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English Daily



Modi makes his Bihar connect at Trinidad



New Delhi (HS) : With elections in the state barely a few months away, Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not let go the chance of making a Bihar connection while on his official visit to Trinidad and Tobago, nearly 15,000 km away from Patna. The tiny island nation has a population of just 13 lakh. Nearly 45% of citizens are of Indian origin, their ancestors having travelled as indentured labourers from Bhojpuri-speaking districts in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh during colonial times. Port of Spain, the capital city of Trinidad and Tobago, also has a Patna Street.

"Banaras, Patna, Kolkata, and Delhi may be cities in India, but these are also names of streets here," PM Modi said. He was accorded a grand welcome to the country with Bhojpuri

Continued P-4

PM conferred with highest civilian honour



The Prime Minister was on Friday conferred with 'The Order of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago', becoming the first foreign leader to receive the

Caribbean country's highest civilian honour. This is the 25th international honour bestowed upon PM Modi by a country. In

Continued P-4

CM Majhi vows to promote Odia culture



Puri (DMC) : Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi participated in the grand 'shilanyas' ceremony of the Ram Charit Manas Temple at Mangalaghat Patana village in Puri district on Friday. The groundbreaking rituals were performed by revered spiritual leader Padma Vibhushan Jagatguru Rambhadra Acharya Ji Maharaj, who performed the sacred land-worship rituals marking the commencement of temple construction.

Organised by the RaghavaParivar Trust, the event witnessed the convergence of religious devotion and cultural affirmation. Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister announced the state's unwavering commitment to preserving and promoting Odisha's cultural and traditional ethos. "It is a privilege to witness the establishment of

Puri likely to be municipal corporation

Bhubaneswa (DMC) : Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Friday announced that the state government will upgrade Puri Municipality to a Municipal Corporation. With this move, the pilgrim town of Puri is set to become the sixth municipal corporation in the state. The decision has been taken taking into consideration the growing population, increasing pilgrimage traffic, and the evolving urban requirements of the seaside town.

Addressing a press meet in Bhubaneswar, the Chief

Continued P-4

Bahuda Yatra of Lords today

Puri (HS) : Thousands of devotees flocked to Shree Gundicha Temple in Odisha's Puri on Friday for 'Sandhya Darshan' on the auspicious occasion of 'Navami Tithi'. It is held on the second last day of the festival at the temple, allowing devotees to offer obeisance to the sibling deities of Lord Balabhadra, Devi Subhadra and Lord Jagannath on the Adap Mandap before Bahuda Yatra. "Devotees are entering the temple in queues and the process has been continuing smoothly since early morning. All arrangements have been made keeping the devotees' safety in mind. People are being advised to follow the norms," said DGP Y B Khurania, who was present in the pilgrim town to oversee the arrangements.

The temple will be shut for devotees from 6 pm for conducting rituals and detailed preparations for the return journey of the Lords. According to sources, about 70 platoons of police force will be deployed in the pilgrim town to ensure smooth traffic flow on Bahuda Yatra and Suna Besh, which will be celebrated on Saturday and Sunday respectively. An independent drone surveillance system is also being implemented for effective crowd management. Odisha Police is also planning to send bulk SMSes, providing real-time



information to the people travelling to Puri as waiting time is expected with vehicular movement regulated and diverted to different parking places via Malatipatpur, Hotel Sterling and Talabania. A detailed traffic advisory has already been issued for travellers from Brahmagiri, Konark and Bhubaneswar.

Learning a lesson from inordinate delay in drawing the chariots on 27 June amid a surge in devotees, the administration is also planning to restrict the number of cordon pass holders during Bahuda Yatra to facilitate better crowd management around the chariots as suggested by Chief Minister Mohan Majhi during a security review meeting earlier this week. These passes grant privileged access to the inner cordon area surrounding the chariots. Although

BREAKING BARRIERS

the Puri administration has not yet divulged the exact number of passes issued to various stakeholders, including government officials, political figures, temple servants, media, administrative staff, volunteers, and cultural performers, sources indicate that it was doubled from 2,000 to 4,000 this year. "We will enforce rigorous restrictions on cordon pass usage during Bahuda. Access to the cordon area will be strictly limited to persons whose presence is deemed essential for the ceremony's conduct," Puri SP Pinak Mishra said.

Meanwhile, police also conducted hotel checks across the city to maintain law and order and ensure the safety of all guests. A 24x7 helpline numbers - 6370967100/06752-232551 has also been released for the citizens in case they need any assistance.

Aastha Poonia becomes Indian Navy's first woman maritime fighter pilot



Visakhapatnam, (HS) : In a landmark moment for gender equality in India's armed forces, the Indian Navy on Friday inducted its first woman into the fighter pilot stream. Sub-Lieutenant Aastha Poonia graduated from the Second Basic Hawk Conversion Course at INS Dega, Visakhapatnam, earning her place among the Navy's elite fighter pilots.

This achievement marks a significant step forward in empowering women in combat roles. While women officers have

long been inducted as pilots and Naval Air Operations Officers in maritime reconnaissance aircraft and helicopters, Aastha's entry into the fighter stream breaks a new glass ceiling in Naval Aviation. Sub-Lieutenant Aastha Poonia, along with Lieutenant Atul Kumar Dhull, was awarded the coveted 'Wings of Gold' by Rear Admiral Janak Bevil, Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Air). Congratulating the officers, the Navy highlighted Aastha's induction as a testament to its commitment towards gender inclusivity.

"Streaming of SLT Aastha Poonia

into the Fighter Stream highlights the Indian Navy's dedication to fostering Nari Shakti and creating a culture of equality and opportunity in Naval Aviation," the Navy said in a statement. This milestone follows the Indian Air Force's historic move in 2016, when Avani Chaturvedi, Bhawana Kanth, and Mohana Singh became the country's first women fighter pilots. Aastha Poonia now carries forward this legacy in the Indian Navy, paving the way for more women to enter combat flying roles. Though the specific aircraft she will operate has not been confirmed, it is expected she will train to fly the MiG-29K - a naval fighter capable of carrier-based operations from INS Vikramaditya and INS Vikrant.

Aastha Poonia's historic achievement is more than a personal triumph; it is a symbol of progress and inclusivity in India's defence forces. As she dons her wings and steps into the fighter cockpit, she inspires a generation of young women to aim for the skies - and beyond.

DSPL-161

ଶ୍ରୀ ନରେନ୍ଦ୍ର ମୋହନ ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ
ଶ୍ରୀ ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀ ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

“ବିଶ୍ୱ ଭ୍ରାତୃତ୍ୱ ଓ ସର୍ବ ଧର୍ମ ସମନ୍ୱୟର ପ୍ରତୀକ ପବିତ୍ର ଘୋଷ ଯାତ୍ରା ଅବସରରେ ସୁସ୍ଥ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଓ ବିକଶିତ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ପାଇଁ ମହାପ୍ରଭୁଙ୍କ ନିକଟରେ ପ୍ରାର୍ଥନା”

ରଥଯାତ୍ରା-୨୦୨୫

ଜନସାଧାରଣଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ମାର୍ଗଦର୍ଶିକା

- ବୟୋବୃଦ୍ଧ/ ଭିନ୍ନଶ୍ରମ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି ଓ ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କୁ ଏକ୍ସଟିଆ ଭିତ ଭିତରକୁ ଛାଡ଼ନ୍ତୁ ନାହିଁ
- ବିଶୁଦ୍ଧ ପାଣି ପିଅନ୍ତୁ ଏବଂ ଖାଇବା ପୂର୍ବରୁ ହାତ ଭଲଭାବେ ଧୁଅନ୍ତୁ
- ଖୋଲା ବିକ୍ରି ହେଉଥିବା ଖାଦ୍ୟ, କୃତ୍ରିମ ରଙ୍ଗ ଦିଆ ଖାଦ୍ୟ, ବାସି ଓ ଦୁର୍ଗନ୍ଧ ଖାଦ୍ୟ, ମାଛି ବସୁଥିବା ଖାଦ୍ୟ କିମ୍ବା ପଚାସଡ଼ା ଫଳ ଓ ପନିପରିବା ଖାଆନ୍ତୁ ନାହିଁ
- ଅଂଶୁଘାତରୁ ରକ୍ଷା ପାଇବାକୁ ମୁଣ୍ଡରେ ଧଳା ଟୋପି କିମ୍ବା ଓଦା କପଡ଼ା ବ୍ୟବହାର କରନ୍ତୁ ଏବଂ ଓ.ଆର୍.ଏସ୍ ପିଅନ୍ତୁ
- ସମୁଦ୍ର ସ୍ନାନ ସମୟରେ ଦୁର୍ଘଟଣା ଏତାଜବା ପାଇଁ ସତର୍କ ରୁହନ୍ତୁ
- ରାତ୍ରି ରହଣି କରୁଥିଲେ ମଣାରି/ ମଣାନିବାରକ ବ୍ୟବହାର କରନ୍ତୁ
- ଅସୁସ୍ଥ ଅନୁଭବ କଲେ ନିକଟସ୍ଥ ଆଶୁ ଚିକିତ୍ସା କେନ୍ଦ୍ରରେ ଚିକିତ୍ସିତ ହୁଅନ୍ତୁ

ସର୍ବ, ଜ୍ୱର, କାଶ କିମ୍ବା ଫୁଜୁଲି ଲକ୍ଷଣ ଥିବା ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି ଜନଗହଳ ସ୍ଥାନକୁ ଯାଆନ୍ତୁ ନାହିଁ

ଜରୁରୀ ଫୋନ୍ ନମ୍ବର :

ପୁରୀ ହସ୍ପିଟାଲ କଣ୍ଟ୍ରୋଲ ରୁମ୍ : ୦୬୭୫୨-୨୨୨୧୭୫

ରାଜ୍ୟ ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟସେବା ହେଲ୍ପ ଲାଇନ୍ : ୧୦୪, ଆୟୁର୍ଲାଭ : ୧୦୮

ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ଓ ପରିବାର କଲ୍ୟାଣ ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର

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Manager, Bank of India*



Minister of Cooperation Pradeep Bal Samanta flagging off ‘Cooperative Walkathon’ to mark the International Year of Cooperatives in Bhubaneswar on Friday

Telangana Blast: Rs 10 lakh ex-gratia for 8 workers killed

Bhubaneswar (DMC): Chief Minister Mohan Majhi on Friday announced Rs 10 lakh each for the families of 8 workers from Odisha, who died in a powerful explosion, which triggered a fire at Sigachi pharmaceutical factory in Pashamylaram industrial area in Sangareddy district of Telangana on Monday. The financial assistance to the deceased will be provided from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

Additionally, a team of state government officials is present at the accident site, monitoring the rescue and medical operations, a CMO release said. The deceased have been identified as Rajnala Jagan Mohan (55) of Chatrapur in Ganjam, LagnajeetDuari of Paikarapur in Cuttack's Tigiria, Manoj Rout of Parbatipur in Balasore's Simulia, Dolagobinda Sahu of Erabanka in Jajpur's Dharmasala, Chaita Bhadra and Ramesh Gauda of Nabarangpur,



Siddharth Gouda of Mahanadapur in Ganjam and Prasant Mohapatra of Berhampur in Ganjam. On Wednesday, officer on special duty in the directorate of Odisha Parivaar, Pritish Panda had informed that family members of four missing workers have already submitted their samples for DNA identification and one more family will reach Sangareddy on Thursday to give their sample. Earlier, he had confirmed the death of Rajnala

Jagan Mohan, LagnajeetDuari, Manoj Rout and Dolagobinda Sahu. Another four from the state are undergoing treatment at Pranaam and Druva hospitals in Telangana. Among them, Samir Padhy (24), a machine operator from Ganjam, is battling for life with 35% burns. The other three are Chandan Kumar Naik of Bhadrak, and NeelambarBatra and Chitrasen Batra of Nabarangpur and their condition is stated to be stable.

RathYatra Lapses

BJD demands HC Judge-monitored probe



Bhubaneswar (DMC): A BJD delegation on Friday submitted a memorandum to Governor HariBabuKambhampati, seeking a judicial inquiry monitored by a sitting Judge of Orissa High Court into the 'serious mismanagement' in RathYatra this year. The delegation highlighted the stampede near Shree Gundicha Temple, which claimed three lives and left over 750 devotees injured. It also condemned the assault on journalists by police, terming it an attack on press freedom. "Several eminent senior journalists were physically assaulted by police personnel and restrained from covering the events, which amounts to a direct attack on democratic values and press freedom. Besides the sevayats, who were performing their rites,

were pulled down from the Chariots." It also raised alarm over traffic chaos and misuse of 10,000+ cordon passes, allegedly distributed to BJP affiliates, disrupting crowd control. "The entire RathYatra witnessed severe traffic and crowd mismanagement, resulting in bottlenecks, stranded pilgrims, and obstructed emergency services, putting public safety at grave risk. Additionally, the indiscriminate distribution of over 10,000 cordon passes by the ruling BJP party as alleged to its affiliates and supporters, far beyond practical limits, caused major disruption in crowd control and contributed directly to the unfortunate tragedy which was never seen before." The delegation further noted that the pulling of Lord Jagannath's

Nandighosha began at 7.45 pm, breaching age-old customs. It also drew the Governor's attention to the absence of the Temple Managing Committee for 8 months, affecting ritual and festival management.

"Further, during RathYatra 2024, Lord Balabhadra's idol fell from the Taladhwaia chariot, a deeply distressing incident that provoked widespread public outcry. Despite the formation of a three-member inquiry panel, the report has not been submitted even after a year.

This delay reflects administrative apathy and undermines public faith. We urge prompt release of the report, accountability, and preventive measures for future RathYatras," it said. It also urged the Governor to personally oversee upcoming RathYatra events to prevent further lapses and protect the sanctity of the festival. The state government has already ordered an administrative inquiry headed by Development Commissioner AnuGarg into the stampede incident.

Chit fund investors to get back money in 4 months

Bhubaneswar (DMC): The Odisha government will return money to all depositors who have invested in various chit fund schemes irrespective of the amount put in by them, state BJP president ManmohanSamal announced on Friday. Addressing a press meet in Bhubaneswar, Samal said the process of refund of money to chit fund investors is already underway and the exercise is likely to be completed within four months.

He said a list of five lakh depositors has already been prepared, and the state government is committed to refund all investors as per the promises made in BJP's Sankalp Patra before the elections. Stating that as many as 1,26,137 investors have already got back their money within a year, the state BJP chief said the list for the current phase is complete. The process is on and when the



complete list is available, money to all will be refunded in phases, he said. Samal said chit fund investors will get the refund by showing even minimal proof of their deposit. "This is a regular process, and once the list arrives, money will be returned phase-wise," he said. Noting that information and evidence about investment by people were obtained from various sources to prepare the list of five lakh eligible investors, he said

whatever the amount may be, whether it is Rs 10,000 or Rs 10,00,000, money will be returned. The senior leader thanked Chief Minister Mohan CharanMajhi for refund of money to 1,26,137 eligible investors, and said that the CM has already announced that five lakh others will get back their money in four months. This achievement of the BJP government is in sharp contrast to the performance of the

previous BJD government which refunded only Rs 119 crore to 2,79,109 small depositors over a span of 10 years from 2014 to 2024. The expeditious disbursement was possible after Chief Minister Mohan CharanMajhi directed to simplify the refund process and its decentralisation to the district level, said the Chief Minister's Office earlier.

In its interim report to the State government, the Justice MM Das Commission of inquiry probing the chit fund scam had recommended compensation for 4,97,844 small investors while naming more than 450 companies for cheating the investors. Although the exact number of depositors affected in the chit fund scam is yet to be made public, some reports said around Rs 4,600 crore deposits were collected from the state by the chit fund companies.

Irate locals protest over waterlogging in city

Bhubaneswar (DMC): Water entered houses in Badagada area in Bhubaneswar, leading to chaos and strong public reaction. As BMC Commissioner visited the area for inspection, he was gheraoed by residents who demanded immediate action and accountability.

The situation remained breathless in Badagada since Thursday, with knee-deep water inside many homes, forcing several residents to leave their houses and take shelter in nearby hotels. People questioned the



BMC Commissioner directly at the site, showing him the ground-level situation. Despite the deployment of pump sets to clear the water, the

effort failed. The administration was compelled to cut through the road to create a channel for the water to drain and allow people to move around. Several families struggled throughout the night.

When the Commissioner arrived for inspection, angry residents surrounded him, questioning the inaction in addressing the recurring issue, especially with more monsoon days ahead. Many alleged that 10 to 12 feet of water had entered their homes, damaging essential household appliances and furniture.

Three held in Bodhapokhari murder case

Khordha (DMC): The district police has arrested three persons in connection with Bodhapokhari murder case under Jatni police limits. They are Bhimraj Mohanty (38), Suresh Mohanty (36) of Padanpur in Jatni area and their relative Bikram Das.

On June 28, the trio had heated exchange of words with deceased Hiranya Behera of Bikas Nagar in an inebriated condition over a trivial issue. Hiranya died on the spot after being beaten to death by two brothers with wooden planks. The dead bodies were dumped

near Bodhapokhari in Khordha Tengahat road under Khordha Industrial Estate Police Station (IEPS) area. On receiving information from locals, the IEPS recovered the bodies on June 29 and the investigation was started.

Under the direction of Khordha SP Sagarika Nath, three teams led by SDPO Khordha Nihar Ranjan Pradhan, IIC Khordha Model PS Sanjaya Kumar Nayak, IIC Khordha Sadar Kanhu Charan Swain, Sub-Inspector Basudev Jayasinghe and Bhagyashree Behera investigated the incident. "Police also seized one TATA



ACE, One CD Deluxe Bike, One OLA Scooter, One Passenger Auto, Two number of Wooden Planks, One Mobile Phone of deceased & registered a case vide IEPS case no-156/2025,u/s-103(1)BNS. All the accused were forwarded to the judicial court of Khordha, informed the SP.

Odisha BJP set to get new president on July 8



Bhubaneswar (DMC): The Odisha unit of BharatiyaJanata Party (BJP) is set to get its new president on July as the election schedule for the top post was announced on Friday. A formal notification for holding election for the post of president will be issued on July 6, BJP's state election officer Pratap Chandra Sarang said.

Aspiring candidates will be able to file nomination papers for the post of state president

and Central Council Member on July 7. If required, election will be held on July 8. The names of the new state party chief and central council member will be declared on the same day, said Sarangi, MP from Balasore. After a brief halt following the tragic stampede during the RathYatra festival in Puri, the party has now rescheduled the key dates. Several prominent leaders are stated to have started mobilising their base, though the final list of nominees will become clear only after the nominations are filed.

Govt re-engages retired EIC



Bhubaneswar (DMC): The Odisha government has re-engaged Chandra Sekhar Padhi, retired engineer-in-chief (EIC) in the Water Resources, as OSD-cum-EIC in the department for a period of six months.

A notification in this regard was issued by the Department of Water Resources on Thursday. "Government after careful consideration have been pleased to re-engage Sri Chandra SekharPadhi, Retd EIC, WR as OSD-cum-EIC, WR for a period

of 6 months with effect from the date of his joining," the notification read. Consequently upon re-engagement, Padhi is entitled to get the remuneration and other allowances as per provision contained in a resolution issued by the General Administration and Public Grievance Department on September 12, 2024, it said. Similarly, the Odisha government has appointed senior OAS officer SatrugnaKar as Director of Town Planning.

Currently serving as Additional Secretary in the Housing and Urban Development Department, Kar has been given the new assignment in addition to his existing responsibilities. According to a notification issued by the Housing and Urban Development Department, Kar's new appointment is in addition to his own duties with immediate effect until further orders.

SNIPPETS

SUM hospital launches free Cy-Tb test



Bhubaneswar: Mycobacterium tuberculosis antigen-based skin test, also known as Cy-Tb intra-dermal test, is now available in the Institute of Medical Sciences and SUM Hospital here. The test is conducted using an indigenous kit prepared by the Serum Institute of India, Prof. (Dr.) Banani Jena, Head of the Department of Respiratory Medicine in the hospital, said while addressing a Continuing Medical Education (CME) program on Friday. Prof. (Dr.) Jena said the test used specific antigens from Mycobacterium tuberculosis to indicate potential infection in a patient. The test is being done in the Central Laboratory of the hospital where members of public can get themselves tested free of cost. The CME was also addressed by Prof. (Dr.) Khirud Chandra Sahu and Prof. (Dr.) Lalit Kumar Meher.

SOA signs MoU with IGNOU



Bhubaneswar: The Siksha 'O' Anusandhan Deemed to be University (SOA) here has signed a MoU with the IGNOU for jointly offering seven academic programs in agricultural sciences under distance education system by setting up a Learner Support Centre (LSC) in SOA. Both parties agreed to terms and conditions governing their relationship to provide educational opportunities to the communities at large. The LSC would be set up in the Institute of Agricultural Sciences (IAS), SOA's faculty of agricultural sciences, which would initially offer Certificate programs in Organic Farming, Bee Keeping, Poultry Farming, Diploma programs in Horticulture and Dairy Technology, PG Diploma program in Agribusiness and PG Certificate in Agricultural Policy. The number of programs will be increased subsequently. Prof. Pradipta Kumar Nanda, Vice-Chancellor of SOA and Dr. Manorama Singh, Director (RSD) of IGNOU, signed the agreement (DMC).

ODIA ASMITA

Utkalamrita, first Odisha GI store, inaugurated in city

Bhubaneswar, (DMC): Promoting Odisha's Geographical Indication (GI)-registered and certified, traditional, and local products sourced from Odisha's GI stakeholders, an exclusive store has come up in the State Capital where you can get all GI products of Odisha under one roof.

The store offers a curated selection of Odisha's GI products including handlooms like Orissa Ikat, Kotpad, Sambalpuri Bandha, Khandua, Bomkai etc, handicrafts like Pipili appliqué work, Pattachitra, Konark Stone Carving etc. agricultural & foodstuff products like Kandhamal Haladi, Odisha Khajuri Guda, Rasagola etc. This new exclusive Odisha GI store was inaugurated by Speaker of Odisha Assembly Surama Padhy as Chief Guest on Friday. The inaugural event also included a store-entry, a guided store tour



and Chhenapoda cutting ceremony. The Speaker highly praised the theme-based saree depiction and also mentioned that for Odia Asmita, everyone should wear and use Odisha products. She stressed on using original products of Odisha and to benefit the real producer groups and help in employment generation. This store highlights support for GI products, focus

on cultural heritage, "vocal for local" and "vocal for GI" promotion, and community development. This is an attempt to raise awareness and explore the GI heritage of Odisha. At present, the State has 26 GI products now, the store owner said. Some other Odisha products for which GI applications have been submitted, but under process, are also available in the new store e.g.

Talapatra Khodei, Santhal Sarees, Dhokra etc. Sabat Sisters- Dr Anita Sabat and Amrita Sabat had started Sabat Exports Pvt Ltd and the premium brand Utkalamrita during the Nabakalebara Ratha Jatra in 2015. They have been promoting Utkala's Amrit i.e. nectar of Odisha- Odisha's traditional, local, and GI products for the last 10 years. They have also represented and showcased Odisha by participating in national and international events and exhibitions.

They applied and got the first GI authorised certificate for "Orissa Ikat" in 2019. They have also submitted GI applications for many weavers, artists etc. of Odisha. There is a need to ensure the availability of genuine GI products where locals and visitors can source the real products in one place. All need to promote Odisha's products by buying, using and gifting, they said.

The colonial education model will change by NEP-2020- suraj suryvanshi

Rayagada (DMC): Today Rayagada Autonomous College was celebrated the 59th foundation day. Higher Education, Sports and Youth Affairs, Odia Language, Literature and Culture Minister Suryavansi Suraj was the chief guest, while Rayagada District Magistrate Parul Patwari, Rayagada Superintendent of police Swati S. Kumarl were present there, College principal Dr. Saraswati Roy presided over and expressed the opinion that the state and the country can develop



if the students change their job-seeking mentality to convert job-giving mentality. Principal Dr. Roy presented the glorious journey of the college and expressed the hope that the college will reach the peak of progress in the coming days. The

District Collector and the Security Incharge advices and guided the students to achieve success in life. On this occasion, the Higher Education Minister awarded the students who secured the highest marks in graduation and post-graduation. The program was conducted by Lieutenant Uday Nayak, Head of the English Department. Professors P. Arun Kumar, T. Jyoti, Subrata Pradhan, Bhavesh Mohanty, Ajay Rait, and Tikeswar Majhi collaborated on major programs.

Export Opportunities for MSMEs in Odisha Vendor Mobilization Drive & Knowledge Exchange Initiative under RAMP

Paradip, (DMC): In a major push to enhance the global competitiveness of MSMEs in Odisha, the District Industries Centre (DIC), Jagatsinghpur, in collaboration with the Directorate of Export Promotion & Marketing (DEPM), Government of Odisha, successfully organized a Vendor Mobilization Drive and Knowledge Exchange Initiative on 4th July 2025 at Hotel Empires, Paradeep under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme. The event witnessed active participation from government officials, export promotion experts, logistics and finance professionals, and a wide cross-section of MSME entrepreneurs from across the district. The Principal Speech was delivered

An elderly woman died in a road accident

Raygada (DMC): An elderly woman dies in a road accident. According to information today at 2 pm, the St. Xavier's School bus number OD 18N 4211 hit the scooty number OD 18P 2248 carrying three people when overtook. As a result, the elderly woman sitting behind the scooty fell under the rear wheel of the bus and was hit by the rear wheel. As a result, the elderly woman died on the spot. The deceased elderly woman has been identified Urlaka Penty a resident of kolnara block bada pedia village. According to information she went with her husband Urlaka Mangulu to Rayagada some bank work along with his nephew Kadraka Lakhmint who is rive the scooty. at that time the school bus hit from behind of scooty on the main road near the housing board. rayagada town Police reached the spot and brought the school bus in custody. The driver of the bus has been detained by the Rayagada Sadar police. The body has been taken to the Rayagada district headquarters medical for autopsy and the police have investigating about the incident.



by Sampad Chandra Swain, Minister of Industries, Skill Development & Technical Education, Govt. of Odisha highlighting the state's commitment to promoting MSMEs and unlocking export potential in the region. The technical sessions covered a range of critical topics for MSMEs seeking export opportunities. Among others, Kamal Kant Sahoo, Odisha Head, FIEO,

Sanjay Kumar Pradhan, CEO, Ultra Logistics, Pranav Kumar, Branch Manager, ECGC Ltd., Artabandhu Behera, AGM, SBI, were prominently present and participated in the discussion. The event concluded with remarks by Tarun Kanta Mohanty, General Manager, DIC Jagatsinghpur, who emphasized the importance of sustained capacity-building and knowledge sharing for the MSME sector in Odisha.

Celebration of 6th National Electrical Safety Week at IMFA, Therubali



Rayagada, Therubali : IMFA Therubali celebrated the 6th National Electrical Safety Week from 26th June to 2nd July 2025 with great enthusiasm and commitment. To mark the occasion, electrical safety banners were displayed at prominent locations within the factory premises and in public areas to raise awareness among employees and the general public. The inaugural session on 26th June 2025 witnessed active participation from employees and executives across various departments. A Safety Oath was administered to reaffirm everyone's commitment to electrical safety. Mr. Asish Kumar Roy, VP (Mfg) & EIC - THV, addressed the gathering and emphasized the importance of this year's theme, "Smart Energy, Safe Nation," urging everyone

with the message: "Don't Compromise, Be Wise." Mr. K.C. Dash, DGM - Electrical, announced the schedule for the week-long programme and outlined the planned activities. Throughout the week, various awareness trainings and audio-visual display programs on electrical safety were conducted across the workplace, covering essential topics such as lightning protection, earthing, illumination, the use of personal protective equipment, electrical hazards, and appropriate preventive measures. In addition to plant-based initiatives, awareness programs were also organized for students at Government High School, Government UP School, and Centurion Public School, extending the safety message to the wider community. Several key activities were carried out during

the week, including inspection of belt conveyor safety devices, onsite training sessions for employees and contractor workwomen, quiz competitions, a "Spot the Hazard" competition for executives and non-executives, an electrical mock drill and CPR training at GCP-2 and BQT Plant, and drawing and poster competitions to creatively promote safety awareness among all participants.

The Electrical Department successfully hosted and coordinated the entire week's events, actively encouraging participation and promoting best safety practices. The celebrations concluded with a prize distribution ceremony to honor the winners of the safety quiz and other competitions, marking the end of a successful and impactful safety week.

While returning to the temple on bahuda yatra, the Lord will eat podpitha from the hands of Mauseema

Puri, (DMC): This traditionThe Lord is performing the human leela at the Puri shrine. In this sequence, Kalia Thakur has conquered the adapa mandapa, the place of his birth, during the rath yatra. Mahaprabhu from Mauseema's hand while returning to The Temple on Bahuda Yatra You'll eat. This traditionIt has been from which era. For this, in the temple of MauseemaThe making of the podpitha has been completed. Vishwanath, the priest of 'Mauseema'. Mishra is ready with this podpitha has done. The preparation is also unique. Biswanath Mishra, priest of Mausi Maa temple, said, "Before preparing the pod cake, the flour is ready. Chickpeas, sugar, pistachios, almonds, cardamom. A mix of cloves, desi ghee, etc. The mixture is prepared. itIn the form of a whip and a pod To sit in the oven and boil in the steam given. In about 8 hours of steam After it is boiled, it is taken out and cooled. It is left to happen. Chill Cut it into pieces after it is done Again, it is sprinkled in desi ghee. The three Thakurs are later handed over to three huts. However, though its name is Pod Pitha, it is not burnt. It is boiled in steam and prepared by peeling it with Cow ghee.



IOCL Paradip Refinery conducted Level-II Onsite Disaster Drill



Paradip, (DMC): Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) Paradip Refinery conducted a Level-II Onsite Disaster Mock Drill on 4th July 2025 Friday with an aim to check the effectiveness of the emergency response and preparedness of the Refinery. The drill was executed in line with the approved Emergency Response and Disaster Management Plan (ERDMP) of Paradip Refinery. Members of Mutual Aid Industries also participated in the exercise.

The scenario envisaged for the drill was H2S leakage due to rupture of gasket in SARU Unit of Paradip Refinery. Response & control measures taken as per the protocols of Emergency Response & Disaster Management Plan was well coordinated and it was appreciated by all the authorities. Mr Kausik Basu, Executive Director & Refinery Head of Paradip Refinery chaired the debriefing session of the exercise.

Food Safety Taskforce team conducted inspection in Khariar Road



NUAPADA/KHARIAR ROAD, (DMC): Food safety taskforce team conducted inspections at various food establishments at Khariar Road in Nuapada District on Friday. While checking a hotel, near Amsena Chowk, the task force team found some food items

preserved in the refrigerator without following food safety norms. Besides, meat & fish applied by harmful colors, meat products stored in plastic covers which had no food grade. The team destroyed 27 kg of meat products.

Later, they conducted 22 different places and imposed fines of 6000/- rupees. Speaking on the occasion Food Safety Officer Krishna Priya Sahu informed thatnotnace has been given to 5 shop owners to obtain license within 15 days. Food Safety Officer, staff of NAC Khariar Road and staff of Jonk Police Station participated in inspections.

Defective town planing causing drainage problem

Jagatsinghpur, (DMC): During rainy season rain water caused problem for Jagatsinghpur town. Jagatsinghpur Municipality authority and Drainage department failed to renovate old drainage system. Besides that people preparing new building without approval from Municipality authorities. It is unfortunate that there is no specific town planing at Jagatsinghpur. People purchasing agricultural land and converting the land to homestead land in a manipulate manner at Tahasil. Even they are preparing buildings without approval to town planing. As there is no town planing at Jagatsinghpur no provision of drainage system Besides that no connectivity of new drains with traditional drainage system. Madhapur Drain and Naga pur Dra to some extent occupied some powerful men. but drainage department and Municipal authorities failed to evacuate encroachment. Box type bridge for parking space upon Panisalia drain is another problem to clen the drain. On the whole Municipality and Drainage department are responsible to create problem for drainage of rain water. Rainy season proved as curse for Municipality people.

Groundbreaking Ceremony Held for the Iconic Kalinga Maritime Museum at Paradip Port



Paradip, (DMC): Work on the innovative Kalinga Maritime Museum, a landmark project set to redefine marine heritage preservation, officially commenced on Friday with a groundbreaking ceremony held at Paradip Port. The auspicious event was graced by P.L. Haranadh, Chairman, Paradip Port Authority (PPA), who witnessed the beginning of construction. Senior officials from both the Paradip Port Authority

and Indian Port Rail & Ropeway Corporation Limited (IPRCL) were also in attendance, marking the significant start of this visionary endeavour. The Kalinga Maritime Museum is designed to be a testament to both architectural innovation and climatic resilience. Its unique fish-shaped structure will be oriented to face the sea, strategically channeling natural wind flow along its body to the tail for enhanced wind resistance, a

crucial feature in this coastal region. Engineered to withstand the diverse climatic conditions of Odisha, the museum will be robust enough to handle temperature extremes ranging from 80 to 450 C. Furthermore, its design incorporates advanced features to withstand cyclone-level wind speeds of up to 280 km/hr, ensuring the long-term safety and integrity of the structure and its valuable exhibits.

This groundbreaking initiative is a significant milestone for the Paradip Port Authority, demonstrating its commitment to preserving maritime heritage and contributing to smart port development. IPRCL is providing project management expertise for this ambitious undertaking. The Kalinga Maritime Museum is poised to become a major cultural and educational landmark, celebrating Odisha's rich maritime history and serving as a symbol of resilience and innovation.

From Page- 1

Modi makes...

chautaal (folk songs) and dhol beats. Thirty-eight ministers, including the country's Prime Minister KamlaPersad-Bissessar turned up in traditional Indian attire, in what was a grand spectacle. Calling Kamla 'Bihar ki Beti', Modi hailed her achievements. "The ancestors of PM Kamla were from Bihar's Buxar. She has also visited the place. People consider her the daughter of Bihar," he said. Ram Lakhan Mishra, a native of Bhelpur village in Buxar, migrated to Trinidad and Tobago in 1889 as a labourer and settled there. KamlaPersad, one of his descendants, became the first woman prime minister of the nation a century later in 2018. The Prime Minister invoked Bihar's rich heritage, calling it a source of pride not just for India, but for the entire world. "Bihar's heritage is the pride of India and the world. The state has shown the way to the world in various fields like democracy, politics, and diplomacy for centuries. New opportunities will emerge from Bihar in the 21st century," PM Modi said. Praising the journey of the Indian community to Trinidad and Tobago, he said: "They left their soil but not their soul. They were not just migrants, they were messengers of a timeless civilisation."

This was his way of connecting to the lakhs of Biharis who continue to travel beyond the state's boundaries in search of a better livelihood. Despite facing difficulties, they take pride in their roots. Modi had a gift for the Indian diaspora. The sixth-generation members of Indian-origin citizens will now be eligible for Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) cards. This will allow them to live and work in India.

Puri likely to...

Minister said all the localities of Puri town and some nearby gram panchayats will be included in the new municipal corporation. "The process for upgradation of Puri municipality to a corporation is set to commence from tomorrow," he said. Noting that lakhs of devotees from across the country and abroad visit Puri to have a darshan of Lord Jagannath, Majhi said it is the duty of the state government to provide all basic facilities to the devotees. This apart, the residents of Puri deserve better civic amenities and taking all these aspects into consideration, the state government has decided to upgrade Puri municipality to a municipal corporation, the CM said.

At present, five cities in Odisha - Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Berhampur, Sambalpur and Rourkela - have their municipal corporations. The state government will take the necessary steps for the all-round development of Puri, one among the four sacred Dhams as per the Hindu culture and tradition, the CM said.

Govt to set up...

will be equipped to host daily light and sound shows, offering immersive experiences into Lord Jagannath's history and mythology. A large open-air stage will also be constructed to showcase cultural performances by artistes, further enriching the visitor experience. This initiative marks a significant step towards enhancing cultural tourism in Odisha while honouring the spiritual and artistic legacy of Lord Jagannath.

PM conferred...

a special ceremony at the President's House, President Christine Carla Kangeloo conferred upon Prime Minister Modi the highest national award of Trinidad & Tobago for his statesmanship, for championing the priorities of the Global South and for his exceptional contribution to strengthening the relationship between the two countries. Modi, who is on a two-day visit to the Caribbean nation, expressed his gratitude to the government and the people for being honoured with the highest national award.

Rapid restoration in record time, train services resumes



Jeypore: The East Coast Railway has successfully completed the restoration work between Jarati and Maliguda stations on the Koraput-Kirandul line, under Waltair Division, just within two days after a massive landslide disrupted the section on 2nd July 2025 due to incessant rainfall. "The landslide had affected train operations between Koraput and Kirandul, as a large portion of the track was buried under approximately 25,000 cubic meters of mud and boulders. Despite the challenging hilly terrain and continuous rainfall, restoration teams swung into action immediately with meticulous planning and swift resource mobilization. "A total of 16 excavators and heavy earth-moving machines were deployed at the site. More than 300 personnel, including engineers, technical staff and ground workers, worked around the clock under the direct supervision of Divisional Railway Manager and Senior officials. "The prompt response was personally overseen by Senior Railway Officials including the Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) of Waltair Division, DRM Rayagada, Additional DRMs and other top-level officers who ensured that restoration progressed smoothly and swiftly. " Within just two days, evacuation of debris was completed and the affected track was certified fit by the evening on 4th July 2025. As a safety measure, train operations have been permitted with a restricted speed at the affected site. Work related to Overhead Equipment (OHE), Signalling and other Safety Systems is progressing steadily and expected to complete soon. "Parmeshwar Funkwal, General Manager of East Coast Railway, lauded the dedicated efforts of the workforce and the leadership of the officers involved. "This swift restoration is a shining example of dedication, coordination and efficiency even in the face of adverse weather and tough geographical conditions" added Funkwal. He also congratulated the entire team for their commitment and resilience. "This remarkable feat not only restores normalcy for passengers and freight movement but also reinforces Indian Railways' unwavering commitment to public service and operational excellence. "Train services will be resumed shortly after the completion of restoration work related to signalling and Overhead Equipment (OHE). However, due to rake adjustments and the temporary unavailability of coaching rakes, some trains are planned to originate and end its journey at Koraput, today. Passengers are advised to check the latest updates through official railway channels before planning their journey.

Monojit arrested for rape, was law college's pointsperson for students

KOLKATA, (HS) : Administrators at the South Calcutta Law College where a 24-year-old student was gangraped after college hours on June 25, issued a notice last year asking students to route any queries related to their dealings with the institution through Monojit Mishra, the main accused in the case, and also previously issued several notices asking students not to stay in the campus after college hours, documents reviewed by Hindustan Times show. Mishra, a graduate of the college later hired as a temporary staffer, was arrested along with two students Promit Mukherjee and Zaib Ahmed, and a security guard, Pinaki Banerjee. Police have said that Mishra has at least 11 criminal cases pending against him. At least four were related to molestation. "But despite all these, he was not just recruited in July 2024 but the college authorities issued a notice on August 13, 2024 asking students to contact him with any queries related to students' dealings of the college," said a professor who asked not to be named. HT has a copy of the notice which reads: "Students of all semesters are hereby informed that any query related to students' dealings of the college kindly contact Monojit Mishra (office staff) and Pallab Adhiakary (office staff)."

Air India pilot 'collapses' before operating Bengaluru-Delhi flight

New Delhi, (HS) : An Air India flight from Bengaluru to Delhi was delayed in the early hours of July 4 after the pilot collapsed shortly before take-off and was rushed to hospital, PTI reported citing sources. The pilot, who was scheduled to operate flight AI2414, could not proceed due to a medical emergency. The airline arranged for another pilot to operate the flight, which eventually departed after a delay. In a statement, an Air India spokesperson said there was a medical emergency involving one of its pilots, following which he was taken to a local hospital. "There was a medical emergency involving one of our pilots in the early hours of 04 July. As a result, the pilot was unable to operate the flight AI2414 from Bengaluru to Delhi, that he was rostered for, and was taken to a local hospital immediately," the spokesperson said in a statement.

Collapsed bridge in Jharkhand's Khunti forces students to scale 25-foot bamboo ladder to reach school

RANCHI, (HS) : For over two weeks, a collapsed bridge in Khunti has forced local children into a perilous daily routine, scaling a 25-foot bamboo ladder to reach their school. While the immediate danger of the ladder has now been addressed by authorities, the underlying problem of a missing bridge and lack of a safe alternative route still persists. The Pelot bridge, a vital link on the Simdega-Kolebira Road, crumbled on June 19 due to incessant rains. Its collapse severed crucial connectivity, bringing normal life to a grinding halt for thousands, and most acutely affecting the young students of Catherine School. With no immediate diversion or repair work initiated, the gap



left by the broken culvert became an obstacle for vehicles, including school buses. This left children from surrounding villages like Sunagi, Rodo, Angrabari, Bichana Pandu, Saridkel, Japud, Jaltanda, and Gamharyam with a stark choice: either abandon their education or brave the makeshift crossing. Though an alternative route is available, it is very long and risky as well. Heavy vehicles are somehow plying on that route, but it is not possible for the small vehicles, especially school vans, to take that route. Therefore, to attend their classes, children studying in Catherine School have to take the challenge of scaling the 25-foot ladder every day to reach their school.

Kerala On Alert After 2 Suspected Nipah Virus Cases

Thiruvananthapuram, (HS) : Health authorities in Kerala on Friday issued an alert across three northern districts after two people showed possible signs of Nipah virus infection, reviving fears of an outbreak that the state has battled in the past. Health alerts have been issued in the districts of Kozhikode, Malappuram, and Palakkad, officials said. The suspected cases from Malappuram and Palakkad districts were flagged during routine testing at government medical colleges in Kozhikode and Malappuram. Samples have been rushed to the National Institute of Virology in Pune for confirmation, an official release said here. "We have already strengthened preventive measures in line with Nipah protocol," said Health Minister Veena George after chairing an emergency meeting to assess the situation. In Kozhikode, Malappuram and Palakkad districts, 26 special teams have been formed in each region to carry out contact tracing, monitor symptoms and inform the public. Help from the police has been sought to identify people who may have been exposed to the patients, the minister said. Help from the police has been sought to identify people who may have been exposed to the patients, the minister said. State and local helplines are being set up to assist the public.

Uttarakhand sacks 234 doctors for bond violation, prolonged absence

DEHRADUN, (HS): The Uttarakhand government has dismissed 234 doctors for prolonged absenteeism and blatant violation of their bond agreements. The action has sent shockwaves through the state's health department, which is also poised to initiate recovery proceedings against these bond-bound doctors. The Health Department has already begun the process of forwarding the list of these 234 doctors to the National Medical Council. Officials estimate that a staggering sum of up to Rs 2 crore could be recovered from the doctors as part of their bond obligations.

Uttarakhand Health Minister Dr. Dhan Singh Rawat weighed in on the drastic step. "Many doctors completed their MBBS studies in the state at subsidized fees but subsequently violated the terms of their bond agreements," Rawat told. "Around 234 such doctors have been identified. These doctors have reportedly been absent from duty for extended periods without any official notification, leading to their dismissal." Rawat further elaborated on



the terms of the agreement. "As per the agreement with their respective medical colleges, these doctors were mandated to serve in the state's hilly districts for a minimum of five years upon graduating with their MBBS," he explained. "The bond stipulated that failure to comply would require them to deposit a pre-determined sum and obtain a No Objection Certificate before pursuing opportunities outside the state or

New Delhi, (HS) : An overwhelming 81 per cent of Pakistan's military hardware is of Chinese origin, with China using the country like a "live lab" to test its military tech, the army said.

Army's Deputy Chief of Army Staff (Capability Development and Sustenance), Lieutenant General Rahul R Singh provided a breakdown of the recent cross-border escalation with Pakistan. Tensions between India and Pakistan escalated following a terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam on April 22, which claimed 26 lives. India responded with Operation Sindoor, targeting nine terror-related sites in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). The Indian response resulted in the deaths of over 100 terrorists associated with groups including Jaish-e-Mohammed, Lashkar-e-Taiba, and Hizbul Mujahideen.

"There are a few lessons from Operation Sindoor. The strategic messaging by leadership was unambiguous. There is no scope of absorbing the pain the way we did a few years ago. The planning and selection of targets was based on a lot



of data that was collected using technology and human intelligence. So a total of 21 targets were actually identified, out of which nine targets we thought would be prudent to engage. It was only the final day or the final hour that the decision was taken that these nine targets would be engaged," Lt Gen Singh said. According to Lt Gen Singh, the China-Pakistan defence relationship has evolved beyond conventional arms transfers amid concerns that China is treating its close ties with Pakistan as an opportunity for experimentation, including the deployment of advanced platforms and surveillance systems in real-world conflict scenarios. At the event 'New Age Military Technologies'

organised by FICCI, Deputy Chief of Army Staff (Capability Development & Sustenance), Lt Gen Rahul R Singh says, "Air defence and how it panned out during the entire operation was important... This time, our population . "We had one border and two adversaries, actually three. Pakistan was in the front. China was providing all possible support. 81 per cent of the military hardware with Pakistan is Chinese. China is able to test its weapons against other weapons, so it's like a live lab available to them. Turkey also played an important role in providing the type of support it did. When DGM-level talks were on, Pakistan had the live updates of our important vectors, from

China. We need a robust air defence system," he said.

According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), China has sold arms worth \$8.2 billion to Pakistan since 2015. Between 2020 and 2024, China ranked as the world's fourth-largest arms exporter. Nearly two-thirds or 63 per cent of these exports went to Pakistan, making Islamabad China's biggest weapons client.

This supply chain includes over half of Pakistan's fighter fleet, dominated by the JF-17 Thunder co-developed with China, and the more advanced J-10C multirole fighter aircraft. Reports suggest that Pakistan is now set to induct 40 Shenyang J-35 fifth-generation stealth fighters from China, placing it among a limited group of nations with stealth combat capability. A recent report by the US Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA) for 2025 states that India perceives China as its "primary adversary," while Pakistan is seen as more of an "ancillary security problem to be managed."

"Won't Tolerate Hooliganism In Name Of Marathi": Devendra

Mumbai, (HS) : Taking a stand against the assault of a shopkeeper by workers of the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has said Marathi should be respected, but beating anyone will not be tolerated. A 48-year-old shopkeeper, Babul Chaudhary, who runs the 'Jodhpur Sweer Shop' in Mira Road near Mumbai, was assaulted by seven members of the Raj Thackeray-led MNS for asking them why speaking in Marathi should be compulsory. The men warned Mr Chaudhary that he would not be allowed to do business in the area and, when he pointed out that all languages are spoken in Maharashtra,



began raining slaps on him.

The MNS, which has Marathi pride as its main electoral plank, has stood by

the men and said they reacted because the shopkeeper had insulted the language. The MNS workers' actions have also been indirectly supported by Maharashtra's junior Home Minister Yogesh Kadam, who said action would be taken against anyone who disrespects Marathi. Speaking at a press conference on Friday, however, Mr Fadnavis - who also holds the Home portfolio in the state - made it clear that "hooliganism" in the name of Marathi would not be tolerated. "An FIR was registered immediately after the Mira Road incident. We will not spare anyone who does hooliganism in the name of language and strict action will be taken.

44 injuries on Sivaganga custodial death case victim

Chennai, (HS) : Amidst the ongoing political turmoil in Tamil Nadu due to the police custodial death case of Ajith Kumar, the post-mortem report has revealed about 44 injuries on various parts of the victim's body. As per the post-mortem report, Ajith Kumar sustained injuries to the forehead, right eyebrow, leg, and wrist. Injuries on the left forearm, wrist, and ankle were also reported in the Sivaganga custodial death case victim. Ajith Kumar, who used to work as a temple guard in Tamil Nadu's Sivaganga, who allegedly killed during police custody. He was initially detained for questioning regarding a theft at the Madapuram Kalliamman temple in Tirupuvanam. Meanwhile, Tamil Nadu BJP President Nainar Nagendran will visit the residence of Ajith Kumar, in Thirupuvanam, Sivagangai district, on Saturday to offer his condolences in person.

India steers clear of Dalai Lama succession; Govt. does not comment on religious

New Delhi, (HS) : India on Friday said it neither takes a position nor comments on matters concerning beliefs and practices of faith and religion, responding to the Dalai Lama's recent statement on the continuation of the Dalai Lama institution, which had drawn sharp reaction from China.

"We have seen reports relating to the statement made by the Dalai Lama about the continuation of the Dalai Lama institution. The Government of India does not take any position or speak on matters concerning beliefs and practices of faith and religion," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said. "The Government has always upheld freedom of religion for all in India and will continue to do so," he further said. The official Indian response came days after a landmark announcement by the 14th Dalai Lama, who, ahead of his 90th birthday, formally declared that the centuries-old institution of the Dalai Lama would continue after his death. The move ends years of speculation surrounding the future of Tibetan Buddhism's highest spiritual seat. "In accordance with all these requests, I am affirming that the institution of the Dalai Lama will continue," the exiled Tibetan leader stated in a message posted on social media and his official website. He emphasized that only his personal institution, the Gaden Phodrang Trust,



holds the legitimate authority to identify and recognise his reincarnation, warning that no external entities, including governments, have any right to interfere in the sacred process.

"I hereby reiterate that the Gaden Phodrang Trust has sole authority to recognise the future reincarnation; no one else has any such authority to interfere in this matter," the Dalai Lama had asserted. The announcement drew an immediate response from China, which reiterated its long-standing claim to control the selection of Tibetan spiritual leaders. "The reincarnation of the Dalai Lama, the Panchen Lama, and other great Buddhist figures must be chosen by drawing lots from a golden urn and approved by the central government," said Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning on Wednesday, invoking Qing dynasty-era precedent to justify Beijing's authority.

Russia Has Launched Massive Aerial Attacks on Ukraine: Zelensky

Kyiv (H.S): Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Friday announced that Russia has launched one of the largest-scale air attacks against Ukraine in recent times, involving 550 targets, including at least 330 Russian-Iranian 'Shahed' drones and ballistic missiles."

Firefighting efforts and debris removal are still ongoing after another Russian strike. This was one of the most large-scale air attacks - deliberately massive and cynical. In total, 550 targets were launched, including at least 330 Russian-Iranian 'Shaheds', along with missiles, including ballistic ones." Zelensky posted on X."The capital was the main target of this Russian strike. Our warriors managed to shoot down 270 aerial targets, while another 208 drones were jammed by electronic warfare. Interceptor drones have started operating - dozens of drones were taken

down. We are doing everything possible to develop this element of defence for our cities. And it is critically important that our partners continue to support us in defending against ballistic missiles," the post added. Zelensky mentioned the Russian strike affected not only Kyiv but also the Dnipro, Sumy, Kharkiv, and Chernihiv regions, and 23 people are known to have been injured so far."

Everyone is receiving assistance. There are many sites where drone and missile debris fell. Sadly, there were also direct hits," the Ukrainian leader stated. According to Zelensky, the first air raid alerts in the Ukrainian cities and regions on Thursday began to blare almost simultaneously with media reports discussing a phone call between US President Donald Trump and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin,

adding that only on Friday morning did the air raid alert end in Kyiv."All of this is clear evidence that without truly large-scale pressure, Russia will not change its dumb, destructive behaviour. For every such strike against people and human life, they must feel appropriate sanctions and other blows to their economy, their revenues, and their infrastructure. This is the only thing that can be achieved quickly to change the situation for the better.

And it depends on our partners, primarily the United States," he further added. Meanwhile, US President Trump expressed his dissatisfaction with the situation in Ukraine, stating that no progress is being made in the settlement of the conflict, after a telephonic conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin."We talked about a lot of things, including Iran, and we also

talked about the war in Ukraine. I'm not happy about that [situation]," said Trump, speaking to reporters at Joint Base Andrews, near Washington." I didn't make any progress with him at all," he emphasised, referring to the settlement of the conflict.The Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov mentioned that the telephone conversation on Thursday between Putin and Trump lasted for almost an hour."

Naturally, the issues surrounding Ukraine were discussed. Donald Trump has once again raised the issue of ending the hostilities as soon as possible. In turn, Vladimir Putin noted that we still continued the search for a political, negotiated solution to the conflict. He informed his counterpart on the progress in implementing the humanitarian agreements reached during the second round of direct Russian-Ukrainian talks held in Istanbul.

Indian-Origin Man Arrested In US For Attacking Fellow Passenger Mid-Air

Washington (H.S): A 21-year-old Indian-origin man has been arrested in the US coastal city of Miami in connection with the alleged attack on a fellow passenger mid-air. The incident occurred on June 30 on board a Frontier Flight from Philadelphia to Miami.

Even as the accused, identified as Ishaan Sharma, allegedly attacked a fellow passenger, he suffered injury near the eye area, while the victim, Keanu Evans, suffered minor injuries.As the plane landed in Miami, Sharma was arrested and charged with battery (a harmful or offensive act against another person). Sharma was produced before a court on Tuesday, which set his bond at \$500 and barred him from approaching the victim in any



way. During the hearing, Sharma's lawyer said that his client was meditating and observing silent practice, which the victim, Evans, assumed was a threat." My client is from a religion where he was meditating. Unfortunately, the passenger behind him did not like that," the lawyer stated.

A video of the incident, which went viral, showed two men (Sharma and Evans) trying to grab each other's necks. A

fellow passenger can be heard saying, "Let him go. Stop, let him go," while a crew member said, "Sir, you have to sit down."Meanwhile, victim Evans told media outlets that the accused muttered strange things and issued death threats.Evans shared that he went to the washroom and informed the flight attendants about Sharma, who suggested that he press the assistance button if it continued.

Evans claimed that Sharma became irked when he pressed the assistance button to seek help. The accused was heard saying, "You puny, mortal man, if you challenge me, it will result in your death", Evans told 7News.The victim claimed that the situation escalated, and Sharma started choking him.

UN Organisations Flag Restrictive Laws, Political Pressures Undermining Media Freedom In B'desh



Dhaka (H.S): A report highlighting the restrictive laws and political pressures that continue to limit media freedom and trust in Bangladesh under the Muhammad Yunus led interim government, was launched by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), with support from the Embassy of Switzerland in Bangladesh.The report, titled "An Assessment of Bangladesh's Media Landscape: Free, Independent and Pluralistic Media", offered a comprehensive analysis examining both the challenges and opportunities facing Bangladesh's media sector during the crucial period of transition.The joint assessment, conducted between July and December 2024, offers a timely roadmap for meaningful reform to foster a freer, more independent, and truly pluralistic media environment responding to

Bangladesh's recent political and social shifts.Local media reported that Mahfuj Alam, Advisor to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, under the interim government of Bangladesh, attended the event in Dhaka as the chief guest."Media must uphold ethics and accountability, so that people's trust is not broken again and generations are not wronged," said the advisor. Attending the dialogue, Sonali Dayaratne, Resident Representative to UNDP Bangladesh, said that this joint assessment reinforces what must be done to safeguard media freedom and strengthen public trust."A free, independent, and pluralistic media is the foundation of any vibrant democracy. We are committed to working with partners like UNESCO to advance structural reforms, support media professionals, and raise public awareness about the media's vital role as a pillar of democracy," she said.Alberto Giovanetti, Counsellor and Head

of Political, Economic and Cultural Affairs, Embassy of Switzerland in Bangladesh, said, "This assessment is a timely reminder that a free, independent and pluralistic media is the bedrock of a vibrant democracy." "We thank UNDP and UNESCO for supporting this important initiative and urge all partners to advance the critical reforms needed to protect media freedom and strengthen public trust," he added.UNESCO Representative to Bangladesh, Susan Vize, moderating the event, said that the freedom of expression is a fundamental pillar of democratic institutions."If we want to build a society in which we work together towards the principles that realise basic human rights, and to guarantee quality of life, we must ensure that freedom of expression and the media is an essential part of this process," she mentioned.Recently, a group of 88 expatriate journalists, writers, researchers, cultural and rights activists raised grave concern over the "continued torture of journalists and suppression of free speech" in Bangladesh under the Muhammad Yunus-led interim government.In a joint statement, the group alleged that since August 5, journalists in the country have been subjected to unspeakable torture, adding that such incidents have "frustrated and disheartened" them.They further claimed that efforts are being made to suppress freedom of speech under the Yunus administration by "imposing various official and unofficial controls" on both mass media and social media, denouncing it as "shameful and repulsive."

President Trump To Sign 'Big, Beautiful Bill' On US Independence Day Today

Washington (H.S): The White House has confirmed that US President Donald Trump is expected to sign his sweeping domestic policy Bill on Friday evening as he celebrates the Fourth of July, the country's Independence Day." The one 'big, beautiful bill' has passed the House of Representatives and will be at the President's desk for signature at a big, beautiful signing ceremony tomorrow at 5 p.m. on the Fourth of July, just as the President always said and hoped it would be," White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said on Thursday on a press call shortly after the bill's passage.

Trump had set a July 4 deadline months ago, though he had waffled on how strongly he felt about that timeline as the Bill hit several obstacles in Congress.The President and first lady Melania Trump were previously scheduled to attend a Fourth of July celebration and military family picnic on the White House South Lawn at 5 p.m. on Friday.

Republican lawmakers have handed President Donald Trump the first major legislative achievement of his second term, following a fierce arm-twisting campaign by GOP leaders to unite a deeply divided party behind his sweeping domestic agenda. House Republicans voted on Thursday afternoon to approve Trump's massive package of tax and federal spending cuts and funding boosts for the Pentagon and



border security, clearing the Bill to be sent to the White House for his signature. The Senate passed the bill earlier in the week.The landmark victory for Republicans comes just six months into Trump's second administration - a rapid timeline that appeared in question up until the final vote.The President and his Capitol Hill allies ratcheted up pressure on party holdouts in recent days, arguing the package will help cement Trump's legacy on issues like immigration and tax policy - including making key campaign promises reality - while attempting to rein in spending with historic cuts to federal support for the social safety net.

Earlier, US President Donald Trump secured a major political victory on Thursday as Congress narrowly passed his flagship tax and spending bill, advancing his second-term agenda with enhanced funding for his anti-immigration policies.The bill squeezed past a final vote 218-214, meaning it can be on Trump's desk to be

signed into law on the July 4 Independence Day holiday." One of the most consequential Bills ever. The USA is the 'HOTTEST' Country in the World, by far!!!" Trump said on his social media platform 'Truth social' as he scented victory.The bill underlined the President's dominance over the Republican Party, which had been wracked by misgivings over a text that will balloon the national debt and gut health and welfare support.

A small group of opponents in the party finally fell into line after Speaker Mike Johnson worked through the night to corral dissenters in the House of Representatives behind the "One Big Beautiful Bill".The timing of the vote slipped back as Democratic Minority leader Hakeem Jeffries spoke against the bill for nearly nine hours to delay proceedings.The legislative win is the latest in a series of successes for Trump, including a Supreme Court ruling last week that curbed lone judges from blocking his policies, and US air strikes that led to a

ceasefire between Israel and Iran. His sprawling mega-bill just passed the Senate on Tuesday and had to return to the lower chamber for a rubber stamp of the Senators' revisions. The package honours many of Trump's campaign promises: boosting military spending, funding a mass migrant deportation drive and committing \$4.5 trillion to extend his first-term tax relief." Today we are laying a key cornerstone of America's new Golden Age," Johnson said.Johnson had to negotiate tight margins, and could only lose a handful of lawmakers in the final vote, among more than two dozen who had earlier declared themselves open to rejecting Trump's 869-page text.

Trump has spent weeks hitting the phones and hosting White House meetings to cajole lawmakers torn between angering welfare recipients at home and incurring the President's wrath. Democrats hope public opposition to the Bill will help them flip the House in the 2026 midterm election, pointing to data showing that it represents a huge redistribution of wealth from the poorest Americans to the richest.

Extra spending on the military and border security will be paid in part through ending clean energy and electric vehicle subsidies - a factor triggering a bitter public feud between Trump and former supporter Elon Musk.

OP Jindal Global University Signs MoUs With Colleges at University of Cambridge For Law & Fintech Programmes

Cambridge (UK): To deepen international academic partnerships with world-renowned educational institutions, O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU) has signed formal Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with Lucy Cavendish College and Murray Edwards College, two leading colleges at the University of Cambridge.

The University of Cambridge has long been a beacon of global education, and both Lucy Cavendish and Murray Edwards Colleges carry forward that legacy with a distinct emphasis on empowering underrepresented communities and reimagining inclusive learning. These values closely align with JGU's mission to foster international engagement and create transformative opportunities for its students and faculty.These MoUs, signed during a high-level academic delegation visit by JGU to the University of Cambridge, mark a significant step forward in advancing global higher education cooperation. The agreements focus on promoting educational innovation, access, diversity, and inclusive excellence

- shared values that form the foundation of this collaboration. As part of the first phase of collaboration, JGU will launch two Short-Term Study Abroad Programmes (STSAPs): 'Commercial Laws and Corporate Governance' (to be hosted at Lucy Cavendish College); and 'The Era of FinTech: Blockchain, Artificial Intelligence, and Digital Inclusion' (to be hosted at Murray Edwards College).

This partnership gains profound depth as nearly 100 JGU students will engage in immersive learning experiences at the University of Cambridge - exploring Commercial Laws and Corporate Governance at Lucy Cavendish College and The Era of FinTech: Blockchain, Artificial Intelligence, and Digital Inclusion at Murray Edwards College.Studying under some of the world's most outstanding scholars, our students will gain transformative insights, sharpen critical thinking, and experience the very best of global education in a truly inspiring academic environment. These programmes aim to foster interdisciplinary learning, promote academic and cultural exchange, and strengthen cooperation in areas of global



relevance - particularly law, business, finance, and technology. Professor (Dr) C. Raj Kumar, Founding Vice Chancellor of O.P. Jindal Global University, reflected on the occasion: "This is a moment of profound significance for higher education in India and for our vision of international collaboration. Partnering with two of Cambridge's most forward-looking colleges - Lucy Cavendish and Murray Edwards - underscores JGU's deep commitment to global academic engagement and inclusive excellence. These MoUs are far more than ceremonial; they represent a shared mission to shape the future of education by empowering the next generation of scholars and professionals. At

a time when the world needs more understanding across borders, these partnerships will foster global citizenship, advance educational innovation, and create meaningful intercultural dialogue. I believe this collaboration will set new benchmarks for how universities from the Global South and the Global North can come together to build a better, more just, and more educated world."Professor Dame Madeleine Atkins, President of Lucy Cavendish College, expressed her enthusiasm and said: "We are delighted to offer facilities for this study programme from O.P. Jindal Global University. The collaboration embodies our commitment to fostering global connections and providing

transformative educational experiences."Emma Hilditch, Business Development Manager, Murray Edwards College, noted: "At Murray Edwards College, we are delighted to be welcoming O.P. Jindal Global University, who will be holding their short-term study abroad programme 'The Era of FinTech: Blockchain, Artificial Intelligence, and Digital Inclusion' here. We will be providing facilities and are pleased to be welcoming students from one of India's most distinguished universities.

We look forward to establishing a strong relationship, where we hope to welcome students from the University for many years to come".These new partnerships with Lucy Cavendish and Murray Edwards Colleges further enhance JGU's rapidly expanding global network and reinforce its position as a hub of international learning and research collaboration.This landmark initiative sets the stage for future India-UK academic collaborations and reinforces the role of universities as drivers of societal transformation and engines of intercultural dialogue. It is a clear signal that truly global education is not a distant

aspiration but an unfolding reality - one that JGU is proud to help lead.Professor Padmanabha Ramanujam, Dean of Academic Governance at JGU, commented: "This partnership affirms JGU's vision to make global education accessible and equitable. Cambridge offers an unparalleled learning environment, and our collaboration will equip students with transformative exposure, academic excellence, and intercultural insight. We are proud to build bridges of opportunity through this alliance."

Professor Karan Latayan, Controller of Examinations at JGU, added: "These partnerships highlight the future of cross-border learning. They will expose JGU students to the world's finest academic traditions while fostering rigour, innovation, and intellectual exchange. It's an exciting leap forward in global academic mobility and student enrichment."Professor Aakriti Tripathi, Associate Professor at Jindal Global Law School, shared: "This initiative opens new frontiers for legal education. Engaging with global leaders on corporate law and digital finance will deepen our students' understanding of emerging global

challenges and prepare them to become legal professionals of the future."Professor (Dr) Akhil Bhardwaj, Vice Dean & Director, Office of International Relations & Global Initiatives at JGU, said: "This collaboration reflects JGU's strategic global vision. The study abroad programmes at Cambridge Colleges will offer our students unparalleled academic and cultural immersion, furthering their international exposure, leadership capabilities and career prospects.

It is a proud milestone for our global engagement agenda." JGU has been ranked as India's Number 1 Private University for three consecutive years by the QS World University Rankings 2023. It is also ranked among the Top 150 Young Universities Globally in the QS Young University Rankings, and features in the Top 500 Universities Worldwide in the QS Graduate Employability Rankings 2022.Notably, the Jindal Global Law School (JGLS) at JGU has been ranked the Number 1 Law School in India for more than five years in a row, and was recently ranked 78th in the world in the QS World University Rankings by Subject (Law).

Vedanta Aluminium signs MoU with Subhalaxmi Cooperative for fly-ash brick manufacturing unit

Jharsuguda (H.S): Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, is helping establish a one-of-a-kind women-led fly ash brick manufacturing facility that will produce close to one crore bricks annually. Vedanta Aluminium has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Subhalaxmi Cooperative, one of India's largest rural women cooperatives, for setting up this facility in Jharsuguda, Odisha.

The cooperative will be provided with fly ash free-of-cost from Vedanta's mega aluminium plant. Uniquely, the initiative merges the development of circular economy avenues with generating sustainable livelihood opportunities for rural women. The facility, with the capacity to produce 25,000+ bricks daily, will be managed entirely by the members of the Subhalaxmi Cooperative. Vedanta Aluminium will extend support in the installation and commissioning of the brick manufacturing unit. It will also arrange for training the operators and ensure third-party quality testing of sample bricks, thereby boosting technical skills



and knowledge within the community as well. Fly ash is a by-product of the thermal power generation process and is being increasingly utilised in several sustainable avenues such as cement manufacturing, brick production, and road construction. Since March 2022, Vedanta Aluminium has supplied over 1.5 million tonnes of fly ash to major cement manufacturers and 3 million tonnes to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for their road-building projects, and recently marked the dispatch of its 650th fly ash rake from Jharsuguda for this endeavour. The Subhalaxmi Cooperative has more than 5,000

women members spread across 440+ Self Help Groups. The cooperative works towards the empowerment of its members through micro-finance, skill development, financial literacy, and market linkages. These efforts serve to help rural women build sustainable livelihoods and play a more direct role in the development and progress of their communities. Sharing his views on the initiative, Sunil Gupta, Chief Operating Officer, Vedanta Aluminium said: "At Vedanta Aluminium, we believe that shared progress lies in empowering communities while also ensuring responsible

industrial practices. By repurposing industrial by-products like fly ash into eco-friendly building materials, we are not only contributing to a circular economy but also creating meaningful livelihood opportunities for thousands of rural women. This initiative is an apt reflection of our commitment to inclusive growth, environmental stewardship, and long-term community development." Adding her views, Pankajini Oram, President, Subhalaxmi Cooperative, said: "The partnership with Vedanta Aluminium marks a new chapter in our journey of empowerment.

The upcoming unit will not only provide our members with a stable source of income but also equip them with valuable technical skills. For many women in our cooperative, this is more than just a livelihood opportunity - it is a chance to lead change in our communities and contribute directly to a more sustainable future for our planet." Vedanta Jharsuguda's community development efforts play a key role within its overall goal of promoting holistic social and

economic development amongst the local communities and broader society in which it operates. Towards this aim, the company has undertaken multiple initiatives in the areas of education, healthcare, women and child development, rural infrastructure, livelihood generation, grassroots sports, art and cultural preservation. Vedanta Aluminium, a business of Vedanta Limited, is India's largest producer of aluminium, manufacturing more than half of India's aluminium i.e., 2.42 million tonnes in FY25.

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

SAIL inaugurates Representative Office in Dubai to strengthen global presence



New Delhi, (PIB): Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), one of India's largest steel producers with over 20 million tonnes of annual crude steel capacity, has inaugurated its Representative Office in Dubai. SAIL's first international office in the Middle East marks a significant step in its global expansion strategy. The office was inaugurated by Union Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries, Shri H.D. Kumaraswamy, in the presence of the Consul General of India to Dubai, Shri Satish Kumar Sivan, CMD, SAIL, Shri Amarendu Prakash, CMD, NMDC, Shri Amitava Mukherjee, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Steel, Shri VK Tripathi and senior officials from SAIL, Ministry of Steel, NMDC and MECON. Positioned as a strategic hub, the Dubai office will help SAIL boost steel exports, deepen industry linkages, and reinforce India-UAE trade ties. Dubai's role as a gateway to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region and its investor-friendly environment make it an ideal base for expanding into emerging markets. This move aligns with India's vision of enhancing the global presence of its steel industry and achieving the national steel production target of 300 million tonnes by 2030. It marks a significant milestone in SAIL's evolution into a globally competitive steelmaker and reflects India's growing profile in the international steel arena.

RBI Withdraws 1 Lakh Crore From Banking System Through VRRR Auction to Tackle Surplus Liquidity

Mumbai (H.S): The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday withdrew Rs 1,00,010 crore from the banking system through a seven-day variable rate reverse repo (VRRR) auction. The move is aimed at reducing the excess liquidity currently present in the banking system.

According to a statement by the RBI, it received bids worth Rs 1,70,880 crore during the auction. "Out of this, the central bank accepted Rs 1,00,010 crore at a cut-off rate of 5.47 percent," the Central Bank said in its statement. This step is expected to reduce the surplus liquidity and could lead to a rise in short-term overnight rates. As per the RBI's latest data, the banking system had a liquidity surplus of around Rs 4.04 lakh crore as of July 3. Despite previous



liquidity absorption efforts, the system remained in surplus, largely due to month-end government inflows such as salary and pension disbursements. In addition, redemption of government bonds and coupon payments added further liquidity. Just last week, the Reserve Bank had removed

Rs 84,975 crore from the system through a similar VRRR auction. However, the surplus remained high, prompting another round of liquidity tightening. The RBI regularly conducts VRRR auctions to manage liquidity in the system and keep short-term interest rates aligned with its monetary policy stance.

Meanwhile, the Central Bank on Wednesday directed banks and financial institutions not to impose any pre-payment charges on floating rate loans and advances, including those taken by individuals and micro and small enterprises (MSEs) for business purposes.

These revised guidelines will apply to all loans sanctioned or renewed on or after January 1, 2026. As per the existing rules, banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) are already barred from charging foreclosure or pre-payment penalties on floating rate term loans taken by individuals for non-business purposes. However, the latest directive marks a significant expansion, now extending the benefit to business-related loans as well.

US To Start Sending Letters To Trade Partners Tariff Hikes Kicking in From Aug 1

New Delhi, (H.S): President Donald Trump has announced that the US administration will start sending letters informing trading partners of their tariff rates as soon as Friday, even as negotiations with various countries including India to avoid higher US levies have stretched into the last lap. Trump told journalists late on Thursday that about "10 to 12 countries will get letters on Friday with additional letters coming "over the next few days."

He said that the tariffs will range in value from 60 per cent-70 per cent and 10 per cent-20 per cent, which these countries will have to start paying from August 1, to do business with the US. "My inclination is to send a letter out and say what tariffs countries are going to pay. We have more than 170 countries. And how many deals can you make? And you can make good deals, but they're very much more complicated," media reports cited Trump as saying. "I'd rather just do a simple deal where you can maintain it and control it. You're



going to pay a 20 per cent or 30 per cent tariff, and we're going to be sending some letters out, starting probably tomorrow, maybe 10 a day, to various countries, saying what they're going to pay to do business with the US," he added. Trump has announced a number of trade deals, including with Vietnam and China. He stated last month that the US and India "may sign an agreement that will open up India for US goods". This announcement comes ahead of the July 9 deadline that was set by the Trump administration to

conclude deals with certain countries after the announcement of the reciprocal tariffs. There was a 90-day pause to provide room for trade talks during which the tariff rate was kept at a lower 10 per cent for most countries to allow negotiations until July 9. India's negotiating team led by Special Secretary Rajesh Agarwal is in Washington to engage in high-level talks to conclude the bilateral trade agreement.

Indian and US negotiators were aiming to finalise an interim trade deal ahead of the July 9 deadline that has been fixed by US President Donald Trump for the 90-day pause on new tariffs that were to be levied on Indian products. Negotiations are expected to continue after that for a bigger trade deal to be signed in September-October. The US is seeking broader market access for its agricultural and dairy products, which is a major hurdle as for India this is a livelihood issue of the country's small farmers and hence is considered a sensitive area.

'Resilient Economy': India's Forex Reserves Cross \$700 Billion Mark Again

Mumbai (DMC): India's foreign exchange reserves once again crossed the \$700 billion mark, reaching \$702.78 billion for the week ending June 27, according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday. This marks a significant rise of \$4.8 billion from the previous week, when reserves stood at \$697.93 billion. This is the first time in nine months that India's forex reserves have gone above the \$700 billion level. The reserves had last touched an all-time high of \$704.88 billion in end-September 2024. The latest increase was mainly due to a sharp rise in foreign currency assets, which went up by \$5.75 billion to reach \$594.82 billion. Foreign currency assets are a major part of



the total reserves and include the value of major currencies like the euro, pound, and yen held by the RBI, adjusted for any appreciation or depreciation against the US dollar. However, gold reserves stood at \$84.5 billion during the week. The country's special drawing rights (SDRs) - a form of international reserve created by the

International Monetary Fund (IMF) - rose by \$158 million to \$18.83 billion. The RBI actively manages the foreign exchange market to maintain stability and prevent extreme movements in the rupee's value. While it does not aim for any fixed exchange rate, it intervenes when necessary to curb excessive volatility. This is

typically done through liquidity management, including the selling of US dollars when required. Meanwhile, the remittances sent back home by Indians working abroad have registered a 14 per cent rise in the financial year 2024-25 to a record \$135.46 billion, according to data compiled by the RBI. The RBI said the inflows, classified under "private transfers," accounted for more than 10 per cent of India's gross current account flows of \$1 trillion in FY25. Personal transfer receipts, mainly representing remittances by Indians employed overseas, rose to \$33.9 billion in the January-March quarter of 2024-25 from \$31.3 billion in the same quarter of the previous year, RBI data shows.

Indian Stock Market Settles in Green Amid Hopes For Potential India-US Trade Deal

Mumbai, (H.S): After witnessing a highly volatile session, the Indian stock market ended in green on Friday amid value buying in IT and banking stocks as talks progressed on the interim India-US trade deal. Touching an intra-day low at 83,015, the Sensex bounced back to end at 83,432.89, up 193.42 points or 0.23 per cent against the last session's closing of 83,239.47. Similarly, Nifty

closed 0.22 per cent or 55.70 points higher at 25,461. "The Indian market is experiencing a pause as investors adopt a wait-and-watch strategy ahead of the impending US tariff deadline with mixed global cues," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited. Both the benchmark indices traded with volatility amid mixed global cues and investors' cautious approach ahead of the

US tariff deadline. Among Sensex stocks, Bajaj Finance, Infosys, Hindustan Unilever, HCL, Ultratech Cement, Bajaj Finserv and TCS closed in positive territory. While Sun Pharma, ITC, Tata Motors, Asian Paints, Mahindra and Mahindra and Maruti Suzuki settled in red. Meanwhile, 31 stocks inched high and 19 closed in red from the Nifty index.

Tax Benefits Available Under NPS Will Apply To UPS: Finance Ministry

New Delhi, (H.S): The Finance Ministry announced on Friday that the tax benefits available under the National Pension Scheme (NPS) will apply mutatis mutandis to the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS), as it is an option under the former. The measure aims to provide further impetus to the UPS.

These provisions ensure parity with the existing NPS structure and provide substantial tax relief and incentives to employees opting for the UPS, according to the Finance Ministry statement. The term mutatis mutandis means with all the necessary changes being made. The legal term clarifies that although changes will be necessary in order to take account of different situations, the basic point remains the same. The inclusion of the UPS under the tax framework marks another step forward in the government's effort to strengthen retirement security for Central government employees through transparent, flexible and tax-efficient options, the Finance Ministry said. The



Finance Ministry had notified the introduction of the UPS as an option under NPS for the recruits to the Central government service with effect from April 1, 2025, giving a one-time option to the Central government employees covered under the National Pension System (NPS) for inclusion under the UPS.

To operationalise this framework, the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) notified the PFRDA (Operationalisation of the Unified Pension Scheme under NPS) Regulations, 2025 on March 19, 2025. These regulations enable the enrolment of three categories of Central government employees. The first category covers existing employees in service as on April 1, 2025, who are covered under the NPS, while the second category includes new recruits in the Central

government services, who join service on or after April 1, 2025. The third category includes Central government employees who were covered under NPS and who have superannuated or voluntarily retired or have retired under Fundamental Rules 56(j) on or before March 31, 2025 and are eligible for UPS or the legally wedded spouse in case of a subscriber who has superannuated or retired and has passed away prior to exercising the option for UPS.

The Finance Ministry had also announced on May 30 that the Central government NPS 19, 2025. These regulations enable the enrolment of three categories of Central government employees. The first category covers existing employees in service as on April 1, 2025, who are covered under the NPS, while the second category includes new recruits in the Central

Vedanta welcomes India's aluminium vision document to build an Aatmanirbhar aluminium sector for Viksit Bharat

Bhubaneswar (DMC): Vedanta welcomes the national aluminium vision document, launched by Shri G. Kishan Reddy, Hon'ble Minister for Coal & Mines, Government of India. It is a pivotal step in charting the aluminium sector's future and outlines a growth roadmap to transform India into a global aluminium hub.

The strategic pillars outlined in the document, such as becoming Aatmanirbhar in aluminium production, achieving self-sufficiency in raw materials, transitioning to low-carbon operations, and enhancing value-added exports - together offer a roadmap to not just meet domestic demand but also claim a 10% share of the global aluminium market by 2047, fulfilling the vision of an Aatmanirbhar, Viksit Bharat. Acknowledging the strategic and national importance of aluminium, the document highlights how developed economies across the globe

consider aluminium as a critical and strategic metal, which will play an indispensable role in renewable energy, electric mobility, green infrastructure, defence, and emerging technologies. Aluminium will be critical in driving the nation's journey towards becoming the third largest economy and a developed nation by 2047.

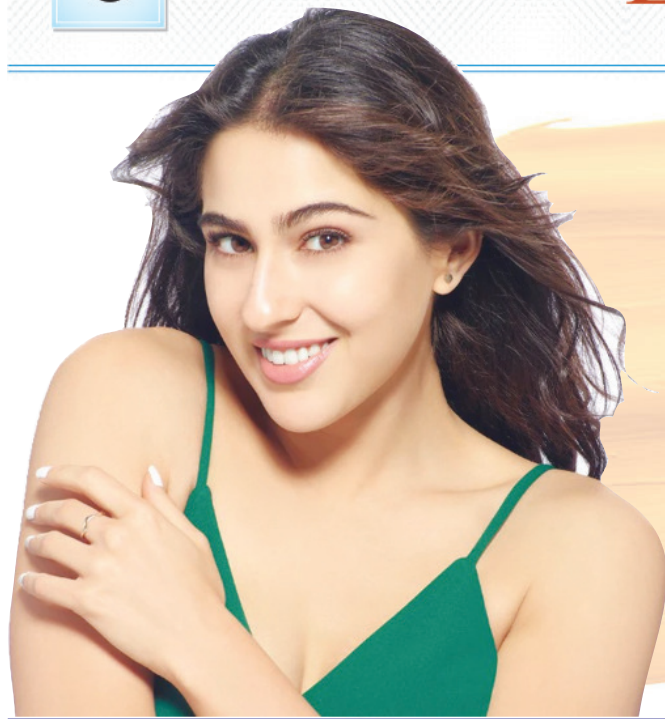
Aluminium demand in India will rise sixfold by 2047 and to meet this demand, India must ramp up production from the current 4.5 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) to nearly 37 MTPA over the next two decades, which will need an additional investment of over Rs.20 lakh crore. Commenting on the vision document, Mr. Rajiv Kumar, CEO, Vedanta Aluminium said, "The aluminium industry today is not merely a supplier of metal, it is a key enabler of India's journey towards a \$30 trillion economy, net-zero targets, and manufacturing competitiveness.

The vision document reaffirms that aluminium is the metal of the future, vital for India's energy independence, net-zero ambitions, and global competitiveness. To make this vision a reality requires support in the form of swift, decisive policy reforms. The moment to act is now. If we can unlock our resource potential and foster value-added manufacturing, India can emerge not just as a leader in aluminium but as a beacon of sustainable industrial growth."

The vision document highlights that while India is the world's 2nd largest producer of aluminium, it accounts for just 6% of global production. This points to the massive untapped potential that the aluminium sector holds. When effectively leveraged, it will lead to huge socio-economic gains, while connecting the remotest part of the country to the mainstream. For every direct employment, Aluminium industry has the capacity to generate indirect

employment of 3.7 times. The vision document underscores that India's aluminium demand is on an exponential growth trajectory and meeting this demand will require significant investment, timely execution, and policy reforms. To meet future demand and reduce import dependency, it is imperative to increase bauxite production to 50 MTPA by 2030 and 150 MTPA by 2047, promote circularity through structured scrap collection and recycling, increase consumption intensity, and enhance focus on quality in the entire production value chain.

The sector is poised to grow with the adoption of Industry 4.0, leveraging digitalisation, AI, and automation. As India stands poised to redefine its aluminium future, Vedanta reiterates its commitment to working closely with the Government in making the aluminium sector a flagship for sustainable growth, global competitiveness and national resilience.



Sara says she finds this 'red flag trait' in her partner 'amazing'

Sara Ali Khan has also shared that she has never used any dating apps. She said that it's better to meet in person and get to know each other. Actor Sara Ali Khan has revealed that a certain 'red flag trait' in her partner is not unacceptable to her. Speaking with News18, Sara said she would like if her partner "isn't willing to acknowledge" their relationship. She added that if her boyfriend does this, then she will "give him 108 green flags".

Sara has also shared that she

has never used any dating apps. "I've never used a dating app. Some people use it and it's fine but I feel that mil kar hi pata chalta hai (you get to know after meeting a person). In a world where everything has become so digital, if meeting a partner also becomes digital, it won't be fun for me," she said. The actor talked about what she considers the green flags in a relationship. "If my partner isn't willing to acknowledge our relationship, I'll give him 108 green flags. It sounds amazing to me because

it's a very rare situation (laughs). I also don't believe in the guy always paying the bill. I believe in splitting it. Also, if they ask me about my whereabouts very frequently, I'm okay with it as long as they're not tracking me through GPS or asks me to prove where I am (laughs)," added Sara.

Sara is rumoured to be dating former model and politician Arjun Pratap Bajwa. The duo was spotted together on a pilgrimage to Kedarnath in several pictures that emerged

on social media platforms. Later, they posed separately in the same spots in Rajasthan, in other photos. This led to speculation that the two were dating and vacationing together. Speaking with Team Varinder Chawla, Arjun addressed the rumours and said, "So, whatever people have to write, they will write. That's their job. They're doing their job. I just focus on myself and what I have to do, and it doesn't really bother me." She was earlier rumoured to have dated Kartik Aaryan and

Veer Pahariya.

Sara currently stars in Anurag Basu's directorial Metro In Dino along with Anupam Kher, Neena Gupta, Konkana Sen Sharma, Aditya Roy Kapur, Pankaj Tripathi, Fatima Sana Shaikh and Ali Fazal in the lead roles. Metro In Dino follows four different love stories of couples—young, old, and middle-aged—living in a metro. It serves as the spiritual sequel to Anurag Basu's 2007 film Life in a Metro. The movie released in theatres on Friday.

Metro... In Dino movie Release



Mumbai, rains and love. Sounds magic right? Well, Mumbai known as city of dreams is also the city of love. Some or the other way, love finds you. While everyone is slowly forgetting about the simplicity of love. The story of Metro In Dino beautiful brings back nostalgia and simplicity of love. Anurag Basu's magic is back on screen with new characters, story, and music but with the same old feeling of love and magic.

The movie is a perfect example of what goes inside's Anurag Basu's head. Colours, chaos and music is bonded together to create magic on screen. The film is an anthology, connected by an invisible thread called love. Also, how love knows no bounds. Neither age nor

societal status. Love is a beautiful feeling and it must be lived. This is exactly what Anurag Basu has taught us through the film. The movie brings back fond memories of each stage of life. Now, coming to characters everyone has worked brilliantly. Pankaj Tripathi is the best. His effortlessly comic timing and simple yet enchanting role shows us a lot on screen. He takes up the role of an insecure husband who is chasing after his wife (Konkana Sen Sharma) who is adamant on divorcing him. The duo is just perfect. Neena Gupta and Anupam Kher take you back to another era where understanding and adjusting meant love. And, how simplicity multiplied the value of it. The other two modern couple, Fatima

Sana Sheikh and Ali Fazal who try to make things work out amidst temptation and odds. And, finally Sara Ali Khan and Aditya Roy Kapur, who are just perfect in their roles. It's all about love in mess, chances and odds.

The music of Pritam will take you on a journey of imagination where you feel each and every word of songs. From heart-breaking to healing to falling on love, it's all about understanding each and every stage of love. Meanwhile a special screening of Anurag Basu's directorial 'Metro...In Dino' was held in Mumbai on Thursday night for B-town. Several stars gathered together under one roof to cheer for the whole team of 'Metro...In Dino', which stars Anupam Kher, Neena Gupta, Konkana Sen Sharma, Sara Ali Khan, Aditya Roy Kapur, Pankaj Tripathi, Fatima Sana Shaikh, and Ali Fazal in the lead roles. Ali arrived at the venue with his wife, Richa Chadha. The couple happily posed for the shutterbugs. Sara was spotted arriving at the screening with her brother Ibrahim Ali Khan. Sara looked elegant in a white ethnic suit.

Salman unveils intense first look poster of 'Battle of Galwan'

Salman Khan fans were treated with a surprise on Friday evening. The actor officially unveiled the first look poster of his upcoming film Battle of Galwan. The patriotic drama will be centered around the 2020 Galwan Valley clash between Indian and Chinese troops.

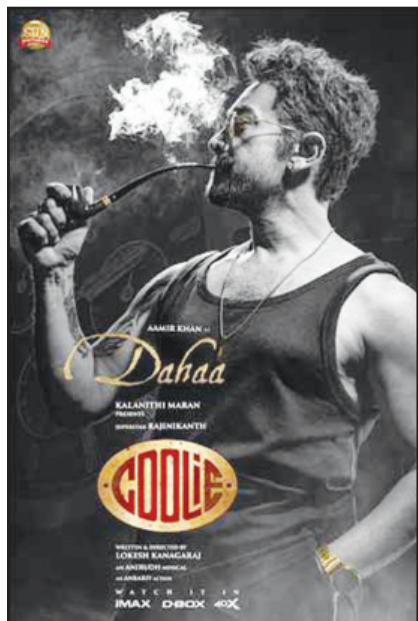
Salman shared the first look motion poster on his X account and tagged the crew of the film in the caption. The poster saw Salman with bloodstains on his face, donning an army uniform with a fierce expression in his eyes. The motion poster also included the line: "Over 15,000 feet above sea level, India fought its most brutal battle without firing a single bullet." The film will be helmed by director Apoorva Lakhia, and produced by Salman Khan Films. Himesh Reshammiya will be the music composer of the film. It will also star Harshil Shah, Ankur Bhatia, and Heera Sohall among others. The release date of the film is yet to be announced. Reacting to the poster, a fan commented: "Bhai is all set to return in a big way with Galwan." Another said, "Pure Goosebumps!" A comment read, "This looks intense! Bhai is back." "This is going to be insane! That motion poster just dropped and it's giving pure goosebumps," said a second fan. Salman Khan's first look as Colonel B Santosh Babu in Battle of Galwan has taken the internet by storm. The film



is based on the battle that took place between Indian and Chinese troops in the Galwan Valley.

In addition to this, it is further reported that Khan will once again share the screen with his 'Saajan' co-star Sanjay Dutt in a forthcoming entertainer, reportedly titled "Ganga Ram". Salman was last seen in the action drama film Sikandar, in which he starred alongside Rashmika Mandanna. The film was directed by AR Murugadoss.

Aamir turns up Dahaa in Rajinikanth's Coolie



in key roles. Directed by Lokesh Kanagaraj, who is known for stylish and gritty action films like Kaithi, Master, and Vikram, the movie is being mounted on a whopping budget of ₹375 crore, making it one of the most expensive Indian films of 2025. Scheduled to hit theatres on August 14 just ahead of Independence Day

Bollywood star Aamir Khan makes a fiery appearance in the upcoming action extravaganza Coolie, headlined by superstar Rajinikanth and directed by Lokesh Kanagaraj. The makers unveiled the first look of Aamir's character on Thursday, which has already set social media ablaze.

The makers, Sun Pictures, dropped Aamir's first look on their official X (formerly known as Twitter) handle, where he is introduced as Dahaa, a rugged, intense figure clad in a dark vest, calmly puffing a pipe with a look that could kill. Though his role is a special cameo, his striking presence hints at something far more impactful, possibly a game-changing twist in the film's plot. Fans were awestruck and flooded social media with excitement. One user wrote, "Most awaited character (fire emoji)." Another fan commented, "Mr Perfectionist in a Lokesh Kanagaraj frame. Dream combo." Another fan wrote, "Damn. This cameo is going to be something. Can't wait for it #Coolie. We all can soon expect some great update". One fan applauded the coming together of North and South actors and wrote, "South and North record-making stars joining. Thalaivar is coming to save the industry."

Apart from Rajinikanth, the film boasts a powerful ensemble featuring Nagarjuna, Upendra, and Shruthi Haasan in key roles. Directed by Lokesh Kanagaraj, who is known for stylish and gritty action films like Kaithi, Master, and Vikram, the movie is being mounted on a whopping budget of ₹375 crore, making it one of the most expensive Indian films of 2025. Scheduled to hit theatres on August 14 just ahead of Independence Day

Smith, Brook's 250-run stand, England frustrate to India



Birmingham, (HS) : Jamie Smith raised 150 runs in the post-Lunch session as the wicketkeeper-batter continues to frustrate India, on Day 3 in Birmingham. Meanwhile, Harry Brook also got his ninth Test ton in the same session as England continue to counter-attack. Smith got his century in the first session. Smith reached his milestone off only 80 balls, in the final over of the first session. England reached

249/5 in 47 overs at Lunch trailing by 338 runs, on Day 3. Mohammed Siraj handed India a sensational start in the first session, removing Joe Root (22) and Ben Stokes (0) early in back-to-back deliveries. Brook and Smith responded, accelerating immediately, and have already registered half-centuries. With Jasprit Bumrah sidelined, India's bowlers face a critical mission on Day 3, which is to dismantle

England's batting lineup. While Akash Deep and Siraj made crucial breakthroughs on Day 2, reducing England to three wickets down, the challenge remains significant. They must still contend with Brook, who tormented opposition bowlers in the previous fixture. The Indian batters have already delivered, posting a mammoth 587; now, the onus is on the bowlers to complement that effort and secure a commanding lead.

Skipper Shubman Gill put the Indian team in the driver's seat with a historic 269-run knock, which helped the visitors post a mammoth 578 on the scoreboard. Akash, who replaced Jasprit Bumrah in the XI, made an instant impact by claiming the wickets of Ben Duckett and Ollie Pope on back-to-back deliveries. Meanwhile, Siraj got the better of Zak Crawley to put the hosts on the backfoot. Siraj almost had Harry Brook, too, but the batter survived a close lbw appeal on 1. Brook had another life in the last over, when he chopped on against Prasad Krishna and shouldered the ball off the stumps that he almost then stepped on.

While India's lower order had been an issue in the past, particularly in Leeds, batting all-rounder Washington Sundar, brought in to bolster the batting, provided excellent support to his captain. He contributed 42 runs in a 144-run partnership before Joe Root bowled him just before tea.

Political Tensions Halt India's Tour to Bangladesh

New Delhi, (HS) : The eagerly awaited India-Bangladesh white-ball series, scheduled for August 17-31, 2025, is now likely to be indefinitely postponed amid escalating political unrest in Bangladesh. Security concerns following the reported collapse of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government have triggered a diplomatic chill, leading Indian cricket authorities to reconsider sending players across the border.

While the BCB remains optimistic about rescheduling the series, the unfolding political situation remains a major hurdle. For now, cricket takes a back seat as regional diplomacy and internal stability dominate headlines. While the BCB remains optimistic about rescheduling the series, the unfolding political situation remains a major hurdle. For now, cricket takes a back seat as regional diplomacy and internal stability dominate headlines.

New Delhi, (HS) : India's upcoming white-ball tour of Bangladesh is all but off, amid deteriorating political relations between the two nations. According to a report, the tour which was scheduled to take place between August 17 to 31, comprising of three ODIs and three T20Is, is "effectively off". While the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is hopeful that the series can be rescheduled for a later date, it has also paused the sale of the tour's media rights. According to a report in Cricbuzz, the BCB is currently focused on selling media rights for the forthcoming home series against Pakistan, starting July 17

"We will continue, we will take time to research the market. There is no point in rushing things. We can give different contracts," a BCB official told Cricbuzz. The report, however, added that the Indian broadcasters have been informed that the series won't happen. "They have informed us that there is no India series. After announcing the tender, they did not provide the ITT. They are selling, for now, only for the Pakistan series," an Indian broadcaster told Cricbuzz. Notably, there has been a cross-border tension between India and Pakistan ever since the Pahalgaon attack and Bangladesh too had joined the tussle. The final call on the future of the series is expected to be announced within a week. "The date for the India series hasn't been fixed yet. They (the BCCI) said it's difficult for them to come in August. This is part of FTP," the BCB official added.



BCB await a green light from the Indian government, who have remained non-committal about the series. "The mood in India, perceptibly, is not particularly favourable for a tour of Bangladesh, with relations between the two neighbours having been strained in recent times. While no official statement has been made by either side, it is believed that, in light of the diplomatic standoff, the government has advised the BCCI against proceeding with the tour. This impression has emerged from conversations with key stakeholders involved in the series," the report further stated.

Jadeja Violates BCCI SOP in 2nd Test, Unlikely Sanction



Birmingham, (HS) : Indian all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja reportedly breached the Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI) updated Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) in a curious turn of events during the

second Test against England at Edgbaston, but is expected to avoid disciplinary action. As per a report by ESPNcricinfo, Jadeja chose to travel separately to the stadium instead of taking the mandatory team bus, directly flouting one of the new SOPs introduced after India's lacklustre Border-Gavaskar Trophy performance. The regulation mandates all players to commute together for better cohesion and discipline. Despite this technical breach, Jadeja is unlikely to face a penalty. Why? The southpaw reached the stadium early to get in extra batting practice. "Somewhere I felt that I should go and bat extra because the ball was still new," Jadeja explained during the post-day press conference. "Luckily, I could bat till lunch, and then Washington also batted well with Shubman.

Grand Chess: Gukesh outwits Carlsen

Zagreb, (HS) : Magnus Carlsen, the world No. 1, was handed a stinging defeat by Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh in Round 6 of the Grand Chess Tour. The reigning world champion's victory, his fifth consecutive win, propelled him to the sole lead in the tournament's rapid format. The result came shortly after Carlsen openly questioned Gukesh's potential in rapid and blitz formats, remarks that have now spectacularly backfired.

Carlsen began the game confidently, opting for the English Opening in an attempt to unsettle his younger opponent. However, a critical misstep on the 23rd move—when he pushed his b-pawn—shifted the momentum in Gukesh's favor. Gukesh capitalized swiftly,



executing a series of precise moves and opening up the position with c6, ultimately forcing Carlsen into a losing game. In a candid post-match interview, Carlsen admitted, "I've played kind of poorly the whole tournament and this time I got soundly punished." He acknowledged that Gukesh "found a lot of really, really good moves," and credited him for making the most of his chances.