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English Daily



## Orissa HC Sets Unique Bail Conditions for Accused



**Cuttack, (DMC) :** In a landmark decision blending justice with social reform, the Orissa High Court has granted conditional bail to an accused who had allegedly filed a false case against another individual. As part of the bail conditions, the accused must engage in community service, including cleaning hospital premises and planting trees—a move that highlights the judiciary's increasing emphasis on rehabilitation and social accountability. The bail was granted by a division bench comprising Justice Sanjeeb Kumar Panigrahi and Justice B.R. Das, who were hearing a regular bail application. The bench observed that false litigation not only burdens the judicial system but also unjustly harasses innocent individuals. As such, the accused, found to have falsely implicated someone, must now undertake activities aimed at societal betterment. According to the Orissa High Court's directive, the accused will be required to clean rooms and wards of Capital Hospital in Bhubaneswar for a full month.

Additionally, he has been tasked with planting at least 100 saplings of native species such as mango, neem, and tamarind in the Dumduma area of Bhubaneswar. These saplings are to be planted in the upcoming monsoon season to ensure better survival and environmental impact. The Court has further instructed the accused to approach the Superintendent of Capital Hospital to coordinate his month-long cleaning duty. Simultaneously, the local revenue authorities are to assist in identifying suitable land in the Dumduma area if required, ensuring the plantation activity is not hindered due to the non-availability of land. Moreover, the Court has emphasized post-plantation care and instructed the concerned local police station's IIC (Inspector-in-Charge) to supervise the execution of these bail conditions in coordination with the local forest department officials. It will be their responsibility to verify whether the tree plantation is actually carried out and to ensure that the accused adheres

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## PM Meets Air Chief Marshal AP Singh Amid India-Pakistan Tensions



**New Delhi, (HS) :** Air Chief Marshal AP Singh today met Prime Minister Narendra Modi amid escalating tensions between India and Pakistan over the Pahalgam terror attack, which killed 26 people on April 22, sources said. The engagement with the Air Force chief came less than 24 hours after a separate meeting between the Prime Minister and Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, the Chief of the Naval Staff. The Prime Minister had met Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi

last week. While an official readout of the meeting was not released to the media, it is being seen as part of ongoing deliberations over a response to the April 22 attack, in which gunmen opened fire on a group of tourists in Pahalgam. All those killed were civilians, many of them tourists from various states across India, visiting the picturesque region in south Kashmir during the spring season. The attack marked one of the deadliest strikes on civilians in Kashmir in recent years and has

triggered calls for retributive action against Pakistan, which India accuses of providing support to terror groups to carry out cross-border attacks. Prime Minister Modi, in a high-level meeting held earlier this week, gave clear directions to the defence leadership that the Indian armed forces have "complete operational freedom" to decide the nature, targets, and timing of the country's response to the attack. Present at that earlier meeting were Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, National

Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, and the heads of the Army, Navy, and Air Force. Two days after the Pahalgam massacre, PM Modi's reference to taking the fight to the "ends of the earth" and punishing the perpetrators "beyond their imagination" was widely seen as a direct message to Pakistan. Historically, India has responded to terrorist provocations with force. In 2016, India carried out surgical strikes on terrorist launchpads across the Line of Control, following the attack on soldiers in J&K's Uri, and the 2019 Balakot airstrikes after the Pulwama bombing. The Air Force played a key role in the Balakot operation, using Mirage-2000 fighter jets to carry out strikes on what the government described as a major terror training facility. Following the Pahalgam attack, India has already taken diplomatic and strategic steps aimed at increasing pressure on Islamabad. One such move was the decision to put in abeyance certain provisions of the Indus Waters Treaty, a longstanding bilateral agreement governing the use of rivers that flow from India into Pakistan.

## CM Engages Industry Titans in Mumbai at WAVES 2025



**Bhubaneswar, (DMC) :** Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi spearheaded a high-level delegation to Mumbai on May 3, 2025, to participate in the inaugural WAVES 2025 - World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit at the Jio World Convention Centre. CM Majhi's visit underscored Odisha's ambition to position itself as a key player in India's Orange Economy, which encompasses content, creativity, and culture.

On the sidelines of WAVES 2025, CM Majhi conducted a series of B2G meetings with leading business executives, reinforcing Odisha's commitment to industrial

expansion and ease of doing business. Key discussions included: Tata Steel, Shapoorji Pallonji Group, Waaree Energies, and Indian Rare Earths Ltd. - Reviewing existing projects and exploring further growth avenues. Jain Irrigation Ltd. and JSK Aluminium Industries Ltd. - Encouraging investments in agro-processing, irrigation equipment production, and aluminium downstream industries. Google Inc. and Canary's Automation Pvt. Ltd. - Exploring digital governance collaborations, including AI-driven administration, predictive disaster management, and data

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## Odisha to Write WB Over Naming of Digha Temple as 'Jagannath Dham'



**Bhubaneswar, (DMC) :** Odisha Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan on Sunday announced that the state government will write to the West Bengal government over the naming of the Jagannath temple in Digha as 'Jagannath Dham'. Addressing the media, Harichandan said he would apprise Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi of the issue upon his return to Odisha, following which a letter will be sent to the West Bengal government.

"There is no justification or reason to name the Jagannath temple in Digha as 'Jagannath Dham'. The sanctity and identity of the Puri Jagannath Temple, along with its unique culture and traditions, must remain undisturbed," the minister said. He further stated that the state government is committed to taking all necessary steps to

safeguard the sanctity of the Puri temple. According to Harichandan, the Chief Administrator of the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA), Puri, has already held discussions with representatives of the Chhatisha Nijoga (the council of the 36 traditional categories of servitors (Sevayats)) and other stakeholders involved in the temple's rituals. The SJTA convened a meeting on Saturday night and made key decisions pertaining to the issue. The Law Minister said the government is taking a firm stance to prevent any recurrence of indiscipline related to servitors, temple rituals, and cultural practices. The temple administration, he added, has been granted authority to take appropriate action where necessary. Targeting the

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## Nepali students' death at KIIT University: Nepal National Assembly voices concern

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC) :** The recent death of a Nepalese student at KIIT University in Bhubaneswar has sparked deep concern in the Nepal National Assembly, with lawmakers demanding urgent action and a thorough investigation.

The unfortunate incident has reignited the debate over the safety of Nepalese students pursuing higher education at the varsity. Several members of the Nepal National Assembly, including Chairperson Narayan Prasad Dahal, expressed concern over the repeated reports of unfortunate deaths of Nepalese students at the university during today's emergency session. Dahal described the incident as extremely 'distressing' and called for strong diplomatic engagement between Nepal and India to



uncover the truth behind such occurrences. The legislators have urged the Nepal government to carry out a neutral and independent investigation into the cause of the students' deaths. In addition, they demanded justice for the deceased. Dahal specifically asked for measures that would ensure no such incident would repeat in the future.

The parliamentarians further demanded that students planning to study at KIIT University should not be allowed to proceed. Tula Prasad Bishwakarma, a member of the Rashtriya Janamorchha, called on the government to immediately halt the process of issuing NOCs for the private university. "It is deeply saddening that such

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## Digha Jagannath Temple Controversy: SJTA Investigates Sacred Neem Wood Dispute

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC) :** In a developing controversy surrounding the Digha Jagannath Temple, Daitapati Nijoga President Ganesh Das Mohapatra and Secretary Ramakrushna Das Mohapatra appeared before the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) today as part of the ongoing investigation

into the use of sacred Neem wood at the temple. The temple administration had previously issued notices to presidents and secretaries of all Sevayat Niyogs, demanding an explanation for the transfer of sacred Neem wood to the Digha Jagannath Temple. A crucial meeting was held at the SJTA office, chaired by Dr. Arabinda Kumar Padhee, where

officials discussed the fate of the remaining Neem wood from Nabakalebar rituals. The issue gained further attention when Sri Jagannath Sena filed a complaint against Ramakrushna Das Mohapatra at the Singha Dwar Police Station. Meanwhile, Chief Badagrahi Jagannath Swain Mahapatra stated that no place other than Puri should be called

Jagannath Dham, rejecting an invitation to attend the Digha Temple consecration ceremony. As the debate continues, temple officials and servitors remain divided over the significance of the sacred Neem wood and its rightful place in Jagannath tradition. The SJTA is expected to take further action based on its inquiry.

## Heavy Rain, Thunderstorms Likely in Odisha Tomorrow

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC) :** The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued orange and yellow warnings for several districts in Odisha, forecasting thunderstorms with lightning, gusty winds reaching 40-50 kmph, and heavy rainfall likely during the afternoon and evening hours on May 5.

As per the IMD's mid-day weather bulletin, light to moderate rain or thundershowers are expected in the districts of Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khordha, Nayagarh, Ganjam, Gajapati, Mayurbhanj, Malkangiri, Koraput, and Rayagada. One or

two places in Keonjhar, Sundargarh, Kandhamal, Kalahandi, Nabarangpur, Nuapada, Balangir, Angul, Dhenkanal, and Boudh may also receive rainfall. Dry weather is likely to prevail over the remaining districts.

An orange warning has been issued for Mayurbhanj, Koraput, and Malkangiri districts, indicating the possibility of intense weather activity. A yellow warning has been issued for Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam, Gajapati, Rayagada, Nabarangpur,

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## "If Missiles are Going to Rain...": Experts on "Cost" of India-Pak War

**New Delhi, (HS) :** As emotions run high in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack, a former diplomat has warned that public mood should not dictate a war with Pakistan. Ajay Bisaria, former high commissioner to Pakistan, highlighted the key aspects of such an action and said its timing should not be based on what the people feel. "For any operation to succeed, you need three elements: speed, surprise, and secrecy. There is an issue of choosing our timing, and that should not be dictated by the public mood," said the former diplomat. Mr Bisaria, who has headed the Indian mission in Pakistan during 2017-2020, stressed the need to be able to



fight the battle on its own if the situation escalates. "We have to

fight this battle on our own. When you escalate, you have to be

prepared for the worst-case scenario, which is an

uncontrolled escalation where you could even be fighting a full-scale war. And have the capacity, intent, political will, and national will to be able to do that," he added.

His comments assume significance amid the soaring tensions between India and Pakistan after 26 civilians were massacred in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam by terrorists with links to a Pakistan-based terror group. Sushant Sareen, a strategic affairs expert, warned of the "massive costs" of war and said both countries will be vulnerable if the situation escalates to the point where India and Pakistan drop missiles on

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## Yamuna Cleaning

The Yamuna in Delhi spans only 22 km of the river's more than 1,400-km stretch. Yet, the Capital accounts for 75 per cent of the Yamuna's pollution. In March, a report of the parliamentary standing committee on water resources pointed out that the river is virtually non-existent in Delhi. It underlined that the river loses all its environmental flow - the volume and quality of water required by a water body to maintain its health and perform its ecological functions - downstream of the Wazirabad Barrage. In other words, the Yamuna simply does not have freshwater for most of its Delhi stretch. Instead, it carries the waters emptied by more than 20 drains, except during the monsoon months when there is good rainfall. The quality of the river's waters was among the issues in the Delhi Assembly elections. Now, the Centre has come together with Delhi's new government to resolve the longstanding problem. Their joint action plan ticks a few of the right boxes - particularly salient is the project's emphasis on restoring the river's environmental flows. However, much will depend on the project's fine print. Similar plans have run out of steam in the past.

The project plans to use sewage treatment plants (STPs) to restore some of the river's ecological functions. Water treated by these plants will be discharged downstream of the Wazirabad and Okhla barrages. For that, the efficiency of the STPs needs to be increased. Delhi Pollution Control Committee reports, in recent years, have underlined that at least half of Delhi's STPs do not meet operating standards. In the past 10 years, projects to upgrade these plants suffered because the Delhi government and the Centre were not on the same page. The new BJP government in Delhi appears to have embarked on a course correction. However, the Centre and the Delhi government will be mistaken to completely rely on treated water to revive the Yamuna's environmental flows - water cleansed at STPs is not freshwater. The river needs freshwater to nurture a healthy aquatic ecosystem. In the long run, Delhi needs to find better ways to use rainwater. One of the shortcomings of the new Yamuna plan is that it does not connect the dots between rainwater harvesting and reducing the city's dependence on the Yamuna. The plan does have a floodplain component. However, much of the focus seems to be on removing floodplain encroachments. Delhi will also have to find ways to refurbish its wetlands and catchment areas. The new plan is a beginning. Much more needs to be done.

5th May

## Astronaut Day



National Astronaut Day is celebrated on May 5 since 2016 to commemorate the first time an American, Alan Shepard, went to space. From the first-ever space flight to the longest spaceflight by a woman; we have come a long way.

In January 1959, NASA began an astronaut selection procedure in response to the space race and Russia's first victorious launch into space. This included screening the records of 508 military test pilots from which 110 candidates were chosen. At the end of the extremely tough selection process, seven were chosen based on final interviews. They were: L. Gordon Cooper Jr., Scott Carpenter, Virgil "Gus" Grissom, John H. Glenn Jr., Alan Shepard Jr., Walter Schirra Jr., and Donald Slayton. They would go down in history as the Mercury Seven. Among them, Astronaut Alan Bartlett Shepard Jr. became the first American to be launched into space on May 5, 1961. The flight lasted 15 minutes and reached a height of 116 miles, which itself was a milestone. National Astronaut Day was created in 2016 by Uniphi Space Agency. It is a talent and marketing division of Uniphi Good LLC, a firm that represents over 20 former NASA astronauts.

National Astronaut Day celebrates astronauts as heroes who keep on inspiring us to reach for the stars. It is a tribute to all those brave people who risked their lives to expand mankind's knowledge about space exploration and the universe at large. The intent behind National Astronaut Day is to share experiences and stories from astronauts and spark curiosity among young space lovers and motivate them to follow their dreams.

Apollo 11 astronaut Neil Armstrong takes the first steps on the surface of the moon. Astronaut Alan Shepard Jr. hits a golf ball on the surface of the Moon. U.S. astronaut John Glenn becomes the oldest astronaut to go to space at 77 years of age. Jessica Weir and Christina Koch come out of the International Space Station (ISS) to replace a battery charge/discharge unit. There are many documentaries about space exploration on various OTT platforms. Some of these include "Apollo 11," "Apollo: Missions to the Moon," "Above and Beyond: NASA's Journey to Tomorrow," "How the Universe Works," and "The Universe." Read memoirs by astronauts and learn more about space experiences. Here are some great memoirs you should read: "Sally Ride: America's First Woman in Space" by Lynn Sherr, "Apollo 13" by Jim Lovell and Jeffrey Kluger, "Carrying the Fire: An Astronaut's Journeys" by Michael Collins, and "Magnificent Desolation" by Buzz Aldrin. Share your favorite astronaut story or space exploration story on social media. Use the #NationalAstronautDay and #WeBelieveInAstronauts. You can also visit the official website for National Astronaut Day.

# Towards a Five Trillion Dollar Economy



Raghu Nath Mahapatra

With an ambitious vision to transform the country into a global economic powerhouse that creates more jobs, raises incomes, and improves everyday life for its people, in the year 2019, the government of India (GOI) laid out a bold dream of turning India into a \$5 trillion economy by 2025. At that time, India's economy was valued at around \$2.94 trillion and the country had already achieved the status of the fastest growing economy of the world. But the target of a \$5 trillion dollar economy by 2025 was seemed like an unprecedented dream and highly optimistic and unreachable goal for many experts at that time. The Trillion dollar club is an unofficial classification of the major economies of the world which has a gross domestic product (nominal GDP) of more than US\$1 trillion per year.

As per the International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimation, hitting the target of a \$5 trillion dollar economy needs a growth rate of around 8-9% every year. But the minimum expected GDP growth rate even if in FY26 (as per the economic survey tabled in Parliament by the union finance minister) is only 6.3% and adjusting to the inflation

rate, the real GDP growth could be as low as 5.7% this year. The "Trading Economics" has predicted India's GDP to be only around \$3.781 trillion in 2025 while the earlier IMF prediction was \$4.340 trillion this year. The country's dream to grow its economy to \$5 trillion and beyond depends on how it manages the exchange rate of its currency against the US dollar in the near future while retaining the current GDP growth agenda. It's reported that Rupee has depreciated about 3% in 2024 making the dollar stronger than the Indian currency. A strong dollar affects the value of imports, especially crude oil which accounts for nearly 25% of our gross import bill and this huge expenditure carries a chain effect on user industries. This appears to be the biggest challenge before the economy and government in this year and for the coming ones. It's of no doubt that the country's economy, despite various national and international setbacks, is on a growth path. Indian economy in 2025, by more than doubling its size, has outpaced all the nations in the G7, the G20, and the BRICS of economy. The agriculture sector is projected to grow by 3.8%, while the industry sector is expected to grow by 6.2%. The services sector, a major contributor to India's GDP, also continues to be a key growth driver. The government's focus on infrastructure development through initiatives like the 'Gati Shakti plan', increasing the investment in digital transformation (including expanding 4G connectivity in all villages) and various policy initiatives such as 'Make in India' may lead to a further boost to the economy of the country.

As per the latest data from



the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the country shows a staggering 105% growth in the recent past. The growth rate has outpaced many major economies like China (76%), USA (66%), Germany (44%), France (38%) and UK (28%). India is on the cusp of overtaking Japan (GDP at \$4.4 trillion) as the fourth-largest economy in the world by the third quarter of 2025. It's also expected that India will surpass Germany (the third-largest economy globally) by the second quarter of 2027. German's GDP currently stands at \$4.9 trillion. And it's also predicted that breaking into the top two places will take India little over two decades at its current rate of growth. The growth trajectory of the country in the recent past is also quite phenomenal. While the country, took 60 years for its GDP to reach the first trillion-dollar mark (in 2007), on the other hand, from \$1 trillion to \$2 trillion it took 7 years (in 2014). Further, despite the onset of COVID-19 (which had stalled the world economy), India reached the \$3 trillion mark in 2021 and the journey from \$3 trillion to \$4 trillion took just 4 years. Should the progression continue the way it is, the country is poised to add a trillion dollars to its GDP every

1.5 years, and could likely become a \$10 trillion economy by end of 2032. Despite some setbacks, it's said that India's economic trajectory has been nothing short of remarkable. Morgan-Stanley's report claims "Macro-stability should remain in the comfort range, providing flexibility to policymakers." Going forward, the country's consumption recovery is expected to be broad-based as the income tax cuts propel urban demand which will support the buoyant trend in rural consumption.

Within investments, public and household capex drove growth, while private corporate capex recovered gradually. The strength in services exports bodes well for the labour market outlook, with moderating inflation likely to improve purchasing power. Domestic demand may emerge as the key driver of growth, bolstered by policy support on the monetary and fiscal front. Morgan Stanley expects inflation to be 4.3% year-on-year in FY2026-27 which is lower than 4.9% in FY2025. On the monetary policy front, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is easing across all its levers: rates, liquidity and regulations. It embarked on a rate easing cycle in the February policy, and Morgan Stanley

expected more cautious rate cuts ahead. Stating that risks to growth stem from external factors, the report says: the most crucial cue will likely be global, including US policy and global growth rates. "A global recession or a near recession will challenge our call and keep the Indian equities off highs in 2025," it added. The IMF data also highlighted that the GDP per capita (which measures the average income of a citizen based on the total economic output) is estimated at \$11,940 (or 11.94 thousand international dollars in terms of purchasing power parity). This indicates an improvement in individual prosperity and living standards over the years.

In the integrated economic framework of the world, India doesn't get respite from global turbulences but with appropriate macroeconomic steps and policy packages the situation can be tackled to many extents. A comprehensive multi-pronged policy measure and a stimulus that pumps more money into the economy in the form of transfers, production aid, and investment support is highly required to sustain the growth path of the economy. Fiscal, monetary and financial market measures targeted at the most vulnerable sectors, the households and businesses, both at domestic and international levels is the need of the hour. We might miss the originally expected timeline of 2024-2025 to achieve the target of \$5 trillion economy, but by pursuing the correct policy-mix, we might get to that milestone very well by 2028-2029 or at least by the end of this decade.

*The writer is Former Senior Project Associate HSS Department, IIT Kanpur*

## Live life in a moderate and balanced manner

Kishore Kumar Jena

According to Confucius, "To go beyond is as wrong as to fall short." Balance in various aspects of life is conducive to smoothness and happiness in life. In essence, an individual's life is dependent to a great extent on the balance of his thoughts, perspectives, attitudes, attributes, behaviour and conduct. Buddhism also advocates the 'Middle Path' or the path of moderation. It exhorts one to avoid extremes. Adherence to this path results in happiness for oneself and others, yielding the greatest value to human existence.

Moderation is the key to an ideal life. The words 'balance' and 'perfect' are, more or less, interchangeable. It is entailed everywhere and in everything. Even our day-to-day mundane activities like eating, sleeping and recreation need to be tempered with moderation. Pursuit of wealth, acquisition of knowledge, setting life-goals, relationships, practising religion - everything requires a balanced approach to yield desired results. Even virtues, if not exercised in right proportion, tend to lose their sublimity. Too much goodness, knowledge, love or generosity could become inimical. Love is a prerequisite for all personal relationships but an excess of it can wreak havoc. It may get transmuted into possessiveness or attachment, creating complications and misery. Similarly, when we exhibit too much of goodness in our dealings with others, we get taken for granted or even cheated. For its maximum efficacy, charity, too, should be done in sensible proportion. This will keep the donor's ego and sense of doership



circumscribed. Expectations and needs of beneficiaries will also be kept within reasonable bounds. Dearth of knowledge leads to a depleted and debilitated life while excessive knowledge tends to make one nerdy, a misfit in the normal social setup. Practising religion enhances life. One does not easily swerve from the path of truth and morality. But here also, one needs to incorporate moderation. An excessive indulgence may result in dereliction of one's essential, worldly duties or it may get distorted to parochialism and bigotry. Similarly, life goals which are balanced tend to be realistic with greater chances of success. Yoga, a universal panacea, provides us with an infallible solution. According to yoga master BKS Iyengar, "It is through alignment of the body that I discovered alignment of my mind, self and intelligence." Yogasanas, yogic physical postures, are the road to physical, mental, emotional and spiritual stability, balance and growth. Regularity and tenacity in one's yoga practice is the key. Decisive moves and accurate

alignment of the body, during asanas, impart precision, firmness and consistency gradually and spontaneously start seeping into every facet of life - in one's behaviour, relationships and day-to-day dealings. The mind attains clarity and sharpness. Perfection becomes a habit. A healthy, well-synchronised body and mind harmonise one's internal make-up, causing one to be in peace with oneself and consequently in balance.

It has been observed that the ability to be in the present moment is a major component of mental wellness and balance. Yoga keeps us in a state of perpetual awareness that in turn keeps us anchored in the present. This is a big blessing. When we are not mourning for the past or worrying about the future, we tend to become focussed and balanced. All the lopsided aspects of life undergo a metamorphosis. Life assumes an enriched, integrated and balanced form.

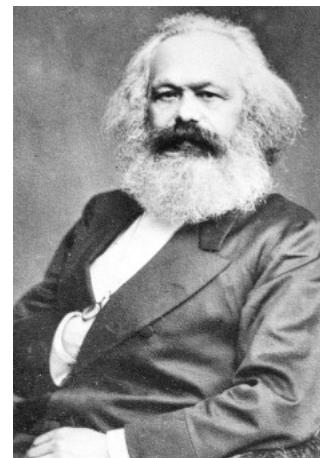
*Advocate, Bangali Sahi, Cuttack*

## Karl Marx & Social Change

Dr. Arundhati Devi

Karl Marx was a pivotal figure in 19th-century thought, known for his revolutionary theories on economics, politics, and sociology. His work, particularly "The Communist Manifesto" and "Das Kapital," challenged existing social and economic structures, advocating for a classless society and sparking movements that have shaped global history. While his ideas have been both praised and criticized, Marx's influence on socialist thought, political activism, and academic disciplines remains profound.

Marx's Key Ideas: Historical Materialism: Marx believed that history is driven by the struggle between classes, particularly the conflict between the bourgeoisie (owners of capital) and the proletariat (working class). He saw economic systems as the foundation of society, shaping social and political structures. Class Struggle: Marx argued that capitalism inherently creates class conflict, with the bourgeoisie exploiting the proletariat for profit. This exploitation, he believed, would lead to a revolutionary overthrow of capitalism. Alienation: Marx explored the concept of alienation, arguing that workers become alienated from their labor, the products of their work, and from their own humanity under capitalism. Communism: Marx envisioned a communist society as the ultimate stage of history, characterized by the abolition of private property, the elimination of class divisions, and the establishment of a society where resources are distributed based on need, not profit. Marx's ideas inspired



socialist and communist movements globally, leading to revolutions and the establishment of communist states in the 20th century. Marx's work significantly influenced the development of sociology, political science, and economics, contributing to the rise of critical theory and alternative perspectives on social and economic issues.

Karl Marx was a complex and popular figure, but his ideas have had a profound impact on the world. Whether one agrees with his revolutionary vision or not, Marx's work continues to be a subject of debate and analysis, shaping our understanding of social and economic systems and inspiring movements for social change.

*Director & Secretary, International Indecency Prevention Movement, Cuttack*



# Health Dept. braces up for Puri Car Festival

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):** The Health & Family Welfare Department, Odisha braced up for ensuing Car Festival 2025 at Puri with Secretary Aswathy S. reviewing the preparedness in a high level meeting held in Lokseba Bhawan Conference hall yesterday evening.

Taking stock of the available and required health care facilities,Aswathy directed the senior officers of the department present in the meeting to ensure adequate arrangements for sevayats, pilgrims, tourists and people from Nabajauban Darshan( 26 June) to Niladribije( 8 July) without fail. She added, "the facilities and services with required manpower be placed well in advance of the scheduled dates of the grand public festival". Mainly, the issues relating to strengthening of hospitals across Puri district, especially the Government health facilities in and around the pilgrim city, setting up of the first aid centers,



stationing of ambulance services at strategic sites, deputation of additional manpower including specialists, doctors and paramedics, food safety measures, prevention, combat and control of any possible outbreak etc were discussed in the meeting; and, necessary resolutions were arrived at. Secretary Aswathy assured that necessary funds would be made available for setting up additional facilities, more beds for the patients, including repair and upkeep of the clinical equipments.It was decided that more beds and facilities in district head quarter hospital, KDMM

home urban public health center, police hospital, Chandanpur CHC, Sakhigopal CHC, Mangalpur CHC, Pipili CHC, TB and IDH hospital, Jagannath medical college and hospital, Station Road, and Rebenuagaon CHC will be kept ready and reserved for the ensuing festival. Around 33 First Aid Centers (FACs) would function round the clock in three shifts with necessary logistics and emergency medicines. Each shift would have at least one doctor, one pharmacist, one multipurpose health worker and one attendant. It was proposed to set up the 12FACs in

Badadanda(grand trunk road), 03 in Sea beach area, 03 in Talabania and Railway station, 09 in Puri-Bhubaneswar road, 04 in Puri-Konark road, and 02 in Puri-Satapada road. Similarly, 31 more ambulance services with entire team would be placed at the places like dist head qrt hospital, Badadanda, Sea beach, various places inside the town, railway station, Puri-Bhubaneswar road, Puri-Konark road, and Puri-Satapada road.

The movement of the ambulances would be facilitated by ambulance corridor with the help of volunteers. Besides, 07 numbers of 108 Ambulances will be stationed at strategic points on NH-203. More than 300 specialists, doctors, nursing officers, epidemiologist, pharmacist, Multi-Purpose Health Workers, dressers, attendants would be deputed to DHH Puri for healthcare during the festival. Sufficient blood units of different groups would be kept

ready for meeting any emergency. It was also decided to station food safety teams headed by Food Safety officers for ensuring food safety precautions. Preventive actions including disinfection of water sources will be carried on before and during the festival along with IEC activities. Rapid Response Teams along with 24x7 Health Control room would be functioning during the festival.

Mission Director Dr Brundha D., Managing Director OSMCL Dr Poma Tudu, Director State Insitute of Helath & Family Welfare Dr Amarendra Mohanty, Special Secretary Public Health Dr J.M. Bebortha, Special Secretary Health Services Dr Bijay Kumar Mohapatra along with Directors of various directorates under Health and Family Welfare dept participated in the deliberations. CDM and PHO, Puri Dr Rupabhanu Mishra and Supt Jagannath Medical College Dr Kausik Mishra outlined the subject matters along with updates for discussion.

# 3-Member Panel To Submit Cuttack Mishap Report In 15 Days



**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):** The Odisha Works Department has set up a three-member technical committee to submit its report within 15 days on the mishap that occurred yesterday during the construction work for the six-laning of the Cuttack Ring Road near Khannagar.According to an official notification, the committee has been formed under the guidance of Works, Law, and Excise Minister Prithviraj Harichandan.

The committee is tasked with investigating the cause and circumstances of the incident and recommending appropriate actions if negligence is found. Headed by the Engineer-in-Chief-cum-Special Secretary of the Works Department, the panel also includes the Chief Engineer (Roads-II) and the Additional District Magistrate (General), Cuttack.The committee has been directed to conduct a comprehensive inquiry to determine whether the incident resulted from human error or other lapses. Minister Prithviraj Harichandan stated that strict action will be taken if any party is found responsible.

# Odisha Raj Bhavan to go fully solar-powered with 400 kW power plant



**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):** Odisha Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati announced that the Raj Bhavan is set to go fully solar-powered, with plans to install a 400 kW solar power plant in the pipeline.At present, a 150 kW solar unit is already functioning on the premises.He stated that the solar power expansion at Odisha Raj Bhavan is expected to be completed within the next three to four

months."Once the new plant becomes operational, the Raj Bhavan's monthly electricity bill-currently around Rs 3 lakh-will be reduced to zero," he said.The initiative is part of a broader vision to transform the governor's residence into a net-zero energy campus.Reaffirming his commitment to environmental sustainability, Governor Kambhampati also announced the adoption of electric vehicles at the

Raj Bhavan."We have introduced a fleet of Made-in-India EVs, which includes four official cars and electric two-wheelers for staff members," he said.The governor also encouraged the public to embrace solar energy by taking advantage of various central government schemes. He highlighted the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana,

which provides significant subsidies for installing rooftop solar systems in homes, and the PM KUSUM Yojana, designed to support farmers in setting up solar-powered pump sets for irrigation. Kambhampati emphasized that such initiatives are crucial for making green energy both accessible and affordable.He also urged citizens to make use of these schemes to lessen their reliance on conventional power sources.

# Special Camp Court Organized in Bhubaneswar to Expedite Appeal Cases Under ODA Act

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):** In a major step toward ensuring citizen-centric governance and timely justice delivery, a special Camp Court was organized on Sunday at UNNATI Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, led by Usha Padhee, Principal Secretary to the Government, Housing and Urban Development Department of Odisha.

The initiative is being undertaken as per the direction of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, with the aim of ensuring a citizen-centric approach and expediting the disposal of appeal cases filed under the Odisha Development Authorities (ODA) Act, 1982.The Principal Secretary, who is the designated appellate authority for appeal cases related to the Bhubaneswar



Development Authority (BDA) and Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), presided over today's hearing. Out of more than 800 pending appeal cases, a total of 200 cases were addressed and disposed of during the day-long session. These appeals pertain to various cases filed by citizens against orders issued by the respective

authorities under the provisions of the ODA Act. Recently, in order to strengthen the appellate mechanism and ensure the speedy disposal of cases, government orders have been obtained to designate other senior officers - including the Director of Municipal Administration, Special Secretaries, and Additional

Secretaries - as appellate authorities for handling appeal cases under the Act. This decentralized approach aims to enhance efficiency and reduce the backlog. This unique initiative reflects the commitment of the Housing and Urban Development Department to uphold the principles of transparency, fairness, and accountability. It seeks to provide a fair hearing platform for citizens who believe they have been affected by administrative decisions that may not align with due process or the public interest.The Camp Court mechanism has been well-received by the public and is expected to continue in future phases to clear the remaining cases in a time-bound manner.

# Odisha Govt To Finalise Administrative Boundaries By June 30 Ahead of Census

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):** In a key preparatory move for the upcoming national Census, the Odisha government has set June 30, 2025, as the deadline to finalise the boundaries of all administrative units, including districts, sub-divisions, tahsils, revenue villages, and urban local bodies (ULBs). According to an official notification issued by the Revenue and Disaster Management Department, the state government has allowed changes in the boundaries of these administrative units until the end of June. After this date, the



boundaries will be frozen on July 1, 2025, and no further alterations will be permitted for the purposes of Census enumeration."The State Government do hereby allow changes of administrative boundaries of the Districts, Sub-Divisions, Tahasils, Revenue

Villages and also Urban Local Bodies so fixed including boundaries fixed under any law for the time being in force, before 30th June, 2025. The boundaries of administrative units for ensuimg Census will be frozen on 1st July, 2025," the notification stated. Freezing administrative

boundaries prior to a Census is a standard procedure carried out to ensure the accuracy, consistency, and comparability of data across all regions.This step helps census authorities avoid discrepancies in population counts and administrative records during enumeration. District administrations and local bodies across Odisha have been instructed to complete any necessary adjustments or restructuring of administrative units well before the June 30 deadline to ensure a smooth and accurate Census operation.

# Economic offence: Cuttack Police puts up 'Wanted' notice outside fugitive's home

**Cuttack, (DMC):** In a stern move, the Commissionerate Police put up a public notice on Sunday outside fugitive Niranjana Behera's residence in Mangalabag in Cuttack, warning of property seizure if he fails to appear within a month. The action follows repeated court orders and his continued defiance since 2019.

According to official sources, the Police have taken visible legal action against Niranjana Behera, a fugitive accused in two financial fraud cases, by beating the 'dengura' (drum) and putting up a Latka (public proclamation notice) outside his residence in Gopalsahi. Acting on an instruction from the JMFC Court in the City, Mangalabag Police affixed the notice, declaring fugitive Niranjana (from Ranihat locality) as absconding



due to his repeated failure to appear in court despite multiple warrants issued since 2019. The court has officially labeled him a 'proclaimed offender' and 'abscondee' as well."

Police not only displayed the proclamation in front of his home but also issued a formal notice to his family, instructing them to ensure Niranjana appears before the authorities

within one month. Failure to do so, as per the court directive, will result in the confiscation of his entire property," Cuttack ACP Zone II, Girija Shankar Chakraborty said.Niranjana's long-standing evasion and disregard for court orders have now escalated the case, bringing him under stricter legal scrutiny. The court had previously issued notices and Non-Bailable Warrants (NBWs) to which the accused had not responded, the ACP Zone II expressed in a presser while briefing mediapersons. Worth mentioning, in a crackdown, the Commissionerate Police-Bhubaneswar had put up a warrant notice (Latka in local parlance) issued against a youth named Akshay Naik alias Nanda, on March 23. Akshay is accused of raping a minor girl.

# UBÉAU CLINIC Launches India's First SkinPen & Sunekos Treatment in Bhubaneswar

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):** UBÉAU CLINIC, India's premier destination for advanced aesthetic and cosmetic dermatology, proudly announces the launch of India's first SkinPen & Sunekos Treatment - a revolutionary advancement in non-surgical skin rejuvenation. This landmark service is now available exclusively at their flagship clinic in

Bhubaneswar, Odisha. With a mission to bring world-class aesthetic innovations to India, UBÉAU CLINIC becomes the first in the country to integrate SkinPen, the only FDA-cleared microneedling device globally, with Sunekos, an Italian innovation based on patented injectable amino acid technology that regenerates the skin from within. This unique combination offers a clinically proven solution for

acne scars, wrinkles, pigmentation, under-eye hollows, and overall skin texture rejuvenation - all with minimal downtime and maximum efficacy.Speaking at the launch event, Dr. Sampada Sethia, Founder, UBÉAU CLINIC said, "Our patients seek the best global standards in skincare, and we're proud to be at the forefront of aesthetic science in India.

# Odisha Nodal Officers Review Implementation of Right To Public Services Act



**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):** A Review Meeting of the Nodal Officers of 'Odisha Right to Public Services Act, 2012' across 32 Departments of the Government of Odisha was held today at the Lok Seva Bhavan in Bhubaneswar to assess the implementation and progress of the 'Odisha Right to Public Services Act (ORTPSA), 2012'.The meeting was chaired by the Executive Director, Center for Modernizing Government Initiative (CMGI) Vineet Bharadwaj.The agenda for the Review Meeting included

updates on the application status of ORTPSA for the period from April 2024 to 2nd May 2025, integration of services with the Central Monitoring System (CMS) Dashboard, provision for issuance of Acknowledgement receipt to all the Applicants and addition/deletion of services under the Act. Officials, Process Re-engineering and Technical Teams from NIC, OCAC, and CMGI presented action plans to streamline service delivery. Furthermore, discussions also focused on developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for

notified ORTPSA services and capacity-building initiatives by institutions like Gopabandhu Academy of Administration (GAA), State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD & PR), and Awareness campaign by National Service Scheme (NSS) in association with Higher Education Department.Speaking on the occasion, Executive Director CMGI Vineet Bharadwaj said that the Government is committed to ensure timely, transparent, and accountable service delivery to citizens under ORTPSA through

inter-departmental collaboration and boosting digital infrastructure. Former Information Commissioner and Mentor CYSD Jagadananda stressed on empathetic governance and the need for IEC activities to sensitise citizens regarding the provisions of the ORTPSA Act. He assured that being the Resource Support Agency for the implementation of Odisha Right to Public Services Act (ORTPSA) in the State, CYSD will associate with more and more NGOs and Civil Society Organisations towards creating a massive outreach programme on ORTPSA in the coming days. Additional Secretary, GA&PG Department Debabrata Mallick, Project Coordinator, CMGI Pinaki Mohanty, OSD CMGI, Samarendra Sarangi, OSD to Chief Secretary, Ansuman Rath and other officials from CMGI and GA&PG Department were present on the occasion.



**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):** In a significant step toward strengthening sustainable water resource management, a high-level meeting chaired by Development Commissioner-cum-Additional Chief Secretary Anu Garg was held on Saturday.

The meeting was convened to share the findings of an independent evaluation study on the Command Area Development and Water Management (CAD & WM) and Reconstruction of Field Channels (RCOFC) schemes. Senior officials from Water Resources, Finance and other key stakeholders attended the meeting.The study assessed the progress made during the period

2021-22 to 2023-24, across six sample divisions covering both new and reconstructed field channel works. The results highlighted Odisha's notable achievements in improving irrigation efficiency, farmer participation, and agricultural productivity through targeted interventions in 59 major, medium, and minor irrigation commands.

Key findings revealed a significant increase in irrigated land from 44% to 89%, reflecting a 102% rise in irrigation potential utilised (IPU); doubling of average household-level irrigated land from 0.9 acre to 1.8 Acre; average paddy yields increasing

by 18% with income rising by 84% etc.The study further noted positive impacts on cropping intensity, farmer engagement through Pani Panchayats, and socio-economic upliftment, while also recommending enhancements in field channel construction standards, maintenance protocols, and water governance reforms. Garg lauded the progress and reaffirmed the State's commitment to inclusive, technology-driven, and farmer-centric irrigation reform. She emphasized the need for timely execution, robust monitoring, and convergence with digital platforms.



## Irate drivers/helpers halt port operations protesting over killing of their 2 colleague in Paradip



**Paradip, (DMC):** Two drivers were killed inside Paradip Port prohibited area while repairing their broken down Hyva dumpers late last Saturday night when an uncontrolled iron ore laden truck moving on great speed hit the dumpers from behind killing both the drivers on spot. The deceased drivers were Ratnakar Swain (46) of Astaranga area and Chandan Jena (33) of Sandhakuda slum area. Tension gripped among the

intraport drivers and helpers working in the restricted area after the incident. On Sunday morning, the workers held demonstration and blocked all the gates through which workers and vehicles move into Port to their work places demanding compensations to the deceased families and employ one of their family members in port for survival. They also demanded immediate ambulance service system and proper traffic

management in the prohibited area which they cited as reasons for the loss of lives. They also complained that the driver who made the accident was heavily drunk. The port operations were affected as the gates were closed for about 8 hours from 6 AM to 2 PM on Sunday. However, Paradip Additional Superintendent of Police Smruti Ranjan Kar, Model Police Station IIC Kabuli Barik and the police force reached the spot and convinced the aggrieved people.

Subsequently, Paradip Additional District Magistrate Niranjan Behera finally brought the agitation under control. Finally, a decision was taken to provide compensation of Rs. 10 lakh to each affected family by Paradip Port, Rs. 5 lakh 20 thousand by Liberty Marine Stevedores Company and Rs. 2 lakh 20 thousand by Dumper Association, informed Additional District Magistrate Shri Behera.

## Biswaranjan Calls FIR Against him Ridiculous & Fabricated

**Jajpur, (DMC):** FIR and Complaints at Bari Police against me by Amar Nayak a block staff is completely ridiculous, clearly malicious and fabricated. Biswaranjan Mallick, Bari MLA stated in a Press conference held by BariBJD unit in Bari IB on Sunday morning. Speaking to Press Sri Mallick said the copy of the FIR, the content by the employee is laughable. I have not issued threats in my life to anyone. I am not a person who will indulge in illegal activities. The complainant has mentioned that I had talked against his cast which denotes the staff has tried to misused the cast.

A days before filing the "fabricated FIR", Mr Amar had insulted the Block Vice Chairperson Archana Mallick who belongs to a Scheduled Cast regarding any development related talks. In that time I had advised him not to do this and support the representatives. To escape from cases Amar has directly put False FIR against me as the block Vice Chairman earlier puts fir against Amar Nayak, Biswaranjan Said. Due to the blessings of Bari People he starts many developmental works, But the bad guys in here are blaming him. Since five days services in Bari block totally uninterrupted due to this staff who are now under the pressure of one unit, Sri Mallick added.

## Khordha Distributors Association Meeting Held

**Khordha, (DMC):** An important meeting of the Distributors Association of Khordha was held at the Gita Bhawan premises under the chairmanship of Shashikant Mishra. In the meeting Distributor Association President, Paramesh Subudhi, Secretary, Gopal Agarwal welcomed the guests with a bouquet of flowers. Odisha Bayabasai Mahasangh Secretary, Sudhakar Panda, Legal Advisor Shakti Shankar Mishra, IIC, Khordha, Model PS, Sanjaya Kumar Nayak participated & discussed various problems of the traders. After discussing unity and harmony among the members, it was decided to organize a meeting with traders of Nayagarh, Daspalla, Begunia, Jatni, Tangi, Balugaon in the coming days. Various development schemes of the government and consumer safety were discussed.



## 10 year old girl dies in a snake bite, mother & son critical

**Keonjhar, (DMC):** A 10-year-old girl died after being bitten by a poisonous snake in Telkoi block's Krushnapur village, while the 32 year old mother and 2 year old younger brother of the deceased are in critical condition. The critically ill are under treatment in Telkoi community health center. The deceased has been identified as Sambari Juanga, daughter of Sambhunath Juang. Sambhunath's wife Kayanta Juang and son Parameswar Juang are also in critical condition.

According to the sources, Kayant and her two children slept in the ground of their house after having dinner at home last night. As they belong to a poor family they were sleeping on the floor everyday. In the night they were allegedly bitten by a poisonous snake and lying in the ground in unconscious condition till the morning. On Sunday morning, when the husband Sambhunath went to wake up his wife Kayanta, he saw a big size snake crawling in the house. He saw his wife Kayanta and two children lying



unconscious in the room. Later with the help of villagers, they were taken to Telkoi Community Health Center at about 10 am. Later the doctor declared Sambari dead. Similarly, the doctor found the mother and son were in critical condition and treated them immediately.

As there is no injury mark in the body of the 2 year old child, doctors suspect that he might have become critical due to sucking milk from his mother in the night. Hence the doctor admitted him for close observation, sources said. "As they reached the hospital late, the doctor suspected that they were wasting time by talking to black magician for treatment due to their late arrival. The child is in observation as there is no bite

mark in his body' said Dr. P Satyam, Medical Incharge. IIC, Telkoi Police Station Anjan Kumar Patra said that " It is a very sad incident. An autopsy was performed. The mother and son are under treatment". Rise in snake bite incidents mostly in hilly surrounding tribal areas became a concern among the people.

Due to lack of concrete houses many are living in cutcha and mud houses and frequently falling prey to wild animals and reptiles. Hence social activists urge the administration to provide concrete houses to houseless. Similarly they urge to spread awareness among the tribal people to take the snake bite patients to medical immediately without talking to black magicians.

## Rayagada Truck Accident: Oil Tanker Falls from Bridge After Driver & Cleaner Jump to Safety



**Rayagada, (DMC):** A harrowing incident occurred when an oil tanker traveling at high speed lost control and fell from the Abhor Bridge in Rayagada. The driver and cleaner, sensing danger, jumped from the truck before it crashed, and fortunately, they escaped with minor injuries. The tanker, now damaged, came to rest below the bridge, where a market is located.

Fortunately, despite the market's proximity, no one else was hurt in the accident. Local residents and authorities responded quickly to the scene, with traffic police managing the area to prevent further incidents. The incident highlights concerns about speeding and road safety in the region. An investigation into the incident is likely to determine the exact cause of the accident and assess any potential liability. The prompt action of the driver and cleaner undoubtedly prevented a potentially disastrous outcome.

## District Press Club Elections, Subhranshu Re-Elected, President Dillip as Secretary



**Khordha, (DMC):** Elections of Khordha District Press Club (DPC) for the year 2025-2026 have been held in the premises of Sambadika Bhawan, Khordha. In the meeting held under the chairmanship of Senior Member of DPC, Tapan Kumar Nayak. Abyakta Hari Har Khadanga was appointed as the Election Officer.

DPC, member Ranjit Samantaray proposed the name of Subhransu Ranjan Samantaray as the President candidate, while Iswar Chandra Mangaraj & Krushna Chandra Dash supported it. Jitendra Kumar Bhanja proposed the name of Dillip Kumar Pattnaik as the Secretary candidate, while Prasanna Kumar Paikaraya Md. Motahar Yusuf supported it. Prasanna Kumar Paikaraya & Lalit Mohan Mohapatra as Vice-Presidents, Ranjit Kumar Patsani & Gopal Krushna Pradhan as Joint-Secretary, Sayed Liyakat

Alli as Asst. Secretary, Subhakanta Mohapatra as Treasurer, Prakash Kumar Hati as Convenor, Abyakta Hari Har Khadanga & Sangram Keshari Hota as legal advisors, Tapan Kumar Nayak as chief advisor, Santosh Choudhury as media co-ordinator & Gopal Krushna Das, Ram Narayan Dash, Sandeep Burman, Prabhat Panigrahi, Ranjit Samantaray, Gobinda Chandra Panda, Santosh Barik, Praveen Bhanja, Prakash Pattnaik & Jitendra Bhanja were elected as managing committee members of DPC. The election officer Mr.

Khadnga announced the above election results. The newly elected office bearers of DPC were congratulated by giving bouquets of flowers by the DPC members. Newly elected DPC, President Mr. Samantaray, said that in the coming days, he will continue his efforts to make District Press Club, Khordha a leading organization in the state with the cooperation of all the members & expressed his gratitude to all the members of the DPC for reaffirming their confidence & electing him again as the President of DPC.

## Primery Education Disrupted

**Jagatsinghpur, (DMC):** Now quality of education is a question mark in Jagatsinghpur district. Difference found between urban area School and Schools of Costal and remote areas. Specially Teachers preferring Urban area School and road side Schools with communication facilities.

Conning Teachers taking assistance of Political people and administration support of higher authorities for placement. At present more than 40% Primery Scool teachers are in their choice School more than 10 years. No law of transfer applicable for them. It is a matter of regrade that School timing is different in remote and costal belt school due to lack of supervision. Even more than 30% teachers taking their child to Private Headquarter School.



President of Dalit Vikash Parishad Shankar Dss alleged that % of SC/ST students falling and left out percentage going up. Even standard 5th SC/ST students are unable to write their name properly. In Jagatsinghpur District about 1456 Govt Primery School, 661 Upper Primery School are in crucial situation due to lack of percentage of Teacher & Student ratio. Education Department should take effective measures for upliftment of Primery education in district.

## Decline Sex Ratio- Threat to District

**Jagatsinghpur, (DMC):** At present sex ratio of Jagatsinghpur district is 1000: 862 as data presented at Pre Conception and Pre Natal Diagnostic techniques (PCPNDT) advisory meeting held at Collector's Chamber. Presiding over the meeting Collector J. Sonal was dissatisfied and advised all Asha and Health Department staffs to look in to the matter. Decline of sex ratio in a Costal and educated district is a matter of shame. In this meeting Chief District Medical Officer Dr. Shatrughan Das, Dr. P. K. Barick, Dr. Saroj Kumar Jena and other members were present. Collector reviewed the position of Ultra Sound Clinic and advised for regular checking.

## Thunder Succumbed Pair Goats & 10 sheep

**Paralakhemundi, (DMC):** On an unprecedented lightning thunder at Chandragiri of Gajapati district 2 goats & 10 sheep died. At 4pm on Saturday heavy rain with lightning thunder near Shiv temple under a mango tree those goats, lambs & those cattle grazers taken rest. Unfortunately those catties of a pair of goats & 5 pairs of sheep died at



spot. Those cattles grazer Subas Nayak fortunately saved. SHG women group who brought loan now handicapped to repay loan. So they requested compensation from administration.

## World Press Freedom Day celebrated



**Puri, (DMC):** The State Union of Journalists Odisha Puri branch celebrated World Media Independence Day at the Local Odisha Sangeet Parishad. Santosh Kumar Sethi, Deputy Director, Department of Information and Public Relations, District attended the event as the Chief Guest. Everyone should live

within the limits, do some good work for the society and do something for the needy people so that the smile on their faces can be flashed. Senior journalist Laxmi Narayan Patnaik was the guest of honour under the chairmanship of Kedar Nath Sahu.

Several members including Acting President Tushar Ranjan Nayak, Jupiter Das participated in the programme. General Secretary Pradeep Kumar Nayak conducted the programme while Subodh Kumar Subudhi proposed the vote of thanks at the end.

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## Orissa HC Sets...

strictly to the Court's instructions. This decision reflects a broader trend in the Indian judiciary toward incorporating restorative justice practices, wherein punishment is accompanied by efforts to reform and reintegrate the offender while simultaneously benefiting the community. Legal experts and environmentalists alike have welcomed the move, noting that such judicial innovations not only deliver justice but also contribute to public health and environmental sustainability. As the accused prepares to fulfill his bail conditions, the Orissa High Court's ruling stands out as an example of how justice can be both corrective and constructive, turning a false legal complaint into an opportunity for civic contribution. In a landmark decision blending justice with social reform, the Orissa High Court has granted conditional bail to an accused who had allegedly filed a false case against another individual. As part of the bail conditions, the accused must engage in community service, including cleaning hospital premises and planting trees—a move that highlights the judiciary's increasing emphasis on rehabilitation and social accountability. The bail was granted by a division bench comprising Justice Sanjeeb Kumar Panigrahi and Justice B.R. Das, who were hearing a regular bail application. The bench observed that false litigation not only burdens the judicial system but also unjustly harasses innocent individuals.

## CM Engages Industry...

analytics. CASME, Maharashtra - Strengthening MSME cooperation, particularly in food processing and packaging, leveraging Odisha's abundant raw material resources. The Chief Minister's strategic engagements amplified investor confidence across multiple sectors, offering Odisha a gateway to new investments and technological advancements.

## Nepali students...

incidents are happening repeatedly at the same institution. I urge both governments to investigate the root causes through diplomatic channels and ensure such tragedies do not recur," said Dahal. "We demand a neutral and independent investigation into the cause of the Nepalese students' death at KIIT university," said Nepal National Assembly member Uday Bahadur Bohra. "We demand that the government should immediately halt the process of issuing NOCs to the Nepalese students to study at KIIT University," said Madan Kumari Shah. In response, KIIT public relations director said that they would be in a position to comment on the matter after getting detailed information about the development. As of now, no official response has been received from the Odisha government regarding the incident.

## Odisha to Write...

opposition, Harichandan criticized the Biju Janata Dal (BJD), alleging widespread "mismanagement" during its 24-year rule. He claimed that acts of indiscipline and neglect in temple affairs increased under the Naveen Patnaik-led administration. Meanwhile, the BJD has also spoken out on the issue, criticizing the West Bengal government for naming the Digha temple as 'Jagannath Dham'. The party demanded clarity from the Odisha government and the temple administration regarding claims made by a senior Daitapati servitor. The servitor had alleged that the idols in the Digha temple were crafted using remnants of sacred Neem trees (Daaru) from the 2015 Nabakalebara ritual held at the Puri temple. In response to the controversy, Minister Harichandan confirmed that an official investigation has already been ordered into the matter.

## "If Missiles are...

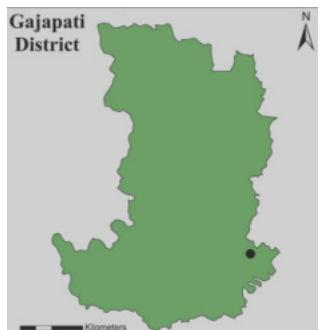
each other's cities. "It is extremely critical that we prepare our public that there are massive costs and risks attached to any kinetic action. If missiles are going to be raining on each other's cities, then if Islamabad and Lahore are vulnerable, then so is Delhi," said Mr Sareen. He also questioned Russia's position as a partner and whether they would support India in a scenario where it's pitted against China. "Russians haven't really come out in our favour.

## Heavy Rain,...

Keonjhar, Angul, and Dhenkanal. On May 6, the IMD has predicted thunderstorms with lightning and gusty winds (40-50 kmph) at one or two places in Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Gajapati, Ganjam, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Balasore, and Bhadrak, for which a yellow warning has been issued. Light to moderate rain or thundershowers are likely in Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khordha, Nayagarh, Ganjam, and Gajapati, and at isolated places in Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Rayagada, Koraput, and Malkangiri.

## Miracle on HSC Results in Grassroots in HSC:A Record 99.35 in Gajapati District Topper of State

**Paralakhemundi, (DMC):** At Gajapati district on recent HSC examination 99.35 passed indeed a unique top of Odisha. For the first time 15 students secured A1. On such incredible performances Collector Bijay Kumar Dash & DEO Dr. Mayadhar Sahu conveyed compliments to those illustrious students & teaching staff of those schools who wholeheartedly strained for the best results being the backward & tribal populated district. Prajyoti Choudhry of SSVM Paralakhemundi secured as topper of the district. Those A1 secured belong to tribal blocks Mohana 4 & RUdayagiri 5 with



Gosani block 6 students secured. For the first time such excellent results sound in the district. As per information Super-30 innovation by the district administration a filament to beg such tremendous results.

## Old Man Jumped Before Train & Died

**Paralakhemundi, (DMC):** At Gajapati district headquarter in Paralakhemundi in Andhrapradesh border of Pathapatnam railway track one old person jumped before train & committed suicide. Named Boyona Kameswar Rao belonged to Upper street of Pathapatnam. On Saturday while Gunupur-Puri Express crossed Pathapatnam station suddenly he jumped before train. Train driver could know & stopped the train &



immediately informed GRP staff. Dead body sent for postmortem & a case has been registered.



## Three soldiers killed as army vehicle falls into gorge

**RAMBAN, (HS) :** A tragic accident on Sunday claimed the lives of three Army personnel when their vehicle skidded off the road and plunged into a 700-feet deep gorge in the Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir. The army truck was part of a convoy moving from Jammu to Srinagar along national highway 44 when the accident occurred near Battery Chashma at around 11.30 am, the officials said. A joint rescue operation was immediately launched by the Army, police, State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), and local volunteers. The bodies of the three soldiers were recovered from the crash site. The deceased were identified as Sepoys Amit Kumar, Sujet Kumar, and Man Bahadur. Officials said the vehicle was completely destroyed in the fall, reduced to a mangled heap of metal.

## Air India Suspends Tel Aviv Flights Till May 6 After Houthi Missile Strike

**New Delhi, (HS) :** Air India has suspended flights to Israel's capital Tel Aviv for the next two days following the Houthi rebels' missile attack at the Ben Gurion airport this morning. A flight from Delhi to Tel Aviv was diverted to Abu Dhabi after the incident, the airlines said in a statement. Air India has also assured that those with valid tickets will be offered a waiver or an option to reschedule. The decision, Air India said, has been taken to ensure the safety of passengers and staff.

"Air India flight AI139 from Delhi to Tel Aviv of 4 May 2025 was diverted to Abu Dhabi after an incident at Ben Gurion airport this morning. The flight has landed normally in Abu Dhabi and will soon return to Delhi. Consequently, our operations to and from Tel Aviv will remain suspended with immediate effect

## Pakistan shuts ports for Indian ships after New Delhi bans imports from Islamabad

**ISLAMABAD, (HS) :** Pakistan has banned Indian-flagged ships from entering its ports with immediate effect after New Delhi imposed fresh punitive measures, including a ban on the import of goods and entry of Pakistani vessels into its ports, against Islamabad amid heightened tensions following the Pahalgam terror attack. India on Saturday imposed a ban on the import of goods coming from or transiting through Pakistan and also the entry of Pakistani ships into its ports even as Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the country is committed to taking "firm and decisive" action against terrorists and their backers. In retaliation, Pakistan late Saturday ordered that any Indian flag carriers would not be allowed to visit any Pakistani port and also barred Pakistani ships from docking at any Indian port. The Ministry of Maritime



Affairs, in a notification, said that it took the step of banning the Indian ships in the context of the current situation, keeping in mind maritime sovereignty, economic interests and national security. Indian-flagged ships will not be allowed to reach any Pakistani port. Similarly, Pakistani-flagged ships will not visit any Indian port, the ministry said. It said that

the following steps will be taken immediately. Ties between the two neighbouring countries plummeted following the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people, mostly tourists. In fresh punitive measures against Pakistan that came into effect immediately amid heightened Indo-Pak tensions in the wake of the deadly

## Europe should show greater sensitivity for deeper ties with India: Jaishankar

**NEW DELHI, (HS) :** External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar called on Europe to show greater sensitivity and mutuality of interest if it wants deeper ties with India. He also said that New Delhi is looking for "partners, not preachers." Speaking at the 'Arctic Circle India Forum', Jaishankar highlighted India's long-standing advocacy of 'Russia realism', pointing at the 'important fit' and 'complementarity' between the two countries. He described Russia as a resource provider and India as a resource consumer. He also criticised past Western efforts to resolve the Russia-Ukraine conflict without even involving Russia. He called such attempts a challenge to 'the basics of realism.' "Just like I am an advocate of Russian realism, I am also an advocate of American realism," Jaishankar said. "I think the best way to engage today's America is also through finding mutuality of interests rather than putting ideological differences upfront and then allowing it to cloud the possibilities of working together," he added. Responding to a question on India's expectations from Europe, the minister said Europe must move beyond preaching and act based on shared interests. "When we look out at the world, we look for partners; we do not look for preachers, particularly preachers who do not practise at home but preach abroad," he said. "I think parts of Europe are still struggling with that problem. Parts of them have changed," he noted, suggesting that Europe has entered "a certain zone of reality check." "Now, whether they can step up to it or not, it is something we will have to see," he added.

## Sikh Man Questions Rahul on Operation Blue Star, 1984



**New Delhi, (HS) :** Responding to a sharp question on the Congress's role in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, senior party leader Rahul Gandhi said a lot of these "mistakes" happened when "I was not there", but added that he was happy to take responsibility for "everything the Congress party has ever done wrong in its history". Mr Gandhi was at the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs at Brown University in the US two weeks ago for an interaction. During a Q&A session, a Sikh man referred to Rahul Gandhi's earlier statement that "the fight in India is about whether a Sikh is going to be allowed to wear a turban, whether a Sikh will be allowed to wear a kada or go to the Gurudwara." "You create a fear among Sikhs about what BJP would look like, you talked about how politics should be fearless, we don't just want to wear kadas, we don't just want to tie turbans, we want freedom of expression, which has not been allowed under the Congress Party in the past," the Sikh youngster told Mr Gandhi. He said the Anandpur Sahib Resolution talks about Dalit rights and mentions nothing of separatism, but the then Congress labelled it a separatist document. "This is something your party has done, your party seems to lack the maturity to accept the mistakes it has made," he said. The Sikh man referred to former Congress leader Sajjan Kumar, who has been convicted of murder linked to the 1984 riots, and said, "Many more Sajjan Kumars are sitting in Congress Party." "You tell us to fear what the 'BJP India' would look like, but you haven't tried to reconcile with the Sikhs. What attempts are you making, because if you continue like this, BJP is also going to make its way into Punjab," he asked. In his response, Mr Gandhi said he doesn't think anything scares the Sikhs. "The statement I made was that do we want an India where people are uncomfortable to express their religion? As far as mistakes of Congress Party are concerned, a lot of those happened when I was not there, but I am more than happy to take responsibility for everything the Congress party has ever done wrong in its history," he said. "I have publicly stated that what happened in the 80s was wrong, I have been to the Golden Temple multiple times, I have extremely good relationships with the Sikh community in India," said the Leader of the Opposition, Lok Sabha.

## State-Sponsored Sabotage: How Pakistan Became A Factory for Global Terror

**New Delhi, (HS) :** For over three decades, India has faced the brunt of a proxy war - one waged not from across the world, but across the border. When the demand is made to "show evidence," it rings hollow. After all, how much proof is needed when the venom of terrorism seeps consistently from the same snake pit? Who arms and trains the terrorists that have repeatedly struck at the heart of India? Who provides them safe havens and ideological indoctrination? The answer remains unchanged: Pakistan.

From the bloodshed in Kashmir to the devastating 2008 Mumbai attacks, the fingerprints point clearly towards Pakistan's deep-state nexus of intelligence, military, and jihadi outfits. Lashkar-e-Taiba operative Tahawwur Rana - now extradited from the United States to India - was a key conspirator in the Mumbai massacre. Meanwhile, Hafiz Saeed walks freely in Pakistan, his terror empire untouched. Salahuddin, the Hizbul Mujahideen chief designated a global terrorist by the United States, lives openly in Pakistan. Dawood Ibrahim, the mastermind behind the 1993 Mumbai blasts and linked to later



attacks, including the Mumbai train bombings, has been sheltered for decades in Karachi. These aren't allegations - these are acknowledged facts. Pakistan's record isn't limited to Islamic extremism alone. It has given shelter to known Sikh separatist elements and allowed them to incite violence against India from afar. Osama bin Laden, the most wanted terrorist in the world, was found hiding in Abbottabad - a stone's throw from a major Pakistani military academy. Coincidence? Let's not forget the Taliban

- born from Pakistan's madrassas, armed and guided by its establishment, and eventually used to bring Kabul to its knees. In the process, they also killed American soldiers. So the damage wasn't limited to India; the world paid the price for Pakistan's duplicity.

The truth becomes even clearer when Pakistan's own former leaders admit to this strategy. A former army chief who seized power in a coup once proudly stated that terrorism was a "low-cost option" against India. A former Prime Minister was forced to

retract a leaked comment acknowledging the damaging role of state-sponsored terror. Pakistan army chief General Asim Munir recently described Kashmir as Pakistan's "jugular vein" and praised the religious divide fuelling violence - a stark admission of strategic intent. The strategy is sinister: arm, train, and infiltrate terrorists across the LoC under the guise of local Kashmiri "freedom fighters." Sophisticated communication gear, near-military level training, and logistical support - these are not tools of grassroots rebellion, but of cross-border sabotage. Pakistan has also consistently resisted the international designation of its nationals involved in terrorism - often with the help of China - further shielding these actors from global accountability. The narrative is clear. This isn't only about Kashmir. It's also about a decades-long state policy of destabilising India through terror. The facts are undeniable. The casualties are real. The threat is ongoing. To ask for "evidence" after years of bombings, massacres, and buried bodies is to ignore the obvious. Pakistan's long-standing record as the world's foremost state sponsor of terrorism speaks louder than any dossier.



ethnic conflict in Manipur. Normal life was badly affected in Manipur's valley region and Kuki-Zo-Hmar inhabited areas on Saturday as the Meitei community's leading body, Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI), called the shutdown in the valley region, comprising six districts, while the Zomi Students Federation (ZSF) and the Kuki Students Organisation (KSO) have imposed the shutdown in the hill districts. The COCOMI also organised a public convention as part of the observance of two years of ethnic violence. On Saturday evening, the COCOMI held a candlelight tribute to the martyrs and victims of ethnic violence at Kangla Nongpok Thong. Till March 6, around 1,000 looted and illegally held weapons, including many sophisticated arms, and a huge cache of ammunition, have been returned to the security forces since Manipur

Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla appealed for the first time on February 20. The first initiative to recover the looted and illegally held arms began on May 31, 2023, when former Chief Minister N. Biren Singh made an appeal to all concerned to surrender the firearms looted from security forces and police armouries.

Officials said that before Singh's resignation as Chief Minister on February 9, a total of 3,422 firearms had been voluntarily surrendered to the authorities and police stations in different districts. Various official reports, political parties claimed that during the ethnic riots, which broke out in Manipur on May 3, 2023, over 6,020 varied types of sophisticated arms and lakhs of different types of ammunition were looted from the police stations and police outposts by the mobs, attackers and militants.

## SC To Hear On Monday Plea Against Two Shifts in NEET PG 2025

**New Delhi, (HS) :** The Supreme Court is slated to hear, on Monday, a plea filed by the United Doctors Front (UDF) challenging the National Board of Examinations (NBE) decision to conduct the NEET PG 2025 examination in two shifts. The petition demands that the examination should be conducted in a single and uniform session across the country. As per the cauelist published on the website of the apex court, a bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and K.V. Viswanathan will take up the matter for hearing on May 5. The plea, filed through advocate Satyam Singh Rajput, said the conduct of NEET PG in two shifts with different question papers leads to inevitable variation in difficulty levels, thereby subjecting candidates to unequal standards of evaluation. "This violates Article 14 and Article 21 of the Constitution, which guarantee equality before law and the right to fair opportunity," it said. The petition added that the statistical normalisation process adopted by NBE lacks transparency, public consultation, or expert scrutiny, and the normalisation formula operates on the "flawed presumption that difficulty levels across shifts and the ability of candidates are identical". It sought the top court's intervention to conduct NEET PG 2025 in a single and uniform session, apart from seeking an interim stay on the examination scheduled for June 15. In relation to the NEET PG 2024, which was also conducted in two shifts, several petitions were filed before the Supreme Court challenging the lack of transparency in the conduct of the examination.

## 25-Metre-Deep Crater At Israel's Biggest Airport After Houthi Missile Strike

**Tel Aviv, (HS) :** A ballistic missile fired by Yemen's Houthi rebels towards Israel on Sunday landed just 75 meters from Terminal 3 of Ben Gurion Airport outside Tel Aviv--the country's biggest international airport. The missile reportedly bypassed four layers of air defence and hit a grove adjacent to an access road within the airport's perimeter--one of the country's most sensitive zones--creating a 25-metre deep crater. Israel Defence Forces (IDF) said their several attempts to intercept the missile failed before it landed near the airport, sending a plume of smoke into the air. However, a direct hit on terminal infrastructure was averted, yet it caused panic among passengers in the terminal building. At least eight people were injured in the attack, Magen David Adom (MDA), Israel's national emergency service, said. The military released a video of the aftermath of the strike showing officers standing at the edge of a crater in an orchard, with the airport's control tower visible in the distance. Yair Hezroni, the police's central district chief, can be heard saying in the video that "you can see the area just behind us: a crater was formed here, several dozen metres (yards) wide and several dozen metres deep". Meanwhile, authorities have also launched a full-scale investigation into the breach of Israel's air defence and the missile's impact site near one of the country's most sensitive zones.

## NAREDCO MAHI hosts Bhubaneswar Meet



**Bhubaneswar, (DMC) :** NAREDCO MAHI, the women's wing of the National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO), in association with ICC National Women's Entrepreneurship Council (INWEC), Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC), and MSME Development and Facilitation Office (DFO), Cuttack, successfully hosted the Bhubaneswar Meet on Day 3 of the INWEC National Women Business Mela 2.0 at the Exhibition Ground, Bhubaneswar.

The event spotlighted the growing role of women in India's real estate and entrepreneurship sectors. Smt. Surama Padhy, Hon'ble Speaker of the Odisha Legislative Assembly, graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Ms. Nitisha Mann, IAS, Deputy Director, MSME Odisha, and Ms. Sofia Firdous, Hon'ble MLA, Barabati Cuttack, attended as Guests of Honour. Delivering the keynote, Ms. Smrita Dhanraj Patil, President, NAREDCO Mahi and MD, SSPL Group, said: "NAREDCO Mahi envisions a future where women are not just part of the real estate landscape - they are leading it. Our mission is to unite women professionals across the country, foster collaboration, and enable inclusive industry growth. Real estate transforms communities, and women must be at the forefront of that change."

Chief Guest Smt. Surama Padhy, Hon'ble Speaker of the Odisha Legislative Assembly, emphasized the need for women to play a decisive role in the growth of real estate. "Women have the power to bring transparency, ethics, and empathy to this industry," she said, urging greater leadership opportunities for women in building sustainable cities and communities.



## 80 Per Cent Of Post-Quake Building Clearance Completed In Myanmar's Mandalay



**Yangon, (H.S):** The clearance of buildings damaged by the massive earthquake that struck Myanmar on March 28 is approximately 80 per cent complete in Mandalay and about 50 per cent complete in Sagaing, state media reported on Sunday.

In Mandalay, major roads affected by the earthquake have been cleared of debris to prevent obstacles and ensure the safety of commuters, state-owned daily The Global New Light of Myanmar reported, citing the Myanmar Fire Brigade Headquarters.

Meanwhile, in Sagaing, cleanup operations continue with the use of heavy machinery to remove debris from large structures, including Buddhist learning centres and religious buildings located on higher ground, reports Xinhua news agency, citing The Global New Light of Myanmar. These efforts have so far resulted in a 50 per cent completion rate, the report added.

As of Tuesday, 52 people have been rescued, and 103 bodies have been recovered from the collapsed Sky Villa condo in Mandalay region, local

media had reported. The Myanmar Rescue Team, Mandalay Region Fire Services Department, and the Mandalay Region government personnel have been carrying out rescue and clearance operations since March 28 at the collapsed site of Sky Villa, it added. The earthquake has caused the deaths of 3,759 people and injuries to 5,107 others, with 114 individuals still reported missing nationwide as of Tuesday, according to Global New Light of Myanmar. Meanwhile, a total of 653 survivors have been rescued by emergency teams following the 7.7-magnitude earthquake, the state-owned daily Myanma Alinn reported on Friday.

Both local and international rescue teams carried out search and rescue operations. They were also able to retrieve 779 bodies as of Thursday, the report added. Myanmar has experienced a total of 157 aftershocks following the devastating 7.7 magnitude earthquake on March 28. The aftershocks ranged from magnitude 2.8 to 7.5, the department said.

## Rajnath Singh To Skip Russia Visit Amid Escalating Tensions Between India-Pakistan



**New Delhi, (H.S):** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will not likely attend Russia's Victory Day parade to be held in Moscow on May 9 to mark the 80th anniversary of the Soviet Union's win over Germany in World War II, amid escalating tensions between India and Pakistan in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack, sources said. Singh's Deputy, the Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth, may represent India at the event in Moscow, the officials said on Saturday.

The decision comes amid rising tensions between India and Pakistan following the recent terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir. While no official reason has been cited for Singh's absence, sources within the Ministry of Defence suggested that the security situation arising from the Pahalgam attack played a significant role in the decision. The development came on a day the Pakistan Army fired at Indian posts along the Line of Control (LoC) in sectors including Kupwara, Uri and Akhnoor, violating the ceasefire agreement

for the ninth straight day after the April 22 terror strike that killed 26 people. The Indian Army's counter-fire was measured but effective. Initially, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was invited by Russian President Vladimir Putin to attend the Victory Day parade.

However, due to the evolving security concerns and the escalating situation with Pakistan, it was decided that Rajnath Singh would attend in his place. Sources further mentioned that Prime Minister Modi's absence from the parade has sparked diplomatic discussions, with speculation linking the decision to the recent developments in Pahalgam. Russian President Vladimir Putin had extended invitations to

leaders of several nations, including China's President Xi Jinping, for the commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the Soviet victory in World War II.

This year's Victory Day parade in Moscow will host leaders from nearly 20 countries. Victory Day on May 9 is a significant event in Russia, commemorating the Soviet Union's victory over Nazi Germany in 1945. The parade at Red Square is one of the most important ceremonies in Russia, drawing attention from world leaders and military officials. Prime Minister Modi visited Russia twice in 2024—once for an annual summit with President Putin and again for the BRICS

Summit held in Kazan. The upcoming Victory Day event is set to be a crucial part of Russia's diplomatic calendar, with President Putin planning a visit to India later this year for an annual summit. The decision to send Sanjay Seth instead of the Defence Minister highlights the sensitivity of India's security concerns following the Pahalgam attack.

The attack, which claimed the lives of several security personnel, has intensified the security situation in Kashmir and strained relations between India and Pakistan. "While the invitation to the Victory Day parade was extended to both PM Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, the growing concerns regarding the security situation have prompted this change in representation," a diplomatic source said. As tensions remain high, India's decision to send a lower-profile representative underscores the ongoing security challenges and the careful diplomatic balancing act the government is navigating.

# Australia Odia Samaj Hosts Kalinga Utsav in Grandeur

**Perth, (H.S):** Australia Odia Samaj (Orio Inc.) hosted Kalinga Utsav with much pomp, myriad splendour and massive fanfare. The venue of the three days long 11th edition of Odia biennial Get - Together at lush green picturesque Point Walters Recreation Centre of Perth was aesthetically and elegantly decked up befitting to the grand occasion. The landmark Event was a salutation to the essence, excellence and ebullience of Odisha and Odias.

The Mega Festival was designed to showcase the rich art, vibrant culture, lofty tradition, amazing heritage, linguistic pride and culinary speciality of Odisha. More than a hundred members of Orio Inc. from all states of Australia along with their family members gathered here to celebrate the close bonding and strong brotherhood of Odia community on a single platform under one roof. The celebration

commenced with the lighting of ceremonial lamp by invited Guests and hosts like Indian Consul General in Perth Naresh Kumar, President of Indian Society of Western Australia (ISWA) Deepak Sharma, President of Orio Inc. Dr. Manoj Nayak and State Chief of Western Australia Orio Inc. Bighnaraj Mohanty. Addressing the gathering Naresh Kumar and Deepak Sharma hugely lauded the sterling role being played by Orio Inc. in strengthening the fabric of multicultural Society of Australia.

Delivering Welcome address President of Orio Inc. Dr Manoj Nayak applauded the hard work put up by the current Executive Committee in keeping the Odia community thoroughly engaged in various gainful activities and quality happenings cutting across the gigantic geographic landscape of Australian Continent. He showered praises on the Organising Committee members of Kalinga Utsav for their drive,



dedication, devotion and determination in putting up such a spectacular show inspite of limited manpower. Dr Nayak released the colourful Souvenir of the Ceremony entitled "Smaranika : Kalinga Utsav - 2025" neatly compiled by Secretary of Orio Inc. Shantanu Swain and nicely designed by IT Secretary of Orio Inc. Jay Behera. Dr Nayak introduced the current Executive members of Orio Inc. present such as Vice - President Hara Patro, Secretary Shantanu Swain,

Treasurer Mumtaz Lenka, Cultural Secretary Amit Mohanty, State Chief of New South Wales Smita Samantaray and State Chief of Western Australia Bighnaraj Mohanty. Vice - President Hara Patro briefed about the projects being undertaken by current Executive Committee and emphasized the achievement of Orio Inc. in installing a Medical Panel at Bhubaneswar to facilitate Medical tests of Australian Visa applicants. Former President Rajendra Padhi was warmly

felicitated during the Occasion for his outstanding contribution towards mentoring and empowering Orio Inc.. The Special attraction of Kalinga Utsav was staging of a High Voltage Cultural Extravaganza by Artists of all age groups from kids to veterans spanning over two evenings.

Co-ordinated by Mahesh Sahu the presentations include mind blowing and mesmerising Odissi and Folk dances, soul soothing music recitals and heart touching fashion parades. The highlights of the artistic Jamboori were an emotionful Odia Bhajan sang by Bighnaraj Mohanty, musical theatre on the theme of Origin of Lord Jagannath as Daru Brahma enacted by the kids of New South Wales, a singing session dedicated to Late Ollywood super star Uttam Mohanty ably co - ordinated by Amit Mohanty, a curious Quiz Show conceptualised by Charu

Mishra and a hilarious satirical play entitled "Mo Saba Bahaka Mane" presented by Western Australia Orio Inc. team. Meticulously planned and well organised by Orio Inc's Western Australian (WA) families, the Mega Event also witnessed a scintillating and thrilling T - 20 Cricket Match in the second day ably co - ordinated by Sambit Das, Shantanu Swain and Anjali Patra.

The Match between host team Hurricane of Orio WA captained by Ranjan Singh and rest of Australian team Thunderstorm captained by Vinu Panigrahi was a viewers delight having lots of fun and frolic. The mouthwatering genuine Odia cuisine prepared under the expert supervision of Ambit Hota and served during all the three days of convention was also an all time hit among attendees. The Third Day of the Utsav began with an engrossing Odia Tea Session organised by Sujeet Jena and

Saibalini Sahoo. An Art Workshop curated by Dr Subrat Mishra was also taken place. Dr Nalini Pati's Power Point Presentation "Mindfulness" was quite informative. The Utsav came to conclusion with an emotionally charged vote of thanks delivered by Mustaque Pilot and Dr Manoj Nayak.

Ace Anchors Ambit Hota, Khushnuma Nausheen, Biswanath Swain and Saismita Nish conducted the proceedings of the programmes in a smooth and seamless manner. The entire arrangements of Kalinga Utsav were skillfully managed and successfully executed by a highly energetic Organising team consisting of Bighnaraj Mohanty, Shantanu Swain, Mahesh Sahu, Mustaque Pilot, Ambit Hota, Ranjan Singh, Kunmit Patra, Amit Panigrahi, Lambodar Moharana, Biswanath Swain, Dev Chakravarty, Deepak Rayguru, Swati Patra and Radhika Swain.

## Stop Baloch Genocide : Protest in Netherlands Against Pakistan's 'Kill & Dump' Policy

**Utrecht, (H.S):** The Baloch National Movement (BNM) organised a protest and a photo exhibition in the Dutch city of Utrecht, urging the Netherlands and the international community to publicly condemn what it termed as grave atrocities committed by Pakistan against the Baloch people. The protest, led by the BNM's Netherlands chapter on Saturday, aimed to amplify the voices of the Baloch people and draw attention to Pakistan's ongoing human rights violations, including the controversial "kill and dump" policy, enforced disappearances, and the systemic "abuse of ethnic and political minorities" in Balochistan.

Amplifying Baloch voices, BNM appeals to the Netherlands to publicly condemn atrocities against Baloch people by Pakistan. Regularly, events are held in Balochistan to raise awareness of Pakistan's 'kill & dump policy,' which has instilled fear & uncertainty among the Baloch people. Thousands of families forcibly disappeared are left in the dark about the whereabouts or fate of their loved ones, while widespread poverty continues to affect the local population," read an official statement from the



BNM. According to the organisers, the event also aimed to raise international awareness about the illegal detention and continuous physical and psychological torture of key leaders from the Baloch Yakjehi Committee (BYC) - including Mahrang Baloch, Shah Jee Baloch, Beebo Baloch, Bibagar Baloch, and Gulzadi Baloch. The protest saw participation from BNM members, supporters, and human rights activists, who gathered in large numbers holding banners and placards bearing slogans such as 'Stop Baloch Genocide,' 'Enforced Disappearances Are Unacceptable,' and 'Free BYC Leaders'. A photo exhibition was also held at the venue, capturing the dire situation in Balochistan through images of cultural identity, the sacrifices of 'martyrs', and

portraits of enforced disappeared individuals. The display sought to convey the pain and suffering endured by the Baloch people over decades of repression. The BNM activists spoke about the Pakistan Army's alleged violence in the region and called for urgent global action to address the crisis. The protest highlighted the Netherlands chapter's resolve to raise the Baloch issue at international forums and press the global community into taking meaningful action." This protest and exhibition reflected BNM Netherlands' unwavering resolve to raise the voice of the Baloch nation on every global platform and to shake the conscience of the international community into taking effective action against the ongoing state atrocities in Balochistan," the statement concluded.

## PM Anthony Albanese's Labor Party Wins Landslide Victory in Australian Election

**Canberra, (H.S):** Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's centre-left Labor Party has won a second term in power in Australia's federal election. Labor Party on Saturday night retained power in a landslide election victory that is set to deliver the party its most seats in the lower house of the federal parliament, where the government is formed, in history, according to projections from the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC). It makes Albanese the first leader of either major party to win consecutive elections since 2004, Xinhua news agency reported.

Delivering his victory speech at a Labor event in his native Sydney, Albanese described serving as Prime Minister as the "greatest honour" of his life. " Australians have chosen to face global challenges the Australian way, looking after each other while building for the future," he said. Albanese pledged to "govern for all Australians" and said that the re-elected government would spend "every day" of the next three years repaying voters' trust. "We take out this task with new hope, new confidence and new determination. Together we



are turning a corner and together we will make our way forward," he said. "This is a time of profound opportunity for our nation. We have everything we need to seize this moment and make it our own, but we must do it together." As of 10:45 p.m. local time, the ABC projected that Labor Party was likely to win at least 87 of the 150 seats in the lower house of the 48th Parliament,

surpassing the party's record-high of the 86 seats it won in the 1986 election. The official count conducted by the Australian Electoral Commission put Labor ahead of the conservative Coalition of the Liberal and National Parties 56.4-43.6 on a two-party basis as of Saturday night, with voters swinging towards the government across

the country. Among the seats won by Labor was that of Dickson in Brisbane's north, which had been held by Opposition leader Peter Dutton since 2001. It makes Dutton the first Opposition leader to lose his seat at a federal election in Australian history.

The ABC said that the opposition Coalition was likely to win at least 39 lower house seats, with 12 going to minor parties and Independents and the remaining 12 still in doubt. Addressing supporters at an election night event in Brisbane earlier, Dutton said that he had called Albanese to concede defeat. "We didn't do well enough during this campaign, that much is obvious tonight, and I accept full responsibility," he added. Dutton's defeat in Dickson means that members of the Liberal Party,

the senior partner in the coalition, will have to elect a new party leader to serve as the Opposition leader in the 48th Parliament. On Saturday, polls opened at more than 7,000 locations across Australia, with voters set to decide if Albanese's centre-left Labor Party will govern for a second term or if the conservative Coalition of the Liberal and National Parties, led by Dutton, will win power.

Voting in the election is mandatory for all Australian citizens aged 18 years and over who are registered on the electoral roll maintained by the Australian Electoral Commission, with those who fail to do so facing small administrative fines. When Australians vote in federal elections, they fill in two ballot papers, one for the lower house of the federal parliament, the House of Representatives, and one for the upper house, the Senate. All 150 seats in the lower house will be filled at the election, as well as 40 out of 76 seats in the Senate. Each lower house seat represents an electorate, geographic divisions that each contain nearly the same number of voters, while Senators represent their state or territory.

## Pakistan ISPR's Web Of Lies Exposed; Used Chinese Drones, Fabricated Chats, Invented Stories To Blame India

**New Delhi, (H.S):** Days after Pakistan's Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) along with its Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar shifted blame on India for the terror incidents of its soil, it has emerged that the rogue nation and its state machinery invented a series of lies, to deflect blame for Pahalgam terror attack and also to hold India accountable for the chaos and turmoil in its own territory. A series of damning disclosures by

an X user, in response to ISPR's charges, points to various machinations and stratagems by Pakistan agency ISPR in pushing an anti-India propaganda. Finding itself on the backfoot post Pahalgam attack,

Pakistan and its agencies resorted to an array of forgery, fabricated screenshots, fake audio, invented stories and laughable theatrics in building an anti-India narrative, it said. Notably, Pak's DGP ISPR Lt.



Gen. Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry held a press conference on April 29 and alleged India's role in terror attacks on Pakistani soil. The accusations were reiterated a day later by Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar.

He not only echoed ISPR's baseless claims but also publicly invited independent experts to analyse and verify the claims. The X user spotlights multiple flaws in Pakistan's forensic exercise and

also goes to rebut 'every piece of evidence', as claimed by Pakistan's ISPR and foreign minister. "Basic rule of digital forensics is use of cloned, non-active devices to preserve data integrity.

ISPR's 'forensic investigation' was conducted on a live, active phone with dual SIMs. This alone should have disqualified the entire exercise. Live device = dead forensic," the user said. The user further tears apart its claims and charges in broadly five

points: "An alleged Paki Terrorist (Majeed) was captured by Pak security forces on April 25 and ISPR also produce WhatsApp call recording from his phone from a year ago.

There are two aspects behind it - Given education level of the terrorist, it is impossible that he knew to install specific apps for WhatsApp voice/call recordings. Alternately, the ISPR might have planted malware in terrorist's phone since beginning," it said.



## Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman to attend ADB's Annual Meeting in Milan, Italy, from 4th to 7th May 2025

**New Delhi, (PIB):** Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman will lead the Indian delegation of officials from the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, to attend the 58th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of Asian Development Bank (ADB), scheduled to take place in Milan, Italy, from May 4 to 7, 2025. The meetings will be attended by official delegations of Board of Governors of ADB, official delegations of ADB members and international financial institutions.



The Union Finance Minister will participate in the Annual Meeting's focal events like the Governors' Business session, Governor's Plenary Session and as a panelist in the ADB Governors' Seminar on "Cross-Border Collaboration for Future Resilience". On the sidelines of the ADB's 58th Annual Meeting, Smt. Sitharaman will also hold bilateral meetings with Finance Ministers of Italy, Japan and Bhutan, in addition to meetings with President of ADB, the President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the Governor of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).

The Union Finance Minister will also interact with the Indian diaspora in Milan, besides meeting global think-tanks, business leaders and CEOs, and participating in a Plenary Session of the NEXT Milan Forum at the Bocconi University on "Balancing Economic and Climate Resilience".

## Inaugural 'WAVES Bazaar' To See Deals Worth 1,000 Crore : Govt



**Mumbai, (H.S):** The inaugural edition of 'WAVES Bazaar' was likely to see business transactions worth over Rs 1,000 crore, as deal-making was still underway, according to the government. Organised under the umbrella of the World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES) here, the marketplace recorded business transactions exceeding Rs 800 crore across the Film, Music, Radio, VFX, and Animation sectors, said the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in a statement. The event concluded with resounding success, establishing itself as a premier platform for international business collaboration in the creative industries. A key highlight of the

Bazaar was the Buyer-Seller Market which witnessed over 3,000 B2B meetings, generating revenue upwards of Rs 500 crore, with additional deals expected to close in the coming days. Curated screenings of films at the 80-seat venue drew enthusiastic responses and appreciation for the selected films.

The Bazaar also helped emerging creators pitch their IPs to a global network of buyers and collaborators, generating significant interest and fostering new partnerships. In a major achievement in international collaborations between India and New Zealand, Film India Screen Collective and Screen Canterbury NZ, led by Petrina D'Rozario, announced a collaborative

## APEDA mulls Export Growth Strategy for Agri & Processed Foods, calls stakeholders for a Chintan Shivir

**New Delhi, (PIB):** Government is committed to reducing logistical barriers and enhancing market access for Indian agri and processed food products. This was stated by Shri Sunil Barthwal, Secretary Department of Commerce, in his address at a high-level Chintan Shivir organized by Agricultural & Processed Food Products Authority (APEDA) in New Delhi. Shri Barthwal pointed out that "Academia and Research institutions must be a part of multisectoral consultations so that Research and Development can be a major focus for innovation and sustainability in agri exports."

He emphasised that, agricultural production and productivity both are the need of the hour. He reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to further deliberate on the ideas and strategies discussed during the sessions. The consultative dialogue brought together senior officials from the Union Government, Central Ministries, representatives from State Governments, policy experts, industry leaders from Agri trade and Processed Foods sector to deliberate on strategies for



enhancing the export of Agricultural And Processed Food Products from India. The inaugural session of the Chintan Shivir was co- chaired by Shri Sunil Barthwal, Secretary of Department of Commerce, and Shri Subrata Gupta, Secretary of Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI).

The session was also graced by the Special Secretary, Department of Commerce Shri Rajesh Agrawal, Additional Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Smt. Varsha Joshi, and other senior officers of the Union and State governments, policymakers and industry leaders. In his opening remarks, Secretary of Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), Shri Subrata Gupta

highlighted the importance of infrastructure development and value addition to ensure sustainable export growth. He emphasised that there is a need to develop infrastructure, Sanitary and Phytosanitary standards at par with international norms, tariff plans and more synergy between Union Government, State Government, various departments and Industry stakeholders.

He identified key potential products and sectors for processed foods exports like Alcoholic Beverages, Nutraceuticals and Value-Added Products. The Special Secretary, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Shri Rajesh Agrawal, emphasized the critical role of synergistic efforts among Union government, State Government, industry

stakeholders and farming communities in realizing India's agri-export potential. He emphasised on the need to have a more synergetic approach amongst various stakeholders to take new agriculture, processed food and Value Added Products to new geographies. This Chintan Shivir is a first, one of its kind collaborative dialogue facilitated by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and APEDA with over 70 stakeholders from the Union Government, State Governments, Industry Leaders and Line Ministries at Vanijya Bhawan.

14 States from across the country namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal participated in the inaugural session. Industry Leaders of Agri and Processed Food sectors were represented by LT Foods, KRBL, Amul, Organic India, ITC, Meatzza, Suguna Foods, Kaybee, TPCI, Organic India, Allanasons, Fair exports, HMA exports, amongst others participated in the dialogue. The Shivir was divided into five parallel technical breakout sessions

focusing on specific Agri-Trade Commodities and Processed Food sector, as under: Basmati and Non-Basmati Rice: engaged states such as Punjab, Haryana and Telangana as well as industry giants like LT Foods and KRBL. The discussion addressed export barriers, financial and policy support and branding strategies for Indian rice. Animal Products: brought together key exporters and state representatives to identify value chain improvements and international compliance strategies.

Horticulture with participation from states like Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh as well as companies such as Kaybee, explored ways to enhance quality, improve logistics, and strengthen industry-academia linkages. Processed Foods: involved stakeholders like Britannia and Haldiram's focusing on value addition, regulatory streamlining and branding of Indian products globally. Organic Products: discussed opportunities in expanding India's footprint in global organic markets with contributions from Organic India, AMUL, ITC, and regulatory bodies like FSSAI.

## Consumption of Diesel, Petrol Rises In April As Economic Activity Picks Up

**New Delhi, (H.S):** India's consumption of petroleum products such as diesel, petrol and LPG recorded a significant increase in April this year, reflecting the rising level of economic activity in the country. India's diesel consumption rose to 8.24 million tonnes in April, which is the second highest monthly consumption ever, as demand from the agricultural and transport sectors grew during the month, according to data compiled by the Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell (PPAC).

The 4 per cent year-on-year growth came on the back of a high base in April 2024, when diesel consumption had surged by double digits due to the electoral campaigning for the Lok Sabha polls. The high growth in the consumption of diesel, which constitutes close to 40 per cent of fuel sales,



reflects the higher economic activity in both the farm and logistics sectors of the economy. The fuel is also consumed in the industrial and mining sectors, which also account for part of the growth. Similarly, petrol consumption registered a growth of 4.6 per cent to 3.44 million tonnes in April. Petrol consumption last year had soared by 19 per cent due to hectic campaigning carried out by various political parties in the Lok Sabha elections. The growth

comes on a high base as vehicle sales have been on the rise in a growing economy. LPG consumption also recorded a significant 6.7 per cent growth during the month to 2.62 million tonnes, as the Centre's Ujjwala scheme brought the fuel within the reach of poor families. Besides, commercial consumption of the fuel in hotels and restaurants has also gone up. The figures also show that the consumption of aviation turbine fuel (ATF) by commercial

airlines in April was registered at 7.66,000 tonnes during the month, which represents a 3.25 per cent increase over the same month of the previous year. Meanwhile, the public sector oil companies on Thursday slashed the price of commercial LPG by Rs 14.50 per 19-kg cylinder while the price of jet fuel for airlines was cut by 4.4 per cent.

The price of ATF was reduced by around Rs 3,954.38 per kilolitre (1,000 litres) to Rs 85,486.80 per kl, which will come as a shot in the arm for commercial airlines such as Air India and IndiGo as fuel accounts for around 30 per cent of their operational costs. The reduction in fuel prices comes against the backdrop of crude oil prices having fallen to a four-year low in the global market, with the benchmark Brent crude hovering at around \$63 a barrel, the lowest since April 2021.

## Warren Buffett Shares Views on Tariffs, AI, Dollar Depreciation & Berkshire Hathaway's Cash Reserves At Annual Meeting

**New Delhi, (H.S):** Renowned investor Warren Buffett, at Berkshire Hathaway's annual meeting where he announced he would be stepping down at the end of the year, shared his opinion on a wide range of important topics, including tariffs, artificial intelligence (AI), currency depreciation, the company's vast cash reserves, and investments in real estate. The 94-year-old investing legend criticised tariffs, calling them a "big mistake" and warned that trade should never be used as a weapon.

Buffett emphasised the importance of global trade, stating that the United States has risen from humble beginnings to become the world's most significant country. He pointed out that America should focus on trading with the rest of the world, excelling in areas where it is best, while other nations should do the same in their respective strengths.

Buffett also addressed the issue of currency depreciation, describing it as a natural tendency of governments to gradually devalue currency over time. He called it a "scary" phenomenon and admitted that the US dollar is expected to weaken against foreign currencies in 2025.



However, he made it clear that Berkshire Hathaway is not taking any specific steps to mitigate the impact of currency depreciation on its income. "We don't do anything about the impact of currency devaluation on quarterly and annual earnings," Buffett remarked. He added that he could not recall any board meeting where he suggested any action to address this issue.

Buffett further emphasised that Berkshire Hathaway avoids focusing on short-term metrics, as the company does not consider them in its decision-making process. Turning to the company's large cash reserves, which exceed \$300 billion, Buffett defended Berkshire's cautious approach. He reassured stakeholders that the company remains optimistic about the

future. "We don't just emphasise capital investment to show that we are doing something," he said. He mentioned that Berkshire was recently close to making a \$10 billion investment, and when the right opportunity arises, the company would not hesitate to spend "100 billion dollars".

Asked about AI, Buffett passed the question to Ajit Jain, Vice Chairman of Berkshire Hathaway's Insurance Operations. Jain acknowledged that AI is a game-changer, particularly in transforming how the company assesses and prices risks, as well as how it handles claims. However, Jain also stated that Berkshire Hathaway has never been a leader in emerging technologies and, so far, has not found any compelling opportunities in AI to pursue.

**New Delhi, (H.S):** At India's first World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES) in Mumbai earlier this week, the country's creator economy was brought to the centre of the national economic conversation. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, addressing thousands of attendees, called on young creators to "drive the nation's Orange Economy forward", crediting their work as fuelling a new wave of creativity. This summit comes months after the Centre's announcement of a \$1 billion fund dedicated to supporting India's growing creator economy.

According to the government, the fund will allow creators to access capital, hone their skills, upgrade production quality, and connect with global markets. In addition to this fund, the government has sanctioned ₹391 crore to establish the Indian Institute of Creative Technology (IICT), a new institution aimed at building expertise in digital and creative technologies.

Together, these initiatives suggest a strategic shift in how the government views the creator economy - no longer as an informal or side-hustle driven ecosystem, but potentially as a structured and export-ready industry akin to India's software and MSME sectors. This comes at a time when Indians collectively spent 1.1 lakh crore hours staring at their smartphones in 2024, according to EY, as cheap internet makes platforms from Instagram to Netflix more accessible to the world's most populous nation. A report by the Boston Consulting Group (BCG), titled 'From Content to Commerce: Mapping



India's Creator Economy', estimates that creators already influence over \$350 billion in annual spending in India, a figure that could cross \$1 trillion by 2030. Direct revenues from the ecosystem are also projected to grow from \$20-25 billion today to \$100-125 billion by the end of the decade. Vipin Gupta, managing director and partner at BCG, said that "India's creator economy is poised to play a pivotal role in shaping consumer behaviour", adding that creator-driven spending could make up 25-30% of total consumer expenditure in the country by 2030. He said that what was once seen as a metro and Gen Z-centric phenomenon has now spread across age groups and geographies, particularly smaller cities. "Categories like fashion, beauty, and entertainment are leading the charge, while emerging monetisation models such as live commerce and virtual gifting are redefining how creators and brands drive value together," Gupta said. India is currently home to an estimated 2 to 2.5 million active digital creators with over

1,000 followers. But only 8-10% are able to monetise their content effectively, pointing to a large unrealised potential. The BCG report suggests that short-form video remains the most dominant format, with YouTube Shorts, Instagram Reels and Moj at the forefront. Popular genres include comedy, films, daily soaps and fashion. BCG said that to fully benefit from this growth, brands must trust creator-led outcomes, streamline internal decision-making, adopt faster content creation processes, and invest in long-term partnerships with creators. It also said that budgets for creator marketing could rise by 1.5 to 3 times in the next two to three years. Gupta said, "To fully leverage this potential, brands must trust creator-led outcomes, streamline decision-making, embrace agile content strategies, and invest in long-term creator partnerships." In his inaugural address at WAVES 2025 summit, Modi said that creators - whether "musicians from Guwahati, podcasters from Kochi, game designers in Bengaluru, or filmmakers in Punjab" - are fuelling

India's growing creative sector. He compared their potential impact to that of Hindi cinema, citing actor Raj Kapoor's legacy in making India a global soft power. He also said that the creator economy is bringing "new energy" to India's ambition of becoming a \$5 trillion economy.

Alongside WAVES, the government launched WAVES Bazaar, a global e-marketplace designed to connect Indian content creators with international buyers and collaborators. It allows creators to showcase their work, pitch projects and find commercial opportunities abroad. The platform aims to make India a net exporter of content by simplifying business interactions and providing tailored resources. The push towards formalising the creator economy is supported by recent growth numbers.

A report by Qoruz, an Influencer Marketing Intelligence Platform, shows that the number of influencers in India grew from 962,000 in 2020 to 4.06 million in 2024, a 322% increase in four years. Aditya Gurwara, co-founder and head of brand alliances at Qoruz, said, "Over the years, we've seen a significant shift in how brands approach their marketing strategies. Influencers have moved beyond product endorsements to becoming strategic partners for brands." He added that brands now seek creators who can produce authentic, context-driven content. "Categories like Gaming, Travel, and Lifestyle are growing at an exceptional pace, and brands have an incredible opportunity to align with creators who truly understand their audiences," he said.



## Vaani's all posts on Abir Gulal, co-star Fawad Khan disappear from Insta

Bollywood actor Vaani Kapoor was all set to star opposite Pakistani actor Fawad Khan in his Bollywood comeback film Abir Gulal. However, after the Pahalgam terror attack in April, the film faced backlash, and government sources told PTI that the movie would not be allowed to release in India. Amid this, all traces of the film's promotional activity were removed from Vaani's Instagram account.

Soon after the Pahalgam

attack, all posts related to Abir Gulal and Fawad Khan vanished from Vaani's Instagram. From posters and teasers to behind-the-scenes moments, the promotional content disappeared from the actor's profile. However, according to Times Now, Vaani herself did not delete the posts. The content was originally shared as Instagram collabs, and the actual deletion was done by the film's production team, not Vaani. As a result, the posts were automatically

removed from her profile as well. This move came after the Instagram accounts of several Pakistani artistes, including Fawad Khan, Hania Aamir, Mahira Khan, Atif Aslam and others, were restricted in India following the Pahalgam terror attack. Anyone attempting to access their profiles from within India is met with a blank page and a message that reads: "Account not available in India. This is because we complied with a legal request to restrict this

content."

For the unversed, Abir Gulal, a romantic drama helmed by Aarti S. Bagdi and produced by Vivek Agrawal, was scheduled to release in India on 9 May. However, following the attack in Pahalgam and rising political tension between Pakistan and India, government sources told PTI, "The movie Abir Gulal, starring Pakistani actor Fawad Khan, will not be allowed to release in India." On 22 April, 26 people, mostly civilians,

were gunned down in a terror attack in South Kashmir's Pahalgam. It has been described as the deadliest attack in the Valley since the Pulwama strike in 2019. Bollywood stars like Shah Rukh Khan, Salman Khan, Alia Bhatt, Priyanka Chopra and others condemned the attack. Pakistani actors such as Hania Aamir and Mahira Khan also expressed sorrow over the lives lost.

Meanwhile, Vaani was most recently seen in the Bollywood film Raid 2. The

actor played the role of Ajay Devgn's wife in the film. Directed by Raj Kumar Gupta, the film also starred Saurabh Shukla, Riteish Deshmukh, Rajat Kapoor and Supriya Pathak, among others, in key roles. She will next be seen in Badtameez Gill, which also stars Aparshakti Khurana, Paresh Rawal, Sheeba Chaddha, Richard Bhakti Klein, and Monica Chaudhary in pivotal roles. The release date is yet to be announced.

## Box Office: Nani's HIT The Third Case is at 41 Cr. & Counting

Nani's HIT: The Third Case is making all the right noises at the box office. On Day 3, the Sailesh Kolanu directorial collected 10.25 crore in the domestic market, as per industry tracker Sacnilk. In total, the action thriller has earned 41.75 crore in three days.

HIT: The Third Case is currently running in theatres in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Hindi, and Malayalam. According to the report, the film recorded an overall Telugu occupancy of 52.85% on its first Saturday. Breaking it down - morning shows saw 35.53%, afternoon shows witnessed 58.63%, evening shows registered 55.19% and night shows peaked at 62.04%. HIT: The Third Case features Nani in the lead role as SP Arjun Sarkaar, with Srinidhi Shetty playing ASP Mridula, who is also his love interest. Surya Srinivas, Adil Pala, Rao



Ramesh, Samuthirakani, Komalee Prasad, Napoleon, and Ravindra Vijay also play important roles in the movie. Surya Srinivas, who plays ASP Ravi in HIT: The Third Case, recently opened up about how he landed the role in the film.

"I got a call from Wall Poster Cinema. They said they were from the HIT franchise and asked me to drop by. When I walked in, Sailesh sir was reading a book. He asked me what I do, and I showed him my previous work. I had a

three-minute video I had recorded for an audition-it wasn't even meant for this role. But after watching it, he said, 'That's enough. I'll talk to Nani and get back to you.' And boom-I was in," the actor told Telangana Today. The HIT franchise began in 2020 with HIT: The First Case, featuring Vishwak Sen and Ruhani Sharma. It was followed by HIT: The Second Case in 2022. The second part featured Adivi Sesh and Meenakshi Chaudhary in lead roles.

## Housefull 5 song Laal Pari Release, fans gush over Honey



The makers of Housefull 5 unveiled the first song from the film, a party track titled Laal Pari, on 3 May. The song became an instant hit on the internet and has now garnered over 21 million views in just 24 hours. Fans can't stop gushing about it.

On Sunday, T-Series took to X and, sharing the song, wrote: "It's a Housefull of views with 21 million in 24hrs on YouTube! Thank you for all the love on #LaalPari #Housefull5 releases in cinemas near you on 6 June 2025!" The video features Akshay Kumar, Abhishek

Bachchan, Riteish Deshmukh, Jacqueline Fernandez, Nargis Fakhri, Sonam Bajwa, Sanjay Dutt, Jackie Shroff and Soundarya Sharma flaunting their dance moves in a party-like setup. While fans have been full of praise for Akshay Kumar's expressions and Jacqueline Fernandez's dance moves in the song, it is Honey Singh-the man behind the track-who has stolen the spotlight. Fans can't stop praising the 'jabardast vibe' of the number. One of the comments read: "Bro is reviving Bollywood music single-handedly." Another

fan wrote: "Bluetooth era is back." A third wrote: "2013 era of Honey Singh is back." One user commented: "This gave me nostalgia-old Honey Singh vibes." Another said, "Old Honey is back. This song reminded me of my childhood when I used to listen to his songs on repeat." One more added: "This deserves more views. Absolutely underrated." For the uninitiated, the song is sung by Honey Singh and Simar Kaur, with lyrics written by Honey himself along with Alfaaz. The choreography, which has also won the hearts of audiences, has been done by Remo D'Souza.

Helmed by Tarun Mansukhani and produced by Sajid Nadiadwala, Housefull 5-which also stars Nana Patekar, Johnny Lever, Fardeen Khan, Dino Morea, Ranjeet and Nikitin Dheer, among others-is all set to release in theatres on 6 June 2025. Apart from this, Honey is also receiving praise for his song Money Money in Ajay Devgn's Raid 2, which released on May 1. The song garnered 27 million views.

## Title and Poster of New Odia Film 'Nayika' Unveiled



The title and poster of Jai Jagannath Natajyostna Production's new Odia film Nayika

were officially unveiled during a special event held in Bhubaneswar. The announcement was made in

the presence of producer Rupesh Kumar Nayak, director Sudhanshu Mohan Sahoo, and veteran actress Maheswata Ray, who will play the titular role in the film. Nayika is set against the backdrop of the film industry and explores the life and journey of an actress. The story and screenplay have been penned by noted writer Shankar Tripathy. The film is co-produced by Sangeeta Bisoi, and shooting is expected to begin soon. Jai Jagannath

Natajyostna Production's last film was Kemitu Ae Samparka, starring Aakash Das Nayak, Elina Samantary.

## Babil's Family Issues Statement after Actor Calls Bollywood "Fake & Rude"

Babil Khan, actor and son of late actor Irrfan Khan, recently shared a video (which was later deleted), where he appears visibly upset and in tears as he speaks about feeling alienated in the film industry. The video quickly went viral on the Internet. In the video, Babil mentions several names, including Shanaya Kapoor, Ananya Panday, Arjun Kapoor, Siddhant Chaturvedi, Raghav Juyal, Adarsh Gourav and even Arijit Singh. Now, his team and family issued a joint statement and clarified that the video was "widely misinterpreted".

The statement read, "Over the past few years, Babil Khan has earned immense love and appreciation for his work, as well as for his openness about his mental health journey. Like anyone else, Babil is allowed to have difficult days - and this was one of them. We want to reassure all his well-wishers that he is safe and will be feeling better soon." It further read, "In the clip, Babil was sincerely acknowledging a few of his peers whom he believes are making meaningful contributions to the evolving landscape of Indian cinema.

## KKR survive Parag's-led to clinch last-over thriller against RR

**Kolkata, (HS) :** Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) edged past Rajasthan Royals (RR) by one run in a thrilling IPL 2025 clash at Eden Gardens. Though RR looked out of the contest after a top-order collapse, skipper Riyan Parag's explosive half-century brought them back into the game. Parag launched a stunning counterattack, smashing six sixes in the span of seven balls - including five in a row - to turn the game in its head in RR's favour.

However, just as he neared a sensational century, Harshit Rana delivered the breakthrough KKR desperately needed, dismissing Parag for 95. Rana had earlier broken a dangerous partnership by removing Shimron Hetmyer, stopping the Royals' charge. RR's chase began on shaky ground, with the top order collapsing under pressure. Teen prodigy Vaibhav Suryavanshi fell for 4, Kunal Singh Rathore went for a duck, and Dhruv Jurel and Wanindu Hasaranga also departed without scoring. Yashasvi



Jaiswal offered brief resistance with a brisk 34. KKR's bowling kept things tight with Rana, Moeen Ali, and Varun Chakravarthy picked up two wickets each, while Vaibhav Arora struck once to keep the Royals in check early on. KKR posted a commanding 206/4 against a struggling RR. After being promoted up the order, Andre Russell smashing an unbeaten 57 off just 25 balls to propel KKR in the later stages

of the innings. His explosive finish came after useful contributions from skipper Ajinkya Rahane, opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz, and youngster Angkrish Raghuvanshi. KKR got off to a flying start despite an early setback, with Sunil Narine falling in the second over to uncapped pacer Yudhvir Singh Charak. However, the hosts recovered swiftly, maintaining momentum through the middle overs. RR

captain Riyan Parag chipped in with a wicket but was unable to stem the flow of runs. KKR had opted to bat after winning the toss.

Brief scores: Kolkata Knight Riders 206/4 in 20 overs (Angkrish Raghuvanshi 44, Andre Russell 57 not out; Jofra Archer 1-30, Maheesh Theekshana 1-41) beat Rajasthan Royals 205/8 in 20 overs (Riyan Parag 95, Yashasvi Jaiswal 34; Varun Chakravarthy 2-32, Harshit Rana 2-41) by one run.

## Pietersen breaks silence on Brook pulling out of IPL



**New Delhi, (HS) :** Though England cricketer Harry Brook was set to play for Delhi Capitals in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025, he pulled out just days before the start of the IPL 2025. DC mentor and former England great Kevin Pietersen was disappointed over the development. In response, Pietersen has recently revealed the reason why Brook didn't turn up for the biggest T20 competition in the world. According to Pietersen, England's white-ball captain has some real shortcomings against spin and how he needs to work them out if he wants to improve. "I told him, I was like, 'Dude, I'm gutted that I can't work with you for a few months.' I think that he is a star. You don't hit one ball over extra cover and the next, same ball, over midwicket if you can't play," said Pietersen during a recent interview. "So he can properly play, but he has technical flaws in the subcontinent, in India, in particular. I really wanted to work with him, but people make their own choices in life and you've got to respect them. He has a flaw playing spin in India - a real big flaw. Two months here, imagine what might have happened if he had fixed that," the former England captain further said. "I would've worked the same with him as I did with Joe Root and Jonny Bairstow at the start of their careers. Root turned out to be the greatest player of spin England's ever had," he added.

## IPL Shake-Up: Maxwell Out, Mitchell in PBKS

**Dharamshala, (HS) :** Punjab Kings (PBKS) have announced the signing of Australian all-rounder Mitchell Owen as a replacement for Glenn Maxwell, who has been ruled out of the remainder of IPL 2025 due to a finger injury sustained during training. Owen is currently playing for Peshawar Zalmi in the Pakistan Super League (PSL) 2025, and will join Punjab Kings after completing his commitments. The young star gained recognition earlier this year after scoring a joint-fastest century in Big Bash League (BBL) history off just 39 balls. Maxwell, who was struggling for form, managed only 48 runs in seven matches, leading to concerns about his contribution to PBKS's campaign. With Punjab Kings currently placed fourth in the standings with 13 points and a net run rate of +0.199, Owen's arrival could prove crucial as the team pushes for a playoff spot. Fans eagerly await Owen's debut for PBKS as the team prepares to face Lucknow Super Giants in their upcoming match at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium.



## Norris Wins Chaotic Miami Sprint as McLaren Secure 1-2 Spot

**Miami, (HS) :** Lando Norris claimed a dramatic victory in the Sprint at the Miami Grand Prix, capitalising on a well-timed pit stop and late Safety Car intervention to lead home a McLaren 1-2 finish ahead of Oscar Piastri. The race was marked by unpredictable weather, early crashes, pit lane chaos, and a series of investigations that reshaped the final order. Heavy rain before the Sprint created treacherous conditions at the Miami International Autodrome. Ferrari's Charles Leclerc was the first casualty, crashing out on his way to the grid before the race even began. A red flag followed the formation lap due to poor visibility, forcing all 19 remaining cars back to the pit lane. Once the Sprint resumed in better conditions, pole-sitter Kimi Antonelli struggled off the line, allowing Piastri to take the lead into Turn 1.

## Ind vs Eng Test series: Sai Sudharsan to be included in Indian team

**New Delhi, (HS) :** On the basis of his consistent form in the domestic cricket and IPL, Sai Sudharsan could be rewarded a place in the Indian team for the upcoming Test series against England.

As per reports published in some section of media, the Tamil Nadu left-hander is being considered as a backup opener for the upcoming five-match Test series against England after the completion of IPL 2025. veteran batsman Rohit Sharma and sotpaw Yashasvi Jaiswal are likely to continue at the top of the order. Though Rohit Sharma and Yashasvi Jaiswal are likely to be retained as the first-choice opening pair, as per sources, Sudharsan is emerging as the frontrunner to be their backup. Sudharsan



has garnered a total of 304 runs at an average of 76 in the 2024-25 Ranji Trophy, including a marathon innings of 213 against Delhi. Sudharsan has been in brilliant form in the ongoing IPL 2025 - garnering a total of 504 runs in just 10 matches for Gujarat Titans (GT). He is currently ahead of many batters in the Orange Cap race. In fact, Sudharsan has been a cheat code in the IPL.

Sudharsan has also played county cricket for Surrey, gaining vital experience in English conditions. He scored a ton for India A against Australia A in an unofficial Test. As Rohit Sharma is currently going through a horrible form, it won't be a surprise if Sudharsan also makes his debut in the whites for Team India.