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ଶ୍ରୀ ନରେନ୍ଦ୍ର ମୋଦୀ
ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ



କଥାଦେଇ କଥା ରଖିଲେ ଲୋକଙ୍କ ସରକାର



ଶ୍ରୀ ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀ
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

ଲୋକଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ, ଲୋକଙ୍କ ସରକାର

କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ଷମ ହେଲା ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ଅଭିଯୋଗ ପ୍ରକାଶ

ଲୋକଙ୍କ ପାଖରେ ପହଞ୍ଚିଲା ସରକାର, ସମ୍ବଲପୁରରେ ହେଲା ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ଅଭିଯୋଗ ଶୁଣାଣି

ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ଅଭିଯୋଗ ପ୍ରକାଶରେ ପ୍ରାୟ ୮୫% ଅଭିଯୋଗ ସମାଧାନ ଜନଶୁଣାଣି ପୋର୍ଟାଲ୍ ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ୫ଲକ୍ଷରୁ ଅଧିକ ଅଭିଯୋଗ ସମାଧାନ

ମହିଳା ସଶକ୍ତିକରଣ

ସୁଭଦ୍ରାରେ ୧ କୋଟିରୁ ଅଧିକ ମହିଳା ଉପକୃତ

୧୬ ଲକ୍ଷରୁ ଅଧିକ ଲକ୍ଷପତି ଦିବି ସୃଷ୍ଟି

ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ କନ୍ୟା ବିବାହ ଯୋଜନାରେ ଆର୍ଥିକ ଅନୁଗ୍ରହ ପରିବାରର ଝିଅମାନଙ୍କୁ ସ୍ଥାନୀୟ ପରମ୍ପରା ଅନୁସାରେ ଗଣ ବିବାହ

କୃଷି ଓ କୃଷକ ସଶକ୍ତିକରଣ

ସମୃଦ୍ଧ କୃଷକ ଯୋଜନାରେ ଧାନର କିଣ୍ଡାଲ ପିଛା MSP ଉପରେ ୮୦୦ ଟଙ୍କାର ଇନ୍ଦ୍ରପୁର ସହାୟତା

ପ୍ରତି ଉପଖଣ୍ଡରେ ଶୀତଳ ଭଣ୍ଡାର ପାଇଁ ନିଷ୍ପତ୍ତି

ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ କାମଧେନୁ ଯୋଜନାରେ ୧୫ ଲକ୍ଷରୁ ଅଧିକ ଦୁଗ୍ଧ ଚାଷୀ ଉପକୃତ

ସୁସ୍ଥ ଓଡ଼ିଶା, ସମୃଦ୍ଧ ଓଡ଼ିଶା

AB-PMJAY ଏବଂ ଗୋପବନ୍ଧୁ ଜନ ଆରୋଗ୍ୟ ଯୋଜନାରେ ଦେଶର ୨୯ ହଜାରରୁ ଅଧିକ ଚିକିତ୍ସାଳୟରେ ନଗଦବିହୀନ ଚିକିତ୍ସା ସୁବିଧା

ପ୍ରତି ପରିବାର ପାଇଁ ବାର୍ଷିକ ୫ ଲକ୍ଷ ଟଙ୍କା ଏବଂ ମହିଳାଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଅତିରିକ୍ତ ୫ ଲକ୍ଷ ଟଙ୍କାର ଉନ୍ନତ ଚିକିତ୍ସା ସୁବିଧା

ଆୟୁଷ୍ମାନ ବୟୋ ବନ୍ଧନା ଯୋଜନାରେ ୭୦ ବର୍ଷ ଓ ତଦୁର୍ଦ୍ଧ ବୟସର ବରିଷ୍ଠ ନାଗରିକଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ବାର୍ଷିକ ୫ ଲକ୍ଷ ଟଙ୍କାର ଚିକିତ୍ସା ସୁବିଧା

ଶିକ୍ଷା ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥାର ରୂପାନ୍ତରଣ

ଜାତୀୟ ଶିକ୍ଷା ନୀତି - ୨୦୨୦ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ

ଗୋବାବରୀଶ ମିଶ୍ର ଆଦର୍ଶ ପ୍ରାଥମିକ ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ଯୋଜନାରେ ପ୍ରତ୍ୟେକ ଗ୍ରାମ ପଞ୍ଚାୟତରେ ଗୋଟିଏ ଲେଖାଏଁ ଆଦର୍ଶ ପ୍ରାଥମିକ ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ

ଶତାୟୁ ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟଗୁଡ଼ିକର ନବୀକରଣ ପାଇଁ ଐତିହ୍ୟ ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ଯୋଜନାର ଶୁଭାରମ୍ଭ

ଗ୍ରାମୀଣ ଭିତ୍ତିଭୂମି ବିକାଶ

ଗ୍ରାମ ଗୁଡ଼ିକର ସର୍ବାଙ୍ଗୀନ ବିକାଶ ପାଇଁ ବିକଶିତ ଗାଁ, ବିକଶିତ ଓଡ଼ିଶା

୩ ଲକ୍ଷ ୬୫୮ ଘରୋଇ ଟ୍ୟାପ ସଂଯୋଗୀକୃତ

ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଆବାସ ଯୋଜନା (ଗ୍ରାମୀଣ) ଅଧୀନରେ ୨.୬୭ ଲକ୍ଷ ଘର ନିର୍ମିତ ଓ ୩୬ ଲକ୍ଷ ନୂତନ ହିତାଧିକାରୀ ଚିହ୍ନଟ

ଅନ୍ୟୋଦୟ ଗୃହ ଯୋଜନାରେ ପ୍ରାୟ ୬୦ ହଜାର ହିତାଧିକାରୀଙ୍କୁ ଘର ମଞ୍ଜୁର

ଜନଜାତି ବିକାଶ

ସହିଦ ମାଧୋ ସିଂହ ଖାତ ଖର୍ଚ୍ଚ ଯୋଜନାରେ ୧,୭୨,୩୫୬ ଜଣ ଅନୁସୂଚିତ ଜନଜାତି ସ୍ଥାନାନ୍ତରା ଉପକୃତ

ଆବାସିକ ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟଗୁଡ଼ିକ ପାଇଁ ସହିଦ ଲକ୍ଷ୍ମଣ ନାୟକ ଆଦର୍ଶ ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ଯୋଜନା

ଜନଜାତି ଶିଶୁମାନଙ୍କ ଶିକ୍ଷା ଏବଂ ଜ୍ଞାନାତ୍ମକ ବିକାଶ ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟରେ "ଆମେ ପଢ଼ିବା ଆମ ଭାଷାରେ" ଅଭିଯାନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ

ଯୁବବର୍ଗଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଅପାର ସୁଯୋଗ

ଅବ୍ୟାବଧୀ ୨୭,୩୮୨ ମୂଳ ସରକାରୀ ପଦବୀ ପୂରଣ

ସରକାରୀ ଚାକିରି ବୟସ ସୀମା ୪୨ ବୁ ବୃଦ୍ଧି

ସାମାଜିକ ଓ ଅର୍ଥନୈତିକ ପଛୁଆ ବର୍ଗ ସ୍ଥାନାନ୍ତରା ପାଇଁ ଉଚ୍ଚ ଶିକ୍ଷାରେ ୧୧.୨୫% ସ୍ଥାନ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ

ସମୃଦ୍ଧ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ପାଇଁ ଶିକ୍ଷାୟନ

ଉତ୍କର୍ଷ ଓଡ଼ିଶା-୨୦୨୫ କନକେଭରେ ୫୯୩ଟି ପ୍ରକଳ୍ପ ପ୍ରସ୍ତାବ ଗ୍ରହଣ, ୧୬.୭୩ ଲକ୍ଷ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କାର ନିବେଶ ଲକ୍ଷ୍ୟ, ୧୨.୮୮ ଲକ୍ଷ ନିଯୁକ୍ତି ସୃଷ୍ଟି

କଳିଙ୍ଗନଗରରେ ୧ ଲକ୍ଷ ୧୫ ହଜାର କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କାର ସମୁଦାୟ ୨୦ଟି ଶିଳ୍ପ ପ୍ରକଳ୍ପର ଭିତ୍ତିପ୍ରସ୍ତର ସ୍ଥାପନ; ଶୁଭ ଉଦ୍ଘାଟନ; ୩୬ ହଜାର ନୂଆ ନିଯୁକ୍ତି ସୃଷ୍ଟି

ଖୋର୍ଦ୍ଧାରେ ୫.୭୭୦ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କାର ୧୪ଟି ପରିବର୍ତ୍ତନକାରୀ ଶିଳ୍ପ ପ୍ରକଳ୍ପର ଉଦ୍ଘାଟନ; ଭିତ୍ତି ପ୍ରସ୍ତର ସ୍ଥାପନ; ୩୬ ହଜାରରୁ ଅଧିକ ନିଯୁକ୍ତି ସୁଯୋଗ ସୃଷ୍ଟି



Bengaluru Stampede

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has announced an inquiry into the stampede that claimed 11 lives and left more than 40 Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) fans injured Wednesday. If the probe has to fix accountability for the horrific incident in Bengaluru, it needs to take an unsparing look at the role of the state government, cricket association, the team management, and the board - all whose job it was to ensure that the city could celebrate safely and the champion cricketers were adequately shielded. It's hard to be convinced by the logic of these authorities that they didn't anticipate the crowd to swell to many times the 35,000-capacity of Chinnaswamy Stadium. For, no special intelligence was needed here.

The RCB fans had waited for 18 years to see their team on the winner's podium. The emotive power of the victory was heightened by the fact that team superstar Virat Kohli is in the twilight of his career. As soon as the game ended, Bengaluru streets echoed with Ee Sala Cup Namde (this time the cup is ours). The political class rushed in to own the triumph, glint in its reflected glory. To this, add the early announcement by RCB on free passes that would never have been enough, police alerts going unnoticed, the on-off open-top bus parade cancelled at the last minute - the perfect storm for an accident. No wonder when the stampede happened, missing was someone in charge, someone to help, even as the felicitation ceremony, attended by the entire state government, including CM Siddaramaiah and his Deputy D K Shivakumar, seemed to be happening in another world altogether. The BCCI has been quick to sidestep its responsibility. Technically, it has a point - the state and local administration were responsible for the event. But since every IPL player, Indian or foreign, signs a contract with BCCI as one of the parties, along with the franchise, the board can't distance itself from this tragedy. In a polarised discourse, the deaths acquire a political colour: Stampede under BJP vs stampede under Congress. Let social media warriors fight that out. What needs to be underlined is that the many triumphs of Indian cricket have many claimants: players; those who bid for them; those who crowd the dug-out; sport bodies; the political class and, of course, Mr Mallya, the fugitive, too.

But who is responsible and accountable for the welfare of the fan, ecstatic one time, crushed at another, always vulnerable? From the 14-year-old schoolgirl to the 19-year-old college student, the 26-year-old engineer to the accountant who took a day off with her husband to mark the victory - the 11 lives lost are 11 too many. The world's richest cricket tournament can't cut corners when it comes to fans' safety. A fitting tribute to those dead, therefore, is not mere signing a cheque but holding those in charge responsible. Ensuring that heads roll, and those who dropped the ball Wednesday are made to pay.

12th June

Child Labor Day



Child Labor Day or World Day Against Child Labor is observed annually on June 12. The day has been around since 2002 when the International Labor Organization (I.L.O.) declared it an international day to raise awareness about child labor and the need to make efforts to prevent it. Since 2002, Child Labor Day or World Day Against Child Labor has been an annual occurrence where countries and international organizations come together to make efforts against child labor. Apart from spreading awareness and engineering activism, the most important thing is to find ways to eradicate child labor from the roots as more than half of all these children are being subjected to some worse forms of child labor. These are hazardous and extremely illegal, like human trafficking resulting in forced prostitution.

Child labor refers to the exploitation of children, especially in developing countries, while depriving them of childhood and access to education because of their poor economic conditions. Child labor has existed throughout history in different forms. Recorded evidence of children involved in labor like adults has been present since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, in which children used to work twelve hours a shift daily. To support the rapidly industrialized economy, western nations needed more and more labor and the best source available to them as children. In comparison to older days, when a single man of the house was enough to feed the family, the economic recession during the industrial revolution quite badly affected the ordinary man and his family. Children along with women had to come out to work in factories to make enough money which barely ensured their survival, and since then this exploitation of children as a source of the cheap labor force has prevailed. Overall in the world, Africa has consistently stood at the number one position when it comes to child labor, one in every five children is involved in child labor. The second worst numbers come from the Asian-Pacific belt, where 7% of all the children are victims of child labor.

Child Labor has been among the most discussed topics in the U.N. and other international organizations and serious efforts have been to prevent child labor, but still, around 160 million children are involved in child labor and the world still needs more efforts to eradicate child labor from the roots.

Let Children Listen to Stories



Bijaya Kumar Parhi

This world, this life is like a winsome dream, a mesmerizing story. Humans are surrounded by numerous stories and each life of humans abounds in never exhausting episodes which seem to be incomplete even after the last chapter or conclusion is over. Paradoxically life is complete in its incompleteness. Humans live like stories, live in stories, live for creation of stories and become a story over the tide of times. The most popular form of prose literature is story or katha. The way stories are read with gusto and enthusiasm, the same momentum is maintained while narrating stories. More often than not, stories remain in the subconsciousness of human minds and influence human evolution to a large extent. The words of William Turner "You may have heard the world is made up of atoms and molecules, but it is really made up of stories" suggest all-encompassing impact of stories in the process of human evolution. Human life is well connected with stories and it runs on how one enjoys life and learns from life. Children should read and listen to stories as these very often can change the entire perspective of one's outlook supplying adequate nutrition to fortify life.

The traditions of stories are as old as the Himalayas. Since times immemorial, stories survived and thrived in narration before written in leaves of trees and paper. From the origin of The

Jataka Tales, Katha-Sarit-Sagara retold by Somadeva, Stories of Arabian Nights to Alice in Wonderland, stories have been catering to the needs of explaining life and its various aspects. History, religion, philosophy and spiritualism are expressed through stories. The struggles, conflicts, depression, cruelty, hatred, anger, violence, revenge, fraudulence, love, pleasure and above all values and excellence are well expressed through stories. Needless to say, humans and stories are inextricably interlinked. Story as the best form of literature is basically the pursuit of inculcating a sense of wonder, excitement, compassion and humor in readers. Children must either read or listen to stories as they underscore the importance of being humane, not being judgmental, not offering clemency and love, but showing paths to achieve greatness of life. Tolstoy, Anton Chekov, Tagore, Ruskin Bond, Prem Chand and Manoj Das would invariably answer to this quality of greatness. Teaching subjects through narration of stories is the best pedagogical transaction in the classrooms and facilitates better learning. Keeping that in view, many boards of education-state and central-have prioritized the reading and listening of stories in the school curriculum. Narration of stories in kindergarten and primary classrooms is the sine qua non as it keeps the young minds alert and engaged. Mind is one of the most powerful mechanisms given to human beings and listening to stories refresh the mind and keep it balanced. Boredom never sets in when the teaching points are integrated with stories, case studies or biographies of great men. Educationists are of the view that it's the only fitting way to create love for language and literature for children. Apart from this, stories convey unforgettable life lessons very effectively, focused and succinct as they are.



It was the time when children listened to folk tales and fairy stories from grandparents. The gurus in the traditional gurukul system of education integrated many topics through stories. In doing so, they inculcated the values, moral excellence and the edification of life in children. The more children read and listen to stories, the more sensible, judicious, rectitude, kind, compassionate and upright they become. Stories act as catalyst and children learn the cardinal virtues like- justice, prudence, temperance and fortitude (Plato) and cultivate the 21st century Learning skills-critical thinking, creativity, communication and Life Skills-flexibility, leadership, initiative, productivity and self-awareness (NEP- 2020). It goes without saying, reading or listening to stories is a gate way of staying entertained and connected to creativity. How can anyone ever forget once read O Henry's 'The Gift of Magi', or 'The Last Leaf' or Guy de Maupassant's 'The Necklace' and Oscar Wilde's 'The Happy Prince'. Most of the stories leave you thinking, with vignettes lingering in mind and imagination for days. They impact profound insights into the interwoven strands of ethics and morality, the obligation of duty and the imperative of compassion. Life is not a scientific equation that can be

solved with logic and reason alone, rather it is a multifaceted journey that requires intuition, wisdom and understanding the true purpose of life. The key to navigate this journey lies in awareness of the righteous way of living.

Stories whet the appetite of children's inquisitiveness and heighten the capacity to think out of the box. The educational policies promise to encourage inquisitiveness so that learners are not merely confined to the prescribed syllabus and as a result the learners become the true seekers of life's insight. What children learn has to be transcendental and be applicable enhancing personality and multiplying essence. Similarly, subjects like Mathematics, Science and Social science can be taught through story telling method to avoid monotony and dispel boredom from classes. Teachers must be trained and efficient enough to make all these classes enjoyable. Mathematics or Science will not be a nightmarish experience as long as teachers captivate the learners through integrated approach of narrating stories. Intellectually rich and aesthetically sufficient teachers can infuse curiosity, inquisitiveness and right motivation in learners and tide over the situations when children fall in the miasma of doldrums. Science concepts can be

personified- turn processes or equations into characters or narratives. This creative approach makes complex topics more relatable and helps learners and connect with materials. Chose age-appropriate stories that align with your curriculum. Children are required to explore a variety of genres like fictions, fantasy, suspense and even documentaries. Story telling as a strategy in lesson transaction creates a multi-sensory experience that fosters learners' engagement, confidence and deeper understanding. Today's children don't have patience either to read or listen to stories. So, it is inevitable to adopt a change in pedagogy that allows children a certain degree of freedom to explore, experiment and create.

King Amar Shakti engaged a renowned scholar Vishnu Sharma to educate three dunces sons who had strong aversions to learning and education. Pandit Sharma making them sit under a tree went on narrating story after story-fables and moral tales which later came in to being PANCHATANTRA. Those stories had an immense and powerful effect on the dullards and transformed them into prudent and erudite princes. The main aim of education is to build characters and establish healthy society. The simple pedagogy to be adopted is to excite the curiosity of learners by exposing them to problems that exist around us. Parents and teachers must facilitate children to enjoy listening and reading stories which foster patience, imagination and creativity sharpening intellect, perspicacity and sagacity. Stories are the best medium to carry forward literature, tradition and morality from one generation to another generation and keep human civilization alive in perpetuity.

*Teacher of English
Ph- 7894153578*

Woman and Gold

Kishore Kumar Jena

Sri Ramakrishna said to the others; 'He is totally free from attachment to land, wife and money, the three things that entangle one in worldliness. The mind that dwells on these three can not be fixed on God. He saw a vision, too. (To the devotee) Tell us what did you see?' Devotee (laughing); "I saw a heap of dung. Some were seated on it, and some sat at a distance."

Master : 'It was a vision of the plight of the worldly people who are forgetful of God. It shows that all these desires are disappearing from his mind. Need one worry about anything if one's mind is detached from woman and gold? How strange! Only after much meditation and japa

could I get rid of these desires; and how quickly he could banish them from his mind is it an easy matter to get rid of lust? I myself felt a queer sensation in my heart six months after I had begun my spiritual practice. Then I threw myself on the ground under a tree and wept bitterly. I said to the Divine Mother, 'Mother, if it comes to that, I shall certainly cut my throat with a knife! (To the devotees) 'If the mind is free from 'woman and gold', then what else can obstruct a man? He enjoys then only the Bliss of Brahman.' bliss (Brahma Ananda) is defined as the continuous human-happiness (Maanusha Ananda) multiplied by infinity. As per Veda, the human happiness is that of a king of this entire earth with full

strength and health (Saeko Manusha-Anandah...). But the king also is not having this happiness continuously because several troubles often interrupt this. Hence this human happiness must be made continuous and Veda does not mention this continuity while describing the human happiness.

The continuity of human happiness can be attained by the clue of enjoying the sweet and hot dishes in meals or comedy and tragedy in a cinema. This divine clue is inherent to the state of God and its successful application continuously depends on the divine knowledge given by God along with His grace.

*Advocate, Bangali Sahi,
Cuttack*

LIBERATION

Puspamitra Mohapatra

There was a king who desired moksha. One day a servant informed that a great sage had come to the city. The King invited the sage, honoured him and made him sit beside his throne. The sage did not enquire anything about the welfare of the King. All the while he was talking to the attendant. The King had to try hard to get the attention of the sage. In spite of this the sage did not speak to the King, but continued to speak to the attendant without looking at the King even once. The King became very wild. He commanded that the sage be hanged. Then the sage told him, 'O King, you assumed that you were superior to the attendant and became angry when I talked to the attendant ignoring you.

Without remembering the fact that the greatest of all beings, God is in every being. You are making these people toll for you and enjoying your life.

Just think of the punishment in store for you. How can you aspire for liberation? Immediately, the King realized his folly and fell at the feet of the sage and begged for pardon. Mental discipline should precede spiritual pursuits. It is in the state of consciousness, that we can be enlightened with the truth — that we are not the body, mind, ego. We are the Soul, the Atman. Self-realization can lead to God-realization as we experience and realize the power of the Divine in everything and everywhere. God is not God. God is SIP, the Supreme Immortal Power that

is omnipresent, omnipotent and omniscient. God is everywhere, in everything. Only God is, there is nothing else. If we are in Yoga, in union with God, if we truly yearn for God, if we love God more than anything else in the world, self-realization and God realization will give us true Liberation. But it all starts with a quest, a spiritual journey. We must ask questions and investigate our findings. We must not blindly follow the herd but fly like a bird. Only then will we realize our true self and God. Then, at the moment of death, we will attain Liberation. If we do not realize the truth, we will be born again on earth to redeem our karma and inevitably, we will suffer.

*Advocate, Orissa High Court,
Cuttack, Mob : 9437225689*

When you are aware, life is a movement of joy

Dr. Arundhati Devi

We should learn the art of handling difficulties gracefully. There is no one way. We have to be alert and let the purity of alertness and goodness to guide you in handling difficult situations. Our past knowledge is trapping us often. At the same time, we have to transform gracefully. Our past should be a point of reference for increased awareness, rather than a block. Our past knowledge, conclusions, opinions, hurts; they influence our listening and thinking. Our unconscious is leading our life mechanically. When we are alert, we become conscious of our unconscious and that enables us to lead a better life instead of bitter life.

Are you conscious of the fact that one is unconscious to oneself? You say this is mine or that is mine. But, if you are alert and conscious, you will realise that all that you have said as 'mine' is not yours. You are riding a dream. What you think is mine is not in the true sense yours. You are using them for your need in a remarkably subtle sense. You say your son is yours, for you have a dream that he will do this and that to you. But, your son also has a dream and he feels this or that will make him complete. So, one is using the other for fulfilling one's dream, and in that sense wants others to serve him.

All things and persons can be snatched away from you, and what is capable of being snatched away is not yours. What cannot be snatched away from you is your consciousness. Your body is given to you by your parents. Your knowledge is given to you by books and other sources. These can be snatched away from you. Only our consciousness is



intrinsically ours, and in the true sense, we are not unaware what this consciousness is. We are unconscious of our consciousness. When we are dependent on the things that can be snatched away, and when it is snatched away by time, we feel cheated and betrayed. It is our error in understanding.

If one understands that all things are capable of being snatched one will not depend on it emotionally. Hence emotions will have clarity and is free. You will be a giver of life, and not a beggar of life. You will put your energy in understanding yourself, and when you understand yourself as consciousness, you will realise this consciousness, which is your nature, is fullness and completeness. With fullness when you live life, your life will be a movement of joy and not wanting joy.

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



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Snana Purnima: 108 pitchers' bath makes lords fall sick

Puri, (DMC) : The ceremonial bathing ritual of the Trinity of Jagannath temple was held amid tight security in the presence of thousands of devotees. More than three lakh devotees witnessed the Snana ritual which started at around 6.15 am with the Daita servitors escorting Lord Jagannath, elder brother Lord Balabhadra and sister Devi Subhadra along with Sudarshan and Madanmohan to SnanaMandap from 'Ratnasimhasan' of the sanctum sanctorum in 'Dhadipahandi'. Pahandi was completed at 8.00 am.

The 'Chaturdhamurti' were placed on the SnanaMandap overlooking the Grand Road facing East and located at the outer complex of the temple. Priests bathed the deities in 108 pitchers of aromatic water drawn from 'Sunakua' (golden well) and blended it with aromatic herbs, sandalwood paste, kesar and karpur for bathing. After the bathing ceremony, the deities were decked in a new attire. Gajapati Dibyasingha Deb came in a procession from his palace in a decorated palanquin to the



temple and performed 'ChheraPahanra,' which was over by 4 pm. Prior to this, servitors completed all offerings like bhog and dressing the deities. This was followed by decking of the deities in 'HatiBeshha' (incarnation of Lord Ganesh). The 'Beshha' was completed by 4.30 pm. Devotees to visit Alarnath Shrine from

today

With the sibling deities retiring to the AnasaraGhara in Shree Jagannath temple after having an excess bath on the occasion of SnanaPurnima, the devotees are set to throng Brahmagiri from Thursday for darshan of Lord Alarnath. After the ceremonial bath held on

Wednesday, the sibling deities Lord Balabhadra, Lord Jagannath and Devi Subhadra are now set to be down with fever and their fortnight-long quarantine period in the AnasaraGhara begins. As per legend, the darshan of Lord Alarnath in the attire of Lord Narayan during the Anasara period is equal to the darshan of

the Lord Jagannath. Alarnath Temple is located at Brahmagiri, around 25 km from Puri town. This apart, the idols of Lord Dolagobinda, Lord Nrusingha, Lord Madanmohan, Lord Rama, Lord Krishna, Goddess Bhudevi, Goddess Sridevi and the 10 incarnations of Lord Vishnu are also being worshipped at the Alarnathpeeth. Devotees visiting Alarnath temple also get 'Mahaprasad' at the 'Ananda Bazaar' here like the one they get in Srimandir in Puri. The local administration has made elaborate arrangements for smooth darshan at Alarnath temple, deploying a heavy security force. A total of seven platoons of police and a section force are being deployed.

Barricades have been erected at the temple for security purpose. The general darshan of Alarnath will commence from 6 am, and devotees are expected to throng the temple till June 26. Along with Lord Alarnath, the devotees will also have the darshan of Lord AnantaBasudev in place of Lord Balabhadra and Devi Bhubaneswari in place of Devi Subhadra.

Vikas Melas how cases BJP Govt's achievements



Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : Odisha Chief Minister Mohan CharanMajhi on Wednesday inaugurated a state-level fair in Bhubaneswar to mark the first anniversary of the BJP government in the state. The Vikas Mela-2025, organised at the IDCO Exhibition Ground in the city, is slated to continue till June 18.

Around 75 stalls have been opened by various departments of the state government at the fair showcasing their achievements in last one year. This apart, the fair has stalls dealing in handicraft and handloom products from across the state. There are also food

courts and cultural events for the visitors. Members of the women self-help groups (SHGs) have opened over 40 stalls at the fair to serve traditional Odia cuisines to the visitors.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister highlighted the initiatives and flagship schemes of the BJP government in the state. "The people of Odisha had brought us to power a year ago. Our government is making all possible efforts to fulfill the expectations of the people. Under the guidance of Prime Minister NarendraModi, the BJP government is trying to fulfill the

Continued P-4



Joint Training: In a first-of-its-kind independent Special Forces exercise between India and United States, Indian Air Force and the United States Air Force have successfully conducted Exercise "Tiger Claw" across North India.

CM visits Puri, expresses satisfaction over arrangements



Puri, (DMC) : Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Majhi on Wednesday visited Puri and expressed satisfaction over the conduct of the rituals for the divine bathing ceremony of Lord Balabhadra, Mahaprabhu Jagannath and Devi Subhadra on the auspicious occasion of

Deba Snana Purnima. The CM along with senior officials visited Puri Srimandir and participated in the 'Mangala Alati' and other rituals apart from having the darshan of the deities. "Today, I participated in the Mangala Alati, Pahandi Bijje, and had a darshan of the Holy Trinity. Lakhs of devotees

have also come for darshan on the auspicious occasion of Snana Purnima. As all arrangements are being properly done, we believe that the upcoming Rath Yatra will be conducted in a smooth manner with the blessings of Lord Jagannath," said CM Majhi. On the occasion of Snana Purnima, lakhs of devotees have thronged the pilgrim town to have a glimpse of the deities of Puri Srimandir atop the Snana Bedi. The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA), Odisha Police, Puri district administration and other stakeholders have made elaborate arrangements for the devotees to witness the grand bathing ceremony of the deities of Puri Srimandir. It is pertinent to mention here that after the bathing rituals, the deities will adorn the 'Hati Beshha', in an elephant-like attire resembling Lord Ganesh. Earlier, special traffic advisory was issued by Puri police so that the devotees do not face any kind of problems in visiting the city on the auspicious day.

India's rapidly expanding infranetwork: PM

New Delhi, (HS) : Prime Minister NarendraModi on Wednesday said it has been 11 years of infrastructure revolution, and asserted that India's rapidly expanding infrastructure network is boosting 'Ease of Living' and enhancing prosperity. "It's been #11YearsOfInfraRevolution, with outstanding infrastructure being added that has enhanced India's growth trajectory," Modi said on X. From railways to highways, ports to airports, India's rapidly expanding infrastructure network is boosting 'Ease of Living' and enhancing prosperity, he said.

Modi shared a thread from a government's citizen engagement platform that highlighted new India's infrastructure development over the last 11 years. "Smart Cities. Safer Roads. Smoother Commutes-#NewIndia's Infrastructure Promise. India's infrastructure is racing into the future under PM @narendramodi's leadership," the post on the MyGovIndia read. "It's a journey where steel

Social boycott, Rs 20L fine on girl's family for inter-caste marriage

Lucknow, (HS) : In Bacheda village of Jhansi district in the Bundelkhand region of UP, a lady constable, Yadav by caste and posted in Lucknow, landed in a soup as she married her childhood friend, an inspector from the Patel community. Although both families supported the union and solemnised the marriage on April 30, it was rejected by the villagers due to the inter-caste relationship. The villagers were so enraged over the marriage that a village panchayat was called on May 13, and it declared the inter-caste marriage unacceptable. In a closed-door meeting, the village elders, including village head, imposed a hefty fine of Rs 20 lakh on the woman's family, accusing them of defying social norms. It was also decided that anyone who would speak or transact with the girl's family would be fined Rs 50,000. As a result of the social boycott of the family following the panchayat's decree, the woman's parents, who run a small dairy business, said it had come to a standstill.



and spirit merge, and each milestone carries the hopes of a billion. Highways that shorten distances, bridges that unite communities, and digital networks that spark innovation - India is building more than

infrastructure. It's building confidence, connectivity and a beautiful canvas for every Indian dream," it said. The thread highlighted that the momentum shift isn't just about progress - it's about a promise to uplift every

citizen and transform India's future. In another post, Modi said, "India's push for next-gen infrastructure is powered by sustainability and long term vision." It is laying the foundations of a self-reliant India, he said.

Bhubaneswar-Abu Dhabi direct flight from today

Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : The BijuPatnaik International Airport (BPIA) in Bhubaneswar will launch its much-awaited direct flight service to Abu Dhabi starting Thursday. Operated by IndiGo Airlines, the route marks the latest addition to the state's growing international connectivity network, offering a strategic link to the Gulf region.

As per the information available on the airline's website, the non-stop flight will connect Bhubaneswar with Abu Dhabi three times a week on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays. Departing from Bhubaneswar at 9:35 am IST, the aircraft will land in the UAE capital at 12:35 pm, local time, completing the journey in approximately four hours and thirty minutes. The return leg will take off from Abu Dhabi at 2:35 am local time and reach Bhubaneswar by 8:35 am IST. The website further stated that the introductory fares for this new route start at Rs 12,685 for a one-way ticket from Bhubaneswar to Abu Dhabi, with return fares priced at Rs 16,132. As with most international



routes, prices are expected to fluctuate based on seasonal demand and seat availability. Airline sources have indicated that bookings for the inaugural services are filling up quickly. Notably, the state has witnessed high demand for air connectivity to the Gulf, particularly since the launch of the Bhubaneswar-Dubai route in May 2023, which has consistently operated at near full capacity.

With a significant Odia workforce employed across the UAE, Qatar, and Oman, this new Abu Dhabi connection is expected to provide much-needed convenience for both blue-collar workers and business travellers. Beyond diaspora travel, the new route also opens doors to broader

trade, investment, and tourism opportunities. Abu Dhabi serves as a global transit hub, connecting travellers to Europe, the Americas, and Africa. For Odisha, this means easier access to global markets and an opportunity to promote itself as a business and tourism destination. In recent months, BPIA has added new routes to Goa, Port Blair, and Ghaziabad (Hindon), increasing its domestic footprint to 28 cities and daily aircraft movements have now risen to 56. Meanwhile, in western Odisha, Jharsuguda was recently connected to Mumbai through a daily direct flight. The Centre has also granted in-principle approval for a new

Continued P-4

It is a wonderful feat in the sky of Odia literature



Puri, (DMC): Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has said that a collection of spiritual poems or coffee table book prepared on the basis of the holy Mahakumbh will remain a wonderful record in the odia literary sky.

On the occasion of Devasnan Purnima today, the Chief Minister had darshan of the Lord at the Snan Mandap and prayed for the welfare of the people of Odisha and the world. The chariot later reached the bam and inspected the construction work of the chariot. Later, the Chief Minister unveiled the Kavyanjali Coffee Table Book prepared by the World Odia Family at the Circuit House. In his address the

chief minister said 66 crore devotees had taken a bath in the last Kumbh Mela. I also personally had the opportunity to bathe there and meet saints, saints and mahatmas. We bathe in rivers, ponds or baths, chanting bathing mantras.

But in the sacred and natural environment of the Mahakumbh, the holy bath is strange and unforgettable. Based on that Mahakumbh, this spiritual poetrynjali coffee table book is written in Odia and Hindi, which is a symbol of our language, literature, culture and asmita. Literary works of Sarala Das, Jagannath Das, Gangadhar Meher, Fakirmohan have enriched our language literature.

The release of this book on the occasion of the holy Devasnan Purnima is a huge achievement. The Chief Minister called upon all of us to work together for 2036 developed Odisha and 2047 developed India. Puri Lok Sabha MP Dr Sambit Patra, Sajjan Sharma, Pipili MLA Ashrit Patnaik, Satyabadi MLA Om Prakash Mishra and Brahmagiri MLA Upasana Mohapatra were also present at the event presided over by Sajjan Sharma. At the end, Dilip Kumar Mohanty proposed a vote of thanks. The chief minister interacted with mahants of various mutts. Among others, litterateurs Bhawani Prasad Mishra, Suresh Kumar Sahu, Dr Priti Pratibha Bhol, Dr Hadibandhu Panigrahi, Subrata Nayak, Kulamani Rout, Dr Amiya Mohapatra, Matrudutt Mohanty, Niranjan Rath, Shyam Prakash Senapati, Chinmoy Vivek, Dayanidhi Lenka, Shyma Sundar Mohapatra and Dilip Mohanty were also preLenka.

On World Blood Donor Day, ICG organized Blood Donation Camp at Paradip

Paradip, (DMC): On the occasion of World Blood Donor Day, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) District Headquarters (Odisha) organised a blood donation camp at Paradip on 11 Jun 2025 to commemorate the country wide campaign on the occasion of World Blood Donor Day-2025.

A total of 90 ICG personnel including family members participated in the noble cause and donated 90 units of blood during the camp. The theme for this year's campaign is "Give Blood, Give Hope: Together We save Lives!" Commander, Coast Guard District Headquarters (Odisha) being the first donor, and thanked all donors for participation in the noble cause, which is in



consonance with the rich culture and traditions of our country. He appreciated the doctors and staff of District hospital, Jagatsinghpur for helping in conduct of this campaign. The medical team emphasised the gathering on importance of blood donation and brought out the ongoing global need for transfusion of blood and its

products. During the camp, volunteers received complimentary health screening, including general medical check-up such as blood pressure and haemoglobin levels ensuring their fitness to donate. All personnel including family members took part in the event enthusiastically underscoring the collective commitment to save lives.

Senior servitor killed in Puri on Snan Purnima

Puri, (DMC) : Senior servitor killed on bathing full moon. The murder took place in Puri's Gudiya Sahi. The deceased has been identified as Jagannath Dixit of Mahasuar Sahi. On being informed, the town police reached the spot and conducted an investigation and recovered the body and sent it for post-

mortem. On the occasion of Snan Purnima, senior servitor Jagannath Dixit returned after serving the Lord's pahandi. Jagannath had come to collect the money as Jagannath had given money to Naran Patjoshi of Gudiya Sahi. However, instead of paying the money, the victim's nephew alleged that he was

brutally murdered inside the house and absconded. A video of the accused killing Jagannath inside the house and throwing the body at Dand Dua has been captured on CCTV cameras. While the police are investigating the matter, the exact cause of the murder will be clear after the investigation, police sources said.

Demand for Reconsideration of Compensation by Sanjukta Krushak Sangathan

Bargarh (Barpali): The Sanjukta Krushak Sangathan, Barpali, has respectfully submitted a claim to Additional District Magistrate Madhuchhanda Sahu for reconsideration and compensation in the District Collector's absence. This claim highlights the significant damage to paddy crops in the Bargarh district during the current Rabi season due to unseasonal rains and monsoons in May. On behalf of the organisation, we previously contacted you to assess the damage, and local officials have also prepared a field inspection report. Recently, it has come to our attention that the state government allocated Rs 7,55,44,855 for agricultural input subsidies to farmers who lost



33% or more of their crops due to the unseasonal rains between May 23 and 30. Despite this, the Barpali block appears to have been overlooked regarding compensation. For context, Bargarh district recorded 122 mm of rainfall last May, while Bargarh block saw 102 mm. In contrast, the Attabira block experienced 67 mm and an additional 52 mm in a single day. Unfortunately, several blocks did not receive compensation, including Padmapur, Gaisilat, Ambabhona, Bijepur, and

Barpali. The blocks that received the highest compensation were Bheden, with 2,584 hectares, followed by Atabira (857 hectares), Bargarh (555 hectares), Jharbandh (293 hectares), Bhatli (257 hectares), Sohela (14 hectares), and Paikamal (1.91 hectares), collectively totalling 4,309 hectares of land. Farmers in the Barpali block are seeking clarification on the criteria used for compensation distribution and would appreciate attention to their concerns. Notable members of the Sanjukta Krushak Sangathan attended the meeting, including president Tapan Mishra, president Tapan Sahu, Tekraj Padhan, Tikeswar Deheri, Suresh Triyak, Yogesh Triyak, Ramesh Mahapatra and Suresh Nikenti.

Demand for selection of Service Provider for Cleaning of Municipality

Jagatsinghpur, (DMC): For Cleaning & Sweeping of Jagatsinghpur Municipality Kalinga Warriar was selected as Service Provider by tender proces. Though the agreement period over in 2022 but due to Covid Pandemic Municipality authorities allowed Kalinga Warriar to continue. Now the agreement period is over and resolution passed at Council meeting to select new Service Provider by tender process and accordingly E- file moved.

But Collector & Project Director (DUDA) are silent. At present Sweepers & Cleaning staff are not working properly as Service provider making disturbances in providing EPF and Payment. In such circumstances Counsellor meet Project Director (DUDA) with written allegation. If proper action will not be taken by Project Director (DUDA) within 7 days the Counsellors will go for movement.



CM Mohan Charan Majhi to visit Bolangir on 17th June Address a Krushak Shakti Samabesh



Bolangir, (DMC): Odisha 's Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi would visit Bolangir on 17th of this month and would address the state level Krushak Shakti Samabesh Samabesh .in Bolangir. This was revealed by Deputy Chief Minister KV Singhdeo speaking to mediameen on Wednesday here The CM is slated to be at Pathar chepa field where the Krushak Samabesh is scheduled to held, for two and half

hours on that day. Farmers issue would be the main focus. All the elected representatives of this district would be present on that day says Singhdeo. Moreover, we have also invited Deputy Chief Minister Parvati Parida to the meeting says Singhdeo further. Deputy CM Singhdeo sought the cooperation of media and urged them to highlight the event. Earlier, on the occasion on completion of 11 years of rule of

Husband goes to jail for killing wife over domestic dispute, seven children orphaned

Keonjhar, (DMC): Keonjhar police arrested a 42 years old man (Husband) and for killing 30 years old wife over a minor domestic dispute leaving seven children orphaned, in Barbil police station area. The husband arrested is identified as Tukulu Munda and deceased wife Janaki Munda.

According to reports, Tukulu Munda and Janaki Munda, residents of Barbil Gadahatting, with their five daughters and two sons were living with working as daily wage labours. However, due to some dispute between the two, Tukulu repeatedly beat Janaki on Monday night with a

fist, then with a stick resulting in her death on the spot. On receiving the information, a team of Barbil police reached the spot, recovered Janaki's body and sent it to Barbil Community Health Center in an ambulance for autopsy. "The scientific team inspected the spot.

Bike Lifting Gang Busted, 15 Stolen Bike recovered, Four Arrested

NUAPADA/KHARIAR ROAD, (DMC): Nuapada police arrested four members of a gang involved in several bike stealing cases and recovered 15 stolen bikes on Tuesday. According to sources, a bike was stolen in Khariar on June 2. The bike owner Jaydev Panda of village

Goddhuapada under Khariar police station limit registered a complaint at Khariar police station on June 8. As per the direction of SP Nuapada, 2 teams were formed to investigate bike theft cases in the area. The four accused persons were identified as Prashant Kumar of Ward No-7 Khariar, Bikash Nag of village Lohrapali, Avinash Bag of village Sagundungri and Pintu Jha of Putupara Khariar. During the investigation, police discovered that the four accused had committed motorcycle thefts in this area. After the accused confessed, police recovered 15 stolen motorcycles and brought them to Khariar police station. The accused were produced in court on Tuesday said Additional SP Ranjit Nayak.



TPWODL will not Charge 500 Towards Processing Fee for Rooftop Solar Installation Under PMSGMBY

Burla, (DMC): TP Western Odisha Distribution Limited (TPWODL), a joint venture between Tata Power and the Government of Odisha, has taken yet another consumer-friendly decision to accelerate the adoption of rooftop solar systems across Western Odisha under the PM Surya Ghar – Muft Bijli Yojana (PMSGMBY). For the benefit of its consumers, TPWODL has waived Rs. 500 net metering processing fees for rooftop solar applications under the scheme. This waiver simplifies the application process by eliminating the need for online demand note generation and payment through the payment gateway, making it easier and more accessible for domestic consumers to benefit from solar energy. The waiver of processing fee has already been approved by Hon'ble OERC.

The company has already eliminated the requirement for a technical feasibility study for systems up to 10 kW capacity and has significantly reduced the turnaround time for key steps, such as site inspection, signing of the net metering agreement, and installation of net meters. In order to make the scheme more and more consumer friendly, TPWODL continuously endeavours to simplify processes within the regulatory framework. In this regard, Mr. Praveen Verma, CEO, TPWODL, has stated that, TPWODL remains committed to driving renewable energy adoption in a consumer-centric manner.

By removing cost and procedural barriers, we aim to empower more residents to harness solar energy and reduce their electricity bills while contributing to a greener future. This is not out of place to mention here that, the Government of India has announced up to Rs. 78, 000 and the Government of Odisha has announced up to Rs. 60,000 as subsidy for the rooftop solar system under the scheme. TPWODL encourages all its domestic customers to set up rooftop solar power system, generate own green power and save on electricity bills.



NTPC Talcher Kaniha Concludes Girl Empowerment Mission (GEM) 2025 Summer Workshop

Talcher, (DMC): The Girl Empowerment Mission (GEM) 2025 Summer Workshop concluded with a vibrant and inspiring closing ceremony at NTPC Kaniha on 10th June 2025. The four-week long residential program,

which commenced on 13th May 2025, aimed to empower young girls aged 10-12 through confidence-building, leadership development and life skills training. The chief guest for the ceremony was Shri K.N. Reddy, Executive Director of NTPC Talcher Kaniha, with Smt. Kariveda Srivani, President of Tanvi Sangam, gracing the occasion as the Guest of Honour. Senior NTPC



executives, including Shri Ch. Satya Rama Krishna, GM (O&M), Shri S.S. Rao, GM (Maint. & ADM), and Shri Navneet Kumar, Head of HR, were also present. Union & Associations representatives, members of Tanvi Sangam, teachers, principals from local government schools, and the parents of the participants were also present at the event. The

ceremony commenced with a warm welcome address by Shri Navneet Kumar, Head of HR, followed by a captivating video that showcased the transformation of the GEM participants from their initial stages to the final outcomes, which were marked by personal growth. During the GEM Closing Ceremony, the cultural program featured a series of enthusiastic

and creative performances by the GEM 2025 participants, highlighting girls' hidden talents. Highlights included a colorful welcome dance, a graceful yoga demonstration, a Nukkad Natak on girl empowerment, and a ramp walk themed "Aim in Life," where students confidently expressed their ambitions.

The event also featured a group rendition of "Hum Honge Kamyab," a self-defense demonstration, and energetic folk dances that captivated the audience. Ten girls were appreciated for their special talents under the GEM Miss Awards. In his address, Shri K.N. Reddy expressed gratitude to the parents, students, union

associations, principals, teachers, volunteers, and all participants. He reflected on the transformation of GEM girls observed from the beginning of the program to its conclusion and appreciated everyone's contributions. He motivated parents to continue supporting their daughters' education and empowerment and specially thanked

'Tanvi Sangam' Ladies Club for their unwavering support throughout the program. The event concluded with the felicitation of teachers and representatives from TCSPL, distribution of mementos to GEM students, and a heartfelt vote of thanks.

Need Both Pakistan & India, Islamabad "A Phenomenal Partner"



absolutely needs Pakistan as a partner in the region for America's fight against terrorism. The remarks were made by General Michael Kurilla, head of the US Central Command, during a hearing at the House Armed Services Committee. The General praised Pakistan for its "counter-terror efforts" and helping the United States achieve its objectives in the region. Describing Pakistan as a "phenomenal partner", the top US General mentioned how it is in an "active counter-terrorism fight" against the ISIS-Khorasan with the limited intelligence provided by Washington. "ISIS Khorasan is perhaps one of the most active in trying to carry out external plots globally, which include against the homeland. Right now, what we saw is the Taliban going after the ISIS-K. They hate each other. They pushed a lot of them into the tribal areas on the Afghan-Pakistan border," General Kurilla said. "Through a phenomenal partnership we have with Pakistan, they have gone after ISIS-Khorasan, killing dozens of them.

Covid cases in India crosses 7000 mark, 6 deaths in past 24 hours

New Delhi, (HS) : Covid cases in India is on the rise with each passing day. Covid infection is increasing with each passing day in the country. Active cases have reached 7121. According to the information of the Union Health Ministry, the number of Covid infected people has reached 7121 till today. 306 new cases have been identified in the last 24 hours. Six deaths have been reported today. The highest number of infections has been identified in Kerala. There are 2223 Covid positive cases in Kerala. Similarly, 1223 in Gujarat, 757 in Delhi, 615 in Maharashtra, 204 in Tamil Nadu, 747 in West Bengal, 44 in Chhattisgarh and 72 in Andhra Pradesh, 138 in Rajasthan, 459 in Karnataka, 229 in Uttar Pradesh. Three deaths have been recorded in Kerala, Maharashtra (1) and Karnataka (2) are the only states that have reported the remaining deaths. No cases have been reported in Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram so far. The central government has advised people to be cautious about corona. If any symptoms appear, they have been asked to get tested immediately. The biggest problem with the JN.1 variant is that it spreads very quickly between people. It has an additional mutation that helps it enter cells and weaken the immune system. Many doctors have said that the JN.1 variant is not so dangerous and people do not need to panic.

Law and Order Breakdown in Nalco Township; Corruption at Core.



Nalco Nagar, (HS) : Once a shining example of planned residential life for the employees of the Navratna company NALCO, the Nalco Township has now plunged into a state of lawlessness, corruption, and administrative paralysis. The epicenter of this crisis appears to be the H&A Department, under the alleged patronage and protection of its head, whose repeated actions-and dangerous inactions-are now being called into question by residents and employees alike.

The latest in a series of shocking incidents occurred last Saturday night. A group of anti-social youths-allegedly affiliated with a

particular political party from Girang village-were permitted to stay overnight at the NALCO Guest House. Eyewitnesses and insiders confirm that this unauthorized stay was personally approved by GGM (H&A). Around 4:00 AM, in an inebriated state, these individuals exited the guest house in a vehicle and, upon reaching Gate No. 3, launched a brutal assault on the security guard on duty, Subrat Pradhan. They verbally abused him with obscene language before attacking him with sticks, causing serious injuries. From 5:45 AM to 6:30 AM, Gate No. 3 remained forcibly shut, creating a logistical nightmare for both incoming A-shift workers and

deeply rooted corruption within the H&A Department, which is reportedly functioning with impunity under the protection of top officials. Among the most glaring examples of this is the SAN Guest House scandal. Official records show that the cost per meal is quoted at an exorbitant rate of Rs. 3,500 per head. During visits by central and state ministers, VVIPs, and top bureaucrats, there have been rampant manipulations in billing. On several occasions, bills have reportedly been submitted in the names of 400 to 500 individuals, even though only a fraction were actually present. The SAN Guest House scandal is only one

outgoing C-shift employees. Tension and chaos engulfed the township. But this incident is just the tip of the iceberg.

Residents are now raising serious concerns about how such dangerous elements were allowed to stay in a high-security facility without any verification or official scrutiny. The answer, many believe, lies in the

dimension of a larger and more dangerous decay. Locals allege that hundreds of government quarters within Nalco Township are being illegally rented out to outsiders in exchange for massive bribes. Some whistleblowers claim that any voice raised against this nexus is swiftly suppressed, with threats that a share of the money must go all the way up to the CMD, Director (HR), and ED Mr. Asutosh Rath-a claim that demands urgent clarification and inquiry.

A high-level, independent investigation into the attack on the security guard and the illegal stay of outsiders at the guest house. Immediate scrutiny of financial records and guest entries at SAN Guest House for all VIP visits. A judicial or CBI inquiry into the alleged illegal quarter rentals, bribery-based recruitments, and misuse of authority by officials in the H&A department. Accountability from the highest offices of NALCO, including the CMD and Director (HR). The time for silence has passed. If NALCO is to regain the trust of its employees and the community, it must begin with transparency, accountability, and swift corrective action. The people demand answers-and they demand them now.

Torrential rain, flooding claim 49 lives in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, (HS) : Torrential rains unleashed flooding and landslides that claimed at least 49 lives in South Africa's Eastern Cape province, including four children on a school minibus that was swept away, provincial authorities said Wednesday.

The death toll after the severe winter storm struck on Monday was likely to rise and it was not even clear how many people were missing in the largely rural and underdeveloped province, they said. "As of now, the stats have escalated to 49" deaths, Eastern Cape premier Lubabalo Oscar Mabuyane told reporters. They included four children on a school minibus carrying 13 people that was swept away by a flood near the city of Mthatha, Mabuyane said. "Sadly, four of those learners have been confirmed to be deceased, together with



the driver and the conductor of the minibus taxi," he said. "Four learners are still missing and are still being looked for." Three others had been found alive, he said. Much of South Africa has been struck by heavy rainfall and bitterly cold conditions in the past days, with

snowfalls in several areas and strong winds causing damage. The Eastern Cape, which stretches from the Indian Ocean into high inland mountains, has been particularly hard hit. "We have never seen this kind of combination of snow and torrential rains in winter

simultaneously," Mabuyane said.

Authorities did not give details of the other victims of the disaster and said the situation was evolving. "Now we are busy with the rescue operation. So we are trying to get figures, our people out of that situation, dead or alive," the premier said. "What we would not know, besides the four kids, is to how many people are we looking for," provincial transport minister Xolile Nqatha told the same press conference, confirming the death toll of 49 was likely to increase. Images from the remote area have shown informal settlements under water. On Tuesday, three children were rescued after spending hours in trees to escape rising waters, authorities said. Hundreds of families were sheltering in community centres in the bitter cold. There had also been significant damage to infrastructure, including power and water supply, provincial officials said.

Mabuyane told public broadcaster SABC News earlier that only one helicopter was available in the province. "We need more resources," he said. "We have never experienced disasters like this but now it's inevitable with climate change and global warming." President Cyril Ramaphosa said in a statement that harsh winter conditions "remain life-threatening" adding that emergency services, including the National Disaster Management Centre, were "giving the requisite attention to crises as they unfold". South Africa's national weather service has warned that severe and extreme winter weather conditions would persist until at least the middle of this week. Snow and heavy rainfall are common during winter in South Africa but the country is also highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate variability and change, which increases the frequency and severity of drought, floods and wildfires, according to the Green Climate Fund.

3 killed, 3 injured as car collides with bus in accident

Rangareddy, (HS) : At least three people were killed after a car and a bus collided in Telangana's Rangareddy district, police said on Wednesday. Three people also sustained injuries in the incident, which occurred near the Mall village on the border of Nalgonda and Ranga Reddy districts in Telangana. "This incident happened last night around 1 am. Three people died, and three others were injured in a collision between a car and a bus near the mall," said the Inspector of Yacharam Police Station. "The deceased bodies have been shifted to the mortuary for post-mortem examination (PME), and the injured have been admitted to the hospital.

Sonam's brother supports Raja's family; to fight to get them justice

INDORE, (HS) : While all five suspects arrested in connection with Raja Raghuvanshi's May 23 honeymoon trip killing in Meghalaya are now in police custody in the northeastern state, back in their home city Indore, a significant development happened between the families of Raja and his wife and the murder case's prime suspect Sonam. Sonam's brother, Govind Raghuvanshi, visited the home of Raja Raghuvanshi on Wednesday and broke into tears after hugging his slain brother-in-law's mother, Uma Raghuvanshi. The significant family development happened two days after Sonam and Govind's father, Devi Singh, claimed that his daughter was 100% innocent in the case. Contrary to his father's claims, Govind said, "Sonam told me in Ghazipur (UP) that she had nothing to do with the crime. I don't know whether she has confessed to the crime now or not. But the evidence which is now being reported clearly suggests that she got it (Raja's killing) done. If proven guilty, she should get the death sentence. I'll personally ensure she gets that punishment." "I had a very good bonding with Raja, his family has lost him forever. I'll work with this family as its own member to get justice done to those who did it. I'll personally go there (Meghalaya) for the hearing in the case and ensure that she (Sonam) gets punished for committing the crime. This family has lost its son, but I'm now a part of this family and we've broken our ties with Sonam," Govind said.



kill him. The three accused hit Raj with sharp weapons, attacking his torso and head. His body was then dragged to a gorge. They later hired a taxi and reached Guwahati. From there, they split and reached Indore by train. Sonam

Raghuvanshi's brother, Govind, said on Wednesday that he is sure that she killed her husband, Raja Raghuvanshi. He revealed that his employee, Raj Kushwaha, used to call the woman 'didi'. He also said that she should be hanged if proven guilty. Visiting Raja's family, Govind said he will fight for justice for the victim, not for her sister's release. He said his family has severed ties with the accused.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
Office of the Addl. Chief Engineer, Mechanical Circle, Bhubaneswar
Email Address: semehcircle104@gmail.com
e-Procurement Notice- Bid Identification No.- ACEM/MDL-15/2025-26

1. Name of the Work	: Mechanical Gate Works
2. No. of Works	: 01 (One)
3. Category of executors	: SSI Units registered under DIC/ NSIC/ MSME for Irrigation Shutters / Hydro mechanical gates.
4. Bid Identification No.	: ACEMMDL-15/2025-26
5. Estimated Cost	: Rs. 10,63,972/-
6. Period of Completion	: 01 (One) calendar months.
7. Date & time of availability of bid documents in the Portal	: From dt.12.06.2025(10.00 AM) to dt.20.06.2025(5.30 PM)
8. Last date/ time for receipt of bid in the Portal	: dt.20.06.2025 (up to 5.30 PM)
9. Date and Place of opening of Bid	: dt.21.06.2025(12.00 Noon onwards in the O/O the undersigned)
10. Name of the Officer inviting bid	: Addl. Chief Engineer, Mechanical Circle, Bhubaneswar

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. Any further issue of Addenda/ Corrigenda/ Cancellation Notice shall be uploaded in the aforesaid website only.

OIPR: 32405/11/0068/2526

Addl. Chief Engineer,
Mechanical Circle Bhubaneswar

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
Office of the Addl. Chief Engineer, Mechanical Circle, Bhubaneswar
Email Address: semehcircle104@gmail.com
e-Procurement Notice- Bid Identification No.- ACEM/MDL-19/2025-26

1. Name of the Work	: Mechanical Gate Works
2. No. of Works	: 01 (One)
3. Category of executors	: SSI Units registered under DIC/ NSIC/ MSME for Irrigation Shutters / Hydro mechanical gates.
4. Bid Identification No.	: ACEMMDL-19/2025-26
5. Estimated Cost	: Rs. 18,35,388/-
6. Period of Completion	: 01 (One) calendar months.
7. Date & time of availability of bid documents in the Portal	: From dt.12.06.2025(10.00 AM) to dt.20.06.2025(5.30 PM)
8. Last date/ time for receipt of bid in the Portal	: dt.20.06.2025 (up to 5.30 PM)
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OIPR: 32405/11/0072/2526

Addl. Chief Engineer,
Mechanical Circle Bhubaneswar

EAST COAST RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. ST/OT/POINT/ MACHINE/KUR/471, Dt: 04.06.2025
Name of the Work: REPLACEMENT OF OVER AGED POINT MACHINES AT BALANCE STATIONS AND REPLACEMENT OF GROUND CONNECTIONS (OLD TYPE TO D-BRACKET) AND LOCK SLIDES OF TWS POINT MACHINES IN KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Tender Value: ₹ 6,54,77,342.19, EMD: ₹ 4,77,400/-.
Bidding Start Date: 12.06.2025, Date & Time of closing of tender at 1100 hrs. of 26.06.2025.
No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website www.irpss.gov.in
Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender.

Divisional Railway Manager (S&T),
PR-222/Q/25-26
Khurda Road

Notice (for Minor)

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before Notary Public Bhubaneswar dated 10.6.2025 I Umesh Kumar Behera address Plot no:5202/7555, Ganesh Vihar, Pathargadia, Ps: Infocity, Bhubaneswar Dist: Khordha odisha Pin:751024 declare that I have changed the name of my daughter from subhashree Behera to Shubhashree Behera she shall be known as Shubhashree Behera for all purposes.

Umesh kumar Behera

Same Terrorism Will Come Back To Haunt You: EAM Jaishankar Warns West on Ignoring Pak Terror Havens

Brussels, (H.S): The world needs to understand that the tensions between India and Pakistan are not merely a bilateral issue but a global concern about terrorism, External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar has highlighted during his ongoing trip to Europe. "Let me remind you of something - there was a man named Osama bin Laden. Why did he, of all people, feel safe living for years in a Pakistani military town, right next to their equivalent of West Point (Pakistan military institution) ?

I want the world to understand that this isn't merely an India-Pakistan issue. It's about terrorism. And that very same terrorism will eventually come back to haunt you," EAM Jaishankar said during an interview with European media outlet Euractiv in Brussels. He warned that the terrorism targeting India right now will eventually haunt the rest of the world. Responding to another question on India not joining sanctions against Russia and



having not done enough to support Ukraine, Jaishankar said that India does not believe that differences can be resolved through war. "We don't believe that differences can be resolved through war - we don't believe a solution will come from the battlefield. It's not for us to prescribe what that solution

should be. My point is, we're not being prescriptive or judgemental - but we are also not uninvolved," he said. "We have a strong relationship with Ukraine as well - it's not only about Russia. But every country, naturally, considers its own experience, history and interests. India has the longest-standing grievance -

our borders were violated just months after independence, when Pakistan sent in invaders to Kashmir. And, the countries that were most supportive of that? Western countries," the EAM said. "If those same countries - who were evasive or reticent then - now say 'let's have a great conversation about international principles', I think I'm justified in asking them to reflect on their own past," Jaishankar further stated.

Highlighting how India sees itself in the new global order, EAM said that Europe has entered the era of multipolarity and now faces the need to make more decisions in its own interest - using its own capabilities and based on the relationships it fosters globally. "I hear terms like 'strategic autonomy' being used in Europe - these were once part of our vocabulary. The EU is clearly a major pole in the global order - and increasingly an autonomous one. That is precisely why I'm here: to deepen our relationship in this multipolar world," EAM mentioned.

WTC Final: South Africa Win Toss And Elect To Bowl First Against Australia

London, (H.S): South Africa have won the toss and elected to bowl against Australia in the 2025 ICC World Test Championship Final at the Lord's Cricket Ground on Wednesday. This will be the first time that the iconic Lord's will be hosting a World Test Championship Final. There is also a reserve day in place on June 16, provided time is lost due to inclement weather in original five days. Australia come in as reigning champions, while South Africa are in this title clash for the first time.

South Africa captain Temba Bavuma said the pitch looks good, but overhead conditions have dictated his decision to bowl first. "Will have a bowl first looking at the overhead conditions. Looks like a good pitch. Too late to change the team, we have selected the best combination. "All 15 of us are confident. We all have had some allegiance to Lord's, the emotion will hit us when the anthems start playing. It is a massive final, it should be a spectacle out here,"



he said. Australia skipper Pat Cummins said he was happy to bat first in a big championship final. "Preparation has been unreal. All the guys in the team are ready to go. Everyone's come together and we have had about ten days of preparation. I don't think there's any extra pressure. We've been here before and won it. So it's just about going out and enjoying it," he said.

A pitch report by Nasser Hussain and Stuart Broad said conditions on ground are cloudy out here with a breeze blowing and very slight chance of rain looming around. The square

boundaries are 63m and 67m respectively, with longer straight boundaries in place. Australia: Usman Khawaja, Marnus Labuschagne, Steven Smith, Travis Head, Cameron Green, Beau Webster, Alex Carey (wk), Pat Cummins (captain), Mitchell Starc, Nathan Lyon, and Josh Hazlewood. South Africa:

Aiden Markram, Ryan Rickelton, Tristan Stubbs, Temba Bavuma (captain), David Bedingham, Kyle Verreynne (wk), Wiaan Mulder, Marco Jansen, Keshav Maharaj, Kagiso Rabada, and Lungi Ngidi

ILO ranks India 2nd in world for social security cover to poor as headcount crosses 94 cr



Geneva, (H.S): India has achieved a historic milestone in recording a 45 percentage point jump in the social security coverage of its population over the last decade to cover 94 crore people and is now being ranked second in the world on the dashboard of the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

According to the latest ILO data, India's social security coverage has increased from 19 per cent in 2015 to 64.3 per cent in 2025, an unprecedented 45 percentage point surge over the past decade. ILO has acknowledged India's achievement and officially published on its dashboard that 64.3 per cent of India's population, i.e. over 94 crore people, are now covered under at least one social protection benefit. Director General ILO praised

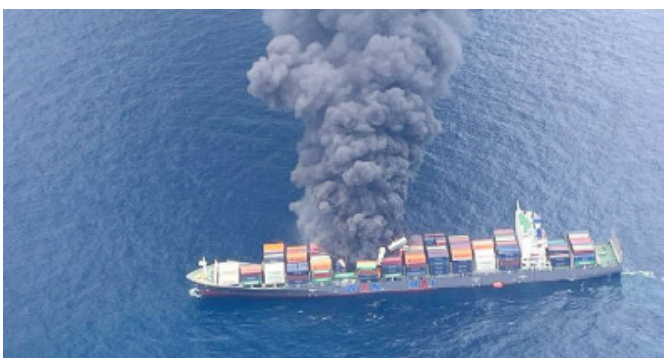
India's focussed welfare policies for the poor and labour class under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. ILO's Criteria for Scheme Consideration for each country include that the scheme should be legislatively backed, in cash and be active, and verified time series data of last three years has to be provided.

While holding a bilateral discussion with the Director General, ILO, Gilbert F. Houngbo on the sidelines of the International Labour Conference (ILC), India's Minister of Labour and Employment, Mansukh Mandaviya highlighted the pro-poor and labour welfare schemes undertaken by the Modi Government over the past 11 years. The Minister also apprised DG ILO about the national-level Social Protection Data Pooling

Exercise that has been carried out by the Government in collaboration with the ILO. Mandaviya said, "This remarkable achievement stands as a testament to the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the relentless efforts of the Government in building an inclusive and rights-based social protection ecosystem. The increase marks the fastest expansion in social protection coverage worldwide, reflecting the Government's unwavering commitment to 'Antyodaya' i.e., empowering the last mile and fulfilling the promise of leaving no one behind."

The present figure reflects only Phase I of the data pooling exercise. This phase focussed on beneficiary data of Central sector schemes and women-centric schemes in selected 8 States. With Phase II and further consolidation underway, it is expected that India's total social protection coverage will soon surpass the 100-crore mark upon verification of additional schemes by the ILO. India is also the first country globally to update its 2025 social protection coverage data in the ILOSTAT database, reinforcing its leadership in digital governance and transparency in welfare systems.

Taiwan Thanks India For Swift Rescue Operation of The Singapore-Flagged Cargo Vessel



New Delhi, (H.S): Taiwan on Wednesday thanked India for rescuing 18 crew members of the Singapore-flagged cargo vessel, WAN HAI 503, which recently caught fire about 70 nautical miles off the Kerala coast. Of the 22 onboard, 18 crew members have been rescued after they jumped into the sea, while the whereabouts of four other crew members attached to the ship's Fire and Safety Department are being ascertained.

The Taipei Economic and Cultural Center in India said that the four crew members who remained missing include two Taiwanese, one from Indonesia and one from Myanmar. "The Taiwan Government is grateful for the swift rescue operation provided by the Indian Navy and Coast Guard to Wan Hai 503. We wish the missing crew members return safe and the injured recover

soon," Taipei Economic and Cultural Centre in India posted on X. "On June 9, MV Wan Hai 503 encountered an onboard explosion and fire 44 nautical miles off Azhikkal, Kerala. Of the total 22 crew members on board, 14 are Chinese, including 6 from Taiwan. Our gratitude goes to the Indian Navy and the Mumbai Coast Guard for their prompt and professional rescue.

We wish further search operations successful and the injured crew members speedy recovery," said the spokesperson in a post on X. Earlier on Tuesday, Yu Jing, the spokesperson of the Chinese Embassy in India expressed gratitude towards India for their swift rescue operations stating that of the 22 crew members, 14 are Chinese, including two from Taiwan. Taiwan, on the other hand, slammed the Chinese claim

as false and absurd, asserting that only the Taiwanese elected government can represent its people and not the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). "The Chinese Embassy's claim is false and absurd. We reiterate hereby that Taiwan and China are not subordinate to one other and that the CCP regime has never ever governed Taiwan. Only Taiwan's democratically elected government has the right to represent its people," said Taipei Economic and Cultural Centre in India on Wednesday. The 270-metre-long vessel, with a draught of 12.5 metres, had departed Colombo on June 7 and was en route to Mumbai.

On Monday, the Indian Navy, in a closely coordinated Search And Rescue (SAR) operation with the Indian Coast Guard, DG Shipping and other stakeholders, safely rescued 18 out of 22 crew members. According to the spokesperson of the Indian Navy, the vessel had reported an internal container explosion, and resultant major fire onboard. In a statement on Monday, the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) also expressed its appreciation to the Indian authorities for their swift response in recovering the 18 crew and for their support for the ongoing SAR operations.

Phnom Penh: Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet has announced the establishment of a high-level documenting committee to build a strong case as the country has decided to take the ongoing border dispute with Thailand to the International Court of Justice (ICJ). The high-level documenting committee will be in charge of taking the long-standing case to the ICJ, local media reported on Wednesday.

The move comes at a time when Cambodia and Thailand are scheduled to hold a Joint Boundary Commission (JBC) meeting on June 14 in Phnom Penh, centreing on the border issues. The Cambodian government on Tuesday stated that it has created the "Committee to Prepare Documents for Filing a Case with the International Court of Justice Regarding the Areas of Mom Bei, Ta Moan



Thom Temple, Ta Moan Tauch Temple, and Ta Krabei Temple." According to a report by Cambodian newspaper Khmer Times, the committee Chaired by the country's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Prak Sokhonn, "shall have the authority and competence to act on behalf of the Kingdom of Cambodia before the International Court of

Justice." However, Thailand wanted the border issue to be resolved through bilateral mechanisms. Thai Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra confirmed that she held discussions with her Cambodian counterpart, Hun Manet, and his father, Senate President and former premier Hun Sen, as they agreed on a mutual commitment to resolve the dispute peacefully

through dialogue. "Our commitment to a peaceful approach has yielded positive results. Through sincere and transparent negotiation techniques, we were able to de-escalate the situation without the need for violent confrontation," Thailand's leading newspaper, Bangkok Post, quoted Paetongtarn as saying.

Thai PM confirmed that the scheduled meeting on June 14 will proceed as planned by both countries. As Cambodia intends to take the matter to the ICJ, Paetongtarn Shinawatra stated that the Thai government upholds its stance of not accepting ICJ jurisdiction. The border dispute between Thailand and Cambodia escalated after soldiers of both countries briefly exchanged gunfire at the border area of Emerald Triangle on May 28, resulting in the death of a Cambodian soldier.

Yemen's Houthis Take Responsibility For Two Missile Attacks on Israel's Airport

Sanaa, (H.S): Yemen's Houthi group claimed responsibility for launching two missile attacks toward Israel's Ben Gurion Airport. "We targeted Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv, using two ballistic missiles, one of which was a hypersonic," Houthi military spokesperson Yahya Sarea said in the statement, aired by Houthi-run al-Masirah TV.

One of the missiles directly hit Ben Gurion Airport, and the interceptor systems failed to intercept it," Sarea said, adding, "Our decision to ban air traffic to and from Ben Gurion Airport remains in effect, and we

warn the remaining airline companies to immediately halt their flights." Sarea noted that the group's missile attacks against Israel were "in response to the Israeli missile aggression on Yemen's ports of Hodeidah."

Meanwhile, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said in a statement that its air defenses likely intercepted a ballistic missile fired from Yemen over central Israel. The IDF didn't mention the second missile attack claimed by the Houthis, and no casualties were reported. Earlier in the day, the Israeli military conducted strikes against three ports in Yemen's western province of

Hodeidah, which are under Houthi control. The strikes destroyed facilities and docks, Xinhua news agency reported quoting Houthi television. The IDF said that the strikes were in response to the Houthi attacks against Israel.

The Houthi-controlled ports in Hodeidah have been targeted by the Israeli military several times during the past few months. The Houthi group, which controls much of northern Yemen, has also been targeting Israeli targets and ships since November 2023 to show solidarity with Palestinians amid the ongoing Israel-Hamas war in Gaza.

US State Department Rakes Up Trump's Kashmir Mediation Claim Despite India's Firm Dismissal

Washington, (H.S): Despite India's repeated dismissal of external involvement in the bilateral Kashmir dispute, US State Department Spokesperson Tammy Bruce raked it up, saying that it wouldn't be a surprise if US President Donald Trump tried to mediate. Replying to a question at her regular briefing on Tuesday, about what the reporter asserted was Trump's offer to mediate, Bruce said, "Obviously, I can't speak to what's on the mind or the plans of the president". But she went on to say,

"What I do know is that I think we all recognise that President Trump in each step that he takes, it's made to solve generational differences between countries, generational war". "So, it doesn't - it shouldn't - surprise anyone that he'd want to manage something like that" [the Kashmir dispute], she said. Reiterating India's stand on Kashmir, India's External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal has said, "We have a long-standing national position that any issues pertaining to the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir have to be addressed by India and Pakistan bilaterally". "That stated policy has not changed. The outstanding matter is the vacation



of illegally occupied Indian territory by Pakistan," he said. India's refusal to entertain third-party involvement in disputes with its neighbour is girded by the 1972 Tashkent agreement between their leaders. Bruce said that the US reaffirmed "strong support of India in the fight against terrorism, and strategic partnership between those two countries" when the Indian Parliamentary delegation led by Sashi Tharoor met with Deputy Secretary Landau recently. On Kashmir, Bruce added her own homage to Trump: "He seems very much to be - and not just seems but he is - has been the only one to bring certain people to the table to have conversations that nobody thought was possible". "While I can't speak to

his plans, the world knows his nature, and I can't speak to any details of what he might have in that regard. You can call the White House. I have a feeling they would have plenty to say", Bruce said. She also repeated the claim - dismissed by India - that the US had intervened to bring about a ceasefire in the four-day conflict last month between India and Pakistan. "It is an exciting time that if we can get to a point in that particular conflict [between India and Pakistan], thank God but also thank Secretary [of State Marco] Rubio and President Trump and the Vice President [JD Vance]", she said, pushing the assertions of US involvement. Dismissing such claims, first made by Trump within hours of the cessation of hostilities and

repeated by him and others, India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri has said that the US did not broker the India-Pakistan ceasefire. The two countries decided at a bilateral level to stop the military actions, he told an Indian Parliamentary Committee. Jaiswal said that it was India's military might in Operation Sindoor - and not external intervention - that forced Pakistan to seek a ceasefire. "Let me be clear, it was the force of Indian arms that compelled Pakistan to stop its firing", he said.

He added, "You will of course appreciate that early on [May] 10th morning, we had mounted an extremely effective attack on key Pakistani Air Force bases. That was the reason they were now willing to stop firing and military action". A reporter asked Bruce whether Pakistan had given any assurances that it would take action against terrorists when its delegation led by former Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari met with Under Secretary for Political Affairs Allison Hooker recently. She said tersely, "I am not going to discuss the details of those conversations".

FM Sitharaman Calls For Speeding Up Refunds of Unclaimed Amounts in Financial Sector

Mumbai, (H.S): Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday urged regulators and departments to expedite the process of refund to rightful owners of unclaimed amounts in the financial sector, including bank deposits, dividends, shares, post office accounts, insurance, and pension funds.Addressing the 29th meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) here, the Finance Minister said that special district-level camps must be held to ensure the expeditious and seamless refund of such assets to rightful owners."

This drive is to be conducted in coordination with the RBI, the SEBI, the MCA, the PFRDA, and the IRDA, along with banks, pension agencies, insurance companies, etc. The unclaimed amounts comprise deposits in banks; unclaimed shares and dividends are managed by the IEPFA; and unclaimed insurance and pension funds are with the IRDAI and the PFRDA, respectively," she said.The Finance Minister also exhorted



the Council to take proactive steps to ensure that citizens should have a seamless experience with respect to KYC processes across the financial sector.She called for prescribing common KYC norms, simplification and digitalisation of the KYC process, including digital onboarding for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), including PIOs and OCIs, in the Indian securities market.

The FSDC deliberated on issues related to macrofinancial stability and India's preparedness to deal with them. In light of the analysis of cybersecurity regulations, sectoral preparedness and the recommendations of the Financial Sector Assessment Programme (FSAP) 2024-25, the

FSDC considered strengthening the cyber resilience framework of the Indian financial sector through a financial sector-specific cybersecurity strategy. Issues relating to formulating a strategy for implementing the past decisions and the budget announcements were also discussed at the meeting.

These included establishing an appropriate framework by regulators for evaluating and enhancing the responsiveness of regulations and subsidiary instructions, and analysing trends in financing flows as part of a strategy to increase the investment ratio. Besides, the FSDC deliberated on the emerging trends from the

domestic and global macro-financial situation and stressed the need to be vigilant. The Council recognised the need for proactive efforts to mitigate potential risks to financial stability while adopting adequate safeguards for the financial system's resilience. The members decided to strengthen the inter-regulatory coordination for the wider development of the financial sector.

The FSDC also took note of the activities undertaken by the FSDC Sub-Committee,

chaired by the RBI Governor and the action taken by members on the pending past decisions of the FSDC. The FSDC meeting was attended by Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Choudhary, RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra, SEBI chief Tuhin Kant Pandey, Finance Secretary and Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs Ajay Seth, Secretary, Department of Financial Services Nagaraju Maddirala and other senior Finance Ministry and IRDAI officials.

India's Infrastructure Sees Rapid Progress In Last Decade As Capex Surges: FM Sitharaman

New Delhi, (H.S): India's infrastructure has seen rapid progress in the last decade, as capital expenditure surged from Rs 2 lakh crore in 2014-15 to Rs 11.21 lakh crore in 2025-26 - a significant six times increase towards the 'Viksit Bharat' goal, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Wednesday. Allocation for capital expenditure is at its highest-ever at Rs 11.21 lakh crore during FY2026."

India's Infrastructure has seen rapid progress in the last decade under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," FM Sitharaman said in a post on X."A leap of more than 860 per cent in budget allocation for road transport to Rs 3+ lakh crore. Four times surge in Metro Rail Network from just 248 KM in 2014 to 1011 KM in 2025," the minister further informed. Finance Minister further stated that From Atal Tunnel to Chenab Bridge, India's engineering feats are transforming its landscape."



These marvels exemplify PM Modi's vision for a modern, connected and prosperous Bharat," said FM Sitharaman. According to her, India's push for next-gen infrastructure is powered by sustainability and long term vision."

It is laying the foundations of a self-reliant India," said the Finance Minister.The government was poised to surpass its revised capital expenditure (capex) target of Rs 10.18 lakh crore for FY25 by a modest margin.The capex target was lowered to Rs 10.18 lakh crore (revised estimates) in the Union Budget 2025-26, from Rs

11.1 lakh crore. For current fiscal (FY26), a capex allocation of Rs 11.21 lakh crore has been set by the government.

According to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, the Indian economy will continue to be the world's fastest-growing economy backed by the increase in the government's capital expenditure in the Budget for 2025-26 and rising consumption levels, especially in the rural areas.The effective capital expenditure works out to 4.3 per cent of the GDP in the Budget for 2025-26 while the fiscal deficit is 4.4 per cent.

Jindal Foundation Launches 'Jindal Krishi Seva' to Promote Natural Farming and Millet Cultivation in Angul District

Angul, (DMC): Taking forward the vision of Sri Naveen Jindal, 3rd-time Member of Parliament (Kurukshetra) and Chairman of Jindal Steel & Power (JSP), Jindal Foundation launched an innovative programme 'Jindal Krishi Seva,' aimed at promoting natural farming and sustaining agriculture production in Angul district free of chemical-based fertilisers and pesticides.Jindal Foundation's Chairperson Smt. Shallu Jindal today kick-started this project with the flagging off a Mobile Soil Testing Van.Mr. Umashankar Mishra, Chief District Agriculture Officer (CDAO) of Angul; Mr. Amber Lubun, Deputy Director Horticulture (DDH), Angul; Mr. Ashutosh Roy, District Development Manager, NABARD; Mr. Debasis Mishra, Principal Scientist and Head of

KVK-Angul; Mr. Pankaj Malhan, Executive Director, JSP, senior officials of JSP; Mr. Prashanta Kumar Hota, President & Group Head - CSR & Education; and more than 300 farmers, government officials, and agri-experts joined the programme.On the occasion, Smt. Shallu Jindal said, "The Jindal Krishi Seva initiative is designed to bring together natural farming practices, farmers' training, capacity building, natural seed treatment, the use of natural agri-inputs like composting, vermiculture, cow dung, and cow urine, and the preparation of bio fertilisers for the natural microbes to grow with the adoption of appropriate agronomic practices of crop diversification and the use of modern farm equipment under a single integrated platform.Through this program, the Jindal Foundation reaffirms its commitment to



supporting the vision for ecological balance, food security, and rural economic development by nurturing the backbone of our society-the farmers and the farming families."This project is inspired by the vision of Shri Naveen Jindal ji, who not only shares our

commitment to the welfare of farmers but recently made us all proud by speaking strongly in the Parliament about the importance of natural farming and why the nation should take it up in a mission mode.The mobile soil testing vehicle will travel from village to

village, analysing soil quality and addressing the soil health challenges ranging from pH level to salt content, NPK proportion, and other micronutrient contents. The soil health card will be generated in one hour's time, along with customised recommendations for soil treatment and the application of natural nutrients and micronutrients required for each soil specimen. Initially, the service will benefit farmers in 49 villages across the Angul district. It aims to deliver accessible, timely, and accurate soil analysis, empowering farmers with better crop planning and nutrient management.The programme introduced the objectives and scope of the Jindal Krishi Seva project, highlighting soil health, millet promotion, and improved farmer livelihoods. A live soil testing demonstration offered practical

perspectives on scientific soil analysis, raising awareness about sustainable farming and the crucial role of soil in crop yield and quality.Smt. Shallu Jindal, while interacting with the farming communities, expressed her happiness with the association of an increasing number of women farmers with Jindal Krishi Seva, mainly in natural farming, millet cultivation, and the value addition of millet-based foods.Sri Pitambar Pradhan of Kulei, Sri Pratap Pradhan of Tukuda, and Sri Dwari Pradhan of Majhika extolled the farming initiatives of the Jindal Foundation, recapitulated their learnings in Kurukshetra on natural farming, and emphasised the rearing of indigenous breeds of cows as a bliss of each home.Talking to the press, Smt. Shallu Jindal said, "With the 'Back to Nature' approach

embedded in natural farming, I am quite sure that our farmers adopting such cropping practices will be the game changers for the prevention of cancer, diseases of digestive canals, and neurological disorders."Jindal Krishi Seva program is expected to benefit more than 2,000 farmers in the Angul district in the very first phase and will gradually be expanded to the entire Angul district in collaboration with the District Administration and State Government. "We shall gradually cover Odisha as a whole, multiplying Natural Farming Ambassadors from the Farming Community," Smt. Jindal added.Smt. Jindal, while exchanging with the female farmers, emphasised the use of drumsticks and drumstick leaves in food and the elimination of refined oil, maida, and sugar.

CCEA Green Flags Projects Worth Rs 6,405 Cr To Double Railway Lines

New Delhi, (H.S): The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved two multi-tracking projects across the Indian Railways network entailing an investment of Rs. 6,405 crore.

The first project relates to the doubling of the 133 km Koderma-Barkakana railway line which passes through a major coal producing area of Jharkhand. It also serves as the shortest and a more efficient rail link between Patna and Ranchi.The second project involves doubling of the 185 km Ballari-Chikjajur railway line which traverses through Ballari and Chitradurga districts of



Karnataka and Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh.The two projects covering seven districts across the states of Jharkhand, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, will increase the existing network

of Indian Railways by about 318 kms and are expected to generate direct employment for about 108 lakh human-days during construction, the official statement said.The approved multi-tracking

project will enhance connectivity to approximately 1,408 villages, which have a population of about 28.19 lakh.The increased railway line capacity will significantly enhance mobility, resulting in improved operational efficiency and service reliability for Indian Railways.

These multi-tracking proposals are poised to streamline operations and alleviate congestion. The projects are in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a 'New India' which will make people of the region 'Atmanirbhar' by way of comprehensive development in the area which will enhance their employment/self-employment

opportunities, the official statement explained.The projects are the result of the PM-Gati Shakti National Master Plan for multi-modal connectivity which have been made possible through integrated planning and will provide seamless connectivity for movement of people, goods and services, the statement said.

These are essential routes for transportation of commodities such as coal, iron ore, finished steel, cement, fertilizers, agriculture commodities, and Petroleum products etc. The capacity augmentation works will result in additional freight traffic of magnitude 49 MTPA (Million Tonnes Per Annum).

Sensex Ends In Green Amid Volatility, Investors Await Key Macroeconomic Data

Mumbai, (H.S): The Indian stock market closed in the green after a volatile session on Wednesday, as Sensex rose 123.42 points or 0.15 per cent at 82,515.14 and Nifty was up 37.15 points or 0.15 per cent at 25,141.40.Selling was seen in midcap and smallcap stocks. The Nifty Midcap 100 index was down 293.25 points or 0.49 per cent at 59,388.15 and the Nifty smallcap 100 index was down 101.05 points or 0.53 per cent at 18,798.75.On a sectoral basis, IT, auto, pharma, realty and energy were the top gainers and PSU Bank, financial services, FMCG, metal and media indices closed in the red.

HCL Tech, Infosys, Tech Mahindra, Bajaj Finserv, Tata Motors, Eternal (Zomato), ICICI Bank, UltraTech Cement and Titan were the top gainers in the Sensex pack. Power Grid, IndusInd Bank, Nestle, HUL and HDFC Bank were the top losers.Nifty remained volatile throughout the session, reflecting cautious sentiment in the market."Crucial support is placed at 24,850. As long as the index holds above this level, the trend is likely to remain positive, with potential to move towards 25,350 in the short term," said Rupak De from LKP Securities.According to analysts, profit-booking continues in the broader markets, driven by elevated domestic valuations.

Kalahandi Rising: How Strategic Interventions Are Rewriting A Region's Future

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): Kalahandi district, located in the southwestern part of Odisha, is a hub of vibrant cultural heritage and natural abundance. Known for exquisite tribal handicrafts based on artforms such as Dhokra and Saura, Kalahandi is also home to significant mineral wealth, especially bauxite. Nestled amid scenic landscapes and ancient traditions, the region has long held untapped potential across both its ecological and cultural fabric.

However, despite these strengths, Kalahandi was historically constrained by limited infrastructure and economic opportunities, with many communities relying solely on subsistence farming. In 2001, the district's contribution to Odisha's Gross District Domestic Product (GDDP) was less than 1%, and the per capita income stood at around ₹19,000 at current prices. Issues like periodic droughts, poor irrigation, and inadequate access to education and healthcare further hampered progress. Today, the region is transforming. Through sustained collaboration

between industry, government, and local communities, Kalahandi is scripting a new story of rural empowerment. This progress is most visible in the generation of livelihoods, expansion of education opportunities, and the emergence of a robust rural economy. A key driver of this transformation has been Vedanta's alumina refinery at Lanjigarh. Since its establishment, the refinery has catalysed a ripple effect of economic and social change by fostering sustainable income models and investing in people.

As Dr. Ishwar Chandra Naik, Assistant Professor of Sociology at Ravenshaw University, notes: "Kalahandi now stands as a compelling example of transformation, where grassroots livelihoods are being reshaped through inclusive development." This rural revival is most visible in diversified livelihoods across agriculture, skill-building, women-led enterprises, and local micro-industries. Rain-fed paddy farming has evolved with the introduction of high-value crops like strawberries, bananas, and nursery plantations, enabled by

solar lift irrigation, drip systems, and farmer training. Allied activities such as goat rearing and integrated farming are helping families move from subsistence to surplus, improving resilience and income. Between 2001 and 2023-24, the district's GDDP contribution increased by nearly 550%, and per capita income is now around ₹55,000.Skill development has also emerged as a cornerstone.

Under Vedanta's Skill Development Program (SDP) in Lanjigarh, which has been undertaken in collaboration with top organisations including NABARD, hundreds of rural youths are trained in welding, electricals, and computer operationsbuilding a skilled local workforce and curbing migration. Meanwhile, women are leading therevival of traditional arts like Saura and Dhokra, while also launching micro-enterprises producingagarbatti, phenyl, and textilesand reshaping both household incomes and social norms.The emergence of local businesses like salons, kiosks, repair shops, and digital services reflects a vibrant rural economy

in motion.Perhaps the most profound change lies in education, long a missing link in Kalahandi's development story. Vedanta Aluminium's efforts, particularly through the DAV Vedanta International School, have sparked an educational renaissance in the region.? Established in 2006 as Kalahandi's first English-medium school, DAV Vedanta International School has grown into a beacon of hope.

With over 1,300 students of which83% are from local communities, it provides quality education, smart classrooms, a robust library, and science labs. Many students are first-generation learners, and the school consistently delivers exceptional academic results. The results speak for themselves. In 2025, the school continued its legacy of excellence with the highest achiever in the 12th standard attaining 96.2% and the top-performing student in the 10th standard securing an outstanding 97.2%, a testament to the teachers' dedication and the students' burgeoning potential. Vedanta's educational

investments extend beyond the school. Initiatives like the Vedanta Mini Science Center and Vedanta Gyanshree Meritorious Scholarships further support science literacy and academic excellence. These interventions are integrating rural youth into the national mainstream and helping Kalahandi shed its historic stigma.In tandem with its efforts in education and livelihoods, Vedanta Aluminium has made notable strides in strengthening the healthcare ecosystem in Kalahandi.

Through the Vedanta Hospital at Lanjigarh, thousands of villagers now have access to quality primary healthcare. The hospital serves over 60,000 people annually, offering services ranging from general medicine and maternal care to paediatric services and emergency treatments. Initiatives like the Vedanta Mini Science Center and Vedanta Gyanshree Meritorious Scholarships further support science literacy and academic excellence. These interventions are integrating rural youth into the national mainstream and helping Kalahandi shed its historic

stigma. In tandem with its efforts in education and livelihoods, Vedanta Aluminium has made notable strides in strengthening the healthcare ecosystem in Kalahandi. Through the Vedanta Hospital at Lanjigarh, thousands of villagers now have access to quality primary healthcare. The hospital serves nearly 60,000 people annually, offering services ranging from general medicine and maternal care to paediatric services and emergency treatments.

Mobile health units further extend medical outreach to remote tribal hamlets, ensuring that even the most isolated populations receive timely interventions. Additionally, periodic multi-specialty health camps and awareness programs on nutrition, sanitation and maternal health have significantly improved community well-being. These initiatives reflect Vedanta's commitment to holistic development, where health is viewed as an essential pillar of empowerment and dignity.While progress is undeniable, it is not irreversible. For these development gains to be

sustained, industries like Vedanta's alumina refinery must be allowed to function in a supportive environment. Forward-looking policies, efficient resource allocation, enabling reliable access to key inputs and long-term planning are essential to keep Kalahandi's momentum going.Kalahandi still has remote blocks in need of deeper development. But what has been achieved so far proves a powerful point: in regions long written off, meaningful change is possible when industries invest not just in production, but in people.

In an India that strives to balance economic growth with inclusion, Kalahandi offers a compelling case study. It shows how responsible industrial investment can become a foundation for transformation where livelihood, learning, and local enterprise go hand-in-hand. Here, industry isn't just an investor, it is a lifelineand a partner inprogress. And in the dust once symbolic of despair, today rise empowered individuals, skilled workers, and curious studentswriting the next chapter of Kalahandi's remarkable revival.



Kajol calls paparazzi culture 'disrespectful, disturbing'

Kajol criticised paparazzi culture, expressing discomfort with their invasiveness and calling their behavior at personal events disrespectful.

Several Bollywood actors like Alia Bhatt and Jaya Bachchan have openly criticised the paparazzi culture, especially when it crosses boundaries and invades their personal lives. In a recent interview with Bollywood Hungama, Kajol

also opened up about how the paparazzi culture feels disturbing to her.

When asked if there's anything she would like to change about it, Kajol said, "I am a little conscious with paps. I think there are certain places where they shouldn't be. Like I find it very strange when they run after actors at someone's funeral and ask for photos. I find that odd and a little disrespectful. I find it strange that you cannot

even go for lunch."

She further slammed the paparazzi for following her and said, "They follow you for kilometres from Juhu to Bandra to look where I am going and which building I am going to. I find that disturbing. If I were a normal person, would you do that? Wouldn't I have taken you to the cops and said this person is following me? What should I tell the cops now?"

Earlier, Alia Bhatt had

also slammed the paparazzi for clicking her pictures while she was enjoying personal time at her home. Recently, Rana Daggubati also had a heated exchange with paparazzi at the airport for following him, which led to him bumping into a person and dropping his phone. He called the paparazzi culture annoying and revealed he doesn't appreciate the paps invading his personal space.

Kajol will next be seen

in the movie Maa. Helmed by Vishal Furia, the horror film is produced under the banner of Devgn Films. Starring Kajol in the lead role, the film also features Ronit Roy, Indranil Sengupta, and Kherin Sharma in key roles. The film follows the story of a mother's determination to protect her daughter from the demonic curses of a haunted village. It is scheduled to release in theatres on June 27.

Abhishek Banerjee Talks About Nepotism Debate



that his fans keep going back to his minute role as a college student in the Aamir Khan film.

Abhishek Banerjee has come a long way since his first film appearance in Rang De Basanti. However, every time one of his films or series does well, he is invariably reminded of the film. In a candid conversation with , Abhishek spoke about how it does feel nice that people remember. However, he also feels that it adds unnecessary melodrama to this whole debate about "struggle." He says, "Rang De Basanti was just college fun. That was not a struggle. We were just part of the film because one of our seniors was a part of that film and he called us. And if you see, Shubham (who played Raman in Stolen) is also in the film. We were just having fun." Adding more depth to how his journey came to be, he emphasizes that it has been an uphill task. But he was never made to feel less about his worth as an actor.

At that time, it was all about moving from one point to the other. Banerjee shares, "Then the whole idea of coming to Bombay and visualizing a career in the film industry was an uphill task. But it went from point A to point B to Point C, and that is the way it is supposed to go.

"After Chhaava & Stree, Everyone Wants to Make Historicals, Horror-Comedies": Karan

Karan Johar recently got candid about how the latest trend of "herd mentality" in Bollywood is plaguing the film industry more than ever. He elaborated by saying that with blockbusters like Chhaava and Stree, everyone wants to now make historicals and horror-comedies, as they seem to have cracked the code to keep the audience interested. He further shared how he wants to focus on individualism. Karan added that he was asked about his universe of films like the trending horror-comedy verse, and he said his verse was cinema itself.

What's Happening: Karan Johar recently spoke about how everyone in the film industry is trying to copy each other's success stories. Speaking of the ongoing "herd mentality" that seems to be prevalent in the film business, Karan told Bollywood Hungama, "I think it is everybody grappling to do what others are doing. We see Pushpa running and catering so strongly to the tier-2 and tier-3 audiences, and suddenly, we will see 20 others wanting to do the same. You see Chhaava working,



everybody would want to make historicals. Stree and everybody wants to make horror comedies. Those worked because they were individually strong, and there was no other option in that genre. It was a unique thought that made those films work." He added, "We all need to have individual thoughts that are unique to ourselves. Someone asked me the other day, 'Do you have a universe?' I was like, 'As in?' They were like, 'A spy universe or a cop universe.' I was like, 'My universe is cinema itself.' I am not here to build universes, I am here to tell stories. In that story if there's a universe, then why not?"

Karan's Latest

Achievements: Karan Johar recently attended the Cannes 2025 Film Festival. Neeraj Ghaywan's film Homebound, which had Karan Johar as one of its producers, premiered in the Un Certain Regard category. The cast featuring Janhvi Kapoor, Ishaan Khatter, and Vishal Jethwa were also present.

In A Nutshell: Karan Johar shared his thoughts on Bollywood emulating the tried-and-tested formula of successful films. He spoke about the "herd-mentality" phenomenon where everyone now wants to make horror comedies and historicals after blockbusters like the Stree franchise and recently Chhaava.

Sitaare Zameen Par: Aamir's film will 'change perceptions'



Sitaare Zameen Par first reviews: Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan is currently busy promoting his upcoming sports comedy-drama Sitaare Zameen Par. The actor recently hosted a special screening of the film. A video of Aamir visiting a theatre and personally interacting with the audience has surfaced online, showing moviegoers showering praise on the film and sharing their positive feedback.

The video showed Aamir

taking feedback from the audience after the film's screening. One of the moviegoers said, "You looked after many aspects of sensitivity. Kudos to the writer, director and the dialogues." Aamir replied, "It's an important issue for all of us." "After Taare Zameen Par, a very good film has come to theatres after a big gap. There have been movies that came after that, but this will change perceptions," said another. One of the moviegoers, who works with Muskan

Foundation-which provides differently abled children with special education and therapy-looked impressed with the film and said, "Very well kept and captured messages. I really appreciate it." Another added, "Last twist was also great. You made us cry at that point. Beautifully made film." In the video, Aamir further spoke about how the actors with special needs had a wonderful time on set. He added that although there are often conflicts between creative people during filming, not a single conflict occurred on this project. He also said he didn't find any difference working with the differently abled children in the film.

The film is a remake of the Spanish film Campeones and tells the story of a basketball coach who is forced to train a team of differently abled children for a tournament. The film is scheduled to hit cinemas on 20 June.

Gambhir, Gill poked by Eng; told India will 'miss Virat's aura



New Delhi, (HS) : India, their head coach Gautam Gambhir, captain Shubman Gill were reminded that they will be in England for a 5-Test series that does not feature Virat Kohli.

Eighteen years. 18. That's how long it's been since India last won a Test series in England. In these last 18 years, Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and Ravichandran Ashwin made their debuts, carved out a legacy like no other and retired. Yet, a win in England has

eluded their Test careers. And now, in 2025, as a young Indian team takes centre-stage in England, while they are clearly not the favourites to break the hoodoo, do not rule out the element of surprise. Look no further than the 2020-21 tour of Australia, where a young Indian team, battling injuries, did the unthinkable and wrapped up a memorable 2-1 series win. India have not lost a Test series to England since 2018. They beat

England 3-1 at home in 2021, drew the series 2-2 away in 2021-2022 and defeated them again last year at home 4-1. However, the upcoming series, starting in 10 days' time, offers a fresh challenge. With new captain Shubman Gill and head coach Gautam Gambhir in charge, India embark on a new World Test Championship cycle, ushering in the post-Kohli-Rohit-Ashwin era, in search of finding and building new superstars.

The retirement of Virat Kohli, with a little over a month to go for the Test series, threw the fans off guard, but more than the Indians, the Englishmen seem to be more affected by it. Current and former cricketers are ruing not having Kohli in England, including Ollie Pope, who reckons India will certainly miss having their most successful captain in the UK. Pope has no reservations about the pool of young talent that the Indian squad has been injected with. But well, at the end of the day, there is only one Virat Kohli. "It's a young team, but these Indian players... they have got so much depth and talent. So they've got a lot of young guys coming through; a lot of good players. Shubman Gill, their new captain, is a fantastic player. They will miss the aura of Virat Kohli standing at slips and chirping away. But they have got some good talent, so they will feel confident. But our players are ready for it."

Ganguly Slams BCCI's Team Selection for England Tests



New Delhi, (HS) : Former Indian cricket team captain Sourav Ganguly was not in favour of excluding Shreyas Iyer for the upcoming Test series against England. Shreyas has been enjoying a brilliant run of form in the past year and he emerged as the top-scorer for Punjab Kings in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025. In the absence of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, Shreyas was suggested as a top contender for the middle-order but he did not find a spot in the final squad. Ganguly believes that Shreyas should have been picked based on his current form and he is not "the player who got left out" "He has been playing at his best in the last one year, and should have been in this team. Last one year has been fantastic for him. He isn't the player who got left out. He is now scoring under pressure, taking responsibility, playing the short ball well. Although Test cricket's different, I would have had him in this series to see what he can do," Ganguly told RevSportz. Meanwhile, teenage fast bowler Eddie Jack has been "invited to practise" with England's senior team ahead of the first Test against India after producing impressive efforts for the Lions against India A in the two four-day games, according to a report. India begin their new World Test Championship cycle taking on England in a five-match series beginning with the first match at Headingley from June 20. The 19-year-old Hampshire seamer caught the selectors' attention by dismissing India batter KL Rahul, who had scored a century in the first innings, during their drawn second unofficial Test in Northampton. Standing at 6-foot-4, Jack has "impressed" England Lion's coaching group, including Andrew Flintoff, Mark Wood and Graeme Swann. The Times, London, reported. Jack, who is yet to make his County Championship debut for Hampshire, has played two first-class matches -- both against India A -- and represented England U-19s earlier this year in South Africa. He also took five wickets last month in a warm-up game against Zimbabwe, while playing for a combined counties XI.

Virat's warning for 'foul language', X user suspended

Mumbai, (HS) : The X account of a person who was warned by Virat Kohli in 2011 for allegedly using "foul language" against the cricketer has been suspended, nearly 14 years after the exchange. In 2011, Virat Kohli issued a stern message to an X user whose handle is named @Ishaan3, telling him that his account will be deactivated soon.

"your account has been reported and will be deactivated soon. dont tweet if u wana use foul language(sic)," Kohli told Ishaan on December 6, 2011. Over the years, the X user took frequent digs at Kohli and often boasted that his account had never been suspended despite the warning. "Still I am on Twitter bro... 5... paanch saal ho gaye (it has been five years)," he told Kohli in 2016. "10 saal hogaye Kohli bhai," he said in another post in 2020. The cricketer's post, which is still up on X, has drawn numerous reactions over the years, with latest posts including people sharing screenshots of Ishaan's X account's suspension.



Unveil legacy plans for FIFA 2026 World Cup

New York, (HS) : One year ahead of the 2026 FIFA World Cup, representatives from all 11 United States host cities have presented plans to ensure the tournament drives long-term community impact, from cultural equity and infrastructure to youth sports access. At a panel held Monday at the Paley Center for Media in New York, host city officials shared initiatives aimed at strengthening cultural inclusion, expanding youth opportunities, and investing in public infrastructure. Among the most detailed efforts is Seattle's Chinese American Art Legacy Project, a 250,000 U.S. dollars city-funded program designed to highlight the historical contributions of Chinese Americans in the city's Chinatown-International District, reports Xinhua.

Shivakumartake on rumours of Buying RCB Rumours

Bengaluru, (HS) : Karnataka Deputy CM DK Shivakumar on Wednesday shut down rumours about him buying the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) franchise in epic fashion. His statement came a day after RCB owners, Diageo India - the Indian arm of UK-based Diageo Plc - responded to speculation that part or all of the IPL franchise was up for sale

"I am not a mad man. I'm just a member of the Karnataka Cricket Association from my younger days, that's all. I don't have time, though I had offers to be part of the management... Why do I need RCB? I don't even drink Royal Challenge," Shivakumar told. Earlier this week, a Bloomberg



report said that the British distiller was in discussion with potential advisers on selling the club. Diageo owns the team through its Indian unit, United Spirits Ltd., and may seek a valuation of as much as \$2 billion. Following the rumours, the shares of United Spirits, registered with the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), gained a 3.3 per cent increase in

its price, this hitting a five-month high on Tuesday morning. This forced the BSE to sent out a mail to Diageo, who then responded saying the reports were merely speculative in nature. Mital Sanghvi, the company secretary, informed the regulating body of the Indian Stock Market on the mail saying, "The company would like to clarify that the aforesaid

media reports are speculative in nature and it is not pursuing any such discussion. This is for your information and records."

The reports also emerged just days after RCB had found themselves in the midst of a controversy. On June 4, over 2.5 lakh fans had gathered in and around the Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru to be part of RCB's victory parade. The Rajat Patidar-led side had ended their 18-year wait for an IPL trophy on June 3 with a win against the Punjab Kings in the final in Ahmedabad. However, the celebrations turned into an ugly scene after a stampede occurred outside the stadium, where 11 people lost their lives and 56 were left injured.