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

English Daily



PM opens gateways to prosperity for J&K

PM Modi dedicates world's highest railway bridge over Chenab river to J&K
India's first cable-stayed rail bridge over river Anji inaugurated

Srinagar, (HS) : In a major infrastructure milestone for Jammu and Kashmir, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday inaugurated the Chenab Rail Bridge, the world's highest railway arch bridge. The engineering marvel is a key part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project and now seamlessly connects the Kashmir Valley to the rest of India via rail. PM Modi's visit today marked several firsts for the region as well: the inauguration of India's first cable-stayed railway bridge, Anji Khad Bridge, and the first-ever train service directly linking Kashmir to the mainland. Just weeks after the deadly Pahalgam terror attack, the inauguration of multiple all-weather infrastructure projects in Kashmir served as a strong message from PM Modi, who is visiting the valley for the first time after Operation Sindoor, that his government remains committed to the development of the region. PM Modi is also scheduled to inaugurate several



developmental projects in Katra worth Rs 46,000 crore in a massive infrastructure push for the state.

Moments after inaugurating the Chenab Bridge, the Prime Minister was seen waving the Tricolour and walking across it with a broad smile. Accompanying him were Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, and former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, as he cut the

ceremonial ribbon. Chenab bridge is the part of the 272 km long USBRL project, constructed worth around Rs 43,780 crore and includes 36 tunnels (spanning 119 km) and 943 bridges. The project establishes all-weather, seamless rail connectivity between the Kashmir Valley and the rest of the country. The Prime Minister also flagged off two Vande Bharat Express trains from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra to Srinagar and back. They will offer a swift,



comfortable, and reliable travel option for residents, tourists, pilgrims among others. He also laid the foundation stone of road widening project from Rafiabab to Kupwara on National Highway-701 and the construction of Shopian bypass road on NH-444 worth over Rs 1,952 crore. He also inaugurated two flyover projects at Sangrama Junction on National Highway-1 in Srinagar and at Bemina Junction on National Highway-44. These projects will ease traffic congestion and enhance traffic flow for the commuters. Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone of Shri Mata

Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence in Katra worth over Rs 350 crore. It will be the first medical college in Reasi district contributing substantially to the healthcare infrastructure in the region.

AN ENGINEERING MARVEL: Built at a cost of Rs 1,486 crore, the Chenab Rail Bridge stands as the world's highest railway bridge and a true feat of engineering. Rising 359 metres above the river, 35 metres taller than the Eiffel Tower and nearly five times the height of the Qutub Minar, the bridge was constructed using 28,660 megatonnes of steel capable of withstanding both sub-zero temperatures and extreme heat. Designed to resist strong earthquakes, the bridge incorporates advanced safety features, including the ability for trains to continue operating at low speed even if a supporting pier is damaged.

FIRST CABLE-STAYED RAIL BRIDGE: The Prime Minister also inaugurated India's first cable-stayed railway bridge at Anji river - Anji Khad Bridge. The Anji Bridge rises 331 metres above the riverbed and spans 725

Continued P-4

Nijukti Mela: CM hands over 1,294 appointment letters



Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Friday handed over 1,294 appointment letters to newly recruited officers and employees under seven departments during a large 'Nijukti Mela' at the Railway Auditorium here. The event was also graced by Deputy Chief Ministers KV Singh Deo, Pravati Parida, along with State Ministers. The Chief Minister said his government has started the recruitment process as promised, and at the 9th recruitment fair, appointment letters were given to 1,294 youth. He said the government

is working to fill vacancies and will continue to hire more people in the future.

Speaking to the mediapersons, Majhi said, "After our government came to power, we have started the recruitment process as promised. It was the 9th recruitment fair today, in which we gave appointment letters to 1,294 youth...As per our manifesto, we are working to fill government vacancies...We will recruit more people in the coming time." School and Mass Education Minister Nityananda Gond said the state

Continued P-4

Odisha to tackle wildfires with NDMA funds



Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : Odisha, one of the worst forest fire-affected states, will receive funds from the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to fight the menace effectively. Sources in the Forest department said Odisha along with Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh, Andhra

Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and a few other states have been identified by the NDMA as highly vulnerable to forest fire incidents. Speaking to media, PCCF and HoFF Suresh Pant said a proposal of Rs 63 crore has already been given to the government for submission to the

NDMA for sanction of funds. "The funds will be utilised for installation of AI camera tower, community engagement and other programmes to deal with forest fire incidents more efficiently in the state from the next season onwards," Pant said. A senior official from the Forest department said NDMA has already identified 17 vulnerable territorial and wildlife divisions including Baliguda, Rayagada, Nabarangpur, Paralakhemundi and Sambalpur for necessary fire preventive measures during forest fire season. "The NDMA authorities have also appreciated our proposal and assured to place funds by June. The proposal is also expected to be approved within a month," he added. However, about 10 pc of the `63 crore fund will be borne by the state government under the state specific scheme.

Cabinet nod to 4 projects for Viksit Odisha

Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : Odisha Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, has approved four projects, marking a significant milestone in the State's economic and infrastructural development.

Addressing a presser after the meeting, Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja announced that out of the five proposals, four projects received the cabinet's nod. With a combined investment of more than Rs 8000 crore, these initiatives will enhance irrigation, urban infrastructure, biotechnology research, and revenue generation, aligning with Odisha's Viksit Odisha @ 2036 vision. The Chheligada irrigation



project, located in R. Udaygiri block of Gajapati district, will have a 266-meter concrete dam on Badajore river, a tributary of Vansadhara. It includes a central spillway with seven radial gates. The approved tender valued at Rs 151.78 crore sets an

ambitious deadline of 18 months for completion. The project aims to irrigate 6,260 ha across Gajapati and Ganjam districts, improve drinking water supply for Berhampur town, boost fishery and livestock farming, and contribute to groundwater

replenishment. Additionally, it will generate 36 MW of hydroelectric power, strengthening Odisha's energy sector.

The Cabinet has also approved the Mukhyamantri Sahari Bikash Yojana (MSBY) aimed at revamping urban infrastructure and employment opportunities. The scheme will build revenue-generating infrastructure such as market complexes, vending zones, parks, mini cold storage, and EV charging stations. Under the plan, environmental initiatives with 5000 afforestation projects and rainwater harvesting structures will be taken up. The Rs 6000 crore scheme will run from 2025 to 2030 with Rs 1,100 crore allocation for FY 2025-26.

DADLS-25



Message of Hon'ble Governor of Odisha on the auspicious occasion of ID-UZ-ZUHA-2025



On the auspicious occasion of Id-Uz-Zuha 2025, I extend my hearty greetings and good wishes to all the Muslim sisters and brothers of our State. I call upon all to celebrate this festival of service, surrender, sacrifice and tolerance and work dedicatedly for the all-round development of Muslim sisters and brothers.

(Signature)
 (Hari Babu Kambhampati)



ଇଦ୍-ଉଜ୍-ଜୁହା ଅବସରରେ ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା



ପବିତ୍ର ଇଦ୍-ଉଜ୍-ଜୁହା ପର୍ବ ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ ମୁସଲମାନ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ଆନ୍ତରିକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଜଣାଉଛି ଏବଂ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କର ସୁଖ ଓ ସମୃଦ୍ଧି କାମନା କରୁଛି ।

(Signature)
 (ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀ)
 ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

OIPR-15001/13/0673/2526

Child Obesity

A study by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) has sounded a warning on an escalating health emergency among school children in the national capital. Of nearly 4,000 students in the six-to-19-year age group surveyed across Delhi's public and private schools, 13.4 per cent were found to be obese, and 7.4 per cent were suffering from hypertension. The data draws an even more sobering contrast when viewed through the lens of socioeconomic status - 24 per cent of private-school students were classified as obese, compared to 4.5 per cent in government schools. Students in private schools were also found to be twice as likely to have elevated blood sugar and three times more likely to exhibit metabolic syndrome - a dangerous cluster of conditions that includes hypertension, abnormal cholesterol, and insulin resistance. Left unchecked, these significantly increase the risk of early-onset cardiovascular diseases, musculoskeletal disorders, psychological stress, and Type 2 diabetes. The Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey (2016-18) had already shown that 15.35 per cent of school-age children and 16.18 per cent of adolescents in India are pre-diabetic. Together with the AIIMS study, the implications are troubling. Once grappling with malnutrition, India now faces a dual burden: For urban and affluent children, prosperity has paradoxically become a vector of poor health. Lancet's 2024 Global Burden of Disease Study reported that the number of obese children in India has ballooned from 0.4 million in 1990 to 12.5 million in 2022. This staggering increase is a fallout of rapid urbanisation, the ubiquity of high-calorie, nutrient-poor diet - often involving ultra-processed foods and sugary drinks masquerading as child-friendly and healthy - surging screen time, and diminishing physical activity.

The AIIMS report signals that student health needs equal and immediate attention alongside academics. The CBSE's recent directive to set up sugar boards in affiliated schools to reinforce the dangers of excessive sugar consumption is a welcome move in that direction. Physical education must be made non-negotiable, and junk food driven out of school canteens with the same urgency that was once reserved for tobacco. Parents must re-evaluate lifestyle choices at home. Policy, too, has a vital role. National guidelines on childhood obesity must move from paper to practice. A concerted public-health push that combines regulation, education, and community action to steer children toward healthier futures is vital to stem the crisis. Otherwise, India's demographic dividend stands to carry with it a long and costly health burden.

7th June

Food Safety Day



On World Food Safety Day, observed annually on June 7, we are protecting our food at all costs. This day was established by the United Nations to raise awareness about the importance of food etiquette and safety at all stages of the food chain. Before our food gets to our stores, restaurants, and even our mouths, they go through a long chain of distribution managed by people who handle processes like harvesting, processing, storing, distribution and preparation. This is why this holiday is important because in the long chain of food consumption there are several possibilities of food contamination.

Food poisoning is a more common condition than you would imagine, with an estimated 600 million foodborne illnesses recorded annually. Food safety is, therefore, a very important concept as it seeks to ensure our food is handled with utmost care before getting to us. Safe food is a key factor in determining our overall health because whatever we ingest is digested and spread easily to other parts of our body via our bloodstream. Food poisoning is one of the most common conditions caused by food-borne pathogens, and symptoms may include vomiting, aches, and diarrhea.

The good news is, that food poisoning is 100% preventable through the use of food safety mechanisms. These are the techniques used in ensuring our food remains in the best, healthiest shape until we consume them, and includes labeling, hygiene, additives, and preservatives. This, however, is not the easiest thing to achieve due to the number of people involved in the food distribution chain.

Food regulation organizations and agencies make the flow of food safety measures easier to manage and control by setting laws in place. Bodies like the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (F.A.O.), and the Food and Drug Administration (F.D.A.) were established to govern food safety processes and laws. Although these organizations do their best to ensure our food stays safe, this massive task requires all our attention. The way we handle, process, and distribute food goes a long way toward ensuring safer food and better health worldwide. World Food Safety Day was established by the United Nations to raise awareness of food safety measures and is facilitated by WHO and F.A.O.

The United Nations forms the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (F.A.O.) on October 16. WHO and F.A.O. come together to form the Codex Alimentarius which sets the guidelines for food safety. The F.D.A. releases the first Food Code to serve as a standard for food sanitation for health jurisdictions, food services, and retail. The U.N. establishes World Food Safety Day, facilitated by WHO and F.A.O.

What is wrong with Odia Cinema ?



Bhaskar Parichha

Odia cinema, commonly referred to as Ollywood, encounters numerous obstacles that have impeded its development and acknowledgment, despite a rich heritage that traces back to the inaugural Odia film, Sita Bibaha, released in 1936. For many years, Odia cinema has faced criticism for its tendency to create formulaic films, frequently remaking South Indian or Hindi productions, which lack originality.

Clichéd Elements: These films generally adhere to predictable narratives filled with clichéd elements, such as romantic themes characterized by exaggerated performances and outdated dance routines, failing to connect with contemporary viewers. The industry's dependence on imitating other regional cinemas, especially during the early 2000s, resulted in a waning interest from audiences, as these films often lacked cultural significance or relevance to Odia society. Although recent works like Daman (2022) and Pratikshya (2022) indicate a movement towards original and socially pertinent narratives, the industry continues to grapple with the challenge of consistently delivering high-quality and innovative content. The cinema market in Odisha is relatively limited, characterized by insufficient theater infrastructure, especially in rural regions. While critically acclaimed films tend to thrive in urban areas, smaller theaters face challenges in maintaining operations.

OTT Platform: Historically, the audience's inclination towards

mainstream, escapist narratives has restricted filmmakers from delving into innovative or unconventional subjects. Although the emergence of OTT platforms and increased access to global and regional content have shifted audience expectations, Odia cinema has been slow to respond to these changing preferences. The scarcity of suitable cinema halls, particularly in culturally important cities like Puri, where Sita Bibaha made its debut, hampers the distribution of Odia films. The deteriorating condition of historic venues such as Laxmi Talkies underscores the neglect of exhibition facilities. Additionally, ineffective public exhibition policies and their enforcement further complicate the situation, hindering films from reaching broader audiences. The Odia film industry is hindered by insufficient financial resources and a lack of governmental support. Producers encounter challenges in achieving profitability due to the absence of subsidies, which are available in other states that support regional cinema. Film policies introduced by the Odisha government, such as those in 2019 and 2025, have frequently proven ineffective due to poor funding and implementation strategies, resulting in a lack of a solid framework for industry growth. The combination of high production costs and low box-office revenues discourages investment in more ambitious projects, compelling filmmakers to focus on low-budget, risk-averse productions.

Fostering Talent: Additionally, there is a deficiency of skilled professionals, including directors, writers, and technicians, who are capable of creating films that can compete on a national or international level. Furthermore, excessive interference from producers in the creative process and a limited exposure to global cinema among filmmakers have been identified as significant obstacles to achieving high-quality filmmaking. Although institutions such as the Biju Patnaik Film & TV Institute are



present, their effectiveness in fostering talent has been relatively minimal when compared to similar institutions in states like Bengal or Kerala. In Odisha, cinema is frequently perceived as a trivial art form by the semi-feudal society and the English-speaking middle class, lacking the academic and cultural esteem it holds in regions like Bengal or Kerala. This societal perception hinders substantial investment and involvement with the medium. The industry has faced challenges in preserving its ties to Odia cultural identity, with numerous films failing to embody the state's rich literary and artistic legacy, including the works of Gopinath Mohanty or Manoj Das. Generally, Odia films have perpetuated patriarchal stereotypes, especially in their depiction of women, confining their roles to traditional or submissive figures. This has estranged audiences who are in search of more progressive storylines. The representation of marginalized communities, including individuals with disabilities, has frequently been inadequate or based on stereotypes, neglecting to address current social issues with the necessary sensitivity. While early Odia cinema was heavily influenced by mythology and literature, the industry has largely shifted away from adapting the state's abundant literary heritage, which could offer engaging and

authentic narratives.

Literary Adaptations: Films such as 'Matira Manisha' and 'Malajahna' achieved success through literary adaptations, yet such instances have become increasingly uncommon, partly due to commercial pressures and audience tastes. Ineffective marketing strategies and distribution channels have hindered the visibility of Odia films, both within Odisha and in wider markets. Even films that receive critical acclaim often struggle to attract national or international recognition because of these limitations. The industry's dependence on holiday releases for major films further constrains its capacity to maintain a steady presence in theaters. The 1970s and 1980s are regarded as the pinnacle of Odia cinema, marked by socially significant films from directors such as Prashanta Nanda and Mohammad Mohsin, which achieved both critical acclaim and commercial success. However, the industry faced a downturn in the 1990s and 2000s, primarily due to an influx of subpar remakes and a decline in audience confidence. Additionally, events like the devastating super cyclone of 1999, which severely impacted infrastructure, including Kalinga Studio, further hindered the industry's progress.

Post-Covid Films: Nevertheless, there are indications of a resurgence in Odia

cinema, especially in the post-COVID era. Films such as Daman (2022), Pratikshya (2022), and Pushkara (2023) have focused on original narratives rooted in Odisha, garnering both critical praise and commercial viability. The revival of literature-inspired films and a rise in professionalism, exemplified by actors auditioning for roles, suggest a transition towards a cinema that prioritizes quality. Discussions on social media indicate an increasing sense of optimism among audiences, highlighting the need to support theaters and promote content-driven films similar to those in Malayalam cinema. Initiatives such as designating April 28 as Odia Cinema Day are proposed to enhance cultural pride and visibility within the industry. To tackle these challenges, the industry could prioritize the implementation of an effective film policy that includes subsidies, infrastructure development, and a dedicated fund, to the extent of Rs 50 crore. Additionally, it is essential to strengthen film institutes and provide filmmakers with exposure to international cinema. Leveraging Odisha's literary heritage can help in crafting authentic and relatable narratives.

Cinema Halls: Furthermore, expanding the audience base through improved marketing strategies, OTT releases, and culturally relevant content is crucial. Revitalizing and establishing cinema halls, particularly in rural regions, will also aid in broadening the reach. As a final point, although Odia cinema faces systemic challenges such as a deficiency in originality, inadequate infrastructure, and a lack of support, recent achievements and an increasing focus on quality indicate a possibility for rejuvenation. With dedicated efforts from filmmakers, audiences, and governmental bodies, Odia cinema has the potential to restore its cultural importance and national recognition.

Bhubaneswar

Mandala Art: A Practice of Introspection



Tapaswini Harichandan

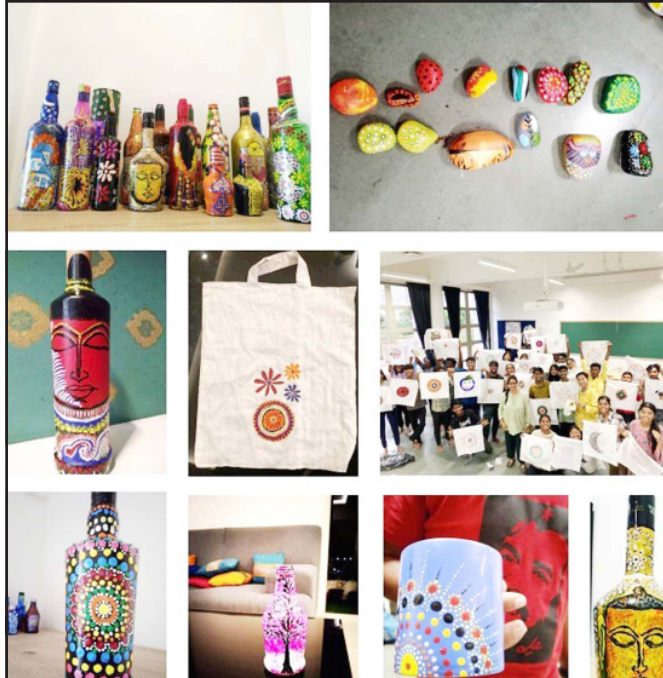
The word "mandala" is derived from the Sanskrit language which means "circle". It is a geometric design with many inner layers used as a symbol for prayer and meditation in Buddhism. During the first century BC, the Mandala art first appeared in the Buddhist art and it was introduced to India by the Buddhist monks who travelled through the silk route to India. What started with Buddhism soon, became a strong symbol for Hinduism as well. This art form is used for worship in Hinduism while in Buddhism, mandala represents the universe or cosmos and to aid in meditation, symbolising the journey to enlightenment.

Usually there are 3 types of Mandala: The Teaching Mandala, which is used by the monks and depicts the symbolic representation of spiritual journey. The Healing Mandala, which is used for meditation and spiritual practice. The Sand Mandala which is a large coloured sand artworks that take a long time to complete. This art form has long been considered a very good

therapeutic practice since its repetitive patterns bring balance and improves concentration while reducing stress and anxiety. It's a practice that helps in bringing calmness and patience. This circular pattern embraces a sense of wholeness and it usually depicts the many layers of a creator's mind with deeper reflection on the meaning and purpose of life. Sometimes, it makes you feel more connected spiritually to the greater being above. In 1875, the Swiss psychiatrist Carl Jung pioneered

develops children's motor skills and helps in enhancing their concentration.

Today this art form has become a new fashion symbol representing India and it's becoming quite trendy. Reputed designers are now incorporating it into various garments like saree, kurtas, tote bags and other accessories. The mandala paintings are also high in demand and people pay a very high price for putting them in their homes or offices. In conclusion, The Mandala art



this art form and introduced it to the Western culture. According to Jung, by creating Mandalas, one could get to know oneself more completely and move closer to the center of one's actual being. The repetitive nature of colouring, drawing with brush helps in better hand movements and

form has come a very long way from the silk route to reputed Indian designer brand house, and this journey is laced with years of culture, spirituality, art and stories.

(Author is an artist and art therapist based in Bengaluru who promotes art as a medium for mental wellbeing.)

Despite outward differences we are one

Indu Bhusan Bhuyan (Badal)

A colour wheel is a round, flat disk made of paper or cardboard. The outer edge is painted or coloured with stripes for each of the seven 'colours of the rainbow: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet. When the wheel is spun quickly, the colours blend and turn into white. As it spins at high speed, only a pure white wheel with no hint of any of the rainbow colours is seen. Children are often amazed at how all the colours can turn into white. But what they do not realise is that it is the other way around. It is white light that is the only colour, but through a process of dispersion, it breaks up into the different colours of the rainbow.

Each colour has its own wavelength. As light passes through different materials, those substances reflect light at various wavelengths, giving the appearance of different colours. But there is only one colour – pure light. Similarly, if we look at humanity, we see on the outer surface a variety of people with different hair colours, eye colours and skin colours. While outer colours may vary, the underlying colour of all humanity is the same. That colour is light. Our soul is our true essence. The differences among us are only due to the different vestures in which that Light is embodied. Just as white light manifests as the seven colours of the rainbow when it passes through different types of matter, similarly, the Light of the soul is one, even though it

inhabits physical bodies having many different colours. When we reach that level of awareness, we start to see all living beings as one big family of the Creator. We no longer differentiate between people based on outer form and custom.

If we want to get a small glimpse of how this is possible, we need only look to our primitive technology today. We think we are very advanced, but it is just a small beginning for what humanity will develop in the future. If we look at the internet, we find that all information is available to us by logging onto different sites. The server that hosts all the sites is a storehouse of all the information on all the sites. By logging on we access all the information we want. God is like a giant server that hosts all our individual souls or websites. Thus, all knowledge about us is known to God. God is also able to simultaneously know what is happening to each of us at every second at the same time. When we tap into that spiritual consciousness and merge into the ocean of God, we too have access to all-consciousness. We can attain spiritual consciousness by focussing our attention within through a process called meditation. Through meditation, we contact our true nature, our soul, and discover it is one with God, the Source of divine love. Then we will experience peace and bliss.

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Govt accelerates drainage fixes in Twin Cities

Bhubaneswar (DMC): The Odisha government has initiated urgent steps to address persistent waterlogging problems in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack, Housing and Urban Development Minister Krushna Chandra Mahapatra announced on Friday.

Speaking to reporters in Bhubaneswar, Mahapatra acknowledged drainage blockages at several locations and assured that the entire department is actively working to resolve the issue. "There are blockages at several places, and the entire department is engaged to set it right," he said. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi is personally monitoring the situation through regular reviews, Mahapatra added. While long-term infrastructural solutions will take time to implement,



immediate temporary measures are being undertaken to mitigate the impact of heavy rainfall. At vulnerable points such as the area near the ISKCON temple, hume pipes are being installed to expedite water discharge. In addition, efforts are underway to cover open drains with concrete slabs. "Most of the open drains have already been covered, and the rest will be completed

shortly," the minister stated. Cleaning of drainage systems in both Bhubaneswar and Cuttack is being carried out in an accelerated manner to ensure unobstructed flow and minimize flooding risks during monsoon rains. "These steps are part of our broader commitment to improving urban infrastructure and ensuring better living conditions in the twin cities," Mahapatra affirmed.

Odisha to impose curbs for Rath Yatra amid Covid surge

Bhubaneswar (DMC): With Covid-19 cases recording a surge in Odisha, the State government has issued special advisory for devotees for the upcoming Rath Yatra in Puri as lakhs of people are set to visit the pilgrim town to witness the grand event.

As part of efforts to contain further spread of infection, the Health and Family Welfare Department has advised the devotees to take precautionary measures while visiting Puri during the annual car festival. Those having symptoms of Covid-19 have been advised to refrain from visiting Puri during Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath and siblings this time. Elderly people and those having comorbidities have been advised not to participate in the festival this year. People participating in the



Rath Yatra should use masks and adopt proper hand sanitisation, Director of Health Services Amarendra Nath Mohanty told reporters.

He said steps are being taken to again operationalise the ICUs set up during the last Covid-19 pandemic at Puri ahead of the festival. Arrangements have also been made to provide additional beds at the District Headquarters

Hospital (DHH) in Puri, while more doctors have been deployed at the hospital. Adequate health staff as well as equipment are also being provided at the DHH. Senior officials of the department visited the hospital and inspected the arrangements ahead of the annual Rath Yatra.

It may be noted that the Covid-19 tally in Odisha this season touched 30 on Friday with

seven new cases being detected in the last 24 hours. Public Health Director Nilakantha Mishra said the situation is under control in the state which has an active caseload of 23 with seven patients having recovered from the infection. None of those infected are serious. The ICMR has also urged people with comorbidities and elderly persons to remain alert and follow Covid-appropriate behaviour in view of the gradual uptick in cases.

Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Khurda are among the places where the cases have been detected so far. Meanwhile, the Centre has asked states and Union territories to ramp up healthcare preparedness and ensure availability of oxygen, ventilators, and essential medicines at hospitals.

OHPC inks pact with WAPCOS for sustainable energy

Bhubaneswar (DMC): In line with India's commitment to transition to sustainable energy, the Odisha government has signed an agreement between Odisha Hydro Power Corporation Ltd. (OHPC) and WAPCOS Ltd.

for project management consultancy services for the 600 MW Upper Indravati Pumped Storage Project (UIPSP). The project, located at Mukhiguda, aims to provide a huge energy storage system that pumps water from a lower reservoir to an upper reservoir during surplus power availability and releases it to generate power during peak demand periods. This will help



balance generation and demand, ensuring power system stability. The UIPSP will have an underground powerhouse with four reversible-type Francis hydroelectric units, each with a capacity of 150 MW, totalling 600 MW. The project will operate in both pumping and

generating modes, circulating water between the two reservoirs. Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo said, "This collaboration marks a crucial step in advancing Odisha's energy sector while ensuring efficiency and sustainability." The project is part of India's broader goal to

achieve 500 GW of installed capacity from non-fossil sources by 2030. The proposed PSP will have an underground powerhouse located near the lower reservoir, equipped with four vertical-axis reversible-type Francis Hydroelectric units having capacity of 150 MW each and will operate in different times of a day in cycle by circulating water between above two reservoirs.

The agreement was signed in the presence of senior officials from the Water Resources, Energy, OHPC and WAPCOS departments. DC-cum-ACS Anu Garg and Principal Secretary, Energy Vishal Kumar Dev were also present.

Junior teachers protest over job regularisation

Bhubaneswar (DMC): Hundreds of junior school teachers from across Odisha gathered in the state capital on Friday to stage a protest demanding the regularisation of their jobs and the abolition of the contractual appointment system.

Assembling at Mahatma Gandhi Marg, the teachers held banners and placards decrying the current contractual employment policy in government-run primary schools. They called for immediate action from the state government to address their concerns. "We receive a monthly salary of just Rs 16,000, which is not sufficient to support our families," said one protesting



teacher. In several BJP-ruled states, junior teachers are paid significantly better," said protestor, also pointing out the lack of social security benefits for contractual staff. Another teacher emphasized the need for parity, stating, "We are demanding equal pay for equal work. Our jobs must be regularized, and the practice of hiring junior

teachers on a contractual basis must end." According to protestors, nearly 16,000 junior teachers are currently serving under contractual terms in government primary schools throughout Odisha. They warned that the agitation would intensify if the government failed to respond to their demands promptly.

New showroom of Swastik Sanitation inaugurated

Bhubaneswar (DMC): Swastik Sanitation proudly announced the grand inauguration of its state-of-the-art showroom, an exceptional milestone in its journey that began in 1994 under the visionary leadership of its founder Bachhraj Betala. Founded with a mission to redefine the standards in bathroom fittings and sanitary ware, Swastik Sanitation has grown from modest beginnings into one of the most trusted names in the industry. Through decades of unwavering dedication, customer-first service, and resilience, it has now emerged as Odisha's largest and most premium bathroom fittings destination, featuring over 5000 sq. ft. of curated display space.

This new showroom marks a historic achievement as the only Jaquar Directors Club Showroom in Odisha—a prestigious status awarded exclusively to select partners who exemplify excellence in showroom standards, customer experience, and brand representation. The path to this milestone has been anything but easy. Mr. Betala's journey is one of grit and perseverance—navigating early challenges, market uncertainties, and industry shifts while never compromising on quality or service. His relentless pursuit of excellence and innovation has built a legacy that continues to inspire. The inauguration of this showroom is not just a celebration of physical expansion, but a reflection of Swastik Sanitation's commitment to excellence, forged over decades of hard work and integrity. Jaquar company's Odisha Head Prakash Chandra Swain joined the ceremony as chief guest. Among others, Mukesh Bothra, Bibek Betala, Sourav Betela, Yash Betala and family members were present.

Agri dept aims to set up State Shree Anna Hub



Bhubaneswar (DMC): A review meeting of the Shree Anna Abhiyan was held under the chairmanship of Dr. Arabinda Kumar Padhee, Principal Secretary of the Agriculture Department. The meeting focused on the annual work plan for the financial year 2025-26. The

Shree Anna Abhiyan, a flagship scheme of the Agriculture Department, aims to revive traditional foods like millet, suan, bajra, and kangu. The scheme has gained recognition, with these foods now being featured in five-star restaurants and adopted by leaders and actors. "Dr. Padhee

emphasized the importance of increasing production, improving post-harvest management, and boosting sales of Shree Anna during the upcoming Kharif season. He suggested expanding millet cultivation in Odisha, making the state a hub for Shree Anna, which would provide employment opportunities and economically empower local communities. The initiative is also helping to preserve traditional food culture and bring communities into the mainstream. The meeting was attended by senior officials from various departments and organisations, including the Director of Agriculture, Odisha State Supplies Corporation, and scientists from the Indian Food Research Institute.

Man impersonating CMO official swindles Rs 2 lakh



Bhubaneswar (DMC): A government engineer has lodged a complaint with Airfield Police in Bhubaneswar, alleging that he was scammed by the impersonator claiming to be a senior official from the Odisha Chief Minister's Office (CMO). According to sources, the fraudster allegedly extorted Rs 2 lakh from Pratap Kumar Haripal, Superintending Engineer of the Road and Building Division in Angul. In his complaint, he alleged that one Janaki Ballav Mohapatra contacted him a month ago and identified himself as a CMO official.

The accused informed him about his transfer to Malkangiri and demanded Rs 2 lakh to halt the process. Disturbed, Haripal paid the amount at Mohapatra's Bhimtangi residence in Bhubaneswar. Mohapatra then demanded an additional Rs 5 lakh, and upon Haripal's refusal, allegedly abused and threatened to kill him. Feeling trapped, Haripal lodged a formal complaint with the Airfield Police Station, seeking protection and justice.

Tata Power converts 5,000 kg plastic waste into wealth

Bhubaneswar (DMC): In a compelling demonstration of circularity in action, Tata Power's micro-entrepreneurship initiative under the Anokha Dhaaga Smart Circularity programme has transformed over 5,000 kg of single-use plastic waste into high-quality, recycled fabric products.

Spearheaded by women across six centres, the initiative not only addresses the urgent challenge of plastic pollution but also empowers local communities—generating over Rs 20 lakh in fair-trade earnings for women entrepreneurs. The programme strengthens Tata Power's commitment to make sustainable

is attainable. It also integrated denim donations, giving a renewed purpose to pre-loved garments and extending the lifecycle of used clothes. Launched in alignment with the Tata Group's Project Aalingana and Tata Power's commitment to circular economy solutions, this initiative resonates strongly with the spirit of World Environment Day 2025 and its theme— "End Plastic Pollution."

It reinforces the 'Beat Plastic Pollution' campaign by spotlighting how sustainable innovation and community empowerment can jointly address the plastic crisis, restore ecosystems, and generate lasting socio-environmental impact.



As World Environment Day 2025 calls for a global rethink of plastic use—rooted in growing scientific evidence on its harm—this initiative embodies the call to refuse, reduce, reuse, recycle, and rethink plastics use. The project began with a city-wide plastic collection drive across Tata Power's Trombay plant, residential colonies, and Tata Group and Tata Power offices in Mumbai. Employees and families actively participated, helping divert a significant quantity of plastic waste from landfills. Through a

collaboration with ReCircle, a leading circular waste management social enterprise, and their 'Safai Saathis' (sanitation workers), the collected wastes were converted into RPET (Recycled Polyethylene Terephthalate) fabric.

Women associated with Anokha Dhaaga were then trained to design and produce sustainable goods from the recycled fabric. Their craftsmanship resulted in thousands of finished products, offering a diverse range, including T-shirts, tote bags, and haversacks. The initiative successfully fulfilled major institutional orders through large-scale B2B synergies.

Canara Bank holds currency exchange mela

Bhubaneswar (DMC): The Canara Bank led by its General Manager and Odisha State Head Jagdish Chander organised a special currency exchange mela for the replace of old/soiled coins and small denomination notes at major centers across Odisha on Friday. The mela organized on the eve of Eid-ul-Juha and the upcoming Raja festival, received an overwhelming public response. A large number of public visited the kiosk and benefitted with the exchange of small denomination notes and coins. The customer centric initiative by Canara Bank was well received and appreciated by general public.



Protecting human rights through environmental conservation discussed

Bhubaneswar (DMC): A discussion titled 'Environmental Protection and Human Rights' jointly organised by Evergreen Forum and Human Rights Front India at Geet Gobind Sadan in Bhubaneswar highlighted the critical link between a healthy environment and human rights.

Chief Guest Justice Dr Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi, former Acting Chief Justice of Orissa High Court and a respected member of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) emphasised that self-centred and selfish attitudes are severely harming environmental protection efforts. According to Sarangi, ensuring a healthy and sustainable environment is a shared responsibility, not a single



person's task. It's a collective endeavour that requires the active participation of individuals, communities, organisations, and governments. Keynote speaker Dr Padma Mahanti, DIG of Forests, Government of India, underscored that a healthy environment is the foremost human right. She urged

prioritising environmental impact assessments in all development projects to safeguard this right. She lauded officers in the Forest Department for working tirelessly to safeguard forests from the wrath of unscrupulous elements of society without being pitted, without being recognised. Mahanti emphasised the need for

responsible mining practices, cautioning against environmental degradation, cultural loss, and human rights violations. Manoj Jena, President of Human Rights Front India, chaired the event and highlighted the severe human rights violations caused by the negative impacts of mining activities.

He called for urgent and accurate assessments followed by swift action to address these issues. Dr. Prakash Chandra Jena, President of Evergreen Forum, urged everyone to take responsibility for environmental protection. Guest of Honour, environmental scientist Dr. Reena Routaray, emphasised the importance of ensuring a healthy environment for future generations.

AFFIDAVIT

I Shaikh Raheman, S/o-Shaikh Rezuhan, At-Majhihara Basti, Po-Majhihara, Ps-Balipatna, Dist-Khordha, Pin-752103 (Odisha). My actual name is Shaikh Raheman, which is recorded in my Aadhar card no-6064 8665 5953 but in my passport no-L7144130 issued dated-11.2.2014 my name has been recorded as Shaikh Rehman instead of Shaikh Raheman. I do hereby declare the affidavit no-1734, dated-6.6.2025 before Executive Magistrate, Khordha that Shaikh Raheman & Shaikh Rehman both names are one & same person i.e. myself.

Govt to draw roadmap for development of Kotia

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): Amid repeated intrusion by Andhra Pradesh into Kotia area in Koraput district, the Odisha government is set to chalk out a department-wise plan for the development of villages in this border region.

This was decided at a meeting of the high-level committee specially constituted by the state government to ensure proper development of Kotia area. Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari, who chaired the meeting, directed all departments to submit their respective action plans for the purpose within a month. Sources said that officials were asked to focus on the economic, social, and cultural development of the area. Secretaries of various departments have been asked to



coordinate with the Koraput District Collector and prepare detailed plans for infrastructure development, market access for farmers, and employment opportunities for youth. A special roadmap will be prepared for the development of Kotia. Every department must address issues on the ground and ensure that the benefits of welfare schemes of the state and central government reach

the doorsteps of people in Kotia," Suresh Pujari said. Asserting that Kotia is an inseparable part of Odisha, the Minister said there will be no compromise over its status. Kotia has been a long-standing issue between Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, lasting over 100 years.

We lost ground in the past due to poor representation in the courts and lack of proper documentation in the past," he said. To address this, the state government is now reviving the legal case in the Supreme Court and holding consultations with legal experts in this regard, Pujari said. Secretaries from different departments, Koraput District Collector, Superintendent of Police, and former district collectors were among those who attended the meeting.

A minor girl was raped and murdered, according to her family



Bargarh, (DMC): A minor girl who went missing after visiting her mother's house four days ago died today at Sohela Hospital in Bargarh district. The deceased girl was from the Bargarh Sadar police station area. Her family reported her missing to the police on the 28th. Today, a young man brought her to the Sohela Health Centre for treatment, but the doctor pronounced her dead upon arrival.

The girl had gone missing after she went to her mother's house in the Loisingha area of Balangir district, and her family had previously filed a complaint with the police. The family alleges that the minor girl was raped and murdered and is demanding justice. In connection with the case, the young man who brought her to the hospital, identified as Sanjeev Mahanand, has been detained by the Sadar police for questioning, and further investigations are underway. The body has been sent to the Bargarh Main Hospital for an autopsy.

Paradip Port Authority Observes World Environment Day 2025



Paradip, (DMC): Paradip Port Authority (PPA) observed World Environment Day 2025 on June 5 Thursday with a series of initiatives aligned with the global theme of "Ending Plastic Pollution." The day's events underscored PPA's commitment to environmental sustainability and community engagement. The observance commenced with a significant mass plantation drive in the area near Paradip College. Shri P.L. Haranadh, Chairman, PPA, led the initiative by planting saplings, joined by Shri Nilabhra Dasgupta, Deputy Chairman, PPA.

The drive saw enthusiastic participation from other Heads of Departments of PPA, Environment Cell officers and employees, residents of the township along with Dr. Sasmita Satapathy, Principal, Paradip College, NCC cadets of Paradip College, and volunteers of Paradip Sakshyarata Samiti (PSS) in the plantation drive and contributed to the success of the program. The program was coordinated by Senior Deputy Traffic Manager Mr. Akshaya Kumar Sahoo, Mr. Rama Chandra Pradhan, Secretary, PSS and Mr. Ashok Mohapatra, Project Coordinator, PSS. Paradip Port Authority remains dedicated to fostering a sustainable environment and will continue to undertake initiatives that contribute to a greener and healthier planet.

JSP Angul Marks World Environment Day 2025 with Focus on Plastic Reduction & Green Future

Angul, (DMC) : From mini-marathon to plantation of saplings, Jindal Steel and Power (JSP), Angul, organised a series of engaging activities aligned with the global theme, "Beat Plastic Pollution", to mark World Environment Day 2025. The participants reiterated its commitment for plastic reduction and green future.

Dr Prafula Kumar Behera, Scientist, State Pollution Control Board, Mr. Atul Dubey, President - Steel & Utilities, Mr. Dilip Sinha, CHRO, Yoga Guru Swami Satyabindu Saraswati, Heads of various departments, employees, their families, and local community members enthusiastically participated in the programme. The programme started with a spirited "Run for Environment" mini-marathon,

flagged off by Mr. Atul Dubey, President - Steel & Utilities. This was followed by plantation of more than 500 saplings by the participants. On the occasion, JSP Chairman and third time MP from Kurukshetra, Shri Naveen Jindal, in a social media post, said "The effects of plastic pollution are far-reaching.

It significantly impacts our environment and adds to our carbon footprint through its production and disposal. By cutting down on single-use plastics, choosing reusable options, and encouraging sustainable alternatives, we can all make a meaningful difference." Dr Prafula Kumar Behera, Scientist from the State Pollution Control Board highlighted the background and importance of Environment Day and

emphasized on the necessity of adhering to statutory requirements to protect the environment. Mr. Atul Dubey urged everyone to be environmentally responsible and conscious of their actions and commit to preserving a healthy planet for future generations. In order to foster environmental awareness among the youth, a Children's Drawing Competition was held for students from Class 1 to 12, divided into three age groups. The young participants showcased their creativity by

Bank of India inaugurated new branch in Keonjhar Zone

Keonjhar, (DMC): Bank of India, Keonjhar Zone, which has been providing excellent customer service, has inaugurated its new branch in Kuakhia, Jajpur district.

Amit Kumar Pal, Zonal Manager, Keonjhar Zone, Bank of India, inaugurated the new branch. Zonal Manager Sri Pal said that the branch has been opened with the aim of providing excellent services to the customers, contributing to the progress of the country by providing financial, commercial and Industrial loans. Here, it is noted that, a total number of 55 branches in Keonjhar, Jajpur, Dhenkanal, Angul and Deogarh districts are providing services under Keonjhar Zone. Sri Pal said that, Keonjhar Zonal Office has a fine reputation across the country for providing the best service to its customers and Bank of India is committed to the financial growth of the people. LDM Radhakanta Nayak, Kuakhia Branch Officers Tusharkanti Palei, Sambit Rout, Rakesh Panda along with officers, employees, Keonjhar Zonal Branch officer Debasish Sahu, Laxmikant Behera, Supratim Saha and Soumya Ranjan Sahoo were present on this occasion.



Ig Central Zone reviews on Sana Yatra

Puri, (DMC): Ig Central Zone reviews on Sana Yatra arrangements 70 platoon force for security, crowd control Puri, Holy bathing. Disciplined the Lord's bathing journey and talks with Puri police to make it safe Central Ig S. Praveen Kumar.

Puri S Vineet Agarwal on Thursday A meeting at the Conference Hall in DPO Ig Praveen in this while organizing Kumar joined the rath yatra along with the Sana yatra procession He reviewed the policing arrangements in the management. Disciplined viewing, traffic control in bathing, Other arrangements including parking and crowd control The IG supervised the matter. Sana yatra trip 4 IPS officers in charge of control will



stay. 70 platoon for crowd control A total of 450 police officers will be deployed. To treat and cooperate well with the devotees. POLICE Police officers and staff before the Sana Yatra trip for Training will be provided, the IG said.

Integrated control room to control crowd will be done. Comprehensive CCTVs in collaboration with AI Cameras will be installed to monitor the crowd.

Similarly, discussions were also held for rath yatra. has been done. Regarding the control of rath yatra after bathing IG Praveen said that information will be provided.

Kumar. With IG and SP in this meeting Additional S Sushil Mishra, Sangin Patel, Commandant Kaushik Nayak, City DSP Prashant Kumar Sahu was accompanied by other officials.

Approach road to collectriate submerged by rain water



water as the drainage system is more defective than road

condition. Even two days back R&B repaired the road in a latest plan but again the road submerged by rain water and shadow of collectriate building reflected by water.

People alleged that district Collector and other administrative officers are least concerned about revival of approach road.

Debrigarh "The Land of Indian Bisons"

Sambalpur, (DMC): Authorities of Hirakud Wildlife Division have published the Census data of Indian Bison (Gaur) or "Gayala" in Odiya of Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary conducted from 11th May 2025 to 13th May 2025 (3 days). The total number of Indian Bisons is 788 numbers including 315 juveniles (less than 2 year old) & including 128 newborns (less than 3 months).

Juveniles are 40% of total population (315 out of 788). For the first time Census of Indian Bisons was conducted at Debrigarh during winter 2024 on 12th & 13th November and number of Bisons was found to be 659. Within 6 months gap around 129 number has increased. Last time 52 herds were recorded, this census reported 60 herds - due to increase in population, herds keep dividing with female adults leading the herd and guiding other sub-adults &



Juveniles. Mostly in Central Indian landscape and few other parts of India, Summer marks the breeding season for Indian Bisons. To determine the peak breeding season, peak Calving season & further understanding of population dynamics of Indian Bisons, during Monsoon & Winter this year there will be monthly survey count of the number of new-borns in population. This will strengthen conservation of this Schedule-I species in this landscape as Debrigarh displays healthy density of Indian Bisons in comparison to other habitats in India. Debrigarh is termed as "The Land of Indian Bisons" due

to good sighting of big herds in Tourism Zone as well as in the Eco Sensitive Zone on edges of Hirakud Wetland. Bisons can migrate long distances too, but in Debrigarh they are seen to display seasonal movement of 5 to 15 kilometers per day keeping their territory mostly constant. In Safari Zone total 145 Indian Bisons are residing in 6 herds. Last year 118 numbers in 5 herds used to move in this belt. Bisons are mostly Territorial animals, intelligent & majestic. Indian Bison (Gaur) is under "Vulnerable" vulnerable means high risk of extinction) category & therefore is a Schedule-I species under Wildlife Protection Act 1972.

From Page- 1

PM opens...

metres in length. It is supported by 96 high-tensile cables and features a striking inverted Y-shaped pylon that soars 193 metres from its base. The bridge incorporates an astonishing 653 kilometres of cable strands. What truly sets this structure apart as an engineering marvel, however, is that it was completed in just 11 months. PM's praise for workers: Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with some of the people involved in the building the Chenab Rail Bridge. Modi praised their unwavering commitment to building modern infrastructure for the nation. He posted on X: "Interacted with some of the people involved in building the Chenab Rail Bridge. They belong to different parts of India and are unwavering in their resolve to build modern infrastructure for their fellow Indians. They shared their experiences, including working in some very challenging times. They also shared how their families are very proud of the work they have done!" Modi hoists Tricolour on Chenab bridge The Prime Minister has celebrated the hoisting of the Tricolour on the iconic Chenab Rail Bridge describing it as a moment of immense national pride and a testament to India's growing capability to build futuristic infrastructure in the most challenging terrains. In a post on X, the Prime Minister said; "The Tricolour flies high over the Chenab Rail Bridge! It's a feeling of immense pride that this bridge seamlessly blends ambition with execution, reflecting India's growing capability to build futuristic infrastructure in the most challenging terrains."

Nijukti Mela: CM...

government has appointed 826 new teachers and over 20,000 teachers so far under Chief Minister Mohan Majhi's leadership. He said the government is committed to improving education and will continue to fill more vacancies in the coming days. "Even before we came to power, we had promised to give appointments. Today, our department has appointed 826 teachers, and in the past too, many teachers were recruited. In total, more than 20,000 new teachers have been appointed under the leadership of Chief Minister Mohan Majhi, who is committed to improving the education system. Education is the key to development, and that's why we are giving special attention to this department. Whenever proposals are sent to the Chief Minister, he supports them. We are also working to fill remaining vacancies and will continue to make new appointments in the coming days. I wish all the newly appointed teachers and staff a bright future and hope they work with dedication for the progress of the state and the country," Gond said.

JSW BPSL Celebrates Environment Sustainability Week with Green Initiatives



Sambalpur, (DMC): JSW BPSL observed Environment Sustainability Week from May 28 to June 5, reinforcing its commitment to environmental responsibility through a vibrant series of impactful activities. The week began with competitions in drawing, slogans, case studies, and quizzes, encouraging community engagement. A significant highlight was the plantation drive held at the Tube Mill area, organized in collaboration with the Horticulture Department. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from senior leadership, including Mr. Umesh Rai (COO), Mr. Prakash Sappa (Sr. VP - Operations), Mr. J.P. Singh (VP- Head HR), and other senior executives and employees.

On 4th June, a "Greenathon" walk led by Smt. Neelam Singh, President of Akansha Ladies Club, promoted the message "Beat Plastic Pollution." The event concluded with a tree plantation at JSSA School reinforcing the message of sustainability. The celebrations concluded on June 5 with a workshop attended by Shri S. N. Nanda from the Odisha Pollution Control Board, Smt. Neelam Singh and JSWBPSL leadership. The workshop concluded with a prize distribution ceremony recognizing winners of the various competitions held throughout the week. Over 2,000 participants, including children and adults, took part in the events. The success of the week was driven by the efforts of the Environment Management, Administration, Township, Horticulture and CSR teams, under the guidance of senior management.

NBB's 1998 Matric Batch Re-union meet held

Jajpur, (DMC): The 1998 matric Batch of Naba Bharati Govt. High School's Reunion and get together was held in Malada Kalyan Mandap on this Friday. With the keen interest of Srinibash Pani, the event was attended by Narendra Sahoo, Meghanada Jena, Saroj Sahoo Ajay Pradhan, Bishnu Charan Sahoo, Nivedita Sahoo, Rashmita Sahoo, Suresh Kar, Sunita Sahoo, Gurubari Sahoo, Kalpana Sahoo, Chumuki Rout and others. Later the members were enjoyed the reunion feast. Speaking on this occasion Sri Pani said very soon we will gather in a large crowd with our family members in a grand event.

Two gold anklets & a chain were taken away under the pretext of cleaning gold, allegedly by an agent of the Ujala Sign Powder Company

Titilagarh, (DMC): Two gold anklets and a chain were looted from the house of Gulab Chandra Agarwal of ward number eight under Titilagarh Municipality, posing as agents of Ujala Company on the pretext of cleaning gold. According to the information received, at 11:30 am, two youths, posing as agents of Ujala Company, entered the house of contractor Gulab Chandra Agarwal and on the pretext of providing an agency, first asked Gulab Chandra Agarwal's wife Geeta Devi Agarwal to give them the copper jug nearby and showed it to them.

Then they asked for the gold chain worn by the maid Pranjal Agarwal and said that they would also clean the two gold anklets worn by Geeta Devi. Then, they first put both the gold items in the water in the glass and after throwing some stones, the water turned black. Then, one of them asked for turmeric and said to heat it on the gas for five minutes, after which both of them fled from there. Surprisingly, when they left, none of the household members could say anything, as they were stunned. Then, when they went outside and saw that no one was there. The family members searched outside and could not find them and filed a complaint with the Titilagarh police station. Family member Rajesh Agarwal has called the police to arrest them. Sanjay Kumar Nayak reports from Titilagarh.



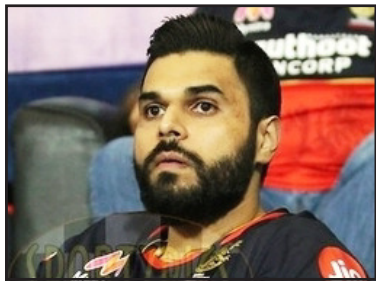
illustrating their vision of a cleaner and greener planet. Meanwhile, the Ladies' Essay and Quiz Competition engaged employees' spouses in thoughtful discussions on environmental issues, strengthening community involvement in sustainability efforts. The event concluded on a high note with the prize distribution ceremony, celebrating the winners of the Drawing, Quiz, Essay, and Run for Environment competitions. Their outstanding efforts were recognized, inspiring

Delhi CM Rekha Gupta receives death threat, probe initiated



New Delhi, (HS) : In a shocking incident, the Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta received a death threat call late last night, said reports on Friday. According to reports, the call was received by Ghaziabad Police Control Room. The caller allegedly threatened to kill the CM of Delhi that is Rekha Gupta. Following this incident, the Ghaziabad and the Delhi police initiated a probe into the matter. Recently on March 27, the Rajasthan Deputy CM got a death threat via a call received in the Jaipur Police Control Room said reports. According to reports, the Jaipur Police Control Room received a call from an unknown number, threatening to kill Deputy Chief Minister Premchand Bairwa. Later however, the location of the mobile number was traced to Jaipur Central Jail. The investigation has started by informing the Jail Department about it said the Jaipur Police Commissioner Bijju George Joseph.

Nikhil Sosale Arrested over Chinnaswamy Stadium Stampede



Bengaluru, (HS) : Police have arrested Nikhil Sosale, the marketing and revenue head of Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) at Diageo India, in connection with the stampede that occurred outside M. Chinnaswamy Stadium on Wednesday, June 4. The incident took place during the team's IPL victory celebrations. According to India Today, Sosale was detained at Bengaluru airport while attempting to board a flight to Mumbai. In addition, three employees of DNA Entertainment Networks Pvt. Ltd.-the company responsible for organizing the event-have also been taken into custody. The arrests follow a directive issued by Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who ordered action against key officials of RCB, DNA Entertainment, and the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA). An FIR had been filed earlier, invoking multiple charges, including culpable homicide not amounting to murder. In a major administrative shake-up, CM Siddaramaiah also suspended Bengaluru Police Commissioner B Dayananda and several senior police officials over their handling of the event and ensuing chaos.

Actor Jeetendra sells Andheri plot for Rs 855 crore



along with the built-up area, was bought by NTT Global Data Centers & Cloud Infrastructure India Private Limited, formerly known as Netmagic IT Services Private Limited. NTT, a Japanese tech conglomerate, is India's largest data center provider and a prominent IT services company. It specializes in a range of services including public and private cloud solutions, hosting, data management, application development, threat monitoring, content delivery networks, and testing services and serves customers globally. According to property registration documents from the IGR, reviewed by Square Yards, the transaction comprised two contiguous land parcels spanning a total area of 9,664.68 sq. m. (~0.96 hectares or ~2.39 acres). The site currently houses Balaji IT Park, and includes three constructed buildings with a cumulative built-up area of 45,572.14 sq. m. (4,90,534 sq. ft.). The deal incurred a stamp duty of Rs. 8.69 crore and registration charges amounting to Rs. 30,000. The transaction, which is believed to be one of the largest real estate deals involving a Bollywood family, comes at a time when global tech giants are looking to expand their data center network in India. Jeetendra is a prominent figure in Hindi cinema, having acted in over 200 films across a career spanning more than six decades. His daughter, Ekta Kapoor, is a well-known producer and director in Hindi television and film, currently serving as Joint Managing Director and Creative Head of Balaji Telefilms Limited. His son, Tusshar Kapoor, is also active in the entertainment industry as an actor and producer.

J&K CM Makes Passionate Appeal for Statehood Restoration

KATRA, (HS) : Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday raked up the issue of restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir at the flagging off of the maiden train to Kashmir by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in this pilgrim town. "There are four persons on this stage who were present at the inauguration of the Katra railway station (in 2014). You had just won the election, becoming the Prime Minister for the first time. MoS in PMO Jeetendra Singh was present then and our LG Manoj Sinha sahib was discharging duties as MoS Railways and I was here as chief minister.

"If you see, by the blessings of Mata (Vaishno Devi) Sinha has got a promotion and I had a demotion. I was chief minister of a state and now I am a CM of the UT. However, I believe that it will not take long to rectify it Jammu and Kashmir will again get the statehood under your watch only," Abdullah said. The erstwhile state was reorganised into the Union territories of



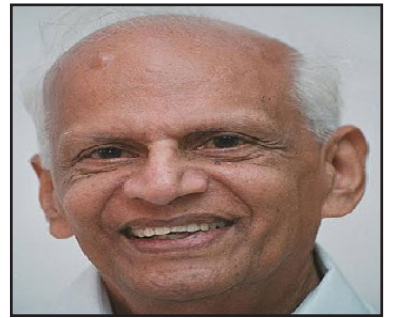
Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh following the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019. Abdullah said many people have dreamt of seeing a train chugging into Kashmir. "Even the British had dreamt of connecting Kashmir by train but they did not succeed. Their plan was to bring rail from Uri, along

the banks of Jhelum, to connect with the country. What the British could not achieve has happened at your (Modi's) hands and Kashmir has been connected to the rest of the country," he added. Abdullah paid rich tributes to former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee for declaring the train to Kashmir a project

of national importance. "It will be a grave mistake if I do not thank former PM Vajpayee. This project was undoubtedly started in 1983-84.... but it was completed only after Vajpayee declared it a project of national importance and made provisions in the budget," he said. "I must also pay my gratitude to Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who declared the rail link to the Valley a national priority project and made financial allocations for it," CM Omar said.

On the stage with PM Modi, CM Omar's body language was very cordial as the PM engaged him in some close to ear talk. He was also in the forefront of all the official functions on Friday, including the inauguration of the Chenab Railway Bridge, the Anji cable stayed railway bridge, the flag-off ceremony of two Vande Bharat trains, one from Katra to Srinagar and the other from Srinagar to Katra. CM Omar was among the dignitaries who welcomed the PM on the stage before the latter's address to the public in Katra stadium.

Veteran Congress leader Thennala Balakrishna Pillai passes away



Thiruvananthapuram, (HS) : Former Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee President and senior Congress leader Thennala Balakrishna Pillai passed away at the age of 95. He breathed his last at a Private Hospital in Thiruvananthapuram on Friday, following age-related ailments. A prominent figure in Kerala politics, Pillai had a long and illustrious political career. He served as a Rajya Sabha MP three times, was elected twice to the Kerala Legislative Assembly, and held the position of KPCC President twice. Rahul Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, said the country has lost a principled leader and expressed his condolences to Pillai's family, friends, and followers. "Thennala Balakrishna Pillai ji embodied the core values of the Congress Party - commitment, humility, and integrity.

Suspended ASI Among 4 Held In Samastipur

Patna, (HS) : In a joint operation conducted by the Special Task Force (STF) and Samastipur police in Bihar, four individuals, including a suspended Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) of police, were arrested after intense firing from both sides on Friday. The joint team also recovered a large cache of firearms and ammunition from their possession. This is considered a significant achievement of the Bihar STF and Samastipur police. The main accused, suspended ASI Saroj Singh, also known as Nimki Singh, was apprehended from his residence in Sultanpur Ganga Diara Village, under the jurisdiction of Mohiuddin Nagar police station.

Patori range Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) confirmed the incident. During the raid, authorities seized over 450 live cartridges and modern firearms, from Saroj Singh premises. Police suspect that the ASI allegedly has a strong connection with the local arms smugglers. According to an official, the raid triggered resistance from Saroj Singh and his local supporters, resulting in a tense standoff. They fired several rounds on the joint forces after they saw them approaching. STF personnel, supported by the local police, were forced to retaliate to maintain control, creating panic in the village during the operation. The STF and Samastipur police have not yet disclosed the nature of the seized weapons but have confirmed that a detailed investigation is underway. The arrested individuals are currently being interrogated, and further legal proceedings are expected to follow.

NEET PG 2025 exams to be held on August 3

New Delhi, (HS) : The NEET PG 2025 exams will be held on August 3, said reliable reports on Friday. Recently on May 30 the Supreme Court gave a big decision on NEET PG 2025 exam. According to the Supreme Court's verdict, the NEET exam will now be held in a single shift. Hearing a petition challenging the conduct of the exam in two shifts, the Supreme Court has ruled to conduct the exam in a single shift. The Supreme Court on Friday directed the NBT to ensure that the NEET PG 2025 exam is conducted in a single shift and not in two shifts. The court has directed to make arrangements for conducting the exam in a single shift. The exam will be conducted in CBT mode on June 15. Earlier, a schedule for conducting the exam in two shifts was published. The exam result slip will be released on June 2 for candidates appearing for the NEET PG exam. The result slip will not be published on the official website. The National Board of Medical Examinations will send the result slip to the registered email ID of the candidates, which the candidates can download. It is worth mentioning here that the admit card will be released about four days before the exam date. The admit card will be released on the official website of the examination board, which candidates can download by entering their application number and date of birth.

Seven Naxalites surrender in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada district

DANTEWADA, (HS) : Seven Naxalites, two of them carrying cash rewards on their heads, surrendered in Dantewada district of Chhattisgarh on Friday, a police official said. The cadres turned themselves in before police and CRPF officials citing disappointment at the growing differences within the outlawed CPI (Maoist), the harsh forest life and the movement's hollow ideology,

he said. The surrendered cadres also said they were impressed by the police's rehabilitation drive 'Lon Varratu' in the district and the state government's new surrender and rehabilitation policy, the official added.

The official identified the surrendered cadres as Juglu alias Sundum Kowasi (23), Dasha alias Burku Podiam (26), Bhoja Ram Madvi (48), Lakhma

alias Suti (26), Ratu alias Othe Kowasi (25), Sukhrum Podiyam (25) and Pandru Ram Podiyam (45). "Juglu and Dasha carried a bounty of Rs 50,000 each. The surrendered Naxalites were involved in incidents like damaging roads, cutting trees, putting up Naxalite banners, posters and pamphlets during 'bandh' called by Maoists. They were provided assistance of Rs 50,000 each post

surrender and will be further rehabilitated as per the government's policy," the official said. With this, a total of 991 Naxalites, including 238 carrying rewards, have so far quit violence in the district under the 'Lon Varratu' (term coined in local Gondi dialect which means return to your home/village) campaign launched in June 2020, as per police.

Siddaramaiah's Political Secretary Removed, Karnataka Intel Head Transferred

Bengaluru, (HS) : In another major move a day after it suspended the Bengaluru police commissioner and some other key police officials in the wake of the stampede in the city, the Karnataka government has sacked Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's political secretary K Govindaraj and transferred the head of the intelligence department, Hemant Nimbalkar. Sources told NDTV that Mr Govindaraj lost his job because, during a key meeting at the Chief Minister's house on Wednesday morning - hours before the stampede - he had pushed for the celebrations of the victory of the Royal Challengers Bengaluru to be allowed despite the police commissioner refusing to agree to three events and stating that a victory parade could not be given a go-ahead. Mr Govindaraj then persuaded the police commissioner to allow two events - at the state legislature complex, which is called the Vidhana Soudha, and the Chinnaswamy Stadium.

11 people, including a 14-year-old



girl, died and 47 were injured in the stampede on Wednesday afternoon which occurred when lakhs of fans gathered to catch a glimpse of players from the Royal Challengers Bengaluru after they won the Indian Premier League. The team and the fans had waited 18 years for the moment, but the celebrations turned tragic when a huge crowd gathered outside the

Chinnaswamy Stadium and a rumour of free entry reportedly triggered a stampede. On Thursday, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced the decision to immediately suspend Bengaluru Police Commissioner B Dayananda, Assistant Commissioner of Police C Balakrishna, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central Division) Shekhar H Tekkannavar,

Additional Commissioner of Police Vikash Kumar Vikash and Circle Police Inspector of Cubbon Park Police station A K Girish. "It is found that there has been, on the face of it, substantial dereliction of duty by these officers," the suspension order had said.

After the suspensions, the opposition BJP and the Janata Dal (Secular) accused the Chief Minister of using the police officers as scapegoats to deflect responsibility from the state government. Mr Siddaramaiah, however, dismissed the allegation and accused the opposition of playing politics over the issue. "They are speaking for the sake of politics. I don't want to do politics in this matter. Those responsible prima facie, who have not fulfilled their responsibility properly, have been suspended," he was quoted as saying by news agency PTI on Friday. The suspension of Mr Siddaramaiah's secretary K Govindaraj and state intelligence department chief Hemant Nimbalkar followed soon after.

Rising COVID-19 cases in India trigger spike in spam messages from hospitals

NEW DELHI, (HS) : Are you receiving messages or calls from hospitals or labs to get yourself tested if you are unwell as COVID-19 cases are increasing in the country? If yes, you are among the hundreds of people in the country who are inundated with unsolicited spam messages. A latest nationwide survey has said that ever since COVID-19 cases have been increasing in India, nearly one in five people are receiving promotional communication from hospitals and labs where they took the COVID-19 vaccines or tests during the earlier surges.

In fact, under the recently released Draft Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025, even if a customer has shared their contact details, the retailer, the diagnostic clinic or any other entity must keep them secure. They cannot use it for making spam calls or sending promotion messages unless explicit permission has been granted. However, the LocalCircles survey found that in many cases, a person who once used the services of a diagnostic clinic or hospital is inundated with spam messages and calls. The survey, conducted among 18,000 people in 301 districts, found that 18% of people claimed that they are receiving



promotional communication from third parties/labs/hospitals where they got COVID-19 tests done during the earlier COVID-19 surges in the country. Also, as many as 17% indicated that they are receiving promotional communication from the hospitals and labs where they received the COVID-19 vaccine and from third parties. According to Sachin Taparia, founder of LocalCircles, they conducted the survey after receiving hundreds of messages from people complaining that they were getting unsolicited calls and messages from labs and hospitals they had visited earlier. So they asked the surveyors whether

they had observed that data shared by them with private entities for getting a COVID test done between 2021 and 2023 is now being used to sell other health-related products and services to them. As many as 18% accepted that they get such pesky calls and messages.

Next, they asked people whether they have observed that data shared by them with private entities for getting a vaccine dose between 2021 and 2023 is now being used to sell other health-related products and services to them. The response from 17 per cent was a big yes. Taparia said that with the Digital Personal Data Protection

(DPDP) Rules, 2025, which is still to be finalised, consumers continue to bear the harassment or block calls from unwanted numbers. The other options before them are to approach an adjudicating officer under section 46 of the IT Act to file for compensation or file a civil suit for breach of privacy or confidence. "Based on our survey findings, it is safe to conclude that data of some citizens have been compromised by hospitals/ labs while compiling patient data during the COVID test or administering the vaccine or booster dose," he added. "This unethical practice appears to be a clear misuse of information. The government needs to not only protect citizens' data given to its agencies with specific purposes but also ensure that private entities safeguard the same and do not use it for any commercial purpose themselves or through third parties, as made clear through the survey. Hopefully, DPDP Rules will soon plug this misuse of citizens' data," he further said.

According to government data, till June 6, active COVID-19 cases now stand at 5,364. The death toll in the country now stands at 55 with four more deaths reported in the last 24 hours.

Australian PM: Not To Compromise Biosecurity Laws in Tariff Negotiations With US

Canberra, (H.S): Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said on Friday that his government will not loosen biosecurity laws as it considers lifting a restriction on imports of US beef.

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) and Nine Entertainment newspapers reported on Friday that Albanese's Labor Party government could use the import ban on some beef slaughtered in the US as a bargaining chip in negotiations for an exemption from US tariffs. Responding to the reports, Albanese said that his government would not negotiate on biosecurity but would be open to a solution that would not compromise food safety, Xinhua news agency reported. "We'll



never loosen any rules regarding our biosecurity," he told ABC radio. Australia lifted a blanket ban on US beef imports, which had been in place since 2003, in 2019 but import restrictions on beef products from Canadian and Mexican cattle slaughtered in the US remain in place. The US administration in March identified biosecurity laws relating to beef imports as a trade

grievance with Australia ahead of unveiling the 'Liberation Day' tariffs. The ABC and Nine Entertainment both reported that Australian officials believe that biosecurity laws could be tweaked to allow US beef into Australia without risking safety.

It comes ahead of an expected meeting between Albanese and US President Donald Trump on the sidelines of the upcoming G7 Leaders' Summit in Canada. Health Minister Mark Butler, a member of Albanese's cabinet, told Seven Network television on Friday that the beef import restrictions have been under review for "some time." "This will be a decision taken on its merits, not for convenience, not to get a deal. We'll be taking a decision in the national interest in this area," he said.

Dubai's Next Big Project Could Top Burj Khalifa: Emirates Chief Tim Clark

Dubai, (H.S): In a conversation with Piers Morgan, Emirates President Sir Tim Clark hinted that Dubai's next act could eclipse even the Burj Khalifa. "I daresay there are other things that are going to come along that are bigger and more beautiful than Burj Khalifa we don't know," he said.

In a conversation with British media personality Piers Morgan, Emirates' President Sir Tim Clark hinted that Dubai's next act could eclipse even the Burj Khalifa. "I daresay there are other things that are going to come along that are bigger and more beautiful than Burj Khalifa - we don't know," he said. Clark has spent four decades watching Dubai transform. His comments come during a conversation about Dubai's growth from a regional trading post to a global hub. Clark threw light



on the strategy of Dubai rules to build a diverse economy that is not dependent on limited fossil fuel resources. He focussed on how critical mass was created across various sectors, such as media, tech, aviation, hospitality, and banking. He added, "Somebody

had to think that this really - If I am going to make it work, not only must I put the place on the map geographically with some iconic things, but I've also got to make the city come into a critical mass where it is going to develop wealth for the government, but it must

work for all the citizens of Dubai as well." Clark described Dubai's rapid development as being "on steroids" from the early 90s. He admitted that he could never anticipate the magnitude of Dubai's future success. He explained that the ruler's vision played a critical role in channeling wealth directly into the city's development and ensuring its benefits reached the citizens.

"What the ruler said no, we must put our money in this city and use that money to develop this city - that was part of the model", he said. Clark said that Dubai's ambition has not been accidental and has been a part of the city's operating DNA. He added that the growth was "guided and steered", so that it did not become "a sprawling and undirected metropolis."

Mexico Rejects US Top Court Ruling on Lawsuit Against Gun Companies



Mexico City, (H.S): The Mexican government said that it strongly disagrees with a US Supreme Court ruling to dismiss its lawsuit against eight US gun companies for their alleged role in trafficking illegal arms into Mexico. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs strongly expresses its disagreement with the decision issued by the Supreme Court of the United States, the government said in a statement, reiterating that

Mexico "will continue to do everything in its power to curb illicit arms trafficking" by exhausting all available legal and diplomatic remedies, Xinhua news agency reported. Earlier in the day, the US top court spared the American gun companies from a lawsuit by Mexico's government accusing them of aiding illegal firearms trafficking to drug cartels and fueling gun violence in Mexico. In August 2021, Mexico filed a lawsuit

against eight US gun manufacturers and distributors in a federal court in Boston, Massachusetts, seeking to hold them legally accountable for the flow of weapons that fuels violence and strengthens criminal rings that threaten the safety of Mexicans. Thursday's court ruling does not affect the course of a second lawsuit filed in 2022 in a court in Tucson, Arizona against five gun dealers, the ministry said.

This second case is ongoing and is in the evidence-gathering stage. "Mexico has presented solid arguments demonstrating the harm that gun manufacturing companies cause to our country, and will continue its fight against arms trafficking and hold accountable those who allow the flow of weapons to continue fueling violence," the ministry said.

US Army Aims To Produce 3D-Printed Skin To Help Treat Soldiers

US, (H.S): The US Army is exploring the technology of bioprinting, which involves 3D printing human tissues using living cells, proteins and nutrients as raw materials, to treat the wounds of soldiers and save their lives, the official site of the US Department of Defense said.

The US Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Chemical Biological Center (DEVCOM CBC) has collaborated with the University of Hawaii System on two initiatives in order to leverage biomaterials and advanced manufacturing. The project is under a cooperative research and development agreement (CRADA) and two initial joint work statements (JWS), according to the US Army. From organ-on-a-chip scientific tools



to manufacturing and repair capabilities, the two organisations would work on various life-saving initiatives to support the United States Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM), which is headquartered in Hawaii. Dr Jason Barnhill,

who is an associate research professor at the John A Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM), at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, will work with Priscilla

Lee, a DEVCOM CBC bioengineering researcher, to develop organ models for assessing various compounds under the first JWS.

As quoted in the official report, Sam Shomaker, dean of the University of Hawaii at Manoa JABSOM, said, "We are incredibly proud that Dr. Barnhill and Priscilla Lee are representing the University of Hawaii at Manoa and DEVCOM CBC with these

efforts that have the potential to save the lives of our frontline Soldiers and civilians across the world." "By helping to introduce innovative biofabrication technology to even more remote areas, JABSOM is assisting in the mission across the Pacific and globally," Shomaker added.

The official report mentions that Lee's focus is on bioprinting cell culture models with an aim to understand immune responses and develop next-generation biomaterials for various uses. The project aims to enhance the current in vitro organ models with the help of bioprinting. The researchers believe that the bioprinting technology would help soldiers in treatments for burns, exposure to poisonous gases, antibiotic-resistant bacteria and more such threats.

Germany Backs NATO Military Expansion While Battling Troop Shortage

Berlin, (H.S): German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius said on Thursday that Germany supports NATO's large-scale military expansion plan, which is expected to be approved during the alliance's defence ministers' meeting in Brussels. However, the country is currently grappling with a significant shortage of troops. To meet the increased defence requirements under the plan, the German Bundeswehr will need to add 60,000 active-duty soldiers, Pistorius told the media ahead of the meeting.

"Given Germany's size and economic strength, we will shoulder a significant part of NATO's military build-up," he said. "As the alliance's traditional second-largest military force, we are continuing in that role." NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte emphasised on Wednesday that the alliance needs "more resources, troops, and capabilities" to fully implement collective defence



strategies and respond to any threat. He highlighted air and missile defence, long-range weapons systems, logistics, and large land force formations as top priorities.

However, Germany continues to face a persistent shortage of military personnel. Despite intensified recruitment efforts, the Bundeswehr saw a further decline in troop numbers last year, while the average age of soldiers continued to rise. According to the defence ministry, the total number of

military personnel stood at approximately 181,000 by the end of 2024. Previously, Pistorius outlined a goal of expanding Germany's total military force to around 460,000, including 203,000 active-duty troops, 60,000 current reservists, and an additional 200,000 new reservists.

He has since announced plans to "establish and fully equip new large military formations." To support this expansion, German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier signed a constitutional

amendment in March to relax the country's so-called "debt brake," allowing greater government borrowing for defense and infrastructure investment. The move aims to bolster Germany's role in European security, Xinhua news agency reported. On the question of reinstating compulsory military service, Pistorius acknowledged that Germany currently lacks sufficient training and accommodation capacity.

As a result, the country will maintain its voluntary military service system in the near term while gradually expanding capabilities. At the end of this month, NATO member states are expected to finalize new defence spending targets at a summit in The Hague. NATO chief Rutte has suggested members allocate 3.5 per cent of their gross domestic product to direct defence expenditure, and an additional 1.5 per cent for broader security-related spending by 2032.

Displacement, cholera drive up humanitarian needs in Sudan: UN

United Nations, (H.S): Conflict-related displacement of people and the spread of cholera continue to increase humanitarian needs across Sudan, according to UN spokesman. Nearly 9,700 people in Khartoum state alone were recently displaced due to conflict, said Stephane Dujarric, spokesman for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, citing figures from the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

In South Kordofan, more than 9,000 people fled Dibeat town in Al Quoz locality last week due to intense clashes. The situation remains very volatile, he said, quoting the IOM on Wednesday. At the same time, about 600 people were displaced from Abu Shouk camp and El Fasher town in North Darfur state just last week, he said. On the cholera outbreak, the spokesman said daily cases are steadily increasing in River Nile state in the north although they are falling in Khartoum state, Xinhua news agency reported. In the past two



weeks alone, health authorities in River Nile state have reported more than 180 cumulative cases and four deaths. And of the total cases, 55 were reported to have arrived from other states, underscoring the cross-regional spread of the disease, said Dujarric.

Humanitarian partners warn that continued displacement, damaged infrastructure, and limited access to safe water are accelerating transmission, he said. Meanwhile, thousands of displaced people are now returning to Blue Nile state and need urgent assistance. They lack food, clean

water, health care, shelter and education, he said. Humanitarian organisations are working hard to meet the growing needs of people in Sudan. But insecurity, access constraints and critical funding shortfalls continue to undermine the response, said the spokesman.

Once again, we call for an immediate cessation of hostilities, unimpeded humanitarian access across borders and conflict lines, the protection of civilians, as well as increased funding so we can scale up," he said.

Indian Delegation Calls on US Vice President Vance, Has 'Excellent Meeting'

Washington, (H.S): The All-Party Parliamentary Delegation led by Shashi Tharoor on Thursday had an "excellent meeting" with the United States Vice President J.D. Vance in Washington, briefing him about Operation Sindoor, terrorism faced by India and regional security.

The All Party Parliamentary Delegation led by Dr. Shashi Tharoor called on Vice President J D Vance this morning. The conversation focused on strengthening the India-US partnership including cooperation in counter-terrorism domain," the Embassy of India in the United States posted on X. "Excellent meeting with Vice President J D Vance today in Washington D.C. with our delegation. We had comprehensive discussions covering a wide array of critical issues, from counter-terrorism efforts to enhancing technological cooperation. A truly constructive and

productive exchange for strengthening India-US strategic partnership, with a great meeting of minds," Tharoor also posted on X after the meeting. Vance was visiting India when the heinous Pahalgam terror attack took place on April 22. In a strong message of support and solidarity, the US Vice-President had also called Prime Minister Narendra Modi to strongly condemn the terror attack and convey that the United States is ready to provide "all assistance" in the joint fight against terrorism.

Usha and I extend our condolences to the victims of the devastating terrorist attack in Pahalgam, India. Over the past few days, we have been overcome with the beauty of this country and its people. Our thoughts and prayers are with them as they mourn this horrific attack," he had posted on X. Earlier in the day, Tharoor spoke with Ambassador Ken Juster at Council on Foreign



Relations on India's fight against terrorism. On Wednesday, the all party delegation met prominent members of the Indian diaspora in USA. The delegation spoke about India's resolute and united stand against terrorism and the new normal created by India through Operation Sindoor.

The Indian diaspora members shared their message of solidarity with the victims of

terrorism and support for India's fight against terrorism." Pleasure to host Chairman Shashi Tharoor and members of the Indian Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs. My colleagues and I expressed condolences for the terrorist attack in Pahalgam and reaffirmed Congress's commitment to the US-India partnership," said Gregory

Weeks. Later, the delegation interacted with members of the Indian and American Press Corps at the Embassy. The delegation is engaging with members of the US Congress, US thinks tanks and media professionals to brief about Operation Sindoor, terrorism faced by India and regional security. Speaking at a press conference on Wednesday,

delegation head and Congress MP Shashi Tharoor said, "What we are seeking to do in every country is to explain our version of events, our experience of the last few weeks, to seek the solidarity and understanding of those we meet and speak to."

"I'm very pleased to say that so far, our batting average is over 100 - in other words, every single person we have met so far has immediately not only condemned resolutely the terrorist attack upon India and expressed their outrage and their sympathy, but they have also explicitly endorsed India's right to defend itself against terrorism, and this kind of understanding has been most welcome." Tharoor described the Pahalgam terror attack as an egregious disruption during a time of economic and social optimism in Kashmir. "Kashmir was booming. Ordinary Kashmiris are benefiting from vast numbers of tourists coming in, putting money into their

hands and their pockets. It was a lovely time. And here's this innocent group of holiday tourists on a dappled meadow in Kashmir being murdered in cold blood by people coming and asking their religion and shooting them between the eyes," he said.

It really was a sickening outrage, and the nation rose as one to support whatever the government chose to do, and what the government chose to do in the end was what most of us would have wanted," he added. He also explained India's calibrated military response and eventual ceasefire. "If you were to go back and look at the briefings the government gave each morning, the message is very clear: we are hitting them because they are hitting us. If they stop, we'll stop. And after 88 hours, the Pakistani Director General of Military Operations reached out to his Indian counterpart and said, let's call it off. And we called it off," Tharoor said.

Top Bankers Hail RBI's Big Bang Measures To Boost Financial Inclusion

New Delhi: Top bankers on Friday hailed the Reserve Bank's decision to reduce repo rate by 50 basis points to 5.50 per cent and cash reserve ratio (CRR) by 100 basis points in four tranches, saying the policy move is expected to provide the necessary drive for credit expansion in priority sectors which will enhance the financial inclusion. Besides this, the revision in CPI inflation to 3.7 per cent for FY26 also shows the RBI's confidence in inflation being aligned with its 4 per cent target. "The decision in CRR cut, which is expected to release Rs 2.5 lakh crore in primary liquidity, will ease credit conditions in the banking system. This overall policy reflects a well-calibrated and thoughtful approach with the GDP projected at 6.5 per cent in FY26 and a steady quarterly trend," said Ajay Kumar Srivastava, MD and CEO, Indian Overseas Bank. The pickup in non-gold imports and a 14 per cent



increase in gross FDI also indicate robust domestic demand and global investor confidence in India's structural strength. These steps, said bankers, will ensure the durability of the nascent resurgence in the domestic demand led by private spending."

The key learning from the policy is that the central bank is not leaving any stones unturned to ensure price stability, at the same time doing everything it takes to support growth," said Vinod Francis, General Manager, Chief Financial Officer, South

Indian Bank. With tariff uncertainty casting a long shadow over external demand (exports), the RBI's sharp focus on supporting domestic demand and enhancing the lending power of the banking sector underpins its policy path during the current easing cycle by addressing key concerns on both demand and supply sides, he mentioned.

The MPC has surprised markets with a big bang set of measures. This clearly comes from the perspective of frontloading actions to enable

support to growth, considering the lag effects of transmission." At the same time, the shift of stance to neutral has meant that the policy rates may possibly level off at 5.50 per cent in the current cycle. However, this would remain a moving target with incremental data points likely to shape the outcome," according to Rajeev Radhakrishna, CIO, Fixed Income, SBI Mutual Fund.

Indranil Pan, Chief Economist, YES BANK, said the RBI now focuses on the transmission mechanism, which has been slow to start with and is still not significantly visible for the credit markets. The significant CRR reduction would ensure a lowering of the cost of funds for the banking system, thereby ensuring transmission of the 100 bps repo rate reduction. "Going ahead, we still think there is a chance for a last 25 bps cut, but the timing of the same remains uncertain," Pan added.

ICEA, IT Ministry Urge States To Make India A Component Manufacturing Hub

New Delhi, (H.S): States should work together and leverage Centre's scheme for encouraging domestic manufacturing of electronic components to make India a global hub of components manufacturing, the India Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA) said on Friday. Various states such as Tamil Nadu, Assam, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh are coming up with their own policy for encouraging components manufacturing in their respective states.

In an industry event in Andhra Pradesh, Sushil Pal, Joint Secretary, MeitY, emphasised the government's commitment to fostering domestic electronics manufacturing through a hybrid scheme which offers Capex support and turnover linked incentive for components manufacturing. He appealed that states have to play a proactive role in this mission of making India a component manufacturing



powerhouse for the world. Bhaskar Katamneni, Secretary, IT & EC, state government, unveiled the draft Electronics Component Manufacturing Policy (ECMP) at the event to encourage manufacturing of electronics components in the state. "We are not only promoting ease of doing business but also enabling the 'Speed of Doing Business'. Andhra Pradesh is crafting a more competitive and agile policy framework compared to the national landscape," said Katamneni. He said that the Andhra Pradesh-ECMP will be notified in the next 10

days. Additionally, he also discussed on the draft policy and its offerings, like catalysing investments across the component manufacturing value chain through 50 per cent capex support for components manufacturers in the state, turnover linked incentives doubling the centre's incentives, building specialised infrastructure and plug-and-play clusters and enabling talent development, skilling and R&D support.

Pankaj Mohindroo, Chairman, ICEA said that now is the time that industry should proactively resolve for high domestic value addition in the country and build a robust supply chain for electronics manufacturing. The event was attended by senior government officials from Ministry of electronics and IT and the state, along with manufacturers, industry leaders and other stakeholders of electronics ecosystem.

India's FDI Inflows Now Coming From 112 Countries: Piyush Goyal

New Delhi, (H.S): Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has said that India's FDI inflows now originate from 112 countries, compared to 89 in 2013-14, underscoring the country's rising global appeal. Addressing an investor roundtable at Vanijya Bhawan in the national Capital, the minister said India's FDI success story is not only about impressive numbers but also a reflection of visionary reforms, policy clarity, and the global community's trust in India's economic future.

He reaffirmed the Government's commitment to make India the world's most preferred investment destination. Highlighting the investor-friendly policy regime, he noted that FDI up to 100 per cent is now allowed through the automatic route in most sectors. The roundtable saw participation from over 90 representatives, including stakeholders from prominent companies, industrial parks, and industrial associations. More than 50 industrial parks from states such as Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Delhi, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu were represented at



the event. Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Amardeep Singh Bhatia, in his keynote address reiterated that FDI is a cornerstone of India's growth and a key indicator of global confidence in India's potential.

He invited views and suggestions from investors to enhance reinvestment within the country, improve industrial park infrastructure, and explore new expansion opportunities. Secretary, DPIIT also emphasised the importance of targeted policy interventions to further catalyse foreign investment. He urged key investors to consider scaling

their operations, co-investing in startups, and contributing to India's growing investment momentum. Participants from diverse sectors appreciated the Government's proactive policy measures and liberalised investment norms, which have enhanced India's standing as an attractive investment destination.

Stakeholders also shared suggestions on critical areas such as land and labour reforms, skill development, Centre-State policy coordination, raising FDI limits in Research & Development across sectors, and promoting investments in manufacturing and green energy.

India & Japan Explore New Frontiers of Collaboration During Rising India Conclave In Tokyo

Tokyo, (H.S): The immense potential for deeper bilateral cooperation between India and Japan, that is driven by shared values and economic opportunities, was discussed in detail during the inaugural edition of 'Rising India, i.e., Bharat' in Tokyo. The conclave, organised with the support of the Indian Embassy in Tokyo and the Japan-India Association, was one of the first major India-Japan events organised in Japan by Connect India Japan - an initiative pioneering new paths in bilateral engagement by blending cultural diplomacy with business and policy dialogue.

The programme brought together policymakers, diplomats, corporate leaders, and thought influencers from both India and Japan to explore new frontiers of collaboration in diplomacy, business, technology, and cultural exchange. In his inaugural address, Sibi George, Ambassador of India to Japan, reaffirmed India's uncompromising stance on terrorism and highlighted the importance of resilience and unity in safeguarding peace."

Ambassador Sibi George delivered inaugural address and Taro Kono, former Foreign, Defence and



Digital Affairs Minister of Japan delivered keynote address at the 'Rising India i.e. Bharat' seminar held in Tokyo. Ambassador highlighted India's transformational reforms, its visionary journey towards Amrit Kaal, and the growing strength of the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership. Condemning the recent cross border terror attacks in Pahalgam in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir,

India's resolute stance of zero tolerance towards terrorism was reiterated at the seminar, "the Indian Embassy in Japan posted on X. Kono Taro, Member of the Japan's House of

Representatives, spoke about India's meteoric rise as the world's fourth-largest economy and reflected on his personal connection with India's growth story. Another speaker, Tomohiko Taniguchi, a former Special Advisor to the late Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, also delivered a heartfelt address celebrating Abe's profound attachment to India and his visionary commitment to strengthen India-Japan relations.

The high-level panel discussions during the event delved into the evolving diplomatic landscape, discussing India's remarkable growth and its rising importance on the global

stage. They reflected on how mutual trust and diplomatic collaboration have been central to nurturing this bilateral bond. Additionally, the programme brought a business perspective to the fore, featuring influential corporate leaders who discussed the opportunities and successes in India-Japan cooperation. The Indian companies representing next-gen sectors took the centre stage with live presentations and demonstrations, spotlighting India's prowess in AI, digital infrastructure, sustainable solutions, and smart manufacturing. The showcase attracted great interest from Japanese counterparts looking for reliable, forward-thinking partnerships.

The programme began with a moment of silence to honour the victims of the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, reminding all attendees of the ongoing challenges faced by India and the shared resolve to stand firm against terrorism. This marked the first large-scale India-centric conclave in Japan curated and hosted entirely by an Indian woman - Nupur Tewari, the founder of 'Connect India Japan' - who has spent over two decades bridging both cultures.

SEBI Freezes Mehul Choksi's Bank Accounts & Investments To Recover 2.1 Crore

Mumbai, (H.S): The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has ordered the attachment of absconding businessman Mehul Choksi's bank accounts, mutual funds, and shares in an effort to recover Rs 2.1 crore. The amount is related to a penalty imposed on him for violating insider trading rules in the shares of Gitanjali Gems. Choksi, who was the Chairman and Managing Director of Gitanjali Gems, is accused of sharing unpublished price-sensitive information

(UPSI) with an associate, Rakesh Girdharlal Gajera. Based on that information, Gajera sold off his entire 5.75 per cent stake in the company in December 2017, allegedly to avoid losses before details of fraudulent activities involving the company became public. In January 2022, the SEBI fined Choksi Rs 1.5 crore and banned him from trading in the securities market for one year. However, Choksi did not pay the fine, prompting the SEBI to issue a demand notice on May 15,



2025. When he failed to respond or make the payment within the 15-day deadline, the market regulator proceeded with the attachment of his assets. The total dues now stand at Rs 2.1 crore, including Rs 60 lakh in interest. In its notice dated June 4, the SEBI directed all banks, depositories like CDSL and NSDL, and mutual fund houses to freeze Choksi's accounts. While no money can be withdrawn, credits are still allowed. The market regulator has also instructed banks to seize any

lockers in his name. The market regulator explained that the action was necessary because there is a strong possibility that Choksi may try to move or hide his assets, which could delay or prevent the recovery process." Whereas no amount has been paid by the defaulter and there is sufficient reason to believe that the defaulter may dispose of the amounts/proceeds in the bank accounts held with your bank and realisation of the amount due under the recovery certificate

would in consequence be delayed or obstructed," the market regulator stated. Choksi, who is also the maternal uncle of Nirav Modi, has been facing legal action in connection with the Punjab National Bank (PNB) fraud case involving over Rs 14,000 crore. Both Choksi and Modi fled India in early 2018 when the scam came to light. Choksi had been living in Antigua since 2018 but was arrested in Belgium in April this year after Indian authorities requested his extradition.

Jindal Stainless extends annual plastic waste collective drive to local communities, collects 13.5 tonnes of plastic waste

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): Jindal Stainless, India's largest stainless steel manufacturer, marked World Environment Day with its #SwitchToStainless campaign to raise environmental consciousness among its workforce. The company launched the fourth edition of its annual plastic waste collection drive across its corporate offices and manufacturing facilities in Jajpur,

Odisha, and Hisar, Haryana, as well as corporate offices in Delhi-NCR. In a landmark step this year, the drive expanded beyond company premises to engage local communities - in Hisar's Patel Nagar, and Jajpur's Solei and Singagadia - where dedicated collection points were set up. The initiative was supported by on-ground, door-to-door awareness efforts. The drive, conducted in partnership with Green Dream Foundation, saw enthusiastic participation

from employees and the local community and reinforced the company's commitment to sustainability. Speaking on the occasion, Managing Director, Jindal Stainless, Mr Abhyuday Jindal, said, "Our annual plastic waste collection drive is a small but meaningful step towards a greener future.

Though modest in the context of a national effort, our contribution has grown steadily year after year - from 2 tonnes in 2023 to ~13.5 tonnes this year - underscoring our consistent commitment to this cause. Sustainability is deeply embedded in our values, and we remain focused on scaling our environmental impact through thoughtful, dedicated action. This year was especially significant as we took the initiative beyond our plants and offices to engage with local communities - because real change begins when everyone is involved." This year's drive



collected over 3,795.8 kg of plastic waste from Hisar, 8926 kg from Jajpur, and 769.50 kg from Delhi-NCR offices. The collected waste will be responsibly recycled into functional items such as benches, chairs, and dustbins.

These will be installed within the company's premises and public spaces, in coordination with local authorities. As part of the initiative, the company also encouraged employees to showcase the personal sustainability efforts they undertake at work and at home

through internal communication platforms, fostering a culture of shared responsibility. As part of its long-term Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) goals, Jindal Stainless is working towards achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.

The company's corporate carbon footprint was brought down by ~15% in FY25 through ongoing decarbonisation initiatives. Recently, the company, through its subsidiary, JSL Super Steel, signed a landmark Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Sunsure

Energy, a leading independent power producer. As per the agreement, JSL Super Steel will source 11 MWp of solar power from Sunsure's 49 MWp Solar Project in Augasi, Uttar Pradesh, displacing nearly 40% of its conventional energy consumption with clean power - a step towards the company's clean energy goals.

The company also successfully installed and commissioned the largest captive solar energy plant within a single industrial campus in Odisha in collaboration with AB Energia

Solutions Pvt Ltd. The plant has been set up at the Jajpur unit, boasting a cumulative capacity of over 30 MWp. Additionally, Jindal Stainless has acquired an equity stake in Oyster Green, a special purpose vehicle (SPV) formed in collaboration with Oyster Renewable Energy Private Limited. The acquisition is aimed at developing a 282 MW interstate wind-solar hybrid captive renewable energy project to meet the power requirements of the company's manufacturing units.

The first green hydrogen plant in the Indian stainless steel sector, with a generation capacity of 90 Nm³/hr, was inaugurated at the company's Hisar plant in March 2024, with plans to scale this up to ~1,000 Nm³. The total green hydrogen generation in FY25 was over 4 lakh Nm³. Moreover, Jindal Stainless has signed two MoUs with Renew Power and Oyster Renewable

Power for guaranteed delivery of 100 MW each of Renewable Energy-Round the Clock (RE-RTC) power at Jajpur and Hisar. Jindal Stainless also recently launched its first Task Force on Nature-Related Financial Disclosure (TNFD) Report, which outlines its strategic approach to embedding nature-related considerations into its business operations, showcasing its commitment to sustainability, biodiversity conservation and proactive risk management, while balancing growth and social responsibility in addressing the global challenge of climate change.

As a token of appreciation for active involvement in the collection drive, the company gifted stainless steel items to every employee and local participant - coffee mugs for less than 2 kg of plastic donated, and tea, coffee, and sugar canisters for more than 2 kg donated.

After Spirit, Deepika Dropped from Prabhas's Kalki 2 over "Friction on Sets"

Deepika Padukone, who recently welcomed her first child, is reportedly facing setbacks in her professional life. After the actress was "dropped" from Sandeep Reddy Vanga's Spirit, fresh buzz suggests she may also be dropped from Kalki 2, starring Prabhas. According to a report by Bollywood.mobi, Deepika's request for "shorter work hours" following motherhood is reportedly causing "friction on sets". The report states that the makers of Kalki 2 are now considering

removing her from the film entirely. However, no official statement has been made by the actress or makers yet. Earlier, Deepika Padukone was allegedly dropped from Sandeep Reddy Vanga's Spirit due to disagreements over remuneration and reported "unprofessional" behaviour.

A source close to the development told Bollywood Hungama, "Sandeep Reddy Vanga got the shock of his life when Deepika Padukone refused to shoot for more than 6 hours a day for Spirit. That's

not all, the actress, via her agency, also started to demand an amendment to the contract. Their point of contention was simple - if the shoot extends beyond 100 days, Deepika will have to be paid extra for every single day of shoot beyond the commitment on paper." Sandeep Reddy Vanga also addressed the situation publicly. Without naming Deepika directly, he shared a post on X (formerly Twitter), saying, "When I narrate a story to an actor, I place 100% faith. There is an unsaid NDA (Non-

Disclosure Agreement) between us. But by doing this, You've 'DISCLOSED' the person that you are... Putting down a Younger actor and ousting my story? Is this what your feminism stands for? As a filmmaker, I put years of hard work behind my craft & for me, filmmaking is everything. You didn't get it. You won't get it. You will never get it." He further added, "Aisa karo.... Agli baar poori kahani bolna... kyunki mujhe jarra bhi farak nahi padtha. #dirtyPRgames. I like this kahawath very much !"

Following Deepika's reported exit, Triptii Dimri has been confirmed as the female lead in Spirit. The actress, who previously worked with Vanga in Animal, announced her casting via social media. She shared a photo of the film's title poster with her name in various Indian and international languages. In the caption, she wrote, "Still sinking in... So grateful to be trusted with this journey. Thank you @sandeepreddy.vanga... Honoured to be a part of your vision."

Movie Release

Housefull 5 review: Akshay's comic timing lifts sinking cruise entertainer

Everyone who has watched the Housefull franchise (the fifth one hit theatres today, interestingly in two versions- 5A and 5B, each with a different ending) has a favourite. Mine is Housefull 1 and Housefull 2. None of the five films are connected in any way, except for three actors the series has managed to retain since the very beginning: Akshay Kumar, Riteish Deshmukh, and Chunky Panday.

The issue with Housefull 5 is that these three are the only ones who truly understand the tough art of making people laugh-out of an ensemble of 19 actors. Produced by Sajid Nadiadwala (also credited for the screenplay) and directed by Tarun Mansukhani, the story revolves around a 99-year-old billionaire (Ranjeet) who dies just before his birthday party on a cruise. He leaves behind an inheritance of 69 billion pounds for his son, Jolly. Then, three Jollys show up-played by Akshay, Riteish, and Abhishek Bachchan-each accompanied by their girlfriend (Nargis Fakhri, Sonam Bajwa, and Jacqueline Fernandez). And then, a murder takes place aboard the ship. Who's the killer? But my question is: Who watches Housefull films for the story anyway? The film starts off on a funny note, helped along by Shreyas Talpade's presence. But it lacks the energy you'd expect for the kind of boisterous ride you've signed up for- until Akshay walks in. Ace Ventura style. His comic timing immediately lifts the film, but I can't say the same for the other characters. The first half is spent establishing the conflict and delivering the franchise's usual fare: mistaken identities, someone's girlfriend being someone's wife, and the expected private-part jokes and innuendos. Nothing is spared in the effort to



Housefull 5 box office collection 21 cr. on day 1

Housefull 5 box office collection day 1 (updated live): Akshay Kumar fans were eagerly waiting for the star to return to the comedy genre. With Housefull 5, the star dialled up the intrigue, as it has two different endings, with both getting a simultaneous release as Housefull 5A and Housefull 5B. How has the film performed at the box office? The latest update by Scaenik.com (by 9 PM) states that Housefull has collected 21.92 crore. The film features an ensemble cast including Riteish Deshmukh, Akshay Kumar and Abhishek Bachchan. The report states that Housefull 5 had an overall 23.29% Hindi Occupancy on Friday. The film has crossed the opening day collections of its previous installment in the franchise, Housefull 4. Released in 2019, the Akshay Kumar-release had collected 19.08 crore. So far, the Housefull 5 opening day collections have already outscored the day 1 haul of Akshay's January release Sky Force (11.50 crore). The film is being screened widely, with over 5,000 screens globally. Major multiplex chains are reportedly running up to 18-20 shows per day, and some theatres are showing it 21 times daily.

make you laugh, but most punchlines land only in instalments. Akshay knows exactly what's expected of him. This is classic Akshay comedy territory, and he makes even the flat writing work. But it's also clear that Sajid is relying far more on his star's charm than on crafting genuinely funny material. Often, the jokes are a joke. There are a couple of problematic sequences too, but you ignore those because the makers never claimed that they are setting out to make a politically correct film.

If only Housefull 5 wasn't so

full of unalloyed bilge, it would not have come across as the kind of unbridled celebration of the ludicrous that it does. Let us make no bones: we did not sign up for this. Housefull 5 - this critic has watched only one of the two versions out in the multiplexes - is a defiantly flaky comedy that is undermined by hopelessly flaccid plotting.

Cast: Akshay Kumar, Riteish Deshmukh, Abhishek Bachchan, Chunky Panday, Jackie Shroff, Sanjay Dutt, Jacqueline Fernandez and others, Director: Tarun Mansukhani

Raveena honoured by Maharashtra Deputy CM



Bollywood actress Raveena Tandon was recently honoured by Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis in recognition of her contributions and dedication to various social and environmental causes.

On the occasion of World Environment Day, the actress was felicitated for her ongoing efforts towards environmental conservation and animal welfare. Raveena took to her Instagram handle to share photo from the felicitation ceremony and captioned it, "Honoured for my work towards the Environment,

from the hands of the honourable chief minister @devendra_fadnavis ji. On #environmentday And Birthday babies dinner , @reshma_thadani , #chayamalaney #5thjune and to make my day even better, one little rescued baby kitty got adopted. thank you @petaindia for fostering her till we got a home." The event also marked a special birthday celebration for Reshma Thadani, Raveena's mother-in-law, and her adopted daughter, Chawla, Malaney, both born on June 5. Adding an emotional highlight to the

occasion, Raveena revealed that a rescued kitten, cared for by PETA India, found a loving new home, making the day even more memorable for the actress and devoted animal advocate

Raveena Tandon is much more than an actress-she is a passionate environmentalist, wildlife photographer, and dedicated philanthropist. At just 21, she adopted two daughters as a single mother. She became the youngest chairperson of the Children's Film Society of India (CFSI) and has been a member of the advisory panel for CINTAA. Recognized by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for her work in promoting organ donation, Raveena's Rudra Foundation actively champions causes related to children, women, and animal welfare. Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, Raveena Tandon's foundation collaborated with the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) South to distribute truckloads of oxygen cylinders to critical recipients.

Team India Departs for England; Gill to Lead in Five-Test Series

Mumbai, (HS) : The Indian cricket team left for England from Mumbai Airport on Friday for a five-match Test series, which is part of the 2025-27 ICC World Test Championship cycle. The series will be held from June to August 2025, with matches scheduled at Headingley in Leeds, Edgbaston in Birmingham, Lord's and The Oval in London, and Old Trafford in Manchester. This will be India's first bilateral Test series since both Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli announced their retirement from Test cricket earlier this month. The team is undergoing a transition, with Shubman Gill taking over as captain and R Ashwin, Rohit Sharma, and Virat Kohli stepping away from the longest format. India has not won a Test series in England since 2007. To prepare, several Indian players had already arrived earlier to represent India A in warm-up matches against the England Lions. The rest of the touring party is scheduled to arrive in the UK on Friday.

Meanwhile, ahead of the Test series, India 'A' are currently



playing a three-match unofficial Test series against the England Lions. The first match ended in a draw, while the second unofficial Test is set to begin on Friday, June 6, at the County Ground in Northampton. On Thursday, England announced their squad for the opening Test at Headingley. The English side has seen several changes since their 4-1 Test series defeat in India last year. Veteran pacer James Anderson has retired, and players like Jonny Bairstow,

Ben Foakes, and Ollie Robinson have been dropped.

India's Test squad for the England series: Shubman Gill (c), Rishabh Pant (vc), Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL Rahul, Sai Sudharsan, Abhimanyu Easwaran, Karun Nair, Nitish Reddy, Ravindra Jadeja, Dhruv Jurel, Washington Sundar, Shardul Thakur, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Akash Deep, Arshdeep Singh, Kuldeep Yadav.

The English squad: 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).

Piyush Chawla Announces Retirement from Cricket



New Delhi, (HS) : India's seasoned spinner, Piyush Chawla, has officially announced his retirement from all forms of cricket at the age of 36. A stalwart of Indian cricket, Chawla was instrumental in India's triumphs in the 2007 T20 World Cup and the 2011 ODI World Cup, marking an illustrious career filled with unforgettable moments. Taking to social media, Chawla penned an emotional note expressing gratitude for his journey, acknowledging his mentors, teammates, and fans who stood by him throughout his career. His retirement signifies the end of an era that saw him excel across formats, playing 25 ODIs, 3 Test matches, and 7 T20Is, in which he claimed 43 wickets collectively. Besides his international accolades, Chawla was a pivotal presence in the Indian Premier League (IPL), having represented Chennai Super Kings, Kings XI Punjab, and Kolkata Knight Riders. His time with KKR was especially memorable as he played a key role in their 2014 championship-winning campaign. His departure from the sport leaves a lasting legacy, inspiring future generations of cricketers with his discipline, skill, and unwavering commitment to the game. Sharing the statement on Instagram, Piyush Chawla wrote, "Closing this chapter with Gratitude !! Retiring from all formats of the game, thank you, everyone, for your support throughout this beautiful journey."

Jaiswal shows dissent towards umpire, refuses to gone

New Delhi, (HS) : Yashasvi Jaiswal was not happy after he was given out for a low score for India A during the second unofficial Test against England Lions at Northampton's County Ground on Friday. Jaiswal had reached 17 off 25 balls with two boundaries when an inswinger from Chris Woakes rapped him on the pads. The umpire quickly raised his finger, much to the dismay of the left-handed opening batter, who looked rather amused with the decision.

The incident took place in the seventh over of the innings after England Lions captain James Rew won the toss and opted to field under the overcast skies. Jaiswal, trying to flick a full delivery, missed putting bat to ball, but felt that the ball was doing too much. The umpire, however, did not echo the same sentiments and signalled his dismissal, leaving Jaiswal stumped. The Indian opener stood his ground, refusing to walk, before finally gesturing something to the umpire. After a good 10 seconds, Jaiswal finally started walking back to the pavilion. Barmy Army added further fuel to the fire when they posted the following.

Jaiswal scored 24 and 64 in the first drawn unofficial Test at Canterbury. Expected to open the innings along with KL Rahul in the first Test at



Headingley, Leeds, starting June 20, the Indian opening combination became all the more clear when the two batters began the proceedings. Rahul missed the first red-ball game, but after asking permission from the BCCI to be part of the second unofficial Test, took the flight to England and has struck three boundaries to show promise.

Vijay Mallya makes stunning revelation about RCB

Bengaluru, (HS) : Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) finally ended their 18-year title drought to emerge champions in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025. Though RCB are one of the league's most popular and star-studded franchises, the coveted trophy eluded them for a long

time. The original owner of the franchise Vijay Mallya has made a stunning revelation about RCB in a recent podcast with entrepreneur Raj Shamani. Mallya made stunning revelation about RCB's origin and about his decision to buy the team. According to Mallya, during the

inaugural team auction in 2008, he had his eyes on more than one franchise including Mumbai Indians. "I was very impressed with the pitch that Lalit Modi made to the BCCI committee about this league. He called me one day and said ok, teams are going to be auctioned."

Preity pen emotional note after PBKS IPL final loss



Ahmedabad, (HS) : After Punjab Kings' heart-breaking loss to Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the IPL 2025 final, team co-owner Preity Zinta shared an emotional message on Instagram, expressing pride in her players and promising a stronger comeback. Despite falling short, Zinta praised the team's resilience, adaptability, and record-breaking run, saying, "It didn't end the way we wanted... but the journey was spectacular." She applauded the uncapped Indian players, the leadership of their captain-referred to as "Sarpanch"-and the support from fans. "This year was unique," she wrote, highlighting the team's rise to the top of the points table despite losing key players and shifting venues. "We adapted and fought till the end." In a heartfelt close, she vowed: "We'll come back to finish the job... the job is still half done." This was PBKS' second-ever IPL final, their first since 2014, continuing their wait for a maiden title.