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English Daily



WINDOWS



Samantha, Ranveer cheer for Deepika as she joins AA22xA6

Poverty rate sees sharp decline

New Delhi, (HS) : India has emerged as a crucial factor in offsetting a sharp global rise in poverty following the World Bank's announcement of a significant revision to the International Poverty Line (IPL). The Bank raised the IPL from USD 2.15 per day (2017 purchasing power parity) to USD 3.00 per day (2021 PPP), a shift that would have otherwise increased the global tally of extreme poor by 226 million people. India's updated consumption data and improved survey methodology played a pivotal role in cushioning the impact-bringing its own poverty rate down to 5.25 per cent in 2022-23 under the new threshold, and contributing to a net global increase of just 125 million, a government release said, citing World Bank data.

Five Naxalites gunned down

New Delhi, (HS) : Five Naxalites were killed in two encounters with security forces in an ongoing operation in the Indravati National Park area of Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district. With the latest casualties, seven Naxalites, including top leaders Sudhakar and Bhaskar, were neutralised in the operation in the last three days, police said on Saturday. "Security forces have recovered the bodies of seven Maoists during the ongoing anti-Naxal operations in the Indravati National Park area of the district," a senior police official said.

JK acquires 60% stake in Saifco Cements

New Delhi, (HS) : In a major step towards accelerating infrastructural and employment growth in Jammu & Kashmir, JK Cement Ltd., one of the leading cement companies of India, announced the successful formalisation of its joint venture agreement with Saifco Cements Pvt. Ltd. of acquiring a 60% stake in the company. This landmark partnership establishes JK Cement as the first major cement manufacturer to set up manufacturing operations in Srinagar, signalling a decisive step toward regional economic empowerment.

Odisha to build 4 in-stream structures on Mahanadi



Sonepur, (DMC) : Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Saturday announced construction of four in-stream storage structures (ISS) on the Mahanadi in Odisha's Sonepur district. He said that these structures will come up at Godhaneswar and Khairamal (in Birmaharajpur block), Harihar Jor in Ulunda, and Surubali in Birmaharajpur. Besides being a major tool for flood control

management, these structures help in drinking water supply, fish farming, animal husbandry, and increase the groundwater level and balance the environment.

The CM made the announcement after inaugurating and laying foundation stones for 56 different public welfare projects worth over Rs 323 crore during his visit to the district. Among these, 11 projects worth

Rs 80 crore were inaugurated, and foundation stones for 45 projects worth Rs 244 crore were laid. These projects primarily include road construction, irrigation, bridge construction, healthcare projects, mega lift projects, and hostels, among others. Majhi also called for collective efforts to transform Sonepur into Odisha's number one district. "The region has held a distinct place in Odisha's

political and cultural landscape since ancient times. The district is a proud symbol of ancient heritage, religious sentiments, spiritual thought, and folk culture. It is the land of Sant Kabi Bhima Bhoi's teachings, initiation, and spiritual practice. The district is renowned in the state for its contributions to literature, history, and art. Its attractive weaving industry and handicrafts have brought glory to Odisha," he said.

The CM further stated that Sonepur district will be transformed into a golden region in the coming days. "You provide proposals, and I will extend all support. There will be no obstacles to the district's development. The rivers flowing through Sonepur will be utilised for your benefit," he said. During the event, Majhi also distributed work orders and assistance to beneficiaries of various schemes. Balangir MP Sangeeta Kumari Singhdeo, Sonepur MLA Niranjan Pujari, Kantamal MLA Kahnei Dang, Kantabanji MLA Laxman Bag, and Birmaharajpur Shri Raghunath Jagdala were present on the occasion.

Odisha steps up preparedness for Covid



Bhubaneswar, (DMC) : With COVID-19 cases rising across the country, the Odisha government has launched preventive and containment measures to curb its spread in the state. According to officials, out of the 755 samples in the state as on June 6, as many as 38 persons were found COVID-19 positive. Nine of these persons have already recovered and resumed normalcy, while the remaining patients are in home isolation and reported to be clinically stable.

In an effort to strengthen preparedness and align with

national strategies, a high-level virtual meeting was held on June 3, chaired by the Director General of Health Services (DGHS), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW). The meeting focused on surveillance, early detection, home isolation protocols, and data sharing. Following the discussions, the Centre has outlined unified recommendations, which the Odisha government is actively implementing, said officials. The state government has reiterated its commitment to implementing coordinated measures to ensure the health and safety of its citizens. As part of preparedness, steps have been initiated to ensure availability of oxygen, isolation beds, ventilators, and essential medicines in hospitals. Odisha has already been conducting mock drills to assess

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CM Majhi Inaugurates Medical College

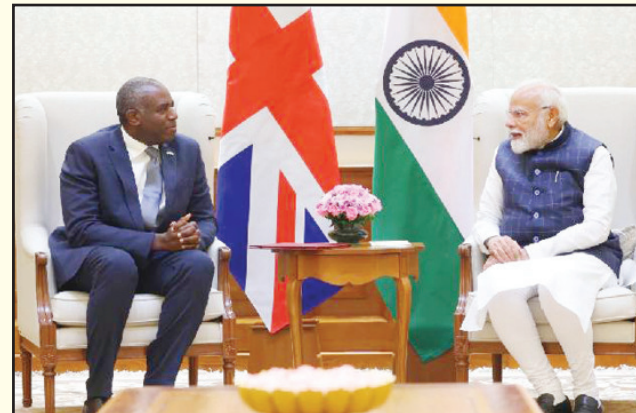
Phulbani, (DMC) : Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Friday inaugurated a 100-seat government medical college and a 650-bed hospital in Phulbani, fulfilling a long-pending demand of the people of Kandhamal district for accessible and quality healthcare. He also launched and laid the foundation stone for a slew of developmental projects worth approximately 750 crore, marking a significant push for the region's socio-economic transformation. The new medical college, along with the hospital, is set to become a healthcare and education hub not just for Kandhamal, but also for nearby districts like Boudh, Nayagarh, and Kalahandi.

The Chief Minister called the facility a "new chapter in Odisha's healthcare journey," noting that it will improve healthcare delivery, provide new educational avenues for local



youth, and generate employment in the region. In his address, CM Majhi emphasized that the state government had acted swiftly to implement the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), which had been withheld previously due to political reasons. Now, with the scheme operational in Odisha and integrated with the Gopabandhu Jan Arogya Yojana, nearly 3.5 crore residents can access free treatment at over 29,000 empaneled private hospitals

UK Foreign Secy Meets PM



New Delhi, (HS) : David Lammy, Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom, called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Saturday, conveying the UK's strong interest in further enhancing cooperation across key sectors and also expressing support for India's fight against cross border terrorism while strongly condemning the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack. "Pleased to meet UK Foreign Secretary Mr. David Lammy. Appreciate his substantive contribution to the remarkable progress in our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, further strengthened by the recently concluded FTA. Value UK's support for India's fight against

cross-border terrorism," PM Modi posted on X after the meeting. During the meeting, PM Modi expressed satisfaction at the successful conclusion of the India-UK Free Trade Agreement and Double Contribution Convention and appreciated the constructive engagement by both sides that led to this milestone.

PM Modi also welcomed the growing momentum in bilateral ties and expressed satisfaction at the deepening of the India-UK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. He welcomed the continued collaboration under the Technology Security Initiative and noted its potential to shape

Continued P-4

NIT-Rourkela files patents across water, health, food and bioscience

Rourkela, (DMC) : In an extraordinary burst of innovation, the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Rourkela has emerged as a national trailblazer, filing multiple patents and publishing pioneering research across disciplines in just the first six months of 2025. From advanced cardiac diagnostics to sustainable water treatment systems, the institute is redefining what it means to be a 21st-century research powerhouse.

While Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) typically dominate headlines, NIT Rourkela is fast catching up, not through media fanfare, but with deeply impactful, solution-driven research that addresses real-world problems. In May, a team led by Prof. Subhankar Paul in the Department of Biotechnology and Medical Engineering introduced a groundbreaking photocatalyst-based wastewater purification system. The technology, relying on spherical concrete beads activated by natural sunlight, achieved over 82% chemical oxygen demand (COD) reduction



in test samples and retained over 90% efficiency after 15 reuse cycles. Unlike traditional systems that require artificial UV light or expensive chemical agents, this setup can be easily deployed in rural and resource-poor regions. Two patents have already been filed, making it a potential game-changer in India's water-scarce zones. Earlier in May, the institute also announced a major medical breakthrough: the Atrial Lead System (ALS) for improving

ECG precision in atrial arrhythmia detection, a major cause of strokes. The research, helmed by Dr. Sivaraman, Dr. N. Bala Chakravarthy, and Prof. Kunal Pal, in collaboration with MIOT International, Chennai, and Jaiprakash Hospital, Rourkela, enhances the visibility of P-waves in ECG readings. By repositioning ECG leads to better detect electrical signals from the heart's atria, the ALS makes early and accurate diagnosis of atrial fibrillation far more feasible. A

standout in medical diagnostics came in late May with the development of a label-free biosensor to detect breast cancer cells using dielectric properties, a method that requires no chemicals or reagents.

Designed by Prof. Prasanna Kumar Sahu and Dr. Priyanka Karmakar from the Electrical Engineering Department, the device leverages Tunnel Field Effect Transistors (TFETs) and detects cancer by analysing how cells react to microwave

frequencies. In April, Prof. Preetam Sarkar from the Department of Food Process Engineering unveiled a biodegradable packaging film that changes colour to indicate seafood freshness. Made from Kodo millet starch, gum tragacanth, and beetroot peel extract, this pH-sensitive film reacts to volatile amines released during spoilage, providing a real-time freshness indicator. Published in Food Packaging and Shelf Life, this innovation not only addresses food safety but also exemplifies sustainable engineering by using indigenous grains and food waste. In March, Prof. Devendra Verma and his team unveiled a patented bioink for 3D printing bone-like structures. The ink remains liquid at room temperature but solidifies upon contact with body heat and pH levels, allowing it to be printed directly onto injury sites. This addresses key limitations of traditional bone grafts, like donor shortages, rejection risk, and rigid implants. With a patent already granted (Patent No. 562791), the research is poised to enter clinical trials. In collaboration with the

University of the Philippines Los Banos, NIT-R developed an IoT-enabled smart colourimeter that monitors temperature and colour shifts in oleo gels, a plant-based fat alternative increasingly used in processed foods. As the food industry pivots away from unhealthy trans fats, this real-time tracking device helps optimise ingredient quality, especially during high-heat processing, ensuring that nutritional standards aren't compromised.

And finally, back in February, Prof. Sujit Sen and his collaborators unveiled a patented hybrid process to treat industrial dye wastewater using nanocomposite-coated ceramic membranes combined with microbubble technology. Supported by India's Anusandhan National Research Foundation, the system breaks down persistent dyes like Bismarck Brown R under light, providing an effective, scalable solution for textile industry effluents. The research, published in the Journal of Environmental Chemical Engineering, could

Continued P-4



Reflections of a Healthcare Trailblazer

Bhaskar Parichha

Dr. Sneha Bhargava, born in 1930, is recognized as one of the trailblazing Indian women to become a qualified radiologist. She holds the unique honor of being the first and, so far, the only woman to serve as the director of AIIMS in its long and storied history. On her first day in this pivotal role in 1984, Dr. Bhargava encountered an extraordinary challenge: Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had been shot and was brought to AIIMS for treatment.

In her memoir, *THE WOMAN WHO RAN AIIMS: The Memoirs of a Medical Pioneer*, Sneha Bhargava presents a captivating first-person account of a challenging period

in her life, alongside a collection of fascinating tales from the annals of medical history. Dr. Bhargava, MD, a Padma Shri awardee, is a professor emerita at AIIMS, New Delhi, where she was director from 1984 to 1990. After retiring, she became medical director at SitaramBhartia Institute and chaired radiology at DharamshilaNarayana Super Specialty Hospital, both in New Delhi. According to the book, Dr. Bhargava was in attendance when the groundbreaking announcement regarding the invention of the CT scanner was made in the United States in the early 1970s. Her involvement was crucial as she successfully convinced high-ranking officials within the Indian government to

consider the introduction of the CT scanner technology in India. Before this significant advancement, the primary techniques available for investigating the internal structures of a patient's body were limited to X-ray imaging or invasive surgical methods. This book is filled with captivating tales from a past age - from the period when radium needles, employed in cancer treatment, inexplicably disappeared from Lady Hardinge Medical College to the moment when Dr. Bhargava identified a sitting president's lung cancer solely through an X-ray image. This memoir stands out as one of the finest works by a trailblazer in Indian medicine. It narrates not only

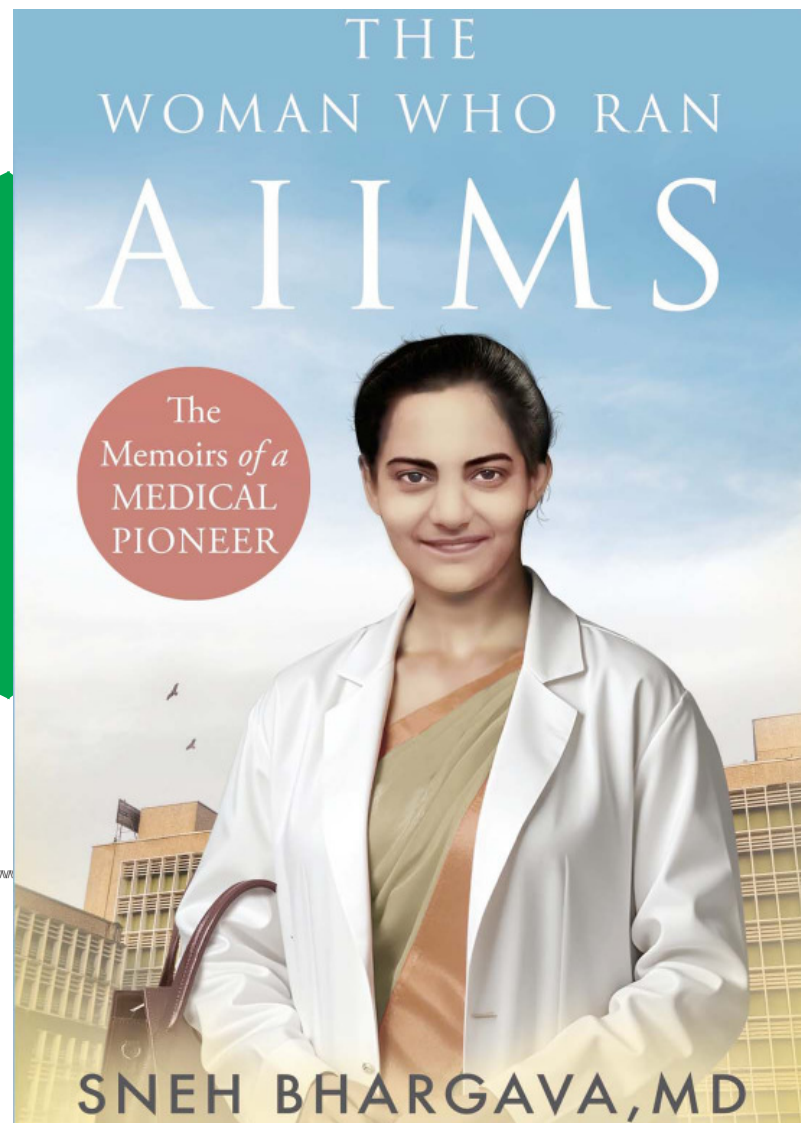
her remarkable life but also reflects the evolution of the medical field in post-Independence India, serving as a testament to what it truly means to lead a life

dedicated to service.

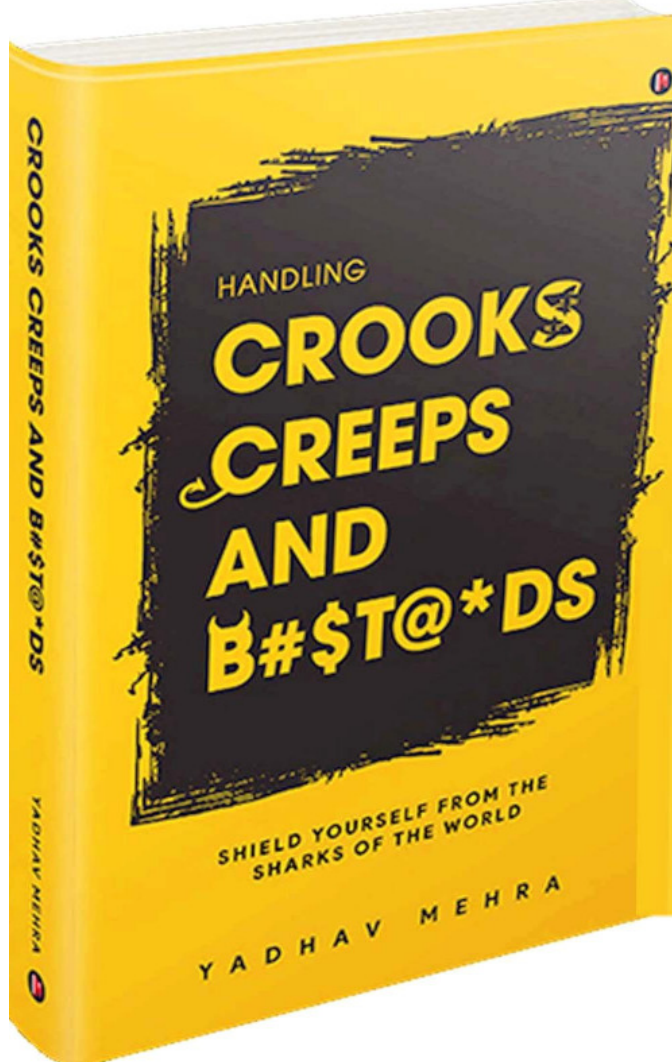
The book serves as a tribute to AIIMS, which has emerged as a leading institution in the field of medicine throughout the nation.

THE WOMAN WHO RAN AIIMS: The Memoirs of a Medical Pioneer

Sneha Bhargava
Juggernaut Books
New Delhi



Handling Crooks, Creeps and B#\$t@*ds: Shield yourself from the Sharks of the world



Actionable Route to Break Free

Dharma Raj

Every individual faces the daunting challenge of managing relationships with individuals who exhibit malicious or manipulative behaviors. The actions of such people can have a significant impact on our mental and emotional health. Regrettably, these difficult experiences often start in childhood and can continue to affect us throughout our lives, shaping our interactions in both personal and professional settings.

This situation prompts a crucial question: what defining moment in your life provides you with the insight and resilience necessary to address these conflicts, particularly when the person inflicting harm is someone close to you, like a parent, sibling, spouse, or employer? *Handling Crooks, Creeps and B#\$t@*ds: Shield yourself from the Sharks of the world* by YadhavMehra deals with the problem in this revealing book. YadhavMehra is an internationally acclaimed trainer and coach, specializing in behavioral skills and life strategies. His efforts enable individuals and organizations to harness their hidden strengths to surmount personal and professional

challenges. With a career that has taken him to over 30 countries over the span of 30 years, Yadhav's techniques appeal to a diverse range of demographics, driven by his enthusiasm for Indian philosophy and corporate transformation through the enhancement of nano, micro, and nudge skills in individuals.

According to Mehra, giving in to mistreatment does not signify a lack of strength; it is instead a result of the incorrect teachings and values acquired in childhood. He refers to these ideas as 'Misguided Virtuosity' and 'Pseudo Morality'. Mehra classifies individuals into two categories based on their intentions and intelligence, leading to the formation of CCBs (Creeps, Crooks, and Bullies) and DGPs (Decent Good People). These groups are distinguished by their instinctual behaviors, thought processes, and mental frameworks. This book explores these themes, delving into the psychological complexities of both categories while also presenting actionable routes for those seeking to break free.

Yadhav Mehra
Notion Press
Chennai

A Down-to Earth Story

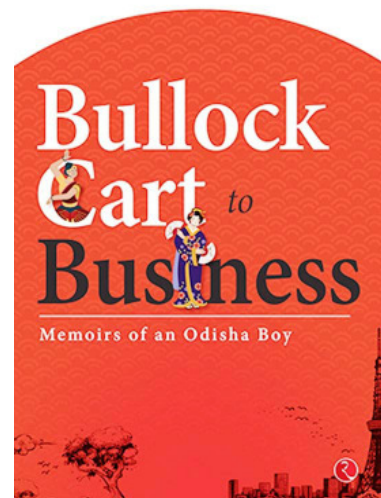
Arun Mishra

Debendra Mohanta is an experienced IT professional with over thirty years in global business management and transformation, as well as enterprise applications. He is currently the CEO and President of Inaho Digital Solutions and a Director at The Indian Commerce and Industry Association Japan (ICIJ). Debendra was instrumental in establishing the IT divisions of HCL and L&T Infotech in the Asia Pacific region during his time as Area Vice President and Country Head at L&T Infotech. For the last twelve years, he has worked on collaborative enterprise IT projects between Japan and India, alongside non-IT initiatives like the Bullet Train project and skill development services in India.

Bullock Cart to Business: Memoirs of an Odisha Boy by DebendraMohanta is an incredible story of a boy from an Indian village who rises to become a successful entrepreneur in the highly competitive business landscape of Japan, particularly in the technology sector! Debendra Mohanta, the son of a farmer from a remote village in Odisha, transitioned from supporting his family by driving bullock carts and tilling the land to attending a non-English-medium school, ultimately achieving significant success in the global IT industry. Born in 1971, Deb has gained widespread recognition as a disruptor in the technology field over the past thirty years, initially as a professional in leading IT firms and now as a business owner. One of the most captivating aspects of Deb's work is his steadfast dedication to fostering his state's growth through the establishment of skill development programs that prioritize digital

Bullock Cart to Business: Memoirs of an Odisha Boy

DEBENDRA MOHANTA



technologies and IT solutions. His commitment is indicative of a broader ambition to empower individuals, ensuring they possess the vital skills required to navigate and excel in a swiftly changing digital landscape. A good read.

Debendra Mohanta
Rupa Publications
New Delhi

A Captivating Memoir

A Various World: People, Places, Perspectives

Dharma Raj

Ashok Kumar Bal is a member of the 1983 cohort of the Indian Revenue Service (IRS) and has occupied numerous leadership roles within government, the public sector, and corporate entities. He possesses a wealth of experience across a wide range of activities and fields. His interests are particularly focused on history, heritage, and culture. He frequently contributes articles to national newspapers. His diverse interests encompass the history and heritage of Odisha, which inspired him to author the nationally recognized book *Gajapati: A King Without a Kingdom*. He also writes on various topics such as politics, economics, and religion for newspapers and journals. Additionally, he teaches at the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics in Pune. Presently, he serves as the CEO and patron of the Kalinga Literary Festival.

Given these credentials, a memoir should certainly be engaging, and this one certainly fulfills that expectation. *A Diverse World: People, Places, Perspectives* is a captivating collection of essays and short stories that delves into the rich tapestry of Bal's life experiences. This compilation artfully blends personal reflections, social critiques, and historical narratives,



A VARIOUS WORLD
PEOPLE, PLACES, PERSPECTIVES
Ashok Kumar Bal

offering readers a multifaceted perspective on various subjects. With a notable background in public service, corporate leadership, and academia, Bal presents a unique lens through which he explores a wide array of themes, ranging from deeply personal insights to universally relevant issues. *A Various World* presents a tapestry of events, individuals, and settings that might initially seem simple and unremarkable. However, a deeper exploration reveals the complex layers of life that lie beneath the surface. The author serves as a bridge, connecting these themes to the audience and prompting them to see that what is often considered commonplace is, in fact, extraordinary.

This captivating memoir offers a unique perspective from a bureaucrat who has navigated through a multitude of diverse environments and experiences.

Ashok Kumar Bal
Penguin Enterprise
Gurugram

A Juicy History of Mango

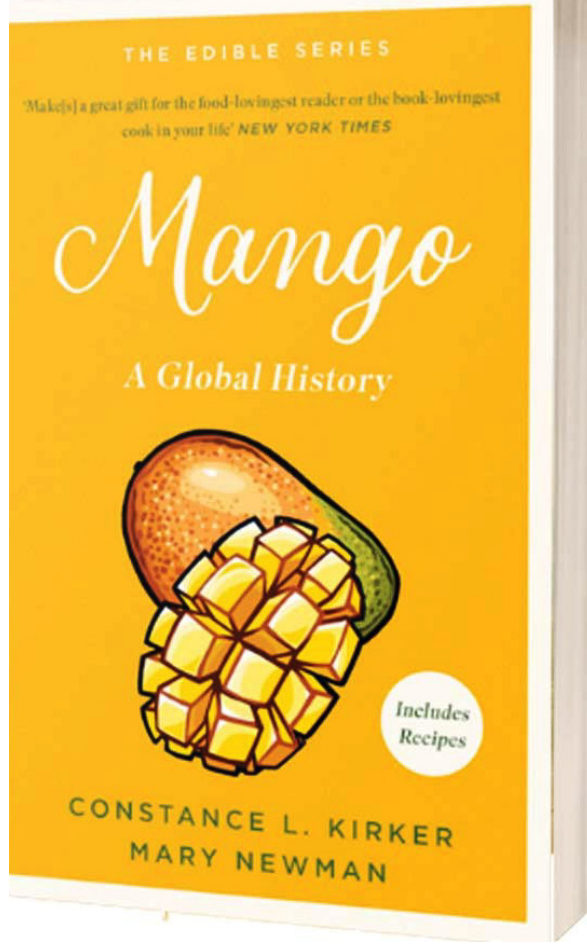
Bhaskar Parichha

From the regal Alphonso to the delectable Chausa, there is nothing that can surpass the thrill of savoring a ripe mango. With its countless varieties, varying in color, size, and taste, this fruit evokes remarkable cultural admiration. The mango is a remarkable gift from the Indian subcontinent to the world, with its origins in northeast India tracing back over 60 million years. It is referenced in the verses of Hindu epics and the poetry of Ghalib; it is linked to the dietary practices of the Harappans and the travel accounts of Ibn Battuta; it has influenced the horticultural endeavors of Mughal emperors and Jesuit priests.

This fruit has significantly impacted South Asian culture, extending well beyond its culinary applications. Its extensive history is closely connected to European colonization and the transatlantic slave trade, and it acquired symbolic significance during Mao Zedong's Cultural Revolution. Today, it continues to inspire advancements in food sustainability and preservation. *Mango: A Global History* by Constance L. Kirker & Mary Newman provides an in-depth exploration of this cherished fruit, evoking a sense of nostalgia in the reader. Constance L. Kirker is a retired Art History Professor at Penn State University and an avid gardener and cook. Mary Newman has taught environmental health at Ohio University and the University of Malta. She is also a co-author of *Mango, Edible Flowers, Coconut and Cherry*. Sources indicate that Babur

Mango: A Global History

(1483-1530), a ruler in Samarkand with a passion for fruit, was persuaded to engage in Indian politics by Daulat



Khan Lodi, who offered him land and spoils of war. However, it is possible that a strategically presented gift of mangoes was what truly secured Babur's allegiance. Babur went on to defeat Lodi's adversary, RanaSanga of Mewar (c. 1482-1528), thereby laying the groundwork for the Mughal Empire.

According to the book, during his reign in the sixteenth century, Emperor Babur kept detailed notes of his daily life and surroundings in the *Baburnama* (1525-6), considered to be the first autobiography in Muslim literature. Babur's grandsons later had this manuscript illustrated and included his

thoughts on the mango, especially his preference for musk melon from his native Persia: 'Mangoes when good, are very good. They are usually plucked unripe and ripened in the house. Unripe, they make excellent condiments, are also good preserved in syrup. Taking it altogether, the mango is the best fruit of Hindustan.' Babur describes in detail two ways of eating mangoes: either squeezing the mango to a pulp, making a hole in it and sucking out the tasty juice, or peeling it as one would a juicy peach.' Babur's grandson Akbar (1542-1605) was a great champion of the mango and promoted mango orchards throughout his empire. It was during his rule that formal orchards were developed as part of grand Mughal gardens, and he himself initiated the creation of the famous LalBagh, an orchard of a thousand mango trees, planted near Darbhanga.

Accompanied by stunning illustrations and recipes, this represents a flavorful exploration through the ages of human civilization.

Constance L. Kirker & Mary Newman
Pan Macmillan India
New Delhi

Fire officers' conference begins

PMAY beneficiaries to get free sand

Bhubaneswar (DMC): The First Assistant Fire Officers' Conference 2025 began at the Odisha Fire and Disaster Response Academy (OFDRA) in Bhubaneswar, inaugurated by Dr. Sudhanshu Sarangi, Director General of Fire & Emergency Services.

The two-day conference on 'Preparedness, Leadership & Resilience', scheduled for June 7-8, aims to enhance the leadership and operational preparedness of Odisha's frontline fire officers. The conference brings together Assistant Fire Officers from across the state to discuss operational leadership, strategic response, personnel welfare, and institutional best practices. Dr. Sarangi emphasized the importance of equipping



Assistant Fire Officers with competence, clarity, and compassion to respond effectively to emergency scenarios.

The conference features expert sessions, including one by retired IAS officer Pradeep Kumar Jena, on governance, resilience, and the evolving role of frontline officers. A technology exhibition showcasing state-of-the-art fire

safety and disaster management solutions is also part of the event. The conference is expected to empower Assistant Fire Officers to respond effectively to emergencies and enhance public safety across the state.

It marks a significant step towards strengthening the leadership and operational capabilities of Odisha's fire services.

Bhubaneswar (DMC): The Odisha government has announced that the beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) would be provided with sand free of cost for house construction under the scheme. The state government would provide up to two tractor-loads of sand without any charges to PMAY beneficiaries, Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari said.

The beneficiaries would also be issued permits to avail sand at an affordable rate across the state, he said, adding that the move aims at reducing the construction cost and financial burden for the beneficiaries under the Centre's flagship housing scheme. The Minister said that the proposal was discussed at



length in the state Cabinet meeting held on Friday. Referring to illegal sand mining in different parts of the state, Pujari said that a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) will soon be introduced to check such operations. As per the proposed

SOP, no heavy vehicle will be allowed to enter riverbeds to extract sand. Strict action will be taken against illegal sand miners and those indulging in attacks on officials, the Minister said, referring to a recent attack on a senior revenue official

by sand mafia in Mayurbhanj. While the administration is trying to stop illegal sand mining, the recent attack at Kaptipada reflects the audacity of the sand mafia and stringent action would be taken against them, he added.

Capital Hospital implements Covid guidelines



Bhubaneswar (DMC): With the rising number of Covid-19 cases in the country, Odisha is taking proactive measures to contain the spread of the virus. The Capital Hospital in Bhubaneswar has implemented Covid guidelines, said Deputy Superintendent Dr. Dhananjay Das.

As of June 6, 2025, a total of 755 samples were tested in Odisha, with 38 testing positive for the virus. While nine individuals have recovered, 29 patients are currently in home isolation and are reported to be stable. The Capital Hospital has taken necessary precautions, including drilling oxygen tanks, making special beds available, and conducting tests. Dr. Das advised people to follow Covid-appropriate behaviour, such as wearing masks when necessary. Although the virus is not considered highly deadly, Dr. Das emphasized the importance of being cautious, as recovery can take time.

Minister turns good Samaritan for accident victims

Cuttack (DMC): A family, which met with a road accident at Telengapentha near Odisha's Cuttack city on Saturday, found a Good Samaritan in Housing and Urban Development Minister Krushna Chandra Mahapatra.

According to sources, the Minister, who was passing by, stopped his convoy to oversee the rescue of Ananta Kumar Sahu, his wife, and their two children, who were injured in the mishap. He not only promptly arranged for the victims

to be transported to a nearby hospital using one of his escort vehicles but also directed hospital authorities to ensure swift and proper medical care for them. Mohapatra was also seen at the hospital, ensuring that the children

are properly taken care of. The Odisha State Transport Authority took to its X handle to highlight the incident. "Thank you very much for the humanity of the Hon'ble Urban Development Minister @dr_kcmahapatra. Four

members of a family met with a road accident in Telangana. The Hon'ble Minister, who was passing by on that road, immediately stopped and helped the accident victims. He took them to the hospital in his escort vehicle," it wrote.

Youth committing theft in ladies hostel caught on CCTV

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): A youth was seen committing theft in a ladies hostel in Bhubaneswar of Odisha. The scene has been captured on CCTV. The incident took place in Bomikhal area under Shaheed Nagar Police limits. We can see in the CCTV footage that the youth is climbing over the boundary wall and entering the premises. He then is stealing several items, including bags, mobile phones and other valuables. The footage also shows him attempting to enter rooms by climbing the wall. This has raised serious concerns about ladies hostel security. The CCTV footage has reportedly now gone viral on social media. After getting information about the theft, Shaheed Nagar Police reached the spot and initiated probe. Further investigation of the case is underway.

IT dept holds dialogue for realising digital Odisha vision

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): Odisha is poised for a significant leap in its digital transformation journey, with the State government actively promoting a new Artificial Intelligence (AI) policy and preparing forthcoming Global Capability Center (GCC) and Fintech policies. "Accordingly, the Department of Electronics and Information Technology has organized a workshop with industry representatives on the preparation of 'Odisha IT/ITES Roadmap'.

The workshop was chaired by Minister of Electronics and Information Technology Dr. Mukesh Mahalinga. "This strategic push aims to create a robust ecosystem for IT and Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM), positioning the state as a competitive hub in the national and global digital landscape."

Vishal Kumar Dev, Principal Secretary, Energy, Electronics & Information Technology (E&IT), underscored the state's commitment, revealing plans for tech towers in eight major cities and the ongoing acquisition of land for IT park development in the Bhubaneswar-Cuttack corridor. "A major international



collaboration is also underway with Singapore for the establishment of a cable landing station and a data center in Puri, tenders for which have already been floated." Dev also informed that the E&IT Department recently presented its "Odisha Electronics and IT and ITES Vision 2030," which aligns with India's aspiration to become a \$25 trillion economy by 2047.

The vision highlights the timely opportunity for Odisha to strengthen its position within the digital value chain, given the global digital economy's consistent 10-15% growth. "Dev said the key goals outlined in Odisha Vision 2036 and 2047 include the development of world-class GCC hubs in the Bhubaneswar-Cuttack-Puri corridor, expanding startup

incubation capacity, and increasing participation in high-growth sectors such as IT/ITES, FinTech, and Data Centers. "To facilitate this ambitious transformation, the proposed "Odisha Digital Economy Mission" is being prepared. This initiative is projected to generate over 2 lakh direct and indirect employment opportunities and contribute to electronics exports exceeding Rs 7,000 crore.

Furthermore, the state aims to attract investments worth Rs 10,000 crore for data centers by 2036, leading to the creation of over 50,000 employment opportunities in the financial sector. "With dedicated support for Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Testing (OSAT)/ Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging (ATMP) units,

and the "Chips-to-Startup (C-2-S) programme" for educational institutions, Odisha is actively cultivating an environment to emerge as a preferred destination for digital infrastructure, advanced manufacturing, and innovation beyond its capital city. "The presentation was followed by an interactive Q&A session, witnessing the participation of over 50 industry stakeholders, including entrepreneurs and startup founders.

They offered valuable proposals such as incentivizing new investors, encouraging gaming startups, introducing a comprehensive cyber policy for enhanced cybersecurity, and attracting Odia startups from across India to set up units in the state, including supporting legal startups.

SJTA Issues SOP

Lord Jagannath chariot's wheel to cost Rs 3L

Puri (DMC): The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) on Saturday released a new Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and revised price list for the sale of parts used in the construction of the chariots used during the annual Rath Yatra. As per the new SOP, the wheel of Lord Jagannath's Nandighoshia chariot each is priced at Rs 3 lakh.

The wheel of Lord Balabhadra's Taladhwa chariot is set at Rs 2 lakh, while that of Goddess Subhadra's Darpadalana chariot will cost Rs 1.5 lakh each. Among other components, the Guja and Ansuari parts are priced at Rs 15,000 each, and the Prabha is priced at Rs 25,000. Purchasing a complete set of chariot wheels



from all three chariots will cost around Rs 6 lakh. Interested buyers must apply to the temple administration by September 15, along with an application fee of Rs 1000.

Once selected, applicants will be informed, and they must deposit the full amount within a week. If an applicant fails to

deposit the amount within the stipulated time, the next eligible applicant will be considered.

This move is part of the temple's systematic approach in managing and preserving the sacred materials associated with the Puri Rath Yatra, while also ensuring transparency and order in their distribution.

Shree Jagannatha Dham app unveiled

Puri (DMC): The district administration has launched the 'Shree Jagannatha Dham' mobile application, offering real-time updates on temple rituals, queue status, and major events like Rath Yatra. The app serves as a digital guide for visitors,

providing insights into daily schedules, Mahaprasad availability and key religious destinations. Additionally, a grievance redressal system has been integrated to improve the pilgrim experience. With its launch ahead of Rath Yatra on June

27, the application is expected to streamline information access for devotees while reinforcing Puri's identity as the original Jagannath Dham. Officials have assured that regular updates will introduce enhanced functionalities in the coming months.

Mock drill conducted ahead of Snana Purnima

Puri (DMC): In anticipation of the upcoming Snana Yatra, one of the most significant and crowded rituals of the Jagannath Temple, the Puri district administration conducted a coordinated mock drill to ensure effective crowd control, emergency response, and smooth conduct of the grand festival. The simulation was carried out with the joint participation of multiple departments and agencies involved in managing temple events.



The mock drill, organized under the supervision of the Integrated Control Room located at the Town Police Station premises, was aimed at testing readiness for managing the expected surge in devotee footfall this year.

Officials said that the number of devotees arriving for Snana Purnima, which marks the ceremonial bathing of the deities, is likely to be significantly higher than in previous years, prompting the administration to refine logistics and disaster-response mechanisms. During the drill, officers simulated real-time scenarios that could arise during the Snana Yatra, including medical emergencies, stampedes, fire incidents, and route blockages. The focus was on assessing the coordination between police, fire services, the

health department, the temple administration, and volunteer teams. The drill included a demonstration of swift rescue and relief measures in the event of any untoward incident. Medical response teams set up temporary aid stations, and fire units rehearsed evacuation procedures.

Law enforcement simulated crowd movement management, while drone surveillance and CCTV monitoring were tested to track real-time situations. "This mock drill is an essential part of our disaster preparedness strategy for major events like Snana Yatra. It helps us identify gaps in planning and improve response coordination," said a senior police officer overseeing the operation. Devotee convenience has been prioritized in this year's festival plan. Crowd flow management, barrier placements, water and shade arrangements, and queue systems

were all part of the comprehensive test run. Authorities have also issued an appeal to devotees to follow guidelines, cooperate with police and volunteers, and make use of official services during their visit.

The administration will analyze data and feedback from this mock drill to finalize its deployment and safety strategies for Snana Purnima, which is considered the ceremonial beginning of the annual Rath Yatra festivities. "As lakhs of devotees are likely to come to Puri on the auspicious occasion of Snana Purnima, we have conducted a mock drill along with NDRF and other stakeholders so that we can respond and counter if any devotees fall sick, create green corridor and other emergency situations," informed Puri additional SP, Sushil Mishra.

Sindoor Delegation : Aparajita returns to Bhubaneswar after 5-nation tour

Bhubaneswar (DMC): Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP from Bhubaneswar, Aparajita Sarangi, received a rousing welcome on her return to the city after completing a five-nation tour as part of an Indian Parliamentary delegation. The tour was aimed at presenting India's position on terrorism and the recent Operation Sindoor carried out by the Armed Forces.

A grand rally, organised by her supporters, accompanied Sarangi from the Biju Patnaik International Airport to her office, with party workers and locals lining the route to celebrate her return. Speaking to the media afterwards, Sarangi reflected on the objectives and outcomes of the international visit and responded to the Opposition's call for a special session of Parliament to discuss Operation Sindoor. "It was a privilege to



engage with a wide spectrum of stakeholders - from political leaders and women's groups to youth forums, think tanks, and community associations," she said. "Wherever we went, the Indian diaspora came out in strength, and the conversations were meaningful and inspiring," she added. Sarangi said the

delegation had a clear mandate from Prime Minister Narendra Modi - to assert India's zero-tolerance policy on terrorism and explain the strategic shift in India's security doctrine. "India now operates under a 'New Normal' - zero tolerance and immediate response," she emphasised. Referring to Operation Sindoor,

Sarangi said, "In just four days, we neutralised over 100 terrorists, dismantled major terror infrastructure, and eliminated around 11 top operatives. However, we also suffered deeply - 26 lives were lost, including innocent tourists. Their sacrifice will never be forgotten, nor forgiven." She described the global response to the delegation's visit as "overwhelmingly supportive."

"It was deeply encouraging to see members of five different Indian political parties speak in one voice. There was unity, clarity, and shared conviction in every meeting," she said. This delegation included 59 MPs from 35 countries - only 20 of them from the BJP. Others were from Congress, TMC, JD(U), CPI(M) and more. Aparajita Sarangi was part of the delegation led by senior MP Sanjay Jha.

World Environment Day observed by Baphlimali Mines of Utkal Alumina



Kashipur, (DMC) : Utkal Alumina, a unit of Hindalco Industries under the Aditya Birla Group, observed World Environment Day at its Baphlimali Mines Division, located in Kashipur Block of Rayagada district.

To mark the occasion, a series of awareness programmes focusing on environmental protection and plastic-free living based on the theme "beat plastic pollution" were conducted over the past two days. A special message from Satish Pai, Director - Director, highlighting the

importance of environmental conservation, was shared with all employees and stakeholders. On the first day, awareness sessions were held near the Baphlimali Mines security gate,

where security personnel were sensitized on the harmful effects of plastic use, the importance of environmental safety, and the need for tree plantation. In a similar initiative at the mine workshop, employees were educated on waste management practices and the impact of improper disposal on the environment. A strong appeal

was made to promote clean and green surroundings while collectively pledging to minimize plastic waste. Additionally, sanitation workers at the mine's administrative building were briefed on the importance of hygiene, cleanliness, and sustainable practices. On the second day, a mass awareness rally was organized inside the mining campus to spread the message of environmental protection and plastic-free living.

The rally commenced from the administrative office and culminated at the mine stadium. Antaryami Sahu, RFO - Kashipur, and Mr. Vijay Chauhan, Head - Mines, addressed the gathering, emphasizing the adverse impacts of plastic pollution and encouraging a complete shift away from single-use plastics. The event concluded with a mass environmental pledge followed by a tree plantation drive, reinforcing Utkal Alumina's commitment to sustainability and ecological responsibility.

CHC Bari again Bags Kayakalpa Award

Jajpur, (DMC): Community Health Center Bari again bags the Kayakalp Award due to its public health facilities, including Community Health Centers, for their commitment to cleanliness, hygiene, and infection control for the year 2023 -24 & 2024-25. MOI Bari Dr. Sabyasachi Das has received this prestigious award from Jajpur Collector & Magistrate Smt. P Anwesha Reddy on Thursday at DHH conference Hall.

Total 5 PHCs and 20 Sub Centers under the Bari CHC have been awarded in Kayakalpa, MOI Bari informed. In this regard Dr. Das extends his thanks to all staff. He requests all to continue such type of initiative for why very soon the Bari CHC will enlist in National Level Awards.



A coordination meeting held between the police & Chhatisha Nojog



Puri, (DMC): A massive coordination meeting was held on the occasion of Devasnan Purnima and Rath Yatra - 2025. The meeting was chaired by Puri District Superintendent of Police Vineet Agarwal. The meeting was attended by all the members of Chhatisha Niyog and Additional

Superintendents of Police Sushil Mishra, Sachin Patel, Soumyaranjan Mallik, City DSP Prashant Sahoo, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Of Traffic Rajkumar Parida, along with all the police station officers of the town. At the outset of the meeting, SP Puri congratulated all

those present at the meeting and discussed the religious significance of Devasnan Purnima and Rath Yatra. He noted that Puri police is always ready to maintain law and order. Superintendent of Police Mr. Agrawal asked the servants to extend full cooperation for the upcoming festival and complete all the rituals in a timely manner.

The space near the west gate has been identified as the new parking lot for Devasnan Purnima. Chhatisha Nijog Nayak Janardan Patijoshi Mohapatra said that during the ghosayatra of the Lord, small problems should be solved at the earliest and the servants had proposed to fulfill their responsibilities smoothly. Finally, Superintendent of Police Mr. Agarwal sought everyone's cooperation for the successful completion of The Lord's Ghosh Yatra.

IMFA, Therubali Celebrates World Environment Day in Rayagada

Rayagada, (DMC): IMFA, Therubali, a leading industrial unit in Rayagada district, recently concluded a week-long celebration of World Environment Day, from May 30 to June 5. The event aimed to promote environmental awareness and sustainability among its employees, workers, and students.

The program featured various activities, including discussions, interactive sessions, and awareness campaigns on pollution control, waste management, and conservation. The event's chief guest, Shri Ashok Kumar Bhoi, Regional Officer, State Pollution Control Board (SPCB), Rayagada, emphasized the importance of individual and collective responsibility in protecting the environment. During the week-long celebration, employees, workers, and their families participated in a rally, spreading the message of environmental conservation and the importance



of preserving nature. A massive tree plantation drive was also organized, highlighting the need to maintain ecological balance and increase green cover. The event's dignitaries praised IMFA, Therubali's sustainable initiatives and encouraged continued efforts towards environmental protection.

On the concluding day, participants took a pledge to remain active and responsible towards the environment in the days to come. The program was successfully organized under the joint coordination of Shri Prasant Kumar Nayak, Senior Manager (Quality Control), and Shri Deepak Kumar Ojha, Assistant

Manager (Public Relations), under the guidance of Shri A.K. Ray, Deputy Chief Executive (Officiating), IMFA. Week-long celebration of World Environment Day from May 30 to June 5 Discussions, interactive sessions, and awareness campaigns on environmental conservation

Rally and tree plantation drive to promote sustainability and ecological balance Pledge taken by participants to remain environmentally responsible "Protecting the environment is crucial for our own survival. We must take individual and collective responsibility to preserve nature." - Shri Ashok Kumar Bhoi, Chief Guest.

Youth goes missing while bathing in sea near Paradip

Paradip, (DMC): In a tragic incident, a youth went missing after being swept away while bathing in the sea along with his friends near the Paradip lighthouse on Saturday. The missing youth has been identified as Sheikh Amanullha (20) of Kendrapara. According to sources, Amanullha, along with his six other friends, were on a recreational visit to Paradip. He encountered the unfortunate incident while bathing with his friends in the sea. The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) was reportedly conducting a search operation alongwith Paradip Marine Police to locate the missing student.

According to locals, the sea near Paradip becomes turbulent after 12 pm. However, the youths were unaware of it. Moreover, ignoring the signage put on near the beach not to bath in the sea, the students took a bath in the sea, and in the process, one among them was swept away. The incident has sent ripples among the public "We seven students from Kendrapara came to Paradip sea. Sheikh Amanullha was swept away while we were bathing in the sea. We are the students of Kendrapara Autonomous College. He (Amanullha) was of short height and he was swept away by a strong current," said Aman's friend.



Farmers Lock the Mandi in Bargarh District



Mandi office by stacking hundreds of paddy bags. Responding to the situation, Bargarh Deputy Collector and Chairman of the Regulated Market Committee, Prasanna Kumar Pandey, visited the site to engage in meaningful discussions with the farmers.

Despite his efforts, the farmers remained resolute in requesting immediate action to lift the paddy. Attabira MLA Nihar Ranjan Mahanand also stepped in, making the trip to the mandi to connect with the farmers and understand their concerns. This

led to a constructive tripartite meeting involving the administrative officer, the farmers, and the MLA, where they collectively urged for the swift lifting of paddy.

Finally, the farmers showed their willingness to pause their protests after the purchasing agency committed to sending seven trucks to lift the paddy. However, they communicated that further delays would lead them to rekindle their protest, demonstrating the urgency and importance of their situation.

On World Environment Day, Vedanta Aluminium showcases transformative sustainability initiatives at State event

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, presented a stellar showcase of its diverse Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) initiatives at the State-Level World Environment Day & Prakruti Mitra Award Ceremony, organised by the Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department, Government of Odisha, on June 5 at the Krushi Shiksha Sadan, Bhubaneswar. The event brought together a diverse range of government and industry leaders, policymakers, and environmental champions to recognise industry efforts towards ensuring ecological preservation and climate resilience.

As part of the celebration, Vedanta Aluminium set up an engaging stall highlighting its extensive environmental and climate stewardship initiatives, demonstrating how responsible business practices can be intertwined with the urgent need to protect the planet. On this theme, it presented milestones achieved by the company in areas such as water management, circular economy, rural infrastructure, and resource efficiencies.

The stall was graced by Shri. Mohan Charan Majhi, Chief Minister of Odisha, who observed and appreciated the diverse measures undertaken by Vedanta Aluminium to ensure sustainable operations in every aspect. In addition, several leaders and senior officers graced Vedanta's stall with their presence, including Shri. Ganesh Ram Singh Khuntia, Hon'ble Minister of Forest, Environment & Climate Change, Labour & Employees State Insurance - Odisha, Shri. Manoj Ahuja,



Chief Secretary - Odisha and Chairman - State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) Odisha, Smt. Uma Nanduri, Member Secretary, SPCB, Odisha and Dr. K. Murugesan, Additional Principal, Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal) in Odisha. The centrepiece was a working model that showcased the cutting-edge environmental safeguards in place across the company's mega aluminium manufacturing plant in Jharsuguda. These included the Hybrid Electrostatic Precipitator (ESP) with Bag Filters – which helps minimize emissions in keeping with both national and international standards and is the only such technological intervention in Odisha.

The model also depicted the plant's Ash Railway Siding with Wind Barriers, which aids in the sustainable usage of fly ash, reducing wastage and environmental impact. Further, the model portrayed the Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) with Reverse Osmosis & MEE (Multiple Effect Evaporator) system, which ensures zero liquid wastewater discharge from the company's operations. Sharing his views, Rajiv Kumar, Chief Executive Officer - Vedanta Aluminium said,

From Page- 1

Odisha steps...

the functioning of oxygen infrastructure, including PSA plants and LMO tanks, while facility-level preparedness drills were carried out on June 4 and 5. Surveillance activities are also being intensified, with state and district-level IDSP units closely monitoring cases of Influenza Like Illness (ILI) and Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI). As per national guidelines, all hospitalized SARI cases and 5% of ILI cases are being tested for COVID-19. Positive samples are further sent for genome sequencing through the ICMR-VRDL network to track any potential variant activity.

UK Foreign...

trusted and secure innovation ecosystems. "FS David Lammy conveyed UK's strong interest in further enhancing cooperation across key sectors including trade and investment, defence and security, technology, innovation, and clean energy. He expressed confidence that the FTA will unlock new economic opportunities for both countries," read a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). The two leaders also exchanged views on regional and global issues. "UK Foreign Secretary strongly condemned the Pahalgam terror attack and expressed support for India's fight against cross border terrorism. PM Modi underscored the need for a decisive international action against terrorism and those who support it," the statement added. The Prime Minister also conveyed his warm greetings to the UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer and reiterated the invitation for his visit to India at the earliest mutual convenience. "Thank you Prime Minister Narendra Modi for your warm welcome to India. Building on the Free Trade Agreement between our great countries, we will continue working together to deepen our partnership, celebrate our unique living bridge, and deliver growth and security," Lammy posted on X.

CM Majhi...

that 18 crore has been sanctioned for tourism projects there, with work on the development of Putudi Waterfall already underway at a cost of 4.5 crore. Touching on tribal welfare, Majhi noted that 54% of Kandhamal's population belongs to tribal communities. Under the Forest Rights Act, the government has distributed over 20,000 individual land titles in the district over the past six months alone. He reiterated the government's commitment to ensuring that no family in the state remains landless, with a special focus on those owning less than three decimals of land. Looking ahead, Majhi outlined the state's broader developmental roadmap, aiming for a prosperous Odisha by 2036 and contributing to a developed India by 2047. The strategy focuses on comprehensive growth, improved infrastructure, industrial expansion, and inclusive development with a special focus on the marginalized and tribal communities. The event was attended by Health Minister Mukesh Mahaling, Kandhamal MP Sukanta Kumar Panigrahi, Phulbani MLA Umacharan Mallick, senior government officials, and a large gathering of residents.

NIT-Rourkela...

significantly reduce the environmental burden of industrial zones across India. While global rankings often prioritise publication counts and citation indices, NIT Rourkela is earning its reputation through actionable science and research that addresses India's pressing problems in healthcare, environment, sustainability, and food safety. In just half a year, the institute has achieved what many institutions spread across multiple campuses struggle to accomplish annually.

process water recycling, and zero liquid discharge systems. Its flagship initiative, Project Sangam, has created more than 30 new community waterbodies across Lanjigarh, which has the potential to ensure irrigation facilities to around 200 acres of land, round the year. The company has also implemented technologies such as a mega Reverse Osmosis (RO) plant at its Jharsuguda operations, as part of its Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) philosophy - ensuring that all wastewater is treated and reused within the plant.

In addition, the company has achieved 133% fly ash utilization by partnering with industries for cement production, brick manufacturing, and mine backfilling. More than 5.5 lakh trees have been planted in and around its operations in Odisha within the past three years, enriching biodiversity and strengthening the state's green cover.

Vedanta Aluminium, a business of Vedanta Limited, is India's largest producer of aluminium, manufacturing more than half of India's aluminium i.e., 2.42 million tonnes in FY25. It is a leader in value-added aluminium products that find critical applications in core industries. Vedanta Aluminium ranks 2nd in the S&P Global Corporate Sustainability Assessment 2024 world rankings for the aluminium industry, a reflection of its leading sustainable development practices. With its world-class aluminium smelters, alumina refinery and power plants in India, the company fulfils its mission of spurring emerging applications of aluminium as the 'Metal of the Future' for a greener tomorrow.

Pakistan writing its own epitaph by offering sanctuary to terrorists

New Delhi, (H.S) : BJP leader and former Union minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said on Saturday that Pakistan is writing its own epitaph by offering a sanctuary to terrorists and asserted that it amounted to bleeding Islam. Talking to reporters while celebrating Eid ul-

Chopper Makes Emergency Landing, Tail Crushes Car



Uttarakhand, (H.S) : A helicopter on its way to Kedarnath was forced to land on a highway in Uttarakhand as it developed a technical snag during take-off, coming dangerously close to buildings and its tail rotor damaging an unoccupied car. The five pilgrims on board came out safely, while the pilot sustained minor injuries. The helicopter had taken off from the Barasu base at 12.52 pm and was to fly the pilgrims for a duration of 45-50 minutes to the Kedarnath pilgrimage. Within minutes of taking off, the pilot reported a suspected issue with the collective control getting stuck. In response, he executed a controlled force landing on the road adjacent to the helipad. Kedarnath heli service nodal officer Rahul Chaubey told PTI that the incident did not affect the helicopter shuttle service to the Himalayan temple. Efforts are underway to remove the helicopter from the highway. The hard landing comes a month after a helicopter on its way to Gangotri temple crashed near Gangnani in Uttarkashi district on May 8, killing six people including five women and the pilot, and leaving one male passenger seriously injured.

Azha, Naqvi said Pakistan has given a licence to "barbarian beasts" to wound humanity and Islam and made terrorism and terrorists its "national industry and national assets", according to a statement. Naqvi celebrated the festival by offering "gujiya", a sweet associated traditionally with Holi, to people. All the festivals of the world are celebrated together in India with fervour and gaiety, and that is why it is called "Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat", the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader said, referring to the Narendra Modi government's emphasis on celebrating different facets of Indian culture together.

Indore couple was accompanied by three men on day they went missing, claims guide

SHILLONG, (H.S) : A tourist guide on Saturday claimed that the honeymoon couple from Indore, Raja Raghuvanshi and his wife Sonam, was accompanied by three men on the day they went missing from Meghalaya's Sohra area. An official confirmed that the guide had provided this information to the police. While the couple went missing on May 23, Raja's body was found in a gorge on June 2 while a search for his wife was underway. Speaking to PTI, Albert Pde, a guide at Mawlakhiat, said he had seen the couple accompanied by three male

NAGPUR, (H.S) : After Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's allegations of match fixing in Maharashtra state assembly election, Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis slammed him saying Rahul Gandhi has insulted the voters of Maharashtra mainly Ladli sisters who voted for Mahayuti government.

Rahul Gandhi in his op-ed published in The Indian Express "How to steal an election? Maharashtra assembly elections in 2024 were a blueprint for rigging democracy," alleged that the Election Commission of India did the match fixing so that the



BJP can win the elections in Maharashtra. Reacting to it, CM Devendra Fadnavis said that Rahul Gandhi's article shows that he and his



tourists as they were climbing over 3,000 steps from Nongriat to Mawlakhiat around 10 am on May 23. He said he recognised the couple as he had offered his services to them on the previous day to climb down to Nongriat but they had politely refused and hired another guide.

Rescue operation underway in Guwahati's Rupnagar locality after landslide

Guwahati, (H.S) : Following a landslide triggered by continuous rainfall in Assam's capital, Guwahati, NDRF teams launched a time-sensitive rescue operation in the Rupnagar locality as two houses were reduced to rubble. Officials said they have pinpointed the location of one person trapped under the debris and are working to extract the victim within the next few hours. Sopeaking to ANI, NDRF officer Pankaj K, speaking from the site of the operation, said, "The teams are deployed and working professionally. Dog squads have also been deployed. We know the exact location of the person stuck in the debris." He added that the rescue personnel are carefully working to remove heavy boulders obstructing access to the

victim."There are big boulders; once they are removed, we can retrieve the victim. After the progress, 4-5 feet of debris is yet to be removed to reach the victim. We are trying to finish the operation in 1.5 hours or so." Earlier today, at least 64 villages in Assam's Morigaon district were affected by floods, with residents facing major difficulties in transportation and accessing necessities. Several villagers said they still struggle to recover as the floodwaters damaged their homes, household goods, and crops like paddy and rice. Two days ago, floodwaters from the Brahmaputra River inundated all houses in the Mayong Chapori Gasbari area. Liyakat Ali, a resident of Mayong Chapori Gasbari, told ANI, "Every family in this village are facing the same problems."

12 states, UTs undercounted Covid deaths in 2022: Report

New Delhi, (H.S) : India registered 8.6 million deaths in 2022, the least deadly year of the Covid-19 pandemic. This represents a 15% decline from 2021, the deadliest pandemic year, with the death rate likely returning to pre-pandemic levels. This suggests mortality was normalising as Covid-19 infections became less severe and vaccines were deployed.

However, signs of health system stress persisted due to the virus. Excess deaths, or the surplus over the number of deaths that would have happened at the death rate seen in 2019, were higher than the Covid-19 tally issued by states in 2022. This suggests that states undercounted deaths related to Covid-19. Data suggests at least 12 states and union territories evidently did so. Moreover, the proportion of deaths without medical attention remained elevated compared to pre-pandemic levels. These findings come from two reports published on Thursday by the Office of the Registrar General of India (ORGI), under the ministry of home affairs: Vital Statistics of India Based on the Civil Registration System (CRS)



2022, and the report on the Medical Certification of Cause of Death (MCCD) 2022. CRS records all registered births and deaths in the country and is the most important source of statistics related to them. The MCCD captures a fraction of the CRS deaths where deaths are medically certified. The CRS report shows India registered 8.6 million deaths in 2022 compared to 10.2 million in 2021. The 2021 figure was a sharp increase from 7 million, 7.6 million, and 8.1 million deaths in 2018, 2019, and 2020

respectively.

To be sure, mortality rates are typically assessed after adjusting for population. For instance, the Sample Registration System (SRS) reports use sample surveys to estimate the crude death rate (CDR) per thousand population. CDR shot up to 7.5 in 2021 from 6.0 in 2020 and 6.2 in both 2018 and 2019. The lower CDR in 2020 was likely because accidental deaths decreased in the year, as HT explained on May 8. Since ORGI hasn't published the 2022 SRS report, no survey-based

CDR estimate is available. However, using registered deaths and National Commission on Population projections, CDR in 2022 was 6.3-close to 2018-2019 levels. The SRS may arrive at a higher 2022 CDR estimate since not all deaths are registered in the CRS. Historically, SRS estimates exceeded CRS-based calculations by 1.0 and 0.5 per thousand population in 2018 and 2019, though this gap disappeared in 2020 and 2021. While the estimated death rate suggests the health system was normalising, other indicators show incomplete recovery. At the 2019 death rate of 6.2, deaths in 2022 would number 8,554,450. This is 95,480 deaths more than the 8,649,930 deaths registered in the 2022 CRS. Pandemic bulletins issued by states in the year only counted 50,435 deaths from Covid-19.

At least 12 states and UTs undercounted Covid-19 deaths, according to the MCCD report. These jurisdictions reported 6,076 Covid-19 deaths in 2022, while the MCCD attributed 12,818 deaths directly to or related to Covid-19 in these jurisdictions.

party accepted the defeat in the Bihar state assembly elections. "Unless and until Rahul Gandhi does not hit the road and work on ground, till then he will not understand the ground reality. By making such statements, he is running away from reality and giving false support by making false claims. If this continues, then the Congress party will never win the election. Mr Gandhi has to understand this reality," Fadnavis said. Maharashtra Congress in-charge and Kerala congress MLA Ramesh Chennithala said when he assumed charge of Maharashtra in early 2024, the Congress-led Maha Vikas Aghadi defied the Modi wave in the Lok Sabha elections. He said, the people of Maharashtra stood tall against propaganda and pressure, delivering a decisive verdict that sent the BJP alliance reeling. "BJP's loss in Maharashtra, along with its poor performance in Uttar Pradesh, was pivotal in preventing it from securing an absolute majority at the national level. And yet, merely six months later, in the Maharashtra state assembly elections, that same Maha Vikas Aghadi - which was poised to win over 170 seats - was reduced to just 50. Is it believable that this staggering turnaround was due to governance or public sentiment? Even the most loyal BJP supporter would hesitate to make

such a claim. If Prime Minister Modi himself could not sway Maharashtra, are we to believe that Eknath Shinde, whose politics is marred by betrayal and unprincipled opportunism, could command such a wave," Congress leader asked.

He further said this was not a coincidence. "It was a calculated and premeditated operation to distort the electoral mandate. Democracy in Maharashtra was not defeated - it was subverted. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, Maharashtra had 89.8 million registered voters. By the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, this number rose naturally to 92.9 million - a five-year increase of 3.1 million. However, within just five months, during the 2024 Assembly elections, the voter count inexplicably jumped to 97 million - a sudden spike of 4.1 million in less than half a year. This figure defies logic. Even the official estimate of the adult population in Maharashtra stands at 95.4 million. On polling day, the initial turnout reported was 58.22%. With no reports of long queues or late-night voting, it should have remained roughly constant. Instead, by the next morning, the turnout had miraculously jumped to 66.05% - an overnight addition of over 7.6 million votes, predominantly favouring BJP candidates," Chennithala added.

150 Pak Contacts, Hotline to ISI: Details from 'Spy' Jasbir Singh's Probe

New Delhi, (H.S) : Punjab YouTuber Jasbir Singh was arrested for alleged espionage, and subsequent questioning revealed multiple Pakistan visits and ties to ISI operatives. He confessed to sharing a laptop with a Pakistani intelligence officer. Punjab YouTuber Jasbir Singh, whose arrest marked the most recent action in India's action against an alleged cross-border espionage network, had visited Pakistan six times and had around 150 contact numbers from the neighbouring country in his phone. After his arrest earlier this week, the man behind the popular 'Jaana Mahal Video' YouTube channel told police during remand that he had given his laptop to a Pakistani intelligence officer for around an hour. Further, like many others arrested for allegedly passing on crucial information to Pakistan, including YouTuber Jyoti Malhotra, Singh too was in touch with Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) operative Danish alias Ehsan-ur-Rehman, who worked as a visa officer in the Pakistani embassy in Delhi. He was introduced to Danish by a female friend, he told a court in Punjab's Mohali.



Singh also told the police that Danish had ordered some SIM cards from him. Danish was expelled from New Delhi after his link to the espionage network was found after Malhotra's arrest. On Saturday, Singh's police remand was extended for two days. He was arrested on June 4 on espionage charges and was allegedly in close touch with Malhotra. After his arrest the police had claimed that it unearthed a "terror-backed espionage network" linking him to Pakistani intelligence and army officials. Earlier, Singh was found to be associated with Pakistan Intelligence Officer Shakir alias Jutt Randhawa and it was established that he came into direct contact with ISI officers during his visits to Pakistan in 2020, 2021 and 2024. He also disclosed during police interrogation that former Pakistan cop Nasir Dhillon had introduced him to ISI officials in Lahore. On his YouTube channel, which has 11 lakh subscribers, Singh posted travel and cooking vlogs. Security agencies also suspect that hundreds of former police personnel of Pakistan Police are part of the espionage racket, which targets Indian YouTubers.

Others facing spying charges include a student from Patiala's Khalsa College, Davendra Singh Dhillon. The 25-year-old was arrested in Haryana after he uploaded photos of a pistol on Facebook, and his Pakistan links emerged during his questioning. Nauman Ilahi, a 24-year-old security guard in Haryana, was found to be in touch with an ISI handler in Pakistan, and used to receive money in the account of his brother-in-law. A 28-year-old health worker from Gujarat Sahdev Singh Gohil was arrested for transmitting sensitive information related to Indian military infrastructure to a Pakistani operative. Arman, 23, and Tarif, both from Haryana's Nuh district, were arrested within days of each other. Tarif was caught trying to delete chats with Pakistani numbers when police arrived at his residence. Shakur Khan, a Rajasthan government employee from Jaisalmer, was also arrested on spying charges.

"Evasion Won't Protect...": Rahul Gandhi vs Poll Body Over Maharashtra Polls

New Delhi, (H.S) : Issuing a rebuttal to Rahul Gandhi's fresh claims of "match-fixing" in the November 2024 Maharashtra elections, the Election Commission has re-released a document it had issued in April this year and said the Congress MP's allegations are "completely absurd". Hitting back hours later, Mr Gandhi said the poll body had released "unsigned, evasive notes", adding that was no way of answering serious questions. He also said that if the Election Commission has nothing to hide, it should answer the questions posed by him and also release the CCTV footage from Maharashtra booths after 5 pm on the day of voting. Election Commission sources then responded, noting it was strange that Mr Gandhi had not written to the poll body directly and was seeking answers through the media.

The sparring began on Saturday morning when, in an op-ed for The Indian Express, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha raised fresh questions about the way the Maharashtra Assembly elections were conducted. The alliance of the Congress, the Sharad Pawar faction of the NCP and the Uddhav Thackeray faction of

the Shiv Sena had suffered a humiliating defeat in the elections despite doing better than the BJP-led coalition in the Lok Sabha polls a few months before that. The three parties managed to win only 46 of the state's 288 Assembly seats between them while the BJP secured 132 and the factions of the NCP and the Shiv Sena that were allied with it added 98 to the coalition's tally. Mr Gandhi raised questions about what he claimed was the addition of fake voters to the roll, inflated voter turnout, targeted bogus voting, rigging the panel for appointing the Election Commission, and hiding evidence. In a post on X, he also expressed apprehension that the same thing could happen in the Bihar Assembly elections later this year. Responding to the charges, the Election Commission pointed out that no serious allegations were made by the party or polling agents appointed by it at the time of voting. "In every polling booth, the voting progressed in front of the polling agents formally appointed by candidates/political parties. Nominated candidates of the INC (Indian National Congress) or their authorised agents have not raised any substantiated allegations with regard to any kind of



abnormal voting at the time of scrutiny before the Returning Officer (RO) and the Election Observers on the next day," the Election Commission said. It also said no party had filed a substantial number of appeals against the addition of voters to the rolls, making it clear there was no grievance. "After the finalisation of these Electoral Rolls during Maharashtra elections, as against 9,77,90,752 Electors, only a total of 89 appeals were filed before the 1st appellate authority (DM) and only 1

appeal was filed before the 2nd appellate authority (CEO). Therefore, it is amply clear that there was no grievance of INC or any other political parties before the conduct of the Maharashtra Assembly Elections in 2024," it said.

Rapping the party for making unsubstantiated allegations and ignoring facts, it added, "Booth Level Agents were also appointed by all Political Parties, including 27,099 by INC. Therefore, these unsubstantiated

allegations raised against the Electoral Rolls of Maharashtra are affront to the rule of law. The Election Commission had brought out all these facts in its reply to INC on 24th December 2024 itself which is available on ECI's website. It appears that all these facts are completely being ignored while raising such issues again and again." An Election Commission source said, "More than 1 lakh booth-level officers of Maharashtra are still waiting for such wild allegations to be converted into at least a single real appeal in front of District Magistrates as per Section 24 of the Representation of the People (RP) Act 1950." The commission emphasised that Indian elections are held as per the law, and their scale and accuracy are praised around the world. "Any misinformation being spread, by anyone, is not only a sign of disrespect towards law, but also brings disrepute to the thousands of representatives appointed by their own political party and demotivates lakhs of election staff who work untiringly and transparently during elections.

After any unfavourable verdict by the voters, trying to defame the Election Commission by saying that it is

compromised, is completely absurd," it said. Responding to the poll body's statement, Mr Gandhi said it should stop being evasive and publish digital voter rolls for the most recent elections, including for the Lok Sabha and the Maharashtra Assembly, and release CCTV footage from the polling booths in Maharashtra after 5 pm on the day of voting. "Dear EC, You are a Constitutional body. Releasing unsigned, evasive notes to intermediaries is not the way to respond to serious questions," the Congress MP wrote on X on Saturday evening.

"If you have nothing to hide, answer the questions in my article and prove it by: Publishing consolidated, digital, machine-readable voter rolls for the most recent elections to the Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabhas of all states including Maharashtra; and releasing all post-5pm CCTV footage from Maharashtra polling booths. Evasion won't protect your credibility. Telling the truth will," he added. Hitting back, an Election Commission source said, "Instead of writing to the Election Commission directly, it is very strange that Rahul Gandhi has chosen to approach the media seeking answers to his doubts.

Europeans Turn Away From US Amid Growing Anti-American Sentiment

London, (H.S): While waiting in line outside Rome's iconic Gallery Borghese with his family, Polish tourist Antoni Furman shared why the United States is never on his holiday list. "Europe is much less crowded, and the US tariffs on the European Union affect our pockets," he said. Furman represents a growing number of Europeans opting out of engaging with the United States. A wave of anti-American sentiment is sweeping across the continent, as US policies strain the transatlantic relationship and influence everyday decisions - from travel choices to consumer behavior, Xinhua news agency reported.

Inbound travel to the US is projected to decline by 8.7 per cent in 2025, with the sharpest drops expected from Canada and Western Europe, according to Oxford Economics. Data from the US National Travel and Tourism Office revealed that trips from overseas fell by 11.6 per cent in March 2025 compared to the previous year. Visits from Western Europe alone plummeted 17.2 per cent. Germany, Spain, and Ireland each saw declines exceeding 20 per cent, while the United Kingdom and France recorded decreases of



around 10 per cent. Travel booking platform Omio reported a 16 per cent increase in US trip cancellations in the first quarter (Q1) year-on-year, with cancellation rates from the UK, Germany, and France nearing 40 per cent. Tourism Economics, part of Oxford Economics, noted a 10 per cent decline in European trip plans to the US for the 2025 summer season.

Oxford Economics pointed to several causes for the gloomy tourism outlook: trade tariffs targeting traditional allies, troubling media reports on border security, and controversial travel advisories. Adam Sacks, president of Tourism Economics, criticised the Trump administration's approach, noting that Trump's aggressive rhetoric toward the European Union (EU),

Greenland, and Canada are all unforced errors, and have impacts on how people view the US. A British woman working in sports echoed this sentiment, saying, "I disagree with many of Trump's policies. The US just doesn't seem like a positive place. I'd rather visit France - and I think most Brits complain about Trump's policies."

Avoiding travel is just one of the many ways Europeans are rejecting American influence. From daily household goods to tech and media, European consumers are actively boycotting US brands. In Denmark, a Facebook group titled "Boycott varer fra USA (Boycott goods from USA)" surged to 95,000 members by April. Similar initiatives emerged in Norway, Sweden, Germany, France, and

Poland, urging consumers to favor European-made products. On Reddit, around 200,000 members of the BuyFromEU community share alternatives to American brands such as Netflix, McDonald's, and Apple - down to everyday items like socks, ketchup and headphones. To support the movement, European developers have launched barcode-scanning apps to help consumers identify the country of origin for products.

Many supermarkets now feature dedicated sections for European goods, with clear signage highlighting EU-made products. Goldman Sachs analysts warned that the US could lose up to \$90 billion in revenue in 2025 due to declining tourism and mounting international boycotts. The resulting slowdown could modestly drag on the country's GDP, primarily through reduced foreign tourism. Trump has destroyed the reputation of the US, said Paul English, co-founder of travel website Kayak. He stressed that the reduction of travels to the US is not only one more terrible blow to the country's economy, but also represents reputation damage that could take generations to repair.

Indian Delegation Meets US Officials, Discusses Pahalgam Terror Attack, Op Sindoor



Washington, (H.S): An All-Party Parliamentary Delegation from India, led by senior Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, met with key American lawmakers and officials to brief them on the recent Pahalgam terror attack and India's response through Operation Sindoor. During the visit, the delegation held a significant meeting with US Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau. The Indian Embassy in Washington shared the update on social media platform X, stating: "The All Party Parliamentary delegation led by Dr. @ShashiTharoor had a warm and candid conversation with US Deputy Secretary of State @DeputySecState today."

The Indian Delegation briefed him on the atrocities of the Pahalgam terror attack and Operation Sindoor," the embassy posted. The delegation also met Senator Chris Van Hollen, a member of the influential US Senate Foreign Relations Committee. In that meeting, the Indian lawmakers discussed the cross-border nature of the Pahalgam attack and reiterated India's firm stance against terrorism." The Indian parliamentary delegation led by Dr @ShashiTharoor had a productive meeting with Senator

the United States. The visit is part of an ongoing diplomatic effort to build bipartisan support in Washington for stronger counter-terrorism cooperation and to deepen strategic ties between India and the US in the face of regional security threats. Earlier on Thursday, the Delegation had an "excellent meeting" with 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.

192 Migrants Deported From US Return To Venezuela

Caracas, (H.S): A flight carrying 192 Venezuelan migrants deported from the United States arrived at the Simon Bolivar International Airport in Maiquetia, which serves the capital Caracas area, the Ministry of Interior, Justice and Peace of Venezuela reported. According to a press release on Friday, the flight, operated by a US-registered aircraft, carried 156 men, 26 women, and 10 minors. The returned migrants were attended to under established medical, legal, and social protocols.

Since February, Venezuela has been receiving two to three flights per week of individuals deported by US authorities, including those relocated from Mexico and Honduras, reports Xinhua news agency. So far in 2025, a total of 5,475 deported migrants have been processed under the government's Plan Vuelta a la Patria, designed to facilitate their return, official figures indicate. Earlier on Thursday, the South American



country said that the United States government is carrying out a new campaign of "stigmatisation and criminalisation" against Venezuelans. The "stigmatisation" campaign is evident in a "new attack that restricts the issuance and validity of visas for Venezuelan citizens, without any justification and with obvious political purposes,"

Venezuela's Foreign Affairs Ministry said in a statement. "This operation has been promoted by the current Secretary of State, Marco Rubio, an official marked by his well-known hatred of the Venezuelan people," the ministry added. Venezuela's government

reiterated its "unwavering commitment to defending the rights and interests of Venezuelans in any part of the world." The ministry also ratified a maximum travel alert for citizens planning to travel to the United States or residing in the United States."

What happened is not an isolated incident, but rather a new demonstration of the visceral hatred for the Venezuelan people that drives those who currently conduct Washington's foreign policy," it added. The US government announced it was restricting visas to nationals from several countries, including Venezuela.

India & Germany Discuss Joint Role in Ensuring Global Peace & Security

Berlin, (H.S): The all-party Parliamentary delegation from India led by BJP MP Ravi Shankar Prasad on Friday held a productive interaction with Omid Nouripour, Vice-President of Bundestag, the German Parliament, deeply appreciating Germany's strong and unequivocal support for India's principled stand against terrorism. The delegates conveyed India's firm response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack and briefed about Operation Sindoor, reiterating the country's zero tolerance for terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Later, the delegation also met Bundestag's Chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee Armin Laschet and other members and former ministers, including Ralph Brinkhaus and Hubertus Heil. The delegation conveyed India's unwavering stand for zero tolerance for terrorism and outlined its resolve to not give in to nuclear blackmail. The leaders noted growing momentum in strategic partnership between



India-Germany and joint role in ensuring global peace and security. Following the conclusion of a productive and impactful visit to Belgium, the delegation had arrived in Germany late Thursday for the final leg of their engagements in Western Europe.

The delegation is a part of the Indian government's ongoing diplomatic outreach under Operation Sindoor and its "unwavering adherence" to a zero-tolerance policy towards

terrorism. During their stay in Germany, the delegation will also be interacting with representatives from various think tanks and the Indian community in the country.

Earlier, India's Ambassador to Germany, Ajit Gupte, received the Indian delegation on their arrival in Berlin and briefed them about India-Germany relations, with a focus on expanding strategic partnerships and growing cooperation across several sectors. "The discussions

included an overview on India-Germany relations, with a focus on expanding strategic partnership and growing cooperation in trade and investment, defence, science and technology and mobility," the Indian Embassy in Berlin posted on X.

The nine-member delegation includes a diverse political representation with Ravi Shankar Prasad (BJP), Daggubati Purandeswari (BJP), Priyanka Chaturvedi (Shiv Sena-UBT), Ghulam Ali Khatana (BJP), Amar Singh (Congress), Samik Bhattacharya (BJP), M. Thambidurai (AIADMK), former Union Minister M.J. Akbar, and former Ambassador Pankaj Saran. After concluding visits to France, Italy, Denmark, the UK and Belgium, the Indian delegation is in Germany, marking the continuation of India's strategic outreach to garner international support against cross-border terrorism emanating from the soil of Pakistan.

South Korea: Lee Appoints Veteran Economic Bureaucrat As Presidential Policy Chief

Seoul, (H.S): South Korean President Lee Jae-myung on Friday appointed former Vice Finance Minister Kim Yong-beom as his chief of staff for policy, the presidential office said. Kim had served in various capacities at the Finance Ministry and the financial regulator since entering public service in 1987.

Kang Hoon-sik, Lee's chief of staff, told reporters that Kim has a "deep understanding of overall economic policy," describing the former Vice Finance Minister as the "right person" to implement the president's pledges to improve people's livelihoods. Ha Joon-kyung, an economics professor at Seoul's Hanyang University, was appointed as senior presidential secretary for economic growth, while Moon Jin-young, a social welfare



professor at Seoul's Sogang University, was appointed as senior presidential secretary for social affairs. The organisational reshuffle at the presidential office was also carried out to promote the nation's economic growth engines, with new senior aide positions established in the areas of fiscal planning and artificial intelligence, Kang said. It

also included expanding the control tower function and strengthening policy efforts for public safety, according to Kang. Under the reshuffle, the new administration restored the position of secretary for gender equality and family, which had been removed during the former government. New positions were also established to oversee the

relocation of the Oceans Ministry to the southeastern port city of Busan, and to ensure that the prosecution and the judiciary function properly to protect the rights of the people, Yonhap news agency reported. A temporary unit tasked with handling the relocation of the presidential office to Cheong Wa Dae was also newly established, Kang said.

On the campaign trail, Lee had stated his intent to revamp Cheong Wa Dae and relocate there, but will use the Yongsan presidential office for the time being. Earlier in the day, Lee Jae-myung said that rewarding patriotism is the nation's responsibility and duty, and vowed to provide "special compensation" for those who sacrificed their lives to safeguard the nation.

India Is Fifth Largest Economy, Their Presence at G7 Meeting 'Makes Sense': Canada PM

Canada, (H.S): Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney on Friday (local time) said that G7 countries will hold discussions on important issues, including security and energy, in their upcoming summit, adding that India's presence at the intergovernmental political and economic forum is essential. Carney said that India being the fifth largest economy and the most populous country in the world must be at the seat.

"Let's put the two aspects in context- first is, we are in the role- Canada's in the role of the G7 chair and in those discussions as agreed with our G7 colleagues, include important discussions on energy, security, on digital future, critical minerals amongst others and partnerships actually in building infrastructure in the emerging and developing world," he said.

Carney said that India is central to a number of supply chains, which makes its presence pertinent at the G7 chair consultation. "There are certain countries that should be at the table for those discussions, and in my capacity as G7 chair, I will consult with some others to make those determinations. India is the fifth largest economy in the world, effectively the most populous country in the world, central to a number of those supply chains at the heart of a number of those supply chains, so it makes sense," he said.



Carney said that India and Canada are acting on law enforcement, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi has accepted his invitation. "In addition, bilaterally we have now agreed importantly to continued law enforcement to law enforcement dialogue so there's been some progress on that recognizes issues of accountability I extended the invitation to Prime Minister Modi for in in that context and he has accepted it," he said.

PM Modi on Friday confirmed he would attend the upcoming Group of Seven (G7) leaders summit in Canada after an invitation from newly elected Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney. "Glad to receive a call from Prime Minister Mark J Carney of Canada. Congratulated him on his recent election victory and thanked him for the invitation to the G7 Summit in Kananaskis later this month. As vibrant democracies bound by

deep people-to-people ties, India and Canada will work together with renewed vigour, guided by mutual respect and shared interests. Look forward to our meeting at the Summit," he said in a post on X. The announcement comes after a period of severely strained relations between the two countries, triggered by Canadian allegations that Indian agents were involved in the June 2023 assassination of Hardeep Singh Nijjar--a Canadian citizen and prominent pro-Khalistan activist--outside a Sikh temple in Vancouver,

as per DW News. India strongly denied the claims, and both nations expelled senior diplomats in a tit-for-tat escalation. DW News reported. Stay informed on all the latest news, real-time breaking news updates, and follow all the important headlines in india news and world News on Zee News.

Trump Administration Shuts Down 'Quiet Skies' Passenger Surveillance Program

New York, (H.S): The Trump administration has closed a controversial program that used undercover US air marshals on flights to surveil passengers, and removed a government official who took responsibility for putting Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard in it.

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Kristi Noem called for an investigation into the program as she announced its closure on Thursday. DHS said the program cost taxpayers \$200



million a year and "failed to stop a single terrorist attack." In a recent meeting, administration officials confronted leadership at the Transportation Security Administration over what they

said was politically motivated use of the Quiet Skies program under the Biden administration, Xinhua news agency reported quoting The Wall Street Journal."

The clash over Quiet Skies, a program that has long been a cause for concern for civil liberties advocates, is the latest example of the Trump administration accusing career officials of political weaponization," it noted. The program was launched in 2010, and its existence was first

uncovered by the Boston Globe in 2018. Undercover US air marshals travel on flights with individuals included in the program. Quiet Skies works to identify travelers who could present an elevated risk to aviation security.

The program employs analysts and undercover air marshals to monitor people in airports and during flights, using outstanding warrants, facial recognition software, identification of suspicious travel patterns and behaviors and other data to try to prevent terrorist attacks.

Late GST Returns Can't Be Filed After 3 Years; GSTR-3B To Become Non-Editable From July



New Delhi, (H.S): The Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) announced major changes on Saturday, stating that from the July 2025 tax period, the monthly GST payment form GSTR-3B will become non-editable. Alongside this, taxpayers will also not be allowed to file any GST returns after three years from their original due dates.

In its advisory, GSTN explained that while GSTR-3B will still be auto-filled based on sales data from forms like GSTR-1, any changes or corrections must be made before filing, using form GSTR-1A. This revised data will then automatically show up in GSTR-3B. Once that is done, taxpayers will no longer be able to edit the GSTR-3B manually,

as is currently possible."For the July 2025 tax period, to be filed in August 2025, the auto-populated tax liability in GSTR-3B will be final and cannot be changed after filing," the advisory stated.This move is aimed at improving data accuracy between different GST forms and preventing tax leakage.

GSTR-3B is a monthly summary return used to report tax liability and is filed between the 20th and 24th of each month, depending on the type of taxpayer. Currently, businesses receive a pre-filled version of this form, but they can still make edits before final submission. That flexibility will no longer be available after the new rule kicks in.In another important update, GSTN said that starting from

July 2025, taxpayers will not be able to file any GST return if it is more than three years late.This includes monthly returns like GSTR-1 and GSTR-3B, annual returns like GSTR-9, and other returns such as GSTR-4, GSTR-5, GSTR-5A, GSTR-6, GSTR-7, and GSTR-8.

This rule was introduced through the Finance Act, 2023, and will now be implemented on the GST portal.It means that if a return is not filed within three years of its due date, it will become permanently time-barred and cannot be submitted. GSTN has advised all taxpayers to reconcile their accounts and file any pending returns as soon as possible to avoid being locked out by the new time limit.

Govt Imposes Anti-Dumping Duties On Vitamin A, Rubber Chemical Imports From China, Japan, EU

New Delhi, (H.S): The Union government has imposed anti-dumping duties on imports of Vitamin-A Palmitate and insoluble sulphur - a crucial rubber additive - on China, Japan, Switzerland, and the European Union (EU).The Ministry of Finance, in a notification on June 6, issued the anti-dumping duties for a period of five years unless it is cancelled or revised.

It aims to protect domestic manufacturers from low-priced imports that affect the local industry.The move follows an investigation by the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) which revealed that the price of Vitamin-A Palmitate imported by these countries was lower than the normal value.The DGTR also noted "material



injury" to domestic producers of Vitamin-A Palmitate due to large-scale dumping from China, the EU and Switzerland.

The compound, commonly used in small quantities, remains heavily import-dependent in India.While Vitamin-A Palmitate is used in pharmaceuticals, food, and cosmetics, insoluble sulphur

plays a key role in the rubber industry, majorly in tyre manufacturing.The anti-dumping duties, effective immediately must be paid in Indian rupees based on the exchange rate.

It is expected to prevent unfair trade practices and protect local industries.According to the notification, the duties for

Vitamin-A Palmitate, range from \$0.87 to \$20.87 per kg; The highest duty has been imposed on Chinese exporters other than Shangyu NHU BioChem, which will face a lower rate of \$14.95/kg. Swiss producer DSM Nutritional Products will attract a duty of \$0.87/kg, while other Swiss exporters will face \$8.2/kg. A flat rate of \$11.09/kg will apply to imports from the EU, the notification stated.

Further, depending on the exporter, the duties on insoluble sulphur will range from \$259 to \$358 per metric tonne. Chinese imports will face a flat duty of \$307/MT. Among Japanese companies, Shikoku Chemicals will be charged \$259/MT, while all other Japanese exporters will face the maximum rate of \$358/MT, the notification said.

Nifty Microcap 250 Rises 12.10 Pc In May, Smallcap 250 Grows 9.59 Pc

Mumbai, (H.S): The Nifty Microcap 250 index posted a strong performance in the month of May, rising 12.10 per cent, while the Nifty Smallcap 250 also recorded an impressive 9.59 per cent gain, according to a report released on Saturday.The broader market remained positive throughout the month, with smaller companies leading the rally, said the latest 'Global Market Snapshot' report by Motilal Oswal Asset Management Company.Over the past year, the Nifty Microcap 250 grew by 13.74 per cent, and the Nifty Smallcap 250 gained 7.72 per cent, showing continued investor interest in micro and small-cap stocks.Other major indices also

posted gains in May. The benchmark Nifty 50 rose 1.71 per cent, while the Nifty Next 50 and Nifty Midcap 150 advanced by 3.49 per cent and 6.30 per cent, respectively.The Nifty 500 index climbed 3.50 per cent, supported by strong performances in sectors such as industrials, consumer discretionary and financial services.The Defence sector emerged as the best performer, registering a sharp 21.84 per cent rise in May alone, and 30.78 per cent growth over the past year. According to the report, all major sectors showed a positive trend except FMCG and Utilities, which saw slight declines of 0.09 per cent and 0.04 per cent,

respectively.Factor-based investment strategies also delivered steady returns. The momentum and quality indices rose by 5.40 per cent and 4.82 per cent, while enhanced value and low volatility gained 4.20 per cent and 1.39 per cent, respectively.On the commodities side, gold saw a decline of 0.74 per cent during May, as geopolitical tensions - especially between the US and China eased, reducing the demand for gold as a safe-haven asset.The report suggests that investor confidence remained high across broader markets in May, with strong participation in mid, small and micro-cap segments.

T Rabi Sankar Appointed as Part-Time Member of 16th Finance Commission

New Delhi, (H.S): The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Deputy Governor T Rabi Sankar has been appointed as a part-time member of the Dr Arvind Panagariya-headed 16th Finance Commission, it was announced on Saturday."

The President has appointed T. Rabi Sankar, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), as a part-time Member of the 16th Finance Commission (XVIFC)," the Finance Ministry said in a statement."He will hold office from the date of assuming charge until the submission of the Commission's Report or 31st October, 2025, whichever is



earlier," the minister informed.The appointment of Sankar is consequent to the resignation of one of the full-time Members of the XVIFC, Ajay Narayan Jha, on personal grounds.The XVIFC was constituted on 31st December,

2023, with Dr Panagariya, former Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog, as its chairman.From January 2015 to August 2017, he served as the first Vice Chairman of the NITI Aayog, Government of India in the rank of a Cabinet Minister.

During these years, he also served as India's G20 Sherpa and led the Indian teams that negotiated the G20 Communiqués during presidencies of Turkey (2015), China (2016) and Germany (2017).Professor Panagariya is a former Chief Economist of the Asian Development Bank, and was on the faculty of the Department of Economics at the University of

Maryland at College Park from 1978 to 2003.The commission, chaired by Panagariya, has four members and is assisted by Secretary Ritvik Pandey, two joint secretaries and one economic advisor.

The XVIFC is mandated to submit its recommendations by 31st October, 2025, for the award period of five years commencing from 1st April, 2026.Retired bureaucrat Annie George Mathew and economist Manoj Panda are full-time members of the commission, while SBI Group Chief Economic Advisor, Soumya Kanti Ghosh, is a part-time member.

One More Repo Rate Cut Expected This Fiscal, GDP To Grow At 6.5 Pc: Crisil

New Delhi, (H.S): The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has chosen to frontload its rate cuts, turning to support growth amid benign inflation prospects, according to a Crisil report, which expects one more repo rate cut this fiscal (FY26), and a pause after that.

The global ratings agency also expects India's GDP at 6.5 per cent this fiscal, with risks on the downside due to US tariff hikes. Crisil listed some factors which are expected to help domestic growth hold up against global tariff risks."Positive outlook on rains and crude oil prices and healthy external accounts - low current account deficit and low short-term debt - with sufficient forex reserves will provide a buffer against global turbulence," said the global financial insights major.Rate cut transmission, income-tax cuts for the middle



class and low food inflation will support demand, it added. A 100-bps cut in the repo rate so far, coupled with a 100 bps CRR cut in second half of this fiscal, will ramp up transmission of monetary easing to broader interest rates."

A sharp fall in inflation since the previous policy review allowed the MPC to increase monetary support. A healthy monsoon, coupled with low crude prices are likely to keep inflation aligned to the RBI's 4 per cent target this fiscal," said the report.The rate cuts will be pivotal in supporting domestic

growth this fiscal against external headwinds. The transmission of RBI's rate cuts to market interest rates and bank lending rates has begun. This, coupled with income-tax cuts and easing inflation will support consumption. A change in policy stance to neutral indicates a more data-dependent approach going forward.

The MPC statement also mentioned limited monetary space after the 100-bps policy rate cut done so far."Surplus liquidity has enabled transmission of RBI's rate cuts to market interest rates. Since the central bank's first rate cut in February 2025, deposit rates decreased 15 bps on average till May, home loan rates 30 bps and auto loan 20 bps. The sharp increase in liquidity post the CRR cut will further facilitate easing of interest rates," said Crisil.

Foreign Investors Return To Indian Markets As Domestic Buying Stays Strong

Mumbai, (H.S): Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) turned net buyers of Indian stocks on Friday, picking up shares worth Rs 1,009.7 crore, according to latest provisional data from the National Stock Exchange (NSE).This marked a positive turn as investor confidence continues to grow. Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) also remained active buyers for the 14th straight session, investing Rs 9,342.5 crore in equities.

One of the key highlights of the day was a major transaction by Bajaj Holdings and Investment Limited, which sold shares worth Rs 2,002.2 crore in Bajaj Finserv Limited through a block deal.This move involved selling 1.04 crore equity shares, representing 0.65 per cent of Bajaj Finserv's paid-up capital. Earlier in the day, the company's promoters had also sold a large



number of shares in a pre-market transaction.Market activity also received a further boost after the Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee cut the repo rate by 50 basis points, bringing it down to 5.5 per cent.

This move is expected to make borrowing cheaper and support economic growth. Reflecting this positive sentiment, the benchmark indices closed

higher for the third straight day.The Nifty climbed 252 points, or 1.02 per cent, to end at 25,003.The Sensex also moved up by 746.95 points, or 0.92 per cent, to close at 82,188.99.

During the trading session, both indices touched higher levels, with the Nifty reaching 25,092.50 and the Sensex hitting 82,299.89.Strong performances from companies like Eternal

Limited and Shriram Finance Limited helped drive this weekly rally.The Nifty gained over 1 per cent this week and the Sensex also rose by nearly 1 per cent, snapping a two-week losing streak. Experts say that recent steps by market regulators and the central bank have made the investment climate even more attractive.

Manoj Purohit, a partner at BDO India, highlighted that measures such as extending the deadline for disclosure rules and easing restrictions on foreign investment in corporate debt are building confidence among global investors."These steps are seen as positive for both equity and bond markets. As global trade conditions improve and India continues to offer solid economic fundamentals, investor sentiment remains upbeat," Purohit added.

Central Consumer Protection Authority issues advisory to E-Commerce Platforms for self-audit within 3 months to detect Dark Patterns and ensure its resolution

New Delhi, (PIB): The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has issued advisory to all e-commerce platforms to take necessary steps to ensure that their platforms do not engage in deceptive and unfair trade practice which are in the nature of Dark Patterns.

All e-commerce platforms have been advised to conduct self-audits to identify dark patterns, within 3 months of the issue of the advisory, and take necessary steps to ensure that their platforms are free from such dark patterns. The e-commerce platforms, based on the self-audit reports, have also encouraged to give self-declarations that their platform

is not indulging in any dark patterns. The self-declarations by the platforms will enable fair digital ecosystem along with building trust between consumers and e-commerce platforms.

CCPA has also issued notices to e-commerce platforms in some cases that have been found violating the Guidelines for Prevention and Regulation of Dark Patterns. All e-commerce platforms are therefore, advised to refrain from deploying deceptive design interfaces that mislead consumers or manipulate their decision-making. The Authority has been keeping a close watch on the violation of the Guidelines issued for Prevention and Regulation of

Dark Patterns. Instances of Dark Patterns have been noticed on E-Commerce platforms.The Department of Consumers Affairs, Government of India constituted a Joint Working Group (JWG) comprises of representatives from concerned Ministries, regulators, Voluntary Consumer Organisations and NLUs.

The mandate of this JWG is examine and undertake measures to identify violations of Dark Patterns on e-commerce platforms and share the information with the Department of Consumer Affairs on regular intervals. The JWG shall also suggest appropriate awareness programmes for creating

awareness amongst the consumers. As part of the Government's broader strategy and ongoing efforts to strengthen consumer protection in the digital era and curb unfair practices in e-commerce and online services, Department of Consumer Affairs, Government of India had notified the Guidelines for Prevention and Regulation of Dark Patterns in 2023 and specified 13 dark patterns, namely:

False urgency, Basket Sneaking, Confirm shaming, forced action, Subscription trap, Interface Interference, Bait and switch, Drip Pricing, Disguised Advertisements and Nagging, Trick Wording, Saas Billing and Rogue Malwares.



also lowered the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR), which will reduce the cost of funds for banks.While the CRR cut may not directly change deposit or lending rates, SBI said it could help banks slightly improve their Net Interest Margins (NIM) by 3 to 5 bps.

Additionally, the report noted that the CRR cut could improve liquidity in the banking system. It is expected to reduce the amount of base money (M0) and raise the money multiplier by 20 to 30 bps, which may support better credit flow in the

economy.Meanwhile, banks have already begun cutting fixed deposit (FD) rates. Since February 2025, FD rates have come down by 30 to 70 bps, and SBI expects more reductions in the coming months as the trend continues.Looking ahead, SBI warned that although lower rates benefit borrowers, banks might continue to face pressure on their profit margins."

The exact impact will vary from bank to bank, but overall margins are likely to shrink," as per the report.Finally, the report said that any future change in monetary policy will depend on how the economy performs. While there is limited room for more rate cuts, a large profit transfer from the RBI to the government has improved the government's financial position. For now, SBI expects no further policy rate changes in the next quarter.

Samantha, Ranveer cheer for Deepika as she joins AA22xA6

Not just fans but Samantha Ruth Prabhu and Ranveer Singh also expressed excitement for Deepika's fierce warrior look in AA22xA6. After working with Atlee on Jawan, which turned out to be a massive box office success, Deepika Padukone is all set to reunite with him for his upcoming project, AA22xA6. Atlee shared the joyous news with fans via a video showing her preparation for the film. Now, Samantha Ruth Prabhu and Ranveer Singh have

expressed their excitement about it.

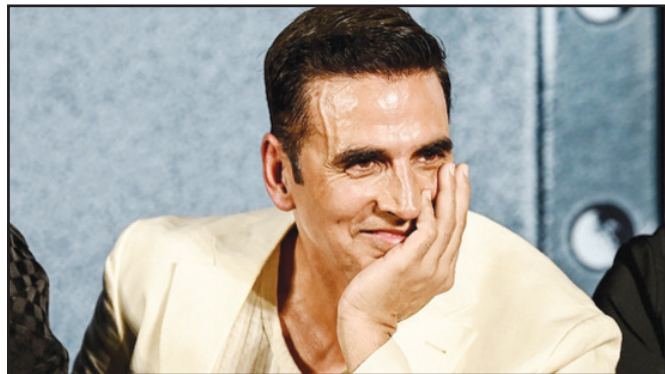
On Saturday, Samantha took to Instagram Stories and, while sharing Deepika's announcement video for AA22xA6, wrote, "Yass Queen," adding flexed bicep emojis. Ranveer also commented on the video shared by Atlee on Instagram, writing, "Whuo On Saturday morning, Sun Pictures, the makers of the film, shared a video of Deepika in conversation with Atlee. It was

captioned: "The Queen marches to conquer! Welcome onboard @deepikapadukone ? #TheFacesOfAA22xA6. #AA22xA6 - A magnum opus from Sun Pictures ??." The video showed Atlee narrating the script to Deepika while seated on a couch, cutting to them in a studio. Concept sketches of her character depict her as a fierce warrior, performing mid-air flips, wielding a sword, and riding a horse. It left fans excited about Deepika joining Allu Arjun and

Atlee's film. This announcement follows Deepika's reported exit from Sandeep Reddy Vanga's Spirit. After her departure, reports claimed that Vanga disagreed with her demand not to deliver lines in Telugu, among other conditions, which included an 8-hour workday and a share in the film's profits, in addition to her remuneration. Atlee and Allu Arjun's AA22xA6 is touted to be a never-before-seen sci-fi actioner. Speaking about the film during a media

interaction, Arjun said, "Yes, it's my twenty-second film. It's with Atlee garu, who directed Jawan and many other superhit films in the South. So, we've come together. I really liked the idea he shared with me. I appreciate his aspirations, and I felt we were like-minded on many levels. We hope to bring a very new visual spectacle to Indian cinema. It will be an international-level film with completely Indian sensibilities." The film is expected to go on floors later this year.

Housefull 5 box office crosses 50 crore



Tarun Mansukhani's ensemble film Housefull 5 with Akshay Kumar, Nargis Fakhri, Abhishek Bachchan, Jacqueline Fernandez, Riteish Deshmukh and Soundarya Sharma as the leads is doing well at the box office in India. According to Sacnilk, the film has collected 54 crore net in India so far.

The website reports that Housefull 5 collected ?24 crore net in India and 40 crore worldwide on its opening day.

On its first Saturday, the film brought in an estimated 30 crore net, taking its total collection so far to 54 crore approximately. The film registered an overall 33.18% occupancy, with numbers growing as the day progressed. Interestingly, the film showed good occupancy in cities like Chennai too, which had a 52% occupancy. Given that the film also has Sunday to bank on before weekdays hit, it remains to be seen how much the film

collects in its first weekend. The film has been marketed with two different climaxes - Housefull 5 A and B - which also seems to be working in its favour. Talking about shooting two different endings, Tarun told ANI it was challenging and said, "Sajid (Sajid Nadiadwala) sir had this idea about 30 years ago. And finally, he brought it to Housefull 5. And that was one of the most exciting things for me as a director to make a film with two different climaxes."

He added, "At that point in time, it sounds very exciting and you feel very challenged and want to make it as a filmmaker. But when you come down to doing it actually on set, then you realise the real challenges." Fardeen Khan, Chitrangada Singh, Sonam Bajwa, Sanjay Dutt, Jackie Shroff, Nana Patekar, Chunky Panday, Johnny Lever, Shreyas Talpade, Dino Morea, Ranjit and Nikitin Dheer also star in the fifth film of the popular franchise.

BCCI's Stern Diktat after RCB Official's Arrest Over Stampede



Bengaluru, (HS) : What was supposed to be a glorious moment for Royal Challengers Bengaluru has turned into its darkest after what happened a day after the side's first-ever IPL title win. After ending an 18-year drought, RCB received a hero's welcome in Bengaluru but the fanfare turned disastrous as 11 people lost their lives while close to 50 were injured. Four people have been arrested in connection with the stampede outside Chinnaswamy Stadium. According to the police, Nikhil Sosale, a top marketing official of the RCB, was among those arrested. He was on his way to Mumbai when he was arrested from Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru, at around 6.30am.

BCCI is now thinking to introduce guidelines for victory celebrations. «At some stage

BCCI will have to do something. We cannot be a silent spectator,» BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia told Cricbuzz. «It was a private affair of RCB but we at the BCCI are responsible for cricket in India and we will try to ensure such incidents do not recur in future. «Earlier, Indian cricket team head coach Gautam Gambhir said that road shows should not be held at all after such victories. «I think the lives of people are far more important and I will continue to say. We can be a little bit careful of not holding these kinds of roadshows and can probably have them closed doors or something like this in a stadium,» India coach Gautam Gambhir said. «When I used to play, I didn't believe much in roadshows. I don't believe in them today and I don't believe in them in the future. Winning is important, celebrations are important, but

more important than that is the life of any person. So if we are not prepared, or if we cannot handle the crowd in that way, then might as well these roadshows should not take place. «India's star batter Smriti Mandhana expressed her grief at the death of 11 people in a

stampede on Wednesday near the Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru.

Mandhana posted on her Instagram account, «Heartbroken to hear about the lives lost in Bengaluru. My thoughts and prayers are with the families and loved ones. Please stay safe, everyone.»

Bengaluru stampede: KSCA secretary and treasurer resign



BENGALURU, (HS) : A Shankar and E S Jairam have resigned from their respective posts as secretary and treasurer of the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA), taking moral responsibility for the stampede that led to the death of 11 people during RCB's IPL trophy celebrations. In a joint statement, Shankar and Jairam said they had submitted their resignations on Thursday night to the KSCA president. «due to the unforeseen and unfortunate events that have unfolded in the last two days, and though our role was very limited, we wish to state that we have tendered our resignation to our respective posts as the Secretary and Treasurer of the Karnataka State Cricket Association,» the statement read. KSCA president Raghuram Bhat, secretary Shankar and treasurer Jayaram had submitted in the Karnataka High Court that the gate management and crowd management were not the responsibility of the association and they had sought permission to hold RCB IPL celebrations at Vidhan Soudha. While the felicitation at the Vidhan Soudha passed off without any major glitch, chaos erupted outside the M Chinnaswamy Stadium where lakhs converged following RCB's social media invitation, which was eventually deleted.

Thug Life box office: Kamal film holds steady, collects 28 crore

Mani Ratnam's Kamal Haasan, Silambarasan TR and Trisha Krishnan-starrer Thug Life was released in theatres on Thursday. With lukewarm reviews and disappointed reactions flooding the internet, the film seems not to have benefited, especially given its comparisons to their 1987 film Nayakan. According to Sacnilk, the film collected 28.49 crore net in India by its first Saturday.

The numbers for Thug Life seem to hold steady after the massive dip the film registered on Friday. According to the trade website, the Mani-directed film made ?15.5 crore on its opening day and 7.15 crore on Friday, showing a 53.87% dip. On Saturday, the film brought in an estimated 5.84 crore, taking its total collection to ?28.49 crore approximately in India. It registered a 35.62% occupancy for the Tamil version. While these numbers are decent, Thug Life has suffered not just due to comparisons from Nayakan, but



also due to its release being halted in Karnataka due to the language row. Housefull 5's release on Friday also seems to have affected its Hindi collections. Before the film's release, Kamal extensively promoted it and was excited for his reunion with Mani after 38 years. As per ANI, he told the press, "Every film is a challenge, especially when you add another director like Mani Ratnam and a story that is so interesting. Fortunately, he included me in the story's

preparation. I gave him an idea. Most of the time I was getting vegetables and helping him make it more tasty. That's what I did. And that I call a true collaboration...We are both children of cinema, and that is how we see each other."

Thug Life sees Kamal play Shaktivel, aka Shakti and Silambarasan, his adopted son, Amar. Ashok Selvan, Aishwarya Lekshmi, Joju George, Ali Fazal, Sanya Malhotra, and Rohit Saraf also star in the film.

Nonetheless, looking great IMO." Another wrote, "He looks good." The actor's look is completely different from what was shown during the film's announcement. The announcement video showed Dhanush sporting a grittier and more intense look, with shoulder-length hair and a heavy beard. The clip featured Dhanush running towards a wall with a Molotov cocktail in his hand while smoking.

Helmed by Aanand L Rai, the film's story, dialogues, and screenplay have been penned by Himanshu Sharma and Neeraj Yadav. The film is produced by Himanshu. Aanand has roped in A.R. Rahman for music and Irshad Kamil for lyrics. Apart from Dhanush, the film also stars Kriti Sanon in the lead role and is scheduled for release in 2026.



Actor Dhanush and Aanand L Rai have reunited for another romantic drama, Tere Ishk Mein. The actor's first look from the film showed him with a heavy beard and long hair. However, a new look from the set has now surfaced online, hinting that he may be playing an IAF officer, and fans can't keep calm.

An X user shared Dhanush's photos from the Tere Ishk Mein set, which showed him with short hair and a moustache. He is seen

wearing an Indian Air Force uniform with 'Shankar' on the name tag. Fans were quick to react to the pictures. While some thought he looked leaner and stronger, others were reminded of cricketer Hardik Pandya after seeing the look. One of the comments read, "Looks like Hardik Pandya." Another said, "Bro, that's Hardik Pandya." Another fan commented, "He looks kinda buff - or is it because of the suit he's wearing?"

Rahul Won't Open, Gill at No. 4 in England Test

New Delhi, (HS) : India's Tour of England, that starts on June 20, is the start of new chapter in cricket in the country. While in T20Is the scene is now the new normal, in Tests too now Indian cricket team will be without Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma. The series, under new captain Shubman Gill, will be an acid test for the side. With regular opener Rohit and No. 4 Kohli not part of the team anymore, it will be interesting to see whom the team management picks. Several reports have claimed that KL Rahul and Yashasvi Jaiswal are the likely openers while Sai Sudharshan will bat at No. 3. Shubman Gill will be the No. 4 batter. Former Australia captain and current Punjab Kings coach Ricky Ponting, however, had a different take. «I think (Sai) Sudarshan and (Yashasvi) Jaiswal will open the batting (in England) as Sudarshan just looks like a class



player to me and technically I think he could do well at Test level,» Ponting said on ICC Review. «They'll have two pretty young opening batters, so they might look to go for someone

that's got a bit more experience at No.3. «Whether that's KL (Rahul) or Karun (Nair) at No.3, and then Shubman might end up being that No.4 player, which will probably make life for him a little bit easier

as a captain as well. «Not having to be opening or batting at No.3 as a young captain might make it easier. Their top five will probably be Sudarshan, Jaiswal, KL, Gill and Karun Nair for the start of the England series. «Gill has hinted that the team management will take a call on the batting order after the India's Intra-Squad match that starts on June 13. «We haven't really decided on the...we still have some time. We will be playing intra squad match and we will be having a 10-day camp in London, so we still have a little bit of time. I think we can decide on the batting order once we go there,» he said.

«When I came to know, there was an opportunity to captain the Test team, it was overwhelming. Having said that It's a big responsibility. Looking forward to this great challenge that will be presented to us,» Shubman Gill said before departing for England.

French Open: Sinner to Face Alcaraz in Final

PARIS, (HS) : Top-seeded Jannik Sinner entered the final of the highly coveted French Open 2025 with a memorable win over the sixth-seeded Novak Djokovic in the semi-final match on Friday (IST). The Italian registered a scoreline 6-4, 7-5, 7-6 and knocked the 24-time Grand Slam winner out of the title race. With this win, Sinner marched into the final of French Open 2025 and will now face the second-seeded and the defending champions



Carlos Alcaraz in the summit clash on Sunday. It will be Sinner's maiden French Open title. Though

the match was one-sided as reflected by the scoreline, it did have many thrills and moments of genius from the 38-year-old Djokovic, who produced some great shots. But he let slip three set points on return at 5-4 in the third set, and Sinner's relentless hard work and consistency reaped rewards. Speaking after the match, the world number one said, as quoted by ATP's official website, «It was such a special occasion for me, playing against Novak in

the semi-final of a Grand Slam. It is just amazing, and I had to step up and play the best tennis I could. I am very happy with how I handled the situation, but this shows again what a role model he is for all of us and especially for us young players. ««What he (Djokovic) is doing is incredible, and I wish him only the best for the rest of the season. I think we are all very lucky to see him playing such high-level tennis, it is amazing,» he added.