



# DUMANI MAIL

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English Daily



## Nari Shakti acting on Viksit Bharat: PM

**New Delhi, (HS) :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has highlighted the transformative role played by women in the journey towards a developed India, underlining the government's focus on women-led development over the past 11 years.

The Prime Minister said, "Our mothers, sisters and daughters have seen times when they had to face difficulties at every step. But today they are not only participating actively in the resolution of a developed India, but are also setting examples in every field from education to business. Shri Modi further added that the successes of Nari Shakti in the last 11 years are a matter of pride for all



citizens." The Prime Minister noted that the NDA Government has redefined women-led development through a series of impactful initiatives. These include ensuring dignity through the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan,

financial inclusion via Jan Dhan accounts, and empowerment at the grassroots level. He cited Ujjwala Yojana as a milestone that brought smoke-free kitchens to several homes. He also highlighted how MUDRA loans

have enabled lakhs of women to become entrepreneurs and pursue their dreams independently. The provision of houses in women's names under the PM Awas Yojana has also made a remarkable impact on their sense of security and empowerment. The Prime Minister also recalled the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign, which he described as a national movement to protect the girl child. Modi affirmed that in all sectors- including science, education, sports, StartUps, and the armed forces-women are excelling and inspiring several people. "Over the last 11 years, the NDA Government has redefined women-led

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**TENSIONS FLARE:** Charred remains of a bus used for transporting central forces, which was set on fire by a mob, a day after protests erupted over the arrest of a leader of Meitei outfit Arambai Tengol in Imphal Manipur on Sunday.

## Govt to ban sale of non-veg food, liquor near Puri temple



**Bhubaneswar, (DMC) :** To elevate Puri's status as a major pilgrim destination, Odisha Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan on Sunday announced a complete ban on sale of liquor within a 2-km radius of Shree Jagannath Temple. "There will be no liquor shops or bars within this area," he told reporters.

The Minister further stated

that sale of all non-vegetarian food items will also be prohibited along the Bada Danda, the main road leading to the 12th-century shrine. "The new excise policy will ensure strict enforcement of these restrictions," he said. Additionally, buildings along the 'Bada Danda' will be redesigned with a common structure pattern

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## Make Odisha a global player: CM

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC) :** Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Sunday met several prominent industry leaders, MSME entrepreneurs, women entrepreneurs and start-up sector leaders ahead of the first anniversary of the government. During the interaction, the CM thanked the entrepreneurs and industry leaders for becoming partners in Odisha's growth story. He highlighted how Odisha is becoming a fulcrum of industrialisation and the measures the state government has taken to help industries in catering to the international markets. Stressing that the government is focusing more on job creation and more employment, he urged the industry captains and entrepreneurs to grow with Odisha and join the journey of



making Odisha an industrial power house. Speaking to the industry leaders, the CM said, "One year ago, the people of Odisha, placed their faith in us, to build a future that is inclusive, aspirational, and transformative.

Today, as we reflect on this first year, we do so with pride, in our progress and renewed commitment to the journey ahead." "The presence of Hon'ble Prime Minister at the Utkarsha Odisha event made all the

difference. His call to investors to put their money in Odisha was highly rewarding for us. Over 150 MoUs were signed, generating Rs 16.7 lakh Crore of investment intent and an employment potential for more than 12.9 lakh

people. Over the last year alone, 206 large projects were approved, nearly double the average of the previous five years. These represent a total investment value of over Rs 4.5 lakh crore and an employment potential of nearly 2.9 lakh jobs," he added.

He further said, "Since Utkarsha Odisha, 56 projects have already been taken up for ground-breaking and inauguration, with a combined investment of over Rs 1.78 lakh crore, and employment potential for 1.1 lakh people. These numbers reflect not only our speed, but scale and substance. Noting that this growth has been spread across 20 diverse sectors from traditional strengths like mining, metallurgy and metal downstream to emerging opportunities in

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## NDA to form govt in TN, says Shah



**New Delhi, (HS) :** Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday asserted that the NDA would form government in Tamil Nadu and targeted the DMK government by firing fresh "corruption" salvos, including the Rs 4,600 crore sand mining scam. Speaking at a Bharatiya Janata Party Karyakarta Sammelan in Madurai, calling it the "city of Parivartan", Shah rallied BJP volunteers towards dislodging the DMK from power.

Chief Minister M K Stalin claimed that Shah cannot defeat the DMK and he is correct in a sense, he said, adding, "It is not Shah who will defeat the DMK, it is the people of Tamil Nadu who will bring about that change." Shah said that his extensive electoral experience gives him insight into public sentiment, and expressed firm belief that Tamil Nadu voters will oust the DMK government this time. Shah accused the DMK of

harming the poor, women, and children. He said, "With the alleged ₹39,775 crore TASMAM scam alone, we could have built at least two classrooms in every primary school in Tamil Nadu." He further referenced ongoing Enforcement Directorate searches tied to the ₹1,000 crore liquor sale scam at TASMAM, Tamil Nadu's state run alcohol retailer. He lashed out at the DMK for "crossing all limits of corruption," claiming the ₹4,600 crore sand mining scandal has deeply hurt vulnerable communities. Shah also targeted a central ₹450 crore nutrition kit initiative, alleging it was awarded to a private contractor and mired in graft. He challenged Stalin to publicly account for the DMK's 2021 election promises, accusing the government of fulfilling less than 60% of its manifesto commitments. Shah added that

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## State reports 7 new Covid cases

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC) :** Odisha continues to witness a slow but steady resurgence of COVID-19 cases. According to the latest bulletin released by the Directorate of Public Health, seven new COVID-19 positive cases have been identified in Odisha, taking the total cumulative count to 45 on Sunday.

Out of the total 45 confirmed cases, 33 are currently active, and health officials are closely monitoring their condition. Patients are being treated in isolation wards across designated hospitals, and no reports of severe illness have been issued so far. The state has recorded 12 recoveries to date. Public health authorities emphasized that while recovery numbers are growing, continued vigilance and timely medical intervention remain crucial. Dr. Nilakantha



Mishra, the Director of Public Health, provided these updates and reiterated the need for public cooperation. He urged citizens to follow basic COVID-appropriate

behavior such as mask usage, hand hygiene, and avoiding crowded spaces. Earlier, the Centre had issued an advisory asking states to ensure the

availability of oxygen supply, isolation beds, ventilators, and critical medicines to combat any potential escalation.

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## 3 workers electrocuted to death



**Balasure, (DMC) :** Three workers died after getting electrocuted at Gagandhuli village under Khaira block of Balasure district on Sunday. As per preliminary information, the three labourers came in contact

with a live wire while doing plastering work of a septic tank in the village.

The workers were immediately rushed to the district headquarters hospital (DHH) at

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## DRDO transfers tech of 9 systems to 10 industries

**New Delhi, (HS) :** In line with the Government's vision to establish a robust defence industrial ecosystem with the participation of both public and private sectors, Vehicles Research & Development Establishment (VRDE), a DRDO laboratory located in Maharashtra, has taken a major step forward by transferring technologies of nine systems to 10 industries. The licensing agreements were handed over in the presence of Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman, DRDO Dr. Samir V Kamat during an event organised at VRDE on Saturday.

VRDE also signed an MoU



with COEP Technological University, Pune to jointly work on cutting-edge technologies and

emerging areas. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Kamat complimented DRDO and the

industry for the exceptional performance of indigenous systems during Operation Sindoor. He also suggested the industry to plan for surge capacity. He appreciated the efforts of VRDE in providing high-end technological solutions for land systems and weapon platforms. Distinguished Scientist and Director General (Armament and Combat Engineering) Cluster, DRDO Prof (Dr) Prateek Kishore; Director, VRDE Shri G Ramamohana Rao and other senior scientists graced the occasion with industry representatives.

The technologies transferred

to the industry include Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) Recce Vehicle (Tracked) Mk-II and Expandable Mobile Shelter to Bharat Electronics Limited; Mounted Gun System to Bharat Forge Limited; Anti-Terrorist Vehicle - Tracked Version to Metaltech Motor Bodies Private Limited; Full Trailer of 70t Tank Transporter for Main Battle Tank (MBT) Arjun Mk-1A to BEML Limited, Tata International Vehicle Applications, SDR Auto Private Limited, & John Galt International; Vajra-Riot Control Vehicle to Tata Advanced Systems Limited; Unit

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## Census 2027

In the recent past, the Centre has taken several steps to fill the gaps in data availability in the country. For instance, it has conducted two rounds of household consumption expenditure surveys for 2022-23 and 2023-24 which provide granular data on household spending patterns, and also allow for the estimation of poverty and inequality in the country. The government has also announced that the revamped sample design of the labour force surveys will allow for the generation of monthly estimates of key labour market indicators, which will aid policymaking. On Wednesday, it took another step, announcing the dates for the much delayed Census. This is a welcome development. The Census 2021 had been postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic and has not been conducted since. This had meant that the last Census conducted provided estimates of India's population as of March 2011. Considering that timely and accurate data forms the basis of policy making, the continuing absence of the Census data has only hindered policymaking in the country.

The Census 2027 will be conducted in two phases. As per a report in this paper, the household listing phase is likely to begin by March-April 2026, while the enumeration exercise will take place over 21 days in February 2027. As per the Ministry of Home Affairs, "the reference date for population Census-2027 will be 00:00 hours of the first day of March, 2027". For the UT of Ladakh and the non-synchronous snow-bound areas of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, the reference date will be 00.00 hours of the first day of October, 2026. Alongside, the exercise will also involve the enumeration of castes. This will be the first time since 1931 that the Census will gather detailed data on caste beyond Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. But, the announcement of the Census has also raised questions on the possibility of delimitation - the process of reconfiguring the Lok Sabha and state assembly seats - and the implementation of 33 per cent reservation for women in Parliament. In addition to providing population estimates, the Census also collects data on several household socio-economic indicators. This provides vital information on the changes in the country over the decades. Alongside, the Census data is also used in various surveys, and by both government agencies and private entities in the formulation of policies and strategies. It thus serves an invaluable purpose, aiding policy making in India.

9th June

## Donald Duck Day



Donald Duck made his cartoon debut in "The Wise Little Hen" back in the summer of 1934. But he wouldn't meet Mickey Mouse until his second appearance in "Orphan's Benefit" later that year. From there, it wasn't long before Daisy Duck and his nephews Huey, Dewey, and Louie were introduced. In spite of their superior diction, they weren't able to steal the spotlight from Donald. You can't replace his grumpy, nearly incomprehensible charm, and it's why the Donald has been in more movies (200+) than any Disney character. So, let's celebrate on June 9 - National Donald Duck Day!

And his accomplishments don't stop there. He co-hosted the Oscars in 1958 with a little help from Bob Hope, Jack Lemmon, and Jimmy Stewart. Oh, and they named an asteroid after him in 1995. If that doesn't convince you he's a force of nature, know that he has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. We're not sure how he left webbed foot prints in front of the Chinese Theater, but we'll gladly roll with it. Well, what do you give to a duck that has it all? His own holiday! The world was introduced to Disney's beloved character Donald Duck on June 9, 1934. More or less starting off as a comic-book character, he remains the most published non-superhero ever. Such is his popularity that Donald Duck is a national hero in Finland! The character is a pop culture icon in Finland, much like Hello Kitty is in Japan. Donning his signature blue sailor suit with no pants, Donald Duck has appeared in more short films and feature films than any other Disney character. It is the diverse nature of his character that has allowed him to be featured in a plethora of roles, from an army officer and a teacher, to an uncle to three ducklings. Walt Disney conjured up the idea for Donald Duck to introduce an edgier character to balance out the goody-goody jolly Mickey Mouse. During the experimental phase of Donald's character creation, Disney read about Australian cricketer Donald Bradman, who had made headlines after getting dismissed for a duck.

Another defining feature of Donald Duck is his voice. Clarence Nash, the original voice actor for Donald, created a distinct voice achieved by 'buccal speech,' a form of vocalization that utilizes the inner cheek to create sound instead of the larynx. Nash first discovered this while trying to mimic his pet goat. In the 1940s, Donald Duck overtook Mickey Mouse with over 128 independent short animations. This was truly the decade of the Donald, as he soared to popularity faster than any other Disney figure. During World War II, despite having to halt most of its production, Disney represented its stance by using Donald Duck in several American propaganda films. One of these animations earned Disney an Academy Award for 'Best Short Film.'

Other than his success in films, Donald also got his own comic in the '40s that branched into an entire series of independent Donald Duck comics, which are circulated and enjoyed by adults and children until today. The Donald in the comics - who lives in the town of Duckburg and is a loving uncle to nephews Huey, Dewey, and Louie - is much more mild-mannered, and has better-articulated speech and emotions than the original Donald.

# INDIA RISING: A Bird's Eye View



Raghunath Mahapatra

As far as India is concerned, it has remained as a prominent and influential example in the broader discussions about development economics since the early 1960s. As a large and rapidly developing country, the country became a central focus for researchers, policymakers and those seeking to understand the complexities of economic growth. The country faced numerous challenges, including poverty, inequality, and the need to modernize its agricultural sector. At the same time, India also possessed significant strengths, including its large workforce, natural resources, and a growing middle class.

The country has made significant progress over a span of three-quarters of a century since its independence. From a primarily agrarian economy (in which agriculture contributes 56% of the GDP), the world's largest democracy has transformed into a predominantly services sector economy. Now the services sector contributes to over 50% of the country's GDP, while the share of agriculture stands at less than 20%. The nation has also strengthened its physical and social infrastructure over the last 75 years; that has resulted in life expectancy increasing to 69.4 years from 32.15 years, and maternal and infant mortality rates improving to 1.036 from 20.7 and 308 from 1.339 respectively. The country's

growth potential makes it an attractive destination for all three types of investors; resource seekers, efficiency seekers and especially market seekers. For the market seekers, the scale and emerging consumption patterns that India could offer over the next quarter of the century are immense. With a large domestic consumption base, seventh-highest final consumption expenditure in the world, where private consumption and government consumption makes up over 70% of the GDP, and per capita income poised to grow at rapid rates; there are potential opportunities for market seekers. As per the World Economic Forum's report on the "Future of Consumption", India will add around 140 million middle-income and 21 million high-income households by 2030, where the upper middle-income and high-income households will drive 61% of the consumption in 2030. The median age of the Indian population is projected to be 31 in 2030 compared to 42 in China and 40 in the US, thereby making India a country with the largest working-age population in the world and by 2030, 90 million new households will be headed by millennial. This group is a demographic cohort (often called Generation Y) encompassing people born between 1981 and 1996. This generation is known for being tech-savvy, having grown up with the rise of the internet. They are often characterized as progressive, socially connected, and highly educated. These digital natives will have a vastly different approach to consumption and expectations regarding service delivery by both the Government and private sectors.

Both the Government of India (GOI) and India Inc. could aspire to achieve the economic and social outcomes for a developed India by 2047 by de-stressing the economic and social fault lines and reimagining the future of a



committed India. To harvest the gains from the economy, India will need to unlock the following key focus areas that demand both investments and policy interventions: Skills unlock, Education unlocks, Healthcare services unlock, Gender unlocks, Logistics unlock, Manufacturing unlocks and Regulatory unlock. Though, debates around India's demographic dividend are common but concentrated efforts are needed to upskill millions of our working-age youth nationwide to make them industry ready and future fit for the new sets of jobs that are being created owing to the disruption of existing business models. Skilling India is an urgent imperative and this goal may be achieved through close cooperation between private, public and civil society organizations. A "future-fit India requires significant financial resources from the Government. The tax-to-GDP ratio (which has inched up to around 12%) for India needs to be streamlined and in the years to come, progressive formalization and digitalization of the Indian economy are likely to continue to provide buoyancy in the tax revenues. The Government should have adequate resources to finance India's journey towards becoming a developed country.

The Government could also consider unlocking the logistics jam through infrastructure projects having cash flows and securitizing those future cash flows instead of funding such projects from its annual budget. This could help the Government undertake more infrastructure projects without negatively impacting the budget deficits, much to the satisfaction of sovereign ratings agencies that frown upon higher deficits.

The Indian economy, with its natural shock absorbers, has strong fundamentals built over 75 years and is highly resilient, as has been proved time and again. It owes its financial markets resilience to the growth of domestic institutional investors (DIIs) that stepped in when foreign institutional investors (FIIs) began exiting with the US Fed taper. It owes its tax revenue resilience to the increasing digitalization and formalization of the economy. India's energy resilience emanates from the growth of renewable and ethanol in the energy mix. And last but not the least; its demand resilience arises from the large consumer base responsible for making India's medium- and long-term economic outlook very strong. The consumer and retail market

could approach \$6 trillion and financial services will be the most active sector in the world, home to an estimated 300 billion transactions. There will be an estimated 600 million students in India in 2047 and some 1.5 billion Internet users (both representing the world's largest markets of these respective sectors). And in the auto industry it's estimated that 75% of new passenger vehicle sales will be electric. The country will be home to potentially half a billion electric vehicles. As India looks over the horizon to 2047 (its 100th year of independence) there appear to be several reasons for optimism. Various projections indicate that India is on course to become the second-largest global economy by 2047 in terms of purchasing power parity and its spending power is projected to grow from just 3% of a US consumer today to 24% by 2050. In the coming twenty-five years per capita income of the country could exceed \$26,000 (almost 13 times the current level). This is both possible and plausible in USD terms and not on purchasing power parity (PPP) terms.

Hope is not a strategy and potential is not the same as performance. There is much reason for strong optimism about the 2047 outlook for India today, but nothing is guaranteed. We cannot control the future, but business leaders and the government can build the muscles necessary and conditions to thrive whatever the future may bring. The state of the global economy in 2050 will partly depend on how quickly and effectively India implements the reforms and required structural changes. Given the right policies, the country could reach high-income status by 2047. Otherwise, it risks remaining a middle-income country plagued by low productivity and sluggish growth.

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## From Allies to Adversaries? India-U.S. Ties Under Pressure

Dr. Debidutta Pattnaik

India faces big hurdles in its rise as a global power. On 22 April 2025, a terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, killed 26 people, mostly tourists, revealing Pakistan's role in supporting militants. India fought back with Operation Sindoor on 7 May, hitting nine terror bases in Pakistan and its controlled Kashmir, showing its strength. But trouble grows as U.S.-India ties weaken, with President Trump pushing Apple to cut back in India. Conversely, Pakistan's 26 April deal with World Liberty Financial (WLF), a crypto firm tied to Trump's family, aims to make it a crypto hub, threatening India's digital lead and security.

Pakistan's crypto boom poses serious concerns for India. The rise of untraceable digital money—akin to Hamas's "Bitcoin shakers" tactic—could potentially fund terrorism, especially given Pakistan's weak financial regulations until 2022. Moreover, Indian traders trying to evade the 30% crypto tax might resort to using Pakistan-based platforms, increasing the risk of data leaks that could aid espionage or hostile actions. The growth of Pakistan's crypto sector might also divert investment away from India's digital economy and enable Pakistan to bypass global financial norms, thereby strengthening its covert operations. Additionally, Trump's involvement in the deal and his mediation offer following the Pahalgam incident suggest a possible U.S. tilt towards Pakistan, which could undermine India's global standing. Ties with the U.S. are souring indeed. India's buying of Russian oil and



choosing French jets over American ones have upset our relations. Despite India's \$118 billion trade with the U.S. in 2023–24—marked by a \$32 billion surplus—there is a looming risk of economic retaliation or sanctions. Meanwhile, Indian H-1B visa holders, who make up a significant share of the U.S. tech workforce, are facing job losses, which could affect remittances back home. Conversely, India's push to internationalize the rupee through platforms like UPI is also facing headwinds, as Russian oil transactions continue to be settled in U.S. dollars. What is India doing? India is fighting back with its strength. The "Make in India" plan boosts defence production, with homegrown missiles and air-defence system successfully stopping Pakistani and Chinese drones in Operation Sindoor. Conversely, smart industrial hubs, like in Aurangabad, make setting up factories easier, improving business. Partnerships with Taiwan and Japan are building India's chip industry, reducing reliance on the U.S. Further, India's huge middle-class market retains companies like Apple here, despite U.S. pressure. But India's workers need better training, who

are currently lagging behind China, to make the most of its young population.

How can common Indians contribute? Common citizens can actively participate in India's growth story by resolving to buy local goods, such as phones and clothes, in support of the "Make in India" drive. They can consider facilitating training or mentoring young people to build a skilled Indian workforce. They can continue using UPI for daily payments strengthening India's financial freedom. Conversely, to stop crypto risks, they can use only FIU-India-approved platforms like WazirX, report suspicious transactions to cybercrime.gov.in, and warn others about risky platforms, especially those tied to Pakistan. Pushing for strict crypto rules in public forums and checking RBI updates will protect India's money. With these simple steps, every Indian can help fight terrorism, stand up to the U.S. pressure, and block Pakistan's crypto plans, building a strong, resilient, and self-reliant India. *Jai Hind!*

*Assistant Professor and Area Chair (Finance and Economics), IMI Bhubaneswar*

## Selfless Service is the Blossom of Real Love

Dr. Suresh Kumar Nayak

The most fundamental teaching of the ancient culture of India is love. For generations, the youth of this land have been exhorted, encouraged and taught, both by precept and example, to love the poor, the helpless, the handicapped, the illiterate and the disabled, for, the same spark of divinity that is in us, is also equally evident and active in them as well. Service is the blossom of love, a flower that fills the mind with rapture. Harmlessness is the fragrance of this flower. Let even our little acts be redolent with compassion and reverence; our character would thereby shine greatly. The highest happiness is contentment. Where there is no harshness, there holiness will thrive and virtue will flourish. Where greed exists, vice will breed. We must completely destroy the urge to live an isolated life, like that of a lone bull. We must not entertain such a wish, in our wildest dreams.

We must understand the deep significance of service; it would uplift our spirits and souls as nothing else would. We fulfill ourselves by giving; we empty ourselves by grabbing. We must speak to all and of all with love blooming out of adoration; let our hands give, never take what is not ours. We must try to offer people our love; they will respond with lasting gratitude. If we give clothes or houses, they are apt to lose them. If we give them education, they may or may not use it for their good. But, if we give them love, they will imbibe it gratefully and fill their hearts with it, and be happy as never before. All men are kin, they are of the same



likeness, the same build; molded out of the same material, with the same divine essence in each. Service to man will help our divinity to blossom, for, it will gladden our hearts and make us feel like that life has been worthwhile. In fact, service to man is service to God, for He is in every man, and every living being, and in every stone and stump.

Love expresses itself as service, love grows through service, and love is begun in the womb of service. We must engage every moment of our lives in the most beneficial manner, to serve our fellow men to the best of our capacity, to cultivate love towards all mankind, and to give up hate and malice. We must love, cooperate, help, and serve. This is our prime duty. We must develop compassion and sympathy; engage in service, understand the agony of poverty, disease, distress and despair; and, share both tears and cheers with others. This is the surest and most reliable way to soften the heart, and help all our efforts, endeavors, and enterprise to succeed. We must welcome within the fold of our love, all men without distinction of race or religion, color or class. We must have the picture of the happy love-filled human community in our heart. This will bestow upon us the much needed encouragement in the mission of service.

Principal, Ashelles Public School, Sector-9, CDA, Cuttack



# New buildings for Lok Seva Bhawan, Assembly on cards

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):** In a major push towards modernizing state infrastructure, the Odisha Government has announced ambitious plans to construct new buildings for Lok Seva Bhawan and the Odisha Legislative Assembly under a modern architectural framework.

The existing structures, which have long stood as administrative landmarks in the Capital City, are now under review for redesign and possible transformation, informed Public Works Department (PWD) Minister Prithviraj Harichandan on Sunday. Speaking to reporters, the Minister said, "We are evaluating how to reshape the existing buildings of Lok Seva Bhawan and Vidhan Sabha to align with the evolving needs of governance and aesthetics. A fresh structural

blueprint is under consideration." As part of the state's long-term infrastructure vision, a world-class Odisha Mandap-a massive multi-convention centre-will also be developed in Bhubaneswar. A suitable location for the Odisha Mandap has already been identified in Chandrasekharpur, a prominent and accessible locality in the city.

Designed to global standards, the Odisha Mandap will include a state-of-the-art boardroom and a main convention hall with a seating capacity of over 10,000 people. It aims to host large-scale summits, cultural programs, and international events, placing Odisha on the global map for mega gatherings and diplomacy." New projects will be undertaken by the Odisha government, including Odisha Mandap, which will be a world-class



convention centre. Land has been identified at Chandrasekharpur, and preliminary discussions have been made," said Harichandan. The Minister further informed that the Odisha Mandap will be a multi-mode conventional centre with a seating capacity for 10,000 people, along with hotel accommodation in one premises. A preliminary concept has been

developed, and we want to take it further. Similarly, a lot of projects are in concept stage, and if execution and construction take time, it will create problems. Hence, we are trying to adopt measures to minimise the cost of construction of buildings, which will boost the industry sector here in Odisha, said the Minister. Additionally, the Minister revealed plans to

construct disaster-resilient buildings across the state to enhance preparedness against natural calamities. All proposed buildings will be completed within a stipulated timeline, he assured. To optimize costs while ensuring durability, the government is exploring innovative construction technologies.

Discussions have already been held with the Indian Buildings Congress (IBC) on adopting modern, cost-effective methods in public construction. Moreover, the government plans to provide specialized training to newly recruited engineers to ensure they are equipped with the skills needed for executing these advanced projects. These initiatives mark a transformative step in Odisha's infrastructure journey, combining modern engineering with functional governance.

## Bhubaneswar to get guest houses for all dists

In an effort to address the accommodation challenges encountered by the visitors in the Capital City, the Odisha government plans to offer dedicated guest houses in Bhubaneswar for each district across the state. As per sources, each facility, set to comprise 100 rooms, will cater to individuals visiting the capital for healthcare services, educational objectives, or to engage with government offices, thereby providing accommodation without financial strain.

With many individuals across various districts of the state travelling to Bhubaneswar seeking various services, the high cost of hotels and other lodging options often presents a significant hurdle. In a bid to alleviate this, designated guest house facilities will be introduced, allowing guests to conduct their activities conveniently. The initiative will see the creation of as many as 3,000 rooms for all 30 districts.



Each guest house will bear the name of its respective district, fostering a sense of belonging and regional representation. "The State government is planning to construct guest houses for each district in Bhubaneswar so that the visitors of these districts will get an opportunity to stay at those guest houses when they come to the state capital for various works.

It has been proposed that each guest house will have 100 rooms and there will be a total of 3,000 rooms for 30 guest houses," said Revenue Minister Suresh Pujari. "The fees for the visitors for staying at the guest houses will be decided later," he added.

# Rs 200 cr plan to transform iconic Nicco Park

**Bhubaneswar (DMC):** The iconic Nicco Park in Bhubaneswar is all set to transform into a world-class tourism destination as the Odisha government has drawn up an ambitious Rs 200 crore redevelopment plan. Sources said that Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has also reviewed the redevelopment proposal. As per reports, the state government plans to revamp Nicco Park with modern facilities.



give full control of the park to the Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) before the project starts. The BDA is now working on figuring out the shareholdings of all involved parties to decide on compensation and ownership details. It is worth mentioning that Nicco Park was developed in 1996 through a partnership between the Bhubaneswar Development

Authority (BDA), which held 49%, and the Nicco Group, which owned 51%. The construction started in 1997 on a 24-acre land near the state secretariat. However, the park was badly damaged during the 1999 super cyclone. While the Nicco Group took loans from IPICOL to repair it, the park never fully bounced back and continued to lose money. Over time, neglect led to poor

maintenance, and less visitor's footfall. Later in 2007, the BDA handed over the park's operations to a private company, Sun Tech City Private Limited. The park was renamed BDA City Centre, but problems continued. Pollution from Drain No. 10, illegal encroachments, and dirty water in the boating pond made the place unattractive.

Many of the amusement rides stopped working because of poor maintenance. Cyclone Fani in 2019 caused even more damage, leaving the park unusable and in bad condition. A senior BDA official said that all private companies will be removed before the revamp. They are checking the documents to figure out each company's share, and talks are happening, especially with the Nicco Group, which will be the first to leave.

# Not elevated, fully underground metro rail in city

**Bhubaneswar (DMC):** Odisha Works Minister Prithviraj Harichandan on Sunday announced that Bhubaneswar will have an underground metro system instead of the previously proposed elevated system. The minister stated that the state government is moving ahead with plans for a fully underground metro in Bhubaneswar. "No new route has been decided yet for the metro project.



The Housing and Urban Development Department is responsible for preparing the route plan. Once it's ready, work on the underground metro will begin," the minister said while speaking to reporters. He also explained that the plan for an elevated metro has been canceled to protect the city's beauty. "An elevated metro would affect the look of Bhubaneswar. To keep the city's charm intact, we are

planning a fully underground metro," the minister added. The department, along with the Survey Department, will soon start the survey for the underground metro route. After the surveys are done, the government will make a final decision on approving the project. The Minister

highlighted the state's risk of cyclones and emphasized the need to build disaster-resistant buildings in different areas. He also mentioned that the government is closely overseeing the progress of all ongoing and future infrastructure projects to ensure they are completed on time.

# Bhadrak District Bags Top Honour In Revenue Administration



**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):** In a significant recognition of administrative excellence, Bhadrak district has secured the 1st Rank among all 30 districts of Odisha for its 'Overall Performance in Revenue Administration.' The district was awarded the prestigious Certificate of Excellence during the two-day Revenue Officers' Conference-cum-Workshop, held

on June 4 and 5 at the Lok Seva Bhawan Convention Centre in Bhubaneswar. The event, organised for the first time by the Revenue and Disaster Management Department, witnessed participation from key field-level functionaries including Tahasildars, Sub-Collectors, and ADMs (Revenue) from across Odisha. The inaugural session was graced by Chief

Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, along with Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari and Additional Chief Secretary Deoranjana Kumar Singh. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister highlighted the crucial role played by revenue officers in public service delivery and the implementation of the Odisha Right to Public Services Act (ORTPSA). He

lauded their dedication in strengthening grassroots governance and ensuring timely service delivery. Effective implementation and service delivery under the ORTPSA, and Progress in Column 2 correction of the Record of Rights (RoR) - a critical step in maintaining accurate land records to ensure transparency and ease of service to citizens.

Bhadrak district emerged as the top performer in both categories, demonstrating notable efficiency and commitment in streamlining revenue administration.

The award was received by ADM (Revenue) Santanu Kumar Mohanty on behalf of Collector Dilip Routrai, in the presence of a team of revenue officials from Bhadrak. This recognition marks a proud moment for the district and sets a benchmark in public service delivery, record management, and administrative transparency in the state.

## Mousumi gives birth to two cubs at Nandankanan

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):** The tiger population at Nandankanan Zoological Park in Bhubaneswar rose to 29 after white tigress Mousumi gave birth to two cubs on the night of June 7. As per reports, the two cubs were born at 9:15 PM and 11:03 PM respectively in Enclosure 28B. According to zoo officials, one of the cubs looks like it has a normal colour, while the other appears to be white. The gender of the cubs hasn't been identified yet, as they are still being cared for by their mother. Zoo officials are keeping a close watch on the mother and her babies to make sure they are healthy and well looked after. It is worth mentioning that the cubs were born after a successful mating between white tigress Mousumi and a normal-coloured tiger named Rajesh on February 27 and 28 this year.

## Snippets Deputy CM suffers hairline fracture

**Cuttack, (DMC):** Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo encountered an unfortunate incident during his visit to Cuttack on Sunday. The visit was aimed at reviewing the arrangements for the upcoming women's fair, which is set to take place on June 13 at the lower Bali Jatra ground. However, while assessing the preparations, Deputy CM Singh Deo accidentally twisted his foot, leading to an immediate medical examination that revealed a hairline fracture in his left foot. As per reports, Singh Deo was promptly taken to the SCB MCH in Cuttack for treatment. Doctors at the facility have confirmed the injury and are monitoring his recovery closely. The Deputy Chief Minister has been actively involved in overseeing the preparations for the event, which holds significant cultural importance in the region.

## Mobile App for online certificate soon

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):** The Revenue & Disaster Management Department is set to introduce a new mobile application aimed at facilitating the online issuance of caste, residence, and income certificates, among other services.

This was announced by Revenue & Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari on Sunday. "The app will enable students and other applicants to apply from the comfort of their homes without needing to visit the Sahaj Jan Seva Kendra," the minister said while speaking with reporters. He added that the application will not only allow users to submit applications but also support online payments. Once processed, the department will upload the certificates to the app, enabling users to download and print them at their convenience. Minister Pujari emphasized that this initiative is part of the department's efforts to enhance service delivery and provide citizens with easier access to essential documents.



## Minor girl goes missing in Naharkanta

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC) :** A minor girl was reportedly went missing from a residential colony in Naharkanta area under Pahal Police Station limits in the city on Saturday evening. However, Pahal Police managed to trace out the little girl within an hour. As per reports, the father of the missing girl filed a missing report on Saturday at 8.30 pm at Pahal Police Station. According to the complaint, the little girl went missing from the Basundhara Colony of Naharkanta in the evening hours. After getting the complaint, Pahal Police swung into action to trace out the missing girl. And the girl was rescued within an hour. She was then handed over to her family. Reportedly, the minor girl could be traced out following the quick action by ASIs Nilambar Sahu and Shiba Prasad Sahu of Pahal Police Station. In a video message, the father of the missing girl was seen feeling happy and relaxed after getting back his daughter. In the video he said that after the complaint was lodged 3 to 4 vehicles from the Police Station went in action to trace out the girl.

# Odisha to set up semiconductor CoE to boost tech ecosystem

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):** In a strategic move to emerge as a key player in India's growing semiconductor ecosystem, the Odisha government has proposed the establishment of a Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Semiconductors at the International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Bhubaneswar.

The proposed centre, to be backed by the State's Electronics and Information Technology (E&IT) Department, will focus on strengthening Odisha's capabilities in semiconductor research, development, manufacturing, and industry-ready skill development. The initiative aligns with the Odisha

government's broader vision of advancing its electronics manufacturing ecosystem, particularly following a surge in interest from domestic and global investors in the sector. The decision comes after Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi instructed the department to collaborate with IIIT Bhubaneswar for anchoring the proposed CoE.

The institute was selected based on its existing infrastructure, technical orientation, and academic strength, which make it well-suited to host such a high-impact initiative. The Centre of Excellence will serve as a hub for advanced training, hands-on



capacity building, and cutting-edge R&D in semiconductor technologies. It will also play a critical role in bridging the current talent gap by producing skilled professionals to meet the industry's growing demand. As part of the academic expansion, IIIT Bhubaneswar has been

tasked with submitting a detailed proposal outlining a structured academic framework for the centre by June 30. The Odisha government has also advised the institute to introduce post-graduate diploma and certificate programmes in advanced semiconductor engineering,

starting from the 2026-27 academic year. The Centre of Excellence will complement Odisha's existing efforts under the Odisha Chip (O-Chip) initiative, aimed at supporting the fabless semiconductor ecosystem.

The state has already introduced a Semiconductor Manufacturing and Fabless Policy and recently released operational guidelines for capital investment subsidies and project facilitation. With dedicated financial and administrative support, the state aims to create a robust ecosystem that not only attracts investment but also transforms Odisha into a training and innovation powerhouse in the semiconductor space.



## Aahwan Foundation conferred Prakriti Mitra award for environmental excellence



**Paradip, (DMC):** Leading environmental organisation 'Aahwan Foundation' was conferred with Prakriti Mitra Award 2025 at a state-level World Environment Day celebration held at OUAT Auditorium in

Bhubaneswar. The award was presented in recognition of the organization's outstanding contribution towards environmental and climatic protection. The award was received by Foundation president

## 32, quintals of Khair logs seized by forest officials in Bolangir

**Bolangir, (DMC):** Acting on a tip of, a team of forest officials of Bolangir range, who were on night patrolling on Sunday Night, seized a Bolero Pickup (OD 19F 2621) loaded with Khair logs of 32 qntrs. The vehicle and the logs have been seized and further investigation in this case is underway.



## NH-55 authorities removed humps to avoid movement

**Jagatsinghpur, (DMC):** Advocate Basudev started a movement for removal of humps upon NH- 55 at Sippi as ten no of humps caused several accident and problem for communication. Though Basudev intimated about illegal humps to NHAI and District administration as well but no body responded. Finally Basudev given a call to protest for removal of humps upon NH- 55 by sleeping over the humps on 9th June 2025 and intimated NH authorities and District administration. Just to avoid public movement Sub- Collector Prasant Kumar Tarai arranged one meeting for triangular discussion on 7th June. NH authorities requested for five days time but Advocate Basudev was rigid about his movement. Finally NH authorities were bound to remove all ten no. of humps yesterday mid night by JCB and Basudev withdraw his movement scheduled to be started on 9th June.

## Tent Payment Dispute Turns Fatal In Koraput; One Dead, One Injured



**Koraput, (DMC):** One person was killed and another critically injured after a violent incident broke out over a pending tent payment at a wedding ceremony in the DP Camp area of Sunabeda in Koraput district on Sunday. According to reports, the

victims-both tent service workers-had gone to collect pending payments from a Bengali family that had recently hosted a wedding. The altercation reportedly escalated when the workers insisted on the settlement of dues. In the course

Sagar Kumar Biswal from Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha, Shri Mohan Charan Majhi. Among others, Minister for Forest, Environment and Climate Change, Odisha Chief Secretary, CES Director, PCCF and Vice Chancellor of OUAT alongwith many other dignitaries were present on the said felicitation program.

It is noted that established 12 years ago, Aahwan Foundation has been actively working on tree planting campaigns, coastal forest protection, climate change awareness campaigns and conducting environmental workshops. The organization works extensively with schools and colleges to sensitize students on environmental issues and prepare them as future 'Eco Warrior'. For this noble works, the organization was earlier awarded Prakriti Mitra Award in 2018 and Prakruti Bandhu Award in 2022.

## Reunion (1981) Batch of BC Academy held



**Jajpur, (H.S) :** Bidhan Chandra Academy's Matric batch 1981 had a joyful occasion on this whole Sunday at the school campus to cherish their high School times. The batch is meeting after about Four decades. In the meet their then time teachers and present teachers were chaired. The team has felicitated all teachers and taken the blessing from their beloved teachers on this occasion. Besides meeting old friends were enjoyed in the current school environment, talked with each others and taken breakfast, Tea and Lunches at one place. Enlarged old photographs of the school days, Selfies and many more.

They also paid a great tribute to their teachers, friends for their demise loss. A warm condolence also paid by the team too. In this regard a souvenir named as "Bidhan Kruti" was unveiled by teachers. Dr. Rabindra Nath Mishra, Ganesh Chandra Panda, Pradeep Kumar Kar, Jayanti Das, Dhaneshwar Tripathy, Satyabhama Pradhan, Hitansu Samal, Bharat Chandra Patra, Sushant Das, Chakaradhar Mishra along with others were coordinated programme where Subash Chandra Malik, Ashok Kumar Mishra, Gopal Chandra Das & Bharat Chandra Patra were conducted the entire programme very smoothly. As per information this batch has started a corpus fund which will support the needy merituus students for their higher studies.

## Blood Donation Awareness Rally to Commemorate the 16th Foundation Day of NISTHA PARIVAR

**Bargarh, (DMC):** In recognition of the vital role of blood donation, Nistha Parivar, a prominent voluntary organisation in Bargarh district, will celebrate its 16th Foundation Day on June 14th at Nistha Bhawan, located in Andhra Kemp, Khandhatha. As part of the festivities, the organisation will host a blood donation awareness bike rally on June 8, 2024 (Sunday).

This rally will commence from the Bargarh Cow Bazaar and will travel around Bargarh city, featuring hundreds of participants from the Nistha Family. The event will be inaugurated by Dr. Prashant Kishore Dash, the Chief Medical



Officer of Bargarh District, who will serve as the chief guest and officially flag off the rally. The primary goal of this initiative is to promote awareness about the importance of blood donation, particularly among the youth, in

light of the current shortages many blood banks are experiencing due to the ongoing heat wave. Additional notable attendees will include Nistha Family advisor Ashwani Tripathi, Kshirodra Sahu, Madan Mohan Dash, Vidyadhar Bhoi, Jayant Pradhan, Sachi Panda, Jitu Mohapatra,

President Rakshapal Sahu, Editor Loknath Sahu, Treasurer Shyam Sundar Sahu, Savan Athagbara, Women's Branch Head Tripura Suhula, along with other members dedicated to the success of this event. This rally serves as a crucial reminder of the impact of blood donations on saving lives within the community.

## 3 workers die due to electrocution in Balasore

**Balasore, (DMC):** In a tragic incident in Balasore district, three workers lost their lives on Sunday allegedly after coming in contact with a live wire during an ongoing construction work at Gagandhuli village of Jhinkiria panchayat under Simulia police limits. The mishap occurred when the live wire snapped and fell during the plastering of a septic tank. According to sources, a fatal electrocution incident under Simulia police limits claimed the lives of three workers who were involved in plastering the septic tank when the live wire reportedly broke and fell on them, causing the three deaths. The victim persons were not professional electricians but daily-wage workers hired for the work. The three deceased have been identified as Babaji Majhi, Bapi Majhi, and Narahari Behera. One of the workers died on the spot due to the electric shock, while the other two were critically injured and later succumbed to their injuries in a hospital in Bhadrak. On being informed, local police reached the spot and initiated a probe into



the matter." A temporary electric connection was given to light the tank's interior, following which the workers were found to be unconscious. The two injured were rescued and taken to Bhadrak district headquarters hospital (DHH), where doctors declared them dead while undergoing treatment," some locals expressed. "We are yet to ascertain the exact cause of their death, whether the three died due to electrocution or suffocation. The actual reason can only be established after a post-mortem report comes in," said inspector-in-charge (IIC) Suchendra Mahalik. A case has been registered in this connection and a probe initiated, Mahalik added. Earlier on June 3, four sanitation workers had died allegedly due to asphyxiation while they were cleaning a septic tank in Nabarangpur district.

## A 45-year-old man murdered

**Bargarh, (DMC):** A 45-year-old man, identified as Debaraj Panigrahi, was tragically murdered near Bargarh Panchayat College. The incident occurred late last night, and the victim, who was unmarried and resided near the park, was found after some youths discarded his body in a nearby field. Local authorities, including the Bargarh police, responded promptly to the scene following crime reports. Despite a search operation involving a sniffer dog,

no significant leads have been uncovered thus far. The Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) of Bargarh announced that a scientific team is set to carry out more detailed investigations. While the motive behind the murder remains unclear at this time, the SDPO has assured the public that further information will be available soon. No suspects have been apprehended and the investigation is ongoing as the police explore various avenues for answers.

## Traffic Advisory Issued For Snana Purnima 2025 In Puri

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC):** Ahead of the annual Snana Purnima festival scheduled for June 11, 2025, the Puri Police have issued a detailed traffic advisory to regulate vehicle movement and ensure smooth management of the expected large influx of devotees.

According to the advisory, specific routes and parking zones have been designated for light motor vehicles and two-wheelers arriving from Brahmagiri, Bhubaneswar, and Konark. For vehicles coming from the Brahmagiri side, light motor vehicles will take a right turn at Mangalaghata, proceed towards Sterling Chhak, continue along Beach Road up to Lighthouse

Chhak, and park at the Yatrika Parking area. These vehicles will return via the same route. Vehicles arriving from Bhubaneswar will proceed to the Jail Road Parking and Saradhabali Open Ground Parking through the route that includes Batagaon, Charinala, Atharnala, Kumbharapada Police Station, Medical Chhaka, and Badasankha.

Once these parking areas reach full capacity, the vehicles will be diverted to alternate locations including Yatrika Parking, Digabareni Parking, Blue Flag Beach Parking, and Neelachal Ashok Parking. Vehicles will be required to return using the same entry route. Devotees



approaching from the Konark side will head to the Saradhabali Open Ground Parking via Baidas Nagar, Toshali Sands Chhaka, Grid Station Chhaka, Balighat Chhak, Sidhamahaveer Chhak,

and Matipada Chhak. After this parking zone is filled, vehicles will be redirected to Talabania Parking and ITI Parking via Grid Station Chhak and Shudan Chhak. The return route will remain the same.

For two-wheelers, the police have designated a separate plan. Motorcycles will access the Grand Road through Atharnala, Banamber Chhak, Kumbharapada Police Station, and Hospital Chhaka, with parking available at the Municipality Market Complex on a first-come, first-served basis.

Once this parking lot reaches capacity, two-wheelers will be diverted to the Old Jagannath Ballav Parking area. The Puri Police have appealed to the public to strictly follow the advisory and cooperate with traffic personnel to ensure a peaceful and well-coordinated celebration.

## From Page- 1

## Make Odisha...

chemicals, food processing, apparel and textiles, renewable energy equipment, electronics, and tourism, Majhi asserted that Odisha is no longer just the minerals and metals hub of India, it is fast becoming a diversified industrial powerhouse. "We have done more in this one year, than the past five years put together-through quiet, focused, and committed action. Looking ahead to the next year, we will focus on four key priorities. First, we will bring new policies that unlock emerging sectors, and offer global competitiveness. Second, we will expand our land bank and industrial infrastructure, to meet future demand. Third, we will revamp our single window system, and develop a modern, integrated project tracking platform. Fourth, we will work to deregulate and simplify burdensome rules and processes. These steps will ensure faster approvals, seamless coordination, and real-time progress monitoring," the CM added. He further said that the next four years will lay the foundation for a Samruddha Odisha in 2036. "We will build on our leadership in mining, metals, and green chemicals with strong support from partners like IOCL, JSW, JSPL, Tata Steel, AMNS, Vedanta, Hindalco, and Adani. We are also strengthening port-based industrialisation, through new terminals, jetties, and container handling capacity, across the Paradip-Dhamra-Gopalpur stretch, he added. Under CM Majhi, the state has embarked on a mission to redefine its industrial landscape through a series of groundbreaking investment initiatives, making the state a fast-growing industrial hub in Eastern India.

## State reports...

Hospitals across the country are undergoing readiness checks, including mock drills, to assess their preparedness in handling another possible COVID-19 wave. Emphasis has been placed on seamless oxygen delivery systems and emergency protocols. As part of an integrated disease surveillance effort, states have been instructed to monitor Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) and Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) cases more aggressively. Hospitals must test all admitted SARI cases and 5% of ILI cases for COVID-19 to identify hidden transmission patterns.

## Nari Shakti...

development. Various initiatives, from ensuring dignity through Swachh Bharat to financial inclusion via Jan Dhan accounts, the focus has been on empowering our Nari Shakti. Ujjwala Yojana brought smoke-free kitchens to several homes. MUDRA loans enabled lakhs of women entrepreneurs to pursue dreams on their own terms. Houses under the women's name in PM Awas Yojana too have made a remarkable impact. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao ignited a national movement to protect the girl child," he said.

## 3 workers...

Bhadrak where doctors declared them dead. The deceased were identified as Babaji Majhi, Bapi Majhi and Narahari Behera. Two of them belonged to Gagandhuli village while another was from Tentulia village, locals said. The locals said that they died of electrocution due to the negligence in the electrical arrangement. Last month, a 23-year-old woman and her two-year-old son died after they came in contact with a live electricity line in Keonjhar's Bansapal. Sampal Mahakud was trying to save her mother-in-law when the chain of incidents took place. As per the report filed by Soumya Ranjan Behera, his mother Shantilata was drying clothes in the morning when she came in contact with a live wire. She screamed for help and Sampal came to pull her away, only to be electrocuted. However, more tragedy was to unfold. As Soumya's son saw his mother in distress, the clueless kid touched her and was hit by the power supply.

## NDA to form...

the surge of illegal liquor sales, culminating in tragedies like the Kallakurichi hooch deaths where 66 people died, underscores the government's failure. Predicting the outcome of the 2026 Assembly elections, Shah asserted that the BJP-AIADMK alliance would form the next NDA government in Tamil Nadu, just as NDA victories in Odisha, Haryana, Delhi, and Maharashtra signal a national shift. He expressed confidence that 2026 would bring similar "transformation" in both Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. The BJP government at the Centre provided Rs 6. 80 lakh crore in 10 years, and yet Chief Minister Stalin asks what has Centre done to Tamil Nadu.

## Govt to ban...

resembling that of a pilgrim city. "The buildings will be developed gradually since these also include some private properties. A detailed plan outlining uniform height and front elevation for these buildings will be released soon," he said. These steps are part of the state government's efforts to maintain the sanctity of the pilgrim for Rath Yatra, slated for June 27 this year. In 2020, former Leader of Opposition and BJP leader Pradipta Kumar Naik had urged the former Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to declare a total ban on sale and consumption of liquor and non-vegetarian food along 'Bada Danda' (Grand Road) at Puri. In a letter to the former Chief Minister, the senior BJP leader had requested that Shree Jagannath Dhama Puri is one of the Char Dhams for Hindus.

## DRDO...

Maintenance Vehicle for MBT Arjun & Unit Repair Vehicle for MBT Arjun -BEML Limited; and Multi-Purpose Decontamination System to Dass Hitachi Limited & Goma Engineering Private Limited.

## Azmat Mustafa Club Organized Free Health Check-Up Camp



**Khordha, (DMC):** A free health checkup camp was organized by Azmat Mustafa Club of Bajpur Panchayat Muslim Sahi near Khordha. In this camp, blood pressure, diabetes, eye examination, ECG & all blood related tests & health checkup were done by experienced doctors & nurses from Apollo Hospital, BBSR.

In this health checkup camp, Sk. Hedayatullah, Syed Muhammad, Sayed Liyakat Alli, Sk. Kefatullah, Sk. Barkatullah, Aibu Muhammad, Sayed Hedayat Alli, Yusuf Muhammad, Neshar Alli, Qudus Muhammad, Sk. Azimullah & others were participated in the camp. Among others, Sarpancha of Bajpur GP, Kedareswar Prusty, Ambuja Ballav Pattnaik, Jagannath Mishra, Susanta Sahu & intellectuals were present and highly appreciated such a great work.



# Tensions flare in Manipur as Meitei leader's arrest prompts curfew, internet ban

**IMPHAL, (HS) :** A day after violent protests erupted in Manipur over the arrest of Kanan Singh, leader of Meitei outfit Arambai Tenggol, the situation remained tense on Sunday with the administration imposing prohibitory orders and suspending internet services in five Imphal valley districts, police said.

Four other members of the group were also picked up, reportedly for questioning. When security forces went to take Singh into custody on Saturday night, they faced resistance from Arambai Tenggol members. As a preventive measure, prohibitory orders have been clamped in Imphal West, Imphal East, Thoubal, Bishnupur and Kakching districts, while internet and mobile data services, including VSAT and VPN facilities, have been suspended in these valley areas.

No official reason has been given for the arrest. Without mentioning any name, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) said it arrested an Arambai Tenggol member at the Imphal Airport on Sunday. "He was involved in various criminal activities related to Manipur violence in 2023. The information related to his arrest has been



given to his family members," the federal agency said in a statement. The statement further stated that the CBI is investigating Manipur violence cases as per the direction of the Supreme Court. The trial of the cases has been shifted to Guwahati in view of the law and order situation in Manipur. "The said arrested member of Arambai Tenggol has been brought from Imphal to Guwahati, and he will be produced before the competent court for police remand. Investigation

is underway," the statement added. A delegation of MLAs from various parties met Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla at the Raj Bhavan on Sunday. Later, the Raj Bhavan in a statement said that during a discussion, the MLAs apprised the Governor of the current law and order situation in the state and requested his intervention to help find an amicable solution. Protesters torched tyres and old furniture on roads in Kwakeithel and

Uripok, demanding the release of the Meitei leader. They clashed with security forces at different places in the state capital on Saturday night. A mob also set a bus on fire at Khurai Lamlong in Imphal East district. Security forces fired several rounds of tear gas shells to disperse the protesters in front of Kangla Gate, nearly 200 metres away from the Raj Bhavan here. Security has been strengthened along the roads leading to the Raj Bhavan with additional deployment of central forces. In view of the protests in the restive northeastern state, an order issued by the district magistrate of Imphal West stated that the "superintendent of police in Imphal West... has reported serious breach to peace, disturbance to public tranquillity, riot or affray in the area, and grave danger to human lives and properties due to unlawful activities of anti-social elements."

The district administration banned the assembly of five or more people and the carrying of sticks, stones, firearms, or sharp weapons under sub-section 2 of Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS). Similar preventive measures were clamped in Thoubal and Kakching districts, the police said.

## Operation Sindoor: Pakistan embarrassed yet again

**New Delhi, (HS) :** Pakistan has been going around with a satellite images from March this year to showcase the so-called 'damage' it caused to the Indian Air Force (IAF) base at Adampur in Punjab during Operation Sindoor that took place on May 7-10.

Shehbaz Sharif and his publicity team were left red in the face yet again after geo-intelligence expert Damien Symon fact-checked the images that claimed to show a severely damaged IAF Su-30 MKI aircraft and clarified that it was actually a Mig-29 undergoing maintenance in March. The dark patch that Pakistan tried to pass off as indication of damage to the aircraft, is nothing but soot near the engine test pad that is routine during such maintenance, Symon has said. Pakistan has been fuming after 11 of its air bases were hit by Indian missiles during Operation Sindoor. It has been making a concerted effort to spread misinformation regarding strikes on Indian military infrastructure ever since. Air Force Station Adampur is of particular interest to Pakistan for several reasons. This base - India's second largest - is barely 100 km from the International Border, played a key role during the 1965 War. It is now home to Mig-29 and Su-30 MKI squadrons and also has advanced radars and surveillance systems. Most importantly, the first S-400 missile defence battery was set up at Adampur in 2022. This missile defence battery, part of India's Sudarshan Chakra air defence system, intercepted Pakistani missiles aimed at Indian targets during Operation Sindoor. Earlier, Pakistan claimed that its missiles from a Chinese-made JF-17 fighter jet destroyed the Russian-made S-400 air defence system at Adampur. This claim was debunked when Prime Minister Narendra Modi travelled to Adampur on May 13, barely three days after the conflict ended, waving at the jawans, with an MiG-29 jet and a very much intact S-400 system visible in the background. While at Adampur, PM Modi sent a strong message to Pakistan, asserting that India had just paused its offensive on terror camps and its military sites.



## India witnesses sharp decline of poverty



**New Delhi, (HS) :** The extreme poverty rate in India has witnessed a sharp decline from 27.1% in 2011-12 to 5.3% in 2022-23. This is as per latest World Bank estimates. What this effectively means is that 269 million people rose above the international poverty line over the last 11 years. The report states that the number of people living in extreme poverty dropped from 344.47 million to 75.24 million, based on the \$3.00 per day poverty line (in 2021 PPP terms).

The five states of Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal, and Madhya Pradesh - had the highest number of poor in 2011-12. Together, they contributed to nearly two-thirds of the poverty reduction by 2022-23. The World

Bank also reports that rural extreme poverty in India fell from 18.4 per cent to 2.8 per cent, while urban extreme poverty dropped from 10.7 per cent to 1.1 per cent over the same period. Using the earlier \$2.15 per day poverty line (based on 2017 prices), the extreme poverty rate fell from 16.2 per cent in 2011-12 to 2.3 per cent in 2022. In absolute numbers, the population living below this line decreased from 205.93 million to 33.66 million.

The World Bank data also showed progress in multidimensional poverty. The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) was at 53.8 per cent in 2005-06. It fell to 16.4 per cent in 2019-21 and further to 15.5 per cent in 2022-23.

## Philippines offers Indian nationals visa-free travel

**New Delhi, (HS) :** The Philippines announced on Saturday that Indian nationals can now visit the country without a visa for tourism purposes. Beginning June 8, Indian passport holders can enter the Philippines without a visa for up to 14 days, reported Reuters. To qualify for visa-free entry, Indians must have a passport valid for at least six months beyond the date of arrival, confirmed hotel bookings, proof of sufficient funds for the duration of their stay, and a return or onward travel ticket.

The visa-free arrangement is aimed at boosting tourism arrivals from India, which rose 12% in 2024 to nearly 80,000, according to data from Filipino Department of Tourism. There is still enough scope for growth vis-à-vis the world's

biggest market, as Indian arrivals to the Philippines remain a small portion of the more than 5 million people who travelled to the southeast Asian country last year. For travel-happy Indians, Philippines provides another exciting hassle-free, cost-effective destination. Thailand, Malaysia, Qatar, Kenya, Sri Lanka, Jamaica are among countries which already offer visa-free travel to Indian nationals. Air India recently announced launch of non-stop flights between Delhi and Manila, starting October 1, 2025. The airline will operate five weekly flights, offering Business, Premium Economy, and Economy cabins. Air India will be the only airline providing direct connectivity between India and the Philippines, further facilitating travel and strengthening ties between the two nations.

## Rotary Club 3262 organized closing ceremony of "Charan Sparsha" & "Ek Kadam Kanya Keliye"



have gradually forgotten it in the touch of modernity. To revive it and present the almost extinct customs and traditions of the past to the modern society and spread the message of awareness, the Rotary Club has started the Charan Sparsha program, an effort to bring the golden past back to the people's hearts, to create that bridge of sweet relationship. In which there is no pretense or pride, only self-satisfaction and the proximity of nectar. Today's guests are Actor and political leader Shri Prashant Nanda, social worker Padma Shri Tulsi Munda, and the state's first woman international sports woman Minti Mohapatra, whose feet touched created a different tradition, along with members of the neighborhood Rotarian Saroj Kumar Dash and the family of kanya ratna Anmol Hai.

**New Delhi, (HS) :** Charan Sparsha 5.0 has been organized by Rotary Club 3262 at Kulu Charan mahapatra Research Center. The greatness of Charan Sparsha has remained in the values, ideals and traditions of our Odia. Our Odia people

# NIA arrests 3 insurgents for deadly 2024 attack on security forces in strife-torn Manipur

**NEW DELHI, (HS) :** The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested three insurgents in a case related to a deadly attack on security forces that killed two police commandos and injured several others in ethnic violence-hit Manipur last year, officials said on Sunday.

The three men, along with their associates, planned, conspired and executed the attack on an Indian Reserve Battalion (IRB) post and security forces at Moreh in Tengnoupal district on January 17, 2024, they said. Among the arrested accused is

Thangminlen Mate, a resident of Tengnoupal district and member of the Kuki Inpi Tengnoupal (KIT) insurgent group, an official statement said. He played a key role in orchestrating and carrying out the attack, it said. "He was apprehended on May 19, 2025, from Silchar, Assam, and produced before the NIA court in Guwahati, which remanded him to custody until May 28. He is currently lodged in Guwahati Central Jail under judicial custody," the statement issued by the probe agency said. The other accused, Kamginthang Gangte, a member of the Kuki National

## Complaint against Karnataka CM filed

**Bengaluru, (HS) :** The Karnataka government may have taken stern action after the deadly stampede outside Chinnaswamy Stadium on June 4, but many are still questioning the role of the Congress leadership in the hurriedly-organised IPL victory celebrations for Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB). Having lifted the trophy around midnight on June 3 after beating Punjab Kings in the final at Ahmedabad, RCB returned to Bengaluru to a rapturous welcome the next afternoon. Tens of thousands lined up the streets to greet Virat Kohli

and the other players, who were first felicitated at the Vidhana Soudha complex and then taken to Chinnaswamy Stadium. As the uncontrollable crowd desperately tried to get inside the stadium, which has a capacity of 35,000, a stampede ensued near one of the gates, leaving 11 young people dead and dozens injured.

Even as the Opposition BJP intensified its attack on the Congress leadership in Karnataka over the deadly stampede, a formal complaint was submitted to Governor

Thaawarchand Gehlot on Saturday against chief minister Siddaramaiah over alleged negligence. The complainant Girish Kumar, a resident of Kottigepalya in Bengaluru, alleged that the CM had personally invited the public to participate in the celebrations of RCB's maiden IPL triumph after a wait of 28 years. Questioning the state government's decision to host a grand reception for a private cricket franchise like RCB, the complainant claimed that IPL is a commercial venture driven by profit motives rather than national pride.

## Preparations in full swing for Indian Astronaut's blast off

**Florida, (HS) :** Three days ahead of Indian astronaut GpCapt Shubhanshu Shukla's scheduled departure to the International Space Station (ISS), the Dragon spacecraft was rolled out to the launch pad integrated atop the SpaceX reusable Falcon-9 rocket at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida, USA, on Saturday.

The Ax-4 mission will be launched on Tuesday. GpCapt Shukla will pilot the spacecraft to the ISS on a 14-day mission. There will be three other astronauts on board. The Indian Air

Force (IAF) test pilot has been trained for the mission by SpaceX and Axiom Space. He will be responsible for supervising the launch and docking operations of the vehicle, which is completely autonomous and does not require human intervention. The launch has assumed greater significance after the ugly spat between US president Donald Trump and SpaceX chief Elon Musk. The two were the best of friends till recently.

Ahead of the launch, GpCapt urged India to pray for success of the

mission. "I carry not just technical equipment but the hopes and dreams of over a billion Indians. I will be conducting seven scientific experiments that could contribute significantly to our understanding of microgravity and pave the way for future space research. In many ways, I see myself as a bridge between Earth and space, and I'm proud to carry artefacts designed by the National Institute of Design, symbolising India's creativity and innovation," Shukla said during a media briefing. "Even stars are attainable, Jai Hind," he said.

# Meet Prof. Madhavi Latha, one of the brains behind Chenab bridge



mentioning here that her association with the Chenab Bridge project began in 2005 and lasted until its completion in 2022. She started her professional journey working with Professor TG Sitharam, former professor at IISc Bangalore and former director at IIT Guwahati.

Professor TG Sitharam currently serves as Chairman of the All India Council for Technical Education. Madhavi, later, independently served as a rock engineering specialist to Northern Railways through Afcons Limited as a consultant where she focused on one of

the most critical aspects of the bridge - ensuring slope stability and designing geotechnical safety systems for the foundations. Her role is quite instrumental as the bridge lies in the Lower Himalayan region. One of the most tectonically active regions, the Lower Himalaya is a geologically complex zone with the terrain consisting of steep, fractured rock slopes. The loose soil makes it prone to frequent seismic activity.

The water has a high erosive force. The narrow valleys increase the risk of landslides and slope failure. Thus, constructing a structure of this scale, with a 359-metre-high steel arch, on such terrain required extensive geotechnical planning. Madhavi's work involved detailed analysis of slope conditions. It also involved designing stabilisation techniques like rock anchors, bolts, and retaining systems. It ensures the foundation could resist both gravity and environmental stress.



## Trump Vows To 'Crush Rioters' in Los Angeles : Governor & Mayor Can't Do Their Jobs

**Los Angeles, (H.S):** US President Donald Trump has vowed to "crush rioters" in Los Angeles following days of unrest sparked by federal immigration raids. However, California Governor Gavin Newsom has fiercely condemned the federal government's takeover of the California National Guard and the deployment of 2,000 troops to the city, calling it a political stunt designed to provoke violence."

If Governor Gavin Newsom, of California, and Mayor Karen Bass, of Los Angeles, can't do their jobs, which everyone knows they can't, then the Federal Government will step in and solve the problem, RIOTS & LOOTERS, the way it should be solved!!!" Trump wrote. The federal government has since moved to deploy 2,000 National Guard troops to Los Angeles and has effectively taken operational control of the California National Guard, a decision Governor Gavin Newsom called dangerous and politically motivated. In a



sharply worded response posted on X, Newsom said: "The federal government is taking over the California National Guard and deploying 2,000 soldiers in Los Angeles - not because there is a shortage of law enforcement, but because they want a spectacle. Don't give them one. Never use violence.

Speak out peacefully." Earlier, Newsom posted a warning that the move would only worsen tensions on the ground: "The federal government is moving to take over the California National Guard and

deploy 2,000 soldiers. That move is purposefully inflammatory and will only escalate tensions. LA authorities are able to access law enforcement assistance at a moment's notice. We are in close coordination with the city and county, and there is currently no unmet need.

The Guard has been admirably serving LA throughout recovery. This is the wrong mission and will erode public trust." He also criticised recent federal immigration operations, claiming they are being carried out recklessly: "As the federal

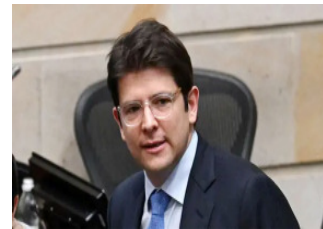
government conducts chaotic immigration sweeps across the country, the state is deploying additional CHP to maintain safety on Los Angeles highways to keep the peace. It's not their job to assist in federal immigration enforcement. The federal government is sowing chaos so they can have an excuse to escalate.

That is not the way any civilised country behaves." The protests began in response to large-scale immigration raids targeting undocumented residents in several Los Angeles neighbourhoods. Civil rights groups and immigrant advocates have condemned the operations as racially charged and unnecessarily aggressive. Dozens of demonstrators have been arrested, and multiple reports of injuries have emerged after confrontations with federal agents. Local officials maintain that there is no shortage of law enforcement support in the city and that federal involvement is not only unnecessary but inflammatory.

## Colombian Presidential Candidate Shot in Head at Rally, Teenager Arrested

**Bogota, (H.S):** Colombian senator and 2026 presidential candidate Miguel Uribe was shot during a campaign event in Bogota, authorities have confirmed. The 39-year-old senator, a prominent member of the conservative opposition Democratic Centre party, was reportedly shot in the back while addressing supporters at a public park in the Fontibon neighbourhood of the capital on Saturday.

According to local media reports, the incident occurred while Uribe was delivering a speech when "armed subjects shot him in the back." A video circulating on social media captures the moment gunshots rang out, interrupting his address. In other images, Uribe appears slumped against the hood of a white car, visibly wounded and smeared with blood, as people rush to support him. Authorities said at least one bullet struck the senator in the neck or head. He was immediately transported to a nearby hospital, where he



remains in serious condition. As of now, there has been no official update on his current medical status. Colombia's Defence Minister Pedro Sanchez announced that a 15-year-old boy has been arrested in connection with the shooting. Sanchez also indicated that investigations are ongoing to determine if others were involved in the attack.

The minister confirmed that he had visited the hospital where Uribe is being treated. The Colombian presidency strongly condemned the incident, releasing a statement that "categorically and forcefully" rejected the violent attack and called for a comprehensive investigation into the circumstances surrounding the shooting. Uribe is a well-known political figure in

Colombia and a member of a prominent family with historical ties to the country's Liberal Party. His father was a businessman and union leader, while his mother, journalist Diana Turbay, was kidnapped in 1990 by an armed group under the control of notorious drug lord Pablo Escobar. She was tragically killed during a rescue operation.

His party, the Democratic Centre, which former Colombian President Alvaro Uribe founded, described the attack as serious but refrained from releasing any additional information on the senator's condition. Leftist President Gustavo Petro expressed his sympathy toward Uribe's family in a message posted on X, writing, "I don't know how to ease your pain. It is the pain of a mother lost and of a homeland." Colombia has long been mired in violence fueled by conflicts involving leftist guerrillas, criminal factions descended from paramilitary groups and state forces.

## Iran Blames 'Sabotage' For Unexplained Uranium Traces, Disputes UN Watchdog's



**Tehran, (H.S):** Iran has found new evidence suggesting "sabotage" was behind the presence of unexplained uranium traces at several of its sites, pushing back against a critical report from the UN's nuclear watchdog.

The statement from Iran's Atomic Energy Organization (AEOI) was a direct response to a recent International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) report, which concluded Tehran had failed to provide credible

explanations for the man-made uranium traces found at three undeclared locations, Xinhua news agency reported. In that report, IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi accused Iran of providing "less than satisfactory" cooperation.

In its rebuttal, the AEOI said its security authorities had "discovered more clues... confirming that acts of sabotage or hostile actions" were responsible for the nuclear contamination. The organisation

asserted it had made "utmost efforts" to identify the source of the material. Tehran also argued that the IAEA report itself contained no proof that its "peaceful" nuclear program had been diverted for military objectives. It added that there was "no credible evidence" that the outstanding issues carried any proliferation risk. According to the IAEA report, Iran had previously conducted undeclared nuclear activities at three sites that have been under investigation for an extended period.

The agency also reported a sharp increase in Iran's stockpile of uranium enriched to 60 per cent, a level that, while below weapons-grade, theoretically brings Iran closer to the capacity to develop a nuclear weapon. This dispute is unfolding as Iran and the United States are engaged in indirect talks, mediated by Oman, focused on the future of Tehran's nuclear program and the potential lifting of US sanctions.

**Washington, (H.S):** Congress leader Shashi Tharoor has sharply criticised Pakistan for its treatment of Dr. Shakil Afridi, the physician who helped the US locate and eliminate Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden responding to a post by US Congressman Brad Sherman who urged a visiting Pakistan to press for Dr. Afridi's release. Taking to social media platform X, Sherman wrote, "

I urged the Pakistani delegation to relay to their government the need to free Dr. Shakil Afridi, who continues to languish in prison for helping the United States kill Osama Bin Laden. Freeing Dr. Afridi represents an important step in bringing closure for victims of 9/11." Reacting to the statement, Tharoor, who is currently leading an All-Party Parliamentary Delegation from India to the US, said: "A welcome reminder by Rep. @BradSherman that Pakistan is the country that not only sheltered terrorist mastermind Osama Bin Laden (in



a safe house near an army camp in a cantonment city!) but also arrested and punished the brave doctor who identified his location for the Americans. In Pakistan you are rewarded for promoting terrorism and persecuted for exposing terrorists!

"Dr Shakil Afridi is a Pakistani doctor who helped the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in the hunt for al-Qaeda leader Osama Bin Laden. Afridi served as the senior health official of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province. In 2008,

he was abducted by Mangal Bagh, a bus driver turned commander of a Pakistani militant group, Lashkar-e-Islam. The Indian delegation in the US also paid homage to Mahatma Gandhi at his statue opposite the Indian Embassy in Washington, continuing a tradition observed in all the countries visited."

Once again, as in all the countries the delegation visited, we were able to pay homage to Mahatma Gandhi at his statue opposite the Embassy in

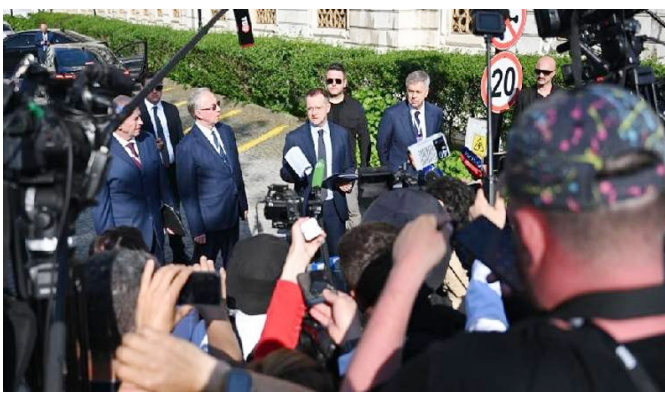
Washington DC," Tharoor posted. He further noted, "It is striking how many world capitals are adorned with statues or busts of the Mahatma, the 20th century's greatest apostle of peace, nonviolence, and human freedom." Earlier the delegation held a significant meeting with US Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau. The Indian Embassy in Washington shared the update on social media platform X, stating:

"The All Party Parliamentary delegation led by Dr. @Shashi Tharoor had a warm and candid conversation with US Deputy Secretary of State @Deputy SecState today. The Indian Delegation briefed him on the atrocities of the Pahalgam terror attack and Operation Sindoor," the embassy posted. 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.

## Russia Accuses Ukraine of Postponing Prisoner Swap

**Moscow, (H.S):** Russia on Saturday accused Ukraine of indefinitely delaying a planned exchange of prisoners and the handover of fallen soldiers' bodies. Russia has handed over the first list of 640 prisoners to Ukraine and begun transferring bodies of dead Ukrainian soldiers, but Ukrainian negotiators did not arrive at the exchange site, Russian Presidential Aide Vladimir Medinsky said in a telegram post.

He called on Ukraine to "strictly adhere to the schedule and all agreements reached, and to immediately begin the exchange." Kiev did not immediately respond to the accusation, Xinhua news agency reported. Earlier on June 2, Russia and Ukraine had agreed to another major prisoner exchange in their latest round of direct talks in Istanbul, head of the Russian Delegation Vladimir Medinsky said. Medinsky said that the deal will include an "all-



for-all" exchange of seriously ill and wounded prisoners, as well as soldiers under the age of 25. He noted that no fewer than 1,000 prisoners are expected to participate in the exchange from each side, calling the agreement a "humanitarian gesture."

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky also said that a prisoner exchange under a "500-for-500" formula would take place this weekend. The official also said Moscow would return Ukraine 6,000 bodies of

fallen soldiers next week. "We specifically proposed a ceasefire for 2 to 3 days along certain sections of the front line," he told at a briefing following the talks, adding that Russian military specialists would work with those from Ukraine,

so commanders can retrieve the bodies of fallen soldiers. During the talks, which lasted over an hour, the two sides solved several "practical problems," according to Medinsky. He said that Moscow and Kiev agreed to

set up permanent medical commissions that would regularly compile lists of seriously wounded soldiers and facilitate their exchange. He confirmed that Russia passed its two-part memorandum to the Ukrainian side, which outlines the steps towards lasting peace and a ceasefire. Medinsky said Ukraine handed Moscow a list of 339 children, who have been separated from their parents due to the ongoing conflict, noting that Moscow would carefully look into each one of these cases.

He said that Russia had recently returned 101 children and 22 children have returned from the Ukrainian side. Russian and Ukrainian delegations held their second round of direct talks in Istanbul on Monday, following their initial meeting earlier in May. The sides agreed on a major prisoner swap, and to exchange draft memorandums outlining potential terms for a future peace treaty during talks.

## Another Shocker From Pakistan: Sharif Govt Gives 500 Per Cent Salary Hike To NA Speaker, Senate Chairman



**Islamabad, (H.S):** The government led by Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has approved a massive 500 per cent salary increase for the Speaker of the National Assembly and the Chairman of the Senate (Upper House), local media reported on Saturday. The move comes at a time when Pakistan's economy is crippled by unending political chaos and huge unrest in the provinces of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, formerly known as the North West Frontier Province (NWFP)."

National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq and Senate Chairman Yousuf Raza Gillani will now receive a monthly salary of PKR 1.3 million. Previously, both high-ranking parliamentary officials were drawing a salary of PKR 205,000 per month," ARY News reported. The massive increase, the report mentioned citing a notification released by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, will come

into effect from January 1, 2025. Earlier, the Sharif government had approved a PKR 519,000 monthly salary increase for Members of the National Assembly (MNAs) and Senators. In March, the Sharif-led Pakistani government, which had initially made tall claims about launching austerity drives and cutting down on expenditures, had approved a staggering 188 per cent increase in the salaries of cabinet ministers, ministers of state and advisors.

The developments have been severely criticised by the citizens of the country who remain burdened with high taxations, job loss, inflation, high fuel cost, high electricity price, and a plethora of other problems. Pakistan's economy has for long been surviving on loans received from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) with Sharif advising people to tighten their expenditures while asserting that

it is only a recovery phase. However, the back-to-back hikes in salaries of ministers, advisors, MNAs, Senators and now the National Assembly Speaker and Chairman of the Senate, have raised a serious question about the government's intentions. Sharif, at the same time, continues to increase the number of his federal cabinet which stands at 51 members currently. The initial number of federal cabinet members stood at 21, which was increased to 43 later."

First, they claim about the need for austerity, belt-tightening and what not... Then they claim that they would not pack their cabinet with ministers and advisors and later do the opposite. Skinning us all with taxes, job losses, inflation and blatantly towering up the number of cabinet members plus giving them massive salary hikes is just not done," a local resident in Islamabad had told IANS a few weeks ago.

## Israel: It Killed Palestinian Mujahideen Brigades Chief in Gaza

**Jerusalem, (H.S):** The Israeli military said that its forces had killed at least two senior members of the Palestinian Mujahideen Movement in strikes in Gaza City, including a commander accused of involvement in the deadly October 7 attack on Israel.

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) and the Shin Bet security agency said in a joint statement that As'ad Abu Shariya, head of the Mujahideen Brigades - the armed wing of the Palestinian Mujahideen Movement - was killed in a joint operation. They accused Abu Shariya of playing "a key role" in the Hamas-led assault in 2023 and being



"directly involved in the abduction, detention, and killing of Israeli hostages." In a separate strike, Mahmoud Muhammad Hamid Kuhail, another militant said to have participated in the

October 2023 assault, was also killed. There was no immediate comment from Palestinian militant groups on the deaths, Xinhua news agency reported. Separately, the IDF and the

Israel Security Agency (ISA) announced on Saturday they had recovered the body of a Thai national, Nattapong Pinta, 36, who was abducted alive by the Mujahideen Brigades during the October 7 attack. His body was recovered in a joint operation in Rafah, southern Gaza Strip, on Friday.

Meanwhile, Hamas' armed wing, the al-Qassam Brigades, claimed Israeli forces were besieging a site in Gaza where an Israeli hostage, identified by spokesperson Abu Obeida as Matan Zangauker, is believed to be held. Abu Obeida warned that "the enemy will not be able to recover him alive."



## Women Are Now Key Drivers of Progress in India: FM Nirmala Sitharaman

**New Delhi. (H.S):** Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Sunday highlighted that in the last 11 years, women have emerged as key drivers of progress in the country, with the Narendra Modi government launching various schemes to empower Nari Shakti.

Highlighting "11 years of Sashakt Nari", the Finance Minister said that under the PM Jan Dhan Yojna, the world's largest financial inclusion scheme, 55.7 per cent of accounts were held by women, which reflected their empowerment at the grassroots level. She further pointed out that women now account for 68 per cent of the MUDRA loan beneficiaries nationwide. These loans have enabled lakhs of women to become entrepreneurs and pursue their dreams independently. Apart from this, 74 per cent of



those getting benefits under the Start-Up India entrepreneurs scheme are also women. Besides, 73 per cent of houses under the PMAY (Gramin) scheme for the poor are owned by women, she said.

The Finance Minister also mentioned that 10 crore LPG connections have been given to poor women under the Ujjwala

Yojana. These have come as a boon for them, making their life easier with accompanying health benefits.

They have been freed from the harmful smoke of wood and other fuels, such as cow dung, that were used for cooking earlier. The Jan Dhan scheme has been a huge success in financial inclusion, as the average bank balance per

account in March 2015 was Rs 1,065, which has now increased to Rs 4,352. Around 80 per cent of the accounts are active, she added. As many as 66.6 per cent of Jan Dhan accounts have been opened in rural and semi-urban areas, and 29.56 crore (55.7 per cent) belong to women account holders. These accounts are used on a large scale.

People are also depositing money in them. However, this scheme allows zero balance accounts, and only 8.4 per cent of the accounts have zero balance. When the Modi government first came to power about 10 years ago, it set a target of providing financial and banking services to every citizen. For this, zero balance bank accounts were opened in the banks for the poorest of the poor under 'Pradhanmantri Jan Dhan Yojana' launched on August 28, 2014.

## Nifty, Bank Nifty's Technical Charts Signal Bullish Momentum Ahead



day, and 200-day - reflecting a strong uptrend. The Relative Strength Index (RSI) is at 60.94, which further supports bullish sentiment. A sustained move above 25,100 could trigger fresh buying, with potential targets seen at 25,300, 25,500, and even 25,700 in the coming weeks.

The key support levels are marked at 25,000 and 24,800, where buyers are expected to emerge. On the other hand, call option data shows resistance around 25,100 and 25,300, aligning with technical resistance zones. Meanwhile, Bank Nifty posted an even stronger weekly gain, closing at 56,578.40, up by 1.49 per cent. The index is trading near record highs and has shown

consistent strength above the 56,500 level, supported by strong trading volumes. The weekly chart for Bank Nifty also formed a solid bullish candle, with buyers clearly stepping in on dips. The index is trading above all key EMAs, indicating a healthy uptrend.

The RSI for Bank Nifty stands at 67.45, hinting at continued bullishness. Choice Broking suggests a trading range between 56,000 and 57,500 in the coming week. Key support is seen at 56,500 and 56,000, while resistance is expected near 57,000 and 57,500. Stocks like HDFC Bank, Axis Bank, and SBI are likely to support the uptrend within the banking space.

## Inflation Data, US Tariffs & Global Economic Factors To Drive Market Direction Next Week

**Mumbai. (H.S):** The coming week is expected to be pivotal for the Indian stock markets as key economic triggers line up, including domestic inflation data, updates on US tariffs, and global economic indicators. The government will release India's inflation data on June 12, a crucial factor that significantly influences overall economic sentiment and market behaviour.

In April, retail inflation stood at 3.16 per cent. Any deviation from expectations in the upcoming data could sway market trends. On the global front, any developments regarding US trade tariffs will also be closely watched, as they

have the potential to impact global trade flows and investor sentiment. Last week, the Indian stock markets saw a strong rebound after two weeks of declines. The Nifty gained 252 points or 1.02 per cent to close at 25,003.05, while the Sensex rose 737.98 points or 0.91 per cent to end at 82,188.99.

The rally was led by banking stocks, with the Nifty Bank index climbing over 1.5 per cent to close at 56,578.40, also touching a new all-time high of 56,695 during the week. Among sectoral indices, the Nifty Realty index surged 9.5 per cent between June 2 and 6, while the media and IT

sectors ended in the red. On the institutional side, foreign institutional investors (FIIs) remained net sellers, offloading equities worth Rs 3,565 crore during the week. In contrast, domestic institutional investors (DIIs) infused Rs 25,513 crore into the cash segment, reflecting strong domestic confidence.

Puneet Singhania, Director at Master Trust Group, noted that the Nifty has managed to close above the 25,000 level after two weeks of weakness and is now trading above both its 21-day and 55-day moving averages. According to him, the index has support near 24,700, while on the upside, 25,250 and 25,600 are key resistance levels to watch.

**Mumbai. (H.S):** Several major banks, including Punjab National Bank (PNB), Bank of India and UCO Bank, have slashed their lending rates following the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) recent decision to cut the repo rate by 50 basis points.

The rate cut is part of the RBI's strategy to stimulate economic growth by making borrowing more affordable for both consumers and businesses. Punjab National Bank was among the first to pass on the benefit, lowering its repo-linked lending rate from 8.85 per cent to 8.35 per cent. However, the bank kept its base rate and marginal cost of lending rate (MCLR) unchanged. Bank of India followed with a similar reduction, cutting its repo-based lending rate from 8.85 per



cent to 8.35 per cent, as per its stock exchange filing. UCO Bank took a different route, trimming its MCLR by 10 basis points across all loan tenures.

The changes, effective from June 10, will make various types of loans - including home and personal loans - slightly more affordable. The bank reduced its overnight MCLR from 8.25 per cent to 8.15 per cent, the one-month MCLR from 8.45 per cent

to 8.35 per cent, and the three-month MCLR from 8.6 per cent to 8.5 per cent. The six-month and one-year MCLR were lowered to 8.8 per cent and 9 per cent, respectively.

Bank of Baroda also announced a 50 basis point reduction in its repo-linked lending rates for select loan tenures, adding to the list of banks easing borrowing costs. These rate cuts come in response to the RBI's

move, announced by the Monetary Policy Committee led by Governor Sanjay Malhotra, to lower the repo rate - a key policy rate at which the RBI lends money to commercial banks. The objective behind the rate cut is to energise the economy by encouraging spending and investment through cheaper loans.

In addition to the repo rate cut, the RBI also reduced the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) by 100 basis points, from 4 per cent to 3 per cent. This reduction will be rolled out in four phases and is expected to inject Rs 2.5 lakh crore of liquidity into the banking system. The CRR is the portion of bank deposits that must be maintained with the RBI, and lowering it allows banks to lend more.

## Will 500 Currency Notes Be Discontinued Next Year? Here's What Govt Said

**New Delhi. (H.S):** A viral YouTube video recently claimed that Rs 500 currency notes will stop being used from March next year. However, the Central government has dismissed these claims. In a post on X, the Press Information Bureau (PIB) clarified that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has made no such announcement, and Rs 500 notes will continue to be valid for transactions.



A video posted on the YouTube channel 'CAPITAL TV' has created confusion by claiming that Rs 500 notes will be discontinued by March 2026. Clearing the air, the Press Information Bureau (PIB) shared a fact-check post on X, saying: "A YouTube video on the YT Channel 'CAPITAL TV' (capitalvind) falsely claims that the RBI will discontinue the circulation of Rs 500 notes by March 2026. RBI has made NO

such announcement. Rs 500 notes have NOT been discontinued and remain legal tender." The fact-check was issued after a YouTube video claimed that the government plans to phase out Rs 500 notes from March next year, similar to the withdrawal of Rs 2000 notes. The 12-minute video, which has already garnered over 5 lakh views is also being widely circulated on other social media platforms. However,

authorities have denied the claims made in the video and advised people to be cautious about such misleading content. "Don't fall for such misinformation. Always verify news from official sources before believing or sharing it," the PIB added in its post.

The Rs 500 notes currently in circulation were introduced after the 2016 demonetisation. These notes are stone grey in colour, measure 66mm by 150mm, and

feature the Red Fort as part of the 'Indian heritage site' theme. Like all Indian currency notes, the Rs 500 note displays its value in 17 languages, including English, Hindi, Bengali, Tamil, Telugu, and more. On November 8, 2016, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the demonetisation of the old Rs 500 notes to tackle corruption and curb the spread of fake currency.

Just two days later, new Rs 500 notes were introduced, along with a new Rs 2,000 note. However, in May 2023, the Rs 2,000 notes were withdrawn from circulation, although they still remain legal tender. The RBI has announced that the Rs 20 notes with the new governor's signature will remain the same in design as the current series. It also assured the public that all previously issued Rs 20 notes will continue to be valid and remain legal tender across the country.

## Tata Steel looks to begin construction of EAF project in UK in July

**UK. (H.S):** Homegrown Tata Steel is expecting to start the construction of its low-carbon EAF-based steel making project in the UK from July 2025 and commence operations by 2027, top company officials said. The company has received necessary approvals for its USD 1.5 billion project at Port Talbot, Tata Steel CEO & MD T V Narendran, and ED & CFO Koushik Chatterjee said in the company's annual report for FY2024-25.

"We are now transitioning to decarbonised and state-of-the-art EAF-based steelmaking by FY2027-28, supported by 500 million pounds in the UK Government funding," the management said. They said that planning approval has been received for the EAF (electric arc furnace) project at Port Talbot and the construction is expected to commence in July 2025. The operations in the UK have been



shut and the company is servicing its customers from its India and Netherlands operations. "We have exited from steelmaking through the end-of-life heavy end assets in Port Talbot, and moved to a downstream model using imported substrate from India, the Netherlands and other external sources," an official said. Speaking further on the UK plan, the officials said the structural transition is also accompanied by a significant focus on cost rationalisation as

the company plans to bring down its fixed costs further from 762 million pounds in FY2024-25 to 540 million pounds in the coming year. The reductions are based on optimising substrate costs, modernising IT infrastructure, rationalising downstream operations and eliminating corporate overheads. As part of its efforts to reduce carbon emissions, the company is transitioning from the blast furnace route to the low-emission electric arc furnace process, which will utilise the locally available scrap.

## FSSAI directs food business operators not use '100 percent' claims in food labelling & promotions, issues advisory

**New Delhi. (H.S):** The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has raised a red flag over the increasing use of the phrase "100%" in food-related branding, warning that it may deceive consumers. In a recent advisory, the country's top food safety body instructed all Food Business Operators (FBOs) to avoid using the term on product packaging, labels, or advertisements. According to FSSAI, the phrase lacks a clear definition in existing guidelines and can easily be misinterpreted, leading to unrealistic consumer expectations.

The advisory, issued recently, noting a growing trend in the indiscriminate use of "100%" claims, prompted the regulator to act in the interest of transparent and honest food labelling. As per the Food Safety and Standards (Advertising and Claims) Regulations, 2018, the term "100%" is not defined or referenced in any manner under the FSS Act, 2006, or the Rules and Regulations made there under.

Furthermore, the Sub-regulation 10(7) of the aforementioned regulations strictly prohibits any advertisement or claim that undermines other manufacturers or influences consumer perception in a misleading manner and as per Sub-regulation 4(1) it shall be ensured that the Claims must be truthful, unambiguous, meaningful, not misleading and help consumers to comprehend the information provided.

The use of the term "100%" - whether in isolation or combined with other descriptors - is likely to create a false impression of absolute purity or superiority. This could mislead consumers into believing that other comparable products in the market are inferior or non-compliant with regulatory standards. In view of these concerns, all FBOs have been advised to not use the term "100%" on food product labels, packaging, and any form of promotional content.

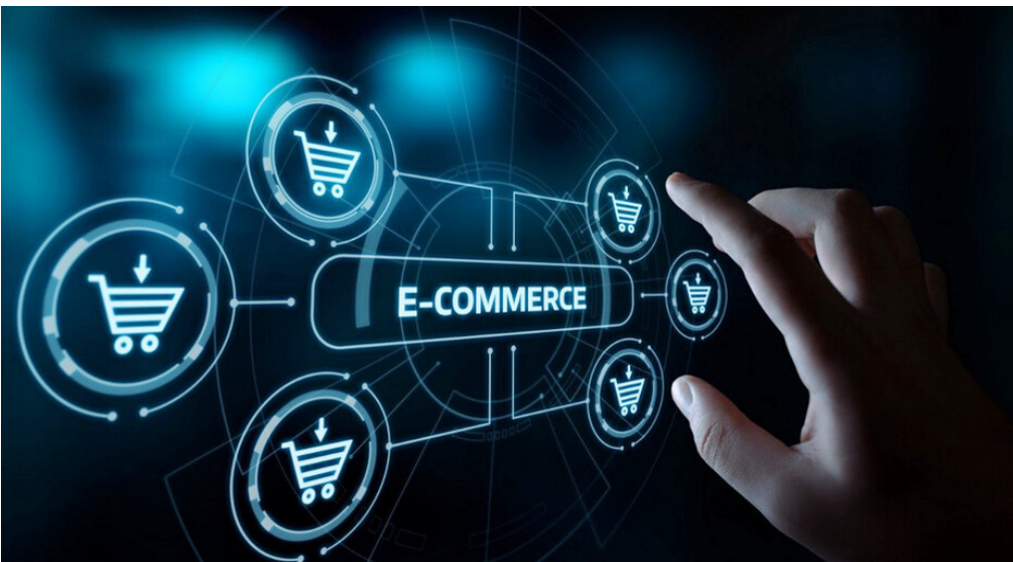
## Detect dark patterns; Central Consumer Protection Authority issues advisory to e-commerce platforms

**New Delhi. (H.S):** In a move aimed at promoting transparency and consumer trust in the digital marketplace, the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has issued a comprehensive advisory to all e-commerce platforms, urging them to actively identify and eliminate deceptive practices known as "dark patterns." Dark patterns refer to manipulative design tactics used in websites and apps to mislead users into making unintended choices - such as forced subscriptions, hidden charges, or tricking consumers into sharing more data than necessary.

These tactics undermine fair trade practices and often erode consumer confidence. To address this, the CCPA has instructed online shopping platforms to undertake a thorough self-audit within three months of receiving the advisory. The purpose of this audit is to detect and remove any such misleading interface designs or marketing strategies from their platforms. In addition, the regulatory body has encouraged platforms to issue voluntary self-declarations stating that they do not engage in dark patterns. These

declarations are expected to promote accountability and foster a more ethical digital commerce environment. Officials from the CCPA emphasized that these measures are crucial for building a transparent and trustworthy digital economy. By eliminating dark patterns, e-commerce players can not only comply with consumer rights norms but also ensure long-term customer loyalty.

The advisory marks another step by the government to strengthen consumer protection laws in the era of booming online commerce. Further monitoring and action may follow based on the response and compliance from the industry. 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 NLU's. The mandate of this JWG is to 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.



## Rhea says she lost acting work after Sushant Singh Rajput death case

Rhea Chakraborty discussed the impact of Sushant Singh Rajput's death case on her and her brother Showik, including career setbacks.

Actor Rhea Chakraborty, who was accused of abetment to suicide following the death of her then-boyfriend Sushant Singh Rajput, has opened up about the lasting impact the case had on her and her brother, Showik Chakraborty. In an interview with CNBC TV18, Rhea shared how both their careers came to a halt and how they struggled to

rebuild their lives after the tragedy.

Rhea and Showik were arrested by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in a drugs-related investigation linked to Sushant's death in 2020. Reflecting on that time, Rhea said, "When we went through the tragedy that we went through, we both lost our careers. I stopped getting any acting work, and Showik, who had scored 96 percentile in CAT and secured admission into a prestigious university, was arrested before he could begin. By

the time he came out, he had lost the first trimester-and with it, his MBA plans and future planning." She added that finding a job for Showik in the corporate world became next to impossible due to the media storm surrounding them. "Getting a job for Showik afterwards in any corporate setup was very difficult. No one wanted to hire someone who had so much media scandal around them. For a while, we weren't sure where our lives were going. Like, what's next? We had our healing processes."

During that phase of uncertainty, the siblings decided to channel their energy into building something of their own. That's how Chapter 2 Drip, a clothing brand aimed at giving people a voice and helping them feel seen, was born.

Sushant Singh Rajput was found dead at his Mumbai home on 14 June 2020. Following a complaint filed by his father, Rhea was accused of abetment to suicide and subjected to multiple investigations by the CBI, ED, and NCB. However, in

May 2024, the CBI filed a closure report, clearing both Rhea and Showik of all charges.

On 24 May, Rhea and Showik launched the first physical store of Chapter 2 Drip in Mumbai. Rhea also shared a glimpse of a puja held at the store on social media. Meanwhile, Rhea made her showbiz comeback last year as a gang leader on MTV Roadies and went on to win the season. She returned to the show again this year but lost the trophy to Elvish Yadav.

## Housefull 5: Akshay film races close to 100 crore'

The much-awaited comedy whodunnit Housefull 5 released in theatres on Friday, June 6. According to Sacnilk, the film collected 40 crore worldwide on its opening day and performed better on its second day, earning a total of 87 crore worldwide.

The trade website reported that Housefull 5 brought in ₹24 crore on Day 1 and 31 crore on Day 2, taking its India net collection to 55 crore. With 65 crore gross in India over two days, and 22 crore from overseas, the film's total worldwide collection now stands at 87 crore. This means Akshay's film has surpassed the lifetime collections of recent Bollywood films like Bhool Chuk Maaf and Deva in just two days.

Rajkumar Rao and Wamiqa Gabbi's Bhool Chuk Maaf released in theatres on May 23. According to Sacnilk, the film has collected 68.06 crore in India and 81.6 crore worldwide at the box office, thus lagging behind Akshay's new release. Shahid



Kapoor's Deva earned 58 crore worldwide. The film is the fifth instalment in Sajid Nadiadwala's successful comedy franchise Housefull. It features an ensemble cast including Akshay Kumar, Sanjay Dutt, Fardeen Khan, Shreyas Talpade, Nana Patekar, Jackie Shroff, Dino Morea, Chitrangada Singh, Sonam Bajwa, Chunky Panday, Nikitin Dheer, Nargis Fakhri, Abhishek Bachchan, Jacqueline Fernandez, Riteish Deshmukh, Soundarya Sharma, and Johnny Lever. Helmed by Tarun Mansukhani, the film,

featuring two different endings and two different killers, opened to a mixed response from the critics.

An excerpt from the Hindustan Times review of the film reads, "The film starts off on a funny note, helped along by Shreyas Talpade's presence. But it lacks the energy you'd expect for the kind of boisterous ride you've signed up for-until Akshay walks in, Ace Ventura-style. His comic timing immediately lifts the film, but I can't say the same for the other characters."

## Thug Life box office collection over 60 cr. on day 3



Mani Ratnam and Kamal Haasan's first film in 38 years, Thug Life, is not performing as expected. After lukewarm reviews and a sudden dip in collections on Friday, the film steadied itself on Saturday. As per Sacnilk, it has collected 62.50 crore worldwide in three days.

The trade website reports that Thug Life collected 30.40 crore net and 35.40 crore gross in India in three days. It made 26.70 crore overseas, taking its total

collection to 62.50 crore. The film opened to 15.5 crore in India and dipped on Saturday with a 7.15 crore collection. It showed slight improvement on Saturday and made 7.75 crore. The film is sustaining mostly on its Tamil version's collections, with the Hindi and Telugu versions of the film making less than 1 crore per day. Karnataka has been a good market for both Mani and Kamal's films after Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh-Telangana.

Despite criticism, Shankar's Kamal-starrer Indian 2 collected 8.55 crore out of its 81.9 crore in Karnataka. Ponniyin Selvan I and II collected 28.12 crore and 22.55 crore each out of 313.36 crore and 214.63 crore, respectively. Thug Life has been banned in the state following a language row in which Kamal refused to apologise. The film seems to be faring well overseas, too, and it remains to be seen how it does on Sunday.

Thug Life stars Kamal, Silambarasan TR, Trisha Krishnan, Aishwarya Lekshmi, Ashok Selvan, Abhirami, Joju George, Nassar, Ali Fazal and Rohit Saraf. It is Mani and Kamal's first reunion after their 1987 hit Nayakan, which is considered a cult classic. The film tells the story of a feared mafia kingpin who seeks revenge after betrayal.

## Sonali says Salman made 2 trips during her cancer treatment

Bollywood actress Sonali Bendre has opened up about her evolving relationship with superstar Salman Khan, admitting that she didn't quite like him when they first shared screen space in the 1999 family blockbuster Hum Saath-Saath Hain. Her opinion changed years later, she said, after the actress was diagnosed with cancer in 2018. "I grew to like Salman later. I mean, it was a process. At the time of Hum Saath-Saath Hain, I don't think we were... let me put it mildly. We were not best of friends," Sonali said. She added, "There are two sides to Salman. You can either love him or you will hate him. And at that point of time, I was not fond of him." Sonali Bendre shared how Salman's behaviour on set would often annoy her during filming. The actress said, "When I was doing Hum Saath-Saath Hain. I mean, I have had my close-ups that we are doing when he's standing behind the camera and making faces at me." "That was Salman. He's a prankster. He's like a child. But at that point of time, I was most offended that what is this behaviour?"

## Rinku Singh gets engaged to Priya Saroj



**Lucknow, (HS) :** Indian cricketer Rinku Singh and Samajwadi Party MP Priya Saroj got engaged on Sunday in a grand ceremony graced by a host of prominent political figures. The engagement, held at a hotel in the

capital city, was attended by top SP leaders, including party president and former chief minister Akhilesh Yadav and his wife, MP Dimple Yadav. Other notable attendees included senior politicians Rajeev Shukla, Jaya

Bachchan, Shivpal Yadav, Rajgopal Yadav, and cricketer Bhuvnesh Kumar. Speaking to the media after the event, SP MP Awadhesh Prasad extended his warm wishes to the couple. "I have come to give my wishes to the couple. I hope that they have a happy future," he said. Rinku Singh, a popular figure in Indian cricket, played for the Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in the recently concluded 2025 edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL). Saroj is a first-time Member of Parliament, having won the Machhlisahr seat on a Samajwadi Party ticket in the 2024 general elections.

## India win 6 gold on day 2 Taiwan Open athletics

**New Delhi, (HS) :** The Indian contingent won as many as six gold medals, including double podium finishes in women's 800m final and long jump competition, on the second and final day of Taiwan Open international athletics championship here on Sunday.

Three-time national champion Vithya Ramraj, Rohit Yadav, Pooja, Krishan Kumar and Annu Rani won the gold medal in their respective events in an impressive outing by the Indian contingent. Also winning gold was the team of Santosh T, Vishal TK, Dharamveer Chaudhary, and Manu TS, the quartet finishing on top of the podium in the men's 4x400m event with a championship record of 3:05.58s to sign off the country's



successful campaign on a positive note. Yashas Palaksha rallied to win silver in the men's 400m hurdles with a personal best timing of 42.22s, the result giving a big boost to his confidence after missing out on the 2025 Asian Championships. Vithya clocked 56.53s to strike gold in the

women's 400m hurdles event, her third best time of the year helping the athlete to gain some useful ranking points for the upcoming World Championships. The athlete from Tamil Nadu competes in 400 metres hurdles, 400 metres and 4x400 metres relay. Before this, she had

clocked 56.04s in the Federation Cup final and 56.46s in the Asian Championship final. Rohit could not breach the 75m mark in the men's javelin throw competition but a best throw of 74.42m was enough for him to claim gold in the event. Taipei's Huang Shih-Feng won silver with a throw of 74.04m, while his compatriot Cheng Chao-Tsun was third with an effort of 73.95m.

Pooja won the women's 800m final with a championship record time of 2:02.79s to edge past compatriot Twinkle Chaudhary, who clocked 2:06.96s to clinch silver. Krishan Kumar then came back from behind to win the top prize in the men's 800m final with a time of 1:48.46s, which is also a new championship record.

## Gil-led India begin training in England

**LONDON, (HS) :** India hit the ground running with a high-intensity training session at Lord's, ahead of the five-match series against England beginning June 20 at Leeds. The pace quartet of Jasprit Bumrah, Prasidh Krishna, Mohammed Siraj and Arshdeep Singh, alongside new captain Shubman Gill, Rishabh Pant and all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja trained under head coach Gautam Gambhir. Gill was made India's 37th Test captain following the retirements of stalwarts Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli. He is leading a relatively young side eyeing their first Test series win in England since 2007. The series begins at Headingley followed by Tests at Edgbaston, Lord's, Old Trafford and The Oval. India A players, including some from the main squad, are already acclimatising in English conditions, currently involved in the second official Test against England

## CM Trophy: Bargarh FC Champions in Odisha Under-15 Football Tournament

**Bhubaneswar, (DMC) :** Bargarh FC emerged victorious in the CM Trophy 2025 Under-15 football championship held in Odisha, defeating Bhubaneswar FC 3-2 in a thrilling final at Birsamunda Stadium in Rourkela today. The final witnessed an enthusiastic turnout, with Sports Minister Suryabanshi Suraj attending as the chief guest.

Addressing the gathering, Suraj highlighted that the championship was organised for the first time in the state under the leadership of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi. He emphasised that the tournament aims to nurture sporting talent at the grassroots level across Odisha's villages. Congratulating the winners and all participants, Suraj announced that the top 100 sportspersons from the tournament will be selected for



advanced training. He further revealed plans to expand the CM Trophy Championship to include sports such as athletics, badminton, kho kho, kabaddi, and hockey in the near future. President of the Odisha Football Association and Jharsuguda MLA Tankadhar Tripathy also graced the event. He praised the championship for fostering sports talent and expressed confidence that the state's sports development journey would continue with similar initiatives.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi extended his congratulations to Bargarh FC via a social media post, while wishing all participating teams a successful future.

"Congratulations to Bargarh FC for their victory in the CM Trophy 2025 football championship. Best wishes to Bhubaneswar FC and all other teams that participated in this state government-organized tournament," the Chief Minister stated.

## Italian Duo Errani & Paolini Conquer Doubles Crown



**PARIS, (HS) :** The Italian duo of Sara Errani and Jasmine Paolini etched their names into tennis history by clinching the 2025 Roland-Garros women's doubles title.

In a thrilling final on Court Philippe-Chatrier, they defeated Anna Danilina of Kazakhstan and Aleksandra Krunic of Serbia with a score of 6-4, 2-6, 6-1. This victory marks their first Grand Slam title as a team and adds another chapter to their remarkable 2024-2025 season, which includes Olympic gold on the same Parisian clay. Errani, a seasoned doubles specialist, and Paolini, a rising star in both singles and doubles, showcased their chemistry and resilience

throughout the tournament. Entering Roland-Garros as one of the top-seeded teams, they navigated a challenging draw with poise. Their path to the final included victories over formidable pairs, such as the No. 8 seeds Ellen Perez and Nicole Melichar-Martinez in the semifinals, where they secured a hard-fought 7-5, 6-4 win.

The final began with a tightly contested first set. Errani's crafty net play and Paolini's powerful baseline game kept Danilina and Krunic on the defensive. The Italians broke serve at a crucial moment to take the set 6-4. However, the second set saw a resurgence from Danilina and Krunic, who capitalised on

unforced errors to level the match at 6-2, forcing a decisive third set. Undeterred, Errani and Paolini regrouped with remarkable composure. The third set was a masterclass in doubles tennis, with the Italians dominating

rallies and exploiting their opponents' fatigue. Paolini's aggressive returns and Errani's precise volleys sealed the 6-1 set, sparking wild celebrations from the Italian contingent in the stands.

## Granollers & Zeballos win French Open doubles title



**PARIS, (HS) :** Veterans Marcel Granollers and Horacio Zeballos won the French Open doubles final on Saturday for their first major title together, and at the combined age of 79. Granollers, a 39-year-old from Spain, and his 40-year-old Argentine partner played in their fourth Grand Slam final as a pairing, but first at the clay-court major. They defeated British pair Joe Salisbury and Neal Skupski 6-0, 6-7 (5), 7-5. Granollers and Zeballos, who were seeded fifth in Paris, were runners-up at the US Open in 2019 and Wimbledon in 2021 and 2023. Salisbury and Skupski were the first all-British team to reach a Grand Slam men's doubles final in the Open era.