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English Daily



## SC refuses to entertain plea over deportation drive in Assam



**New Delhi, (HS) :** The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a plea which alleged that the Assam government has reportedly launched a "sweeping" drive to detain and deport persons suspected to be foreigners without nationality verification or exhaustion of legal remedies. A bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and Satish Chandra Sharma told the petitioner to approach the Gauhati High Court in the matter.

"Why are you not going to the Gauhati High Court?" the bench asked senior advocate Sanjay Hegde, who appeared for petitioner All BTC Minority Students Union. Hegde said the plea was based on an order passed by the apex court earlier. "Please go to the Gauhati High Court," the bench observed. Hegde said the petitioner would withdraw the plea to take appropriate recourse before the high court. The bench allowed him to withdraw the plea. The plea, filed through advocate Adeel Ahmed, referred to a February 4 order of the top court which, while dealing with a separate petition, had directed Assam to initiate the process of deportation of 63 declared foreign nationals, whose nationality was known, within two weeks. "Pursuant to the said order (of February 4). The state of Assam has reportedly launched a sweeping and indiscriminate drive to detain and deport individuals suspected to be foreigners, even in the absence of foreigners tribunal declarations, nationality verification, or exhaustion of legal remedies," the plea claimed.

It referred to news reports, including one about a retired school teacher who was allegedly "pushed back" into Bangladesh. "These instances reflect a growing pattern of deportations conducted by the Assam Police and administrative machinery through informal 'push back' mechanisms, without any judicial oversight or adherence to the safeguards envisaged by the Constitution of India or this court," it claimed. "The

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## India, Paraguay stand united in fight against terror: Modi

**New Delhi, (HS) :** India and members of the Global South can learn from each other's experiences in tackling challenges such as terrorism and organised crime, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday as he held talks with visiting Paraguayan President Santiago Peña on bolstering cooperation in areas ranging from trade to digital technology and defence.

The Pahalgam terror attack of April 22, which prompted India to target terrorist infrastructure in territories controlled by Pakistan, figured in talks between the two leaders. Modi said India and Paraguay "stand united" in the fight against terror and Peña expressed solidarity with the victims of the terror attack. Both leaders unequivocally condemned all forms of terrorism and violent extremism, officials said. Peña began a three-day visit to India on Monday, the first by a Paraguayan president since 2012. Besides holding talks with the Indian leadership, he is also set to meet top business leaders in New Delhi and Mumbai to urge them to invest in diverse sectors in Paraguay. "India and Paraguay stand united in the fight against



terrorism. There is immense possibility of cooperation to fight against shared challenges such as cybercrime, organised crime and drug trafficking," Modi said in his opening remarks at the meeting with Peña, speaking in Hindi. Modi noted that India and Paraguay are integral parts of the Global South with similar aspirations and challenges and said: "This is why we can learn from each other's experiences to deal with these challenges effectively."

Modi also expressed his deep appreciation for Paraguay's strong condemnation of the Pahalgam terror attack and expressing solidarity with the people and government of India. "Both leaders unequivocally condemned terrorism and violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations," P Kumaran, secretary (East) in the external affairs ministry, told a media briefing. "We see new opportunities for cooperation in areas such as digital technology,

critical minerals, energy, agriculture, healthcare, defence, railways, space and overall economic partnership," Modi said. "We have a preferential trade agreement with Mercosur. We can work together to further expand it." In addition to setting up a joint commission as a key platform to review and advance cooperation in priority areas, the two sides are working on two separate memorandums of understanding (MoUs) to enhance collaboration in agriculture and space technology. The two countries are working on a MoU for Paraguay to collaborate with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to develop and launch small and nano satellites, Kumaran said. While Paraguay's priorities in the defence sector are different from those of India, Kumaran said there is scope for bilateral cooperation in the context of Paraguay's efforts to secure large network of inland waterways, including bolstering law enforcement to tackle transnational crimes such as human and drug trafficking. Peña also expressed keen interest in attracting Indian investments and

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## CM launches projects worth Rs 275 crore in Bhadrak



**Bhadrak, (DMC) :** Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Monday inaugurated and laid the foundation for 13 projects worth Rs 275 crore in Bhadrak district. Affirming his government's commitment to transforming Bhadrak into a progressive and developed district, Majhi announced that the long-pending demand for a government medical college in the district would soon be fulfilled. He also revealed plans to set up a government university in the region.

On the district's industrial potential, the Chief Minister said a technical textile complex will be developed by IOCL,

while MCPI Private Limited will set up an HMLS polyester manufacturing unit in the area. The CM also announced the beautification of the birthplaces of local martyrs, underscoring efforts to preserve Bhadrak's historical and cultural legacy. Targeting the previous government, he asserted that development work had gained momentum since the BJP came to power in Odisha last year. "Our government did not waste a minute to turn our promises into reality," he said. The Chief Minister said that within 24 minutes of assuming office, his

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## Rajit Gupta from Kota tops JEE Advanced



**Bhubaneswar, (DMC) :** Once again, Kota has reaffirmed its reputation as the hub of engineering exam preparation. Rajit Gupta, who prepared in Kota, has secured All India Rank (AIR) 1, emerging as the national topper of JEE Advanced 2025 examination.

The results of the JEE Advanced 2025 examination were announced on Monday. The examination was conducted by IIT Kanpur on May 18 in two shifts for 17,740 seats across 23 IITs in the country. Approximately 2.5 lakh students, who qualified JEE Mains were eligible to appear for the Advanced examination. Three other students from Kota have also made it to the top 10. Saksham Jindal secured AIR 2, Akshat bagged AIR 6, and Devesh achieved AIR 8. Many other

candidates also featured in the top 50 and top 100 ranks. Clearly, despite the student suicides often upsetting the city in recent times, Kota retains its legacy in training aspirants to crack the prestigious IIT exams.

Gupta is a resident of Mahavir Nagar-III in Kota. His father, Deepak Gupta, is an engineer with the BSNL department and his mother, Dr. Shruti Agarwal, is a professor at JDB Girls College in Kota.

This marks the second consecutive year that a Kota-based student has topped JEE Advanced. In 2024, Ved Lahoti, also from Kota, had achieved this feat. Rajit had earlier scored 100 percentile in the JEE Main January session and secured AIR 16 in the April session. "Happiness is the key to success", Rajit Gupta said following the results. Rajit said, "During my preparation, my main focus was on not repeating my past mistakes. Correcting errors strengthens your foundation in the subject. I believe happiness is the key to success. I try to stay happy in every situation. Even now, whenever I get time, I play with children in the colony." He credited his success to the guidance of his teachers and the structured study material provided by his coaching institute."

## Odisha govt gives promotion to OAS officers

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC) :** Odisha government has reportedly given promotion to four Odisha Administrative Services (OAS) officers, informed the General Administration & Public Grievances (GA&PG) Department.

In a press release, the department said the pending finalization of the select list on the advice of the Odisha Public Service Commission, the following OAS (Superior



Administrative Grade) Officers are promoted to the rank of OAS (Special Secretary) on ad hoc basis, in Level-17 of the "Pay Matrix" as specified in the First Schedule of the O.R.S.P. Rules, 2017, for a period not exceeding one year or till receipt of recommendation of OPSC or till their retirement, whichever is earlier, without prejudice to the claim of others. Dibyalochan Mohanta, the Additional District

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## BJP to celebrate 1 year of governance in Odisha

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC) :** In a crucial meeting at Odisha BJP's headquarters in Bhubaneswar, senior leaders gathered on Monday to plan celebrations for 11 years of the PM Narendra Modi-led central government and 1 year of the party's rule in the State under Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi.

BJP to launch outreach efforts soon ahead of the Double Anniversary, a spokesperson said. According to party sources, a significant meeting took place to strategise on upcoming celebrations marking 11 years of the Modi government at the Centre and the completion of 1 year of the BJP government in Odisha. The party plans to launch a statewide outreach



campaign, during which workers will visit villages to inform citizens about the promises made

and delivered by both governments. The focus will be on transparency and

accountability, ensuring people are aware of progress made over

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## Woman, son held for burning forester alive in Nayagarh

**Nayagarh, (HS) :** Police arrested a woman and her son for allegedly killing her husband in Odisha's Nayagarh district. The deceased was identified as Sishir Sahu, a forester in Sarankul Pancharida range of Nayagarh district. A day after recovering the half-burnt body of Sishir, the police arrested the deceased's wife and son after conducting a crime scene recreation, said Jyoti Ranjan Samantaray, sub-divisional police officer (SDPO), Nayagarh on Sunday. The deceased's wife Namita also sustained minor burn injuries while their son Abhisek was

unharmed in the incident at their house in Baramasidanda area of the district on Friday night, he said.

Namita with the help of Abhisek poured petrol on her husband and set him on fire following a heated argument, Samantaray said. The police said a team of fire service personnel rushed to the spot and doused the flame. They recovered the half-charred body of Sahu who was trapped inside the house and started an investigation by detaining his wife and son. "During interrogation, Sahu's wife and son confessed to the

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## BJP leader's sister narrates chilling details of Sikkim mishap

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC) :** Four family members of Odisha BJP Mahila Morcha secretary Itishree Jena, missing since May 29 after the SUV in which she was travelling along with seven others fell into the Teesta river, arrived in Odisha on Monday. Two of her sisters, Manjulata Deo and Jharana Mahapatra, and two nieces, Jani and Guni, reached Jajpur Road railway station this morning.

Speaking to the media, Itishree's elder sister said that 11 members of the family were holidaying in Sikkim when the incident took place. "Some other tourists who were travelling with us were reluctant



to leave since it began raining at 6 pm, but the hotel owner refused to entertain them since the package was for a day. We then left the place in two vehicles. We could track the vehicle following us in which

Itishree and others were travelling through its headlights. After covering a kilometre, our driver noticed that it was dark behind us and the vehicle had disappeared. He got down and looked for the other vehicle.

We even drove back to locate it but in vain," she said while narrating the chilling incident. The vehicle had plunged over 1,000 feet into the river in Mangan district near Munsithang, along the Lachen-Lachung highway. Those missing are the BJP leader, her elder son Sahil Jena (21), brother Ajit Kumar Nayak (45), and sister-in-law Sunita Nayak (42). Her younger son and nephew - Sairaj Jena and Swayam Supratim Nayak - were rescued with critical injuries and undergoing treatment at STNM Hospital in Gangtok.

She further stated that the kids told them that they were

rescued from near the river. Two purses and mobile phones were recovered from the spot, but the others were nowhere to be found, she said. She added that the Odisha government provided assistance and coordinated with its counterparts in Sikkim for their safe return to the state. Meanwhile, the search operation is underway to trace the 8 missing persons, four from Odisha and two each from Tripura and Uttar Pradesh. Evacuation of around 1250 tourists stranded following landslides has also commenced after restoration of Chungthang-Phidang road in Mangan.



## Israel Situation

For decades, Western powers have justified Israel's military actions by invoking its right to self-defence. Since the establishment of the state of Israel on May 14, 1948, and its recognition by US President Harry Truman, it has consistently received diplomatic and military largesse from the US and leading European nations including Germany, the UK and France. The motivations behind this alignment have been both strategic - viewing Israel as a key ally in West Asia - and moral, rooted in the tragic legacy of the Holocaust and the need for a Jewish homeland. Now, more than 19 months into the ongoing war in Gaza, triggered by Hamas's October 7 attack, the foundations of that international support are beginning to crack. In a joint statement last week, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, French President Emmanuel Macron, and Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney criticised Israel's military actions in Gaza as "wholly disproportionate". The UK has suspended trade talks and imposed sanctions targeting West Bank settlers, while the EU announced that it would review its political and economic relations with Israel. European and Arab nations gathered in Madrid on Sunday in an effort to halt what Spanish Foreign Minister José Manuel Albares described as Israel's "inhuman" and "senseless" war. In the coming weeks, France and Saudi Arabia are expected to convene a conference in New York to promote the two-state solution. These developments underscore Israel's growing isolation within the international community over its Gaza offensive, despite the widespread sympathy that followed the tragic shooting of two Israeli embassy staffers in Washington, DC on May 21. Even President Donald Trump, during a recent tour of West Asia in which he notably skipped Israel, has acknowledged Gaza's hunger crisis. The deaths of over 53,000 people (according to the latest estimate by Gaza's health ministry) and the large-scale destruction of civilian infrastructure by Israel are increasingly seen as components of a strategy aimed at collective punishment.

Mounting pressure from Israel's international allies, though belated, is welcome. The marked shift in their tone is necessary. By continuing to block humanitarian aid and escalating its military campaign, Israel is inflicting immeasurable suffering on Gaza's civilian population. This strategy will not defeat Hamas - which, according to US intelligence, has already recruited between 10,000 and 15,000 members since the conflict began - and will only fuel further violence and instability. World powers, including the US, need to work together to restrain Israel.

3rd June

## World Bicycle Day



For many of us, riding a bicycle without training wheels is the first challenging physical activity we ever learn how to master. We all remember, don't we? A running start. The protective hand secured to the bicycle seat is released. And then - ZOOM! - the child is off and peddling, and a lifetime of adventure and freedom awaits aboard a succession of beloved two-wheeled conveyances. In the spirit of that very first trip, let's take a closer look at World Bicycle Day, June 3, shall we? Training wheels or tandem, cycle your worries away on World Bicycle Day on June 3.

Getting your first bicycle and learning how to ride it is a rite of passage for almost all of us. Despite the marks and scabs from falling from our bicycles while learning, it is a memory we always cherish. Bicycling is quite a useful activity - in the hustle and bustle of today's world, bicycling allows us to exercise our muscles, cut back on fuel consumption as it is quite a popular alternative to driving a car, and feel the wind in our hair. Really, there is nothing quite like the exhilaration of riding a bicycle. World Bicycle Day acknowledges this and the durability and longevity of the bicycle. Providing a simple and sustainable means of transportation, bicycling is rejuvenating for our physical- and mental health, and good for the economy, and the environment. The United Nations established World Bicycle Day for many reasons. As basic as it is, the impact of the bicycle on society is quite transformative - even the poorest people get access to basic transport with the bicycle. It all started when U.S.-based Professor Leszek Sibilski initiated a grassroots campaign with his sociology class to promote a U.N. resolution that would designate a day for the advocacy and celebration of the humble bicycle all over the world. In 2015, Sibilski dedicated himself to an academic project, exploring bicycles and their role in development. His project catapulted into a massive movement backed by 'Sustainable Mobility for All,' and eventually resulted in a dedicated international day set by the United Nations for the promotion of bicycling. On April 12, 2018, the resolution declaring June 3 as World Bicycle Day was unanimously adopted by all 193 member states of the UN General Assembly. The resolution was greatly supported by Turkmenistan and co-sponsored by around 56 countries.

A logo was also designed by Isaac Feld, with an accompanying animation created by Professor John E. Swanson, showing bicyclists riding on various types of bicycles around the world. The message here is that a simple contraption serves all of humanity and bridges the gap between people from different walks of life. The two designers also created the current blue and white logo for the cause. Leszek Sibilski, a sociology professor and cycling and physical education activist, writes a blog post for the World Bank titled, 'Cycling Is Everyone's Business.'

## The menace of lending through illegal online apps in India



Dr. Seela Subba Rao

Over past one decade, the digital lending market has experienced significant growth in India having grown at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 40 per cent. This has been contributed by genuine fintech companies backed by Non-Banking Financial Institutions (NBFCs) and banks. However, this growth has also provided an opportunity for fraudsters engaged in lending through illegal online apps to trap the borrowers. A horde of micro-loan apps have come up in India in recent years, many of which have been functioning illegally. The extensive spread of such apps, which exploit the rising demand for credit, particularly among the younger population has raised concerns. In December 2023, Government of India had banned around 94 loan-apps including BuddyLoan, Cash TM, Indiabulls Home loan, Pay Me, Faircent and Rupee Radee, due to concerns raised by Reserve Bank of India about their unfair practices, harassment of borrowers and potential involvement of Chinese investors. Loans apps are used heavily in remote rural areas, where formal banking systems are scarcity mostly target poor and disadvantaged sections of the society. These people with meagre incomes who are otherwise ineligible to obtain credit from the formal banking institutions lured by online loan apps for sanction of loans ranging from Rs.1000 to Rs.100000. The use of loan apps witnessed a sharp increase during the Covid-19 pandemic. Thousands of

businesses faced difficulties and were forced to shut down, leaving a large section of people unemployed. For many borrowers, the lure of instant loans with minimal documentation is such that they end up throwing all caution to wind when engaging with such apps. These apps misappropriate borrowers' personal data, including contacts, location information, photos which their agents use for blackmail. Such practices violate RBI's Fair Practices Code.

**Trapping the customers:** Illegal online lending apps target financially stressed individuals who need money to meet some urgent exigencies. The agents of apps promise low interest rates and that too in a very short time. These customers are often desperate due to lack of structured sources of funding. These apps exploit the vulnerabilities of individuals facing financial difficulties. Other factors such as ease of access, quick approval process and minimal documentation make them appealing for urgent financial needs. People with limited access to traditional banking services may turn to these apps and become their victims. Illegal digital lending apps pose a significant threat to customers. Whilevarious banks and NBFCs take time to approve a loan request as they do background discreet enquiry of borrowers, illegal apps personnel do not carry out such legal requirements and without much enquiry sanction loans.

**How to spot illegal apps?:** In the digital age, access to credit through digital lending apps can be a boon, but it also comes with a basket of risks. Being vigilant is key to spot illegal digital lending apps which often lack transparency in terms of regulatory approvals and charging exorbitant fees. Customers need to be wary of any lending app with unclear terms, excessive data requirements or an unprofessional design. These apps would be found through malicious links via SMS or email, but they will not be available on app stores. User reviews and ratings on app stores can provide insights into the



app's legitimacy. Borrowers need to go through the comments and ratings to see if other users have reported any suspicious behaviour or unethical practices. Further, the illegal lending apps frequently use high-pressure tactics to coerce borrowers into taking loans or repaying them. If repeated calls, messages, or threats from app's representatives are received, then it is a clear sign of illegal operation.

**How to stop harassments from agents?:** In the digital lending eco-system, the lending apps can be operated by regulated entities. A set of guidelines prescribe certain conditions for these regulated entities. The RBI registered NBFCs lending through online apps follow set of these guidelines and rules while the unauthorised online apps rarely follow the rules and harass the customers. The first step to combat online loan harassment is to document all details of harassment and keep the records, save screenshots, emails and other evidence of harassment including time, date and nature of the messages or calls. It is very much necessary to identify the app or company from which the harassment is coming. The second step is to block the harassing phone numbers on the phone and any other devise of the customer. The email addresses from which the harassing emails are coming need to be blocked. Due caution need to be taken not to engage with the harassing agency as this can encourage further unwanted contact. The third step is to file a complaint with the National

Cyber Crime Reporting portal or visit near local police station or cybercrime cell to lodge complaint.

**Way Forward:** Fraudulent loan apps are a matter of concern with coercive recovery tactics, exorbitant interest rates and hidden charges leading to discreet and in some cases suicides by the borrowers. Government of India is planning to crack down on unregulated lending for which it has released a draft bill titled the Banning of Unregulated Lending Activities (BULA) on 13 December 2024 with intension of curbing unregulated lending including digital lending in India. The draft Bill is based on the measures first suggested by RBI Working Group on Digital Lending in its November 2021 report. The draft bill is currently open for stakeholders' comments until 13 February 2025 after which it will likely be reviewed and finalised. The draft bill aims to completely ban individuals and entities not authorised by the RBI or any other regulating body from public lending activities. The key features of the bill are as under.

"The unauthorised loan apps including digital lending platforms cannot carry out lending operations and the same will be treated as illegal.

"Punishments can be for seven years of imprisonment along with fines ranging from Rs.2 lakh to Rs.1 crore for unauthorised lending.

"Apart from this, the lenders who use coercive collection practices get harsher penalties ranging from 3 to 10 years of imprisonment.

"Cases involving multiple States or Union Territories or significant amounts affecting public interest will be transferred to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for investigation.

To combat unauthorised online apps, a multi-pronged approach involving regulatory measures, enhanced security protocols and consumer awareness is crucial in India. RBI has been designated as the nodal agency for handling complaints against unauthorised digital lending platforms and loan apps. Accordingly, RBI has issued guidelines for digital lending to combat illegal activities and has tasked itself with creating a "whitelist" of legal apps. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology is tasked with ensuring only legal apps from RBI's "whitelist" are available on app stores. Penalties for social media platforms that fail to address the proliferation of fake loan apps should be levied. Collaboration with social media companies is necessary to actively monitor and regulate advertisements related to online loan apps. Further, these companies may be encouraged to implement strict screening processes to identify and remove fraudulent apps. If the social media companies fail to address the proliferation of fake loan apps on their platforms, heavy penalties should be levied on them. Awareness programmes and campaigns need to be conducted adequately to educate customers/borrowers about the risk perceptions associated with fraudulent loan apps. Necessary list of "dos and do nots" or tips may be formulated and given to borrowers to verify the legitimacy of lending platforms before engaging with them. It is expected that the draft bill namely BULA will be presented in both houses of Parliament in the current year. Once the bill is enacted, Union Government will appoint competent authority to enforce the Act to ameliorate the people from the menace of lending through illegal online apps in the country.

AGM (retd) NABARD

## Experience fearlessness, become totally free

Dr. Samrat Kar

We are fearful of many things. As children, we fear and worry about how long our parents are going to be there to support us. Each one of us is fearful about some aspect of our life. Behind all these fears is the fear that is at the heart of each of us, and that is fear of the unknown. We are more afraid of what could be out there rather than of what is actually out there. Those who fear death, in actuality, fear the unknown. Fear arises from doubt and from the unknown. When we have doubts about how something is going to turn out, it opens the door to fear. When we doubt whether an outcome will turn out right, we fear the consequences.

We all face moments that challenge even the strongest among us. Many of us are unprepared for life's challenges. We often find that during those times we crack under pressure. Ongoing problems and setbacks often take their toll on us. We cannot put an end to life's challenges. What we can do is face these challenges with a sense of fearlessness so that we are not incapacitated by fear and despair. To practise fearlessness we must come in contact with our empowered soul which is totally conscious, and is without fear. Since God is all-consciousness, and the soul is one with God, it is divinity in a microcosm. The



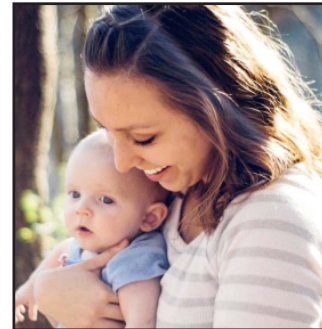
empowered soul, is strong and powerful. It is stronger than that which you fear. Our fears dissipate when confronted by our empowered soul through meditation. It is only when we are out of touch with our soul that we begin to be afraid. The soul is truth; the soul is totally conscious. Being in connection with absolute truth means there is no fear.

The soul's quality of wisdom gives it access to the knowledge of all that is. There is nothing potentially unknown to the soul. It knows what is and what is to be. What has it to fear? We have within us a place of power that contains the forces of life. We can tap into this place of power through meditation. By concentrating at the spiritual eye, the gateway into the inner regions, we connect with the stream of Light and Sound, the primal manifestations of God.

## Permanent Joy

Kishore Kumar Jena

Consider a beautiful rose; the moment you look at a rose, Joy emanates from your heart. Similarly, when you see a handsome person or any beautiful thing in this world, you instantly feel joy. Quite a few people go sight seeing. They go in order to derive joy out of it! Therefore you can see beauty in Nature, you can see beauty in people and you and you find that there is joy in the beauty of things. But how long do this joy and beauty last? The rose that you picked today will be drying up by tomorrow; then its beauty will be lost. The moment the beauty fades away, the joy that you previously derived from it also subsides. It is the same with the different stages of life, childhood, youth, manhood and old age. Childhood may be said to reflect divinity. During childhood the individual does not suffer much from hatred, jealousy, anger and so forth. Jesus said that since children do not have any really bad qualities, they can be considered divine. During that period of life, there are no bad thoughts or bad traits, either in the mind or in the body. The child be beautiful because it does not have bad feelings arising out of bad thoughts. As it grows up, it gradually develops bad qualities. The moment the bad qualities grow the beauty of the small child fades away.



Therefore, it is the coming in of bad thoughts, which lead to bad words and bad deeds, and which then result in its losing its beauty. We see that gradually the beauty of a person vanishes away. This kind of transient beauty does not give permanent joy. You know even a new born donkey is very beautiful. Gradually as it grows, it develops a big stomach and becomes ugly to look at. As long as there are not bad qualities, everything looks beautiful. Therefore in the world, whoever may be the person or what ever be the sense object, you will find that its beauty is limited and therefore, the joy derivable from it is also limited. Joy and beauty always go together; you can not have beauty where there is no joy and there will be no joy without beauty. What is the one principle which has permanent joy and permanent beauty within itself? It is the Atma it does not have any type of modification or change. In fact, it has no form at all; its beauty and its joy are its form.

Advocate, Bangali Sahi, Cuttack

Psychiatrist, The Brain Foundation, Purigat Road, Cuttack



## Guv visits Vietnam’s My Son temple complex

**Bhubaneswar (DMC):** Governor of Odisha Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati on Monday visited the historic My Son temple complex in Quang Nam, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, in Vietnam.

The site is a profound symbol of Southeast Asia’s Hindu-Cham legacy. These ancient red-brick temples, dedicated primarily to Lord Shiva, once served as the spiritual and political heart of the Champa

Kingdom from the 4th to the 13th century. They stand as enduring testaments to faith, artistic excellence, and cultural synthesis shaped by deep Indian influence, and represent the depth of historical linkages between India and Vietnam, he said after visiting the site.

He also reviewed the ASI-led restoration efforts at the site, reflecting India’s enduring commitment to preserving the shared cultural heritage and deep-

rooted cultural ties with Vietnam dating back to the Champa civilization. Deeply moved by the traditional Cham performances, a stirring celebration of identity that continues to resonate amidst these timeless ruins,”

he stated on his X handle (@DrHariBabuK). Dr. Kambhampati is leading a delegation to Vietnam to bring back the Holy Relics of Lord Buddha which were sent to that country earlier this month.

## No new liquor shops in Odisha: Minister

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):** Ahead of the rollout of Odisha’s new three-year liquor policy, the State Excise Department is sending three teams of senior officials to study the excise frameworks of Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The policy, expected to be implemented by mid-to-late July, aims to overhaul alcohol regulation in the state.

Excise Minister Prithviraj Harichandan on Monday informed that the new policy will not allow the opening of any new liquor shops, marking a departure from previous policies that prioritized revenue-driven expansion. The study tours are



intended to gather insights into effective regulatory practices, enforcement mechanisms and public health measures adopted by the four states. During their visit, the team members will examine the excise policies as well as their implementation in the four states before submitting their reports to the Odisha government. After getting inputs

from the teams, the state government will take necessary steps to incorporate suitable components while giving final shape to the new excise policy. The teams are scheduled to return by July 7-8. The revised framework seeks to tackle long-standing challenges such as illicit liquor production, smuggling, weak enforcement, and outdated

penalties.

Harichandan emphasized that the new policy will introduce stricter penalties, close existing loopholes and improve monitoring systems. Unlike temporary fixes, the three-year plan aims to establish a consistent and sustainable approach to liquor regulation in Odisha.

The state government had earlier announced that it would not sanction any new liquor (ON) shop in rural areas in the new policy. This apart, the government had banned dance bars in Odisha. However, it had allowed the beach shacks to serve liquor to the tourists.

## BJP gears up to celebrate 1 year of governance

**Bhubaneswar ,(DMC):**In a crucial meeting at Odisha BJP’s headquarters here, senior leaders gathered on Monday to plan celebrations for 11 years of the PM Narendra Modi-led central government and 1 year of the party’s rule in the State under Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi.

BJP to launch outreach efforts soon ahead of the Double Anniversary, a spokesperson said. According to party sources, a significant meeting took place to strategise on upcoming celebrations marking 11 years of the Modi government at the Centre and the completion of 1 year of the BJP government in Odisha. The party plans to launch a statewide outreach campaign, during which workers will visit villages to inform

citizens about the promises made and delivered by both governments. The focus will be on transparency and accountability, ensuring people are aware of progress made over the past year and the decade of central leadership.

Present at the meeting were Odisha CM Mohan Majhi, BJP state president Manmohan Samal, state in-charge Vijay Pal Singh Tomar, co-in-charge Lata Usendi, along with party office bearers, spokespersons, morcha presidents, and district unit heads. The BJP aims to use the anniversary as an opportunity to strengthen its grassroots connect and consolidate its recent electoral gains in the State. “A brainstorming session is going on to decide on strategies to reach out to people at the grassroots

level and to tell them the achievements of ‘double-engine sarkar’. In fact, the party will present before people its report card for the last year,” a local leader stated. State-level programmes will be held between June 12 and June 15. The Odisha government has plans to take up several programmes across the State in the days ahead.

District, block, and panchayat level programmes will also be conducted. The party will carry out a massive campaign across the State from June 9. The party has targeted to reach out to around 1 crore families. BJP had given 21 commitments to the people during the 2024 General Elections. The BJP-led government has fulfilled 11 of its commitments specified in the election manifesto.

## Covidcases rise to 15 in State

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):** Odisha’s Public Health Director Dr. Nilakantha Mishra on Monday confirmed that the number of Covid-19 positive cases in the state has risen to 15, marking an increase of three cases from the previous day’s total of 12. Speaking to the media, Dr. Mishra assured the public that the situation remains under control and that there is no immediate cause for concern.

“The detection of two to three new cases is not alarming. Currently, only persons exhibiting severe symptoms are being tested for Covid-19 and the positivity rate among those tested remains low,” he said. He urged citizens to remain cautious and continue following Covid-appropriate behaviour. “People should take medical advice seriously and adopt necessary precautions. Avoid crowded places, wear masks, use gloves when



needed, and maintain hand hygiene,” Dr. Mishra advised. The health official also highlighted concerns related to seasonal diseases that typically surge during the monsoon. “With the onset of the rainy season, we are reviewing the state’s preparedness for vector- and water-borne diseases such as malaria and dengue,” he said. Dr. Mishra noted that dengue cases in Koraput district remain minimal and are under control. In

Khordha district, between 10 to 20 cases have been reported, and health department teams have been deployed to monitor and respond to the situation. “No new cases have been detected in these areas so far. If we receive any complaints, our teams will promptly investigate,” he added. However, Mishra asserted that the situation in Odisha as compared to other States is under control and COVID testing kits have been made available to the districts as per their requirements.

Though there is facility for the RT-PCR (reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction) testing of the virus, most of the samples of the severe respiratory patients are being tested by kits with the responsibilities of the Chief District Medical Officers (CDMOs). He urged the public to remain vigilant and follow standard preventive measures.

## Man strangles wife to death, abandons body at Capital Hospital

**Bhubaneswar ,(DMC):** In a horrific incident, a man allegedly strangled his wife to death and later abandoned her body at the Capital Hospital here. The deceased has been identified as Nandita Behera and the incident has been reported from the Mancheswar area of Bhubaneswar. As per reports, a heated exchange of words ensued between Nandita and her husband Gupteswar Behera over some issue. It later took a violent turn when Gupteswar,

in fit of rage, strangled Nandita leading to her death. Thereafter, he reportedly took her body to Capital Hospital and left it there before fleeing from the scene. The situation came to light when the hospital authorities alerted the police. The victim’s family members also alleged that she was killed by her husband. A probe has been initiated into the matter. Efforts are on nab the accused and ascertain the exact motive behind the murder, said the police.

## Joint public hearing of Collector & SP held



**Khordha (DMC):** A joint public hearing camp of Collector, Khordha Chanchal Rana and Superintendent of Police Sagarika Nath was held at Zilla Parishad Conference Hall, Khordha. A total of 112 grievances were received in this camp, out of which 92 grievances were individual and 11 were related to collective problems. The Collector resolved 4 grievances immediately and

provided financial assistance Rs15,000 to Pratima Behera of Berhampur village, Rs10,000 to Charana Behera of village Tapanga, Rs15,000 to Tikina Das of Diha Khauruni of Bolgarhand Rs 10,000 to Chayakanta Maharana of Banpur. Similarly, Raj Kishore Kundu of Golbai was provided financial assistance of 10 thousand from the District Red Cross Fund for his health treatment. Additional District

Magistrate (Administration) Pratap Chandra Beura, Additional District Magistrate (Revenue), Safalya Mandit Pradhan, Zilla Parishad Chief Development and Executive Officer Jyoti Shankar Sahu, Sub-Collector of Khordha Kishore Kumar Panda, Deputy Collector (Emergency) Shritapa Mishra, Assistant Magistrate of Grievances Bhubaneswari Kanhar were present in the joint public hearing camp.

## Nikhil appointed Director of Census Operations



**Bhubaneswar ,(DMC):** The Government of India on Monday appointed 2012 batch Odisha cadre IAS officer Nikhil Pavan Kalyan as the new Director of Census Operations (DCO)/ Director of Citizen Registration (DCR) for the state of Odisha. According to a letter issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), Government of India on Monday (June 2, 2025) to the Odisha Chief Secretary, Kalyan’s appointment will be effective until December 31, 2025, or until further orders- whichever comes earlier. The Competent Authority has approved Kalyan’s assignment at the Director level, and the Government of Odisha has been directed to relieve him immediately so that he can assume his new responsibilities without delay the letter stated.

## Odisha CPET-2025 merit list out for PG courses

**Bhubaneswar ,(DMC):**The results of the Common PG Entrance Test (CPET-2025), conducted by the State Selection Board of Odisha, were published on Monday. The state-wide merit list for CPET-2025 was published on the SAMS PG portal at 4 pm, according to the State Selection Board of the Higher Education Department. Applicants can check the SAMS

portal to view their subject-wise and social category-wise ranks. The next stage for admission process for various postgraduate courses in government-run universities and colleges across the state will commence on June 3 (Tuesday), it added. The qualified candidates can select their preferred institutions and subjects based on their total marks secured in the entrance test

by filling the choice options in the SAMS portal from June 3 to 8. The provisional allotment of seats for first round selection process shall be published at 4 pm on June 13. Notably, a total of 56, 976 students appeared the CPET-2025 for enrolment into various PG courses in 116 higher education institutions in Odisha. However, the total sanctioned strength of these institutions stands at 30,802.

## Deadline for +3 admissions extended

**Bhubaneswar ,(DMC):** The Odisha Higher Education Department has extended the deadline for submitting the Common Application Form (CAF) for Plus III undergraduate admissions through the Student Academic Management System (SAMS) portal. This decision comes in response to demands from students, parents, and guardians who needed more time to complete the application



process. The extension provides a much-needed breather for those facing challenges in meeting the original deadline. As per the notification issued in this regard, students can now apply until June 4, 11:45 pm, thanks to a three-day extension from the original deadline of June 1. This move aims to alleviate time constraints faced by students due to pending exam results and document uploads.

## Ravenshaw University declares UG results

**Bhubaneswar ,(DMC):** Ravenshaw University in Odisha’s Cuttack city published the results of the undergraduate (UG) examinations on Monday with a pass rate of 84.10 per cent. A total of 1,384 students had appeared the UG (Final Degree) examinations this year and 1,164 of them have cleared

the tests, University officials said. The pass percentage was 85.97 per cent in Arts, 77.17 per cent in Science, 83.20 per cent in Commerce and 90.24 per cent in professional courses. Altogether 549 students appeared the exam in various Arts subjects. Of them, 472 have been declared successful. In Science subjects, 333 students

appeared the tests and 257 of them have cleared the examinations. Similarly, 256 students appeared the examination in Commerce subjects. Out of them, 213 have been declared successful. Truptishree Nandy and Tara Prasad Tripathy have been declared as the best graduates in regular and professional courses respectively.

## Database of all water resources to be ready soon

**Bhubaneswar ,(DMC):** Development Commissioner and Additional Chief Secretary Anu Garg on Monday reviewed the census programmes of water resources in the State.

For the first time, Odisha Government is conducting a comprehensive census of water resources in the State at the instance of Ministry of Jalshakti, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India. The censuses are being conducted through Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) and web-based application. The

census includes major and medium irrigation, springs, water bodies, and minor irrigation facilities. This is a unique opportunity for the State to create a comprehensive database of all water resources in the State from the village level to the State level.

The censuses are being conducted in a coordinated and convergent manner by the Department of Water resources and Planning and convergence department. Garg emphasised on coordinated and convergent approach of all the stakeholders for quality data collection. This will be a comprehensive

database for planning water resources of the state for irrigation, industry, pisciculture, human and animal consumption etc.

Among others, senior officials from Water Resources, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water, E&IT departments and Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Chief Engineer, Minor irrigation, Odisha Lift Irrigation Corporation, Central Ground Water Board, Govt. of India, State Ground Water Board, Government of India participated. Besides, Superintending Engineers, Deputy Director, DPMUs from the districts were present.

## 7-year-old Vaishnavi Singh walks again with artificial limb

**Cuttack (DMC):** After three months of intensive treatment, seven-year-old Vaishnavi Singh has returned home with a new lease on life, walking with the aid of an artificial limb provided by the Plastic Surgery Department of SCB Medical College and Hospital.

Vaishnavi, a resident of Mayurbhanj district, lost her left leg in a tragic accident in March while on her way to a local fair near Betanati with her uncle. She was rushed to SCB Medical College in Cuttack, where doctors admitted her to the Plastic Surgery Department for emergency treatment. A



surgical team led by Dr. Bibhuti Bhushan Nayak, Head of the Department, initially attempted to save the injured limb. However, three days post-operation, it was determined that the damage was beyond repair. Doctors were left with no choice but to amputate the leg to save the child’s life.

Given her young age, concerns over Vaishnavi’s long-term mobility and well-being became a priority. With support from the state government and Mayurbhanj MLA Sanatan Bijuli, a custom prosthetic limb was prepared for the child. In an event held today at SCB, the artificial

leg was officially handed over to Vaishnavi in the presence of MLA Sanatan Bijuli. He assured the family that the Odisha government would take full responsibility for the child’s future.

Vaishnavi, who lives with her mother and comes from an economically disadvantaged background, has already begun taking steps with the new limb. Doctors say she is responding well and will soon be able to lead a normal life. “This is not just a medical success, but a symbol of hope and resilience,” said Dr. Nayak, expressing confidence in Vaishnavi’s recovery.

## KiiT International School's Hans Daruka Secures Odisha Rank 1 in JEE Advanced

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):** Hans Daruka of KiiT International School has emerged as the top scorer in Odisha in the prestigious JEE Advanced 2025 examination, securing an All India Rank (AIR) of 39.

His achievement showcases a remarkable performance by the school, with 13 students qualifying for admission to India’s premier Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs). Hans’s stellar result reflects not only his hard work and determination but also the robust academic ecosystem and mentorship provided by KiiT International School. Nine other students from the school have secured commendable ranks, underscoring the institution’s commitment to academic excellence.

The successful candidates include Samman Poddar, Shreyas Samantaray, Swayam Krishna Manohari, Aditya Nayak, Krishnansu Mohanty, Rashmi Ranjan Basita, Amrutanshu Dash, Prabhudutta Prusti, Sai Sarvesh Thatoi, Rignved Sai Maharathi, Satwik Mishra, and Harshvardhan Singh Sidar. Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Founder of KiiT and KISS, congratulated the toppers, their families, and



the faculty for their outstanding performance. He also thanked Dr. Mona Lisha Bal, Chairperson and Dr. Sanjay Suar, Principal of KiiT International School for this success.



## NTPC Talcher Kaniha Celebrates 37th Foundation Day with Emphasis on Excellence and Community Empowerment

**Talcher, (DMC):** NTPC Talcher Kaniha marked its 37th Foundation Day on 2nd of June 2025, commemorating over three decades of outstanding contributions to energy production and community development. With an installed capacity of 3,010 MW, it remains Odisha's largest power station and the second-largest within NTPC's portfolio. The celebrations began with a spirited morning walkathon, where employees and all Union Associations and CISF and NTPC Employees came together in unity and enthusiasm. The Raising Day ceremony commenced with the hoisting of

the NTPC flag at the Administrative Building, symbolizing the station's enduring commitment to excellence. The celebration was graced by prominent dignitaries including Shri K. Narasimbha Reddy, Executive Director of NTPC Talcher Kaniha, Shri Satya Rama Krishna, GM (O&M) Shri S.S. Rao, GM (Maint. & ADM), all HOD's, Union Associations, CISF personnel, and all NTPC employees. During the event, Shri Narasimbha Reddy highlighted the station's remarkable achievements over the past year. He proudly announced that NTPC Talcher Kaniha had secured a Business Excellence



score exceeding 600 for the second consecutive year and achieved 100.67% ash utilization in the financial year 2024-25. A record 50.50 Lakh Metric Tons (LMT) of fly ash were supplied for government road projects,

marking an impressive 209% increase compared to the previous year. Environmental sustainability remains a core focus, with over 16,000 trees planted using the innovative Miyawaki method. The station also commissioned a

2.5 TPD Bio-Pellet Machine to effectively utilize horticultural waste. In recognition of its robust safety standards, NTPC Talcher Kaniha received the International Safety Award from the British Safety Council for the fourth consecutive year. Shri Reddy also highlighted the CSR initiatives for the Girl Empowerment Mission 2025. As the event concluded with a ceremonial cake-cutting, the spirit of celebration and achievement resonated through the station. NTPC Talcher Kaniha reaffirmed its vision for the future - focusing on safety, innovation, sustainability, and excellence - as it continues to power progress for the nation.

## Condolences Poured for Late Dr. Bharat Panda

**Parakakhemundi, (DMC):** At Utkal Hiteishini Samaj premises



condolence meeting held to pay tribute to late Dr. Bharat Panda on his sad demise. Presided by Purnanchandra Mahapatra among others Binod Chandra Jena, Mahanta Ramananddasji, Bhagabat Padhi, Bichitrnanda Bebartha, Pramod Chandra Padhi, Asalata Panigrahi, Anadi Panigrahi, Amrit Panigrahi, Saroj Panda, Tripathi Prasad Panda, Narasingha Gouda, Ramesh Panigrahi, Sneha Behera briefed contributions of late Panda in historical Mahendragiri. Being the pioneer literature of epic Mahendragiri, he extolled his passionate feelings on his volumes on flora & fauna. Besides that mythology & historic filled Mahendragiri still an instinct to acknowledge readers of full epitome of that oldest monument on his lucid writings. One minutes silence & conveyed their respect to departed soul. Speakers also consoled the grief family.

## Viksit Krishi Sankalp held in Sujanpur Panchayat



**Jajpur, (DMC):** Enhancing awareness of farmers regarding technology driven and scientific agriculture as well as government schemes for agriculture, Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan Programme by Krishi Vigyan Kendra Badachana was held in Sujapur Panchayat Biju Kalyan Mandap on this Monday. The programme was coordinated by Bibhuti Bhusan Pati, Jajpur BAO with the support of Partha Pratim Swain, BTM. Among others Sr. Scientist Dr. Lipi Das, Bijoy Routray, Dr. Bandita Mishra, scientist Dr. Mohan Bag,

Sujanpur Sarapanch Smt. Bishnupriya Mahakud, PS member Narayan Jena, Naib Sarapanch Manorama Das, Social worker Ganeswar Mahakud were chaired. Many Farmers in the local were participated the interactive discussions with the team on improved cultivation methods, crop diversification, soil testing, natural farming techniques, and water-efficient irrigation. Participants also gained insights into a variety of Central and State-supported agricultural schemes in the session. Dr. Lipi Das briefly presented over the

programme and its main objectives. Dr. Das also included a saturation drive for flagship schemes such as PM-CM Kisaan and Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana in this connection. Speaking on this occasion Smt. Bishnupriya Mahakud said today's inspiring campaign by the team is not just a scientific outreach it's a powerful statement of inclusion.

It reflects the unwavering commitment to ensuring that even the most remote communities of India receive access to innovation, government support, and a platform to voice their needs. This Abhiyan provides our farmers a new sights for why our agricultural ecosystem will very soon improve. She added. Besides here the team also hold an inaugural session at Sahaspur Panchayat, Sahaspur Sarapanch Smt. Kalpana Bhuyan and others were participated.

## Jt. Grievances at Gajapati District Headquarter



**Parakakhemundi, (DMC):** At Gajapati district headquarter joint grievances held. Chaired by Collector

Bijay Kumar Dash; among others SP Jatindra Kumar Panda, DFO KNagaraju, CDO of Zilla Parishad Sankar Kerketa were on dias. Out of 81 grievances of Sidhamadanga, Ranipentha, Katalkaitha, Kerandi panchayat with Paralakhemundi Municipality 75 individuals & rest on community level received. 2 grievances sorted out. Regarding land patta, MGNREGA, road communication, housing, irrigation, ration cards, education, health, social security grievances received. Among others Sub Collector Anup Panda, CDMO Dr. Md. Mubarak Ali, BDO Gosani Gourachandra Patnaik, Tehsildar Narayan Behra were present.

## Crucial Review of Grain Purchase System in Bargarh

**Bargarh, (DMC):** A critical examination of the grain purchase and sale system in Bargarh district has unveiled significant concerns, particularly regarding the role of mill owners. Stakeholders are raising alarm over the mounting challenges farmers and local officials face as they grapple with shifting market dynamics. Disturbingly, reports reveal a shortfall of 3 to 7 kg per quintal of grain sold, highlighting an urgent need for action.

Farmers are burdened with unexpected transportation costs to deliver their grain to mills, which have historically been responsible for collecting it from the market. In response to these pressing issues, the Agricultural Refinance Corporation (ARC), District Co-operative Society (DRCS), and relevant Supply officers must proactively dialogue with millers to address these challenges head-on.

Farmers have voiced their fears regarding the ability of Regulated Market Committee employees, self-help groups, and cooperative societies to accurately assess the Fair Average Quality (FAQ) of the grain they deliver. Moreover, millers have flagged compliance issues at market points, notably citing concerns about moisture content in paddy, which has plummeted from the optimal 17% to around 12.13% due to rising temperatures.

Adding to the turmoil, farmers are experiencing significant losses estimated at 4 to 5 kg per quintal. To exacerbate matters, they are forced to hire middlemen at a steep cost of Rs 35 per quintal, despite the expectation that mills would directly purchase their paddy. This additional financial strain is unsustainable and detrimental to farmers' livelihoods. Current reports indicate that 16 lakh



quintals of paddy have been purchased in the district, with a target of 52 lakh quintals set. The swift pace of collection prompts serious questions about efficiency and its impact on farmers eager to sell their paddy. While numerous politicians, farmer organisations, and social workers advocate for fair support prices for paddy, there is an urgent need for a united front to tackle the challenges farmers are facing. Under the mandi system, farmers are urged to bring their paddy in FAQ quality, ensuring

that transport bags are returned promptly after weighing and recording. Purchasing companies are responsible for facilitating transportation and ensuring timely payments, ideally within 48 hours of the paddy entering the market. However, it is increasingly evident that the system often fails to adhere to these established protocols. Additionally, troubling reports suggest that traders representing various mills retain between Rs 40 to 50 per quintal of farmers' paddy, underscoring the many

obstacles that farmers must navigate. There appears to be a growing preference among purchasing agencies for farmers' paddy to be shipped directly to mills, bypassing the mandi entirely, further complicating matters for farmers contending with middlemen, traders, mill owners, purchasing agencies, RMC staff, and government employees.

Farmers find themselves in a precarious situation as pre-monsoon rains commence in the district amid alerts from the Meteorological Department about impending monsoon conditions. Despite assurances and support from government entities and farmer organisations, countless farmers are facing considerable challenges this season, reflecting the hardships of previous years. While modest bonuses of Rs 800 are being distributed, farmers are urged to remain patient as they navigate these turbulent times.

### From Page- 1

### SC refuses to...

'push back' policy, as implemented, violates Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution by deporting individuals without due process, thereby denying them the opportunity to contest their deportation and infringing upon their right to life and personal liberty," the plea claimed. It alleged that the indiscriminate application of deportation directives, coupled with absence of proper identification, verification and notice mechanisms, has resulted in a situation where Indian citizens were being wrongfully incarcerated and threatened with removal to foreign territories without lawful basis. The plea sought a direction that no person shall be deported pursuant to the February 4 order without a prior reasoned declaration by the foreigners tribunal, without adequate opportunity of appeal or review and verification of nationality by the Ministry of External Affairs. It also sought a declaration that the "push back" policy adopted by Assam was violative of Articles 14 (equality before law) and 21 (protection of life and personal liberty) of the Constitution and contrary to binding judicial precedents.

### CM launches...

government announced the launch of Subhadra Yojana, an additional Rs 800 per quintal of paddy as input support to farmers, opened four gates of the Shree Jagannath Temple in Puri to devotees, and established a Rs 500-crore corpus fund for the temple. Majhi further stated that the state government will present the report card of its performance on completion of one year in office on June 12. On the industrial front, Majhi informed projects worth over Rs 80 crore were initiated within 120 days of assuming power, and on May 22, the government approved 10 more projects valued at Rs 1.65 lakh crore.

### India, Paraguay...

enhancing bilateral cooperation in health, pharmaceuticals, defence, infrastructure, mining and renewable energy. Peña urged Indian firms to take advantage of Paraguay's position as one of the most open economies in the Mercosur region and promised to facilitate investments, officials said. "Given their central location in South America, it would be possible for us to use Paraguay as a launching pad to try and access other markets in the region. Our companies would be looking at Paraguay as...a staging post and therefore, look at it in a way that is a force multiplier," Kumaran said. "We will be looking at expanding our presence in South America, using Paraguay as a staging post." India and Paraguay also wish to expand trade links under the India-Mercosur preferential trade agreement. The members of Mercosur, a trade bloc that currently includes Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay, are holding technical talks with India on enhancing market access and boosting bilateral and inter-regional trade. There is serious interest in expanding the scope and reach of the India-Mercosur preferential trade agreement in terms of the range of products, though consensus has to be built up among the five members on the bloc on the terms of reference for further discussions, Kumaran said.

## Odisha govt...

Magistrate, Cuttack, Mahendra Mohapatra, the Additional District Magistrate, Bargarh, Usharani Sahoo, the Additional Secretary to Health & FW Department, Pradeep Kumar Raut, the C.E.O., Odisha Computer Application Centre (OCAC), Bhubaneswar with additional charge of Additional Secretary of E & IT Department. On promotion to the Grade of OAS (SAG), the Officers concerned are allowed to continue in their present place of posting, until further orders. This promotion is subject to final orders of the Hon'ble Apex Court in SLP(C) No. 35608-35610 of 2010 (Gahadu Mirdha-Vs.-State of Odisha Apex Court in SLP(C) and others) and other related cases.

### BJP to celebrate

the past year and the decade of central leadership. Present at the meeting were Odisha CM Mohan Majhi, BJP state president Manmohan Samal, state in-charge Vijay Pal Singh Tomar, co-in-charge Lata Usendi, along with party office bearers, spokespersons, morcha presidents, and district unit heads. The BJP aims to use the anniversary as an opportunity to strengthen its grassroots connect and consolidate its recent electoral gains in the State. "A brainstorming session is going on to decide on strategies to reach out to people at the grassroots level and to tell them the achievements of 'double-engine sarkar'. In fact, the party will present before people its report card for the last year," a local leader stated. State-level programmes will be held between June 12 and June 15. The Odisha government has plans to take up several programmes across the State in the days ahead. District, block, and panchayat level programmes will also be conducted.

### Woman, son...

crime. As per preliminary investigation, the reason behind the crime is family dispute. The forester was not visiting home regularly and not staying for much time at home," the police officer said.

## Family & Relatives Introduce Non-Humans to the Caste System

**Bargarh, (DMC):** Recently, the small village of San-Sareipali witnessed a heart-wrenching incident that highlighted societal divides. It all began when the family of Simanta, a courageous man who married outside his caste, turned their backs on him after his tragic death. Following a fierce argument with his younger brother, Ramakrishna Mirdha, tensions escalated, leading to a fatal confrontation that took Simanta's life. As his body lay unclaimed in the hospital corridor, a chilling silence engulfed the community. But just when hope seemed lost, the compassionate members of the Sankalp family answered the call. Rallying together at the police's request, they rose to the occasion, determined to give Simanta the farewell he deserved. Emerging as beacons of kindness, they organised a heartfelt funeral ceremony at the serene Pipalmunda Heaven Gate. The bittersweet gathering brought Simanta's grieving wife, mother, and six-year-old daughter together, who were enveloped by the warmth of support from the Sankalp family. Led by the compassionate President Vikas Agarwal, alongside Anant Sahu, Seshadev Padhan, Shashanka Diwan, and G. Ramesh, they infused life into the sombre affair, transforming it into a celebration of dignity and love. Together, they turned a tragic narrative into a powerful testament to humanity's resilience, demonstrating that love and compassion can triumph even in the shadow of division.

## One Migrant Labourer Died of Gajapati

**Paralakhemundi, (DMC):** One labourer of Gajapati district migrated at Andhrapradesh died. Belonged to Raghunathpur of Jirango panchayat named Sahadeb Badaroito (22) eldest son of Subas Badaroito. At Vishakhapatnam he was serving in a firm due to financial constraints. On last April he had gone there & was working in a cement processing work. By getting his sad demise information family on pal grief. So area people requested financial assistance from administration.





## 'Operation Sindoor': Precision Strikes on Terrorists' Facilities, Chinese Defence Weaponry

**New Delhi, (HS) :** 'Operation Sindoor' launched by the Indian armed forces on May 7 signified a substantial military reaction to a terrorist assault at Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir on April 22, 2025, resulting in 26 fatalities. Nine distinct terrorist facilities in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir (PoK) were targeted, concentrating on the eradication of terrorist infrastructure associated with organisations like Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed. No civilian as well as military locations were targeted by India. The battle not only demonstrated India's strategic capabilities but also revealed significant vulnerabilities in Pakistan's Defence systems, particularly its dependence on Chinese-supplied military equipment. Why 'Operation Sindoor'? The operation was triggered by a massacre in Pahalgam in which 26 civilians, the majority being Indian tourists, were killed by gunmen. India attributed the attack to terrorists sponsored by Pakistan. In response, India initiated 'Operation Sindoor' in the early hours of May 7, employing a combination of long-range standoff weapons, including air-launched missiles and loitering munitions, and struck nine



locations. Pakistan asserted that it had reacted; however, the Indian strikes were characterised as "measured, non-escalatory, and proportionate," concentrating on terrorist infrastructure while excluding civilian or military locations. But there were tit-for-tat drone and missile exchanges when Pakistan claimed civilian losses and charged India with intensifying the conflict.

'Operation Sindoor' exposed the vulnerabilities associated with Pakistan's armed forces' extreme reliance on Chinese-supplied military equipment. 'Operation Sindoor'

functioned as an operational evaluation of Chinese Defence technology against a blend of Indian and Western systems, exposing a trend of system malfunctions and suboptimal performance. Pakistan's military strategy has progressively relied on China as its principal weaponry supplier, a collaboration bolstered by geopolitical alignments and commercial connections. Data from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) indicates that China accounted for 81 per cent of Pakistan's military acquisitions during the last five years. Chinese arms exports to Pakistan

amounted to \$5.28 billion, or 63 per cent of overall Defence procurements by Islamabad during this period. Pakistan received weapons from China valued at around \$20 billion during the crisis with India. The following items were included in the inventory: 20 fighter aircraft JF-17 Block III (equipped with Russian Klimov RD-93 engines) and 20 J-10CE (based on the Israel Lavi project), drones Wing Loong (like the US-MQ-1 Predator), frigates, submarines, missiles (240 PL-15E, an upgraded version of Israel's Python-8), air defence systems LY-80, early warning aircraft ZDK, and other technological upgrades. Deficiencies in Chinese Defence equipment: It was a devastating blow to China's image as an international armaments exporter as the operation revealed a trend of malfunctions and failure to perform in Chinese-supplied equipment. Included in some of the most significant failures were: Air defence systems: Pakistan deployed air defence systems such as the HQ-9 and HQ-16/LY-80. Despite claims to the contrary, the HQ-9 was unable to thwart numerous missiles strikes launched by India, including those employing the BrahMos.

## Indigo flight struck by vulture, makes emergency landing in Ranchi

**New Delhi, (HS) :** An Indigo flight en route to Ranchi from Patna was forced to make an emergency landing after getting struck by a Vulture on Monday. The aircraft Airbus 320 carrying 175 passengers landed safely at the Birsa Munda Airport in Ranchi as informed by the officials. According to the statement given to PTI by R R Maurya, the Director of Birsa Munda Airport, the Indigo flight suffered a bird hit at approximately 10 to 12 nautical miles away from the Ranchi airport at an altitude of 3,000 to 4,000 feet around 1.14 pm today. Following the incident, the flight coming from Patna to Ranchi had to make an emergency landing. The airport Director also added that although the flight had suffered some minor damages which are being assessed by the engineers, all the passengers are safe.

## Covid cases in India reaches close to 4000 mark with 4 new deaths

**New Delhi, (HS) :** India's active COVID-19 cases stand at 3,961 as of 8 am on Monday that is June 2, according to Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The cumulative COVID-19 deaths in the country since January this year have increased to 32, with four deaths reported since Sunday. According to official data, 203 new cases were added to the active case count since Sunday. Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Kerala each reported one COVID-19 death since Sunday.

Delhi reported 47 more COVID-19 cases, increasing the total active cases in the national capital to 483. In Kerala, active COVID-19 cases rose to 1,435, with 35 new cases reported since Sunday. In Maharashtra, 21 new COVID-19 cases were reported, taking the active case count to 506. In West



Bengal, 44 new COVID-19 cases were reported, increasing the state's active cases to 331. On Friday on the Covid cases in India, the Union Minister of State for Health and AYUSH (Independent Charge), Prataprao Jadhav, assured that the Centre is fully prepared to handle any situation that may arise. "Both our Central Health

Department and the AYUSH Ministry are fully alert and closely monitoring the situation across all states. We have spoken with the respective Health and AYUSH Secretaries, as well as other concerned ministers," Jadhav had told . He added that the infrastructure developed during the earlier Covid-19 waves has been reviewed and

that preparations are underway to deal with any eventuality. "We've reviewed the infrastructure built during the earlier Covid waves, such as oxygen plants and ICU beds, and have already begun preparations. Our health systems are well-equipped and ready to handle any situation that may arise in response to Covid," he had said.

## Mystery woman's parcel from Australia to gangster Lawrence Bishnoi triggers probe



**AHMEDABAD, (HS) :** A package sent by a mystery woman in Australia to gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, currently lodged in a high-security cell at Sabarmati Central Jail, has triggered an investigation by security agencies. The parcel addressed to Bishnoi was reportedly sent in the name of a woman identified as Vandana Gaur, with an address listed in Australia. However, investigations revealed the address to be fake, raising a red flag.

Though the package contained only a towel and a shaver, the seemingly innocuous contents have deepened the suspicions of security officials, given that such items were sent from abroad. Agencies now believe the parcel may have been a test run to assess whether such foreign deliveries could reach Bishnoi inside the jail without scrutiny, prompting a wider probe into the motive

behind the delivery. The suspicious package was reportedly intercepted -- before reaching the jail -- at the Foreign Post Office in Gujarat, which manages international shipments to and from the state. Nidhi Thakur, superintendent of Sabarmati Central Jail, told local media, "We have not received any parcel today in the name of Lawrence Bishnoi. We have strict protocols in place for inmates; no parcel can be sent directly to them."

The parcel addressed to Bishnoi has further raised alarms after it was revealed that around 7,000 was paid as international postage--an unusually high amount for a package containing just a towel and a shaver. Bishnoi is a notorious figure with alleged links to several high-profile crimes. His name has surfaced in the murder of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala, threats to Bollywood actor Salman Khan, and the murder of NCP leader Baba Siddiqui.

## Minority Cell Vice President Sheikh Abdul Ghani Hossain resigns from BJD



Mr. Hossain has resigned from the primary membership of the Biju Janata Dal.

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC) :** Biju Janata Dal Minority Cell Vice President Sheikh Abdul Ghani Hossain has resigned from Biju Janata Dal. Mr. Hossain was working as an active worker of the party. Whenever the party gave him work, he did it happily. But the senior leaders of the party ignored him and those who were not working for the party only stood next to MPs and MLAs, took pictures and posted them on social media, and on the recommendation of the leaders, they were getting benefits by holding various high positions. But they do not have the authority to call a meeting in the village. Mr. Hossain had been working in the Janata Dal after the Biju Janata Dal since 1990. But due to the ignoring of the senior leaders of the party and not calling the party meeting,

## Is it so difficult to be patriotic?: Salman Khurshid's subtle jab at Congress

**New Delhi, (HS) :** Senior Congress leader and former External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid, part of an all-party delegation tasked with conveying India's anti-terrorism message abroad, expressed distress on Monday over political infighting and public focus on party allegiances while the delegation works on a national mission. In a tweet, Khurshid said, "When on a mission against terrorism to carry India's message to the world, it's distressing that people at home are calculating political allegiances. Is it so difficult to be patriotic?" Although Khurshid did not explicitly mention individuals, his comments come against the backdrop of internal Congress tensions. Recently, party colleague Udit Raj criticised fellow MP Shashi Tharoor for remarks perceived as favourable to the government, labelling him a "super



spokesperson of the BJP." Jairam Ramesh endorsed these criticisms, intensifying the party's internal divisions. The Congress has also expressed unhappiness with the government's nominations for the all-party delegation, claiming that some party leaders were ignored in the selection process. Earlier, Jairam Ramesh drew controversy by saying that "terrorists were roaming and

## NEET-PG 2025 Postponed, to be Held in Single Shift as Per SC Order

**New Delhi, (HS) :** The National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) has postponed the NEET-PG 2025 examination, which was earlier scheduled for June 15, 2025. The decision has been taken after a Supreme Court order. While hearing a petition last week, the court had asked the authority to conduct the exam for admission into MBBS and dental programmes in a single shift instead of two. In its directive, the court had emphasised the need for "complete transparency" and mandated that "secure centres are identified and commissioned" for the fair conduct of the examination.

Complying with the Supreme Court's order, NBEMS on Monday announced that NEET-PG 2025 will now be conducted in single shift. This decision necessitates logistical adjustments, particularly in terms of increasing the number of test centres and enhancing infrastructure to accommodate all candidates simultaneously. In an official notification, the NBE said, "Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in W.P. No. 456/ 2025 (Aditi & Ors Versus National Board of Examination in Medical Sciences & Ors) has ordered that: "We, accordingly, direct the respondents to make necessary arrangements for holding the NEET-PG 2025, examination in one shift, duly ensuring that complete transparency is maintained and secure centres are identified and commissioned."

"Accordingly, NBEMS will conduct NEET-PG 2025 in a single shift," it said.

## 16 hardcore Maoists surrender in Chhattisgarh, see details

**Raipur, (HS) :** In a major success to police, as many as 16 hardcore Maoists surrendered in Chattisgarh. The Maoists surrendered to the Bijapur SP of Chhattisgarh, bordering Malkangiri district. As many as 16 Maoists, including two hardcore members of the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA) battalion, surrendered to authorities in Sukma district of Chhattisgarh on Monday. In a major success to police, as many as 24 hardcore Maoists surrendered in Chattisgarh. The Maoists surrendered to the Bijapur SP of Chhattisgarh, bordering Malkangiri district in April The hardcore Maoists belonged to the Bhairamgarh area of East Bastar Division. There was a reward of Rs. 28 lakh in their names. 24 Maoists surrendered after being attracted by the rehabilitation scheme of the Chhattisgarh government. Bijapur SP Jitendra Chauhan said that all kinds of help and cooperation will be provided to them to join the mainstream of society. Recently as many as nine hardcore Maoists surrendered in Chhattisgarh. Nine hardcore Maoists had surrendered to the Sukma SP of Chhattisgarh bordering Malkangiri district.

## Delhi Bar Association Exempts Lawyers From Wearing Black Coats in Summer

**New Delhi, (HS) :** The Delhi Bar Association (Tis Hazari) has exempted its members from wearing the compulsory black coats in summer in the district court. The notice of May 24 said, "All the members are hereby informed that advocates are exempted from wearing black coats during summer, ie, from May 16 to September 30, as per the amendment in rule under Section 49 (1) (gg) of the Advocates Act of 1961." The provision empowers the Bar Council of India (BCI) to frame rules on the attire of advocates appearing before any court or tribunal and includes consideration of climatic conditions. "The members are free to appear in courts subordinate to the Delhi High Court without wearing black coats. The members, however, are advised to adhere to the other rules of the dress code, which is mandatory for an advocate," said the notice signed by the association's secretary Vikas Goyal.

## Pakistan Faces Severe Water Crisis Amid Extreme Heat, Indus Waters Shortage



June 2, 2025, which is 14,800 Cusecs less than the month of water available last year on the same day. This water shortage may prove catastrophic for farmers as the Kharif sowing season is underway, and the Southwest Monsoon is not likely to reach Punjab Province until the end of June, leading to irrigation problems amid extreme summer heat. This comes after Pakistan, last month, projected an overall water shortage of 21 per cent this summer and advised dam authorities and irrigation supply monitoring agencies to use water from

reservoirs judiciously. Islamabad also projected a 50 per cent water shortage in live storage of the two key dams, which play a crucial role in providing water for irrigation in Punjab and Sindh provinces of Pakistan and generating hydropower. The worsening crisis was probably what prompted Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to raise his concerns at a conference on glacier preservation in Tajikistan's Dushanbe last week, and draw global attention to India's decision to suspend the Indus Waters Treaty.

The water shortage in Pakistan is a likely fallout of India's decision to hold the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 in abeyance following the Pahalgam attack, which was attributed to Pakistan's support for cross-border terrorism. The Treaty allocates the Western Rivers (Indus, Jhelum, Chenab) to Pakistan and the Eastern Rivers (Ravi, Beas, Sutlej) to India. At the same time, it allows each country certain uses of the rivers allocated to the other. The treaty gives India 20 per cent of the water from the Indus River System and the rest 80 per cent to Pakistan. The attack in Pahalgam occurred on April 22 at Baisaran meadow, where terrorists targeted tourists, killing 25 Indian nationals and one Nepalese citizen, and leaving several others injured. With the suspension of the treaty, India has stopped sharing the water level data in three rivers with Pakistan. This could prove catastrophic for Islamabad during Monsoons as India's early warnings about rising waters in the three rivers helped Pakistan issue timely evacuation warnings to people living in low-lying areas in Punjab and Sindh province.



## Terrorism Against Jews: Israel's UN Envoy Condemns Colorado Attack

**Colorado, (H.S):** Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, Danny Danon, has condemned the violent attack on a group of Jewish demonstrators in Boulder, Colorado, as an act of terrorism following an incident where a man hurled Molotov cocktails at participants of a peaceful rally calling for the safe return of hostages from Hamas captivity.

The attacker, identified as 45-year-old Mohamed Sabry Soliman, was taken into custody following the assault, which left several individuals injured. The protest, organised by the group Run For Their Lives, was held near the popular Pearl Street pedestrian mall and was intended to raise awareness about the hostages still being held in Gaza amid the ongoing war between Israel and Hamas. In a post on X, Ambassador Danon wrote, "Terrorism against Jews does not stop at the Gaza border - it is



already burning the streets of America. Today, in Boulder, Colorado, Jewish people marched with a moral and humane demand: to return the hostages."

"In response, the Jewish protesters were brutally attacked, with an attacker throwing Molotov cocktails at them. Make no mistake - this is not a political protest, this is terrorism. The time for statements is over. It is time for concrete action to be taken against the instigators wherever they may be," he added. According to eyewitnesses and video footage circulating online, Soliman was seen shouting "Free Palestine" and

"End Zionists... they are terrorists" as he used a makeshift flamethrower on demonstrators. Wearing only jeans and sunglasses, the suspect appeared to directly target the peaceful crowd, raising fears of escalating hate crimes linked to the Israel-Hamas conflict.

Fox News reported, citing sources from the Department of Homeland Security and US Immigration and Customs Enforcement, that Soliman is an Egyptian national who had overstayed his visa after entering the United States during the Biden administration. The Pearl Street

Mall, a bustling four-block area in downtown Boulder, quickly turned into a scene of chaos following the attack. Authorities responded promptly, and Soliman was apprehended at the scene. FBI Director Kash Patel acknowledged the Boulder attack in a post on social media, stating, "We are aware of and fully investigating a targeted terror attack in Boulder, Colorado."

Our agents and local law enforcement are on the scene already, and we will share updates as more information becomes available." The incident has sparked fresh concerns over rising antisemitic violence across the United States. Just over a week earlier, two staff members at the Israeli embassy in Washington were fatally shot by a Chicago man who shouted, "I did it for Palestine, I did it for Gaza" as he was taken into custody.

## Karol Nawrocki Wins Poland's Presidential Election



**Warsaw, (H.S):** Karol Nawrocki, an independent candidate backed by the opposition Law and Justice (PiS) party, won Poland's presidential runoff election, according to the final vote count released by Polish National Electoral Commission (PKW) early Monday. The final result, reading "Elected in the second round," was written next to Nawrocki's name on the public website of PKW on Monday.

Nawrocki, a historian and head of Poland's Institute of National Remembrance, received 50.89 per cent of the vote in the presidential runoff, ahead of Rafal Trzaskowski, the ruling Civic Coalition (KO) candidate and mayor of Warsaw, who garnered 49.11 per cent. Xinhua news agency reported. This was Nawrocki's first presidential campaign - an uphill battle from the start. He consistently trailed Trzaskowski in polls, including

Sunday evening's initial exit survey. Born in 1983 in Gdansk, Nawrocki is set to succeed the incumbent president Andrzej Duda, whose second and final term ends on August 6.

The departing president, Andrzej Duda, like Mr. Nawrocki, is an ally of Law and Justice, and frequently vetoed laws passed by Mr. Tusk's majority in Parliament or sent them for review by courts stacked with loyalists of the

previous government. He was ineligible to run again because of term limits. An early exit poll released Sunday (June 1, 2025) evening suggested Trzaskowski was headed to victory before updated polling began to reverse the picture hours later.

The outcome indicates that Poland can be expected to take a more nationalist path under its new leader, who was backed by US President Donald Trump.

## Israel Slams 'Fake' Reporting of Attack Near Aid Distribution Centre In Gaza



**New Delhi, (H.S):** Amidst the ongoing face-off in Gaza, a humanitarian aid distribution centre in Southern Gaza's Rafah came under fire on Sunday, resulting in the death of more than 30 Palestinians. Gaza was quick to pin blame on Israel for 'killing innocents' but the latter dismissed the claims as plain lies and also accused Hamas of colluding with major news portals like Al Jazeera and BBC to fan a fake propaganda. Hamas accused Israeli forces of committing a 'new massacre' against hungry civilians in the name of humanitarian aid, however, Israel dismissed the claims of Israeli tanks hitting the civilians as '100 per cent fake'. The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF), which supervises humanitarian efforts in the war-torn region, also dismissed the reports of mass killings at its aid distribution centre as 'untrue and fabricated' and said that rumours were actively fomented for disturbing and derailing its efforts.

Israel Ambassador to India Reuven Azar took to X to call out Hamas' desperate attempts to discredit GHF's humanitarian efforts by making false claims and accused the news publications of 'promoting unsubstantiated claims'. "Hamas, together with its accomplices Al Jazeera and BBC World, are spreading yet another blood libel in order to undermine true humanitarian efforts in Gaza," he wrote in a post on X. The GHF, backed by the United States and Israel, said that there was a concerted and coordinated campaign by some media outlets to promote falsehoods and misinformation. "Major news outlets that are relying on unverified and unsubstantiated reports," the GHF said in an official statement. "

## Trinidad & Tobago Celebrates 180 Years of Indian Arrival Day

**Port of Spain, (H.S):** Indian Arrival Day was organised by the Indian High Commission at Nelson Island of Trinidad and Tobago to mark 180 years since the arrival of the first group of immigrants from India at the shores of the Caribbean nation in 1845.

The event, held on Sunday, filled with music and culture celebrating Indian Arrival Day, was attended by a diverse audience, including Speaker of the House of Representatives of T&T Jagdeo Singh, Deputy Speaker Aiyana Ali, senior Cabinet Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries, Members of Parliament, Mayors, and community leaders of the Caribbean country. Minister of Foreign and Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Affairs Sean Sobers was the Chief Guest of the event. All the dignitaries were welcomed by the Indian High Commissioner Pradeep Rajpurohit in a traditional manner. The attendees toured the ruins and exhibits on



the island. The Indian Arrival Day is marked on 30th May, when the first ship 'Fattel Razack' carrying 225 Indian indentured workers reached the shores of Trinidad, then a British colony."

The 225 passengers who disembarked from the Fattel Razack that day could hardly have known the transformative impact their arrival would have on the country. They came as immigrants, with the understanding that they would have the opportunity to return to India after five years of indentureship. Happily for

Trinidad and Tobago, very few returned. The vast majority of them elected to remain in the country.

And their courageous decision changed the course of our history, forever," read a statement issued by the office of the President of Trinidad and Tobago. "On Indian Arrival Day, we celebrate their rich and lasting legacy. We celebrate their courage and their resilience, and the values and traditions that sustained them throughout their years of hardship and uncertainty. And we thank them for

safeguarding and passing down the rich cultural heritage which has enriched and strengthened the fabric of Trinbagonian society beyond measure," the statement added. India enjoys traditionally warm and cordial relations with Trinidad and Tobago. The bilateral relations were established on August 31, 1962. Since then, bilateral relations between the two countries have witnessed continued momentum with engagement at different levels.

India has also conferred the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award on Christine Carla Kangaloo, President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, recognising her outstanding achievements in public affairs and her contributions to enhancing India's global prestige. Kangaloo, an Indo-Trinidadian President, served as the chief guest for the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, from January 8-10, 2025. She delivered a virtual address that received widespread applause across India and beyond. During

her address at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, Kangaloo emphasised the deep-rooted ties between India and Trinidad and Tobago, dating back to 1845 when Indian indentured workers first arrived on the Trinidadian shores. She highlighted that India was among the first countries to establish diplomatic relations with Trinidad and Tobago after its independence in 1962.

The Indian Diaspora in Trinidad and Tobago has graduated from indentureship to entrepreneurship. They constitute business magnates, entrepreneurs, manufacturers, professionals representing politics, law, medicine, academia and the like. According to the Indian High Commission in Trinidad and Tobago, the diaspora is a formidable force, the largest numerical representation in the entire Caribbean; the most well-to-do and culturally strong and progressive ethnic group in the plural society of the country.

## Tariff-induced inflation not persistent, rate cuts expected this year: US Fed

**Seoul, (H.S):** US Federal Reserve Governor Christopher Waller said on Monday that he sees room for interest rate cuts later this year amid expectations that sweeping US tariffs are likely to temporarily push up inflation and raise unemployment. Waller, a member of the Board of Governors of the U.S. Federal Reserve System, made the remarks in his keynote speech at the 2025 Bank of Korea (BOK) International Conference in Seoul on structural shifts and monetary policy, reports Yonhap news agency. "Given my belief that any tariff-induced inflation will not be persistent and that inflation expectations are anchored, I support looking through any tariff effects on near-term inflation

when setting the policy rate," Waller said. "Assuming that the effective tariff rate settles close to my lower tariff scenario, that underlying inflation continues to make progress to our 2 percent goal, and that the labor market remains solid, I would be supporting 'good news' rate cuts later this year," he added. His "smaller-tariff" scenario assumed a 10 percent average tariff on good imports, while sector-specific duties would be negotiated lower over time. The "large-tariff" scenario assumed an average trade-weighted tariff on goods imports of 25 percent, and that would remain in place for some time. "In both cases, I assumed that the tariff increases would lead to a one-time boost to prices that would temporarily raise inflation," Waller

said. Following the two-day Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting last month, the Fed held its benchmark interest rate steady for the third consecutive time, pointing to heightened economic uncertainty and increased risks of higher inflation amid Trump's aggressive tariff policy. The official pointed to "downside risks to economic activity and employment and upside risks to inflation" in the second half of this year. "I do expect tariffs will result in an increase in the unemployment rate that will, all else equal, probably linger. Higher tariffs will reduce spending, and businesses will respond, in part, by reducing production and payrolls," Waller said. "

## Terrorism & State Machinery Work Together Pakistan: Indian Delegation in UK

**London, (H.S):** BJP MP Ravi Shankar Prasad, who is currently leading an all-party Parliamentary delegation to the United Kingdom, said on Monday that terrorism and state machinery operate hand-in-hand in Pakistan. Addressing a packed gathering at the India House in London, Prasad highlighted India's strong stand against terrorism and the significance of the Operation Sindoor launched in response to the April 22 Pahalgal terror attack. The interaction saw participation of a large number of Indian diaspora members who expressed unwavering solidarity with India.

The delegation briefed the community on the circumstances surrounding the Pahalgal attack and India's subsequent countermeasures, reaffirming the country's firm resolve to combat terrorism in all its manifestations. Prasad described the Pahalgal attack as a "conspiracy to disrupt peace and development," adding that India's firm response through Operation Sindoor is aimed at dismantling Pakistan-backed terror camps. "India is in favour of peace, but terrorists will have to pay the price for killing innocent Indians," he said. "

Terrorism and the state machinery work together in Pakistan, so every terror incident will be seen as a war," he added. Emphasising India's consistent policy on national security, Prasad declared that the country's stance on terrorism is uncompromising. Underlining India's strong resolve against terrorism, the Indian parliamentarians reiterated that any act of terror would be met with the utmost severity. Prasad also drew attention to the ongoing human rights violations in Pakistan-



occupied Kashmir (PoK) and Balochistan. "Do you know what kind of mistreatment is happening with people in the PoK? They are crying to come to India. Women in Balochistan are being treated most barbarically. People in Pakistan are very upset today," he said. Reflecting on India-Pakistan conflicts in the past, Prasad added, "We fought four conventional wars, none of which were started by India; we only responded, and Pakistan lost all the wars. Jinnah made Pakistan, it became the 'General shop'."

Taking to social media after the interaction, Prasad posted on X, "Today, alongside my esteemed colleagues from the all-party delegation, I engaged with representatives of the vibrant and diverse Indian Diaspora at India House in London. We conveyed India's unwavering stance against terrorism, shedding light on the tragic Pahalgal attack." "Additionally, we briefed them on Operation Sindoor, underscoring India's resolute policy of combating terrorism in all its forms.

We emphasised India's united stance and unwavering commitment to decisively counter terrorism, making it clear that any acts of terror will be punished with utmost resolve," he added. The diaspora members lauded Operation Sindoor and measures undertaken by the government led by PM Narendra Modi in confronting cross-border

terrorism. The visiting all-party delegation also comprises BJP MPs Daggubati Purandeswari and Samik Bhattacharya; Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Priyanka Chaturvedi; Congress MPs Gulam Ali Khatana and Amar Singh; former Union Minister M.J. Akbar; and former diplomat Pankaj Saran. On Sunday, the delegation paid floral tributes at the statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Tavistock Square Garden and visited the Dr B.R. Ambedkar Museum. At the museum, Prasad said, "

We paid emotional tributes to revered Dr Ambedkar. We are proud to visit this historic building where Dr Ambedkar lived for two years. The Government of India has acquired and preserved this important residence, which is now carefully maintained by the Indian High Commission. We paid our tribute to this great Indian leader and revered reformer by laying flowers."

"It is notable that all five sites associated with the life and work of Dr Ambedkar have been preserved as 'Smriti Sthal', reflecting his enduring legacy. I pay my deep tribute to his remarkable contribution," he added. Following visits to France, Italy, and Denmark, the delegation arrived in London as part of India's global diplomatic outreach campaign to spotlight Operation Sindoor and the continued fight against Pakistan-sponsored terrorism.

## How Ukraine Carried Out Operation Spider Web Against Russia

**Kyiv, (H.S):** Ukraine launched Operation Spider Web against Russia, carrying out massive drone attacks targeting several airfields deep across the Russian territories. This military action came against the backdrop of scheduled peace talks between Russia and Ukraine in Istanbul. According to the reports, Ukraine's Security Service (SBU) struck at least 41 aircraft, which it claimed were used to bomb Ukrainian cities. These included Tu-22 and Tu-95 strategic bombers and the A-50 radar detection and command aircraft.

It also alleged that it hit Russian military planes worth \$7 billion in drone strikes. "\$7 billion: This is the estimated cost of the enemy's strategic aviation, which was hit today as a result of the SBU's special operation," the agency announced on social media. Russia, confirming the incident, stated that the attacks were repelled in the regions of Ivanovo, Ryazan, and Amur. "No casualties were reported either among servicemen or civilians. Some of those involved in the terror attacks were detained," the Russian defence ministry said in a statement on Sunday. It added that in the Murmansk and Irkutsk regions, drones launched from areas near the airfields caused



several aircraft to catch fire, while there were no casualties among military personnel or civilian staff. "Today, a brilliant operation was carried out - on enemy territory, targeting only military objectives, specifically the equipment used to strike Ukraine. Russia suffered significant losses - entirely justified and deserved."

The preparation took over a year and a half. Planning, organisation, every detail was perfectly executed. It can be said with confidence that this was an absolutely unique operation," said Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in a post on X. He mentioned that in total, 117 drones were used in the operation, with a corresponding number of drone operators involved. Additionally, 34 per cent of the strategic cruise missile carriers stationed at air bases were

hit. "Our people operated across several Russian regions - in three different time zones. It's genuinely satisfying when something I authorised a year and six months ago comes to fruition and deprives Russians of over forty units of strategic aviation. We will continue this work," he added.

The planning of the operation involved particularly complex logistics. Drones were secretly brought into Russia ahead of time, hidden under the roofs of wooden cabins mounted on trucks, according to media reports. When it was time for the attack, the roofs of these structures were opened remotely, allowing the drones to fly toward their short-distance targets, the reports suggest. Russia acknowledged that several of its aircraft "caught fire" in the attacks. "As a result of the

launch of FPV drones from territories in close proximity to military airfields in the Murmansk and Irkutsk Regions, several aircraft caught fire. The fires were extinguished," the Russian defence ministry's statement read. Meanwhile, on Monday, Russia and Ukraine are scheduled to hold the second round of direct talks in Istanbul. The new meeting was announced on May 28 by Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov.

Russian Foreign Ministry Ambassador at Large on Kyiv's War Crimes, Rodion Miroshnik, slammed Ukraine, stating that Kyiv is "destabilising the situation" ahead of talks in Istanbul, which is inadmissible. Earlier on Sunday, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio in a telephonic conversation discussed the situation centering the Ukrainian crisis, the Russian foreign ministry said. "Sergei Lavrov and Marco Rubio exchanged views on various initiatives on a political settlement of the Ukrainian crisis, including plans for the resumption of direct Russian-Ukrainian talks in Istanbul on June 2," it said.



## RBI May Go For 50 Bps Jumbo Rate Cut To Counter Uncertainty: SBI Report

**New Delhi, (H.S):** A new SBI report on Monday projected a mega 50-basis point rate cut in June's RBI MPC policy, saying that a large rate cut could reinvigorate a credit cycle and act as a counterbalance to uncertainty. The cumulative rate cut over the cycle could be 100 basis points, said Dr Soumya Kanti Ghosh, Group Chief Economic Adviser, SBI."

Domestic liquidity and financial stability concerns have receded. Inflation is expected to stay within the tolerance band. Keeping the domestic growth momentum intact should be the main policy focus and provide the justification for a jumbo rate cut," he mentioned. With liquidity in an extended surplus mode, liabilities are getting repriced faster in the current rate-easing cycle. Banks have already reduced interest rates on savings accounts to the floor rate of 2.70 per cent. Also, fixed deposit



(FDs) rates have been reduced in the range of 30-70 bps since February 2025. Transmission to deposit rates is expected to be strong in the coming quarters, said the SBI report.

India's economy grew by 7.4 per cent in Q4 FY25 as against 8.4 per cent growth in the same quarter last fiscal. From the expenditure side, the GDP growth of 7.4 per cent in Q4 was supported by a strong uptick in the capital formation, which

registered a 9.4 per cent YoY growth."Above normal monsoon prediction by IMD, strong arrival of crops and decline in crude oil prices are revising down our CPI estimate to 3.5 per cent in FY26 with a downward bias," said the report.

With higher anticipated savings based on the latest RBI Annual report, the domestic finances will be sufficient to finance the anticipated growth and "we do not expect demand-

induced pressure on prices in FY26".Domestic financial stability risk has receded. Indian banks (particularly PSBs) exhibited yet another quarter of stupendous financial results. Profit of PSBs increased by a whopping 26 per cent YoY, while for private banks, it increased by only 5.8 per cent. System liquidity turned to surplus mode and stands at Rs 1.2 lakh crore on March 31.. With the RBI dividend of Rs 2.68 lakh crore, "we are expecting core liquidity of Rs 5.3 lakh crore by June-end.

Durable liquidity is likely to remain surplus in FY26." Within this backdrop, RBI's response function has to balance the call between contained inflation and possible slowdown in domestic growth and support investments." We expect that RBI will continue with its rate cut by 50 bps to support growth," the SBI report added.

## India Inc Posts Stable Q4 Performance Amid Global Headwinds



**New Delhi, (H.S):** Corporate performance in India in the fourth quarter of FY25 was, on the whole, satisfactory and there is scope for an upward movement once consumption picks up in FY26, according to a report released on Monday. The aggregate net sales of a sample of 1,893 companies were recorded at 5.4 per cent in Q4, while net profits rose by 7.6 per cent, according to the Bank of Baroda (BoB) report."

There are sectors which are witnessing green shoots of recovery. Infrastructure linked sectors continue to witness steady growth notwithstanding a negative base effect. For consumer linked sectors, such as FMCG and consumer durables, strong rural demand and seasonal demand continues to aid a steady recovery," said economist Aditi Gupta. Industries in the services sector also continued to post steady growth amidst sustained

demand momentum. Importantly, despite a challenging global environment, companies remain positive on future growth prospects."

Stable commodity prices, low domestic inflation, favourable monsoon trajectory, trade deals, government capex, tax incentives are likely to be key drivers of growth and demand," Gupta mentioned. In Q4, expenditure and interest costs remained muted leading to an improvement in debt serviceability of companies. Some moderation in sales is observed in a few large sectors, such as oil

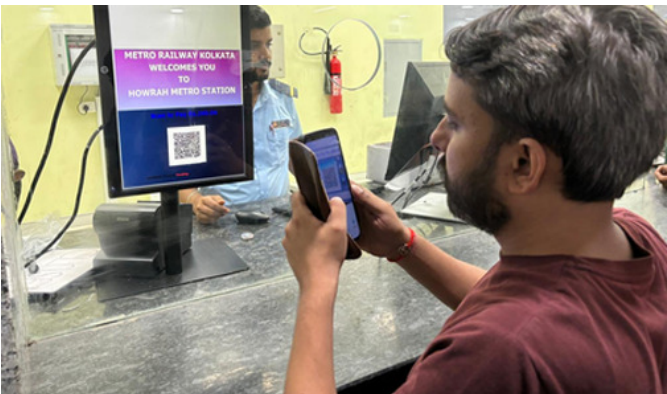
and gas, textiles and iron and steel, which weighed on the aggregate sample."However, this appears to be a one-off phenomenon and not a structural issue. Similarly, the BFSI segment witnessed some slowdown after a strong run last year and can be associated with slowdown in growth in credit," the BoB report said. In the context of a tumultuous global trading environment as well as considering the high base of last year, the performance seems quite stable.

In fact, operating and net profits rose by 8.2 per cent and 7.6 per cent, respectively, in Q4 FY25, on a high base of 20.7 per cent and 14.3 per cent last year."A total of 24 sectors have noted a higher growth rate in net sales than the comparative net sales for the aggregate sample (5.4 per cent). For PAT, 16 sectors have witnessed higher growth than the sample average (7.6 per cent)," the report noted.

## UPI transactions see 23 pc rise at Rs 25.14 lakh crore in May

**New Delhi, (H.S):** The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has posted a robust recover in the month of May by processing 18.68 billion transactions, up from 17.89 billion in April. As per data by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), the UPI transactions mark a 33 per cent year-on-year (YoY) surge compared to 14.03 billion transactions in the same month last year.

The UPI transactions rose to Rs 25.14 lakh crore (by value) last month, a 5 per cent increase from Rs 23.95 lakh crore in April. This reflects a 23 per cent rise from Rs 20.45 lakh crore in May last year. The average daily transaction volume stood at 602 million, while the average daily transaction value reached Rs 81,106 crore. The UPI has strengthened its dominance in India's digital payments system with its share in the total transaction volume rising to 83.7 per cent in 2024-25 from 79.7 per cent in the previous financial year. The RBI's annual report



shows that UPI facilitated 185.8 billion transactions during 2024-25, which represents a 41 per cent year-on-year increase. In value terms, UPI transactions rose to Rs 261 lakh crore from Rs 200 lakh crore in FY24."

The success of UPI placed India in a leadership position with a share of 48.5 per cent in global real-time payments by volume," the RBI said. Total digital payments in the country, including transactions through payment systems, card networks, and prepaid payment instruments (PPIs), grew 35 per

cent to 221.9 billion in FY25, from 164.4 billion transactions in FY24. In value terms, total digital payments surged 17.97 per cent to Rs 2,862 lakh crore. The RBI also said it remains committed to extending UPI to 20 countries by 2028-29.

Acceptance of Indian UPI apps via QR codes has already been enabled in Bhutan, France, Mauritius, Nepal, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and the UAE, allowing Indian tourists, students, and business travellers to make merchant payments using their domestic UPI apps.

## India's Aviation Sector Storms Into World's Top 3 Markets, Creates 7.7 Million Jobs

**New Delhi, (H.S):** India's aviation industry has expanded at a rapid pace to become the world's third-largest aviation market in terms of passenger traffic, according to a report compiled by the International Air Transport Association (IATA). IATA's country director for India, Nepal and Bhutan, Amitabh Khosla, said India's rise to the third rank in the global market comes on the back of stronger airlines, growth of connectivity, and increased airport infrastructure.

He described the aviation industry as a key driver of employment, economic activity, international trade and investment in the country. India's aviation now accounts for 1.5 per cent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and has created approximately 7.7 million jobs, both directly and indirectly, across the country, the report states. Khosla said, "In 2023, the industry made a \$53.6 billion



contribution to India's economy, underpinning 7.7 million jobs in the country." Tourism, supported by aviation, contributes Rs 2,710 crore to the GDP. International tourists add another \$29.4 billion annually to the economy through local purchases of goods and services. "Overall the travel and tourism sector accounts for 6.5 per cent of the nation's GDP and 8.9 per cent of total employment in 2023," he added. The Middle East remained the top international

destination for Indian flyers in 2023, with 13.7 million passengers, followed by the Asia Pacific region and Europe. To meet growing demand, airlines have ramped up flight frequencies and seat capacities. Scheduled flights increased by 77.7 per cent to around 1.3 million in 2024. Most of these were domestic, flights with increased from 613,000 flights in 2014 to nearly 1.1 million in 2024. Indigo led this expansion, operating 53 per cent of all

departing flights from and within India. Consumers have also benefited from increased competition, which led to a 25 per cent reduction in real airfares in 2023 compared to 2011, Khosla noted. Currently, India has 116 airports offering commercial scheduled services, with 96 of them providing direct connections and 521 outbound international flights each day.

Over the last five years, 103 new international routes have been introduced. There are currently 99 operational airlines in the country. India has also established itself as the sixth-largest air cargo market in the world, transporting 3.3 million tonnes of air freight in 2023. As of December 2024, the international sector stood nearly 20 per cent above its 2019 levels, while domestic operations were over 8 per cent higher which reflects the strong outlook for the future, he added.

## Monthly Production & Dispatch from Captive & Commercial Mines in May



**New Delhi, (PIB):** The coal production from Captive and Commercial Mines for the month of May 2025 has shown a strong performance. A total of 16.432 million tonnes (MT) of coal was produced in May 2025, which represents a significant year-on-year growth of 24.57% compared to May 2024.

Along with production, coal dispatch has also increased notably. A total of 17.499 million tonnes (MT) of coal was dispatched in May 2025,

surpassing last year's dispatch of May 2024. This marks a 13.763% increase compared to May 2024. The growth in both production and dispatch ensures a steady coal supply to important industries such as power, steel, and cement.

Additionally, during the month of May, three important clearances were obtained, including Stage-I and Stage-II Forest Clearances and Mining Lease execution for different coal blocks. Moreover, vesting orders

for six coal blocks were signed on 29th May 2025. These blocks are located in six states: Maharashtra (1 block), Odisha (1), Chhattisgarh (2), Jharkhand (1), and Madhya Pradesh (1), all under the 11th tranche of auction.

These positive developments highlight the Ministry of Coal's consistent efforts to enhance coal production and contribute towards the vision of a self-reliant (Atmanirbhar) Bharat.

**New Delhi, (H.S):** As the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is set to meet later this week, analysts on Monday expected the Central Bank to go for a third consecutive rate cut of 25 basis points as inflation continues to remain below the median target of 4 per cent.

The Central Bank is projected to cut the repo rate by another 50 basis points (bps) this fiscal (FY26), after the 50 bps cut until April this year. Bank lending rates have begun easing, which should support domestic demand, according to a latest Crisil note. "Improving domestic consumption is likely to support industrial activity. We expect domestic consumption demand to improve, driven by healthy agricultural growth, easing inflation supporting discretionary spend and income



tax relief this fiscal," it noted. According to Madan Sabnavis, Chief Economist at Bank of Baroda, "we do believe that given the rather benign inflation conditions and the liquidity situation which has been made very comfortable through various measures of the RBI, the MPC would go in for a

25 bps cut in the repo rate on June 6". The commentary on both growth and inflation will be important as there are expectations of revisions in their forecasts for both the parameters. "It is also expected that the RBI will detail its analysis on how the global environment would be affecting the Indian

economy considering that the tariff reprieve provided by the USA would end in July," Sabnavis added. The Reserve Bank has said it will continue to undertake liquidity management operations in sync with the monetary policy stance to keep system liquidity adequate to meet the productive requirements of the economy.

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

## Government Notifies Guidelines for Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Electric Passenger Cars in India

**New Delhi, (PIB):** The Government of India, under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved a forward-looking scheme to promote the domestic manufacture of passenger cars, with a special focus on electric vehicles (EVs). This landmark initiative is aligned with India's national goals of achieving net zero by 2070, fostering sustainable mobility, driving economic growth, and reducing environmental impact.

It is designed to firmly establish India as a premier global destination for automotive manufacturing and innovation. Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) has issued Notification regarding detailed guidelines for the "Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Electric Passenger Cars in India" (SPMEPCI / the Scheme) MHI had issued the Scheme notification on 15th March 2024. The Department of

Revenue, Ministry of Finance had also issued the notification on 15th March 2024 for reduced import duties in line with the provisions of the Scheme. The Notice for inviting applications under the Scheme is proposed to be notified shortly, whereby the prospective applicants would be able to submit online applications. The Scheme shall help to attract investments from global EV manufacturers and promote India as a manufacturing destination for e-vehicles.

The Scheme will also help put India on the global map for manufacturing of EVs, generate employment and achieve the goal of "Make in India". To encourage the global manufacturers to invest under the Scheme, the approved applicants will be allowed to import Completely Built-in Units (CBUs) of e-4W with a minimum CIF value of USD 35,000 at reduced customs duty of 15% for a period of 5 years from the Application Approval Date.

Approved applicants would be required to make minimum investment of Rs. 4,150 crore in line with the provisions of the scheme. During the press conference, Union Minister Shri H.D. Kumaraswamy said: "Under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Ministry of Heavy Industries has approved a forward-looking scheme to promote the domestic manufacture of passenger cars, with a special focus on electric vehicles.

This landmark initiative aligns with India's national goals of achieving Net Zero by 2070, fostering sustainable mobility, driving economic growth, and reducing environmental impact. It is designed to firmly establish India as a premier global destination for automotive manufacturing and innovation. The scheme is strategically crafted to position India as a global hub for electric vehicle



manufacturing. With a minimum investment threshold of 4,150 crore, it provides an enabling policy environment for leading global and domestic players to establish long-term manufacturing footprints in the country. Through calibrated customs duty concessions and clearly defined domestic value addition (DVA) milestones, the scheme strikes a balance between introducing cutting-edge EV technologies and nurturing indigenous capabilities. By mandating domestic value addition targets the scheme will further boost the 'Make in India'

and 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiatives, while empowering both global and domestic companies to become active partners in India's green mobility revolution." The approved Applicants will be allowed to import CBUs of e-4W manufactured by global Group Companies with a minimum CIF value of USD 35,000 at reduced customs duty of 15% for a period of 5 years from the Application Approval Date. The maximum number of e-4W allowed to be imported at the aforesaid reduced duty rate shall be capped at 8,000 nos. per year. The carryover of

unused annual import limits would be permitted. Total duty to be foregone shall be limited to lower of Rs. 6,484 crore or the Investment made under this Scheme. The Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) issued under Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Automobile and Auto Component (PLI Auto Scheme) would be followed to assess the DVA of the Eligible Product as required under the Scheme. Certification of DVA of Eligible Product manufactured in India by the Approved Applicant would be done by testing agency(ies) approved by MHI.

Investment should be made for domestic manufacturing of Eligible Product. In case the Investment under the Scheme is made on brownfield project, a clear physical demarcation with the existing manufacturing facility (ies) should be made. Expenditure incurred on new Plant, Machinery, Equipment and Associated Utilities, Engineering

Research and Development (ER&D) would be eligible. The expenditure incurred on Land will not be considered. However, Buildings of the main Plant and Utilities will be considered as part of the investment provided it does not exceed 10% of committed investment. Expenditure incurred on Charging Infrastructure would be considered upto maximum 5% of the committed investment.

The Applicant's commitment to setup manufacturing facility(ies), achievement of DVA and compliance with conditions stipulated under the Scheme shall be backed by a Bank Guarantee from a scheduled commercial bank in India equivalent to the total duty to be forgone, or Rs4,150 crore, whichever is higher, during the scheme period. The Bank Guarantee should be valid at all times during the tenure of the Scheme.





## Miss World 2025 Opal Suchata talks about working in Hindi films

Miss World 2025 Opal Suchata said that since her first day in India, 'everyone has been so nice', adding that, 'people are amazing'. Miss World 2025 Opal Suchata said that since her first day in India, 'everyone has been so nice', adding that, 'people are amazing'. Miss World 2025 Opal Suchata, who hails from Thailand, said that she would love to work in Bollywood if there is an opportunity. Speaking with news agency ANI, she also

talked about her India visit and said that she would "definitely be back." She thanked the Telangana government for providing "the best accommodation and allowing us to have such a great time."

Opal said, "I feel very happy and proud. It is an honour to take the first Miss World crown to Thailand... I hope I have made them proud...If I get the opportunity, I would love to (act in Bollywood films); it is

a wonderful opportunity..." She shared her experience of visiting India and said, "It was amazing. Since the first day I was here, everyone has been so nice..people are amazing, they have been so wonderful to me and we went to so many places..all are so beautiful..whether it is infrastructure or nature.. it's great to be here and I will definitely be back." Expressing her gratitude for all the arrangements made by the government, she added,

"I would like to thank the Telangana government and all the people here for providing us with the best accommodation and allowing us to have such a great time in your home." Miss World America 2025 Jessica Pedrosa also expressed her love for Hyderabad, its culture, people and food. She said that Hyderabad "was the best place for Miss World to be held". Jessica added that she tried "so amazing" butter chicken.

While Thailand rejoices in Opal's crowning, India's hopes were dashed as Nandini Gupta, the country's representative, failed to make it into the Top 8 finalists. She had made it to the Top 40 after a standout performance in the earlier rounds, where she was among the 18 contestants who 'fast-tracked' to this prestigious category. However, she could not make it to the final cut as the competition progressed.

## Sonu Miss World Humanitarian Award to Resilient Mothers, Students & Migrants

Bollywood actor and philanthropist Sonu Sood, who has been feted with the Miss World Humanitarian Award, dedicated it to countless unsung heroes - mothers praying for their children, students striving for education despite hardship who couldn't afford to study, and resilient migrants who walked for miles. Sonu took to Instagram, where he shared a string of pictures of him getting honoured by actor Rana Daggubatti and posing with the award.

For the caption, he wrote: This award belongs to every mother who prayed for a bus to take her child home, to every student who couldn't afford education but never gave up dreaming, and to every migrant who walked miles yet never lost faith. Grateful and humbled to receive the Miss World Humanitarian Award, This is for every heart that cares." Sonu is known for his humanitarian work, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. In July 2016, he established the production house Shakti Sagar Productions, which is named after his father, Shakti Sagar Sood. In September 2020, Sood was chosen for the 'SDG Special Humanitarian Action Award' by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for his humanitarian works. In June 2022, he launched his social media app called Explurger.

The actor through his Sood Charity Foundation launched the Sonu Sood Scholarship to help the economically backward section of society students. As per reports, under this scheme, financial assistance will be provided to the economically



backward students of India to continue higher education without worrying about any financial hurdles. On the work front, the actor was recently seen in Fateh, an action thriller film written and directed by him. It also stars Naseeruddin Shah, Jacqueline Fernandez, Vijay Raaz and Dibyendu Bhattacharya. It follows Fateh, an ex-agent who comes out of his tranquil life in order to bring down the entire cyber mafia syndicate when a local girl falls victim to it and goes missing.

## Adnan reveals Pakistan denied him visa to attend his mother's last rites



Adnan Sami, who gave up his Pakistani citizenship to become an Indian national in 2016, has opened up about a personal tragedy. The musician in a recent interview revealed, despite having family there, the Pakistan government didn't allow him to visit the country to attend his mother's funeral.

In an interview with India TV, Adnan revealed that his mother Naureen Sami Khan died a few months back and he requested both Pakistani and Indian government that he wanted to visit the country for her last rites. While, the Indian government had

granted him the permission, Pakistani authorities refused. Adnan revealed that his mother's death was a shock for everyone because she was not dealing with any health issues. Recalling the incident, Adnan said, "Maine yaha ki sarkaar se pucha main jana chahta hu toh apko koi objection to nahi. Unhone kaha, 'Zahir hai, aapki maa ka inteqal hua hai, aapko zaroor jana chahiye'. Unki taraf se koi problem nahi tha (When I asked the Indian government that I want to go, do you have any objection? They said, 'It is obvious, your mother has passed away, you must go'.

There was no problem from their side)," Adnan said. But when the singer applied for visa in Pakistan, his request was denied. "Maine visa ke liye apply kiya, par unhone refuse kar diya. Maine kaha, 'Meri maa ka inteqal hua hai'. Phir bhi unhone mana kar diya. Main nahi ja saka. Maine unka poorra janaza Whatsapp ke video pe dekha (I applied for a visa, but they (Pakistan government) refused. I said, 'My mother has passed away'. But they refused. I could not go. I saw her entire funeral on a WhatsApp video)," Adnan, who visibly looked emotional, said.

Adnan, known for songs such as Kabhi To Nazar Milao, Tera Chehra and Bhar Do Jholi, first arrived in India on March 13, 2001, on a visitor's visa with a validity of one year. His visa was extended from time to time. His Pakistani passport had expired in 2015 and was not renewed by the Pakistan government. He then approached the Indian government with the request to legalise his stay in India.

## Tu Meri Main Tera Main Tera Tu Meri first look

After Pati Patni Aur Woh, Ananya Panday and Kartik Aaryan are reuniting on screen for the upcoming romantic comedy Tu Meri Main Tera Main Tera Tu Meri. The duo unveiled their first look from the film, along with its release date, sparking excitement among fans.

On Monday, Kartik and Ananya took to Instagram and shared a picture in which they can be seen holding passports and sharing a romantic kiss by the shore. Fans couldn't stop gushing over their chemistry. One comment read, "Gorgeous people all ready to take over everyone's hearts." Another wrote, "Chemistry screaming through the picture." Others added, "Beautiful pairing," and "This pair has my whole heart." One fan commented, "Their chemistry is OMG." Earlier, Kartik had been shooting



for his film with Anurag Basu. The yet-untitled musical romantic film featured him with long hair and a heavy beard. However, in May, Kartik took to Instagram and revealed his new look with short hair and a neatly trimmed beard, announcing that he had begun shooting for Tu Meri Main Tera, Main Tera Tu Meri. The clapboard for the film featured the word

'Mahurat,' marking his first day on set.

Directed by Sameer Vidwans, Tu Meri Main Tera, Main Tera Tu Meri is presented by Dharma Productions and Namah Pictures, and produced by Karan Johar, Adar Poonawalla, Apoorva Mehta, Shareen Mantri Kedia, and Kishor Arora. This film marks Kartik and Karan Johar's first collaboration.

## IPL Final: Reliving RCB's record-breaking run to summit clash

**Ahmedabad, (HS) :** The stage is set for a historic showdown as Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) prepare to take on Punjab Kings (PBKS) in the IPL 2025 final, scheduled for June 3 (Tuesday) at the iconic Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. With both teams yet to win an Indian Premier League title, the tournament is guaranteed to crown a new champion this season, finally ending an 18-year drought for one of the franchises. Punjab Kings earned their ticket to the final after a thrilling five-wicket win over Mumbai Indians in Qualifier 2. Their impressive chase of a 200+ target against the five-time champions showcased their grit and determination, setting up a rematch with RCB, who had already defeated them comprehensively in Qualifier 1 at Mullanpur.

RCB, led by Shreyas Iyer, head into the final with a strategic advantage, having enjoyed additional rest and preparation time after securing their spot on May 29. Their dominant performance throughout the tournament has made them one of the most consistent sides this



season, and they'll look to carry that momentum into the final clash. For PBKS, the road to the final has been anything but easy. After finishing at the top of the points table, they suffered a heavy defeat at the hands of RCB in Qualifier 1. However, their strong comeback against MI shows they are not a side to be written off easily. The challenge now lies in putting that earlier loss behind them and rising to the occasion when it matters most.

With power-packed batting lineups and game-changing bowlers on both sides, fans can expect a high-octane finale. Regardless of the outcome, the IPL 2025 final will be a memorable one, marking the end of a long wait for one of these franchises to lift their maiden IPL trophy.

The Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) have earned a spot in the IPL 2025 final after a commanding victory over Punjab

Kings (PBKS) in Qualifier 1. Led by captain Rajat Patidar, RCB defeated the table-toppers by eight wickets, marking their fourth appearance in an IPL final-and the first since 2016. RCB's Director of Cricket, Mo Bobat, praised the team's fearless and united approach this season. "The players have responded to challenges with courage, composure, and intent," he said. "It's been a long road, but the final is the goal that truly matters."

## Rajeev Shukla set to become acting BCCI president

**NEW DELHI, (HS) :** Rajeev Shukla, the current Vice President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), is set to become the acting president of the board in July.

Sources report that Shukla will assume the role after the incumbent president, Roger Binny, reaches the age of 70 on July 19. Shukla, 65, will initially serve as acting president for a three-month period. With the Annual General Meeting (AGM) scheduled for September, coinciding with his 66th birthday, he could potentially stand for election as full-time president. Binny, who was elected BCCI president in October 2022, has led the board through notable achievements, including India's triumph in the ICC T20 World Cup 2024 and the ICC Champions Trophy 2025. He also played a pivotal role in launching the Women's Premier League (WPL), expanding



opportunities in women's cricket.

During his tenure, Binny prioritised strengthening domestic cricket with better incentives, pay structures, and senior players' active participation. His leadership contributed to India's sustained success on the global stage. As Shukla steps into this interim role, the cricket fraternity watches closely to see how his leadership will shape BCCI's future. Binny has previously served as a member of the BCCI selection committee.

## Glenn Maxwell announces retirement from ODI cricket

**MELBOURNE, (HS) :** Australian cricket star Glenn Maxwell has officially retired from One Day Internationals (ODIs) to dedicate his efforts to T20 cricket. With the ICC Men's T20 World Cup scheduled for 2026, Maxwell aims to prioritise his preparation for the global tournament.

Maxwell, who last played in the ICC Champions Trophy 2025, leaves the ODI format with 149 matches under his belt, scoring 3,990 runs with four centuries and 23 half-centuries. He was also a handy bowler, scalping 77 wickets throughout his career. The 36-year-old cricketer cited the physical toll of ODIs and lingering effects from a leg injury as key reasons behind his decision. Speaking to the media, Maxwell emphasised the importance of allowing younger players to step up and take charge ahead of the 2027 ODI World Cup. "After discussions with George



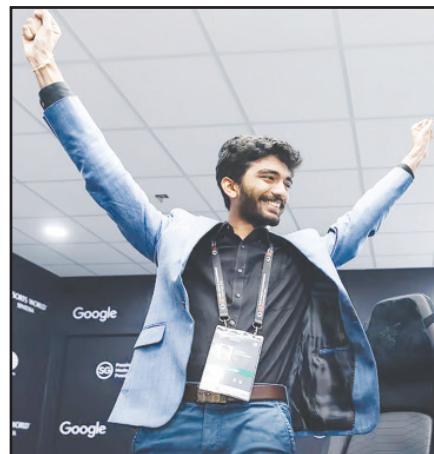
Bailey, I felt it was the right time to move on from ODIs and allow fresh talent to prepare for the future," Maxwell said.

Maxwell will now shift his attention to domestic and franchise cricket, including the Big Bash League, while gearing up for international T20 commitments. His explosive batting, coupled with his ability to turn games single-handedly, will continue to make him a vital asset in the shortest format.

## Gukesh Stuns Carlsen, Scores First Win in World No. 1

**Stavanger (Norway) (HS) :** World champion D Gukesh got his revenge on Magnus Carlsen as he pounced on a blunder by the world no.1 to defeat him for the first time in a classical game, leaving the Norwegian superstar so frustrated that he banged his fist on the board after Round 6 of Norway Chess Tournament here. The win on Sunday propelled 19-year-old Gukesh to third position with 8.5 points and he is just one point shy of joint leaders Carlsen and American Grandmaster Fabiano Caruana. "There wasn't much I could do. It was just clearly lost (his position)...luckily he (Carlsen) got into a time scramble," the reticent Chennai-lad said after the eagerly-watched contest.

"First Classical win over Magnus, not the way I expected (or) wanted it to be but I will take it. I was just trying to make moves (today) which kind of were tricky for him," he explained. "...99 out of 100 times I would



lose... just a lucky day," Gukesh later told the tournament broadcasters. Five-time world champion Carlsen seemed to have the upper-hand almost throughout the four-hour-long contest but a critical mistake allowed Gukesh to turn the tables on the Norwegian and secure

a remarkable win. Carlsen realised his mistake but by then it was too late. The Norwegian superstar vented his frustration by banging his fist on the table, causing the chess board to be dishevelled. Disbelief and frustration was writ large on his face as he shook hands with Gukesh before placing all the pieces back on the board and walking away patting the winner on the back. Gukesh was calm personified amid all this. He closed his eyes for a moment after the rather tense handshake with a clearly upset Carlsen.

The victory had come after a crushing Round 1 loss to iconic player which had cast a shadow on whether Gukesh would be able to overcome Carlsen's challenge in the reverse game. Arjun Erigaisi, following an Armageddon tie-break win against China's Wei Yi, is tied fourth with Hikaru Nakamura on 7.5 points in a tournament where virtually all the six players have a chance of winning the prestigious title.