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

English Daily



SC criticizes OPSC for refusing to acknowledge mistake made in evaluation of answer sheet



New Delhi, (HS) : Supreme Court strongly criticized Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC). The commission is very stubborn in its attitude, the Supreme Court further added while hearing a matter concerning the Commission. The Supreme Court said that, the OPSC thinks it is very superior and that is why the commission does not admit to making mistakes. The Supreme Court has come down heavily on the OPSC for not admitting mistakes in the OJS answer sheet evaluation process. A three-member bench of the Supreme Court comprising of Justice Surya Kant, Justice Deepankar Dutt and Justice Vijay Bishnoi has challenged the High Court verdict and dismissed the appeal filed by OPSC. According to reports, the High Court had ordered the Commission to pay a compensation of one lakh rupees to OJS-2022 candidate Jyotirmayee Dutta for the error in the evaluation process. Along with this, it had also made strong remarks on OPSC. This was challenged by OPSC in the Supreme Court. The Commission's lawyer had argued for the removal of the negative comment given by the Orissa High Court against the OPSC. The Supreme Court said, the Commission cannot make such a serious mistake in the evaluation of the answer sheet. Such a mistake in the evaluation cannot be ignored. The Commission should be held responsible for this.

Justice Deepankar Das commented, "if you had accepted from the beginning that there was some mistake on our part and we would have investigated it, then this case would have ended there." However, the Supreme Court clarified that the negative comment given by the High Court on the OPSC will not be taken as a precedent for future cases.

Sindoor has become symbol of valour, says PM Modi

BHOPAL, (HS) : Maintaining that Operation Sindoor has made it bluntly clear that the proxy war by Pakistan through terrorism will no longer be allowed to continue, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday declared, "The entire nation's firm resolve is that every bullet will be responded with a bomb."

"Operation Sindoor is Indian history's biggest and most successful anti-terror operation. Our forces destroyed targets hundreds of kilometres into enemy territory, something that Pakistan had never even imagined. Operation Sindoor has made it bluntly clear that proxy war against India via terrorism will no longer continue. We will hit them in their homes, and those aiding the terrorists will have to pay a heavy price," Modi said while addressing the first all-women gathering in Bhopal. Amid the fluttering of national flags at the mega women empowerment meet, marking the 300th birth anniversary of the legendary 18th-century queen of the Malwa kingdom, Lokmata Devi Ahilyabai Holkar, the PM said, "It's the first resolve of 140 crore Indians, if you fire bullets, then each bullet will be responded



with a bomb by us." "Sindoor (vermillion) is integral to Indian culture. It symbolises women power; it has been worn by Lord Hanuman while being coloured with devotion to Lord Ram. Sindoor is also offered during Shakti Puja. But now, Sindoor has become the symbol of India's bravery." "The Pahalgam attack was also an attack on our rich culture and aimed to divide our society. It also challenged our women power, which ultimately scripted the death and destruction of terrorists and their masters hundreds of kilometres into enemy territory." While

underscoring that Operation Sindoor has also emerged as a symbol of the strength of India's women power, the PM highlighted the role of women officers in the armed forces and female soldiers of the Border Security Force (BSF) in the successful operation. "In Pahalgam, terrorists not only shed the blood of Indians, but also attacked our culture. They tried to divide our society and the biggest thing is that the terrorists have challenged the women power of India," Modi said. "This challenge has become the death knell for the terrorists and

their handlers. Operation Sindoor is the biggest and most successful operation in the history of India against terrorists. While the Pakistan army could not even imagine, our army destroyed the terrorist hideouts," he added.

"This time, 75 women have become members of Parliament. Our effort is to increase this number. This is the spirit behind the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam. Women reservation in Parliament and state assemblies has been achieved now, which had remained pending for a long time," he said. Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, also known as the Women's Reservation Bill, is a landmark legislation that aims to reserve one-third of the total seats in the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies. "This means that the BJP government is empowering our sisters and daughters at every level and in every field," he said. The prime minister also said the world is witnessing the capability of India's daughters in national defence today. "Even for this, the government took many steps in the last decade. From school to the battlefield, the country today has unprecedented faith in the bravery of its

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Ahilyabai Holkar, A Beacon of Women's Empowerment And Good Governance: CM



Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi described Maharani Ahilyabai Holkar as not only a ruler but also a social reformer whose life and work serve as an inspiration and an exemplary model of women's empowerment, good governance, and social service. He made these remarks during the state-level celebration of her 300th birth anniversary at Jayadev Bhavan. The Chief Minister highlighted that Ahilyabai Holkar was a remarkable woman who, through her justice, courage, and unparalleled dedication to her people, remains immortal in

Indian history. Her life inspires Odisha today, guiding the path toward good governance and social welfare.

He noted that Odisha, too, has many examples of women's strength, and like Ahilyabai, there is a need to promote justice, education, and equality in society. The state government has implemented transformative schemes like the Subhadra Yojana to empower women, fostering their economic, social, and self-reliant progress. The Chief Minister observed that many state governments draw inspiration from Ahilyabai's

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Dr Amarendra Nath Mohanty Appointed Director of Health Services



Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : In a key administrative reshuffle, the Odisha government has appointed Dr Amarendra Nath Mohanty as the new Director of Health Services. The Health & Family Welfare Department issued a notification to this effect on May 30, stating that the appointment takes place with immediate effect.

Dr Mohanty previously served as the Director of the State Institute of Health & Family Welfare (SIHFW). Following his elevation, Dr Dillip Kumar Panda, the current Superintendent of Capital Hospital in Bhubaneswar, will take over as the new Director of SIHFW. Along with these appointments, four senior medical officers in the Odisha Medical & Health Services (OMHS) Cadre have been promoted from the Senior Administrative Grade to the Super Time Pay Grade on an ad-hoc basis. These promotions will remain valid for up to one year, pending recommendations from the Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC) or until the officers retire, whichever comes earlier. The promoted officers include Dr Mohanty and Dr Panda, along with Dr Sashi Bhusan Patel, Dr Rajashree Pattnaik, and Dr Rupabhanu Mishra. As part of the same reshuffle, Dr Sashi Bhusan Patel, who previously served as the Superintendent of Rourkela Government Hospital, has been appointed as Director-cum-Ex-Officio Special Secretary (Technical) in the Health & Family Welfare Department. The notification signals a strategic move by the state government to strengthen the top leadership within the public health system as Odisha continues to enhance its healthcare delivery and administrative efficiency.

CM Urges Youth to Say 'No To Tobacco, Yes To Life'

Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : Approximately 14 lakh people in India lose their lives every year due to tobacco consumption, accounting for nearly 10% of all deaths in the country. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi emphasized the urgent need for the public, especially the youth, to take serious steps toward breaking free from this menace. He made these remarks during the launch of an awareness campaign on World No Tobacco Day at the Lok Seva Bhawan Convention Hall.

On this occasion, the Chief Minister urged everyone to join the awareness campaign against narcotics, adulterated, and toxic substances, calling for a collective resolve to embrace life over addiction with the slogan, "Say No to Tobacco, Say Yes to Life." He highlighted that the campaign to curb the use and spread of tobacco, toxic liquor, and drugs will run across the state in four phases: from May 31 to June 26, June 26 to August 15, October 2, and December 25 to January 15, 2026, spanning nearly a year.

The Chief Minister stressed that awareness is the only way to prevent tobacco-related deaths. Despite knowing its dangers, many people struggle to quit. He noted that saving even one person through awareness can save a life. He called for the government's campaign to reach every household to educate people about the harmful effects



and health risks of tobacco use. Highlighting the severity of tobacco use, the Chief Minister stated that it is the primary cause of oral and lung cancer. He remarked that while death is inevitable, it need not be painful, urging everyone to adopt a healthy lifestyle. He also cautioned against misleading advertisements for tobacco, cigarettes, and narcotics that influence the youth. To curb the spread of narcotics, toxic liquor, and illicit alcohol, the Excise, Home, and Narcotics Control Bureau departments are intensifying joint efforts, with strict action against offenders. The Special Task Force (STF) has been empowered to completely stop the smuggling of

tobacco and other narcotics. The Chief Minister announced that a new Excise Policy will soon be formulated to control all forms of narcotics. During the event, the Chief Minister unveiled the campaign's logo, TV spot, theme song, and informational booklet to raise awareness about the dangers of narcotics and to eliminate the trade of adulterated, toxic, and illicit liquor. Law, Excise, and Public Works Minister Prithviraj Harichandan, who attended the event, stated that addiction leads to death, making it a moral duty to raise awareness. He noted that this is the first time such a widespread awareness campaign has been launched in Odisha, aiming to reach every individual in society.

He called for other departments and civil society to join the effort and announced stricter penalties under the Excise Act. Ekamra-Bhubaneswar MLA Babu Singh expressed the vision of a prosperous and developed Odisha free from addiction, stating that curbing narcotics would also reduce crime. He advocated for strong action against addiction.

The campaign's brand ambassador, Padma Shri awardee and international sand artist Sudarshan Pattnaik, emphasized that it is everyone's responsibility to take this initiative to every household. Excise Department Commissioner and Secretary Guba Poonam Tapas Kumar delivered the welcome address.

India's Covid Cases Rise to Nearly 3,000, These States are Worst Hit

New Delhi, (HS) : India's active coronavirus cases have risen to nearly 3,000, with Kerala fighting the latest resurgence of infections - followed by Maharashtra, and Delhi. Official data shows a quick rise in the cases within four days. While India recorded a total of 1,010 cases by May 26, the official data by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare shows a total of 2,710 infections as of May 30.

According to the data, Kerala has recorded 1,147 cases, Maharashtra 424, Delhi 294, and Gujarat 223. Tamil Nadu has recorded a total of 148 cases so far, while Karnataka and West Bengal have reported 148 and 116

cases, respectively. Rajasthan has reported 51 cases, Uttar Pradesh 42, Puducherry 25, Haryana 20, Andhra Pradesh 16, Madhya Pradesh 10, Goa seven, and Odisha, Punjab, and Jammu Kashmir four each. Three states - Telangana, Arunachal Pradesh, and Chandigarh have reported three cases each, while Mizoram and Assam have two people detected with the infection each so far.

No active case has been reported from Andaman and Nicobar, Sikkim, and Himachal Pradesh. The official data for Bihar is not yet available. Data suggested at least seven died in recent weeks across India. Two



people who died in Maharashtra (1) and Delhi (1) had other severe ailments along with Covid-19. However, it is not yet clear whether others died due to the infection. All people who died,

except for the one in Punjab, were senior citizens, officials said. However, officials have said that the coronavirus cases are mild in nature and there is no need to

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7 COVID-19 Cases Reported In Odisha; Situation Under Control

Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : Odisha has reported a total of seven COVID-19 cases over the past two days, with five cases detected on Friday and two more confirmed on Saturday, according to Commissioner-cum-Secretary of the Health and Family Welfare Department Aswathy S. Addressing the media, Aswathy S. assured that the situation remains under control and there is no need for public panic. "Several of the

earlier detected cases have already recovered. The current number of active cases is minimal and well-managed," she said. The health department is actively monitoring the situation in coordination with the Union Health Ministry. "We are following all instructions issued by the ministry and have taken adequate measures to ensure preparedness. The state is fully equipped to handle the current caseload," she added. She further

noted that the variant currently in circulation is mild in nature. "According to reports from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Union Health Ministry, the present variant has low virulence. Therefore, the public need not worry," she emphasized. The official reiterated that Odisha's COVID-19 numbers are within manageable limits and the government remains vigilant.

**Bhaskar Parichha**

The narrative that Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru single-handedly brought down the British Empire oversimplifies a complex historical process. While their contributions

were significant, portraying them as the sole architects of Indian independence ignores

Uttarmarga: Where Freedom Reigns

the broader forces and countless individuals who shaped the empire's decline. This allegory reimagines the fall of the empire as a crumbling fortress, not toppled by two giants but eroded by a multitude of cracks. To credit Gandhi and Nehru alone is to ignore the tapestry of resistance woven by countless hands. Gandhi's nonviolence and Nehru's diplomacy were vital threads, but so were

the armed struggles, grassroots movements, and global shifts that pressured the empire. The fall of the British Empire was not the work of two men but the result of a collective storm-local and global, peaceful and militant, planned and spontaneous-that eroded the fortress until it could no longer stand.

The allegory of the crumbling fortress reminds us that history is not shaped by heroes alone but by the interplay of diverse forces. Gandhi and Nehru played pivotal roles, but the fall of the British Empire was a symphony of resistance, with millions as its orchestra. To focus solely on them is to miss the richness of the struggle and the resilience of those who fought in the shadows. Pratibha

Ray's original Odia novel, Uttarmarga, which was published nearly forty years ago, has now been translated by KanakHota, and it resonates with the above allegory. It serves as a tribute to the courage and sacrifices made by ordinary individuals during the fight for independence. The novel illustrates not only the passion and sacrifices of individuals during the fight for freedom but also their disappointment with a liberation that did not realize their long-held aspirations for equality and prosperity in postcolonial India. The main character, Diganta Keshari, departs from his home to participate in the freedom movement,

dreaming of witnessing the nation transform into the perfect realm-Ram Rajya. However, upon his return to the village two decades after Independence, he faces a different kind of oppression and malevolence inflicted by those he once regarded as kin.

When a destitute young woman is assaulted by a politician, Diganta reaffirms his commitment to seek justice. Ray makes a comparison from the Upanishads and suggests that freedom, achieved through struggle, is sacred, similar to a soul striving for redemption, ultimately transforming into an immortal being after enduring a prolonged period in hell. KanakHota's delightful translation of this cautionary tale acts as a vital reminder that, despite its imperfections, democracy remains the sole system that ensures the rule of law and protects individual liberties. Writes Hota, 'Uttarmarga marks a watershed moment in Ray's oeuvre. In this book, she does not look into the mythical past but walks the reader through the birth of a nation on 15 August 1947 and beyond. She seamlessly mingles autobiographical elements and historical facts such as marches, meetings, promulgations and agreements during the freedom struggle and the Second World War with her fictional narrative. The ideal schoolteacher Parshurama Das, who galvanizes the freedom movement in the

villages, is drawn after her father with the same name. Rama Devi, a freedom fighter from Odisha, leads the Salt March in real time and talks to Ray's fictional characters like SamaPuhana and Sebat. These hypertexts, thus, provide new contexts for the reader to understand the time and events that her book depicts.' Hota, who currently lives in the USA and relocated several years prior, is presently a writer and translator exploring new opportunities in the field. She rightly notes that novels written in the various regional languages of India have not received the level of critical acclaim that they truly deserve. As more literary works from these 'bhasa' languages are translated into English-the most widely spoken global lingua franca-they will ultimately receive the acknowledgment they deserve. As she puts it, it is essential to share our narratives with new audiences who may not yet be acquainted with them.

'Where Freedom Reigns' is a remarkable addition to the anthology of Odia classics that have been translated into English, highlighting its importance in bridging cultural and linguistic gaps.

Pratibha Ray/KanakHota
Rupa Publications
New Delhi

Rohit Sharma's Tumultuous Journey

Arun Mishra

From his Under-17 days, Rohit Sharma was identified as a promising talent for the future. Endowed with significant natural skill and an appealing style, he made batting appear effortless. Combining the Mumbai approach to batting with innate flair, he entered the Indian team at the age of 20 and quickly made a mark during the first T20 World Cup in South Africa in 2007 and in the triangular series in Australia in 2008.

However, there were also setbacks along his journey. On the day of his Test debut, he suffered an ankle injury in February 2010, which delayed his Test cap until November 2013. Additionally, he was excluded from the Indian squad that celebrated victory in the 50-over World Cup held in India in 2011. Although he began his Test career with centuries in his initial two matches, Rohit faced challenges in maintaining consistency and securing a stable position in the middle order. He revitalized his limited-overs career when he was asked to open in January 2013, and he replicated this success in Tests by becoming a red-ball opener in

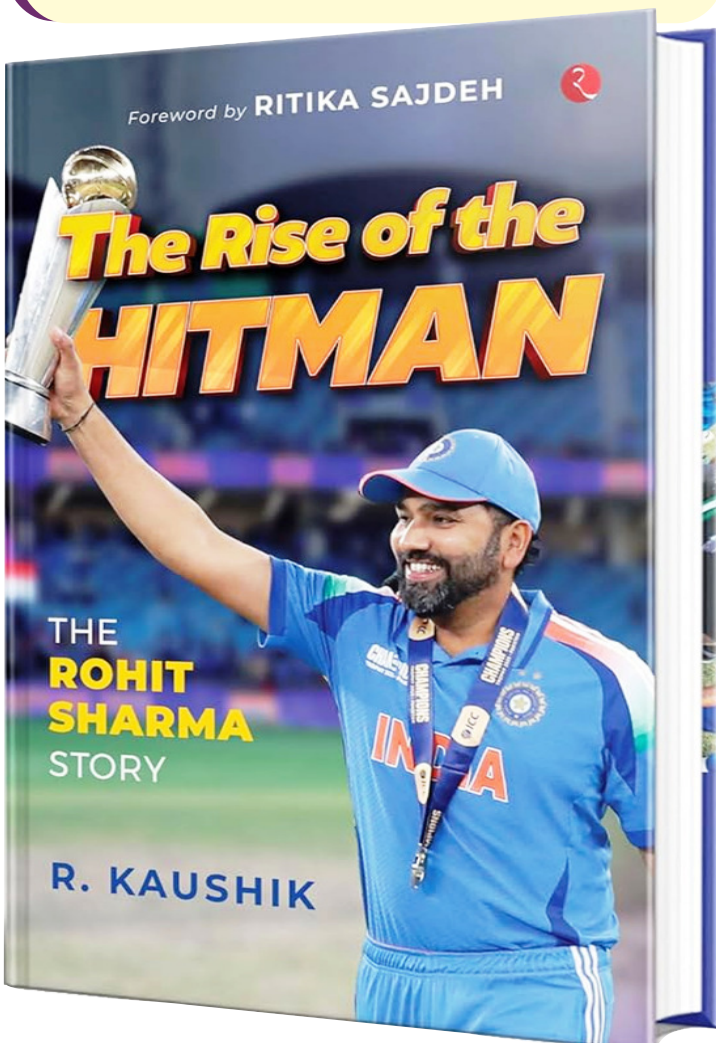
October 2019.

In early 2022, he was appointed as India's captain across all formats, taking over from ViratKohli. He played a crucial role in leading India to the final of the 50-over World Cup held at home in November 2023, breaking a long period of drought by winning the T20 World Cup in June 2024 and bringing home the Champions Trophy in March 2025. The Rise of the Hitman: The Rohit Sharma Story by R. Kaushik chronicles Rohit's tumultuous journey from his formative years in Borivali to his ultimate triumph in Bridgetown-viewed through the perspectives of his peers, friends, and coaches, all of whom agree that Rohit has remained consistent despite the numerous highs and lows of a highly rewarding career.R. Kaushik is a cricket journalist with three decades of experience. Previously the executive editor of Wisden India, he is currently a freelance writer based in Bengaluru. He is also the co-author of V.V.S. Laxman's acclaimed autobiography, 281 and Beyond.

With a foreword by Ritika Sajdeh, TheRohit Sharma Story is a must-read for his cricketing enthusiasts.

R. Kaushik**Rupa Publications****New Delhi**

The Rise of the Hitman: The Rohit Sharma Story

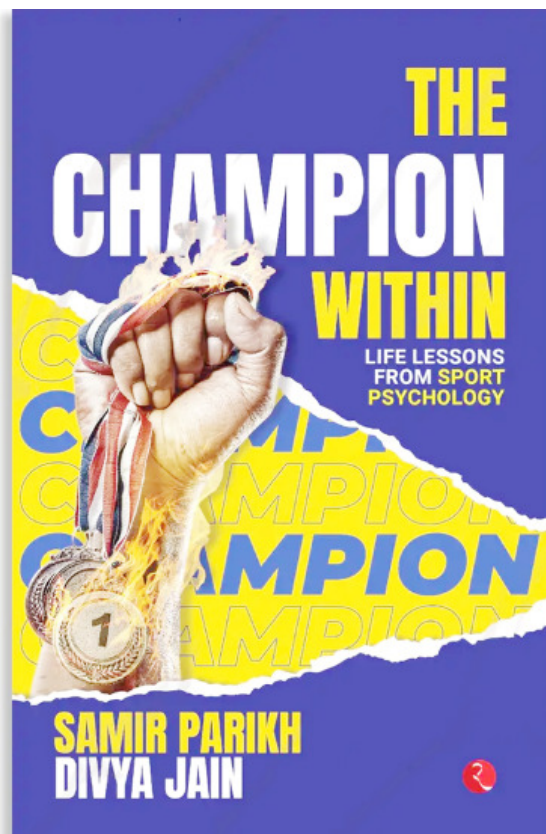
**Dharma Raj**

Dr. Samir Parikh is a renowned psychiatrist with nearly thirty years in mental health. He chairs the Fortis National Mental Health Program and Adayu Mindfulness, and is also an accomplished author, speaker, and mentor. Divya Jain is a sports psychologist and Head of Psychological Services for the Fortis National Mental Health Program, specializing in performance enhancement and mental health for athletes and organizations. Both have been selected by the Indian Olympic Association to support Team India at the 2024 Paris Olympic Games.

The Champion Within: Life Lessons from Sport Psychology addresses various inquiries related to sports and its psychological aspects. How frequently have you found yourself in front of the television, witnessing an athlete accomplish a feat you once deemed impossible-and marveled at their ability to inspire you not only through their strength but also through their courage and determination? It is undeniable that athletes are at the forefront of human performance. However, mental toughness is not an innate trait of athletes; they often carry the weight of expectations and are haunted by crippling doubts. So, what is required to become a champion? The Champion Within explores insights from sport psychology to uncover the mental fortitude of some of the most remarkable athletes in history, providing pathways for you to realize your true potential. This book is intended for all individuals-corporate professionals aiming for excellence, athletes and performing artists chasing their aspirations, and students looking for mental strategies to improve

states with varying population growth rates. The book is structured into ten chapters, beginning with an overview of the north-south divide, the historical debates surrounding population control, and conceptual evaluations of demographic transition theories. It features comprehensive demographic histories, assessments of regional population trends, and discussions on the interplay between demography, economic growth, and urbanization. The concluding chapters tackle the political ramifications of delimitation, critique previous population control strategies, and propose scenarios for future seat distribution. The book has received acclaim for its thorough research, evidence-based insights, and stimulating policy recommendations. It is regarded as essential reading for both policymakers and citizens as India nears

The Champion Within: Life Lessons from Sport Psychology



their academic achievements.

Leveraging decades of expertise and research, the authors integrate sport psychology with contemporary scientific findings to deliver a straightforward guide that is both practical and motivational. Each chapter provides readers with the chance to contemplate, featuring real-world examples and actionable strategies. You will discover how the greatest of all time (GOATs) overcome unavoidable obstacles such as self-doubt, pressure, and failure-insights that are just as relevant for addressing professional challenges, personal aspirations, and the obstacles of life.

Samir Parikh /Divya Jain
Rupa Publications
New Delhi

Demography Representation Delimitation: The North - South Divide in India

Bhaskar Parichha

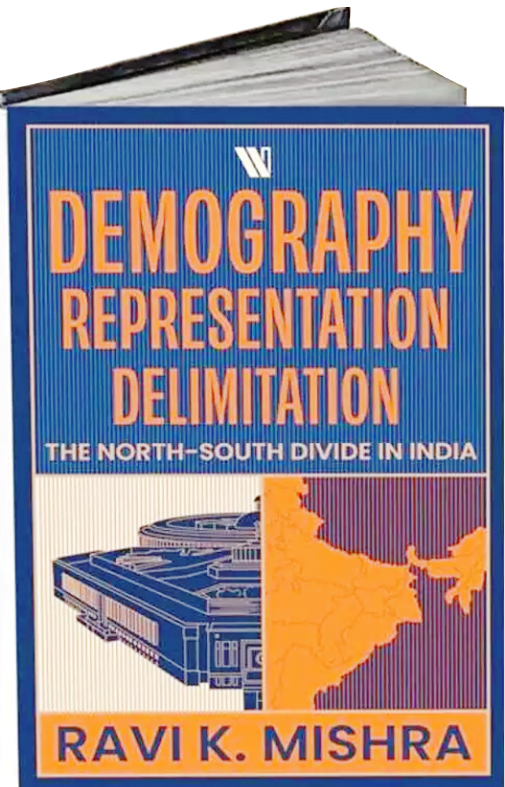
The prevailing narrative regarding delimitation suggests that southern India successfully managed its population growth through efficient family planning, in contrast to the northern region. Consequently, the argument posits that delimitation-anticipated to occur following the Census in 2026-would disadvantage the south for its commendable performance. In this insightful and evidence-based book, "Demography, Representation, Delimitation: The North-South Divide in India," Ravi K. Mishra, scholar specializing in modern Indian history and Joint Director of the Prime Ministers Museum and Library, challenges this assumption. Mishra's book is a significant and timely contribution to the ongoing discussions surrounding political representation and the allocation of parliamentary seats in India. This work delves into the constitutional requirement for delimitation, which involves redrawing

Challenging Dominant Perspective on Demography

electoral boundaries based on population data. This process has been on hold since 1971 to avoid penalizing states that have successfully managed their population growth, particularly those in South India.

Mishra analyzes census data dating back to 1881 to reveal that, contrary to popular belief, southern states had higher population growth rates than their northern counterparts until around 1971. It was only after this period that northern states began to outpace the south in population growth. The book challenges the notion that the south has effectively controlled its population while the north has failed to do so, arguing that historical data does not support this claim. In fact, all regions of India have experienced significant population growth at

different times. Mishra provides a comprehensive overview of India's demographic history, highlighting how improvements in nutrition, sanitation, and healthcare led to lower mortality rates, followed by a decline in fertility rates,



ultimately resulting in population stabilization-a phenomenon observed worldwide. The book underscores that the timing of these demographic transitions has varied across regions, leading to current disparities in political representation. The ongoing freeze on the increase and redistribution of Lok Sabha seats has resulted in northern and western states being underrepresented, while southern states enjoy a relatively higher level of representation in Parliament.

Mishra advocates for an increase in the total number of Lok Sabha seats, suggesting an expansion from the current 543 to 728 or even 791 seats, to ensure that no state loses its representation. The book warns that merely reallocating seats based on outdated population data would not adequately address these disparities. Mishra offers practical recommendations for conducting delimitation once the current freeze concludes, highlighting the importance of honoring the dignity and rights of all regions. He also examines the political and constitutional obstacles to achieving "One Person, One Vote, One Value," while reconciling the interests of

Ravi K. Mishra
Westland
Chennai

Principal Secy Usha Padhee Reviews Urban Development And Transport Works In Keonjhar



Bhubaneswar, (DMC): Principal Secretary of Urban Development & Housing and Commerce & Transport Departments, Usha Padhee, visited Keonjhar district today to review key urban development and transport-related works, as directed by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi. During her visit, Padhee inspected Sponge Colony under Ward No. 9 of Keonjhar Municipality, which has been facing persistent waterlogging and drainage issues for several years. Accompanied by senior officials, she assessed the root causes of the problem and explored possible

solutions. She also interacted with local residents, assuring them of early redressal and urging their cooperation for effective implementation of remedial measures. Padhee then reviewed the facilities at the Government Bus Stand and the Municipal Bus Stand operated by the Odisha State Transport Corporation (OSTC). She assessed infrastructure gaps and held discussions with OSTC managers and regional transport officers to streamline services and address operational challenges. In a comprehensive review meeting with district officials, Padhee took

stock of ongoing urban and transport projects and emphasized the need for accelerated implementation. Ahead of the monsoon season, she directed officials to resolve drainage and waterlogging issues across the district, ensuring citizens' hardships are minimised. Padhee reiterated the government's commitment to improving urban infrastructure and public transport systems in Keonjhar and other regions of the state. Her visit aimed to expedite the implementation of urban development projects and enhance the quality of life for citizens.

Odisha Health Dept Observes World No Tobacco Day 2025 With Statewide Initiative



Bhubaneswar, (DMC): The Health and Family Welfare Department, Government of Odisha, in collaboration with the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP), observed World No Tobacco Day 2025 with a state-level function held at Geeta Gobinda Sadan today. Commissioner-cum-Secretary of the Health and Family Welfare Department Aswathy S., chaired the programme and reaffirmed the State Government's strong commitment to achieving a

tobacco-free future through coordinated, multi-sectoral efforts. The event underscored the need for interdepartmental collaboration and public participation to curb tobacco consumption and foster a healthier society. On the occasion, a signature campaign was launched to encourage public pledges supporting a tobacco-free Odisha. Newly developed Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials were also released to raise awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco use,

especially among youth and vulnerable communities. Another key highlight was the launch of the NTCP Annual Activity Report 2024-25, showcasing district-wise progress, enforcement initiatives, and major achievements over the past year. The event also witnessed the digital rollout of the Tobacco-Free Educational Institutions (ToFEI) web application. This platform will aid schools and colleges in self-assessing and reporting compliance with national tobacco-free guidelines.

Training On Data Interpretation And Economic Outcome Analysis To Agricultural Officers Held

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): The second phase of the training titled "Capacity Building Training on Data Interpretation and Economic Impact Analysis" was organized jointly by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Empowerment, Government of Odisha and International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). According to an official press release, the two-day training programme held in Bhubaneswar aimed to engage departmental officers and stakeholders in agricultural policy formulation and sector-level planning. The programme was inaugurated by the Additional Secretary of the Department, Subhansu Mishra and said that the use of data for planning and evaluation has already started yielding tangible



results in the agriculture sector of Odisha, and such training is very important to sustain this momentum. Deputy Director of Agriculture, Sangram Keshari Patnaik and Assistant Director of Agriculture, Nagan Kumar Mallick also participated in the training and said that strengthening internal

data capacity is very important to promote innovation, accountability and responsiveness in service delivery to farmers. The training was attended by around 50 participants, including representatives from leading organizations like PRADAN, Samagra, ACCESS Development

Services, Centre for Sustainable Markets (CSM), WASSAN, Niruthi and the Indian School of Business (ISB). The second phase of training provided on concepts in data analysis, visualization and agricultural policy evaluation using datasets like NSSO, Census of Agriculture, and PLFS and tools like Excel, STATA, R, and Python, and its practical applications. The training, led by experts from the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) advised that, it was not just about conceptual clarity but also encouraged the officials to apply what they have learned in their own fields. Certificates were distributed at the end of the session and continuous efforts were encouraged to lead the economy by leading the agriculture sector.

World No Tobacco Day 2025: Sudarshan Pattnaik sculpts sand art delivering powerful message

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): On the occasion of 'World No Tobacco Day', internationally acclaimed sand artist and Padma Shri Awardee Sudarshan Pattnaik sculpted a sand art on Puri Beach delivering a powerful message about the harmful effects of tobacco use. The sand art showed a powerful image of a young person's skeleton, symbolizing how harmful tobacco can be. Cigarettes were placed near the skeleton. Next to it, a woman and child were shown grieving, showing the deep sadness and pain that tobacco-related deaths can cause. The theme of Sudarshan's sand art highlights how important it is to stop using



tobacco before it's too late. His strong message reminds us of the deadly effects of tobacco

and the need for everyone to work together to stop tobacco-related deaths. Taking to his X

handle, he shared the picture of his sand art and wrote, "World No Tobacco Day: Through this installation, I hope to remind people that tobacco addiction doesn't just harm individuals—it deeply affects families and communities. Let's choose health over habit. SayNoToTobacco. My sand art at Puri beach." Sudarshan Pattnaik said that around 8 million people around the world and 1 million in India die each year because of tobacco-related diseases. Through his art work, he encouraged people everywhere to spread awareness about the dangers of tobacco and work towards a tobacco-free world.

CRUT imposes stricter rules on driver recruitment following fatal bus accidents

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): In response to a series of fatal bus accidents, the Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT) has announced a stringent overhaul of its driver recruitment and training policies. The move comes just days after a tragic incident at Khandagiri Square, where a pedestrian lost his life after being struck by a CRUT bus, sparking public outrage and vandalism of the vehicle. During a high-level meeting held on Friday, chaired by CRUT's Operations Director N. Thirumala Naik, senior officials expressed deep concern over the rising number of accidents involving the city's public transport buses. Over the past three months, more than five people have reportedly died in

similar incidents. To address the growing public dissatisfaction and ensure commuter safety, the agency has decided to reassess the driving skills of all existing drivers. A key resolution from the meeting includes a ban on the recruitment of drivers with less than five years of professional experience. Additionally, third-party agencies will no longer be permitted to appoint drivers arbitrarily. The meeting also emphasized the need to intensify driver training programs and enforce stricter operational protocols across the transport network. CRUT officials stated that the new measures aim to curb reckless driving and restore public trust in the city's transportation system.

Vedanta Aluminium Marks Menstrual Hygiene Day 2025 with Week-long Awareness and Outreach Program

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): On Menstrual Hygiene Day, Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, reaffirmed its commitment to women's health through a week-long initiative aimed at raising awareness and promoting menstrual hygiene practices across its operations in Odisha. Observed globally on May 28, Menstrual Hygiene Day is a clarion call to end the stigma surrounding menstruation and ensure equitable access to safe and affordable menstrual care for women and girls. Vedanta Aluminium's campaign this year focused on empowering adolescent girls and women with accurate information, resources, and support to manage their menstrual and reproductive health with dignity. The program, which reached over 350 women and adolescent girls, included a series of impactful activities. In Lanjigarh, home to Vedanta's alumina refinery, the Red Dot Campaign was rolled out, encouraging open dialogue and challenging societal taboos associated with periods. In a bid to normalize conversations around menstruation, medical expert Dr. Nareen Ali led awareness sessions on menstrual health and hygiene practices, providing scientific insights and practical advice to participants. A comprehensive workshop was conducted for more than 100 women and adolescents,



delving into aspects of sexual and reproductive health to equip them with knowledge for informed and safe decisions. Furthering its commitment to basic hygiene, Vedanta Aluminium continued the regular distribution of sanitary kits, which include essential hygiene products such as sanitary pads, to support daily needs and promote consistent hygiene practices among women. In addition, around the company's Jamkhani, Kuraloi, and Ghogharpalli coal operations in Jharsuguda and Sundargarh districts, Vedanta Aluminium has planned a special outreach initiative to distribute heat bags and 'Menstrupedia' educational

booklets in schools. These booklets, designed to educate both girls and boys about puberty and physical changes in a friendly and inclusive manner, aim to foster awareness from a young age and cultivate gender-sensitive understanding around menstrual health. Speaking on the occasion, Sunil Gupta, Chief Operations Officer - Vedanta Aluminium, said: "Ensuring menstrual health and hygiene is a societal imperative. Through continued efforts like these, we aim to empower women and adolescents with the knowledge and means to manage their health with dignity, while encouraging communities to

break the silence and stigma around menstruation." Vedanta Aluminium's commitment to sustainable community development is rooted in its belief that good health and awareness are key enablers of women's empowerment. The company continues to champion grassroots health and hygiene programs across its areas of operation, in alignment with its ESG vision and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 3 (Good Health & Well-being) and SDG 5 (Gender Equality). Vedanta Aluminium remains dedicated to empowering local

communities through promoting education, healthcare, sustainable livelihood, infrastructure, and grassroots sports and culture. These efforts underline Vedanta Aluminium's commitment to driving transformation within and beyond its operational areas, fostering a sense of community contribution towards the overall growth and advancement of Odisha. By collaborating closely with local authorities and community stakeholders, the company ensures its interventions lead to tangible socio-economic progress. 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.

Arrested Chief Engineer Sarangi Amassed Assets 483% Beyond Known Income



Bhubaneswar, (DMC): Chief Engineer (Roads) in the Rural Development Department Baikuntha Nath Sarangi was arrested today by Odisha Vigilance after investigations revealed that he possessed assets disproportionate to his known sources of income by a staggering 483%. According to an official press release, the arrest came just a day before Sarangi's scheduled retirement. He was produced before the Court of the Special Judge, Vigilance, Angul, following extensive raids carried out across Angul, Bhubaneswar, and Puri. The seizures include: Rs 2.56 crore in cash, including Rs 30 lakh hidden in a carton box Two double-storey buildings in Angul Flats in Bhubaneswar and Puri Seven prime land plots. 1.14 kg of gold ornaments Investments worth Rs 2.7 crore in mutual funds, shares, and insurance Bank deposits exceeding Rs 1.5 crore 15 imported luxury watches and household items valued at Rs 47.57 lakh One car and a two-wheeler A detailed calculation of Sarangi's income, expenses, and assets revealed that he owned wealth grossly disproportionate to his lawful earnings. He has been booked under Sections 13(2) read with 13(1)(b)/12 of the Prevention of Corruption Act (Amendment, 2018). Vigilance sources also confirmed that Sarangi's wife is under the scanner, with several assets reportedly registered in the names of family members.

Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Visits IIMC Dhenkanal; Reviews Campus Development and Assures Support for Future Growth

Dhenkanal, (PIB) : Shri Sanjay Jaju, Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, visited the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) Dhenkanal today to review the progress of ongoing renovation work and to discuss the future development plans of the regional campus. During his visit, Shri Jaju inspected the physical infrastructure including the boys' and girls' hostels, academic block, audio-video facilities, and the administrative

block. He engaged in detailed discussions with Regional Director Prof. Dr. Anand Pradhan regarding the institute's current status, academic initiatives, infrastructure needs, and strategic roadmap for expansion. Prof. Pradhan briefed the Secretary on the challenges faced by the campus and the opportunities ahead, particularly in enhancing academic offerings and increasing student capacity. The discussions also touched upon



the need for launching postgraduate (MA) programmes

and strengthening industry-academia engagement. Expressing

satisfaction with the work being carried out, Shri Jaju appreciated the efforts of the campus team and assured full support from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to help IIMC Dhenkanal grow into a leading centre of excellence in media and communication education in eastern India. The visit reflects the Ministry's continued commitment to strengthening regional centres and ensuring inclusive access to quality media education across the country.

148th Shital Shasthi Celebration in Barpali



Bargarh, (DMC) : The 148th Shital Shasthi Yatra took place today in Barpali, located in the Bargarh district, featuring the traditional marriage ceremony of Kapileshwar Baba and Maa Parvati, conducted by Vedic rituals. The festivities began with a grand forest procession of Kapileshwar Baba, which commenced last night from Bhandar Griha. The procession circumambulated the city before arriving at Meher Kavi Paraa in Himadri Nagar around 6 a.m. This year's bridal party, led by Sanjay Meher and his wife, Sasmita Meher, hosted a welcoming reception for the many guests attending the wedding.

The procession included various groups such as giant figures, dhol baja performers, tribal dancers, and a DJ, attracting thousands of devotees to join the celebrations. Upon reaching the wedding venue, the bridal party was greeted with enthusiasm. The marriage ceremony was officiated by Pandit Hemant Mishra, Pandit Sadananda Dash, and Pinaki Dash at the Himadri Nagar Puja Mandap, where the couple was ceremonially united at Mahendra Lagna at 12:40 p.m. Following the ceremony, a grand wedding feast was held in Himadri Nagar,

allowing thousands of devotees to partake in the meal, while additional food prasad was distributed by the Yatra Committee in Anna Kot. In the evening, Kapileshwar Baba and Mata Parvati made a notable appearance in Dimadri Nagar, drawing a large crowd. The streets of Barpali were filled with participants, with Meena Bazaar at the High School Ground also experiencing significant foot traffic. The celebration continued under the reign of the king of Tadakaa Sur, with dowries being collected during the city's procession. This year, Golap Dash's portrayal of Tadakaa Sur, along with his engaging dialogue, captivated the audience. The entertainment program for the Nataraja festival took place at the High School Ground and continued late into the night. To ensure public safety amid the large gathering, a significant police presence was deployed. Various entertainment activities occurred across the city squares and in Himadri Nagar, contributing to the lively atmosphere of the celebration.

RE-JANG LA Kalash Yatra reaches Bolangir: AHIR Regiment in Indian Army demanded



Bolangir, (DMC) : The ReJANG LA Kalash Yatra, launched by Akhil Bhartiya Yadav Yadav Maha Sabha, carrying the pious soul of REJANG LA, arrived in Bolangir on Saturday, enroute to Kalahandi. REJANG LA is a high altitude pass in Ladakh region. On 18 November 1962, the all-Ahirs Charlie Company of the 13 Kumaon Battalion, Kumaon Regiment, heroically defended Rezang La Pass in Ladakh, against a Chinese attack. Led by Maj. Shaitan Singh, 120 soldiers fought fiercely, with 110 martyred. Their bravery halted China's advance, saving Chushul airport and preventing the occupation of Ladakh. An estimated 1,300 Chinese soldiers died in the battle. President of Bolangir Zilla Javahar Mahasabha, and MLA Kantabanji, Laxman Bag led the rally. In Bolangir, Laxman Bag was supported by former Chairman of Bolangir Block Golap Bag and many others welcomed the Kalash Yatra. Speaking to mediapersons, Kantabanji MLA Laxman Bag says, people from all sections participated in today's Kalash Yatra, besides the Yadavs. Bag recalled the bravery of Indian Army Jawans who fought bravely against the Chinese in REJANG LA, 1962 and majority of them were AHIR soldiers. We demand a separate AHIR regiment in the Army says Laxman Bag further.

Paradip Port Authority Charts Course for Ambitious Growth in Current Fiscal at Port Users Meet

Paradip, (DMC) : The Paradip Port Authority (PPA) hosted a comprehensive Port Users Meet on Friday at its convention center, bringing together key stakeholders to strategize for significant growth in the current financial year. Shri P. L. Haranadh, Chairman, PPA, graced the occasion as Chief Guest and addressed the assembled port community. He highlighted Paradip Port's esteemed position, stating, "Paradip Port isn't simply number one among Indian Major Ports, but first among all Indian ports in terms of rail borne traffic." He further reiterated PPA's commitment to modernization, outlining the Vision 2030 goal for all berths to be fully mechanized. Shri Haranadh underscored the port's ambitious target for the current fiscal and sought the "whole-hearted cooperation and dedicated efforts" of all stakeholders to achieve an impressive 161 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) cargo throughput. Nilabhra Dasgupta, Deputy Chairman, PPA, exhorted "Team PPA to put up their best efforts forward to reach newer heights in current fiscal." The event was capably compered by G. Edison, Traffic Manager, PPA. The Port Users Meet served as a crucial platform for collaborative planning, reaffirming Paradip Port Authority's commitment to operational excellence and sustainable growth in the maritime sector.



Sea Erosion a major threat for costal area of Jagatsinghpur



Jagatsinghpur, (DMC) : Sea Erosion at costal Villages of Jagatsinghpur district is a major threat for Erasama block of Jagatsinghpur district. Though this calamity detected after 1999 Super Cyclone and a Central team visited Jagatsinghpur costal belt to prepare a plan for remedial measure but no specific action taken till to-day. At that time the Central team suggested a plan for strong & Stone embankment and made discussion with district administration and State as well but no action taken. Within 25 years this Sea Erosion problem already spoiled Siali sea beach, a leading tourist sport of the district. This calamity already damaged the view point at Siali beach under Padmapur GP of Erasama block. Siali View point was 800 meters away from sea but sea has covered 800 mtrs distance and leading towards locality by damaging costal forest. The then Minister Raghunandan Das could not keep his promise to save Siali tourist point a leading & attractive sea beach of Jagatsinghpur district. Now Sea Erosion has already touched the nearby GP Padmapur, Ram tara & Gada harishpur and local people in fear for life and property. During this low pressure high tide entered towards locality and people demanding their safety before state and district administration.

Global Environmental Protection Week inaugurated

Puri, (DMC) : Like every year, this year's world environment has been organized by The Puri Suraksha Parishad, Puri. The safety week will be held from May 30 to June 5. Today In the afternoon, at the opening ceremony held at the Youth Hostel Former Assistant Conservator of Forest Dayanidhi Tripathy was the chief guest. While inaugurating the festival, He said how the environment of the world is in recent times. He expressed concern over the devastation and said that human beings are serving their own interests. The environment continues to wreak havoc on the world, which drags the world into the face of danger. Taking. Every year, more than two lakh air pollution in India is caused by various types of infections. They are dying of disease. Ruchimitra Jagdev Mohapatra, social worker and director of Annada Samajik Sansthan, who was the guest of honour, said, "Especially jharsuguda, Talcher in Odisha, Industrial areas such as Angul and Keonjhar are in the districts in panic due to coal powder, smoke and dust, and getting sick. The



base of the tree collects water and places it in the leaves. It provides air and coolness to the environment. Due to a lot of deforestation in our state The environment is deteriorating day by day, as the heat has been rising over the past few years. Public life is getting worse and thrown out of gear. At the outset, the working president of the council Laxminarayan Patnaik presided over the inaugural function and gave the approach of Environment Week to raise awareness among others. Acting Secretary Ratikanta Pratihari delivered the welcome address while highlighting the importance of protecting the environment. Pratibha Tripathy, Adhivakta Rachita Routray, Vice-President of Puri Bar Association

Bibhudutta Patnaik, social worker Pradip Kumar Patnaik were the guests of honour. And the programme coordinator Lalatendu Mishra was the chief manchin. organized Pandit Sadashiv Mishra, Ashalata Pradhan, Prof. Kartik Kumar Das, Prof. Pramod Kumar Panda, Narayan Nanda, Santosh Kumar Mohanty, Bipin Dhakai, Prabhat Chandra Rath, E. Keshav Chandra Patra and Golak Chandra Jena participated in the seminar. Tulsi saplings and certificates were distributed to all on the occasion. Subodh Kumar Subudhi, Chandramani Das, Nrisingha Mohanty and Tapan Kumar Sethi assisted in conducting the programme. Ashalata Pradhan finally offered her vote of thanks.

From Page- 1

Ahilyabai Holkar...

ideals, and current governance efforts focusing on rural development, women's empowerment, education, and health align with her vision. Drawing inspiration from Ahilyabai's life, the Chief Minister expressed a commitment to building a stronger and more prosperous society. He noted that at a time when the nation faces challenges, women's power is leading the charge. Two days ago, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh highlighted how women's strength spearheaded Operation Sindoor. The Chief Minister concluded that Operation Sindoor is not just the name of a military operation but a symbol of women's power. Referencing Odisha's festival 'Savitri Osha', he recalled how Savitri fought Yama, the god of death, for her husband's life. Today, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken a firm resolve to protect the honor of women, warning that anyone who disrespects them will face consequences. He emphasized that the nation is in safe hands, echoing the sentiment, "If Modi is there, we are safe." Speaker Surama Padhy, who attended the event, described Ahilyabai Holkar as a symbol of justice and courage, whose life is an inspiration for all.

Sindoor has...

daughters," he said. "Our daughters in the BSF were at the forefront of duty across the international border, spanning from Jammu to Punjab and from Rajasthan to Gujarat. They gave a slamming retort to firing on the border, destroying enemy posts. From the Command Control Centre to the forward posts, our BSF daughters played a wonderful role. The entire world is watching the strength of India's daughters in protecting their country." Narrating the initiatives taken by his successive governments in promoting girl-women power from school grounds to battlefields, Modi said, "It was for the first time during our government that the Sainik Schools opened their gates for girl students. Before 2014, there were just 25 per cent NCC girl cadets; that number is now headed towards 50 per cent." "History was created on Friday, when the first batch of women cadets passed out from the National Defence Academy. Now our daughters are being deployed at the forefront of all three wings of the armed forces. Right from fighter planes to the aircraft carrier warship INS Vikrant, our daughters are showing their bravery on every front." "Be it anti-Naxal operations or cross-border operations, our daughters are now the integral shield of the nation's security," Modi said amid a large crowd of women dressed in Sindoori (vermillion-coloured) sarees at Bhopal's Jamboree Maidan.

India's Covid...

panic. Earlier this week, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Director General Dr Rajiv Bahl said the agencies are watching what is unfolding, and stressed the need to be vigilant. "The public need not worry about this new variant of Covid-19. We just need to be vigilant. The government and all the agencies are watching what is unfolding. According to me, the basic precautions should be taken. We are not talking about enhanced precautions right now. But if someone is a cancer patient or has immunity problems, then we generally advise them to avoid any infection. Precautions need to be taken," he said.

Now SAIL's IMPORTED COAL & LIMESTONE are under CCTV SURVEILLANCE in Paradip Port

Paradip, (DMC) : Branch Transport and Shipping Office (BTSO) of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), a govt. PSU, has successfully installed CCTV Cameras at its siding plots s-9, s-11 (allocated for stacking various imported coal) and s-6 (for stacking imported Limestone) inside Paradip Port for on screen monitoring of imported cargo intra-port transportation, unloading, stacking and wagon loading activities at plots and their review remotely from office. Cctv Camera system will help in better control of plot management, avoid mix up of cargo, supply of rakes with better quality cargo to SAIL's own steel plants at RSP Rourkela, BSL Bokaro, DSP Durgapur, ISP Bumpur. SAIL's ED (L&I) Sri Subhas Kumar Das has inaugurated the project on May 31, 2025 Saturday at SAIL office, Paradip and has given his heartfelt thanks to the team, the CCTV Camera installation agency and specially thanked to Chairman, Paradip Port and his team and to CISF Commandant for their timely support in making the project successful.



Rayagada town police reins unlawful activities, instills peace among its netizens

Rayagada, (DMC) : Railway overbridge divides Rayagada town into two: locally term as new and old towns. While the only police station of the entire Rayagada city belongs to old town, the SP office situated in new town. The ever increasing population of the Rayagada city has put pressure on the lone town thana, now headed by K K B K Kahanr, Inspector-in-Charge (IIC). Many opine that there is a need of another police station in new town to ease the pressure on the lone PS in the entire town. The employees of corporate like Utkal Alumina International Limited (UAIL), Aditya Birla Refineries Limited and its apparel industry, IMFA, JK Paper Mills and their ancillaries heavily depend on Rayagada town. Recently Anil Agarwal of VEDANTA has declared to invest Rs. 1 lakh crore

in Rayagada district and their representatives are exploring ways and means to actualise his vision. Apart from this, ADANI is also making headway to establish its integrated aluminium complex in Rayagada district. After Rayagada got declared as a Railway Division, intense activity has started. This really justifies for another police station within Rayagada town to maintain peace and tranquillity. In spite of such a pressure and human resource crunch in Rayagada thana, IIC Kahanr under the able leadership of Swathy S Kumar, Supdt of Police has been quite successful in maintaining rule of law apart from some stray incidents. Both duo have managed the visits of VVIPs like Central Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Railway Minister of State) Ravneet Singh, Chief Minister



Mohan Majhi and several Odisha Ministers and contained any untoward incidents during their visit. Law & order was maintained in cultural extravaganza like Chaiti, Hanuman Jayanti and Majhighariani ghanta parva, etc. Kahanr has been instrumental in raising awareness in social media regarding traffic rules violation through he himself acting in role

plays. Several cases of dacoities, burglaries were exposed and the culprits were taken to task. Gold ornaments snatched by the hooligans were recovered and returned to original owners. Even a two wheeler was almost filtered from river Nagavali and lakhs of cash got recovered. Alongwith staff of excise deptt and with direct supervision of SP Swathy Kumar, Kahanr led

the tirade to stop illicit liquor distillation at different spots and nab several interstate smugglers of contraband like hemp, ganja & cannabis. Recently, in continuation to its drive against ganja trafficking, 850 Kgs of Contraband Ganja amounting around one crore of rupees was seized. Ganja was kept beneath bags of cow feed in a truck and was supposed to be transported to UP. Two accused got arrested under NDPS Act. In a similar case six accused got arrested while carrying 700 kgs of this contraband with a gun and transporting the ganja to Chhattisgarh. Kahanr has proved that police can really care and dare. Swathy has been able to realise the maxim "continuous & sustained actions are deterrent to recurrence of crimes".

CJI says ; calls it duty to ensure justice reaches last citizen

LUCKNOW, (H.S) : Chief Justice of India Justice B R Gavai on Saturday attributed the country's stability, unity, and strength during various crises to the Indian Constitution, asserting that it was the Constitution that saved India while neighbouring countries witnessed upheavals. "Today we see what is the condition of our neighbouring countries. India is making a journey towards development after independence. Whenever there has been a crisis in the country, it has remained united and strong. The credit for this should be given to the Constitution," he said.

Justice Gavai was speaking at a function at the Allahabad High Court to mark the inauguration of a multi-storey complex housing 2,500 chambers for lawyers and a multi-level parking facility.

The event was attended by top legal luminaries including Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, Supreme Court judges, Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, and senior state bureaucrats. The CJI said the Constitution, drafted by Dr B R Ambedkar, played a significant role in India's development and growth journey. "When the Constitution was being made and its final draft was presented before the Constituent Assembly, at that time, some people used to say that the



Constitution is too federal while some used to say that it is too unitary. Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar had replied that the Constitution was neither wholly federal nor wholly unitary. But one thing I can tell you is that we have given a Constitution which will keep India united and strong both in times of peace and war," said the CJI. Reflecting on the 75-year journey of the Constitution, Justice Gavai noted that the legislature, executive, and judiciary had significantly contributed to achieving social and economic equality. Stressing the need to ensure justice for even the most marginalised, he said, "It is our fundamental duty to reach out to the last citizen who needs justice. Be it

the legislature, the executive or the judiciary, everyone should reach out to that citizen." Referring to the era of land reforms, Justice Gavai recalled how laws were brought under which land was taken from landlords and given to landless individuals. "These laws were challenged from time to time. Before 1973, the Supreme Court's view was that if there is a conflict between the Directive Principles and the Fundamental Rights, then the Fundamental Rights will prevail," he said.

He added, "In 1973, a decision of 13 judges came that the Parliament has the right to amend the Constitution and for this, it can amend the Fundamental Rights, but it does not have the right to

change the basic structure of the Constitution." The Chief Justice of India further said the 13-judge bench had clarified that both the Fundamental Rights and the Directive Principles were the soul of the Constitution. "Both of these are the two wheels of the golden chariot of the Constitution. If you stop one of these wheels, the entire chariot will stop," he said. Underlining the importance of coordination between the Bar and the Bench, the CJI stated that they were "two sides of the same coin". "Unless the Bar and the Bench work in tandem, the chariot of justice cannot move forward," he remarked. He praised the Allahabad High Court for setting an example for the entire country, pointing out how judges had vacated 12 bungalows to facilitate the construction of the new complex for lawyers.

"Today the Allahabad High Court has given a good role model for the whole country in which the judges vacated 12 bungalows for the Bar (for the construction of the complex) and took care of the convenience of their lawyer brothers," he said. Later, in a lighter vein, the CJI referred to the Union Law Minister's speech, in which the minister called UP CM Yogi Adityanath the most powerful and diligent Chief Minister. "The land of Allahabad is that of powerful people. Obviously, Yogiji is powerful," said the CJI.

Flash floods and landslides kill 4 people in Mizoram

Aizawl, (H.S) : Flash floods and multiple landslide incidents in Mizoram have killed four people in the last 24 hours, as per officials. As per reports of District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA)s of various districts of Mizoram, several landslides have taken place in Aizawl, Lunglei, Champhai, Kolasib, Serchhip, Lawngtlai, Mamit, Saitual, Khawzawl and Hnahthial districts in last 24 hours causing damaged to several houses, roads, leaving people affected.

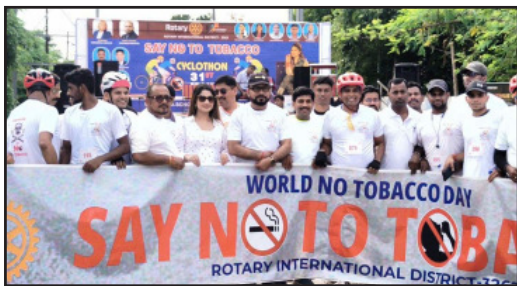


As per the DDMA reports, three people of a family died in the flash floods in Champhai district, while another died in Serchhip district. Meanwhile, another person has been trapped in debris, as per the district administration. Mizoram Governor General VK Singh, in a post on X, expressed grief at the death of the people. "I am deeply saddened by the tragic loss of lives and widespread damage caused by the recent heavy rainfall in Mizoram. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and those who have lost their homes and properties. I pray for the speedy recovery of all the injured. I commend the tireless efforts of all involved in the rescue operations amidst this crisis. As heavy rains persist, I urge everyone, especially those in disaster-prone areas, to remain vigilant and exercise utmost caution," the post read. Monitoring and relief operations are being carried out by the Disaster Management and Rehabilitation Department (DMDR) in areas of widespread damage. Disaster Management and Rehabilitation Minister Prof. Lalnilawma visited the State Emergency Operation Centre at the Directorate of Disaster Management and Rehabilitation Centre in Aizawl to monitor and oversee the extent of damage and plan further relief strategies. Prof. Lalnilawma expressed his deep concern regarding the damage caused by natural calamities across Mizoram. He assured that the government, through the DM&R Department, is carrying out relief efforts to the best of its ability. Lalnilawma condoled the affected families and also announced relief and assistance for the families. Ex gratia of Rs 4 lakh was also announced by the Minister to the kin of the deceased. He assured that the government, through the DM&R Department, is carrying out relief efforts to the best of its ability. He also urged the public to practice the judicious use of water and rainwater harvesting. Members of the Aizawl District Disaster Management Authority, local leaders, and volunteer group leaders also visited various disaster-hit areas within Aizawl alongside the DM&R Minister and department officials.

Pakistani woman Nafisa linked to radicalisation of 240 Indian youths, UPATS probes ISI network

LUCKNOW, (H.S) : Over 800 individuals, all contacts of Tufail Maqsood, 34, who was arrested by the Uttar Pradesh Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) from Varanasi on 21 May on charges of spying for Pakistan, are under the radar of the agency. All the 800 people were added to 19 WhatsApp groups operated by Tufail. Notably, UP ATS had arrested Tufail Maqsood from Varanasi, Mohammad Harun, 45, of Delhi, from Noida on 21 May, and Rampur resident Shahzad Wahab, 35, in the same connection from Moradabad on 18 May. All three are currently in ATS custody for interrogation. The details of all 800 contacts were retrieved from Tufail's phone. An ATS source claimed that Tufail had been operating 19 WhatsApp groups to stay in touch with his modules across seven eastern UP districts, including Varanasi, Jaunpur, Mau, Bhadohi, Mirzapur, Chandauli, and Ghazipur. He was allegedly involved in radicalising them in the name of religion by posting inflammatory speeches of clerics and terror group 'leaders' from across the border. Establishing his links to Gajwa-e-Hind, Tufail used to post content related to "establishing Muslim rule in India before 2047 and bringing Shariat law into force in the country".

Rotary Three two Six to Celebrate World's 'No Tobacco Day'



Bhubaneswar: Rotary District Three to Six Two celebrated World No Tobacco Day. On the occasion of World No Tobacco Day, Rotary District Three to Six Two organized a bicycle rally (race) program near the local Layla School. More than 300 cyclists participated in it. The main objective of this rally was to make the public, especially the youth, aware of the ill effects of tobacco consumption and

its impact on health and to reach this message to the entire public through all means of communication. The program was inaugurated by Rotary Village Head Shri Yagyasis Mahapatra at 6.30 am by hoisting the flag. The rally started from Layla School

and covered about 15 km to Shikhar Chandi Ghar and again to Layla School. The Rotary District provided T-shirts, flasks, bottles and snacks to everyone in the rally. Apart from the chief guest, Shri Saroj Kumar Mahapatra, (I. R. S.) Minati Mahapatra, (Arjuna Award winner) Punam Mishra (actress), Dr. Sanjay Mishra, and Sourin Bhuniya graced the occasion as the chief guests.

Tiger conservation pioneer Valmik Thapar dies at 73

NEW DELHI, (H.S) : India on Saturday lost one of its most passionate and influential wildlife conservationists, Valmik Thapar, who passed away at the age of 73 after battling cancer. A towering figure in tiger conservation, Thapar dedicated more than four decades of his life to protecting India's wild tigers, particularly in Rajasthan's Ranthambore National Park, where he spent extensive time studying and documenting their lives. His deep understanding of tiger behavior and his advocacy played a crucial role in shaping public discourse and policy around wildlife conservation in India. In 1988, Thapar co-founded the Ranthambore Foundation, a



pioneering NGO that worked on community-based conservation, aiming to bridge the gap between local communities and conservation efforts—an approach that was ahead of its time.

'Lot of Space Before Nuclear Threshold Is Crossed': Top Military on Op Sindoor

New Delhi, (H.S) : While the Indian government chose to play its cards close to its chest when it comes to the losses suffered during the recent conflict with Pakistan, the India Chief of Defense Staff Anil Chauhan has told that India lost an unspecified number of fighter jets in the clashes with Pakistan last month. He however denied Pakistan's claim that they shot down six Indian warplanes.

Anil Chauhan further clarified that the conflict never came close to nuclear war, and "that channels of communication with Pakistan were always open to control the situation." India had launched Operation Sindoor—precision strikes on terror bases in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), after 26 tourists were shot dead at Pahalgam on April 22.



Speaking to Bloomberg TV on Saturday while attending the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore, Anil Chauhan called Pakistan's claims that it shot down six Indian warplanes as "absolutely

incorrect," though he declined to specify how many jets India lost. "Why they were down, what mistakes were made—that are important," Chauhan said when asked about the fighter jets. "Numbers

Just kill that COVID Woman

Mumbai, (H.S) : The Maharashtra Police sprang to action and registered an FIR against a senior government doctor after an audio of the doctor instructing a co-worker to kill the COVID woman went viral. The video was traced to be from the second wave of the pandemic in 2021. The accused was identified as Dr. Shashikant Deshpande working as the Additional district surgeon at Udgir Government Hospital from Latur district of Maharashtra. In the viral audio clip the surgeon was heard saying to fellow doctor Dr. Shashikant Dange, "Don't allow anyone to go inside, just kill that Dayami woman." The woman was admitted with Covid-19 symptoms patient on April 15, 2021. Kausar Fatima, wife of Dayami Ajimuddin Gaussoodini although recuperated but her husband heard what was his worst nightmare.

The Bar is too high but never above the law

New Delhi, (H.S) : Ashish Khetan's recent critique of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) for accepting a Rs 50 crore donation from industrialists raises legitimate concerns about the integrity and independence of legal institutions. However, his argument, though well-intentioned, is based on a misunderstanding of the structure, functioning, and ethos of the Bar Association, and ultimately conflates institutional assistance with institutional compromise. To begin with, it is essential to distinguish between the SCBA and the Supreme Court itself. The SCBA is not a judicial body. It is a professional association comprising advocates who practice before the Supreme Court. Its functions include promoting legal education, providing welfare benefits to its members, and upholding professional standards. It is neither a regulatory body like the Bar Council nor a judicial body like the Supreme Court. Consequently, the decisions it takes to support its members, such as facilitating insurance through donations, do not impact the independence or impartiality of the judiciary.

Khetan's central concern is that by accepting donations from wealthy industrialists—"crumbs off the plate of the filthy rich"—the Bar Association may lose its moral footing or be beholden to such donors. This assumption oversimplifies the realities of funding in

professional associations and civil society more broadly. Donations are a common and necessary practice to enable institutions—be they bar associations, universities, hospitals, or NGOs—to meet their objectives. Philanthropy, including corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives, is an accepted and encouraged practice under Indian law. Indeed, many industrial contributions to social causes are not only legally sanctioned but statutorily mandated. To equate such support with loss of independence is both speculative and unfair. SCBA office bearers, including Kapil Sibal, have been transparent about the nature of the donations. Sibal's candid acknowledgment that the donors are his personal friends, whom he has represented in court, does not suggest impropriety—it is merely an honest recognition of professional networks. Legal professionals often represent clients across a spectrum, including the government, corporations, NGOs, and individuals. The relationships formed therein do not, and should not, cast a shadow on their integrity or ability to act independently. Moreover, the independence of the Bar is not a function of its sources of funding. It is a function of the conduct, character, and courage of its members. The SCBA comprises advocates from diverse backgrounds and persuasions, who have time and again



demonstrated their willingness to critique governments, stand against executive overreach, and speak out against judicial failings. The presence of a donation does not dilute this spirit. If anything, it enables the Association to better serve its members—especially younger lawyers who benefit from health insurance and welfare measures funded through such generosity. It is important to stress that the SCBA is not a homogeneous or hierarchical body. It cannot be held collectively accountable for the personal ideologies of its individual members, just as a university cannot be judged solely on the views of its alumni. The SCBA has, in the past, vocally defended the independence of the judiciary, condemned assaults on legal norms, and mobilized collective opinion on matters of national importance. Its institutional memory and commitment to democratic values remain intact. Khetan's article also

suggests that donations from business houses create a perception of quid pro quo. But perceptions must be grounded in fact. If there is evidence of favoritism or compromise, it must be brought to light and acted upon. Until then, insinuations serve only to tarnish without substantiating. In a legal system where integrity is paramount, such allegations require caution, especially when aimed at a collective. The Courts and judges are well trained to ensure that these externalities do not affect their decision. There is also a glaring contradiction in Khetan's stance: would the same critique apply if the donation had come from the government, which remains the largest litigant in the country? Would accepting government grants then imply that the Bar is compromised in its independence from state control? The logic of his critique, if consistently applied, would prohibit all forms of external funding—an

unsustainable proposition.

As a constitutional lawyer and member of the SCBA, I can say with conviction for myself and almost for the whole bar that we are not beholden to any donor or industrialist, whether or not they have contributed to the SCBA. Our professional obligations, ethical commitments, and pledge to uphold the Constitution are not so fragile as to be swayed by financial patronage of this kind. The judiciary's challenges today lie elsewhere. They lie in the chronic shortage of judges, the staggering backlog of cases, and the lack of administrative reform. The disillusionment of the common litigant stems from the unaccountability of the executive, the inertia of the police machinery, and the government's delays in implementing court orders. To attribute these systemic issues to a donation received by a professional association is to misdirect public ire and distract from the real problems. Khetan's article, at best, serves as a cautionary note—a reminder that institutions must remain vigilant. On that, we agree. Transparency in accepting and disclosing donations is imperative. Bar associations must remain accountable to their members and to the public. But to suggest that they have already failed this test without evidence is premature and unfair. The Supreme Court Bar Association and its members have a serious culture of pro bono matters. I

can name at least half a dozen senior advocates whom I have instructed to appear in cases concerning bails, bulldozer action, students' expulsion, custodial violence, demolition and riots. This includes even the most senior lawyer like Dr. Abhishek Manu Singhvi, Kapil Sibal, Raju Ramachandran, Chander Uday Singh, Huzefa Ahmadi, Sanjay Hegde and Dr. Guruswamy. There is disparity in remuneration amongst legal professionals. This is also because of the unwillingness of the client to remunerate the junior members. The problem of distribution of wealth in India is a problem that is not confined to the legal professional alone.

There are systemic changes that must be brought about - and the process of designation of 'senior advocates' being one of them. However, to conflate these with donations is pushing the limits of logic. The examples of conflict of interest, as mentioned by Khetan are simplistic and do not capture the nuances of professional ethics. A lawyer is engaged by a client, and just as a client may choose to not engage the same advocate for his next matter, a lawyer may also (subject to cab-rank rules) choose to decline the brief. The bar against appearing against a previous client is only when the appearance is marred by legal professional privilege or a relationship with the client. Khetan has mentioned too many subjects in one piece, like in quick-stand, fully reasoned none.

At Least 26 Civilians Killed in Paramilitary Forces Attacks at Sudan



Khartoum, (HS) : At least 26 civilians were killed in attacks by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) on three towns in Sudan's western Kordofan region, the Sudanese government announced. "In recent hours, the RSF militia has committed a series of horrific crimes, deliberately targeting civilian areas and claiming the lives of innocent people," Sudan's Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

"Today (Friday), the militia targeted Al-Daman Hospital in El-Obeid city, killing 16 patients who were receiving treatment and injuring several others," the ministry said, adding, "On Wednesday, the militia also attacked a public market in the town of Al-Khiwai with drones, killing eight civilians." The RSF also targeted a residential area in the town of Al-Dibaibat, South Kordofan, killing two civilians, the statement said. The ministry described the RSF attacks as part of a deliberate and systematic campaign targeting

civilians, humanitarian organizations, critical infrastructure, and essential services, with the intent of inflicting maximum civilian harm, Xinhua news agency reported. It accused the RSF of bombing World Food Programme warehouses in El-Fasher, the capital of North Darfur State, on Thursday and setting them ablaze, destroying large quantities of food supplies. Armed clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the RSF have intensified across the Kordofan region, which includes North, West, and South Kordofan states.

On Thursday, the RSF claimed control of the towns of Al-Dibaibat in South Kordofan and Al-Khiwai in West Kordofan. The Sudanese army has not yet responded to the claim. Sudan has been engulfed in a brutal conflict between the SAF and the RSF since April 2023. The war has killed tens of thousands and forced millions to flee their homes, both within Sudan and across its borders.

Russian missile strike kills child and injures another

KYIV, (HS) : A Russian missile hit a front-line region in Ukraine on Saturday, killing a child and injuring another, a Ukrainian official said as uncertainty remains as to whether Kyiv diplomats will attend a new round of peace talks proposed by Moscow for early next week in Istanbul. Russian troops launched some 109 drones and five missiles across Ukraine overnight and into Saturday, the Ukrainian air force said. Three of the missiles and 42 drones were destroyed by air defenses, while another 30 drones failed to reach their targets without causing damage, it said. A 9-old girl was killed in a strike on the front-line village of Dolyinka in the Zaporizhzhia region, and a 16-year-old was injured, Zaporizhzhia's Gov. Ivan Fedorov said. "One house was destroyed. The shockwave from the blast also damaged several other houses, cars, and outbuildings," Fedorov wrote on Telegram. Moscow did not comment on the latest attack. Meanwhile, 14 people were injured after Ukrainian drones struck apartment buildings on Saturday in the Russian town of Rylsk and the village of Artakovo in the western Kursk region, local acting Gov. Alexander Khinshtein said.

Four children were among those injured in the two attacks, which also sparked several fires, he said. On Friday, Andrii Yermak, a top adviser to Ukraine's president said Kyiv was ready to resume direct peace talks with Russia in Istanbul on Monday but that the Kremlin should provide a promised memorandum setting out its position on ending the more than three-year war, before the two delegations sit down to negotiate. Speaking late Friday,

Death toll reaches 151 in north-central Nigerian town submerged in floods, thousands displaced

ABUJA, (HS) : The death toll from devastating flooding in a market town in Nigeria's north-central state of Niger rose to at least 151 on Saturday, the local emergency service said, amid efforts to find more victims.

Torrents of predawn rainfall early Thursday unleashed the devastating

flood on Mokwa, nearly 380 kilometers (236 miles) west of Abuja and a major trading and transportation hub where northern Nigerian farmers sell beans, onions and other food to traders from the south. The spokesperson for the Niger State emergency service, Ibrahim Audu Hussein, confirmed the updated

fatality count to The Associated Press on Saturday. In addition to the rising death toll, 11 people were injured and more than 3,000 people were displaced, the official added. At least 500 households across three communities were affected by the sudden and intense flood that built rapidly in about five

hours, leaving roofs barely visible and surviving residents waist-deep in water, trying to salvage what they could and rescue others. Hussein added that two roads were washed away and two bridges collapsed. In a statement on Friday night, President Bola Tinubu expressed condolences and said he had directed the activation of an emergency response to support victims and "accelerate" recovery. He said that security agencies have also been asked to assist in emergency operations, which remain

underway amid concerns that more bodies could be recovered in remote areas. "Relief materials and temporary shelter assistance are being deployed without delay," the president said, promising "no Nigerian affected will be left behind or unheard of." Flooding is common during Nigeria's wet season. Communities in northern Nigeria have been experiencing prolonged dry spells worsened by climate change and excessive rainfall that leads to severe flooding during the brief wet season.

Trump Administration Orders "Extra Vetting" for Anyone Travelling to Harvard

Washington, (HS) : Those looking to travel to Harvard University "for any purpose" will go through more extensive vetting. The State Department on Friday has instructed all US embassies and consulates to do the same starting "immediately", per Reuters. Such applicants include but are not limited to prospective students, students, faculty, employees, contractors, guest speakers, and tourists, the cable said. The word "any" in the cable text is written in bold format and underlined. After the Trump administration tried to ban the Ivy League university from enrolling foreign students, a judge halted the ban. The State Department has said that the vetting measures are being taken to ensure "consular officers can appropriately identify" visa applicants with "histories of anti-Semitic harassment and violence, and to duly consider the visa eligibility under U.S. immigration law," CNN stated in a report citing a diplomatic cable signed by Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

Per the cable, dated May 30th, if an individual seeks to work at, attend or otherwise visit to Harvard, in the prescreening or interviewing process, consular offices have been instructed to refuse the visa "pending review of



their online presence" - which would essentially mean screening of their online presence, including social media. "As in all instances in which an applicant fails to provide certain information on request, consular officers should consider whether the lack of any online presence, or having social media accounts restricted to 'private' or with limited visibility, may be reflective of evasiveness and call into question the applicant's credibility," the cable reportedly said. "If you are not personally and completely satisfied that the applicant, during his time in the United States, will engage in

activities consistent with his non-immigrant visa status, you should refuse the visa..." the cable said. Rubio said recently that he has personally revoked the visas of hundreds, perhaps thousands of people, which include students, since they got involved in activities that go against US foreign policy.

"If you're coming here to create problems, you're probably going to have a problem," Rubio told reporters on April 7. "We're not going to continue to be stupid enough to let people into our country who are coming here to tear things up."



assistance, according to Hamas and Egyptian officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media. The WFP said the fear of starvation in Gaza is high despite the food aid that's entering now. "We need to flood communities with food for the next few days to calm anxieties and rebuild the trust with communities that more food is coming," said agency said in a statement. A witness in the southern

city of Khan Younis told The Associated Press the UN convoy was stopped at a makeshift roadblock and offloaded by desperate civilians in their thousands. Most people carried bags of flour on their backs or heads. He said at one point a forklift was used to offload pallets from the stranded trucks. The witness spoke on condition of anonymity because of fear of reprisal. The United Nations said earlier this month that Israeli authorities have forced them to

use unsecured routes within areas controlled by the Israeli military in the eastern areas of Rafah and Khan Younis, where armed gangs are active and trucks were stopped. Israel's military didn't immediately respond to comment.

Attacks, lack of protection hamper UN distribution: An internal document shared with aid groups about security incidents, seen by the AP, said there were four incidents of facilities being looted in three days at the end of May, not including the convoy on Saturday. The UN says it's been unable to get enough aid in because of fighting. On Friday, UN spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said it only picked up five truckloads of cargo from the Palestinian side of the Kerem Shalom crossing, and the other 60 trucks had to return due to intense hostilities in the area. An Israeli official said his country has offered the UN logistical and operational support but "the UN is not doing their job." Instead, a new US- and Israeli-backed foundation started operations in Gaza this week, distributing food at several sites in a

chaotic rollout. Israel says the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation will replace the massive aid operation that the UN and others have carried out throughout the war. It says the new mechanism is necessary, accusing Hamas of siphoning off large amounts of aid. The UN denies that significant diversion takes place. The GHF works with armed contractors, which is says is needed to distribute food safely. Aid groups have accused the foundation of militarizing aid.

Israeli strikes kill at least 60: Meanwhile Israel is continuing its military campaign across Gaza. The Gaza Health Ministry said that at least 60 people were killed by Israeli strikes in the last 24 hours. It said three people were shot by Israeli gunfire early Saturday morning in the southern city of Rafah. Three other people were killed, parents and a child, when their car was struck in Gaza City. Israeli strikes have killed more than 54,000 Gaza residents, mostly women and children, according to the Gaza Health Ministry.

Afghanistan welcomes upgraded diplomatic ties with Pakistan

KABUL, (HS) : Afghanistan has welcomed the decision to upgrade diplomatic relations with Pakistan, where the Taliban government's foreign minister is due to travel in the coming days, his office said on Saturday. The move signals easing tensions between the neighbouring countries, as relations between the Taliban authorities and Pakistan -- already rocky -- have cooled in recent months, fuelled by security concerns and a campaign by Islamabad to expel tens of thousands of Afghans. Pakistan's top diplomat on Friday said the charge d'affaires stationed in Kabul would be elevated to the rank of ambassador, with Kabul later announcing its representative in Islamabad would also be upgraded. "This elevation in diplomatic representation between Afghanistan & Pakistan paves the way for enhanced bilateral cooperation in multiple domains," the Afghan foreign ministry said on X. Kabul's Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi is due to visit Pakistan "in the coming days", ministry spokesman Zia Ahmad Takal told.

Honouring Biju Patnaik's Legacy, MP Aparajita Sarangi Inaugurates 'Biju Hall' in Indonesia

Jakarta, (HS) : BJP MP Aparajita Sarangi, a member of the All-Party Parliamentary delegation part of Operation Sindoor outreach, on Saturday inaugurated the 'Biju Hall' of the Indian Embassy in Jakarta, and unveiled a commemorative plaque of late Odia leader Biju Patnaik, who played a key role during Indonesia's independence struggle. Patnaik received the highest civilian award of 'Bintang Jasa Utama' and Honorary citizenship of Indonesia, 'Bumi Putra', for his role in the independence struggle of the Southeast Asian country.

Sarangi, Bhubaneswar MP, also interacted with the members of the Odia Samaj during the visit. The BJP MP is a part of the JD(U) MP Sanjay Kumar Jha-led delegation, that is in Indonesia to present India's anti-terror stand. On Friday, the Indian parliamentarians met members of the Golkar and Nasdem parties of Indonesia, apprising them of the events following the dastardly terrorist attack in Pahalgam. The parties fully condemned the terrorist attack and said that the situation arising from the attacks caused pain and sorrow in their hearts. The delegation had focused and lively interactions with the press and media at the Embassy of India in Jakarta. The delegation briefed the Indonesian media on India's 'new normal' against cross-border attacks, zero tolerance for terrorism, and all-party resolve to stand united in all matters of national interest. Several journalists from global media



houses also attended the interactive session. This was followed by an engaging interaction with prominent business and community leaders of the Indian diaspora associations at the Indian Embassy. A minute of solemn silence in remembrance of the victims of the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack was observed at the event. "Speaking to the audience, Sanjay Kumar Jha, Head of the Parliamentary delegation, highlighted India's relentless efforts towards combating terrorism and ensuring peace and development. The delegation commended the Indian diaspora globally and in Indonesia for upholding the principles of tolerance, pluralism, and unity; and urged them to stand resilient against terrorism and for amplifying the national resolve to combat terrorism in all its forms," stated the Indian Embassy

in Jakarta. The delegation earlier visited Gandhi Memorial Intercontinental School in Jakarta and paid floral tributes to the statue of Mahatma Gandhi and planted tree saplings as part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Ek Ped Maa ke Naam' initiative. They also interacted with the Committee Members of Gandhi Seva Loka Association and called upon the values of truth, justice, unified action, and unwavering courage in the face of national challenges, principles that Mahatma Gandhi espoused. Furthermore, they met with KH Ulil Abshar Abdalla, Chairman of the Nahdlatul Ulama Executive Board (PBNU), and Kholili Kholil, Committee Member of Nahdlatul Ulama (NU) in Indonesia - the world's largest Islamic organisation and sought their unwavering support against violence and religious extremism. Condemning the April 22

Pahalgam terror attack, which claimed the lives of 26 innocent civilians, KH Ulil said he felt the pain of India and called for India and Indonesia to walk hand in hand to promote peace and economic development.

As peace-loving countries with the largest Muslim populations with shared values of Unity in Diversity or "Binneka Tunggal Ika" practised as state policy as well as in daily lives, the leader of the delegation urged NU leaders to support India and condemn cross-border terrorism to give a strong message to the world. After successfully completing their engagements in Singapore, South Korea, and Japan, the delegates are in Indonesia to highlight the significance of Operation Sindoor and India's continued fight against Pakistan-sponsored cross-border terrorism to the Indonesian leadership.

CPM MP John Brittas cites Salman Khurshid to highlight, slams Pakistan army chief in Jakarta

Jakarta, (HS) : Communist Party of India (Marxist) MP John Brittas delivered a strongly worded address in Jakarta, Indonesia, on Friday, where he criticized Pakistan Army Chief General Asim Munir for remarks allegedly suggesting fundamental differences between Hindus and Muslims. Speaking to the Indian diaspora as part of an all-party delegation, Brittas used the platform to underscore India's pluralistic and secular ethos.

Referring to Munir's reported comments, Brittas asked: "Can you ever vouch for that? And Salman Khurshid is here... We are all together. I am from Kerala... I am a Christian. In Kerala, we have three major religions. We coexist in harmony. That is the message of India." Brittas highlighted Kerala's communal harmony as an example of India's inclusive character, contrasting it with Pakistan's record. He went on to reference a past interview with Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, in which Asif allegedly admitted that Pakistan had long supported and harbored terrorist organizations: "Pakistan has been asking for evidence. Khawaja Asif, the defence minister of Pakistan, had said in an interview that they have been indulging in this dirty job of nurturing and harbouring terrorist organisations for three decades..." The remarks signal a pointed critique not just of General Munir, but also of Pakistan's long-standing policies, while simultaneously promoting India's image as a country rooted in religious harmony and democratic values.



OPEC+ to hike July oil production after Trump urges Saudi to increase output



VIENNA, (HS) : Saudi Arabia, Russia and six other key OPEC+ members announced on Saturday a huge increase in crude production for July. They will produce an additional 411,000 barrels a day -- the same target set for May and then June -- according to a statement, which is more than three times greater than the group had previously planned. In recent years the 22-nation group had agreed to daily reductions of 2.2 million barrels with the aim of boosting prices. But in early 2025, leading members of the group known as the "Voluntary Eight", or V8, decided on the gradual output increase and subsequently began to accelerate the pace. The moves have resulted in oil prices plummeting to around \$60 per barrel, the lowest level in four years.

Trump pressure: OPEC+ "struck three times: (the output target for) May was a warning, June a confirmation and July a warning shot", Rystad Energy analyst Jorge Leon told AFP. "The scale of the production increase reflects more than just internal supply dynamics," he

said. "This is a strategic adjustment with geopolitical aims: Saudi Arabia seems to be bowing to Donald Trump's requests." Shortly after taking office, the US president called on Riyadh to ramp up production in order to bring down oil prices, meaning cheaper prices at the pump for American consumers. Saturday's decision comes after a meeting of all OPEC ministers on Wednesday, where the alliance's collective production policy was reaffirmed. The decision is officially justified by "healthy market fundamentals" covering oil reserves and structural demand growth during coming months.

Riyadh 'angry': But markets have met this view with scepticism amid concerns about demand and a trade war launched by the United States. Analysts see several possible motivations for the production hikes, one of them being Saudi Arabia and others penalising members for not keeping to their quotas under the cuts first agreed in 2022. The increase is all the more likely due to "the latest statements of Kazakh Energy

Minister Yerlan Akkenzhenov, who has apparently already informed OPEC that his country will not reduce production," said Thu Lan Nguyen, an analyst at Commerzbank. "Saudi Arabia is angry with Kazakhstan", which is seen as one of the main laggards, and which "produced 300,000 barrels per day more than its quota," said Bjarne Schieldrop,

an analyst at SEB. Analysts meanwhile do not foresee a plunge in oil prices when markets open Monday as the announcement was largely anticipated, instead resulting in a "moderate" reaction. On Friday, the benchmark Brent crude futures price had settled at \$62.61 per barrel, while West Texas Intermediate was at \$60.79.

'Doubling tariff on steel, aluminium by US to impact Indian exporters'



New Delhi, (HS) : US President Donald Trump's announcement to double tariffs on imported steel and aluminium will impact Indian exporters, as it would hurt their profitability, think tank GTRI said on Saturday. On May 30, Trump announced that he would double the existing 25 per cent tariffs on steel and aluminium imports from June 4. This hike comes under Section 232 of the US Trade Expansion Act of 1962, a law that allows the president to impose tariffs or other trade restrictions if imports are deemed a threat to national security. Trump originally invoked this provision in 2018 to set the 25 per cent tariff on steel and 10 per cent on aluminium. He raised tariffs on aluminium to 25 per cent in February 2025.

For India, the consequences are direct, the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said. In 2024-25, India exported USD 4.56 billion worth of iron, steel, and aluminium products to the US, with key categories, including USD 587.5 million in iron and steel, USD 3.1 billion in articles of iron or steel, and USD 860 million in aluminium and related articles. "These exports are now exposed to sharply higher US tariffs, threatening the profitability of Indian producers and exporters," GTRI founder Ajay Srivastava said. India has already issued a formal notice at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) signalling its intention to impose retaliatory tariffs on US goods in response to the earlier steel tariffs. "With Trump now doubling the tariffs, it remains to be seen whether India will carry out the retaliation by increasing tariffs on certain US exports within a month," he said.

Indian economy poised to remain fastest-growing one in FY26: SBI



New Delhi, (HS) : The Indian economy is poised to remain the fastest-growing major economy in FY26 by leveraging its sound macroeconomic fundamentals, robust financial sector and commitment towards sustainable growth, according to a State Bank of India (SBI) report. With higher anticipated saving based on latest RBI annual report, the domestic finances will be sufficient to finance the anticipated growth and "we do not expect demand induced pressure on prices in FY26," said Dr Soumya Kanti Ghosh, Group Chief Economic Adviser, SBI.

The downside to growth emanate from external and geopolitical factors, Ghosh added. From the expenditure side, the GDP growth of 7.4 per cent in Q4 was supported by strong uptick in the capital formation which registered a 9.4 per cent annual growth. The recovery in capital formation was on account of revival in core sector in Q4 as evident from high frequency indicators. The overall growth in capital formation for FY25 now stands 7.1 per cent. India's economy grew by 7.4 per cent in Q4 FY25 as against 8.4 per cent growth in same quarter last fiscal. Riding on Q4 numbers, the annual FY25 growth is estimated at 6.5 per cent. Almost all sectors exhibited better growth numbers in Q4 FY25. While industry grew by 6.5 per cent, the services sector grew by 7.3 per cent in Q4. Within industry during Q4, construction sector grew by whopping 10.8 per cent (6-quarters high) and manufacturing sector increased by 4.8 per cent. The private consumption maintained its health run in Q4 although there was sequential slow rate of growth in Q4. Overall, the private consumption registered a growth of 7.2 per cent for FY25.

The export demand was healthy for whole year, registering a growth of 6.3 per cent, while the imports contracted for the whole year by 3.7 per cent. According to the SBI report, this growth was front-loaded because of export push amidst US tariffs uncertainty. The highest contraction in imports happened in Q4 at 12.7 per cent was another factor in pulling the overall GDP growth to 7.2 per cent in Q4.

Providing Service to Taxpayers Duty of Tax Officials: Sitharaman



New Delhi, (HS) : Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday highlighted that it was the duty of tax department officials to serve taxpayers and they should undertake this task with "transparency and integrity." "To provide service to the taxpayer is our duty. While so serving the taxpayers, transparency and integrity are crucial in earning their trust and confidence. Confident that the Board and the field formations will remain sensitive and responsive," the Finance Minister said in a statement on X social media platform. Her statement was made in response to a detailed explanation provided by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) in case of a business entity that had applied for a GST registration. The applicant had complained of a delay in processing the application. However, the CBIC had furnished details to show that the case was pending as the taxpayer had failed to furnish a reply on a specific query regarding the designation of a person who had signed on behalf of the company. Referring to the fact of the case of Vinod Gupta who wrote about GST registration issue on LinkedIn, CBIC said on X: The application was filed this week on 26th May (Monday) which was assigned to Delhi State GST. The Central GST authorities had no role in this matter.

"As per Delhi State GST authorities, the case was processed immediately and a query was raised about the missing designation of the person who has signed the Rent Agreement on behalf of the Company. At this stage the ARN was pending for reply from the taxpayer's side and it was duly informed to the taxpayer," the statement said. The application will be processed by the Delhi GST authorities upon receipt of the pending information, the statement explained. CBIC has also requested the applicant to not circulate wrong information on the social media without knowing the facts.

Oil, Gas in India Jumped 76 Pc in Last 10 Years

New Delhi, (HS) : As much as 76 per cent of the total area in India's sedimentary basin currently being explored for oil and gas has come under active exploration since 2014, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri has said.

Addressing the CII annual business summit here, the minister said that in the last decade the Government has succeeded in increasing the explored area for oil and gas in India's sedimentary basin from 6 per cent to 10 per cent which would soon reach 15 per cent. "We intend to increase India's oil and gas exploration acreage to 1 million sq km by 2030," he said. The minister further stated that India's rapidly expanding energy economy was in a robust state under the leadership of PM Modi. He pointed out that energy security was now a strategic necessity for India in a volatile global energy landscape being shaped by geopolitical realignments, conflicts, and climate commitments. "The size and magnitude of India's energy sector can be gauged by the fact that in 2024-25, India imported around 242.4 million tonnes of crude oil and spent \$137 billion on the imports, while increasing the number of countries we import



from, to 40 from 27 earlier," Puri said. India has also been able to navigate the trilemma of energy availability, affordability and sustainability through the difficult times; and in doing so, while fuel prices around the world were skyrocketing, India was the only country where the prices actually came down and have remained there as a result of proactive measures implemented by PM Modi for the benefit of the citizens, he added. Puri further stated that with key reforms and fresh thrust to growth in the

sector, India is now on the fast track of growth by expanding and strengthening the energy infrastructure and implementing innovative solutions to provide momentum to green energy transition.

In this context, he mentioned that India's ethanol blending initiative has also resulted in a significant jump. "We have increased the ethanol blending in petrol from 1.53 per cent in 2013-14 to around 20 per cent in April 2025, as we now look beyond," he added.

Indian Bank launches new savings accounts for NRIs with global access

Mumbai, (HS) : Indian Bank, on Saturday, rolled out new Savings Account variants specifically tailored for Non-Resident Indian (NRI), the bank said in a press release. The Bank's new offerings aimed at a seamless combination of traditional trust and modern conveniences, reinforcing its position as a trusted banking partner for NRIs around the globe. Shri Binod Kumar, managing director and CEO, said, "At Indian Bank, we are committed to providing our NRI customers with top-notch digital banking solutions that prioritise convenience, security, and value. Our latest offerings aim to enhance the relationship between the bank and our global Indian community, ensuring they feel connected to their roots while accessing smooth banking services." The new product is designed specifically for the changing financial lifestyles and requirements of NRIs. "These products are packaged with top-tier debit cards-IND D'Elite, IND Premium, and IND Plus-that offer a variety of exceptional advantages, including: Airport Lounge Access (Domestic & International), Personal Accident Cover and Exclusive Loyalty Offers," the press release said.

MSMEs hold key towards becoming a Viksit Bharat

New Delhi, (HS) : Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) are the key towards becoming a Viksit Bharat by 2047, and it is the right time to speak about Industry and MSME collaboration to celebrate their contribution to India's aspirations, a top government official has stressed. India, in its aspiration, has been constantly growing, from being the 10th largest economy 10 years ago to currently the 4th largest economy. According to Dr Rajneesh, Additional Secretary and Development Commissioner, Ministry of MSMEs, through vendor development programmes, technology upgradation, transfer of technologies, and integration of SMEs in the supply chain, "we can create an opportunity that is a win-win situation for players on both sides of the collaboration, as MSMEs get an opportunity to grow and industry gets an opportunity to source their requirements domestically with emphasis on Atmanirbhar Bharat and a Viksit Bharat". Dr Rajneesh launched the 'CII MSME Export Helpdesk,' during 'CII Annual Business Summit 2025', expressing optimism for its role in scaling MSMEs to drive competitiveness and productivity. R. Mukundan, Vice President, CII deliberated on the four basic pillars for unlocking the full potential of MSMEs.

Calls for 100% Saturation of Govt Schemes, Ayushman Bharat: Union Minister

New Delhi, (HS) : States must ensure 100 per cent saturation of flagship government schemes like Ayushman Bharat, to reach every district and mandal, said Union Minister Jitendra Singh. He urged officials to leave no beneficiary unregistered.

"Every citizen must experience the impact of the PM Modi government's transformational schemes," he stated. The Member of Parliament from Udhampur-Kathua-Doda Lok Sabha constituency was speaking at a comprehensive constituency-level meeting via video conferencing to finalise a month-long series of activities commemorating 11 years of the PM Modi government. The Union Minister laid out a comprehensive schedule for the month-long celebrations marking 11 years of the PM Modi government. The planned activities include public exhibitions, media interactions, professional meetings, and coordinated grassroots-level efforts aimed at ensuring widespread public engagement and awareness. He also highlighted recent strides in science-driven agriculture and showcased a series of transformative initiatives reshaping the agri-economy of the region. Singh, who is set to launch the two-day Lavender festival on June 1 at Bhaderwah, also highlighted a breakthrough project by the Department of Atomic Energy and DBT to enhance shelf life and productivity of crops - enabling Kashmiri apples to now grow in Jammu alongside mangoes.

Further, in a major policy announcement, Singh revealed the upcoming cannabis cultivation initiative in collaboration with IIIM Jammu and private partners to manufacture medicinal and cancer drugs. He also noted the empowerment of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to generate employment and income. Ahead of World Environment Day on June 5, the Union Minister directed renewed enthusiasm for the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign, encouraging citizens to participate with greater dedication and vigour. Singh also advocated for grand celebrations on International Yoga Day (June 21), particularly at major tourist destinations, to highlight India's global leadership in wellness and mindfulness.



RBI's monetary policy decision, global trade negotiations to guide markets next week

Mumbai, (HS) : Investors will keenly watch the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) upcoming monetary policy decision for future market guidance. Additionally, market participants will monitor global developments, particularly trade tensions, to navigate the ongoing consolidation phase. India's equity market closed in the red this week. The subdued performance was primarily driven by global trade tensions and anticipation around domestic policy decisions.

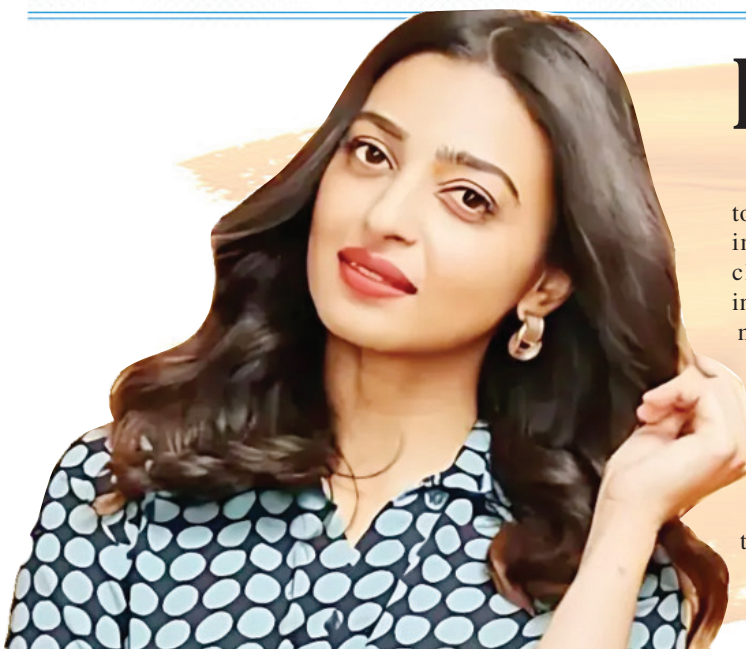
Benchmark indices, the Sensex and Nifty, experienced significant swings before closing lower amid uncertainty over U.S. tariff developments and caution ahead of the RBI's policy announcement. Both indices declined over 1%, with the Nifty ending at 24,750.70 and the Sensex at 81,451.01. "Despite encouraging domestic cues, mixed signals from global markets kept investor sentiment on edge. Initially, optimism prevailed following the RBI's record dividend payout and positive updates regarding the monsoon. However, as the week progressed, concerns surrounding rising U.S. bond yields, trade tensions



between the U.S. and the European Union, and the ongoing legal battle over U.S. tariffs weighed on market sentiment, limiting the scope for any meaningful recovery," said Ajit Mishra - SVP, Research, Religare Broking. He added that looking ahead, all eyes will be on the outcome of the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting scheduled for June 6. The market is pricing in a 25bps cut, which will improve the outlook for rate-sensitive sectors. "The central bank's stance on the rate trajectory, especially amid mixed macroeconomic

signals, will be critical in shaping market direction... Globally, developments in the U.S. bond market and any updates regarding ongoing trade negotiations will continue to influence investor sentiment," stated Mishra.

Puneet Singhania, Director at Master Trust Group, said that despite the weekly downturn, both benchmark indices remained comfortably above their key moving averages, signaling resilience in the broader market trend. The PSU Bank index led sectoral performance, surging nearly 4%, buoyed by positive sentiment towards public sector banks.



Radhika brings daughter to India for first time: 'Mum chose best month'

On Tuesday, Radhika Apte took to Instagram to share an image, confessing that she chose the right month to introduce her daughter to the magic of Mumbai.

Actor Radhika Apte has returned to Mumbai, and this time she's not alone - she's brought her baby girl along for the trip, marking the little one's very first trip to the country. The actor is absolutely thrilled to introduce her daughter to the city's vibrant culture,

and she feels she's timed it perfectly. On Tuesday, Radhika took to Instagram to give a sneak peek into her baby's life, confessing that she chose the right month to introduce her daughter to the magic of Mumbai', and it is because of the mango season. Radhika took to Instagram to share a snapshot from inside the airport, capturing a moment of pure joy and surprise. Her facial expression is a mix of delight and astonishment, while she carries

her baby girl in a shoulder carrier. The baby's tiny nose and lips are visible. However, Radhika tries to conceal her baby's face with a hat and sunglasses emoji, adding a playful touch to the adorable photo. Sharing the image, Radhika wrote, "Touchdown in the motherland! Mum chose the best month for a Mumbai intro (Sun, mango and red heart emoji) #shocked #mangoseason #hothothot". Actor Tisca Chopra commented on the post

writing, "Oh my lord (red heart emoji)". One user shared "yay". Radhika Apte and her husband, Benedict Taylor, welcomed their first child, a baby girl, in late 2024. In December 2024, the actor announced the birth on Instagram by sharing a photo of herself with the baby. She wrote in her caption, "First work meeting back after birth with our one week old at my breast..."

In October last year, Radhika Apte surprised everyone by flaunting her baby

bump while walking down the red carpet of BFI London Film Festival. The actor attended the screening of her movie Sister Midnight at the film festival. Radhika has been married to British violinist and composer Benedict Taylor since 2012. The couple likes to keep a low profile despite working in the entertainment industry. They met in 2011 when Radhika was in London to learn. They got married in 2012 and had an official ceremony in 2013.

Chidiya review: This simple tale about badminton soars on hope and a lot of heart

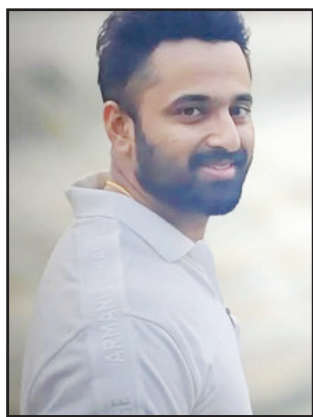
Chidiya, directed by Mehran Amrohi, tells the story of two brothers navigating life's challenges in Mumbai. One gets thrown off a bit, seeing Pahlaj Nihalani's (former CBFC chairperson) signature on the censor certificate as Chidiya begins. It's taken the film 10 years to see the light of day in theatres. The struggle for smaller films to find good exhibition and distribution continues-but it's finally available now. And thank God for that. The story revolves around two brothers, Shanu and Bua (played by Svar Kamble and Ayush Pathak), who cannot attend school due to financial constraints. Yet, they live a content life with their mother (Amruta Subhash) in a Mumbai chawl, alongside their kind-hearted neighbour Balai (Vinay



Pathak), a spot boy in the Hindi film industry. Their mother, burdened by reality, pushes them to start working, and they find themselves employed at a tea stall on a film set. One fine day, Shreyas Talpade-playing himself-gifts Shanu a shuttlecock, or chidiya in Hindi. Thus begins a heartfelt mission: to play the 'chidiya wala game'- badminton. That, in essence,

is the plot. Written and directed by Mehran Amrohi, the film's tone is optimistic. How one simple game becomes a boy's dream, shielding him from the harshness his mother endures, is both moving and tender. Vinay Pathak's Balai is a standout character - paternal toward Shanu and Bua, treating them no differently than his own daughter.

Case filed against Malayalam actor Unni Mukundan over alleged assault on former manager



Malayalam actor Unni Mukundan has been booked in a case of alleged assault and verbal abuse following a complaint filed by his former manager, Vipin Kumar. The incident reportedly took place on May 26, with an FIR registered under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Vipin Kumar, who served as Mukundan's manager for six years, alleged that the actor physically attacked him during a meeting in the basement of Mukundan's apartment complex in Kochi. According to Kumar's statement,

the meeting was initiated by Mukundan himself. "I worked as the manager of Unni Mukundan for six years. I filed a case against him on May 26 because he physically assaulted me, verbally abused me, and even issued a life threat," said Vipin Kumar, while speaking.

"He called me to meet that morning. When I arrived, he yelled at me, punched and hit me. Another person had to intervene and stop him," he added. The alleged altercation is said to have stemmed from Mukundan's frustration following the release of his recent film 'Marco', which, according to Kumar, did not receive the attention the actor had expected from top filmmakers in the industry. "After the movie Marco, he was visibly upset that no leading directors were approaching him. He seemed to vent that frustration on me," Kumar added. The complaint mentions that Mukundan not only confronted Kumar at his residence but also used foul language and slapped him in the parking area. Meanwhile, Unni Mukundan also counter filed a

report against Vipin with the DGP. This development follows closely on the heels of Unni Mukundan's resignation as the Treasurer of the Association of Malayalam Movie Artists (AMMA) earlier this year. In a public statement released on January 14 through Instagram, Mukundan cited mental health concerns and increasing professional workload as reasons for stepping down. "After much thought and reflection, I have made the difficult decision to step down from my role as the Treasurer of AMMA," Mukundan wrote. "My current projects, particularly Marco, have placed significant demands on my time and affected my mental health," he added. Mukundan assured that he would continue in his position until a new treasurer is appointed, to ensure a smooth handover.

His resignation came at a time when AMMA itself was under scrutiny following the mass resignation of its 17-member executive committee, including president Mohanlal, in August 2024.

Harshvardhan & Sonam's Deewaniyat Gets a New Title

The title of the upcoming Hindi film starring Harshvardhan Rane and Sonam Bajwa has been changed. The film, which was tentatively titled 'Deewaniyat', has undergone a title change. Titled 'Deewane Ki Deewaniyat', the film now has a new team at the helm after it switched production houses. This change comes on the heels of the film's transition from Vikir Films to Play DMF, Anshul Garg's rapidly rising production house. The creative leads of the new team have decided that the previous title no longer aligned with the evolved narrative and branding of the project.

'Deewane Ki Deewaniyat' reflects a deeper emotional core and a more personalised love saga, and is touted as a story of madness, intensity, and romantic obsession. According to sources close to the team, the new title better encapsulates the passion-driven narrative and the dramatic



tone of the film. The title change also marks a fresh start for the movie under its new leadership, and with principal photography already underway, fans can expect the first poster and trailer under the updated title soon. Earlier, the actor took to social media to share his excitement over the film's powerful and emotionally driven narrative. The actor posted pictures of him on his social media, calling the film's script "his strongest written

script till date". He also expressed his deep appreciation for the team behind the project.

Prior to this, it was learnt that Harshvardhan, who is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology (Honours), will have to multitask between his exams and shoot for his upcoming film in June. Harshvardhan took to Instagram stories, where he shared snippets of his study routine as he was writing down the lectures.

Nair's Stellar 204 Anchors India A's Mammoth 557 Vs England Lions

Canterbury, (HS) : Karun Nair's (204) double century, alongside almost-hundreds by Sarfaraz Khan (92) and Dhruv Jurel (94), helped India A set a massive total of 557 in the first innings against England Lions on Day 2 of the unofficial Test at the St Lawrence Ground here on Saturday. For the bowling side, Josh Hull and Zaman Akhter claimed three wickets each. Earlier on day one, India 'A' captain Abhimanyu Easwaran (8) was trapped plumb by left-arm fast bowler Josh Hull. Shortly after, Yashviji Jaiswal (24) was also on his way to the pavilion while attempting to hoick across the line and was caught behind on the bowling of Eddie Jack.

But from there, India took the fight to the inexperienced English bowlers. Nair took his time to adjust to the conditions and the seaming Duke's ball before showcasing brilliant shots on both sides of the wicket. Nair shared a 181-run third-wicket



partnership with Sarfaraz, who was comfortable in hitting 92 off 119 balls. He also shared a 195-run partnership with vice-captain Dhruv Jurel, who hit 94 off 120 balls, before the wicket-keeper batter fell to pacer Ajeet Singh Dale on day two on Saturday. Nitish Kumar Reddy (5) failed to make an impact as he nicked a short delivery while trying to drive it through off and was Jack's second wicket of the innings. Nair, who resumed from 186 not out, swivel-pulled Eddie Jack through the leg-side to bring up his fourth First-Class double century, which is also his first 200-plus score for India 'A'. It was his fourth double-century in First-Class cricket. He departed soon after as his inside edge, off Zaman Akhter, clipped the ball, and James Rew made no mistake in latching onto it.

Brief scores: India A 557 all out in 125.1 overs (Karun Nair 204, Dhruv Jurel 94, Sarfaraz Khan 92; Josh Hull 3-72, Zaman Akhter 3-73) vs England Lions

CM Applauds Odisha Sprinter Animesh Kujur for Historic Bronze in SK



Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Saturday congratulated sprinter Animesh Kujur for winning the bronze medal in the 200m event at the Asian Athletics Championships held in South Korea. Kujur, a 21-year-old athlete from Odisha, clocked an impressive 20.32 seconds to finish third, breaking his own national record of 20.40 seconds set earlier this year at the Federation Cup. His performance not only earned him a podium finish but also reaffirmed his status as one of India's top sprinting talents.

In a message posted on social media platform X (formerly Twitter), Chief Minister Majhi lauded Kujur's achievement, saying, "Congratulations to #Odisha athlete Animesh Kujur on clinching Bronze medal in 200m sprint after clocking an impressive 20.32 seconds at #AsianAthleticsChampionships in South Korea and creating a new national record. He has made the entire nation proud with this achievement. May he continue to scale new heights in his sporting career. Wishing him all the best for future events. #OdishaForSports." Kujur's success is being celebrated across Odisha, with sports officials and enthusiasts hailing it as a significant moment for Indian athletics.

Odisha's Srabani Helps India Clinch Silver in Asian Athletics



Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : Odisha's star sprinter Srabani Nanda played a crucial role in securing a silver medal for India in the women's 4x100m relay at the 26th Asian Athletics Championships 2025, held in Gumi, South Korea. The Indian team clocked an impressive 43.86 seconds to finish second in the high-stakes final. Srabani, along with teammates SS Sneha, Abinaya Rajarajan, and Nithya Gandhe, delivered a powerful performance that brought pride to the nation and to Odisha in particular. "I am very happy and proud. In 2017, we won the bronze medal, and this time at the Asian Athletics Championships 2025, we won the silver medal. First, I want to thank everyone who helped us - our sports and youth services, Odisha Hydro Power Corporation (OHPC), our whole team, coaches, and the Sports Authority of India (SAI) in Trivandrum. Our training focused on the order in which we run the relay. I ran the first leg, which is very important. We practiced our timing and technique carefully so we could perform our best. Because of this preparation, I was confident running the first part of the race. As a 100m runner and experienced starter, I knew what to do. I gave my best from the start.

Gambhir's 'Not A Selector' Comment Receives Brutal Jibe

New Delhi, (HS) : The decision to include Shreyas Iyer in the Indian cricket team squad for the upcoming Test series against England has resulted in a lot of debate among fans and experts. Shreyas enjoyed a brilliant run of form in the last one year and although his IPL batting performance was quite impressive, he was not considered for the series. While chief selector Ajit Agarkar gave a detailed reason for not selecting him, head coach Gautam Gambhir just said that 'I am not the selector' - an indication that the coaching staff was not included in the process. During the 12th episode of Bails and Banter on the OTTplay app, former Indian pacer Atul Wassan took a slight dig at Gambhir - 'he doesn't



select; he only rejects'. Wassan added that a coach plays a key role in team selection process. "If he (Gautam Gambhir) has been given this position, then I think he deserves to go with his feeling, whether it's right or wrong," he explained. Earlier, Gambhir hailed the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for dedicating the

final of IPL 2025 - scheduled for June 3 at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad - to the Indian Armed Forces, in honour of Operation Sindoor, the military response to the terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu & Kashmir, which claimed 26 civilian lives. This gesture from the BCCI and IPL Governing Council marks a first-of-its-kind tribute in the league's history. The Chief of Defence Staff, Chief of Army Staff, Chief of Naval Staff, and Chief of Air Staff have been officially invited to attend the grand finale.

"It's an unbelievable step from BCCI. You know, we normally criticise the BCCI for various things, but this is unbelievable. This is something where I think BCCI has taken a great initiative from a point of

view where the entire nation is one, and the entire nation has to salute the armed forces for what they do unconditionally, saving and protecting us," Gambhir told the reporters on the sidelines of the Goswami Ganesh Dutt Memorial Cricket Tournament. The IPL final, initially set for May 26, was rescheduled to June 3 following a week-long suspension of the tournament due to rising tensions between India and Pakistan.

The escalation - and India's subsequent military action across the Line of Control and in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir - saw the nation rally around its armed forces, leading the BCCI to take a conscious call to align the tournament's climax with a patriotic tribute.