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English Daily



RCB victory parade turns tragic as over 11 fans die in stampede



Bengaluru, (HS) : The victory celebrations of Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) fans turned tragic as more than 11 people including a woman and a boy died in a stampede outside the Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Wednesday afternoon. More than 50 people are said to be injured and there are fears that the toll could increase. The fans

had thronged the stadium ahead of a victory parade for the RCB team that won IPL 2025. Even the victory celebration broadcast continued with no mention of stampede.

Three, who were shifted to Bowring Hospital, were declared dead on arrival, while four others died at Vydehi Multispecialty Hospital on Vittal Mallya Road.

It is learnt that the stampede occurred when hundreds tried to enter the stadium through a gate near Cubbon Park. Following the tragedy, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has rushed to Bowring Hospital. Some of the injured were administered CPR by other fans. Police had a tough time in shifting the victims to hospitals as there was a traffic

Rs 10 lakh ex gratia announced for victims

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday announced a magisterial inquiry into the stampede and announced an ex gratia of Rs 10 lakhs for each victim. Chinnaswamy Stadium has a capacity of 35,000, but 2-3 lakh people came to RCB parade. Informing that 11 people had died and 33 injured in the stampede, the CM said, "A major tragedy occurred during the victory celebrations. It happened near the Chinnaswamy Stadium. The government has announced a compensation of Rs 10 lakh for the deceased. The government will provide free treatment to the injured." The Chief Minister visited the victims at Bowring hospital. After which, he addressed the media to brief about the incident.

gridlock around the stadium. Several were shifted in police vehicles, ambulances and even in private vehicles. Relatives of the deceased were found crying outside the Bowring Hospital. The police also had to resort to a lathi charge when fans started swarming inside the stadium. Fans even tried to scale the stadium's compound wall. One man broke his leg after he fell down while attempting to climb

the wall. Sources at Bowring Hospital said dozens of people were brought there with injuries and they were unable to keep count of the injured. Many injured were also taken to Vydehi and other hospitals close to the stadium. It is also said that a few fainted at Vidhana Soudha, where the RCB players were felicitated by the state government. The felicitation programme was cut

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Death of 6 patients at Koraput MCH raises questions



Koraput, (DMC) : Tension gripped Saheed Laxman Nayak Medical College and Hospital (SLNMCH) in Odisha's Koraput after five critically-ill patients died within a span of a few hours late on Tuesday. The toll rose to six with another fatality this morning. The deceased, hailing from southern Odisha regions like Borigumma, Kalahandi, Semiliguda, and Machhara, were receiving treatment in the ICU and surgery ward. Around 11 pm, three ICU patients-Shukra Majhi, Rukuni Pentia, and Phulmati Majhi-died suddenly, followed by two surgery ward patients, Bhagaban Parija and Bati Khara. The sudden deaths

triggered panic and anger among relatives, prompting Koraput Town Police to intervene and restore calm.

Family members alleged that the three ICU patients, who were recovering post-surgery, died shortly after a staff member administered an injection during the night shift. The distraught family members alleged their health condition deteriorated rapidly after being administered the second injection dose. "A nurse administered injections to three patients on our left before injecting the same to my sister. Within minutes, she started trembling, and by the time

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Parliament's monsoon session from July 21

New Delhi, (HS) : After a break of three months, Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Wednesday announced that the Monsoon session of the Parliament would commence from July 21. It will continue till August 12. Both Houses of the Parliament are scheduled to convene on July 21 at 11 am.

The Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs, chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, has recommended the dates, Rijiju told reporters. The Budget session of the Parliament kicked off on January 31 earlier this year. Both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha were adjourned sine die on April 4. This will be the first Parliament session since the Pahalgam attack in Kashmir, where 26 tourists were killed by terrorists. An impeachment motion against former Delhi High Court judge Justice Yashwant Varma is also expected to be moved in the Parliament during the Monsoon session. The government reached out to Opposition parties on Tuesday in an attempt to build political consensus over the issue. The new Income Tax Bill, aimed at simplifying direct tax laws, will be discussed in Parliament's monsoon session.

World Environment Day: PM to lead plantation drive today



New Delhi, (HS) : On the occasion of World Environment Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lead a special tree plantation initiative at Bhagwan Mahavir Vanasthali Park here on Thursday at 10:15 AM, reaffirming India's commitment to environmental stewardship and green mobility. Prime Minister will plant a Banyan sapling under the Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam initiative. This will be part of the 'Aravalli Green Wall project' which aims to reforest the 700-km Aravalli range. The project is a major initiative to spread green cover in the 5 km buffer area around the Aravalli Hill Range in 29 districts of four states

including Delhi, Rajasthan, Haryana, and Gujarat. It aims to boost biodiversity of the Aravallis through afforestation, reforestation and restoration of water bodies. It also aims to improve the soil fertility, water availability and climate resilience of the region. The project will also be of benefit to the local communities by providing them with employment and income generation opportunities. Prime Minister will also flag off 200 Electric Buses under Delhi Government's sustainable transport initiative, promoting clean urban mobility and symbolizing the nation's collective responsibility towards ecological balance.

Tehsil office shouldn't be a place of fear, CM tells revenue officials

Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi reminded the State's land revenue officials that they play a very crucial role, and hence must focus on addressing people's grievances. "In the governance system, Tehsildars are the backbone of our revenue administration. Therefore, listen to the grievances of the people and strive for their swift resolution. Your office should not be a place of fear but a place of trust for the public," CM Majhi said on Wednesday at the state-level Revenue Officers' Conference and Workshop held at Lok Seva Bhawan here. "No one in Odisha will remain landless. Those who have less than 4 decimals of land will also be considered landless, and the government will provide them with land. Therefore, your role



is extremely crucial in effectively implementing this scheme," the CM added.

During the event, the CM reiterated his government's commitment to modernising land administration. He also praised Odisha's successful handling of Cyclone "Dana," which saw the safe relocation of over 8.1 lakh people to secure shelters. Majhi reaffirmed his administration's policy of "zero tolerance" towards corruption, stating that integrity and dedication to public service must be the guiding principles of revenue officers. He emphasised the importance of timely resolutions of land-related disputes and the proper verification of land ownership to prevent irregularities, especially concerning tribal and SC land transactions. Revenue and

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Two-phase Census to begin next year

New Delhi, (HS) : The much-delayed census will begin next year. The two-phase process to enumerate the country's population, and critical socio-economic details, will kick off on October 1, 2026 in the snow-bound states and Union Territories of Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

For the rest of the country, the exercise will begin on March

1, 2027. "The Census of India is conducted under the provisions of the Census Act, 1948 and the Census Rules, 1990. The reference date for Population Census - 2027 will be 00:00 hours of the first day of March 2027, said an official statement. "For the Union Territory of Ladakh and the non-synchronous snow-bound areas of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir and states of Himachal Pradesh and

Uttarakhand, the reference date will be 00:00 hours of the first day of October 2026," the statement said. The notification for the intent of conducting the Population Census with these reference dates will be published in the official gazette "tentatively on 16.06.2025, as per provision of section 3 of Census Act 1948." This time, the census will be different in the sense that there will be an addition to the list of

questions, including those on caste and sub-castes. The Central government confirmed on April 30 that questions on caste - enumeration of various castes and sub-castes, and number of people in each of those - will be part of the next census.

The Opposition had long been demanding a caste census across the country. Bihar conducted a caste-based survey

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Rs 120 cr for Baji Rout Sports Complex

Dhenkanal, (DMC) : Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi inaugurated and laid foundation stone of several development projects worth Rs 188 crore in Dhenkanal district on Wednesday. One of the major announcements was the setting up of Baji Rout Sports Complex, at a cost of Rs 120 crore. The project will be a tribute to Saheed Baji Rout, a revered son of the soil.

The complex, to come up in Banamaliprasad area, will have a football ground, synthetic athletics track, hockey training centre, indoor stadium,

swimming pool, and a hostel with accommodation for 100 inmates. CM Majhi said that the complex will serve as an inspiration for youth to pursue sports.

Majhi emphasised the goal of making Dhenkanal a progressive district, and revealed that the state government has received investment proposals worth Rs 50,000 crore, of which Rs 30,000 crore will be earmarked for solar energy initiatives. Once implemented, these proposals will generate around 26,400 direct and indirect employment



opportunities in the region. CM Majhi reiterated his government's commitment to build a progressive Odisha by 2036, and urged for balanced development across all districts. "Let us work together to build a Samruddha Dhenkanal and Samruddha Odisha," he said. Labour Minister Sampad Chandra Swain, Food Supply Minister Krushna Chandra Patra, Dhenkanal MP Rudranarayan Pani, and MLAs Shatrughana Jena, Bibhuti Bhusan Pradhan, Simarani Nayak, and Ashok Mohanty attended the event.

Kannada - Tamil Controversy

The cacophony of outrage over Kamal Haasan's remark that Kannada was "born out of Tamil" has reached an unseemly but not unexpected crescendo - it follows a pattern seen whenever the politics of language and the language of hurt sentiments are invoked. It has gone all the way to the Karnataka High Court, which advised Haasan to apologise and questioned his credentials to make such a statement, asking, "Are you a historian, linguist?" But there are other pertinent questions, which the Court didn't ask: Is such escalation over a misinformed comment proportionate or justified? Does one need to be an expert, or even correct, to exercise the right to free speech? Is this an appropriate use of the state's time and resources? The fallout of Haasan's remark saw apologies demanded, protests held, effigies burnt, a police complaint filed, a state minister calling for a ban on screening the actor-politician's film Thug Life in Karnataka and the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce promptly obliging him. There is a history and a context to this mobilisation of linguistic grievance: In the present, it is exacerbated by growing resentment over the presence of people from other states, particularly Hindi speakers. Alongside this is an older anxiety over the dominance of Tamil speakers in Bengaluru, in the backdrop of the regional rivalry between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. Looming over it all, but sometimes unmentioned in the context of North-South and South-South tussles, is the shadow of English. All this - with parallels across multiple states, for instance in neighbouring Maharashtra - creates fertile ground for a politics of relentless prickliness that makes mountains out of molehills. It can lead to violence, and often has. aasan is wrong about Kannada and Tamil, and appears to be ill-informed about the history of the Dravidian languages. One did not come from the other - the two are better characterised as sisters. He has refused to apologise. The question is not whether or not he's been wise.

What's questionable is the clamour for an apology - it comes from a place of parochialism. What is needed, instead, is an imagination that is broad enough to accommodate the aspirations of regional and linguistic subnationalism and address people's legitimate concerns about the future of their mother tongues. Also needed is a self-confidence to engage fruitfully with an increasingly cosmopolitan reality. Political leaders could do worse than take a leaf out of Karnataka Deputy CMD K Shivakumar's book. In one of the most sensible responses to this controversy, he said, "We are not enemies; we are all friends. I don't want to comment on it because I don't know the history of that issue."

5th June

Environment Day



World Environment Day urges all of us to protect our natural surroundings. The stunning facts? An estimated 7 million people die each year from causes related to air pollution, with a majority occurring in the Asia-Pacific region. This day, which falls on June 5, encourages worldwide activism. That means everything from littering to climate change. World Environment Day is both a global celebration and a platform for public outreach.

China, which now owns half the world's electric vehicles and 99 percent of the world's electric buses, hosted the 2019 event. "The country has demonstrated tremendous leadership in tackling air pollution domestically," said Acting Head of UN Environment Joyce Msuya. "It can now help spur the world to greater action." The UN first established World Environment Day in 1972. World Environment Day is observed on June 5 every year. Outside of our homes is the actual home we all live in, and preserving it for future generations is more crucial than ever. World Environment Day (WED) is one of the more unique and special holidays because of its history and its many firsts. It was created on the first day of the first-ever U.N. conference which focused on humans and how they interact with the environment. However, this didn't happen overnight. Sweden first suggested having such a conference to the U.N. way back in 1968. And in 1969, the U.N. agreed that after 3 years they would have a conference in Sweden that focused on environmental issues. Interestingly enough, the conference was led by Maurice Strong, a Canadian diplomat who worked in the oil and mineral industry, who also had a soft spot for the environment.

Finally, it all came together in 1972, after 4 years of preparations and \$30,000,000 later. World leaders from around the world sat together to discuss how they can raise awareness to protect our environment - and it was then WED was made. Then 2 years later, the first-ever WED was celebrated with the slogan "Only One Earth." Ever since then, WED has been completely embraced by people everywhere, so much so that it's even slowly creeping into pop culture (and we love it!) Celebrities around the world all encourage people, in their own unique way, to do their part and "save the world". Fan-favorites Leonardo DiCaprio and Meryl Streep are some of the many who constantly speak out about environmental awareness. So, it doesn't matter if you're a famous actor, an athlete or a student in college: gather your friends and spend a day outdoors doing fun activities towards preserving this beautiful planet. Believe us when we say, you'll have a blast and feel so much better afterward.

Odisha's Green Energy Transformation: Powering India's Sustainable Future



Prabin Kumar Padhy

Introduction: The State of Odisha always boasts of natural resources with abundant mining and vast coastal belt. Energy distribution is something Odisha has niche always including distribution to other states being one of the leading Hydro-power state. But with the increasing demand of energy a need for Energy transition has been felt and Odisha has already turned to Renewable Energy, Green Energy sectors. Under the visionary leadership of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and leading the Energy Department Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo, Odisha is witnessing a renewable energy renaissance. The state's Energy Department, in coordination with GRIDCO, OREDA, OHPC, OPTCL and other stakeholders, is driving a dynamic green transition that aligns with the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE)'s national goals and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's SDG 2030 vision for India.

Unlocking Vast Renewable Energy Potential: Odisha is endowed with immense renewable energy potential-especially in solar power. The state can generate over 200 GW of solar energy, comprising: 138 GW from ground-mounted systems, 33.5 GW from floating solar on water bodies, 10 GW from rooftop solar installations. Currently, solar energy contributes 21% of Odisha's 2,938 MW renewable capacity, underscoring the sector's rapid growth. With strategic planning and enabling policies, Odisha is well on its way to becoming a national leader in

clean, sustainable power.

Major Investments and Project Pipeline: The Odisha Renewable Energy Policy 2022 (OREP-2022) provides a forward-looking framework to develop 10,000 MW of green energy by 2030. Backed by fiscal incentives and infrastructure support, the state has signed significant MoUs with public and private players to boost solar, pumped hydro, wind, and green hydrogen capacities.

Among the recent developments: In a recent interview to Outlook India, Mr. Vishal Dev, IAS, the Principal Secretary of Energy Department of Odisha stated that, in the 'Utkarsh Odisha Investors' conclave in January 2025 Odisha signed nine Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) such as MCL, NLC, IOCL, HPCL, ONGC, Tripura Power Corporation, and RECPDCL. These MoUs aim to develop 18,316 MW of renewable energy projects with a projected Investment of INR 1.24 lakh crore. The total energy sector attracted Investment intents worth INR 4.40 lakh crore encompassing 51,764 MW of proposed capacity. During the 10th Single Window Committee Meet held recently, the Energy Department of Odisha has approved Seven Renewable Energy Projects: Wind Projects - 2 Solar Projects - 4 Battery Storage Project (1st in Odisha) with 0.6MWH capacity

Landmark projects planned such as: A 4.8 GW solar module and PV cell manufacturing plant by Inox Solar in Dhenkanal. A 600 MW pumped storage project by OHPC in Kalahandi. 148.5 MW of wind energy across Nabarangpur, Khordha, and Jagatsinghpur. Additionally, Odisha is actively building Green Energy Corridors to transmit renewable energy across the state efficiently, addressing intermittency and integrating variable generation with the grid. As per the recent statement of Principal Secretary of Energy Dept of Odisha Mr. Vishal Dev,



Odisha is powering ahead with a bold vision for a sustainable future. Under energy roadmap of Odisha, addition of 10.96 GW of renewables, enabling INR 1.24 lakh Cr in investments, creating 1.5Lakh green jobs - all backed by one of India's most reliable, future-ready grids. The Odisha Renewable Energy Policy 2022 has played a transformative role by creating a robust and investor-friendly ecosystem. Along with that, Odisha has implemented: Waivers on wheeling charges and electricity duty Land banks and single-window clearance, and A "single buyer" model for effective power procurement.

Floating Solar and Reservoir-Based Clean Energy: In a significant innovation toward optimizing land use and enhancing sustainability, Odisha is advancing plans to generate 1,000 MW of clean power from floating solar projects on major reservoirs. An inter-departmental committee is finalising GIS mapping for Hirakud, Rengali, and Upper Indravati while assessing Upper Kolab and Balimela for viability.

This initiative: Utilizes underused water surfaces efficiently, Reduces evaporation losses, Enhances energy security, Supports a resilient green economy, Reinforces the clean energy mission in water-abundant regions.

Empowering Farmers and Inclusive Green Growth: The state is ensuring that the benefits of renewable energy reach grassroots stakeholders. Odisha is providing capital subsidies to farmers for installing solar-

powered irrigation pumps, reducing their dependence on diesel and grid power. This initiative strengthens rural livelihoods while supporting the state's climate-resilient agriculture goals.

Green Hydrogen: Odisha's Next Frontier: Odisha is positioning itself at the forefront of Green Hydrogen development. Major highlights include: Yamna Group's intent to set up a Green Hydrogen project in Odisha. BPCL-Sembcorp JV to establish a hydrogen-based energy and industrial park. NTPC-GRIDCO-CRUT collaboration to introduce Green Hydrogen buses in Bhubaneswar. These projects support India's national target of 5 million tonnes of green hydrogen production per year by 2030.

Green Energy Corridors & Power Grid Resilience: Odisha is investing heavily in green energy corridors and transmission infrastructure to ensure the efficient evacuation of RE. OPTCL, the state's transmission utility, has: Added 34 substations and 200+ grid stations, Upgraded over 1,800 km of EHV lines, Implemented the 3,522 crore Green Energy Corridor Phase-II for RE integration. The state boasts 99.9% power availability, supported by a robust 220 KV and 400 KV transmission grid.

PM KUSUM and PM-Surya Ghar Initiatives: Understandably, Odisha has approved higher feed-in tariffs to attract participation in PM KUSUM scheme targeting 1500 MW of decentralized solar, 11000 standalone pumps and

solarisation of 50000 agricultural pumps and feeders. Under the PM-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, the state offers additional financial assistance over central subsidies to encourage rooftop solar adoption among residential consumers. This initiative targets 3 lakh households by 2026-27, with a budget of INR 1800 crore.

In Sync with India's National Goals and SDG 2030: Odisha's efforts are directly contributing to India's targets of: 500 GW non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030, 5 million tonnes of annual green hydrogen production, Progress on multiple SDGs, particularly Goals 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), 13 (Climate Action), and 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth). The state's Renewable Energy roadmap includes adding approximately 7.5 GW of solar, 2GW of wind and 1.2 GW of pump storage capacity by 2030. These initiatives are earmarked to generate an estimated 150,000 green jobs by the end of the decade. The State Govt also poised to focus more on Skill Development in the Renewable Energy sector in have ready supply of trained resources keeping in view of the manpower demand that is to come with all the above MoUs and projections.

Conclusion: With robust policies, large-scale investments, and a clear strategic vision backed by PM Shri Narendra Modi's vision for a developed Odisha and under CM Mohan Charan Majhi and Dy. CM Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo, the state is accelerating towards a greener, more sustainable future. By harnessing its natural potential and aligning with national and global climate goals, the state is poised to become one of India's foremost clean energy leaders and a cornerstone of the nation's green growth story.

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Sharing of Love & Happiness, Just Try This Once

Anupama Bhuyan

Lifelong search for happiness and ultimate peace of mind could be solved with a single thought of understanding the value of giving and sharing. To give, donate or doing charity, one need not be a wealthy. Each human being is well equipped with different quality to share. Everyone has something to share and spare from his little sources of living.

Love and kindness could be shared without hesitation. Someone may need a little support and assurances. Why not, we encourage them and support them to walk straight in their life, with love? What is true love? People may have different definitions of it, but many of us must agree that true love is altruistic and unconditional; it means loving others without expecting something in return from them. However, we find it difficult as we want a return for everything we give, including love. We begin to expect things. From that expectation, comes need, even jealousy, and also attachment — the notion that we deserve to get back something because of the love that we give to others — and then unhappiness is experienced when our expectations are not met. If we expect something in return, is it really love? Certainly not! The first and foremost aspect of true love is the pure intention



and capacity to offer joy and happiness without any condition. To develop that capacity, we have to look at Mother Nature. A simple formula, very simple to adapt, but the attitude of sharing has to be imbibed within the minds. Each and Every 'individual' family, if wishes can adopt a poor needy family. Instead of throwing away, anything which is not in use and who knows someone might be benefited out of what who knows. We need to have the mind of sharing and giving. Making a habit of helping the needy without expecting any results out of those deeds, is the right way. Service to mankind is service to God. Giving gives a tremendous happiness and satisfaction.

The sun gives light to everybody; trees give shade to all, and water quenches thirst

of all. This happens because they follow and act according to their real nature. Similarly, the real and essential nature of the human being is love, peace and bliss. When we realise our real and essential nature, we become 'love personified' and we won't have to keep any conditions for giving our love to others. But, when we forget the essence of our true and original spiritual nature, we indulge in competition and one-upmanship in life. The only way to be free again is to realise the Self and start being selfless. The more we give selflessly, the happier we will feel. Love all and then only love being returned to the individual. Love is God, only one should know how to share the love.

"Sai Bithi", 7D/1354, Sector-9, CDA, Cuttack

What is soul or Atma

Kishore Kumar Jena

A soul is a very small particle, like a tiny pin dot. Nobody can cut it, burn it, kill it--the soul is invisible. The soul is timeless with an unlimited lifespan, immortal. Every person has a soul in their body. The soul has its own sense; it senses things about itself. The soul hears, talks, listens. But the soul feels independently from our five senses. Our senses are not aware of our souls. God is only One Soul that has created the universe. God is a unique soul; one that is seated in all our souls. God Soul is in all entities' souls. God Soul knows everything happening in each soul. Every soul wants to experience its physical body's consciousness. God Soul can guide our souls and our souls can feel God's Love. The soul can become beautiful, pure with God and Guru or Master's virtuous guidance. Guru or your Master's Soul can show the connection of God's Soul.

We have been given this body by God for the sole purpose of utilising it to recognise what is contained in this body, namely the soul. The body has not been given to us to let it grow and grow enormously on the food that is fed to it and all the time neglect and forget the soul. Today ninety-nine out of hundred people are only looking after the body and its happiness, looking after the growth of the body. All the time, they are considering what position this body can get in the surrounding environment. They are not devoting any part

of their time to make some enquiry and understand and take care of the soul that resides inside this body. Like a tree which does not bear fruit, like a fruit which has no juice in it, like an animal which has no intelligence, like a cow which does not yield milk, what is the use of your being born if you do not understand the purpose for which you are born?

What is the purpose of the effort which does not result in your knowing what you are and in recognising the common element that is contained in the eighty-four lakhs of living species. Our souls communicate with Supreme God Soul. God Soul speaks, listens, answers, and guides our souls. Even when we are thousands of miles away from our Guru or Master, they can still guide us in the right direction, or bless our souls' communication system. Our souls can speak through God and Guru's Soul. Our souls have an excellent, perfect system to understand, hear, and communicate. The soul gets powerful energy from our Guru, Master, or God. Our bodies' resistances become stronger, our mental and physical abilities increase, obstacles become easier to overcome, difficult times become easier to handle. Mahatma Gandhi looked very weak physically, but his inner consciousness, his energy was very strong. His soul was awakened and became strong enough to withstand the whole world.

Advocate, Bangali Sahi, Cuttack

Govt invites application for VC posts in 13 universities

Heavy rain, thunderstorm lash Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): The Odisha government has invited applications for appointment of vice-chancellors to 13 public universities in the state." Applications are invited from eligible applicants below 66 years as of 01.12.2025 (born on or after 02.12.1959)," the advertisement issued by the Higher Education department on June 3 said.

It further stated that the applicant should be a distinguished academician of proven academic and administrative excellence and a well-rounded personality with a minimum of 10 years of experience as professor in a university system or 10 years of experience in an equivalent position in reputed research or academic organisation.The applications have been invited for the VC posts in Utkal University,



Ravenshaw University, Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanjodeo University, Gangadhar Meher University, Fakir Mohan University, Khallikote Unitary University, ShriJagannath Sanskrit Vishva vidyalaya, Rama Devi Women's University, Rajendra University,Dharanidhar University, Vikram Dev University, Madhusudan Law University, and Maa Manikeshwari University. The tenure of the vice-chancellor will be four years from the date he/

she assumes office or till he/she attains 70 years of age. " The post carries a fixed pay of Rs 2.10 lakh with special allowance of Rs. 11,250/month and other usual allowances such as Dearness Allowance."Applications must be submitted physically in the prescribed format (and digitally in HIMS website) available for download at the department's website www.dhe.odisha.gov.in and the websites of the universities.Applicants are also required to fill out the required

application digitally in the HIMS portal available at hims.odisha.gov.in /Application-for-post-of-VC. The completed physical application form must be scanned and sent via e-mail in PDF format only to hedsec.od@nic.in, with the subject line: ' Application for the post of Vice-Chancellor of Public Universities". Shortlisted candidates will be called for an interview before a three-member selection committee.

The venue and schedule will be communicated in due course. According to the provision of the Odisha University (Amendment) Act, 2024, a three-member committee will be formed for the selection of the VCs. Only distinguished educationists from the field of higher education will be part of this committee. The age limit for VCs has been increased from 67 to 70 years.

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): Heavy rain accompanied by severe thunderstorm and lightning lashed the state capital Bhubaneswar on Wednesday afternoon.The city has been experiencing high levels of humidity followed by nor'wester-induced rain for 2 days.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) had issued an orange warning for seven districts of Odisha, including twin cities of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack. Similar warning was also sounded for Angul, Balangir, Bargarh, Boudh, Kandhamal, Sambalpur, Sonepur, Kalahandi, Nuapada, Gajapati, Rayagada, Balasore, Mayurbhanj, Bhadrak, Cuttack, Jajapur, Kendrapada, Sundargarh and Ganjam.On Wednesday, the State Capital recorded 32°C with humidity at



73.6% by 8.30 am. The mercury also shot up in other coastal areas with Puri recording 34.4°C this morning, followed by Balasore at 33°C and Gopalpur and Paradip at 31.8°C each.By 11.30 am, the mercury levels in Bhubaneswar rose to 36.2°C with humidity at 53.6%, according to senior meteorologist Umasankar Das.According to IMD's midday bulletin, hot and humid conditions may continue to prevail in Odisha with the progress of southwest monsoon stalled over Mumbai, Ahilyanagar

(Maharashtra); Adilabad (Telangana); Bhawanipatna and Puri (Odisha) and Sandheads (West Bengal).The weather agency has warned of hot and humid weather conditions at one or two places in Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapada, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam and Gajapati districts from June 4-8.Heatwave may also prevail at one or two places in Balasore and Puri on June 5 and Balasore, Puri, Jagatsinghpur and Bhadrak on June 6.

Fake engine oil making unit raided in Cuttack

Maoists involved in loot of explosives in Sundargarh: DGP



Cuttack, (DMC): In a major crackdown, a joint team of the Commissionerate Police and the Weights and Measures Department on Wednesday raided and shut down a fake engine oil manufacturing unit operating in Sunariban area near Khairapol under Jagatpur police limits in Cuttack district.The raid was launched based on intelligence inputs and complaints from local residents who had expressed concerns

about suspicious activities in the area. During the operation, authorities discovered that the unit was recycling used and burnt engine oil collected from garages and repackaging it under the labels of reputed brands to deceive customers. Officials from the Weights and Measures Department confirmed several violations, including improper labelling, inflated pricing, and false warranty claims-all intended to mislead unsuspecting

buyers.While the owner of the illegal unit fled the scene just before the raid, the police have taken the factory manager into custody for interrogation. The seized stock included fake engine oils, grease, lubricants for two-wheelers and cars, and brake fluids.

Investigating officers suspect that the busted unit may be part of a larger network involved in the production and distribution of substandard lubricants across the region. The operation of the unit has been suspended, and efforts are underway to track down the absconding owner and uncover the full extent of the counterfeit supply chain. Authorities have assured strict action against all those involved, warning that such malpractices pose a serious risk to public safety and vehicle performance.

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): Maoists were behind the loot of around 5 tonnes of explosives that were on their way to Banko stone quarry under K. Balang police limits in Sundargarh district. Out of the total explosives, Odisha Police has been able to recover 3.8 tonnes of explosives, informed DGP YB Khurania on Wednesday.

The DGP informed that the incident occurred on May 27, and subsequently, efforts were intensified with assistance from their Jharkhand counterparts. Initial reports came that armed Maoists intercepted a truck carrying licensed commercial explosives near the Banko stone quarry under K. Balang police limits. Nearly 150 packets of gelatin sticks and other high-intensity explosives, weighing about 5 tonnes, were



looted.Following the incident, Odisha Police had constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT), and a massive search operation was launched with the help of Jharkhand police. The

police arrested ShравanAgrawal, the owner of the explosive warehouse in Badgaon, along with a driver."We got credible input that a vehicle was abandoned near a petrol pump. On searching, we recovered the explosives and we arrested a person and a driver," informed the DGP.

The senior Odisha Police official informed that an investigation has been launched to ascertain whether the existing SOPs are being followed as far as storage, transportation of explosives are concerned."In this case, the SOP was not followed, as when the movement of the explosive was being done, they had not shared any information. All the recovered and seized explosives have been kept in safe custody," he added.

Vehicle theft gang busted in city, two held



Bhubaneswar, (DMC): Police on Wednesday cracked down on an inter-district vehicle theft gang, arresting two of its members and recovering ten stolen vehicles, officials said.According to Bhubaneswar-Cuttack Police Commissioner S. DevDatta Singh, the arrested individuals have been identified as ArmanSaha (25) and IfitkarAlam (23). The gang is believed to have been operating across Bhubaneswar, Khurda, Cuttack, and Puri, targeting vehicles parked along roadsides at night using duplicate keys.Investigations revealed that the stolen vehicles were taken to forested areas near Pipili, where the suspects removed their license plates.

Some of the vehicles were later dismantled and sold as scrap, while others were used for further illegal activities.The recovered vehicles include models such as the Mahindra Scorpio, Bolero Pickups, Tata Ace, and parts of a dismantled, unidentified four-wheeler. Both suspects are currently in police custody as the investigation continues to trace other gang members and dismantle the larger network. Police have urged vehicle owners to remain vigilant, especially when parking in unsecured areas and to adopt precautionary measures to protect their vehicles from theft.

Corporate Connections launches its first chapter in city



Bhubaneswar, (DMC): The State Capital witnessed a significant milestone in its business landscape as Corporate Connections (CC) officially launched its first chapter in the city with a grand event hosted at Lyfe Hotel here. The exclusive gathering welcomed over 50+ distinguished business leaders, each representing the top 5% of their respective industries, setting the tone for a future driven by purposeful collaboration and leadership in Bhubaneswar.

CC, a premium business global community of select business owners and senior executives, is known for fostering trusted forums of connections, create opportunities and meaningful change in their organizations, communities and lives. With a presence in 33 countries and 85 cities worldwide, including 23 cities in India and a growing network of over 850+ elite members, the launch of the Bhubaneswar chapter positions the city on the global map of high-impact leadership networks committed to "building relationships that

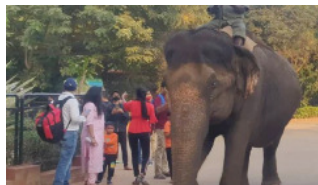
matter." The event was graced by Gaurav VK Singhvi, National Director of Corporate Connections India, as Guest of Honour. In his address, he highlighted Bhubaneswar's immense potential and how CC acts as a catalyst for business transformation, strategic alliances, and long-term vision building.

He emphasized that CC is not merely a premium business networking platform but a space for decision-makers to support each other's aspirations while expanding their global reach.The Bhubaneswar chapter is spearheaded by Executive Directors Mr. K. SanjeebPatra

Nandankanan's elderly elephant falls sick again

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): Basanti, the oldest elephant at Nandankanan Zoological Park, has fallen ill again. According to reports, the elderly female elephant is experiencing digestive issues and has not been eating properly.

Despite treatment from Nandankanan's veterinarians, Basanti's health has not shown any significant improvement. Meanwhile, a technical committee of health specialists visited the zoo on Tuesday and administered saline and injections to Basanti



as part of her ongoing treatment. The zoo authorities are concerned about Basanti's health, and the treatment is being closely monitored. Basanti's age and digestive issues have made her a high-risk case, and the zoo authorities are working to ensure her speedy recovery.

First Allogenic bone marrow transplant successfully performed on teenager at KIMS



Bhubaneswar (DMC): In a major achievement for the Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS), doctors have successfully performed a rare allogenic bone marrow transplant on a 17-year-old female patient diagnosed with Hemophagocytic Lymphohistio cytosis (HLH), a rare genetic blood disorder. She had been undergoing cancer chemotherapy for six months before being considered for a bone marrow transplant.The procedure was an allogenic bone marrow transplant, where healthy bone marrow from a donor is infused into a patient. In this case, the donor was the patient's brother.

The transplant was challenging due to the rarity of the disorder and the complex preparation involved, but it was carried out successfully by the expert team at KIMS.This is one of the rare cases where an allogenic bone marrow transplant has been performed for HLH in Odisha, marking a significant medical milestone for the state.This success offers new hope for patients in Odisha who previously had to travel to other states for such advanced treatment. The procedure at KIMS was done at a much lower cost, making it more accessible for many families.

The transplant was done at a significantly lower cost compared to private hospitals outside the state. Additionally, the procedure was covered under the Ayushman Bharat Yojana, helping reduce the financial burden on the patient's family.Dr. BiswajitBhuyan from the Department of Haematology and Dr. Palash Das from the Department of PaediatricHaematology at KIMS led the transplant. The Department of Haematology at KIMS has been consistently treating critical cases of blood cancers and other blood disorders. It is well-equipped with state-of-the-art facilities and offers advanced care at an affordable cost, enabling patients from Odisha and neighbouring regions to receive world-class treatment close to home.Founder of KIIT and KISS DrAchyutaSamanta has hailed the big achievement and lauded the doctors and wished the patient a long and healthy life.

Man crushed to death on NH



Cuttack, (DMC): In a tragic incident, a man was crushed to death under a truck on National Highway (NH) 16 near Sikharpur area under the Chauliganj Police Station limits of Cuttack on Wednesday afternoon.

One Krushna Chandra Das of Pahadpur village in Bhadrak district, who is earning his livelihood as an auto-rickshaw driver in Cuttack city, was reportedly crossing the NH near Sikharpur. In the meantime, a speeding truck hit him while it

was on its way towards Bhubaneswar.The intensity of the accident was so severe that one of the wheels of the truck run over the head of Das completely crushing it and causing his death on the spot.Vehicular movement on the NH was heavily affected as several vehicles were left stranded on the road following the accident.

After getting information about the man's death due to the tragic accident, a team of cops from the Chauliganj Police Station arrived at the spot and initiated a probe. They also cleared the route for the smooth movement of the vehicles.Apart from sending Krushna's body to the SCB Medical College and Hospital for post-mortem, police also informed the family members about his unfortunate death and seized the vehicle. Meanwhile, driver of the truck is said to have surrendered himself before the police.

Startup Odisha gears up to boost incubation ecosystem

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): The Startup Odisha, with the support of the MSME Department, organised 'X-Change Programme' and 'Launchpad 2025: Incubator Induction & Capacity Building Programme' at Odisha Startup Incubation Centre, O-Hub here to nurture the startup ecosystem in the state. Incubators expressed their gratitude towards Startup Odisha for conducting such events to empower Incubators with valuable insights on capacity building. The 'X-Change Programme' brought together Startup Odisharecognised incubators on an exclusive knowledge-sharing and collaborative platform. Designed to foster ecosystem alignment and build capacity, the programme encouraged incubators to co-create an inclusive and future-ready startup landscape. Simultaneously, Startup Odisha

formally inducted nine newly recognised incubators into its network under the Launchpad 2025. These innovative incubators are IIM Sambalpur I-Hub Foundation, Sambalpur University Startup Forum, OASME Council for Engineering and Technology, DasariVikash Rural Entrepreneurship and Innovation Foundation, Centurion Science and Technology Entrepreneurship Facilitation Centre, CVRCE Technology Incubator Foundation, Crucible Innovation Forum, NIST Incubation Foundation, and GITA Incubation Foundation. Speaking on this occasion, CEO of AIC T-Hub Rajesh Kumar Adla and Joint Secretary of MSME Department Kamaljit Das shared valuable insights on building impactful incubation strategies and cross-institutional collaboration.These capacity-

building programmes are a pivotal step toward strengthening the support structure for emerging startups by orienting incubators with Odisha's startup policy frameworks and strategic resources. Such initiatives exemplify the State's commitment to building a thriving, innovation-driven startup ecosystem through collaboration, mentorship, and structured support mechanisms. Additional Chief Secretary to MSME Departmentand Chairman of Startup OdishaHemant Sharmahas been instrumental in accelerating the growth of Odisha's startup ecosystem. Under his leadership, Startup Odisha has deepened its collaboration with national and globalinstitutions, strengthened policy outreach, and empowered early-stage entrepreneurs through structured capacity-building, incubation and funding initiatives.

CM launched various development projects of Commerce & Transport Department : 'Mascot Safety' system for zero accidents



Paradip, (DMC) : at the Lok Sabha Bhavan Convention Hall, the Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Mohan Charan Majhi launched various development projects of the Commerce and Transport Department, Govt. Of Odisha. In this context, a meeting was held at the Odisha Maritime Academy in Paradip through virtual mode. On this occasion, the Chief Minister Shri Majhi

discussed various aspects of road safety. To address this, he discussed aspects such as always wearing helmet while driving, not driving under the influence of alcohol, not using mobile phones while driving, wearing seat belts while driving four-wheelers, etc. and launched the mascot safety to reduce accidents. In this program, the Chief Minister inaugurated the simulator-based

training system at the 'Odisha Maritime Academy' located at Paradip in Jagatsinghpur district, Paradip-Cuttack, Paradip-Daitari Intelligent Enforcement Management System, Automated Testing System at Jagatti Bhutumundai, 485 km long Disha-II project, Cuttack-Paradip NH-55 [83 km].

Jagatsinghpur District Magistrate J. Sonal, Paradip Additional District Magistrate Niranjan Behera, Paradip Municipal Council Chairman Basant Biswal, Executive Officer Abhishek Panda, Regional Transport Officer Nirmal Mohanty, Paradip Port Authority DCI Alekh Chandra Sahu, Paradip Maritime Academy principal Manas Ranjan Behera, Councilor Subrata Pradhan, Industries Minister Sampada Chandra Swain's representative Sarveshwar Baliarsingh, and many students and media representatives were present at the event.

Paradip Port Sports Council organizes Summer Sports Training Camp



Paradip, (DMC): Paradip Port Authority (PPA) and its affiliated sports organization Gopabandhu Sports Council organised summer sports training camp. This summer camp was held at Gopabandhu Stadium here in Paradip Port from May 15th to June 4th, 2025. The training was provided on Football, Volleyball, Cricket, Hockey, Swimming etc. in this camp. A total of 170 boys and girls aged between 6 to 16 years were participated in it. In

the said event coaches Ravindra Kumar Das and Sanjit Jena, Sanjay Kumar Das and Rajkishor Mandal, Surya Kant Jena, Ajit Kumar Das and Bibhuti Baral, Sanjay Kumar Nayak, Bijoy Kumar Das were provided training for Football, Volleyball, Cricket, Swimming and Hockey respectively. In the closing day of the camp, Dharmendra Nath Sondhi, president, Gopabandhu Krida Sansad (GKS) has joined as the chief guest and Dr. Durga

Prasad Sethy, Working President, GKS was present as the respected guest and encouraged the trainees. Among others, Paradip Port Sports Advisor Ravi Das, GKS secretary Ranjan Rasmi Beura, senior coach Sanjay Kumar Das were present at the closing ceremony. Finally, Sports Advisor Ravi Das thanks all the trainees and their guardians as well as Port Chairman, Dy. Chairman and media for the success of this camp.

TPWODL Organizes Jal Chhatra on the Occasion of Sital Sasthi Festival



Burla/Sambalpur, (DMC): In a heartfelt gesture of service and community engagement, TP Western Odisha Distribution Limited (TPWODL), a joint venture between Tata Power and the Government of Odisha, has organized Jal Chhatra stall at Bhutapada, Sambalpur on the auspicious occasion of the Holy Sital Sasthi Festival. The Jal Chhatra initiative aims to provide cold drinking water to devotees, pedestrians, and the general public participating in the vibrant religious processions and celebrations during the peak summer heat. Sital Sasthi, a significant cultural and religious festival in Western Odisha, marks the divine marriage of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati and draws thousands of devotees and tourists every year. Understanding the challenges posed by the scorching temperatures, TPWODL has set up hydration kiosks in high-traffic areas of Sambalpur. The initiative has been widely appreciated by the public, with many lauding TPWODL's sensitivity to local customs and its proactive approach to public service.

Crisis in Balukhand- Konark Sanctuary

Puri, (DMC): On the occasion of the 4th day of world environment protection week, a seminar on 'Protection of Balukhand - konark Sanctuary' was organized in the premises of Odisha Sangeet Parishad. The seminar was presided over by The Council's Working President Laxmi Narayan Pattnaik.

Former Assistant Conservator of Forests Dayanidhi Tripathy, Director of Annada social organization Ruchimitra Jagdev Mohapatra, Social Activist Pratibha Tripathi, Deputy Forest Officer Pradeep Mohanty were present on the occasion. It was opined that in 1984, the Balukhand-Konark Sanctuary was declared a sanctuary for the protection of thousands of antelopes. The sanctuary covers an area of 87 square kilometres. It is a matter



of regret that there is a regular theft of timber from this sanctuary and some of the private land within it is being plotted and sold, posing a threat to the animals in the sanctuary. The Balukhand Sanctuary, which lost its existence by protecting the public during the last Cyclone Fani, is now empty. Six hundred hectares of land in this sanctuary were planted in the Balukhand sanctuary after Cyclone Fani, the percentage of those trees that

survived is questionable. The speakers expressed deep concern over the presence of several saw mills in the vicinity of Balukhand Sanctuary in this event of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's order that no Saw mill can be located within a 10 km radius of the sanctuary. Santosh Kumar Mohanty, Dr. Kartik Kumar Das, senior journalists Jagannath Bastia, Trivikram Mohapatra, Bichitra Ranjan Mohapatra and lawyer Rachita Routray participated in the discussion.

9-Year-Old Boy Dies Due to Blood Denial at Odisha Blood Centre

Rayagada, (DMC): A 9-year-old boy named Rajiv Takri, son of auto driver Madhusudan Takri, died due to denial of blood at the Odisha Blood Centre. Rajiv was admitted to the District Headquarters Hospital with fever on Wednesday morning. After a blood test, doctors advised immediate blood transfusion due to low blood levels. However, the blood centre refused to provide blood despite repeated requests from Rajiv's family.



The family alleged that they were told there was no blood available, and even after pleading, the blood centre staff refused to provide blood until someone else donated blood. Finally, A+ve blood was provided after someone else's donation, but it was too late, and Rajiv died during the transfusion. The incident sparked a protest by Rajiv's family and friends in front of the blood centre, demanding compensation and justice for Rajiv's death. The blood centre in-charge, Gautam Patnaik, assured that a thorough investigation will be conducted, and strict action will be taken against those found guilty. The district administration has also been informed and an inquiry has been initiated to determine the cause of the incident and fix responsibility. The family is still in shock and is seeking justice for Rajiv's untimely death. The incident has raised serious concerns about the functioning of the blood centre and the hospital's ability to provide timely medical care to patients in need.

Collector Launched Premium Bus Seva



Khordha, (DMC): Visakhapatnam Super Premium Volvo Bus Seva was launched by Collector Khordha, Chanchal Rana & MLA, Jatni, Bibhuti Bhusana Balbantaray on Ambedkar Marg in front of the Collectorate, Khordha. On the occasion of the launch of the state govt. "Accident-Free Day" campaign, the Chief Minister inaugurated & laid the foundation stone of various schemes & projects by the Commerce & Transport Dept.

Among the above programs, 27.03 crore Shri Jagannath Inter State Super Premium Bus Express Service was inaugurated & called upon to make an accident-free, developed Odisha a commitment for all of us. CM, Mohan Charan Majhi have been implemented various projects for the welfare of the people. The virtual meeting was attended by, ADM, Revenue, Safalya Mandit Pradhan, Sub-Collector, Khordha, Kishore Kumar Panda, ARTO, Khordha, Aurobinda Nayak, DTM, OSRTC, Lijarani Sahu, DI & PRO, Laxman Kumar Behera, officers & employees of the transport office were present.

Jajpur VTC Graduates Felicitated for Their Journey towards Self-Reliance

Jajpur, (DMC): A heartfelt felicitation ceremony was held at TPNODL's Vocational Training Centre (VTC) in Jajpur to honour over 250 young individuals who successfully completed their training under the ROSHNI program. The event, held under the guidance of TPNODL CEO Mr. Dwijadas Basak, celebrated not just the culmination of a course, but the beginning of a brighter, self-reliant future for these trainees.

During the ceremony, Mr. Basak emphasized the transformative power of education and skill development. "The certificate you receive today may be a piece of paper, but the skills and knowledge you have acquired have the power to reshape your future," he said. "True empowerment comes from the ability to stand on your own feet and this training is a step in that direction." Trainees received National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)-approved certificates in fields such as



tailoring, computer education, electrical equipment repair and spoken English. These skills are already proving to be life changing: more than 650 graduates from the center have gone on to establish self-sufficient livelihoods, through either employment or entrepreneurship. Mr. Basak also spoke about TPNODL's wider efforts in community development, including the deployment of mobile healthcare vans that bring essential medical services to underserved regions. He stressed that initiatives like the VTCs are not just about training individuals

but uplifting entire communities through education and opportunity. The vocational training, conducted under the ROSHNI program, has already touched the lives of over 2,000 youth across Balasore, Bhadrak, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj and Jajpur districts. The program aims to equip rural and underprivileged youth with market-ready skills, giving them the confidence and capability to build independent, meaningful lives. For the trainees honoured today, this is more than the end of a training course-it's the start of a new journey filled with potential, dignity and hope.

Ammonia Gas leakage at Industrial Estate Ice Plant near Paradip: Situation under control

Paradip, (DMC): A Amonia leakage incident was occurred at an ice plant in the industrial estate of Paradeepgarh near Paradip on Wednesday around 11am caused panic among public. According to allegations, some people of the nearby areas felt uneasy and also had difficulty to breathing. On receiving the information the Odisha Fire Service and Emergency Response Department personnel reached the spot, donned all chemical preventive gear and brought the situation under control by around three hours.

According to information, the ice plant contained a total of 480 kg of ammonia gas in eight cylinders weighing 60kg each. However, a major mishap was averted by the firemen by controlling the leakage gas from two of these cylinders. In the operation, Paradip ADM Niranjan Behera, ASP Smruti Ranjan Kar, Lock Police station IIC were present.



From Page- 1

Death of 6 patients...

doctors came to check on her, she was dead," relative of a deceased patient told the media. Dean of the medical college Susanta Kumar Sahu told the media that four among the patients were critical. "Two among them had suffered abdominal injuries, another had liver perforation. We suspect they died due to bleeding and septicemia. The fourth patient was being treated for stage-4 cancer and the fifth was an accident victim, who was referred from Jeypore," he added. Responding to allegations being made by the family members, he said that the patients in the ICU were in serious condition and were administered an injection to raise their dropping blood pressure. "A committee will be formed to probe the matter," he added. Meanwhile, Director of Medical Education and Training (DMET) Santosh Mishra said that a 5-member team has been formed to probe the wrong injection allegation, leading to the death of the patients. "The team has been asked to submit the report by tomorrow," he added.

Amid mounting public outrage and allegations of medical negligence, the SLNMCH has launched a departmental inquiry. Dr Susanta Kumar Sahu, Superintendent of SLNMCH, said that an internal probe was underway to examine the circumstances leading to the deaths. "All the patients were admitted in critical condition. Based on initial observations, there is no indication that incorrect injections were administered. However, a detailed investigation has been initiated to address the allegations," he said.

RCB victory...

short as rains played spoilsport. The team had touched base at the Garden City on Wednesday afternoon amid a roaring and chaotic welcome from fans, who lined up the streets and thronged the stadium to catch a glimpse of the team's stars, including the talismanic Virat Kohli. The Rajat Patidar-led squad was received by state's Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar at the airport before proceeding towards the Vidhana Soudha for a meeting with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. "Virat Kohli, from past 18 years, has given his youth, his experience, his love, and his heart (to RCB) and made our state proud. I stand here with the heartfelt support of all the youngsters of our state," Shivakumar said. En route to Siddaramaiah's office, fans assembled on both sides of the road cheering the triumphant squad with gusto.

Tehsil office...

Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari said that there is a need to change the traditional working methods, and officers have to alter their mindset. "Since our government came to power, extensive reforms have been introduced in the revenue administration. Revenue services have now become more accessible to the people. Treat the people visiting government offices with utmost respect and ensure timely delivery of revenue services," Pujari advised the officers.

The conference witnessed participation from key officials, including Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja, Revenue and Disaster Management Secretary Deoranjana Kumar Singh along with district-level officers from across Odisha.

Two-phase...

in 2023, according to which over 63 per cent of the state's population comes from extremely backward or backward classes. Census in India, normally conducted every decade, was last held in 2011. The next one was due in 2021, but had to be put off because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Hence, the 2027 census will be the first one in 16 years.

Collector Flagged Off the Awarness Ratha "Ama Sankalpa Nisha Nuhen Jibana



Khordha, (DMC): Collector Chanchala Rana flagged off the awarness Ratha prepared by District Excise Dept. Khordha at the premise's of collectorate, to prevent the effects of drug use & smuggling of drugs. The program was attended by ADM (Administration) Pratap Chandra Beura, ADM (Revenue) Safalya Mandit Pradhan, Zilla Parishad Chief Development & Executive Officer, Jyoti Shankar Sahu, Excise Superintendent, Khordha Ms. Sumati Tripathy, along with officers, employees of the Collector's office & the Excise Dept. The said awareness Ratha was moved all the block & panchayat headquarters, village markets & crowded places of the entire district to the effects of drug abuse, prevent drug smuggling & awareness messages will be spread from house to house. Collector, Mr. Rana has announced that this program will continue in the district till June-26th. Collector, Mr. Rana has directed the Enforcement Team of the Excise Dept. to continue the campaign against drug smuggling & the awareness program among the public. To expand the awareness program, all the departments, students, anganwadi workers, ASHA Didi, voluntary organizations, youth groups, mission shakti members, public & media representatives have all continued their efforts to create a healthy, peaceful, progressive society & make Khordha district completely drug-free.

Masi Ahemad Khan Awarded as the Best Police Havildar

Khordha, (DMC): Havildar Masi Ahemad Khan was awarded by MLA, Begunia & Bolagarh Pradeep Kumar Sahu at a grand function held at Jaydev Bhavan, Bhubaneswar with a memento & a certificate. Mr. Khan, who joined the police dept. in 1995 & worked sincerely in various parts of Odisha,



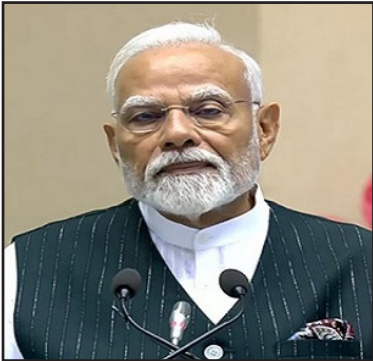
He has been working as the PSO of many high-ranking officials & ministers of the state. He has also successfully completed his commando training. Mr. Khan was awarded as the Best Havildar of Khordha district by the district administration in 2020 for his

outstanding contribution during the Covid pandemic. He has shown humanity by admitting accident-hit bike riders to the hospital. He has been awarded by more than 95 govt. & private institutions. Now, he is working as a Havildar at the police outpost near new bus at Khordha. He has been showered with praise from various quarter after receiving this award.

PM to visit Jammu and Kashmir on 6th June

New Delhi, (HS) : Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will visit Jammu and Kashmir on 6th June. In line with his commitment to boost rail infrastructure and connectivity in the region, the Prime Minister will inaugurate the Chenab bridge and visit the bridge deck at around 11 AM. After that, he will visit and inaugurate the Anji bridge. He will flag off Vande Bharat Trains at around 12 noon. After that, he will lay the foundation stone, inaugurate and dedicate to the nation multiple development projects worth over Rs 46,000 crore at Katra.

The architectural marvel Chenab Rail Bridge, situated at a height of 359 meters above the river, is the world's highest railway arch bridge. It is a 1,315-metre-long steel arch bridge engineered to withstand seismic and wind conditions. A key impact of the bridge will be in enhancing connectivity between Jammu and Srinagar. Through Vande Bharat train moving on the bridge, it will take just about 3 hours to travel between Katra and Srinagar, reducing existing travel time by 2-3 hours. The Anji Bridge is India's first cable-stayed rail



bridge that will serve the nation in a challenging terrain. Prime Minister will also dedicate Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project to the nation. The 272 km long USBRL project, constructed worth around Rs 43,780 crore includes 36 tunnels (spanning 119 km) and 943 bridges. The project establishes all-weather, seamless rail connectivity between the Kashmir Valley and the rest of the country aiming to transform regional mobility and driving socio-economic integration. Prime Minister will also flag off two Vande Bharat Express trains from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra to Srinagar

and back. They will offer a swift, comfortable, and reliable travel option for residents, tourists, pilgrims among others.

In a major boost to last mile connectivity especially in border areas, Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone and inaugurate various road projects. He will lay the foundation stone of road widening project from Rafiabab to Kupwara on National Highway-701 and the construction of Shopian bypass road on NH-444 worth over Rs 1,952 crore. He will also inaugurate two flyover projects at Sangrama Junction on National Highway-1 in Srinagar and at Bemina Junction on National Highway-44. These projects will ease traffic congestion and enhance traffic flow for the commuters. Prime Minister will also lay the foundation stone of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence in Katra worth over Rs 350 crore. It will be the first medical college in Reasi district contributing substantially to the healthcare infrastructure in the region.

Retired judges taking up jobs with government raises ethical concerns, invites public scrutiny: CJI Gavai

New Delhi, (HS) : Chief Justice of India B R Gavai has said instances of corruption and misconduct in the judiciary have a negative impact on public confidence, potentially eroding faith in the integrity of the system as a whole. Speaking at a roundtable conference in the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom on "Maintaining Judicial Legitimacy and Public Confidence", he also spoke about post-retirement jobs taken by judges, and said if a judge takes up another appointment with the government immediately after retirement, or resigns from the bench to contest elections, it raises "significant ethical concerns and invites public scrutiny."

On the issue of corruption, the CJI said whenever these instances of corruption and misconduct have come to light, the Supreme Court has consistently taken immediate and appropriate measures to address the misconduct. "Furthermore, every system, no matter how robust, is susceptible to issues of professional misconduct. Sadly, there have been



instances of corruption and misconduct that have surfaced even within the judiciary. Such occurrences inevitably have a negative impact on public confidence, potentially eroding faith in the integrity of the system as a whole. "However, the path to rebuilding this trust lies in the swift, decisive, and transparent action taken to address and resolve these issues. In India, when such instances have come to light, the Supreme Court has consistently taken immediate and appropriate measures to

address the misconduct," the CJI said. The CJI's remarks come in the backdrop of Allahabad High Court's Justice Yashwant Varma facing allegations of corruption after the discovery of a large amount of cash from his official residence in Delhi.

CJI Gavai said in every democracy, the judiciary must not only dispense justice, but also be seen as an institution that deserves to hold truth to power and the terms "judicial legitimacy" and "public confidence" are interconnected. Any erosion of this confidence risks weakening the judiciary's constitutional role as the ultimate arbiter of rights. Transparency and accountability are democratic virtues," CJI Gavai said. Dealing with the often debated issue of post-retirement jobs taken by judges, he said the timing and nature of such post-retirement engagements could undermine the public's trust in the judiciary's integrity, as it could create a perception that judicial decisions were influenced by the prospect of future government appointments or political involvement.

Census to Begin on March 1, 2027, Will Include Caste Data



New Delhi, (HS) : The next census - the exhaustive count of the population of the country, as well as critical socio-economic details - will begin from March 1, 2027, government sources told NDTV Wednesday.

However, it will begin early - as early as October 2026 - in snow-bound states and union territories, such as Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand. The census will be conducted over these two phases and will contain a significant addition to the long list of questions asked of men and women nationwide - those on caste and sub-castes. On April 30 the government confirmed questions on caste - i.e., an enumeration of the various castes and sub-castes, and the number of people in each - will be part of the next census.

The decision to include caste enumeration in the census - a demand pressed fiercely by the opposition - was announced months before a critical Assembly election in Bihar, over 63 per cent of the population of which comes from Extremely Backward or Backward classes.

In India the census is normally conducted every decade. The last national population count was in 2011. The 2021 census had to be abandoned because of the pandemic. The 2027 census, when it is held, will therefore be the first in 16 years. The opposition has been pushing for a census to be held, arguing it is necessary to have an accurate, up-to-date count of population and socio-economic data for effective policy-making.

People Criticise RCB for 'Inhuman' Celebrations While Stampede Claims Lives Outside Chinnaswamy

'Can't Use Lathi on Young Crowd': DK Shivakumar

Bengaluru, (HS) : Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said details of casualties at the stampede in Bengaluru's Chinnaswamy Stadium, cannot be confirmed yet. Asked about deaths, he said, "Can't confirm anything... I do not want to disturb doctors who are taking care of the patients". Eleven people died as frenzied celebrations started at the stadium when RCB won the IPL after 18 years. Altogether, 27 people were admitted to the hospital. The stampede had started during the felicitation of the team and visuals from the spot showed many to be injured. Apologising for the overcrowding of the venue, Mr Shivakumar said, "We had arranged more than 5,000 personnel. This is a young vibrant crowd, we can't use lathi". The match had drawn crowds since the previous night and the police had their hands full keeping order. Mr Shivakumar appealed to the people to remain calm. "We shortened the program. The program ended within 10 minutes. We are trying to make everything normal...Lakhs of people came," he said. The BJP has targeted the state's Congress government over the stampede, criticising the arrangements. In a post on X, Union minister Pralhad Joshi said, "It is heartbreaking to see such loss because of poor planning and crowd mismanagement". The state government in Karnataka has "clearly failed in its responsibility," he said. "Celebrations is one thing, but the State government without proper planning, without taking emergency services into confidence, took this urgent and unfortunate decision. This could have been avoided. The Government is responsible for this and accountability needs to be fixed," he added.

Bengaluru, (HS) : Bengaluru Stampede Video Shows People Panicking, Trying To Save Others A video of the chaos that unfolded outside the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru has emerged, showing thousands of people standing at the gates of the stadium, which is locked by the security. The metal gate broke, with people falling on top of each other. People were seen panicking, gasping for

air, and trying to make space for themselves. Eleven people were killed in the stampede outside the stadium, and several were injured. Fans gathered to greet the Royal Challengers Bengaluru after they won their first-ever IPL trophy in 18 years.

A grand event was planned in the city a day after the IPL final. Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar welcomed the team, and events were



planned to felicitate the team. A huge crowd had also gathered outside the Vidhana Soudha, where the RCB squad proceeded from the airport to meet with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. The Karnataka government had cancelled a victory parade from Vidhana Soudha to the stadium, citing security reasons. At the Chinnaswamy Stadium, which has a capacity of 35,000, an event was planned, but as per the Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, 2-3 lakh people turned up, which was more than what they had anticipated. "The crowd turnout exceeded all expectations. Over one lakh people gathered in front of Vidhana Soudha, but no untoward incident occurred at that venue. However, the tragedy occurred at Chinnaswamy Stadium. No one anticipated this - neither the cricket association nor the government. The stadium has a seating capacity of 35,000, but an estimated two

to three lakh people turned up. We did not expect such a massive turnout; we had only anticipated a crowd equal to the stadium's capacity," Siddaramaiah said. He announced a compensation of Rs 10 lakh to the families of those who were killed in the stampede, and free treatment for the injured. Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said the crowd was "uncontrollable". "I apologise for the overcrowding," Mr Shivakumar said. "We arranged more than 5,000 personnel. This is a young, vibrant crowd; we can't use a lathi on them."

However, as chaos unfolded and people were struggling to save their lives, the event inside Chinnaswamy went as planned, including the bursting of crackers. IPL chairman Arun Dhumal told that officials who were inside a stadium in Bengaluru during the RCB victory celebrations were not aware of what was happening outside."

9 Pakistani Aircraft Were Destroyed in Operation Sindoor Strikes

New Delhi, (HS) : Six Pakistan Air Force (PAF) fighter jets, two high-value surveillance aircraft, over ten armed drones, and a C-130 Hercules transport aircraft were destroyed in Operation Sindoor, India's retaliatory military action following the Pahalgam terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir, which claimed 26 lives. According to sources, a post-conflict assessment of the military engagement in early May has revealed heavy damage to Pakistani aerial and ground military assets. The six PAF fighter jets were downed during aerial operations. These aircraft were engaged and destroyed in air-to-air combat as



part of the retaliatory response by Indian air defence units. The engagements occurred within Pakistani

Punjab and parts of Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK). The downing of these jets, according to sources, was confirmed via radar tracking and thermal signatures captured by Indian ground-based missile systems and airborne early warning assets. The Pakistani aircraft vanished from tracking grids after impact confirmations, sources said.

One of the key hits during the four-

day engagement was the destruction of a high-value airborne surveillance platform. According to sources, the target was either an electronic countermeasure (ECM) platform or an Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) aircraft, neutralised at an estimated range of 300 kilometres using India's long-range strike asset, the Sudarshan. Another AEW&C aircraft of Swedish origin, reportedly stationed at Pakistan's Bholari airbase, was destroyed during a subsequent air-to-surface cruise missile strike. Satellite imagery showed the complete destruction of the hangar housing the aircraft.

Pak Threatens 'What If China Stops Brahmaputra Water', CM's Responds



post on X, Mr Sarma responded to the claim, "What if China stops the Brahmaputra's water to India?" by laying out a fact-based rebuttal. "Let's dismantle this myth, not with fear, but with facts and national clarity," Mr Sarma wrote, pointing out that the Brahmaputra is a river that grows in India, not one that shrinks due to upstream control. According to the Chief Minister, China contributes only about 30 to 35 per cent of the river's total flow, primarily from glacial melt and limited rainfall over the Tibetan plateau. The remaining 65 to 70 per cent of the river's volume is generated within India through monsoon rains and inflows from its numerous tributaries in the Northeast. Citing hydrological data, Mr Sarma noted that while the river's flow at the Indo-China border (Tuting) averages between 2,000 and 3,000 cubic metres per second, it dramatically increases to 15,000-20,000 cubic meters per second in Assam during the monsoon, evidence of India's dominant contribution to the river's volume. "The Brahmaputra is not a river India depends on upstream. It is a rain-fed Indian river system, strengthened after entering Indian territory," he added. What If China Stops Brahmaputra Water to India?

Guwahati, (HS) :

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday countered Pakistan's latest water-related scare narrative, calling it a 'baseless attempt' to stir fear over a hypothetical scenario involving the Brahmaputra River. In a strongly worded

Fact-check at UN leaves Bilawal Bhutto red-faced over 'demonising Muslims in India' claim

New Delhi, (HS) : Former Pakistan Foreign Minister and PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari faced an embarrassing moment at a recent United Nations press briefing when a journalist publicly fact-checked his allegation that Muslims were being "demonised" in India following the Pahalgam terror attack. Bhutto, who is currently leading a parliamentary delegation to the United States to present Islamabad's narrative on rising regional tensions, reiterated Pakistan's position on Kashmir and accused India of politicising the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam - which killed 26 civilians - to vilify Indian Muslims. However, his sweeping generalisation was quickly challenged. A journalist attending the briefing pushed back, citing personal observations. "You said the recent terrorist attack in Kashmir is being used as a political tool to demonise Muslims in India. But, sir,



I've watched briefings on both sides. As far as I recall, there were Muslim Indian military officers conducting the briefings on the Indian side," the journalist said. The reference was to Indian Army's Operation Sindoor briefings led by Colonel Sofiya Qureshi, a Muslim officer who gained national recognition alongside Wing

Commander Vyomika Singh. Bhutto, visibly unsettled, offered no defence and merely conceded, "As far as the operations are concerned, you're absolutely right." India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7 in response to the Pahalgam attack, striking nine terror infrastructure targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir.

IIT Delhi Student Found Dead Inside Hostel Room

New Delhi, (HS) : A second-year student at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi was found dead in his hostel room on Wednesday, prompting an investigation by authorities. According to initial reports, the student was discovered unresponsive in his room by fellow hostel residents. Emergency services were notified immediately, but he was declared dead at the scene. Police officials have launched an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the tragic incident. While the cause of death has yet to be confirmed, authorities are examining all possible angles, including medical conditions and external factors. Campus officials have expressed their condolences, stating that counselling services will be made available to students affected by the incident. More details are awaited as the investigation unfolds.

Pakistan: Over 200 Prisoners Escape From Jail Amid Earthquake Tremors

Karachi, (H.S): Over 200 prisoners escaped from Pakistan's Malir Jail in Karachi after earthquake tremors triggered a temporary evacuation of inmates from their barracks, the local media reported on Tuesday. The prisoners fled the facility after taking advantage of the chaotic situation.

One escapee was shot dead while two Frontier Corps (paramilitary force) personnel and one police officer were injured during the incident. Several inmates attacked the jail authorities with stones and sticks as the firing triggered widespread panic in nearby residential areas, bringing traffic to a standstill on both sides of the National Highway. Murad Ali Shah, the Chief Minister of Sindh province, expressed grave concern over the developments, stating that investigations are underway. "Initial reports suggest



inmates were evacuated due to earthquake tremors, which triggered panic. This was a wrong decision, and those responsible will be held accountable," he said. Confirming that 216 prisoners had escaped during the incident and 83 had been recaptured, Shah urged the remaining fugitives to surrender voluntarily or face Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) charges. According to the Jail Superintendent Arshad Shah, the jailbreak happened when inmates were brought out from their barracks as a safety

precaution due to earthquake tremors. "More than 600 prisoners were outside their cells at the time. Amid the chaos, 213 managed to flee," Pakistani media outlet Geo News quoted the Jail Superintendent as saying. Pakistani Police's DIG Prisons Hassan Sahito stated that around 6,000 prisoners were inside the facility when the tremors occurred. "Panic quickly spread among inmates. Some began breaking locks and attempted to flee from multiple points," he told a private news channel. Sindh's

Home Minister Zia-ul-Hasan Lanjar called the incident one of the most serious jailbreaks in Pakistan, stating that the official count of the number of escapees is ongoing. "It is yet to be determined whether the breakout occurred due to a wall breach or simply the locks being broken," he said, adding that an investigation is in progress to determine the reasons and identify the accountable.

Karachi has experienced 19 mild earthquakes since Sunday, the Seismic Monitoring Centre of the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) confirmed on Tuesday. The latest tremor occurred on early Tuesday morning, registering a magnitude of 2.8. The epicentre of the 16th quake was located northeast of Malir, approximately 15 kilometres from the area, at a depth of 40 kilometres.

After Plastic Found In Dead Elephant's Belly, TN Forest Division Flags Open Waste Dumping

Chennai, (H.S): After the death of a female wild elephant that ingested plastic waste, the Coimbatore Forest Division in Tamil Nadu has issued a stern appeal to local bodies to immediately stop dumping garbage along forest fringes.

The elephant, which was found dead near the Maruthamalai foothills recently, had reportedly consumed plastic bags and leftover food from an open dump yard. Forest officials and wildlife activists have since blamed poor waste management practices by nearby civic bodies for drawing wild animals to human settlements, thereby intensifying human-wildlife conflict in the region. "Open dumping is hazardous to animal health and increases the chances of dangerous human-animal

interactions," said a forest department official. Letters have been sent to the Block Development Officers (BDOs) of Periyanaickenpalayam and Thondamuthur, urging immediate action to halt garbage disposal along forest boundaries and clear existing waste to safeguard wildlife.

Officials warned that once wild elephants locate dump yards as food sources, they are likely to return repeatedly. "Leftover food waste, especially with high salt content, poses serious health risks to elephants," the official added. While the forest department has called for urgent corrective measures from civic agencies, farmers in the region have voiced frustration over the department's inability to prevent wild elephants from

straying into agricultural lands, even those situated far from forest areas. In response, forest authorities have intensified patrols in vulnerable zones. "We have deployed night staff to monitor and deter elephant movement near the old dump yard in Maruthamalai," said a range officer. Additional surveillance is being carried out in areas, including Pannimadai, Veerapandi, Varapalayam, and Thadagam, to prevent elephants from foraging in human settlements.

The department is also working alongside NGOs, volunteers, and staff from the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HRCE) Department to launch awareness drives. A major anti-dumping campaign is scheduled for June 5 to coincide with World Environment Day.

'True Spirit of Friendship' Between India & Iran Hailed After Rescue of Kidnapped Citizens

Tehran: India on Wednesday thanked the Iranian government for its swift and effective efforts in securing the release of three kidnapped Indian citizens, emphasising that the timely support reflects "true spirit of friendship" that exists between the two nations.

The three kidnapped Indian citizens have been safely rescued and are now under the care of the Embassy of India, which is facilitating their early repatriation. We sincerely thank the Government of Iran for their swift and effective efforts in securing their release," the

Embassy of India in Iran posted on X. "Your support reflects the true spirit of friendship between two nations," it added. Late Tuesday, the Embassy of Iran in India confirmed that Tehran police had freed the missing individuals, citing a report from Iran's semi-official Mehr News Agency.

Three missing Indian citizens freed by Tehran police. Local media in Iran say police have found and released three Indian men who had gone missing in Iran," the Iranian Embassy stated. The trio was reportedly rescued following a police



operation targeting the hostage-takers in Varamin in south Tehran, Iranian media reported. According to reports, the three

Indian men - all hailing from Punjab and identified as Jaspal Singh, Hushanpreet Singh, and Amritpal Singh - had disappeared

shortly after landing in Tehran on May 1. They were reportedly on their way to Australia after being promised lucrative jobs by a local travel company. The Indian Embassy in Tehran had issued a statement on May 28, following an approach by the family members of the missing men, who expressed serious concern over their relatives' sudden disappearance.

The statement read, "Family members of three Indian citizens have informed the Embassy of India that their relatives are missing after having travelled to Iran. The Embassy has strongly

taken up this matter with the Iranian authorities and requested that the missing Indians should be urgently traced and their safety should be ensured. We are also keeping the family members regularly updated on the efforts being made by the Embassy."

Reports also suggested that the families received ransom demands of Rs one crore from unknown individuals, with the threatening calls originating from Pakistani phone numbers. The details raised serious alarm, prompting swift diplomatic engagement from both sides. The Iranian Embassy in India, responding to the developments,

stated that the case was being closely followed by the Consular Affairs Department of Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Embassy also issued a warning to Indian citizens, advising them "not to be deceived by the promises of unauthorised individuals or illegal Indian agencies offering travel to other countries."

India has also previously issued travel advisories for its nationals travelling to Iran, urging them to exercise caution, remain in contact with the Indian Embassy in Tehran and consulates and avoid engagement with unverified travel agents or intermediaries.

Pak General Ridiculed For Claiming Islamabad Used 'Own Resources' During Conflict With India

Islamabad, (H.S): Even as leading warfare experts across the world have exposed Pakistan's massive strategic failures, at the same time also giving a detailed account of failure of Chinese systems during India's decisive Operation Sindoor last month, a Pakistani four-star General has claimed that the country fought the recent 96-hour conflict with India using only its own resources. "Pakistan has purchased some military equipment from other countries, but apart from that, in real time, the country relied solely on its internal capabilities and did not receive any help from any other state."

General Sahir Burkabal Shamshad Mirza, currently serving as the 18th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC), told a foreign broadcaster in a recent interview, details of which appeared in the Pakistani media on Tuesday. He also mentioned that the weapons used by Pakistan in the recent conflict were "certainly similar" to those available to India. Mirza was ridiculed over his comments with analysts reiterating that Pakistan has an old habit of spreading lies and even present doctored clips



to prove a point. "Pakistan lies to another State, as well as to its own people with deleterious consequences. The whole world knows now how Osama-bin-Laden was kept in a secured house in the Abbottabad Military Cantonment just 1.3 kms from Pakistan Military Academy in Kakul," said one expert.

Last week, in his extensive analysis titled 'India's Operation Sindoor: A Battlefield Verdict on Chinese Weapons - And India's Victory', top urban warfare expert John Spencer reckoned that Operation Sindoor wasn't just a military campaign but a technology demonstration, a market signal, and a strategic blueprint. "Operation Sindoor pitted India's indigenously developed weapons systems

against Chinese-supplied platforms fielded by Pakistan. And, India didn't just win on the battlefield - it won the technology referendum. What unfolded was not just retaliation, but the strategic debut of a sovereign arsenal built under the twin doctrines of Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat," Spencer mentioned.

According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), Pakistan gets 81 per cent of its weapons from China. Pakistan operates Chinese origin HQ-9 long range and the HQ-16 medium range Air Defence Systems (ADS). During Operation Sindoor, Spencer wrote, the JF-17 Thunder aircraft - produced in Pakistan but designed and built by China's

AVIC - failed to gain air superiority or contest Indian strikes. Similarly, the LY-80 and FM-90 air defence systems, also Chinese-made, were unable to detect or stop India's low-flying drones and precision munitions. Several reports indicated that China was providing real-time reconnaissance data to Pakistan during the conflict, thereby putting Chinese arms in a live combat setting.

In recent years, Turkey has emerged as a reliable supplier of defence equipment to Pakistan, sending the MILGEM-class corvettes, T129 ATAK helicopters, Bayraktar TB2 and Akinci drones. Pakistan also imports weapons from countries like South Africa, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and Belgium. "Reports emerged that Turkish drone operators had to be brought in to manage UAVs - revealing both equipment and personnel dependency... Pakistan's key airborne early warning platform, Swedish Saab 2000 AEW&C, was destroyed - likely by an S-400 system - crippling Pakistan's airspace awareness and blinding command and control functions," said Spencer.

Nearly 200 Dead, Over 1,000 Missing in Central Nigeria Floods

Abuja, (H.S): With close to 200 confirmed fatalities, authorities in Nigeria's north-central Niger State are still searching for more than 1,000 people believed to have been swept away by devastating floods triggered by heavy rains over the past week. The torrential downpours on Wednesday night wreaked havoc across Mokwa, a bustling market and farming town in Niger, submerging and washing away dozens of residential homes, some with occupants still inside, local officials said earlier.

Yakubu Garba, Deputy Governor of Niger, told reporters late Monday that nearly a week after the disaster, hundreds remained unaccounted for despite ongoing rescue efforts. "For now, we do not know where they are. Those people have been swept away by water. We have reviewed house-to-house and based on that, the number of people yet to be seen is more than 1,000," Garba said, adding that the flooding has displaced over 3,000 residents, affected at least 2,000 properties, washed away roads, and caused the collapse of three bridges. One of the most urgent challenges, Garba noted, is the uncertainty surrounding the fate of the missing, whose families are desperately searching for them.



Ibrahim Hussaini, spokesperson for the Niger State Emergency Management Agency, told Xinhua over the weekend that over 503 households were impacted. The search for more bodies is ongoing, with local divers and volunteers assisting in the operation.

Some residents believe the flooding may have been worsened by the release of water from a nearby dam, though officials have yet to confirm this. "The situation is very tragic, with many families wiped out and survivors recounting harrowing losses," Amina Yahaya, a resident from a neighbouring town, told Xinhua. Flooding in central Nigeria, including the Mokwa disaster, is the result of a complex mix of factors. The country regularly

faces severe floods during the rainy season, which typically lasts six months, beginning in March and intensifying by mid-May, especially in the northern regions.

Local experts said climate change has led to increasingly erratic and intense rainfall patterns, overwhelming existing drainage systems and the natural capacity of the land to absorb water in many areas of Africa's most populous country, Xinhua news agency reported. Last Tuesday, the National Emergency Management Agency said it had ramped up efforts to mitigate the impact of seasonal flooding, urging all levels of government to invest in drainage infrastructure, dams, and flood-resilient facilities in flood-prone regions.

60 Million Baloch People 'Deeply Appreciate' India's Unwavering Resolve To Expose Pakistan: Leading Activist

Quetta, (H.S): Leading Baloch human rights defender Mir Yar Baloch on Tuesday wrote an 'open letter' to the Indian all-party Parliamentary delegations requesting them to include Pakistan's Baloch genocide in their agenda during their global visits aimed at exposing Pakistan's cross border terrorism."

We, the sixty million Baloch people, deeply appreciate and commend your unwavering resolve, national unity, and collective efforts in exposing Pakistan's cross terrorism and its full scale support to Jihadists and extremists, on the international stage. Your mission, undertaken with determination and solidarity, is a beacon of hope for those who have long suffered under oppression and illegal occupation of Pakistan," read the letter. "Under the capable and visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India

has unified its 1.4 billion citizens into a harmonious and diverse nation. Pakistan, a duplicitous and cunning adversary, has persistently attempted to disrupt the unity between India, Balochistan, and Afghanistan by exploiting religion as a weapon. These attempts have consistently failed," it added. Writing "on the behalf of the Baloch community",

Mir urged the Indian delegations to use their voices to inform the world about the atrocities committed against the Baloch people by Pakistan, the same enemy that India has faced for the past seven decades and has been terrorising Balochistan since 1948. "We want the world to hear our cries; the oppression and brutality have surpassed all limits. Tragically, we are now deprived of the freedom to speak. To share our suffering, we must rely on social media, as our population of sixty million lacks a single national language



television channel, a national newspaper, or even a radio station to tell our stories. Meanwhile, Pakistan's Punjab province operates two hundred TV channels, publishes nine hundred newspapers, and runs hundreds of FM and international frequency radio stations, all funded by looting our national wealth," the letter stated. Appreciating the Indian delegates for exposing Pakistan

on the global stage with evidence and reasoning, the human rights activist called the efforts commendable. "We believe that more should be done. We wish for your delegations to travel the world, representing India, and we, the Baloch people, want to join you in informing the world about the ongoing oppression, military operations, and extrajudicial killings in occupied Balochistan," the letter mentioned. "India and

Balochistan have both suffered from the religious extremism of a common enemy for the past seven decades. When our enemy is the same, and our national interests align, we should support each other rather than struggle separately.

We are ready to meet with India's foreign delegations and brief them on Pakistan's atrocities in Balochistan so that our contribution can aid in bringing Pakistan to justice for its war crimes on the international stage. Your global reach and influence can significantly amplify our efforts," it further detailed. Mir also highlighted occupying Pakistani forces' military aggression leading to Baloch genocide, adding that girls and women were abducted by the Pakistani military and sold in Punjab's markets, thus erasing their identity. "Our women human rights defenders are being put behind the bars, they are facing

fabricated charges. Mahrang Baloch along with thousands other Baloch activists are languishing in torture cells. The Pakistani military is not obeying even the orders issued by its own courts to release Mahrang and other fellows," Mir highlighted. "Pakistan's intelligence agency, ISI, has subjected approximately 40,000 Baloch to enforced disappearances as collective punishment.

Nearly two hundred thousand Baloch have been killed during military operations or in custody, with their bodies dumped along roadsides, deserts, forests, and wilderness," he revealed in his letter. The leading Baloch human rights activist urged the international community to send fact-finding missions to Balochistan to meet with Baloch families and victims and gather independent data. Mir also requested the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

to dispatch a team of experts to Chagai in Pakistan's Balochistan province to assess the radioactive contamination resulting from the six nuclear tests conducted in 1998. "The team should collect samples from the mountains and test them in laboratories, while also meeting with thousands of Baloch cancer patients to understand their plight.

However, we know that Pakistan will not permit international teams to visit Balochistan because their presence would expose Pakistan's crimes. The entire Balochistan is currently suffering from Pakistan's war crimes, with every Baloch household having two to four young men either missing or killed and dumped in desolate areas," the letter further stated. "In conclusion, we appeal to the international community: today, India and Balochistan confront the oppression and extremism fostered by Pakistan.

RBI MPC Begins, All Eyes on 3rd Rate Cut As Inflation Stays Benign

New Delhi, (H.S): The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting kicked off on Wednesday to decide on the repo rate cut and according to economists and industry experts, the Central Bank is likely to go for a third 25 bps cut in the repo rate to 5.75 per cent. Chaired by RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra, the committee's decision will be announced on June 6.

The Reserve Bank has already reduced the repo rate by 50 basis points in the previous two monetary policy reviews, lowering it to 6 per cent. Market participants are now watching closely for signs of a potential third rate cut, as expectations build for further monetary support to boost domestic growth amid worsening global macroeconomic conditions. The RBI's dovish turn is primarily driven by two macroeconomic indicators: benign inflation and signs of cyclical slowdown. Headline CPI inflation remains consistently below the RBI's



medium-term target of 4 per cent, while GDP growth appears to be softening due to external shocks such as trade disruptions from recent US policy moves. Several rating agencies and global institutions have downgraded India's GDP growth projections for FY26.

Although the RBI maintained its 6.5 per cent growth estimate in April, others have revised expectations to a 6.0 per cent-6.3 per cent range. "The MPC has clearly shifted from a neutral to an accommodative stance, indicating the RBI's intent to inject

liquidity and support growth. This pivot is reinforced by April's CPI inflation easing to 3.2 per cent, the lowest since July 2019 and staying well within the RBI's comfort zone," said Bajaj Broking Research.

With inflation expectations anchored, growth momentum moderating, and external vulnerabilities persisting, the environment is becoming more favourable for another rate cut. While the final decision will depend on evolving global conditions, especially from advanced economies - market

consensus is strengthening around the likelihood of a third rate cut to help sustain India's growth path, said the report. A new SBI report has even projected a mega 50-basis point rate cut in June's RBI MPC policy. "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," according to Dr Soumya Kanti Ghosh, Group Chief Economic Adviser, SBI.

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 Red-Flags \$800 Million ADB Aid Package To Pakistan

New Delhi, (H.S): India has expressed deep concerns over the potential misuse of the \$800 million ADB aid package to Pakistan as the country is increasing its defence expenditure, despite the poor fiscal position, with the army exercising de facto control over the government in Islamabad. The army top brass now leads the Special Investment Facilitation Council, which gives it more control over the economic policy.

India has warned that this entrenched military role poses serious risks of policy reversal and poor reform implementation, according to reliable sources. Pakistan's tax-GDP ratio has been declining, with the country going through an economic crisis. The foreign exchange reserves have hit rock bottom, and inflation has soared to double-digit figures. However, despite the dire economic situation, the military-driven government has gone for increasing expenditure on defence. India has also pointed out that Pakistan has a very poor track record in implementing the



economic reforms that are mandatory with these aid packages from multilateral institutions. India's concern is that these funds can be diverted for defence expenditure.

The fighter jets purchased from China and the large number of drones used by Pakistan in the wake of Operation Sindoor reflect the increased spending on military hardware, an official said. It pointed out that Pakistan recently approached the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for the 24th bailout, indicating policy ineffectiveness. This further shows that the

previous ADB and IMF-supported programmes have failed to create sustainable macroeconomic stability. India has also highlighted that Pakistan's policy of promoting cross-border terrorism has led to a worsening of the security situation in the region.

It has further pointed out that Islamabad's track record on implementation of the FATF action points related to terrorist financing investigations and prosecution of leaders of UN-designated terrorist groups and freezing and confiscation of criminal assets is also highly unsatisfactory.

India Sees 8.8 Pc Rise in HNWI Wealth, 378,810 Millionaires Worth \$1.5 Trillion

New Delhi, (H.S): India saw an 8.8 per cent rise in high-net-worth individual (HNWI) wealth in 2024, witnessing 378,810 millionaires with a total wealth of \$1.5 trillion by the end of last year, according to a report released on Wednesday. India also had 333,340 millionaires 'next door' at the end of 2024, with a wealth of \$628.93 billion, according to the Capgemini Research Institute's 'World Wealth Report 2025'. Moreover, India had 4,290 ultra HNWIs at the end of 2024, with a combined wealth of \$534.77 billion. While 85 per cent of the Indian next-gen HNWIs plan to switch from parents' WM (Wealth Management) firm within 1-2 years, as compared to 81 per cent of the surveyed global next-gen HNWIs, 51 per cent of them cite services unavailable on their preferred channels as a reason to

switch WM firms. About 41 per cent of the surveyed Indian next-gen HNWIs cite ineffective digital tools to conduct transactions as a reason to switch WM firms, said the Capgemini report. By 2030, 98 per cent of next-gen HNWIs in India are planning to increase their offshore assets by more than 10 per cent. This greater focus on offshore investments comes from better investment options (55 per cent), better wealth management services (65 per cent), better market connectivity (54 per cent), better tax regulations and economic and political stability (49 per cent). The report revealed that the global high-net-worth individuals (HNWIs) population rose by 2.6 per cent in 2024. This increase was driven by the growth in the population of ultra-high-net-worth individuals (UHNWIs), which grew by 6.2 per cent, as strong stock markets

and AI optimism boosted portfolio returns. The data indicates that alternative investments, such as private equity and cryptocurrencies, are now an established presence in HNWI holdings, representing 15 per cent of their portfolios. "The great wealth transfer will be a defining moment for the industry. Despite global wealth on the rise, 81 per cent of inheritors plan to switch firms within one to two years of inheritance. Potentially losing these unsatisfied clients is going to create significant risk for the global wealth management sector," said Kartik Ramakrishnan, CEO of Capgemini's Financial Services Strategic Business Unit and Group Executive Board Member. The next generation of high-net-worth individuals arrives with vastly different expectations from their parents.

Piyush Goyal Begins Two-Day Visit To Italy for Bolstering Bilateral Economic Ties

New Delhi, (H.S): Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal commenced his two-day official visit to Italy on Wednesday, after completing his engagements in France focused on strengthening India-France economic cooperation. The Italy leg of the visit reaffirms India's commitment to enhancing strategic and economic ties with key European partners and deepening bilateral trade and investment collaboration with Italy, according to an official statement.

During the visit, the Minister will co-chair the 22nd Session of the India-Italy Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation (JCEC) with Italy's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Minister, Antonio Tajani. This engagement takes place in the context of a defining



phase in India-Italy bilateral relations, following the launch of the India-Italy Joint Strategic Action Plan (JSAP) 2025-2029.

The plan, announced after the meeting between Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Giorgia Meloni on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro in November 2024, is built on ten thematic pillars, with economic cooperation as a

core area of focus. The 22nd JCEC session in Rome will offer both sides an opportunity to assess progress and identify new avenues for collaboration in high-impact areas such as Industry 4.0,

agritech, digitalisation, energy transition, sustainable mobility, and the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC). These deliberations are

expected to further strengthen bilateral economic connectivity and foster strategic industrial partnerships. Goyal will also lead a high-level Indian business delegation to the India-Italy Growth Forum in Brescia, a major industrial hub. The forum will bring together key enterprises and stakeholders from both countries to promote investment, build business-to-business linkages, and explore synergies in sectors aligned with innovation and sustainability.

The visit reflects the growing political will and converging economic aspirations between India and its European partners. It aims to translate shared leadership vision into durable partnerships that drive inclusive growth, industrial transformation, and global economic resilience the statement added.

Mineral & non-ferrous metal production on growth track in FY 2025-26

New Delhi, (PIB): The index of mineral production for the mining and quarrying sector for March 2025 stood at 156.8, increasing by 0.4% over March 2024. Minerals like iron ore, manganese ore and zinc concentrate saw notable increase in production during March 2025 compared to March 2024. Production of iron ore rose by 5.7% to 25.9 million metric tonne (MMT) during the said period. Manganese ore production grew by 9.7% to 0.39 MMT and production of zinc concentrate rose

by 5.5% to 0.19 MMT in March 2025 over March 2024. Production of some key minerals in the country has continued to witness strong growth during FY 2025-26, after reaching record production levels in FY 2024-25. Iron ore accounts for 70% of the total MCDR mineral production by value. Production of iron ore was 289 million metric tonne (MMT) in FY 2024-25. As per provisional estimates for the first month (April) of FY 2025-26, there is a steady increase in the production

of these minerals as compared to the production in the corresponding month last year. Production of Bauxite has increased from 1.87 MMT during April 2024 to 2.13 MMT during April 2025, with 13.9% growth. Production of limestone has increased from 39.58 MMT during April 2024 to 40.5 MMT during April 2025, with 1.2% growth. Production of Lead & Zinc Ore has increased from 1.24 MMT during April 2024 to 1.27 MMT during April 2025, with 2.4% growth.

New Delhi, (PIB): In a major leap towards enhancing transparency, security and user experience, Indian Railways has undertaken a comprehensive digital overhaul of its ticketing infrastructure. Through the deployment of cutting-edge anti-BOT systems and integration with a leading Content Delivery Network (CDN) service provider, the Railways has significantly curbed unauthorized automated bookings by unscrupulous agents and improved the access of the web site to the genuine users. The new

system has effectively mitigated all bot traffic, which peaks during the first five minutes of Tatkal. Bot traffic accounts for up to 50% of overall login attempts during this period. This enhancement ensures better accessibility for genuine users. This is resulted, 2.5 crore suspected user IDs have been deactivated for booking tickets. A landmark achievement was recorded on May 22, 2025, with the highest-ever per-minute booking of 31,814 tickets, showcasing the robustness and

scalability of the upgraded platform. To further enhance fairness and efficiency, new user protocols have been introduced. Users not authenticated via Aadhaar can book Opening ARP, Tatkal or Premium Tatkal tickets only after 3 days of registration, while Aadhaar-verified users can book tickets without delay. These efforts have delivered measurable improvements. The average daily user logins increased from 69.08 lakh in FY 2023-24 to 82.57 lakh in FY 2024-25, registering a

19.53% rise, while average daily ticket bookings grew by 11.85% in the same period. Additionally, E-Ticketing now accounts for 86.38% of total reserved ticket bookings. Indian Railways, through IRCTC, remains committed to delivering a seamless, secure and user-friendly ticketing experience. Continuous innovation and modernization will remain central to ensuring equitable access and safeguarding the interests of millions of passengers across the country.

IMEC Will Transform Global Landscape is Pivotal To 'Viksit Bharat 2047' Vision

New Delhi, (H.S): The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) could be a "game-changer" in India's push towards strong and rapid economic growth, top economic and geopolitical experts reckoned on Wednesday during a daylong conference organised by Chintan Research Foundation (CRF) on the project which has huge implications to the country's growth and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Viksit Bharat @2047' to transform the nation into a developed entity by the centenary of its independence in 2047.

The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), a trans-continental connectivity project which promises to transform the lives of people across continents, was announced at the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Delhi in September 2023. It is a bold vision to connect India with Europe across the Arabian Peninsula and envisions a multi-modal economic corridor involving multiple businesses, integrating railways, ports, highways, energy networks, and digital infrastructure to enhance trade, investment, and connectivity across the continents. "From a strategic point of view, IMEC is critical

to India. With its friendly relations and fast economic growth, India can be the glue and anchor for this key project," said Damu Ravi, Economic Relations Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), while delivering the keynote address at the CRF conference titled 'IMEC: Connecting Continents, Unlocking Opportunities'. The event brought together experts from the governments, academia, industry and private businesses across the globe to discuss various aspects of IMEC - including its potential, promises, weaknesses, threats and ways and means to get the ambitious project off the ground.

While acknowledging challenges in implementing a project of this scale which has an estimated cost outlay of over US\$ 600 Billion over a 10-year period, most analysts opined that the potential benefits of this project outweighs the costs and obstacles. When implemented in full, IMEC promises to unlock new opportunities of multi-dimensional trade across regions that have traditionally been close trade partners. It has the potential to facilitate faster and more efficient movement of goods, bypassing existing bottlenecks, reducing shipping delays,

lowering greenhouse gas emissions, and cutting costs. It also aims to secure regional supply chains, improve trade accessibility and facilitate the economic prosperity of people and countries along the alignment of the project. "IMEC should be seen as a balancer between a geopolitical project and an economic tool. It has the potential to transform the global landscape," said Prasanna Karthik, Vice-President (Strategy) at the Adani Group, while participating in the panel discussion.

He was speaking on the need for integrated development of ports, a key link in the success of IMEC. With a target of becoming energy independent by 2047 and achieving Net Zero by 2070, India is increasing use of renewable energy across all economic spheres. Green hydrogen is considered a promising alternative for enabling this energy transition. Earlier, while welcoming the delegates, CRF President Shishir Priyadarshi said that a holistic approach with strong participation of private businesses would be essential to see the massive project through. IMEC provides an opportunity for India to not only promote hydrogen as an



alternative fuel and an effective long-term alternative to fossil fuels but also export the fuel by incorporating clean hydrogen pipelines into the corridor. India has already allocated US\$2.5 billion towards promoting the country's emergence as a green hydrogen hub. Several prominent Indian business groups, including the Adani Group, Larsen and Toubro Limited, and ReNew Energy Global, are developing green hydrogen technology at a large scale.

Geopolitically, IMEC is also being pitched as an expression of India's rise as a global power, both politically and economically, almost coinciding with it becoming the fourth-largest global economy. It is also seen as a natural progression to bring Israel closer to the West Asian region after the signing of Abraham

Accords in September 2020 and the potential normalisation of Saudi-Israel ties. The growing close ties between India and West Asia and India and Israel, coupled with the smart business opportunities that would get unlocked by a direct connectivity to Europe, is another important contributory factor.

In terms of trade between the EU and India, the IMEC is being seen as an economic game changer and an opportunity to strengthen strategic partnerships. The President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, during her recent visit to India in March, had pitched for the IMEC as an important cornerstone for enhancing India-EU trade. "This corridor is much more than just a railway or cable, it is a green and digital bridge across continents and

civilizations," the EU chief has said in the past. IMEC also figured prominently in the talks between PM Modi and US President Donald Trump during the Prime Minister's visit to Washington in February this year. Trump called it as one of the "greatest trade routes in all of history" and also pitched for an early summit of the eight signatories of IMEC - which may take place in India later this year - to kick start work on the project. In April, ahead of PM Modi's visit to Saudi Arabia, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said that India remains engaged with "selected partners" on IMEC despite the current political and security situation in the region.

The political and security in the regions seems like progress of IMEC has frozen, but India has engaged with selected partners and exchanged views on what needs to be done. We don't necessarily need to wait for the security situation to completely settle down for work to start on IMEC," said Misri. The IMEC will comprise two separate corridors, the east corridor connecting India to the Gulf and the northern corridor connecting the Gulf to Europe. "After the signing of the framework understanding on IMEC in September 2023, all partners had an urgent regional situation to address. It meant that

the kind of groundwork that was foreseen between all the partners could not begin immediately. That, however, does not mean individual countries or groups of countries that are part of the original agreement have not discussed or engaged on what the contours of the agreement will look like and what kind of work will be required to effect progress under this agreement," Misri stated on April 19. In the same month, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal, while addressing the IMEC High-Level Roundtable on Connectivity and Economic Growth in New Delhi,

said that the visionary concept - a powerful endorsement of the leadership and partnership of India and Middle East and East Europe - has caught the fancy of the world. Goyal stated that IMEC is not merely a trade route, but a modern-day Silk Route - a partnership of equals - that fosters synergy, connectivity, and inclusive prosperity. "It will bring down logistics costs by up to 30 per cent, reduce transportation time by 40 per cent, and create seamless trade linkages across continents," he said. "We will not only be linking trade; we will be linking civilizations and cultures - from Southeast Asia to the Gulf, from the Middle East to Central Europe."



Hina Khan marries Rocky Jaiswal in an intimate ceremony

Actor Hina Khan tied the knot with longtime partner Rocky Jaiswal in a private ceremony. The couple celebrated their union with beautiful photos on Instagram.

Hina Khan is now married to her longtime beau, Rocky Jaiswal. Ye Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai star tied the knot with Rocky in an intimate ceremony and shared the news on her social media account. The couple have been dating for more than a

decade and has stood by each other through thick and thin.

On Wednesday, Hina took to her Instagram handle and shared the news with her fans with dreamy pictures of her nuptials. As the bride, Hina looked ethereal in a Manish Malhotra sari and jewellery. She chose a handloom saree in opal green, with gold and silver threads tracing age-old motifs across its weave. Rocky wore a Manish Malhotra's signature kurta in ecru. Hina posted a heartfelt note which

read, "From two different worlds, we built a universe of love. Our differences faded, our hearts aligned, creating a bond to last lifetimes. We are our home, our light, our hope and together, we transcend all barriers. Today, our union is forever sealed in love and law. We seek your Blessings and Wishes as Wife and Husband" Many stars from the film industry congratulated the couple for their new beginning. Bipasha Basu commented, "Happiness

together forever". Malaika Arora also blessed the couple and wrote, "So so beautiful. Congratulations deserve all the love n happiness (sic)". Designer Manish Malhotra commented with several red heart emojis. Actor Ankita Lokhande commented, "Wowwwwwww what a news Hina and rocky heartiest congratulations to both of you and wishing u a very Happy married life guys soo happy for you (sic)"

Hina Khan and Rocky

Jaiswal first met on the sets of Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai, where the actor played the lead role of Akshara while Rocky was part of the crew as a producer. Over time, their friendship grew into a romantic relationship, which they made public in 2017. Since then, the couple has stood by each other as constant pillars of support especially through Hina's battle with breast cancer. The couple had been dating for over 13 years.

Housefull 5 advance booking: Akshay film beats Kesari Chapter 2

Tarun Mansukhani's Housefull 5 will hit screens this Friday. The film features an ensemble cast led by Akshay Kumar, Riteish Deshmukh and Abhishek Bachchan. According to Sacnilk, the film has brought in 2.5 crore in advance collections in India so far. The trade website reports that Housefull 5 sold 84,916 tickets for 11,553 shows by Wednesday evening. The film has collected 2.5 crore so far and is expected to bring in more, given that it's a Friday release. According to the trade website, Akshay's previous film, Kesari Chapter 2, with Ananya Panday and R Madhavan, made 1.84 crore in advance booking. While Housefull 5 managed to beat those numbers, it remains to be seen if it beats Sky Force's advance booking collection, which stands at 3.78 crore. The previous film in the franchise, Housefull 4, released for Diwali in 2019 and made 8 crore in advance collections, bringing in 19.08 crore net in India on its



opening day. Housefull is one of the most popular franchises in India. The first film collected 119 crore worldwide, while the second film made 188 crore. The third and fourth films in the instalment brought in 185 crore and 296 crore respectively.

Apart from Akshay, Riteish and Abhishek, Housefull 5 stars Sanjay Dutt, Fardeen Khan, Shreyas Talpade, Nana Patekar, Jackie Shroff, Dino Morea, Jacqueline Fernandez, Nargis Fakhri, Chitrangada Singh, Sonam Bajwa, Soundarya

Sharma, Chunky Pandey, Nikitin Dheer and Johnny Lever.

The murder mystery, which takes place on a cruise ship, will feature two different endings with different killers. Sajid Khan directed the first two parts of the franchise, with Sajid-Farhad directing the third and Farhad Samji the fourth. Housefull 5 is produced by Sajid Nadiadwala, Warda Nadiadwala, and Firuzi Khan under the production banner Nadiadwala Grandson Entertainment.

Maalik teaser: Rajkummar a small-town boy, turns ruthless gangster



Rajkummar Rao is back with a bang in a new gangster avatar with his upcoming film Maalik. The makers dropped the teaser of the film, which shows the actor in his most ruthless, grittiest role yet. Rajkummar shows a stark contrast from his recent comedic roles by turning into a cold-blooded criminal in this next venture.

The producers of the film, Tips, dropped the teaser of the much-awaited Maalik on their social media handles. The film has

been set in 1988's Allahabad, and opens with Rajkummar's character waking up with a rifle in his hand. Next, we see him ruthlessly kill a man with a spade as blood splatters all over his body. He then sets him ablaze with fire crackers and says, "Maalik paida nahi hue to kya, ban to sakte hai (It doesn't matter if we weren't born a master, we can become one)". The teaser goes on to show Rajkummar's journey into turning into a mafia lord in

the unforgiving underworld. Fans reacted to Maalik's gripping action sequences and Rajkummar's strong screen presence. Many fans praised Rajkummar for branching out from his critically-acclaimed films to do an out-and-out masala actioner in Maalik. One fan wrote, "Bhai ye to all-rounder nikla (He turned out to be an all-rounder)". Another fan commented, "So happy to see #RajkummarRao exploring another genre! #MAALIK looks intense and wild Expecting other doors to open for him with this one (sic)".

Produced by Kumar Taurani and Jay Shewakraman, the film is set to be a gritty tale of power, loyalty, betrayal, and one man's rise to rule it all. Pulkita, who is known for TV series like Bhakshak and Bose Dead/Alive, will direct the film, which will be released on July 11.

BCCI reacts after deaths, injuries reported due to stampede in Bengaluru

Bengaluru, (HS) : The Royal Challengers Bengaluru's celebration of their maiden IPL title - ending an 18-year-long wait - turned into chaos on Wednesday, after a stampede outside the Chinnaswamy Stadium left four people dead and several injured. Calling it a "shocking" incident, BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia pointed to lapses in security arrangements and extended condolences to the families of the deceased.

Thousands gathered outside the Chinnaswamy stadium to catch a glimpse of the Rajat Patidar-led side, who beat the Punjab Kings on Tuesday in Ahmedabad to win the title, as police struggled to take control of the situation, resorting to mild use of force as well. "This incident of deaths due to stampede is totally shocking for us. We at BCCI extend our heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased. We also pray for the speedy recovery of all those who have been injured. When one organizes a victory celebrations of this magnitude, proper precautions, safety and security measures need to be taken. There has been some lapses in some corner somewhere. Due diligence should have been done so that an incident like this could have been avoided. I have heard that celebrations are



IPL 2025: RCB's Open Bus Victory Parade Cancelled

Bengaluru, (HS) : IPL 2025 champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru's plans to organise an open bus victory parade following its first-ever championship win have been cancelled, said the Bengaluru Traffic Police on Wednesday. As per an earlier announcement from the franchise, the open-top bus parade was supposed to begin from 5pm and run from Vidhana Soudha to M.



Chinnaswamy Stadium, the team's home ground, where a

felicitation event would take place from 6pm.

on and I sincerely hope that nothing untoward happens. Even yesterday in Ahmedabad, during IPL finals, there were 120,000 people at the Narendra Modi Stadium.

But BCCI has a dedicated

team which has done elaborate planning in coordination with local district administration and law enforcing authorities to ensure that safety and security of the spectators. When we organized the Victory parade in

Mumbai after the T20 World Cup, we had spoken to the local authorities and made elaborate arrangements keeping in mind the safety and security of the crowd who had come to see their heroes," said BCCI secretary.

Suchitra Parida Shines at Paris 2025 Bags Silver in Javelin

Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : Earning accolades for the country and the state, Odisha's para-athletics sensation, Suchitra Parida, added another star to her impressive career by securing a silver medal in the women's F55 javelin throw on Tuesday at the ongoing Paris 2025 World Para Athletics Grand Prix. Competing at the renowned Charlety Stadium, Parida achieved a personal best of 17.98 meters, positioning herself as one of the world's leading athletes in her category.

The Paris Grand Prix, which began on June 2 and will continue till June 5, is a prestigious event in the para-athletics calendar, attracting top athletes from around the world. Parida's silver medal performance came amidst stiff competition, with Mexico's



Navarro H. MG clinching gold with a throw of 19.96 meters, setting a new American record. Another Mexican athlete, Salazar RA, took bronze with a personal best of 15.66 meters. Notably,

Suchitra Parida's journey to the podium is a testament to her resilience and determination. After losing mobility in a tragic accident at the age of 22, she turned to para-athletics, quickly rising through

the ranks to become one of India's top performers in her category. In 2025 alone, she has secured gold medals at the New Delhi World Para Athletics Grand Prix and the National Para Athletics Championship in Chennai, setting national records along the way, with her consistent performances earning her the World No. 2 ranking in the F55 category.

With the Los Angeles 2028 Paralympic Games on the horizon, Parida's recent performances position her as a strong contender for future international competitions. Further, as Odisha continues to nurture and support para-athletes, her journey stands as a shining example of what can be accomplished with determination and support.

IPL Prize Money: RCB get Rs 20 cr, PBKS receive Rs 12.5



AHMEDABAD, (HS) : Newly-crowned IPL champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru have received Rs 20 crore for winning the 18th edition of the league while runners-up Punjab Kings got richer by Rs 12.5 crore. RCB lifted their maiden title in the world's biggest T20 league by getting the better of PBKS by six runs in an exciting summit showdown here on Tuesday, ending a long wait of 18 years for the team as well as its talisman Virat Kohli. Third-Place finishers Mumbai Indians earned

Rs 7 crore for reaching Qualifier 2, while the fourth-placed Gujarat Titans were given Rs 6.5 crore for playing in the Eliminator. Over the years, the IPL prize money has grown exponentially. In the inaugural 2008 edition, the winning side received Rs 4.8 crore, whereas the runner-up team was awarded Rs 2.4 crore.

DDCA wins 'Best Pitch and Ground' award: The Delhi District Cricket Association (DDCA) has got the 'Best Pitch and Ground' award for the matches held at the Arun Jaitley Stadium. Besides the recognition, DDCA also got richer by Rs 50 lakh. The stadium hosted seven matches this season, all of them being preliminary fixtures. DDCA President Rohan Jaitley expressed his gratitude, stating, "This award is a testament to the tireless work of our curators, staff, and management. We are committed to maintaining the highest standards in cricket infrastructure."

List of award winners in the RCB vs PBKS final Player of the Match (Krunal Pandya): Rs 5 lakh Super Striker (Jitesh Sharma): Rs 1 lakh Most Dot balls (Krunal Pandya): Rs 1 lakh Most fours (Priyansh Arya): Rs 1 lakh Fantasy King (Shashank Singh): Rs 1 lakh Most Sixes (Shashank Singh): Rs 1 lakh.

Indonesia Open: Karunakaran-Variyath Pair Battles into Round 2

New Delhi, (HS) : India's mixed doubles pair of Sathish Kumar Karunakaran and Aadya Variyath kept the nation's hopes alive at the Indonesia Open Super 1000 badminton tournament, securing a thrilling 15-21, 21-16, 21-17 victory against Chinese Taipei's Ye Hong-Wei and Nicole Gonzales Chan. Their victory came after a gruelling 45-minute encounter, showcasing resilience and tactical brilliance. However, it was a disappointing day for the other Indian pairs, as Rohan Kapoor and Ruthvika Shivani Gadde, Ashith Surya and Amrutha Pramuthesh, and Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto all suffered first-round defeats.

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