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English Daily



WINDOWS



Anusha on acting debut

Container Ship Catches Fire

A merchant vessel, carrying 650 containers from Colombo to the Nhava Sheva Port in Mumbai, caught fire after an explosion on board, about 78 nautical miles off Bepore in Kozhikode, Kerala, on Monday morning. The Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard have launched a co-ordinated rescue operation. The Ministry of Defence (MoD) confirmed that the Navy received information at 10.30 am of an 'underdeck' explosion on board the Singapore-flagged MV Wan Hai 503. The destroyer INS Surat was immediately diverted towards the location, and Dornier aircraft took off from INS Garuda in Kochi. The Coast Guard has also deployed four vessels including ICGS Rajdoot, ICGS Arnavesh and ICGS Sachet for rescue operations. A Coast Guard Dornier is also operational.

Family of 3 shot at in Patna

Three members of a family - a couple and their daughter - were shot at by two bike-borne assailants in Bihar's Patna on Monday morning. According to the police, the trio were headed to the market when they were shot at. The woman, a retired nurse, and her daughter were rushed to the Nalanda Medical College and Hospital (NMCH), with serious gunshot injuries to their chests and abdomens. The man, identified as Dhananjay Mehta, was injured in the leg. He has also been admitted to the same hospital. According to some reports, the woman and daughter have succumbed to their injuries, but there is no official confirmation of this.

India witnessed rapid transformations: Modi



Survey on NaMo App

New Delhi, (HS) : Prime Minister Narendra Modi has urged everyone to take part in survey on the NaMo App on India's growth journey over the last 11 years. Modi also shared a link of portal where anyone can take part in Jan Man Survey about India's growth journey over the last 11 years. The Prime Minister posted on X: "Your views matter the most! Take part in this survey on the NaMo App and let us know how you view India's growth journey over the last 11 years. #11YearsOfSeva"

New Delhi, (HS) : Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted on Monday that under the 11 years of his government India has not just become the fastest-

growing major economy but is also a key global voice on pressing issues like climate action and digital innovation. A clear focus on good governance and

transformation, Modi said of the last 11 years as his government finished the first year of its third term on Monday. A link shared by him noted that 60 per cent of the current Union ministers are from the SC, ST and OBC categories, a message aimed at burnishing social justice credentials of his government amid attempts by opposition parties like the Congress to paint it as working against their interests. This is the highest ever representation of these marginalised groups in the Union Council of Ministers, it added. In his post on X, Modi said powered by the blessings and collective participation of 140 crore Indians, India has witnessed rapid transformations across diverse sectors. Guided by the principle of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas', the NDA government has delivered path-breaking changes with speed, scale and sensitivity, he said. From economic growth to social upliftment, the focus has been on

people-centric, inclusive and all round progress, he added. The prime minister said, "We are proud of our collective success but at the same time, we look ahead with hope, confidence and a renewed resolve to build a Viksit Bharat." He used the hashtag of "11 year of seva" (11 years of service) with the post, while sharing links to the details of changes effected in different sectors. It said Modi has brought the politics of development, 'Vikasvaad' into the mainstream, making it the focal point around which political discourse and policy action now revolves. Since assuming office in 2014, 'India First' has guided his every policy and action, it added. It noted that over 81 crore people are getting free food grains, over 15 crore households have got tap water connections, over four crore houses built for the poor, 12 crore toilets were built, 68 lakh street vendors got loans, 52.5 crores loans given to small entrepreneurs, and 20 crores women were given cash assistance during Covid under different schemes.

CM Majhi vows to make Kendrapada a model dist



Kendrapada, (DMC) : Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Monday announced that the second year of his government will mark a series of transformative initiatives beginning from Kendrapada, which is set to be made a model district. During a visit to Kendrapada, the Chief Minister reviewed the district's overall development status at a high-level meeting held at the

District Inspection Office. He took stock of administrative performance, infrastructure growth, and social welfare delivery.

Kendrapada would become a launchpad for the state government's second-year development agenda, the CM said while addressing officials and public representatives. The meeting put focus on

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Flood situation improves marginally in Assam



Dispur, (HS) : The flood situation in Assam continued to improve on Sunday as the number of affected people reduced to

2.59 lakh, even as the toll in this year's deluge and landslides rose to 26 with three more fatalities, officials said. No major river was

flowing above the danger level in the state, with ferry services over the Brahmaputra resuming partially during the day, they said. An Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) bulletin said 32 revenue circles and 741 villages in 11 districts continued to reel under flood waters. The affected population stands at 2,59,093, with the three Barak valley districts remaining the worst-hit - Sribhumi (1,62,108), Hailakandi (51,663) and Cachar (36,271), it said. Around 3.37 lakh people in 12 districts were affected till Saturday. The three deaths on Sunday were reported from

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Fatal Mishap: Panic stricken people at Mumbra railway station after several passengers reportedly fell from a moving train, resulting in four deaths and multiple injuries in Thane on Monday. (Page-5)

Youth becoming job provider in India: Om Birla

New Delhi, (HS) : Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla today said that India is leading the world in finding solutions to global challenges by virtue of the talent and capability of its youth. He said that India's youth has played a great role in country's social, economical and technological development and exhorted them to use latest technology and innovation for betterment of the country. Speaking at an event at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Jodhpur, Birla said that India is advancing on the global stage by harnessing the dual strengths of modern science and its rich spiritual heritage.

He observed that India's youth, today, is progressing towards becoming job provider rather than job seeker and IITs



have played an important role in this transformation. Graduates from IITs have played important role in strengthening the startup eco-system in the country, reinforcing economic development, he noted. He added that there is a huge demand of Indian youth, brimming with skill and innovative ideas, across the

globe. He urged that the youth of India should become active stakeholders in country's journey on the path of 'Viksit Bharat'. On the occasion, Birla inaugurated the state-of-the-art Lecture Hall Complex - II of IIT, Jodhpur, today. The Lok Sabha Speaker emphasized that the nation's progress lies in the

harmonious integration of cutting-edge technology with timeless values rooted in its spiritual traditions. This balanced approach, he noted, not only fuels innovation and development but also ensures that growth remains ethical, inclusive, and sustainable. By drawing upon both scientific knowledge and spiritual wisdom, India is charting a unique path toward holistic national advancement.

On this note, Birla also highlighted India's success in achieving self-reliance in various fields - from manufacturing toys to defence equipment. Such endeavors, combined with the digital ecosystem of India, have given a significant boost to our resolve for an Atmanirbhar Bharat, stressed Birla.

Govt inks pact with IGNOU to offer courses in Odia

Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : The Higher Education Department, Government of Odisha and the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), New Delhi, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to offer a range of undergraduate, postgraduate, diploma and certificate programmes in the Odia language. With this initiative, IGNOU now will provide courses such as Bachelor's degrees, Master's degrees, Post Graduate diplomas, diplomas, certificates, specialised programmes in Travel & Tourism Management, BBA, MBA and other courses in Odia language in Odisha Higher Education Minister Suryabanshi Suraj attended the signing ceremony as the Chief Guest. "Through this MoU, our students can now pursue higher education in Odia," he stated.

Suraj emphasised that offering programmes in the mother tongue removes the barriers. "Language or medium should no longer be a hindrance in access to higher education," he said adding that this initiative reinforces the National Education Policy 2020's focus on providing education in regional languages. This MoU signing is expected to foster students' creativity, reduce dropout rates and boost the state's gross enrollment ratio in higher education. The students from various higher education institutions welcomed this initiative, noting that many students would greatly benefit from accessing higher education through the Odia medium. Commissioner-cum-Secretary of Higher Education department Arvind Agarwal, Special Secretary Ramakant Nayak, IGNOU Vice-Chancellor Prof. Uma Kanjilal and Registrar Dr. Alok Chaubey were present.

India test fires Negev LMG, fitted with indigenously-developed autonomous AI-system

New Delhi, (HS) : India test fired an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-enabled Light Machine Gun (LMG) at an altitude of 14,000 feet on Monday. The autonomous system is capable of identifying targets and engaging them without human intervention. The system has been developed by Dehradun-based defence firm BSS Material Ltd, and was fitted to an Israel-origin Negev LMG. The test firing was conducted in the presence of senior Indian Army officers. "The advanced weapon system demonstrated its ability to

autonomously identify and engage targets in challenging mountain environments. This will provide a crucial advantage for operations along India's rugged border regions. The trials, focused on functionality and accuracy, are part of a broader push to modernise the armed forces through indigenous innovations under the 'Make in India' and 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiatives," an official said.

According to BSS Material Ltd, the AI-integrated system maintained stable target acquisition, adaptive fire



control, and semi-autonomous surveillance throughout the trials. Engineers said the weapon's core lies in a sophisticated multi-sensor AI module capable of automatic target detection, friend-foe classification, and real-time engagement. The Negev LMG was developed by the Israel Weapon Industries (IWI). There are two variants known as the Negev NG-5 and Negev NG-7. Here, NG stands for Next Generation. While the NG-5 is a 5.56x45 mm weapon, the NG-7 is of 7.62x51 mm calibre.

The AI system's key technological features include

thermal and optical sensor fusion for precision targeting, ballistic compensation for wind, range, and temperature variables and encrypted remote command compatibility. "The AI-powered Negev system is designed for deployment in high-risk or logistically challenging environments. It can be used for base defence, convoy protection, and perimeter security where constant threat levels require rapid response but troop deployment remains difficult," the official added. BSS engineers have highlighted

the modular nature of the system. It is platform-agnostic and can be integrated with a wide range of weapon systems, from light machine guns to anti-drone solutions. Deployment options include tripods, remote weapon stations (RWS), unmanned ground vehicles (UGVs), and static installations.

The test followed Operation Sindoor, where the importance of advanced weapons systems became clear. India now aims to extend its strategic reach into remote and high-risk zones with reduced dependence on manpower.

Monetary Policy

The June meeting of the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee contained many surprises. As against expectations of a 25 basis point cut in interest rates, the committee lowered the benchmark repo rate by 50 basis points. This brings the cumulative cuts since February to 100 basis points. The repo rate now stands at 5.5 per cent. The rationale for doing so seems straightforward. As RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said, "It is imperative to continue to stimulate domestic private consumption and investment through policy levers to step up the growth momentum." And muted inflation provides the central bank the space to lower interest rates to do so.

Inflation had edged lower to 3.16 per cent in April and is likely to stay subdued. A favourable monsoon bodes well for farm output and there are expectations of major commodities such as crude oil witnessing moderation. Forecasts by the RBI and most analysts do indicate softness in prices. As per the central bank's latest forecast, retail inflation, as measured by the consumer price index, is expected to average 3.7 per cent in 2025-26 (3.15 per cent in the first half of the year and 4.15 per cent in the second half). This is lower than its earlier estimate of 4%. Alongside the rate cut, the RBI has also unexpectedly cut the cash reserve ratio by 100 basis points to boost liquidity. As per the central bank, this measure could release primary liquidity of Rs 2.5 lakh crore by December 2025. This will aid in policy transmission. However, at the same meeting, the RBI also unexpectedly announced a change in its policy stance from "accommodative" to "neutral", after having shifted it only in the last meeting. In the April policy meeting, the RBI Governor had said that the "stance of monetary policy signals the intended direction of policy rates going forward". This sudden decision is being viewed by some as signalling a pause in the rate cut cycle. In his comments, Malhotra did say that "monetary policy is left with very limited space to support growth". And though the central bank has retained its estimate of GDP growth for 2025-26 at 6.5 per cent, there does remain considerable uncertainty over the growth momentum. In fact, it has noted that "spillovers emanating from protracted geopolitical tensions, and global trade and weather-related uncertainties, pose downside risks to growth".

Thus, taken together, the various announcements in the June meeting do suggest that the central bank will probably adopt a wait-and-watch approach over the coming months as it assesses the impact of the measures it has announced so far. Policy action in this period will depend on how the trajectory of growth and inflation evolves.

10th June

National Pen Day



National Ballpoint Pen Day is celebrated every year on June 10 and is a rather fun and whimsical holiday. This day encourages us to honor this humble product that is found everywhere, in our homes, schools, art studios, offices, etc. Almost everyone has used a ballpoint pen once in their life and, for many, it holds a special place in their pen holder.

National Ballpoint Day acknowledges this universal writing utensil and it also marks the day when the patent for it was filed. Before the ballpoint pen came into the world, people used a fountain pen or pencil to write. Created to provide an alternative to the quill and fountain pens, now, the ballpoint pen dominates the pen market. Many people attempted to invent the ballpoint pen but weren't successful due to issues in ink distribution, overflow, and clogging. Then, finally, the brothers László and György Bíró obtained their patent for the ballpoint pen and revolutionized the way people wrote letters. Now, European Patent #2390636 protects one of the world's most popular modern writing instruments. The Bíró brothers knew they were onto something when they invented the ballpoint pen. Later, the British government bought the rights to the newly-patented pens and today global manufacturers produce millions of these ballpoint pens and sell them across the world. Ballpoint pens are used everywhere and are an affordable and reliable instrument for writing.

The first patent for a ballpoint pen is issued to John J. Loud. László Bíró, a Hungarian newspaper editor, files a British patent for the ballpoint pen. The Bíró brothers along with their friend Juan Jorge Meyne move to Argentina and form Bíró Pens of Argentina. The first ballpoint pens are sold in New York at a cost of \$12 a pen. To celebrate this day, you can buy a stack of ballpoint pens. You can either keep them to use or even gift some to your colleagues or friends. On this day, whatever writing work you have to undertake, ensure you do it only with a ballpoint pen. It can be a simple signature on a document or a letter, but use a ballpoint pen! If you have some spare ballpoints lying around, why not decorate them? You can doodle on them with permanent markers or apply tiny stickers on them. Make a quirky and fancy ballpoint pen and show it off.

Ballpoint pens hardly turn a hole in your pocket. They cost as little as 20 cents. They're affordable and can be purchased by anyone. Due to the nature of the ink of fountain pens and gel pens, left-handers often end up with a messy writing situation. However, ballpoint pens dry instantly and are perfect and comfortable for left-handers and right-handers alike. Ballpoint pens are available in multiple ink colors. They come in red, blue, green, black and more. They are more versatile than traditional fountain pens.

Supervisory framework of Central Bank needs new approach



Dr. Seela Subba Rao

The supervision of banks and financial institutions is embedded in the core functions of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Indeed, the role of supervision has been the key stone that has supported the integrity and stability of the financial system by protecting the depositors' interests and thereby fostering public trust in the banking system. With advancement of technology, the financial system is exposed to significant vulnerabilities such as various risks, cybersecurity threats and risks stemming from third-party dependencies. Supervision, therefore, needs to evolve with times and can no longer be just enforcing compliance of CAMELS framework in the bank. CAMELS compliance denotes six parameters viz capital adequacy, asset quality, management, earning, liquidity, and systems & controls of the bank. The role of supervision is not only to anticipate various risks, but also to quantify the same. The prime aim of supervision is to respond to both foreseeable and unforeseen risks and foster resilience in the financial system in the country.

Present supervisory framework- Under aegis of the RBI, the Board for Financial Supervision (BFS) has been constituted in November 1994. The BFS is an autonomous body and directs the policies & operations relating to supervision of commercial banks, urban cooperative banks, Development Financial Institutions (DFIs) and Non-Banking Financial Institutions (NBFCs). The Governor of RBI is the Chairman of the BFS while Deputy

Governor-in-charge of supervision is the Vice-chairman. The other two Deputy Governors of the RBI, together with four non-official directors from the Central Board of the bank are members of BFS. The BFS meets every month and has positioned a new strategy for on-site supervision of banks as well as a system of off-site monitoring based on quarterly reporting system. Both regulatory and supervisory functions of the RBI were earlier carried out through Department of Banking Operations and Development (DBOD). But in December 1993, a separate department called Department of Supervision (DoS) was formed to take over the supervisory function exclusively. The RBI has been vested with necessary powers to issue licence to a banking company for carrying out bank business. Further, the RBI has been also vested with powers to issue guidelines on any issue pertaining to liquidity, sound management, capital adequacy, income recognition, asset-classification, provisioning and etc. The RBI also conducts periodical inspection of financial institutions such as SEBI, NABARD, NHB and etc. A High-level Committee on Capital Markets consisting of Governor of the RBI, Chairman of SEBI and Economic Affairs Secretary of Union Government serves as a forum for discussions and review of corporate regulating issues. The officials of DoS carry out on-site inspections of banks based on a risk-based supervisory framework. It is supplemented by off-site monitoring and surveillance. The supervisors of the RBI must be satisfied that each bank maintains adequate records drawn in accordance with consistent accounting policies and practices that enable the supervisor to obtain a true and fair view of the financial condition of the bank and its profitability. The banks are required to publish on a regular basis financial statement that fairly reflect its condition.

Some gaps in supervision - DoS of the Central Bank conducts annual inspections and reviews of the performance of the banks across the country to ensure compliance with rules & regulations and maintenance of acceptable risk profile. Risk



assessment reports (RAR) evaluate various risks such as management & organisation risk, credit risk, market risk, liquidity risk and operational risk in three facets viz information technology (IT), non-IT and other risks. RAR also identifies the control gap which causes the inherent risk and computes the aggregate risk as a weighted average of inherent and control-gap parameters. Despite of all this, the inspections and revaluation of management of banks are missing the warning signals of irregularities of the banks in some cases. Some experts have opined that there are still some gaps in the supervision framework which needs further improvement. The instances of swindle by diamond traders (Niray Modi and Mehul Choksi) at Punjab National Bank, fraud in PMC Bank and collapse of IL & FC have raised serious concern. Other example is the controversies surrounding the MD & CEO of ICICI Bank a couple of years back on gross negligence as the advances to Videocon and other corporates was major chunk of advances provided by the bank. Recent instances of resignation of Deputy CEO of IndusInd Bank Ltd on 28 April 2025 and a day later, its MD & CEO followed suit owning moral responsibility for various acts of omissions and commissions. The bank's chief financial officer had also previously resigned, further raising concerns. The spat of resignations at the top-level of the bank was triggered by discrepancies in the accounting of derivative transaction. Presently, investigations are in progress

to ascertain the impact on the bank's balance sheet and other financial statements. Additionally, there have been concerns raised about the lack of transparency and accountability in functioning of urban cooperative banks across the country, with some failing due to financial irregularities and unsustainable loans. The RBI has cautioned the banks against cyber frauds, window dressing, ever-greening of stressed loan accounts, customer charges, KYC norms, internal account mismanagement and lack of proactive risk management.

Way Forward- In recent years, the RBI has initiated a series of measures to strengthen its supervisory framework over scheduled commercial banks, urban cooperative banks, NBFC and etc. The central bank has designed and implemented a calibrated supervisory approach to focus more effectively on high-risk institutions as well as practices. The central bank has launched "DAKSH", a web-based supervisory monitoring system to enhance compliance and supervisory efficiency among the supervised entities in the light of several frauds going undetected. It is noteworthy that RBI has imposed penalties on some commercial banks viz Axis Bank, Bank of Baroda, Bank of Maharashtra, and IDBI Bank for violating certain regulatory norms recently. The RBI has also implemented two major Sup Tech initiatives for seamless reporting between the banks and the central bank. These are Integrated Compliance Management and Tracking System (ICMTS) and Centralised Information Management System (CIMS)

which intend to enhance the data management and data analytics capabilities respectively. The RBI has adopted the system of appointing senior supervisory manager (SSM) in all its supervised entities for continuous monitoring the affairs and operations in the financial system. Further entities belonging to a group/conglomerate have a single point of supervision through the SSM which is expected to reduce any potential supervisory arbitrage. To further enhance the skills and expertise of its supervisory personnel, the RBI has taken up the building capacity initiatives. The central bank has put in place the structure frameworks to assess the governance standard in banks robustness of their business model and efficacy of their internal assurance functions such as internal audit, compliance, and risk management.

It is paramount for the RBI to focus on KYC/AML (know your customer /anti-money laundering) in line with Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS) and Financial Action Task Force (FATF) requirements for prudential supervision. The RBI has been adopting a more focused approach on supervision, targeting specific risk areas such as credit, market, operational and liquidity risks. It is pertinent to mention that, the central bank has taken up repositioning of its supervisory framework for better alignment with the emerging challenges. The RBI's supervisory initiatives need to aim identifying risks and vulnerabilities early, establishing a structured framework for early intervention to mitigate these risks. There is need for the RBI to shift its approach from merely addressing the symptoms of vulnerabilities to identifying & addressing the root causes. To ensure effective supervision, there is also need for the central bank to enhance communication channels, increase transparency and improve accountability. It is also important for the RBI to take necessary initiatives for harmonizing supervisory severity across all segments of the financial system in the country.

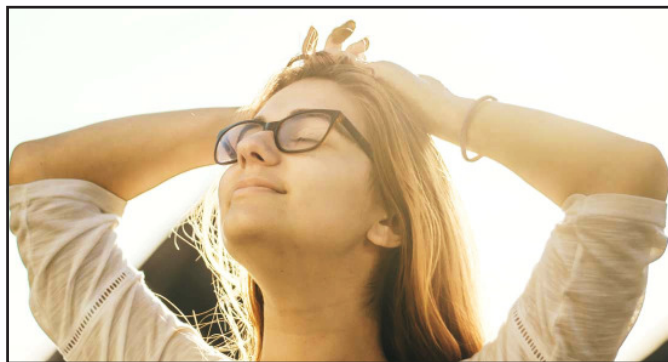
AGM (retd) NABARD

Joy is the essence of spirituality

Kishore Kumar Jena

Joy is the essence of success, of ceremonies and of desires. One should be happy every moment of wakefulness to enjoy His divine presence in each atom of universe as if it went come again..... as if it is precious then diamond. Anand is a state of unwavering and constant happiness, joy, and spiritual fulfilment. It is a profound and intense feeling of positivity and satisfaction and often involves a deep connection to one's emotions, surroundings, or a higher purpose. When you live each moment fully, there is a sense of satisfaction of having enjoyed every moment; it makes you feel light and positive – no regrets, no guilt. Subsequently, you begin to feel grateful for the opportunity, wisdom, and energy to be able to live it well. That boost your antifragility quotient. After all, the thought that you focus your energy on, gets strengthened.

Happiness is something that everyone searches for but very few are able to find. Here are five key steps that lead to permanent happiness: We must want to be happy; We need to accept guidance to achieve this; We need to apply self-discipline in order to follow the guidance; We need to shift the focus to making inner, not outer, changes; We need truly to accept that both happiness and unhappiness are choices we make. Doesn't everyone want to be happy? Yes, and no. On a deep level, of course, everyone wants happiness. Paramhansa



Yogananda said, in fact, that this desire is the fundamental motivation of every living thing. But on a conscious level, very few people seek happiness. Rather, they seek those things that they think will make them happy: money, possessions, relationships, power, and fame. The problem with this way of thinking is that nothing outside our self can ever make us happy. Only we have that power. Why not, then, seek happiness itself, rather than the will-o'-wisp that society dangles before us? Happiness lies within. We need to look for happiness in the right way. At first, many of the ingredients seem counterintuitive, or even counterproductive: non-attachment; serving others; letting go of instinctive patterns such as judgemental reactions, anger, jealousy, and the like. Finding happiness requires, in fact, that we transcend the very self that is doing the seeking. We need a guide who is more advanced to lead us along the path. The need for self-discipline is obvious, but actually to train our will is not easy. Paramhansa Yogananda said,

One God, but many Names

Dr. Suresh Kumar Nayak

Pure love cannot be learnt from books. Nor can it be taught by others. It has to well up from deep within. Your heart is the source of Eternal Joy and Eternal Bliss. You yourself are Ananda Nilayam or the Abode of Bliss. This love originating from your heart must be offered to the Lord. : Deho Devalayah prokto jivo Devah sanatanah. The body is a Temple, and the Indweller is God Himself. The same God resides in all bodies. Therefore you must love others to the same extent you love yourself. Bodies may be different but the God within is the same.

There is a man who is addressed as father by his son. The daughter-in-law calls him father-in-law, while the grandchildren call him grandfather. The individual is the same but the manner in which different people address him varies. Similarly, the same God is given different names by the followers of different religions; they hail Him as Allah, Jesus, Rama, Krishna, Buddha, and so on. Though the names vary, God is one and the same. Therefore, there is really no room for dispute between people belonging to different religions. You may address God by the name of your choice but all calls go to the same destination. Goal is one, and God also is one. Thus, in respect of God, there should be no difference of opinion. In



fact, Sarva jiva namaskaram Kesavam pratigacchati. No matter to whom you offer salutations and greetings, they all go to God Himself. Since the same God resides in all, where is the room for arguments based on caste, creed, race, etc.? As the deputy foreign minister of Sri Lanka (who spoke earlier) said, we all belong to the caste of humanity.

There is only one caste, the caste of Humanity. There is only one religion, the religion of Love. There is only one language, the language of the Heart, And there is only one God, He is Omnipresent. This one God can be given any name you choose. These are names given by you to God, but in actual fact, God has no names of this kind. He is nameless and formless. He is pure consciousness and pure energy. This divine energy and consciousness are present in you, and you must use these extraordinary powers and capability in a most reverential manner for sacred activities only.

Principal, Ashelles Public School, Sector-9, CDA, Cuttack

'Mahapurush Adarsh' villages across Odisha soon

Bhubaneswar (DMC): The Odisha government has embarked on an ambitious plan to develop around 100 to 150 villages into 'Mahapurush Adarsh' villages across the state, enhancing those associated with eminent personalities who played a key role during the freedom struggle.

In a bid to rejuvenate these historically significant yet neglected areas, the initiative will focus on upgrading roads, drinking water, irrigation, education, and healthcare facilities. Panchayati Raj



Minister Rabi Narayan Naik, announced this initiative on Monday, stating that various state departments would collaborate to ensure seamless implementation. Minister Naik

confirmed that the process has already started in this regard has already started and nine to ten departments will contribute to ensure the rapid development of those villages.

"Around 100 to 150 villages in Odisha associated with notable figures from the Indian freedom struggle will be transformed as 'Mahapurush Adarsh' villages. Nine to ten departments will collaboratively work for the development of those villages. The state government will facilitate all the requirements. Process in this

regard has already started and the initiative will be implemented soon," said Panchayati Raj Minister Rabi Narayan Naik. A couple of months back, the Minister had urged citizens to swiftly report any issues related to drinking water supply to local administrative officers.

The move was part of an initiative to ensure the availability of pure drinking water across communities, responding to frequent water supply disruptions that affect daily life in various regions amid the scorching heat of summer.

Nobody will be spared, Minister's warning to corrupt officers

Bhubaneswar (DMC): In a strong and unequivocal message to officers accused of corruption, state Revenue Minister Suresh Pujari on Monday issued a warning, emphasizing the Odisha government's zero-tolerance approach to graft.

The statement marks a significant escalation in the administration's efforts to clean up governance and hold individuals accountable, regardless of their rank or influence. Addressing a press briefing today, the Minister declared that a statewide anti-corruption campaign has already been set in motion."The campaign has begun, and no one - absolutely no one - will be spared," he asserted firmly. The tone of the statement



underscored the government's determination to uproot corrupt practices embedded within the system. Reiterating the consequences for those found guilty, the Minister stated, "Whoever engages in corruption will go to jail."

This statement comes amidst ongoing investigations and the arrest of several government officials across various departments. The Minister emphasized that there will be no political or administrative shelter for the guilty.The Minister

reinforced the Odisha government's commitment to transparency and accountability, saying, "This is a matter of principle and public trust. Wherever corruption exists - in any department or at any level - action will be taken." He added that the government is resolved to fulfill its pledge of clean governance and that legal action will be enforced swiftly and strictly.

The Minister appealed to the general public for support in this endeavor. "Help us. Do not offer bribes to anyone, under any circumstances," he urged. Citizens were encouraged to report instances of bribery and malpractice, and to join hands with the administration in fostering an ethical and just administrative framework.

Crackdown on illegal sale of abortion kits begins

Bhubaneswar (DMC): The Odisha Drugs Control Department on Monday launched a crackdown on the illegal sale of abortion kits at Nayapalli area in Bhubaneswar.

A medicine store in the locality was found allegedly selling abortion kits without the required prescriptions from registered medical practitioners. In the raid conducted by a three-member team from the department, several abortion kits were recovered. The action was part of a broader initiative to curb the misuse of medications like misopristol, which is often used without medical supervision and carries serious

health risks.An official from the Drugs Control Department stated, "As per the instructions by the department to keep the illegal use of abortion kits in check, we have started our investigation from this shop and found several of them. To curb the illegal use of medications like misopristol in the kit, the department formed a three-member team for the investigation."The official further warned, "Misopristol as a medication has severe side effects so it should never be sold without a prescription. This medication should only be taken under the supervision of a medical practitioner. This

medication causes heavy bleeding, along with other complications, including infertility in the future." "All the shops being investigated, as per our information, are selling these drugs, which are being misused as well. The shop will not be sealed today, and a decision will be taken after the final report submission by the Drugs Control Department.

The licences of these shops will also be suspended if required after they are issued with a show cause notice," the official added. Responding to the allegations, the shopkeeper said, "These medications were earlier being sold to people who were asking but we have stopped now."

Ex-gratia for death in animal attack hiked

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): The Odisha government on Monday increased the compensation amount for the loss of life due to attack by wild animals to Rs 10 lakh from Rs 6 lakh. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has approved a proposal in this regard taking into account the loss of life and property caused due to attacks by wild animals, mainly in areas near forests.The state government had last increased the compensation in May, 2023. Apart from hiking the compensation amount in case of deaths, the state government also decided to provide houses under Antyodaya Gruha Yojana or equivalent financial assistance in case of damage caused to dwelling units.

Samanta honours JEE achievers

Bhubaneswar (DMC): KIIT-KISS founder Achyuta Samanta today felicitated the JEE Advanced 2025 achievers from Kiit International School during a special event. Apart from felicitating the students, Samanta also honoured their parents and faculty who shaped the students' successful journeys. While speaking on the occasion, he said, "Felt very happy to personally meet and congratulate the brilliant students of KiT International School who have made all of us proud with their outstanding performance in JEE Advanced



2025. Their sincerity, hard work, and simplicity touched me deeply." While Hans Daruka of the school emerged as the top scorer in Odisha securing an All India Rank (AIR) of 39, 13 other students qualified for admission to India's premier Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).The successful candidates

include Samman Poddar, Shreyas Samantary, Swayam Krishna Manohari, Aditya Nayak, Krishansu Mohanty, Rashmi Ranjan Basita, Amrutanshu Dash, Prabhudutta Prusti, Sai Sarvesh Thatoi, Rigved Sai Maharathi, Satwik Mishra and Harshvardhan Singh Sidar.

Four arrested for stealing copper from Loka Seva Bhawan

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): The Police Commissionerate has apprehended four individuals involved in a brazen theft of copper wires from air conditioning units at Loka Seva Bhawan in Bhubaneswar.

The arrests, made on June 9, 2025, follow a meticulous investigation prompted by a complaint from Deepak Kumar Sahu, the maintenance supervisor of the facility.The incident, registered as Capital P.S. Case No. 262 on June 8, 2025, under Sections 303(2)/3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), unfolded on the rooftop of the RD

Conference Hall near the 9 Tala Office. CCTV footage captured three women and one man dismantling an AC outdoor unit to steal copper wires around 12:30 AM on June 8. The accused, identified as labourers engaged at Loka Seva Bhawan, exploited their access to carry out the theft.

Following the complaint, the Capital Police Station launched an investigation, analysing CCTV footage and photographs from the crime scene. The suspects were traced to their residences in Unit-5, Keshari Nagar slum, Bhubaneswar, where they were arrested. The police recovered

stolen items, including copper wires, a plastic L-angle, a broken iron angle, and an electric connecting wire from an AC unit. During interrogation, the accused confessed to the crime, admitting to targeting copper materials due to their high market value.

The arrested individuals are Prafulla Kumar Jena (58), Urmila Pradhan (40), Krishna Bisoi (35), and Kumari Pradhan (35), all hailing from villages under Pattapur Police Station in Ganjam District. They were produced in court on June 9, 2025, and further investigation is ongoing to uncover any additional involvement or similar incidents.

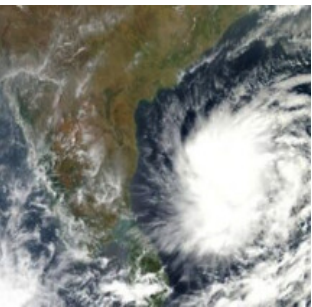
Another cyclonic circulation forms over Bay

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): Odisha is likely to experience heavy rain on June 10 and again from June 14, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) informed on Monday.

According to the midday bulletin, a fresh cyclonic circulation formed over northwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining north coastal Odisha & south Gangetic West Bengal this morning even as a cyclonic circulation over Southeast & adjoining eastcentral Bay of Bengal persisted. The systems

may intensify into a low-pressure area over the next few days, triggering heavy rain in the state. Heavy rainfall may occur at one or two places in Mayurbhanj, and Keonjhar districts on June 14 and Cuttack and Nayagarh on June 15.

The weather agency has also forecast thunderstorm activity along with lightning and gusty surface winds for several parts of the state till June 13. Thunderstorm/ lightning with gusty surface wind speed reaching 50-60 kmph may occur



in the afternoon/evening hours at one or two places in Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Balasore, Bhadrak, and AngulThunderstorm/lightning with gusty surface wind speed

reaching 40-50 kmph is also likely in the afternoon/evening hours at one or two places in Jajpur, Kendrapada, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur and Khurda.

Thunderstorm/lightning with gusty surface wind speed reaching 30-40 kmph may occur in the afternoon/evening hours at one or two places in Sundargarh, Bargarh, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Puri, Nayagarh, Kandhamal, Kalahandi, Nuapada, Nabarangpur, Gajapati, Ganjam, Malkangiri, Koraput, Sonepur, Boudh, Balangir, Rayagada, Deogarh and Dhenkanal.

Law Minister reviews preparation for Puri Rath Yatra

Puri, (DMC): Amid hectic preparations for the upcoming Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath and siblings in Puri, the Odisha government on Monday expressed confidence that the annual festival would be conducted smoothly this year.

Stating that 80 per cent work for the car festival has already been completed, Law, Works and Excise Minister Prithviraj Harichandan said that the remaining work will be completed much before Rath Yatra to be held on June 27. Preparations are underway as per plan and the Rath Yatra festival is expected to be a smooth affair this year, the Minister told reporters after coordination committee meeting on Snana Purnima and Rath Yatra rituals in Puri. The Shree Jagannath Temple



Administration (SJTA) is monitoring all the preparations for the upcoming Snana Purnima of the deities scheduled on June 11. Everything is going on smoothly in close coordination with the servitors, in adherence to the guidelines set for Deva Snana Purnima, Chief

Administrator of SJTA Arabinda Padhee said. The Daita servitors are entering the temple on Monday, and the Senapatalagi ritual will be conducted on Tuesday, he said, adding that all arrangements at the Snana Mandap have been upgraded to facilitate smooth

darshan for devotees. Special provisions have also been made for devotees viewing the rituals from the Bada Danda (Grand Road).The SJTA chief called upon all servitors to continue their cooperation for the seamless conduct of both Snana Yatra and Rath Yatra.

Arrangements have been made for running 365 special trains to Puri during the Rath Yatra for the convenience of devotees wanting to visit the pilgrim town to witness the grand event. Similarly, 300 more doctors will be engaged to provide health services, Health Minister Mukesh Mahaling said, stressing the need for adhering to Covid guidelines.

The Minister appealed to people who have Covid symptoms not to visit Puri during the festival. Notably, the 11-day Rath Yatra festival is scheduled to commence on June 27 with the pulling of chariots. Before that, the deities will have a grand bath during Deva Snana Purnima on June 11 and then fall sick and undergo herbal treatment in Anasara (recovery chamber) for 14 days.

Free auto-rickshaw service for devotees

Devotees visiting Puri during the upcoming Rath Yatra will get a special offer with the Odisha Government deciding to provide free auto-rickshaw services from the main bus stand to Bada Danda (Grand Road).Arrangements are being made to take the visitors to the central stretch to witness the iconic chariot procession of Lord Jagannath and his siblings Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra without any hassles.This was announced by Transport Minister Bibhuti Bhushan Jena after the second coordination meeting held in Puri to review the city's readiness for the annual festival on June 27."

To ensure smooth movement and convenience for devotees, auto-rickshaws will ferry passengers from the bus stand directly to Bada Danda for free," the minister said.In anticipation of the massive footfall during Rath Yatra, Bahuda Yatra (the return journey of the deities), and Sunabesha (the golden attire ritual), a temporary bus stand will be set up at Talabania.This arrangement is aimed at decongesting central Puri and streamlining pilgrim transportation during peak days.

Additionally, the minister announced that 250 special buses will be granted permits to operate in and around Puri during the festival period. A fare chart for these buses will be displayed prominently to ensure transparency and help pilgrims plan their travel better.These transport measures are part of a broader effort by the Odisha Government to ensure hassle-free darshan and festival experience for the lakhs of devotees expected to attend this year's Rath Yatra.

DGP felicitates constable Anupama

Cuttack, (ODMC): Odisha Director General of Police (DGP) Yogesh Bahadur Khurania on Monday felicitated Constable Anupama Swain for her remarkable achievement at the 9th Jiu-Jitsu Asian Championship held recently in Amman, Jordan.

According to an official press release, in a special ceremony organized at the State Police Headquarters, DGP Khurania commended Anupama for her outstanding performance and dedication to the sport. He presented her with a cash incentive award and extended his best wishes for her future sporting journey, lauding her as a shining example of excellence within the Odisha Police.The event was attended



by senior police officials, including Additional Director General of Police (Headquarters) Pratik Mohanty, DIG (Personnel) Jugal Kishore Banoth, and AIG (Headquarters) Suresh Chandra Naik, who also praised Anupama's achievements. Anupama Swain represented India at the 9th Jiu-Jitsu Asian Championship, held from May 23 to 25 in

Jordan, where she clinched a silver medal in the Contact (under 52 kg) category and a bronze medal in the Fighting System (under 52 kg) category. Her success brought immense pride to the Odisha Police and the state at large.

Currently posted as a constable in the Bhubaneswar Urban Police District, Anupama has consistently distinguished herself in national and international martial arts competitions. Her track record includes several medals that continue to highlight her commitment, resilience, and discipline-values that reflect positively on the Odisha Police.

Botched surgery at Cuttack nursing home

Cuttack, (DMC): A case of alleged medical negligence at a private nursing home in Ranihat, Cuttack, has prompted the district health department to launch an investigation. A woman, Diptimayee Barik-wife of a jawan-underwent a surgery for medical termination of pregnancy during which her rectum was mistakenly cut, leading to serious complications. She was later shifted to a Bhubaneswar hospital for further treatment.

E-Mail:rw.kamakhyanagar@yahoo.co.in

O-250

Government of Odisha

Office of the Superintending Engineer,

Rural Division-II, Dhenkanal.

Kamakhyanagar

e-procurement Notice No.03/Building Work / 2025-26.

1. Name of the work :Building/Work

2. Total No. of Works : 02 (Two) Nos

3. Tender Cost : Rs.11.15 to 13.70 lakh (approx.)

4. Class Contractor : " C " & " D " Class

5. Period of Completion : 6 calendar months

6. Availability of Tender online for bidding :16.06.2025 at 11.00 A.M to 25.06.2025 up to 5.00 P.M

7. Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification : 24.06.2025 upto 4.00 PM

8. Date & Time of opening of Bid :26.06.2025 at 11.00 AM

Other Details can be seen from the website <http://tendersorissa.gov.in>.

26/06/25

Superintending Engineer

R.W. Division-II, Dhenkanal.

R.W. Kamakhyanagar

OIPR: 25094/11/0026/2526

Gajanan S. Kale appointed as new CEO of TPNODL

Balasore, (DMC): Shri Gajanan S. Kale has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of TP Northern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPNODL), a joint venture of Tata Power and the Government of Odisha. With over three decades of



experience in the power distribution sector, Mr. Kale has held senior positions in many renowned power distribution companies in the country. He holds a Masters in Electrical Engineering from NIT Nagpur and a degree in Management from IIM Ahmedabad. He has 33 years of experience in power distribution and management. Expressing his views, Shri Kale said, "TPNODL is always committed to providing quality and reliable electricity services to the consumers."

We will provide quality electricity services to the consumers through modern technology and innovative management methods. He also thanked the TPNODL Board for reposing faith in him and appointing him as the CEO. Before taking charge as the CEO of TPNODL, Shri Kale was serving as the CEO of Delhi Distribution Corporation and 'TPDDL' in Delhi. Prior to this, he also served as the Chief Executive Officer of TPADL of Ajmer and TPWODL Odisha. As per the information, TPNODL provides electricity to about 97 lakh people and has more than 2 million consumers. TPNODL distributes electricity to an area of 27,920 square kilometers in Balasore, Bhadrak, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar and Jajpur districts.

Four arrested in Patnagarh cash robbery incident Advanced CCTV & AI enabled camera, helped to nab the culprits; Police IG Northern Range, Himanshu Lal

Bolangir: Police, with the help of advanced CCTV cameras, which are AI-enabled, installed in Patnagarh town, were able to nab four culprits involved in the loot incident of rupees four lakhs in Patnagarh town on 2nd June last.

The advanced CCTV cameras, which are AI-enabled, installed in the Panagarh town helped police to detect and nab a gang of robbers involved in this loot. Efforts are on to install advanced CCTV, AI-enabled cameras in Bolangir town to nab criminals, and it would act as a deterrent for criminals to commit crime in the town thanks to surveillance, says Police IG (Northern Range) Sri Himansu Lal speaking to media men here on Monday while appreciating the effort of the Bolangir Police team led by SP Bolangir Abhilash



G. in solving the case. According to reports, in Patnagarh two unknown persons committed the cash robbery of Rs. 4 lakhs of Parsuram Pansari which was kept in a bag along with some other documents in front of his shop while he was returning to the shop after withdrawing cash from SBI Patnagarh Branch. Acting on a tipoff, the Bolangir police arrested four persons in connection with the loot incident of four lakhs from a businessman Parsuram Pansari of Patnagarh

GP Level Grievances held in Sahaspur

Jajpur, (DMC):

A Panchayat Level Public Grievance hearing camp was held at Sahaspur Panchayat office by Jajpur Block administration Monday. Jajpur BDO Ananta Kumar Mohanta along with Black Staff, Sahaspur Sarapanch Smt. Kalpana



Bhuyan were attended and received different complaints from the local. More than 10 complaints have been received at the camp, very soon the block administration will solve the grievances, Sarapanch Smt. Bhuyan said. In this regard Sahaspur Sarapanch and habitants demand for a new office and the permanent ROR Patta of the Panchayat area.

NTPC Talcher Thermal Concludes Girl Empowerment Mission 2025 with Grand Community Celebration

Angul, (DMC): Talcher Thermal Power Project (TTPS) successfully concluded the Girl Empowerment Mission (GEM) 2025 on 8th June with a vibrant cultural showcase and heartfelt participation from the community. The four-week residential initiative empowered 40 girls from nearby villages, nurturing their self-confidence, skills, and dreams for a brighter future.

The valedictory ceremony was graced by Shri Vijay Chand, Executive Director & Head of Project, NTPC Talcher Thermal, as the Chief Guest. Smt. Vibha Agarwal, President, Sagarika Ladies Club, joined the occasion along with NTPC employees, family members, sarpanches from surrounding villages, proud parents, and local villagers who had been vital supporters of the mission. In a colorful display of talent and transformation, the GEM girls presented cultural dances, musical performances, speeches sharing their experiences, as well as demonstrations of yoga and self-defence techniques. A highlight of the event was a moving street play on gender equality, trained



by the expert team from FIZA Arts, which received a standing ovation. Over the course of four weeks, the girls underwent sessions in digital literacy, spoken English, art & craft, health and hygiene, child rights, personality development, and more.

The program aimed not only at skill-building but at instilling a deep sense of confidence, discipline, and purpose. Speaking at the event, Shri Vijay Chand said, "At NTPC Talcher Thermal, we strongly believe that empowering girls at the grassroots is key to transforming communities. The energy, talent, and spirit these young girls have

shown is truly inspiring. This mission is a reflection of our commitment to inclusive growth and nation-building." One of the young participants shared, "Before coming here, I never imagined speaking on a stage. Now, I want to become a teacher and help other girls like me." A proud parent, added:

"My daughter has returned with new confidence. I thank NTPC for giving our girls a platform we never had." The ceremony concluded with certificate distribution, joyous applause, and emotional farewells — marking not an end, but the beginning of a new journey for the empowered daughters of the region.

Injured Tusker struggling for survival with pain, died

Keonjhar, (DMC): A 30 year old Tusker, who had been struggling to survive for a last few days, died today. Although it was relieved of its pain without receiving timely treatment, there has been a lot of dissatisfaction among animal lovers over the death of the elephant. According to the sources on Monday the elephant was tranquilized for treatment.

After about two hours of treatment it died in the afternoon at about 3 pm. Sources said that the injured tusk elephant was found limping in the forest in Atei reserved forest under Ghatagaon range of Keonjhar division. Later it moved to Nuapada near Kolimati protected forest last Friday. As the elephant was limping it slowly moved to the forest near Musal Nala near Kanto village. On Sunday, the forest expert team could not tranquilize the tusk elephant. But the elephant was given

antibiotics from a distance through a tranquilizer gun. However, a team of forest department personnel and experts were present there, monitored its movement and treated it. According to the forest department sources the elephant was in great pain and could not move or eat. It was vomiting whatever it ate. Therefore, the forest department suspected that there was some problem in its mouth.

Later, the elephant's tusks entered the Musal Nala perhaps to get some relief from pain or to get rid from severe summer heat. Later it came out of the Nala to the plane ground. On Monday a team of forest experts tranquilized it and started more treatment. Later during the treatment the elephant died in the afternoon, about 2 hours after starting treatment. Forest official sources said that the elephant entered the forest from the

From Page- 1

CM vows...

strengthening of water resource infrastructure, accelerating industrial growth, and expanding the district's renowned mangrove cover. Highlighting the significance of eco-tourism, the CM instructed the administration to intensify efforts in Bhitarkanika and Gahirmatha to attract more tourists while preserving ecological integrity. Plans are underway to inaugurate multiple new projects in the district, the Chief Minister announced. Notably, discussions were held on setting up a new medical college in Kendrapada and implementing the parikrama (circumambulation) project around the sacred Shri Baladev Jew Temple. During discussion Collector Smrutiranjana Pradhan and other officials, Majhi raised concerns over delays in select projects and issued instructions to address bottlenecks urgently. Departments including forest conservation, tourism, rural development, health, education, irrigation, transport, and women's empowerment were reviewed in detail. Earlier, the CM led a Tiranga Yatra from the Mausai Maa Temple to the historic Shri Baladev Jew Temple. After offering prayers to the Chaturdha Murti, he flagged off two outreach initiatives—the Krishi Rath (Agriculture Rath) and Revenue Rath—to mark the district's next phase of governance delivery.

Flood situation...

Nagerbera revenue circle of Kamrup district, pushing the toll to 26, including six in mudslides, the bulletin said. More than 24,000 displaced people were taking shelter in 100 relief camps, while another 30 relief distribution centres were also functional. Crop land of over 6,311 hectares remain inundated, ASDMA said. Meanwhile, ferry services over the Brahmaputra in Guwahati resumed partially on Sunday, an Inland Water Transport (IWT) Department release said. The Guwahati Madhyam Khanda Ferry Service will temporarily operate from the Guwahati Rajaduar Ferry Ghat, until the approach road on the north bank side is restored and deemed safe for ferry commuters, it said. The Guwahati Kurua Ferry Service will resume on Monday. The operation of wooden boats in Guwahati area will remain prohibited, and the decision regarding its resumption will be taken after reviewing the river conditions, the release added.

Harassment of employees at cement plants

Bargarh: In anticipation of a significant turning point, the Indian National Cement Workers Federation (INTUC) has declared a strike against Adani Cement Company, citing ongoing harassment of employees at its various cement plants.

This has prompted the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) to organise a crucial meeting in New Delhi on June 3, 2025. It promises to bring together leaders from the ACC and Ambuja Cement Employees Union, alongside key figures such as Sri K. Sekhar, the Chief Labor Commissioner (Central), and Sri Kumar Amrithesh, the Assistant Labor Commissioner (Central) and Conciliation Officer under the Industrial Disputes Act of 1947, Ministry of Labor and



Employment, Government of India. Shri Deoraj Singh, General Secretary of the Indian Cement Employees Federation, is set to lead this critical discussion. Various pressing issues affecting ACC and Ambuja Cement employees under Adani Cement will be addressed during the meeting. Union presidents and workers from multiple locations—including the Gaggal Plant in Himachal Pradesh, Chanda Cement Plant in Maharashtra, Ambuja Cement

Plant in Maratha, Jamul Cement Plant in Chhattisgarh, Bargarh Cement Plant in Odisha, and Lakheri Cement Plant in Rajasthan—are expected to join the conversation. There is hope that the Central Labour Commission will set the stage for a commitment from the Adani Company, ensuring they will refrain from causing further issues for their employees. Expectations are high for favourable resolutions that could foster a more harmonious working environment.

Rotary Club: 10 new members inducted

Khordha (DMC): As many as 10 new members have been inducted as Rotary & Rotaract in the new membership campaign program held at Rotary Bhawan in Khordha. In this occasion Rotary Governor Indrajit Sahu was the chief guest, District General Secretary Susanta Mohapatra was the guest of honor, Rotary President Rudranath Dutta, Secretary, Sanjaya Barman administered the oath to the new members.

In this, artist YouTuber Er. Subham Jyoti, Smruti Shree Parija, Prof. Subodh Jagdev, Sarla Pattnaik, Umashankar Prasad became Rotary members while Swasata Mohanty, Soumya Ranjan Behera, Nishant Mohanty, Surya Muduli, became Rotaract members. Rotarian Devi Prasad Majumdar hosted the program while former president Sourya Ranjan Mohanty, Dr. Amiya Jenamani, Maj. Khirud Prasad Mohanty, Suchismita Parija, Tapas Bose, Lokesh Nayak, Devi Prasad Das, Chinmayee Das, Monali Mohapatra were present as special guests. Sukanta Nayak was unanimously elected as the Rotary President for the coming year & Sambit Behera as the Rotaract President. Governor Indrajit Mohanty promised that all possible cooperation would be provided to the Khurda Rotary Club to make it a leading club in the state.



12th IUCF of IFFCO 2025 concludes with Grand Finale : Paradeep Unit Emerges Victorious

Paradip, (DMC): The 12th Inter Unit Cultural Festival (IUCF) 2025 of Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) concluded on June 8 Sunday with a grand finale at the Paradeep Unit in Odisha. The week-long celebration, hosted for the first time at Paradeep, culminated in a colourful and emotional closing ceremony graced by Dr. U. S. Awasthi, Managing Director, IFFCO and Madam Rekha Awasthi,

who were the Chief Guests for the evening. The Paradeep Unit was declared the overall winner of the festival a proud and historic moment for the entire Paradeep family. The victory marked a fitting end to a vibrant week that showcased the unity, culture, and creative brilliance of IFFCO. In his address, Dr. U. S.

Awasthi thanked the Chairman of IFFCO, Shri Dileep Sanghani, for his continuous support and contribution to IFFCO's growth. He began by acknowledging the sacredness of the land, stating, "This is the land of Lord Lingaraj, the Sun Temple, and Lord Jagannath and it is by their blessings that we are all so fortunate."

"Dr. Awasthi reflected on the key decision of acquiring the Paradeep Unit. When I decided to acquire this unit, I was confident that it was essential for the growth of IFFCO and for the nation. Today, I am proud of that decision," he said. He added that the success of this festival and the strength of the unit stand as testimony to that foresight. He shared the origin of the IUCF, stating, "I started this festival in



2005 so that employees from all IFFCO units could come together, showcase their talent, and build lasting bonds." Encouraging all employees, he said, "Pursue your hobbies alongside your work. If you manage your time well, you can grow professionally and personally."

Dr. Awasthi concluded by expressing his heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of the IUCF 2025, applauding the dedication and enthusiasm of all participants and organizers. In his heartfelt address, P. K. Mahapatra, Unit Head of IFFCO Paradeep, shared his joy and gratitude for the success of the event. He said, The six-day function was wonderful, and everyone enjoyed it immensely. Many challenges arose before and during the festival, but with the

blessings of Lord Jagannath, and the constant guidance and support of our MD and Madam, everything went smoothly." He expressed deep gratitude to Dr. U. S. Awasthi for personally guiding him at every step. This IFFCO family, its culture, its strength all this has been built by our MD," he added.

Shri Mahapatra also thanked all teams for maintaining discipline, and extended his appreciation to S.P. Rath, all officials, members of the Employees Union, and the Officers Association for their tireless efforts. All IFFCO units, Phulpur, Kalol, Aonla, Kandla, Head Office & Marketing, and Paradeep participated with full enthusiasm, presenting a diverse showcase of Indian heritage through music, dance and drama.

The performances by employees and their family members displayed exceptional talent, camaraderie, and creative energy. The contribution of all Coordinators, volunteers, support staff, judges, and media personnel was also gratefully acknowledged.

The presence of esteemed dignitaries, members of IFFCO Employees Union and Officers Association, and the overwhelming participation from across the IFFCO family made IUCF 2025 a truly unifying celebration of culture, talent, and spirit. As the curtains fell on this vibrant festival, the message was clear IFFCO is not just an institution; it is a family united in its service to farmers and its celebration of shared values and culture..

Container ship catches fire off Kerala coast; rescue 18 crew, 4 missing

KOCHI, (HS) : A massive fire broke out onboard the Singapore-flagged container vessel MV Wan Hai 503 on Monday morning, approximately 130 nautical miles (around 144 km) northwest of Kozhikode, prompting a large-scale maritime rescue operation by Indian authorities.

Four crew members are reported missing, and firefighting operations are currently underway. The 270-metre-long ship, which had departed Colombo Port in Sri Lanka on June 6, was on its way to Nhava Sheva Port in Mumbai. It was expected to arrive on June 9. The vessel was carrying 22 crew members, mostly Taiwanese nationals, when an explosion was reported in one of the containers onboard around 9:30 am. The explosion triggered a fire that rapidly spread across multiple containers. Approximately 20 containers are reported to have fallen overboard due to the blast and structural damage. As the fire intensified, 18 of the 22 crew members abandoned the vessel in life rafts. One crew member sustained serious injuries and is receiving medical attention. Four crew members-two



Taiwanese, one Indonesian, and one Myanmar-are currently unaccounted for. The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) responded swiftly, diverting four ships to the location and deploying a Dornier surveillance aircraft to provide real-time

updates and drop emergency supplies. The ICG's Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) in Mumbai also redirected nearby merchant vessel MV One Marvel to assist in the rescue.

According to the ICG, the vessel remains adrift but afloat. The ship's captain has stayed onboard to assist with coordination. Firefighting operations have begun, but officials say they are exercising caution as the nature of the cargo is still being verified. The ICG is working in coordination with the Directorate General of Shipping, state administrations, and the ship's owners to assess the risks and manage the response. Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has directed the Kozhikode and Ernakulam district administrations to prepare for medical support if crew members are brought ashore. Responding to the emergency, the Western Naval Command diverted INS Surat, which had been scheduled to dock in Kochi, to assist the distressed vessel. The naval ship was rerouted at approximately 11 am, Defence PRO sources confirmed. This is the second maritime incident off Kerala in recent weeks. On May 25, the Liberian-flagged MSC ELSA-3 sank 14 nautical miles off the Kochi coast, releasing hundreds of containers, including 13 carrying hazardous materials, into the sea.

Additional SP killed in IED blast; two police injured



RAIPUR, (HS) : Additional superintendent of police (ASP) of Konta division succumbed to severe injuries he sustained in a pressure Improvised Explosive Device (IED) blast planted by Maoists in Sukma, about 500 km south of Raipur, on Monday. In the IED blast, the SDOP and station house officer of Konta were also injured; the condition of the two is stated to be out of danger. Raipur native ASP Akash Rao Giripunj was on his patrol duty walking along with his team on the Konta-Errabore route in the wake of the 'Bharat Bandh' call given by the banned outfit CPI (Maoist) on June 10, when the blast occurred.

Gujarat HC receives bomb threat, hearings suspended

AHMEDABAD, (HS) : The Gujarat High Court received a bomb threat via email on Monday afternoon, prompting an abrupt suspension of post-lunch proceedings and a swift evacuation of the premises. Deputy Police Commissioner Safin Hasan said a full-scale search was launched by the bomb squad and dog squad, though no explosives were found during the initial sweep. "The Cyber Cell has been tasked with tracing the source of the email," he said. Emergency protocols were activated, with all entry and exit points sealed. Public access was suspended, and thorough checks of vehicles and individuals were carried out as security personnel scoured the premises. A notice issued by the Registrar General stated: "Because of unavoidable circumstances, it has been decided to discontinue the functioning of the Courts after lunch."

6 die after falling from overcrowded local train



Mumbai, (HS) : Six passengers died and seven were injured after falling from an overcrowded local train at Diva near Thane in Maharashtra. The incident occurred between Diva and Kopar railway stations when the overcrowded train was going towards Kasara, an official said.

As there was a huge rush during the peak hour, many people were standing at the doors of the train, he said, adding that, while the train was in motion, at least 10 passengers fell down. Among the passengers, six died while the remaining

were injured and admitted to nearby hospitals for treatment. The incident took place at 9.30 am at Diva in Thane. The passengers were standing over the foot-over of the local train doors. The deceased were in the age group of 30 to 35 years. "It is not a collision. In this incident, the passengers travelling on footboards in trains in opposite directions got entangled. This is one of the suspected reasons for the incident, as informed by a passenger. The distance between two trains is 1.5-2 meters, but on curves, a slight tilt happens, and this could be an additional reason for the incident," said Swapnil Dhanraj Nila, CPRO, Central Railway.

Reacting to the incident, NCP (SP) president Sharad Pawar said that the Central Railwats should plan the time well and increase the local trains at important routes accordingly. "Necessary measures should be implemented immediately for the safety of passengers. The decision to install automatic doors in local trains to prevent such frequent accidents is expected to be implemented in due time," Pawar posted on X. "Some passengers are undergoing treatment in the hospital. I pray that their health will improve soon," he said while expressing condolences.

Rahul asked question to EC, why should BJP respond: Sanjay Raut



MUMBAI, (HS) : Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Monday slammed the Election Commission (EC), asking if the poll body had given a "contract" to the ruling BJP to clear doubts raised by the opposition parties about its functioning. Raut's strong comments have come after Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis wrote a newspaper article on Sunday to counter Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's allegation about "match-fixing" and "rigging" in the 2024 Maharashtra assembly polls.

The Election Commission rejected Gandhi's charge, saying defaming the poll panel after an unfavourable verdict is absolutely absurd. In response to Gandhi's claims, Fadnavis, in his article, said that the Congress leader has been constantly "insulting" the democratic process and the people's mandate. Talking to reporters, Raut said, "Rahul Gandhi has asked questions to the EC and not the BJP. Why should Devendra Fadnavis respond? Has the EC given the BJP contract to wipe the dust off its face and clear doubts about its functioning?" He said the issue is not just about elections but the EC's conduct in the last ten years. "The poll body facilitated the split in the Shiv Sena and handed over the NCP to Ajit Pawar when its founder, Sharad Pawar, is still around. All this was done under pressure from Union Minister Amit Shah to win elections. The poll body will have to respond to these questions also," Raut claimed.

He alleged that the EC is a caged parrot that has sold its soul and was working as a branch of the BJP.

Newly emerging XFG variant' found of India's Covid cases

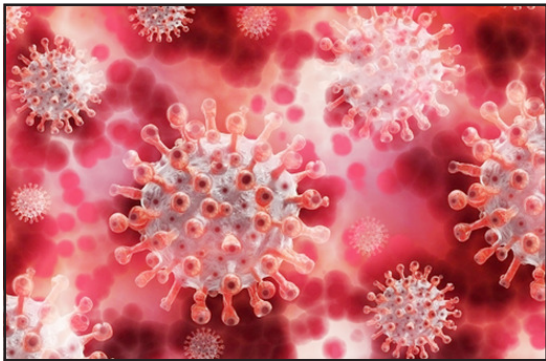
New Delhi, (HS) : Amid the Covid-19 surge in India, the total number of active cases are nearing the 6,500 mark, with some of the infections being of a newly emerging variant, as per a news agency PTI report, citing INSACOG. As per the latest data released by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, a total of 6,491 active cases have been recorded across India. Based on the state-wise data, Kerala remains the worst-hit with a total of 1,957 active cases, with seven new cases reported in the last 24 hours.

Amid this surge, the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) has reportedly said that over 160 active cases have been attributed to the new XFG variant. As per the PTI report, INSACOG data suggests a total of 163 samples tested positive for the XFG variant. These were detected in Maharashtra with 89 cases, followed by Tamil Nadu (16), Kerala (15), and Gujarat (11). Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal reported six cases each. The XFG variant is a descendant of the Omicron subvariant of the coronavirus. As per a study issued by The Lancet,

the variant was initially detected in Canada. However, the XFG variant, "originating from LF.7 and LP.8.1.2, harbours four key spike mutations (H154A, G446S, A501V, and G493G) and has achieved rapid global spread," the study added.

As per The Lancet, the XFG variant also displays "strong immune evasion," which allows the virus to survive and spread as it manages to evade the body's natural defences.

As per the data issued by the Health Ministry on Monday, India has a total of 6,491 active cases. After Kerala, which is the worst-hit state in the new surge, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat, Delhi, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Haryana have detected a high number of active cases. While the union ministry has not recorded any deaths in the past 24 hours, a total of 65 deaths have been reported since January 1, 2025. As per MoHFW data, these 65 deaths were reported in Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Gujarat and Delhi.



Hectic Preparations on for 7th Raja Mahotsava in Gurugram

Gurugram, (HS) : Hectic preparations are underway to celebrate seventh edition of Raja Mahotsava in Gurugram. Considered as the largest and most popular People's Festival of Odisha, 'Raja' symbolizes the celebration of essence, excellence and exuberance of Odisha. The Parba use to be observed as an obeisance to womanhood at a time, when Mother Earth gets fertile for cultivation during Monsoon Season. To mark the grand occasion, Kalinga Bharati Foundation (KBF) is all set to host a Two Days long mammoth ceremony on 14th and 15th June 2025 from 5 PM to 10 PM at HUDA community Centre in Sector-4 of Gurugram. A massive crowd of non-resident Odias and Odisha lovers numbering around five Thousand are expected to gather during both the days of the Festival. Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Haryana and Fire Brand Youth Leader Arati Singh Rao, Eminent Physician Dr Mohit Gupta, Senior Administrator Prasanta Kumar Mahapatra and host of other dignitaries are scheduled to grace the Mahotsava as Distinguished Guests. Contemplated by the Founder National President of the Organising Body, Kalinga Bharati Foundation, Noted Engineer cum Social Leader Akshay



Kumar Samal, the Mega Fair will witness the display of Odisha's rich art, vibrant culture, lofty tradition, glorious history, amazing heritage, melodious music, scintillating dance, awesome attire and mouth watering cuisine. The prime intention of the Mahotsava is to evolve a confluence between colourful cultural legacies of North India, specifically of Haryana with those of India's best kept secret land of Odisha.

The Two Days long Cultural Fiesta entitled National Folk Dance Festival will showcase presentations of indigenous dance forms by more than 250 artistes from the States of Odisha, Haryana, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. Other attractions of the extraordinary art extravaganza entitled Arts Festival would be musical performances by popular singers like Susmita Das and Sushant Panda, Ace Anchoring by Shri Kamal and Odissi Dance by talented local artistes.

Putin Approves Russian Navy Development Strategy



Moscow, (H.S): Russian President Vladimir Putin has approved a long-term strategy for the development of the Russian Navy through 2050, said presidential aide Nikolai Patrushev in an interview published on Monday."In this strategy, the Navy's current condition and capabilities have been assessed in light of operational experience gained during the special military operation," Patrushev, who is also the chairman of the Maritime Board, was quoted by Russian news outlet Arguments and Facts as saying.He emphasised that a

powerful and modern navy cannot be developed without a long-term understanding of the global maritime environment, the evolution of military threats, and clearly defined national goals, Xinhua news agency reported. The document, which Putin approved on May 30, includes an analysis of the international military-political situation, potential scenarios for armed conflicts and the naval capabilities of major powers. It sets forth strategic objectives for Russia's naval forces in both peacetime and wartime, as well as key parameters for the fleet's

future composition and modernisation." In a word, this is a vital long-term document that answers the question of what Russia's naval power should look like to effectively defend its interests in the world's oceans," said Patrushev.

According to most publicly available rankings, Russia possesses the third most powerful navy in the world, following China and the United States. However, its naval forces have experienced several notable setbacks during the war in Ukraine. However, Patrushev did not provide further details about the new strategy, though Russia has significantly increased its defence and security spending, reaching levels comparable to the Cold War era in terms of its share of GDP. Open-source intelligence estimates that Russia maintains a fleet of 79 submarines, including 14 nuclear-powered

ballistic missile submarines, along with 222 warships. The core of its naval power is concentrated in the Northern Fleet, based in Severomorsk along the Barents Sea.Earlier on April 11, Russian President Vladimir Putin said that it would allocate 8.4 trillion rubles (about \$100.5 billion) to upgrade its navy in the next decade.

The changing global situation, emerging challenges, maritime threats and rapid technological advances require the creation of "a new image for the navy," Putin had said at a meeting on the development of the navy."The share of modern weapons and equipment in the Russian Navy's strategic nuclear forces stands at 100 per cent. This figure must be maintained in the future. The navy has played a key role in ensuring the country's defence and security and protecting Russia's interests in the world's oceans," Putin said.

Russia Delivers First Batch of 1,212 Ukrainian Soldiers' Bodies To Exchange Point

Moscow, (H.S): Russia has delivered the first batch of 1,212 bodies of Ukrainian soldiers to the border exchange point pursuant to the Istanbul accords, said Lieutenant General Alexander Zorin. Zorin, also a representative of the Russian negotiating group, said that Ukraine has not made contact, therefore the transfer of the bodies and the exchange of prisoners did not take place yet, Xinhua news agency reported. Some foreign media representatives waiting at the agreed upon place of exchange have checked some of the refrigerated trucks transporting the bodies. Zorin said that trains with more bodies of Ukrainian servicemen will start moving towards the border, adding that Russia is awaiting Kyiv's official confirmation for transferring Ukrainian soldiers' bodies next



week.This occurred amid an ongoing spat over a prisoner swap between the two sides. Russia on Saturday accused Ukraine of postponing a scheduled prisoner exchange over the weekend,

while Ukraine denied the accusation and urged Russia to stop playing "dirty games." Ukraine's Coordination Headquarters for the Treatment of Prisoners of War claimed Saturday that although both

Ukraine and Russia have reached a consensus on the exchange of the remains of fallen soldiers, they have not agreed on the date of the exchange.

During the talks between the two sides in Istanbul on Monday, Moscow agreed to return Ukraine 6,000 bodies of fallen soldiers.The trade of allegations comes amid escalating military actions on both sides, raising concerns over the prospects for renewed peace talks, analysts have noted.

Malaysia Bus Crash Kills 15, Mostly Students

Malaysia, (H.S): A bus carrying university students back to their campus smashed into a minivan in northern Malaysia on Monday, killing at least 15 people, police and rescue services said.Thirteen victims died at the scene near the town of Gerik, on the busy East-West Highway near the Thai border, while two died in hospital.The accident is the deadliest in more than a decade on Malaysia's hazardousroads."

It looked like the bus had lost control and hit the (minivan) from behind," Perak State Police Chief Hisam Nordin said. Images from the scene taken by the fire and rescue department showed a green bus overturned on its right side with a smashed rear end cover, while the red minivan had slid into a ditch, with its windows blown out."Some victims managed to get out on their own, some victims were thrown out while others were still (trapped) in the bus," the

Perak state disaster management authority said in a statement.Rescuers had to use a hydraulic cutter to free people from the bus.The death count included 14 students from the Sultan Idris Education University, while the last victim was a bus attendant, the emergency services said.Thirty-three others were injured, with seven in critical condition taken to hospital, it added. Most of the victims were aged between 21 and 23.

They were travelling from the town of Jerteh in northeastern Malaysia when the accident happened shortly after 1:00 am (1700 GMT on Sunday).Police Chief Hisam said officers were investigating whether the crash "involved human negligence or if it was a technical issue".A witness told the New Straits Times it "was a chaotic scene with students screaming and crying for help". "They were pinned between the wreckage," the witness, identified as Razali,

told the paper. Malaysia's Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim ordered the Higher Education Ministry to help the victim's families and said he and his wife Azizah were "deeply saddened" by the tragedy." Heartbreaking disasters like these that are repeated often should be a lesson to all to be careful and not to rush," Anwar wrote on Facebook."Your lives are too precious and can't be replaced," he added.

Malaysia has a high rate of traffic accidents, with an average of 18 people killed on the roads each day, according to government figures. The East-West Highway, which connects the two seaboards of the Malaysian peninsula, is plagued by accidents, with frequent collisions between animals and vehicles. Malaysia worst bus disaster happened in 2013 when an express bus plunged down a ravine northeast of Kuala Lumpur, killing 37.

Taiwan Detects 7 Chinese Aircraft, 8 Naval Vessels Near Territorial Waters



New Delhi, (H.S): Taiwan's Ministry of National Defence detected seven sorties of Chinese aircraft, eight Chinese naval vessels operating near its territorial waters as of 6 am (local time) on Monday.Out of seven, five sorties crossed the median line and entered Taiwan's

southwestern and eastern ADIZ. In a post on X, Taiwan's MND stated, "7 sorties of PLA aircraft and 8 PLAN vessels operating around Taiwan were detected up until 6 a.m. (UTC+8) today. 5 out of 7 sorties entered Taiwan's southwestern and eastern ADIZ. #ROCArmedForces have

monitored the situation and responded accordingly."Earlier, Taiwan's Ministry of National Defence (MND) on Sunday reported 11 sorties of Chinese aircraft, seven Chinese naval vessels detected operating near its territorial waters. In a post on X, Taiwan's MND stated, "11 sorties of PLA aircraft and 7 PLAN vessels operating around Taiwan were detected up until 6 a.m. (UTC+8) today. 6 out of 11 sorties entered Taiwan's southwestern ADIZ. #ROCArmedForces have monitored the situation and responded accordingly."

Protesters Clash With National Guard Troops in Los Angeles

Los Angeles, (H.S): More than 200 protesters clashed with National Guard troops in downtown Los Angeles during the latest demonstrations against immigration raids that swept across California over the weekend.Xinhua reporters at the scene observed National Guard soldiers, along with agents from Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Department of Homeland Security, repeatedly firing tear gas and smoke grenades to disperse the crowd. Some protesters and journalists were hit during the confrontation."We want to protest peacefully.

However, the Trump administration just sent soldiers to fight against us. Is it necessary?" one protester said. Shortly after the clash, California Governor Gavin Newsom urged protesters to remain peaceful."California - Don't give Donald Trump what he wants. Speak up. Stay peaceful. Stay calm." Newsom wrote in an online post. "Do not use violence and respect the law enforcement officers that are trying their best to keep the peace."Earlier National guard troops sent by the Trump administration arrived in



downtown Los Angeles on Sunday, footage broadcast by local news channel ABC 7 showed. It is the first time since 1965 that a president has activated a state's National Guard force without a request from that state's governor,

Elizabeth Goitein, senior director of the Liberty and National Security Program at the Brennan Center for Justice, an independent law and policy organisation, told The New York Times.The ABC 7's footage showed the troops were deployed in the downtown area near City Hall, City of Paramount and Compton, where protesters have been clashing with federal agents and local policemen since Friday noon.The clashes came after agents from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and

other federal law enforcement agencies raided several locations in southern California from Friday, which sparked mass protests. But Washington vowed Saturday to continue the raids despite opposition from local communities and officials.

The two-days raids resulted in more than 100 arrests, drawing angry protesters who confronted agents with tear gas, flash-bang grenades and rocks. President Donald Trump took extraordinary action on Saturday by calling up 2,000 National Guard troops to quell immigration protests in Los Angeles region, making rare use of federal powers and bypassing the authority of the state's governor, Gavin Newsom.The governor and Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass were leading the

opposition Sunday to Trump's decision.Newsom blasted the move in a fund-raising email sent out Sunday morning, according to media reports."Last night, President Trump ordered the deployment of 2,000 National Guard troops in Los Angeles, using the excuse of protests against his immigration raids... The president is attempting to inflame passions and provoke a response," Newsom wrote. Newsom said Trump just wanted show of force, warning this move and the Pentagon's threat to deploy United States Marines on American soil would escalate tensions and incite violence.

Bass echoed some of those thoughts in an interview, saying she felt very disappointed that Trump chose to deploy the National Guard troops since it was totally unnecessary."There were protests last night in Los Angeles - my understanding is that there were about 120 protesters. Several of them did commit acts of vandalism, but there was nothing that was happening in downtown Los Angeles that the Los Angeles Police Department could not manage to deal with, so to me, this is completely unnecessary," she said.

New Delhi, (H.S): Israeli naval commandos intercepted the British-flagged humanitarian yacht Madleen, operated by the Freedom Flotilla Coalition (FFC), as it attempted to breach Israel's long-standing naval blockade of the Gaza Strip. Among those aboard were renowned climate activist Greta Thunberg and Rima Hassan, a Member of the European Parliament (MEP).

In a series of posts on X, Hassan stated that Israeli forces boarded the vessel around 2 a.m. while it was sailing in international waters."The crew of the Freedom Flotilla was arrested by the Israeli army in international waters around 2 a.m. Actions are coming - stay tuned," she wrote on X. One photo shared by Hassan showed individuals wearing life jackets, seated with their hands raised, suggesting they were detained. The FFC confirmed via Telegram



that all communication with Madleen had been lost and accused Israeli forces of "kidnapping" the activists. Meanwhile, Greta Thunberg also posted a video appealing to the Swedish government for the release of the volunteers."If you see this video, we have been intercepted and kidnapped in international waters by the Israeli occupational forces, or forces that support Israel. I urge all my friends, family and comrades to

put pressure on the Swedish government to release me, and the others as soon as possible," she said in the video message.The Madleen, which set sail from Sicily, was reportedly carrying humanitarian supplies, including rice and baby formula. The mission aimed to deliver aid to Gaza and challenge the Israeli naval blockade, which has been in place since 2007.Israel's Foreign Ministry dismissed the initiative, calling the Madleen a

"selfie yacht of the celebrities," and claimed the activists were engaging in a media stunt.In a post on X, the Ministry stated, "While Greta and others attempted to stage a media provocation... more than 1,200 aid trucks have entered Gaza from Israel within the past two weeks," adding that nearly 11 million meals had been distributed in the enclave through official humanitarian channels.

"There are ways to deliver aid to the Gaza Strip - they do not involve Instagram selfies," the Ministry said. This incident marks the second failed attempt by the FFC to reach Gaza in recent months. Earlier in May, the group's vessel Conscience was reportedly damaged in an alleged drone attack in international waters near Malta, a strike the FFC attributes to Israel. The Israeli government has neither confirmed nor denied involvement in that incident.

Chinese Vessel Runs Aground Near Philippine-Held Island, Troops on Alert

China, (H.S): A Chinese ship went aground in bad weather in shallow waters off a Philippine-controlled island in the disputed South China Sea, forcing Filipino soldiers to be on alert, according to a report by Taipei Times. When Philippine forces determined that the Chinese fishing vessel had run aground in the shallows east of Thitu Island due to bad weather on Saturday,

they deployed military and coast guard personnel to assist, but later discovered that the ship had been extricated, according to Philippine navy regional spokesperson Elaine Rose Collado, as reported by the Taipei Times. Collado noted that no more information was immediately available, such as whether any crew members were injured

or the ship was damaged. In recent years, confrontations between Chinese and Philippine coast guard and naval ships in the disputed waters have increased, according to the Taipei Times. The alertness of our troops is always there," Philippine Armed Forces Public Affairs Office chief Colonel Xerxes Trinidad said. When they saw that a probable incident had happened,

"we tried to assist professionals" following international law on helping distressed vessels at sea, he said. "We're always following international law," Trinidad said, as quoted by the Taipei Times report. According to MP Albayda, a local Philippine official, villagers in a fishing village on Thitu, known as Pag-asa Island, immediately

notified the Philippine military and coast guard after seeing the Chinese ship lying in the shallows about 1.5 nautical miles (2.8 kilometres) from their village."They got worried because the Chinese were so close, but it was the strong wind and waves that caused the ship to run aground," Albayda added, adding that other Chinese ships towed the stranded vessel away.

The stricken ship resembled what the Philippine military had repeatedly described as suspected Chinese militia ships that had aided the Chinese coast guard and navy in blocking and harassing Philippine coast guard and military vessels in the disputed waters, a busy conduit for global trade and commerce, according to the Taipei Times report.

US Military Planted UFO, Area 51 Myths To Mask Classified Weapons

New Delhi, (H.S):The US Justice Department deliberately fuelled UFO conspiracy theories, including those centred around Area 51, to conceal Cold War-era military projects, a new report has revealed.Area 51, a classified US Air Force facility in the Nevada desert, has long been the subject of rumours suggesting the government hid aliens, crashed spacecraft and extraterrestrial technology there.A Department of Defence review, reported by The Wall Street Journal, found that in the 1980s, an Air Force colonel was sent on a mission to spread false information.

He visited a bar near Area 51 and gave the owner fake photos of flying saucers, which sparked new UFO rumours around the already secretive military base. The now-retired colonel later confessed to Pentagon investigators that the mission aimed to divert attention from the real purpose of the site: testing the then-secret F-117 Nighthawk stealth aircraft. Officials balked embedding the programme within alien folklore was the best way to shield it from Soviet surveillance during the Cold War. US defence agencies allegedly leaned into UFO myths multiple



times to safeguard sensitive military developments. Sean Kirkpatrick, appointed in 2022 as the first director of the All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office (AARO), was tasked with reviewing decades of military reports on unexplained aerial phenomena. His investigation uncovered several instances where UFO conspiracies appeared to originate within the Pentagon itself.One such case involved an internal Air Force prank called "Yankee Blue," in which new recruits were briefed on a fictitious unit investigating alien aircraft. They were ordered never to discuss the content, with many unaware the entire scenario

was fabricated. This practice reportedly continued until the Pentagon issued a directive to stop it in 2023. Mr Kirkpatrick's review also revisited a well-known 1967 incident involving former Air Force captain Robert Salas, who claimed he saw a UFO disable ten nuclear missiles at a Montana base.

Mr Salas said he was ordered to remain silent about the event. AARO's findings, however, suggest the phenomenon was likely the result of a failed electromagnetic pulse (EMP) test meant to assess the base's resilience to nuclear interference, a test Mr Salas and others were never briefed on.

India Embraces Cashless Revolution in Last 11 Years: Nirmala Sitharaman

New Delhi, (H.S): Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said that India is embracing a cashless revolution with world-class digital initiatives like unified payments interface (UPI).In the last 11 years, India has seen a remarkable journey under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the finance minister said on a post on X."

India is embracing a cashless revolution. With Rs 70,000 crore+ worth UPI transactions daily and 59.6 crore transactions in a single day, digital payments are now the norm," the minister added. From making life easier for the common citizen to boosting business confidence, it's been a decade of real and visible change, she further stated.India today is not just the fastest-growing



major economy, but also a key global voice on pressing issues like climate action and digital innovation.In the month of May, UPI posted a robust growth by processing 18.68 billion transactions, up from 17.89 billion in April.

As per data by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), the UPI transactions mark a 33 per cent year-on-year (YoY) surge compared to 14.03 billion transactions in the same month last year.The UPI

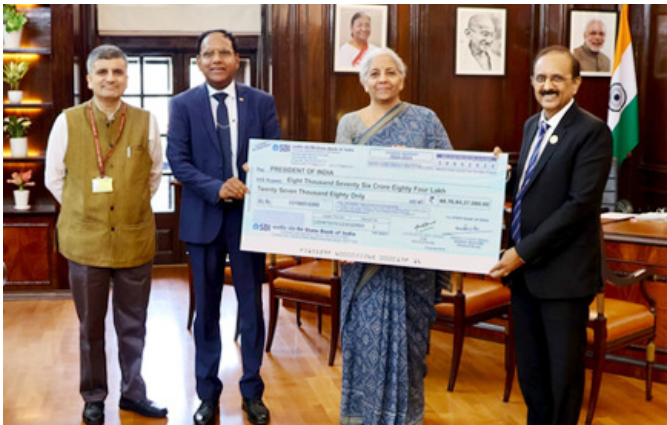
transactions rose to Rs 25.14 lakh crore (by value) last month, a 5 per cent increase from Rs 23.95 lakh crore in April. This reflects a 23 per cent rise from Rs 20.45 lakh crore in May last year. The average daily transaction volume stood at 602 million, while the average daily transaction value reached Rs 81,106 crore.

The UPI has strengthened its dominance in India's digital payments system with its share in the total transaction volume rising to 83.7 per cent in 2024-25 from 79.7 per cent in the previous financial year.The RBI's annual report shows that UPI facilitated 185.8 billion transactions during 2024-25, which represents a 41 per cent year-on-year increase. In value terms, UPI transactions rose to Rs 261 lakh crore from Rs 200 lakh crore in FY24.

SBI pays 8,077 crore as dividend to govt for FY 2024-25

New Delhi, (H.S): Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday received a dividend cheque of Rs 8,076.84 crore on behalf of the government from the State Bank of India (SBI) for the financial year 2024-25.The cheque was presented to the Finance Minister by SBI chairman CS Setty at her office in the presence of senior officials."

Smt @nsitharaman receives a dividend cheque of Rs 8076.84 crore for FY 2024-25 from CS Setty, Chairman - @The Official SBI," Nirmala Sitharaman Office posted on social media platform X.The robust dividend came as India's top public sector companies in the financial, power and energy sectors have recorded a robust growth in profit during the January-March quarter of 2024-25, which is expected to further strengthen the government's fiscal position.The country's largest lender SBI and insurance giant Life Insurance



Corporation of India (LIC) led the charge with a net profit of Rs 18,643 crore and Rs 19,013 crore, respectively. SBI's net profit for the financial year 2024-25 has now soared to Rs 70,901 crore while LIC has recorded an impressive net profit of Rs 48,151 crore for the year.In the energy sector, Coal India earned a net profit of Rs 9,604 crore during the fourth quarter while Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) registered a net profit of Rs 7,265 crore with

upstream oil exploration giant ONGC registering a net profit of Rs 6,448 crore during the quarter.In the power sector, the country's largest electricity producer, NTPC recorded a net profit of Rs 7,897 crore while Power Finance Corporation (PFC), which also comes under the Ministry of Power, earned a robust Rs 8,358 crore. Power Grid Corporation of India also registered a strong profit of Rs 4,143 crore during the Jan-March

India's Macros Remain on Strong Foothold, Growth To Pick Up Further: HSBC

New Delhi, (H.S): Amid all the tariff uncertainty, India's macros remain on a strong foothold, an HSBC Mutual Fund report said on Monday, adding that it remains constructive on Indian equities supported by the more robust medium-term growth outlook. Due to the tariff war and global outlook, demand for safe-haven assets has led to capital outflows and weighed on emerging market (EM) currencies, including India."

India's exposure to the US, its trade diplomacy, and the RBI's steady hand and its policy approach have put India on the leaderboard amid the tariff concerns that have eclipsed business and growth outlook, globally," said the outlook report. India's cooling inflation has provided the RBI MPC to focus on supporting growth by way of front-loaded policy easing. The MPC's shift to a neutral stance



implies that the scope for future cuts might be limited and also that it will remain data-dependent. According to the report, the RBI will continue to focus on keeping system liquidity in surplus for faster monetary policy transmission to rates."We believe the growth cycle in India may be bottoming out. Interest rate and liquidity cycle, decline in crude prices and normal monsoon are all supportive of a pick-up in

growth going forward," the report suggested.Although global trade-related uncertainty remains a headwind to private capex in the near term, "we expect India's investment cycle to be on a medium-term uptrend supported by government investment in infrastructure and manufacturing, pickup in private investments and a recovery in real estate cycle".The report also expected higher private investments in

renewable energy and related supply chain, localisation of higher-end technology components, and India becoming a more meaningful part of global supply chains to support faster growth.Industry capacity utilisation based on RBI survey data is at a reasonably high level and indicates potential for an increase in private capex going forward.

Also, continued expansion of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme is likely to further increase private investments in targeted sectors."We also expect higher private capex in renewable energy," the HSBC report mentioned.Real estate remains another strong medium-term growth driver, having weathered the impact of higher interest rates. Demand trends in top metro cities remain strong, and inventory levels have declined, it added.

Stock Market Ends in Green, Bank Nifty Hits New All-Time High of 57,000

Mumbai, (H.S): The Indian stock markets closed in the green on the first trading day of the week, as Bank Nifty hit a new all-time high of 57,000 on Monday, reflecting strong sentiment and momentum in the banking sector.The Sensex ended 256.22 points or 0.31 per cent up at 82,445.21 and Nifty closed 100.15 points or 0.40 percent up at 25,103.20.

Midcap and smallcap stocks saw a rise compared to largecaps. The Nifty Midcap 100 index was up 664.65 points or 1.13 per cent at 59,674.95 and the Nifty Smallcap 100 index was up 290.95 points or 1.57 per cent at 18,873.40.On a sectoral basis, auto, IT, PSU banks, financial services, pharma, metal and media indices closed in the green. Only the Nifty Realty index closed in the red.Kotak Mahindra Bank, Bajaj Finance, Axis Bank, Power Grid, IndusInd Bank, Maruti

Suzuki, Bajaj Finserv, NTPC, TCS and Tata Motors were the top gainers in the Sensex pack. while Eternal (Zomato), ICICI Bank, Titan, M&M and Tata Steel were the top losers.Financial stocks extended their rally in the Indian markets, driven by the RBI's supportive aggressive policy of rate and CRR cut."

These actions have boosted investor confidence and are expected to enhance liquidity in the near to medium term, especially in midcaps. The

positive US jobs data and renewed optimism over US-China trade talks lifted global sentiment. Domestically even large caps expressed renewed momentum led by FII inflows," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited.Nifty Bank clocked a fresh record high of 57,049, setting the milestone and confirming a decisive breakout from its month-long ascending triangle formation." This upward breach follows multiple failed attempts and finally clears the previous congestion zone with conviction," said Om Mehra from Samco Securities.

According to analysts, the index remains firmly positioned above all key moving averages. The daily Relative Strength Index (RSI) stands at 69, while the weekly RSI is at 68, reflecting sustained strength without entering overbought territory. The recent bullish divergence on the daily chart adds further credibility to the move.

Indian Equities' Outlook Now Neutral Due To Stellar Show Despite Global Headwinds: SBI

New Delhi, (H.S): An SBI Mutual Fund report on Monday changed the Indian equities' outlook to neutral from an underweight stance in 2024, as the domestic benchmark indices continue to perform well despite global uncertainties.

From a contrarian viewpoint, this shift to neutral from underweight equities represents a healthier market outlook and better long-term entry points for investors, "though we are not yet ready to recommend overweight positions", said the SBI 'Market Outlook' report.The Indian equities gained in May despite tariff uncertainties. Nifty and Sensex increased 1.7 per cent and 1.5 per cent (on-month),



respectively. FPIs turned net buyers even as overall market breadth weakened.The Q4 FY25 corporate earnings scorecard was modest (single-digit profit growth), but largely in line with expectations, which has helped to arrest incremental earnings, downgrades in May, according to the report.Even as metals, healthcare, capital goods, PSU banks, and chemicals have recorded a healthy profit growth, weakness in

private banks results, coupled with a drag from Oil and Gas (ex OMCs), put pressure on profitability."Earnings growth is expected at around 10.5 per cent in FY26. Revival in India's economic growth and hence topline is critical for the expectations to be met," the report further stated.

In the context of the Indian equity market, valuations have become more reasonable after the recent decline in Indian 10-year bond yields and a de-rating in price-to-earnings multiples."Our preferred measure - the earnings yield to bond yield spread - now suggests modest valuations compared to last year's highs," the report mentioned."In our

view, quality and long-term fundamentals will start getting rewarded versus narrative-based and, to some extent, speculative price action of the past year," it added.The current turbulence should bring the focus back on fundamentals."

We remain of the view that increasingly the market will become more discerning and move back towards companies which have strong business models, long-term earnings growth visibility and sustainable cashflows," according to the report. Q4 FY25 real GDP came in at 7.4 per cent compared to 6.4 per cent in Q3, surpassing RBI's and market expectations of 7.2 per cent and 6.8 per cent, respectively.

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Piyush Goyal Commences Official Visit to Switzerland & Sweden to Strengthen Economic and Trade Partnerships

New Delhi, (PIB): Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal, commenced his official visit to Switzerland on 9th June 2025, as part of his ongoing visit to Switzerland and Sweden from 9-13 June 2025. This visit underscores India's steadfast commitment to deepening strategic and economic partnerships with key European nations, advancing robust trade and investment ties and supporting a shared vision for resilient global growth.

The visit marks a key milestone in enhancing India's engagement with two of Europe's most innovative economies. Minister Goyal's meetings are designed to facilitate high-impact interactions with senior government officials, industry leaders and business associations in both countries.The visit commenced in Switzerland today, where the Minister will engage with global CEOs and prominent industry leaders to explore



opportunities for strengthening bilateral trade and investment. The itinerary includes focused sectoral meetings with prominent Swiss industry leaders in areas such as Pharma and Life Sciences, and Precision Engineering/ Machine Tools/High-tech Manufacturing.

The Minister will also connect with the ICAI Zurich Chapter and interact with Indian media. A significant highlight will be meeting with Federal Councillor Guy Parmelin fostering strong trade and

diplomatic ties.A significant component of the high-level visit to Switzerland will include a series of one-on-one meetings with leading Swiss companies. Indian industry representatives will also participate in these crucial engagements, fostering direct dialogue and exploring specific collaboration opportunities.

The day will also feature participation in the Swissmem Industry Day and a Business Round Table with the Swiss Mechanical and Electrical (MEM)

Industry, where deliberations will focus on the potential and opportunities arising from the India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA). In Sweden, the Minister will co-chair the 21st Session of the Indo-Swedish Joint Commission for Economic, Industrial and Scientific Cooperation (JCEISC) with H.E.

Benjamin Dousa, Minister for International Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade.During his visit the Minister is also scheduled to hold bilateral meetings with Mr. Benjamin Dousa, Minister for Foreign Trade, and Mr. Håkan Jevrell, State Secretary to the Minister of Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade. These deliberations are aimed to reinforce the existing robust economic relationship and identify new opportunities for growth, aligning with India's long-term economic objectives and global partnerships.Key engagements will involve an India

- Sweden Business Leaders' Round Table and one-on-one meetings with leading Swedish companies. These discussions will cover a wide range of industries where Sweden excels, including advanced manufacturing, innovation, green technologies and sustainable solutions. Companies like Ericsson, Volvo Group, IKEA, Sandvik, Alfa Laval, and SAAB are among those with a significant presence or interest in enhancing ties with India.

Minister Goyal will also engage with the Indian diaspora and address media interactions, further strengthening the people-to-people connections and communicating the vision for the India-Sweden partnership.This visit reflects the deepening alignment of strategic priorities between India and its European partners, aiming to translate high-level commitments into sustainable economic partnerships that foster innovation, resilience, and shared growth.

MSJK Hospital - Transforming healthcare access in rural Lanjigarh

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): Kalahandi, once known for its struggles with poverty and inadequate healthcare access, is witnessing a quiet revolution in terms of access to healthcare. Among the key drivers of this transformation is the Maa Santoshi Jankalyan (MSJK) Hospital, a beacon of hope for thousands in the once-impoverished district. For decades, communities across this remote region battled health crises with little to no access to medical care. Basic healthcare services were often out of reach, forcing families to travel long distances for treatment - often with devastating consequences.

The landscape of healthcare in the region has since evolved, shaped by new avenues of development that have brought essential services to people's doorsteps. Vedanta's presence in Kalahandi has been pivotal in this journey, bridging the gap between crisis and care through its support for MSJK Hospital, established in the year 2000. The hospital was initially built to serve 8,000 people in 70 villages from four Gram Panchayats, limiting its impact to a few regions. This changed in 2014, when Vedanta began its partnership with the MSJK Hospital, which is around 25 km away from Lanjigarh. Although it remains the only healthcare center in the Bankakundru region, with comprehensive support from Vedanta, the hospital now supports 300 villages across 15 Gram Panchayats, benefitting 25,000 people annually. The hospital has become a pillar of reassurance, making quality healthcare and essential medical attention a reality in one of the remotest parts of Odisha.But beyond statistics,

it is the stories of those whose lives have been touched that truly reflect the impact of this transformation. Mothers who once feared pregnancy due to high maternal mortality rates now find comfort in specialized care. Children who suffered from preventable illnesses now receive regular vaccinations and health check-ups. Individuals battling conditions such as malaria, diarrhoea and sickle cell anaemia-diseases which are prevalent in the region - have a greater fighting chance thanks to the hospital's extensive treatment programs. Crucially, healthcare here is not bound within hospital walls. Mobile Health Units bring doctors and nurses directly to those who need them most, ensuring early intervention before minor ailments turn into emergencies. The initiative has drastically reduced hospitalizations, allowing families to receive timely care within their villages rather than undertaking arduous journeys for treatment.Emergency response has also seen a marked improvement. With ambulance interventions, MSJK Hospital has ensured swift medical assistance that, in many cases, has meant the difference between life and death. Recognized under the Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matrutwa Abhiyan, Vedanta's initiatives have garnered national appreciation, proving that the expansion of essential services can be a powerful force for community upliftment.Today, Kalahandi stands in stark contrast to its past. Healthcare is no longer a distant luxury - it is a trusted resource woven into the fabric of everyday life in the region. The hospital, once a modest establishment, has become a pillar of support, symbolizing a steady shift toward stability and progress. Where once uncertainty loomed, reassurance now takes its place - a promise made possible by the confluence of dedicated efforts and emerging opportunities.



Singer Anusha on acting debut: Never saw myself as an actor

Anusha Mani says she "never aspired" to be an actor, but since the experience has been "life-changing", she is open to now juggling acting and music projects.

Known for rendering some hit Bollywood numbers such as *Lehrein* (Aisha; 2010), *Tera Rastaa Chhodoon Na* (Chennai Express; 2013) and *Gulaabo*, (Shaandaar; 2015), among others, singer Anusha Mani marked her acting debut with the recently released web series *Hai Junoon*. While it came as a surprise to her fans, the singer says it was "a surprise to me too". Anusha explains: "I never saw myself as an actor, never aspired to be one. But it was one of the most exhilarating experiences of my life." Since she enjoyed being in front of the camera,

the 40-year-old now wants to juggle singing and acting. "I am very keen on pursuing this further. But the world still needs to know that Anusha Mani is an actor too. That said, music is and will always be my first love, so that will be priority for me," says the singer.

Making a mark as an actor isn't a cakewalk for musicians, considering they're already known for their expertise in another art form. Did she ever fear being judged? "Today, singers are acting and actors are singing - there's criticism everywhere. We don't live in a society that gives second chances or constructive criticism. That said, it can't stop me from living my life to my full potential. What eventually matters is what I feel and what my family

and loved ones think of me," says Anusha, who admits that she was reluctant to take on the acting opportunity at first. She explains: "There was immense reluctance stemming from self-doubt and lack of confidence."

Having spent so many years in the film industry as a singer, did having contacts and knowing people ease things for her as an actor, compared to an outsider? "Yes and no," says Anusha, adding, "I know people in the music industry, but the world of acting is totally different. I didn't know anyone from that part of the industry. I got this audition because they were looking for singers for the role. That said, having a management, helping me on set, going through my contract, negotiating for me and managing dates, helped a lot."

Housefull 5: Akshay beats Jaat at lightning speed



Tarun Mansukhani's ensemble film *Housefull 5*, starring Akshay Kumar, Nargis Fakhri, Abhishek Bachchan, Jacqueline Fernandez, Riteish Deshmukh and Soundarya Sharma, had a good first weekend worldwide. According to Sacnilk, the film collected 142.40 crore worldwide in three days of release.

The trade website reports that in three days, *Housefull 5* brought in 87.5 crore net and 104.40 crore gross in India.

Adding to that the 38 crore from overseas, the film collected a total of ₹142.40 crore in three days. As per the film's team, *Housefull 5* collected 91.83 crore net in India so far. This means that the film's collections have overtaken the lifetime of the Sunny Deol-starrer *Jaat*, which made 118.36 crore. The film will also beat Akshay's previous film, *Kesari Chapter 2*, which had made 144.62 crore. Depending on how the film

performs on the weekdays, it will soon also beat Akshay's *Sky Force* collection of 149 crore. The only films to stand in *Housefull 5*'s way after that would be Salman Khan-starrer *Sikandar* with its 184.6 crore collection and Ajay Devgn's *Raid 2*'s 233.7 crore haul. For now, the 807.88 crore haul of Vicky Kaushal's *Chhaava* seems unbeatable.

Housefull 5 tells the story of three men called Jolly being suspects for the murder of a rich industrialist on a cruise ship. The film has two different endings with two different killers, depending on the theatre at which it was watched. Sanjay Dutt, Fardeen Khan, Shreyas Talpade, Nana Patekar, Jackie Shroff, Dino Morea, Chitrangada Singh, Sonam Bajwa, Chunky Pandey, Nikitin Dheer and Johnny Lever also star in it.

Aamir says no idea Sitaare Zameen Par will work at box office

Actor Aamir Khan is all set to entertain audiences with his upcoming sports comedy-drama *Sitaare Zameen Par*. However, in an interview with *Galatta Plus*, Aamir expressed that while he believes the film tells a heartwarming and beautiful story, he is unsure about its fate at the box office.

When asked about his instincts for *Sitaare Zameen Par*, Aamir said, "When I look at the film today, I think I am quite happy with it. I think what we set out to make, we have made. Will it work at the box office? I have no idea. The fact of the matter is, throughout my career, whenever my film is released, I suddenly become aware. My film is a comedy, but right now only the action is working. When *Ghajini* came, my film was action, but action wasn't working



then. Nobody wants to see action." He added, "My film always releases at a time when it's completely ill-timed. When my comedy film comes out time action films are working. So I am constantly stressed that I don't know right now everyone wants to see action. The last 12 films have been action and blockbusters. So while I believe that it's a very heartwarming and

beautiful story which will connect very deeply with people, that's what I am hoping. But right now, everyone wants to see action films."

He further added that the film will only be released in theatres and not on any other OTT platform. He dismissed reports of the film releasing on YouTube. The film is set to be released exclusively in theatres on June 20, 2025.

Asked to Rethink His Decision of Quitting Hera Pheri 3, Paresh Said

Veteran Bollywood actor Paresh Rawal's exit from the much-anticipated film *Hera Pheri 3* has left fans and the film industry surprised and disappointed. Many fans took to social media, urging Paresh Rawal to reconsider his decision. One fan wrote on X, "Sir, please think once again to join the *Hera Pheri* movie. You are the hero of this movie." Rawal replied, "NO... There are Three Heroes in *Hera Pheri*." Following reports that Akshay Kumar was taking legal action against Paresh Rawal over his sudden exit, the actor issued a statement on May 25, saying his lawyer had responded to the makers of the film. "My lawyer, Ameet Naik, has sent an appropriate response regarding my rightful termination and exit. Once they read my response, all issues will be laid to rest," Rawal posted on X.

DGP Honours Constable Anupama Swain for Medal at Asian Jiu-Jitsu Championship



Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : Odisha Police Constable Anupama Swain has brought glory to the state and nation with her outstanding performance at the 9th Asian Jiu-Jitsu Championship held in Dubai, UAE, from May 23 to June 1, 2025. Representing India, Swain clinched a silver medal in the Contact Jiu-Jitsu (under 48 kg)

category and a bronze in the Fighting System (under 61 kg) category, showcasing exceptional skill and determination.

In a special ceremony at the Odisha Police Headquarters in Cuttack, Director General of Police (DGP) Yogesh Bahadur Khurania felicitated Swain for her remarkable achievements. Praising her dedication, DGP Khurania

presented her with a cash incentive and wished her a bright future in sports. "Anupama's success is an inspiration for our force and the youth of Odisha," he remarked. The event was graced by senior officers, including Additional Director General of Police (Headquarters) Pratik K. Mohanty, Deputy Inspector General (Personnel) Jugal Kishore Kumar Banoth, and Assistant Inspector General (Headquarters) Suresh Chandra Naik. Swain, currently serving with the Bhubaneswar Urban Police District (UPD), has a history of excelling in martial arts.

Her medals at the championship in Dubai add to her tally of national and international accolades, making her a role model for aspiring athletes. The Odisha Police force expressed pride in her achievements, noting that her success enhances the organisation's reputation.

BCCI announces venues for Team India's at home, SA tour



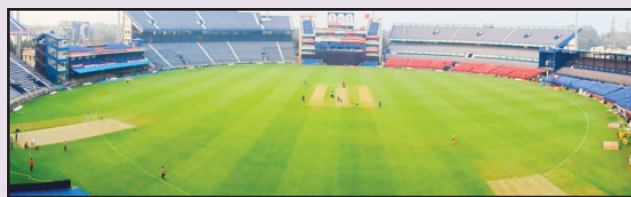
Mumbai, (HS) : India's second Test of the two-match series against West Indies, scheduled for October 10-14 at Eden Gardens, will now be held at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi instead of its original venue in Kolkata, said the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Monday.

At the same time, the BCCI announced that India's first Test against South Africa, scheduled to take place from November 14 to November 18, has been relocated from New Delhi to the Eden Gardens in Kolkata. The rest of the men's international season schedule remains unchanged, though, added the BCCI. It is to be noted that giving New Delhi the first India-South Africa Test had raised huge concerns over its safe hosting and well-being of the players, considering that it was to be held three weeks after Diwali, which is typically a period when the entire Delhi-NCR region is

engulfed in smog and high pollution. Poor air quality in Delhi had led to some Sri Lankan players wearing masks on the field during a Test against India in December 2017. Moreover, there were serious pollution-related concerns ahead of the Bangladesh-Sri Lanka match in New Delhi during the 2023 Men's ODI World Cup, with both teams cancelling training sessions in the lead-up to the clash.

Meanwhile, New Delhi will also be the host to the third India-Australia women's ODI after the BCCI said the three-game series had to be moved out of Chennai due to the revamping of the outfield and pitches at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai. The first two ODIs will now take place at the New PCA stadium in New Chandigarh, before the series-ending game is played in New Delhi. While this will be the first time New Chandigarh will host women's

Cuttack Barabati Stadium to Host India-SA T20I on Dec 9



Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : International cricket is set to return to Odisha after a three-year hiatus, with the Barabati Stadium in Cuttack scheduled to host the opening T20 International of the India-South Africa series on December 9, 2025. The fixture, confirmed by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Monday, marks a significant update to the revised home season calendar. The day-night encounter, beginning at 7 pm, will be the first of a five-match T20I series, followed by games in New Chandigarh (Dec 11), Dharamsala (Dec 14), Lucknow (Dec 17), and Ahmedabad (Dec 19). The BCCI's revised schedule also includes venue changes for multiple fixtures across the men's and women's cricket calendar. Notably, the women's ODI series against Australia has been relocated from Chennai to New Chandigarh and Delhi due to renovation work at MA Chidambaram Stadium. Additionally, the South Africa A one-dayers will now be held in Rajkot, while some Tests involving South Africa and the West Indies have also seen venue realignments.

Prithvi Decimates Suryakumar's Team in T20 Mumbai League

Mumbai, (HS) : Prithvi Shaw concluded his T20 Mumbai League 2025 season on a high note, delivering a remarkable performance with 75 runs off just 34 balls, leading the North Mumbai Panthers to victory over Suryakumar Yadav's Triumph Knights Mumbai North East. Shaw received solid support from Harshal Jadhav, who contributed 46 runs, helping the team set a formidable target of 208 runs. In response, Triumph Knights MNE were bowled out for 169 runs. In other matches held at Wankhede Stadium, the Eagle Thane Strikers triumphed over ARCS Andheri, while the SOBO Mumbai Falcons secured a win against Aakash Tigers MWS. The league stage of the T20 Mumbai League 2025 wrapped up with high-octane action, setting the stage for the much-anticipated semifinals on June 10 at Wankhede Stadium. The top four teams - Bandra Blasters, Eagle Thane Strikers, SoBo Mumbai Falcons, and Mumbai South Central Maratha Royals - will clash in the semifinals. Fans can look forward to thrilling performances from international star Shreyas Iyer and some of Mumbai's rising talents, including Atharva Ankolekar, Suryansh Shedge, Angkrish Raghuvanshi and Harsh Aghav.



Lords, (HS) : The Australian cricket team camp suffered a blow in their training plans for the ICC World Test Championship final against South Africa, after the team was reportedly denied permission to train at Lord's Cricket Ground. A report claimed that the Australian team was told that the training ground at Lord's, the venue for the WTC final starting June 11, wasn't available. While the exact reason behind the rejection that Pat Cummins and his men faced isn't known, it has also been reported that the members of the Indian team, in

England for a 5-match Test series, were training at the same venue.

A report in Fox Cricket has claimed that the Indian team was given the permission to train at Lord's "at the expense of the Australian team" at Pat Cummins' men were 'booted out'. The report also highlighted that while the WTC final starts on June 11, the Indian team doesn't play its first Test against England until June 20. In fact, India's Test against England at Lord's is the third match of the series, and will start on July 10. After being denied access initially, Australian

players finally had the opportunity to test themselves at the venue on Sunday. Australia captain Pat Cummins later spoke about his team's preparations, plans, and the abuse they constantly get whenever playing at Lord's. "I think this is the best version of the stadium this morning," he said. "There's no one around, which is great. I'm sure it will be much more civil this time around."

"Things got pretty heated in the middle of that Ashes series, but I think a lot of them will have learned their lesson and I'm sure they'll be very polite." Pat Cummins will be the man leading Australia's bowling attack against South Africa in the WTC final, with the likes of Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood, and Nathan Lyon accompanying him. All-rounder Cameron Green is expected to be 4th seam-bowling option for the men from Down Under.

Cristiano Ronaldo Hints at Retirement

Munich, (HS) : Cristiano Ronaldo dropped a significant retirement hint after Portugal clinched the UEFA Nations League title with a dramatic 5-3 penalty shootout win over Spain at the Allianz Arena in Munich. The 40-year-old veteran forward was visibly emotional, shedding tears after the thrilling finale in which he played a crucial role. Ronaldo, who scored Portugal's second goal to level the match at 2-2, helped push the game into penalties before being substituted in the 88th minute to a standing

ovation. Speaking after the victory, Ronaldo reflected on the possibility of hanging up his boots. "You know how old I am. Obviously, I'm closer to the end than to the beginning, but I want to enjoy every moment. If I don't get seriously injured, I'll keep going," Ronaldo told reporters, leaving fans wondering if this could be his final appearance on the big stage. Despite battling an injury during the final, Ronaldo revealed he was determined to play. "I had been feeling it for some time, even during the warm-up."