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English Daily



Yoga, a way of life: Modi



Visakhapatnam, (HS) : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday asserted that Yoga isn't just an exercise, it's a way of life. Yoga is for all, beyond boundaries, backgrounds, age or ability. It has brought the world together as at least 175 countries accept my proposal of International Yoga Day (IDY). On Saturday, PM Modi participated as a chief guest in the 11th International Yoga Day (IDY) organised at Visakhapatnam along with Andhra Pradesh chief minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu,

deputy chief minister Konidela Pawan Kalyan and others.

On this occasion, he congratulated the people of India and the world as he led the 11th International Yoga Day celebration. The theme of this year's Yoga Day is "Yoga for One Earth, For One Health". Andhra Pradesh marked the 11th International Yoga Day with unprecedented enthusiasm, in stretch of around 28 kilometers from R K Beach to Bhogapuram with more than 3 lakh citizens

Continued P-4

Majhi leads Yoga Day celebrations in Odisha

Bhubaneswar (DMC) : Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Saturday led the 11th International Day of Yoga celebrations in Odisha from Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar. He was joined by Speaker Surama Padhy, ministers, MLAs, MPs, NITI Aayog officials, the chief secretary, senior government officers and approximately 15,000 denizens. The event, organised by the Sports Department, also featured a live video address by Prime Minister Narendra Modi from Visakhapatnam, where he described yoga as a 'pause button' that humanity needs to breathe, balance to become whole again. "Let this Yoga Day mark the beginning of Yoga for humanity 2.0 where inner peace becomes global policy. Yoga is a great personal discipline, also a system that takes us from 'Me to We', he said.

In his address here in Bhubaneswar, CM Majhi said that yoga was India's invaluable gift to the world and a cornerstone of its cultural heritage. He noted that Prime



Minister Narendra Modi elevated yoga to global prominence within six months of taking office in May 2014. "Recognising its universal appeal, the United Nations declared 21 June as International Day of Yoga on 11 December 2014. PM Modi has played a big role in promoting Yoga globally," he said. Quoting the PM, Majhi called yoga "India's software" and highlighted its role in transforming mental stress and negativity into creativity and inner peace, promoting physical health, intellectual clarity, emotional balance, and spiritual growth. He emphasised that yoga connects body, soul, and mind, guiding individuals toward a balanced and mindful life. "With more than a

hundred countries participating in Yoga Day today, this is a moment of pride for every Indian. I am delighted to witness people from all walks of life embracing yoga with enthusiasm," he added.

This year's International Day of Yoga saw mass participation with more than 2 crore people taking part in yoga sessions across over 1 lakh locations in India. The central event was held at Visakhapatnam, where PM Modi performed the Common Yoga Protocol (CYP) along with over 3 lakh participants, synchronised with more than 10 lakh other locations through the 'Yoga Sangam' initiative led by the Ministry of Ayush.

Flood hits Balasore, Govt staff's leaves cancelled

Balasore (DMC) : More than 50,000 people were affected as Subarnarekha River water inundated several villages in the district on Saturday following a flash flood triggered by heavy rain in neighbouring Jharkhand. Officials said at least 17 gram panchayat areas in the three blocks of Bhograi, Baliapal, Basta and a part of Jaleswar Notified Area Council (NAC) were affected by the flash flood. The district administration has geared up for the relief and rescue operations. As per sources, the water level in Subarnarekha River has gone beyond the danger level near Rajghat in Jaleswar block following continuous heavy rainfall in the upper catchment areas. Due to the overflowing river, floodwaters have already entered the villages of Khalabadia, Kulha, and Baunskhana in Bhograi block; and Kudamansingh, Chaudhurykud, and Baliapal villages in Baliapal block. Floodwaters are reportedly flowing up to four feet above some roads, hampering vehicular movement and isolating parts of the region. District Collector Suryawanshi Mayur Vikas instructed the block development officers (BDOs)



and tehsildars to remain prepared to evacuate the people if required. Residents living in low-lying and flood-prone areas were advised to stay alert and be prepared to shift to nearby cyclone shelters if the situation deteriorates, he said. In view of the flood situation, the district administration has cancelled all leaves sanctioned to government employees to ensure round-the-clock response and effective disaster management.

Heavy rain from June 24

Bhubaneswar (DMC) : Thunderstorm activity along with heavy rainfall may continue in Odisha till June 26, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) informed on Saturday. Thunderstorm coupled with lightning, gusty surface wind speed reaching 30-40 kmph is likely to occur at one or two places of Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Bargarh, Sambalpur, Deogarh, Angul, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Koraput, and Rayagada districts by Sunday morning. The weather agency has issued a yellow warning for these districts during this period. There is no rain forecast for the next two days as the low-pressure area over southwest Bihar and neighbourhood is slowly moving in northwestward direction and gradually weakening. The intensity of rainfall is likely to increase again in different parts of Odisha from June 24. On June 24-25, thunderstorm with lightning, gusty surface wind speed reaching 30-40 kmph and heavy rain may occur at one or two places over the districts of Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Sundargarh, Balasore, and Bhadrak.

Two Guinness Book of Records

Visakhapatnam (HS) : The 11th International Yoga Day created two Guinness World Records for organising mass Surya Namaskar with at least 22,122 tribal students and for organising mass yoga with more than three lakh people in a stretch of 28 km. Earlier, the Gujarat government organised mass yoga session with nearly 1.53 lakhs in 2023. Now, the government of Andhra Pradesh has organised one-month-long mass yoga sessions across the state. Speaking on this occasion, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu announced that around 22,122 tribal students set a Guinness World Record for mass Surya Namaskar in Visakhapatnam on Friday.

Naidu highlighted that by inspiring the Modi vision, we organised a month long "Yogaandhra campaign 2025" by training more than 1.44 lakh yoga trainers, registering over 2.17 crore participants in 1.4 lakh locations, over 3 lakh participants in single location in Visakhapatnam and a stretch of 28 kilometers from Visakhapatnam to Bhogapuram, and issued certifications for 1.7 crore participants. Guinness Book of Records representatives presented the certificate to minister Nara Lokesh. Addressing the enthusiastic gathering, the Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalya highlighted that India began commemorating Yoga Day in 2015, and this year's grand celebration took place under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He emphasized the significance of this year's theme, "One Earth, One Health," urging citizens to adopt holistic well-being as a universal goal.

40 members of family tonsure head over inter-caste marriage



Berhampur (DMC) : In a glaring example of the prevailing social prejudices in rural Odisha, 40 members of a tribal woman's family tonsured their heads as part of a purification ritual after she married a man of different caste in Rayagada district. The ritual also involved sacrificing goats, chickens and pigs in front of the local deity. The incident took place at Baiganaguda village under Gorakhpur panchayat in Rayagada's Kashipur block on Thursday.

Sources said the woman, in her early twenties, was in a love relationship with a young man of SC community and they decided to tie the knot. However, their families opposed the marriage as the man was not a tribal. Despite the opposition, the couple got married. The woman's family disapproved of the union as their custom did not mandate inter-caste marriage. As per their custom, if a woman married outside the tribe, the entire family would face the wrath of the village deity. In case of any violation of the tradition, the family and their relatives would undergo a purification ritual to be accepted in the community. Accordingly, the woman's family members and relatives tonsured their heads and arranged a grand feast for villagers after sacrificing goats, pigs and chickens.

Diarrhoea situation under control, says CM



Bhubaneswar (DMC) : Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Saturday reviewed the diarrhoea situation across six districts of the state and assessed the various containment measures being implemented. During the meeting, it was stated that the diarrhoea situation is now under control in the state, with a

significant decline in new infections. Districts like Jajpur, Bhadrak, Cuttack, Kendrapada, Dhenkanal, and Keonjhar have reported a significant reduction in cases, and normalcy is gradually returning.

The Chief Minister directed officials to ensure coordinated efforts for delivering quality

healthcare, particularly in hospitals and medical colleges, to maintain the improving trend. Asking the officials to continue taking precautionary measures in areas where the risk of the disease spreading still exists, the CM also advised them to remain alert and prepared until Dussehra. As special attention was given to the well-being of school students, Majhi asked officials to ensure educational institutions strictly follow the preventive guidelines issued by the government. Highlighting the importance of food safety, he stressed food samples from fast food vendors and eateries must be tested, and proper sanitation must be enforced. In rural areas, he

Continued P-4

Fear of flood looms in Mayurbhanj

Residents of low-lying areas in Neda in Sarashkana area of Mayurbhanj are living in fear as the water level in Subarnarekha continued to rise due to incessant rains in the river's upper catchment areas in Jharkhand over the past 72 hours. Sources said heavy rainfall at various places including Fekaghat, Ghatshila, Jamshedpur and Jamsholaghat in Jharkhand led to increased inflow of water into Galudih barrage in the neighbouring state. In view of the rising water level, the Jharkhand administration opened eight gates of the barrage on Thursday.

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Sociological Study of Punjab's Deras

Bhaskar Parichha

Santosh K. Singh teaches sociology at the School of Liberal Studies, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University, Delhi.

The Deras: Culture, Diversity and Politics

He earned his master's, MPhil, and PhD in sociology from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. With over two decades of teaching and research experience in Uttarakhand, Chandigarh, and Delhi, he strives to connect academia with society.

It is only natural that he presents this captivating book. The Deras: Culture, Diversity and Politics by Singh is an enlightening

work that explores the Deras, who have made significant contributions to Punjabi society. The Dera culture in Punjab

possesses a long-standing history and is situated on a philosophically profound landscape. Deras exemplify the dynamic and sacred geography of South Asia, showcasing its tendency to engage in numerous internal dialogues continuously and effortlessly. Whether it is the highly influential Dera Sachkhand Ballan, the

contentious Dera Sacha Sauda, or the various other deras scattered throughout the region—each of these represents intricate institutions. They encompass a rich tapestry of historical narratives involving time, individuals, and communities that both draw from historical contexts and interact with contemporary realities to shape a new future.

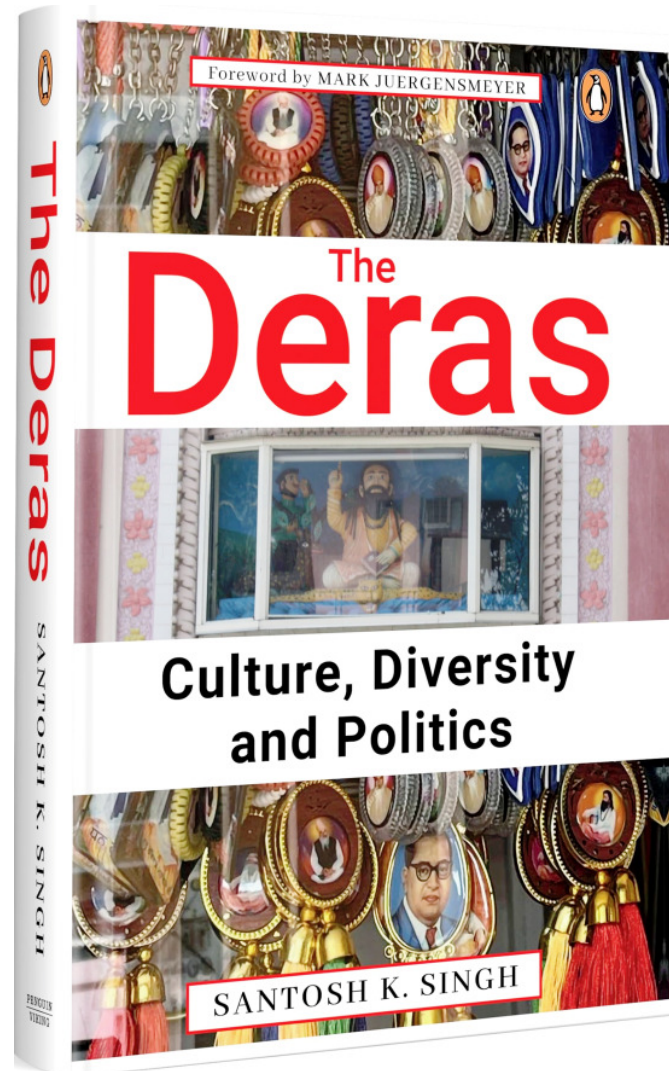
Writes Singh in the Preface, 'Wandering as a craft, as an idea, is valuable for its flexibility and reflexivity. The best part is that it creates a synergy and symbiosis between the researcher and the researched. The field is no more an inert idea waiting to be explored and revived; rather, both the field and the researcher remake each other in the course of the journey. A new twist, a new narrative, a new encounter—all carry the possibility and potential of reimagining the research trajectory

and its questions. In our world, the great travelers and wanderers like Nanak, Buddha, Ravidas and then Gandhi were wanderer-philosophers whose world views were shaped primarily by the 'field'. The transformation of Siddhartha to Gautam Buddha and his enlightenment happened because of the field called society and its people, through a dialogue between the field and the researcher.' Over ten years ago, captivated by his interaction with several individuals and a serendipitous conversation regarding their faith, he commenced a thorough exploration of the Dera phenomenon. Subsequently, he became deeply involved with this belief system. Concludes Singh: 'Religion is here to stay. The message was of connectedness, Syncretism and exchange must therefore be communicated to young minds so they become less

judgmental and are and meanings—the kernel that constitutes the South Asian encouraged to delve deeper into philosophical questions religious landscape.' With a foreword by Prof Mark Juergensmeyer of University of California, the book aims to explore this intriguing and liberating domain, while also safeguarding it from being confined within a limited, sectarian, and insular framework.

This book goes beyond being just a field study; it functions as a comprehensive sociological analysis of an important religious cult, intricately blended with aspects of travel writing and journalistic inquiry.

Santosh K. Singh
Penguin Viking
New Delhi



An Inspiring Story A Gripping Life-account

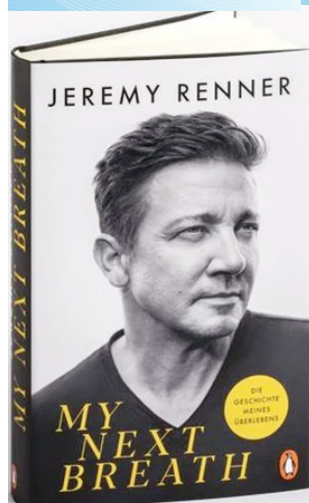
Dharma Raj

Jeremy Renner, a two-time Oscar nominee, emerged as the second most searched person on Google in 2023, but not because of his impressive filmography. His powerful portrayals in various films have left a significant mark, including his role as an army bomb technician in 'The Hurt Locker', a bank robber in Boston in 'The Town', and a corrupt mayor in 'American Hustle'. He also took on the iconic role in the Jason Bourne franchise with 'The Bourne Legacy'. Beyond these acclaimed performances, Renner captured the hearts of audiences as the beloved comic book character Hawkeye, appearing in seven Marvel films.

Despite his remarkable achievements in the film industry, his incredible success was tragically eclipsed when he was struck by a fourteen-thousand-pound snowplow on New Year's Day 2023. In a stunning display of resilience, he managed to maintain his breathing for more than thirty minutes before being rushed to the Intensive Care Unit. There, he faced multiple surgeries and embarked on a long and challenging journey of rehabilitation that lasted for several months. In this groundbreaking memoir, Jeremy offers a compelling and detailed narrative of his accident and the profound impact it had on his life. This story goes beyond simply recounting the events; it acts as a powerful call to action and creates a deep connection between the reader and the author. As Jeremy opens up about his path to recovery, he reflects on the deeper meaning behind his suffering.

Ultimately, his memoir is a

My Next Breath



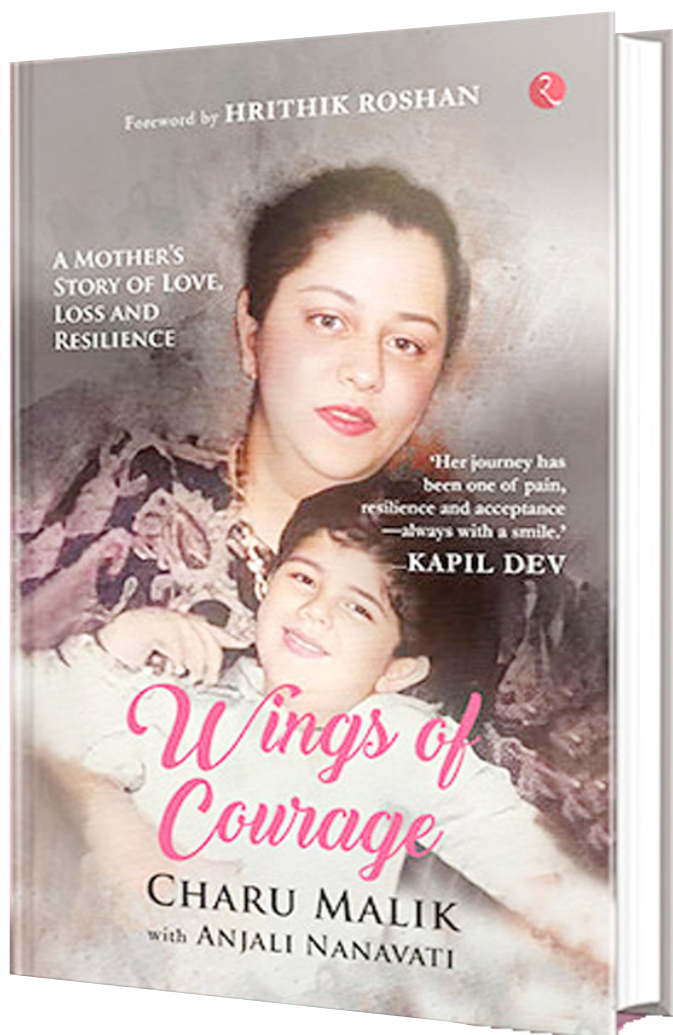
heartfelt homage to the strength of the human spirit, showcasing its remarkable capacity to endure, evolve, and find purpose in the face of overwhelming adversity. Through his eloquent writing, Jeremy captures the essence of significant personal transformation, exploring the complex interplay between vulnerability and strength, despair and hope, as well as redemption and renewal. The inspiring and gripping story of Jeremy Renner reveals the profound insights he discovered about inner strength, resilience, and hope. As he navigated the overwhelming challenges of his recovery, he learned to overcome each obstacle, focusing on healing one breath at a time. An excellent read.

Jeremy Renner
Simon & Schuster
New Delhi

Arun Mishra

Wings of Courage: A Mother's Story of Love, Loss and Resilience by Charu Malik/Anjali Nanavattells a heartfelt story that reveals the stark and often brutal truths of life. It highlights the basic abilities that many of us take for granted—like the ability to wiggle a finger or breathe without effort—that have become unattainable for Charu. After being confined to her bed for more than a decade, how does she manage to stop blaming God for the relentless hardships that plague her existence? What gives her the strength to find the courage to move forward despite her circumstances?

At the age of twenty, just as Charu Malik was starting to enjoy the bliss of married life, she faced a life-altering challenge when she was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy, a serious and potentially life-threatening illness. As the years passed, her condition progressed, and she eventually became dependent on a wheelchair for mobility. Despite these daunting circumstances, a transformative event took place in her life: the birth of her son, Alok. His arrival brought her immense joy and became the driving force behind her determination to seek happiness



Wings of Courage: A Mother's Story of Love, Loss and Resilience

and embrace life fully. In the following twenty years, Charu's life was once more turned upside down. She pondered, 'Why would God be so unkind as to take my son from me?'

In 'Wings of Courage', we are presented with a poignant narrative that sheds light on the difficult realities of life. It emphasizes the simple functions we frequently overlook—such as the ability to flex a finger or breathe easily—that are no longer within Charu's reach. After spending over ten years bedridden, how does she come to terms with her situation and stop holding God responsible for the ongoing challenges she endures? What inner strength allows her to find the courage to continue her journey? Charu regards her husband of more than 40 years, Sunil, as her source of strength and motivation, whereas he perceives their love as having endured countless challenges and consistently prevailed over difficulties. Her life serves as a guiding light for those who tend

to surrender at the slightest challenge, imparting a lesson to all about the importance of fighting for the precious gift known as life. Charu Malik has endured a genetic disorder for over half of her existence. Despite relying on assisted breathing for the past decade and being largely confined to her bed for an even longer period, she considers herself fortunate to possess the ability to see and use her voice to assist others. In honor of her deceased son Alok, she founded a trust named the 'Angelic Light of Kindness,' which provides support to orphaned children and elderly individuals in need of medical and financial assistance.

Featuring forewords by Hrithik Roshan, Kapil Dev, and Tarun Tahiliani, this memoir is truly poignant.

Charu Malik/Anjali Nanavat
Speaking Tiger
New Delhi

Everything about Japan

Dharma Raj

Lesley Downer is a writer, journalist, and historian known for her novels, including The Shogun Quartet, set in nineteenth-century Japan. She has also written notable non-fiction works like Geisha: The Remarkable Truth Behind the Fiction and The Brothers: The Hidden World of Japan's Richest Family, the latter being a New York Times Book of the Year. She lives in London with her husband, writer Arthur I. Miller.

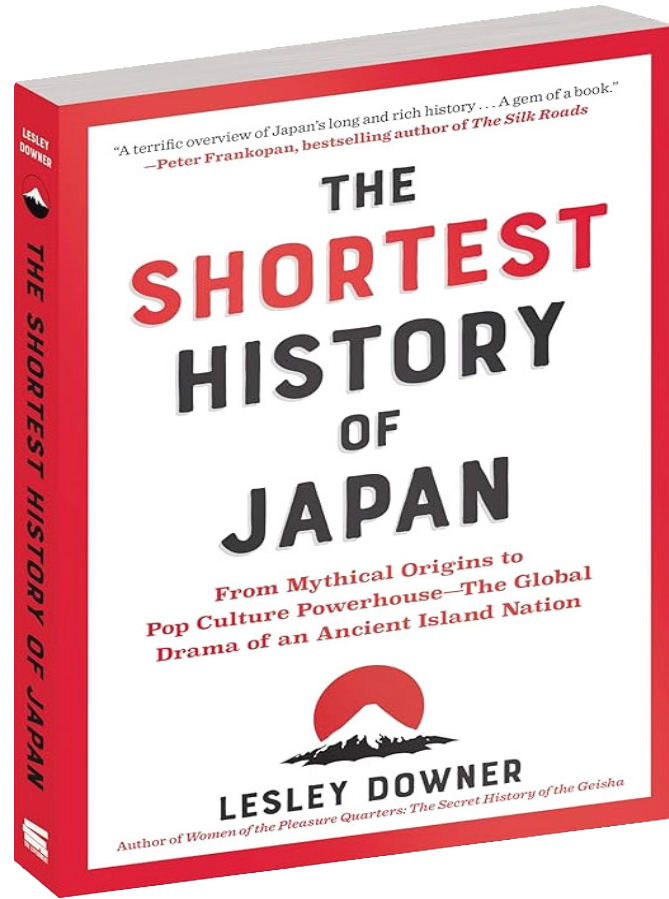
'The Shortest History of Japan', authored by Downer, presents a captivating account of Japan—an island nation developed through isolation, influenced by external factors, and anchored in tradition. Zen, haiku, martial arts, sushi, anime, manga, video games, and the Kigai philosophy are just a few of the many facets of Japanese culture that have left a significant mark on societies around the world. But what are the roots of these cultural phenomena? How did Japan cultivate its unique traditions, philosophies, and aesthetic sensibilities? This book delves into these questions, offering comprehensive insights and explanations. In this book, Downer does a thorough investigation of the island nation's colorful and captivating history, which stretches from its prehistoric beginnings in 14,500 BCE to the vibrant, technology-driven nation we know today. The narrative includes the

legendary emperors believed to be the offspring of the Sun Goddess, the rise and decline of samurai warlords, the poise of court ladies and geishas, the valor of female warriors and leaders, as well as the resourcefulness of merchants and internationally acclaimed business figures who have played a pivotal role in shaping modern Japan.

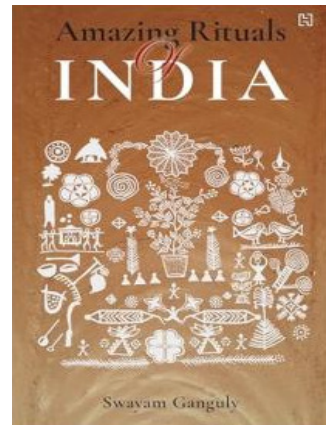
From the isolationist strategies of the Tokugawa shoguns to the swift Westernization during the Meiji period, Japan has adeptly managed to harmonize tradition with change. The island nation, resembling a necklace along the coast of Asia, utilized the sea as a barrier against invasions, which aided in safeguarding its culture despite the effects of foreign influences. Through a blend of captivating narrative and historical perspective, Lesley Downer vividly portrays the individuals, power conflicts, ideologies, and artistic expressions that shaped one of the most intriguing civilizations in the world. For individuals who have a passion for Japan, this is an essential read.

The Shortest History of Japan

Lesley Downer
Pan Macmillan India
New Delhi



India's Incredible Sacraments



Bhaskar Parichha

India is home to a rich tapestry of incredible traditions that reflect its diverse culture and history. From vibrant festivals that celebrate the changing seasons to intricate rituals that honor deities, each tradition tells a unique story. The country boasts a variety of art forms, including classical dance, music, and crafts that have been passed down through generations. Family values and hospitality are deeply ingrained in Indian society, often

Amazing Rituals of India

showcased through elaborate ceremonies and gatherings.

The culinary traditions vary widely across regions, with each state offering its own specialties and flavors. Overall, the incredible traditions of India are a testament to its cultural heritage and the unity found in diversity. "Amazing Rituals of India" by Swayam Ganguly stands as a significant tribute to the unique and colorful cultural heritage that India possesses. This extraordinary collection brings together a diverse array of practices, showcasing not only the widely recognized rituals from both rural and urban settings but also delving into the lesser-

known ethnic traditions that are scattered across the nation. Swayam Ganguly, based in Kolkata, holds multiple roles: he is a published author, a director of corporate films, an editorial consultant for several publishers, a sports enthusiast, and a lover of Indian culture. The compilation presents a diverse collection of cultural practices that highlight the rich tapestry of traditions across different communities. It features the intriguing wedding customs of the Nyishis, an indigenous group

in Arunachal Pradesh, alongside the Roce ceremony celebrated by Christians, which marks significant life events with joy and festivity. Additionally, it delves into the well-known mourning rituals observed during Muharram, a period of reflection and remembrance for many. The compilation also showcases the lively Lai Haraoba dance and music ceremonies of the Meitei tribe, which are integral to their cultural identity and community celebrations.

Furthermore, it captures the breathtaking gajan festival in rural Bengal, where the act of body piercing plays a central role, symbolizing devotion and spiritual expression. Overall, this collection serves as a testament to the vibrant and varied cultural heritage found within these traditions. This engaging and essential reference book goes beyond merely outlining the rituals; it also provides an in-depth exploration of the geographical and historical

contexts surrounding many of them. In addition, it highlights the ethnological diversity of the subcontinent, illustrating its rich tapestry of metaphysical beliefs, material culture, various traditions, and occupational practices. Furthermore, it emphasizes the ethnological diversity found within the subcontinent, showcasing the intricate tapestry of metaphysical beliefs, material culture, diverse traditions, and various occupational practices that

characterize the region. Divided into nine chapters and interspersed with various snippets, it features numerous illustrations. A vital book for those interested in exploring the remarkable rituals of India and the depth and breadth of their cultural significance.

Swayam Ganguly
Hachette India
New Delhi

Omfed hikes milk prices

Two minor siblings 'starved & beaten' by grandmother

Bhubaneswar (DMC): The Odisha State Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation Limited (OMFED) has officially revised its milk prices, with the new rates coming into effect from Saturday. The revised prices show an increase of Rs 2 per litre for premium and toned milk and Rs 4 per litre for gold milk.

According to OMFED's official notification, the federation had initially proposed aRs 4 increase per liter across all milk variants. However, the State government has decided to subsidiseRs 2 of the hike, leaving the remaining Rs 2 to be borne by consumers. The



premium and toned milk will now cost Rs 2 more per litre, while the price of gold milk has been increased by Rs 4 per litre. According to the revised rates, a

packet of 1 litre toned milk will now cost Rs 50, premium milk Rs 54 and gold milk Rs 56. These variants with increased price tag arrived in the market on Saturday. The milk price was last increased by OMFED on April 1, 2023.

OMFED stated that while the price revision might impact consumers, it is expected to benefit dairy farmers, who have been facing rising input costs. A tea stall owner in Cuttack said, "Now that the price has increased, it is very likely that we will have to raise the price of tea per cup. We have to sustain ourselves. A hike in tea prices

might upset some customers, but we will sell it at a reasonable price while keeping our profit margin. However, I will not compromise on quality." Another local resident voiced concern, stating, "The price of milk was raised just six months ago.

Increasing it again now is surely inconvenient for us." On June 1, the Odisha government increased the milk procurement price by Rs 3 per litre to benefit around 2.5 lakh dairy farmers across the state. It also raised the retail price of milk from Rs 52 to Rs 54 per litre but announced to cover half the additional cost through subsidies.

Bhubaneswar (DMC): In a deeply disturbing incident, Mancheswar Police on Saturday rescued two minor siblings - a boy and a girl - from alleged abuse and neglect at their residence in GGP Colony here. The children were allegedly being tortured by their paternal grandmother following the death of their mother.

According to police sources, the children's mother passed away around a month ago. Since then, their father is said to have suffered a mental breakdown and has been unable to care for them. In his absence, the children were left in the custody of their grandmother, who allegedly



subjected them to repeated physical abuse. It has been alleged that the elderly woman not only beat the children but also locked them inside a room for several days and denied them proper food for more than five days.

Local residents, alarmed by the children's cries and deteriorating condition, informed

the authorities. Acting promptly, a team from Mancheswar Police reached the spot and rescued the siblings from the house. Police have launched an investigation into the matter and are likely to take legal action against the accused based on the findings.

The incident has sparked widespread concern among citizens and child rights organisations, with many demanding strict punishment for those responsible for the trauma inflicted on the minors. Efforts are also underway to explore long-term care and rehabilitation options for the rescued children.

Actress Nandita Das seeks Govt support
To globalise Odisha's culture



Bhubaneswar (DMC): Renowned actress and filmmaker Nandita Das met with Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo and Literature and Culture Minister Suryabanshi Suraj at Lok Seva Bhawan today to present proposals aimed at promoting Odisha's rich cultural heritage on the global stage. During the meeting, Das emphasized the need for strategic initiatives to showcase Odisha's art, dance, music and crafts to international audiences, while also attracting more tourists to the state.

She sought the government's active support and collaboration to realize these goals. Responding positively, Deputy Chief Minister Singh Deo assured that the government would extend all necessary assistance to advance these cultural promotion efforts. Minister Suryabanshi Suraj also praised the proposals, describing them as important steps toward preserving and enhancing Odisha's cultural identity.

KIIT gets 5th spot in THE Global Rankings

Bhubaneswar (DMC): The Times Higher Education (THE) ranks universities across the globe based on their social impact through an innovative evaluation process. In this context, universities that actively contribute to societal development participate in the rankings. KIIT-DU has been a consistent participant in this initiative, and its position has steadily improved each year due to its strong performance.

This year too, KIIT has excelled in the Times Higher Education Impact Global Rankings 2025. The University has been recognised for its impact across three key criteria. KIIT-DU has secured the top position in the country for its efforts in reducing inequality (SDG-10) and for its commitment to peace, justice, and strong institutions (SDG-16) and affordable clean



energy (SDG-7). Additionally, it has been ranked third in India for ensuring quality education (SDG-4). Overall, KIIT University stood fifth among all Indian universities in the Impact Rankings.

Globally, it was placed in the 101 cohort in this year's rankings, which evaluate institutions based on their contributions towards achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Over 2,400 universities, this year, from 130 countries participated in the ranking. Founder of KIIT and KISS

DrAchyutaSamanta lauded the impressive rankings. He said, "Although KIIT has a very humbled beginning but it has niched his space in globally in all accreditations and rankings, it has now achieved a status comparable to the finest universities globally.

In India, it has made a significant impact as a leading university." KIIT's consistent success in these rankings demonstrates its commitment to excellence in continuous learning, sustainability, inclusion and global cooperation," he said.

CRUT steps up road safety efforts

Bhubaneswar (DMC): As part of its commitment to ensuring road safety, Odisha's Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT) has intensified its efforts under the 'Zero Accident Day' initiative.

Daily counselling sessions and the administration of the Road Safety Pledge are being systematically conducted across all CRUT depots and operational terminals. These sessions are designed to sensitise crew members on safe driving practices, reinforce their responsibilities, and promote a culture of accountability and care on the roads. In a significant development, UshaPadhee,



Principal Secretary, Housing & Urban Development, visited CRUT's Naraj Depot and joined the crew members in an interactive session. She administered the Road Safety Oath, urging the staff to uphold the highest standards of service and safety, an official release said on Saturday. Safety

begins with each one of us. As frontline service providers, CRUT crew members carry the trust of thousands of citizens every day. Let us pledge to ensure that every journey is not just timely, but safe and dependable," she remarked. The Principal Secretary also underlined the message of "Come

Home Safe"-emphasising not just the safety of passengers, but also the well-being of crew members and their families. She called upon all staff to deliver services that are not only efficient, but also inspire confidence and trust among commuters.

Through the Zero Accident Day campaign, CRUT aims to significantly reduce incidents on the road, improve driving discipline, and enhance the overall commuting experience in the capital region. CRUT reiterates its strong resolve to provide safe, reliable, and inclusive public transport for all, while ensuring the safety of its workforce and the public it serves. It may be noted

that Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday flagged off 100 electric buses under the Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT). While "AMA BUS" services are already running on 11 routes in Puri, Bhubaneswar and Cuttack, after the addition of these 100 buses, services will be provided on 8 new routes in the Capital Region.

The newly constructed Naraj Electric Bus Depot has also been inaugurated. These 100 new electric buses will operate from Naraj Depot itself. This State-of-Art Naraj Bus Depot has been completely built using the latest green building technology.

Hotels in Bhubaneswar raided over stale food

Bhubaneswar (DMC): In response to rising public health concerns, raids were conducted at several hotels in the Capital City on Saturday following reports of substandard and stale food being sold to customers. The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) in collaboration with the Food Safety Department has reportedly launched a crackdown on establishments violating food safety norms.

As per reports, officials are examining the quality of food and have imposed fines on outlets found selling low-quality items. The operation has covered all 67 wards of the city. During the raids, large quantities of stale sweets and cooked food were seized and destroyed. Particularly in Ward No. 13, multiple sweet shops and hotels were raided, with challans issued for violations. This stern action comes in the wake of a



recent surge in diarrhoeal diseases across Odisha, prompting the BMC's Food Safety Department to take strict preventive measures to ensure public health and hygiene.

Earlier this week also, BMC and the Food Safety Department had launched a coordinated crackdown on food stalls, hotels, and eateries in the capital city. A team of officials carried out surprise inspections near SUM Hospital, targeting roadside vendors, fruit sellers, and small restaurants. During the raids, stale fish, expired bread, and discoloured food items were seized and destroyed on the spot.

Yoga Day celebrated across Twin City

Collector leads celebration in Khordha



Khurda, (DMC): The International Yoga Day was celebrated at Haveli Ground in Khordha with the joint support of Khordha District Administration, Excise & Sports department under the chairmanship of Collector ChanchalRana. On the occasion, KhordhaMLA Prasanta Kumar Jagdev was the chief guest.

In his speech, the MLA said, "If you consider yoga as a part of your life, practice yoga, your physical, intellectual & spiritual development will increase & everyone will live a healthy, happy, disease-free life & become a pillar in the formation of a developed Odisha & a developed India." The Collector said, "Yoga should be a part of

everyone's daily life. Through the practice of yoga, the body is purified & free from diseases. The mind is sharpened & a large-scale awakening of consciousness is created which is "for one earth, one health" is a huge need in modern civilization & if the people adopt yoga, a beautiful world can be imagined.

"Khordha SP Sagarika Nath, DFO Lade GajananDayanand, ADM (Administration) Pratap Chandra Beura, ZillaParishad Chief Development & Executive Officer Jyoti Shankar Sahu, Excise Superintendent Sumati Tripathy, Excise Superintendent (BBSR)Debasish Patel, Chief District Agriculture Officer Rabi Narayan Senapati, Deputy Collector (Emergency) Sritapa

Mishra, PradhanTuliama, Assistant Collector (Grievances) Bhubaneswar Kanhar, District Panchayat Officer Syamalendu Nayak, District Sports Officer Gitanjali Panda, DI & PRO, Laxman Kumar Behera, District Social Welfare Officer Kusum Kumari Praharaj, BDO, Khordha, Khirabdi Tanaya Sahu, District Culture Officer, Chaudhary Aurobinda Das were present.

Yoga gurus from Patanjali Yoga Samiti Purna Chandra Nayak, Gaurang Chandra Mandal, Lalita Swain, Bijaya Kumar Mohanty, Nagen Champati, Pratap Kumar Sahu, Kabita Harichandan, Babita Chaudhary, Durga Prasad Chaudhary among others imparted the yoga training.

East Coast Railway observes Yoga Day

Bhubaneswar: East Coast Railway (ECoR) celebrated the International Day of Yoga with great enthusiasm and participation at the Railway Indoor Stadium in Bhubaneswar. The event was led by ParmeshwarFunkwal, General Manager of East Coast Railway, and witnessed active involvement from a large number of railway employees and senior officials.

The session focused on promoting the importance of yoga in everyday life and encouraging railway employees to incorporate its practice into their routines for better health, concentration, and workplace well-being. Addressing the gathering, Funkwal highlighted the benefits of yoga, emphasizing its role in enhancing mental clarity, reducing stress, and improving physical fitness.



Yoga Session at Bank of Baroda

Cuttack: Bank of Baroda, Cuttack Region organized a Yoga Session for staff members at Kala Vikas Kendra, Cuttack. BOB Cuttack Regional Head Pradeep Kumar Behera, Deputy Regional Head Gautam Pal and staff members of Cuttack Region performed Yoga in the session. Citing the theme, the Regional Head emphasized the importance of yoga and called upon all the staff members to adopt yoga in their daily lives. Bank Executives J.C. Panigrahi, SampadNayak, Sujeet Kumar, C.S. Rao, Branch Heads Tilottama Panda, Gaurang Jena etc. were also present.

OMC's all mining regions join celebration



Bhubaneswar: Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC) celebrated International Day of Yoga with widespread participation across its mining units, Head Office, and Regional Offices. The event was organized in line with this year's theme, "Yoga for One Earth, One Health," emphasizing the link between personal well-being and planetary health. The celebration underscored OMC's commitment to nurturing a healthier workforce and embedding wellness into its work culture. At the Head Office in Bhubaneswar, a group session saw participation from officials and staff across departments, including Director (HR) Alok Kumar Pal, reflecting leadership's commitment to workplace wellness and organizational harmony. Beyond its operational areas, OMC extended the celebrations to its educational and community outreach platforms.

GRIDCO employees perform Yoga for flexibility

The GRIDCO employees enthusiastically celebrated International Yoga Day on Saturday on their Bhubaneswar office premises. The event featured a guided yoga session led by trained instructors, focusing on fundamental asanas, breathing techniques, and meditation. Participation was seen across all levels of the organization, underscoring the significance of physical and mental well-being. This initiative underscores GRIDCO's dedication to fostering a healthy and balanced lifestyle among its employees.

A police magistrate coordination meeting was held



Puri, (DMC): Police magistrate coordination meeting was held this afternoon to ensure peaceful conduct of the upcoming Rath Yatra. Presiding over the meeting, ADM Administration Sarat Chandra Behera said that it is the responsibility of both the police and the administration to manage the rath yatra in an orderly and safe manner as more devotees are being assessed than ever before. He advised the people to work

in harmony with each other and to show convenience and good behavior. ADM Revenue Dr Sarat Chandra Mohapatra suggested that the officers and staff in charge should work diligently at the designated places. He advised everyone to work for the cooperation and disciplined darshan of the devotees. Among others, Sub Collector Raj Kishore Jena, Additional SP Sunil Kumar Mishra, Sachin Patel, Soumya

Ranjan Mallik and DIB Additional SP Devi Shankar Pratap were present on the occasion. He gave various suggestions for better management of traffic control, sanitation, health care, emergency care, ambulance arrangements, information services, parking arrangements, etc.

At the outset, deputy director of information and public relations Santosh kumar Sethi welcomed everyone and conducted the dais. It was attended by all the magistrates and police officials of the district. Deputy collector Priyadarshini Mallik and Prashant Kumar Jena assisted in conducting the key meetings.

Yoga Day Celebrated in Rayagada



Rayagada, (DMC): On the occasion of International Yoga Day 2025, a yoga session was organized at RO Ground, Chandili, Rayagada. The theme of this year's Yoga Day, "Yoga for One Earth, One Health," was highlighted through the event. Senior officers and staff from DPO, RO, Chandili, and Rayagada Police Station participated in the yoga session, promoting physical and mental well-being. The event aimed to foster a sense of community and wellness among the participants. The celebration of Yoga Day in Rayagada reflects the growing awareness about the benefits of yoga and its importance in maintaining a healthy lifestyle. The event was a success, with participants benefiting from the yoga session and promoting a culture of wellness in the region.

Minister Sampad Swain joins International Yoga Day organized by Paradip Municipality

Paradip, (DMC): Paradip Municipality organized the International Yoga Day with great enthusiasm on Saturday morning at the Kalinga Baliyatra ground on the Paradip seashore. Under the direct supervision of Basant Biswal, Chairperson, Paradip Municipality, the programme was attended by renowned Paradip MLA and State Industries, Skill Development and Technical Education Minister Sampad Chandra Swain as the chief guest and participated



in the Yoga session and advised all those present to practice yoga everyday for keep their health fit. Among others, Niranjana Behera,

ADM, Paradip, Abhishek Panda, Executive Officer, Paradip Municipality, Prasanna Kumar Beura, PRO, IFFCO, Venugopal Naidu, Head, Goa Carbon, Dr. Sasmita Satapathy, Principal, Paradip College were present as the guests and actively participated in the event. Besides, members of various organization and institutions, students from various school and colleges including women from various wards were seen participating in large numbers in the yoga event with enthusiasm.

Yoga Day celebrated in Jajpur District Jail

Jajpur , (DMC): In celebration of the 11th International Day of Yoga 2025, the Prajapita Brahmakumaris Ishwariya ViswaVidyalaya Shrirampur wing organized a special outdoor yoga session at Jajpur district jail on Saturday morning.

To raise public awareness and promote a healthy lifestyle under the theme "Yoga for Reform, Transformation in Life." Inmates of Jajpur district jail were participated the session to promote health and wellness. The



session conducted under the guidance of Brahmakumaris BK Bhabana and team. BK Bhabana shared various yoga poses and breathing exercises on this occasion.

Odisha Ministerial Officers Association urges CM to consider their demands

Bolangir, (DMC): The Odisha Ministerial Officers Association, has urged the government to consider their demands sympathetically. Speaking to mediamen on Friday evening Secretary of Odisha Ministerial Officers Association, Chittaranjan Tarasiya said we request the Chief Minister to consider our demands sympathetically. Out main demands includes, scrapping of resolution no 698,703, and 708 of Government, hike in salary of junior assistant from level-4 to level-9, promotion of ministerial staffs in the district



level, says Chitta Ranjan Tarasiya, General secretary of Odisha Ministerial Officers Association in Bolangir on Friday evening.

International Yoga Day celebrated at Blue Flag Beach in Puri

Puri, (DMC): International Yoga Day celebrated at Blue Flag Beach in Puri. ADM Protocol Nilamadhab Bhoi has called for the inclusion of yoga in every day of the life cycle of Puri. International Yoga Day was celebrated at Blue Flag Beach in Puri this morning.

The theme of this year's Yoga Day is "Yoga for one earth, one health". Speaking on the occasion, ADM Shri Bhoi said that yoga keeps life healthy and healthy and enhances performance. In today's time, most of the people are suffering from various diseases. But if you add yoga every day, you will definitely get rid of the disease. Yoga is just like the need for food for the body. Therefore,



he asked them to practice yoga every day and administered the oath to all present. Deputy Director information and public relations Santosh Kumar Sethi, Excise Officer Jagdish Samal, Assistant Collectors Tanmay Kumar Das and Krishna Chandra Mohapatra were also present on the occasion. Yoga guru Rama Ballabh Mohapatra, Dr Alok Swain and his colleagues taught

yoga. The yoga programme was attended by teachers, students and employees of the excise department of various educational institutions. The excise department had created awareness about a drug-free life. The event was moderated by Sports Department employees Soumya Pujari, Avinash Mohapatra, Information and Public Relations Employees Subrata Kumar Sahu and Trinath Patra.

NTPC Talcher Kaniha Observes International Yoga Day



Talcher, (DMC): On 21st June 2025, NTPC Talcher Kaniha celebrated International Yoga Day with a special morning session under the global theme, "Yoga for One Earth, One Health." The event featured a special session led by Yoga Guru NTPC Kaniha, who guided participants through various asanas. The ceremony was attended by senior officials including Shri K. Narasimha Reddy Executive Director, NTPC Talcher Kaniha Shri?Ch. Satya Rama Krishna, GM (O&M), Shri?Samarpita Dewasi, GM (Tech Service), Shri?Manoranjan Panigrahi GM (EMD), Shri Navneet Kumar, Head of HR, along with department heads, employees, and NTPC Kaniha yoga practitioners. The session was followed by an artistic yoga demonstration accompanied by music, showcasing both physical grace and creative harmony. Concluding the session, Shri?K.?N.?Reddy encouraged everyone to adopt yoga as a regular lifestyle practice to sustain wellness and vitality. Prior to the main event, several competitions were also organized to commemorate International Day of Yoga.



Wada's book, The 80-Year-Old Wall, emphasising lifestyle habits to promote longevity and well-being.

Key recommendations included daily walking, deep breathing to manage stress, staying active, and fostering meaningful relationships. The yoga camp, organised by District Sports Officer Shri Ajay Kumar

Patnaik and Ex-Chairman Shri Suban Kumar Nayak, featured sessions by Art of Living Institute instructors.

Khajurthika Higher Primary School students were also recognised for participating in a national yoga competition. Let us embrace health and happiness together! Thank you for your involvement in this event!

MCL inks Rs 43 Cr. Pact for girls hostel in NIT Rourkela



Sambalpur, (DMC): Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) on Friday inked an MoU with National Institute of Technology (NIT) Rourkela for the construction of Rs 43 Crore girls hostel "MCL Hall of Residence". The MoU was signed in the presence of Shri Uday Anant Kaole, Chairman cum Managing Director; Shri Keshav Rao, Director (Human Resources) MCL and Prof. K. Umamaheshwar Rao, Director, NIT Rourkela, along with other senior officials.

Under this CSR initiative MCL will be funding for the hostel which will accommodate girl students, encouraging their pursuit of higher education, particularly in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics fields. Besides, the facility will also provide state-of-the-art amenities, including fire safety systems, LAN connectivity, CCTV and rainwater harvesting. MCL has been actively supporting educational infrastructure at NIT Rourkela with a total CSR contribution of Rs 93.77 Crores, including financial assistance for another 500-seater girls' hostel and the Technology Business Incubator (TBI).

Plantation of trees on International Yoga Day

Muniguda, (DMC): On the occasion of International Yoga Day, IPRL, Vedanta and TTIPL have planted saplings at the lanjigar Vedanta Alumina Project premises in Muniguda Block, Rayagada District, on the occasion of International Yoga Day. Vedanta Alumina Project AM Amit Kumar along with all their employees, IPRL RCM Vijay Kumar and his team, TTIPL Company DGM and all the employees were present to celebrate International Yoga Day



and planted saplings at the Vedanta Alumina Project premises on Lanjigar side.

TPNODL Observes International Yoga Day

Balasore, (DMC): On the occasion of International Yoga Day, TPNODL organized yoga sessions across its offices, underscoring its commitment to promoting a healthy lifestyle among its employees. At the Corporate Office, the session was conducted under the expert guidance of Engineer in Chief Shri Sharat Chandra Mahalik. During the session, Shri Mahalik highlighted the significance of yoga and pranayama in maintaining physical fitness and mental well-being. He demonstrated various asanas, emphasizing the positive impact of yoga on human life.

The session served as a reminder of the importance of yoga in achieving peace of body and mind. Similar yoga sessions were held across various circles and divisions, including Balasore, Bhadrak, Baripada, Keonjhar, and Jajpur circles, where employees came together to practice yoga. As employees navigate their increasingly demanding personal and professional lives, these yoga sessions provided a much-needed recharge for both body and mind. The management is enthusiastic about the positive response and plans to conduct such sessions more frequently to promote a healthy lifestyle among its employees.



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Yoga, a...

gathered in the historic mass yoga demonstration. Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu commended the people's overwhelming response. The event concluded the successful month-long Yogandhra campaign that engaged 2.17 crore participants statewide, creating several records. The Chief Minister noted the global recognition of International Yoga Day since its adoption by the United Nations. He credited Prime Minister Modi's leadership in driving this impact, with Yoga Day now celebrated at over 12 lakh venues across 175+ countries and 10 crore participants worldwide. He thanked PM Modi for granting Andhra Pradesh the honor to host this historic event. CM Naidu emphasised yoga's role in building a healthier Andhra Pradesh, urging citizens to make it a daily habit. "When our youth embrace yoga, they gain not just health but the focus to succeed in today's digital world," he stated, announcing plans to integrate yoga into education and community programs. He reiterated that yoga is a powerful wellness tool in the fast-paced digital age, uniting mind, body, and spirit. He highlighted that by inspiring the Modi vision, we organised a month long "Yogandhra campaign 2025" by training more than 1.44 lakh yoga trainers, registering over 2.17 core participants in 1.4 lakh locations, over 3 lakh participants in single location in Visakhapatnam a stretch of 28 kilometers from RK beach up to Bhogapuram, and issuing certifications for 1.7 crore participants. He mentioned that we are proud to announce on Friday around 22,122 tribal students set a Guinness World Record for mass Surya Namaskar. He called for citizens to dedicate one hour daily to yoga, especially urging youth to adopt it for enhanced concentration and creativity in the digital era. CM Naidu mentioned that the core goal of Swarna Andhra @ 2047 is a "healthy, wealthy, and happy Andhra Pradesh." The celebration embodied the "One Earth - One Health" vision, aligning with Swarna Andhra @ 2047 to create a prosperous society contributing to India's growth. CM Naidu concluded by thanking all who made the program a resounding success. He thanked all the participants who visited to participated in Yoga event to create history.

Diarrhoea situation...

directed borewells be sanitised and water samples regularly tested to prevent contamination. So far, a total of 3,892 patients have been admitted to different hospitals. Of them, 3,543 have recovered, while 254 are undergoing treatment. It was also noted that the Mission Shakti department's SHG members are actively raising awareness on diarrhoea prevention. ASHA and Anganwadi workers are also spreading information through IEC (Information, Education, and Communication) materials. The meeting was attended among others by Deputy Chief Minister KV Singh Deo, Health Minister Mukesh Mahaling, Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja, Health Secretary Aswathy S, and senior officials from the Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water, Housing and Urban Development, Women and Child Development, and School and Mass Education departments.

Tractor overturned, Child crush to death under wheel

NUAPADA/KHARIAR ROAD, (DMC): A 9-years old boy was crushed to death under wheel when a tractor trolley overturned near Lanjimar village in Nuapada District on Friday evening. The deceased has been identified as Bikky Sahu (9) son of Puran Sahu of village Lanjimar under Nuapada police station limit.

According to the information received, on Friday evening, a farmer named Jamuna Lal Yadav of Lanjimar village was going to Sarabong village in a tractor bearing registration number OD26 A 4402 to get fertilizer. Four children were travelling in the tractor along with the deceased. On Lanjimar - Sarabong road the driver lost control and the tractor overturned. Three children were thrown away into the field while Bikky died on the spot after being crushed under the wheel of the tractor.

East Coast Railway Bags 1st Prize at 23rd Folk Fair – 2025 Exhibition at Puri



Puri, (DMC): East Coast Railway (ECOR) has been awarded the 1st Prize in the State-level Folk Fair and Krushi Exhibition held during the 23rd Folk Fair – 2025 at Golden Sea Beach, Puri, for its outstanding and informative presentation. The exhibition, which attracted participation from various government departments, public sector undertakings, agricultural institutions and cultural organizations, concluded with a grand closing ceremony attended by dignitaries and cultural enthusiasts from across the country. The ECoR pavilion drew immense appreciation from the public and dignitaries alike, including VVIPs, State Ministers, and delegations from different states. The stall highlighted technological advancement, infrastructure development, and future vision of Indian Railways, with a focus on the pivotal role played by East Coast Railway in driving national connectivity and regional growth. The thematic presentation showcased East Coast Railway's significant contributions to society and the economy.

India to evacuate citizens of Nepal, Sri Lanka from Iran



Embassy's evacuation efforts in Iran will also cover Citizens of Nepal and Sri Lanka," the Indian Embassy posted on X. The citizens of Nepal and Sri Lanka have been asked to reach out to the Embassy, either on the Telegram channel or over the emergency contact numbers 989010144557; +989128109115; +989128109109. Meanwhile, efforts to evacuate Indian nationals from Iran are continuing. On Saturday, a third special evacuation flight with 117 Indian nationals from Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, landed in Delhi as part of Operation Sindhu. The total number of Indians who have returned home so far is 517, according to the MEA. Lauding the successful evacuation, India's minister of state for external affairs RandhirJaiswal posted on X that: "A special evacuation flight from Ashgabat, Turkmenistan landed in New Delhi at 0300 hrs on 21st June, bringing Indians from Iran home. So far 517 Indian nationals from Iran have returned home under Operation Sindhu." Operation Sindhu will now be extended to Israel, The Indian government has said. The MEA has said that it has decided to evacuate those Indian nationals who wish to leave Israel. Their travel from Israel will be facilitated through the land borders and thereafter by air to India, it was clarified. The evacuation of Indian nations from Israel is likely to begin from Sunday. Requesting Indian nationals to register themselves with the Indian embassy in Tel Aviv, the government said: "In view of the above, the Embassy of India in Tel Aviv would be making arrangements for the evacuation of Indians."

New Delhi, (H.S) : The Government of India will evacuate citizens of Nepal and Sri Lanka, apart from its own, from war-torn Iran, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has informed. Citizens of these two neighbouring countries have been asked to get in touch with the Indian Embassy in Iran for arrangements to be made. "On request of the Governments of Nepal and Sri Lanka, the Indian

India's basmati export takes another hit after Trump tariffs

Chandigarh, (H.S) : Already grappling with US President Donald Trump's 26 per cent tariff, the ongoing Israel-Iran war has triggered a fresh crisis in the Indian basmati rice export market. Indian basmati exporters find themselves caught in a web of woes, with stuck consignments, delayed payments, plummeting prices, and fears of a domestic glut. Iran is the second-highest importer of Indian basmati after Saudi Arabia, with the sela (parboiled) variety particularly cherished in Iranian kitchens.

In the 2023-24 fiscal year, a total of 59.42 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) of basmati rice was exported from the country. Of these exports, basmati rice was mainly sent to five countries: 7 LMT to Iran, 11 LMT to Saudi Arabia, 8 LMT to Iraq, 3 LMT to Yemen, and 3 LMT to the US, with the remainder going to other countries. This development is likely to severely affect Punjab, the highest producer of basmati rice in the country, accounting for 40 per cent of production, followed by Haryana and other states. Ranjit Singh Jossan, Vice-President of the Basmati Rice Miller and Exporter Association, said, "Since the Israel-Iran war broke out a few days ago, the basmati exports to Iran have totally stopped, as the operations at the Bandar Abbas port in Iran have been suspended and many consignments of basmati from India



which were sent are now stuck there as two ships carrying basmati are docked at the port but are waiting to be unloaded." "We export around one million tonnes of basmati to Iran which is approximately 15 to 16 per cent of total global export from India. Due to the present crisis, now around Rs 3,000 crore worth of export orders are hanging in a balance as no one knows how the situation will develop in the coming days as the banking infrastructure there has either collapsed or frozen, thus no transactions. We have just kept our fingers crossed," he claimed.

"We are not able to contact the importers in Iran as they are mainly based in the country's capital city,

Tehran. When will the payments to our exporters be made, it is not clear. Thus, there is anxiety among the exporters and fear factor also. The reason for that and main cause of concern is that the Iranian currency might further devalue against the US dollar and thus the Indian exporters have to bear the financial losses," he said. Jossan added, "Before the conflict between the two countries began, one US dollar was equal to 90,000 toman (Iranian currency) in the open market. But the Iranian government used to give subsidised currency to their importers for the basmati import from India, who used to pass the same to Indian exporters. It was one US dollar equal to 28,000 toman. Now if at all

after the war ends, the Indian exporters are worried that will they get their full payments back or not, as no one knows how much the currency will devalue further or not. Also, will the Iranian government be in a position to give subsidised currency?" "Just few days before the Israel-Iran war, the Iranian government had given permission to import 2.50 lakh metric tonnes of basmati from India to their importers on subsidised currency and had given 90 days' time to import the basmati, whose packaging had been started by the Indian exporters. But now all the packaging has been stopped and we are adopting a wait and watch policy," he said.

According to APEDA, India's foreign exchange earnings from basmati rice exports were Rs 48,000 crore in 2022, out of which Punjab contributed at least 40 per cent. An official said that exporters are adopting a wait and watch policy. "Of the Rs 6 billion basmati export, one billion goes to Iran. We are monitoring the situation, how it is panning out," he said. Also, with Iran threatening to close the Strait of Hormuz - a vital trade artery - major shipping lines have suspended operations to Iranian ports. Thus, the insurance companies have reportedly backed out, unwilling to risk covering shipments through a war zone.

Indus waters treaty will never be restored: Amit Shah

New Delhi, (H.S) : Home minister Amit Shah has said that India will never restore the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) with Islamabad, and the water flowing to Pakistan will be diverted for internal use. He said this at an interview with The Times of India on Saturday. If this happens, there will be severe water crisis in Pakistan and agricultural production in that country will be badly affected. Nearly 80% of Pakistan's agriculture is dependent on that water.

Under the 1960 treaty, India had agreed to share waters of the Indus with Pakistan. While India would use the waters of the Beas, Ravi and Sutlej, the Chenab, Jhelum and Indus would flow into Pakistan. India has maintained that the IWT was bound by principles of goodwill and friendship between the two neighbours which Pakistan never honoured. The dastardly terror attack on tourists in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, on April 22, that resulted in 26 deaths, was the last straw. India suspended the treaty a day later. "No, it will never be restored," Shah said in response to a question, adding: "We will take water that was flowing to Pakistan to Rajasthan by constructing a canal. Pakistan will be starved of water that it



has been getting unjustifiably." While the full impact of this decision will not be felt by Pakistan just yet, agricultural canals will start drying up there as India creates infrastructure to divert the waters of the Jhelum, Chenab and Indus.

Instead of adopting a reconciliatory stand, Pakistan has resorted to an aggressive approach with several of its leaders, including former foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari threatening a full-scale war unless the treaty is restored. Indians, meanwhile, have welcomed this stand. Jammu and

Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah has said that abrogation of the treaty will mean more water for his state. He has refused to share the waters with Punjab though. While Pakistan is seeking international intervention, India has made it clear that the the IWT will not be a part of any bilateral dialogue between the two countries. Only two topics will be discussed, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said. They are terrorism and the return of Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

DGCA asks Air India to remove 3 officials



New Delhi, (H.S) : Aviation safety regulator DGCA has ordered Air India to remove its three officials, including a divisional vice president, from all roles and responsibilities related to crew scheduling and rostering, sources said on Saturday. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), in its order on June 20, also asked the Tata Group-owned airline to initiate internal disciplinary proceedings against these officials without delay. The three officials include a divisional vice president of the airline, as per the DGCA order. Responding to DGCA, Air India said, "We acknowledge the regulator's directive and have implemented the order. In the interim, the company's Chief Operations Officer will provide direct oversight to the Integrated Operations Control Centre (IOCC). Air India is committed to ensuring total adherence to safety protocols and standard practices."

Leopard drags away 4-year-old girl in Tamil Nadu

New Delhi, (H.S) : In a shocking incident, a leopard attacked and reportedly dragged away a four-year-old girl from her house. The incident reportedly took place in Tamil Nadu's Coimbatore district on Wednesday evening. The minor has been identified as Roshni. According to the sources, Roshni was playing outside her home in the hill town of Valparai. As per the statement given by officials, they said that the leopard allegedly lifted the minor girl and dragged her away to the nearby forest area. In a statement given by a senior police official, he told "Forest officials and police are jointly searching the area." The attack has triggered widespread panic among the local residents.

New Delhi, (H.S) : Indian money parked in Swiss banks more than tripled in 2024 to 3.5 billion Swiss francs (nearly Rs 37,600 crore) on the back of a huge jump in funds held through local branches and other financial institutions, annual data released by Switzerland's central bank showed on Thursday. However, money in customer accounts of Indian clients rose by only 11 per cent in the year to 346 million Swiss franc (nearly Rs 3,675 crore) and accounted for just about one-tenth of overall funds.

The sharp increase in the overall funds follows a 70 per cent decline in funds parked by Indian individuals and firms in Swiss banks, including through local branches and other financial institutions, in 2023 to a four-year low of 1.04 billion Swiss francs. This is the highest since 2021, when the total Indian money in Swiss banks had hit a 14-year-high of CHF 3.83 billion. These are official figures reported by banks to the Swiss National Bank (SNB) and do not indicate the quantum of the much-debated alleged black money held by Indians in Switzerland. These figures also do not include the money that Indians, NRIs or others might have in Swiss banks in the names of third-country entities. The total amount of CHF 3,545.54 million, described by the SNB as 'total liabilities' of Swiss banks or 'amounts due to' their Indian clients



at the end of 2023, included CHF 346 million in customer deposits (up from CHF 310 million at 2023-end), CHF 3.02 billion held via other banks (up from CHF 427 million), CHF 41 million (up from CHF 10 million) through fiduciaries or trusts, and CHF 135 million as 'other amounts' due to customers in form of bonds, securities and various other financial instruments (down from CHF 293 million). The total amount stood at a record high of nearly 6.5 billion Swiss francs in 2006, after which it has been mostly on a downward path, except for a few years including in 2011, 2013, 2017, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, as per SNB data.

According to the SNB, its data for 'total liabilities' of Swiss banks towards Indian clients takes into account all

types of funds of Indian customers at Swiss banks, including deposits from individuals, banks and enterprises. This includes data for branches of Swiss banks in India, as also non-deposit liabilities. On the other hand, the 'locational banking statistics' of the Bank for International Settlement (BIS), which have been described in the past by Indian and Swiss authorities as a more reliable measure for deposits by Indian individuals in Swiss banks, showed an increase of nearly 6 per cent during 2024 in such funds to USD 74.8 million (nearly Rs 650 crore). It had dropped by 25 per cent in 2023, by 18 per cent in 2022 and by over 8 per cent in 2021, after rising by nearly 39 per cent in 2020. This figure takes into account deposits as well as loans of

Indian non-bank clients of Swiss-domiciled banks and had shown an increase of 7 per cent in 2019, after declining by 11 per cent in 2018 and by 44 per cent in 2017. It peaked at over USD 2.3 billion (over Rs 9,000 crore) at the end of 2007. Swiss authorities have always maintained that assets held by Indian residents in Switzerland cannot be considered as 'black money' and they actively support India in its fight against tax fraud and evasion. An automatic exchange of information in tax matters between Switzerland and India has been in force since 2018. Under this framework, detailed financial information on all Indian residents having accounts with Swiss financial institutions since 2018, was provided for the first time to Indian tax authorities in September 2019 and this

Children of 'anti-English' BJP leaders learn same language, study abroad: Rahul

New Delhi, (H.S) : Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Friday advocated English as a means for the underprivileged to get jobs and move ahead in life, a remark that targets the BJP-RSS for what he calls their aversion to the colonial-era official language. "In today's world, English is as important as your mother tongue - because it will provide employment and boost your confidence," said Gandhi in a message to the youth on X. He said, English is not a dam, it is a bridge. English is not a shame, it is power. English is not a chain - it is a tool to break the chains.

He also lashed out at leaders from the BJP, whose own wards speak English and study abroad, while the latter dissuade the masses in India from using English. "The BJP-RSS don't want poor kids of India to learn English - because they don't want you to ask questions, move ahead, and become equal. In today's world, English is as important as your mother tongue - because it will provide employment and boost your confidence," wrote LoP Rahul Gandhi on X in Hindi. LoP Rahul Gandhi's message on social media also carried a short video with some young men and a list of Union Ministers whose children study in foreign universities, including the University of Pennsylvania, Yale University, Warwick University, Oxford University, Tufts University and the University of London. LoP Rahul Gandhi's remarks come close to Union Home Minister Amit Shah's observation at an event on Thursday that the time is not far when "English-speaking people would themselves feel ashamed". Amit Shah's comments, made at a Hindi book's launch, followed a co-speaker's concerns over the perceived threat to Hindi and differences within people over its use.

"Mark my words, there is no crisis. In the coming years, such an Indian society is soon going to become a reality in which English-speaking people would themselves feel ashamed," said Amit Shah. Half-baked knowledge acquired through foreign languages cannot lead to a complete understanding of Indian culture, history and religion, he said, emphasising Hindi's role as a uniting factor in the country. LoP Rahul Gandhi's remarks on valuing Indian languages also carried a powerful message against the alleged imposition of Hindi on non-Hindi speaking states like Tamil Nadu. "Every language of India has soul, culture, and knowledge.



Local human rights body spotlights growing atrocities against Hindus in Bangladesh

Dhaka, (H.S) : The Human Rights Congress for Bangladesh Minorities (HRCBM) on Friday highlighted a recent brutal communal attack in the country where more than 18 homes belonging to Hindu families were looted, vandalised, and set on fire in the southwestern Abhaynagar Upazila. Demanding justice, the rights body submitted fresh evidence to the International Criminal Court (ICC), alleging complicity at the highest levels of the interim government led by Muhammad Yunus. The HRCBM revealed a harrowing series of images that showed the devastation left by the communal attack, including burned-out shells, collapsed structures, blackened walls, and scorched possessions of the minority Hindu community in the country. The



destruction, it stated, was inflicted by a mob from the local Muslim-majority population, and forced entire families to flee, leaving behind smoldering ruins and deserted village streets. "The violence erupted late on May 24, 2025, after Torikul Islam, President of the opposition Krishak Dal in Jessore, was hacked

and shot dead over a land dispute involving a fish enclosure. Though authorities initially linked the murder to personal and property tensions, the killing swiftly ignited communal violence," the HRCBM stated. "A mob drawn from the local Muslim-majority population targeted Hindu households in Dhor Moshihati village, looting valuables, burning granaries, stealing 31 cattle, and setting fire to 18 homes. A young Hindu nursing student, Sagar, was abducted during the violence and remains missing. The attack forced almost all Hindu fami-

lies to flee in fear, leaving behind only the elderly and infirm, it added. Recalling the haunting night when terror consumed the Hindu community, the human rights organisation also expressed grave concern over a public statement made by Yunus in a social media post which was deleted later. In the post, Yunus apparently blamed "some Hindu villagers" for the murder and characterised the violence as retaliatory over a business dispute, dismissing reports of targeted minority violence as "propaganda". The HRCBM in its supplementary submission to the ICC argued, "the statement rationalised communal violence against an identifiable group and the attack reflected a wider pattern of systemic persecution and impunity".

IAEA Chief Warns of Nuclear Fallout From Israeli Attacks on Iran

United Nations, (H.S): International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Grossi warned of the risk of nuclear contamination from Israeli attacks on Iranian nuclear facilities. Attacks on nuclear sites in Iran have caused a sharp degradation in nuclear safety and security in the country. Though they have not so far led to a radiological release affecting the public, there is a danger this could occur, said Grossi.

In his briefing at an emergency meeting of the Security Council, Grossi said that although the level of radioactivity outside the Natanz site after an Israeli attack has remained unchanged and at normal levels, there is both radiological and chemical contamination within the facility. Xinhua news agency reported." The radiation, primarily consisting of alpha particles, poses a significant danger if inhaled or ingested. This risk can be effectively managed with appropriate protective measures, such as using respiratory devices. The main concern inside the facility is chemical toxicity," he said. Fordow is Iran's main enrichment location for enriching



uranium to 60 per cent. The IAEA is not aware of any damage at Fordow at this time, he said. At the Esfahan nuclear site, four buildings were damaged in the June 13 attack. No increase in off-site radiation levels was reported. As in Natanz, the main concern is chemical toxicity, he noted. The attacks on other nuclear facilities have had no radiological impact, said Grossi.

The chief of the UN nuclear watchdog warned of serious consequences of an attack on the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant, which is an operating nuclear power plant and which hosts thousands of kilograms of nuclear material. "I want to make it absolutely and completely clear: In case of an attack on the

Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant, a direct hit could result in a very high release of radioactivity to the environment," he said. Similarly, a hit that disabled the only two lines supplying electrical power to the plant could cause its reactor's core to melt, which could result in a high release of radioactivity to the environment.

In their worst case, both scenarios would necessitate protective actions, such as evacuations and sheltering of the population or the need to take stable iodine, with the reach extending to distances from a few to several hundred kilometers. Radiation monitoring would need to cover distances of several hundred kilometres and food restrictions may need to be

implemented, he warned. Grossi added that any action against the Tehran Nuclear Research Reactor could also have severe consequences, potentially for large areas of the city and its inhabitants. Armed attacks on nuclear facilities should never take place, he said, calling for maximum restraint. Military escalation threatens lives and delays indispensable work toward a diplomatic solution for the long-term assurance that Iran does not acquire a nuclear weapon, he said.

A diplomatic solution is within reach if the necessary political will is there. Elements for an agreement have been discussed. The IAEA can guarantee, through a watertight inspections system, that nuclear weapons will not be developed in Iran. They can form the basis of a long-standing agreement that brings peace and avoids a nuclear crisis in the Middle East," said Grossi. "This opportunity should not be missed." The alternative, he said, would be a protracted conflict and a looming threat of nuclear proliferation that, while emanating from the Middle East, would effectively erode the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the non-proliferation regime as a whole.

Hundreds In Singapore, Myanmar Join International Yoga Day Celebrations

Singapore, (H.S): Several yoga participants in Singapore and Myanmar on Saturday came together to mark the 11th International Day of Yoga (IDY), a step towards healthier living. In Singapore, people gathered at Gardens by the Bay to celebrate Yoga Day. "Hundreds gathered under the iconic supertrees to embrace the power of breath, movement, and stillness - a reminder that wellness begins from within.

With this year's theme - Yoga for One Earth, One Health - we were reminded of the deep connection between personal well-being and the health of our planet," the High Commission of India in Singapore posted on X. Dinesh Vasu Dash, Singapore's Minister of State, Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, attended the occasion as Guest of Honour. In Myanmar, the Indian Consulate General in Mandalay celebrated the 11th IDY with approximately 700 Yoga enthusiasts from across the region. Mandalay Chief Minister U Myo Aung also attended the occasion. Now, in its 11th year,



the Yoga Day has evolved into a global phenomenon. The day is observed across continents and cultures, and India continues to play a pivotal role in promoting mindfulness, discipline, and sustainable living through the practice of yoga.

The 2025 theme, 'Yoga for One Earth, One Health,' has emphasised the connection between personal well-being and planetary health, aligning with India's broader vision of global harmony through traditional wisdom. Around the globe, people observed the International Day of Yoga by joining events focused on wellness, mindfulness, and sustainable living. Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the national event to mark the 11th International Day of Yoga in

Visakhapatnam. Kicking off the IDY, the PM said that yoga gives the world the direction of peace at a time when it is witnessing conflicts, unrest and instability. He urged the international community to let this Yoga Day mark the beginning of yoga for humanity 2.0, where inner peace becomes a global policy.

The Prime Minister, who performed the Common Yoga Protocol (CYP) along with over three lakh people at RK Beach, emphasised the importance of yoga in ensuring happiness and peace. This year's Yoga Day theme focused on the role of yoga in enhancing not just physical and mental health but also environmental consciousness, echoing the global call for unity, well-being, and sustainable development.

UN Chief Calls For Investment In Development To Prevent Conflict



United Nations, (H.S): UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for investment in development to prevent conflict. Prevention is the best cure for instability and conflict. And there is no better preventive measure than investing in development, he told a Security Council open debate on poverty, underdevelopment and conflict. "Peace is not built in conference rooms. Peace is built in classrooms, in clinics, in communities. Peace is built when people have hope,

opportunity and a stake in their future," he said on Thursday. "Investing in development today means investing in a more peaceful tomorrow." He warned that the world is losing ground in this respect, Xinhua news agency reported. "After decades of steady progress, we're facing a development emergency. Ten years after the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals, two-thirds of the targets are lagging," said Guterres. "And developing countries are being battered and bruised by limited fiscal space, crushing debt

burdens and skyrocketing prices." The engine of development is sputtering, he said. "We must renew domestic and global commitments to get public and private finance flowing to the areas of greatest need. We need to provide urgent debt relief for countries drowning in unsustainable debt service. And we must reform the global financial architecture to reflect today's realities and the urgent needs of developing countries."

The UN chief voiced concern over the vicious cycle of conflict and poverty. The flames of conflict are too often lit and fed by persistent poverty and growing inequalities, he said. "Time and again, we've seen conflict engulfing lives and institutions, wiping out development gains, and uprooting millions of people. At the same time, we've seen how poverty, underdevelopment, inequality, injustice, hunger and exclusion can light the fuse of instability and conflict." It is no coincidence that nine of the 10

countries with the lowest Human Development Indicators are currently in a state of conflict. Forty per cent of the 700 million people living in extreme poverty live in conflict-affected or fragile settings. And the situation is only getting worse, he said. Solutions are in short supply because of rampant geopolitical mistrust and divisions.

The global economy is slowing, trade tensions are rising and aid budgets are being slashed while military spending soars. If current trends continue, two-thirds of the world's poor will live in conflict-affected or fragile countries by 2030, warned Guterres. The message is clear. The farther a country is from sustainable and inclusive development, the closer it is to instability, and even conflict, he said. "Let's re-commit to the solidarity and multilateral spirit that has defined our organization across eight decades. And let's ensure that the dividends of peace, prosperity and security are shared by all."

Australia Suspends Embassy In Iran, Directs Officials To Leave

Canberra, (H.S): The Australian government, on Friday, suspended its embassy operations in Iran's capital and ordered officials to leave the country amid the escalating military conflict in the region. The Minister for Foreign Affairs Penny Wong has said that the government has directed the departure of all Australian officials and their dependents from Iran and suspended operations at the embassy in Tehran based on advice about the "deteriorating" security environment.

She said in a statement that Australia's Ambassador to Iran will remain in the region to support the government's response to the crisis and that Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) consular staff will be deployed to Azerbaijan to support Australians departing Iran. "We urge Australians who are able to leave Iran to do so now, if it is safe. Those who are unable to, or do not wish to leave, are



advised to shelter in place," Wong added. As of Friday, more than 2,000 Australian citizens had registered with DFAT for assistance leaving Iran, Xinhua news agency reported.

However, Italy will maintain operations at its embassies in both Tehran and Tel Aviv amid the ongoing conflict between Iran and Israel, while organising charter flights to assist Italian nationals wishing to leave the two countries, Antonio Tajani, Minister of the Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation,

said. Meanwhile, the Israel Defense Forces announced that it had carried out a series of overnight airstrikes in Tehran, targeting dozens of sites linked to Iran's missile and nuclear weapons programmes. Among the key targets were military industrial facilities used for missile production and the headquarters of Iran's Organisation of Defensive Innovation and Research. US President Donald Trump will make a decision on whether he will order a strike against Iran in the next two weeks, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said at a briefing.

Based on the fact that there's a substantial chance of negotiation that may or may not take place with Iran in the near future, I will make my decision whether or not to go in the next two weeks," Leavitt said in a statement on Thursday, from Trump who responded to speculation about whether the US would directly get involved in the conflict between Iran and Israel.

Over 1,800 mpox deaths reported in Africa amid health emergencies

Addis Ababa, (H.S): The death toll from Africa's ongoing mpox outbreak has surpassed 1,800, as the number of cases reported since the beginning of 2024 approaches the 150,000 mark, according to the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC). During an online media briefing on

Thursday evening, Ngashi Ngongo, chief of staff and head of the Executive Office at the Africa CDC, said that 26 mpox-affected African countries have reported 148,308 mpox cases since the start of last year. Of these, 40,674 were confirmed and some 1,816 related deaths were recorded. Data from the African

Union (AU)'s specialised healthcare agency showed that last week alone, the continent reported 2,715 new cases, including 822 confirmed ones and 20 new related deaths. Ngongo expressed concern over the rapid spike in the number of mpox cases in Sierra Leone, as the West African country accounted for 40

percent of all confirmed cases recorded across Africa during the past week. Meanwhile, the Africa CDC has raised the alarm regarding the increasing trend of public health emergencies occurring throughout the continent. "We have so far (in 2025) accounted about 132 moderate-to-high risk public health events on the



continent. If we compare this with the total numbers we had last year, which were 219, it shows that we are already gearing toward

exceeding that number in 2025, which is really a confirmation that Africa remains on the increasing trend when it comes to public health events," Ngongo said. Data from the Africa CDC showed that some 22 African countries have reported a total of 157,974 cholera cases since the beginning of this year, including 5,998 confirmed

cases and over 3,273 associated deaths, Xinhua news agency reported. The number of cases and fatalities positions cholera as the leading public health concern in Africa, alongside mpox, measles, dengue, and Lassa fever, which are said to be the top five disease outbreaks reported by AU members so far this year.

IDF Strikes Iranian Nuclear Research HQ, Other Targets in Tehran

Tel Aviv, (H.S): The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) on Friday announced that it had carried out a series of overnight airstrikes in Tehran, targeting dozens of sites linked to Iran's missile and nuclear weapons programs. Among the key targets were military industrial facilities used for missile production and the headquarters of Iran's Organisation of Defensive Innovation and Research (SPND)."

More than 60 Air Force fighter jets attacked dozens of military targets in Iran overnight (Thursday) with precise intelligence guidance from the Intelligence Branch using approximately 120 munitions. During the night, several missile manufacturing industrial sites in the Tehran area of Iran were attacked," the IDF said in a post on X. "These sites were built over years and were the industrial center of gravity of the Iranian Ministry of Defense. Among the sites attacked were military industrial sites for the production of missile components and sites for the production of raw



materials used for casting rocket engines," the post added. The IDF mentioned that as part of the attacks and its activities to damage the Iranian regime's nuclear weapons project, the SPND headquarters building in Tehran was also attacked. "The SPND headquarters is used to research and develop advanced technologies and weapons for the Iranian regime's military capabilities, which was established in 2011 by Fakhri Zadeh, the founder of the Iranian nuclear weapons program," said the IDF. In addition, the Israeli military asserted that a site for the production of a component

that is a necessary basis for the Iranian regime's nuclear weapons program was attacked. It further stated that during the night, the Israeli Air Force intercepted four unmanned aerial vehicles launched from Iran. Meanwhile, the IDF announced that it had identified missiles that were recently launched from Iran towards the territory of Israel, as the escalating conflict between Israel and Iran entered its eighth consecutive day. The IDF issued an alert to the Israeli citizens, stating, "The defence systems are working to intercept the threat. You must enter the protected areas upon receiving

the alert, and remain there until further notice. Exiting the protected area will only be possible after receiving explicit instructions. You must continue to act according to the Home Front Command's instructions." According to the Israeli military, alerts were activated in several areas of the country following the discovery of missiles launched from Iran. "The public is asked to obey the Home Front Command's instructions.

At this time, the Air Force is working to intercept and attack wherever necessary to eliminate the threat. The defense is not hermetic, and therefore the Home Front Command's instructions must continue to be followed," the IDF said in a post on X. The latest conflict between both nations began last Friday when Netanyahu announced the launch of 'Operation Rising Lion' against Iran, a targeted military operation to roll back the Iranian threat of nuclear weapons to Israel's very survival. This action prompted swift and aggressive retaliation from Tehran, pushing the region closer to the brink of a broader war.

Trump Says It's Hard To Ask Israel To Stop Iran Strikes

New York, (H.S): US President Donald Trump said that it will be difficult to request Israel stop its airstrikes in Iran, even as he pursues a diplomatic solution to end the conflict. Trump made the remarks to reporters in New Jersey, where he attended a fundraiser at his golf course, Xinhua news agency reported quoting local media. Trump also dismissed European efforts to engage diplomatically with Iran. "They didn't help... Iran doesn't want to speak to Europe. They want to speak to us. Europe is not going to be able to help on this one."

Earlier, US State Department spokesperson Tammy Bruce said she "can't speculate" on whether the Trump administration will press for a ceasefire between Iran and Israel to allow US-Iran nuclear talks to move forward. I'm not going to characterize what's happening now, or the reaction by the president or the secretary of state to what those negotiations might be," Bruce said at a news briefing Friday. Meanwhile, The Israel Defence Force (IDF) has announced that over 35 missile storage and launch facilities in the Tiberias and Kermanshah areas of Iran have been destroyed in attacks conducted by more than 25 Israeli Air Force fighter jets on Friday morning. "This morning, the Air Force completed a wave of attacks against military targets of the Iranian regime in areas such as Kermanshah and Tiberias in Iran, with precise intelligence guidance



from the Intelligence Branch. As part of the wave of attacks, more than 25 fighter jets attacked more than 35 missile storage and launch facilities in the Tiberias and Kermanshah areas of Iran," the IDF said in a post on X. The IDF also mentioned that the Israeli Air Force attacked several Iranian missile systems and radar installations in the areas of Isfahan and Tehran, which intended to target its aircraft and disrupt their operations.

FM Sitharaman Tells CBIC To Simplify GST Registration Further, Crackdown on Tax Evasion

New Delhi, (H.S): Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday asked the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) to take further measures to simplify GST registration, ensure speedy closure of investigations for Customs & CGST cases, and prevent tax evasion and wrongful Input Tax Credits (ITC) claims.Addressing the CBIC conclave here, she also directed the field formations to expedite grievance redressal and promptly address public grievances received through CPGRAMS, and reduce dwell time for imports.

The Finance Minister directed the zonal commissioners to prepare an action plan to improve various parameters such as GST registration, processing of refunds, and handling taxpayers' grievances. She stressed the need to make the GST registration process easier, seamless, and more transparent for taxpayers, with the use of technology and risk-based parameters. Sitharaman also directed the CGST formations to



launch targeted awareness campaigns among taxpayers, trade associations, and industry bodies regarding the mandatory documentation required for GST registration, particularly those related to the principal place of business.

She emphasised that this would help reduce rejections and delays in registration and enable faster processing of applications. She also asked CGST zonal heads to have a dedicated helpdesk for GST registrations to facilitate the taxpayers in the application process.The Finance Minister highlighted the need to ensure that GST Seva Kendras and Customs

Turant Suvridha Kendras are well-staffed, accessible and properly maintained, so that taxpayers receive timely and quality assistance.

She also called for the speedy closure of investigations for Customs & CGST cases, and exhorted for an analysis on detection and recovery and to seek solutions to reduce the gap between detection and recovery. At the same time, she emphasised the need for preventing tax evasion and wrongful Input Tax Credits (ITC) claims.The CBIC was urged by the Finance Minister to expedite the processing of GST and Customs

refunds to ensure timely redressal and ease of doing business, especially for MSMEs and exporters.On the first day of the CBIC Conclave, Union Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary addressed and also launched the ICETAB device for export examination, which aims to reduce the transaction cost and turnaround time for trade, thereby improving India's ranking in the Logistics Performance Index (LPI).

During the conclave, presentations highlighted the performance of Customs and CGST zones on key indicators. It was highlighted that the average time for grievance disposal has been reduced to just 9 days, significantly better than the stipulated 21-day timeline.It was mentioned that the national average for GSTR-3B filing stood at 94.3 per cent in FY 2024-25, and 85 per cent of refund claims were processed within the statutory 60-day limit.Besides, the detection of GST evasion grew to Rs 2,23,170 crore in FY 2024-25, with voluntary payments

totalling Rs 28,909 crore. It was also noted that the number of taxpayers who were repeated for audit more than once in 3 years is zero.The Finance Minister urged the Customs to reduce dwell time at seaports, airports, and Inland Container Depots (ICDs) for both imports and exports, and emphasised that faster cargo clearance is crucial to enhance India's global trade competitiveness and ease of doing business.

Taking note of pending disciplinary matters, the Finance Minister directed that disciplinary proceedings against the officials at different levels be concluded expeditiously in a time-bound manner.The CBIC was also urged to fill all vacant posts at the earliest, across various levels, to strengthen field formations and enhance administrative efficiency. Sitharaman encouraged Chief Commissioners and DGs to actively undertake trade facilitation measures within their jurisdictions and to submit actionable suggestions to CBIC Headquarters for further streamlining of procedures.

Indian Stock Market Shrugs Off Midweek Volatility, Ends Week On Robust Note

Mumbai, (H.S): The Indian equity benchmarks wrapped up the session on a robust note last week, decisively breaking through critical resistance level, propelled by sustained institutional accumulation, analysts said on Saturday.The Nifty 50 convincingly closed above the psychologically significant 25,000 mark on Friday, underscoring bullish momentum. At the closing bell, the Sensex rallied 1,046.30 points, or 1.29 per cent, to settle at a fresh high of 82,408.17, while the Nifty 50 advanced 319.15 points, or 1.29 per cent, to end at 25,112.40."Relentless inflows from institutional investors - both Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) and Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs)-acted as key tailwinds, offsetting headwinds from prevailing geopolitical uncertainties and reinforcing positive sentiment across the street," according to a note by Bajaj Broking Research.Nifty Index formed a sizable bull candle with a higher high and higher low signaling resumption of up move after recent corrective consolidation. The index in the process closed firmly above the 25,000 levels signalling strength."

Going forward, we anticipate the index to retest the upper boundary of the recent five-week consolidation zone, currently pegged near the 25,200 mark. A decisive breakout above this resistance band could open the door for an upward extension towards the 25,500 zone in the near term," said the note.The Indian stock market shrugged off midweek volatility triggered by escalating tensions in the Middle East and a sharp spike in crude oil prices.The Reserve Bank of India's relaxation of project financing norms provided a boost to financial stocks."The RBI's continued dovish tone - signalling potential rate cuts on validating subdued inflation - further reinforced market confidence, positioning monetary policy as a key stabilizing force amid global uncertainty," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Ltd.Crude prices surged early in the week due to geopolitical unrest, sparking concerns over inflation. However, the pace of growth in oil prices tapered significantly after the initial spike, helping to ease fears of a sustained inflationary rebound.

FPI Inflows Remain Resilient, SEBI Move To Further Boost Foreign Investments

Mumbai, (H.S): The trend of foreign portfolio investment (FPI) experienced a reversal in April and demonstrated considerable strengthening in May, characterised by positive inflows, which continues as June progresses, analysts said on Saturday.On June 20, the FPI inflows in equity stood at Rs 7,940.70 crore, as per the NSE's latest data.According to market experts, the inflows recorded in May represented the highest level observed in eight months, signifying a resurgence of interest from foreign investors in the Indian markets."Nonetheless, geopolitical tensions, including the conflict between Israel and Iran, alongside global uncertainties, fostered a cautiously optimistic pattern in June," said Vipul Bhowar, Senior Director-Listed Investments, Waterfield Advisors.Enhancing domestic fundamentals and a favourable long-term growth



outlook indicate that, should global conditions stabilise, India may experience more sustained and stable foreign portfolio investment inflows in the future, he added.India's economy continues to stand out as one of the world's fastest growing and most resilient, backed by strong macroeconomic fundamentals and a vibrant policy landscape. The nation's regulatory institutions, led by SEBI, have consistently pursued reforms aimed at deepening market participation, enhancing transparency, and

simplifying compliance to attract global capital.In a landmark move to deepen the debt market and provide much needed liquidity; SEBI has announced regulatory relaxations exclusively for FPIs investing in Government Securities (G-Secs) in the recent board meeting."This forward-looking measure arrives on the heels of India's inclusion in global bond indices like the JP Morgan Global EM Bond Index and Bloomberg EM Local Currency Government Index, which is expected to attract large-scale FPI

inflows," said Manoj Purohit, Partner and Leader, Financial Services Tax, Tax and Regulatory Services, BDO India.SEBI's move reduces compliance burdens by harmonising KYC review timelines with RBI norms, exempting GS-FPIs from submitting investor group details, and permitting NRIs, OCIs, and Resident Indians to participate in GS-FPIs with fewer restrictions.

Additionally, FPIs now enjoy a more relaxed timeline - 30 days for disclosing material changes, up from 7 days earlier. These changes reflect SEBI's risk-based regulatory approach and are poised to deepen FPI engagement in India's sovereign debt market. As India's economic fundamentals remain robust, these progressive measures will strengthen the country's appeal as a stable and attractive investment destination for global institutional investors, said analysts.

India's House Price Index Up 3.1 Pc in Q4 FY25, Kolkata Leads: RBI

New Delhi, (H.S): The house price index (HPI) across India increased by 3.1 per cent in the January-March period (Q4 FY25), maintaining the same pace as the previous quarter (Q3). The Reserve Bank released its quarterly HPI data for Q4, based on transaction-level data received from the registration authorities in 10 major cities."All-India HPI increased by 3.1 per cent (YoY) in Q4 2024-25 as compared with 3.1 per cent growth in the previous quarter and 4.1 per cent growth a year ago; annual HPI growth varied widely across the cities - ranging from a high growth of 8.8 per cent (Kolkata) to a contraction of 2.3 per cent (Kochi)," according to a RBI statement.

On a sequential basis, all-India HPI increased by 0.9 per cent in Q4.Bengaluru, Jaipur, Kolkata and Chennai are the major cities recording a sequential rise in house prices during the



latest quarter, the data showed. Kolkata topped the chart with an 8.8 per cent increase, while Kochi was the only city to witness a contraction, recording a decline of 2.3 per cent. The 10 cities covered in the index include Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Jaipur, Kanpur, Kochi, Kolkata, Lucknow, and Mumbai."House is not just an asset but also a durable consumption good for households, providing shelter and other services.

A change in the house price affects the households' perceived lifetime wealth and hence influences the spending and borrowing decisions of

households," according to Central Bank. An increase in the house price raises the value of the housing relative to construction costs; hence a new construction is profitable when house price rises above the construction costs. Residential investment is, therefore, positively related with house price increase. House prices also affect bank lending and vice versa. Further, house price gains increase housing collateral.The potential two-way link between bank lending and house prices give rise to mutually reinforcing cycles in credit and real estate markets.

These indicate that house prices may affect economic activity through private consumption of households, residential investment and credit allocation of the financial systems. Thus, understanding the price trends of this segment of asset class is important for monetary policy formulation.

No More Obstacles In Case of NSE IPO: SEBI Chairman

Mumbai, (H.S): There is "no obstacle" remain for the National Stock Exchange (NSE) to proceed with its much-awaited IPO plans, SEBI Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey has said.Speaking at the FE CFO Awards here, Pandey said there is no obstacle that "will remain in the case of NSE IPO".

However, when asked whether the NSE IPO could see the light of the day ahead of Diwali this year, the markets regulator chief declined to comment on any timeline.Earlier this month, Ashish Kumar Chauhan, Managing Director and CEO of NSE, said NSE is waiting for the no objection certificate (NOC) from the capital markets regulator and once it is received, the stock exchange would begin the process of filing its draft red herring

prospectus (DRHP) for a much-awaited IPO.Speaking to IANS, Ashish Chauhan said the exchange has sought a 'No Objection Certificate' (NOC) from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

After getting the NOC, "we will prepare our draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) and then, we will send it back to the SEBI. After that, they will take their time to approve it", said Ashish Chauhan.Last month, SEBI Chairman had said the pending issues surrounding the NSE IPO will be resolved soon, and the regulator will move forward with the process.At the 'FE CFO Awards', SEBI Chairman said that market manipulation will not be tolerated and they will keep a close

watch, as manipulation in SME initial public offerings (IPOs) is rising.The capital markets regulator has, in the recent past, issued multiple orders related to SME IPOs, alleging fund siphoning, manipulation of issue subscriptions, incorrect disclosures, and other irregularities." We will continue to watch.

On market manipulation, we will come down very hard going forward. I mean, we have come hard earlier also, but I think going forward, market manipulation will be one which we will not tolerate," he said during an event here.The issue of manipulation in derivative trades, especially in index options, has also come up and SEBI is investigating these issues.

Gross Direct Tax Collections Up 4.9 Pc At 5.45 Lakh Crore, Refunds Rise 58 Pc

New Delhi, (H.S): The gross direct tax collection (corporate tax, non-corporate tax, securities transaction tax and other levies) in the current fiscal (2025-26) rose by 4.86 per cent to Rs 5.45 lakh crore (as of June 19), according to the latest figures released by the Income Tax (I-T) department.

However, net collections saw a marginal decline due to a rise in refunds. Net direct tax collection saw a marginal decline of 1.39 per cent to Rs 4,58,822 crore from Rs 4,65,275 crore in the previous year.The government issued direct tax refunds of Rs 86,385 crore till June 19 - an increase of 58.04 per cent as compared to the corresponding period of 2024-



25, as per the official data.According to the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), net direct tax collection includes corporate tax at Rs 1.72 lakh crore (net of refund), non-corporate tax at Rs 2.72 lakh crore and securities transaction tax at Rs 13,013 crore (net of refund). As the non-corporate tax collection fell 2.68 per cent in

advance tax, corporate tax grew by 5.68 per cent. Overall advance tax receipts grew by 3.87 per cent to Rs 1,55,533 crore. Levied on the income or profit of a person, Direct taxes are directly paid by an individual to the government. The I-T department recently launched the 'e-Pay Tax' feature which aims to simplify tax-related procedures for taxpayers. The

Union Budget has proposed a comprehensive overhaul of the Income-tax Act, 1961, to make the Act more transparent.

Meanwhile, India's gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection for May 2025 reached Rs 2.01 lakh crore, marking a 16.4 per cent rise compared to the Rs 1.72 lakh crore collected in May 2024.This marks the second month in a row that GST revenues have stayed above the Rs 2 lakh crore mark, indicating healthy economic activity and steady consumption growth. In April, GST collections had touched an all-time high of Rs 2.37 lakh crore, which was a 13 per cent jump from March, according to the Ministry of Finance data.

Jindal Steel & Power Celebrates 11th International Day of Yoga



Angul, (DMC): Jindal Steel & Power (JSP) celebrated the 11th International Day of Yoga with great enthusiasm and widespread community participation at its Angul plant and surrounding areas. This year's theme, "Yoga for One Earth, One Health," emphasized the deep connection between individual well-being and planetary health, resonating strongly with JSP's vision of sustainable development and holistic living.Hundreds of yoga enthusiasts-including employees, their families, workers, students, and local villagers-took part in yoga sessions organized across

various locations. Yoga Camp held at Jindal Nagar saw active participation from Mr. Pankaj Malhan, Executive Director In-Charge; Mr.Damodar Mittal, Executive Director-Projects; along with senior leaders, including Mr. DilipSinha, CHRO; Mr.AtulDubey, President - Steel Zone; department heads and representatives from the nearby communities.The sessions were led by Yoga Guru Swami SatyabinduSaraswati, who guided participants through a series of asanas and breathing techniques designed to enhance physical vitality, mental peace, and

harmony with nature.Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Pankaj Malhan said, "At Jindal, guided by the wisdom of Swami SatyabinduJi, yoga has become a part of our daily routine. This year's theme reminds us that caring for our own health is inseparable from caring for the Earth. Let us carry this message forward beyond today and integrate it into our everyday lives."Addressing the gathering, Swami SatyabinduSaraswati remarked, "We are fortunate to have a visionary leader like Shri Naveen Jindal Ji, who leads by example in promoting health and well-being. By practicing yoga

daily, we not only strengthen our bodies and minds but also contribute to a more balanced and healthier world. Let us honour this connection and commit to regular practice."Mr.Damodar Mittal, also present at the event, shared, "We are grateful to have a dedicated Yoga Guru.

With the guidance of Swami Satyabindu SaraswatiJi, our employees are not only staying fit and healthy but also spreading the benefits of yoga among their families and communities."Celebrations also took place at O.P. Jindal School, DAV Savitri Jindal School, Jindal Asha, Jana Jeevika Kendra, Shram Veer Palace, and other community centres by Jindal Foundation, spreading the powerful message of "Yoga for One Earth, One Health" across the region. The Foundation also planted medicinal plants at Jan Jeevika Kendra.

India's Rice Exporters Hit By Israel-Iran Conflict, Shipments To Iran Halted

New Delhi, (H.S): The ongoing conflict between Israel and Iran has had a significant impact on India's rice exports, with shipments to Iran coming to a near halt, rice exporters said on Friday. Speaking to IANS, rice exporter Narendra Miglani said: "The war between Iran and Israel is affecting Indian rice exporters."

"Due to the conflict, exports of rice routed to Iran have stopped, and nearly 1 lakh metric tonnes of rice from Haryana, Punjab, Delhi, and Uttar Pradesh are currently stuck at ports," he added.Miglani said that India exports the highest quantity of basmati rice to Iran, followed by Saudi Arabia and Iraq.He further added that the conflict has caused a drop of nearly Rs 1,200 per quintal in export rice prices. Exporters are particularly concerned about



payments stuck in Iran and rice containers stranded at port terminals. As rice shipments to Iran are not insured, exporters now fear heavy losses if the rice goes bad. Adding to the pressure, Miglani pointed out that export permits for Iran are valid for only four months.

If the rice fails to reach Iran within this timeframe, the permits are cancelled, resulting in further losses for exporters.A recent report by Crisil noted that India's direct trade with Israel and Iran accounts for less than one per cent

of its total trade.While Iran mainly imports basmati rice from India, trade with Israel is more diversified, covering fertilisers, diamonds, and electrical equipment. According to the report, Iran and Israel together account for nearly 14 per cent of India's basmati rice exports in the current financial year (FY25).

However, the report warned that a prolonged escalation could worsen the situation, primarily by pushing up oil prices and disrupting supply chains, which may lead to higher inflation.

Diana Penty recalls facing body shaming for being too skinny

Diana Penty discussed her experiences of catcalling and body-shaming during her college years, highlighting the challenges she faced while commuting in Mumbai.

Actor Diana Penty recently opened up about how she was catcalled while travelling to college by local train. In an interview with Hauterrfly, the actor revealed how people used to elbow her during her commute and recalled facing body-shaming

for being too skinny. When asked whether she had ever been touched inappropriately while travelling on a bus or in a crowd, Diana said, "I think every girl in Bombay has gone through this. To go to college, St Xavier's, I used to take the train-the central line from Byculla to VT-and then walk to college. There's catcalling, and people try to elbow you. It became a part of daily life. I was a very shy, underconfident, conscious

and awkward girl. I would go into a shell. It would scare me. I didn't have the confidence to elbow back."

Diana also recalled that from the time she was a child up until around six or seven years ago, she was skinny and faced body-shaming. "It scarred me. You're a child, and if people keep telling you, 'Oh, you're so skinny, you don't eat?' And some aunties would go up to my mother and say this. She used to get so

irritated-like why wouldn't I feed my child? As a child, you start becoming conscious of the fact that you're too skinny. It was awful."She shared that her mother once took her to a paediatric dietician, who advised her to feed Diana six bananas a day-though she only managed four-and still, nothing changed. Diana revealed that she has spent her life trying to gain weight and not be as skinny. She recalled that she didn't use to

wear sleeveless clothes and would keep layering up to fit in with others.

Diana is currently seen in the movie Detective Sherdil, which also stars Diljit Dosanjh, Boman Irani, Chunky Panday, and Banita Sandhu in lead roles. The film is available to stream on ZEE5. She will next be seen in Section 84, which also stars Amitabh Bachchan and Nimrat Kaur in lead roles. The release date for the film is yet to be announced.

Mohanlal Announces Drishyam 3, Shoot to Commence Simultaneously with Ajay's Hindi Version



Mohanlal is all set to return as Georgekutty, with the much-anticipated third installment of his Drishyam franchise. The actor took to X, to announce that the shoot will commence in October 2025.

Interestingly, Mohanlal's Drishyam 3 is beginning with its shoot simultaneously with Ajay

Devgn's Hindi version of the film. Mohanlal made an official announcement that Drishyam 3 is all set to begin rolling in October 2025. He shared a video that begins with a close-up shot of his character Georgekutty and then moves onto a clip of Mohanlal shaking hands with director Jeethu Joseph and

producer Anthony Perumbavoor. The South superstar captioned the post, "October 2025 - the camera turns back to Georgekutty. The past never stays silent. #Drishyam3." Interestingly, Pinkvilla has reported that Ajay Devgn will also begin shooting for the Hindi version of Drishyam 3 on October 2, 2025.

The source told Pinkvilla, "The Gandhi Jayanti date holds a lot of significance for the Drishyam franchise, and hence they are embarking on the journey for the final Drishyam film from October 2, 2025. It's a marathon schedule, spanning 3 months at real locations in Maharashtra, as also the studio set up. Ajay Devgn has already allotted his dates for the film."

Kuberaa worldwide box office collection 27 cr on day 1

Kuberaa worldwide box office collection day 1: Sekhar Kammula's Dhanush, Nagarjuna, Rashmika Mandanna and Jim Sarbh-starrer was released on Friday. Sekhar Kammula's Dhanush, Nagarjuna, Rashmika Mandanna and Jim Sarbh-starrer Kuberaa was released in theatres this Friday. According to Sacnilk, the film collected 27.50 crore on its opening day, making it Dhanush's biggest opener globally.

According to the trade website, Kuberaa collected 14.75 crore net and 17.35 crore gross in India. It also brought in 710.15 crore from overseas, bringing its total collection to 27.50 crore. This beats Dhanush's last film Raayan, which opened to 23 crore, Captain Miller, which brought in 13.80 crore, Vaathi's 14.40 crore, and Thiruchitrabalam's 11 crore. Sekhar's last film, Love Story, starring Naga Chaitanya and Sai Pallavi, opened to 16 crore. Given the good reviews Kuberaa has received, it is expected to perform



well over the weekend too.

During the film's release, Rashmika penned a long note on Instagram thanking the team for Kuberaa. A portion of it read, "When you work with such amazing people, who are just such brilliant actors.. it's a big big biggggg responsibility to be good yourself to elevate their performances.. And acting has a lot to do with how you react to the given situations also.. but when you have a brilliant actor like @dhanushkraj sir you have no other choice.. but to kill it when you share the screen with

sir. I am so so grateful I got to play Sameera with Deva."

Kuveraa was released in theatres on 20 June and is Dhanush's first film in Telugu and Sekhar's second in Tamil. The Telugu-Tamil bilingual film is produced by Suniel Narang and Puskur Ram Mohan Rao under Sri Venkateswara Cinemas LLP and Amigos Creations Pvt Ltd. Devi Sri Prasad composed the music for the film, which shows Dhanush as a beggar, Nagarjuna and Rashmika as middle-class people and Jim as a rich man.

Ayan calls making War 2 with Hrithik & Jr NTR a 'huge responsibility'



War 2, with Hrithik Roshan and Jr NTR, is one of the most awaited films of the year. The teaser of the film was released last month and already picked up a storm on social media. Now director Ayan Mukerji has shared his journey on making the film, making sure that he is able to deliver a jaw-dropping, adrenaline-pumping theatrical experience like no other.

In a press statement, Ayan says, «It is a huge responsibility

to take forward a hugely loved franchise like War and leave your own mark on it. I saw directing War 2 as a relishing opportunity to give a hat-tip to the first film. You can't have fun otherwise while coming on board such a huge blockbuster franchise. One has to take what has been set and then make the fans of the film and the fans of these gigantic superstars of our country go on a journey that is new, that hopefully leaves them hungry for

more. As a director, I have to be honest, I immersed myself into delivering this feeling.« He adds, «Everything about War 2 has been crafted with a lot of planning to elevate the theatrical experience of the audience. The maximum time spent was on the action set pieces and crafting the storyline and the conflict which was needed to mount the face off between Hrithik Roshan and NTR.«

The director says, «War 2 is truly the coming together of Indian cinema with these two huge actors joining forces. We were aware of the expectations this pairing would set in the minds of their fans and the audience and every second was spent thinking of how to give them an experience of a lifetime when they sit in the theatres.« War 2, which also stars Kiara Advani, is set to release in theaters on August 14.

Eng vs India: Pope, Duckett give solid start, England 127/2 against India



Leeds (UK), (HS) : After a bowling comeback, England started their first innings on a strong note on Saturday with Ollie Pope and Ben Duckett taking their team to 127/2 at Tea on the second day of first cricket Test match against India. Pope and Duckett steadied England's innings after Jasprit Bumrah struck in the first over to dismiss Zak Crawley. England's innings was delayed due to rain. Rain arrived shortly after Josh Tongue picked up the final wicket of India's first innings.

Pope and Duckett stepped up pace as England crossed the 50-run mark in the 10th over. Duckett completed his fifty in the 22nd over, after smashing a four off Ravindra Jadeja. The two batters also completed their 100-run partnership for the second wicket. Earlier in the day, a majestic century from wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant powered India to 454/7 in the pre-lunch session of the second day of first Test against England, at Headingley, Leeds. England skipper Ben Stokes grabbed his fourth wicket of the innings as Shardul Thakur became his latest prey and departed for one just before lunch. Before this, England got their biggest breakthrough of the day as Josh Tongue removed Rishabh Pant for 134. Shubman Gill was out after a captain's innings of 147. He was caught on deep square leg on 147, off Shoaib Bashir in the 102nd over.

India started the second day at 359/3 with Gill not out on 127. Pant was on the other end, unbeaten on 62. Brief score: India 471 (Shubman Gill 147, Rishabh Pant 134; Ben Stokes 4/66). Vs England 107/1 (Ben Duckett 53*, Ollie Pope 48*; Jasprit Bumrah 1/23).

Rishabh Pant Breaks MS Dhoni's Historic Record

Leeds, (HS) : Rishabh Pant, who was unbeaten on 65 at the close of play on Day 1, smashed his 7th Test century, overtaking MS Dhoni as India's most decorated wicketkeeper-batter in terms of centuries scored in Test cricket. Pant achieved the feat on Day 2 of the ongoing first Test against England in Leeds on Saturday. Former India captain Dhoni scored his sixth and final Test century in 2014. Pant celebrated his century in a unique fashion, dishing out a somersault. Reacting to Pant's celebration, legendary batter Sunil Gavaskar made a cheeky remark on air.

On Day 1, Pant overtook Rohit Sharma to become India's leading six-hitter in World Test Championship (WTC). Ahead of the match, Pant was tied with Rohit on 56 sixes each, despite playing six less games in that period. He hit two sixes on Day 1 two surpass Rohit and increase his tally. In the overall list, Pant is only behind England captain Ben Stokes, who has smashed 83 sixes in 54 WTC fixtures. On Day 1, Pant had joined Gill after Jaiswal's wicket, and he welcomed Stokes with a four on the second ball, a soothing sight after a colossal failure that was his 2025 IPL stint with Lucknow Super Giants (LSG), except for a century against champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB). During the course of his half-century, Pant overtook Dhoni to become Asia's most successful wicketkeeper in SENA conditions and also brought up his 3,000 Test runs, becoming only the second after Dhoni to do so. Earlier on



Day 1, a composed century from debutant captain Shubman Gill, a fluent ton by Yashasvi Jaiswal, and a measured innings from vice-captain Rishabh Pant powered India to a dominant 359/3 at stumps on Day 1 of the first Test against England at Headingley on Friday.

After Jaiswal set the tone with a sparkling 101 off 159 balls, featuring sixteen boundaries and a six, Gill took over with a captain's knock, showing maturity and poise throughout his unbeaten 127-run effort. The stylish right-hander struck sixteen fours and a maximum in his 175-ball stay, steering India to their highest-ever first-day total in a Test match on English soil.

Neeraj wins Paris Diamond League with dominant first-round



his first attempt, immediately taking the lead. Germany's Julian Weber came close with a best of 87.88m but fell short. Brazil's Mauricio Luiz da Silva secured third place with a throw of 86.62m.

In the opening round, Chopra led the field, followed by Weber's 87.88m and Trinidad and Tobago's Keshorn Walcott with 80.94m. In the second round, Weber briefly merged an 86.20m throw, while Neeraj recorded 85.10m and Walcott slightly improved to 81.66m. However, Chopra's opening throw remained unmatched. The third round saw Da Silva make his mark with a throw of 86.62m. Weber tried to mount a late challenge with throws of 83.13m in the fourth and 84.50m in the fifth round, but he could not cross the 88m mark. In the final round, Neeraj returned to the sector with a solid 82.89m, while Weber finished with 81.08m and Da Silva with 78.56m. Despite the inconsistency in the middle of the competition, Chopra's single legal throw in the first round proved decisive and enough to seal the win. The two-time Olympic medalist Neeraj Chopra will be in action for the inaugural edition of the Neeraj Chopra Classic, which will take place on July 5.

India Lose 1-5 to Clinical Belgium at FIH Women's Hockey

Antwerp, (HS) : The India Women's Hockey Team went down 1-5 against Belgium at the FIH Hockey Pro League 2024/25 (Women) on Saturday in Antwerp. In a thrilling contest that saw 17 penalty corners for Belgium, Deepika



(6') gave India the lead before goals from Helene Brasseur (37', 55'), Lucie Breyne (41'), Ambre Ballenghien (54'), and Charlotte Englebert (58') sealed victory for the hosts. Notably all five of Belgium's goals arose from penalty corners. India endured a nervy start as Belgium came out pressing with intent, earning a penalty corner within the opening minute. The early scare was averted, and Savita soon followed up with a sharp save to keep the scoreboard untouched. An unforced error in India's half gifted Belgium possession again, but Vaishnavi stepped up with a crucial interception to shut the door. Sitting deep and absorbing waves of pressure, India waited patiently for their chance on the break. When it came, they made it count. Their first circle entry resulted in a penalty corner, and Deepika's shot took a deflection off a Belgian defender before finding the back of the net to put India ahead. As the second quarter unfolded, India did well in midfield to open up spaces despite the Belgian press. However, Belgium were in control of proceedings and found two more penalty corners, but India were up to the task. A skilful run from Navneet set up Salima Tete on the right flank, leading to two consecutive penalty corners. On the rebound, Navneet fired a thunderous shot inside the circle, but goalkeeper Elena Sotgiu made a good save.