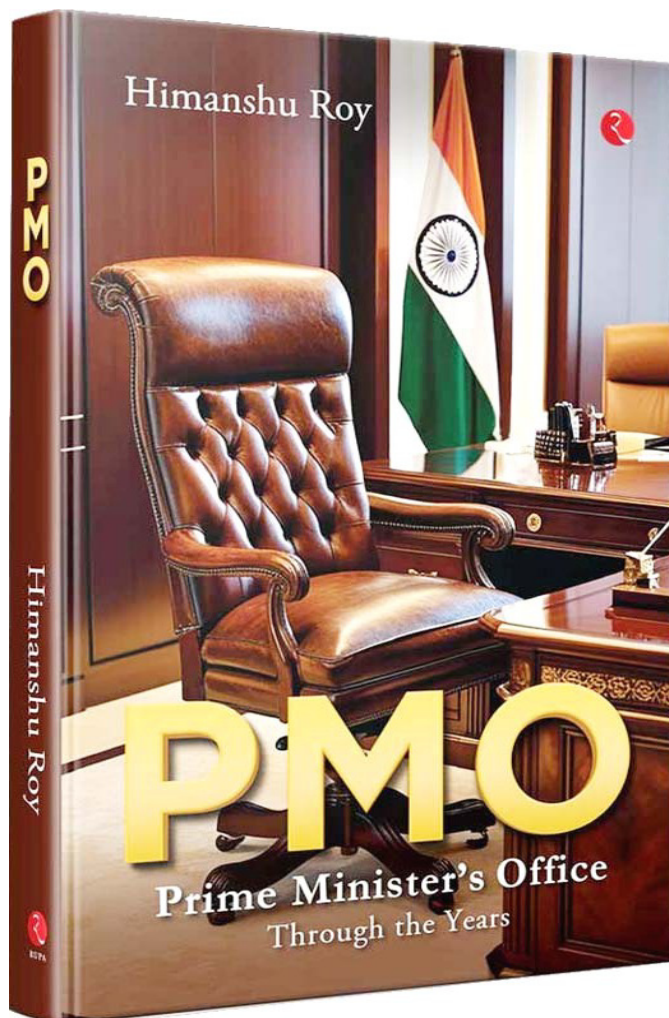
exports to Pakistan were around \$500 million. India had already made Pakistani imports expensive by adding a 200% tariff after the Pulwama attack in

2019, which brought imports down to just \$0.42 million between April 2024 and January 2025. Most of the recent imports were small items like figs, herbs such as basil and rosemary, and Himalayan pink salt. Trade expert Ajay Srivastava from the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said the ban is more symbolic, as India does not rely on Pakistani products. However, he added that Pakistan might still need Indian goods and could continue to get them through third countries using legal or informal channels. This trade ban follows a deadly attack in Pahalgam on Indian tourists, reportedly by terrorists trained in Pakistan. In response, both countries have also

shut their airspace to each other's airlines, further escalating the situation. In the aftermath of the April 22 terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam—which claimed the lives of at least 26 civilians, including a Nepalese tourist and a local pony guide—India has taken a series of decisive actions after links to Pakistan-based terror outfits were established. Citing "sustained cross-border terrorism," India suspended the Indus Waters Treaty, the 1960 water-sharing pact with Pakistan, paving the way to potentially divert or restrict the flow of Indus River waters into Pakistan—a move that could disrupt water access for millions. In addition, India

cancelled all visas issued to Pakistani nationals and ordered those residing in the country to leave, including individuals holding medical visas. Pakistan, in turn, responded with threats to suspend all bilateral agreements with India, including the Simla Agreement. Diplomatic ties between the two nations have since been downgraded, with backchannel dialogue cut off amid rising hostilities.

India has also issued an official NOTAM (Notice to Airmen) barring access to its airspace for all aircraft linked to Pakistan. The restriction applies to Pakistani-registered, operated, or leased aircraft, including both commercial and military flights.



In-depth Exploration of PMO

Bhaskar Parichha

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has consistently sparked discussions, generated curiosity, and attracted scrutiny from a diverse range of stakeholders. Throughout the years, it has transformed into an essential element of India's overarching governance structure, significantly contributing to the improvement of project execution and management across various sectors.

PMO: A Look at the Prime Minister's Office Over Time, authored by Himanshu Roy, offers a fascinating exploration of the evolution and significance of the Prime Minister's Office throughout history. Himanshu Roy is a Political Science Professor at the Centre for Political Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi. Before that, he taught at DeenDayalUpadhyaya College, University of Delhi. From 2019 to 2021, he held the position of AtalBihari Vajpayee Senior Fellow at the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, which is now the Prime Minister's Museum and Library. He was also a Fellow there from 2013 to 2014. He has published a number of works. This book delves into the evolution of the Prime Minister's Office in India, tracing its rise to power from the time the country gained independence. It examines the various political, social, and historical factors that contributed to the

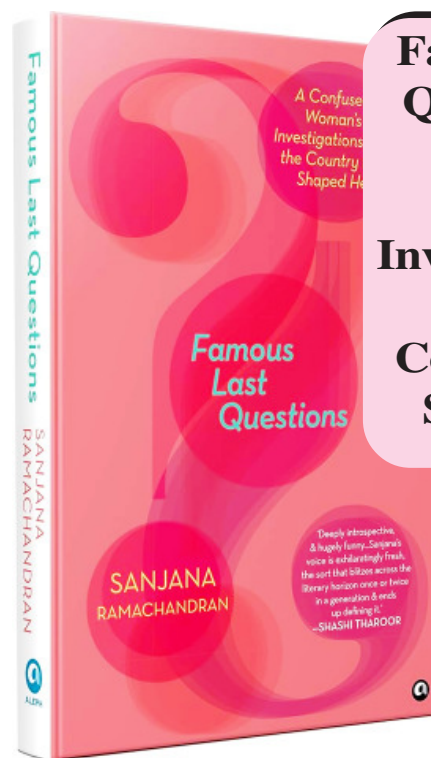
PMO: Prime Minister's Office through the Years

PMO's increasing influence over the years. Through a detailed analysis, the book highlights key events, decisions, and leadership styles that have shaped the PMO's role in governance and policy-making in India.

This book provides an in-depth exploration of the Prime Minister's Office, examining its operational mechanisms, the bureaucratic challenges it faces, and the increasing significance it holds in the political landscape. It uncovers fresh perspectives on the PMO's organizational structure, its historical development, and the factors that have contributed to its transformation over time. Additionally, the book analyzes the impact of different prime ministers, from Jawaharlal Nehru to Narendra Modi, on the PMO, as well as how shifts in the political environment have, in turn, influenced the office's evolution. This book is a crucial resource for both casual readers and academic scholars who are looking to understand the significance of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and its broader influence on governance, political dynamics, and administrative practices in India.

Himanshu Roy
Rupa Publications
New Delhi

Reflecting Our Own stories



Famous Last Questions: A Confused Woman's Investigations into the Country that Shaped Her

her identity, she meticulously examines her childhood traumas, ultimately revealing the socio-political context that contributed to them, all while articulating her thoughts. Driven

Dharma Raj

Sanjana Ramchandran is a Bengaluru-based writer and marketer whose work has appeared in publications like The Caravan, The Print, and VICE. In 2022, she was awarded the South Asia Speaks fellowship for emerging writers. She has also led marketing for consumer goods, media, and tech startups, and holds degrees from the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta, and BITS Pilani, Goa.

This giver her that extra edge to write a book on India's millennial. The work delves into the experiences of India's future kids by combining memoir, journalism, and cultural analysis. It employs intimate narratives to address significant societal questions in India, including: what influences the Indian preference for choosing between 'Science, Arts, or Commerce' when determining their career paths? Why is there societal pressure to marry before the age of 30? What are the consequences for women who do not conform to the ideal of being 'perfect' housewives? Why is there a relentless focus on work? Is belief in God a necessity? In what ways has the internet transformed Indian culture? Can moral principles lead to harmful outcomes, among other inquiries?

Says the book: 'India's '90s kids grew up in an offline world and graduated to one that's hyper-connected and seemingly always on fire. This generation's psyche is riddled with qualms about identity, politics, capitalism, technology, relationships, selfhood, and what it means to live authentically.' Famous Last Questions strikes at the heart of their confusion. The author exhibits a blend of sincerity and irony, demonstrating self-criticism and keen observation, while also delivering sharp humor. In a courageous effort to comprehend

by a desire for healing, validation of her intellect, and the pursuit of love, recognition, and enlightenment, Ramchandran deconstructs the very concept of self. Throughout this exploration, she reflects on dysfunctional family dynamics and her interactions with her distinctly Indian parents, as well as her upbringing as a Tamil Brahmin girl, grappling with the notions of caste, religion, morality, gender, and sexuality that shape and frequently undermine her generation.

Primarily, her understanding of the universal aspect of suffering is noteworthy—examining the dynamics of who suffers publicly and the reasons behind it, as well as the reality that no privilege, whether related to caste, class, gender, or sexuality, can truly evade it. Fearless of disapproval, she candidly addresses millennial narcissism and her own alleged shift from it towards spirituality, authenticity, and self-acceptance. By recounting experiences in Big Tech and moments spent in Vipassana meditation, this book embraces contradictions, offering a sincere narrative of the contemporary Indian woman's challenging journey from the pursuit of achievement to the quest for completeness. Famous Last Questions plays with the boundaries of memoir, reportage, and research, unburdened by the need for absolute answers. The author holds ambiguity closer to heart than any fixed ideal of 'truth', conflating the Buddhist notion of no-self with Hindu and Jungian ideas of a deeper, abiding self, and Gödel's Theorem with the inadequacy of organized world religions.

Ramchandran plays both the hero and the villain in this tale, which really reflects our own stories.

Sanjana Ramchandran
Aleph Book Company
New Delhi

The History Teacher of Lahore: A Novel

Dharma Raj

In this poignant political novel, Tahira Naqvi captures 1980s Lahore, highlighting the struggle between a troubled democracy and the rich cultural legacy of Urdu poetry. A Lahore native, Naqvi is a translator, author, and Clinical Professor at NYU, where she teaches Urdu language and literature. She has translated significant works by Manto, Mastur, Masroor, and much of Chughtai's writing into English. Naqvi is also a fiction writer with two short story collections, Attar of Roses and Other Stories of Pakistan and Dying in a Strange Country. The History Teacher of Lahore is her debut novel.

The plot goes like this :Arif

Political Novel Set in Lahore

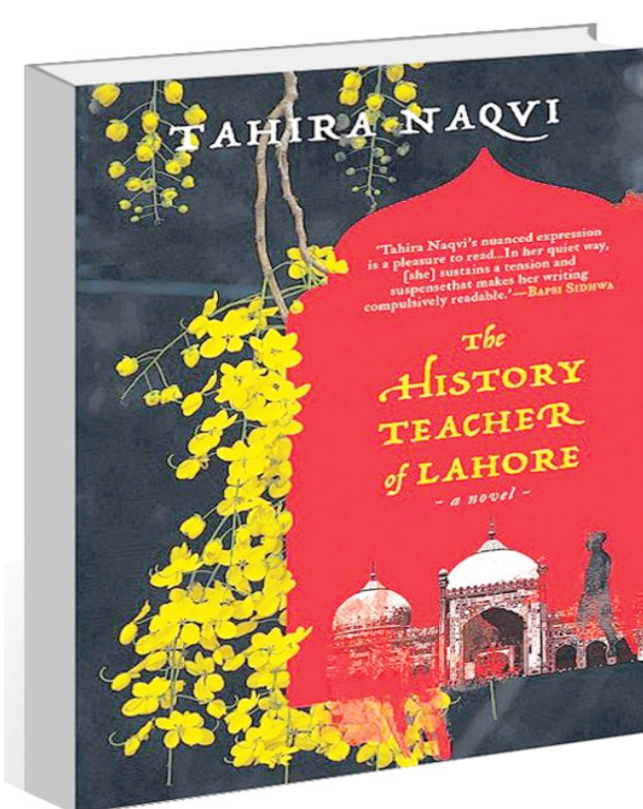
Ali embarks on a journey from Sialkot to Lahore, driven by his aspiration to become a history teacher. Upon arriving in Lahore, his life is dramatically altered by significant events triggered by a General who seizes power through far-right ideologies following the brutal assassination of a Prime Minister. As an educator, he defies the mandate to teach a distorted version of history, and as a poet, he expresses his feelings regarding unreciprocated love and the chaotic political climate. Arif's frustration towards the rising religious intolerance around him leads him to collaborate with Kamal and Nadira in their covert acts of defiance. While he anxiously anticipates the impending storm of sectarian violence resulting from the General's oppressive military regime, he unexpectedly discovers love, a feeling he had only previously envisioned through the

lens of Urdu poetry.

Accompanied by Roohi, Arif discovers his source of inspiration, yet he is filled with profound frustration as he witnesses public punishments, the oppression of minority groups, and the widening societal rift caused by rising fundamentalism. When a student in his class faces false allegations of blasphemy, Arif resolves to rescue him from arrest, embarking on a perilous journey that thrusts him into the heart of sectarian violence. He is ultimately able to rescue the boy and make a safe escape, thus achieving his dream of becoming a history teacher in Lahore.

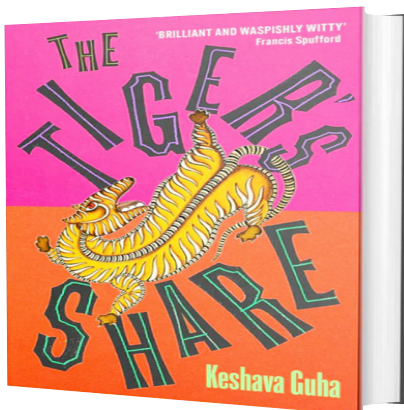
This novel is truly captivating, drawing readers in with a level of intrigue that matches its compelling title.

Tahira Naqvi
Speaking Tiger
New Delhi



A New Genre in Indian Fiction

THE TIGER'S SHARE



Arun Mishra

Set against the backdrop of environmental degradation and political turmoil, The Tiger's Share by Keshava Guha introduces an extraordinary new genre within Indian literature written in English, capturing the essence of contemporary New Delhi. It is a unique family saga and a reflection of the nation's current state.

It thoughtfully explores the unavoidable decisions that arise due to environmental degradation. The story unfolds through the lives of two unforgettable families, portrayed with a careful emotional depth that amplifies the effect of the novel's surprising conclusion. Keshava Guha, originally

from Delhi and brought up in Bangalore, pursued his studies in history and politics at Harvard University, as well as writing at Goldsmiths, University of London. He frequently contributes articles on politics, literature, and sports to various publications. In the novel, the most intense conflicts often arise among siblings. Tara, a prominent lawyer in Delhi, embodies qualities that her younger brother lacks: commitment, self-sufficiency, and success. Upon his retirement, their cherished father calls them for a discussion, but his revelations threaten to fracture their family bonds.

Lila, Tara's friend, appears to have a perfect life: a fulfilling career, a beautiful home, and a wonderful family. However, following the sudden death of Lila's father, her brother quickly asserts his claim over what he believes is rightfully his. Together, Tara and Lila must navigate the obstacles that their aspirations present to the traditional patriarchal structure of Delhi society.

Keshava Guha
Hachette India
Gurugram

The Diamond-Encrusted Rat Trap

Bhaskar Parichha

Adil Jussawalla, the Mumbai poet and critic, attended Cathedral and John Connon School. He lived in England from 1957 to 1970, where he studied architecture at the Architectural Association School, earned a master's in English from Oxford, and taught at a language school. Upon returning to Mumbai, he became a lecturer in English literature at St. Xavier's College and worked as book review editor for The Indian Express, literary editor for The Express Magazine, and editor for Debonair. He co-founded Clearing

A Remarkable Anthology on Mumbai

House, a cooperative for publishing poets. Jussawalla has published three poetry collections: Land's End, Missing Person, and Trying to Say Goodbye, which won the SahityaAkademi Award.

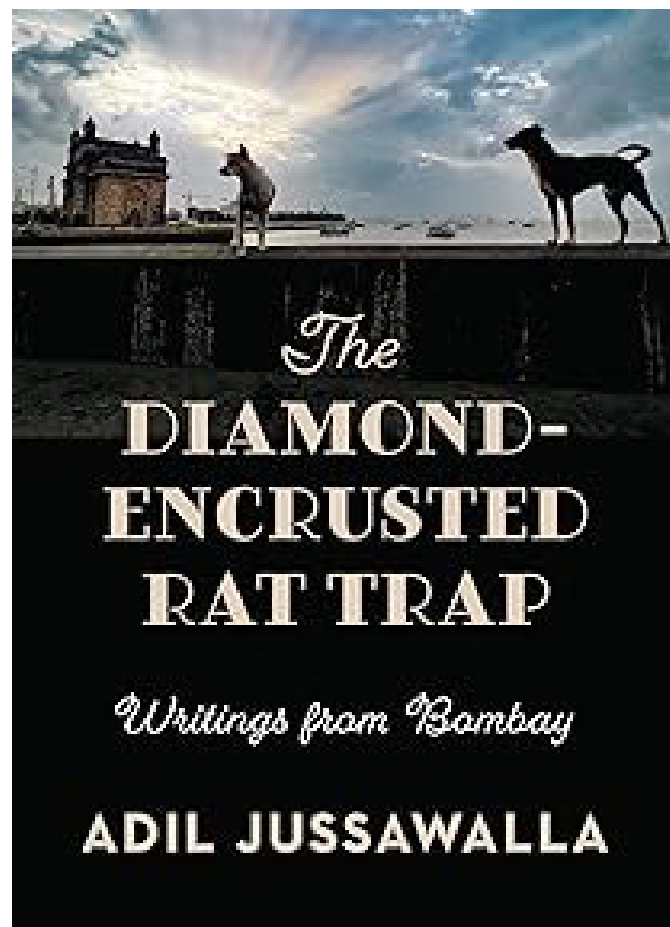
Given these credentials, Jussawalla's works consistently capture attention. At the age of seventeen, in 1957, Adil Jussawalla departed from Bombay to London in pursuit of a more vibrant and grand existence. Thirteen years later, he returned to his birthplace, marking the start of a complex and poignant relationship with the city. This great metropolis became a significant influence in his poetry and prose, and he emerged as a vital and unique figure within its literary scene. This book compiles Jussawalla's prose writings about Bombay-Mumbai, created

between 1980 and 2002. As Jerry Pinto notes in the introduction, 'His city' is characterized by serendipitous encounters, jovial lift operators, departed companions, and other specters, with his reflections revealing its 'vastness and peculiarity', as well as its 'absent-minded cruelty and occasional absent-minded kindness'. Jussawalla writes about Gukulashtami pot-breakers and drummers who take over the streets, and sewage workers in deep pits whom no one notices; about a young woman who drowned herself in the sea, and pilots who would wave to weekend crowds on the beach from the Tiger-Moths that once lifted off the Juhu aerodrome. He depicts the grand narrative of the monsoon, vessels and dhow upon the shimmering Arabian Sea, the displaced individuals and

opportunistic property developers, withered flowers and irate parrots on his balcony, a wall of literature concealing a bookstore, a sledgehammer poised against a dilapidated structure, and a diamond-studded rat trap within a wealthy woman's assortment of jewelry and antiques.

In this remarkable anthology—personal, knowledgeable, and devoid of both hopelessness and superficial praise—Jussawalla offers his city the highest form of respect: focused and discerning observation.

Adil Jussawalla
Speaking Tiger
New Delhi



Odisha Guv Advocates For Green Energy To Combat Pollution & Promote Sustainability

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): Odisha Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati has called for the adoption of renewable energy to reduce pollution, protect the environment, and conserve foreign exchange by decreasing reliance on imported crude oil. During a discussion with media representatives on Saturday at Raj Bhavan's New Abhishek Hall, the Governor emphasized transitioning from traditional energy sources to sustainable alternatives.

Since assuming the role of Odisha's Governor, Kambhampati has spearheaded transformative energy initiatives at Raj Bhavan in Bhubaneswar. A 150-kilowatt solar power plant is already operational on the premises, with an additional 400-kilowatt plant set to be installed soon. These steps aim to transform Raj Bhavan into a net-zero energy campus. To further the green mission, electric two-wheelers and official cars manufactured in India have been introduced, promoting sustainable mobility and signaling



a commitment to cleaner travel. The Governor highlighted that such measures underscore the urgent need for eco-friendly practices. Raj Bhavan's efforts not only set an example for government institutions nationwide but also demonstrate that change begins at the top. He also shed light on several central government schemes promoting renewable energy, including the PM KUSUM scheme, which supports farmers in installing solar-powered pump sets for irrigation, and the PM Suryaghar Free Electricity Scheme, which provides subsidies for rooftop solar panel installations. Under these schemes, the Central

government offers subsidies of ₹30,000 per kilowatt for the first and second kilowatts and ₹18,000 for the third kilowatt, up to a 3-kilowatt capacity. The Odisha government has supplemented this with additional subsidies of 25,000 per kilowatt for the first and second kilowatts and ₹10,000 for the third, totaling up to ₹1.38 lakh for a 3-kilowatt solar system. The Governor praised Odisha's proactive steps to expand these schemes and encouraged residents to adopt renewable energy for personal and environmental benefits. Kambhampati also urged the public to abandon petrol and diesel vehicles in favour of electric alternatives, noting that such a

shift would reduce pollution and reliance on fossil fuels. He emphasized that installing rooftop solar panels to charge electric vehicles could eliminate the need for fossil fuels, enabling truly green mobility and making daily travel more cost-effective. The Governor stressed that the time to act is now, with these initiatives aimed at empowering people and building a sustainable future for future generations.

The media interaction sought to raise widespread awareness about renewable energy adoption, with a call to the press to amplify this message across every household in Odisha. Notably, Kambhampati's advocacy for renewable energy dates back to 2014 when, as a Member of Parliament, he strongly supported sustainable energy solutions in his first parliamentary speech. He endorsed the central budget presented by then-Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, advocating for reduced dependence on imported crude oil, promoting

ethanol-blended fuels and electric vehicles, and introducing tax incentives for electric vehicles. He also called for replacing diesel generators with solar alternatives to enhance domestic power systems, reduce fiscal deficits, and conserve foreign exchange. His forward-thinking remarks reflected a deep understanding of the interplay between energy policy, economic stability, and environmental responsibility, a vision he continues to uphold as Odisha's Governor.

The event was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo, who praised Raj Bhavan's green initiatives and outlined the state government's efforts to promote renewable energy. Vishal Kumar Dev, Principal Secretary of the Energy Department, detailed various central and state programs, schemes, and subsidies aimed at expanding renewable energy use. The Governor's Principal Secretary, NDS Rajput, along with Raj Bhavan officials and media representatives, were also present.

Padma Shri Awardee Prof. Ashok Mahapatra calls on SOA Founder President

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): Padma Shri awardee and eminent neurosurgeon Prof. (Dr.) Ashok Kumar Mahapatra called on Prof. (Dr.) Manojranjan Nayak, Founder President of Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA) and held discussion on Saturday. The meeting took place following Prof. (Dr.) Mahapatra's recent national recognition for his outstanding contributions in the field of medical science.

On April 28, Prof. (Dr.) Mahapatra was conferred with the prestigious Padma Shri award by the President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, at a special ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.



A distinguished neurosurgeon of international repute, Prof. (Dr.) Mahapatra has served as the former Vice-Chancellor of SOA and currently holds the position of Chief Advisor (Health Sciences) in the university. Previously, he held the position of Head of the Department of Neurosurgery at AIIMS, New Delhi, and was also the first Director of AIIMS Bhubaneswar. His exemplary work has earned him a place among the top five neurosurgeons globally. During the meeting, Prof. (Dr.) Mahapatra discussed various aspects of SOA's growth, development strategies, and academic initiatives. Prof. (Dr.) Nayak extended his heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to Prof. (Dr.) Mahapatra on being conferred the Padma Shri.

Powering Faith and Festivities: TPCODL's Unwavering Support for Rath Yatra 2025

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL), a joint venture of Tata Power and the Government of Odisha, is once again stepping up to ensure an uninterrupted and reliable power supply during the much-revered Rath Yatra in Puri.

With an installed capacity of 170 MVA to meet an anticipated peak load of 74 MW in Puri Town during the grand festival, TPCODL is committed to making this sacred event a smooth and safe experience for all devotees. In preparation for the event, TPCODL has installed 4 numbers of 12.5/16 MVA Power Transformers (PTRs) strengthening the local network and ensuring robust load management. This will ensure N-



2 redundancy, allowing for dependable and continuous power flow throughout the festivities. The entire network shall be monitored round the clock by state-of-art Power Distribution Technology Centre at Bhubaneswar. A workforce of more than 700 trained professionals will also be deployed across the town to monitor and maintain the network 24/7.

Thorough preventive maintenance activities have been conducted on 33/11 KV Primary Substations, High Tension (HT) and Low Tension (LT) switchgear systems, overhead lines and underground cables. Advanced equipment such as mobile transformers, fault locators, cranes, man lifters and spare

transformers have been mobilized to ensure rapid response to any situation. Prioritizing public safety, TPCODL has conducted extensive leakage current inspections, installed fire extinguishers across substations and offices, applied insulating paints to prevent electric shocks and secured distribution transformers with protective fencing.

Arvind Singh, CEO, TPCODL, emphasized the company's heartfelt commitment: "The Rath Yatra is not just a festival - it is an emotion that unites millions. We take immense pride in playing our part in ensuring the city stays energized and safe. Our teams have worked tirelessly and we stand fully committed to supporting the spiritual and cultural spirit of this magnificent event."

Inter-State NEET-UG Admission Fraud Racket Busted In Bhubaneswar Ahead of Exam

Bhubaneswar, (H.S): Just a day before the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) UG 2025, scheduled for May 4, Commissionerate Police in Bhubaneswar arrested four members of an inter-state fraud syndicate involved in deceiving medical aspirants.

The arrests, made by the Special Crime Unit, targeted a group promising fake admissions to private medical colleges in Odisha. Commissioner of Police S. Dev Datta Singh revealed that the accused included one individual each from Jharkhand and Bihar, and two from Odisha. The fraudsters lured NEET aspirants with false assurances of securing seats in private medical colleges in exchange for



large sums of money. Their scheme also involved offering to arrange dummy candidates to take the NEET UG exam on behalf of the aspirants. During the operation, police seized bank cheques worth 90 lakh and a blank bank cheque from the accused. Authorities are now investigating the extent of the scam, including the number of

students potentially defrauded and the methods used to bypass NEET's stringent exam protocols. The NEET UG 2025 exam is set to take place nationwide on Sunday, May 4, from 2 PM to 5 PM in a single shift. Police have intensified efforts to ensure the integrity of the examination process in light of this incident.

Earth's temperature may rise by 2.7 degrees C if there is no reduction in GHG: Researcher

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): If generation of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) is not reduced urgently, the earth's temperature may rise by 2.7 degrees C by the turn of current century, an eminent meteorologist and researcher has said. As per available indications, GHG emission had increased by 47 per cent and carbon dioxide by 80 per cent between 1990 and 2020, Dr. Sarat Chandra Sahu, Director of the Centre for Environment and Climate (CEC) of the Siksha 'O' Anusandhan Deemed to be University (SOA), said.

Quoting the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), Dr. Sahu said the Paris Agreement on climate change adopted in 2015 aimed to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees C, but the temperature is expected to go beyond that level, Dr. Sahu said while speaking at a two-day 'International Workshop on Water, Waste Management and Climate Change' organised by CEC in collaboration with Rivers of the World (ROW) of USA here recently.

Dr Sahu said carbon dioxide in the environment had increased by 149 per cent compared to the pre-industrial level which has major negative repercussions for humans and the well being of planet earth and future generations. While carbon dioxide available in the environment was 400 parts per million (ppm) in 2015, it had increased to 413.2 ppm in 2020 and the level of methane and nitrous oxide had increased by a whopping 262 per cent and 123 per cent respectively against existing levels in 1750 when



human activities started disrupting the earth's natural equilibrium, Dr. Sahu said. WMO had noted that the earth experienced comparable concentration of carbon dioxide about 3 to 5 million years ago when the temperature increased by 2 to 3 degrees C but there weren't 7.8 billion people in the world then underlining how dangerous the current GHG concentration could prove to be for humanity, he said. "Compared to latest findings by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the temperature may rise by 2.7 degrees C by end of the century if increase of GHG was not reduced quickly," he said. The workshop was also addressed by

Mr. Subijoy Dutta of ROW, Dr. Bala Prasad of Andhra University, Visakhapatnam, Prof. Anup Kumar Samantaray, Pro-Vice Chancellor of SOA and Prof. Anil Kumar Kar of the Department of Civil Engineering of V.S.S. University of Engineering.

Dr. Sahu, who is former Director of Indian Meteorological Department at Bhubaneswar, was speaking on the subject 'Role of Aerosols on Climate Change and Early Warning Systems'. He said that the positive links between airborne particulate matter concentration and a wide range of adverse health effects had been a growing concern in recent years calling for improvement of air quality. Aerosols, which are

tiny particles, are produced by human activity, industrial effluent, volcanic eruptions, forest fires and natural phenomenon, he said. "The air we breathe contains aerosols always, produced through natural and anthropogenic processes, which are toxic for the human body,"

Dr. Sahu said adding aerosols played a significant role in climate change. "Increase in air pollution by power plants, construction and other activity cause rise in aerosols which can affect cloud formation, cause formation of thick cloud leading to decrease in temperature," he said.

Police raid duplicate detergent making factory in Cuttack, 5 detained

Cuttack, (DMC): Police conducted a raid and seized adulterated detergent powder in Andei sahi area of Cuttack's Jagatpur. The set up to manufacture duplicate detergent was being conducted at a rented house in the area. The police seized lakhs of duplicate detergents packets ready to be sold in the markets. Additionally, raw materials, chemicals, machines were seized by the Jagatpur police. The property was worth Rs 50 lakh estimated the officials. The factory has been sealed. As many as five including the owners of the company are being questioned. One of the owners has a past record of supplying duplicate products in Tangi police station informed the raiding officials.

AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit before Executive Magistrate, Bhubaneswar, on 01.05.2025, I, **Prakash Kumar Mallick**, about 34yrs, S/o.: Bhimasen Mallick, resident of At: Raniola, P.O.: Kasarda, P.S.: Niali, Dist.: Cuttack-754105, Odisha, have changed my minor son's name from Sworab Kumar Mallick (old name) to **Sourava Kumar Mallick (new name)**. Sworab Kumar Mallick & Sourava Kumar Mallick is one and same person. Henceforth, my son will be known as **Sourava Kumar Mallick** for all purposes.


MP, Mrs. Aparajita Sarangi Inaugurates Multipurpose Halls at Khordha



Khordha, (DMC): Two newly constructed multipurpose halls, one at Sriramnagar (Ward No.12) & another at Gandhipadia (Ward No. 5) under Khordha municipality

were formally inaugurated by MP, Mrs. Aparajita Sarangi & MLA, Khordha, Prasanta Jagdev here today. The event was graced by the presence of the Chairman Khordha Municipality, Mrs. Kanaka Lakshmi Mohanty, Vice Chairman, Sourya Ranjan Mohanty & all the councillors of Khordha Municipality. On this occasions a public meeting was organized at Gandhipadia, Ward No-5. Chairman Khordha Municipality Mrs. Mohant presided over the meeting. MP, Mrs. Sarangi attended the event as the Chief Guest, while the MLA, Mr. Jagdev joined as the Guest of Honour.

The Executive Officer Khordha Municipality, Mrs. Rizwana Kawkab welcomed all dignitaries & guests and delivered the inaugural speech. MLA, Khordha, Mr. Jagdev highlighted various upcoming development projects planned for Khordha & urged the public to extend their cooperation in realizing the vision of a "Dream Khordha." MP, Mrs. Sarangi emphasized the importance of girls' education & called for unity in development efforts beyond political affiliations, stating that "Development has no party." The meeting witnessed the participation of 700 residents and concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks delivered by the Vice Chairman of Khordha Municipality.



Government of Odisha
Information & Public Relations Department
Lok Sampark Bhawan, Bhubaneswar

No. **7648** / I&PR, Bhubaneswar, Dated: **3/5/2025**
(IPR-PM-MISC-0038-2025)
Quotation for designing and printing of Booklets, Brochures, Leaflets, News paper art work, Adaptation charges for hoarding art work of I&PR Deptt.

1. **Director, I&PR Department, Govt. of Odisha (The Client)** invite sealed quotations from the reputed registered firms for designing and printing of Booklets, Brochures, Leaflets, News paper art work, Adaptation charges for hoarding art work.

2. Detailed about scope of work eligibility requirements and other details may be seen from the website of I&PR Department www.inpr.odisha.gov.in / website of Odisha Govt. <http://www.odisha.gov.in>. The detail document may be downloaded from the said website of I&PR Department/ website of Govt. Odisha.

3. Last date for receipt of sealed quotations on dtd. **13.05.2025 at 05.00 PM.**

4. Date for opening of sealed quotations on dtd. **14.05.2025 at 11.00 AM** in the Office of the Director, I&PR, Lok Sampark Bhawan, Unit-V, Bhubaneswar Pin- 751001.

OIPR-15001/11/0635/2526

Director, I&PR

Paradip Port Authority celebrates excellence at Annual Awards Nite 2025 & Stakeholders meet

Paradip, (DMC): Paradip Port Authority (PPA) hosted its prestigious Annual Awards Nite 2025 & Stakeholders' meet, a dazzling event on 2nd May evening, dedicated to recognise and celebrate the outstanding achievement and contributions various stakeholders who have played a pivotal role in the Port's success over the past fiscal year.

The event held at the Mayfair Convention in Bhubaneswar brought together key figures from the maritime sector including Exporters, importers, Officers, Staff unions, PPP Operators, Stevedores, Shipping agents, Railways, Customs and State Govt officials. In his address, Chairman of Paradip Port Authority, Shri P.L. Haranadh, lauded the collective efforts and dedication



of the entire Paradip Port fraternity. He emphasize the port's remarkable performance, highlighting its continued reign as the No.1 Cargo Handling Port among Indian Major ports for the 2nd consecutive year. He proudly announced that Paradip Port had entered the exclusive 150

MMT Clock, achieving an impressive 150.41 MMT in Cargo throughput for the FY 2024-25. Despite facing market headwinds, including a decline in export demand for Iron Ore and Coking coal, PPA showcased its resilience and emerged as the top performer among all major and

non-major ports on India's eastern coast. Looking ahead, the Chairman outlined key projects that will expand the port's capacity and capabilities, including the Western Dock project, which will enable the port to handle fully laden cape vessels by 2026, pushing its capacity beyond 300 million metric tonnes.

Paradip Port also aims to achieve 100% berth mechanization by 2030, further solidifying its leadership in Port infrastructure. In a visionary move towards sustainability, the port is set to become a national hub for green hydrogen and ammonia with a dedicated berth, aligning with India's green energy ambitions. Shri Haranadh reiterated PPA's commitment to continuous improvement, innovation and collaborative

growth. He extended his heartfelt gratitude to all stakeholders, officers, staff, unions, and partners for their unwavering support and emphasize the port's pivotal role in driving, economic growth in the region and the nation.

The Awards Night 2025 was a celebration of these milestones, honoring the collective efforts of all those involved in Paradip Port's growth saga. As Paradip Port looks to the future, its commitment to operational excellence, sustainability, and innovation remains stronger than ever, ensuring it continues to set new benchmarks in the maritime sector. Shri Nilabhra Dasgupta, Dy. Chairman, PPA delivered the vote of thanks, concluding the evening on high note of camaraderie and shared vision.

Saipriya Nagar to Host Chaitra Parba Celebrations of Maa Majhi Ghoriani

Rayagada, (DMC): The Saipriya Nagar Majhi Ghoriani Puja Committee is organizing a five-day Chaitra Parba celebration in honor of Maa Majhi Ghoriani, starting from today. The festivities will take place from the 3rd to the 7th of this month in Saipriya Nagar. During the celebration, various colorful programs will be held, and local residents will participate in the events. The puja ceremonies will be conducted with great devotion and enthusiasm. The puja committee, led by President Chinara Rao and Treasurer Babuji, along with key members Gouri Shankar Patnaik, Rajendra Prasad, N. Ramakrishna, Rama Rao, and Satya Narayan, will oversee the successful execution of the event. The community is invited to participate in the celebrations and experience the rich cultural heritage of the region.



Student Commits suicide over low marks in Matric Exam

Keonjhar, (DMC): In a shocking incident a 14 years old girl student allegedly killed self after got low marks in the Matric board examination. The incident took place in Shankarpur village under Champua police station of Keonjhar district. Police seized the dead body hanging in her scarp from the roof inside the house on Saturday morning. As a result, a mournful atmosphere has been created in the said village. The student's name is Truptimayee Mohanta. According to the sources she was studying in Naradapur High School and had given the matriculation examination this year. The matriculation examination results were out yesterday. She passed the examination with 253 marks, but due to low marks she was under stress. It is said that she committed suicide on Friday night due to mental stress as she scored less marks than her other classmates.

Police of Champua police station after receiving information went to the village in this morning and recovered her hanging body, performed an autopsy and handed it over to her family. Sources said that after the examination results were out yesterday, she has talked to other tuition mates on the phone to know the results. She was under mental stress knowing that she had low marks while other students had good marks. At night, she slept with her younger sister like the others after having dinner. In the morning her grandfather found his body hanging and family members immediately informed the police. The police have learned that he died by hanging himself from a wood in the room of their 'Khapar' thatched house where she was sleeping. As her father Kamalakanta Mohanta had been suffering from an illness for some years and could not move, so her grandfather Sudarshan Mohanta had filed a complaint at the police station. IIC of Champua police station, Debaki Nayak said that "after receiving the information, a case of unnatural death was registered and an autopsy was conducted and the body was handed over to the family and the investigation is ongoing. Preliminary investigation has revealed that he committed suicide because he scored lower marks than other tuition students". She was the eldest child of Kamalakanta Mohanta. Gurubux Singh Ahluwalia, a social activist of Champua said "as they are from poor families, in depression the girl has taken such type decisions. We urge the administration to provide assistance to the poor family."

MCL celebrates Miners Day with grandeur Coal Miners are pillar of India's energy security, economic growth: Shri Uday Anant Kaole, CMD, MCL

Talcher, (DMC): Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) marked Miners Day with grandeur and heartfelt tributes, honouring the tireless efforts of coal miners who continue to fuel the nation's progress. The celebrations were held at the Lakhanpur Area in Jharsuguda district on May 1, drawing participation from the company's top leadership and stakeholders.

Shri Uday Anant Kaole, Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD), participated in the celebrations along with Functional Directors Shri Keshav Rao, Director (HR), Shri JK Borah (Technical/Operations), Shri AK Behura (Finance) and Chief Vigilance Officer Shri PK Patel. Members of the Joint Consultative Committee (Apex) were also present on the dais, reflecting the inclusive spirit of



the event. In his address, Shri Kaole congratulated Team MCL for its record-breaking performance in coal production, despatch and overburden (OB) removal in the fiscal year 2024-25. "With your unwavering dedication, MCL has emerged as the leading coal producer in the country. We are proud to be the only company to cross the 200 million tonne milestone in both coal production and despatch," he said, attributing the success to the

relentless hardwork of coal miners. The CMD also lauded the Indian Railways for its support, enabling MCL to despatch a record 210 million tonnes of coal to consumers-marking a 15% growth in coal transportation through rail mode. "This achievement would not have been possible without the excellent coordination and support from the Railways," Shri Kaole added. "For the first time, we at MCL are regulating coal

production and focusing on quality and efficient despatch to consumers, as we alone have a coal stock of 36 million tonnes," he informed. With coal production stabilised, the company is now accelerating its diversification initiatives. "We are actively pursuing projects in solar, wind, ammonium nitrate and thermal power generation, aligning with future needs," Shri Kaole said. Emphasising MCL's role as the largest CSR contributor in Odisha,

the CMD reiterated the company's commitment in building sustainable social infrastructure for the benefit of the state's communities. On this occasion, the dignitaries gave away awards of excellence to the best performing Area and Projects of the company, employees for their outstanding performance during financial year 2024-25.

Integrated Lilari-Belpahar-Lakhanpur (LBL) Opencast project, Lakhanpur Area stood as the best performing opencast project, Hiraakud-Bundia underground mines, Orient Area won the best performing underground project. Lakhanpur Area was awarded with the coveted Malpuri Trophy for Best Area in overall performance. A total of 87 prizes in various categories, including individual prizes, were given away to employees and contractor's workers.

Hon'ble Union Minister for Urban Development & Housing Department's Departmental Review at Circuit House, Puri

Puri, (DMC): Hon'ble Union Minister for Housing and Urban Development Shri Tokhan Sahu and State Housing and Urban Development Minister Krishna Chandra Mohapatra attended the meeting.

He reviewed the functioning of the three departments. The meeting was attended by C.P.W.D., Hood, N.B.C.C. Chief engineers and chief officers from Bhubaneswar and Puri of the department attended the meeting. The Union Minister told the chief officers of the three departments that any public works that have been allowed to be done should be completed on time. He said that the department that works in Puri will be fortunate. This is



our double engine government, so working in coordination with both the Centre and the states will be beneficial. Shri Krishna Chandra Mohapatra, Housing Minister of the State Government said that this is a developed Odisha and a developed India, every officer in Puri has been asked to work properly and complete the work on time. The meeting was

attended by Zilla Parishad Development Officer Shri Priyaranjan Prusty, Additional Zila Parishad Development Officer, Puri Municipal Corporation Officer Reshmi Mohanty, General Manager of HUDCO, senior officers of C.P.W.D. Executive Engineer Department and Sub-Divisional Information and Public Health Officer Pradipta Kumar Senapati.

National Seminar on Effective Implementation of Official Language Hindi organised at Mahanadi Coalfields Limited HQs

Angul, (DMC): A one-day national level seminar-cum-function on the topic "Effective Implementation of Official Language Hindi: Challenges and Solutions" was successfully organized by Mahanadi Coalfields Limited, under the aegis of City Official Language Implementation Committee, Sambalpur at the company headquarters on 28th April 2025.

Shri Uday Anant Kaole, Chairman cum Managing Director, in his inspirational address, called upon all the officers and employees to make continuous efforts to make Hindi a simple and effective language for office work.

Describing the official language Hindi as a symbol of unity and harmony of the country, he laid special emphasis on its wide publicity and practical use. The programme was inaugurated by lighting of the lamp by Smt. Aastha Jain, Joint Director (Official Language), Ministry of Coal, Government of India and the guests present. In her inaugural address, Smt. Jain highlighted the growing importance of Official



Language Hindi and presented important suggestions for its effective implementation and practical challenges. On this occasion, Shri Vichitrasen Gupta, Deputy Director (Implementation), Regional Implementation Office (East), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India also expressed his views and emphasized on the strong use of Hindi in government offices.

The logo of NARAKAS, Sambalpur was released by the Chairman, City Official Language Implementation Committee, Sambalpur. In the seminar, Subject experts delivered insightful sessions on

various aspects of Official Language Hindi. Dialogue sessions, cultural presentations and interesting activities were also organized to increase participation, which were appreciated with great enthusiasm by the participants.

More than 150 participants from all over the country participated actively in the programme and shared their experiences. The Official Language Department, MCL expressed gratitude to all the guests and participants and hoped that such events would play an important role in the promotion and empowerment of the Hindi language.

From Page- 1

Cuttack Bridge...

statement read. "My thoughts are with the bereaved families, and I pray for the swift recovery of those injured." In response to the accident, CM Majhi announced financial assistance of 5 lakh for the families of each deceased worker, to be disbursed from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF). Additionally, the Chief Minister directed authorities to ensure free medical treatment for the injured workers, emphasising the state's commitment to their recovery. The incident has also prompted the Chief Minister to order a thorough investigation into the cause of the crane collapse.

Omar Abdullah Meets...

houses belonging to Adil Hussain Thokar and Asif Sheikh were demolished in the Tral and Bijbehara areas. Both these terrorists were part of the LeT terrorist group involved in the Pahalgam killings. Security forces have so far demolished the houses of 10 terrorists, who are reportedly still active in the Kashmir Valley. On Monday, the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly unanimously condemned the dastardly terrorist attack and passed a resolution on this. A massive crackdown with all technical resources is still going on in the south Kashmir mountains to hunt down the Pahalgam terror attack culprits.

CM Calls for...

stated, "We will continue to work with the Government of India and global federations to ensure that indigenous sports get their rightful place on the world stage. As we say in Odisha-Khela re sanskruti achhi, sanskruti re asmita achhi. (In our games lies our culture, and in our culture lies our identity)." The Government of Odisha continues to lead by example in integrating sports with youth empowerment, social development, and cultural preservation. WAVES 2025 marks another significant milestone in that journey.

IMD Issues Red...

trees, and orchards. Residents are urged to seek shelter in solid buildings and avoid taking cover under trees or near electric poles and wires. The IMD also advised suspending farming operations during the storm to ensure safety. Authorities and residents are on high alert as the region braces for potentially hazardous weather conditions.

Red warning has been issued to 18 districts including coastal districts of Odisha for heavy rain due to the effect of Kalabaisakhi. The regional MeT centre said that as many as 18 districts have been issued red alert for rain and heavy wind speed today that will happened due to the effect of the Norwester. Similarly, a red warning has been issued for only Cuttack and Khordha district for coming 2 hours for heavy rain, thunderstorm and wind speed ranging from 60 to 70 km per hour.

Digha Jagannath...

Jagannath temple has been established in Digha of West Bengal. The Daitapati Nijog Secretary Ramkrushna Dasmohapatra attended the inauguration. He said that he got an invitation from WB CM Mamata Banerjee and thus had visited the Digha temple. Further, as per reports, Dasmohapatra said that he had provided the surplus wood (Daru) of Nabakalebara of the deities of Puri Srimandira to be used in the making of the deities for the Digha temple. However, later he denied that he had not stated this. And today a police complaint has been filed in his name by an RTI activist.

Australia's PM Anthony...

There will be 150 seats in the next parliament due to redistributions. A loss of more than two seats could force Labor to attempt to form a minority government with the support of unaligned lawmakers. There was a minority government after the 2010 election, and the last one before that was during World War II. The last time neither party won a majority, it took 17 days after the polls closed before key independent lawmakers announced they would support a Labor administration.

One Bull dead by Consuming Contaminated food at Collectriate ground

Jagatsinghpur, (DMC): Due to negligence of Collectriate authority Collectriate ground became dumping yard of waste materials. Yester day evening one Bull died at Collectriate ground and two injured by consuming waste and polluted food materials dumped there by near by Hotels. One Bull died immediately and two no of Bull became ill. Being informed Veterinary department Doctor arrived there and started treatment. It is sad onic that no body taking care of Collectriate ground and irresponsible Hotel staff and Shop keepers using the ground as dumping yard. The death of a Bull at Collectriate ground by consuming poisonous food condemned by intellectuals.

Parsuram Idol Installed at Mahendragiri

Paralakhemundi, (DMC): At Mahendragiri hills of Gajapati district, Lord Parsuram's idol installed. 9 feet height statue attracted devotees & saints far & near. Swami Bhaskar Tirtha (Laxmi Baba), Swami Lokeshwarnanda Tirtha from Mumbai, Swami Kaibalyananda Tirtha from Puri, Swami Akhiananda Tirtha from Brahmapur with activists Sahadeb Pradhan & veteran leader Antaryami Gomango were present on this occasion.

Shame as Teacher : Drowned Girl Student Relationship : Whisked Away from Scene

Paralakhemundi, (DMC): Under Garabandha police limits a shameful incident occurred where a complain against a teacher registered in Garabandha Police Station. Afraid on arrest that teacher whisked away who misbehaved a girl student. In a high school with a 10th class student that teacher built illicit relationship. Victim's family complained before Collector Gajapati. By the instruction of Collector led by Sub Collector a team started investigation. Case (27/25) registered at Garabandha Police Station, said Prasant Kumar Nisika.



CRPF dismisses jawan for hiding marriage to Pakistani woman, aiding visa overstay



New Delhi, (H.S) : The Central Reserve Police Force has dismissed from service its jawan Munir Ahmed for "concealing" his marriage with a Pakistani woman as his action was found to be detrimental to national security, official sources said Saturday. A statement issued by the CRPF said, "In a matter of serious concern, CT/GD Munir Ahmed of the 41st Battalion of CRPF has been dismissed from service with immediate effect for concealing his marriage to a Pakistani national and knowingly harbouring her beyond the validity of her visa. His actions were found to be in violation of service conduct and detrimental to national security." The jawan was last posted with the 41st battalion of paramilitary CRPF, the lead internal security force of the country. Ahmed's marriage with the Pakistani woman came to light after India asked Pakistani nationals to leave the country as part of diplomatic measures taken in the wake of the Pahalgam terrorist attack in which 26 persons were killed. According to officials, Munir had sought permission from the CRPF in 2023 to marry Minal Khan, a woman from Sialkot, Pakistan. However, he went ahead and married her via video conferencing on May 24, 2024, before the force could respond to his request. After the marriage, Minal arrived in India on a visiting visa and began living with Munir. She continued to stay in the country even after her visa had expired. Following the cancellation of all Pakistani visas-except long-term and diplomatic ones-she was sent from Jammu to the Attari border to leave India. In the meantime, the CRPF jawan approached the Jammu and Kashmir High Court. The court granted her temporary relief from deportation for 10 days in an interim order, pending further hearings in the matter.

6 dead, over 15 injured in stampede at temple in Goa

Bicholim, (H.S) : At least six people died and over 15 were injured in a stampede at the Lairai Devi temple in Shirgaon, police said on Saturday. According to North Goa Superintendent of Police (SP) Akshat Kaushal, 6 dead and more than 15 were injured in a stampede that occurred at the Lairai Devi temple in Shirgaon, Goa. Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant expressed sadness over the tragedy and said that he is personally monitoring the situation.

'70,000 people, an electric shock': What led to deadly stampede at Goa temple?



President of the Lairai Devi temple and an advocate, said the chaos may have started when one devotee touched a light bulb with his cane stick, got an electric shock, and fell onto others nearby, according to a news agency ANI report.

Gaonkar said around 50,000 to 70,000 devotees were at the temple at the time of the incident. "Around 50,000 to 70,000 Dhonds (followers of Lairai Devi) were here at the Zatra... People in the crowd were pushing each other to get ahead in the crowd... Many of us villagers tried to stop them and resolve the issue. But these people were just not ready to listen to us. During this, some people went to a shop here, during which one person's beth (cane stick) touched a bulb, and he suffered an electric shock. He fell on other people, and that's how the stampede started....," ANI quoted Dinanath Gaonkar as saying.

North Goa Superintendent of Police (SP) Akshat Kaushal said that they are still looking into what exactly caused the incident. He mentioned that over 50,000 people were inside the temple when the stampede happened and that nearly 400 police officers were on duty at the time. "We are still trying to determine the exact cause of the incident. However, we have been told that the stampede might have happened due to some people spreading rumours... The biggest challenge for us was to peacefully vacate more than 50,000 people who were inside the temple for the (Larai) Zatra. Around 400 police personnel were deployed here for the Zatra. This is the first time something like this has happened on this occasion," SP Kaushal said. Goa chief minister Pramod Sawant also visited the temple site later that day to assess the situation. The stampede happened around 4-5 am on Saturday. The Goa government ordered a magisterial inquiry into the incident. Further, north Goa collector and superintendent of police were transferred following the stampede, PTI news agency reported, citing officials.

Pakistan violates ceasefire along LoC past midnight, India retaliates



Srinagar, (H.S) : Amid escalating tensions following the deadly terrorist attack in Pahalgam, the Indian Army has responded to the unprovoked small arms firing across the Line of Control (LoC) during the intervening night of May 2 and 3, official said on Saturday. Pakistan violated ceasefire and resorted to unprovoked small arms firing across the LoC in areas opposite the Kupwara, Uri, and Akhnoor areas of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. According to officials, the Indian Army responded promptly and proportionately to the same. Earlier, the Pakistan Army indulged in small arms firing across the LoC on the night of May 1 and 2 in

NIA questions two jailed LeT operatives in Pahalgam terror attack probe

New Delhi, (H.S) : The National Investigation Agency (NIA) sleuths are questioning two Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists-Mushtaq and Nisar-currently lodged in a Jammu jail for their links to the 2023 Rajouri attack, as investigators have found similarities in the modus operandi used in the Pahalgam attack on tourists, officials said on Saturday. Mushtaq and Nisar have been in jail since April 2023 for their role in the terror attack on civilians in Rajouri district, followed by an IED blast in which seven people, including two children, were killed and several others injured.

Meanwhile, NIA investigators have expanded the scope of their probe, as a significant lead has emerged related to

the movement of a banned Huawei satellite phone in the Pahalgam region at the time of the attack, officials added. Huawei, a Chinese company, is prohibited in India, raising suspicions that the device was smuggled from Pakistan or another foreign country, they said. The NIA is now extending its investigation to the border areas of Jammu and Kashmir-including Machil, Keran, Nowgam, Baramulla, and Uri-to establish the infiltration routes of the terrorists involved in the Pahalgam attack and to locate their hideouts. Security sources also confirmed that the Jammu and Kashmir Police have taken action against various individuals under the Public Safety Act. Over the past

two days, nearly 100 suspects have been detained, making it the largest such action since the Centre's decision to revoke the special status granted under Article 370 of the Constitution. The NIA formally took over the Pahalgam terror attack probe and re-registered its own case on April 27. Several teams from the agency are now involved in collecting evidence and questioning eyewitnesses, including relatives of the victims, to uncover the broader terror conspiracy.

Initial investigations into the attack indicate that the number of terrorists involved could range from five to seven. The attackers were also aided by at least two local militants who had received training in Pakistan.

Nainital rape case: Police assures tourists of safety, warns rumour mongers

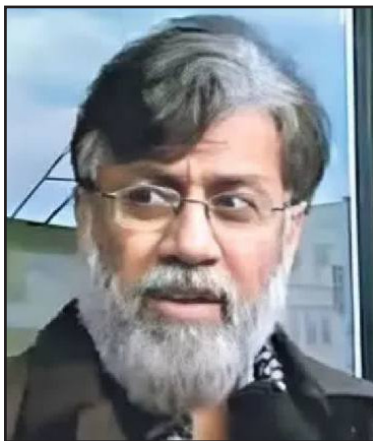
Nainital, (H.S) : Following communal tensions triggered by the alleged rape of a minor girl in Uttarakhand's Nainital, the district police on Saturday said that the situation in the city is now under control and that tourists are returning to the town. As a preventive measure, additional police forces have been deployed, and authorities

have warned of strict action against those spreading rumours or misinformation.

Nainital SSP Prahlad Rai Meena assured tourists on Saturday that the everything is under control in the hill town, which sees a huge influx of holidayers during the summer months.

Mumbai Attack: Tahawwur Rana Gives Voice Sample Before NIA Judge

New Delhi, (H.S) : A Special NIA court in Delhi on Saturday monitored the collection of voice and handwriting samples of Pakistani-Canadian national Tahawwur Rana in the Mumbai terror attack case of 2008. The fresh samples will be matched with recordings of Rana's telephonic discussions with 26/11 co-accused David Coleman Headley, an official said. His handwriting sample is also likely to be matched with the notes that Rana has been making in a diary provided to him by NIA during its custody, said a source. Rana, who was recently extradited from the US, is suspected to have passed on to Headley handwritten notes sharing instructions, coordinates, and maps which were used to scout 26/11 targets. The NIA is also preparing to take Rana to Mumbai and other cities to reconstruct the chain of events preceding the terror attack that



left 166 people dead. On April 28 last week, the Special NIA court extended Rana's NIA custody by 12 more days to allow investigators to question him. Special Judge Charan Jit Singh accepted Senior Advocate Dayan Krishnan's plea

that the investigating agency needs more time to uncover Rana's role in the Mumbai attack of 2008. Rana's 18-day remand ended on Monday, and he was presented in court for an extension of his NIA custody. During the court proceedings, the Special Judge was informed by the NIA about the alleged evasive technique adopted by Rana during questioning. The NIA also expressed its desire to take Rana to various other cities to reconstruct the chain of events during the accused's India visits preceding the terror attack. The court had earlier directed the NIA to conduct a medical test of Rana every 24 hours and allow him to speak to his lawyers every second day. During his 18-day remand, Rana was also questioned by Mumbai Police officers. During the interrogation, Rana claimed that he had "no connection whatsoever"

with the planning or execution of the attack. He also claimed that his childhood friend and co-accused, David Coleman Headley, was solely responsible for the reconnaissance and planning aspects of 26/11. Headley is currently in a US jail. Headley, who turned approver in the case, had earlier admitted to conducting reconnaissance missions across India, including in Mumbai, on behalf of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). During questioning, Rana said that apart from Mumbai and Delhi, he had also travelled to Kerala. When asked about the purpose of his visit to Kerala, he claimed he had gone there to meet a known acquaintance and had provided the individual's name and address to the agency. Rana, a former officer of the Pakistan Army's Medical Corps, was extradited to India from the US recently to face justice in the Mumbai attack case.

Pakistan Claims it Successfully Tested Ballistic Missile with 450 Km Range

New Delhi, (H.S) : Pakistan has claimed to have successfully tested a surface-to-surface ballistic missile with a 450-km range on Saturday. The missile, known as the Abdali Weapon System, was launched as part of Exercise INDUS, Islamabad claimed.

The missile test by Pakistan comes amid rising tensions with India in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack. India views any missile test by the neighbouring country as a grave provocation, said sources. #Pakistan today conducted a successful training launch of the Abdali Weapon System-a surface-to-surface missile with a range of 450 kilometers-as part of the military exercise Ex INDUS. "The launch was aimed at ensuring the operational readiness of troops and validating key technical parameters, including the missile's advanced navigation system and enhanced manoeuvrability features," the Pakistani government

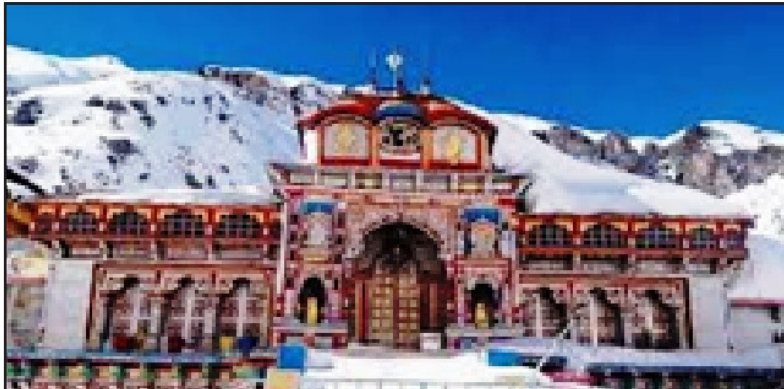


said. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and other military chiefs have expressed "complete confidence" in the operational readiness and technical proficiency of the forces to safeguard the country's national security, it added. Pakistan has been trying to provoke India with regular ceasefire violations along the Line of Control, which separates the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, and the International Border between the two countries. India had retaliated effectively against all such attempts. Besides, provocative statements and warmongering by Pakistani leaders have remained constant since the Pahalgam attacks. Pakistan's Information Minister Attaullah Tara had claimed India was planning an attack within 36 hours. It has been more than 72 hours since. On April 29, the defence minister made a similar claim: "If something has to happen, it will happen in 2-3 days."

Badrinath Temple being adorned with 40 quintals of flowers; doors set to open tomorrow

Chamoli, (H.S) : The Shri Badrinath temple is being adorned with 40 quintals of flowers as the doors of Badrinath Dham in Uttarakhand are set to open on Sunday. Earlier on May 1, Uttarakhand Director General of Police (DGP) Deepam Seth and Additional Director General (ADG) V Murugesan arrived at the revered Shri Badrinath Dham and assessed preparations. The senior officers reviewed critical aspects, including security arrangements, traffic management, communication systems, and crowd control measures along the entire Yatra route.

The officials interacted with local authorities and inspected key points along the pilgrimage path to ensure safety, convenience, and a seamless experience for pilgrims. The Uttarakhand Police is deploying additional forces and technological support to manage the large turnout expected during the pilgrimage



season. Authorities emphasised that all necessary measures are being taken to ensure a safe and spiritually fulfilling Yatra for all visitors. The Char Dham Yatra 2025 officially began on April 30, with the doors of Gangotri and Yamunotri Dham opening on Akshaya Tritiya amid Vedic chants and rituals. On May 2, the doors of Kedarnath were opened.

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami reached in Kedarnath on May 2 and distributed prasad to the devotees at the Mukhya Sevak Bhandara organised at the Kedarnath premises. He emphasised that the government has managed to ensure a safe journey for the devotees and has made appropriate arrangements so that they don't face any

Flight Searched in Colombo over Suspicion Pahalgam Suspects on Board



New Delhi/Colombo, (H.S) : A massive search operation was undertaken at the Colombo airport this noon after a tip-off from India that six suspects believed to be involved in the Pahalgam terror attack had reached Sri Lanka on board a flight from Chennai. SriLankan Airlines said flight UL122 was subjected to a comprehensive security search upon arrival at the Bandaranaike International Airport at 11:59 am. Indian authorities had alerted Sri Lanka that six Pahalgam suspects were onboard the flight, said a police spokesperson. The suspects are believed to have taken a SriLankan Airlines flight to Colombo, he added.

Local reports suggest the Sri Lanka Police, Sri Lanka Air Force, and airport security units jointly carried out the search operation. But no suspect was found. The airline said it received an alert from the Chennai Area Control Centre. Upon its arrival in Colombo, the aircraft was thoroughly inspected and subsequently cleared for further operations, said SriLankan Airlines. At least 26 civilians, including a Nepalese tourist and a pony ride operator, were massacred by terrorists with Pakistan links at the scenic Baisaran meadow of Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam on April 22. The National Investigation Agency (NIA), the country's premier anti-terror agency, has been tasked with the probe into the attack.

India acted swiftly against Pakistan and suspended the Indus Waters Treaty, which allows Delhi to stop or divert water from the Indus River system from flowing towards Pakistan, choking a major source of water supply in that country. It has also banned imports and incoming parcels from Pakistan. Pakistani ships have been barred from docking at Indian ports. India has also cancelled visas of Pakistani nationals. Those living in India were given a deadline till Tuesday to leave Indian soil. In response, Pakistan has threatened to end all bilateral agreements with India, including the Simla agreement. Besides, both countries have shut the Wagah-Attari crossing and downgraded diplomatic ties.

6 Killed, 8 injured after Jeep-Bus Collision in Gujarat



Himmatnagar, (H.S) : Six persons, including a baby girl, were killed and eight others injured in an accident involving a jeep, a state transport bus and a two-wheeler in Gujarat's Sabarkantha district on Saturday, police said. The accident took place near Hingatiya village when the jeep and the bus collided on a state highway, said inspector NR Umat of Kheroj police station. A motorcycle with three riders crashed into the jeep after the collision, he said. Six persons lost their lives, and most of them were in the jeep, which was badly mangled due to the impact, the police official said. The bus was on its way to Vadodara from Ambaji in Banaskantha district, while the other four-wheeler was going in the opposite direction when the collision took place, he said.

Prez Lourenco-PM Modi's Talks will Chart New Avenues of Growth Between India-Angola: S Jaishankar

New Delhi, (H.S): External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar on Saturday exuded confidence that talks between Angolan President Joao Manuel Goncalves Lourenco and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will chart new avenues of growth for India-Angola and India-Africa ties.

The EAM met the Angolan President and said that he values the latter's warm sentiments for India and guidance for taking forward the partnership. In a post on social media platform X, EAM Jaishankar said: "Honoured to call-on President of Angola during his State Visit to India. Value his warm sentiments for India and guidance for taking forward our partnership. Confident that his talks with PM @narendramodi



later today will chart new avenues of growth for India-Angola & India-Africa ties." Earlier in the day, President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Modi welcomed the Angolan President as he arrived at Rashtrapati Bhavan. Speaking to the reporters following the ceremonial welcome, President Lourenco said, "We see this visit as an important one for Angola

in order to strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. We are very thankful for the friendly and hospitable manner in which we were received yesterday by the people of India." "This is the first visit by an Angolan President to India in 38 years. It comes as India and Angola mark 40 years of diplomatic ties this year," the MEA said. During his

stay, President Lourenco is expected to meet separately with Prime Minister Modi and President Murmu. Both sides are likely to sign several agreements to enhance cooperation in various fields. Several MoUs and agreements are expected to be signed during the visit.

On Sunday, President Lourenco will attend a business event in New Delhi, aimed at promoting investment and commercial linkages between the two countries. In the financial year 2023-24, trade between the two nations reached \$4.192 billion, according to the MEA. The visit is expected to set the stage for a more dynamic partnership, reflecting the shared priorities and aspirations of India and Angola.

US CDC reports 216 child deaths this flu season

New York, (H.S): Twelve pediatric deaths associated with seasonal influenza virus infection were reported in the US in the week ending April 26, bringing the season total to 216 pediatric deaths, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said. This number of pediatric deaths exceeds the previous high reported for a regular (non-pandemic) season, Xinhua news agency reported.

The previous high of 207 was reported during the 2023-2024 season, according to the weekly influenza surveillance report released by the CDC. According to the CDC, seasonal influenza activity continues to decline, but this season is classified as a high severity season overall and for all age groups (children, adults, older adults) and is the first high severity season since 2017-2018. The CDC estimates that

there have been at least 47 million illnesses, 610,000 hospitalisations, and 26,000 deaths from flu in the country so far this season. The CDC continues to recommend that everyone aged 6 months and older get an annual flu vaccine as long as influenza viruses are circulating. There are likely several contributors to this season's severity, but a big one is that fewer children are getting flu shots, according to Sean O'Leary, of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Flu vaccinations may not prevent people from coming down with symptoms, but research shows they are highly effective at preventing hospitalisations and deaths, O'Leary said. The season has not only been hard on children. CDC officials have information about underlying conditions on nearly

5,200 adults who were hospitalised with flu this season, and 95 per cent had at least one existing health problem. But among 2,000 hospitalised children with more detailed health information, only about 53 per cent had an underlying condition - including asthma and obesity. The CDC report did not say how many of the children who died were vaccinated.

The good news is that flu indicators have been waning since February, and last week all 50 states were reporting low or minimal flu activity. Childhood vaccinations in general have been declining, driven by online misinformation and the political schism that emerged around Covid-19 vaccines. Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has also echoed some of the rhetoric of antivaccine activists since taking over as the nation's Health Secretary.

US Approves \$310 Million F-16 Training Package For Ukraine

Los Angeles, (H.S): The US State Department has approved an F-16 fighter jet training and sustainment package worth \$310 million for Ukraine, the Pentagon announced. The package included aircraft modifications, flight training, maintenance support, spare parts, ground handling equipment and specialised software systems, according to the US Defence Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA).

Lockheed Martin Aeronautics, BAE Systems and AAR Corporation are the deal's principal contractors. However, this package contained no actual aircraft, as the jets would be provided by NATO allies rather than directly from the United States, said the DSCA. The support package followed an earlier \$266.4 million F-16 sustainment agreement approved in December 2024 under the administration of Joe Biden, which provided mission planning systems and key maintenance equipment, Xinhua news agency reported. Several



NATO members, including the Netherlands, Denmark, Norway and Belgium, have collectively pledged 79 F-16s to Ukraine, with more deliveries expected throughout 2025. According to FlightGlobal, a Britain-based data, news and industry insights provider to the aviation and aerospace industry,

a shrink-wrapped F-16 fuselage was being loaded onto an Antonov An-124 heavy cargo airlifter at a desert airfield. Flight tracking data revealed the An-124 landed at Tucson, Arizona, airbase on April 25 and departed the next day for Poland. The Tucson-based Kgun 9

news channel reported Friday that the boneyard at Davis-Monthan air force base near the city was the likely source for old F-16s going to Ukraine in the deal. The report cited a statement from the Department of the Air Force as saying that the old planes stocked there would provide spare parts for F-16s Ukraine received from European nations.

These F-16s were retired from active US use and are not flyable. Importantly, they lack critical components such as an engine or radar, and could not be reconstituted for operational use," according to the statement.

Polling Begins In Singapore's General Election

Singapore, (H.S): Polling stations across Singapore opened at 8:00 a.m. (local time) on Saturday for the country's general election. A total of 211 candidates, including two independents, are contesting the 97 elected parliamentary seats. Of these 97 seats, five in a multi-member constituency have already been secured by the ruling People's Action Party (PAP), as no opposition candidates were fielded there.

The PAP, the ruling party since Singapore's independence in 1965, is fielding 97 candidates and contesting every seat. This election marks the first time Prime Minister Lawrence Wong is leading the party into a general election after succeeding Lee Hsien Loong in May 2024, following Lee's two-decade tenure, reports Xinhua news agency. In the 2020 general election, the PAP garnered 61.24 per cent of the popular vote,



down from 69.86 per cent in 2015. Beyond determining the makeup of the next parliament, the election will also influence the formation of Singapore's next cabinet,

which will be responsible for steering the country through rising global uncertainty, particularly in the wake of sweeping US tariffs. Both Wong and Lee have repeatedly warned that recent global developments could have lasting repercussions for Singapore's open economy. During the May Day Rally on

Thursday, Wong cautioned that recent global shifts "may cause further disruptions and may cause further price shocks," potentially exacerbating cost-of-living pressures for Singaporeans.

The Workers' Party (WP), the only opposition party to win seats in the previous election, expanded its representation from six seats in 2015 to ten in 2020. This year, the WP is fielding 26 candidates across eight constituencies in a bid widely viewed as an effort to extend its presence into the broader eastern

region. One of the most closely watched races is in the Punggol multi-member constituency in eastern Singapore, described by local media as the "eye of the storm." The PAP team there is led by Deputy Prime Minister Gan Kim Yong, who also serves as Minister for Trade and Industry and chairs the Singapore Economic Resilience Taskforce, established in April to support businesses and workers amid ongoing global challenges.

The WP team is headed by senior lawyer Harpreet Singh Nehal. Five constituencies are witnessing multi-cornered contests, with the fiercest reported in Tampines in the east, where three opposition parties are challenging the incumbent PAP team. Approximately 2.76 million people are eligible to vote in this year's election. Polling stations are scheduled to close at 8:00 p.m. (local time).

Trump Administration Plans Military Parade on June 14

New York, (H.S): The Trump administration will hold a military parade on June 14, said White House Spokesperson Anna Kelly in a post on social media. "To celebrate the US Army's 250th Birthday on June 14, President Trump will honour American Veterans, active-duty servicemembers, and military history with a military parade!" said Kelly on Friday.

The parade planning is actively underway, and nearly 150 vehicles, 50 aircraft, and 6,600 soldiers are anticipated to be involved, said a report by AFP quoting US Army spokeswoman Heather Hagan. The celebration also will feature fireworks and a festival on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., said Hagan. The US Army plans to have a week of celebrations for its 250th



birthday, according to a planning document, Xinhua news agency reported. Notably, June 14 also marks US President Donald Trump's 79th birthday.

Trump floated the idea of holding a military parade in Washington, D.C., during his first term but the idea was shot down on high costs and concerns over possible damages to streets from military vehicles. The previous major military parade in the US

capital was held in 1991 to mark the end of the Gulf War. The estimate for the parade being planned now is "tens of millions of dollars," according to two of the Defence officials.

In a statement on Friday, Army spokesman Steve Warren also acknowledged a final decision had been made, saying the Army's 250th birthday celebration will include "a spectacular fireworks display, a

parade, and a day-long festival on the National Mall." He said that given the significance of the Army birthday, they are looking at options "to make the celebration even bigger, with more capability demonstrations, additional displays of equipment and more engagement with the community".

The plans note that while the parade will begin near the Pentagon, the heavy, tracked vehicles - which would include the Strykers - would be stationed near the Lincoln Memorial and join the procession there, so they will not go over the bridge. City officials, including DC Mayor Muriel Bowser, acknowledged in April that the administration reached out to the city about holding a parade on June 14. At the time, she said that tanks rolling through the city's streets "would not be good".

Mexico Welcomes US Decision To Waive Tariffs on Auto Parts Under USMCA

Mexico City, (H.S): Mexico has welcomed a US decision to exempt Mexican auto parts from tariffs under the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), calling it a major breakthrough for the country's manufacturing sector. Secretary of Economy Marcelo Ebrard said on Friday that the exemption was confirmed in new US customs guidance published on Thursday, reaffirming that Mexican auto parts will be treated as if they originated in the US and will enter duty-free, Xinhua news agency reported. "This is a significant step forward," Ebrard said during the government's daily press briefing. Mexican auto parts, and those headed to Canada as well, will continue receiving the

preferential treatment guaranteed by our treaty." Ebrard, who has led negotiations with US officials, said the development reflects progress in avoiding new trade barriers and protecting cross-border supply chains. He added that President Claudia Sheinbaum has made the issue a top priority.

You can't slap a 25 per cent tariff on auto parts, plus another 25 per cent on steel, aluminum, and final products - that would wipe out entire companies," he said, referring to ongoing talks with US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick. The tariff suspension follows the sixth phone call between Sheinbaum and US President Donald Trump,

during which both agreed to keep working toward solutions on trade and other bilateral issues. At a press briefing on Friday, Sheinbaum said the decision was "good news". "There's a preferential treatment for everything that is produced within the trade agreement, and in particular for auto parts, which have zero tariffs," she said, noting that she and Trump spoke by phone on Thursday.

We continue working together, and if you've noticed, we keep getting better conditions compared to what the situation was previously." Mexico continues negotiations with the US to prevent the implementation of Trump's broader executive orders targeting key industrial sectors.

'We Should Not Contemplate' Escalation To Nuclear Level As Both India, Pakistan Are 'Responsible' Nations: Islamabad Envoy

United Nations, (H.S): While Kashmir has been called a "nuclear flashpoint", Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Asim Iftikhar Ahmad has said that "we should not contemplate a situation like that" as both Pakistan and India are responsible countries. "Kashmir is often termed as a 'nuclear flash point' but I believe that, you know, Pakistan is a responsible nuclear weapon state.

I assume that India also exhibits that same kind of responsibility, and we should not contemplate, you know, a situation that would move in that direction," he said on Friday. However, he did not deny that Pakistan does not subscribe to a no-first-use nuclear policy. Ahmad was asked several times during his news conference here about the nuclear factor in a confrontation between the two neighbours. "Pakistan is a responsible member of the international community. (How)



we are responding to this situation that has evolved is also reflective of a responsible member state," he said at first. Asked again about the nuclear factor, he said that he "deliberately did not mention" it because both nations "exhibit the same kind of responsibility".

Pressed again over Islamabad's position on no-first-use of nuclear weapons, he evaded giving a straight answer. "I mean, it is stated policy, I mean Pakistan's policy on nuclear disarmament and all the related issues are all in the public realm. It is very well known." His

reluctance is because Pakistan has not adopted the policy of not being the first to use a nuclear weapon - a public position - that gives it the option to use it first. India, on the other hand, declared a no-first-use policy.

A reporter asked Ahmad about the situation on the western border with Afghanistan and the Balochistan conflict, and how they would affect a possible conflict with India. He said, "I don't believe that that's going to have an impact in terms of our readiness and preparedness to counter anything that comes across the Line of Control in

Kashmir." "The Western borders are under total control," he said. "There is some counterterrorism and enforcement operation and law enforcement operations that are going on there," he added. Pakistan and Afghanistan forces have clashed repeatedly along their border, and Islamabad accuses Kabul of harbouring the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), which has carried out cross-border attacks. In addition, Pakistan is facing an insurgency by Balochis seeking independence.

Ahmad denied that there had been "dogfights" - aerial combats - which a reporter claimed had taken place. "There were some reports about some podcopters or drones, you know, shot down or something," but no aerial combat, he said. "If the situation deteriorates, and some, you know, some kind of 'kinetic action' comes into play, in the kind of a situation, a scenario is very much possible," he added.

32 Palestinians killed in Israeli airstrikes across Gaza : Civil defence

Gaza, (H.S): At least 32 Palestinians have been killed and many others injured in Israeli airstrikes across the Gaza Strip, the enclave's Civil Defence reported. Six people were killed and several others injured in an Israeli raid targeting a charitable hospice near the Abdel-Al Junction in the centre of Gaza City, and two were killed in an Israeli shelling targeting a house in the Sheikh Radwan neighbourhood north of the city, Civil Defence spokesperson Mahmoud Basal told Xinhua news agency on Friday.

In northern Gaza, at least six people were killed in an Israeli airstrike targeting a funeral home for the al-Masri family in the town of Beit Lahia, Basal said. In central Gaza, at least nine were killed in an Israeli strike targeting a house belonging to the Abu Zeina family in al-Bureij refugee camp, he added. In southern Gaza, two were killed in an Israeli strike at a gathering of civilians near the town of Asdaa in the governorate of Khan Younis, at least two others were killed in an



Israeli drone strike at a group of civilians in the Qizan al-Najjar area south of Khan Younis, and five more were killed in other raids on different areas of Rafah and Khan Younis, Basal said. The Israeli army has not commented on these incidents yet, Xinhua news agency reported.

Israel halted the entry of goods and supplies into Gaza on March 2 following the expiration of the first phase of a January ceasefire agreement with Hamas. The second phase has yet to be implemented due to a lack of consensus between the parties. On March 18, Israel resumed its

military operations in the enclave. At least 2,326 Palestinians had been killed and 6,050 others injured since Israel renewed its intensive strikes, Gaza-based health authorities said on Thursday.

The war in Gaza started after Hamas fighters carried out an attack on southern Israel on October 7, 2023, killing 1,200 people, mostly civilians. As many as 251 hostages were taken, most of whom have since been released as part of negotiations between the two parties. 59 hostages remain, 24 of which are believed to still be alive.

CBDT Issues New ITR Form 5 With Key Updates For Assessment Year 2025-26



New Delhi, (H.S): The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has notified the new Income Tax Return (ITR) Form 5 for the assessment year (AY) 2025-26 with some key updates. The Income Tax Department has introduced several changes in the new I-T return form, it said on an X post on Saturday.

A major change involves a bifurcation in Schedule-Capital Gain, requiring taxpayers to separately report capital gains before and after July 23, 2024. The form also enables reporting of capital loss on share buybacks, subject to specific conditions. According to other major updates in I-T Form 5, "Capital loss on share buyback

is allowed if corresponding dividend income is shown as income from other sources (post 01.10.2024); reference of sec 44BBC (cruise biz) added; and TDS section code to be reported in Schedule-TDS". The new ITR Form 5 includes a specific reference to Section 44BBC of the Income Tax Act.

This section deals with the presumptive taxation of income for certain businesses. Also, taxpayers must now specify the Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) section code within the Schedule-TDS of the return form. This change seeks to improve transparency and ensure proper classification of TDS deductions. Earlier, CBDT notified the income

tax return forms ITR-1 and ITR-4 for the financial year 2024-25 and the assessment year 2025-26. The returns for incomes earned during the financial year from April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025, have to be filed using the new forms. A major change in the ITR forms this year is that ITR-1 (SAHAJ) can be filed for notifying long-term capital gains (LTCG) under section 112A.

This is subject to the condition that the LTCG is not more than Rs 1.25 lakh, and the income tax assessee has no loss to carry forward or set off under the capital gains head. The notification also stipulates that in cases where income tax assesses have opted out of the new income tax regime in AY 2024-25, they must declare and opt to either continue or reverse the selection. Those who have opted out of the new income tax regime for the first time in AY 2025-26 must furnish Form 10-IEA acknowledgement details. Additionally, there must also be a clarification for the late filing of Form 10-IEA.

India's route to 100 GW nuclear power by 2047 may require strategic reforms

New Delhi, (H.S): India's plan to reach an ambitious 100 gigawatts (GW) nuclear power capacity by 2047 may require a concerted effort to overcome existing challenges and implement strategic reforms in the nuclear sector, says a report by SBICAPS. India's plan to produce 100GW of nuclear power capacity by 2047 aligns with the target to achieve a net-zero emissions target by 2070.

The report outlines several key strategies and reforms that are crucial for India to successfully expand its nuclear power capacity. One of the critical areas being, reducing the time taken for nuclear plant construction. It also notes that Indian projects currently take around 10 years to complete, significantly longer than the global best of approximately 6 years. The report suggests attracting greater foreign investment which would include allowing 49 per cent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in nuclear power generation sector to facilitate increased capital



inflows. Additionally "diversifying fuel sources via international agreements and accelerating the transition to Stages 2 and 3 of India's nuclear program are essential to address the nation's limited uranium reserves," the report said. The report, highlights that the India's installed nuclear capacity is around 8 GW, with an additional 7 GW under construction and target is to achieve the 100GW in the next two decades. The report

emphasizes the need for a significant acceleration in the pace of nuclear development. Achieving the 100 GW target within the next two decades will overcoming potential hurdles and for that "the Government has initiated the Nuclear Energy Mission, allocating Rs 200 billion towards R&D and the deployment of at least five Bharat Small Modular Reactors (BSMRs) as announced in the Union Budget." The BSR program will enable private sector

development of Pressurized Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR) reactors for dedicated captive utilisation. The report from the Indian bank points towards China as leading this revival, with a substantial 30 GW of nuclear reactor capacity under development. While India and Turkey are also showing increasing interest in expanding their nuclear capabilities, Europe maintains a more cautious stance.

Meanwhile, SBICAPS's report underscores the significant financial and strategic implications of India's ambitious nuclear energy goals. Earlier in March, Indian Union minister Jitendra Singh also emphasized that Nuclear Energy is critical for India's net zero goal. With a roadmap now being formulated in consultation with stakeholders, the Minister affirmed that while challenges exist, achieving the 100 GW target by 2047 is both ambitious and achievable.

RBI Panel Suggests Extending Call Money Market Timings To 7 P.M

Mumbai, (H.S): A working group set up by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recommended extending the trading hours for the call money market. The group suggested that the trading window should remain open till 7 p.m. instead of the current 5 p.m. This move aims to help banks manage their funds better in line with the needs of the real-time payment system.

However, the group did not suggest any change in trading hours for other financial markets such as government securities, interest rate derivatives, or foreign exchange markets. The working group was chaired by Radha Shyam Ratho, who is an Executive Director at the RBI. The RBI



had announced the formation of this group during its monetary policy review in February this year. The group's report noted that standalone primary dealers (SPDs) had requested longer trading hours in the call money market. They also suggested that the reporting window, including for cancelled

transactions, should be open till 7.30 p.m. The report highlighted significant growth in the overnight money market over the last decade. Between 2014-15 and 2024-25, the annual turnover in this market jumped from Rs 281.37 lakh crore to Rs 1,324.05 lakh crore. Meanwhile, the daily

average turnover increased from Rs 1.17 lakh crore to Rs 5.52 lakh crore. This sharp rise was mainly due to the growth in the collateralised segment of the market. The turnover in this segment rose from Rs 245.27 lakh crore to Rs 1,296.62 lakh crore during the same period.

In contrast, the turnover in the uncollateralised call money market went down from Rs 36.10 lakh crore to Rs 27.42 lakh crore. The report further said that the call money market is open only to banks and standalone primary dealers. These participants have access to the RBI's liquidity adjustment facilities. Co-operative banks are the main lenders in this market, while SPDs are the main borrowers.

India must aim for \$1 trillion 'Orange Economy' by 2047: Kiran Mazumdar Shaw

Mumbai, (H.S): The media and entertainment sector contributes \$20 billion to the GDP today and we must aim for \$100 billion dollar, and eventually, a \$1 trillion 'Orange Economy' by 2047, which will resonate with the dream of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, global business leader and Biocon founder, Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, has said. 'Orange Economy' or the creative economy refers to knowledge-based activities that integrate culture, creativity, technology, and IP to drive economic, social, and cultural development. The Indian startups involved in creative content sector should think beyond films and build brands, ecosystems, and intellectual property that

create global waves, she said during the World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES) 2025 Summit here. Mazumdar Shaw spoke about the global potential of Indian narratives. "It's time for India to create new stories that blend tradition and technology. Just as George Lucas drew inspiration from Indian epics for Star Wars, we can use technology to transform our cultural heritage into global franchises," she noted. Touching on India's demographic and digital strengths, she said that with over a billion smartphones and a tech-savvy Gen Z, India is poised for global innovation. "But like any blockbuster, success starts small - with an idea, strategy, and relentless focus," she emphasised. She drew parallels with her own journey of

starting Biocon in a garage and building it into a global biotech force. Talking about the India's creative economy, she said that those in the field should focus on the growth of the so-called 'Orange Economy' which has immense potential. Responding to questions on India's creative edge, Shaw highlighted the convergence of AR, VR, and immersive experiences as key frontiers. "The next unicorns won't just be apps - they will be creators who understand IP, tech, and immersive storytelling," she noted. She urged startups to embrace originality and persistence, saying "every great idea starts small. What matters is how far you take it. Failure is part of the journey."

Market volatility to stay due to geopolitical tensions, Q4 earnings season: Analysts

Mumbai, (H.S): Benchmark indices ended with marginal gains in a highly volatile session on May 2 and volatility is expected to stay elevated due to ongoing geopolitical tensions, developments related to tariffs, and the unfolding Q4 earnings season and major US economic data points, analysts said on Saturday.

The Nifty on Friday opened strong and surged to an intraday high of 24,589 in the first half of the session. However, profit booking at higher levels erased those gains, leaving the index to close nearly flat. The Nifty finished the day up 12.50 points, or 0.05 per cent, at 24,346.70." For the week, the BSE Sensex

gained 1.6 per cent, while the Nifty50 rose 1.2 per cent. The BSE Midcap index declined 0.4 per cent and the Smallcap index ended flat," said a note from Bajaj Broking Research. Among sectoral performers, media, energy, IT, and oil & gas posted gains of 0.3-0.7 per cent.

On the other hand, power, metal, telecom, pharma, realty, and consumer durables sectors saw losses ranging from 0.5 to 2 per cent. According to Dhupesh Dhameja, Derivatives Research Analyst, SAMCO Securities, Nifty continues to display signs of hesitation at elevated levels, repeatedly getting knocked back from crucial resistance zones and

producing intraday fake-outs, indicating a period of consolidation amid fading momentum. This marks the seventh consecutive session where Nifty has been locked in a choppy range, failing to conquer overhead resistances, underscoring persistent supply pressure and an undercurrent of caution in the broader market mood.

Going ahead, Nifty is expected to extend consolidation in the range of 24,550-23,800. With 23,800 being the confluence of last week's low and recent breakout area. While 24,550 is the 61.8 per cent retracement of the entire decline (26,277-21,744)," according to Bajaj Broking Research."

SBI's Operating Profit Crosses 1.10 Lakh Crore In FY25, NII Up 4.43 Pc

New Delhi, (H.S): The State Bank of India (SBI) on Saturday reported 17.89 per cent increase in operating profit last fiscal (FY25) that crossed Rs 1.10 lakh crore, while operating profit for Q4 grew by 8.83 per cent (year-on-year) to Rs 31,286 crore.

According to the country's largest bank by assets, net profit for FY25 stood at Rs 70,901 crore, witnessing a growth of 16.08 per cent (year-on-year), as per its stock exchange filing. Profit after tax (PAT) grew to Rs 20,698 crore in Q4, from Rs 16,891 crore in the previous quarter (Q3). The net interest income (NII) for FY25 increased by 4.43 per cent. For the quarter, net interest



income, or core income, went up 2.7 per cent and stood at Rs 42,775 crore. The SBI board has declared a dividend of Rs 15.9 per share. According to its filing, the gross NPA ratio at 1.82 per cent improved by 42 bps, while net NPA ratio at 0.47 per cent improved by 10 bps (on-year)."

Whole Bank Deposits grew by 9.48 per cent YoY. CASA Deposit grew by 6.34 per cent YoY. CASA ratio stands at 39.97 per cent (as on 31st March 2025)," said the bank. SME advances crossed Rs 5 lakh crore, a growth of 16.86 per cent, followed by Agri advances which grew by 14.29 per cent and retail personal

advances and corporate advances registered annual growth of 11.40 per cent and 9.00 per cent, respectively. According to SBI results, slippage ratio for FY25 improved by 7 bps and stood at 0.55 per cent.

Slippage Ratio for Q4 improved by 1 bp YoY and stood at 0.42 per cent. The bank noted that 64 per cent of saving accounts were acquired digitally through YONO, while share of alternate channels in total transactions increased from 97.8 per cent in FY24 to 98.2 per cent in FY25. Bank's ROA and ROE for FY25 stood at 1.10 per cent and 19.87 per cent, respectively.

Empowering Bharat: CSC CSR conclave 2025 champions tech-driven rural transformation through CSR

New Delhi, (PIB): The CSC CSR Conclave 2025 marked a pivotal moment in India's journey toward inclusive growth and rural empowerment, placing technology at the heart of social transformation. Inaugurated by Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari, Secretary of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), the event spotlighted the powerful role of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in bridging the urban-rural divide through Common Services Centres (CSCs).

"CSC represents a radical idea bridging the urban-rural divide through technology," said Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari, Secretary of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), during the inauguration of the CSC CSR Conclave 2025. His remarks highlighted the central theme of the event leveraging Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) for a sustainable tomorrow through rural empowerment and inclusive growth. Shri Tiwari also cited the visionary role of Common



Services Centres (CSCs) in strengthening India's social capital, aligning with the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision for rural digital empowerment. He acknowledged the vital role of CSC Academy in advancing CSR initiatives, especially in vocational training and digital empowerment for rural populations, and praised CSC's alignment with national goals, particularly through programs like the PM Vishwakarma Yojana. The Conclave, organized by CSC Academy and the Indian ESG Network, brought together

leaders from government, corporate, and development sectors to discuss how CSR can drive environmental sustainability, community development, and transformative change in rural India. In his keynote address, Shri Sanjay Kumar Rakesh, Chairman and Secretary of CSC Academy, expanded on the transformative impact of the Common Services Centres (CSCs) across the country. He described CSCs not just as digital access points but as catalysts for change, operated by Village Level Entrepreneurs

(VLEs) who empower their communities. "CSR is not just a statutory requirement but a strategic driver for inclusive progress," said Rakesh, emphasizing the Academy's focus on scalable and measurable CSR programs aimed at reaching underserved rural populations. Dr. Biswajit Saha, Director (Training & Skill Education) at CBSE, also highlighted the role of CSC Academy in preparing the next generation for future challenges, particularly in fields like Artificial Intelligence (AI), Cybersecurity, and Healthcare.

The event featured a series of expert-led discussions that explored the intersection of CSR, environmental sustainability, and community development. Key topics included education, skilling, digital literacy, financial inclusion, women empowerment, and healthcare. Notable speakers at the Conclave included Shri Abhishek Gupta, Programme Specialist at UNICEF, who discussed the "Passport to Earning" initiative, and Ms. Parnal Vats, Manager of Government Engagement at VISA, who shared insights on the

"Digital Village" program. Other distinguished speakers included Ms. Geetanjali Gaur, CSR Manager at Kyndryl, and Shri Rajiv Malik, CEO of Graposs Connect, who spoke about the CSC Olympiad initiative. The event also featured thematic panels led by experts. The Education, Skilling, and Employability panel, chaired by Shri Sunil Dahiya of the Wadhvani Foundation, included thought leaders such as Shri Raj Kumar Srivastava (IFS, Karnataka) and Shri Pallav Tiwari (UNICEF).

Another panel, Women and Child Healthcare, chaired by Dr. Vashima Subha of Ernst & Young, included specialists like Shri Punit Desai (Welcome Cure) and Dr. Yogesh Patil (Biosense). The Conclave concluded with a renewed commitment to utilizing CSR to drive rural transformation, with CSC Academy reaffirming its mission to empower rural India through digital inclusion, skill-based education, and public-private partnerships. The event underscored the importance of collaboration across sectors to create a sustainable and inclusive future for all.

After Banning Imports, India Now Bars Pakistani Ships From Entering Its Ports

New Delhi, (H.S): After banning all imports from Pakistan, India on Saturday barred Pakistan-flagged ships from entering any of its ports, following the barbaric attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam, which took 26 lives. According to a directive from the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Pakistan-flagged ships have been banned from entering Indian ports. The directive also prohibited India-flagged vessels from docking at ports in Pakistan.

Citing national security concerns, the directive was implemented to "ensure the safety of Indian assets, cargo, and related infrastructure, in public interest and for the interest of Indian shipping". The directive is effective immediately and will remain in force until further notice." The objective of the Act is to foster the development and ensure the efficient maintenance of an Indian mercantile marine, in a manner best suited to serve national interests," the order issued by the ministry said. "A ship bearing the flag of Pakistan shall not be allowed to visit any Indian port, and an Indian-flagged ship shall not visit any ports of Pakistan," the order further stated. According to the



ministry, the action has been taken in the interest of "safety of Indian assets, cargo, and connected infrastructure", as well as to further the objectives of Indian shipping. Any exemption from the order will be examined and decided on a case-by-case basis. Earlier in the day, India banned all imports - direct and indirect - from Pakistan amid rising tensions with the neighbouring country. According to a notification by the Commerce Ministry, "Direct or indirect import or transit of all goods originating in or exported from Pakistan, whether or not freely importable or otherwise permitted, shall be prohibited with immediate effect, until further orders." "This restriction is imposed in the interest of national security and public policy.



Alia Bhatt to make red carpet debut at Cannes Film Festival

Alia Bhatt said that she is "so excited to make my Festival de Cannes debut this year, an iconic celebration of cinema and self-expression".

Actor Alia Bhatt will make her red carpet debut this year at the Cannes Film Festival as the global ambassador for beauty brand L'Oreal Paris. Alia will join Aishwarya Rai at the festival, which will take place from May 13 to 24 May. L'Oreal Paris is celebrating its 28th anniversary at the movie gala.

Announcing the news, Alia talked about being part of the event for the first time. She said in a statement, as reported by news agency ANI, "There's something absolutely special about firsts - and I'm so excited to make my Festival de Cannes debut this year, an iconic celebration of cinema and self-expression. It is such an honour to represent L'Oréal Paris at the Festival with this year's theme, 'Lights, Beauty and Action'." She added, "To

me, beauty is about celebrating individuality, confidence and self-worth. It's limitless, it's unique. I'm proud to stand with a brand that celebrates every woman's journey and empowers them to shine in their own light." In addition to its strong Indian representation, L'Oreal Paris will be represented on the red carpet by Eva Longoria, Viola Davis, Jane Fonda, Aja Naomi King, Andie MacDowell, Simone Ashley,

Elle Fanning, Bebe Vio, and Yseult. Recently, Alia was seen at the WAVES summit in Mumbai. With her outfit, Alia celebrated Maharashtra Day. She wore a Paithani sari, draped in Maharashtrian style.

Fans will see Alia in her upcoming movie, Alpha. Directed by Shiv Rawail, Alpha is set to be a notable addition to Yash Raj Films' acclaimed spy universe and is scheduled for release on December 25. Apart from

this, she also has Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Love and War alongside Ranbir and Vicky Kaushal.

On the work front, Alia Bhatt will next be seen in Alpha, co-starring Sharvari. She has also collaborated with acclaimed director Sanjay Leela Bhansali for Love & War. The film features Ranbir Kapoor and Vicky Kaushal in key roles. The film is expected to hit the silver screens on March 20, 2026.

Nirmal Kapoor dies: Anupam, Anil, Sonam, Arjun pay final respects



Several celebrities, including Anupam Kher, Anil Kapoor, Sonam Kapoor, and Arjun Kapoor, arrived at Boney Kapoor's home in Mumbai to pay final respects to Nirmal Kapoor. She was the mother of Boney, Anil Kapoor and Sanjay Kapoor.

Harsh Vardhan Kapoor, Sanjay Kapoor, Anshula Kapoor, Shanaya Kapoor, Jahaan Kapoor, Maheep Kapoor, Rhea Kapoor,

and Karan Boolani were also seen arriving to pay tribute to Nirmal. She died at the age of 90 on Friday at Mumbai's Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital. On Friday evening, Anil arrived at Nirmal's residence in an ambulance carrying her mortal remains. He was joined by Sanjay, his sister Reena Kapoor, and his nephew Arjun. Janhvi Kapoor, Khushi Kapoor,

Shanaya, Shikhar Pahariya, and Boney were also spotted at the Kapoor residence. Other celebs, including Ananya Panday, Javed Akhtar, Rani Mukerji, Anupam, Jackie Shroff, and Veer Pahariya, visited the family to offer condolences.

The Kapoor family shared a statement on Friday night. It read, "Passed away peacefully on the 2nd of May, 2025, surrounded by her beloved family. She lived a full and joyful life, leaving behind four devoted children, loving daughters-in-law, a caring son-in-law, eleven grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and a lifetime of treasured memories." "Her generous spirit and boundless love touched all who knew her. She will remain in our hearts-- forever cherished, forever missed," it concluded.

Ranbir's Ramayana to be "Localised" in Multiple Languages

Another day, another update on Nitesh Tiwari's Ramayana. The film, headlined by Ranbir Kapoor, will be released in two parts - in 2026 and 2027, respectively. Now, producer Namit Malhotra has revealed that the makers plan to "localise" the film in multiple languages to preserve the authenticity of the characters.

Speaking at the World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit, Namit said, "The way we want to go about it is to really make it feel local to people in the world. Again, with the use of some technology, we are trying to make sure that we will be able to localize the film in languages with performance, which means that it should play in English with lip sync without subtitles or dubbed versions, because it should be in English. It should be in Spanish; it should be in Japanese in Japan." Namit Malhotra said that with the help of technology, turning big ideas into reality is totally possible. He shared that their main goal is to tell compelling stories while staying true to the characters and keeping



things as real as possible. At the same time, he stressed the importance of making movies in a way that global audiences do not feel uncomfortable or disconnected. Namit Malhotra also made an interesting point - how it's mostly American films that get a worldwide release, while movies from countries like Spain or Japan rarely get the same kind of reach. According to

him, the biggest hurdle is language. But he firmly believes that if the content is powerful enough, it can overcome that barrier.

Ramayana features Ranbir Kapoor as Lord Rama and Sai Pallavi as Goddess Sita. Yash takes on the role of the villainous Ravana. Lara Dutta, Sunny Deol and Indira Krishna are also part of the project.

Sonu Charged for 'Pahalgam' Response to Kannada Song Demand



Singer Sonu Nigam's recent remarks on the Pahalgam terror attack during a show in Bengaluru have landed him in trouble, with police in the city registering a first information report (FIR) on Saturday. The singer has also posted on social media, defending his comments and claiming that he was threatened. During a musical event held on April 25-26 at East Point College of Engineering and Technology in Bengaluru's Virgonagar, Mr Nigam was allegedly repeatedly asked to sing in Kannada by a young man, prompting an angry response.

"I have sung in different languages, including Kannada. Whenever I come to Karnataka, I come

with a lot of love and respect. You all have treated me like family," the singer said in Hindi. "I always sing Kannada songs when requested. I have been singing in Kannada before that young man was born. But I didn't like the way he shouted 'Kannada, Kannada'. It is because of such behaviour that incidents like the Pahalgam attack happen," he added. The comments sparked outrage and condemnation, including from film producer Karthik Gowda and Kannada activist SR Govindu. On Friday, the Karnataka Rakshana Vedike, a pro-Kannada organisation, filed a complaint at the Avalahalli Police Station in Bengaluru alleging that Mr Nigam's statements have hurt the sentiments of the Kannadiga community. "The statements have incited hatred among various linguistic communities in Karnataka, and are likely to provoke violence."

"On April 25 - 26, during a musical event at East Point College, it is reported that a student requested Shri Sonu Nigam to sing a Kannada song. In response, Shri Nigam made an objectionable statement, saying, 'Kannada, Kannada, Kannada, this is exactly why the incident happened in Pahalgam'... By linking a simple request to sing a Kannada song to a terrorist act in which 26 people were killed, Shri Nigam insulted the Kannadiga community and equated their cultural pride and linguistic identity with violence and intolerance," it added.

IPL: PBK and LSG Face-Off on a Crucial Mid-Table Clash



Dharamshala, (HS) : The picturesque Dharamshala will enter the IPL 2025 hosting party when Punjab Kings and Lucknow Super Giants clash in a pivotal mid-table encounter crucial in deciding who surges ahead in the race to playoffs on Sunday evening. PBKS, after winning over Chennai Super Kings (CSK) at the MA Chidambaram Stadium, are fourth on the points table with six wins, and one no result, from 10 games, while LSG, back after a week-long break from the competition, are at sixth place with five wins from 11 matches.

Shreyas Iyer's strong leadership and good batting form have boosted PBKS. Iyer's tactical acumen in leading PBKS to victories and technical adjustments against short balls has meant that the right-handed batter is having a dream time in the competition. It also helps PBKS that Prabhsimran Singh and Priyansh Arya have been in great form at the top of the order. In bowling, Yuzvendra Chahal, Arshdeep Singh and Marco Jansen have been fantastic, which adds cutting edge to PBKS' good showing in the competition. On the other hand, with the situation

dire for LSG, they are under more pressure to win their remaining games if they aim to enter the playoffs. Their skipper Rishabh Pant is struggling with the bat, which means responsibilities increase on the dangerous top order of Mitchell Marsh, Aiden Markram and Nicholas Pooran to give the team big scores. With the ball, Mayank Yadav's return against Mumbai Indians was heartening, though the rest of bowling line-up didn't fare well as per the expectations in that 54-run loss. LSG have a 3-2 head-to-head edge over PBKS, but they will be mindful of Iyer

& Co's red-hot form as the competition nears its business end.

Lucknow Super Giants: Rishabh Pant (captain and wicketkeeper), Nicholas Pooran (vice-captain), Mitchell Marsh, Abdul Samad, David Miller, Aiden Markram, Mayank Yadav, Ravi Bishnoi, Shardul Thakur, Avesh Khan, Aryan Juyal, Himmat Singh, Matthew Breetzke, Shahbaz Ahmad, Yuvraj Chaudhary, Rajvardhan Hangargekar, Arshin Kulkarni, Ayush Badoni, Akash Deep, Manimaran Siddharth, Digvesh Singh Rath, Akash Singh, Shamar Joseph, Prince Yadav.

Punjab Kings: Shreyas Iyer (captain), Shashank Singh, Nehal Wadhwa, Yuzvendra Chahal, Harman Pannu, Musheer Khan, Pyla Avinash, Prabhsimran Singh (wicketkeeper), Vishnu Vinod, Josh Inglis, Suryansh Shedge, Harpreet Brar, Marco Jansen, Aaron Hardie, Azmatullah Omarzai, Marcus Stoinis, Priyansh Arya, Praveen Dubey, Arshdeep Singh, Yash Thakur, Vijaykumar Vyshak, Kuldeep Sen, Xavier Bartlett. Sunday, May 4 at 7:30pm IST Where: HPCA Stadium, Dharamshala, Live telecast on Star Sports Network and live streaming on JioHotstar

Pakistan won't be part of Asia Cup & ACC could be disbanded: Gavaskar

New Delhi, (HS) : Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar has made a bold claim that he can't see Pakistan taking part in the upcoming Asia Cup after the Pahalgam terror attack last month.

India and Sri Lanka were set to host Asia Cup 2025 later this year. However, the recent terror attack in Pahalgam has cast a shadow on the mega event going ahead if Pakistan will be part of the tournament. In a recent interview, Gavaskar said that the BCCI's stance will be the same as the Indian government. Moreover, the former great feels that if the tensions between India and Pakistan don't subside, then



Pakistan won't play in the competition. "BCCI's stance has always been what the government of India tells them to do. So I don't think it would

be any different when it comes to the Asia Cup. India and Sri Lanka are the hosts for this particular edition of the Asia Cup. So it depends on whether things

have changed at all, but if things haven't changed, I can't see Pakistan now being part of the Asia Cup, which is going to be hosted by India and Sri Lanka," said Gavaskar. The former India captain also made the bold claim that Asian Cricket Council (ACC) could be disbanded. Gavaskar feels that ACC could come to an end if India pulls out and the Asia Cup could be made into a three or four-nation tournament. "I don't know how it will be. So that could well happen, ACC could well be disbanded. But I think it is dependent on what happens in the next couple of months," said the former India captain.

Kagiso Rabada IPL in 'Drug Use' Suspended from Cricket

New Delhi, (HS) : Exactly a month ago, Gujarat Titans pacer Kagiso Rabada returned home from the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 season, with the franchise labelling the reason a 'personal' one. However, the South African speedster has now revealed that he had to return home due to 'provisional suspension' over the usage of recreational drugs. Rabada himself issued a statement, explaining the scenario while also suggesting that he would use this as an opportunity to reflect on and improve himself. However, the statement didn't clarify what sort of recreational substance the pacer use, for which he tested positive. The statement also doesn't explain if it was an 'in competition' (IC) test or 'out of competition' (OOC). "As has been reported, I recently returned to South Africa from participating in the IPL, for personal reasons. This was due to my returning an adverse analytical finding for the use of a recreational drug." "I am deeply sorry to all those that I have let down. I will never take the privilege of playing cricket for granted. This privilege is much larger than me. It goes beyond my personal aspirations." "I am serving a provisional suspension and I am looking forward to returning to the game I love." "I couldn't have gone through this alone. I'd like to thank my agent, CSA, and Gujarat Titans for their support. I'd also like to thank SACA and my legal team for their guidance and counsel. Most importantly I'd like to thank my friends and family for their understanding and love."



Shami's form in IPL 2025 Raises Concerns Ahead of England Tour

New Delhi, (HS) : India's upcoming tour of England is set to be a challenging contest, but concerns over Mohammed Shami's form could impact the team's bowling attack. After a year-long injury layoff following the 2023 ODI World Cup, Shami made a successful comeback during the ICC Champions Trophy 2025, where India secured an unbeaten campaign to lift the title.

However, his performances in IPL 2025 have painted a different picture. Shami has managed only six wickets in nine matches, averaging 56.16 at an economy rate 11.23. Former Indian opener Aakash Chopra has voiced his concerns, questioning whether the pacer's prolonged struggle is linked to lingering effects of his knee injury. The Indian team management faces a crucial decision regarding Shami's inclusion for the England tour. Jasprit Bumrah, who returned to action in the IPL after a back injury, has been in solid form, alongside Mohammed Siraj, who remains one of the top wicket-takers this season. Additionally, Prasidh Krishna and Harshit Rana have proven to be reliable options. Former India head coach Ravi Shastri has suggested that Arshdeep Singh and Khaleel Ahmed, who provide left-arm pace options, could be surprise picks for the England Test series. With the first Test set to begin on June 20 at Headingley, India will closely monitor Shami's performance in the remaining IPL matches before finalising their squad.

