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English Daily



SC Junks Mughal Ruler's Descendant's "Give Me Red Fort Or..." Plea



New Delhi, (HS) : The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed a plea to hand over the Red Fort - the 17th century Mughal red sandstone fortress that is one of Delhi's most iconic historical monuments - to the 'widow of the great-grandson of the last Mughal emperor, Bahadur Shah Zafar II'.

Faced with a plea from a Sultana Begum, Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna retorted, "Why only Red Fort? Why not Fatehpur Sikri (the capital of the Mughal empire during Akbar's reign in the late 16th century), Taj Mahal (famously commissioned by Shah Jahan in the 17th)?" "You want to argue this..." a bemused Chief Justice said as he junked the 'misconceived' plea. Sultana Begum, who lives in Howrah near Kolkata, had demanded possession of the Red Fort on grounds she is a direct descendant of the original owners, i.e., the Mughal emperors. The Red Fort had been taken away from the Mughals by the British administration after the First War of Independence in 1857, after which Bahadur Shah Zafar II, who had supported the first rebellions against the colonial rulers, was exiled and his lands and properties confiscated. Alternatively, she demanded financial assistance from the government to give up her claim. This is not the first time she has made this plea. Then Sultana Begum had pointed out that in 1960 the government had confirmed the claim of her (now deceased) husband, Bedar Bakht as the descendant and heir of Bahadur Shah Zafar II.

The government subsequently began paying him a pension that transferred to her in 1980, upon his death. This pension, she had argued, was insufficient for her needs. She alleged the government had taken 'illegal' possession of the Red Fort and its unwillingness to provide adequate compensation - commensurate with its property and historical value - was a direct violation of her

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Putin's "Full Support" to PM as Pak Seeks Russia Role in Pahalgam Probe

New Delhi, (HS) : Russian President Vladimir Putin dialled Prime Minister Narendra Modi today and strongly condemned the terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam, where 25 tourists and a Kashmiri were shot dead in cold blood. This is significant because it comes shortly after voices in the Pakistani establishment had battled for the involvement of Russia and China in the investigation into the terror strike. The Kremlin also said President Putin has accepted an invitation from Prime Minister Modi to visit India and that the two leaders had emphasised that relations between Russia and India were not affected by external influence and are developing dynamically.

The Russian President conveyed his deepest condolences and stressed that those involved and behind the attack must be brought to justice. "President Putin @KremlinRussia_E called PM @narendramodi and strongly condemned the terror attack in Pahalgam, India. He conveyed deepest condolences on the loss of innocent lives and expressed full



support to India in the fight against terrorism. He emphasised that the perpetrators of the heinous attack and their supporters must be brought to justice," Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in a post on X. The two leaders reiterated their commitment to further deepen strategic ties. "PM conveyed greetings to President Putin on the celebration of the 80th anniversary of Victory Day and invited him for the Annual Summit to be held in India later in the year," the MEA spokesperson added. The Russian President's call to Prime Minister Modi comes days

after Pakistani Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said in an interview that Russia, China or Western countries can play a very positive role in the crisis. In the interview to Russian government-run RIA Novosti news agency, the Pakistani Minister said, "I think Russia or China or even Western countries can play a very, very positive role in this crisis and they can even set up an investigation team that should be assigned this job to investigate whether India or Modi is lying or he is telling the truth. Let an international team find out." The minister said Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was also in favour of an

international investigation. "Let's find out who is the culprit and the perpetrator of this incident in India, in Kashmir, talk or empty statements have no effect. There must be some evidence that Pakistan is involved or that these people were supported by Pakistan. These are just statements, empty statements and nothing more," he was quoted as saying. The Resistance Front, a proxy of banned terror organisation, Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), has claimed responsibility for the April 22 attack.

Moscow has been a longstanding ally of New Delhi and this partnership has only deepened during the Ukraine war when India continued to buy Russian oil despite Western sanctions against Russia. Besides the bilateral relations, President Putin shares great rapport with Prime Minister Modi. "Our relationship is so strong that you will understand me without any translation," President Putin had said when the Prime Minister visited Russia in October last year.

CM Inaugurates Modern Police Station, Reserve Office at Keonjhar



Keonjhar, (DMC) : Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi inaugurated a state-of-the-art police station and a Reserve Police office in Keonjhar town today, marking a significant step toward enhancing law enforcement infrastructure in the district. The police station, built at a cost of ₹3.34 crore, and the reserve police office, constructed for ₹2.76 crore, are equipped with modern facilities to improve public service delivery.

During the event, the Chief Minister flagged off 17 SUVs and 80 motorcycles to bolster police mobility. The new police station features ramps for the differently-abled, a conference room, a suspect and evidence

examination room, a women and children's help desk, and 24/7 CCTV surveillance, among other amenities, ensuring a citizen-friendly environment. Addressing the gathering, CM Majhi emphasized the critical role of police stations in maintaining law and order. He urged officers to treat the public with empathy, warning that failure to register FIRs promptly would invite strict action. He also directed police to remain vigilant to prevent crimes like those recently reported in Bhubaneswar. The Chief Minister highlighted the government's efforts to modernize police stations and curb crime. He announced that

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CM Honours Dharanidhar Nayak With Rs 1,155 Cr Projects

Bhubaneswar/Keonjhar, (DMC) : The state-level birth anniversary of the great revolutionary Dharanidhar Nayak was celebrated with grandeur today at his birthplace, Kusumita, in Keonjhar district.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, as the chief guest, laid the foundation stone for a memorial museum and interpretation center at Kusumita, with an estimated cost of 50 crore rupees. Additionally, Majhi announced, inaugurated, and laid the foundation stones for 340 new projects in the district, with a total budget of approximately 1,155 crore rupees.



No Puri Sacred Wood Used In Digha Jagannath Idols

Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : Odisha Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan on Monday clarified that the idols at the Digha Jagannath Temple were not carved from surplus Daaru (sacred neem wood) originally used in the making of deities at the Puri Jagannath Temple during Nabakalebara.

Speaking to the media following discussions with officials from the Shree Jagannatha Temple Administration (SJTA), Puri, the Law Minister stated, "The allegation regarding the use of surplus Daaru or sacred neem



wood in the carving of the deities at the Digha Jagannath Temple

has been found to be false upon inquiry. The Maharana Sevaks

(carpenter servitors) confirmed during discussions that it is impossible to carve a 2.5-foot idol from the surplus sacred Daaru." He further informed that Ramakrushna Das Mahapatra, Secretary of the Daitapati Nijoga-who was summoned to appear before the SJTA-clarified in his submission that the surplus Daaru from Puri was not used in crafting the Digha temple idols.

"Mahapatra stated that the idols at the Digha Jagannath Temple were made from a neem tree by a sculptor named Sudarshan Maharana, based in

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Gajapati Maharaja Says Digha Temple Cannot Be Called 'Jagannath Dham'

Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : Amid a growing controversy over the naming of a new Jagannath temple in West Bengal, Gajapati Maharaja Dibya Singha Deb of Puri on Monday issued a statement clarifying that the recently inaugurated temple in Digha cannot be called Jagannath Dham. In a press release, the Gajapati Maharaja asserted that the original and only Peetha (sacred seat) of Lord Shree Jagannath Mahaprabhu is Purushottama Kshetra, also known as Shree Kshetra, located in Puri, Odisha. "We came to know from various media reports that the newly constructed Shri Jagannath Temple in Digha, East Medinipur, West Bengal, has been named as 'Jagannath Dham' or 'Jagannath Dham Cultural Centre'," the Gajapati said. He further stated that the matter was referred to the Mukti Mandap Pandit Sabha, the apex religious advisory body in Puri, through a letter dated May 3, 2025. A formal response was received on May 4. In its reply, the Mukti Mandap Pandit Sabha reiterated that while deities of the Chaturdha Murti (the four principal deities of Jagannath tradition) may be consecrated elsewhere, no place other than Puri can be designated as Jagannath Dham, Shree Purushottama Kshetra, Shree Kshetra, or Neelachal Dham.

Thunderstorms, Gusty Wind & Humid Conditions Likely in Odisha: IMD

Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a seven-day weather forecast for Odisha, warning of rain, thunderstorms, gusty winds, and hot and humid conditions in several districts between May 5 and May 12. On May 5, light to moderate rain or thundershowers are likely in the afternoon or evening in parts of Coastal Odisha, along with districts like Nuapada, Bolangir, Sonepur, Bargarh, Jharsuguda, Sundargarh, Sambalpur, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Rayagada, Koraput, Malkangiri, and Nawarangapur. The IMD has issued a Yellow Warning for thunderstorms with lightning and wind speeds reaching 30 to 40 kmph in Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Bargarh, Nawarangapur, Koraput, Malkangiri, and Sambalpur. Between May 6 and 7, similar weather is expected across Odisha. Thunderstorms with lightning and stronger winds of 40 to 50 kmph are likely in Koraput, Malkangiri, Rayagada, Gajapati, Ganjam, Mayurbhanj, and Keonjhar. Another Yellow Warning is in place for thunderstorms with winds reaching 30 to 40 kmph in Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Nawarangapur, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Angul, Dhenkanal, Deogarh, and Sundargarh. From May 7 to 10, light to moderate rain or thundershowers are likely at one or two places mainly in southern Odisha including Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Gajapati, Nawarangapur, Ganjam, and Kalahandi.

Pak-Based Cyber Groups Target India Again, Multiple Defence Websites Hacked

New Delhi, (HS) : Amid rising tensions in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack, Pakistani hackers are targeting Indian defence websites. According to sources in the defence establishment, the cyber attacks may have compromised sensitive information about defence personnel, including their login credentials.

A handle on X, Pakistan Cyber Force, has claimed that hackers gained access to sensitive data of the Military Engineer Services and the Manohar Parrikar Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses. The group, sources said, has also tried to deface the website of Armoured Vehicle Nigam Limited, a Public

Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Defence. The sources said the website of Armoured Vehicle Nigam Limited has been taken offline for a thorough audit to assess the extent of any potential damage caused by the hacking attempt. Cybersecurity experts, the sources said, are actively monitoring cyberspace to detect any additional attacks, particularly those that may be sponsored by threat actors linked to Pakistan. Also, appropriate measures are being taken to strengthen the security infrastructure to guard against further intrusion attempts. The Pakistan Cyber Force handle, now withheld in India, had posted images of a webpage from

Armoured Vehicle Nigam Limited. In the image, an Indian tank had been replaced by a Pakistani tank. Another post had a list of names, ostensibly of Indian defence personnel, with a message: "Hacked. Your security is illusion. MES data owned." The handle claimed that it had accessed more than 10 GB data of 1,600 users on the Manohar Parrikar Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses website.

Ties between India and Pakistan have touched rock bottom in the wake of the terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam, where 25 tourists and a Kashmiri were shot dead in cold blood. The Resistance Front, a proxy of the Pakistan-based

Lashkar-e-Taiba, has claimed responsibility for the heinous attack. India has vowed an exemplary response as the investigation into the terror strike points to a Pakistani hand, like several other attacks on Indian soil in the past. India has launched a series of diplomatic moves against Pakistan, including the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty and visa services to Pakistani nationals. Marathon meetings between Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and top officials in the defence establishment suggest that a bigger action is imminent. Pakistan, on the other hand, has gone back to its playbook of

denying any role in the attacks and asking for evidence. Following terror strikes in the past, including the 26/11 attacks in Mumbai, Indian authorities shared information and evidence with Pakistan, but the latter has never done enough to bring the perpetrators to justice. After India suspended the Indus Waters Treaty, Pakistan said any move to stop water flowing into the country would be seen as an act of power and threatened to suspend all bilateral pacts, including the Simla Agreement that validates the Line of Control.

It is against this backdrop that Pakistani hackers are targeting Indian defence websites.

Caste Census

The Narendra Modi government's decision to hold a caste census with the next population Census is a turning point and a milestone. In a sense, the state is catching up with the lived socioeconomic and political reality. Caste shapes hierarchy and discrimination, culture and belonging. It plays a role in structuring opportunity and social mobility. It influences choices and trajectories, from education to employment, and rituals of birth, death and marriage. Political parties have long recognised the power of caste as a mobilisational tool and category. And in 1990, with the acceptance of the recommendations of the Mandal Commission Report, the central government acknowledged and affirmed what different state governments across the country had already responded to - the upsurge of the middle castes or Other Backward Classes, and their demand for a more equitable participation and representation. The Mandal moment made job and education quotas the centrepiece of affirmative action policies for OBCs at the Centre, but at the same time, it also inaugurated a long period of dissonance - after all, the government was framing caste-based policy without the empirical data on caste that is necessary for evidence-driven policy. That this glaring gap is now set to be filled is much-needed and enormously welcome. The demand for the caste census has been central to the agenda of Congress, and more specifically Rahul Gandhi, for at least two years now. It was first heard prominently in the Karnataka assembly election in 2023, and it dominated the Lok Sabha poll campaign the following year. The Modi government's Wednesday announcement can, therefore, be read as a vindication of its main opponent's plank, and as a bid to wrest it. It is also a turnaround for a party whose leader said only recently that he recognises only four castes - women, the poor, youth and farmers. By all accounts, ever since Mandal became a political force in the 1990s, rearranging the national political lexicon and giving rise to new caste-based parties, the politics of Mandir was seen as the political counter to it. The project of Hindutva consolidation, went the argument, was threatened by the caste-centric framework. It soon became apparent, though, that the lines were shifting, and that the binary was not tidy. Over the years, even as the original votaries of "social justice" let their political platform become faded and frayed - Congress, a late convert, has sounded more insistent than credible in its demands for the caste census - the BJP has proved to be agile in criss-crossing the political-ideological fence, and in planting its flag on the other side. Its decision on the caste census now puts its imprimatur on a politics that it opposed to begin with, was awkward with for some time, and then purposefully worked to make its own. There is work to be done after the caste census announcement.

The design of the questionnaire will be consequential, and there will be the task of connecting the dots between the data and government policy. The caste census will also pave the way for the delimitation exercise - the OBC numbers and the gaps they point to may blunt the north-south faultline - and the implementation of women's reservation in Parliament. It may lead to demands for extending quotas, and for removing the Supreme Court-mandated cap of 50 per cent reservation. There are challenges ahead, but the fact that caste will finally be counted provides a robust, data-driven basis for policy and politics.

6th May

Asthma Day

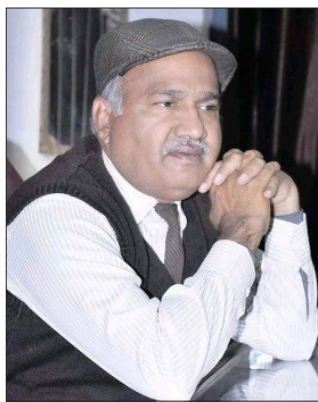


World Asthma Day is observed on the first Tuesday of May every year. This year it falls on May 6. The annual event is observed to spread awareness about people suffering from asthma. It is organized by the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) in collaboration with health care groups and asthma educators. Asthma is a prevalent problem worldwide. Do you know that approximately 25 million Americans have asthma? Asthma is a chronic disease of the airway. Inflammation occurs in the airways that lead to the lungs causing blockage and breathing difficulties.

Asthma is a common concern, and according to WHO, 262 million people had asthma in 2019, and it caused over 460,000 deaths. The death rate from asthma has nearly doubled since the 1980s, but the condition is not new. There is mention of asthma in scriptures from China in 2600 B.C., and Ancient Egypt also mentions the symptoms of breathlessness and respiratory issues. Hippocrates (460 to 370 B.C) was the first to describe the condition found in Ancient Greece. Hippocrates was the first to link asthma symptoms to environmental triggers and specific trades and professions. Around 100 B.C. Aretaeus of Cappadocia composed a detailed definition of asthma. It is similar to how we today understand the development of the disease. The ancient Romans also explored the condition. In 50 A.D., Pliny the Elder discovered links between pollen and breathing difficulties. He was one of the first to recommend a predecessor of epinephrine, a quick-relief form of asthma treatment.

In the 19th century, doctor Henry H. Salter made accurate descriptions and medical drawings of what happens in the lungs during asthma attacks. In 1892, one of the co-founders of the Johns Hopkins Medical School, William Osler, noted similarities between asthma and allergic conditions. These include hay fever, as well as the genetic nature of the disease. He also noted specific triggers of asthma such as climate, extreme emotion, and diet. The 1980s saw better comprehension of asthma as an inflammatory condition. It focused on the importance of the immune system. Doctors realized the need to manage asthma even if the symptoms do not occur.

Changing thinking on Nature and Woman



Vijay Garg

Language is the most important medium of showing the structure and ideology of any society. It would not only be a means of dialogue but also reflect power relations, social structures, and cultural perceptions. In the early days of the development of civilization, man lived lovingly with nature, then the language of humans was the language of love, in which every person was a sense of concern for the object, nature in that period nature was seen as an organism or woman. In ancient myths and religious texts of different cultures nature is represented as feminine, a symbol of creation, fertility and rearing. In Santhali language 'earth' is called 'earth', 'forest' in Gondi language, the river in 'life' Korku language is called 'mother', which shows respect for nature. On the other hand huge, hard and shocking mountains from height, roaring sea and springs were given pulling form. With knowing nature and understanding as the scientific revolution

progressed, the image that nurtured nature weakened. Due to the increasing influence of science and rationalism during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, nature was no longer seen as a power to reconcile, but it began to be seen as an object that can be controlled. In this process, the feminine image of nature also became blurred and replaced by a mechanical approach. It's a great pleasure to have you. This new thinking saw nature as a power that had to be won, not as a power that should be revered and respected. As a result, the language became offensive, authoritarian and resource-centric. In this new approach, nature was considered a power on which man had to conquer. Now the language of this logical man began to be aggressive, disobedient and violent. One thing more noteworthy is that scientists technically considered abiotic of most of the elements of nature, for example soil, water, sun, air were not considered all living factors. Because of this, emotional engagement with them also became difficult. At the same time, the language of agriculture was like ploughing, cropping and trample. Increased tendency to control and use both nature and woman, thereby attempting to legalize exploitation and subjugation of woman and nature through the language and symbols created environmental imbalances and social inequalities. Historically, the feminine and nature were presented equally vulnerable,



gentle and controlled.

In patriarchal society, the language has been used to promote a particular approach towards women and nature. However, along with this another image of nature was created. A dialectical depiction of natural calamities such as a storm of uncontrolled and violent power, rain, drought and earthquake, on one hand, sees it as an exploitable humble power and on the other hand portraying it as destructive power, reflects the vision historically adopted towards women in patriarchal societies. Today unlimited development and human exploitation of natural resources are being considered as normal and natural. We not only consider oil, energy, water, air and trees, etc. as resources, but also use myriad noun words for these, indicating that these resources are unlimited. Also in the pair of contradiction words, the word

'development' is always considered neutral, as from: always this is what happens, how fast is the car (not how slow), how wide is the road, how high is the building (not how low), how high is its income (not how low). Nowadays, it is also a great practice to act at a fast pace. While both woman and nature were linked to nutrition and balance, after industrialization, both began to be seen as a power that was required to be captured. For example, natural resources are also described as 'exploitable' in scientific and technical language, such as 'exploitation of land, 'consuming energy' These terminology indicates that nature is made for human consumption only, not in a vibrant and self-sufficient unit form, when the role of women is described, they are usually presented as a symbol of tolerance, service and sacrifice. Redefining language from the

point of view of 'Ecofeminism' is not limited to merely changing words, but it provides a way of thinking. It is considered that there is such use of language and symbols, denoting equality and mutual respect. For example, women are often denoted as earth, river, moon or tree. Earth is given the form of 'Mother', which is considered to be tolerant and nurturing. Similarly, women are also seen as an idol of tolerance and sacrifice, but this approach makes women's rights and their personalities secondary. Women are often compared to the river- 'Woman's life is like a river'. This metaphor shows their variable and flowing nature, which in one way limits their existence to adapt to others. The work of binding the life of both the woman and the river with this metaphor was deeply penetrated in our conduct starting language in the society. Strians started living within one in the house, then dams began to be built by stopping the continuous flow of rivers. Idioms like 'Chand Sa Mukhda' in the language connect the beauty of women to the moon, but it also externally reveals the excessive inclination of the society towards beauty. Their role and position are controlled by comparing them with other words for women in the language. This comparison is ever positive, so ever abusive. Many places need reinterpretation of the use of positive symbols.

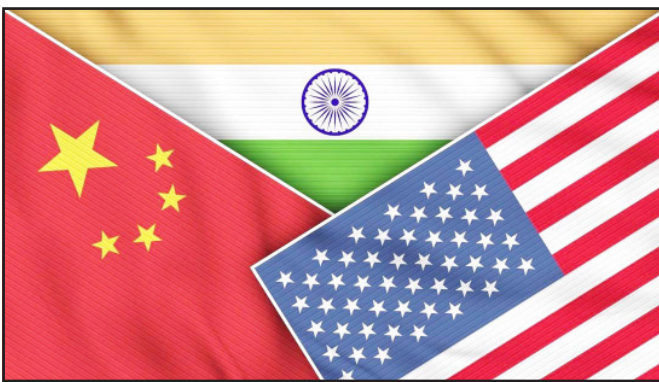
**Vijay Garg Retired
Principal Educational
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India's Strategic Gambit in the US-China Economic Crossfire

Amatul Arshal Noyel

The global economic landscape is undergoing a seismic shift as former President Donald Trump's latest tariff offensive against China sends shockwaves through international markets. With surgical precision, the new measures impose crippling 100% duties on Chinese electric vehicles and target \$18 billion worth of advanced manufacturing imports—a move that transcends mere protectionism and enters the realm of economic warfare. This dramatic escalation, coming at a pivotal political moment, not only undermines China's technological ambitions but also reshuffles the deck for emerging economies like India that find themselves caught in the crossfire of this great-power confrontation.

What makes this development particularly consequential is its timing and specificity. Unlike the broad-based tariffs of Trump's first term, these measures represent a carefully calibrated strike at China's most strategic industries. The astronomical hike in EV tariffs, soaring from 25% to 100%, effectively slams the door on Chinese automakers like BYD just as they were preparing to enter the American market. Meanwhile, lithium-ion battery duties have more than tripled, dealing a direct blow to China's green energy dominance. The ripple effects are already being felt across global supply chains, with Shanghai's semiconductor stocks plunging 7% within hours of the announcement—a telling indicator of the markets' jittery response to what analysts are calling the most aggressive trade maneuver since the Smoot-Hawley tariffs of 1930. For India, this economic upheaval presents both unprecedented opportunities and sobering challenges. On one hand, the sudden vacuum in the American market creates a golden chance for Indian manufacturers to step in. Battery makers like Amara Raja and Exide could potentially



capture significant market share as U.S. importers scramble for alternatives to Chinese suppliers. Similarly, India's pharmaceutical and IT sectors stand to benefit as American businesses diversify their supply chains away from China. Yet these potential windfalls come shadowed by considerable risks—chief among them being the very real possibility that China might redirect its export machine toward Indian markets, flooding them with subsidized goods that could undercut domestic producers. Already, there are troubling signs that Chinese lithium batteries and solar panels might soon appear in Indian markets at prices 30-40% below local manufacturing costs, threatening to derail India's carefully cultivated "Make in India" initiative.

Complicating matters further is India's delicate trade balancing act. While the country enjoys a comfortable \$35.3 billion surplus with the United States, its \$85.1 billion deficit with China reveals a dangerous dependency that leaves key industries vulnerable to supply shocks. This asymmetry becomes particularly concerning when considering potential Chinese countermeasures—history shows that Beijing typically responds to trade pressure with asymmetric retaliation, often through strategic controls on critical exports. A repeat of China's 2010 rare earth metals embargo, for instance, could cripple India's burgeoning

electronics and defense sectors overnight. Meanwhile, the specter of Trump's mercurial trade policies looms large, with his past branding of India as the "biggest tariff abuser" serving as a stark reminder that New Delhi's export advantages could vanish with a single presidential tweet. Navigating this complex terrain will require statesmanship of the highest order from Indian policymakers. The path forward demands immediate safeguards against predatory Chinese dumping, accelerated incentives for domestic manufacturing, and most crucially, deft diplomacy to secure India's position in the rapidly reorganizing global economic order. As the trade war enters this dangerous new phase, one thing becomes increasingly clear: in this high-stakes game of economic chess, India must play its pieces with both boldness and precision—for the consequences of missteps in this new era of trade-as-warfare could resonate for generations to come.

The coming months will test whether India can transform this crisis into opportunity, or whether it will become collateral damage in a conflict where the rules are being rewritten by the day. What remains certain is that the old paradigms of global trade have been irrevocably shattered—and in this new reality, only the most agile and strategic players will emerge victorious.

Khordha-7852958980

Making the child too ambitious is dangerous

Badal Bhuyan

This is perhaps one question that starts from when we were children, and will continue even after we become aged. Did we create name and fame for ourselves in the world? We are witnessing a new trend where even aged people are not spared; they are advised to continue working so as to fulfil their yet-unfulfilled ambitions. Several websites and counselling centres have sprung up, to train professionals towards fulfilling their life's ambitions and desires.

Each child is nurtured by the goal of ambition through parents and society – the message is dinned into their heads that they need to become 'something' or 'someone' important and useful. The child has to prove that he has some worth, by bringing in gold medals, whether it is in sports, music, dancing or debates. There is no respite, for this fire of ambition is lit and stoked even well into adulthood, middle age and now even in old age. The Atmopaniṣad says that our internal self is the victim of 'ambition' and we become vulnerable to baser elements like anger, jealousy, greed, frustration and suicidal feelings. Ambition is a poison that is far more dangerous than any kind of alcohol or drugs, because ambition destroys our whole life and makes us move in a false direction. "Each parent is saying to the child, 'prove that you have some worth'. Just being is not enough, some doing is needed. Whole of society depends on creating ambition in you. Ambition means a conflict; ambition means that whatsoever you are, you are wrong; you have to be somewhere else." Instead of



making the child ambitious about reaching the top, parents and society need to recognise the child's talents, qualities and potential, and nourish these in an atmosphere that encourages individuality.

Children are new editions of consciousness and fresh entries of divinity into life. "All that the child needs from parents and society is a deepening of innocence and if a child grows with his centre blossoming, you will have, for the first time, a society of the buddhas, the awakened ones, a society of culture." Existence is not making a child ambitious; it is our misplaced social conditionings. Every child is unique. There is nothing to become, nothing to achieve. Let individuality in the child grow. Acknowledge the potential within the child and help it to blossom to its full potential.

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DC-cum-ACS Reviews Anandapur Barrage Project Progress in Keonjhar Emphasizes Timely Completion to Boost Irrigation

Bhubaneswar/Keonjhar, (DMC): During the second day of her two-day visit to Keonjhar district, the Development Commissioner-cum-Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Department of Water Resources (DoWR) Smt. Anu Garg, IAS inspected works of two ongoing main canal systems of the Anandapur Barrage Project.

Accompanied by the Engineer-in-Chief, Chief Construction Engineer of the project, ADM Keonjhar, and Sub-Collector Anandapur, the DC-cum-ACS reviewed implementation status and assessed progress on ground with schedule for completion. The Anandapur Barrage Project is a flagship irrigation initiative with intra-basin transfer of water



aimed at irrigating 60,000 hectares of cultivated land across Hatadihi, Anandapur and Ghasipura blocks in Keonjhar district and Oupada, Nilagiri, Bahanaga, Balasore Sadar, Remuna, and Soro in Balasore district. While all 17 main canal work packages are in progress,

significant progress has been found in 56.923 km long Salandi Left Main Canal (SLMC). Work of the Baitarani Right Bank Canal (BRBC) in 03 packages are currently underway. Irrigation to 12803 ha. of cultivable land has been provided through SLMC. Agreement to provide irrigation to

3450 ha. through Under Ground Pipeline (UGPL) under BLBC and BRBC is going to be drawn shortly. During the review, the DC-cum-ACS emphasized timely completion of the remaining main canal and the Underground Pipeline (UGPL) distribution system work packages to ensure intended benefits to reach the farmers by June, 2027, aligning with the Odisha Vision 2036 goals.

She also directed district officials to expedite resolution of land acquisition issues and provisioning of minor mineral for the project to avoid further delays. This high-level visit underscores continued commitment of State Government to strengthen irrigation infrastructure and ensuring water security for Odisha's agricultural communities.

BMC to set up effluent treatment plant at Gadakana garbage hill to curb pollution



intended to reduce groundwater pollution and eliminate foul odours in the nearby areas. "This project is a key component of our larger strategy for sustainable waste management.

It aligns with the national Swachh Bharat Mission and reinforces our commitment to environmental protection," said a BMC official. Once operational, the facility will have the capacity to treat up to 30,000 litres of

leachate daily. The treatment process will not only prevent environmental degradation but is also expected to improve the quality of life for thousands of residents living near the landfill.

The installation of the ETP marks a proactive shift in Bhubaneswar's waste management approach and reflects growing efforts by municipal authorities to address the city's ecological challenges head-on.

Joint Public Hearing Camp Held



Khordha, (DMC): joint public hearing camp was held at the Zilla Parishad conference hall, Khordha. Collector, Chanchala Rana, Superintendent of Police, Khordha, Sagarika Nath, Additional District Magistrate (Administration) Pratap Chandra Beura, Additional District Magistrate (Revenue) Safalya Mandit Pradhan, Zilla Parishad Chief Development & Executive Officer, Joyti Shankar Sahu, Sub-Collector, Khordha, Kishore Kumar Panda were present in this camp.

A total of 73 grievances were received, out of which 09 grievances were individual and 58 grievances were related to collective problems. Collector, Mr. Rana, immediately resolved 4 grievances on the spot. 2 persons were given financial assistance from the Chief Minister's Relief Funds. Laxmi Priya Behera of Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar & Susila Sahu of Gunthuni, Golabai, was given

10000 each. Collector, Mr. Rana directed the concerned officers to take care of the grievances application, which is forwarded to the Chief Minister's grievance cell & resolve them immediately. Among others, the joint grievances hearing camp was attended by Deputy Collector Revenue Nibedita Parida, Deputy Collector, Grievances, Artatrana Mallick, Assistant Collector, Grievances Bhubaneswari Kanhar, District Social Welfare Officer, Kusum Kumari Prahraj, Superintending Engineer, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Rashmita Dash,

Chief District Medical & Public Health Officer, Dr. Rajya Sree Pattnaik, District Welfare Officer, Dr. Gitanu Mohan Dash, District Social Security Officer, Dilip Hial, District Panchayat Officer Shyamleendu Nayak, District Education Officer Sonamika Roy, Chief District Agriculture Officer Rabi Narayan Sahabi, District

Cultural Officer, Chaudhary Aurobinda Das, Block Development Officer Khordha, Khirabdi Tanya Sahu, DI & PRO, Khordha, Laxman Kumar Behera, BDOs of various blocks, Tahasildars, district level officers of various departments, senior engineers of the Line department were present. On May 13th, this month, at Kunjuri Gram Panchayat Office under Begunia Block,

on May 19th at Injana Gram Panchayat Office under Bhubaneswar Block and on May 26th at Gambhari Munda Gram Panchayat Office under Banpur Block, joint public grievance hearing camp of Collector & SP, DCP, will be held from 07.00 AM to 10.00 AM. The people of the concerned areas have any grievances they have been advised by the District Administration to be present at their Gram Panchayat Office on the scheduled date & time & resolve their grievances.

International conference on intelligent & cloud computing held at SOA



Bhubaneswar, (DMC): Researchers and practitioners in the field of Artificial Intelligence and Cloud Computing converged at the SOA Deemed to be University here to confabulate on the subject at the 3rd Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) International Conference on Intelligent and Cloud Computing organised by the university's Center for Cyber Security on May 2 and 3.

The conference was technically co-sponsored by IEEE Bhubaneswar Sub-section and IEEE Kolkata Section. The deliberations, held in hybrid mode, centred around innovations in AI and Cloud Computing, especially in the context of Industry 4.0. As cloud and edge computing

evolved alongside Internet of Things (IoT) and 5G, the conference offered a platform to address challenges in efficiency, privacy, security and intelligent system design. The conference featured four technical tracks-Intelligent Computing and Big Data Applications, Networking, IoT and 5G Communications, Cloud and Edge Computing and Security, Privacy and Blockchain.

Out of 700 global submissions, 140 high quality papers had been accepted for presentation and publication in IEEE Xplore. A special poster session, hosted by the IEEE Computer Society Chapter (Bhubaneswar Section) highlighted emerging research by students and scholars. The chief guest for the inaugural

program was Prof. Sanjay Madria, Curators' Distinguished Professor at Missouri University of Science and Technology, USA who spoke about the need for cyber security to combat digital crimes. The Indian students have been performing well in the field of AI and Cloud Computing, he said adding they should focus more on research.

Addressing the session, Harekrushna Rath, former Director of the Integrated Test Range (DRDO), said the event was greatly beneficial for computer science professionals as there were around 20,000 computer science students and 500 faculties in Bhubaneswar. IEEE was conducting the program for the furtherance of technical education in Odisha, he said. Prof. Pradipta Kumar Nanda, Vice-Chancellor of SOA, who presided

over the program, said the university's Centre for Cyber Security had been working on several aspects of cyber security. The inaugural session was also addressed by Prof. Pradip Kumar Sahu, Dean of Institute of Technical Education and Research, SOA's faculty of engineering and technology, Prof. Debahuti Mishra, General Chair and Head of the Department of Computer Science Engineering and Dr. Dibyasundar Das, Program Co-chair.

A photo exhibition on cyber security titled 'Scholars' Spectrum: A Canvas of Innovation' was also inaugurated on the occasion. The valedictory program was addressed by Prof. P.K. Patra, SOA's Dean (SRIC), who attended as the chief guest, Prof. P.K. Sahu, Dean, ITER and Prof. Debahuti Mishra.

UCO Bank organized MSME & Agriculture Carnival



Bhubaneswar, (DMC): UCO Bank, Bhubaneswar Zone organized Transformative Resources, MSME & Agriculture Carnival on 05-05-2025 at Hotel Hindustan International, Bhubaneswar. UCO Bank proudly organized the Resources, MSME & Agriculture Carnival, a dynamic event designed to empower entrepreneurs, MSMEs, and agricultural professionals with essential financial tools, schemes, and industry insights.

The carnival witnessed enthusiastic participation from existing as well as prospective customers, reinforcing UCO Bank's commitment to driving economic growth and financial inclusion in Odisha. At the outset, the new DGM & Zonal Head of UCO Bank, Bhubaneswar Zone Sri Bhagwat Singh Bhakuni welcomed all the participants. Mr Bhakuni highlighted the performance of Banks in Odisha in MSME & Agriculture sector and commitment of UCO Bank for building of a Viksit Odisha. The event featured engaging sessions on specialized financial schemes, loan

assistance programs, and MSME development strategies, complemented by inspiring success stories from entrepreneurs who have benefited from UCO Bank's support. The General Manager UCO Bank and Convenor, SLBC Odisha Shri Goutam Patra told that, It is an honor to stand before you today as we reaffirm our commitment to the development and prosperity of Odisha.

He assured to implement various suggestions received and extend every types of financial support in desired sectors. Chief guest Dr. Pragyanmita Sahoo, IES, Director, Institutional Finance, Govt. of Odisha addressed attendees, highlighting new initiatives aimed at bolstering agricultural and small business sectors alongwith various govt. sponsored schemes launched for needy people. While addressing to the gathering Dr. Sahoo told that, Governments unwavering focus is on empowering businesses, providing accessible financial

solutions, and supporting the people of Odisha in their journey toward success. Dr. Sahoo highly appreciated performance of UCO Bank being SLBC convenor of the State regarding Financial Inclusion and Financial Literacy. A key highlight of the carnival was the recognition of outstanding contribution by Bank MITRA, acknowledging their relentless dedication to fostering progress in the MSME and agricultural landscapes. The event concluded with a special awards ceremony, reinforcing UCO Bank's vision of encouraging innovation and sustainable business growth.

Under MSME & Agri total 33 nos. of sanction letters amounting to Rs.26.56 Crores were handed over to the prospective borrowers by Director Dr. Sahoo. Attendees were encouraged to visit UCO Bank's nearest branches or contact bank representatives for further details on available financial solutions, ensuring they have access to the resources needed to elevate their enterprises. Shri Krishan Pal Singh, Deputy Zonal Head extended the Vote of Thanks to all the dignitaries present.

କୃଷି ସୂଚନା

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- ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ କୃଷି ଉଦ୍ୟୋଗ ଯୋଜନାରେ ସାଧାରଣ ବର୍ଗ ନିମନ୍ତେ ଶତକଡ଼ା ୪୦ ପ୍ରତିଶତ ମହିଳା ଅନୁସୂଚିତ ଜାତି ଓ ଜନଜାତି, ଭିକ୍ଷୁମାନ, କୃଷି ଏବଂ ଆନୁଷଙ୍ଗିକ ସ୍ଵାତନ୍ତ୍ର ମାନଙ୍କ ନିମନ୍ତେ ଶତକଡ଼ା ୫୦ ପ୍ରତିଶତ ହିସାବରେ ସର୍ବାଧିକ ୧ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କାର ରିହାତି ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା ରହିଅଛି ।
- ଓଡିଶା ମିଲେଟ ମିଶନ ଅନ୍ତର୍ଗତ କ୍ଷେତରେ ଓ ଆଳିରେ ପୃଷ୍ଠଶସ୍ୟର ପୁନଃ ପ୍ରଚଳନ ନିମନ୍ତେ ଟାଙ୍କୀ ଓ ବାଣପୁର ବ୍ଲକରେ ମାଣ୍ଡିଆ, ଯଥା ଓ ବାଜରା ଫସଲ ଚାଷ ପାଇଁ ପ୍ରୋତ୍ସାହନ ଦିଆଯାଉଅଛି । ମାଣ୍ଡିଆର ଖରିଫ୍ ଉତ୍ପାଦନକୁ ମଣ୍ଡି ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ସର୍ବନିମ୍ନ ସହାୟକ ମୂଲ୍ୟ ୪୫୦୦ ଟଙ୍କାର ଚାଷି ମାନଙ୍କ ଠାରୁ କ୍ରୟ କରାଯିବାର ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା ରହିଅଛି ।
- ସି ଏମ୍- କିଷାଜ ଓ ପି ଏମ୍- କିଷାଜ ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ କ୍ଷୁଦ୍ର ଓ ନାମ୍ନମାତ୍ର ଚାଷୀ ଏବଂ ଭୂମିହୀନ ଚାଷୀ ମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଆର୍ଥିକ ସହାୟତାର ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା ରହିଅଛି ।
- ରାଜ୍ୟ ଯୋଜନା ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ସମ୍ବିତ କୃଷି ପାଇଁ ସାଧାରଣ ବର୍ଗ ନିମନ୍ତେ ଶତକଡ଼ା ୪୦ ପ୍ରତିଶତ ମହିଳା ଅନୁସୂଚିତ ଜାତି ଓ ଜନଜାତି, ଭିକ୍ଷୁମାନ, କୃଷି ଏବଂ ଆନୁଷଙ୍ଗିକ ସ୍ଵାତନ୍ତ୍ର ମାନଙ୍କ ନିମନ୍ତେ ଶତକଡ଼ା ୫୦ ପ୍ରତିଶତ ଆର୍ଥିକ ସହାୟତାର ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା ରହିଅଛି ।
- କୃଷି ସମୂର୍ତ୍ତି - ଏହା ଓଡିଶା ସରକାରଙ୍କ କୃଷି ଓ କୃଷକ ସଶକ୍ତିକରଣ ବିଭାଗର ଏକ ନିଶ୍ଚଳ କୃଷି ପରାମର୍ଶ ସେବା ୧୫୫୩୩୩୩ କୁ ଫୋନ୍ କରି ଚାଷୀ ଭାଇ ଓ ଭଉଣୀ ମାନେ ଚାଷ ସମ୍ବନ୍ଧରେ ସମସ୍ତ ସୂଚନା ପାଇପାରିବେ ।
- ମୂଲିକା ପରିକ୍ଷାଗାର ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ବିନା ଦେୟରେ ମାଟି ପରିକ୍ଷା କରାଯାଇ ମୂଲିକା ସ୍ଵାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ କାର୍ଡ ପ୍ରଦାନ ଓ ଅନୁମୋଦିତ ସାର ପ୍ରୟୋଗ ର ପରାମର୍ଶ ଦିଆଯାଉଛି ।
- ପ୍ରଧାନ ମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଫସଲ ବୀମା ଯୋଜନା ରେ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଫସଲକୁ ବିମାୟୁକ୍ତ କରାଯାଉଛି ।
- ରାଜ୍ୟ ଯୋଜନା ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ଆଶୁ ଫସଲର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ପ୍ରବର୍ଗନୀ କ୍ଷେତ୍ର ପାଇଁ ରିହାତି ପ୍ରଦାନର ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା ରହିଛି ।
- ଚାଷୀମାନେ ସରକାରୀ ଅଧିକାରୀ ବିକ୍ରେତାଙ୍କ ଠାରୁ ଉତ୍କୃଷ୍ଟମାନର ପ୍ରାମାଣିକ ବିହନ ରିହାତି ମୂଲ୍ୟରେ କ୍ରୟ କରି ଅଧିକ ଉତ୍ପାଦନ କରନ୍ତୁ ।

ଚାଷ ସମ୍ବନ୍ଧୀୟ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଯୋଜନାର ବିସ୍ତୃତ ସୂଚନା ନିମନ୍ତେ ନିକଟସ୍ଥ ବ୍ଲକ୍ କୃଷି କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟରେ ଯୋଗଯୋଗ କରନ୍ତୁ ।

ପ୍ରକଳ୍ପ ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶକ,
ଆମ୍ବା, ଖୋର୍ଦ୍ଧା

OIPR-01499/11/0003/2526

ଜିଲ୍ଲାପାଳ ତଥା ଅଧ୍ୟକ୍ଷ,
ଆମ୍ବା, ଖୋର୍ଦ୍ଧା

Kantamal Substation Capacity Enhanced to Ensure Reliable Summer Power in Boudh



Berhampur, (DMC): In a major boost to southern Odisha's power infrastructure, TP Southern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPSODL) has successfully completed the capacity augmentation of the Power Substation (PSS) at Kantamal in Boudh district. The move comes in anticipation of a sharp rise in electricity demand during the ongoing summer season. Earlier, the Kantamal PSS operated with two power transformers - one with a capacity of 5 MVA and

another of 1.5 MVA - totaling 6.5 MVA. As part of the upgrade, the 1.5 MVA transformer has been replaced with a new 3.15 MVA unit. This enhancement takes the substation's total capacity to 8.15 MVA, significantly improving its ability to handle increased load and offer seamless power delivery. This upgrade will directly benefit over 5,000 consumers in the Kantamal block, including the block headquarters and surrounding rural pockets. It will also ensure more stable and

efficient supply to three critical feeders: Kantamal Medical, Kantamal Block Headquarters, and Udayapur. These feeders cater to essential services and residential areas, making uninterrupted power supply crucial during high-demand periods. Mr. Amit Kumar Garg, CEO of TPSODL, stated, "With summer demand peaking, reliable electricity becomes vital.

This substation upgrade is part of our continuous efforts to strengthen infrastructure, minimize outages, and meet the growing needs of our consumers." TPSODL remains committed to enhancing southern Odisha's power distribution network through strategic investments in infrastructure, technology, and consumer-focused initiatives aimed at building a robust and future-ready system.

Silver Jubilee of Sidhant Literary Organization



Paralakhemundi, (DMC): At Vishwanath Kalyan Mandap silver jubilee celebration of Sidhant literary organization held. Presided by Dr. Annapurna Devi Collector Gajapati Bijay Kumar Dash graced as chief guest; among others Sub Collector of Gunupur Kirandip Kaur Sahata, Dr. Sidhartha Sankar Padhi Regional Director of

Higher Education Brahmapur, Dr. Sujit Kumar Panda, Purnachandra Mahapatra & BKomalangi graced as guests of honor. On this occasion a book "Dakhinanchal Adhunikata Abartare Prachina Sabari Sanskruti" launched. Written jointly by Purnachandra Mahapatra & BKomalangi speakers reviewed on the book. Sabara culture with Jagannath

culture discussed. Opening song on tribal song sang by BKomalangi & supported by Trinath Roito in sarangi & Gitan Bhuyan on flute. On this occasion Dr. Surendranath Sahu, Labanya Sabar, Tarinisen Das, Krushna Sabar, Harabati Gomango, Phalguni Sabar, Amrit Panigrahi honored.

Welcome address given by Saroj Panda & Bharat Bhushan Mahanty conveyed vote of thanks. Program coordinated by Bichitranda Bebartta, Tripathi Prasad Panda, Muralidhar Paricha, Sneha Behera, Rajeswari Swain, Anjana Patnaik coordinated the program.

Rayagada District Forces Successfully Neutralize 4 IEDs Planted by Maoists

Rayagada, (DMC): In a significant operation, the Rayagada District Intelligence Operations Cell (DIOC) and District Volunteer Force (DVF) along with the CRPF 4th Battalion successfully detected and neutralized 4 Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) planted by Maoist groups in the Ambadola PS Jagadapur area. The detected IEDs included one pressure cooker bomb and three tiffin bombs, which

were planted using command wire mechanisms. The bomb squads from Rayagada DVF and CRPF 4th Bn expertly diffused and blasted the IEDs in a controlled manner, preventing potential harm to civilians and security personnel. This successful operation highlights the effectiveness of the district's security forces in tackling Maoist threats and underscores

the importance of continued vigilance in the region. The authorities are likely to review and enhance security measures to prevent similar incidents in the future. The prompt action and expertise of the DVF and CRPF teams have ensured the safety of the public and prevented any potential casualties, demonstrating their commitment to maintaining law and order in the region.

A joint grievance redressal camp was held by the Sonepur Block Level District Collector & Security Officer 57 different complaint applications received



Subarnapur, (DMC): Subarnapur district Sonepur block level joint grievance redressal and redressal camp was held at Sonepur block conference hall. District Collector Mrs. Anya Das and Additional Security Officer Birendra Kumar Nayak

participated in the joint grievance redressal camp and received 57 registered grievance applications from the public regarding various objections and problems. While 40 applications were individual, 17 collective applications were received. The grievance applications have been

handed over to the concerned departmental officers of various departments to resolve them within the stipulated time. The joint grievance redressal held under the supervision of BDO Sonepur Pratya Kar was attended by Additional District Collector Rajendra Majhi, Chief Development Officer District Council Shri Ashwani Kumar Meher,

Additional Executive Officer Pallavi Rani Raj, Deputy District Collector Sonepur Dr. Along with Soumya Rupa Rath, Tehsildar Sonepur, various district level officers, Tehsil and block level officers, employees, journalists were prominent participants.

Baitarani river drying, People urge water State Development Commissioner visits Kanpur Dam, reviewed the work progress & heard the local people's grievance

Keonjhar, (DMC): Odisha's second river embankment project under construction in Joda block of Kendujhar district, Kanpur Dam is facing technical problems due to which the stream is cut off. The lower reaches of the Baitarani river have dried up.

There was a sense of urgency at the administrative level in this regard. In this regard, on Sunday, a high-level technical team including the Development Commissioner of Odisha, Additional Chief Secretary of the Water Resources Planning and Development Department of the Government of Odisha, Anu Garg visited the site and reviewed various parts of the dam. On this a review meeting was held at the Kanpur project Conference hall. The engineers were informed about the dam through the projector. Among the incomplete works of the Kanpur



project are the depletion sluice, 12 numbers Radial gates, concrete work of spillway, which is currently being constructed. "Due to the depletion sluice work being in progress, water cannot be drained into the Baitarani River. Due to this water problem seen downstream. The work will start soon", said the project construction engineer Prasad Ranjan Panda. While interacting with the media persons, the

commissioner said that "the ongoing work of Kanpur Dam project has been reviewed. The dam construction work will be completed by next July. Out of the total irrigation area of 29 thousand hectares, 13 thousand hectares of land will be irrigated this year. The target has been set. He said that there is sufficient infrastructure". Apart from this, she also said that "I will supervise the projects

Joint public grievances hearing Camp of Collector & SP held in Nuapada

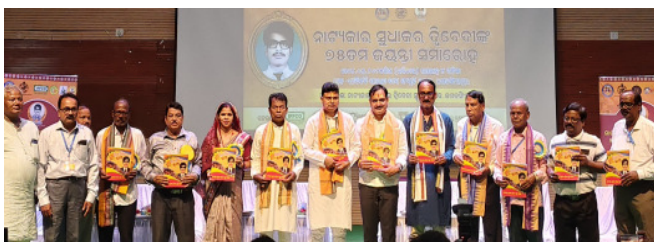


Nuapada/Khariar road, (DMC): As part of the efforts to hear people's grievances the Nuapada district administration organised a joint public grievance hearing camp at Sadbhavna meeting Hall in Nuapada on Monday, the 5th May. In all 86 grievances including 68 individuals and 18 communities were received at the session. The authorities concerned were asked to address the issues at the earliest.

In this joint public grievances, Nuapada Collector Madhusudan Dash, SP Gundala Reddy Raghavendra, DFO wildlife Mahadev Budaik, Chief District Development Officer Lambodar Dharua, Sub Collector Jogendra Majhi, CDMO Guruprasad Jena, Executive Officer NAC Khariar Road Kamlasan Ratha, Tahasildar Nuapada Pranab Ranjan Sahu, BDO Nuapada Rohit Bhoi, DIPRO Bidyapati Panda alongwith heads of different administrative wings and public representatives were present.

75th Birth Anniversary of Sudhakar Diwadi

Jagatsinghpur, (DMC): The 75th Birth Anniversary of eminent Drama Writer Sudhakar Diwadi celebrated at Adikavi Saraladas Sanskruti Bhawan and meeting was presided over by Alekha Chandra Behera. Local MLA Amarendra Das, Tirtol MLA Dr Ramakanta Bhoi, President Zilla parishad Manoj Bhoi, Municipality Chairman Archana Singh, Retd. Lecturer Himansu Acharya joined as guests and address the gathering. At the age of 32 the eminent Drama writer passed away but his writings are land mark in the Dramatic history of Odia literature. Saroj Diwadi presented the annual report. In this occasion some eminent actor, writer and outstanding personalities were honoured by guest. Winner of different competition were also awarded. Magazine "Sudha Gaurav" inaugurate and Cultural programme by Dukhram Swain Institute was praised by audience.



TPNODL HoTT Centres Deliver Transformative Impact across Northern Odisha through Skill Development & Technical Training

Balasore, (DMC): TP Northern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPNODL), a joint venture of Tata Power and the Government of Odisha, has made significant strides in employee development and community empowerment through its network of five fully operational Hands-on Technical Training (HoTT) Centres. Located in Baleswar, Betnoti, Joda, Rahanj (Bhadrak) and Panikoi (Jajpur), these centres are playing a transformative role in strengthening technical competencies across Northern Odisha.

These centres, established in each of TPNODL's operational circles, offer an immersive and practical learning environment, combining theory with hands-on training in real-world electrical power systems. Equipped with modern infrastructure including switchgear workshops, transformer units, RMUs, CTs, PTs, LAs, SCADA systems and network simulators, the centres replicate real-life scenarios that help bridge the gap between classroom learning and fieldwork. Since becoming fully operational, the centres have successfully



trained 4,190 TPNODL and Business Associate (BA) employees, enhancing their skills in operation, maintenance, and safety. In Baleswar alone, 3,396 employees have been trained, with significant contributions from Betnoti (561) and Joda (233).

While the Bhadrak and Jajpur centres were commissioned toward the end of the last financial year, they have already commenced training for Government ITI students under a strategic MoU with the state. The eligibility for training at HoTT Centres currently includes TPNODL's regular employees, Business Associate (BA) employees, and second-year Electrician Trade students from Government ITIs, as per an MoU

with the Government of Odisha. Additionally, TPNODL customers are also considered for training programs. In the near future, the scope is expected to expand further to include Diploma and Engineering students, offering a broader platform for technical education and career preparedness across the region.

This initiative has also brought remarkable benefits to local youth, particularly students from Government Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs). A total of 351 Electrician Trade students including 115 young women have completed a structured 19-day hands-on skill development course, gaining exposure to live electrical systems and equipment in a safe, supervised environment. This not only enhances their

employability but also builds confidence to pursue careers in the power sector. The impact of these centres goes beyond skills training. They serve as incubators for safe work culture, innovation adoption and employee on boarding. By incorporating modules on behavioural safety, SCADA technology, GIS systems and automation, the HoTT Centres are fast tracking the readiness of new employees and upskilling the existing workforce in line with global standards.

For the youth of Odisha, especially from underrepresented and rural backgrounds, these centres represent a gateway to self-reliance and meaningful employment. TPNODL's inclusive approach ensures that the benefits of development are widely shared, supporting not just individuals but also the broader economy. As TPNODL continues to evolve with new technologies and growing energy demands, these centres will remain at the heart of its people-first strategy-ensuring that its workforce is equipped, empowered and future-ready.

Summer Hockey Camp inaugurated at D. A. V. Public School PPL, Paradip Campus



Paradip, (DMC): The Odisha Government inaugurated the summer hockey training camp at PPL D.A.V. Public School premises on Monday. The chief guest was Sumit Kumar Senapati, CGM HR and IR of PPL. The training camp will be held from May 5 to 23 from 6.30 am to 8.30 am and from 4.30 pm to 6.00 pm. All the programs have been organized under the direct supervision of Jagatsinghpur District Sports Officer Smt. Bishwa Vijayini Pattanaik.

Sumit Lakra and Rashmi Kisan have participated as coaches in this training camp. More than 80 students from various schools will undergo training at this training center. Two sports teachers of the school, Mr. Saswat Kumar Bharatiya and Mr. Dwibendu Das Swarnakar, will be assisting in the event. The staff of DAV Public School and PPL Paradip have extended full support to make the event a success.

SC chides ED in Chhattisgarh liquor scam case for 'making allegations without evidence'

New Delhi, (HS) : The Supreme Court rebuked the Enforcement Directorate on Monday for making allegations against an accused in a liquor scam case "without any evidence" and said it has become a pattern.A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan was hearing a petition filed by Arvind Singh seeking bail in the alleged Rs 2,000-crore liquor scam in Chhattisgarh."This is a pattern adopted by the ED in a number of cases. You just make allegations without any evidence. The prosecution won't stand before the court in this manner," the bench said. During the hearing, Additional Solicitor General S V Raju alleged that Singh had earned Rs 40 crore in collusion with another man named Vikas Agarwal. When the court asked, if Agarwal had been made an accused, Raju replied that he was absconding. The bench said, "You have made a specific allegation that he (Singh) earned Rs 40 crore. Now you are not able to show the connection of this man with this or any other company. "You should state whether



he is the director of those companies, whether is a majority shareholder, whether he is Managing Director. Something has to be there," the court said. Raju said a person can be controlling a company but does not necessarily have to be responsible for the conduct of the company.The top court said the agency was making a bald allegation. The matter is now posted for hearing on May 9.The apex court had on April 28 pulled up the Chhattisgarh government and asked how long it would keep an accused in

jail in connection with the liquor scam case filed by the state authorities.It had noted that three chargesheets were filed in the matter and the investigation was still underway."Investigation will go on at its own speed. It will go on till eternity. Three chargesheets have been filed. You are virtually penalising the person by keeping him in custody. You have made the process a punishment. This is not some case of terrorist or triple murder," the bench had remarked orally. The state had opposed the bail pleas and submitted that the accused

need to be confronted with the other accused in the case. Appearing for the accused, senior advocate Siddharth Agarwal had argued that three chargesheets have been filed in the case and charges are yet to be framed.

The top court allowed Arvind Singh and Amit Singh, to be confronted with former excise minister Kawasi Lakhma and posted the matter for May 9.The Enforcement Directorate has alleged that the scam was perpetrated by a syndicate of high-level state government officials, private persons and political executives that generated more than Rs 2,000 crore in tainted money in 2019-22. The money laundering case stems from a 2022 income tax department chargesheet filed in a court in Delhi. The ED alleged that bribes were collected from distillers in the state on a per liquor case basis procured from the CSMCL (state body for purchase and sale of liquor) and country liquor was being sold off-the-books. According to the federal probe agency, bribes were taken from distillers to allow them to form a cartel and have a fixed market share.

WB Govt. removes 'Dham' from Jagannath Temple in Digha

Digha : In a major step towards the partial conclusion of the Digha Jagannath Temple controversy, West Bengal government has relented and removed the term 'Dham' from the name of the temple. According to reports, the government of West Bengal has said that it shall remove the term 'dham' from the name of the newly inaugurated Jagannath Temple in Digha. A lot of protests were seen in Odisha following the Digha temple being called Digha Jagannath Dham. Many people argued that there are only four religious 'dhams' of Hindus that is: Badrinath, Dwarka, Puri and Rameswaram. So it is prima facie wrong to name the new Jagannath Temple at Digha as 'Dham'. The in-charge of BJP's National Information and Technology Department Co-incharge West Bengal Amit Malviya, shared a post on the recent development on his X handle and wrote, "After strong protests from devotees of Prabhu Jagannath, the West Bengal government was forced to quietly remove the misleading 'Dham' signage in Digha.

Three-judge inquiry panel submits report to CJI on cash recovery at Justice Varma's home

NEW DELHI: The three-judge inquiry committee appointed by the Supreme Court to probe the cash recovery at Justice Yashwant Varma's residence on March 14 submitted its report to Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna on May 4.After 40 days of setting up of the panel by the top court, the committee submitted its report, after making due diligence on the probe in the cash recovery issue. The SC had on March 25 constituted the three-member inquiry committee, consisting of Justice Sheel Nagu, Chief Justice of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana, Justice G.S. Sandhawalia, Chief Justice of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh and Justice Anu Sivaraman, Judge of the High Court of Karnataka. The top court directed the committee to conduct a detailed inquiry into the allegations against Justice Varma, a sitting Judge at Allahabad High Court at present. The three-member inquiry committee, during its probe, visited Justice Varma's official residence at 30 Tughlak Crescent in Delhi and conducted an investigation.



In his defence, Justice Varma has vehemently denied all the allegations levelled against him. He has claimed that the room which caught fire and where cash was allegedly found was an outhouse and not the main building where the judge and family resides. "I state unequivocally that no cash was ever placed in that storeroom either by me or any of my family members and strongly denounce the suggestion that the alleged cash belonged to us. The very idea or suggestion that this cash was kept or stored by us is totally preposterous. The suggestion that one would store cash in an open, freely accessible and commonly used storeroom near the staff quarters or in an outhouse verges on the incredible and incredulous," Justice Varma, said, in his reply. It is a room which is completely dissociated from my living areas and a boundary wall demarcates my living area from that outhouse. I only wish that the media had conducted some enquiry before I came to be indicted and defamed in the press," the reply further read.

Sonu breaks silence on Bengaluru concert issue, police summons



BENGALURU, (HS) : Singer Sonu Nigam broke silence about a recent video of him during his Karnataka performance that got him in trouble. After allegedly refusing to perform in Kannada upon a fan's request, he even brought up the Pahalgam attack, and received flak for it. He posted a clarification on Monday to explain what happened. Sonu wrote in his note that he has given 'unprecedented love' to language, culture, music and musicians of not just Karnataka but 'anywhere in the world'. He also claimed that he 'reversed' his Kannada songs more than even Hindi. Sonu stated that he has more than an hour of

Kannada songs that he prepares whenever he is in Karnataka. However, he claimed that a fan 'humiliated' him at the concert and was 'threatened' by someone his son's age. He wrote, "I am not a young lad to take humiliation from anyone. I am 51 years old, in the second half of my life and am entitled to take offence for someone as young as my son threatening me directly in front of thousands in the name of language that too Kannada which is my second language when it comes to my work. That too after my first song of the concert! He provoked a few more. Their own people were embarrassed and were asking them to shut up."

Sonu claimed that he told them 'politely and lovingly' that the concert has just begun and that he will not 'let them down'. However, he says, they were 'hell bent on creating ruckus' and threatening him 'wildly'. "Tell me who is at fault?" he questioned, adding, "Being a patriot that I am, I loathe anyone trying to create hate in the name of language, caste or religion especially after what transpired in Pahalgam." He said 'thousands of students and teachers cheered' him when he schooled them and that eventually, he did perform Kannada songs. After the incident, the Bengaluru District Police took cognisance of the FIR filed against him on May 3 for 'making hurtful remarks about the Kannadiga community.' They issued a notice to Sonu, asking him to appear before the investigation officer within a week.

Reservoir Flushing, 6 New Projects: India Acts After Indus Treaty Suspension

New Delhi, (HS) : A week after India suspended the Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan - in the first round of retaliatory measures for the Pahalgam terror attack - the government has begun increasing reservoir storage capacities at two hydroelectric projects in Kashmir, sources told.

Specifically, 'reservoir flushing' - i.e., removing of sediment - was carried out at the Salal and Baglihar projects by the state-run National Hydroelectric Power Corporation last week.The government is also expected to accelerate construction of six stalled projects in the region - a 1,856 MW project in Sawalkot, the Kirthai I and I facilities that will generate a combined 1,320 MW, and a 1,000 MW facility in Pakal Dul, as well as three others making a total of 2,224 MW. Once these six are completed, Jammu and Kashmir could generate up to 10,000 MW of electricity, and there could be more water for irrigation and domestic consumption in the plains. All of this is significant because if the Indus Waters Treaty, or IWT, were still operational, India would have had to give Pakistan six months' notice before starting construction, during which time Islamabad would have mounted multiple legal challenges to



delay or cancel the projects. The flushing of the reservoirs was key for the same reason; India had not been able to clean them since they were built in 1987 and 2009 as it had been prohibited by the IWT.Flushing had been banned as downstream countries, in this case Pak, may face flooding and destruction of property from the force of the released water. It also leads to wastage. However, sources told Reuters that finally being able to carry out the

Amid India-Pak tensions, China says 'always support' Islamabad to 'secure peace & stability'

New Delhi, (HS) : Amid escalating tensions between India and Pakistan after the Pahalgam terror attack, China on Monday vowed to support Islamabad "to secure peace and stability in South Asia."The statement was made by Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong, who met President Asif Ali Zardari amid the highly charged atmosphere following the diplomatic showdown between Islamabad and New Delhi. Jiang called on President Zardari and exchanged views on different issues, including the tensions between Pakistan and India, state-run Radio Pakistan reported. During the meeting, President Zardari expressed concern over the recent measures by India following the deadly Pahalgam terror attack, saying that such actions threaten regional peace and stability, it reported. India last week 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 New Delhi is committed to taking "firm and decisive" action against terrorists and their backers. The fresh moves came nearly two weeks after India announced a raft of punitive measures against Pakistan including suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty, shutting down of the only operation land border crossing at Attari and the downgrading of diplomatic ties following the terror attack. "The Chinese Ambassador reaffirmed the enduring and time-tested friendship between China and Pakistan, describing the relationship as one of ironclad brothers who have always supported each other in challenging times," Radio Pakistan reported. He thanked President Zardari for sharing Pakistan's perspective and emphasised that "China would always support Pakistan to achieve the common desire of both countries to secure peace and stability in South Asia."On Thursday, the Chinese envoy called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who thanked China for endorsing his offer to conduct a neutral probe into the Pahalgam attack. Meanwhile, Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday vowed to support India in its fight against terrorism and stated that the perpetrators of the Pahalgam terror attack must be brought to justice. In a telephonic conversation with PM Modi, Putin condemned the attack as "barbaric" and expressed "full support" to India in the fight against terrorism, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in a social media post. Putin was among the first world leaders to condemn the April 22 terror attack that killed 25 tourists and a local Kashmiri when suspected militants opened fire at tourists in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam.



Pak-Based Cyber Groups Target India Again, Multiple Defence Websites Hacked

New Delhi, (HS) : Amid rising tensions in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack, Pakistani hackers are targeting Indian defence websites. According to sources in the defence establishment, the cyber attacks may have compromised sensitive information about defence personnel, including their login credentials. A handle on X, Pakistan Cyber Force, has claimed that hackers gained access to sensitive data of the Military Engineer Services and the Manohar Parrikar Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses. The group, sources said, has also tried to deface the website of Armoured Vehicle Nigam Limited, a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Defence. The sources said the website of Armoured Vehicle Nigam Limited has been taken offline for a thorough audit to assess the extent of any potential damage caused by the hacking attempt.

Murshidabad riots: Bengal Governor files report to MHA; says 'radicalisation' posing challenge to Bengal

KOLKATA, (HS) : West Bengal Governor C V Ananda Bose has submitted a report on the recent riots in Murshidabad district to the Ministry of Home Affairs, stating that the "twin spectre of radicalisation and militancy" poses a serious challenge to the state. In the report, he suggested a few measures, including setting up an inquiry commission and outposts of central forces or the BSF in districts bordering Bangladesh, besides writing, "needless to add, the provisions under Article 356 of the Constitution also remain".

The imposition of Art 356 refers to the President's rule in a state. Asked about this, an official told, "The governor has not proposed implementation of Art 356. He meant that the provisions of Art 356 are open to the Centre if the situation in the state further deteriorates." The TMC described the report as politically motivated while the BJP hailed it. Apprehending a "spillover" of the Murshidabad violence to other districts, Bose said the Centre might consider

"constitutional options to put a check on the current situation besides generating confidence of people in the rule of law". He also claimed that the riots appeared "premeditated" and the state government was "aware of the imminent build-up of a threat to law and order". "The twin spectre of radicalisation and militancy poses a serious challenge for West Bengal, especially in two of the several districts sharing an international border with Bangladesh, viz., Murshidabad and Malda. In both these districts, there is an adverse demographic composition with Hindus being minorities. Another district, viz., Uttar Dinajpur, has a plurality," Bose mentioned in his report. The governor suggested several measures in the aftermath of Murshidabad violence that left three people dead. The riot occurred amid anti-Waqf Act protests. The report mentioned "formulating an overarching legislation to empower the Union Government to maintain law and order when the state machinery fails to act



effectively." It also said about appointing a commission of inquiry to look into the "reported acts of omission and commission and to suggest measures to prevent such incidents in future and needless to add, the provisions under Article 356 of the Constitution also remain." Of late, there are indications of radicalisation and polarisation, the report said. "The divisions are so deep that even in the face of escalation of violence, the chief minister's repeated undertaking that she would protect minority interests, and that the Act would not be implemented in the state, have done little to assuage

the Muslim community or stem the tide. It is imperative that the rule of law must be firmly established, and the police must prevent violence," Bose wrote in the report. Going by the state's history of political clashes, there is a possibility that the Murshidabad violence would spill over to other districts, he said.

After the Waqf (Amendment) Act was notified on April 8, conflagration unfolded in Murshidabad district and continued for several days, Bose said adding that the authorities suspended internet services on the same day. "Thus, the state government was aware of the imminent build-up of threat to law and order in Murshidabad,"

he alleged. "The sequence of events shows woeful lack of coordination among administration and law enforcement agencies that were either too feeble to rise to the challenge or were reluctant to do so," he said. Referring to his trip to the district, Bose said that the atrocities inflicted "appear to be systematic and reek of an intention to destroy the identity of a particular group". Such a "grave violation of human rights causing immense suffering and loss has very few parallels in recent history," he said. Bose also stated that "intensifying political rivalry between the ruling party and the Opp osition has led to both parties increasingly leveraging religious identity to consolidate their voter bases.. The narrative is now religion-driven." The TMC has positioned itself as a protector of Muslims who constitute over 30 per cent of the state's electorate and holds sway in roughly 125-130 of the 294 Assembly seats," he said. Bose alleged there was a marked rise in law and order issues ahead of the 2026 assembly polls. In the "surcharged" political spectrum,

parties are vocal at highlighting the fault lines and communal fissures leading to tension and violence, he said. Bose observed that the police were ineffective and central forces are needed to bring back normalcy. Hitting out at Bose, TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said, "This is the report of his political assignment. He knows the situation is under control and that is why he mentioned that if the situation deteriorates, the provision of Art 356 is open. The governor should have mentioned the role of BSF, the jurisdiction was increased to 50 km from the border." BJP MP Shamik Bhattacharya said, "We are grateful to the governor that he has filed the report. The final call would be taken by those who are the custodians." Congress leader Adhir Chowdhury called the report "very general". "He said if the situation deteriorates, Art 356 is open. So he thinks the situation is yet to deteriorate," Chowdhury said. Termining the report "frivolous", CPI(M) MP Bikash Bhattacharya said, "It is just a political gimmick."

Putin Dials PM Modi, Offers Russia's 'Full Support' To India In Fight Against Terrorism

Moscow/New Delhi, (H.S): Russian President Vladimir Putin called Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday and "strongly condemned" the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam, offering "full support" to India in its ongoing fight against terrorism."He conveyed deepest condolences on the loss of innocent lives and expressed full support to India in the fight against terrorism. He emphasised that the perpetrators of the heinous attack and their supporters must be brought to justice."

Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), stated after the call."Both leaders reiterated their commitment to further deepen India-Russia Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership. PM Modi conveyed greetings to President Putin on the celebration of the 80th anniversary of Victory Day and invited him for the Annual Summit to be held in India later in the year," Jaiswal added.The brutal assault on April 22, which resulted in the death of 26 innocent tourists and left several



others critically injured, unfolded in the Baisaran Valley near Pahalgam when four heavily armed terrorists, two of them from Pakistan, emerged from the surrounding dense forests and opened indiscriminate fire on tourists.

The attack has been described as one of the most horrific in the region in recent memory.Monday's call between the two leaders took place before the Russian President hosts Chinese President Xi Jinping, who will be on an official visit to the Russian Federation from May 7-10 and take part in the ceremonial events dedicated to the 80th anniversary of Victory in the

Great Patriotic War.PM Modi, who had also been invited by Putin for the participation in the Victory Day celebrations, will however not be travelling to Russia.The Russian President had earlier extended his condolences to President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Modi over the tragic consequences of the terrorist attack in Pahalgam."

Kindly accept the sincere condolences over the tragic consequences of the terrorist attack in Pahalgam whose victims were civilians - citizens of various countries. This brutal crime has no justification whatsoever. We expect that its organisers and perpetrators will face a deserved

punishment. I would like to reiterate our commitment to further increasing cooperation with Indian partners in fighting terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Please convey words of sincere sympathy and support to the near and dear ones of the deceased as well as wishes for a speedy recovery of all injured," Putin wrote on April 22.

On May 2, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov had dialled External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar do discuss topical issues of the Russian-Indian cooperation, as well as the "aggravation of Indian-Pakistani relations" following the terrorist attack near Pahalgam.Lavrov called for the settlement of disagreements between New Delhi and Islamabad by political and diplomatic means on a bilateral basis in accordance with the provisions of the Simla Agreement of 1972 and the Lahore Declaration of 1999." Discussed the Pahalgam terrorist attack with FM Lavrov of Russia yesterday. Its perpetrators, backers and planners must be brought to justice. Also spoke

about our bilateral cooperation activities," Jaishankar posted on X after the phone call.Putin had earlier invited Prime Minister Modi to attend the celebrations to mark the 75th anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War in Moscow in May 2020.Earlier, Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov had confirmed that the Russian President is expected to visit India in early 2025 following an invitation from Prime Minister Modi.

The visit is being planned as part of the ongoing commitment to annual meetings between the two leaders." Our leaders have an agreement to meet once a year. This time, it is our turn," Ushakov had said during a press briefing. The last visit by the Russian President to India took place on December 6, 2021, during the 21st India-Russia Annual Summit in New Delhi. Meanwhile, PM Modi held two high-profile visits to Russia last year, attending the 22nd Russia-India Summit in July and later participated in the BRICS Summit held in Kazan in October.

Iran Vows Retaliation If Attacked, Cites Missile Readiness



Tehran, (H.S): Iranian Defence Minister Aziz Nasirzadeh warned that Iran would strike US and Israeli interests, bases, and troops "wherever and whenever deemed necessary" if either country initiates a war against the Islamic Republic.He made the remarks in an interview with Iran's IRIB news agency published on Sunday, responding to a recent threat made by US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth, who warned that Iran would "pay the consequence" for its "support to the Houthis." The defence minister stated that Iran maintains a large arsenal of missiles in its bases and would not hesitate to use them against regional targets if war is imposed on the country. Xinhua news agency reported."

Should such a war be from the United States or Israel, the Islamic Republic of Iran will target their interests, bases, and troops wherever they are and whenever it deems necessary," Nasirzadeh said.He further criticised what he described as a contradiction in US behavior - claiming to be open to negotiations while simultaneously threatening Iran through various channels. Nasirzadeh said Yemen is an independent country and makes its own decisions, advising the United States to refrain from creating crises in the West Asia region.Earlier on Sunday Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to retaliate against Houthi forces in Yemen and their ally, Iran, after a missile launched by the group struck Israel's international airport.Writing on the social media platform X, the official account of the Prime Minister's Office stated that "attacks by the Houthis emanate from Iran." It added that Israel "will respond to the Houthi attack against our main airport and, at a time and place of our choosing, to their Iranian terror masters."

Threat To National Security: Trump Imposes 100 Pc Tariff on Films Produced Outside US

Washington, (H.S): US President Donald Trump on Monday (Indian time) announced a new 100 per cent tariff on foreign films, stating that the movie industry in America is "dying a very fast death," which, according to him, is posing a national security threat.He accused other countries of offering all sorts of incentives and drawing filmmakers and studios away from the US."

Industry in America is dying a very fast death. Other countries are offering all sorts of the movie incentives to draw our filmmakers and studios away from the United States. Hollywood and many other areas within the USA are being devastated. This is a concerted effort by other nations and, therefore, a national security threat," he posted on his social media platform, Truth Social."It is, in addition to everything



else, messaging and propaganda! Therefore, I am authorising the Department of Commerce and the United States Trade Representative to immediately begin the process of instituting a 100 per cent tariff on any and all movies coming into our country that are produced in foreign lands.

We want movies made in America again," the post added. Addressing reporters at the White House on Sunday, Trump had blamed California Governor

Gavin Newsom for the decline in film production in Hollywood, specifically over the last several years.He said that other nations have been "stealing" the movies and moviemaking capabilities from the US."

If they're not willing to make a movie inside the United States, we should have a tariff when movies come in," Trump added.Reports suggest that production has declined in California following budget cuts

and more generous tax incentives outside. Additionally, the American film industry reportedly suffered a series of economic setbacks in recent years, including the Hollywood labour strikes and the Covid pandemic.In January, Trump appointed three film stars - Jon Voight, Mel Gibson and Sylvester Stallone - as special ambassadors tasked with promoting business opportunities in Hollywood, calling the industry a "great but very troubled place."

Trump said their job is to bring business back to Hollywood, saying that it "has lost much business over the last four years to foreign countries." "They will serve as special envoys to me for the purpose of bringing Hollywood, which has lost much business over the last four years to foreign countries, back - bigger, better and stronger than ever before!" Trump posted during that time.

Nine Dead After Tourist Boats Carrying Over 80 Capsize In China

Beijing, (H.S): Nine people died, one was missing, and 70 were injured after four tourist boats capsized due to sudden gales on a river in Qianxi, southwest China's Guizhou province, according to state media.A total of 84 people fell into the water following the accident on Sunday afternoon, and the search for the last missing person continues.

Speaking to Chinese media Red Star News, tourists who were on-site during the accident said that there was a sudden rainstorm accompanied by hail, thunder and strong winds. According to reports, the local meteorological authority issued a yellow alert on Sunday, stating that thunderstorms would occur in multiple places.Chinese President Xi Jinping on Sunday urged all-out efforts to search for those who fell into the water and treat the injured after the boats capsized.The Chinese provincial authorities have deployed nearly 500 emergency responders,



including police, firefighters, and medical personnel, to coordinate rescue efforts, Xinhua News Agency reported.The other passengers on the boat reported a sudden shift in the weather, featuring intense rainfall and a fog hovering over the water's surface.

In December also, eight people died after a boat capsized in Guizhou province. Meanwhile, on Friday, a helicopter crashed in the Wuzhong district of Suzhou, Jiangsu province, resulting in one death and four injuries due to bad weather, as confirmed by the Chinese local emergency management bureau. According to the bureau's statement, the

helicopter crashed from a height of about 10 meters above the ground while returning to Wuzhong airspace. The victim, one person on the ground, was killed, while four personnel on board were injured.

Earlier this year, eleven people died, and five went missing after a passenger boat collided with an oil waste recovery vessel in central China's Hunan Province, according to the local authorities. The incident occurred on the Yuanshui River in Qinglang Township, Yuanling County, causing 19 people to fall overboard, of whom three were rescued.

Iran revises port blast death toll to 57, arrests two over safety failures

Tehran, (H.S): Iran revised the death toll from a major explosion at its main commercial port late last month down to 57 from 70, while state television reported two arrests in connection with the blast.The semi-official Tasnim news agency quoted Hormozgan province's Chief Justice Mojtaba Qahremani as saying the updated figure for the April 26 blast at Shahid Rajaei Port includes 46

recovered and identified bodies and 11 people still missing. Qahremani explained that the initial count was lowered after forensic examinations determined that some body parts collected separately belonged to the same individuals. A special working group has been established to follow up on the missing, he added.State television reported separately on Sunday that two

people, including a government official, had been arrested over the explosion.The blast and ensuing fire injured more than 1,200 people, according to the Iranian Red Crescent Society, which said search and rescue efforts at the site ended on Sunday, Xinhua news agency reported. Authorities have pointed to safety failures as contributing to the incident.A provincial crisis management

statement cited failures in observing safety and passive defence measures, while Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni referred to "certain negligence" last Monday. Shahid Rajaei Port, located in the southern Hormozgan province, is Iran's largest maritime hub, handling the vast majority of the country's container traffic and more than half of its total trade.

Hindu Body In Canada Flags Khalistani Threats, Cites Misusing Nagar Kirtan

Ottawa, (H.S): The Hindu Canadian Foundation (HCF) on Monday strongly condemned the call by Khalistani extremists on Monday to send back 800,000 Hindus to India.An anti-Hindu parade took place during the Malton and Etobicoke Nagar Kirtan at the Malton Gurdwara in Toronto, Canada.A video capturing the event is circulating widely on social media, featuring a large truck displaying a replica of a jail that included effigies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar.

The HCF said that such statements foster division and spread hate against Hindu Canadians."The silence of many political leaders in response to such hateful remarks must be recognised as implicit consent. It is the duty of all Members of Parliament and Members of Provincial Parliament, across party lines, to take a stand against this divisiveness and reaffirm Canada's commitment to religious harmony and inclusivity," the HCF said in a statement." A civilised society cannot tolerate hate-mongering



and attempts to fracture our diverse communities. We urge Canadians to hold politicians accountable - asking them what legacy they wish to leave for future generations," the statement added.The foundation further stated that the Nagar Kirtan is "meant to unite people of all faiths, reflecting the teachings of Sikh Gurus, and should never be misused for political provocation or exclusionary rhetoric."

Meanwhile, the Canadian Hindu Chamber of Commerce also slammed the incident, demanding that Hindus leave Canada."There are 800,000 Hindus and over 1.86 million Indo-Canadians in Canada. The call at today's Nagar Kirtans in Malton & Etobicoke clearly

targeted Hindus. History teaches us that calls for mass expulsion lead to unthinkable acts. This dangerous rhetoric must be denounced by all leaders," it said in a statement.The Khalistani extremism, especially against the Hindus, has been on the rise in Canada, with repeated cases of Hindu temple desecrations and vandalism.

Last month, the Lakshmi Narayan Temple in Surrey was defaced with pro-Khalistan graffiti, marking it as the third reported act of vandalism at the same site. Former Canadian MP Chandra Arya, addressed the incident strongly, in a post on X."The attacks on Hindu temples that began several years ago continue unabated today - this latest graffiti on the Hindu

temple is yet another chilling reminder of the growing influence of Khalistani extremism," he posted.Arya warned of a larger, coordinated effort behind such acts: "Well-organised, well-funded, and backed by significant political clout, Khalistani elements are brazenly asserting their dominance and successfully silencing Hindu voices across Canada."He also referenced the targeting of the Khalsa Diwan Society's Ross Street Gurdwara in Vancouver, which was defaced with slogans like "Khalistan Zindabad."

The Gurdwara management condemned the actions, calling them part of an "ongoing campaign by extremist forces that seek to instil fear and division within the Canadian Sikh community." It is time for the Hindu Canadians jointly with the vast majority of our Sikh-Canadian brothers and sisters to rise with urgency and demand immediate, decisive action from authorities at all levels of government. Silence is no longer an option," Arya concluded, calling for urgent action following the incident last month.



Tel Aviv, (H.S): Israel's security cabinet has approved a plan to capture the entire Gaza Strip and remain there for an unspecified amount of time, Associated Press reported, quoting two officials. If implemented, the plan could vastly expand Israel's operations in the Palestinian territory, which would likely exacerbate an already dire humanitarian crisis. Israeli Cabinet ministers approved the plan in an early morning vote on Monday, hours after the Israeli military chief said the army was calling up tens of thousands of reserve soldiers.

The move is part of the Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu-led government's efforts to elevate pressure on Hamas to free hostages and negotiate a ceasefire on Israel's terms. Officials told AP that the new plan is meant to help Israel achieve its war aims of defeating Hamas. It would also push hundreds of thousands of Palestinians to southern Gaza. Since a US-brokered truce deal between Israel and Hamas

collapsed in mid-March, the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) have unleashed fierce strikes on the Palestinian territory, killing hundreds of people and capturing large swathes of land. Per reports, Israel now roughly controls 50 per cent of Gaza.Even before the ceasefire agreement fell apart, Israel had halted all humanitarian aid into Gaza, including food, fuel and water, setting off what is believed to be the worst humanitarian crisis in nearly 19 months of war.

According to Israeli officials, the plan included the "capturing of the strip and the holding of territories." It would also seek to prevent the Hamas group from distributing humanitarian aid, which Israel says strengthens the group's rule in Gaza. Israel has also accused Hamas of keeping the aid for itself to bolster its capabilities."The plan also included powerful strikes against Hamas targets," the officials said. One of the officials said the plan would be implemented gradually. The report said Israel was in

touch with several countries about President Donald Trump's plan to take over Gaza and relocate its population, under what Israel has termed "voluntary emigration". However, the plan sparked condemnations from Israel's allies in Europe and the Arab world.For weeks, Israel has been trying to ratchet up pressure on Hamas and prompt it to show more flexibility in ceasefire negotiations.

But international mediators trying to bring the sides toward a new deal have struggled to do so. Israel's measures do not appear to have moved Hamas away from its negotiating positions.The previous ceasefire was meant to lead the sides to negotiate an end to the war, but that goal has been a repeated sticking point in talks between Israel and Hamas. Israel says it won't agree to end the war until Hamas is defeated. Hamas, meanwhile, has demanded an agreement that winds down the war.

ADB Fully Supports India's Development Priorities Under PM Modi: Masato Kanda

New Delhi, (H.S): Asian Development Bank (ADB) President Masato Kanda, in his meeting with Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, has expressed the Bank's full support to India's development priorities, guided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, the Finance Ministry said on Monday.

FM Sitharaman also reiterated that India focuses on private sector-led economic growth and has been consistently creating a conducive policy and regulatory ecosystem. The Finance Minister is leading an Indian delegation from the Department of Economic Affairs of the Ministry to attend the 58th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the ADB in Italy's Milan from May 4 to 7. In a post on social media platform X, the ministry said that she met ADB



President Kanda in Milan. "The Union Finance Minister reiterated that India focuses on private sector-led economic growth and has been consistently creating a conducive policy and regulatory ecosystem through bold initiatives such as the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, Corporate Tax Rate Reduction and GST implementation, Production-

Linked Incentives, National Infrastructure Pipeline, GatiShakti National Master Plan and Startup India, among others, for greater Ease of Doing Business," the Ministry said. Sitharaman also emphasised that India offers opportunities for ADB to pilot new, innovative financing products and models." Kanda expressed ADB's full support to India's development

priorities, guided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat 2047," the ministry added. On the sidelines of the ADB's 58th annual meeting, Sitharaman will also hold bilateral meetings with her counterparts from Italy, Japan, and Bhutan, in addition to meetings with the President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the Governor of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).

The 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", according to an official statement.

India's Mineral Production Surges To All-Time High In 2024-25

New Delhi, (H.S): The production of key minerals such as iron ore, manganese ore, bauxite and lead in the country have recorded a robust growth in financial year 2024-25 after reaching record production levels in FY 2023-24, according to a statement issued by the Ministry of Mines on Monday.

The output of iron ore, which accounts for 70 per cent of the total mineral production by value, increased to 289 million metric tonnes (MMT) in FY 2024-25, breaking the earlier production record of 277 MMT achieved in FY 2023-24, registering a 4.3 per cent growth. Similarly, the production of manganese ore has also surpassed the production record of 3.4 MMT achieved in FY 2023-24, with an 11.8 per cent jump to 3.8 MMT in FY 2024-25. The production of bauxite has risen by 2.9 per cent to 24.7 MMT in FY 2024-25 from 24 MMT in FY 2023-24. During the same period, lead



concentrate production rose from 381 thousand tonnes (THT) to 393 THT, with a 3.1 per cent growth. In the non-ferrous metal sector, primary aluminium production in FY 2024-25 has also broken the production record of FY 2023-24. Primary aluminium production increased from 41.6 lakh ton (LT) in FY 2023-24 to 42 LT during FY 2024-25. Besides, refined copper production saw a robust growth of 12.6 per cent, increasing from 5.09 LT in FY 2023-24 to 5.73 LT in FY 2024-25. India is the second largest Aluminium

producer in the world, among the top-10 producers of refined copper and the fourth largest iron ore producer in the world. Continued growth in production of iron ore in the current financial year reflects the robust demand conditions in steel which is the user industry for these metals. Coupled with growth in aluminium and copper, these growth trends point towards continued strong economic activity in user sectors such as energy, infrastructure, construction, automotive and machinery, the statement added.

Solar PV component market in India to exceed \$7 billion by 2029

New Delhi, (H.S): India's solar photovoltaic (PV) balance of system (BoS) market is on a robust growth trajectory and is projected to grow from approximately \$3 billion in 2024 to around \$7 billion by 2029, registering a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 16 per cent, a report showed on Monday.



Several factors are driving this growth, including India's national target of 500 GW non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030 and the commitment to generate 50 per cent of its electricity from renewable sources, according to IILattice's latest industry report. Enabling schemes like PM-KUSUM, the Grid Connected Rooftop Solar Programme, and the Delhi Solar Energy Policy are helping to democratize solar adoption across rural and urban areas, bringing new opportunities

for innovation, manufacturing, and investment in the BoS space. The report provides a deep analysis of the BoS segment, which includes all supporting components of solar PV installations other than the panels, such as inverters, mounting structures, trackers, wiring, combiner boxes, circuit protection devices, monitoring systems, charge controllers, and batteries. "As the world races toward decarbonisation, the focus must go beyond solar panels to the infrastructure that supports

them. Our latest report underscores the pivotal role of the balance of system components in making solar truly scalable and sustainable," said Abhishek Maiti, Director-Industrial Goods and Services, IILattice. With India set to witness a BoS boom, now is the time for manufacturers, investors and policymakers to align strategies and investments, he added.

The global BoS market is also expected to experience significant expansion, growing from an estimated \$60 billion in 2024 to approximately \$100 billion by 2029 at a CAGR of 10 per cent, driven by robust clean energy commitments and incentives across key regions. As India accelerates its shift toward renewable energy, the BoS segment is emerging as a critical enabler in the country's energy transition journey.

Current Indicators Show India's Economy Is Doing Well: CEA Nageswaran

New Delhi, (H.S): Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) V. Anantha Nageswaran has highlighted that current indicators show the Indian economy is continuing on a high growth path despite the global challenges. Speaking at an event at Ashoka University, Nageswaran said, "India's economy is in good shape despite challenging global environment.



While the final number for FY25 will be available in May, current indicators suggest we are progressing well." The country's Chief Economic Advisor listed energy affordability and energy transition employment generation with the rise in manufacturing and small and medium enterprises as priority areas for the country. Besides, artificial intelligence, education and skilling of the country's workforce would drive

growth, he added. He emphasised on the need to maintain macroeconomic stability, which entails keeping inflation in check, while targeting inclusive growth as the country moves ahead. NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Suman Bery, in his address at the event, emphasised India's long-term vision of becoming a developed, high-income country by 2047. "Over the last three decades, India has achieved a consistent annual growth rate of 6.5 per cent, and I think it's an impressive

achievement. It showcases both institutional agility and a certain institutional maturity in India," he said. Bery stated that the global turmoil could throw up opportunities for India.

He highlighted the potential for India to leverage its demographic dividend, technology and geopolitical shifts to spur economic growth. India continues to remain the world's fastest growing major economy and the only country expected to clock over 6 per cent growth in

the next two years, according to an IMF report released last month. IMF chief economist Gita Gopinath said, "Our April 2025 World Economic Outlook projects significantly weaker global growth at 2.8 per cent for 2025 with growth downgrades for 127 countries making up 86 per cent of world GDP."

However, the outlook report pegged the Indian economy to grow at 6.2 per cent in 2025 and 6.3 per cent in 2026 which is over 2 percentage points above second ranking China's economic growth forecast at 4 per cent for 2025 and 4.6 per cent in 2026. The US, which has triggered the tariff turmoil across the globe, is expected to see its GDP growth slowing to 1.8 per cent this year, which will be expected to decline further to 1.7 per cent in 2026, according to the IMF report.

India Set To Lead World Bank's Global Land Reform Talks In Washington

New Delhi, (H.S): A high-level Indian delegation is set to present its transformative SVAMITVA Scheme and Gram Manchitra platform at the World Bank Land Conference 2025, taking place from May 5 to 8 at the World Bank headquarters in Washington, according to an official statement issued on Sunday.



Led by Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) Secretary Vivek Bharadwaj, and comprising of Joint Secretary, MoPR, Alok Prem Nagar, Additional Surveyor General, Survey of India Shailesh Kumar Sinha, the delegation will present its flagship SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas) Scheme at two key sessions during the upcoming international forum on land governance.

This year's World Bank Land Conference, themed "Securing Land Tenure and Access for Climate Action: Moving from Awareness to Action", will bring together global leaders, policymakers, experts and development partners to explore strategies for securing land tenure, modernising land administration for sustainable development and climate-responsive governance, the statement said. Under India's flagship SVAMITVA Scheme that provides legal ownership of rural

properties using drones and geospatial technology, property cards to over 24.4 million households across 1.6 lakh villages have been issued, mapping over 100 million property parcels and unlocking an estimated \$1.162 trillion (approx Rs 100 crore) in land value. India will play a key role at the World Bank Land Conference 2025,

wherein the SVAMITVA Scheme will be spotlighted as a transformative model of rural empowerment through drone mapping, high-accuracy geospatial data, and platforms like Gram Manchitra for climate-aligned planning. With applications in tax administration, infrastructure, and disaster preparedness, SVAMITVA exemplifies inclusive, tech-driven governance. India's leadership in digital land reforms and its commitment to South-South collaboration will be central to the global dialogue on scalable and people-centric land

solutions. The conference agenda includes high-level plenary sessions, regional workshops, thematic exchanges, and an innovation expo, all focused on accelerating secure land access, modernising land administration systems, and driving climate-responsive governance.

Sessions will highlight best practices, operational strategies, and cutting-edge research to scale up reforms in land tenure, promote the use of geospatial technologies, and build resilience in the face of climate challenges. The Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, will represent India as a Country Champion in the Plenary Session on "Good Practices and Challenges in Land Tenure and Governance Reform",

wherein the SVAMITVA Scheme's impact on rural property rights, women's empowerment, and dispute resolution, will be shared, contributing to global discussions on SDG Target. Joint Secretary Nagar will lead a Technical Session on "Establishing the Land Foundation for Climate Action and Disaster Risk Management", wherein India's Gram Manchitra platform, which utilises SVAMITVA's high-resolution spatial data to support village-level planning, solar energy site selection, disaster mitigation and rural development will be showcased.

Opportunity To Invest In India's Long-Term Growth Story Is Now : Morgan Stanley

New Delhi, (H.S): Global brokerage Morgan Stanley has reaffirmed its positive long-term outlook on Indian equities, highlighting that India is likely to outperform in a global bear market scenario. According to a note by the brokerage, the opportunity to invest in India's long-term structural growth story is now, though it will require patience, given the potential. The global financial services major believes that while near-term volatility may persist, "the long-term reward outweighs short-term noise". The firm advises investors to stay focused

on India's domestic growth story and selectively build exposure - particularly in domestically driven sectors - during periods of market stress. The macroeconomic environment remains challenging worldwide, with risks such as decelerating global growth, central bank policy shifts, and geopolitical tensions casting a shadow. Morgan Stanley states that these very conditions present a compelling case for India, "supported by its robust domestic fundamentals and relative insulation from global volatility". India offers a mix of macro stability, earnings growth,

and a reliable domestic demand base that positions it as a relative safe haven in a bear market. Morgan Stanley also favours domestic cyclical over defensives and globally exposed sectors. The firm holds an overweight view on financials, consumer discretionary and industrials, backed by improving credit growth, private investment recovery, and rising consumer demand. In its another report last month, Morgan Stanley said that India is one of their preferred equity markets where macro conditions are resilient or sufficiently buffered by

stimulus. The brokerage saw a relatively resilient outlook for financials earnings, with capital ratios and the asset quality outlook in a strong position across most of its coverage. "We particularly like Financials in Singapore, India, Chile and the UAE, as well as Japan," it added. Key India-specific catalysts include continuing dovish actions from the RBI, stimulus through GST rate cuts and a trade deal with the US. Morgan Stanley also sees lower food inflation and lower oil prices, keeping food and non-food inflation at benign levels.

Piyush Goyal's Brussels Visit Bolsters India-Belgium Trade, Investment Ties

New Delhi, (H.S): Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal held a productive meeting in Brussels with Belgian Minister of Defence and Foreign Trade Theo Francken and Minister-President of the Flanders region Matthias Diependaele to strengthen the India-Belgium partnership across trade, technology, investment, and innovation, according to a Commerce Ministry statement issued on Sunday.

The meeting also reviewed progress in EU-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations, with both parties recognising the need to address tariff and non-tariff barriers to enhance market access. Goyal reiterated India's position as a trusted and long-term economic partner for Europe's growth, remarking:

"India is not just a market of the future - it is a collaborator of trust." The talks, held on Friday, follow the visit of Princess Astrid of Belgium to India, in March this year, where her meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi underscored the shared ambition to unlock new avenues for collaboration in trade, technology, defence, agriculture, life sciences, innovation, skilling and academic exchanges. The over



300-member Belgian Economic Mission, led by Princess Astrid, infused fresh momentum into this dynamic bilateral relationship. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to building on this momentum to forge resilient, future-focused ties that enhance mutual growth and contribute to a more integrated global economic framework.

The discussions highlighted growing economic synergies and focused on scaling bilateral trade, fostering industrial collaboration, and deepening investments in strategic sectors such as semiconductors, clean energy, defence production, and pharmaceuticals. The Flanders region, recognised as Belgium's

economic engine, was highlighted as a critical partner with its advanced manufacturing ecosystem, R&D infrastructure, and its strategic role as a European gateway.

With India already the world's fastest-growing major economy and widely expected to remain so over the next two decades ahead - driven by a young, aspirational population and a dynamic reform-oriented environment, the growth story presents an unprecedented opportunity for India and Belgium. During Commerce Minister Goyal's visit to Brussels, the two countries reaffirmed their shared vision of mutual prosperity and resilient

economic cooperation amidst evolving global challenges. Goyal reflected on India's transformative economic journey over the past decade, emphasising reforms that have empowered citizens and entrepreneurs alike. "The last eleven years have not only been about economic upliftment, but about enabling aspirations," he stated. Belgium remains one of India's most significant economic partners in Europe.

It is India's 5th largest trading partner within the EU, with bilateral trade reaching \$15.07 billion in 2023-24. Belgian FDI in India has totalled \$3.94 billion from April 2000 to September 2024, including a remarkable 39 per cent growth - \$1.1 billion - in the past year alone.

Bilateral cooperation spans a wide array of sectors, including defence manufacturing, green hydrogen, nano-electronics, nuclear medicine, and pharmaceutical R&D, reflecting the expanding depth and strategic nature of the Indo-Belgium economic relationship. Both sides agreed to strengthen high-level engagements and facilitate regular visits by business delegations to accelerate trade and investment outcomes.

Govt Moving Ahead With IDBI Bank Disinvestment Plan In Current Fiscal

New Delhi, (H.S): The government's disinvestment plan for IDBI Bank, as part of the broader strategy to monetise assets through stake sales during the current financial year, is progressing in accordance with the normal schedule, the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management Secretary Arunish Chawla has said. "The focus remains on steady execution and long-term value creation, even as global economic conditions remain uncertain," Chawla told NDTV Profit in an exclusive interview. The

Centre and the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) plan to jointly offload a 60.72 per cent stake in IDBI Bank, which comprises 30.48 per cent held by the government and a 30.24 per cent share by the insurance giant. Chawla said that the government aims to meet regulatory norms through structured divestments in public sector banks and central public sector enterprises. He also said efforts to monetise land and infrastructure assets of MTNL were continuing and confirmed that a flexible approach was being adopted

to meet minimum public shareholding targets. Chawla said that asset sales will be carried out in a phased and market-sensitive manner. He noted that multiple bids have already come in for key transactions, including public sector bank stake sales, and that due diligence is progressing on the IDBI Bank transaction. The government has also extended deadlines for some companies, that have been lined up for disinvestment, to comply with the Securities and Exchange Board of India's public float rules, he said.

Sonakshi defends Kusha calling out troll's 'disgusting, auraless behaviour'

On Monday, Sonakshi Sinha defended Kusha Kapila after the latter hit out at an Instagram user for sending her a derogatory message. She urged her to 'name and shame them', calling those sending her such messages 'lowlives'. Here's what she said.

Kusha took to her Instagram stories to post a collage of the views she's currently enjoying and

herself. She even attached the word 'paglu' in the caption to words like moon, sun and sky, hopping onto a trend. An Instagram user replied to her message by using a derogatory word. Attaching the screenshot of his message on her stories, Kusha wrote, "Satyam ki wajah se kitney logon ki mental health kharab rehti hgi. I offer to pay for two years worth of therapy and inner work for you so you

don't feel compelled to show your darindigi at the sight of a happy woman. Write to me on thaapadmarungi@sudharjasaale.com. (It's because of people like Satyam that people's mental health is affected. I offer to pay for two years worth of therapy and inner work for you so you don't feel compelled to show your brutality at the sight of a happy woman.)

After Kusha posted this on her stories, Sonakshi re-shared it offering her support and lauding her for sharing the screenshot without hiding the Instagram user's handle. She wrote, "Well done on calling out these low lives @kushakapila!! I think we all need to name and shame them... hazaar gaali padegi, instagram spam ho jayega aur nani yaad aa jayegi (you'll be showered with abuses and

your Instagram will be spammed, you'll repent it)." Kusha re-posted Sonakshi's stories with queen and heart emojis.

Last seen in the 2024 films Bade Miyan Chote Miyan and Kakuda, Sonakshi will soon be seen in Jatadhara and Nikita Roy. Kusha was last seen in the 2024 web series Life Hill Gayi and the 2023 film Thank You for Coming.

HIT 3 worldwide box office: Nani's film 1st in franchise to cross 100 cr



Director Sailesh Kolanu has delivered the first 100 crore film in his career. HIT: The Third Case, starring Nani, released in theatres on May 1 and has collected 101 crore worldwide during the long weekend, making it the first film in the franchise to do so.

The film's producers, Wall Poster Cinema, announced on Monday that HIT 3 has collected 101 crore worldwide. They wrote, "SARKAAR'S CENTURY. 101+ CRORES GROSS WORLDWIDE for

#HIT3 in 4 days. Book your tickets now! <https://linktr.ee/HIT3Tickets>. A massive first weekend for the action crime thriller. #BoxOfficeKaSarkaar."

Nani posted a picture, thanking fans for the 101 crore, writing, "Thank you. This weekend. You gave us and cinema 101 reasons to celebrate. #HIT3." His previous film, Saripodhaa Sanivaaram, had collected over 2100 crore in its lifetime, according to the filmmakers, while Hi Nanna had

made 776.35 crore. His 2023 film Dasara, with its 118.5 crore collection, is the film for Nani to beat with HIT 3. HIT 3 became the first film in the franchise to cross the 100 crore mark. The Vishwak Sen-starrer HIT: The First Case made 8 crore worldwide in its lifetime in 2020. The 2022 Hindi remake starring Rajkumar Rao also collected similar numbers, according to Sacnilk. HIT: The Second Case starring Adivi Sesh was released in 2022, and it made 41.85 crore worldwide.

HIT 3 is the third film in the HIT franchise to follow a cop solving a murder mystery. In the film, Nani plays SP Arjun Sarkaar, while Srinidhi Shetty plays his lover, Mrudula. Prateik Babbar plays the antagonist, Alpha, in the film, which sees Arjun solve murders committed with a similar modus operandi across the country. The next film, HIT 4, will star Karthi as ACP Veerappan.

Raid 2 Box Office Collection 70.75 Cr on Day 4

Ajay Devgn's Raid 2 has crossed the Rs 70 crore mark at the box office. The crime thriller saw a jump in numbers on Day 4 and raked in Rs 21.50, according to industry tracker Sacnilk. The Raj Kumar Gupta directorial recorded an overall 39.80% Hindi occupancy on May 4. The morning shows saw a turnout of 19.38%, which increased to 45.34% in the afternoon. Evening shows peaked at 55.07%, while night shows recorded 39.42% occupancy. Released on May 1, Raid 2 has so far collected Rs 70.75 crore in the domestic market.

Film critic and trade analyst Taran Adarsh shared Raid 2's Day 3 box office numbers on X (formerly Twitter). He wrote, "HALF-CENTURY ON DAY 3... #Raid2 is unstoppable... The film bounced back to [almost] Thursday levels on Saturday - a remarkable achievement. Thursday, which benefitted from a partial holiday, witnessed a superb start for #Raid2... The fact that Saturday's numbers are close to Thursday's signals a clear victory for #Raid2." According to Taran, Raid 2 recorded and impressive 42.15% jump from Friday to Saturday. "Sunday is



expected to be another strong day, placing #Raid2 among the top-performing opening weekends in the post-pandemic era. As mentioned earlier, a 70 cr+*extended opening weekend* is now well within reach. #Raid2 [Week 1] Thu 19.71 cr, Fri 13.05 cr, Sat 18.55 cr. Total: 51.31 cr," he added.

Apart from Ajay Devgn, Raid 2 features Vaani Kapoor, Riteish Deshmukh, Rajat Kapoor, Saurabh Shukla, Supriya Pathak and Amit Sial in key roles. The film is a sequel to the 2018 movie Raid. Ileana D'Cruz played Ajay's on-screen wife in the original film. However, she was replaced by Vaani Kapoor in Raid 2. The film is currently competing with Akshay Kumar's Kesari: Chapter 2 and Nani's HIT: The Third Case in theatres.

Aamir in talks for an Indo-Chinese film with a star from each country



Actor-filmmaker Aamir Khan is perhaps the most popular Indian star in China. Two of his films - Dangal and Secret Superstar - have been big hits in the country, breaking all box office records for Indian films. Speaking at the WAVES Summit on Friday, Aamir talked about the next step in leveraging China's soft power - a joint Indo-Chinese film production.

At the inaugural World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES), Aamir spoke about how the audience in China reacts to an Indian film in the same manner that the Indian audience does. "I feel that the audience in China, their cultural flavours, and the emotions of people there are very similar to the emotions of Indians. So, the Chinese audience reacts in a very similar way to content like

people do here. That's what my experience was when I was watching a couple of my films on the big screen in China. The way the audience was reacting to Dangal. There was absolutely no difference between an Indian audience and the Chinese audience reacting to the film. It was almost identical." Aamir's Dangal made a record \$192 million (1231 crore) in China, and an additional \$10 million (64 crore) in Taiwan and Hong Kong. It remains the highest-grossing foreign film in China. His Secret Superstar also broke the bank in the Chinese markets, bringing in a combined \$122 million (763 crore) from China and Hong Kong.

Aamir is participating in a session titled 'Studios of the Future: Putting India on World Studio Map' at WAVES 2025 on Friday morning. On stage, the actor also spoke about how he is in talks with Chinese friends for a possible collaboration.

"I think collaboration with China is a win-win-creatively, from a business perspective, and on an emotional level. In fact, over the years, I have been in discussions with my friends in China and we have often explored the possibility. Now, with WAVES coming in, it will give a further drive towards there. If you look at an Indo-Chinese film - a star from China and a star from India, that's roughly half of the population of earth. So, you have a huge audience already for it," he said.

India maintain top spot in ICC rankings, slip to 4th in latest Test



Dubai, (HS) : India continue to dominate the white-ball format rankings in men's cricket after the latest update to the ICC world rankings, holding onto their top spot in both ODIs and T20Is. This comes after a year of solid success in both formats, which has seen the Indian team lift the T20 World Cup in North America and the West Indies in 2024, before clinching the ICC Champions Trophy held in Pakistan and the UAE earlier this year.

However, it's less positive

Ban on Rabada for using prohibited drug lifted, Return



New Delhi, (HS) : South African speedster Kagiso Rabada served a one-month ban, reduced from three months, for using a recreational drug during the SA20, held earlier this year, according to ESPNcricinfo. In a statement issued by the South African Institute for Drug Free Sports (SAIDS) confirmed, Rabada, who was representing MI Cape Town, had failed a doping test on January 2 following their fixture against Durban Super Giants. The 29-year-old quick was notified of the decision on April 1 when he represented the Gujarat Titans in the 18th edition of the cash-rich Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025. At that time, GT released a statement stating that Rabada flew back to South Africa "to deal with an important personal matter" without offering a time frame for his return. According to ESPNcricinfo, SAIDS confirmed Rabada has since participated in an education and awareness programme to prevent further substance abuse. He is expected to resume playing immediately and could return to on-field action as soon as Wednesday, when GT takes on five-time champions Mumbai Indians (MI). There have been instances when players have been handed long-term suspensions, which depend on the individual cricket boards. Last year, the Zimbabwe Cricket Board banned Wessly Madhevere and Brandon Mavuta for four months each and fined 50 per cent of their salaries for three months after the duo tested positive for a recreational drug.

news for India in the Test rankings, where they slipped a position and are now fourth. Australia continue to hold top spot in the Test rankings, as defending champions of the World Test Championships and due an appearance in a second successive final at the marquee event at Lord's in June this year. Their opponents, South Africa, also slipped one spot into third, with the biggest gainers being England, who have leapfrogged India and South Africa into

second position under the captaincy of Ben Stokes. The T20I rankings see India maintain their grip at the top in a historic year, one which has seen as many as 100 teams in the global rankings. The ICC's new rule sees any national team with a minimum of eight T20I matches having a ranking, India leading the charge here on 271 points, nine points ahead of second-placed Australia. India's dominance in the format has seen them lose only four T20I

matches since the start of 2024, winning 29, including an unbeaten campaign at the T20 World Cup.

India's concerning slip in the Test rankings follows after a first series defeat at home in over a decade, being whitewashed 3-0 by New Zealand in an historic upset. This was followed by a 3-1 series loss on the tour of Australia, a pair of series results that saw India miss the WTC finals from a position of strength, while also compromising rating points in the Test rankings. India are now 21 points behind ranking leaders Australia. In the ODI lists, India's dominance in recent ODI events has seen them win 15 matches with only a singular loss, albeit in the biggest match of the set in the World Cup final. Sri Lanka are surprise gainers, up to fourth place despite their non-involvement in the Champions Trophy, overtaking both Pakistan and South Africa. Overall, India have enjoyed a 23-1 record in ICC events since the 2023 ODI World Cup, a terrific tournament performance that has helped them maintain their grip on the two limited overs formats.

Shami Receives Death Threat in IPL, Rs 1 Crore Demanded

Amroha, (HS) : India pacer Mohammed Shami received a death threat via email on Sunday, and an FIR has been registered by the Cyber Crime Police Station of Uttar Pradesh's Amroha district. The FIR, which is with IANS, was lodged on Monday on the orders of the Superintendent of Police (SP) and stated that the report was registered on behalf of Shami by his brother Haseeb and named Rajput Sindar as the sender of the threat email.

According to the FIR, the sender also demanded the ransom of Rs one crore from the cricketer who is busy playing the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 with Sunrisers Hyderabad. The FIR has been registered under the following sections: Indian Penal Code (BNS), 2023 Section 308(4), Information Technology (Amendment) Act, 2008 Section 66d and Information Technology (Amendment) Act, 2008 Section 66e and the police is investigating



the matter. In nine matches for SRH in IPL 2025 so far, Shami has only bagged six wickets at an average of 56.17. He was impressive in India's title-winning Champions Trophy campaign, where he scalped nine wickets in five matches, including a five-fer against Bangladesh in their opening encounter in Dubai.

Earlier, the Indian team head coach, Gautam Gambhir, also received a death threat via email last month. "We have been informed about an alleged threat mail received on an email ID associated with Gautam Gambhir. The matter is being investigated. Gautam Gambhir is already under Delhi Police protection, and we do not comment on specific security arrangements," said DCP (Central) V. Harsha Vardhan.

A complaint with the Delhi Police was filed after Gambhir received death threats in the aftermath of a deadly terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam that claimed at least 26 lives and left several injured. "As we spoke, please find below the 'Threat Mails' received on the mail ID of Mr Gautam Gambhir (EX-MP), Head Coach, Indian Cricket Team. Kindly register the F.I.R accordingly and ensure the safety and security of the family." PS to Gambhir wrote in a mail to Rajender Nagar SHO and DCP, Central.

Gauff Climbs to No. 3 as Sabalenka Strengthens Grip on WTA Top Spot



MADRID, (HS) : Coco Gauff continues to rise as one of the most formidable players in women's tennis, now securing the No. 3 spot in the WTA rankings following her impressive run at the Madrid Open. While Aryna Sabalenka dominated the tournament to clinch her third Madrid title, Gauff's performance cemented her status as the top-ranked American player, surpassing Jessica Pegula.

The 21-year-old Gauff outlasted defending champion Iga Swiatek in the semifinals before falling to Aryna Sabalenka in the championship match. Her remarkable run has propelled her to No. 3 in the world rankings, surpassing Jessica Pegula. Sabalenka, who secured her third Madrid Open title, continues to dominate at the top. Her ranking points gap over Swiatek has extended to 4,345, reinforcing her stronghold as World No. 1. Meanwhile, Jasmine Paolini and Madison Keys exchanged places, with Paolini moving up to No. 5. American presence in the Top 10 is growing, with Emma Navarro joining Gauff, Pegula, and Keys. Paula Badosa, who withdrew from the Madrid Open due to injury, has dropped to No. 10. The rankings update also brings exciting developments for Naomi Osaka, who returned to the Top 50 after securing her first title since maternity leave. Rising stars like Diana Shnaider, Olga Danilovic, and Sonay Kartal achieved career-high rankings, signalling an evolving landscape in women's tennis.