



# DUMANI MAIL

R.N.I. Regd. No.: ODIENG/2021/80182 • POSTAL Regd. No.: BN/297/24-26 • Visit us: [www.dumanimail.in](http://www.dumanimail.in) • [epaper.dumanimail.in](mailto:epaper.dumanimail.in)

English Daily



## ACTS OF GREEN



**New Delhi, (HS) :** To mark the World Environment Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday planted a sapling at BhagwanMahavirVanasthali Park in Delhi strengthening the EkPedMaaKeNaam initiative and resolved to reforest the Aravalli range under the Aravalli Green Wall project. The Prime Minister noted that the Aravalli range,

one of the oldest on the planet, spans Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana, and Delhi. He highlighted that the region faces multiple environmental challenges which the Government is committed to addressing.

Modi said that in the Aravalli range and beyond, in addition to the traditional planting methods, we will encourage new techniques

especially in urban and semi-urban areas where there are space constraints. Plantation activities will be geo-tagged and monitored on the MeriLiFE portal, he added. The Prime Minister also urged the youth of the country to actively participate in the movement and contribute to enhancing the green cover of the planet. In a X thread, the Prime Minister

said: "Today, on #WorldEnvironmentDay, we strengthened the #EkPedMaaKeNaam initiative with a special tree plantation drive. I planted a sapling at the BhagwanMahavirVanasthali Park in Delhi. This is also a part of our effort to reforest the Aravalli range - the Aravalli Green Wall project." "It is widely known that the Aravalli range is one of the oldest on our planet, covering Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana and Delhi. The past several years have brought to the fore several environmental challenges relating to this range, which our Government is committed to mitigating. Our focus is to rejuvenate areas linked with this range. We are going to work with the respective local administrations and going to emphasise things such as improving water systems, curbing dust storms, stopping eastward expansion of the Thar Desert and more." "In the Aravalli range and

beyond, in addition to the traditional planting methods, we will encourage new techniques especially in urban and semi-urban areas where there are space constraints. Plantation activities will be geo-tagged and monitored on the MeriLiFE portal. I call upon the youth of our nation to take part in this movement and add to our planet's green cover."

PM plants sindoor sapling: The Prime Minister also planted a Sindoor sapling at his residence in New Delhi. The plant was gifted to him by the brave mothers and sisters of Kutch, Gujarat, who had displayed extraordinary courage and patriotism during the 1971 India-Pakistan war. Recalling his recent visit to Gujarat, the Prime Minister said the gift of the Sindoor plant will remain a strong symbol of the bravery and inspiration of the women power of our country.

## Odisha to plant 7.5 crore saplings this year



**Bhubaneswar, (DMC) :** Chief Minister Mohan Majhi on Thursday announced that the Odisha government will plant 7.5 crore saplings this year as part of its commitment to environmental conservation and climate action.

Speaking at the state-level World Environment Day celebration at Ouat Agriculture Education Hall here, Majhi said that understanding the dangers of a polluted earth, creating a greener environment, and preserving nature have become essential. "Steps taken for environmental conservation can ensure a healthier lifestyle for future

generations. Excessive use of plastic, especially single-use plastic, has led to three major issues like climate change, depletion of water, land, and biodiversity, and pollution and waste management challenges. The government has taken proactive steps to ban single-use plastics, promote sustainable alternatives, and strengthen waste management systems. Real change in society must start from individuals and their families," he said, stressing that banning plastic should become a mass movement. He further

Continued P-4

OIPR-10003/13/0197/2526



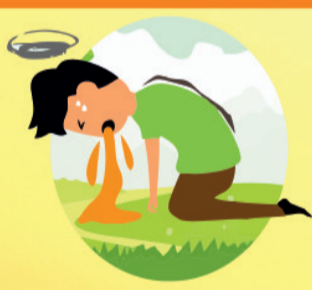
DSPL-99

## ଅଶୁଦ୍ଧତା ସତର୍କତା

### ଅଶୁଦ୍ଧତାର ଲକ୍ଷଣ



ପ୍ରବଳ  
ଖାଲ ବୋହିବା



ମୁଣ୍ଡ ବୁଲାଇ ଅନ୍ଧାର  
ଦିଶିବା ଓ ବାନ୍ତି ଲାଗିବା



ପ୍ରବଳ  
ଶୋଷ ଲାଗିବା



ମାଂସପେଶୀ  
ଟାଙ୍କି ହେବା



ଅତେତ ହେବା  
କିମ୍ବା ବାତ ମାରିବା

### ପୂର୍ବ ସତର୍କତା



ସକାଳେ କିମ୍ବା ଉପରବେଳା ଖରା  
କମ୍ ଥିବାବେଳେ ବାହାରକୁ ଯାଆନ୍ତୁ



ବାହାରକୁ ଯିବା ପୂର୍ବରୁ  
ଯଥେଷ୍ଟ ପାଣି ପିଅନ୍ତୁ



ହାଲୁକା ରଙ୍ଗର ଡିଲ୍ଲା ପୋଷାକ,  
ଛତା ଓ ଜୋତା ବ୍ୟବହାର କରନ୍ତୁ



ଖରାରେ କଠିନ ପରିଶ୍ରମ କରନ୍ତୁ ନାହିଁ  
/ ଅଧିକ ଦୂର ଗଲନ୍ତୁ ନାହିଁ



ମଝିରେ ମଝିରେ  
ଛାଇରେ ବିଶ୍ରାମ ନିଅନ୍ତୁ

### ଅଶୁଦ୍ଧତାର ପ୍ରତିକାର



ରୋଗୀକୁ ଖୋଲା ଓ ଥଣ୍ଡା ଯାଗାକୁ  
ନେଇଯାଆନ୍ତୁ ଓ ଆର.ଏସ୍./ଟିନି ଲୁଗା  
ସର୍ବତ୍ର/ବାଦାପାଣି ପିଅନ୍ତୁ



ପୋଷାକ ଯଥାସମ୍ଭବ  
ଖୋଲି ଦିଅନ୍ତୁ



ମୁଣ୍ଡ ଧୋଇ ଦିଅନ୍ତୁ ଏବଂ  
ଓଢ଼ା କପଡ଼ାରେ ପୋଛନ୍ତୁ



ରୋଗୀକୁ ପଙ୍ଖା/କୁଲର/ଏସି  
ପବନରେ ଶୁଖାଇ ଦିଅନ୍ତୁ



ଅବସ୍ଥାରେ ଉନ୍ନତି ନହେଲେ  
ସ୍ବାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ କର୍ମଚାରୀଙ୍କୁ ଜଣାନ୍ତୁ  
କିମ୍ବା ଆମ୍ବୁଲାନ୍ସ ଡାକନ୍ତୁ

ବୟସ୍କ ତଥା ଅସୁସ୍ଥ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି ଏବଂ ଗର୍ଭବତୀ ମହିଳାଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଅଶୁଦ୍ଧତାର ଆଶଙ୍କା ଅଧିକ

ସ୍ବାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ଓ ପରିବାର କଲ୍ୟାଣ ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର

Facebook.com/IFWOdisha  
@IFWOdisha  
<http://www.health.odisha.gov.in/>

## Trade Agreements

The uncertainty unleashed by Donald Trump's tariffs has only been aggravated by a spate of recent court rulings. On May 28, the US Court of International Trade struck down Trump's "Liberation Day" tariffs, saying that the emergency law (International Emergency Economic Powers Act) does not give the President the power to impose broad tariffs. However, a day later, a federal appeals court temporarily reinstated the tariffs. The case is now likely to work its way through the US legal system. The uncertainty is likely to linger on as the 90-day pause on the Liberation Day tariffs ends in the second week of July. The Trump administration may have hoped that some trade deals would be quickly negotiated. And while the US and the UK have reached an agreement - the deal was announced on May 8th - progress with other major trading nations/blocks remains a protracted process. Take the case of China. A few days ago, US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent is reported to have said that trade talks between the US and China "are a bit stalled". Last Friday, Trump said that China has "totally violated" its agreement with the US, a charge that China has rejected. The US President is expected to speak to Chinese President Xi Jinping this week to iron out their differences. In the case of Japan, several rounds of talks have taken place, and another is expected before the G7 summit. But last Friday, the legal challenges to his tariffs notwithstanding, Trump also raised the tariffs on steel and aluminium to 50 per cent, potentially impacting countries such as Canada, Mexico and South Korea, which account for a sizeable share of US steel imports. A day later, the European Union, which had agreed to "accelerate talks" on a US trade deal, has also responded firmly, saying it is prepared to impose "countermeasures" against the US. It noted that such moves to increase tariffs "undermine ongoing efforts to reach a negotiated solution". The new tariffs are effective from June 4.

These latest tariff moves come at a time when India and the US are negotiating a bilateral trade deal. A US team is expected to visit India over the coming few days. On Monday, US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, speaking in Washington at the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum's leadership summit, said that a deal between the US and India could happen in the "not too distant future". The India-EU trade deal also appears to be on course. As per a report, the two sides have agreed on several chapters, and the pact could be concluded before the end of the year. Coming after the finalisation of the India-UK agreement, the successful culmination of these deals would increase the country's attractiveness as an investment destination.

6th June

## National Higher Education Day



National Higher Education Day is celebrated on June 6 every year to recognize the importance of education in improving our lives. To excel in your dream job, it is important to have the latest knowledge in that field, which can be attained through higher education. Millions of young and old people take time out on this day to make plans to get a higher education and think about the options that they have by researching scholarships, potential career choices, and even doing a bit of job-shadowing.

National Higher Education Day was founded by Izamar Olaguez and Marcie Hronis in 2015. The main purpose behind celebrating this day is to motivate students to pursue higher education and make college fees affordable for all. Each year, hundreds of students and universities unite to spread awareness about National Higher Education Day in the U.S.

The federal government signed the Higher Education Act in 1965. The main purpose of signing this act was to improve the higher education programs of educational institutions in the U.S. and offer monetary assistance to students who are unable to afford their college fees.

The Higher Education Act was backed by both the federal and national level governments. Individual states also developed a similar program to support students who want to enroll in colleges and universities for higher educational attainment. Making higher education accessible is the primary goal of National Higher Education Day. This includes motivating and funding students to get enrolled in an undergraduate or a postgraduate degree program.

National Higher Education Day also initiates various activities, which are continued all year round. It helps students get useful information on how to get scholarships and prepare themselves both mentally and financially for pursuing a higher education degree in the U.S.

More than 200 higher education institutions are established in the U.S. New western states create colleges for agricultural, mechanical, and military sciences. Presidents of Ph.D.-granting universities unite to develop policies for higher education. American universities create special training courses for military personnel in WWI.

## Political Dairy



Tejeswar Patnaik

As the world finds itself increasingly drawn into the quagmire of global politics, India too recalibrates its diplomatic stance in response to rapidly evolving circumstances. This shift is not merely a strategic adjustment, but a necessity-India aspires to become the third-largest economy by 2030 and must align its foreign and defense policies accordingly. With its rising economic and military strength, India is no longer a passive participant in world affairs but a key player asserting its national interests with confidence. Yet, India's rise has not been welcomed uniformly. The United States, China, and several Western powers are visibly uneasy with New Delhi's growing assertiveness. While the U.S. publicly promotes strategic cooperation with India, it quietly advances ties with Pakistan and Turkey, nations that either sponsor or support terrorism. Quite a lot of developments are taking place on the global landscape, and India stands firm in the middle of this shifting terrain. The recent conflict between India and Pakistan has once again revealed the contradictions in American diplomacy. The U.S. seeks India as a proxy to counterbalance China's dominance in Asia, yet continues to extend military and financial support to Pakistan, a country that has long provided a haven to terrorist organizations. History is replete with examples where, under the pretext of pursuing national interest, deep-state actors have supported terrorist networks. America's decades-long alliance with

# India's Rise in Global Power Dynamics

Pakistan is a prime example.

Check De India: Under Trump's second term, there appears to be a carefully devised strategy to keep India in check. He wants India to do trade with both India and Pakistan. Despite India's repeated demands for international action against Pakistan-sponsored terrorism, Washington's actions tell a different story. Even during the recent Indo-Pak conflict, Pakistan managed to secure a \$100 billion IMF bailout-allegedly with U.S. influence. While the IMF imposed eleven stringent conditions, including investments in human development and capping defense spending below 12% of the national budget, analysts doubt Pakistan's ability to comply. Trump's praise of Pakistan's leadership-placing it on par with India's-has further strained bilateral ties. His approval of missile sales to Turkey, a vocal backer of Pakistan, underlines a dangerous principle in modern diplomacy: "Everything is fair in the national interest," thus reinforcing the Machiavellian notion that the end justifies the means. It is an irony that Turkey, a state that openly supports Pakistan, a hub of terrorism, is still a key NATO member. The West remains conspicuously silent on this paradox. Trump's recent meeting with Syria's president, formerly associated with al-Qaeda and once carrying a \$10 million U.S. bounty, and the subsequent lifting of sanctions on Syria further proves that in diplomacy, national interest is the sole guiding principle, and no one remains untouchable. Meanwhile, European nations' lukewarm response to India's fight against cross-border terrorism is equally disheartening, thus amounting to hypocrisy. Their reluctance to openly support India suggests a self-centered approach to foreign relations-one that prioritizes convenience over principle. In this complex geopolitical environment, India's growing military prowess stands as a pillar of strength. Its air defense superiority, bolstered by the successful deployment of Akash



and BrahMos missiles in Operation Sindoor, has drawn the attention of global defense analysts. The precision strikes on Pakistan's major air bases have redefined India's strategic posture and demonstrated its advanced capabilities. The superior striking capabilities of these missiles are not just deterrents-they are messages. They signify India's refusal to be bullied into passive diplomacy. In a world where perception shapes power, India's military achievements are now shifting global narratives in its favor. India's air defense advancements are expected to result in a substantial rise in its defense exports. What especially unsettles Washington is India's drive for strategic autonomy-its determination to indigenize the defence ecosystem and reduce dependency on Western arms suppliers. India is no longer content with being a junior partner in a global alliance; it is now pursuing an independent, nation-first policy. India has maintained that any trade deal should be mutually beneficial, thus signalling India's stance. In recent developments, Trump's imposition of a 100% tariff on Indian exports and his pressure on Apple to reconsider its investment in India reflect attempts to curb India's economic rise. Our external Minister has stated that any trade deal has to be mutually beneficial.

During Trump's second term, America has resumed supplying parts for Pakistan's F-16s and even offered to mediate the

Kashmir issue-something India firmly rejects. India's refusal to accept third-party mediation has once again demonstrated its diplomatic strength. India asserted that any bilateral talks with Pakistan should be related to terrorism and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. India also defied the West's economic sanctions against Russia and Iran, thus maintaining its independent diplomatic assertiveness. This was evident in India's bold decision to continue importing oil from Russia and Iran, despite Western sanctions. India, like America, is putting its national interest first. It abstained multiple times from voting on UN resolutions condemning Russia's aggression in Ukraine, signaling its desire to preserve a long-standing partnership with Moscow, a reliable supplier of defense equipment, unrefined oil, and diplomatic support. The narrative war has become just as important as conventional military strategy. A major section of Western and U.S. media has long been adopting a biased approach that attempts to pull down the image of India which is, the world's largest democracy, 5th largest economy and the fourth largest military power. But India has not remained silent. It has been unmasking these media biases, confronting them with facts, and promoting its version of events to global audiences. India has launched an international outreach following Operation Sindoor. The government has formed seven committees, comprising 60 members from all political parties,

to visit strategic regions across the globe. Their mission is to apprise foreign governments about India's firm stance on Pakistan-sponsored terrorism and the decision to pause the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)-a symbolic and strategic move. India's outreach efforts are designed to counter Western and Pakistani narratives and build a global consensus around its security concerns. It is also in talks with the Taliban regime in Afghanistan to diplomatically isolate Pakistan, while simultaneously applying economic pressure on Turkey and Bangladesh for their indirect support of anti-India elements.

India's foreign policy has matured into a bold doctrine of assertive realism. It now follows a "tit for tat" approach-supplying arms and ammunition to enemies of its adversaries, aligning economic interests with political goals, and engaging with both East and West on its terms. Its recent free trade agreements with the European Union, the Middle East, Latin American, and African nations are part of a calculated effort to diversify alliances and reduce vulnerability to geopolitical coercion. Zero tolerance for terrorism is now India's new normal. It has made it clear that any provocation from Pakistan will be met with decisive retaliation. The government's readiness to strike back-diplomatically, economically, and militarily-marks a new era in India's global positioning. India's consistent GDP growth, robust space and technological advancements, and a dynamic young workforce position it as a power to reckon with. No longer content with the moral high ground alone, New Delhi now operates from a position of hard power and strategic clarity.

This decade belongs to India. A new India is rising-strong, self-reliant, and capable of navigating a complex global order with both economic and military strength. In the evolving world of diplomacy and defense, India is now poised to script its own story on its terms.

*Sri Patnaik is a Banker and a writer.*

## Spiritual teachings for collective welfare

Dr. Ram Prasad Ray

The main duty of the tattvikas, spiritual teachers, is to promote education that aims at collective welfare. Propagation of collective welfare is full of the greatness of Shivattva; so, it is indispensable. At the time of propagation, your views, nay, all your tendencies, should be pointed towards satya, truth, so that collective welfare is possible. Satya and Shiva are so interrelated that neither can stand, nor be achieved without the other. Satya is that through whose observance you will proceed towards kalyana and ultimately you will be one with it in its entirety - that is, with Parama Purusha whom sages call Kalyana-Sundaram.

Asatya is just its opposite. Where there is no propagation of satya, people indulge in individual or group selfishness. The aim is not enlivened with the idea of collective welfare. The only object of the party concerned is how to establish oneself in this material world by means of the use of well-knit language and cunningness. High ideals have been preached many times in many countries, no doubt, but to what extent has it helped in establishing satya? Most preachers were adept in the art of preaching. There was no paucity of experienced hands in Prachara Vijnana still, after the expiry of momentary charms. When people



realised that they had not been served with what is satya, they tried to wipe out those preachers' names from history, with disregard and aversion. Teachers need to explain to people whatever is done, with reasons thereof. Also, make it clear to them what they want to do and why they want to do. The result of this highly helpful teaching is that inferiority complex disappears from people. They are encouraged when someone like them, so inspired with such a high ideal. The third outcome of this is that they will get rid of wrong notions that may have crept into them via propaganda made by persons with vested interests. Teachers need to win hearts with satya without abusing anyone.

As a teacher, when a person behaves with you badly or uses harsh words,

don't behave with him in like manner. You shall explain to him his duties gently. In case anyone has a wrong impression, show him the right path without abusing him. Make it clear to him if possible with practical demonstration how harmful may be the effect of such habits. In such cases your behaviour must be like that of a friend, and never like that of an instructor. Your only object will be to get your advice accepted by him. The idea that he is a fool and you are wise is not desirable to any party. Keep your focus on propagation of satya. While preaching, you will always keep this in view that the person whom you are preaching to has the ability to understand it in the way you are making it clear.

*Camp Assistant, Central Red Cross Blood Centre, Cuttack*

## Focus on action and the fruit will follow

Dr. Arundhati Devi

King Tutankhamen of ancient Egypt died at the age of 19. With no children of his own, those who succeeded him removed every trace of his existence. They even forbade the taking of his name. According to ancient Egyptians, a man lives as long as his name is spoken. They removed his statues and inscriptions. They put their own instead. They forbade his funeral rites. Disregarded in death and his tomb forgotten, Tutankhamen was deliberately erased from public memory. Subsequently, for thousands of years, tomb raiders plundered the immense wealth interred in the Valley of Kings. All the tombs were laid bare. The only tomb that remained intact, forgotten, was Tutankhamen's! When his tomb was discovered by Carter in the year 1922, its vast treasures over-awed the whole world. Even 3,300 years after his death, he is one of the most famous pharaohs of Egypt. This, despite all the efforts made by his adversaries to obliterate him from history. All their desires and expectations came to nought.

Is it not therefore, futile to get obsessed with craving for fruit? For time can wash it away in a moment. To want something, to believe one will get it and then one will be happy is pure ignorance. Such an expectation is unstable, flimsy and subject to factors well beyond one's control. A chance, a random circumstance, can change the outcome and years of hard work can vanish. A sudden tsunami or maybe even an unlettered word can

lead to a complete wipe out. The blissful life of Rama and Sita was shattered by a washerman's gripe. The craving for fruit is the formula for angst, for tragedy. But without fruit to reach out to, why would one work? Wouldn't work be aimless without a fruit? If one sat in one's car and had nowhere to go where would one drive to? Is a destination not required? Can one function without the expectation of a fruit? The fruit or result is imperative to choose the right action. Without the direction provided by the fruit, action would become pointless, insane. To that extent, the outcome as goal is important. But when this goal becomes a craving, a longing, when it becomes a hook on which the happiness of life hinges, the fruit starts disturbing the action and life itself. The journey is anxious; the loss is heartbreaking. What is duty? Duties are those actions which take one to one's goal. Thus having a goal is crucial. The ideal action has a goal or destination. But once the action starts, the goal should not be allowed to disturb one's concentration. The entire focus is on the action, not the fruit. Like Arjuna, all one can see is the eye of the bird. Only the action exists. When all energy is thus directed to the action, the goal is achieved faster. And the journey is enjoyable! Ironically, forgetting the fruit is getting the fruit.

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

## World Environment Day observed by ActionAid Association & CCWD



**Bhubaneswar,(DMC):** Aiming to protect the future generation and Plastic free Odisha Voluntary organization named ActionAid Association in collaboration with Center for Child and Women Development (CCWD) organized an awareness drive and planted saplings here at Aurobinda Nagar under ward no-9 of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation on the occasion of World Environment Day. The objective of the programme was to sensitize the slum dwellers about the bad effects of using plastic said Sadasiv Swain Secretary of CCWD. Attending as guest Associate Director of ActionAid Association Debabrat Patra shared the situation of climate change and plastic pollution. In this programme members of Child Club, Bhubaneswar Young Urban Women Forum, Self-help group, ASHA, AWW & students of Sailabala Women's College participated. The programme Coordinated by Soumya Ranjan Das, Siba Sahoo, Snigdha Das, Kalyani Rout, Gitanjali Panda, Renubala Sahoo, Sucharita Behera, Smrutirekha Das & Bhaskar Chandra Pradhan.

# One year after in power, BJP on slow track in Bargarh



**Bargarh,(Trilochan Sahu)** With Odisha BJP gearing up to celebrate one year of governance in the State in a grand manner, the saffron party remains on the backfoot in local bodies across the district. Out of 12 panchayat samitis and five urban local bodies (ULBs) in Bargarh, the BJP is yet to significantly influence the politics. The regional outfit BJD's dominance continues unabated in council meetings and in policy-making of the local bodies. While the BJP Government's initiatives are being rolled out at the block level, a lack of engagement and dialogue with local representatives affects the implementation of the welfare schemes. Even though the BJP gained ground in Western Odisha, the BJD strongholds, in the 2024 elections, the saffron party leaders

have failed to capitalise on the winning spirit and create booth-level party workers to strengthen the party base at the grassroots. Lack of coordination between MLAs and block presidents has marred several developmental programmes. Barring Bijepur, the remaining 11 panchayat samitis face a leadership crisis in mobilising the decisions in favour of the party. Recently, the Bijepur

block chairperson was ousted in a no-confidence vote. Local MLA Sanat Gartia has proved his leadership abilities in the block during the no-confidence motion. On May 29, all BJD PS members boycotted the Panchayat Samiti meeting, expressing concerns that the BJP government is diminishing the Panchayat Samiti's autonomy. The members voiced their desire for improved

communication regarding governmental activities and emphasised the importance of considering their input in decision-making. But the BJD has shown confidence in Sohela and Bhatli blocks, where the regional outfit displays a more measured approach. Sources said the Sohela PS meeting faced challenges due to the absence of local MLA Irasis Acharya.

Former minister and ex-MLA for Bhatli constituency Sushant Singh, who had a strong organisational presence, has stepped back from political engagements due to health issues. However, the BJP has failed to take advantage of strengthening its party base in the Bhatli, Ambabhona, and Sohella blocks. Sources added that there are indications that if Sushant's health improves, he may consider re-entering the political arena, potentially reshaping dynamics in the Bhatli constituency. Another senior political leader criticised the BJP government's move to increase MLA LAD funds from Rs 3 crore to Rs 5 crore. "It's the BJD that will benefit, not the BJP. With 51 MLAs and dominance in panchayats, the BJD stands to gain more. The government appears directionless," he added.

## 65-year-old Pinaki Misra ties knot with 50-year-old Mahua Moitra

**Bhubaneswar,(DMC):** Former BJD MP Pinaki Misra (65) has tied the knot with Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra in a private ceremony abroad recently. A photo, reportedly, from the wedding surfaced showing Moitra and Misra holding hands while smiling. "However, neither of the two MPs nor their parties have issued any official statement confirming or denying the development. "The ceremony took place in Germany and remained undisclosed until now. Even senior leaders from both the Trinamool Congress and the BJD have claimed they were unaware of the event. The nature of the ceremony and the secrecy surrounding it have left party insiders surprised. "So far, there has been no public response from either Moitra or Misra about the reports. The couple has not



addressed the media nor released any formal communication on the marriage. Sources close to both parties also said they had no prior information. "Mahua Moitra is a two-time Member of Parliament from Krishnanagar in West Bengal. She entered politics after a career in investment banking and is known for her

sharp criticism of the ruling party. Her speeches in Parliament have regularly drawn attention for their directness and assertive tone. During her first term as MP, she was disqualified over "cash-for-query" allegations. "This is Mahua Moitra's second marriage. She was earlier married to Danish financier Lars Brorson.

Later, she was in a public relationship with lawyer Jai Anant Dehadrai, which ended in a legal dispute. During the controversy, which led to her suspension from Parliament in late 2023, Moitra described Dehadrai as a "jilted ex". "Pinaki Misra is a four-time Member of Parliament from Puri, Odisha. He began his parliamentary journey in 1996 by defeating former Union Minister Braja Kishore Tripathy. A Senior Advocate in the Supreme Court, Misra has served on multiple committees, including the Standing Committee on Finance and the Business Advisory Committee. His style of debate in Parliament is known for being calm and measured. In January 1984, Misra married Sangita Misra, but they later got divorced, and they had two children together.

**Bhubaneswar ,(DMC):** The Odisha government will enforce safety protocols in schools once they reopen after the summer break to protect students and staff amid a gradual uptick in Covid-19 cases. "All students and teachers have to adhere to COVID-19 safety measures when schools resume. Given the increasing cases, everyone must stay vigilant. Health and safety are our top priorities," School and Mass Education Minister NityanandaGond told reporters on Thursday. He further stated that students and teachers would be required to remain cautious. "Students with symptoms like a cold will be asked to wear masks at school, while those with more serious symptoms will be advised to stay home and isolate. We will strictly comply with all Health Department COVID-19 guidelines," he added. Meanwhile, the Covid-19 tally in Odisha for this season has



touched 23 with eight people testing positive for the virus over the last two days. Five new cases have been reported from twin cities of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack. "Four among the patients have recovered from the infection and the rest 19 are under treatment at home," Director of Public Health Dr. Nilakantha Mishra informed. The health official further stated that the situation is under control with no reason for alarm. "There has been no major surge in COVID infections in Odisha so far. We are monitoring the situation," he said. He asserted that

the severity rate of current Omicron sub-variants "is very low" and urged those with severe respiratory or flu-like symptoms to seek medical advice for possible testing. "We're maintaining stringent verification protocols, confirming all positive cases through RTPCR testing," he added. According to an official statement, 546 samples were tested in the last one week. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has advised people with serious diseases and comorbidities to remain cautious and follow basic health protocols.

## 20 lakh ration cards set for cancellation

**Bhubaneswar,(DMC):** Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Krushna Chandra Patra on Wednesday announced that nearly 20 lakh ration cardholders face removal from the beneficiary list for failing to complete the mandatory e-KYC verification. Speaking at a press conference, Patra emphasized that beneficiaries must finish the e-KYC process within June to continue receiving ration entitlements. "About 95% of existing beneficiaries have already completed e-KYC.

Those who fail to comply within the deadline will be deemed ineligible," he stated. Targeting the previous BJD-led administration, the Minister alleged that no new ration cards had been issued in the past 13 years. He contrasted this with the current BJP-led government's approach, which he said prioritizes accessibility and inclusiveness in welfare schemes. "Since coming to power, the government has received over 17 lakh new applications for ration cards.

Distribution of around 6 lakh ration cards is already underway, and approval has been granted for the issuance of another 15 lakh," Patra informed. He urged citizens to use Jana SevaKendras for e-KYC updates and new applications instead of visiting block offices, calling it a faster and more efficient method. The move is part of the government's broader push to streamline welfare delivery and ensure that only verified and deserving individuals receive subsidized food support.

## Similipal to become eco-sensitive zone: Minister

**Bhubaneswar,(DMC):** In a significant move to protect the biodiversity of Similipal, the Odisha government has decided to declare the area an eco-sensitive zone. This decision was announced by Ganesh Ram Singh Khuntia, Minister of Forest, Environment and Climate Change, Odisha on Thursday. To ensure strict monitoring and protection, the government will install additional AI cameras inside Similipal. These cameras will aid in the immediate detection and capture of poachers, thereby enhancing wildlife security. The Minister emphasized that any mining work within the area will be closely monitored, and strict action will be taken against any activities that harm the environment. A special committee



has been formed to oversee wildlife protection and crimes, including forest poaching. The committee, which includes local MLAs, has unanimously consented to the decision. According to the minister, no large-scale commercial construction will be permitted in the area without the committee's approval. Odisha government is committed to preserving the environment and natural resources of Similipal. The Union Government has also been informed about this decision,

ensuring a collaborative effort to protect this vital ecosystem. This move is expected to boost conservation efforts and safeguard the rich biodiversity of Similipal, a renowned wildlife sanctuary and tiger reserve in Odisha.

## Vedanta Aluminium Signs MoU with PwC to Undertake Decarbonisation, Water Positivity & Biodiversity initiatives in Odisha & Chhattisgarh

**Bhubaneswar,(DMC):** On World Environment Day, Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest aluminium producer, announced the expansion of its partnership with PwC India to scale up sustainability initiatives across its operations in Odisha and Chhattisgarh for the first time. Focused on decarbonization, water positivity, and biodiversity conservation, this collaboration underscores the company's commitment to achieving Net Zero by 2050, Net Water Positivity by 2030, and ensuring No Net Loss of biodiversity. Initially centred on biodiversity projects around Vedanta's Jharsuguda smelter, the partnership will now extend across all its operational regions and will also focus on decarbonisation, water positivity, and biodiversity conservation, marking a major step in integrating sustainability throughout the company's value chain. Reflecting on the partnership with PwC, Rajiv Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, Vedanta Aluminium, expressed, "At Vedanta Aluminium, our 'Transforming for Good' philosophy is the cornerstone of our commitment to sustainability, inclusivity, and meaningful

community impact. This collaboration with PwC exemplifies our unwavering dedication to driving sustainable growth and championing environmental stewardship. Anchored in robust ESG principles, we are actively working towards carbon neutrality by 2050 and supporting India's Net Zero vision for 2070. By addressing critical ecological challenges, improving operational efficiencies, and placing communities at the heart of our efforts, we aim to transform the global aluminium industry. Together, we are forging a path to a more sustainable planet and redefining what responsible business truly means." Further highlighting the importance of this collaboration, Sandeep Kumar Mohanty, Partner - Climate & Energy, PwC India,said, "We are excited to partner with Vedanta Aluminium on this inspiring journey to embed sustainability across its operations. Together, we are committed to making a real difference in the lives of people and the environment. By combining innovative approaches with community engagement, we aim to support Vedanta Aluminium's efforts in creating a



greener future for all stakeholders." Through this partnership, the company aims to deliver tangible outcomes in the areas of increased decarbonisation, achieving water positivity, and biodiversity conservation. The initiative will support the progress towards multiple United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), Goal 13 (Climate Action) and Goal 15 (Life on Land). PwC India will design and help put into action the following initiatives: Execute a comprehensive decarbonization roadmap to align with Aluminium Stewardship Initiative (ASI) targets, enabling green aluminium

production. Sensitivity: Public (C4) Make efforts to reduce water consumption to help the company achieve water positivity by 2030. Develop comprehensive Biodiversity Management Plans to achieve No Net Loss of biodiversity, by eradicating invasive species and reintroducing native flora. Evaluate the potential for adopting Science-Based Targets initiative (SBTi), a global climate action effort to align emissions reductions with the Paris Agreement goals. Vedanta Aluminium envisions leading the global aluminium industry toward a sustainable future by championing environmental stewardship and innovation. The

company has constantly ranked among the most sustainable aluminium companies in the last few years. With a comprehensive decarbonization roadmap aligned to global standards and strategic biodiversity management, the company aims to create a net-positive environmental impact. By integrating ecological and social priorities into its operations, Vedanta Aluminium remains committed to building a more sustainable planet. Vedanta Aluminium, a business of Vedanta Limited, is India largest producer of aluminium, manufacturing more than half of India aluminium i.e., 2.42 million tonnes in FY25. It is a leader in value-added aluminium products that find critical applications in core industries. Vedanta Aluminium ranks 2nd in the S P Global Corporate Sustainability Assessment 2024 world rankings for the aluminium industry, a reflection of its leading sustainable development practices. With its world-class aluminium smelters, alumina refinery and power plants in India, the company fulfils its mission of spurring emerging applications of aluminium as the Metal of the Future for a greener tomorrow.

## First deep neural network for aerospace, defence elab inaugurated

**Bhubaneswar,(DMC):** In a significant step towards enhancing national capabilities in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and next-generation defence technologies, Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo inaugurated Odisha's first state-of-the-art Deep Neural Network (DNN) Laboratory. The laboratory, set up at Krystellar Defence and Aerospace in Bhubaneswar, aims to promote research in AI, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV), Electronic Warfare, and other cutting-edge technologies. The laboratory will provide a strategic platform for AI-powered innovation in defence, including missile defence, drone defence, and cyber defence. The Deputy Chief Minister encouraged the youth to work towards making India self-reliant in defence preparedness and appreciated the initiative of young entrepreneur Uday Bhanu Das in setting up the high-tech facility. The DNN Laboratory will promote research in AI, UAV, and Electronic Warfare and provide advanced training programmes and workshops for defence personnel, scientists, and engineers. It will host collaborative projects with leading DRDO labs, aerospace PSUs, and domestic defence technology innovators and support key initiatives under 'Make in India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'.

## Constable saves passenger at Cuttack railway station

**Bhubaneswar,(DMC):** A Railway Police constable's swift action saved a man from being crushed under a moving train at Cuttack Railway Station on Thursday morning. The incident occurred at around 8.5 am when Md. Mujahir (44), a resident of Mirzapur in West Bengal's Uttar Dinajpur district, attempted to board the moving 22503 Kanyakumari-Dibrugarh Express. Mujahir slipped while trying to get onto the train and fell dangerously close to the gap between the platform and the train. Constable Tulu Behera, who was on duty nearby, immediately rushed to the spot and pulled the passenger to safety, seconds before a tragedy could occur. The passenger sustained only minor injuries and was provided with prompt medical assistance, officials confirmed. Recognising the constable's promptness and courage, Odisha DGP Y.B. Khurania announced a cash reward of Rs 2,500. ADG (Coastal Security and Railways) Arun Bothra also praised Behera for his heroic act during a personal phone call. The incident serves as a powerful reminder of the critical role played by vigilant railway personnel in ensuring the safety of passengers.

## Tata Steel Kalinganagar and Neelachal Ispat Nigam observes World Environment

**Kalinganagar,(DMC):** In line with the theme declared by the United Nations of Putting an End to Plastic Pollution' and reiterating its commitment towards creating a sustainable tomorrow, Tata Steel Kalinganagar (TSK) observed World Environment Day in and around its plant premises at Kalinganagar in Jajpur district of Odisha on Thursday. As part of the celebrations, more than

500 saplings were planted at various locations inside the plant premises. Apart from mass plantation, to create awareness on environmental sustainability, painting, craft-making, & speech competitions amongst school children along with awareness session and quiz & photography competition among employees were also organised earlier as part of the celebrations. Apart from this,

plastic cleaning drives were also undertaken in and around the plant premises and in the nearby places. The celebrations concluded with a mega event at the Training Centre Auditorium that was attended by Sankar Biswas, Chief of Mechanical Maintenance, TSK as Chief Guest. Among others present on the occasion were other senior officials of Tata Steel Kalinganagar. During the event,

the winners of the various competitions were awarded with certificates and gifts by the dignitaries. Similarly, Tata Steel Foundation and Neelachal Ispat Nigam conducted an awareness session at Rampilo Upper Primary School on 'Plastic Pollution and harmful effects of single-use plastic'. The event saw participation from community members, teachers, and students. The day concluded

with plantation of 50 saplings inside the school premises. It may be noted here that the celebrations would continue throughout the month of June, which is being observed as 'Sustainability Month' across Tata Steel and NINL. As part of the month-long celebrations, a number of activities have been planned that includes awareness campaigns, webinars and online quizzes.

## Maa ke Naam Per fruit tree Plantation held in Bari



**Jajpur,(DMC):** On occasion of World Environment Day celebration the Horticulture Department Bari has planted large number of fruit plants in different areas in the block . With the Participation of SHG members this initiative has already done in Atira, Bainsiria Panchayat under the supervision of Monalisha Adhikari, a lead staff of the horticulture department. According to information of Smt.Monalisha they have planted mango, lemon, Sajana, Plantana and other fruit type plants through subsidy scheme . One lemon sapling each from the Maa Gopeswari, Ranilakshmbai Self-Help Group also provided in free of cost . Every one should take the benefits and horticulture department redy to serve the local farmers , Monalisha said .

## World Environment Day Celebrated at JK Paper Mill in Rayagada

**Rayagada,(DMC):** JK Paper Mill recently celebrated World Environment Day with great enthusiasm, emphasizing the importance of environmental conservation. The event was attended by Vinay Dwivedi, Executive Vice-President (Operations), who planted a sapling to kick-start the program. Nearly 1,000 trees were planted by employees to promote sustainability and environmental protection. The event highlighted the importance of minimizing plastic use in daily activities to reduce environmental pollution. The speakers emphasized the urgent need to reduce plastic use and promote sustainability. They highlighted the alarming levels of plastic pollution and its impact on the environment, stressing that minimizing plastic use is crucial to preventing a potential environmental disaster. Vinay Dwivedi, Executive Vice-President (Operations), delivered a key message on the importance of environmental conservation. Satyajit Mohanty, General Manager (Environment, Safety, and Health), welcomed the guests and coordinated the program. Ashok Bhoi, Regional Officer, State Pollution Control Board, Rayagada, Ripu Sahu, Deputy Engineer, Vishwajit Dwivedi, Vice-



President, Commercial, Raghavendra Harbhar, Vice-President, Production The celebration of World Environment Day at JK Paper Mill demonstrates the company's commitment to environmental protection and sustainability. The event served as a reminder of the importance of individual actions in protecting the environment and promoting a healthier planet.

## District-Level World Environment Day 2025 Celebrated



**Bargarh,(DMC):** The district-level World Environment Day 2025 was celebrated at the conference hall of the local Ganapati Hotel in collaboration with the Bargarh Forest Department and the District Administration. The chief guest, Honourable Bijepur MLA Shri Sanat Kumar Gadia, highlighted the pressing need to combat environmental pollution. He passionately expressed that

nurturing a greener environment and conserving nature are vital for ensuring future generations can enjoy a healthy life. Shri Gadia encouraged newlyweds to incorporate tree planting into their weddings and urged the public to fight against plastic pollution by planting trees abundantly. The event was chaired by District Forest Officer Shri Bikramdev Patnaik, with esteemed guests, including Additional District

Magistrate Mrs. Madhuchhanda Sahu, District Chief Agriculture Officer Shri Prashant Kumar Mishra, and Bargarh Chief District Veterinary Officer Shri Virupaksha Nayak. The state government has undertaken significant initiatives to ban single-use plastics, addressing the challenges of climate change, erosion, and pollution affecting our water, land, and biodiversity. They are championing sustainable alternatives and reinforcing the waste management system. Shri Gadia inspired everyone to ignite real societal change by starting with themselves and their families. Nine dedicated nature enthusiasts, including Shri Bhukulananda Dash from the district, were recognised during the event. A tree was planted on the local Rana Pratap High School campus, symbolising hope and commitment to a brighter, greener future.

## Celebration of World Environment Day-2025 at IFFCO Paradeep Unit

**Paradip,(DMC):** World Environment Day 2025 was observed at Indian Farmers Fertilisers Cooperative Limited (IFFCO), Paradeep Unit on 5th June, 2025. This year marked the 52nd anniversary of World Environment Day. The theme for 2025 is "Ending Plastic Pollution" with the campaign slogan 'BeatPlastic' Pollution, hosted by the Republic of Korea. The celebration began with a massive plastic cleanup drive in nearby public areas. Community members actively participated in



collecting and segregating plastic waste, emphasizing the power of collective action in combating pollution. A plantation drive was also organized within the IFFCO Paradeep premises to promote a green and sustainable environment. The event was graced by Chief Guest Mr. Pushkar Chandra Behera, Regional Officer, SPCB, along with Mr. P.K. Mahapatra, Unit Head, IFFCO Paradeep. Other distinguished guests included Mr. D. L. Mohapatra, Environmental Engineer, SPCB Paradeep, Ms. Bibechita Sarangi, Environmental Engineer, SPCB Paradeep, Ms. Anwesha Panda, Assistant Environmental Scientist, SPCB Paradeep, Mr. K.R.N. Murthy, GM (Production), and Mr. R.K. Swain, JGM (E&S). Addressing the gathering, Regional Officer, SPCB Paradeep, commended IFFCO's proactive approach towards environmental protection. He stated, "Plastic pollution is a growing threat to our ecosystems. Industries must lead by example, and IFFCO Paradeep's initiatives today reflect a strong commitment to sustainable and responsible practices." Unit Head of IFFCO Paradeep, welcomed the dignitaries and highlighted the organization's steps toward minimizing plastic use. From eco-friendly packaging to waste reduction and awareness campaigns, IFFCO is determined to drive meaningful change in line with our sustainability goals." The event was also attended by GMs, JGMs, Sr. Officials, Jr Officials, Workmen & Officials of IFFCO Union & IFFCO Officer's Association. Everyone pledged their wholehearted support towards environmental conservation and reaffirmed their commitment to building a cleaner, greener IFFCO Paradeep. Through this observance, IFFCO Paradeep once again demonstrated its deep-rooted commitment to environmental protection, sustainable development, and community well-being. Going forward, IFFCO Paradeep unit plans to plant a substantial number of saplings within its premises, with active involvement from its employees, to further reinforce its green commitment.

## Green Paradeep Trust organizes plantation program on World Environment Day

**Paradip,(DMC):** On the occasion of World Environment Day on June 5, Green Paradeep Trust, an environmental organization formed by working journalists of Paradip, planted saplings around the cricket field in front of the Jaydev Sadan of Paradip on Thursday morning. Under the leadership of the president of the trust and social activist Rakesh Kumar Patnaik, the trust's advisor Shukdev Jena, Shashank Acharya, Rabindra Jena, members Rudhansu Nayak, Ajit Das, Narayan Behera, Rashmi Ranjan Routray, Birja Tripathi, Prabhas



Kumar Das, Prashant Swain, Vivekananda Rout, Deepak Das, Birja Sethi, Alok Mohapatra, Sanjay Mishra, Preeti Ranjan Mohapatra, Gaurang Jena, Trilochan Mohapatra, Abdul

Abid Khan were planted saplings. Under the direct supervision and cooperation of Anand Chandra Sethi, official, Odisha Forest Development Corporation (OFDC).

## Utkal Alumina observes World Environment Day-2025

**Rayagada,(DMC):**Utkal Alumina International Limited., a unit of Hindalco Industries under the Aditya Birla Group, observed World Environment Day with a series of activities and awareness programmes focused on the theme of "Beat Plastic Pollution." On June 2, the campaign was formally inaugurated with a street play performance focusing on environmental protection and the harmful effects of plastic pollution. Employees also took a pledge to reduce plastic use, reinforcing their individual and collective commitment towards sustainability. As a part of the weeklong

celebration, the Environment Department of UAIL organized a series of awareness activities aimed at promoting environmental consciousness among employees, students, and the surrounding community. The programme began with themed based competitions such as drawing and plantation drives at Aditya Birla Public School to engage school students and cultivate a sense of responsibility toward environment. These activities were held both within the plant premises and in township areas to reach a wider audience. To commemorate the occasion, today a grand awareness rally that began



at the CCR building proceeded to the plantation site. Addressing the participants, Rabi Narayan Mishra, Unit Head, emphasized the importance of environmental protection and urged everyone to reduce plastic usage in their daily

lives. He also inaugurated a specially designed awareness Rath, which will continue to spread eco-awareness in nearby communities. Following the rally, a mass plantation drive was conducted in identified areas within the plant

premises, during which 250 saplings were planted to promote green environment. The program was successfully conducted under the supervision of Mr. Subramanyu Kund and Debi Prasad Nayak from the Environment Department. The event was witnessed the active participation of senior officials including Bijaya Kumura, FH-HR, and Girija Panda, DH-I&E, along with other department heads and team members. The environment week campaign will continue till June 10, featuring more events designed to inspire collective action for a cleaner and greener future.

From Page- 1

## Odisha to plant....

mentioned the State Clean Air Programme aimed at reducing air pollution in densely populated urban areas and improving air quality." The State Pollution Control Board is actively working towards this," he said. Under the 'EkPedMaaKeNaam' campaign, the state government has successfully planted over 6.5 crore trees, the Chief Minister noted. He further stated that forest and tree cover have increased by approximately 560 sq km, the fourth highest among all states, since the government came to power. "The public and institutions have set a record by planting over 2 crore saplings. Similipal has been officially recognized as the 107th National Park by the Government of India. Through the 'AmaSimilipal' scheme, the state government has initiated a new effort with a budget of ₹50 crore for the conservation and protection of wildlife and flora," he said. The Chief Minister congratulated 185 PrakrutiMitra and 211 PrakrutiBandhu award recipients from various districts for their remarkable work in environmental protection. He expressed confidence that their efforts would inspire others. He also congratulated participants and winners of the state-level eco-model exhibition on "Ending Plastic Pollution" and extended best wishes to schools and teachers who won the best eco-club awards for their dedication. He appreciated industries and organisations for raising awareness through exhibitions on environmental issues. Majhi urged everyone to pledge to eliminate plastic pollution and maintain a healthy and clean environment for citizens. He emphasised the need for a healthy environment for a healthy society and called on the public to raise awareness about environmental issues. Forest, Environment and Climate Change Minister Ganesh Ram Singh Khuntia and Chief Secretary ManojAhuja also participated in the event. A ceremonial tree plantation was held as part of the 'EkPedMaaKeNaam' initiative.

## Position of River Embankment of Jagatsinghpur



**Jagatsinghpur,(DMC):** Flood prone Jagatsinghpur district always in dangerous position & people apprehending high flood in rainy season. Five major rivers flowing inside Jagatsinghpur district and irrigation department not sincere about flood remedial measures. Mainly Mohanadi, Paika, Katho jodi, Bilua khai, Devi river always causing problem for district. Particularly in rainy season about 327 km of river embankment found unsafe at the time of High flood. As per information the bed of these rivers causing problem for water flow due to sand casting. No efforts taken to drain the sand cast to the sea. Besides that rivers flow of tidal waves always causing threat to river embankment at the time of high flood. If flood water realised from Hirakud during full moon night river side people lost their patient. Except these natural problem Irrigation department not at all sincere to protect flood. Department not investigating the total river embankment properly. Detection of venerable points and repair works continued through out year but in a routine work. Tender process and repair work start at the approach of rainy season. Political people & Irrigation department jointly monitor the work in pen & paper. But at the time of high flood sand packet & wooden beams become main busyness. Out of 206 Km rier embankment of Kathjodi, Bilua khai & Devi river undr Jagatsinghpur Irrigation Divn and 121 Km embankment of Mohanadi and Paika under Mohanadi south divison are always panic for district. Government should take proper initiative for flood remedial measures of Jagatsinghpur district.

## Prohibition of Use of the Name of Press Council of India

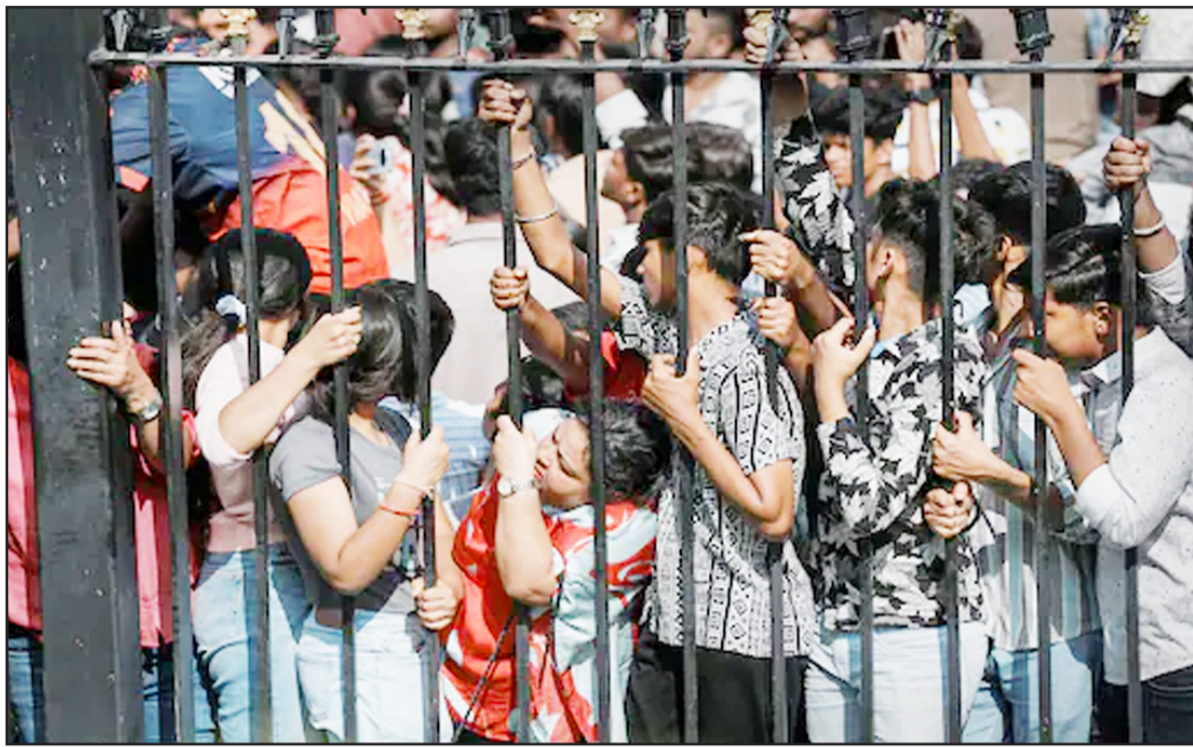
**Khordha,(DMC):** According to the law, the Press Council of India (PCI) is an autonomous body of the Central Government under Act-1978. Which works to protect the rights & powers of the media organizations. Any media organization using the name of the Press Council of India (PCI) violates Section-3, Section-7(II) of the Indian Constitution. But in some places, the use of the name of the Press Council of India (PCI) has come to the notice of the Central Government, PCI & the Supreme Court. Which is undermining the prestige of the PCI. Especially, to protect the freedom of the press & to keep the power of the media organizations intact is within the scope of the work of the PCI. The office of PCI is located only in the capital of India, New Delhi. The Press Council of India does not have any branch offices in any other part of the country. Therefore, no person, media organization can use the name of the Press Council of India anywhere, the Union Ministry of Information & Broadcasting & the Supreme Court have issued a notice.

## Bolangir: World Environment day held in Bolangir



**Bolangir,(DMC):**World Environment Day was observed here on Friday with the theme "Beat Plastic Pollution" under the chairmanship Collector Balangir, Gourav Shivaji Isalwar Around 200 participants, including VSS members, SHG members, Prakruti Bandhu awardees , teachers, and stakeholders, participated in the event. On this occasion a special plantation program was also held at Nagarvan, Bolangir, in coordination with the Excise Department, Balangir. DFO Bolangir Ajit Bisi, urged everyone to adopt eco-friendly habits in daily life for the protection of the environment. On this occasion thirteen Prakruti Bandhu awardees were honored with certificates and cash prizes of ₹10,000 for their contribution to preserving and protecting the environment.

# Bengaluru Stampede; Overcrowding, free passes among causes for victory parade chaos: Police



**Bengaluru, (HS) :** Confusion over the victory parade, free passes, overcrowding and limited seats at the Chinnaswamy Stadium are said to be some of the major reasons that led to stampede that left at least 11 people dead and over 30 injured. The initial chaos that later turned into a stampede began as several cricket enthusiasts who did not have entry tickets to the stadium tried to swarm into the premises along with those who had valid tickets, sources in the police said. During the chaos, some people fell

on the ground, some got injured while trying to scale huge gates to gain entry into the stadium. Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said that 11 people died and 33 were injured following the stampede near the stadium. Most of the deceased were youths, including men and women, with several of them being students. Noting that the stadium has a capacity for 35,000 people, but 2-3 lakh people had come, he said, "The match happened last evening (Tuesday) and today this event was organised by the cricket

association, so no one had expected that so many people would come. The expectation was the equivalent number of people for the stadium's capacity or slightly more than that may gather."

Explaining what exactly led to the chaos and stampede, the chief minister said, "There are small gates. The people entered through the gates. They have broken the gates also, so a stampede has taken place. Nobody had expected so much of a crowd to come. Prima facie looks like that. I'm not saying nothing has happened. The

## Karnataka HC takes SuoMotu cognizance

**Bengaluru, (HS) :** The Karnataka High Court, on Thursday, took suomotu cognizance of the stampede outside M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on Wednesday evening that left 11 persons dead and several others injured. The court issued notice to the Karnataka Government to ascertain cause of the tragedy and how to prevent it in future. The matter was mentioned before the division bench of Acting Chief Justice V Kameshwar Rao and Justice C M Joshi which had permitted listing of the matter at 2:30 pm. After hearing the matter for some time the bench remarked: "We will take suomotu cognizance. We are asking for further status report".

## FIR against RCB, KSCA

**Bengaluru, (HS) :** Police have registered a case against the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) franchise, Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA), DNA Networks, and others in connection with Wednesday's tragic stampede outside M Chinnaswamy Stadium that led to the loss of 11 lives and injuries to dozens. The FIR was filed by Cubbon Park Police, DCP (Central) Shekar H Tekkanavar confirmed. The FIR, registered suomotu, has named multiple entities as accused in the case of alleged criminal negligence. The complaint has been filed under various sections of BharatiyaNyayaSanhita (BNS), including Section 105 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder), Section 125(12) (acts endangering life or

personal safety of others), Section 142 (unlawful assembly), Section 121 (abetment of an offence), and Section 190 (liability of members of an unlawful assembly for offences committed in pursuit of a common object).

## Celebrities mourn tragic loss of lives

**New Delhi, (HS) :** Following the unfortunate stampede near the Chinnaswamy Cricket Stadium in Bengaluru which left nearly 11 people dead and several injured, celebrities, including cricketers and film stars, took to their social media handles to mourn the loss of lives. Actors Kamal Haasan, R Madhavan, SunielShetty, VivekOberoi, SonuSood and cricketers ViratKohli, Sachin Tendulkar, Anil Kumble, AB De Villiers, Yuvraj Singh, and IrfanPathan have condoled the deaths.

## NDA Govt. devoted to welfare of poor: Modi



**New Delhi, (HS) :** Prime Minister NarendraModi on Thursday described his government as compassionate and devoted to the welfare of the poor as it prepares to launch a mass outreach to highlight its achievements in 11 years in office. Modi said on X that the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government has over the past decade taken path-breaking steps to uplift several people from the clutches of poverty, focussing on empowerment, infrastructure and inclusion.

The NDA remains committed to building an inclusive and self-reliant India, where every citizen has the opportunity to live with dignity, he said, adding that all its key schemes have transformed the lives of the poor. He said, "Initiatives

like PM AwasYojana, PM UjjwalaYojana, Jan DhanYojana and Ayushman Bharat have enhanced access to housing, clean cooking fuel, banking and healthcare. The push for DBT, digital inclusion and rural infrastructure has ensured transparency and faster delivery of benefits till the last mile." It is due to this that over 25 crore people have been lifted out of poverty, he said. Modi is set to complete the first year of his third straight term in office on June 9, marking an uninterrupted 11 years in power. Charing a meeting of his Council of Ministers on Wednesday, he had asked ministries to set high goals and work in an overdrive to achieve them, telling his colleagues to highlight the major achievements of the government in their outreach to the masses.

## India elected to UN's Economic and Social Council

**New Delhi, (HS) :** India was on Wednesday elected to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations for the period from 2026-28. The council is at the heart of the UN's mechanism to advance the three dimensions of sustainable development -- economic, social and environmental. "India was elected to the Economic and Social Council for the term 2026-28 @UN today. Thank member states for their overwhelming support and reposing their trust in us. Appreciate the efforts of @IndiaUNNewYork." External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on X. "India remains committed to championing development issues and keep working to strengthen the ECOSOC," he said. The ECOSOC is considered a key organ that plays an important role in recommending policies related to economic and social issues.

## Tatkal Ticket Booking: New rule mandates e-Aadhar

**New Delhi, (HS) :** In a major policy shift, the Indian Railways will soon make e-Aadhaar authentication mandatory for booking Tatkal tickets on its IRCTC platform. As per reports, the move is expected to be rolled out later this month as part of a broader strategy to crack down on fraudulent bookings and ensure fair access for genuine passengers. A Gazette notification dated May 27, 2025, said, "The Ministry of Railways, Railway Board, hereby notifies that the Centre for Railway Information System (CRIS) be allowed to perform Aadhaar authentication, on a voluntary basis, to establish the identity of ticket-checking staff, crew members and passengers, using Yes/No or eKYC authentication facility." This move is soon expected to be mandatorily applied to all Tatkal ticket bookings.

Passengers booking tickets under the Tatkal quota will now be required to verify their identity using e-Aadhaar at the time of purchase. Only users with Aadhaar-linked IRCTC accounts will be allowed to book tickets in the critical



first 10 minutes of the booking window, effectively barring even authorised agents during that period. The Ministry also issued a press statement in which it said that currently, there are more than 130 million active subscribers on the IRCTC website, of which only 12 million are Aadhaar-verified. Notably, this change follows a massive clean-up operation by IRCTC, which deactivated over 2.5 crore suspicious user IDs found



**Lucknow, (HS) :** The three-day consecration ceremony of Ram Darbar, wherein, Lord Ram was enthroned as king with Goddess Sita by his side and brothers, Bharatiji, Shatrughanji and Lakshmanji, along with Lord Hanuman, in his Darbar on the first floor of the newly-built Ram temple on Shree Ramjanmabhoomi complex, concluded in Ayodhya on Thursday. Lord Ram's enthronement took place in the 15-minute auspicious 'AbhijeetMuhurat' between 11:25 am and 11:40 am in the presence of UP CM Yogi Adityanath amid chanting of vedic mantras and performance of final rituals by 101 high priests who had converged for the occasion in Ayodhya from across the country.

In fact, the rituals towards the consecration ceremony had commenced on Tuesday, June 3. The final phase of the ceremony lasted around 45-50 minutes as the puja had started at 11 am. CM Yogi, who had his 53rd birthday on Thursday, spent the day in Ayodhya leading the puja and performing the aarti of Ram Lalla in the

inquiry will bring out facts." The Bengaluru Traffic Police at 11:56 am on Wednesday announced that there would not be a victory parade but only a felicitation function at the stadium. However, the RCB team's management at 3.14 pm announced that they would hold a victory parade at 5 pm. "Victory Parade will be followed by celebrations at the Chinnaswamy stadium. We request all fans to follow guidelines set by police and other authorities so that everyone can enjoy the roadshow peacefully. Free passes (limited entry)

available on shop.royalchallengers.com," it said in a post on 'X'.

Police sources said that even though they had made it clear that no victory parade would be held and that those with tickets would only be allowed to enter the stadium, fans in large numbers gathered outside the stadium and many among them also jumped the gates to gain entry. "While those with valid tickets were allowed to enter the stadium for celebrations many tried to squeeze with those who had free passes

## Pran Pratishtha of Ram Darbar concludes

### Proud & historic moment: PM Modi

**New Delhi, (HS) :** Prime Minister NarendraModi on Thursday said Ayodhya has witnessed another proud and historic moment following the consecration of 'Ram Darbar' -- Lord Rama in his royal form -- along with the installation of idols in eight newly built temples inside the Ram Janmabhoomi complex. The ritual was the second major consecration ceremony at the temple, the first being that of Ram Lalla on January 22, 2024, in the presence of the prime minister. In a post on X, Modi said the auspicious occasion of the consecration of the divine and grand 'Ram Darbar' will fill the devotees of Ram with devotion and joy. The PM said he hopes that Lord Ram bestows his blessings of happiness, health and prosperity upon the countrymen.



Janmabhoomi Temple," he said in the post. He also called the occasion a new expression of 'Ek Bharat-Shrestha Bharat' and a victory for Lord Ram. Sharing the details of the event, Shri Ram JanmabhoomiTeerthKshetra Trust posted on X that the first day of the ceremony involved rituals initiated in Yagyashala, specially curated for the event. These rituals continued on the second day as well in which various Anushtans and the UtsavVigrahas were taken on a Parikrama of the mandir premises.

Along with Ram Darbar, the consecration of idols of Lord Shiva, Lord Ganesha, Lord Hanuman, Lord Surya, Goddess Bhagwati, Goddess Annapurna, and Sheshavtar in seven other temples on the premises also took place. It may be recalled that the consecration of Ram Lalla (child form of Lord Ram) in the sanctum sanctorum on the ground floor of the temple had

taken place with much fanfare in the presence of PM NarendraModi and a galaxy of dignitaries from across the globe on January 22, 2024. Moreover, the ornaments which adorned the idols consecrated in Ram Darbar were made in gold, precious stones and gems, were donated by a Surat-based businessman, Mukesh Patel. The ornaments, including 11 crowns, necklaces, earrings, forehead tilaks, bows and arrows, which bejewelled the idols, included a 1000-carat diamond, 30 kg of silver, 300 gms of gold and 300 carats of rubies. As per the temple trust sources, the ornaments were brought to Ayodhya through a chartered plane and handed over to the temple trust. Unlike the first consecration ceremony to which over 3000 guests were invited, for the second consecration, the temple trust had invited 350 guests, including the trust members, saints and seers from across the country.

## Delhi court extends custody of 2 accused of spying for Pakistan

**New Delhi, (HS) :** A Delhi court on Thursday extended by seven days the police custody of two persons arrested for allegedly spying for Pakistan. Chief Judicial Magistrate ShriyaAgrawal extended the custody of Qasim and Haseen after they were produced before court on expiry of their custody granted earlier. The judge directed the police to produce the accused before the court on June 12.

He passed the order after police said that further custody was required to unearth an "espionage network" and probe the technical evidence and trail of transactions in their bank accounts. The Delhi Police counsel said the accused obtained phone numbers from India and sent it to Pakistan where it was being used for espionage. He said the accused clicked photos of sensitive locations, including Army camps, and received money in their bank accounts from Pakistan.

## Indian MBBS Student Dies in Vietnam Accident

**Hyderabad, (HS) :** A 21-year-old Indian student pursuing an MBBS course in Vietnam has died in a freak accident in Can Tho city. Arshid Ashrith was a third-year MBBS student. He is from Telangana's Kumuram Bheem Asifabad district, and his parents Arshid Arjun and Pratima are cloth merchants. Arshid was

speeding on a bike yesterday when he lost control and the two-wheeler crashed into a wall. His friend, who was riding pillion, has suffered serious injuries. A CCTV camera captured the chilling visuals of the crash. The clip shows a calm neighbourhood. Then, a speeding bike crashes straight into a wall. The disturbing visuals show the

riders flung into the air, indicating how hard the impact was. Local media reported that MLA Dr P Harish Babu visited Ashrith's home and expressed condolences to his heartbroken parents. The MLA also spoke to Union Minister G Kishan Reddy over the phone and urged him to facilitate the repatriation of the body to India, reports have said.

## Russian strike kills five, including one-year old in Northern Ukraine



**KYIV, (HS) :** At least five people, including a one-year-old child, were killed in a Russian drone strike on the northern Ukrainian city of Pryluky overnight, regional governor Viacheslav Chaus said Thursday. The attack came just hours after Donald Trump spoke with Russian President Vladimir Putin. According to Trump, Putin "very strongly" said that Russia will retaliate for Ukraine's weekend drone attacks on Russian military airfields. Six more people were wounded in the attack and have been hospitalized, Chaus said. According to him, six Shahed-type drones struck residential areas of Pryluky early Thursday morning, causing severe damage to residential buildings. Hours later, seventeen people were wounded in a Russian drone strike on the eastern Ukrainian city of Kharkiv early Thursday, including children, a pregnant woman, and a 93-year-old woman, regional head Oleh Syniehubov wrote on Telegram. At around 1:05 a.m., Shahed-type drones struck two apartment buildings in the city's Slobidskyi district, causing fires and destroying several private vehicles. "By launching attacks while people sleep in their homes, the enemy once again confirms its tactic of insidious terror," Syniehubov wrote on Telegram. According to a video published by the Russian Federal Security Service on the same day, a detained suspect of the Crimean city admitted that he had made a bomb to commit a terrorist attack on orders from Kyiv. The blast caused damage to the bridge's underwater support pillars.

## Indian Students Pause American Dream Amid Visa Troubles

**United Kingdom, (HS):** Distressed students, panicked parents have been calling Subash Devatwal, who runs an education consultancy in Ahmedabad. They all have one question - whether studying in the US is still possible. Last year there were 330,000 Indians enrolled at American universities, more than any other nationality, even surpassing Chinese students for the first time in years. Families in India invest their entire life savings to get their children enrolled in US universities, as for most, it is the ultimate symbol of success.

However, now that Trump's administration has targeted international students, the numbers have weakened. Devatwal's organisation used to send more than 100 students in previous years, but it has now dropped to about 10. The Trump administration has implemented social media vetting, for all foreign students, and then paused all student visa interviews globally, which has left many students in a state of uncertainty. "The students are in shock.



Most of them spend several years preparing to study in the US," Devatwal told The Guardian. He added that now his clients are unsure if they should pursue a US degree because of the turmoil associated with the Trump administration. Indian students can expect to pay between \$40,000 to \$80,000 (£29,500 to £59,000) a year on tuition alone to study in the US. He said

that now students are looking at the UK and other European countries. Brijesh Patel, a textile trader in Surat said that he had saved up money for a decade, sold his wife's jewellery and borrowed money from relatives, just to make sure his son could go to a US university. He said, "We simply can't take that risk. If our son goes now and something goes wrong, we won't be able to save that

## Trump Signs Proclamation Banning Travel from 12 Nations

**Washington, (HS) :** US President Donald Trump has signed a proclamation imposing a travel ban on 12 countries and restricting the entry of seven others to the US, citing national security concerns. According to the proclamation, the 12 countries that were banned include Afghanistan, Burma, Chad, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen. Additionally, the order partially restricts and limits the entry of nationals of the following seven countries - Burundi, Cuba, Laos, Sierra Leone, Togo, Turkmenistan, and Venezuela.

The announcement of the ban followed a recent violent terror attack in Boulder, Colorado, on participants of a peaceful rally calling for the safe return of Israeli hostages from Hamas captivity. "The recent terror attack in



Boulder, Colorado, has underscored the extreme dangers posed to our country by the entry of foreign nationals who are not properly vetted, as well as those who come here as temporary visitors and overstay their visas. We

don't want them," Trump said in a video statement released by the White House on Wednesday night. Meanwhile, US Homeland Security officials said that the terror attack perpetrator in Colorado, Mohammed Sabry Solima, was allowed entry into the country under the former Biden Administration and overstayed his visa. The White House Deputy Press Secretary Abigail Jackson took to social media stating that President Trump is protecting Americans from foreign actors who pose security threats to the country.

kind of money again."

Patel had already paid 700,000 rupees (£6,000) to consultancies who helped with the applications. He said that they will wait a year, and hope that things improve by then. "It's not just my son who will be living the American dream, it's all of us: my wife, our relatives and our neighbours. I've struggled my whole life - I don't want my son to face the same struggles here in India", he added. Piyush Bhartiya, a co-founder of the educational technology company AdmitKard, said that many parents were rethinking if the US should be the study destination for their children. He said that a student had been admitted to New York University for the coming year but was planning to go to London School of Economics when US visa interviews were paused. He stated that the US was the main destination for students to study Stem subjects - science, technology, engineering and maths, however, now the focus had shifted to other countries.

## Edmund White, groundbreaking gay author, dies at 85



**NEW YORK, (HS) :** Edmund White, the groundbreaking man of letters who documented and imagined the gay revolution through journalism, essays, plays and such novels as "A Boy's Own Story" and "The Beautiful Room is Empty," has died. He was 85.

White's death was confirmed Wednesday by his agent, Bill Clegg, who did not immediately provide additional details. Along with Larry Kramer, Armistead Maupin and others, White was among a generation of gay writers who in the 1970s became bards for a community no longer afraid to declare its existence. He was present at the Stonewall raids of 1969, when arrests at a club in Greenwich Village led to the birth of the modern gay movement, and for decades was a participant and observer through the tragedy of AIDS, the advance of gay rights and culture and the backlash of recent years. A resident of New York and Paris for much of his adult life, he was a novelist, journalist, biographer, playwright, activist, teacher and memoirist. "A Boy's Own Story" was a bestseller and classic coming-of-age novel that demonstrated gay literature's commercial appeal. He wrote a prizewinning biography of playwright Jean Genet and books on Marcel Proust and Arthur Rimbaud. He was a professor of creative writing at Princeton University, where colleagues included Toni Morrison and his close friend, Joyce Carol Oates.

## China's Xi held phone call with Trump: Xinhua news agency



**BEIJING, (HS) :** Chinese leader Xi Jinping held a phone call with US President Donald Trump on Thursday, state media reported, as the world's top two economies clash over trade. The call follows officials in Beijing and Washington accusing each other of jeopardising a trade war truce agreed last month in Geneva.

It took place at Trump's request, the Xinhua news agency said without elaborating, and came after the US president appeared to dampen hopes for a quick resolution to their trade battle. "I like President XI of China, always have, and always will, but he is VERY TOUGH, AND EXTREMELY HARD TO MAKE A DEAL WITH!!!" he posted

Wednesday on his Truth Social platform. The White House did not immediately comment on the reported phone call, but had earlier suggested Trump would speak to Xi. Until Thursday, the two leaders had not had any confirmed contact more than five months since the Republican returned to power, despite frequent claims by the US president that such a call was imminent.

Trump said in a Time Magazine interview in April that Xi had called him -- but Beijing insisted that there had been no call recently. Although Beijing and Washington agreed in Geneva to slash staggeringly high tariffs on each other's goods for 90 days, the two sides have since traded blame for derailing the deal. Trump argued Friday that China had "totally violated" the agreement, without providing further details. China's commerce ministry hit back this week, saying the Trump administration had since introduced "discriminatory restrictive measures", including revoking Chinese student visas in the United States. Washington has targeted Chinese nationals who entered the United States both legally and illegally, with the president vowing to aggressively revoke Chinese student visas. The US leader introduced in April sweeping worldwide tariffs that targeted China most heavily of all, accusing other countries of "ripping off" the United States and running trade imbalances.

## South Korea: PPP Floor Leader Announces Resignation after Election Defeat

**Seoul, (HS) :** The floor leader of the South Korean People Power Party (PPP) announced his resignation on Thursday, as the conservative party is reeling from a defeat in the presidential election earlier this week. Rep. Kwon Seong-dong told a meeting of party lawmakers at the National Assembly that he is resigning to take responsibility for PPP presidential candidate Kim Moon-soo's defeat in Tuesday's election.

"We must start from scratch to rebuild the conservative bloc," he said. "I will start by stepping down as floor leader." He stressed that the election defeat is "not merely a referendum on the martial law imposition or the impeachment of the president" but a "stern reprimand" over the internal divisions within the PPP. "As floor leader, I carry a significant share of the blame," he said. "I have no intention of avoiding it or making



excuses." The PPP's emergency committee is scheduled to hold a closed-door meeting later Thursday to determine the timeline for electing a new floor leader. Those considered likely candidates for the position include four-term lawmakers Kim Do-eup, Kim Sang-hoon, Park Dae-chul and Lee Hun-seung, as well as three-term lawmakers Kim Sung-won, Sung Il-

jong and Song Eon-seok.

Later in the day, members of the PPP's emergency leadership committee also offered to resign en masse. The PPP's floor spokesperson, Rep. Seo Ji-young, announced the decision, saying members such as Rep. Lim Yi-ja and Kim Sang-hoon, the PPP's top policy chief, tendered their resignations at a general meeting of lawmakers at the National Assembly. Kim Yong-tae, the PPP's interim leader, however, did not clarify whether he intends to resign. The PPP plans to hold a general meeting next Monday to discuss Kim Yong-tae's status and broader plans for party reform, Yonhap news agency reported. President Lee Jae-myung took office on Wednesday after he won the election on Tuesday with 49.42 per cent of the vote against Kim's 41.15 per cent.

## Sindh's Unrest over Indus Canal Project Turns Violent

**Islamabad/New Delhi, (HS) :** Despite Pakistan achieving a tenuous peace with India following military escalations along the border after the deadly Pahalgam massacre, the regime simultaneously faces multiple internal challenges. The escalation of activities by insurgent groups such as Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) in the provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan has already undermined the military establishment's popularity, legitimacy, and morale. Meanwhile, popular protests in Sindh, ongoing for several months in opposition to the federal government's proposed Indus canals project, have escalated into violence. Rather than addressing the grievances politically, the regime opted for a harsh crackdown, resulting in the deaths of two activists, which further incited protestors to set fire to the residence of Sindh's Interior Minister, Ziaul Hassan Lanjar. The province of Sindh has long been a simmering cauldron of discontent, spanning several decades. It has consistently voiced grievances over federal discrimination and political marginalisation, which have benefited the politically and economically dominant Punjab. Central to the inter-provincial conflict between Sindh and Punjab is the issue of water, particularly the Indus River.

## WHO Finalising a New Treaty to Prep for Next Pandemic, But US isn't Signing

**UNITED STATE, (HS) :** Members of the World Health Organization adopted the world's first pandemic agreement, following three years of "intensive negotiations launched by governments in response to the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic." The U.S., however, did not participate, in part because of its intention to withdraw from the WHO. Global health experts are hailing the agreement as a historic moment.

What does the agreement mean for the world, and how can it make everyone safer and more prepared for the next pandemic? The Conversation asked Nicole Hassoun, a professor at Binghamton University and executive director of Global Health Impact, to explain the pandemic accord, its prospects for advancing global health, and the significance of the U.S.'s absence from it. The accord will bolster pandemic preparation within individual countries and around the world. Countries signing onto the agreement are committing to improve their disease surveillance and grow their health care workforces, strengthen their regulatory systems and invest in research and development. It encourages countries to strengthen their health regulations and infrastructure, improve communication with the public about pandemics and increase funding for preparation and response efforts. It also includes new mechanisms for



producing and distributing vaccines and other essential countermeasures. Finally, it encourages countries to coordinate their responses and share information about infectious diseases and intellectual property so that vaccines and other essential countermeasures can be made available more quickly.

The agreement will take effect once enough countries ratify it, which may take several years. The Biden administration was broadly supportive of a pandemic agreement and was an active participant in negotiations. Prior to Donald Trump's reelection, however, Republican governors had signed a letter opposing the treaty, echoing a conservative think tank's concerns about U.S. sovereignty. The U.S. withdrew from negotiations when President

Trump signed an executive order to withdraw from the WHO on the day he was inaugurated for his second term. Why could the lack of US involvement be beneficial for the world? The lack of U.S. involvement likely resulted in a much more equitable treaty, and it is not clear that countries could have reached an agreement had the U.S. continued to object to key provisions. It was only once the U.S. withdrew from the negotiations that an agreement was reached. The U.S. and several other wealthy countries were concerned with protecting their pharmaceutical industry's profits and resisted efforts aimed at convincing pharmaceutical companies to share the knowledge, data and intellectual property needed for producing new vaccines and other

essential countermeasures.

Other negotiators sought greater access to vaccines and other treatments during a pandemic for poorer countries, which often rely on patented technologies from global pharmaceutical companies. While most people in wealthy countries had access to COVID-19 vaccines as early as 2021, many people in developing countries had to wait years for vaccines. One of the contentious issues in the pandemic agreement has to do with how many vaccines manufacturers in each country must share in exchange for access to genetic sequences to emerging infectious diseases. Countries are still negotiating a system for sharing the genetic information on pathogens in return for access to vaccines themselves. It is important that researchers can get these sequences to make vaccines. And, of course, people need access to the vaccines once they are developed. Still, there are many more promising aspects of the agreement for which no further negotiations are necessary. For instance, the agreement will increase global vaccine supply by increasing manufacturing around the world. The agreement also specifies that countries and the WHO should work together to create a mechanism for fairly sharing the intellectual property, data and knowledge needed to produce vaccines

and other essential health products. If financing for new innovation requires equitable access to the new technologies that are developed, many people in poor countries may get access to vaccines much more quickly in the next pandemic. The agreement also encourages individual countries to offer sufficient incentives for pharmaceutical companies to extend access to developing countries. If countries implement these changes, that will benefit people in rich countries as well as poor ones. A more equitable distribution of vaccines can contain the spread of disease, saving millions of lives. In my view, the best way to protect public health moving forward is for countries to sign on to the agreement and devote more resources to global health initiatives. This is particularly important given declining investment and participation in the WHO and the contraction of other international health initiatives, such as USAID.

Without international coordination, it will become harder to catch and address problems early enough to prevent epidemics from becoming pandemics. It will also be imperative for member countries to provide funding to support the agreement's goals and secure the innovation and access to new technologies. This requires building the basic health infrastructure to ensure shots can get into people's arms.

## India, Kyrgyzstan Ratify Bilateral Investment Treaty



**New Delhi, (HS) :** Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and the Kyrgyz Republic's Minister of Foreign Affairs Zheenbek Kulubaev Moldokanovich signed the protocol and exchanged the instrument of ratification of the India-Kyrgyzstan Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) here on Thursday. The Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) signed on June 14, 2019, in Bishkek, between the Government of India and the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, enters into force with effect from 5th June 2025. This new BIT replaces the earlier agreement enforced on 12th May 2000, ensuring continuity in the protection of investments between the two nations, according to an official statement.

The India-Kyrgyz BIT marks a significant milestone in strengthening bilateral economic relations and fostering a secure and predictable investment environment. The BIT aims to promote and protect the interests of investors of either country in the territory of the other country. The key features of the treaty include an enterprise-based definition of assets with an indicative inclusion list and a specific exclusion list of assets which also clarifies the characteristics of

investments such as commitment of capital, the expectation of gain or profit, the assumption of risk and have significance for the development of the host state. It excludes matters relating to local government, government procurement, taxation, services supplied in the exercise of governmental authority, compulsory licenses, in order to retain sufficient policy space with the Government in such matters. The BIT seeks to define the core elements of the Treatment of Investment, as found in customary international law. Besides, the BIT ensures a balanced framework through provisions on national treatment, expropriation and transfers.

The Most Favored Nation (MFN) obligation in the past allowed investors to selectively "import" favourable substantive provisions from other treaties concluded by the Host State. The MFN clause is accordingly removed in the BIT. The BIT contains two types of exceptions: general exceptions and security exceptions. The attempt is to carve out a policy space for the State. The general exceptions include, among others, the protection of the environment, ensuring public health and safety, and protecting public morals and public order.

## Bajaj Finserv promoters to sell 1.58% stake in 4,750 crore block deal

**New Delhi, (HS) :** Bajaj Holdings & Investment and Jamnalal Sons, promoters of Bajaj Finserv, plan to sell 1.58 per cent of their stake in the non-banking financial company (NBFC) via a block deal worth 4,750 crore, Moneycontrol reported on Thursday, citing sources. The transaction involves offloading 25.3 million shares in the secondary market at a floor price of 1,880 per share-a 3.3 per cent discount to Bajaj Finserv's Thursday closing price of 1,943.5, according to a term sheet. "The block deal for the sale of the part stake of the promoters has been launched. There is also an upsized option of around 1,080 crore, which if exercised will take the combined block deal size to around 5,830 crore," a source told Moneycontrol. The move follows Bajaj Finserv's March 2025 announcement that it had signed share purchase agreements (SPAs) with Allianz SE to acquire a 26 per cent stake in its two insurance joint ventures-Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company (BAGIC) and Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company (BALIC)-for 24,180 crore. For the quarter ending March 2025, Bajaj Finserv reported a 14 per cent rise in consolidated net profit, reaching 2,417 crore, up from 2,119 crore in the same quarter last fiscal. Total consolidated income for the quarter increased to 35,596 crore, compared to 32,042 crore during the corresponding period.

## Vedanta shares close higher on positive debt reduction and renewable energy targets

**CHENNAI, (HS) :** Shares of mining major Vedanta Limited closed higher after an initial dip in early trading. The stock gained attention following two key developments: reports that the company plans to utilise Rs 5,000 crore raised through unsecured non-convertible debentures (NCDs) to retire high-cost debt, and its announcement that its renewable energy capacity has reached 1.03 GW. The shares closed at Rs 440.10 a unit, up 0.74% on Thursday. Vedanta said today that its renewable energy capacity is progressing steadily toward its goal of achieving 2.5 GW of green energy by 2030. This milestone was achieved by scaling up its round-the-clock renewable power capacity through power supply agreements.

Meanwhile media reports on Thursday said that Vedanta will save an estimated Rs 350 crore in interest outgo quoting sources once the high cost debts are retired. Vedanta will also use a part of the proceeds to fund its growth capex, said various reports. The company had



last week said that the committee of directors has approved raising up to Rs 5,000 crore via issuance of debentures. News agency reported on Thursday that

## High-Level US Team Arrives in Delhi for Talks on Bilateral Trade Pact

### Piyush Goyal Meets Top Italian CEOs, Highlights 'India Opportunity'



**New Delhi, (HS) :** Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Wednesday met several Italian CEOs and discussed how best they can leverage India's innovation ecosystem for sustained growth.

Goyal commenced his two-day official visit to Italy after completing his engagements in France focused on strengthening India-France economic cooperation. "Met Michele Poggipolini, CEO of Poggipolini S.p.A., an engineering and manufacturing tech company. Engaged in productive discussions on technology, innovation, and manufacturing opportunities for the company in India, given the country's growing role in global supply chains," the Union Minister posted on X. He also met Daniele Forni, General Director, SOL Group, an Italian multinational leader in the area of production, applied research, and marketing of technical and medical gases, and discussed how the group can further expand its presence in India across key sectors. "Good to meet Tomaso Carraro, Vice Chairman of the Carraro Group, a global manufacturer of axles & transmission systems with a strong presence in India. Discussed Carraro India's ongoing progress and future investment plans. Also, exchanged views on strengthening their manufacturing base and leveraging India's innovation ecosystem for sustained growth," Goyal further posted.

**New Delhi, (HS) :** A high-level US trade delegation has arrived in the national capital to move ahead on the negotiations for a Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) with India. The negotiators are aiming to finalise an interim trade deal ahead of the July 9

deadline that has been fixed by US President Donald Trump for the 90-day pause on new tariffs that were to be levied on Indian products. Negotiations are expected to continue after that for a broader trade deal to be signed in September-October.

environment-friendly coal transportation from the pithead to loading points using piped conveyor belts.

"We expect to transport an additional 20 million tonnes through FMC projects in the ongoing financial year," said a senior CIL official. The increased use of FMC systems has led to a 5% reduction in unloading charges in FY25 compared to FY24. Another benefit has been improved grade conformity, as higher-quality coal is being transported more efficiently and with reduced contamination through mechanized systems. Coal India also announced plans to commission 92 FMC projects with a combined capacity of 994 million tonnes per year (MT/Y) by the end of FY29. With a target of producing 1 billion tonnes of coal annually by FY29, the company is scaling up its infrastructure to enable nearly all of this to be transported in an environmentally sustainable manner. Coal India accounts for over 80% of the country's total coal production. "FMC projects are a win-win for CIL, its customers and the railways," the official added.

FMC infrastructure includes mechanized coal handling plants with coal crushers to size the coal and rapid loading systems that ensure precise quantities of quality coal are loaded into railway wagons-avoiding overloading or underloading. FMC replaces traditional truck-based transportation to railway sidings and eliminates manual loading by pay loaders. This transition reduces dust, noise, and vehicular emissions, eases road congestion, enhances safety, and improves wagon turnaround time.

## Walmart's Flipkart secures RBI approval for direct lending in India

**New Delhi, (HS) :** Walmart's Flipkart has secured a lending licence from the Indian central bank and banking regulator, enabling it to offer loans directly to customers and sellers on its platform, according to documents reviewed by Reuters and a source. This is the first time the Reserve Bank of India has granted a large e-commerce

player in India a non-bank finance company (NBFC) licence, allowing it to lend but not take deposits. Most e-commerce platforms currently offer loans in tie-ups with banks and NBFCs, but a lending licence will enable Flipkart - India's largest e-commerce firm - to lend directly, a more lucrative model for the group. The central bank issued its



certificate of registration - a document that officially recognises a company as an NBFC - to Flipkart Finance Private Limited on March 13. Reuters has reviewed a copy of both the certificate of registration and the approval letter also dated March 13. The approval has not been previously reported.

Flipkart, in which US retail

sources said, adding that the unsecured NCDs have a coupon rate of 9.31 per cent for the 2.5 years series, 9.45 per cent for the 3 year series and 8.95 per cent for the 2 year series. This is the second unsecured NCD issuance by the company in 2025. In February, the company raised Rs 2,600 crore via unsecured non-convertible debentures at a 9.40-9.50 per cent coupon rate, attracting institutional investors, including ICICI Prudential, Kotak, Nippon, Aditya Birla Sun Life, and Axis. The company's net debt stood at Rs 53,251 crore as on March 31, 2025. Vedanta Group one of the world's leading natural resources, critical minerals, energy and technology companies spanning across India, South Africa, Namibia, Liberia, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Korea, Taiwan and Japan with significant operations in oil and gas, zinc, lead, silver, copper, iron ore, steel, nickel, aluminium, power and glass substrate and foraying into electronics and display glass manufacturing.

sources said, adding that the unsecured NCDs have a coupon rate of 9.31 per cent for the 2.5 years series, 9.45 per cent for the 3 year series and 8.95 per cent for the 2 year series.

This is the second unsecured NCD issuance by the company in 2025. In February, the company raised Rs 2,600 crore via unsecured non-convertible debentures at a 9.40-9.50 per cent coupon rate, attracting institutional investors, including ICICI Prudential, Kotak, Nippon, Aditya Birla Sun Life, and Axis. The company's net debt stood at Rs 53,251 crore as on March 31, 2025. Vedanta Group one of the world's leading natural resources, critical minerals, energy and technology companies spanning across India, South Africa, Namibia, Liberia, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Korea, Taiwan and Japan with significant operations in oil and gas, zinc, lead, silver, copper, iron ore, steel, nickel, aluminium, power and glass substrate and foraying into electronics and display glass manufacturing.

this is considered a sensitive area.

India may allow the import of select agricultural products, such as almonds, as these are already flowing into the country. However, as a quid pro quo, India is likely to press for improved access to the US market for seafood products like shrimp and fish, as well as spices, coffee, and rubber - segments where Indian exporters are globally competitive but face tariff competition in the American market. Trade between India and the US touched the \$129 billion mark in 2024, with New Delhi recording a trade surplus of \$45.7 billion. In February, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Trump launched 'Mission 500', an initiative aiming to double bilateral trade to \$500 billion by 2030. The joint decision was announced during PM Modi's visit to Washington. US Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick also announced this week that a trade deal between India and the United States is likely to be finalised shortly. He made the assertion in his address at the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum Annual Leadership Summit in Washington.

## Utkal Builders Celebrates 35 Glorious Years with Utkal Grand Property Sale Carnival

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC) :** Utkal Builders, one of Odisha's most trusted and respected real estate developers, proudly announces the Utkal Grand Property Sale Carnival, a landmark event to commemorate 35 years of architectural excellence, innovation, and trust. The three-day celebration will take place from 6th to 8th June 2025 at Hotel Lyfe, Janpath, Bhubaneswar. As Utkal Builders completes 35 glorious years of shaping Odisha's skyline, the company is celebrating this legacy with the people who made it possible - its valued buyers and the people of Odisha. The Utkal Grand Property Sale Carnival is a tribute to this enduring relationship and a unique opportunity for homebuyers and investors alike. "Over the past three and a half decades, Utkal has been a name people associate with consistency, credibility, and quality," said Mr. Sharad Baid, Managing Director, Utkal Builders. "This Carnival is a tribute to that trust - and an invitation to the future." The event will showcase a curated portfolio of premium 2, 3 & 4 BHK homes, modern office spaces, and prime retail units across Bhubaneswar and Cuttack - many of which are ready-to-move or nearing completion. Attendees will enjoy exclusive spot offers, surprise gifts, and discounts of up to 20 lakh. "We've created a rare window of opportunity," added Mr. Amit Baid, Director, Utkal Builders. "The response since the announcement has been phenomenal. This is truly a never-before, never-again moment. If you've been waiting to buy or invest - this is the time." This Carnival is more than a property showcase - it's a celebration of Utkal's journey and a heartfelt gesture of gratitude.



Utkal Builders, one of Odisha's most trusted and respected real estate developers, proudly announces the Utkal Grand Property Sale Carnival, a landmark event to commemorate 35 years of architectural excellence, innovation, and trust. The three-day celebration will take place from 6th to 8th June 2025 at Hotel Lyfe, Janpath, Bhubaneswar. As Utkal Builders completes 35 glorious years of shaping Odisha's skyline, the company is celebrating this legacy with the people who made it possible - its valued buyers and the people of Odisha. The Utkal Grand Property Sale Carnival is a tribute to this enduring relationship and a unique opportunity for homebuyers and investors alike. "Over the past three and a half decades, Utkal has been a name people associate with consistency, credibility, and quality," said Mr. Sharad Baid, Managing Director, Utkal Builders. "This Carnival is a tribute to that trust - and an invitation to the future." The event will showcase a curated portfolio of premium 2, 3 & 4 BHK homes, modern office spaces, and prime retail units across Bhubaneswar and Cuttack - many of which are ready-to-move or nearing completion. Attendees will enjoy exclusive spot offers, surprise gifts, and discounts of up to 20 lakh. "We've created a rare window of opportunity," added Mr. Amit Baid, Director, Utkal Builders. "The response since the announcement has been phenomenal. This is truly a never-before, never-again moment. If you've been waiting to buy or invest - this is the time." This Carnival is more than a property showcase - it's a celebration of Utkal's journey and a heartfelt gesture of gratitude.

behemoth Walmart holds a more than 80 per cent stake, applied for the licence in 2022, according to the central bank's approval letter. Neither Flipkart nor the Reserve Bank of India immediately responded to Reuters' request for comments. The e-commerce giant may commence its lending operation "in a few months", according to a source aware of the matter who declined to be identified as the talks are private. A final decision on the launch will be subject to the completion of various internal processes such as the appointment of key management personnel and board members and the finalisation of business plans, the source said. Flipkart plans to lend directly to its customers on its popular e-commerce platform and through its fintech app super.money, the source said. It may also offer financing to sellers on the platform, they added.

At present, the e-commerce giant offers personal loans to customers through tie-ups with lenders such as Axis Bank, IDFC Bank and Credit Saison. Flipkart, last valued at \$37 billion in 2024 when it raised \$1 billion in a funding round led by Walmart, is shifting its holding company from Singapore to India. Walmart also aims to take the 17-year-old company public. Walmart bought a controlling stake in Flipkart in 2018, which also gave it ownership of PhonePe, a fintech firm also preparing for an IPO. Earlier this year Flipkart's rival Amazon acquired a Bengaluru-based non-bank lender Axio, but the deal is yet to be cleared by the central bank.



## Patralekhaa recalls meeting Shah Rukh Khan for first time

Patralekhaa reveals that Shah Rukh Khan's advice inspired her husband Rajkumar Rao to work harder, leading to their Mumbai home.

Actor Patralekhaa recently opened up about her first meeting with none-other-than superstar Shah Rukh Khan, in an interview. The Phule actor shared her fondest memories meeting the star and revealed that it is because of him that she and husband-actor

Rajkumar Rao have a house in Mumbai today. In an interview with Bollywood Bubble, Patralekhaa shared her experience of meeting Shah Rukh Khan for the first time. The 35-year-old actor showed a picture with Pathaan star and said, "I was blown away by his charm, by the aura, the enigma that surrounds him. He is everything that you have hear about him. He is kind, well-spoken, and respectful. I was smitten meeting him."

The Citylights actor also recalled the time when her husband Rajkumar talked with Shah Rukh about his dream of having a house like Mannat. Rajkumar had earlier mentioned how the Dilwale Dulhaniya Le Jayenge star advised him to have a bigger house because it would motivate him to work harder. Patralekhaa gleefully said, "Thanks to SRK sir, that we have a house today."

Patralekhaa was last seen in the film Phule with Pratik

Gandhi, which was directed by Anant Mahadevan. The film was based on the lives of Jyotirao Phule and Savitribai Phule. She will next be seen in the revenge crime thriller Suryast, which also stars Lara Dutta. The release date is yet to be announced.

She also has Krishna DK and Raj Nidimoru's Gulkanda Tales in her kitty. The show's star cast includes like Pankaj Tripathi, Abhishek Banerjee and Kunal Kemmu in key roles.

Patralekhaa's Exciting Future Projects: Meanwhile, Patralekhaa will be seen in the upcoming TV series 'Gulkanda Tales', which is currently being filmed. Alongside this, she is collaborating once again with Rajkumar Rao on their second production venture following 'Toaster'. In addition to these projects, she is also part of the films 'Phule', 'IC 814: The Kandahar Hijack', and 'Wild Wild Punjab'.

## Director Picks His Funniest Housefull 5 Actor



The year was 2010, and Sajid Khan's Housefull unleashed a laughter riot that to date, has become the only film in the long-running franchise that is fondly missed. Followed by multiple instalments thereafter, the fifth part drops tomorrow, with a new filmmaker, Tarun Mansukhani, taking over the director's seat.

Ahead of one of the mega releases of 2025, Mansukhani is at his nonchalant best. No ifs or buts, in fact, he jokingly mentions, "The fear isn't whether the audience will come to the theatre, the question is, will they stay back until the curtain call? Will they discuss it?" In an exclusive conversation with NDTV, the filmmaker addresses if having an ensemble cast is just for the bling factor, why the comparisons with the OG Housefull will never stop, and no, Akshay Kumar might not be the funniest in the film this time. "The first experience of any film is like your first true love, right?" Mansukhani's way of looking at the situation at hand catches you off-guard. One would expect him to give a politically correct answer, stating that maybe the times were different, maybe 15 years ago, the audience just found the kind of humour they were looking for. Tarun Mansukhani explains, "The kind of butterflies that you feel and the excitement that you get from the first part when it becomes a core memory for you, is something that you can't compete with, so the love will always be compared. I can only hope you turn around and say that 5 was better than 1. But first love is first love."

Loyal fans of Housefull will always be divided. While some find it a passage of nostalgia to get lost in because the first instalment had everyone in splits. Some only have one question racing through their minds, "What is the need to continue?" And there's a whole debate on it on

social media. Tarun Mansukhani has a straightforward approach to it. He says that one cannot be a saint and just pretend that it does not matter.

The filmmaker says, "It does affect you. It does bother you. Initially, and then I think I'm surrounded by true friends. I have a bunch of true friends who keep me grounded and allow me to understand that with good comes bad. If you push away the noise and hear what they're saying, you might learn a thing. Forget the tone that they're talking in. But if they are saying something, there might be something there for you to pick up on. And then maybe, one can use it to be wiser for their next film." One might say that having multiple stars in a mega-budget film is a trend that's coming back. It is obviously not new. We have seen it earlier in films like Salaam-E-Ishq, Kabhi Alvida Naa Kehna, Dhoom 2, and Kabhie Khushi Kabhie Gham. Most recently, Shah Rukh Khan's next ambitious film titled King with his daughter Suhana Khan has kept the online portals abuzz with additions like Rani Mukerji, Ranbir Kapoor, Sara Ali Khan, and Ibrahim Ali Khan, to name a few. Housefull 5 has 17 actors onboard - Akshay Kumar, Riteish Deshmukh, Abhishek Bachchan, Sanjay Dutt, Fardeen Khan, Shreyas Talpade, Nana Patekar, Jackie Shroff, Dino Morea, Jacqueline Fernandez, Nargis Fakhri, Chitrangda Singh, Sonam Bajwa, Soundarya Sharma, Chunky Pandey, Nikitin Dheer and Johnny Lever. Is it just for the ornamentation needed to grab eyeballs and clock in the numbers, or maybe, there is gravitas to the casting being done? Tarun Mansukhani shares, "The predominant problem that I would face on set is not about having 17 mega stars on my set, it is having 17 characters in one frame." He adds, "How do you

make sure that every character is continuously the same as they were in the previous scene? What is their story arc? How are they taking it forward and keeping those story elements alive, which was more of a pressure because those stories are also interlinked? So it's a bit of a complicated situation when you're there and then when you step out the next day or even when you watch the film, you have no idea."

Truth be told, some cinemagoers have even cited reasons as to how it can get too confusing and exhausting to watch so many characters, and so many storylines going around in circles. But the director counterquestions, "We are also filmmakers, of course, we are going to make mistakes. I'm not saying that I make art, but for every piece of art that you pick up, somebody's going to find a flaw with it. And that's okay as long as you have a reaction to the piece of art is what's important." The director reveals that he was told clearly not to cast big stars to simply face the camera and instead, make it worth the audience's money. The director shares, "Sajid so was clearer about it than even I was, is that you're not going to take a big star to just come and say hi on camera and go away. If they don't have a character that justifies their presence and time on screen, then it's no point taking them. It doesn't make sense financially. It's a disappointment for the fans. Everyone in this film has a role to play. You'll see." Chunky Pandey might always be joking as "Aakhri Pasta", but the new director has a new favourite in Housefull 5. When we asked who he would pick as the funniest in the film, Tarun Mansukhani hardly hesitates, "Jackie Shroff." He says, "I think I would go with Jackie Sir on this one because Chunky, we've known as Pasta from the beginning, so there was already a preconceived notion. But now suddenly when I'm working with Jackie, for the first time and I get to see him, I cannot begin to tell you what kind of swag he has. And the kind of comic timing that he and Sanju [Sanjay Dutt] have is just another league of its own." Tarun Mansukhani has a special bond with Abhishek Bachchan. The two had worked together in his directorial debut Dostana.

## Gambhir Slams RCB's IPL Title Celebration Road Show

**New Delhi, (HS) :** Gautam Gambhir, Indian cricket team head coach, has said that Royal Challengers Bengaluru's IPL 2025 title celebration victory parade should never have taken place. He added that such events must take place in a closed-door environment. Royal Challengers Bengaluru's joy of winning a first IPL title in 18 years turned tragic as 11 people lost their lives in stampede at a planned victory parade on Wednesday. The RCB team members, including Virat Kohli and Rajat Patidar, were felicitated at the Vidhan Soudha by Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah at around 5 PM IST after which there was a planned open bus parade. Lakhs of people gathered around the area where it was supposed to take place. It turned tragic as 11 died and close to 50 people got injured in the event.

"I was never a believer that we need to have roadshows. Never. When I was playing, I had the same statement, even after winning the 2007 T20 World Cup that we should not have road shows. The lives of people are far more important and I will continue to say that. In future we can be little bit aware about



not holding these kind of road shows and probably have it in a closed door environment. What has happened is very tragic. My heart goes out to the families who have lost their loved ones," Gautam Gambhir said at a pre-departure press conference ahead of India vs England Test series. Asked if the nature of fandom had changed over the years, Gambhir spoke about being responsible in every aspect of life. "I can't say whether the fan base has increased or all that kind of stuff. All I can say is that we need to be responsible. We need to be responsible in every aspect of whether being a franchise or everything (else) because every

life matters." Gambhir also questioned the need to hold a road show when they were simply not prepared. "If you were not ready to hold a road show, you shouldn't have done that. (It is) as simple as it can get," he couldn't be more blunt. He said he understands the excitement of fans but what happened in Bengaluru was beyond tragic. "I know fans do get excited. Everyone gets excited. The fan base gets excited. But nothing compared to what has happened recently. You cannot at any point of time lose 11 people,

Earlier, BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia talked and admitted 'some lapses' were there

on the part of the organisers. "I am not in a fault finding mission at this moment without knowing the complete fact. Whenever these kinds of events are being organised, if you take the example of how BCCI organised such victory celebration after India won the T20 World Cup in West Indies last year, there was a thorough planning with local cricket association - that is the Mumbai Cricket Association - as well as the Mumbai authorities, which includes the police, the fire brigade, the disaster management authorities. When planning that magnitude of celebration in Mumbai, when there was a sea of humanity, where so many people gathered, everything happened smoothly. Not a single untoward incident occurred because all the protocols were duly followed," Saikia told. "That kind of planning takes time. It cannot be done in a hastily manner. I think some lapses definitely took place. I am sure the authorities having this responsibility in Bengaluru, they will do some soul searching to find out. Definitely, nobody should be allowed to go scot-free for any lapses on their part."

## RCB Announces Rs 10 Lakh Each for Families of 11 Victims

**Bangalore, (HS) :** RCB announced that each of the families who lost a loved one would receive 10 lakh in compensation. Additionally, the team has created a dedicated fund, "RCB Cares," to assist injured fans. In an official statement, RCB expressed deep sorrow over the incident, saying, "Our fans remain at the heart of everything we do. We stand united in grief and will continue to support those affected." Eyewitness reports and security assessments indicate several lapses in crowd management at the event. Authorities are now investigating the circumstances leading to the stampede, as citizens and sports enthusiasts demand stricter safety protocols for large-scale celebrations.

## England announces 14-member squad for series opener against India

**New Delhi, (HS):** The England Men's selection panel has announced a 14-player squad for the first Test match against India at Headingley, which begins on Friday, 20 June 2025, according to the ECB website. The series will take place from June to August 2025, with matches at Headingley (Leeds), Edgbaston (Birmingham), Lord's (London), Old Trafford (Manchester), and The Oval (London). This will be India's first bilateral series since both Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli announced their retirement from Test cricket earlier this month.

Jamie Overton has been handed a surprise recall to England's squad for the first Test against India after his Surrey team-mate Gus Atkinson was ruled out with a hamstring strain injury. Jacob Bethell has returned to the squad, while Chris Woakes and Brydon Carse are both back after missing England's win over Zimbabwe with niggles. England's squad has changed significantly since their 4-1 series defeat in India last year. James Anderson retired shortly after that tour, while Jonny Bairstow, Ben Foakes and Ollie Robinson have also been discarded. India have also undergone a transition, with R Ashwin, Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma all retiring and Shubman Gill taking on the captaincy for the first time. India, who have not won a Test series in England since 2007, have sent several members of their squad ahead to play for India A against the



Lions, and the rest of their touring party will arrive in the UK on Friday. Prior to the series, there will also be three India 'A' matches against the England Lions. The first unofficial test ended in a draw. The second unofficial test will be played on Friday, June 6, at County Ground, Northampton.

Ben Stokes (Durham) - Captain, Shoaib Bashir (Somerset), Jacob Bethell (Warwickshire), Harry Brook (Yorkshire), Brydon Carse (Durham), Sam Cook (Essex), Zak Crawley (Kent), Ben Duckett (Nottinghamshire), Jamie Overton (Surrey), Ollie Pope (Surrey), Joe Root (Yorkshire), Jamie Smith (Surrey), Josh Tongue (Nottinghamshire), Chris Woakes (Warwickshire).

# NRAI unveils Shooting League of India logo

**New Delhi, (HS) :** The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) officially unveiled the logo for the highly anticipated Shooting League of India (SLI) at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range in New Delhi on Thursday afternoon. Several Indian athletes at the Indian camp, gearing up for the 2025 ISSF World Cup in Munich, attended the unveiling and expressed their excitement for the inaugural edition of the league. Along with Paris Olympic medallists Swapnil Kusale and Sarabjot Singh, several top Indian stars including Arjun Babuta, Sandeep Singh, Elavenil

Valarivan, Ramita, Sift Kaur Samra, Anjum Moudgil, Varun Tomar, Arjun Singh Cheema, Chain Singh, Kiran Ankush Jadhav, Ashi Chouksey, Shriyanka Sadangi, Suruchi, Palak, Simranpreet Kaur Brar, Akhil Sheoran, Sainyam, Nischal, and Rahi Jeevan Sarnobat came for the occasion. Speaking on the occasion, the 50m rifle 3 positions world record holder Sift Kaur Samra said that unveiling the logo is a major boost to the morale of the athletes who will be competing in Munich between June 8th and June 15th. "We express our gratitude to NRAI for inviting us to be a part



of the unveiling of the logo and allowing us to witness the start of this beautiful journey. We are seeing that the buzz around the sport of shooting in India is increasing further with the

upcoming league, and it is a big boost to our morale ahead of the upcoming ISSF World Cup," the 24-year-old said. The logo features a vibrant mix of colour to encapsulate the competitive

nature of the sport and to symbolise the sport's heritage. The 2022 Asian Games medallist Ashi Chouksey further praised the dynamic nature of the logo and delved deeper into how the bold colours depict the strength of the Indian sporting community. "All of us are delighted to see that the Shooting League of India is kicking off with this beautiful logo. The bold colours feel like they are a testament to the strength and nature of Indian sportspersons. It feels like a statement, and now it is up to us athletes to live up to the message being portrayed by this wonderful symbol,"

Chouksey said.

Meanwhile, experienced rifle shooter Shriyanka Sarangi further said that the logo sends out the message that the national federation wishes to promote with the league. "With India's success in the recent edition of the Olympic Games in Paris, there is a growing interest in the sport in the country and all around the world. The league can help add to this success and help in further advancing the global appeal of the sport. The logo has a similar universal appeal with familiar yet vibrant colours and patterns, thus helping its reach across the masses." The first season of the

SLI will have a window between 20th November and 2nd December. The tournament will feature mixed team events in pistol (10m, 25m), rifle (10m, 50m 3 positions), and shotgun (Trap & Skeet), as decided by the NRAI Technical Committee. A total of six-eight teams will feature in the competition and will be divided into two pools in the league stage. The selected players will be grouped into four tiers - Elite Champions, World Elite, National Champions, and Junior & Youth Championships - to provide a blend of experienced and emerging talents.