



# DUMANI MAIL

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## 18 years wait ends as RCB lift maiden IPL trophy



**Ahmedabad, (HS) :** Ending the wait of 18 years, Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) has won their first-ever IPL trophy after beating Punjab Kings (PBKS) in the IPL 2025 final at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.

Just when Punjab Kings looked to be in the driver's seat at 72/1, Royal Challengers Bangalore fought back to grab the steering wheel and never let go in the IPL 2025 final at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. Krunal Pandya had

Prabhsimran Singh caught at cover off Bhuvneshwar Kumar for 26. Then, in the next over, Romario Shepherd got the big wicket of Shreyas Iyer who fell for just one, getting a faint edge to wicket-keeper Jitesh Sharma. Krunal then struck again, removing the dangerous Josh Inglis who holed out to Liam Livingstone on the long-on boundary for 39 off 23 balls, leaving PBKS at 98/4 in the 13th over. A partnership of 38 between Shashank Singh and Nehal Wadhwa briefly revived PBKS before the latter fell for a

laboured 15 off 18 balls, caught by Krunal off Bhuvneshwar at cover. Marcus Stoinis came in and smashed a six over long-off first ball. But off the very next delivery, he gave Yash Dayal at short third-man a straightforward catch to leave PBKS in dire straits at 142/6 in the 17th over.

Earlier, a brilliant catch by Phil Salt gave Royal Challengers Bangalore the much-needed breakthrough as they defended a target of 191 against Punjab Kings. After PBKS had raced off the blocks to 43/0, Salt held

Priyansh Arya on the boundary off Josh Hazlewood, tossed the ball up as he overshot the line and nonchalantly stepped back in to complete the catch. In the first half of the game, RCB was restricted to 190/9 after a brilliant final over by Arshdeep Singh in which he grabbed three wickets and gave away just three runs. Kyle Jamieson had given PBKS the perfect start by removing RCB opener Phil Salt for 16 in just the second over. But the early blow didn't rattle RCB for long as Virat Kohli and Mayank Agarwal began to rebuild steadily. Just as Agarwal looked to settle in, Yuzvendra Chahal derailed the momentum, dismissing him for 24. Kohli and skipper Rajat Patidar then added 40 for the third wicket. Patidar looked to step on the gas, hitting Jamieson for a six but the New Zealander had the last laugh, trapping him leg before for 26, leaving RCB at 96/3. Liam Livingstone then joined Kohli and the duo took 14 off Chahal's last over. Kohli looked on course for another fifty but a brilliant return catch by Azmatullah Omarzai saw him return to the dugout for 43 as RCB slumped to 131/4 in the

15th over. After Kohli's dismissal, Jitesh Sharma offered RCB a flicker of hope with a quickfire cameo, aided by Livingstone. Jamieson was smashed for 23 in the 17th over but also managed to remove Livingstone with a sharp delivery that rapped his pads, trapping him LBW. Then Vijaykumar Vyshak struck a crucial blow in the 18th over. Though RCB's DRS saved Sharma once, Vyshak had the final say. With the very next ball, he sent Sharma back to the dugout for a breezy 24 off 10 balls, further dampening RCB's hopes of crossing the 200 mark.

Earlier, PBKS won the toss and chose to bowl first against RCB. "Not just another game. It's a big final. Going to be a tremendous feeling," said PBKS skipper Shreyas Iyer. RCB captain Rajat Patidar said that he too wanted to bowl first. "Just another game for us, we will try give our best," he said. This is a rematch of the first Qualifier, where RCB outplayed PBKS with a dominant eight-wicket win to book their spot in the final. PBKS bounced back by defeating five-time champions Mumbai

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## Deogarh gets projects worth Rs. 205 crore



**Deogarh, (DMC) :** Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Tuesday inaugurated and laid foundation stones for 15 developmental projects worth Rs 205 crore in Deogarh district.

While 11 of these projects are in healthcare sector, four are aimed at strengthening infrastructure in the field of education in the district. A newly constructed 300-bed hospital was among the projects inaugurated by the Chief Minister during his visit to the district. Stressing that the government aims to ensure inclusive development, the Chief Minister said Deogarh

district has all the potential for development and the state administration is committed to utilising these resources effectively and ensuring that the district is part of overall progress of Odisha. The government is focused on balanced development across all 30 districts and prioritising essential services for people at the grassroots level, the CM added. He said the dream of building a prosperous Odisha can be realised only by focusing on education, health, infrastructure, agriculture, industry, investment and employment. Efforts are

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## Four die of asphyxiation inside septic tank

**Nabarangpur, (DMC) :** Four people, including three sanitation workers and one local resident, lost their lives this morning after suffocating inside a newly constructed septic tank in Padalguda village under Nandahandi block of Nabarangpur district. According to preliminary reports, a local resident had called sanitation workers to remove the centring slab of his newly built, approximately 10x10-foot septic tank. Two workers initially entered the tank but began suffocating almost immediately, possibly due to a lack of oxygen and the presence of hazardous gases trapped under the sealed slab.

A third worker entered the tank in a desperate attempt to rescue them, but also collapsed. Hearing their cries for help, a passerby jumped in to assist, but he too succumbed to the toxic environment. Fire department personnel arrived promptly and rescued all four individuals from the tank and subsequently rushed them to Nabarangpur District Headquarters Hospital (DHH). However, the three workers were declared dead on arrival, while the fourth victim,

**Continued P-4**

## CM launches Zero Accident Day



**Bhubaneswar, (DMC) :** Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Tuesday launched 'Zero Accident Day' in collaboration with IIT Madras as a collective commitment to the safety of everyone traveling on the roads.

Accidents have a profound impact not only on families and the state but also on the entire economy, Majhi said, urging everyone to strictly follow all road safety rules. The Chief Minister stated that accidental deaths have emerged as a significant problem across India, noting that as many as 75.2 percent of fatalities are caused by speeding. On this occasion, the Chief Minister inaugurated 11 Automated Vehicle Testing Systems (AVTS) at Sonapur, Chandikhol, Bhanjanagar, Mayurbhanj, Rairangpur, Balangir, Talcher, Malkangiri, Nayagarh, Nabarangpur, and

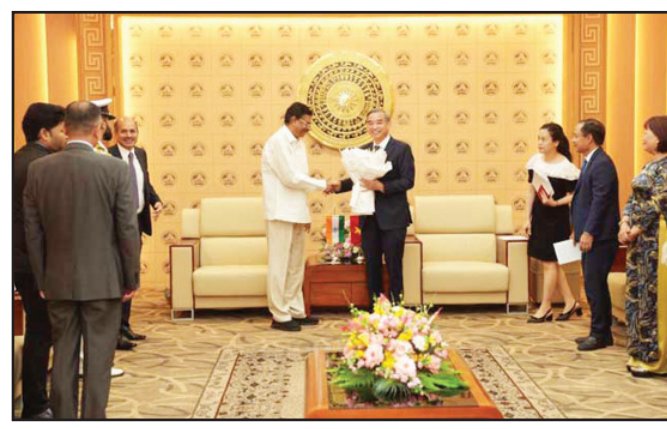
Deogarh, with an investment of Rs 24 crore. Additionally, the second phase of the Driving Electronic Enforcement to Save Human Lives (DISHA) project was launched at a project cost of Rs 215 crore. It will be operational on 485 km of various national and state highways in the state. The foundation stone for the third phase of this project, covering 1007 km, was also laid. According to official sources, under this system, e-challans will be issued to drivers automatically for violating road safety rules. The state's second registered vehicle scrapping center was inaugurated in Jajpur district. The foundation stone for Odisha's first autonomous vehicle testing center was also laid in Cuttack by the Chief Minister. Majhi flagged off 15 super-premium Volvo buses for Rs 27.3 crore. The buses will operate as Shri

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## Guv pitches pact with Vietnam to boost ties

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC) :** In a significant step towards fostering international collaboration, Odisha Governor Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati proposed establishing a sister-state relationship between Odisha and Da Nang City in Vietnam during his recent visit to the Southeast Asian nation.

The proposal was made during a meeting with His Excellency Le Trung Chinh, Chairman of the Da Nang People's Committee, on Monday, as part of a mission to bring back the sacred relics of Lord Buddha to India. Governor Kambhampati highlighted Odisha's rich historical legacy, vibrant cultural traditions, and rapid economic growth, emphasising the state's numerous



significant Buddhist sites. "Odisha is a land of profound history, strong cultural heritage, and dynamic economic progress. We are home to many important Buddhist sites. If Da Nang is interested, we can establish a meaningful relationship between

our two regions," he stated during the meeting. Praising Da Nang as a beautiful and historic city, the Governor noted its strategic importance as a major port, a hub for high technology, and a centre for economy and tourism. He underscored Da Nang's potential

as a vibrant coastal city in central Vietnam, positioning it as a key player in enhancing economic and trade cooperation between India and Vietnam. "Da Nang's location and potential make it a vital link for strengthening bilateral ties," he added. The Governor expressed gratitude to the Vietnamese government and the people of Da Nang for their warm hospitality and meticulous arrangements for the sacred relics of Lord Buddha. He noted that the Government of India had provided appropriate protocol for the relics, which he personally accompanied back to India.

"Buddhism has been a strong bond between India and Vietnam for nearly 1,800 years. India values its Buddhist heritage and

**Continued P-4**

## Govt asks Collectors to identify orphan, single-parent children

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC) :** The Odisha Government has initiated steps to conduct a survey of orphans and single-parent children in the state to ensure their rights and basic needs. Official sources said that the Women and Child Development department has directed all the district Collectors in this regard. A detailed guideline and formats have also been provided for collection of data for the survey of orphans and children having single parent.

As per the arrangements made by the department, the survey will be conducted by Anganwadi workers in all the districts under supervision of district functionaries like DSWOs, ICDS supervisors, CDPOs and DCPOs. Ahead of the survey, training of trainers at state level by OSCPS will be completed by June 26. The training of trainers at district level will be completed by July 5. The training of surveyors at sector level will be completed by July

10. Officials said that the survey will be conducted by the Anganwadi workers and information forms will be submitted to ICDS supervisor between July 11 and July 21, 2025. The survey forms will be verified and deposited by the ICDS supervisors to CDPOs by July 25. The verification of filled formats will be submitted to DCPU between July 26 and August 2, 2025. The information will be submitted to OSCPS by August 25. The submission of

information to WCD Department by OSCPS is scheduled by September 4. The move came in view of present scenario in society where children in need of care and protection are facing various difficulties. "Children, who have lost their parents, and single bread earning parent are special for the state for whom the state has been implementing various programmes including institutional and non-institutional care provisions with establishing various structures," the department said.

## India's Covid active cases cross 4,000 mark

**New Delhi, (HS) :** India's active COVID-19 cases have crossed the 4,000 mark, with Kerala remaining the most affected state followed by Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Delhi, according to the Union Health Ministry data released on Tuesday. There are 4,026 active cases in India and five fresh deaths have been reported in the last 24 hours. Since January this year, 37 deaths have been reported in the country.

There were 257 active patients in the country on May 22. The figure rose to 3,395 by May 31 and subsequently to 4,026 cases. Presently, Kerala



has 1,446 active cases, the highest in the country followed by Maharashtra with 494, Gujarat with 397 and Delhi with 393 cases. Five deaths - one each in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West

Bengal and two deaths in Maharashtra-have been reported in the last 24 hours, according to the data. Official sources on May 31 stated that the COVID-19 situation in India is being

closely monitored while stressing that the severity of infections is low, with most of the patients being under home care and that there was no cause for worry. Director General of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Dr Rajiv Behl on Monday stated that genome sequencing of samples in West and South have shown that the variants leading to the current rise in cases are not severe and are sub variants of Omicron only. The four variants that we have found are subvariants of Omicron - LF.7, XFG, JN.1 and NB.1.8.1. The first three have been found in more number of

cases, Dr Behl had said. "We have been closely monitoring the situation. At this moment overall, we should monitor, be vigilant but there is no cause to worry," he added.

There are sufficient ICU beds and oxygen cylinders available in hospitals. People have been advised to wear masks in crowded places. The biggest problem with the JN.1 variant is that it spreads very quickly among people. It has an additional mutation that helps it enter cells and weaken the immune system. Many doctors say the JN.1 variant is not that dangerous and people don't need to be afraid.

## IAS Officer Ashish Thakare Gets Central Posting

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC) :** The Government of India has approved the appointment of 2011 batch Odisha cadre IAS officer Ashish Thakare as Director in the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Delhi, under the Central Staffing Scheme. The appointment, effective from the date Thakare assumes charge, is for tenure of five years or until further orders, whichever occurs earlier. According to an official communication from Sakshi Mittal, Director, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions on Tuesday (June 3), the Odisha Government has been



directed to relieve Thakare of his current duties immediately to enable him to take up his new assignment in Delhi. The communication further stipulates

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## Panoli Case

There is an all-too familiar and unfortunate reality to the social media age. Derogatory and offensive statements - even hate speech - are amplified by algorithms and interests that are "optimised" for outrage and attention. Sharmistha Panoli's social media post fits into all these categories - and more. It echoed, in the crudest manner, some of the most hurtful anti-minority tropes in circulation. The Kolkata Police's action against the 22-year-old law student - she was arrested from her home in Gurugram and produced before an Alipore court on Saturday - though, is both an overreaction and a symptom of a deeper rot. At the same time, while it is heartening to see many in the BJP championing Panoli's right to free speech, the irony couldn't be more obvious. Since Operation Sindoor, there have been several arrests across the country - often of students and young people from minority communities - for their social media posts that were deemed "anti-national", "seditious" and the catch-all red rag, "pro-Pakistan". Section 152 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (endangering sovereignty, unity and integrity) has been generously invoked; BJP-ruled Assam stands out in this regard: As of last month, as many as 50 were arrested, most of them Muslim, their vulnerability compounded at a time of heightened passions. In Maharashtra last week - on the heels of the arrest of academic Ali Khan Mahmudabad in Delhi - the Bombay High Court had to step in to reverse the rustication of, and grant bail to, a 19-year-old engineering student in Pune for an Instagram post on the politics around Op Sindoor. Calling the arrest "shocking", the Court said: "... at the most, her act of sharing the post can be termed as an act of 'indiscretion' by a young student who is still taking education". That the BJP's Suvendu Adhikari, Congress's Karti Chidambaram and the Janasena Party's Pawan Kalyan, Deputy CM of Andhra Pradesh, too, called out the West Bengal government's zeal to arrest Panoli needs to be applauded, even if their touching concern over free speech is fleeting.

In Shreya Singhal, the Supreme Court expanded the ambit of free speech to the digital space; the Court has, time and again, frowned on hate speech and called for its tracking and monitoring - but to little effect. Because, in the end, it's the political class that shapes this discourse more than anything else. Questions need to be asked of the police in Assam and West Bengal, of BJP governments, and those run by parties in Opposition, of Mamata Banerjee and Himanta Biswa Sarma: What end is served by putting young people in prison for online posts or a video clip meant to provoke? Free speech has constitutional guarantees, its contours have been expanding case by case in the courts. The disquieting reality, however, is that how protected free speech is - and whose free speech gets protection - depends on which party controls the police in the thana.

4th June

## National Safe Day



National SAFE Day on June 4 is a reminder to keep our loved ones safe and sound at all times. One in three households in America owns a firearm. The question that arises here is how many of these households make sure that their firearms are stashed away safely and out of reach of children. Sadly, the resulting child injuries and deaths owing to unsafe firearm placement show that many of these households do not take firearm safety into serious consideration. Every year, on June 4, a safety campaign is held not only to raise awareness about firearm safety but also to remember the many children who met fatal ends due to unsafe firearm storage.

The National SAFE Day was first honored in 2016 by the Brooklynn Mae Mohler Foundation (BMMF). The foundation was established after the death of Brooklynn Mae Mohler. Brooklynn was visiting her best friend at her residence when the latter found a gun kept in a kitchen cabinet. Brooklynn's best friend, unaware of the firearm's safety being unlocked, played with the gun and accidentally fatally shot Brooklynn. To honor Brooklynn and children like her, National SAFE Day was started by Brooklynn's parents, Darchel and Jacob. It is also a reminder to keep our children safe from any future accidents.

To prevent accidental shootings, always make sure that you have stored your firearms out of reach of children. A firearm should always be unloaded when not in use. Always use a gun locking device to make the firearm inoperable when it is not in use or is stored. These safety tips are in line with what the acronym, SAFE, stands for: Secure all firearms in the home. Ask the question about unsecured firearms in the homes your child visits. Frequently talk to your children about the dangers of firearms. Educate and Empower others to be SAFE.

The declining trend of the previous years is reversed with an increase in children and teen deaths due to firearms. BMMF, in honor of Brooklynn, holds the first National SAFE Day to raise awareness about firearm safety to prevent further child deaths. For every child death due to firearms, five children are injured non-fatally. In a 2018 study, it is revealed that, after car crashes, firearms are the second leading cause of children's deaths.



Subash Ch. Mishra

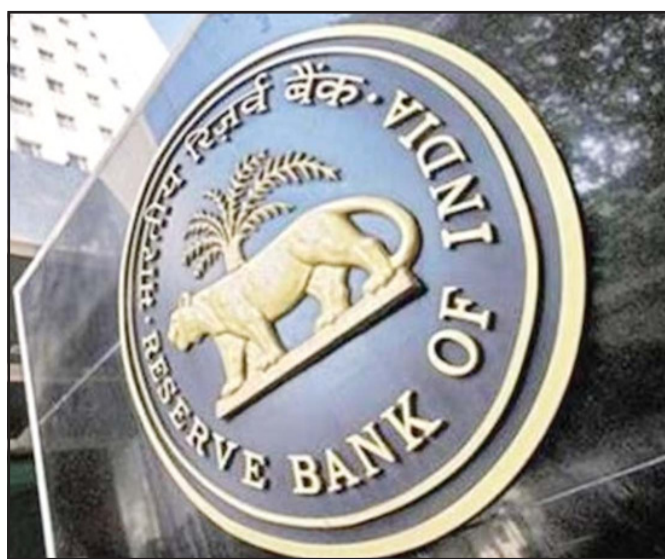
### Economic Diary

This year RBI transferred a massive amount of Rs. 2,68,590 crore to the Central Government as its surplus from the profit for the year 2024-25. This has raised eyebrows as the amount is much higher than the amount of Rs. 2.11 lakh crore transferred to the Government in 2024 and Rs.0.87 lakh crore in 2023.. The entire capital of RBI is held by the central Government and as prescribed in Sec 47 of the RBI Act 1934, RBI's profits are transferred to the Government after making provisions for bad and doubtful debts, depreciation in assets, contribution to staff and superannuation funds like any other commercial bank. The size of India Budget for 25-26 presented in February 2025 was Rs.50.65 lakh crore in which the fiscal deficit was projected at 4.4% of the GDP. The question is whether the large dividend of RBI is aimed at reducing the fiscal deficit or it is business as usual.

The RBI's balance sheet size at end March 2025 was Rs.76.25 lakh crore and it had gross income of Rs.3.38 lakh crore. An analysis of the numbers tells that RBI's balance sheet expanded by about 8% during 24-25 while the income increased by 23% over that of 23-24. The income growth on account of interest income

## Transfer of RBI Profits to Government

was 12% while the other income increased by 46%. The interest income on foreign securities increased by 29% due mainly to higher interest rate on the investments and higher investment amount while interest income on domestic securities declined by 9% during the year. RBI Report mentions that the rate of earning on foreign currency assets was at 5.31% in 2024-25 which was higher than 4.21% earned in 23-24. The non interest income of RBI increased from 0.87 lakh crore to Rs. 1.28 lakh crore showing a growth rate of 47%. This was mainly due to sale of foreign exchange in the market to stabilize the volatility of Rupee. On the expenditure side, RBI spent Rs. 6372 crore on printing of currency notes and after meeting its employee cost, other expenses and making provision of Rs. 44861 crore and making contribution of Rs 4 crore to four funds for industrial credit, housing credit and rural credit, it transferred the surplus balance to the Government. It is a well recognized fact that the central bank should be financially strong and it should not depend on the budgetary support from the government for its operations so that it can maintain independence in its monetary policy decision making. Therefore, RBI always provides fully for the known diminution in value for the assets and creates reserves for future unforeseen events. For the last five years, the economic capital framework of the RBI set by the Expert committee under the chairmanship of Dr Bimal Jalan, former governor of RBI was the guiding principles which recommended in its report of August 2019 that the Contingency Risk Buffer (CRB) of the RBI should be maintained in a range of 5.5% to 6.5% of the RBI's balance sheet which would



give RBI one of the highest level of financial resilience among the global major central banks. During accounting years 2018-19 to 2021-22, owing to the prevailing macroeconomic conditions and the onslaught of Covid-19 pandemic, the RBI Board had decided to maintain the CRB at 5.50 % of the RBI's Balance Sheet size to support growth and economic activity. The CRB was increased to 6.00 % for FY 2022-23 and to 6.50 per cent for FY 2023-24. The Bimal Jalan Committee had also suggested to review the framework after 5 years. Accordingly, the framework was reexamined by the RBI in 2025 and a revised Economic Capital Framework was put in place in May 2025. As per the revised framework, RBI decided to maintain the Contingent Risk Buffer, which includes buffers for Monetary and Financial Stability risk, Credit risk and Operational risk, in the range of 6.0 ± 1.5% of Balance sheet size.

The RBI maintains its reserves or equity under several account heads. The Available Realised Equity (ARE) comprises of Capital, Reserve

Fund, Contingency Fund and the Asset Development Fund. At the end of March 2025 the aggregate balance in these funds was Rs. 5.72 lakh crore representing 7.5% of the BS size. The unrealised capital under the account head Currency and Gold Revaluation Reserve Account was Rs.13.03 lakh crore. As per the Surplus Distribution Policy adopted by RBI, when the Available Realised Equity is equal to or greater than the upper bound of the required realized economic capital i.e. 7.5% of the BS size, then the entire surplus income will be transferred to the Government. If the ARE lies within the upper bound and lower bound i.e. between 4.5-7.5% of BS, the Central Board may determine the level at which ARE may be maintained and accordingly, risk provisioning and surplus distribution may be carried out. If the ARE remains below 4.5%, appropriate risk provisioning will be made by the RBI to augment ARE to at least its lower bound and only the residual net income, if any, will be transferred to the Government. If net income is lower than the risk provisioning required to augment

the ARE to the lower bound of RRE, there will be no surplus transfer to Government.

With the new framework in place and transfer of huge amounts of profit to Government, the issue is whether RBI is adequately protected from the unforeseen risks. As RBI balance sheet size as well as the forex reserves are rising steadily, the magnitude of risk is also going up. In order to manage risks, RBI maintains, in addition to ARE, a separate Currency and Gold Revaluation Account (CGRA) which represents the revaluation reserves against its gold and foreign currency stock and the balance in this account has gone up from Rs.11.30 lakh crore at the end of March 24 to Rs.13.03 lakh crore in March 2025 which is about 17% of the balance sheet size. These are unrealized reserves and not considered for payment of dividend to the Government. This unrealized reserve provides strength to the RBI balance sheet for unforeseen movement in foreign currency and gold balances. The surplus transferred to the government was from the realized profits after making adequate provisions. Thus, RBI can be considered to be adequately protected from unforeseen risks. But the huge transfer of profits from RBI to the Government has a side effect. Since RBI money is high powered money, when the dividend received by government is spent, it is likely to add to the money supply in multiples of the amount and add to the inflationary trend.

The author is a Retired Chief General Manager of Reserve Bank of India, Mumbai.

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## From Chai to Cherry Blossoms: Fighting Social Inequality

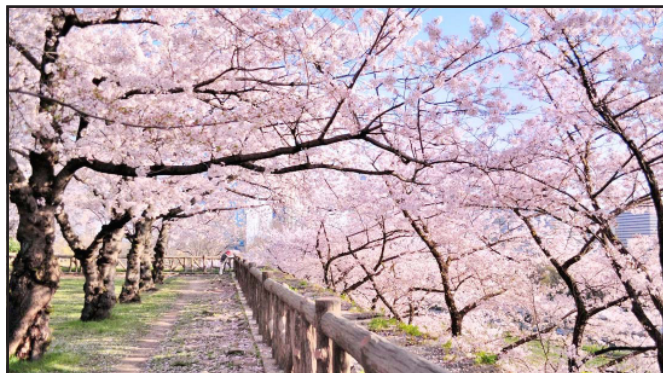


Rimjhim Mohanty

Social entrepreneurship is like the superhero of the Gen Alpha business world-fighting social inequality with innovation and profit-making models instead of a cape-and it's setting the stage for a blockbuster partnership between India and Japan. Think of it as the Marvel-style origin story of a new economic power duo, minus the explosions (okay, maybe just metaphorical ones in boardrooms). India, now proudly flexing as the world's fourth-largest economy, is that overachieving, high-energy genius in every global classroom-coding before breakfast, launching start-ups during lunch, and still managing to inspire millions by dinner. With its buzzing young population, relentless jugaad-powered innovation, and an export line of engineers and doctors that could rival any tech factory, India is all heart, hustle, and horsepower.

Japan, meanwhile, is the composed, ultra-efficient R&D maestro with a love for robots, clean design, and systems that run like clockwork-even the metaphors are punctual. With its Zen-like wisdom and eye for perfection, Japan is the quiet genius who shows up, upgrades everything, and disappears with a humble bow. If India is the vibrant Bollywood blockbuster, Japan is the masterfully shot anime that leaves you speechless.

Now picture them together. The Asian leadership power couple, we never knew we needed. Let's call them IndoPan or JapIndia (branding in progress). They can be the Son Ye-Jin and Hyun Bin of geopolitics, the Raj and Simran of sustainable business goals or Neo and Trinity of futuristic ventures, perfect chemistry, and destined to change the world-order perhaps. Enter social entrepreneurship-their "matchmaker with a mission." From clean energy and smart cities



to healthcare innovations and circular economies, this duo can check off UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) like they're planning a dream team for the planet. It's not just about doing business; it's about doing good business. Amidst all this synergy, we've also been quietly (and sometimes not-so-quietly) building our own venture - A2 Estate, Japan. For over a decade, we've been working as a bridge between India and Japan, helping to close economic and cultural gaps. Even through our main focus has been real estate and affordable housing for international students A2 Estate is warmly vested with cross-border business development, using a strong network and hands-on experience to turn meaningful ideas into scalable impact.

Somewhere between samosas and sushi, we try to bring the best of both worlds together. I've spent

the past 10+ years as a passionate advocate for social entrepreneurship, often speaking and leading workshops at top universities/schools in India and Japan. These sessions are part TED Talk, part cultural exchange -and usually include me doing my best to show students that making a difference can be even more exciting than chasing the next unicorn. So yes, social entrepreneurship isn't just a buzzword-it's a movement. From the wisdom of Buddhism to the

spirit of innovation-India and Japan are not just collaborating, can co-creating a future with heart and soul. Recently, Japan has gifted two advanced Shinkansen trains-E5 and E3 models that will arrive by 2026 to India. These high-speed trains, capable of reaching 320 km/h, will be used for trial runs on the under-construction Mumbai-Ahmedabad corridor, India's first bullet train route. The Mumbai-Ahmedabad high-speed rail line, backed by Japanese funding and technology, is expected to be partially operational by 2026, with full inauguration planned for 2027. This strategic gift not only deepens India-Japan ties but also marks a giant leap toward realizing India's vision of world-class, high-speed rail travel.

*Author is a Japan-based Odia social entrepreneur, educator, poet, and cultural ambassador*

## The Irresistible Sarasatiya!

Trilochan Sahu

If you're a sweet tooth adventurer on the hunt for something extraordinary, your quest ends at the enchanting Sarasatiya-one of Odisha's most cherished desserts! This delightful delicacy has been meticulously crafted by a single family for over 160 years, weaving a captivating legacy in the vibrant heart of Sambalpur.

Every evening at 7 PM, the air around Kunjalpada Chowk comes alive with an intoxicating aroma, drawing in locals and travellers alike to a humble stall that has become synonymous with this exquisite sweet. Imagine little triangular morsels crunchier than you could ever dream, reminiscent of whimsical art conjured by a yellow ballpoint pen, bubbling and crackling in a traditional brass pan. As the skilful chef orchestrates his dance amidst the hot oil, golden crisps rise, shimmering like precious treasures unearthed from an ancient chest. These are Sarasatias-Sambalpur's delectable secret yearning to be discovered! More than just a dessert, Sarasatiya represents a cherished fragment of Sambalpur's culinary heritage. Despite its rising fame, this delightful sweet remains under the devoted care of one family, now led by the passionate Prabhulal Gupta, endearingly known as Minchu Kaka. He takes immense pride in this artisanal craft, handcrafting each batch not for financial gain but as a vibrant tribute to the rich history of Western Odisha. "Sarasatiya is more than a sweet-it embodies our identity," he exclaims, a gleam of pride illuminating his eyes.

What sets Sarasatiya apart

from other sweets? Its uniqueness lies in the slender branches of the Ganjar tree, found in the lush, verdant forests surrounding Bara Hill. These branches are carefully harvested



and transformed-soaked, crushed, and blended into a pulpy essence that infuses the sweet with an earthy flavour reminiscent of nature's bounty. When combined with fine rice flour, traditional jaggery, and just a whisper of sugar, this artisanal batter metamorphoses into heavenly triangular treats plunged into the sizzling embrace of hot oil. Once you take a bite, prepare for an unforgettable experience. The rich, earthy sweetness of jaggery melds seamlessly with the essence of forest honey; all encased in a crisp shell that crumbles like caramel glass at the slightest touch. The most enchanting Sarasatiya is crafted without artificial flavours or preservatives-pure, unadulterated goodness that dissolves blissfully in your mouth! One enchanted tourist encapsulates the experience perfectly, saying, "It's so delicate-like cradling a treasure. The flavours of the forest erupt in your mouth with every bite!"

Sarasatiya is not merely a sweet; it's an experience, a culinary journey you won't find anywhere else. Allow your senses to be indulged-come and uncover the magic of this Sambalpur sensation!

*Bargarh*



Police sound alarm on rising digital arrest scam

Waterlogging woes in city to end soon

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):**The Odisha Police has issued a public warning about a growing cyber scam known as the 'digital arrest,' which has begun to target unsuspecting individuals across the state. In an X (formerly Twitter) advisory posted early Tuesday, authorities cautioned citizens to remain vigilant and report suspicious calls to the national cybercrime helpline (1930) or the nearest police station.

The so-called 'digital arrest' scam involves cybercriminals posing as police officers, CBI agents, customs officials, or judicial authorities. These fraudsters contact victims via phone or video call and falsely accuse them of being involved in serious criminal activity, such as money laundering, financial fraud, or illegal parcel deliveries.

Claiming that the person is now under "digital arrest," they pressure the victim to stay on the call and follow their instructions, often including demands for immediate payments to avoid arrest or legal consequences. To heighten credibility, scammers may display fake identity cards, wear uniforms during video calls, or cite fabricated case numbers.

Victims are often coerced into staying on the call for hours, preventing them from seeking help or verifying the claims. The term "digital arrest," however, is entirely fictitious and has no legal standing in Indian law. It is used purely as a scare tactic to manipulate and extort money from the target.

The Odisha Police, in its advisory, clarified that there is no provision for 'digital arrest' in the Indian legal system and that any such claims

should be treated as fraudulent. Citizens are advised not to engage with such callers and to report incidents without delay. The police urged people to stay calm, ignore threatening demands, and avoid making payments under pressure. By reporting such calls to the cyber helpline or local police, individuals can help authorities track down scam operations and prevent further victimisation.

This alert comes as part of the state police's ongoing effort to address rising cases of cybercrime and educate the public about digital threats. With increasing internet penetration and smartphone usage, Odisha, like many parts of India, has become more vulnerable to sophisticated scams that prey on fear and lack of awareness.

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):** With monsoon rains approaching, Minister for Housing and Urban Development Dr. Krushna Chandra Mahapatra on Tuesday took stock of the drainage situation in the city, underscoring the Odisha government's commitment to ensuring a waterlogging-free and safe urban environment for residents.

Accompanied by senior officials and engineers from the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), Dr. Mahapatra personally inspected several waterlogging-prone areas, including the ISKCON Temple site near Krishna Tower, Kalinga Studio Square near Ayurvedic Hospital, Rajiv Nagar, Drain No. 9 in Bhoi Nagar, Drain No. 4, and Bomikhal near Esplanade Mall and Durga Mandap. The Minister reviewed both major and branch



drainage channels and expressed concern over blockages and delays in cleaning operations. He issued immediate instructions for the deployment of additional manpower and machinery to speed up desilting and clearing of drains on a war-footing basis. Following the field visit, the Minister conducted a video conference with all 115 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) to review

overall monsoon preparedness across the State. Key focus areas included sanitation, drainage readiness, revenue generation, holding tax collection, and preparatory plans for the "One Year Celebration" of departmental initiatives. During the review, the Minister made it clear that any lapses or negligence leading to waterlogging or public inconvenience would invite strict

accountability. "The safety and convenience of citizens during monsoon is non-negotiable," he emphasized. Principal Secretary of the department Usha Padhee advised ULBs to rigorously follow the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) issued by the department and assured that full support will be extended wherever needed.

"Officers must remain proactive and ready to face any challenge," she said. The Housing & Urban Development Department remains focused on ensuring robust preparedness and timely action to minimize urban flooding risks and improve the quality of life for all urban residents in Odisha. Among others, local MLA Babu Singh, BMC Commissioner, the City Engineer, and several corporators were present during the field visit.

Govt invites applications for free UPSC coaching

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):**The Odisha government has launched a special initiative to provide free coaching for aspirants for the Civil Services Examination being conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). Applications for the 11-month programme, launched by the Higher Education Department, will be accepted from June 3 to 12.

Comprehensive coaching would be provided for both the Preliminary and Mains exams of the UPSC. Official sources said that altogether 500 eligible candidates, who must be domiciled in Odisha, will be selected to receive 11 months of free coaching. The curriculum will cover General Studies as well as selected Optional subjects. The initiative aims to nurture and empower young talent across Odisha by



providing quality academic support and removing financial barriers that often hinder participation in highly competitive national examinations. Applications are to be submitted online through the official Student Academic Management System (SAMS) portal at [www.samsodisha.gov.in](http://www.samsodisha.gov.in). Candidates

who have already applied under a previous notification for the 2025-26 session are not required to reapply. However, they must indicate their preference for residential or non-residential coaching. The State Selection Board (SSB), Odisha, will oversee the selection process

and conduct the entrance examination to identify the final list of candidates. Candidates are advised to visit the official websites of the Higher Education Department ([www.dhe.odisha.gov.in](http://www.dhe.odisha.gov.in)) and SAMS regularly for updates, detailed guidelines, and further instructions.

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):** The Macheswarpolice successfully rescued an 11-year-old girl who had gone missing from her residence on June 1. The operation, which lasted over 30 hours, culminated with the child being found in a vehicle near Macheswar Railway Station.

The information was shared by Bhubaneswar-Cuttack Commissioner of Police S. DevDatta Singh. He stated that the girl was reported missing around 9 am on June 1 by a resident of Sameigadia. Acting on the direction of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, who has prioritized the safety of women and children, the police immediately launched a coordinated search operation. Dedicated teams were formed, comprising personnel for manual search, intelligence gathering,



analysis of digital evidence, CCTV surveillance, and other systematic methods. These combined efforts led to the successful rescue of the girl," Commissioner Singh informed during a press briefing.

The child was safely handed over to her family. In a separate incident, on February 6, Havildar Biswajit Routray, while on patrol duty with PCR-25, responded to a report of a minor boy begging

for food near Baba Sweets Stall on Puri Canal Road in Hansapal. The 10-year-old was rescued and taken to Pahal Police Station.

After extensive inquiries in nearby areas, it was discovered that the child had gone missing earlier that morning from Patharbandha Basti under Saheed Nagar Police Station limits. The police contacted his family, and he was safely reunited with them.

DC reviews major irrigation projects

Bus, truck owners' associations protest over police checking



**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):** The 5th Project Governing Committee meeting for Rengali Irrigation Project was held on Monday under the Chairpersonship of Development Commissioner-cum-Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Water Resources Smt. Anu Garg. She emphasised to resolve pending bottlenecks due to land acquisition, forest diversion proposal, coordination with Railway and other issues for smooth completion of the project. She followed up the issues with Ministry of Finance, GoI too. The next review meeting has been fixed after a month. Till then all concerned were asked to resolve issues so that the project can be completed soon.

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):** Members of All Odisha Bus Owners' Association (AOBOA) and Odisha State Truck Owner's Federation (OSTOF) vehemently protested the proposal to grant additional powers to police personnel for vehicle checking across the State. Earlier on May 30, the State Transport Commissioner had written to the Transport Secretary to delegate additional power to the police department for checking of motor vehicles in the state and impose fine against the traffic rule violators.

In a letter to Chief Minister Mohan Majhi, the both the associations appealed to reject the proposal to enhance the police power to check motor vehicles saying that such decision would unnecessarily increase corruption and the drivers will be harassed as it had happened earlier. "The basic job of the police is to check crime, but we don't find the reason why police personnel are more



interested to check vehicles rather than devoting their time for crime control. There is a separate wing i.e. Orissa motor vehicles department to check the motor vehicles but why this motor vehicle department will not be strengthened to check the motor vehicles rather than to delegate the power to the police and by this process the police department is getting defamed. You will certainly agree with us that the image of the police before the public is not at all good even in different public meetings you have expressed your

concern about the attitude of the police," the OSTOF said. "That in the event more powers are delegated to police that will lead to police harassment and corruption and unnecessarily the popular Govt. will be defamed. So we would like to request your goodwill that the police power should be minimized to the extent of traffic control only and more power for checking of vehicles should not be delegated to police," it added. The associations also threatened to hit the street in case the proposal gets the State government's approval.

Worker killed, 2 critical as building collapses

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):** In a tragic mishap, a labourer was killed and two others were critically injured after a concrete structure fell on them during renovation work of an old building in Bhubaneswar on Tuesday. As per preliminary information, seven workers were engaged in the work at the site at Lingaraj Vihar in Pokhariput area

of the city when the mishap took place. As work was in progress, an old beam collapsed and fell on the workers, who got trapped under the concrete structure. Sources one of them died on the spot, while the other two were immediately rushed to Capital Hospital for treatment. Their condition was stated to be critical.

Weekly off day changed for Vande Bharat Express

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):** The East Coast Railway (ECOR) has announced a change in the weekly off day for the Puri-Rourkela-Puri Vande Bharat Express. Effective from June 3, the train will now remain cancelled on Tuesdays instead of Saturdays.

Accordingly, the train will start running on Saturdays from June 7 onward. The revised weekly off aims to better align with passenger demand and operational requirements. Passengers are advised to plan their travel accordingly. For further updates, passengers may refer to the official East Coast Railway website or contact railway enquiry services.



Thunderstorm wreaks havoc in Bhubaneswar

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):** A sudden thunderstorm swept through the capital city on Tuesday afternoon, uprooting trees and throwing life out of gear in multiple localities. Strong winds, accompanied by heavy rain and lightning, at around 4.30 pm uprooted trees in several areas. Residents had a narrow escape as a large tree fell in the storm. Caught unaware by the sudden spell, office-goers and commuters were seen taking shelter under overbridges at Rasulgarh, Jayadev Vihar and Raj Mahal square. The norwester rain also affected parts of Cuttack and its adjoining areas, where several trees were uprooted, disrupting road communication.

Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan program held at Mendhasala

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):**The Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyaan (VKSA) program was conducted at Mendhasala village of Khordha district on Monday by Team B (Khordha District). Director of ICAR-CIFA Dr. P. K. Sahoo graced the occasion as Chief Guest.



He highlighted the schemes as well as different novel technologies related to aquaculture and products available for the farmers to adopt in their fields for enhancing the farm income. In addition, CDAO Rabinayana Senapati and other line department officials from horticulture, soil conservation, and Agriculture also attended the program. Further, the series of topic related to central as well as

state govt. schemes in Agricultural and other allied activities including fisheries/aquaculture has been sensitized as well as discussed in brief. About 30 Soil health cards were distributed among the farmers. A "KrishiRatha" displaying ICAR technologies as well as several central and state govt. schemes related to agriculture and aquaculture. "KrishiRatha" was moved with audio-visual aids

around the nine nearby villages to sensitize the farmers about the contribution of ICAR and other line department towards the Viksit Krishi and enhancing farm productivity and income. In addition, the experts from ICAR institute Dr. Rakesh Das, Scientist, ICAR-CIFA; Dr K. C. Das, Pr. Scientist, ICAR-CIFA; Dr Harapriya Nayak, Sr. Scientist & Head, KVK, Khordha; Smt. Sukanti Behera, CTO, KVK-

Khordha were briefed about the available technology or product related to aquaculture or fish culture as well as integrated farming system as a whole. The experts were further stressed on PMSSY schemes and sensitized the fish farmers on those on-going schemes to gain the maximum return from their crops as well as to get the maximum profits from the aquaculture sector.

Farmers were also sensitized about the natural farming, organic farming, soil health, importance of horticulture crops, paddy cultivations, mushroom farming, cold storage facility, fish health management, importance of fish feed for the adoption of scientific farming approaches in the farm level.

Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam: Govt to plant Tulsi near traffic signals

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):** In a bid to enhance urban air quality, Odisha Housing and Urban Development Minister Dr. Krushna Chandra Mahapatra on Tuesday announced that tulsi (holy basil) plants will be installed near traffic signals across the state. "This initiative aims to provide commuters with cleaner air by increasing oxygen levels in heavily congested areas.

The campaign is set to coincide with the first anniversary of the BJP-led Odisha government on June 12, reflecting the administration's commitment to environmental sustainability and green urban spaces. Speaking to reporters, Dr. Mahapatra said tulsi was chosen for its unique spiritual and environmental significance. "Tulsi is deeply revered in Indian culture and is known to emit a considerable amount of oxygen. Planting these near traffic signals will offer commuters cleaner air as they wait," he stated. "The plantation drive will be



executed simultaneously across all Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in the state, with thousands of saplings set to be planted in a one-day coordinated effort. Besides tulsi, other eco-friendly species such as Indian gooseberry (amla), drumstick (moringa), and various fruit-bearing trees will also be part of the initiative. "This endeavor forms a part of the larger national campaign, 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam,' launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which encourages citizens to plant trees in honor of their mothers. "Extending beyond public spaces, Odisha's efforts will also cover residential areas, offices, and other locations where the saplings can receive long-term care and protection.



## Deputy Chief Minister KV Singhdeo inaugurates "The Aamritya" mango brand and its logo

**Bolangir, (DMC):** Deputy Chief Minister of Odisha, Shri K. V. Singh Deo, on Monday, officially inaugurated the brand logo and trademark of "The Aamritya", a premium mango brand developed by Patnagarh Pragati Farmer Producer Company Ltd. (FPCL) in Patnagarh K.V. Singh Deo while emphasizing the importance of branding and product differentiation in today's competitive agri-market says that

"This trademark is not just a symbol-it is a promise of quality and a step toward making Patnagarh's mangoes a globally recognized brand," highlighting the region's potential to emerge as a hub for high-quality mango production and exports. The newly launched trademark will facilitate better brand recognition and help establish the unique identity of mangoes grown in the Patnagarh region. With this initiative, farmers and mango growers are expected to benefit



from higher market value and improved remuneration. DDM NABARD, Dr. Vivek Nayak lauded the efforts of the FPO and highlighted NABARD's continued support for farmer-led enterprises and agri-value chain development.

He also mentioned future prospects of digital marketing and institutional linkages for the FPO. The FPO has ambitious plans beyond exports. It aims to develop mango-based value-added products such as mango

drinks and processed raw mango products. These diversification initiatives are expected to further enhance farmer incomes and create employment opportunities in the region.

Among others, Sub-Collector of Patnagarh, Shri Sunil Meher, Dr. Vivek Kumar Nayak, District Development Manager (DDM), NABARD; Shri Sadananda Pujhari, SDPO Patnagarh and Shri Hrushikesh Sahu, Senior Manager, CBBO - Mahashakti Foundation.

## Best Poet Award to Young Poet Mahima Gantayat



**Rayagada, (DMC):** Young writer Mahima Gantayat from Rayagada has won third place as the best poet in English category in the National Level Talent

Award 2024 competition organized by Poetic Essence Publications, a renowned Mumbai based publishing house of India in last January 2025. For this achievement in creative literature, she is eligible to be interviewed by the institution and has received a certificate and memento.

Mahima, who has been in creative writing in both English and Hindi from her school days, has now created a respectable place for herself as a young writer by being regularly published in various magazines and winning awards in very many creative competitions. Known for her extraordinary oratory skills, Mahima is currently a Class XII (Arts) student, and has been winning prizes by proving her excellence in competitions like debate, poetry recitation, etc and adding glory to Rayagada Women's College, where she studies,

## Sambalpur Municipal Corporation Signs MOU with SPA Delhi for Planned Urban Development



**Sambalpur, (DMC):** In a significant step toward holistic urban development, the Sambalpur Municipal Corporation (SMC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the School of Planning and Architecture (SPA), Delhi. The partnership comes under the guidance of the Hon'ble Union Minister of Education and aims to bring structured,

## Certificate Distribution to Jail Inmates held in Jajpur

**Jajpur, (DMC):** Through Joint venture with the District Employment Office Jajpur and SBI's Rural Self-Employment Training Institute SBI - RSETI under the new Odisha Scheme, Skill Certificate distribution to the participants of Jajpur district Jail was held on Tuesday. Smt. Leepa Mohanty, Secretary to DLSA Jajpur attained the distribution ceremony as chief guest, handed over the skill certificates to the participants in this regard. Among others Sushant Kumar Nayak, District Skill Development & Employment Officer, Jajpur, Rakesh Kumar Nayak, Skill Development Officer, Suresh Chandra Nayak, Director, State Bank Rural Self-Employment Training Institute were joined. Vocational training serves a dual purpose - it equips inmates with essential livelihood skills while helping them maintain positive mental health during their incarceration," Superintendent of Jajpur Jail said. The inmates in here were given for 10 days on Animal husbandry, Poultry farming, Vermi compost which enable them to become self-reliant, Sunil Kumar Patra, Superintendent of the Jail informed. Staff of this Jail were smoothly coordinated the drive.



city in terms of planning and civic management. Speaking on the occasion, officials from both institutions expressed optimism about the collaboration. "This MoU marks a new chapter for Sambalpur. With SPA Delhi's support, we aim to build a resilient and inclusive city for the future," said a senior official from SMC.

The collaboration is expected to include capacity-building programs, field studies, workshops, and the formulation of integrated development strategies tailored to Sambalpur's unique geographical and cultural context. This strategic alliance reaffirms the government's commitment to leveraging academic excellence for practical urban transformation. Dr. Chetana Singh (Asst Professor Department of Regional planning and Professor Ashok Kumar (Dept of Urban Planning) are present.

## Who will address the challenges faced by vulnerable farmers?

**Bargarh, (DMC):** The administration could engage more proactively with the struggles experienced by farmers in this region. Despite a month of continuous rainfall in the district, administrative officials have not had the chance to visit the areas represented by politicians and public representatives dedicated to local development. This situation indicates a need for greater attentiveness.

In adherence to government guidelines for addressing natural disasters, damage reports are expected to be submitted to higher authorities within 48 hours of an incident. However, it has been observed that reports detailing the extent of damage in specific regions have not yet been compiled. Additionally, there seems to be a lack of inter-district review meetings. In Bargarh district, paddy cultivation spans approximately 140,000 hectares during the Rabi season. Recent



heavy monsoon rains, particularly following the low-pressure systems during the Baisakhi and Adini periods, have resulted in notable damage. On one occasion, the Barpali block recorded 52 mm of rainfall, the Attabira block 67 mm, the Bhatli block 74 mm, and the Bargarh block 102 mm. For context, the average rainfall for May was only 27 mm, while the Meteorological Department reported 122 mm, signalling a potential flooding situation. Despite warnings from the Meteorological Department, adequate preparations by the

From Page- 1

## 18 year wait...

Indians (MI) in Qualifier 2, earning another shot at RCB as both teams aim for their first-ever IPL trophy. RCB are playing their fourth final, still chasing their first title after falling short in all three previous attempts. PBKS, on the other hand, are in their first final since 2014 and are also hoping to lift the trophy for the first time. The weather has been unpredictable, with light drizzle coming and going through the afternoon. In their previous clash, PBKS' batting lineup fell apart against RCB's bowling. But in Qualifier 2, just when the match looked like it was slipping away, captain Shreyas Iyer turned the tide with a blazing unbeaten 87 off 41 balls, leading the Kings to the final. Now, with both teams one step away from history, neither side will want to stumble at the final hurdle.

## Deogarh gets...

underway to achieve the goal of building a prosperous Odisha by 2036 and a developed India by 2047 through the development of all sectors. His government has not wasted a single minute in translating promises into action, he added. The BJP government will complete one year in office in nine days. "In the last one year, we have taken many steps for the overall development of the district and the state," he said. Health Minister Dr. Mukesh Mahaling, Deogarh MLA Romanch Ranjan Biswal and other senior leaders were present at the event.

## Guv pitches...

prioritises the protection, preservation, and promotion of Buddhist sites," Dr. Kambhampati remarked. Highlighting the growing partnership between India and Vietnam, the Governor referenced recent high-level engagements, including the visit of Vietnam's Prime Minister to India last year and a meeting in New York in 2024 between India's Prime Minister and Vietnam's President and Party General Secretary, To Lam. These interactions have significantly strengthened bilateral relations, he noted. Cooperation between the two nations is expanding in areas such as trade, defense, tourism, health, digital economy, education, and sustainable development.

## CM launches...

Jagannath Express from Puri to Ayodhya, Tirupati, Ujjain, Hyderabad, and Bhilai. He also flagged off bus services from Bhubaneswar to Visakhapatnam, Bhawanipatna to Hyderabad, and Raigarh to Hyderabad. The Chief Minister also inaugurated Atal Bus Stands constructed at Basudevapur and Dhamra in Bhadrak district and at Basta in Balasore district.

## IAS Officer...

that, as per the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) guidelines issued on August 17, 2005, Thakare must join the new post within three weeks from the issuance of the appointment order, dated June 30, 2025. Failure to comply may lead to debarment from the Central Staffing Scheme, the communication added.

## 4 die of asphyxiation...

the passerby, was admitted to the ICU in critical condition. Tragically, he passed away a short while later. Eyewitnesses confirmed that the workers were not equipped with safety gear or oxygen support in confined space work. The tank, sealed for construction purposes, had possibly developed low oxygen levels, making it a death trap.

## A workshop on transliteration of Ayurvedic Matrikas

**Puri, (DMC):** A workshop on transliteration of Ayurvedic Matrikas into Sanskrit has been organized today at the Central Sanskrit University Shri Sadashiv Campus in Puri under the joint aegis of Central Sanskrit University and Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences, Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India.

This workshop is being organized from 2nd June 2025 to 15th June 2025. Prominent personalities of India were present in the inaugural session of this programme Professor Sukant Kumar Senapati, Vice Chancellor, Somnath Sanskrit University Gujarat was the chief guest of the programme, and Prof. VD Ravinarayan Acharya, Director General, Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences was presided over by. Special Guest Professor Harekrishna Satpathy, Vice Chancellor, National Sanskrit University, Tirupati and Kalinga Institute of Social Science (KISS)



University. Guest of Honour Dr. Madan Mohan Padhi, Former Deputy Director Technical (CCRAS, New Delhi). The objective of the programme was established by Dr. Rakesh Narayanan, Research Officer (CCRAS, New Delhi).

The welcome address to the guests was given by Dr. GP Prasad, Assistant Director in Charge, CCRAS, NIIMH, Hyderabad. The workshop was facilitated by Dr. Shishirkant Mishra, DAMO, Northern Circle, Odisha. The guests were honoured by the campus director Professor Prabhat Kumar Mohapatra and at the end of the programme, thanks were given by Dr. Sharda Ota Assistant Director in charge Ayush (CCRAS,

CARI Bhubaneswar). The main objective of the workshop was to understand how the knowledge presented in Ayurveda, which is written in Sanskrit, if translated into simple standard Sanskrit, then we can see many Ayurvedic facts in the form of a book and it can be very useful for the welfare of the society.

To take this programme forward, this joint collaboration is being done by the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India, Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences and Central Sanskrit University. Many researchers, Ayurvedic research students, Sanskrit researchers were also present in this workshop.

## IFFCO Paradeep Unit Hosts 12th Inter Unit Cultural Festival

**Paradip, (DMC):** The 12th edition of the prestigious Inter Unit Cultural Festival (IUCF) of Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) commenced with great enthusiasm and cultural spirit on 2nd June 2025 at the IFFCO Paradeep Unit, Odisha. This marks a historic occasion as the IUCF is being hosted for the first time at the Paradeep Unit since its inception.

The festival was inaugurated by Dileep Sanghani, Hon'ble Chairman of IFFCO, who graced the occasion along with his spouse Smt. Geeta Ben. Extending a warm welcome, P.K. Mahapatra, Unit Head of IFFCO Paradeep expressed the joy and pride of the Paradeep family in hosting the Chairman and such a grand event. He lauded the Chairman's inspiring



leadership and the values he embodies that continue to guide the IFFCO family. Addressing the gathering, Dileep Sanghani emphasized the significance of unity and cultural exchange within the organization. "We become stronger as one family through such celebrations that bring us together," he remarked. He further stated that IFFCO is not driven by profit, but by its mission to serve the farmers of India, in collaboration with the

Government of India. He proudly highlighted that "IFFCO always stands first when it comes to helping the farmers." The Chairman also spoke about the global reach of IFFCO's innovations, sharing that Nano Urea and Nano DAP, which were invented in India, are now spreading across the world, making the nation proud. Reflecting on the organization's journey, he added, "Dr. U. S. Awasthi has laid the foundation,

planted a sapling, and under his visionary leadership, IFFCO is flourishing into a strong and sustainable tree serving millions." The event was also attended by Sanjay Kudesia, Unit Head of the Phulpur Unit, along with his wife. The event saw the presence of senior officials, respected members of the IFFCO Employees Union, IFFCO Officers Association, a panel of esteemed judges who have dedicated their time for the week-long event, all of whom were graciously welcomed.

P.K. Mahapatra, in his speech, reiterated that IUCF is more than a competition - it is a celebration of India's rich cultural heritage and a platform that nurtures the creativity of IFFCO employees and their families. He acknowledged that the concept of IUCF was envisioned by

IFFCO's Managing Director, Dr. U.S. Awasthi, as a way to unite the organization through art, expression, and community. S. P. Rath is the Chief Coordinator of IUCF 2025, whose meticulous planning and tireless efforts from the beginning ensured the smooth execution of this large-scale event.

The IUCF 2025 brings together participants from all IFFCO units Phulpur, Kalol, Aonla, Kandla, Head Office & Marketing, and Paradeep. Over the next seven days, from 2nd to 8th June, the festival will showcase a vibrant array of performances including music, dance, drama, and other cultural expressions. The grand opening set the tone for a week of celebration, unity, and artistic brilliance all reflective of IFFCO's enduring spirit of togetherness and service.

## TPSODL Strengthens Power Infrastructure in Tribal-Dominated Malkangiri

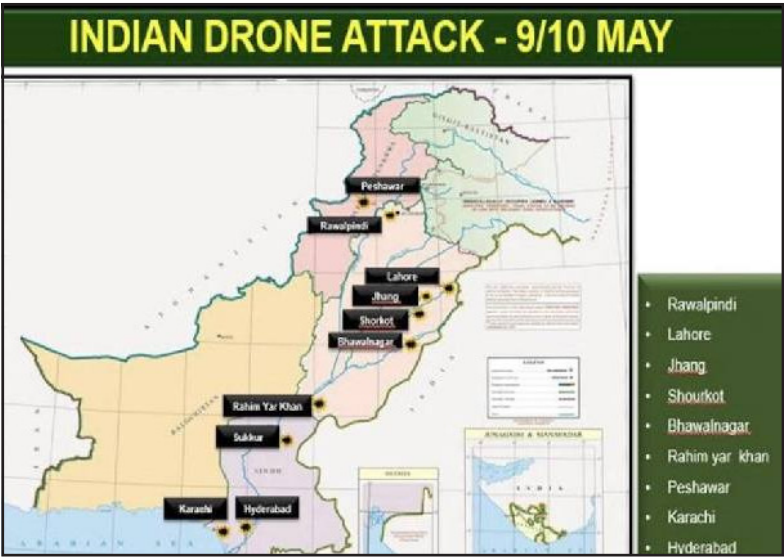
**Berhampur, (DMC):** TP Southern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPSODL) has successfully upgraded the Mathili Primary Substation (PSS) in Malkangiri district, a region known for its rugged terrain and predominantly tribal population. This enhancement ensures a more stable and reliable electricity supply to thousands of residents in one of Odisha's most remote areas. Malkangiri is a district in southern Odisha known for its picturesque landscapes, dense forests, and rich tribal heritage. It is home to several indigenous communities, contributing to its vibrant cultural identity. The region is characterized by hilly terrain, deep valleys, and numerous water bodies, making it one of the most scenic yet geographically challenging areas in the state. The Mathili PSS previously operated with two power transformers-a 5 MVA unit and a 3.15 MVA unit. With the latest upgrade, the 3.15 MVA transformer has been replaced with a new 5 MVA transformer, increasing the substation's total capacity to 10 MVA. This improvement will directly benefit more than 6,000 consumers, ensuring uninterrupted power supply to residential areas, schools, healthcare centers, and government offices. Mr. Amit Kumar Garg, CEO of TPSODL, emphasized the importance of this upgrade, stating, "The upgrade of Mathili Primary Substation is a step toward ensuring uninterrupted and quality electricity for the people of Malkangiri. By enhancing capacity, we are improving power reliability in this tribal-dominated, hilly region. Our commitment remains strong in strengthening infrastructure and empowering communities with seamless energy access." TPSODL remains committed to strengthening power infrastructure in tribal and hilly regions like Malkangiri, ensuring equitable access to electricity and supporting regional development.



## Op Sindoor: India Hit 9 Terror Bases in Pakistan, Latter's Dossier Reveals 'More Targets Hit'

**New Delhi, (HS) :** India struck deeper and wider inside Pakistan during Operation Sindoor than it officially acknowledged, a confidential Pakistani dossier on its internal military Operation 'Bunyan un Marsoos' has revealed.

The dossier, accessed , documents at least eight additional Indian airstrikes that were not previously disclosed by Indian defence authorities. Maps within the Pakistani dossier show Indian strikes on key cities such as Peshawar, Jhang, Hyderabad in Sindh, Gujrat in Punjab, Gujranwala, Bahawalnagar, Attock, and Chor - locations that were not publicly mentioned by the Indian Air Force or the Director General of Military Operations during the press briefings held after the May 7 counteroffensive. The new details shed fresh light on the scale of Operation Sindoor and are being viewed as a significant factor behind Pakistan's urgent call for a ceasefire. Operation Sindoor was launched by India against the nine high-value terror hubs in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) following the dastardly Pahalgam terror attack, in which terrorists associated with an offshoot of Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba killed 26 civilians, including one Nepali national. The dossier contradicts Islamabad's earlier claims of having inflicted heavy losses on India and



instead underscores the depth of damage suffered on Pakistani soil. Indian defence sources had already outlined the strike's magnitude, including the targeting of key terror hubs across Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, in retaliation for the Pahalgam terror attack. While initial briefings named several high-value targets, including the Jaish-e-Mohammed headquarters in Bahawalpur and the Lashkar-e-Taiba camp in Muridke, the revelation of deeper incursions suggests a strategic decision by New Delhi to

allow Pakistan to reveal the full extent of the damage. The newly disclosed targets reportedly include both military and dual-use installations in urban centres far beyond the areas acknowledged by India, indicating a far more ambitious and calculated military operation than previously understood. Earlier satellite imagery released by Maxar Technologies had already confirmed extensive damage at several sites, corroborating Indian claims of precision strikes against terror infrastructure. The nine locations initially

confirmed by India included Muzaffarabad, Kotli, Rawalakot, Chakswari, Bhimber, Neelum Valley, Jhelum, Chakwal, and the aforementioned terror bases. Despite India's clear statement that its actions were confined to targeting terror facilities, Pakistan responded with a barrage of drone and missile attacks against Indian civilian areas, religious infrastructure and military posts along the western front.

India's counter-response included the targeting of 11 Pakistani air bases - Nur Khan, Rafiqui, Murid, Sukkur, Sialkot, Pasrur, Chunian, Sargodha, Skardu, Bholari, and Jacobabad - causing substantial military damage. This unprecedented escalation, lasting three days, eventually forced Pakistan to request a ceasefire, a move widely interpreted as a sign of the heavy losses it sustained. New Delhi, meanwhile, has reiterated that Operation Sindoor has redefined India's counter-terrorism policy and emerged as India's 'new normal' against terrorism, turning any major terror attack into a declaration of war. The Pakistani dossier, now unintentionally validating India's operational narrative, reflects the shifting paradigm of India's military posture.

## "Professional Militaries Not Affected by Losses": Defence Chief



**New Delhi, (HS) :** Professional militaries are not affected by temporary losses as overall outcomes are more important than such setbacks, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan said Tuesday afternoon in a special lecture on 'Future Wars and Warfare' organised by the Savitribai Phule University in Pune.

Asked about the armed forces' losses during Operation Sindoor - India's military response to the Pahalgam terror attack - the General referenced the loss of wickets in a cricket match, saying that if a team were to "win by any means, then there's no question about how many wickets..." "When I was asked about losses on our side... I said these are not important. The results are important. It would not be very correct to talk about losses. Suppose you go to a cricket match and you win, by any means, then there's no question about how many

wickets, balls, players..." "We can take out this data and share it... we can tell you how many aircraft were destroyed, how many radars were hit..." he trailed off, seeming to emphasise prioritising outcome over losses. The General's reference to losses during Operation Sindoor follows remarks last week at an event in Singapore, in which he confirmed, for the first time, India had suffered some setbacks. This was after rumours persisted that Pakistan air defences had shot down multiple Indian fighter jets, including some of the newly purchased, French-made Rafale aircraft. India had earlier dismissed any talk of Rafales, or any other fighter jet, being shot down. However, at the Singapore event General Chauhan told Bloomberg TV, "What is important is not the jet being (shot) down... but why they were downed." He did not, though, specify the number of jets lost. The General only dismissed Islamabad's claim that it had destroyed six. "Why they were (shot) down... what mistakes were made - those are important," General Chauhan said when asked about the fighter jets. "Numbers are not important." India's top military official also told his Pune audience the focus of Operation Sindoor, its designated outcome, was to stop the Pak deep state from launching further terror attacks against India. The Pahalgam attack, the General said, was an act of "profound cruelty... which is unacceptable in this modern world" and had led to "a kind of hatred (in India for Pak) ...a huge revulsion".

## Cash row: Mumbai lawyers body writes to CJI, seeks prosecution of judge Varma

**New Delhi, (HS) :** Bombay Lawyers Association has written to Chief Justice of India BR Gavai seeking sanction to prosecute high court judge Yashwant Varma over the discovery of huge cash from his official residence when he was in Delhi. The judge was transferred to Allahabad High Court amidst the raging controversy. Former CJI Sanjiv Khanna had recently written to President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, besides sharing with them the report of the apex court-appointed committee reportedly indicting Varma and the judge's

response. Bombay Lawyers Association (BLA) in its letter dated June 2 and signed by president Ahmad M Abdi and secretary Eknath R Dhokale sought the sanction to prosecute the judge besides referring to the top court rejecting a PIL on the issue on May 21. The top court called it "premature" and dismissed the PIL seeking an FIR over the matter and asked the petitioners to approach appropriate authorities instead. The lawyers' body said, "It needs to be kept in mind that litigants and other lay persons are active stakeholders in the legal process." "The



applicant is seeking your sanction to initiate criminal prosecution, including the registration of an FIR, against Justice Yashwant Varma, a sitting Judge

## President promulgates Regulation ensuring 85 percent reservation in jobs

**SRINAGAR, (HS) :** The President of India has promulgated the Union Territory of Ladakh Reservation (Amendment) Regulation, 2025 and reserved 85 percent jobs in the region. A gazetted notification stated that, "In exercise of the powers conferred by article 240 of the Constitution read with sub-section (2) of section 58 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, the President is pleased to promulgate the following Regulation made by her".

This Regulation may be called the Union territory of Ladakh Reservation (Amendment) Regulation, 2025. It extends to the whole of the Union territory of Ladakh and shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint. In the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Act, 2004 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), in section 3, in sub-section (1), for the first proviso, the total percentage of reservation shall in no case exceed 85%, excluding reservation for Economically Weaker Sections. Meanwhile, President Murmu also promulgated the Ladakh Official Languages Regulation, 2025 to declare English, Hindi, Urdu, Bhoti and Purgi as official languages of the Union Territory of Ladakh. "Provided that the English language shall continue to be used for all the official purposes of the Union territory for which it was being used before the date of commencement of this Regulation," reads the notification. It further stated that the Administrator may take such necessary steps as may

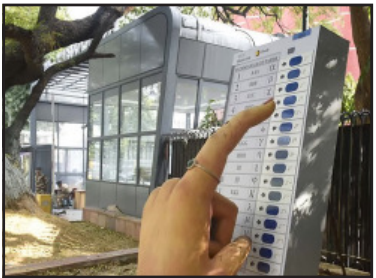


be provided by rules to be made by him to strengthen the institutional mechanisms for the promotion and development of other languages in the Union territory and the establishment of the Academy of Art, Culture and languages." The institutional mechanisms referred to in sub-section (1) shall make special efforts for the promotion and development of other native languages of Ladakh: Shina (Dardic), Brokskat (Dardic), Balti and Ladakhi," it further stated. "Every rule made under this Regulation shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament," added the notification.

The President of India has also promulgated Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (Amendment) Regulation, 2025 to reserve 1/3rd seats in Hill Councils of both Leh and Kargil Hill Councils for women. The rotation of constituencies reserved for women shall be made on the basis of serial number allotted to each constituency by notification in the official gazette, reads the notification.

## ECI to introduce on voter turnout data

**New Delhi, (HS) :** The Election Commission on Tuesday said it is introducing a streamlined, technology-driven system to provide timely updates on approximate voter turnout percentage data which "significantly" reduces the time lag associated with the earlier manual reporting methods. Under the initiative, the presiding officer (PRO) of each polling station will now be directly entering voter turnout on the new ECINET application every two hours on polling day to reduce the time lag in the updation of the approximate polling trends. This will be automatically aggregated at the constituency level. The approximate voting percentage data will continue to be published every two hours as before, the poll authority said. "Notably, voter turnout data will now be entered into ECINET by PROs immediately after the close of poll, before they leave the polling station. It will reduce the delays and ensure that the approximate percentage of votes polled be available on the updated voter turnout app constituency-wise after the end of polls subject to network connectivity," it said.



## 'One nation, one husband': Punjab CM Mann slammed for controversial remark on Operation Sindoor

**CHANDIGARH, (HS) :** A row has erupted after Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann made a controversial remark on Operation Sindoor, while accusing the BJP of politicizing it for electoral gains.

After the Punjab cabinet meeting on Tuesday, CM Mann alleged that BJP workers are distributing sindoor (vermillion) to households following the success of Operation Sindoor. "This is very sad. Sindoor is being mocked. Didn't you see? BJP is seeking votes in the name of Operation Sindoor. They are sending sindoor to every home. Which man will ask his wife to apply 'sindoor' in (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi's name? Is this a 'one nation, one husband' scheme," he said. However, the BJP denied launching any such drive and demanded that Mann apologize and resign for making such a statement on the military operation which was conducted to avenge the Pahalgam terror attack. Punjab BJP spokesman Pritpal Singh Balliawal termed the comments 'shameful'. "He is mocking Operation Sindoor. There is no BJP activity sending sindoor to every household. The name Operation Sindoor was used because terrorists were killing Hindus after



checking their religion - sindoor was a marker they used to identify women. This operation was about terrorism, martyrdom, and the protection of Indian lives. A man who mocks the Indian Army, insults Veer Naris, and turns every sacred symbol into a joke will never understand the value of sindoor, which carries sacrifice, love and devotion," he said. Reacting to Mann's statement, the Chandigarh unit of the BJP posted on X, "Bhagwant Mann just mocked Operation Sindoor, asking: 'Will

you wear sindoor in Modi's name? Is this One Nation, One Husband?' This isn't satire. This is vulgarity dressed as leadership. Let's be clear: Operation Sindoor was launched after Hindu women were targeted by terrorists, identified by their sindoor. It was about justice for the innocent, not a joke." The post further hit out at CM Mann, saying, "He cannot grasp the meaning of sindoor - A symbol of love, sacrifice, and strength for every Indian woman. Bhagwant Mann didn't insult BJP. He

insulted every widow of a soldier, every mother of a martyr, every woman of Bharat." On Sunday, AAP MP Sanjay Singh in a video message posted on X said, "In Indian culture, women apply sindoor as a symbol of their husband's long life, respect and well-being. It reflects pride, dignity and deep emotional meaning. But now, after pushing schemes like 'One Nation, One Election' and 'One Nation, One Leader', the Prime Minister appears to have launched 'One Nation, One Husband'." Singh had said.

Earlier, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had slammed Prime Minister Modi over the name of the operation. "The name 'Operation Sindoor' was their brainchild. It was politically motivated. I did not want to say this, especially when the multi-party delegations are visiting several countries and explaining India's stand. But today, the Prime Minister came to West Bengal with the motive of political propaganda. First Modi described himself as a tea-seller. Then he described himself as a guard and now he has come here to sell sindoor," she added.

## Rs 1 Crore Cash, Gold, Silver Worth Crores: Raids on IRS Officer's Premises

**New Delhi, (HS) :** Piles of cash worth Rs 1 crore, multiple pieces of gold jewellery and silver and gold coins valued at Rs 3.5 crore were seized after raids on premises linked to a senior Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer in Delhi, Mumbai and Punjab today. The CBI seized 3.5 kg of gold, 2 kg of silver and Rs 1 crore cash during searches at the premises of officer Amit Kumar Singal, who was arrested, along with one of his associates, in a Rs 25-lakh bribery case on Sunday.

Mr Singal is a 2007 batch IRS officer and was posted as the additional director general at the Directorate of Taxpayer Services in Delhi. "The Central Bureau of Investigation has conducted searches at various premises and recovered substantial assets and incriminating material, including approximately 3.5 kg of Gold and 2 kg of Silver, valued at around Rs 3.5 crore and cash amounting to Rs 1 crore approximately," a CBI official said. It was revealed during the probe that the officer had properties in Delhi, Mumbai and Punjab. "Documents of a locker and 25 bank accounts with various banks; and documents of immovable properties and assets located in Delhi, Mumbai and Punjab. The total value of all movable and immovable

assets is yet to be ascertained," the official added. A case was registered against Mr Singal by the CBI on Saturday based on allegations that the public servant demanded illegal gratification of Rs 45 lakhs from the complainant, a pizza chain owner, in exchange for extending favourable treatment from the Revenue Department.

He had allegedly demanded a total bribe amount of Rs 45 lakh to settle an income-tax notice issued to Sanam Kapoor, owner of La Pino's Pizza, according to the CBI FIR. The demand was accompanied by threats of legal action, imposition of heavy penalties, and harassment in case of non-compliance, the complainant said. The complainant was asked to deliver the first instalment of Rs 25 lakh to his residence in Punjab's Mohali on Saturday. The CBI then laid a trap and caught the accused's associate, Harsh Kotak, red-handed while demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 25 lakhs from the complainant on behalf of the accused. Mr Singal was arrested from his home in Delhi's Vasant Kunj the same day. Both the accused were produced before the designated court on Sunday, which sent them to judicial custody for 14 days.



## India Calls For Closer BRICS Ties to Build Future-Ready Digital Ecosystem

**Brasilia, (H.S):** India reaffirmed its commitment to inclusive, sustainable, and future-ready digital development during the 11th BRICS Communications Ministers' Meeting in Brasilia, Brazil. Union Minister of State for Communications Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar presented India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) as a global benchmark for inclusive and transformative digital governance at the BRICS ministers' meeting held here.

The Minister highlighted the pivotal role of flagship initiatives like Aadhaar and the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in advancing universal and meaningful connectivity. He noted that Aadhaar has empowered over 950 million citizens with a secure digital identity, enabling seamless access to essential public and private services. UPI, he emphasised, has revolutionised real-time digital payments and now accounts for 46 per cent of global digital transactions. He called upon BRICS nations to deepen collaboration in harnessing digital public infrastructure to drive inclusive growth and build resilient digital economies. He underscored that



India's DPI model - built on open, interoperable platforms - serves as a catalyst for financial inclusion, good governance, and digital innovation, while also guarding against monopolistic practices.

Chandra Sekhar shared India's progress on four pillars - Universal and Meaningful Connectivity, Space and Environmental Sustainability, and Digital Ecosystems - under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the meeting in Brasilia on Monday. BRICS members include 11 nations - Brazil, Russia, India, China, Egypt, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates, Ethiopia, Iran, Indonesia and Saudi Arabia. Dwelling on India's vibrant startup ecosystem, robust digital

skills initiatives, and progressive legislation such as the Telecommunications Act and the Data Protection Act, Dr Sekhar emphasised the importance of trust and user safety in the digital age. He also spoke about India's Sanchar Saathi initiative - a key effort to combat telecom fraud - and called for enhanced BRICS cooperation in cybersecurity, data protection, and digital trust to ensure the safety and integrity of interconnected digital societies.

Dr Chandra Sekhar highlighted India's digital journey, celebrating the transition from digital divide to digital leadership. India's ambitious Digital Bharat Nidhi programme was showcased as a cornerstone initiative, funding landmark projects such as BharatNet, which now connects

over 2,18,000 village councils with optical fiber infrastructure. India's indigenous development and mass deployment of 4G and 5G technologies have enabled near-universal high-speed connectivity, now covering over 95 per cent of the population with 4G and more than 80 per cent with 5G. The country has also emerged as a global leader in affordable digital access, with the lowest data rates worldwide - just 12 cents per gigabyte. Earlier, welcoming the adoption of the Final Declaration, Dr Sekhar commended the collaborative spirit among BRICS nations and acknowledged the expanded membership's role in enriching the dialogue.

The Indian minister also held bilateral talks with his Brazilian counterpart. "Productive bilateral talks with Brazil towards strengthening digital ties for a smarter, secure future. Discussed India's strides in indigenous 4G/5G development, and domestic manufacturing and explored cooperation in 6G, Quantum Tech and Satcom. Also, discussed Brazil's 6GHz trials and satcom needs, telecom security and global DPI cooperation," Chandra Sekhar posted on X on Tuesday.

## Mongolian PM loses parliamentary confidence vote

**Ulan Bator, (H.S):** Mongolia's Parliament Speaker D Amarbayasgalan said on Tuesday that since the State Great Khural (Parliament), did not pass the draft resolution on the vote of confidence in the Prime Minister, then Prime Minister Luvsannamsrai Oyun-Erdene was deemed to have resigned. Oyun-Erdene convened a regular meeting of the government on May 28 and submitted the draft resolution on the vote of confidence in the Prime Minister to the State Great Khural. The Mongolian Constitution stipulates that if the draft resolution is not passed, the Prime Minister is deemed to have resigned and a new one will be appointed within 30 days, Xinhua news agency reported.

Oyun-Erdene has served as the Prime Minister of Mongolia since January 2021. He was re-elected in July 2024. "It was a privilege to serve my country and people through challenging times, including pandemics, wars, and trade conflicts," Oyun-Erdene said following the vote. He was forced to step down after failing to secure a parliamentary majority - falling short of the 64 votes needed in the 126-seat legislature. Out of 82 lawmakers who participated in the secret ballot, 44 supported him while 38 voted against. In the two



weeks leading up to the vote, hundreds of demonstrators - many of them young - had taken to the streets demanding his resignation. Their discontent largely stemmed from perceptions of excessive wealth and privilege surrounding Oyun-Erdene's family, particularly his son. A lavish wedding proposal by his son, along with images of expensive designer items, circulated widely on social media, raising questions about the origins of the family's wealth.

Oyun-Erdene denied any wrongdoing, dismissing the accusations as part of a politically-motivated smear campaign. Transparency International, an anti-corruption watchdog, reported a decline in Mongolia's transparency ranking during his

tenure. In 2024, the country was placed 114th out of 180 nations in its Corruption Perceptions Index. Mongolia, a former Communist state located between Russia and China, has been navigating a democratic transition since the early 1990s following the collapse of the Soviet Union. Corruption remains a longstanding issue.

In 2024, US prosecutors moved to seize two New York apartments allegedly purchased with illicit mining funds by former Prime Minister Sukhbaatar Batbold, who held office from 2012 to 2015. Batbold denied the allegations. In recent years, Mongolia has pursued stronger ties with Western nations as part of its "third neighbour" strategy, alongside maintaining relations with its powerful neighbours.

## Antonio Guterres Calls For Release of UN Staff Detained By Yemen's Houthis



**United Nations, (H.S):** UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called for the immediate and unconditional release of UN staff detained by the Houthis in Yemen.

This June marks one year since the arbitrary detention of dozens of personnel from the United Nations, national and international NGOs, civil society organisations, and diplomatic missions by the Houthi de facto authorities in Yemen," he said in a statement on Monday. "I renew my call for their immediate and unconditional release, including

those held since 2021 and 2023, and most recently this January." The United Nations and its humanitarian partners should never be targeted, arrested or detained while carrying out their mandates for the benefit of the people they serve, said Guterres.

"The continued arbitrary detention of our colleagues is a profound injustice against those who dedicate their lives to providing life-saving assistance and support to the people of Yemen. It has placed additional constraints on our ability to operate effectively and

undermined mediation efforts to secure a path toward peace." He highlighted the occasion of Eid Al-Adha, saying the Muslim holiday is a time to show compassion and end the ordeal of families who face celebrating yet another holiday without their loved ones, Xinhua news agency reported. The United Nations will continue to work through all possible channels to secure their release, he said, calling on UN member states to continue expressing their solidarity with those detained and intensify advocacy towards their release.

Guterres reiterated his strongest condemnation of the death in detention of a World Food Programme staff member earlier this year. Saying that the Houthis have yet to provide an explanation for this tragedy, he renewed his call for an immediate, transparent and thorough investigation and accountability. Stephane Dujarric, spokesman for Guterres, said Monday that 23 UN personnel remain detained by the Houthis.

**Cairo, (H.S):** NCP (SP) Supriya Sule-led all-party delegation called on League of Arab States Secretary-General Ahmed Aboul Gheit on Tuesday, underscoring India's unified stance and collective determination to combat terrorism. The leaders stressed that countering terrorism is a priority for both the Arab League and India. The discussions also focused on India's wide-ranging political, economic, and cultural engagement with the Arab States.

The League of Arab States, with its seat in Cairo, Egypt, is an intergovernmental organisation encompassing all Arab states in the Middle East and North Africa, established in Cairo on March 22, 1945, following the adoption of the Alexandria Protocol in 1944. Currently, it includes 22 Arab countries: Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and



Yemen. The delegation also had an engaging interaction with the vibrant Indian community in Egypt." The community welcomed the visit of the delegation and the message carried by them to combat terrorism," the Indian Embassy in Cairo posted.

On Monday, the delegation was briefed by Indian Ambassador to Egypt Suresh Reddy on the strong India-Egypt Strategic Partnership, Egypt's strong stance against terrorism, solidarity with India after the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, and the close bilateral

collaboration on counter-terrorism. Later, the delegation had a fruitful engagement at the Egyptian Senate House with Senator Hossam Al-Khouly of Mostaqbal Watan Party and MP Hazem Omar, including the Chairmen and members of other Parliamentary Committees.

The Senate reaffirmed solidarity with India and reiterated the importance attached to the close Strategic Partnership between India and Egypt. This was followed by productive discussions with Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman MP Karim

Darwish and other distinguished members of the Egyptian House of Representatives. The Indian parliamentarians also had insightful discussions with key interlocutors in Egypt, including former Ministers, distinguished authors and thought leaders. The discussions facilitated an enhanced understanding and appreciation of India's commitment to economic growth, equitable development, and zero tolerance to terrorism.

They also paid homage to Mahatma Gandhi at the Al-Horreya Park in Zamalek, Cairo. The delegation, a part of India's diplomatic outreach on Operation Sindoor and carrying forth India's strong message on zero-tolerance against terrorism, reached Egypt after concluding a successful visit to Ethiopia, South Africa, and Qatar. The visit marks a continuation of India's strategic outreach to garner international support against cross-border terrorism emanating from the soil of Pakistan.

## South Koreans Vote For New President in Martial Law Aftermath

**Seoul, (H.S):** South Koreans voted on Tuesday to pick a new President, with a liberal candidate bent on punishing the forces responsible for former South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol's martial law attempt against a conservative keen on stopping the recklessness of his rival. The election takes place exactly six months after Yoon declared martial law in a surprise announcement that evoked dark memories of past military regimes and plunged the nation into the worst economic and political crisis in decades.

Of the total 44.39 million eligible voters nationwide, 27.56 million had cast their ballots as of 1 p.m., seven hours after voting began at 14,295 polling stations across the country, according to the National Election Commission (NEC). The provisional tally includes the votes cast in early voting, as well as overseas, shipboard and absentee ballots. Voter interest was keen in the snap election, as 34.74 per cent of the registered voters had already cast their ballots in the early voting held on Thursday and Friday, the second-highest figure since early voting was introduced in 2014. Lee Jae-myung, the candidate of the liberal Democratic Party, campaigned on a pledge to overcome the "insurrection forces" led by Yoon in the wake of his impeachment and removal from office less than three years



into his five-year term. Kim Moon-soo, the candidate of the conservative People Power Party, seized on Lee's many ongoing trials and aggressive leadership style to promise a future free of "dictatorship." While the two main contenders cast their ballots during the early voting period, other major political figures voted on Election Day. Former President Yoon and his wife, Kim Keon Hee, cast their ballots at a polling station in southern Seoul, Yonhap news agency reported.

National Assembly Speaker Woo Won-shik voted at a polling station in northern Seoul, saying he hopes the nation overcomes the political "chaos" and moves towards a "democratic society" through the election. In the closely watched vote, the Seoul Metropolitan Police said it had received 54 reports of alleged election law violations as of noon. One incident involved a red balloon bearing the phrase "President Kim Moon-soo," which was placed near a polling station in southern Seoul where Yoon had cast his ballot earlier in

the day. Election laws prohibit any acts of support for or opposition to a particular party or candidate within 100 metres of a polling station. Violators are subject to a maximum fine of 30 million won (\$21,700) or up to five years in prison. Vote counting will begin soon after polls close at 8 p.m. A winner is expected to emerge around midnight, though the vote count will likely be completed around 6 a.m. Wednesday, according to the NEC.

Once the vote count is completed, the NEC will convene a plenary meeting sometime between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. to formally approve the election results. As the election is being held early to replace Yoon, the new President will take office immediately without a transition period. The inauguration ceremony will likely take place hours later at the National Assembly, though details will be confirmed after the President-elect is determined. A total of five candidates are vying for the nation's top political office after

two dropped out during the campaign. Aside from Lee and Kim, they are Lee Jun-seok of the New Reform Party, Kwon Young-guk of the Democratic Labour Party and Song Jin-ho, an Independent. Surveys conducted before the blackout on all nationwide polls last week showed the DP's Lee maintaining a comfortable lead of around 10 percentage points over Kim, although the gap had narrowed from earlier. Support for Lee was in the 40 per cent range, followed by 30-something per cent for Kim and around 10 per cent for Lee Jun-seok.

Both Lee and Kim have made economic growth their Number 1 campaign promise, with an emphasis on nurturing the Artificial Intelligence industry. On security issues, Lee has vowed to pursue "pragmatic" diplomacy in response to the changing global order, while Kim has stressed building deterrence against North Korea's nuclear threats. Lee and Kim agree on the need to revise the Constitution to replace the current single five-year presidential term with a four-year, two-term system. Kim has pledged to cut short his own term to three years to align the President's term with those of National Assembly members beginning in 2028. Lee, however, has called for holding a referendum on amendments to the Constitution and applying the changes starting in 2030.

## Pakistan Blocking Appointment Chairs of UN Security Council Committees Dealing With Terrorism

**United Nations, (H.S):** The UN Security Council committees dealing with terrorism are without chairs halfway through the year because of Pakistan's insistence on getting control of one or more of the three panels. Mainly, the Western countries on the Council have opposed Pakistan becoming the chair of any of the panels - the Counterterrorism Committee, and the committees on sanctions against al-Qaeda and other terrorist actions, and the Taliban, according to diplomatic sources.

They said that the countries against Pakistan becoming the chair of any of the committees pointed out that Islamabad had a conflict of interest because it harboured terrorist organisations like the Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed, and its leaders, and had contentious relations with the Taliban ruling neighbouring Afghanistan. Consensus governs many functions of the Council, and taking advantage of it, Pakistan, an elected member, is able to block the appointment of the chairs of the committees. The discussions about these issues are held informally. Greece's Permanent Representative, Evangelos Sekeris, who was the President of the Council last month, conceded that it has not been possible to agree on the leadership of the panels, and said they were working on proposals



for a solution. Without chairs in place for the committees, the country holding the rotating presidency of the Council is the interim head of the panels. If the chairs are not in place, Pakistan, which takes over the rotating presidency of the Council next month, will head the panels in July by default.

When India was on the Council from 2020 to 2022, it headed the Counter-Terrorism Committee, and India's Permanent Representative Ruchira Kamboj even arranged for the panel to meet in Mumbai at the sites of the 26/11 terror attacks by Pakistan-based terrorists. Pakistan, which cited India's chairmanship of the Counterterrorism Committee, was ruled out as chair of the panel, the sources said. The 1267 Committee, which gets its name from the Council's resolution and

deals with the affiliates of al-Qaeda and the Islamic State, posed a direct conflict of interest for Pakistan, where organisations and individuals sanctioned by it are based. Pakistan is now insisting that it should at least get the chair of the 1988 Taliban Sanctions Committee, named for the number of the 2011 Council resolution on sanctions against the Taliban, according to the sources.

Pakistan, which has a contentious relationship with the Taliban, expects to use the chair of the committee - if it gets it - to influence Afghanistan. It could then push for tightening sanctions or loosening them to manipulate the Taliban, which it has accused of giving sanctuary to forces operating against Pakistan. As of now, Pakistan faces an uphill task in trying to clinch the deal because of its conflicts with the Taliban.



## Vedanta Aluminium's Jamkhani Mine Rated 4-Star for Sustainable, Responsible Production

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):** Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest aluminium producer, has earned a prestigious 4-Star rating from the Ministry of Coal for its Jamkhani coal mine in Sundargarh, Odisha, for the financial year 2023-24. Scoring an impressive 83 out of 100 in the Ministry's star rating assessment, the mine has emerged as one of the top-performing in the country - within just two years of commencing operations. The Jamkhani mine plays a pivotal role in Vedanta Aluminium's vision of achieving 100% vertical integration and reducing India's reliance on coal imports, contributing to the larger goal of a self-reliant, Viksit Bharat.

The star rating assessment scheme, introduced by the Ministry of Coal in FY 2019, aims to promote sustainable and responsible mining by evaluating mines across a wide range of parameters. These include scientific mining practices, environmental conservation, statutory compliance, land and resettlement management, economic performance, technological adoption, employee welfare, and workplace



safety. Rajiv Kumar, CEO, Vedanta Aluminium, said, "This acknowledgement is a testament to the dedication and coordinated efforts of the team at Jamkhani and reflects Vedanta's broader vision of achieving excellence through a strong focus on sustainability, safety and digital innovation.

The recognition underscores our commitment to driving transformational growth while upholding the highest standards of environmental and social governance."Since its inception in November 2022, Vedanta's Jamkhanicoal mine has exemplified best-in-class mining practices, with a strong focus on environmental stewardship,

digital innovation, and operational excellence. The mine has implemented advanced air and water management systems, including real-time monitoring, rooftop rainwater harvesting with a capacity of 4,200kilo litres, and groundwater recharge through ponds with a combined capacity of nearly 100,000 cubic metres.

Supporting infrastructure such as settling ponds, sumps, and observation wells further reinforces its water conservation efforts. Additional measures include topsoil management for biological reclamation, Environmental Management Plan compliance, and the ongoing implementation of ISO:9001 Quality Management Systems.

The mine has alsoadopted the innovative Miyawaki method of afforestation, planting a diverse mix of native trees, sub-trees, and shrubs at high density to create fast-growing, self-sustaining forests. The project aims to plant 3.65 lakh saplings across 18 hectares along the mine's peripherybythe end of this financial year. This greenbelt will act as a biodiversity hotspot and model for regenerative environmental practices in mining areas.

The company has achieved significant milestones in its digital transformation journey through a digital-first approach centered on advanced technologies. At Jamkhanicoal mine, technologies such as drone-based blasting zone clearance, digital dashboards, operational analytics, and the Time-in-Use Model (TUM) have been integrated to enhance efficiency by tracking real-time coal production, equipment utilisation, and dispatch quality. These innovations are setting new benchmarks not only in performance but most importantly in safety and environmental responsibility, reinforcing Vedanta's commitment to smart and

sustainable mining.Jamkhani is Vedanta's first greenfield coal mine and the first privately developed greenfield coal mine in Odisha under the auction era. Fully operational, the mine plays a critical role in supporting Vedanta's world-class aluminium smelter in Jharsuguda, the largest single-location aluminium smelting facility globally.Vedanta Aluminium, a business of Vedanta Limited, is India's largest producer of aluminium, manufacturing more than half of India's aluminium i.e., 2.42 million tonnes in FY2025.

It is a leader in value-added aluminium products that find critical applications in core industries. Vedanta Aluminium ranks 2nd in the S&P Global Corporate Sustainability Assessment 2024 world rankings for the aluminium industry, a reflection of its leading sustainable development practices. With its world-class aluminium smelters, alumina refinery and power plants in India, the company fulfils its mission of spurring emerging applications of aluminium as the 'Metal of the Future' for a greener tomorrow.

## Nifty Bank hits record high, crosses 56,000 for 1st time ahead of RBI MPC

**Mumbai, (H.S):** The Nifty Bank index touched a record high of 56,161.40 on Tuesday morning, crossing the 56,000 mark for the first time ever.The surge was driven by strong buying in select banks as investors showed optimism ahead of a possible interest rate cut by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) later this week.However, the early gains didn't last. By mid-morning, the index had slipped slightly, down 0.1 per cent as some investors booked profits and heavyweight banks showed weakness.

Major lenders like ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, and Kotak Mahindra Bank dragged the index lower, falling up to 0.9 per cent.In contrast, smaller banks like AU Small Finance Bank, Federal Bank, Punjab National Bank, HDFC Bank, and IndusInd Bank saw gains between 0.4 per cent and 1.2 per cent.Despite the pullback, the Nifty Bank index is still one of the top-performing indices in 2025. It has gained 10 per cent since the start of the year and is up 15 per cent from its 52-week low.Over the past 12 months, it has delivered a return of 9.7 per cent. The market is now focused on the RBI's upcoming policy decision on June



6.Many analysts expect the central bank to cut the key lending rate, or repo rate, by another 25 basis points. Under Governor Sanjay Malhotra, the RBI has already cut rates twice this year, reducing the repo rate from 6.5 per cent to 6 per cent. Experts believe the conditions are right for further easing.

Adding to market optimism, India's economy grew by 7.4 per cent in the March quarter (Q4) of FY25, the strongest growth of the year.The overall GDP growth for FY25 stood at 6.5 per cent, confirming India's position as the fastest-growing major economy in the world. Meanwhile, both the Indian equity indices - Sensex and Nifty - opened a tad lower on Tuesday as heavyweights like L&T and Bajaj Finance were trading in the red.

## RBI Expected To Cut Repo Rate By 100 Basis Points By 2025 End: Nomura

**New Delhi, (H.S):**The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is expected to cut the repo rate by 100 basis points - from 6 per cent to 5 per cent - by the end of 2025, according to a Nomura report.In its 'Asia H2 Outlook' report, the global brokerage noted an underperformance of both the gross domestic product growth (at 6.2 per cent compared to the RBI's projection of 6.5 per cent) and inflation (3.3 per cent compared to the RBI's target of 4 per cent).

Nomura said this is the reason why it expects the central bank to further reduce policy rates, including the repo rate. Ahead of Friday's RBI repo rate decision, it anticipates a rate cut of 25 bps in June, August, October, and December 2025. Nomura also sees India sticking



to prudent fiscal practices. "We expect the government to stick to fiscal prudence, while monetary policy does the heavy lifting," it said in the note. It expects the RBI to have more flexibility on the upside in foreign exchange, especially when it comes to USD/INR.

"The RBI is likely to accumulate reserves on a softer US dollar, capping the Indian rupee appreciation," Nomura said.The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is set to meet from June 4-6. Analysts expect

the Central Bank to go for a third consecutive rate cut of 25 basis points as inflation continues to remain below the median target of 4 per cent.The Reserve Bank has said it will continue to undertake liquidity management operations in sync with the monetary policy stance to keep system liquidity adequate to meet the productive requirements of the economy.

A benign inflation outlook and moderate growth warrant a monetary policy to be growth-supportive, while remaining watchful about the rapidly evolving global macroeconomic conditions, said the Central Bank in its '2024-25 annual report'. Notably, the RBI MPC, in its April meeting, unanimously voted to reduce the policy repo rate by 25 bps to 6.0 per cent.

## India's Economy To Grow By 6.3 Pc In 2025, 6.4 Pc In 2026 As Global Growth Slows: OECD

**New Delhi, (H.S):** India continues to defy the global slowdown, the OECD's latest 'Economic Outlook' said on Tuesday, projecting the country's economy to grow by 6.3 per cent in 2025 and 6.4 per cent in 2026.Strong domestic demand, resilient services and manufacturing sectors, and ongoing infrastructure investments have been cited as key drivers for India's strong performance amid global uncertainties.

The report also cautioned that external risks - particularly from global trade frictions - could spill over into export-heavy segments. China, on the other hand, is losing steam. Its growth is projected to moderate from 5.0 per cent in 2024 to 4.7 per cent in 2025 and 4.3 per cent in 2026.The Outlook projects global growth slowing from 3.3 per cent in 2024 to 2.9 per cent in both 2025 and 2026."The slowdown is expected



to be most concentrated in the United States, Canada, Mexico and China, with smaller downward adjustments in other economies," it noted.GDP growth in the United States is projected to decline from 2.8 per cent in 2024 to 1.6 per cent in 2025 and 1.5 per cent in 2026.Inflationary pressures have resurfaced in some economies. Higher trade costs in countries raising tariffs are expected to push inflation up further, although the impact will be partially offset by weaker commodity prices.Annual headline inflation in the G20

economies is collectively expected to moderate from 6.2 per cent to 3.6 per cent in 2025 and 3.2 per cent in 2026."The global economy has shifted from a period of resilient growth and declining inflation to a more uncertain path,"

OECD Secretary-General Mathias Cormann said in a statement." Governments need to engage with each other to address any issues in the global trading system positively and constructively through dialogue- keeping markets open and preserving the economic benefits

of rules-based global trade for competition, innovation, productivity, efficiency and ultimately growth," Cormann emphasised. On the upside, a reversal of new trade barriers would boost global growth prospects and reduce inflation. A peaceful resolution to Russia's war against Ukraine and of ongoing conflicts in the Middle East could also improve confidence and incentives to invest."

Central banks should remain vigilant, given heightened uncertainty and the potential for initial increases in trade costs to push up wage and price pressures more generally," said the Outlook. Provided inflation expectations remain well anchored, and trade tensions do not intensify further, policy rate reductions should continue in economies in which inflation is projected to moderate and aggregate demand growth is subdued, it maintained.

## Union Minister of Coal & Mines, Shri G. Kishan Reddy launches C CARES Version 2.0 of CMPFO

**New Delhi, (PIB):** Union Minister of Coal and Mines Shri G Kishan Reddy today launched the C CARES Version 2.0, a web portal of CMPFO, developed and designed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC). The event was graced by Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Shri Vikram Dev Dutt along with senior officers of Ministry of Coal and Commissioner, CMPFO.

Coal Mines Provident Fund Organization (CMPFO) is an autonomous organization under the aegis of Ministry of Coal established in the year 1948 for administering Provident Fund and Pension schemes for the purpose of providing social security to the coal sector workers. The Organization is presently

rendering services to about 3.3 lakh Provident Fund subscribers and 6.3 lakh pensioners of coal sector.The current version of the portal is developed with an aim to streamline the PF/Pension disbursement by bringing the Coal workers, Coal Management and CMPFO onto a unified digital platform.

This user-friendly system enhances transparency, ensures accountability and provides seamless support from claim initiation to payment of dues to the coal worker's account. The module allows claims to be tracked in real-time, thus reducing settlement time for fulfilling the objective of providing social security to the workers of Coal sector with greater ease, transparency and effectiveness.



Speaking at the occasion, Minister Shri G Kishan Reddy said that the portal is a step towards Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of 'Minimum Government, Maximum Governance' through

digital India. Minister said that the portal promotes transparency, accessibility and convenience. Minister also urged the Ministry of Coal to keep the portal up to date, accepting inputs from the

workers. Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Shri Vikram Dev Dutt, in his address said that the initiative reflects the ministry's commitment towards the welfare of coal sector workers.Additional Secretary, Ministry of Coal Smt Rupinder Brar appreciated the team worked behind the portal for completing the project under minimal time.

Launch of C CARES Version 2.0 marks a significant leap in the digitization journey of CMPFO, where the newly launched module will help to directly disburse the Provident fund money and pension into the account of the members of CMPFO. The direct benefit transfer module was developed by CDAC in collaboration with the State Bank of India. The financial module is

developed in such a way that it facilitates automatic update of PF and Pension ledger of the member based upon the data submitted by the coal company. Currently, the module is rolled out for five Regional Offices namely Regional office Godavari khani and Kothagudem (SCCL), Regional office Asansol-(ECL), Regional office Bilaspur (SECL) and Regional office Nagpur (WCL).

It will be extended to the rest of the Regional offices of CMPFO from first July onwards.The C CARES Version 2.0 also has a mobile application for the member where the member can view his own profile, employment profile, can track claims, raise grievances and will also be able to view his updated PF balance. The mobile app comes with a Chat-bot

assistant which helps the member in getting the desired information. The Mobile App is available to all CMPF Members. The current module also has a prescriptive dashboard for the Coal Company as well as for CMPFO which can generate custom report in pre-defined format.

It can define the trends of PF/ Pension claim settlement and also provide claim settlement statistics based on which predictions can be done to improve the work processes for fast service delivery.With this progressive step, the Ministry has not only strengthened the pillars of transparency and efficiency, but also reinforced its commitment to the welfare and empowerment of every coal worker across the nation.

## India to Build First-Ever Polar Research Vessel as GRSE Signs MoU with Norway's Kongsberg

**New Delhi, (PIB):** Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW), Shri Sarbananda Sonowal attended an important MoU signing ceremony between Kolkata based Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE) and Norway's Kongsberg Oslo today. The MoU paves the way for India to build it first ever Polar Research Vessel (PRV) indigenously.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal said, "Let this MoU signing be a beacon of hope and progress, signalling India's unwavering commitment to scientific advancement and sustainable development. Together, we are building not just a vessel but a legacy-a legacy of innovation, exploration, and international cooperation that will inspire generations to come. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, this

MoU is a commitment to fostering scientific discovery, advancing India's capabilities in polar and ocean research, and contributing to global efforts to address pressing challenges like climate change. The vessel will be equipped with the latest scientific equipment, enabling our researchers to explore the oceans' depths, study marine ecosystems, and unlock new insights into our planet's past, present, and future.

This will be a testament of India's critical shipbuilding capabilities - boosting further 'Make In India' initiative of the government. I congratulate all stakeholders for their dedication and look forward to the day when this Polar Research Vessel sets sail, carrying India's aspirations to the farthest reaches of the globe."The MoU between GRSE and Knogsberg marks an important milestone for India's shipbuilding sector as it will receive design expertise for



developing the PRV, while taking into account the requirement of National

Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCOPR), who will use it for research

activities in the polar and southern ocean realms. GRSE, with its rich experience of constructing complex maritime platforms like warships, survey & research vessels, will build this PRV in its yard in Kolkata, ensuring a boost to Government's 'Make In India' initiative. The leadership of Kongsberg as well as GRSE joined the Union Minister, senior government officials from Norway and India at the event.

Union Minister Shri Sarbananda Sonowal also represented India in a high-level Ministerial Meeting on the 'Role of Shipping in Shaping the Future.' The meet emphasised the need of the industry to align towards a stable, longterm regulatory environment supporting an inclusive and decarbonised ocean-based trade. Ministers from Brazil, Japan, UN, US, China, and Norway joined Shri Sonowal at the meet. Speaking at the meet, the Union Minister Shri

Sarbananda Sonowal said, "Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji announced India's vision of "Growth for All," articulated as SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region). The overarching aim of this vision leverages on India's vast coastline, strategic location, and maritime heritage to drive economic prosperity, enhance regional security, and ensure sustainable development for all stakeholders.

This entails economic cooperation, capacity building, disaster management, information sharing and environmental stewardship. Upgrading from SAGAR initiative, India's PM Narendra Modi ji announced MAHASAGAR - which is Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security Across the Regions, signalling further consolidation and an expanded approach to holistic maritime engagement & growth."





## Ananya opens up about Shah Rukh's influence on her life

Ananya Panday has been BFFs with Suhana Khan since they were very young. Well, Ananya has now opened up about her bond with Suhana's father Shah Rukh Khan.

Chunky Panday's daughter Ananya Panday has made tons of friends in the film industry in her 6 year long career as an actor. But two of her closest and dearest pals in the entire world are Shah Rukh Khan's daughter Suhana

Khan and Sanjay Kapoor's daughter Shanaya Kapoor. The three have been the best of friends since they were little and have spent most of their childhood together. Even their families are extremely close, as we already witnessed on Fabulous Lives of Bollywood Wives, which stars Shanaya's mum Maheep Kapoor and Ananya's mother Bhavana Pandey with special appearances by Suhana's

mother Gauri Khan. Well, in a recent interview, Ananya spoke about the influence that SRK has had on her.

In a recent chat with Bombay Times Lounge, talking about Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan, Ananya Panday shared, "I think the way Shah Rukh Khan handles his personal and professional life -- there's no one like him. While growing up, I saw first-hand what an amazing father he is to Aryan,

Suhana and AbRam and the way he's been with all of us. He would train us all for our sports day and taekwondo competitions. He was very, very present in what was happening in our lives. Even now, he wants to know what we're doing and is very involved. Also, when he is talking to you, he has this quality of making you feel that you are the only person in the world. There is no one like him!"

Well, even SRK's fans would agree that there is truly no one like him. On the film front, Ananya is all set to reunite with her Pati Patni Aur Woh co-star Kartik Aaryan in the upcoming film Tu Meri Main Tera Main Tu Meri. Shah Rukh, on the other hand, will be sharing the screen for the first time ever with his darling daughter Suhana Khan in King, which also stars Deepika Padukone.

## Kamal says won't apologize over Kannada language row



The controversy surrounding actor-politician Kamal Haasan escalated on Tuesday as he refused to issue a public apology over his recent remarks on the Kannada language, resulting in the non-release of his upcoming film 'Thug Life' in Karnataka.

Haasan's production house, Raajkamal Films International, informed the Karnataka High Court that there was "nothing to apologise for." The court had

earlier reprimanded Haasan for his statement that "Kannada is born out of Tamil", made during a film promotion event in Chennai. The statement has stirred unrest and drawn widespread criticism from Kannada groups and political activists. The Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce (KFCC) has enforced a ban on the film's release unless Haasan issues a public apology - a demand he has firmly rejected. Despite the court

granting him time to "make amends," Haasan maintained his stance, stating there would be no release in Karnataka for now. "We will not allow the screening of Thug Life unless he apologises," reiterated KFCC representative Sa Ra Govindu, standing in solidarity with Karnataka Rakshana Vedike and other Kannada organisations. The High Court, while adjourning the hearing to June 10

About the Film: Thug Life, directed by Mani Ratnam, is a highly anticipated film featuring Kamal Haasan, Trisha Krishnan, and Silambarasan TR, with music by A.R. Rahman. The film, with an estimated budget of ₹300 crore, now faces an uncertain fate in Karnataka. The controversy has sparked a larger debate on linguistic pride and responsible speech by public figures in India's diverse sociocultural landscape.

## Gavaskar challenges Iyer's India captaincy narrative with Gill



**New Delhi, (HS) :**Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar is not impressed with the narrative pushing for Shreyas Iyer to be made the next India captain, following his success in the Indian Premier League (IPL). The 30-year-old Shreyas is the only captain in the history of the T20 tournament to have led three different teams to the final. Shreyas first led Delhi Capitals to their first-ever final in 2020 and he then took Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) to their third IPL

title in 2024. The right-handed batter was then not retained by the franchise. However, his arrival at Punjab Kings for INR 26.75 crore has changed the fortunes around for the franchise as the team have made it to the final after 11 years.

Shreyas played a match-winning knock of 87 runs against Mumbai Indians in Qualifier 2 to take PBKS to the final, where they will take on Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) at the Narendra Modi Stadium. The

Punjab Kings captain has been exceptional with the bat in IPL 2025, scoring more than 600 runs at an average of more than 54. However, Gavaskar feels one needs to support Shubman Gill, who has just been made the Test captain and there is no need to create pressure by constantly namedropping Iyer. "If he is worthy of being the captain or not, we first need to look at Shubman Gill, who is the Test captain. We need to give him opportunities. If we talk about

such things, then we are creating undue pressure on Shubman Gill," Gavaskar said on Sports Tak. "There is no need to create pressure on Shubman Gill before the England tour. You first need to realise that Shreyas Iyer is not even in the Indian team. There should be no talk about him being made the next Indian captain," he added.

Gavaskar, who was part of the 1983 World Cup-winning squad, further said that Shubman Gill needs to be given chances to prove himself as a leader and that one shouldn't create pressure on the 25-year-old. The former cricketer is gearing up to lead India in the upcoming five-match Test series against England. "When he makes a return to the side then you can have a look at whether he can be made the captain or not. We need to show tremendous confidence in Shubman Gill, who has just been made the Test captain. He is our India captain," said Gavaskar. "You shouldn't create doubts in his mind, there should be no pressure on him. You shouldn't create pressure, saying, 'Oh look, there is Shreyas Iyer,'" he added.

## The Raja Saab: Prabhas' horror comedy sets December release

Prabhas' first film since the success of Kalki 2898 AD - The Raja Saab - has seen its fair share of delays. After the film missed its April 2025 release, there was speculation that the makers are targeting a release timed for the 2025-26 festive season. On Tuesday, the producers put the speculations to rest with the announcement of the new release date for the film. According to the release, The Raja Saab is set to hit the big screen worldwide on December 5. Directed by Maruthi, known for Bhale Bhale Magadivoy, Mahanubhavudu, and "Manchi Rojullochaie, the film also stars Malavika Mohanan, Nidhi Agerwal, and



Ridhi Kumar in pivotal roles. Maruthi shared the news on his Twitter (now X) handle.

## Ranveer, Sanjay's intense looks from Dhurandhar set leaked



Bollywood actors Ranveer Singh and Sanjay Dutt are set to share the screen for the first time in Aditya Dhar's much-anticipated action thriller Dhurandhar. The film is currently in production, and a behind-the-scenes video from the set has surfaced online, offering fans a thrilling glimpse into their intense looks. Social media is buzzing with excitement.

An X (formerly Twitter) user shared a video showing Ranveer Singh striding purposefully in a long coat. What instantly grabbed fans' attention was his look-long, open hair and a thick beard-reminiscent of his menacing Khilji avatar. The video

also offers a peek at Sanjay Dutt's character, dressed in a white kurta-pyjama paired with a brown shawl draped over his shoulder, also sporting a heavy beard and an intense expression. Fans were quick to react to the viral video. One user commented, "This time it's personal." Another wrote, "BABA re BABA! Yeh crazy hoga. Can't wait-Ranveer's look is making me skip a beat already." A third said, "Powerhouse Ranveer Baba & The Sanju Baba #Dhurandhar Killer scene." Another fan added, "Aag lagne wali hai! #Dhurandhar is 2X fire with Babas Ranveer and Sanju." Directed by Aditya Dhar-best known for the National Award-winning Uri: The Surgical Strike-Dhurandhar is described as an action-packed espionage thriller. Alongside Ranveer Singh and Sanjay Dutt, the ensemble cast includes Akshaye Khanna, R. Madhavan, and Arjun Rampal in pivotal roles. The story is reportedly inspired by real-life covert operations led by India's current National Security Advisor, Ajit Doval. The film is under production and is expected to hit theatres by the end of 2025.

## BCCI Responds after Mukesh Wears Virat's No. 18 Test Jersey

**New Delhi, (HS) :** The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has addressed the controversy that erupted after Mukesh Kumar was spotted wearing Virat Kohli's iconic No. 18 jersey during an India A match against the England Lions in Canterbury. Kohli, who recently announced his retirement from Test cricket, holds legendary status in the format, and fans were quick to express outrage over what they perceived as disrespect. Photos of Mukesh wearing the No. 18 jersey in the first unofficial four-day Test sparked a backlash on social media, with some fans demanding the number be officially retired, as was the case informally with Sachin Tendulkar's No. 10 and MS



Dhoni's No. 7.

A senior BCCI official clarified to PTI that India A matches do not follow fixed jersey number assignments, and jerseys usually do not carry player names. "Anyone can pick

any random number," the official said. "The jersey numbers are only sacrosanct for international games." Mukesh Kumar, who wore No. 49 during his senior Test debut in the West Indies, would continue with that number if selected for official matches.

## BCCI Pays Tribute to Indian Armed Forces Ahead of RCB-PBKS Final

**Ahmedabad, (HS) :** The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) organised a special ceremony to honour the Indian armed forces ahead of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 final between Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) and Punjab Kings (PBKS) at the Narendra Modi Stadium on Tuesday. Shankar Mahadevan headlined the IPL 2025 closing ceremony along with his sons Siddharth and Shivam, filled with patriotic songs like 'Ae Watan', 'Vande Mataram' and 'Phir Bhi Dil Hai Hindustani' after the success of Operation Sindoor, which resulted in India striking terror



camp in Pakistan in retaliation to Pahalagam terror attack that claimed 26 lives. Helicopters carrying the flags of the three forces - Army, Air Force and Navy- flew over the stadium - as the strong crowd welcomed them with an uproar of

applause. Chants of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' broke out in the stadium as fans acknowledged the services of the forces. Amongst the many in attendance was ICC chairman Jay Shah along with his family. The IPL 2025 season was temporarily

suspended for a week in the wake of rising tensions between India and Pakistan, following the Pahalagam attack. Once both nations announced a ceasefire agreement, the tournament resumed with a revised schedule. As a result, the final, initially planned for May 26, was pushed to June 3. In the resumed leg of the season, the BCCI has consistently made efforts to show solidarity with the armed forces. At every match since the restart, the national anthem has been played before the first ball, and 'Thank You, Armed Forces' messages have been prominently displayed on the giant screens inside stadiums.

## Indonesia Open: Sindhu Goes Past Okuhara, Sen Crashes Out



**Jakarta, (HS) :** Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu fought her way into the second round of the Indonesia Open Super 1000 badminton tournament while Lakshya Sen made an early exit after a hard-fought loss in the opening round on Tuesday. Sindhu edged past her long-time rival Nozomi Okuhara of Japan in a thrilling one-hour and 19-minute women's singles match, winning 22-20, 21-23, 21-15.

Sindhu and Okuhara were locked in a hard-fought battle marked by unforgotten errors and multiple game and match points. In the opening game, the Indian

shuttler displayed nerves of steel, saving a game point and firing timely attacking shots to edge it 22-20. The second game saw Sindhu take a narrow early lead before trailing 7-11 at the interval. She rallied back strongly and earned two match points with a powerful cross-court smash. But repeated errors allowed Okuhara to draw level at 20-all and the Japanese shuttler eventually took the game 23-21. In the deciding game, both players adopt a cautious approach, avoiding unnecessary risks. Sindhu led 11-9 at the break and then found her rhythm, stringing together a series of winners to race ahead 20-12. She earned eight match points and converted the fifth to seal the victory and advance to the round of 16.

In other matches, Anupama Upadhyaya bowed out following a straight-games defeat to South Korea's Kim Ga Eun. Later in the day, HS Prannoy and the men's doubles duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty are scheduled to take the court.

## French Open: Alexander of Kazakhstan beats Jack in 4th round



**PARIS, (HS) :** Alexander Bublik became the first man from Kazakhstan to reach the quarterfinals at a Grand Slam tournament, eliminating No. 5 Jack Draper 5-7, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 on Monday at the French Open. The 27-year-old Bublik dropped to the court, smudging himself with the red clay, when he finished off the biggest win of his career after about 2 1/2 hours. "Sometimes in life, there is only one chance, and I had a feeling that that was mine and I couldn't let it slip," he told the crowd afterward. "Standing here is the best moment of my life. Period."

Moments later, he joked: "I'm standing here like I won the thing." Bublik managed to produce a total of 68 winners, 31 more than the left-handed Draper. At No. 62, Bublik is the lowest-ranked man to earn a pair of victories at Roland-Garros against opponents ranked in the top 10 since No. 100 Andrei Medvedev in 1999. Bublik came back from a two-set deficit to defeat No. 9 Alex de Minaur in the second round last week. "I have a certain skill set to play tennis," Bublik said, "and it worked marvelously today - 100% one of the best days of my life and one of the best matches I have ever played in my life." Draper called himself "incredibly disappointed with the result."

After reaching his first major semifinal at last year's U.S. Open, Draper has been having the best season of his career, winning his first Masters 1000 title at Indian Wells, California, in March and breaking into the top 10 of the rankings. "Didn't play a bad match. I thought he played incredibly well," Draper said about Bublik. "He didn't allow me to play my tennis, I don't think."