

# Dumani Mail

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## PM Narendra Modi condemns attack in UAE's Fujairah resulting in injuries to 3 Indian nationals

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has strongly condemned the attacks on UAE's Fujairah that resulted in injuries to three Indian nationals. In a social media post, Mr Modi stated that targeting civilians and infrastructure is unacceptable. He asserted that India stands in firm solidarity with the UAE and reiterates its support for the peaceful resolution of all issues through dialogue and diplomacy.



Mr Modi underlined that ensuring safe and unimpeded navigation through the Strait of Hormuz is vital for enduring regional peace,

stability and global energy security. Yesterday, three Indian nationals were injured after a fire broke out at the Fujairah Petroleum

Industries Zone (FOIZ) in UAE, following a drone attack from Iran. Earlier, the Ministry of External Affairs also

condemned the attack in the UAE, calling it unacceptable. The Ministry in a statement called for the immediate cessation of

hostilities and condemned the targeting of civilian infrastructure and innocent civilians. The Ministry said, India continues to advocate for dialogue and diplomacy to address the situation, so that peace and stability may be restored across West Asia.

India also called for free and unimpeded navigation and commerce through the Strait of Hormuz in accordance with international law. The Ministry further asserted that India stands ready to support all efforts toward a peaceful resolution of the issues.

## Union Minister Pabitra Margherita visits Costa Rica, Honduras, Belize

New Delhi: Minister of State for External Affairs Pabitra Margherita will be on an official visit to the Republic of Costa Rica, Honduras, Belize and the Commonwealth of Dominica from the 8th to 15th of this month. On Friday, Mr Margherita will represent India at the Presidential Inauguration Ceremony of Laura Fernández Delgado at San José in Costa Rica.



On the sidelines of the inauguration, he is also likely to meet with the other dignitaries of the Government of the Republic of Costa Rica. External Affairs Ministry said that discussions are expected to cover the full range of bilateral relations and identify areas for further strengthening of the India-Costa Rica partnership.

In Honduras, Mr Margherita will hold meetings with senior dignitaries of the Government, including the Foreign Minister, to review the entire spectrum of bilateral cooperation. While in Belize, he is expected to meet Government dignitaries and to visit the sites of India's developmental initiatives. In the last leg of his visit to the Commonwealth of Dominica, the Minister is

scheduled to meet the leadership of Dominica and discuss the entire gamut of bilateral relationship. He will also visit project sites which are being implemented through grant assistance from India. This will be the first Ministerial-level visit from India to the country since October 2018. The Ministry informed that during the visit, the Minister will also interact with members of the Indian diaspora and friends of India.

## Delhi court allows confiscation of assets linked to fugitive arms dealer Sanjay Bhandari

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Tuesday allowed the confiscation of properties and assets belonging to UK-based arms dealer and fugitive economic offender (FEO) Sanjay Bhandari in a money laundering case being investigated by the Enforcement Directorate (ED). The Rouse Avenue Court, according to the order passed by special judge Sanjay Jindal, has directed confiscation of certain properties located in India and abroad, while reserving its decision on the remaining assets for July 18.

sought to confiscate as part of FEO proceedings, into two categories — List A and List B. A detailed order is awaited. On July 5, Bhandari was declared a fugitive economic offender by a Delhi court, enabling the agency to confiscate his properties across jurisdictions that are considered proceeds of crime or "benami" in nature. The FEO tag also bars him from defending any civil suit in India. The court had then observed that Bhandari had willfully refused to return to India to face criminal prosecution and that the value of the scheduled

offence — an Income Tax case under the Black Money Act — exceeded ₹100 crore, meeting the threshold for declaring him a fugitive offender. FEO proceedings are intended to compel an accused to return to India to face trial through coercive measures such as confiscation or attachment of assets, the court had noted. The ED, through special counsel Zohab Hossain, had moved an application stating that Bhandari owned multiple "benami" properties in Noida, Gurugram, Delhi, the UK and Dubai, along with alleged bank accounts in his wife's name and jewellery

purportedly acquired as proceeds of crime, for which it sought confiscation. Bhandari's counsel, senior advocate Maninder Singh, argued that the total value of the scheduled offence did not exceed the mandated ₹100 crore, citing the Income Tax department's 2020 submissions. He also referred to the UK High Court's discharge of Bhandari, contending that no fresh warrants were pending against him. According to the ED, Bhandari had undisclosed foreign income of ₹655 crore and evaded tax amounting to ₹196 crore. Alleged to be a

middleman in defence deals, he is accused of routing large sums through overseas shell companies and investing in properties in the UAE and the UK between 2009 and 2016. He has also been under investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) since 2019 in connection with alleged corruption in a ₹2,985-crore deal for procurement of 75 PC-7 trainer aircraft from Swiss manufacturer Pilatus Aircraft, and for allegedly laundering money linked to properties in London associated with Robert Vadra. In that case, NRI businessman C C Thampi was arrested by the ED in January 2020.

## BJP MPs meet President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan



New Delhi: BJP MPs Raghav Chadha, Ashok Mittal, Sandeep Pathak, and Rajendra Gupta today met President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan to express concern over the alleged misuse of state machinery by the AAP-led government in Punjab. Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Raghav Chadha accused the AAP-led Punjab government of

using state machinery to target Rajya Sabha MPs who recently quit the party and joined the BJP. He alleged that the Punjab government and the Aam Aadmi Party, driven by a spirit of revenge, are engaging in vendetta politics. Mr. Chadha said they apprised the President of these developments and conveyed their concerns.

Meanwhile, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann also met President Droupadi Murmu in connection with the recent defection of seven AAP Rajya Sabha MPs to the BJP. Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Mr. Mann said the merger of AAP MPs is unconstitutional and demanded their disqualification from the Rajya Sabha.

## DFS plans tech revamp with AI, GIS enabled control centre amid manpower shortage

NEW DELHI: Facing a sharp surge in fire emergencies, the Delhi Fire Services (DFS) is set to roll out a technology-driven overhaul, including a centralised command and control centre equipped with Artificial Intelligence (AI), GPS and GIS-based systems this year, even as it struggles with staff shortages and outdated infrastructure, officials said. As fire calls ring incessantly across the national capital, the department is grappling with acute manpower constraints, obsolete communication systems and largely manual operations that often slow down response time. The DFS currently has 2,459 operational staff across 71 fire stations, a fraction of the around 24,000 personnel and 120 stations prescribed under the guidelines laid down by Standing Fire Advisory Committee under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) guidelines, highlighting a significant gap in capacity.

## Ghaziabad: Man held for beating 40-year-old to death on suspicion of theft

Ghaziabad: A 30-year-old man was arrested on Friday for allegedly beating up a 40-year-old man to death in Khoda and dumping his body outside a Noida hospital last week on suspicion of theft, officials said on Monday. Police identified the suspect as a 30-year-old resident of Khoda area, and the deceased as a resident of Mahalaxmi Garden in Khoda. According to police, the suspect fled after dumping the body outside the Child PGI Hospital in Sector 30 in the early hours of April 27. An FIR was lodged by the Noida police under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita sections 103(1) (murder) and 238a (destroying evidence) after they saw the body there. "The body was sent to the Sector 94 mortuary and an investigation was launched. CCTV footage led us to the Wagon-R allegedly used to transport the body. The car was registered in the name of a Garhi Chaukhandi resident. The registered owner told police that his son's brother-

in-law (the suspect, identified as a resident of Khoda), had taken the car on May 26," the FIR registered at the Sector 20 police station on May 28 stated. It added that during the investigation, local residents in Khoda told police that the 30-year-old suspect severely beat the 40-year-old man on suspicion of theft. Since the incident occurred in Ghaziabad's Khoda, the FIR was transferred from Noida to Ghaziabad. "It was revealed that the suspect allegedly beat up the 40-year-old on suspicion of theft in the early hours of April 27. He later took the injured man in the Wagon-R car and dumped him outside the hospital and fled. The deceased's family members were traced, and they told us that he was mentally challenged. However, they could not provide any medical documents to support this. The suspect was arrested on Friday and the car was also seized," Abhishek Srivastava, ACP of the Indirapuram circle, told to media on Monday.

## Delhi: Man arrested in Rs 1.2-lakh UPI fraud case

New Delhi: The Delhi Police has arrested a 32-year-old man in connection with a mobile phone theft case linked to fraudulent UPI transactions worth over Rs 1.2 lakh, an official said on Tuesday. The case pertains to an e-FIR registered

at IGI Airport Metro police station after a mobile phone was stolen and subsequently used to carry out multiple unauthorised UPI transactions amounting to Rs 1,20,390, he said. Police said the investigation relied on a multi-layered approach

combining advanced cyber forensic tools with ground intelligence. An end-to-end analysis of 11 suspicious UPI transactions was carried out, along with profiling and physical verification of beneficiaries.

## Delhi CM Rekha Gupta reviews summer water management

New Delhi: Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta has chaired a high-level review meeting at the Secretariat to assess the city's water management plan for the summer months. The meeting, on Monday, took stock of the progress of key water-related projects, with the Chief Minister directing officials to ensure there is no lapse in supply or response during peak demand. She stressed that every complaint must be addressed promptly and warned that negligence would invite strict action. "Our focus is not limited to immediate relief. We are simultaneously working on long-term solutions to free

Delhi from recurring drinking water shortages," CM Gupta said. The meeting was attended by Water Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh, Chief Secretary Rajiv Verma and senior officials of the Delhi Jal Board. highlighting preparedness for the summer, the Chief Minister said the government has tightened monitoring at every level to maintain a smooth and balanced supply. All major water treatment plants, Sonia Vihar, Bhagirathi, Chandrawal, Wazirabad, Haiderpur, Nangloi, Okhla, Bawana and Dwarka, have been directed to operate at

peak capacity. Coordination with Haryana is also being maintained to monitor ammonia levels in raw water, ensuring the uninterrupted functioning of treatment plants. Areas facing water shortages have been identified, and targeted arrangements have been put in place to bridge the gap. The Delhi CM outlined several key improvements made this year. She mentioned that the number of operational tubewells has been increased from 5,834 to 6,200, while water tankers have been scaled up from 1,166 to 1,210. Fixed supply points have risen from 8,700 to 13,000, and filling hydrants from 198 to 202. CM Gupta highlighted



that to strengthen tanker-based supply in water-scarce areas, 1,210 tankers have been deployed, with an additional 100 kept on standby. Deployment has been tailored constituency-wise, with high-demand areas such as Sangam Vihar, Matiala, Chhatarpur, Deoli, Tughlakabad, Palam,

Bijwasan and Bawana receiving special attention. The Chief Minister said detailed planning has been completed at the constituency level, including allocation of responsibilities, colony-wise supply schedules, tanker route plans and resource deployment. "The grievance redressal

system has been reinforced with 24x7 helplines (1916 and 1800117118). Complaints are routed directly to the concerned junior engineer, and 100 per cent feedback is ensured. A central control room and chatbot-based system have also been introduced, alongside PPP-mode call centres in several areas. Across the city, 28 water emergency centres have been set up at strategic locations, operating round the clock. These centres are equipped with adequate staff, communication systems and CCTV surveillance to ensure swift resolution of supply-related issues," the release said. The Chief Minister

directed officials to expedite efforts to augment the water supply and to swiftly commission the second 50 MGD water treatment plant located in Dwarka. Furthermore, she hailed the preparations to soon operationalise the 2 MGD capacity recycling plant at the Bawana Water Treatment Plant as a significant achievement, an important step towards promoting water reuse within the city. Chief Minister Rekha Gupta stated that, in order to enhance water availability, 520 additional tube wells have been installed and 172 kilometres of old water

pipelines were replaced during the year 2025-26, resulting in improved water supply. "Additionally, work is underway on valve regulation, the laying of new pipelines, and the large-scale cleaning of sewer lines. The annual cleaning of all underground reservoirs has been completed, and preventive maintenance has been ensured for all pump sets and booster pumping stations utilised within the distribution system. A dedicated drive is also in progress to detect and repair leakages across transmission and distribution networks," CM Gupta said.

## AM/NS India Gymnastics HPC Athletes Wins gold and bronze medals



Paradip - The Junior and Senior Artistic Gymnastics National Championships 2026-27 were organized by the Odisha AM/NS India Gymnastics High Performance Centre (HPC) from April 25 to May 3, 2026 at the Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar. The athletes of the centre performed outstandingly and won three gold and two bronze medals in various categories. In the Senior Men's Artistic Gymnastics (MAG) category, Tapan Mohanty, representing the Odisha team, performed brilliantly and won the gold medal in the all-around event with a score of 73.433. Along with this, Tapeswarnath Das, representing the Railway team, won the bronze medal in the vault event.

In the Senior Women's Artistic Gymnastics (WAG) category, Odisha team's Tanu Barsare won the gold medal in the uneven bars while Karishma, representing the Railway Sports Promotion Board

(RSPB), won gold medals in both the Senior WAG Floor Exercise and Team Championships. Priyanshi Bansal also added to the medal tally by winning the bronze medal in the balance beam.

In the team event, the women's team comprising HPC athletes Tannu, Priyanshi Bansal, Adita Mandal, Preeti Jhankar and Ritika and the men's team comprising HPC athletes Tapan Mohanty, Sumit Dhali, Azad Laskar, Mijunjay Patnaik, Mohid Kumar and Debashish Reddy Das helped the Odisha team to put up a strong performance. The men's team finished fourth with a score of 208.167, while the women's team also finished fourth with a score of 119.635. Both the teams qualified for the finals, which shows the growing strength and competitiveness of Odisha in national gymnastics.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Odisha Government's Sports and Youth

Services Minister Suryavansi Suraj, Puri MP Sambit Patra, Olympian and Padma Shri awardee Ms. Deepa Karmakar, Dronacharya awardee Bisweshwar Nandi, Gymnastics Federation of India President Sudhir Mittal, Odisha Government's Sports and Youth Services Director Yedula Vijay, AM/NS India CSR Head Dr. Vikas Yadavendu, along with senior officials of the Sports and Youth Services Department and AM/NS India.

The Odisha AM/NS India Gymnastics High Performance Centre (HPC) has once again proven itself as a premier centre of excellence by bringing together the best artistic gymnastics athletes in the country. With world-class infrastructure, scientific training and strong institutional support, the centre has strengthened gymnastics in India, helping athletes achieve success and raising the overall standard of the sport.

## BJP celebrated West-Bengal Victory at Jagatsinghpur New hope for coming Panchayat Election

Jagatsinghpur, To-day evening Jagatsinghpur district BJP celebrated West-Bengals victory with pleasure and joy. After 15 years, fall of TMC at West-Bengal and two third majority to BJP was a land mark for BJP. Jagatsinghpur district BJP organisation led by Jagatsinghpur MLA, Amarendra Das and BJP workers celebrated victory day in a decent manner by using fire-crackers and distributing sweets among each other at Municipality Chhak. Victory of BJP at West-Bengal inspired Jagatsinghpur BJP to work for 2027 Panchayat Election in a organised way.

As there was poor organisation of BJP at grass root level of Jagatsinghpur district and it was difficult to achieve land mark at Panchayat Election. But today's victory in West-Bengal inspired BJP leaders and workers. BJP inspired to go ahead and to be successful in Zilla Parishad election and Panchayat election of 2027. Impact of clean sweep of BJP at West-Bengal Election will help Jagatsinghpur BJP to come out successful in 2027 Panchayat Election as stated by veteran Political leaders.

## Senior Journalist Sibdas Kundu Felicitated at Memorial Meeting of Late Journalist Amar Nanda



Balasore, May 4 (Krushna Kumar Mohanty): A memorial meeting in remembrance of senior journalist late Amar Nanda was held at the Balasore District Journalists' Forum.

The meeting was presided over by Debabrata Panigrahi, President of the 'Dibamgata Sambadika Smruti Committee'. Senior journalist and editor of 'Dhwani Pratidhwani', Srustidhar Parida, attended as the chief guest and remarked that it is rare to find a person as gentle and humble as Amar Nanda. He noted that Nanda was not only a journalist but also

a committed social worker and a lover of culture.

Senior journalist and editor of 'Seithu Arambha', Shubendu Das, joined as the guest of honour. He shared his memories and offered guidance on how the Memorial Committee could move forward. He also pledged an annual contribution of ₹1000 and assured further support whenever required.

Amar Nanda's childhood friend and educationist Gadadhar Babu recalled memories from their early days. Social worker Smt. Ashrita Tarei also shared her

tributes.

On this occasion, the Amar Nanda Memorial Award was conferred upon senior journalist and Chief Counsellor of the Family Court, Sibdas Kundu. He was honoured with a citation, memento, and traditional uttariya.

Journalists Bidyadhar Mohanty, Trilochan Mohanty, Hitrik Nayak, Sambit Behera, and editor Gagan Kumar Sethi, among others, participated and paid their tributes.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by journalist Trilochan Mohanty.

## Human Rights Interns from R.D. Women's University Interact with Odisha State Election Commissioner

Balasore, 04/05: Forty-three undergraduate students of R.D. Women's University, currently undergoing a human rights internship programme at Citizens' Human Rights Clinic (CHRC), Shahid Nagar, Bhubaneswar, visited the Office of the Odisha State Election Commissioner on Friday for an interactive session on "Importance of State Election Commission and its Role".

The interns were led by Dr. Gopabandhu Mallick, Chairman of

CHRC, and advisor Prof. Niranjana Barik, an eminent writer and academician. The Organising Secretary of CHRC Prof. Rashmi Rout was also present to guide the interns. Addressing the students, State Election Commissioner Shri Madhusudan Padhi, a former senior IAS officer, said the State Election Commission, established under Article 243 of the Constitution, is mandated to conduct elections to Municipal Corporations, Municipalities, NACs, Panchayats,

Block Panchayats and Zilla Parishad in a free and fair manner.

Padhi highlighted key issues including delimitation, reorganisation of Assemblies, Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voter lists, and operational challenges in conducting elections. He also elaborated on Part-XV of the Constitution covering Articles 324 to 329, Article 243A, and the relevance of the 73rd, 74th, 86th, 102nd and 106th Constitutional Amendment Acts in election matters.

## Talabira Coal Mine Protest Enters 15th Day; Tripartite Meeting Held for Resolution.

Sambalpur-(DMS) : The ongoing protest at the Khinda Talabira coal mines, led by the Matrubhumi voluntary organization over employment and other demands, entered its 15th day today. On this occasion, a tripartite meeting was convened under the chairmanship of Sub-Collector Pushpanjali Das.

Representatives of the Matrubhumi organization, including President Hemant Kumar Pandey, Manoj Biswal, Kishore Sahu, Kailash Budhia, Jayaram Budhia, Shatrughna Rohidas, and Nilu Patra, were present at the meeting.

Key issues discussed included employment opportunities, drinking water shortages, blasting operations, problems related to the SH-10 road, air pollution in the mining area, and concerns of displaced and affected families.

The Sub-Collector urged the organization members to submit detailed information about displaced and affected families who



have been deprived of their legitimate claims. She assured that after verification by the NLC company, necessary steps would be taken by the district administration.

Regarding the drinking water issue, it was decided that detailed information would be sought on the steps taken by the company for the R&R colony, and a permanent solution would be arranged in due course.

The administration also assured that measures to control

blasting and pollution would be undertaken jointly by the company, police, and district authorities.

It was further informed that in the next meeting, the District Collector and Superintendent of Police would be present to specifically address employment-related issues and work towards a resolution.

Meanwhile, protest leader Hemant Kumar Pandey reiterated that the Movement (protest) would continue until a concrete solution is reached.

## Model police bust drug trafficking racket, seize 45 grams brown sugar, 2 held.

Khordha -4/5- Acting on intelligence inputs the model police Khordha launched surveillance targeting the illegal narcotics trade. As per the direction of SP Khordha, under the supervision of SDPO, Khordha Nihar Ranjan Pradhan and IIC Model PS Sanjaya Nayak formed a team headed by SI, Dinesh Kumar Pingua intercepted the suspects in Gurujanga, Dewan Sahi Khordha and nabbed the suspects and seized 45 grams of brown sugar worth ₹4.50 lakhs. Police identified the accused as Sandhya Rani Behera (26) and Rohan Khan (27) both are the residents of Khordha town. In a press meet at Model PS Khordha, SDPO Nihar Ranjan Pradhan, confirmed that the accused are being interrogated to uncover their wider network and supply chain. The arrests mark a significant success in the fight against narcotics in Khordha district. Khordha model police emphasized their commitment to dismantling criminal syndicates and eliminating the brown sugar trade. Authorities said the arrested individuals will be produced before the judicial court as the investigation continues.

## Massive BJP Victory in West Bengal; Special Prayers and Maha Yajna Performed by Daitapati Bhawaniprasad Maharaj



Puri: A special prayer ritual was conducted for the massive victory of the BJP in West Bengal and for senior BJP leader Suwendu Adhikari. While the rituals were being held in Kolkata, Suwendu Adhikari received a guru mantra.

Before the elections, a special prayer ceremony was organized in Kolkata by young Daitapati Bhawaniprasad Das Maharaj for BJP, particularly for Suwendu Adhikari, who is known as a firebrand leader and a chief ministerial aspirant in West Bengal. Along with the rituals, he also imparted a guru mantra.

Sacred cloth, flowers, and offerings from Lord Jagannath Temple in Puri were presented to Adhikari. Not only this, Bhawaniprasad Das Maharaj also performed a Maha Yajna in Kolkata for BJP's victory.

Prominent leaders including BJP National President Nitin Naveen, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, and Odisha Minister Suryabanshi Suraj attended the yajna and prayed for BJP's grand success, seeking the blessings of Lord Jagannath. Bhawaniprasad is both a young Daitapati servitor and a BJP youth leader. Following BJP's

significant victory in West Bengal, he stated that "the flag of righteousness has been raised and unrighteousness has fallen." He also thanked the people of West Bengal for the party's success. Special prayers were offered near the idol of Lord Jagannath. It is noteworthy that earlier, during the Odisha elections, Bhawaniprasad Das Maharaj had organized victory processions for BJP. Carrying the sacred garland (Ajnamala) of Lord Jagannath, he toured all assembly constituencies in Odisha, symbolically raising the victory flag. Subsequently, BJP achieved success in Odisha.

## Action taken against 36 errant auto-rickshaws in the last two days

Puri: To ensure a smooth, safe, and disciplined traffic system in the city, Puri City Police have been continuously conducting special enforcement drives. Strict action is being taken against illegal activities, traffic rule violations, and anti-social behavior that disrupt public order.

During a special checking and enforcement drive conducted yesterday in the Puri City Sub-Division area, legal action was taken against 17 errant auto-rickshaws for illegal parking, lack of licenses, and absence of proper documents.

In total, over the past two days, action has been taken

against 36 auto-rickshaws for various traffic rule violations.

Additionally, strict measures have been taken against public drinking to maintain public safety and social order. Legal (PR) action was taken against 43 individuals found consuming alcohol in public places.

Special focus was also given to drunken driving. Legal action was taken against 17 vehicles and their drivers for driving under the influence, and those vehicles were seized.

From 01.01.2026 to 30.04.2026, as part of ongoing enforcement to ensure compliance with traffic rules, the Traffic Police have registered 55

drunken driving cases specifically involving auto-rickshaws.

A total fine of ₹25,00,500 (twenty-five lakh five hundred rupees) has been collected for various traffic rule violations.

Puri City Police urge the public to: Follow traffic rules Drive vehicles with necessary documents

Do not drive under the influence of alcohol Maintain peace and discipline in public places With everyone's cooperation, it is possible to make Puri a safe, disciplined, and clean city. Puri City Police will continue such drives in the future and take strict action against violators.

## Juvenile Team Wins 26th PCC Invitation Cup Cricket Tournament

Paradip - The "26th Invitation Cup Cricket Tournament" organized by Paradip Cricket Club (PCC) at the Gopabandhu Stadium in Paradip came to an end on Sunday. The final match was held between Juvenile Cricket Club and Union Sporting Club of Cuttack. Batting first, Union Sporting scored 182 runs for the loss of 5 wickets in the stipulated 20 overs, while the Juvenile team scored 183 runs for the loss of 3 wickets in 17.3 overs and became the champion. In the final, Ramachandra Behera of Juvenile Club was declared as Man of the Match, while Biswajit Pradhan of



Union Sporting Club was declared Man of the Series.

In the closing ceremony, the Minister of State for Industries, Skill Development and Technical Education, Sampad Chandra

Swain, was the chief guest and presented trophies to the champion and runner-up. The organization of such a cricket tournament is commendable in order to instill a sportsman spirit

among the youths and the Minister Shri Swain congratulated the organizers for arranged such a tournament. On this occasion, among others, the Minister's representative Sarbeswar Baliarsingh, BJP Mandal President and councillor Subrat Pradhan were present as the guests of honor, while PCC President Manoranjan Mishra, Vice President Sanjay Kumar Dhal, secretary Prashant Bhuyan, General Secretary Junith Kumar Das, Secretaries Saroj Rawal and Pradeep Baral and Treasurer Shesan Pradhan were present.

## Odisha Class 10 Results 2026 Declared: Pass Rate at 95.33%

Bhubaneswar: The Board of Secondary Education, Odisha has officially declared the Class 10 (High School Certificate) examination results for 2026.

The announcement was made at the board's office in Cuttack in the presence of School and Mass Education Minister Nityananda Gond. This year, the state recorded an impressive overall pass percentage of 95.33%, reflecting strong academic performance across districts. Over 5.19 Lakh Students Pass the Examination

A total of 5,19,251 students in the regular category successfully cleared the examination. This includes: 2,56,099 boys

2,63,152 girls  
Among all districts, Gajapati district emerged as the top performer with an outstanding 99.31% pass rate.

Grade Distribution Highlights  
The results showed a wide distribution of grades among students:  
A1: 2,453 students  
A2: 15,684 students  
B1: 43,565 students  
B2: 86,103 students  
C: 1,29,813 students  
D: 1,46,152 students  
E: 95,481 students  
F: 17,055 students  
In the ex-regular category, 217 out of 1,433 students passed, resulting in a 14.16% pass rate.

## Odisha Government Proposes New Framework for Metro Project Linking Puri, Bhubaneswar, and Cuttack

Bhubaneswar: Odisha government has reiterated its commitment to the proposed metro project connecting the twin cities and Puri under a revised framework.

Following discussions regarding project viability, Urban Development Minister Krishna Chandra Mahapatra clarified that the ambitious transport initiative has been kept on hold rather than cancelled.

The administration is currently evaluating alternatives to ensure the system is financially sustainable and properly integrated with the region's broader transit networks.

Addressing Feasibility and Transit Concerns  
Earlier, the state cabinet had terminated the agreement with the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) and approved the

expenditure incurred on the initial phase (amounting to ₹273.51 crore) following recommendations from an inter-ministerial committee. The committee cited feasibility challenges, including lower-than-expected ridership projections and non-compliance with the National Metro Rail Policy (2017).

Minister Mahapatra

emphasized the need for a comprehensive approach to modern infrastructure:

"If the metro is implemented without alternative roads, people will face inconvenience."

The state government is focused on developing alternative road networks and support mechanisms alongside the transit project to ensure long-term public welfare and smooth

urban connectivity.

Key Highlights of the Transit Transition

Project Status: Temporarily suspended for review and framework restructuring, not entirely scrapped.

Proposed Route: Planned corridor connecting Puri, Bhubaneswar, and Cuttack to stimulate economic growth.

Strategic Focus: Ensuring multi-modal integration, first- and last-mile connectivity, and alignment with the National Metro Rail Policy.

Agency Status: The Bhubaneswar Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) office remains operational while evaluating future funding and execution models.

## Workshop on Accelerating Low-Carbon Construction in Odisha Concludes Successfully at IIT Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar: A multi-stakeholder workshop on "Accelerating Low-Carbon Construction in Odisha: Technologies and Strategies" was successfully organized at Indian Institute of Technology Bhubaneswar, in association with Development Alternatives.

The workshop brought together over 70 participants from key government departments, industry, academia, and international organizations, reflecting strong and growing interest in sustainable construction practices in Odisha. Participants included senior officials from the Housing & Urban Development Department (HU&DD), Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), Works Department, Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB), and Rural Works Department, along with representatives from leading cement companies such as Dalmia, UltraTech,

Technical sessions were delivered by Dr. Surender Singh on recyclability of construction and demolition (C&D) waste and its role in sustainable infrastructure, and by Dr. Ashok Kumar Singha on climate finance options and LC3 material handling. These sessions provided valuable insights into technological innovations and financing mechanisms critical for transitioning to a low-carbon construction ecosystem. Panel discussions formed a core part of the workshop, focusing on Scaling LC3 in Odisha: From Innovation to Market Transformation and Scaling C&D Waste Management in Odisha

and Ramco, as well as stakeholders from L&T, ready-mix concrete companies, architects, builders, and UN-Habitat.

The workshop was graced by Shri Sourindra Routray, Additional Secretary, HU&DD, Government of Odisha, as the Chief Guest. Dr. Surender Singh, Associate Professor at Indian Institute of Technology Madras, attended as the Guest of Honour. Shri Binaya Dash, Additional Secretary, HU&DD, emphasized the need to mainstream low-carbon construction materials like C&D waste based blocks and LC3 through strong policy push, market readiness, and convergence across departments to drive sustainable urban

development in Odisha.

The sessions commenced with a brief address by Prof. Dinakar Pasla (IIT Bhubaneswar) and context-setting by Dr. Soumen Maity (Development Alternatives), followed by a presentation on baseline assessment findings by Ms. Shaloni Dash (Development Alternatives), highlighting key policy gaps and opportunities for scaling low-carbon construction materials in Odisha.

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The discussions witnessed active participation from representatives of HU&DD, Development Alternatives, IIT Bhubaneswar, UN-Habitat, and industry stakeholders. Key

deliberations centered around cost competitiveness, market adoption challenges, policy support mechanisms, and institutional pathways for scaling LC3 (Limestone Calcined Clay Cement) and strengthening C&D waste management systems in Odisha.

Notably, LC3 and C&D waste management emerged as central themes, with stakeholders emphasizing the need for:

- Stronger policy incentives and mandates
- Market development and awareness
- Integration of circular economy principles in construction
- Strengthened implementation of the C&D Waste Management

Rules, 2025  
Officials from HU&DD shared ongoing initiatives and policy directions being undertaken by the department to promote low-carbon construction materials and sustainable urban development practices in the state.

The workshop served as an important platform for knowledge exchange, stakeholder consultation, and co-creation of actionable strategies. It reinforced the need for collaborative efforts between government, industry, and academia to accelerate Odisha's transition towards a low-carbon, resource-efficient, and circular construction sector.

The event concluded with a shared commitment from all stakeholders to take forward the recommendations and translate them into concrete actions on ground. The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Umesh C Sahoo (IIT Bhubaneswar).

## Odisha Declared Maoist-Free : DGP YB Khurania

Bhubaneswar: Director General of Police (DGP) Y.B. Khurania officially declared Odisha completely free from Left Wing Extremism following sustained counter-insurgency operations.

The milestone was highlighted during a medal distribution ceremony at the Civic Centre in Rourkela, where he praised the collective efforts of the police, Special Operations Group (SOG), and central forces like the CRPF.

While active Maoist presence within state boundaries has been eliminated, the DGP noted that the administration will not let its guard down.

Security forces continue to maintain a strict vigil along interstate borders—particularly along the Saranda forest area in Jharkhand—to prevent any infiltration or resurgence of extremist elements.

## Odisha Matric Exam Result 2026 to Be Declared on May 2

Bhubaneswar: The Board of Secondary Education Odisha (BSE Odisha) will announce the Class 10 (Matric) examination results on May 2, 2026. Officials confirmed that the results will be declared at around 4:00 PM, while students can access their scorecards online from 6:00 PM onwards.

Where and How to Check Odisha Class 10 Results

Students can check their results on the official websites: [www.bseodisha.nic.in](http://www.bseodisha.nic.in) [www.bseodisha.ac.in](http://www.bseodisha.ac.in)

To ensure inclusive access, especially for students in areas with limited internet connectivity, BSE Odisha has also provided an SMS facility.

Students can follow these steps to receive their results via SMS:

This option helps ensure that all students, regardless of internet availability, can access their results conveniently.

Results for Other Examinations Also on Same Day

Along with the Class 10 results, the board will also declare the results for:

State Open School Certificate Examination

Madhyama Examination  
This coordinated announcement will allow students from multiple streams to access their results on the same day.

Tabulation Register for Schools

School authorities will be able to download the Tabulation Register from the official websites starting at 7:00 PM on May 2. This will help institutions manage records and support students with further academic processes.

Exam Overview

In 2026, a total of 5,61,979 students appeared for the Class 10 examinations across 3,082 centres in Odisha. The exams were conducted between February 19 and March 2, 2026.

Ensuring Smooth Access for All Students

BSE Odisha has taken steps to make result access simple and inclusive. With both online and SMS options available, students from urban and rural areas alike can check their results without difficulty.

## Young Innovators of CUO Transform Farming Challenges into Award-Winning Solution

Koraput: The Department of Agriculture, Central University of Odisha (CUO), proudly announces its outstanding achievement at INNOVISION 2026 "Innovative Solutions for Technical Problems," held on 26th April 2026 at Synergy Institute of Technology, Phulnakhara, Bhubaneswar, in collaboration with SKD Patent Services, Kolkata.

CUO secured the 1st Prize among 65 registered innovations of which 35 were shortlisted for the final round with model presentations. This remarkable success has brought immense pride to the University, its students and their families.

The innovation was presented by Ms. Swapnarani Biswal (3rd Year B.Sc. Agriculture) and Ms. Abhisikta Sahu (2nd Year B.Sc. Agriculture), who represented the

Department with dedication and excellence.


Prof. N. C. Panda, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, I/c., CUO, appreciated the Department, students, and collaborating scientists for their dedication and innovation in addressing real-world agricultural challenges.

Dr. Manjushree Singh, Head, Department of Agriculture expressed her appreciation for the students' dedication and emphasized that such innovations align with the vision of improving farmers' livelihoods in the Koraput region through sustainable and practical solutions.

The award-winning innovation addresses a critical issue in large-scale agriculture. In conventional broadcasting methods of sowing, small and lightweight seeds are often displaced during irrigation especially under flood irrigation

leading to uneven distribution, poor germination and reduced productivity. To address this challenge, the team developed a solar-powered seed pelleting (coating) machine. The technology enhances seed size and weight through coating, ensuring better stability, while also enriching seeds with essential fertilizers and micronutrients to support early growth. Powered by solar energy, the system is cost-effective, energy-efficient and environmentally sustainable making it highly suitable for rural and off-grid farming conditions.

This innovation is a collaborative effort with scientists from Navsari Agricultural University including Dr. Vipul Shinde (Head, Department of Agricultural Engineering), Dr. Ashish, and Dr. Subham Dhakad, along with Dr. Manjushree Singh, Head, Department of Agriculture, CUO.

 GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL WORKS ELECTRICAL DIVISION BHUBANESWAR E-Mail: <a href="mailto:eerwel_bbsr@yahoo.co.in">eerwel_bbsr@yahoo.co.in</a>	
<b>o-Procurement Notice No -EERWELBBSR- 01/2026-27</b>	
1	<b>Name of the work</b> (i) Shifting of electrical networks from the road alignment on safety point of view for construction of PWD road from Kandhabarani village to Chasabarabati under Narsinghpur Block in the District of Cuttack under R.W. Electrical Section, Cuttack.- 14.86 lakhs (ii) Shifting of line and S/S from Cuttack -Chandabali Road to Govindpur to Purbakachha, Via Islampur to nearby safety places due to widening and strengthening of road under R.W. Electrical Section, Cuttack.- 18.37 lakhs
2	<b>Estimated Cost</b> 14.86 to 18.37 lakhs (Excluding GST)
3	<b>Period of completion</b> 180 days
4	<b>Date and time of availability of Bid documents in the portal</b> From Dt. 06.05.2026 at 12.00 A.M to Dt.18.05.2026 up to 5.00 P.M
5	<b>Date &amp; Time of opening of tender</b> Dt. 19.05.2026 at 01.00 P.M.
6	<b>Procurement officer/ Name and address of the officer inviting Bids.</b> Executive Engineer, R W EL DIVN BBSR At- 1st floor of Divn. Complex, Rasulgarh Behind Esplanade Mall Dist - Khordha Odisha. Pincode-751010
Further details can be seen from the Govt. Web site <a href="http://www.tenderorissa.gov.in">www.tenderorissa.gov.in</a>	
25001/88/2627	Executive Engineer, Rural work Electrical Division, Bhubaneswar

# NALCO Clocks Record Net Profit of Rs.5816 crore with Revenue from Operations at Rs. 17843 crore in FY26

Bhubaneswar : National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), the Navratna CPSE under the Ministry of Mines, Govt of India, has once again rewritten its own record by delivering its highest-ever financial and operational performance in FY26, surpassing its previous best achieved last year.

As per the audited financial results approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting held today, NALCO

has achieved a historic milestone by recording its highest-ever net profit (PAT) of Rs. 5816 crore, compared to Rs. 5,325 crore in the previous financial year, registering a robust year-on-year growth of 9.22%. The Company also reported its highest-ever revenue from operations of Rs.17843 crore for FY26, surpassing last year's revenue of Rs. 16,788 crore.

In the fourth quarter of FY26, the company has

posted a net profit of Rs.1718 crore, compared to Rs. 1601 crore in the preceding quarter, marking an increase of 7%. Revenue from operations during the quarter stood at Rs. 5103 crore, as against Rs. 4731 crore in the preceding quarter of FY26.

The stellar performance was driven by higher production volumes, improved realizations, and strengthened operational efficiencies across business

units, highlighting the Company's resilience in a dynamic market environment. Worth mentioning that in FY26, NALCO also achieved its best-ever operational performance since inception, setting new records across production and sales.

The Company recorded its highest-ever bauxite excavation at 77.01 lakh tonnes and bauxite transportation at 77.07 lakh tonnes. Alumina hydrate

production reached 23.00 lakh tonnes, while calcined alumina production stood at 22.75 lakh tonnes. Cast metal production registered an all-time high of 4.72 lakh tonnes, accompanied by a record net power generation of 6,953 MU and coal production of 40 lakh tonnes. On the sales front, NALCO delivered unprecedented results across key segments. Total alumina sales reached 14.46 lakh tonnes, including 1.38 lakh tonnes of domestic alumina

sales. Aluminium metal sales stood at 4.74 lakh tonnes, with the highest-ever domestic metal sales of 4.61 lakh tonnes.

Higher production volumes, favourable pricing, and our ability to effectively leverage market opportunities with strong operational discipline have driven this outstanding performance. Our continued focus on plant, people, and process efficiency has enabled us to

consistently surpass targets," said Shri Brijendra Pratap Singh, CMD.

"This achievement reflects the dedication of our motivated workforce, supported by a strong emphasis on efficiency and cost optimisation, along with the guidance of the Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India and the continued cooperation of the Government of Odisha", he added.

Shri Singh also reaffirmed

the Company's commitment to long-term, sustainable growth through strategic expansions and operational excellence that will provide a strong foundation for resilient growth and further strengthen NALCO's position.

The company has further announced 3rd interim dividend of Rs.2 per equity share (40% on the face value of Rs.5 each), amounting to Rs.367.33 crore for FY26.

## Saffron Surge

THE BJP has turned the tables on the ever-combative Mamata Banerjee with typical ruthlessness, ending her 15-year reign in West Bengal. The saffron party has not only breached a regional fortress with a landslide victory over the Trinamool Congress but also jolted the already vulnerable Opposition. Using every weapon in its formidable arsenal, the BJP invested heavily in cadre-building and outreach in rural areas, while its top brass —



PM Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah in particular — went all out to persuade voters that the state direly needed poriborton (change). Mamata's campaign largely revolved around the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, which saw the deletion of around 90 lakh names. The chaotic, contentious exercise, which she described as the Centre's ploy to reduce her voter base, influenced the outcome. The fact that Mamata chose to plough a lone furrow, having no truck with the Congress and Left parties, also worked in the BJP's favour.

The Bengal verdict marks a new high for the saffron party, even though it is still struggling to expand its footprint in South India. The BJP won three Assembly seats in Kerala (it had drawn a blank in the 2021 poll) and just one in Tamil Nadu. However, the party would be pleased to see the back of DMK leader and outgoing Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin, who had been at loggerheads with the Centre over the past five years. Anti-incumbency played a key role in Bengal, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, but the BJP easily bucked this factor in Assam to retain power.

The Congress-led United Democratic Front's victory in Kerala has given the grand old party something to celebrate, even as it has been routed yet again in Bengal. However, the reversals suffered by Stalin and Mamata imply that the Congress would continue to helm the Opposition's fragile INDIA bloc. For the BJP, the next frontier is undoubtedly Punjab, where it is busy making ambitious inroads into the Congress and AAP ranks.

## Weather Change

A shower of hailstones in May in parts of Punjab, including Chandigarh, is a clear indication that shifting weather patterns are becoming the norm across North India. Unseasonal rain and high-velocity winds have once again exposed the fragility of the region's farm economy.



Coming as wheat procurement peaks, the damage is not in the fields alone but also in mandis, where vast quantities of grain lie in the open, vulnerable to moisture and spoilage. For farmers, this is a cruel post-harvest blow: the crop is sold, but its value is suddenly uncertain. Procurement at MSP has expanded, but storage and logistics have not kept pace. Agencies such as the Food Corporation of India continue to rely on inadequate covered facilities, while delayed lifting leaves grain exposed to the elements.

Temporary fixes — tarpaulin sheets and ad hoc stacking — are no substitute for modern, weather-resilient infrastructure. The region is grappling with a volatile climate cycle, with early heat stress followed by erratic storms. Such swings also threaten the upcoming paddy season, where soil conditions and power-dependent irrigation will be critical. Meanwhile, wind damage to rural power lines has added another layer of uncertainty ahead of peak agricultural demand. Soaring temperatures are already pushing up power demand and straining water resources. In the hills of Himachal, the same weather pattern carries different risks, including landslides, disrupted tourism and potential harm to horticulture, particularly fruit crops at a sensitive stage.

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The region, heavily dependent on agriculture, stands particularly vulnerable. What is needed is a coordinated, forward-looking approach. State governments must invest in climate-resilient agriculture, strengthen localised forecasting systems and ensure that advisories actually reach farmers in real time. Inter-state coordination, too, is essential, given the shared ecological and economic landscape.

# Lessons from Vietnam

Subash Chandra Misra  
Of late, Vietnam has emerged as a hot tourist destination for desi tourists for the simple reason that it is less expensive than Singapore, Bangkok and Malaysia and has good tourist venues to offer. At the end of the tour, international tourists are amazed at the way the country emerged from two decades of war in which the lethal military machine of the USA was directly involved for about a decade with deployment of about 3 million military personnel including 5 lakh foot soldiers for ground invasion to subdue Vietnam. The cold war regime conflict between the capitalists and the communists resulted in a war between communist North Vietnam and the capitalist South with the Soviet Union and China doing the shadow fighting for the North Vietnam against USA supported by other allies for the South Vietnam. By the time the war ended in 1975, the economies of both North and South Vietnam were devastated with major infrastructure lying in rubble, agriculture fields mined, bombed and made unfit for cultivation and people suffering from high inflation and shortage of food. They survived on aid from USA and Soviet Union and finally merged in to one Vietnam in 1976. The combined Vietnam after the war made remarkable

recovery and today, with a land mass of one tenth the size of India, it has a nominal GDP of \$ 485 bn (2025) from a level of \$ 8 bn in 1990. It's per capita GDP at \$ 5000 is higher than our per capita GDP of \$2800. Even in PPP terms their per capita GDP is higher than ours. But 40 years ago it was a poor country with a per capita GDP of \$ 250. Their GDP growth rate has been above 6% in the recent years and the ADB has projected a growth rate of 7.2% for 2026. With a current inflation rate of less than 4% and unemployment rate of 3% it is now a well positioned economy. Like China it has an export led economy with export to GDP ratio of about 95%. Their annual merchandise export at \$ 470 bn is higher than that of India. Percentage of people below poverty line came down from 80% in early 90s to 5% in 2020. How did they achieve this ?

The country had nearly 3 million deaths in the war and about 3 million refugees taking shelter outside the country out of total population of 40 mn in 1970, and large scale destruction of infrastructure due to the 7 million tonnes of bombs dropped over the country. Though US was claiming victory throughout, the ground realities were otherwise and US ground soldiers were fatigued and unwilling to carry on.



With rising domestic opposition, US finally abandoned the South Vietnam to its fate and withdrew its soldiers. As South Vietnam soldiers did not even know how to use the weapons left by US soldiers, they were run over by the communist North Vietnam by a military campaign in 1975 and finally merged it with the North. They followed a centralized planned economy like USSR and China.

Though agriculture was the pre-war main occupation, US had sprayed 20 million gallons of herbicides known as "Agent Orange" on the forests and crop fields to defoliate the trees so that the Vietnamese soldiers can not hide under the green cover. This destroyed 20-30% of the forest cover, killed the aqualife like fish and agriculture fields populated with thousands of undetonated bombs made the fields unfit for cultivation. Red cross had recorded 4 million

cases of poisoning and one million people with health issues including cancer and diabetes due to Agent Orange. Therefore, Vietnam had no choice but to take up manufacturing in a big way which along with construction now contributes 38% to its GDP.

It introduced reforms in 1986 (known as Doi Moi reforms) and embraced economic capitalism with trade liberalization under which it signed bilateral trade agreements with more than 50 countries, joined the ASEAN free trade area and finally joined WTO in 2007 which enabled it to export at low tariff rates. It combined external liberalisation with domestic reforms to attract FDI and invested heavily in human and physical infrastructure through public investments. Lower labour costs and tech savvy manpower attracted global brands like Apple, Intel and Samsung to set high value

electronics manufacturing units in Vietnam. Soon electronics overtook apparel and constituted 30% of its exports. The country is now shifting from labor-intensive industries toward a more technology-driven model. It also brought in agricultural reforms under which farmers were free to sell their produce in the market.

It's emergence from ashes like a Phoenix and transformation of a communist economy in to a market economy, agrarian to electronics economy and from extreme poverty to middle class has not been without hiccups. The rapid growth required rapid rise in bank credit which followed with high NPAs and inflation during 2008-12. These issues have been addressed and the economy has improved. Yet the stock market, insurance sector and micro credit segment have not yet developed fully. Participation of the private sector in the economy remains much lower and the domestic consumption remains low. With less participation of private sector and less vibrant domestic economy, the export led economy is vulnerable to global headwinds and may become unsustainable to support high growth rate in the long run.

The author is a Retired Chief General Manager of Reserve Bank of India.

Badal Bhuyan

Many of you have travelled in the railways and have seen in the railway compartments the saying that less luggage makes travel more comfortable. In one sense, our life is a long journey.

This long journey, because we are accumulating a lot of luggage in the form of many desires, becomes some what trouble some. When we can diminish this luggage consisting of desires, then to some extent our

## Less Luggage

journey of life is going to be less trouble some.

This process of diminishing the luggage or shedding your desires as you go up in the journey of life is referred to in the language of Vedantha as Vairagya. Vairagya does not mean aban-

doning the house, leaving, leaving your surroundings, leaving your children and living in a forest. That is not Vairagya.

When we stay in the house, stay in the midst of our duties and perform our duties which we have to perform, having our minds free from desires and attachments to those duties, regarding all that we do as our actions for God's pleasure, that would be called proper Vairagya.

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## Gratitude & Happiness

Utkalananda Ajaya Kumar Behera  
We often tend to take things for granted in our lives, which becomes a reason for our misery. Gratitude bestows immense happiness, both to the giver and the receiver when offered with purity of heart. A simple 'Thank You' can transform a situation or relationship diametrically. Service of mankind, when done with selflessness, is a natural outcome of gratitude.

Gratitude should also not be with an expectation of the greeting or gesture to be returned. Even if we offer a glass of water to

someone with gratitude and selflessness, seeing the essence of Nirankar in them, it becomes a reason for bliss and joy. Gifting, sharing and caring are extremely sublime and delightful acts. This kind of offering becomes sewa, selfless service.

The sun, rivers, trees, earth and air, all have been continuously providing us with their resources, without any expectation. But we humans become selfish and enforce conditions while giving away even a little bit of what we have and

expect much more in return. This is the reason for our sorrow. This does not necessarily mean that we should not desire to grow in life.

It only means that after having performed a specific action, we should leave its outcome to the divine verdict, stay content and be thankful for what we are receiving. It means that growth is mutual and universal. We can't expect to save our home if our neighbour's house is on fire.

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## Sadhana - Satsang - Seva

Alekha Chandra Samal  
For a person who is in spiritual path following practice is very important. Sadhana : Our body & mind is unique. Great creation by Divine. Respect it, be proud of it and protect it till it naturally becomes an usable. Body is temple and mind/soul is diety. Nourish it. Both body and mind are precious for all our advancement. Keeping body and mind in good condition is sadhana. This may be exercise, asana, pranayama, meditation, swadhyaya like that. Sadhana makes you strong physically and emotionally.

Satsang : Vritti Swaroopya mitratra.. We become what we are accompanying. Always be in a situation where there is scope for increase in your satva guna. It is very important, you be with Truth and save your shakti created by your sadhana. Satsang make you humble and your strength is matured.

Seva : sa + eva : Seva. Like Him. Divine takes care of every thing in this universe. His Love is unconditional. every thing in nature is for benefit of others. submitting your self for carrying

out the actions like Divine is seva. Seva is unconditional and extend it to all his creations who deserve it. All your needs are fulfilled without your effort, when you are supporting his requirements. Seva brings the Divine grace as you are becoming part of Divine. When Sadhana, Satsang and seva becomes your part of Life, you are enlightened with unlimited joy.

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## World Press Freedom Day: Safeguarding Truth in an Age of Noise

Dr Vijay Garg

Every year on May 3, the world observes World Press Freedom Day—a day that serves as both a celebration and a caution. It honors the fundamental principles of press freedom, pays tribute to journalists who have lost their lives in the line of duty, and reminds governments of their duty to uphold the right to freedom of expression. In an era marked by rapid technological change, political polarization, and the rise of misinformation, the significance of

a free and independent press has never been more profound.

The Origins and Purpose  
World Press Freedom Day was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1993, following a recommendation from UNESCO. The date commemorates the 1991 Windhoek Declaration, a statement of principles advocating for an independent and pluralistic African press. Over time, the observance has grown into a global platform for dialogue on media freedom, journalistic ethics, and the evolving

challenges faced by the press.

At its core, the day underscores a simple yet powerful idea: a free press is essential for democracy. Without it, citizens are deprived of the information necessary to make informed decisions, hold leaders accountable, and participate meaningfully in public life. The Role of the Press in Society Journalists act as watchdogs, investigators, and storytellers. They uncover corruption, expose injustice, and bring hidden truths to light.

## How many times do we think of Him

Prof. Dr. Umesh Chandra Patra

A long time ago, there was a huge apple tree. A little boy loved to come and play around it ev-eryday. He climbed to the treetop, ate the apples, and took a nap in its shadow. He loved the tree and the tree loved to play with him. Time went by and the little boy had grown up and no longer played around the tree every day. One day, the boy came back to the tree and he looked sad. "Come and play with me", the tree asked the boy. "I am no longer a kid and I don't play around trees any more," the boy replied. "I want toys.

I need money to buy them." "Sorry, but I do not have money, but you can pick all my apples and sell them. Then, you will have money." The boy was so excited. He grabbed all the apples on the tree and left happily. The boy never came back after he picked the apples and the tree felt sad. One day, many years later, the boy who had now turned into a man returned. The tree was excited and said, "Come and play with me." The boy replied, "I do not have time to play. I have to work for my family and we need a house for shelter. Can you help me?" "Sorry, I do not have any house. But you can chop off my branches to build your house". So the man cut all the branches of the tree and left happily. The tree was glad to see him happy but the man never came back since then. The tree was again lonely and sad.

One hot summer day, the man returned and the tree was delighted. "Come and play with me!" the tree said. "I am getting old. I want to go sailing to relax myself. Can you give me a boat?" said the man. "Use my trunk to build

your boat. You can sail far away and be happy." So the man cut the tree trunk to make a boat. He went sailing and never showed up for a long time. Finally, the man returned after many years. "Sorry, my boy. But I do not have anything for you anymore. No more apples for you", the tree said. "No problem, I do not have any teeth to bite," the tree replied. "No more trunk for you to climb on". "I am too old for that now," the man said. "I really cannot give you anything, the only thing left is my dying roots," the tree said with tears. "I do not need much now, just a place to rest. I am tired after all these years," the man replied. "Good! Old tree roots are the best place to lean on and rest, come sit down with me and rest." The man sat down and the tree was glad and smiled with tears.

Now, replace the tree in the story with parents. When we are young, we love to play with our Mother and Father; but when we grow up, we leave them, only to come to them whenever we need support — material or emotional, or when we are in trouble. And no matter what, our parents always are there by our side and give us everything they can just to make us happy. Always, we take them for granted and don't appreciate all they do for us, until it's too late. It's the same with our divine parent too. Whenever we are beset with problems, we cry out to Him for help, how many times do we think of Him when everything is going pleasant and beautiful in our lives?

Retd. Prof. Hepatology Deptt. S.C.B. Medical College, Cuttack, Ph : 9437051957, E-mail : dumshardal23patra@gmail.com

## IndiGo Flight Evacuated After Fire In Passenger's Personal Electronic Equipment, Flyers Safe

New Delhi, 5/5: A passenger's personal electronic equipment caught fire onboard an IndiGo flight from Hyderabad to Chandigarh on Tuesday, which was stationary after landing, and all customers were safely moved to the terminal. The incident occurred on flight 6E 108 while the aircraft was on ground. Cabin crew responded immediately and managed to contain the situation, preventing any damage. "On 5 May 2026, while IndiGo flight 6E 108 from Hyderabad to Chandigarh was stationary after landing, an incident involving a customer's personal electronic equipment catching fire was reported," an IndiGo spokesperson said in a statement. In the interest of safety, an immediate evacuation was carried out and all the relevant authorities were



immediately informed, said the airline. "All customers have been safely moved to the terminal and are being attended to by the team to ensure their well-being. The aircraft will undergo necessary checks before resuming operations. At IndiGo, the safety of our customers and crew

remains our top priority," the spokesperson added. In an emergency, a full emergency was declared at New Delhi's Indra Gandhi International (IGI) airport, after an IndiGo flight purportedly developed a technical snag mid-air, leading to the failure of one of its engines.

The Delhi-bound flight made an emergency but safe landing on IGI's runway number 28. Ahead of the landing, all emergency services at the airport were pressed into action, and necessary arrangements were made by the Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL), as per existing aviation protocol. According to the Ministry of Civil Aviation, a full emergency was declared at the Airport at 10:39 a.m. The Ministry also informed that the flight landed at 10:54 in the morning safely and operations were now normal at the Airport. All 161 passengers and crew members on board were unharmed. Authorities confirmed that there was no damage to the aircraft. The IndiGo flight was flying from Andhra Pradesh's Visakhapatnam to Delhi.

## Cong The New Muslim League? Assembly Poll Results Reflect Party's Success In Polarising Political Battlefield

New Delhi, 5/5: Politics of polarisation has been a part of the larger battle on the ground in several constituencies where Assembly elections were held recently, with Muslim candidates put up by the Congress and its allies having triumphed in minority-influenced areas. In Assam, where polls were held across 126 seats in the state, Monday's results show that 18 out of 19 Assembly seats that the Congress won are by Muslims. Only one among the 79 non-Muslim candidates fielded by the party has managed to succeed. Going by the available results till now, a political debate has been set off where a national party like the Congress has apparently lost its acceptance pan-India and has decided to focus on a selective vote bank. In comparison, overall, the 'grand old party' had cornered 29 seats in 2021, with its then-alliance partners having won 21



more. Meanwhile, its new-found ally, the Akhil Gogoi-led Rajiwar Dal, has won two seats, of which one is a Muslim and the other the founder himself, who is under investigation by the National Investigation Agency (NIA). The probe agency has termed him "a kingpin of Maoist activities in the state". The activist has, however, denied the charge, claiming that cases against him were a result of "political

vendetta". Meanwhile, the BJP broke out of the two consecutive election results limited to 60 seats in 2016 and 2021 in the 126-strong Assam Assembly. It has managed to score wins in 82 constituencies, achieving a majority on its own for the first time. Other National Democratic Alliance (NDA) partners have cornered 20 more seats. In adjacent

## Fire Breaks Out At RBI Building In New Delhi, No Injuries Reported

New Delhi, 5/5: A fire broke out at the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) building here on Tuesday afternoon, but was controlled soon in a swift response from firefighting teams. No injuries or casualties were reported in the incident, officials said. According to officials, the blaze originated from a box containing solar panels within the premises. Firefighters were alerted to the situation at around 1.05 pm, following which five fire tenders were rushed to the spot. The fire was brought under control within 15 minutes, preventing any major damage or escalation. Authorities confirmed that the situation was handled quickly and safely, with no harm to personnel present at the building. The incident comes close on the heels of another fire reported in the city. A blaze had broken out earlier in the Chawri Bazar area of Delhi, for which a call was received by the Connaught Place Fire Station at around 7:21 pm on Sunday. Firefighting teams

were immediately dispatched to manage the situation. Meanwhile, last week, the central bank said that 98.47 per cent of the Rs 2,000 denomination banknotes in circulation have been returned, nearly three years after it announced their withdrawal. The central bank had declared the withdrawal of Rs 2,000 notes from circulation on May 19, 2023, as part of its currency management exercise. At that time, the total value of such notes in circulation stood at Rs 3.56 lakh crore. According to the latest data release by RBI on May 1, this figure has now sharply declined to Rs 5,451 crore as of April 30, 2026. "The total value of Rs 2000 banknotes in circulation, which was Rs 3.56 lakh crore at the close of business on May 19, 2023, when the withdrawal of Rs 2000 banknotes was announced, has declined to Rs 5,451 crore at the close of business on April 30, 2026," the central bank said.



## Delhi High Court Cautions Against Over-Expansive Interpretation Of Personality Rights

New Delhi, 5/5: The Delhi High Court has cautioned against an over-expansive interpretation of "personality rights", observing that not every individual achievement or academic success can be elevated to such protection, as it would result in "absurdity and incongruity". A single-judge Bench of Justice Tushar Rao Gedela made the observation while dealing with a commercial suit arising from a dispute between rival edtech platforms, involving allegations of defamation, disparagement, and unauthorised use of trademarks, as well as the use of a CLAT 2026 topper's identity. The Delhi High Court stated that expanding the scope of personality rights to cover every instance of success — such as a student securing a top rank in a competitive examination — would set an unworkable precedent. "In case any and every success, or a milestone achieved, is held to be sufficient to be raised to the level of a 'personality right', it would lead to absurdity and incongruity," Justice Gedela said. "If such



interpretation is carried forward, then every aspirant, candidate, student, citizen of this country, who achieves or is declared as a top ranker in every stage of examination, would be entitled to protection of their 'personality rights'," he added. The Delhi High Court observed that while personality rights have been recognised in cases involving

individuals with sustained public recognition and commercial value attached to their persona, the threshold cannot be diluted to cover isolated academic accomplishments. "Though the courts have not been able to concisely or precisely define 'personality rights', it is prudent to avoid such enlargement and widening of the scope to the levels

of incongruity and absurdity," the order said. The observations came against the backdrop of a dispute involving claims over the success of a minor student who secured All India Rank 1 in CLAT 2026, with rival coaching institutes accusing each other of misleading publicity and defamatory campaigns. At the same time, the Delhi High Court said that the

minor's position appeared to be distinct from that of the coaching institutes involved in the dispute, remarking that "her situation seems to be that of a pawn" in a larger rivalry between competing edtech entities. "It was not appropriate for the defendant nos. 1 and 2 to carry out any campaign, whether defamatory or otherwise, in the name of plaintiff no. 3," Justice Gedela observed, adding that the student had already clarified her position and requested that her name not be dragged into the controversy. While refraining from conclusively adjudicating the issue of personality rights at this stage, the order clarified that the present case could not be decided on that basis alone. On a prima facie assessment, the Delhi High Court found that the defendants' posts, blogs, and videos appeared to be disparaging and intended to tarnish the reputation and goodwill of the plaintiffs, including through unauthorised use of their registered trademark "LegalEdge".

## Vietnam President To Lam Arrives In New Delhi On His First State Visit To India

New Delhi, 5/5: Vietnamese President To Lam on Tuesday arrived in New Delhi on a three-day State Visit to India. Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Nityanand Rai welcomed the visiting leader at airport. Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stated that President To Lam's visit to India will strengthen bilateral ties. "Chao mung, Excellency! General Secretary, President of Vietnam, Mr. To Lam, has arrived in New Delhi on his first State Visit to India. He was accorded a warm welcome and received by Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai," Jaiswal posted on X. "This year, we are marking the milestone of 10 years of India-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. The visit will further strengthen our multifaceted and robust bilateral relations," he added. Earlier in the day, President To Lam offered prayers at the Mahabodhi Temple in Bihar.



Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary extended a warm welcome to the Vietnamese President upon his arrival in Gayaji. To Lam, also the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, will be in India till May 7. This is his first visit to India after being elected as the President of Vietnam last month. During his visit, President

To Lam will be accorded a ceremonial welcome at the forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan on May 6. Following this, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold wide-ranging discussions with President To Lam across the spectrum of bilateral relations, along with regional and global issues of mutual interest. President Droupadi

Murmu will also hold a meeting with the visiting leader. Other leaders are also expected to call on President To Lam in New Delhi. During his visit, President To Lam is also scheduled to travel to Mumbai. He will visit National Stock Exchange, meet Maharashtra Chief Minister and Governor. He is also scheduled to attend a business forum in Mumbai. "India and Vietnam share historical and civilisational ties, which have steadily deepened over the years. President To Lam's visit coincides with the special occasion of the two countries marking the 10th anniversary of the elevation of relations to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, agreed during the visit of Prime Minister Modi to Vietnam in 2016," the MEA stated earlier. "The engagement between leaders is expected to provide fresh momentum to the robust bilateral relations and open new avenues for cooperation between India and Vietnam," it added.

New Delhi, 5/5: Union Minister Kiren Rijju on Tuesday disapproved of Arvind Kejriwal's attempt to doubt Prime Minister Narendra Modi's popularity and hit out at the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader for refusal to credit the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s tallest leader the party's mega win in the West Bengal Assembly elections. Rijju criticised the opposition parties for remaining in denial over the issue of PM Modi's popularity and also advised them to stop putting up a fake show of unity. In a post on social media platform X, the Union Minister said, "Even a blind person could see PM Narendra Modi's popularity better. The one who is pretending to sleep cannot be awakened. All those parties, which used to hurl abuses at each other, have today been forced to come together, and yet they have the audacity to say that PM Modi Ji is not popular!" Earlier, Kejriwal, in a message on X, raised suspicion over the BJP's emphatic win in West Bengal, claiming that it has come at a time when the "Modi Wave" appeared to be waning. "The Delhi and Bengal that the BJP couldn't win even at the peak of the 'Modi Wave'... In 2015 in Delhi and 2016 in Bengal, they got just 3-3 seats each... That very Delhi and Bengal, the BJP



managed to win when PM Narendra Modi's popularity was plummeting to rock bottom across the entire country... How?" AAP Convenor Kejriwal said. Kejriwal's remarks on PM Modi's popularity come close to the latter surpassing the landmark figure of 100 million followers on Instagram, becoming the first serving world leader and politician to reach the milestone on the social media platform. Having joined Instagram in 2014, Prime Minister Modi has, over the past decade, transformed his account into one of the most active and widely followed digital platforms among global leaders. His presence on the social media platform has steadily expanded, reflecting a sustained outreach strategy that

connects with audiences both in India and abroad. Apart from this, Prime Minister Modi's "jhalhuri" snack break during the election campaigning in West Bengal on April 19 took the social media by storm, with photos and videos of him relishing a local street snack and interacting with a vendor drawing massive engagement. Prime Minister Modi's visit to a "jhalhuri" stall clocked more than 100 million views within 24 hours of being shared on Instagram and garnered over 90 million views on Facebook Reels. The metrics, gathered from his personal social media accounts, indicated strong public interest in the Prime Minister's "jhalhuri moment" in the poll-bound state.

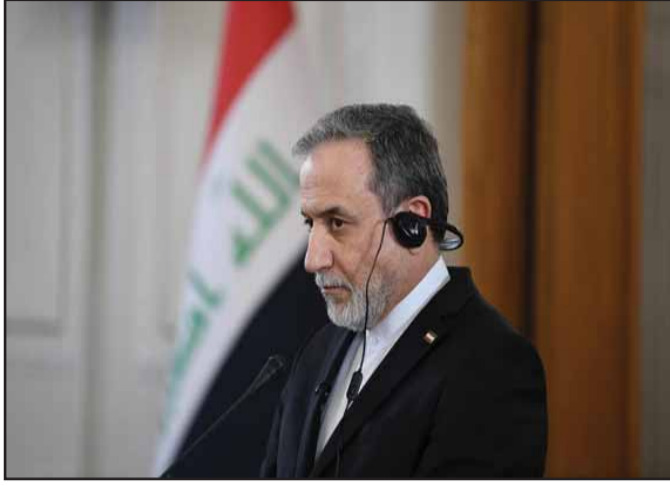
## Raghav Chadha's Sharp Attack On AAP After BJP Merger; Alleges Vendetta, Intimidation

New Delhi: Launching a scathing attack on the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), MP Raghav Chadha on Tuesday accused his former party of resorting to "vindictive politics" and misusing state machinery to target leaders who recently merged with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Drawing a contrast between AAP's past and present conduct, Chadha said, "As long as we were obedient, we were called virtuous. The moment we parted ways, we were branded corrupt. Those who describe loot and

plunder as 'staunch honesty' — how can anyone maintain friendship with them?" He went on to liken AAP's behaviour to that of "an obsessed, jilted ex", alleging that the party has been unable to accept their exit and has instead turned bitter and retaliatory. Detailing alleged instances of harassment, Chadha claimed that since April 24, 2026 — the day seven MPs formally joined the BJP — multiple leaders have faced intimidation.

# Iranian Foreign Minister Travels To China, Set To Hold Talks With Counterpart Wang Yi

Tehran, 5/5: Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi will arrive in China later on Tuesday as part of Tehran's ongoing diplomatic consultations with various nations, local media reported. During his visit, Araghchi is scheduled to hold talks with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi, where both ministers will discuss bilateral ties, regional and international developments, Iran's semi-official Tasnim News Agency reported. Araghchi's visit to Beijing comes a few days after he had travelled to Pakistan, Oman and Russia. On April 27, Araghchi called on Russian President Vladimir Putin in Saint Petersburg as the Kremlin reiterated its support for bringing peace in the Middle East, local media reported. "For our part, we will do everything that serves your interests, the interests of all the peoples of the region, to ensure that this peace is achieved as quickly as possible. You know



our position well," Russia's Tass news agency quoted Putin as saying during the meeting with the visiting Iranian minister. During the meeting, Araghchi conveyed wishes of Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei and President Masoud Pezeshkian to Putin. He mentioned that people of Iran, through their courage, were able to resist "US aggression". He

expressed gratitude to Putin and Russia for their support to Iran and stated that the ties between Iran and Russia share a "strategic partnership at the highest level" and will develop "regardless of everything that happens," Tass reported. Araghchi arrived in Russia after concluding his visit to Oman. During his visit to Muscat, Araghchi met Oman's

Sultan Haitham bin Tariq and briefed him about Iran's stance on the latest developments in West Asia after the joint Israel-US strikes against Iran. He expressed appreciation for Oman's support for dialogue and promoting efforts aimed at enhancing security and stability in the region, especially considering the current regional challenges, Iran's Press TV reported. Sultan Haitham highlighted Oman's stance on advancing mediation efforts that would increase the chances of reaching sustainable political solutions and mitigate the impact of crises on the people of the region. He stressed the importance of using dialogue and diplomacy to resolve issues. Iran and the US reached a two-week ceasefire starting on April 8. Later, the two nations held the first round of talks on April 11-12 aimed at ending the conflict. However, the talks collapsed after 21 hours of negotiations.

Abu Dhabi, 5/5: Several countries around the world, including Japan, Ireland, Austria, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan, on Tuesday condemned the recent attack carried out by Iran on the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The UAE's Defence Ministry reported on Monday that its defence systems engaged 12 ballistic missiles, three cruise missiles and four UAV's. Three Indian nationals were among those injured in attacks in Fujairah. Japan's Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi said that she was "deeply concerned" to learn about the attack on the UAE. "As for Japan, with a view toward calming the situation, we have continued discussions at the summit level with the parties concerned, mediating countries, neighbouring countries, and others, and we will continue to make persistent and necessary diplomatic efforts," the Japanese PM posted on X. The Royal Hashemite Court of Jordan said

that King Abdullah II held a phone call with Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, during which he condemned the renewed Iranian attacks on the UAE. King Abdullah also affirmed "Jordan's support for all measures taken by the State of the UAE to protect its security and sovereignty." Ireland's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Helen McEntee, said that Ireland condemns the missile and drone attacks by Iran on the UAE and urged all parties to preserve the ceasefire in the Gulf. She also said that freedom of navigation must be resumed and international law upheld. The Austrian Foreign Ministry stated, "We strongly condemn Iran's unprovoked missile and drone strikes against our Gulf partners and express our full solidarity with the UAE and Oman. These attacks have to end

immediately; de-escalation and a diplomatic solution are urgently needed." The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia called for de-escalation, restraint and support for diplomatic efforts to reach a political solution. "The Kingdom also stresses the importance of restoring freedom of international maritime navigation in the Strait of Hormuz to its normal state prior to February 28, and calls for ensuring the safe and secure passage of vessels without restrictions," read a statement issued by the Saudi Foreign Ministry. Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Modi also strongly condemned the attack and expressed India's solidarity with the UAE while reiterating support for the peaceful resolution of all issues through dialogue and diplomacy. "Strongly condemn the attacks on the UAE that resulted in injuries to three Indian nationals.

## Development Cooperation Important Pillar Of India-Jamaica Ties: EAM Jaishankar

Kingston, 5/5: External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar has emphasised that development cooperation remains central to the India-Jamaica relationship, with both sides exploring new avenues to deepen bilateral engagement. Addressing a press conference following his meeting with Jamaican counterpart Kamina J. Smith on Monday (local time), EAM Jaishankar said, "Our talks today were comprehensive and very substantive, and we reviewed the entire gamut of India-Jamaica relations. We identified new avenues for further strengthening our partnership." He said that both the nations have signed several agreements and discussed "effective implementations" of MOUs, which were recently concluded across the fields of digital transformation, cultural exchange, sports, and digital payments, "to ensure tangible outcomes on the ground". Stressing that "development cooperation remains a very important pillar of our partnership", the EAM welcomed the successful completion and handover of the Improving Rural Livelihoods project in Kingston Town in March. The project was supported by India with US\$1 million under the India-UN

Development Partnership Fund through the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC). "The project has directly benefited over 200 individuals and has a wider positive impact on thousands in the Kingston Town community," he noted. EAM Jaishankar stressed that both sides explored the feasibility of the establishment of an artisan empowerment hub for Jamaica as part of New Delhi's commitment under the India-CARICOM Development Partnership. He also expressed satisfaction with India's role in supporting Jamaica's recovery and reconstruction efforts following Hurricane Melissa last year. Highlighting health initiatives by India, the EAM said, "There was a symbolic handing over of what was one of the consignments of 10 BHISHM Cubes. We are also in the process of supplying 30 dialysis units to strengthen the health infrastructure in Jamaica. This is in continuation of the earlier humanitarian assistance provided in the aftermath of the hurricane, where over twenty tonnes of relief material were delivered through an

Indian Air Force plane." "We deployed a medical team to build for local capacities. And these efforts reflect our commitment as a reliable development partner for disaster



response. We have been discussing expanding our cooperation in several areas of mutual interest, particularly defence and security, healthcare, digitisation, agriculture, education, and infrastructure," he added. EAM Jaishankar stated that his discussions with Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness covered key regional and global developments, with both sides reaffirming close cooperation in multilateral fora, particularly on reformed multilateralism and priorities of the Global South. While concluding, he expressed confidence that the outcome of the discussions would contribute to a stronger, more dynamic, beneficial, and trust-based partnership.

## 21 Killed, 61 Injured In China Fireworks Plant Explosion

Changsha, 5/5: The fireworks plant explosion in central China's Hunan Province has left 21 people dead and 61 others injured, authorities said Tuesday. The explosion occurred at around 4:43 p.m. Monday at the plant of Huasheng fireworks manufacturing and display company in Liuyang, a county-level city under Changsha, capital city of Hunan. More than 480 rescuers in five teams have been mobilised for the rescue, with three rescue robots deployed. As the explosion site is located near two black powder warehouses, the rescuers have evacuated nearby residents and set up a buffer zone to prevent a secondary accident. As of 8 a.m. Tuesday, the rescuers had confirmed the casualties following the first round of searching. The injured have been rushed to hospital for treatment and the second round of searching is underway.



The Ministry of Emergency Management has dispatched experts to the scene to guide the emergency rescue efforts. The person in charge of the company has been detained by police and the cause of the accident is being investigated, Xinhua news agency reported. Rescue teams had to evacuate everyone within a 3km (1.9mi) radius of the fireworks plant. They also implemented measures like humidifying the area to "prevent secondary accidents during the rescue". China President Xi Jinping has urged all-out efforts to search for people who are still unaccounted for and save the injured. Xi also called for an investigation into the accident to hold those responsible to account, state media reported. Liuyang city is known for fireworks manufacturing, touted in reports as the world's largest producer of fireworks. Blasts at fireworks factories and shops are not uncommon in China - and are often deadly. In February, 12 people were killed in an explosion at a fireworks store in Hubei province.

# Trump Says Iran Fired At South Korean Vessel, Urges Seoul To Join Strait Of Hormuz Mission

Seoul/Washington, 5/5: US President Donald Trump has claimed that Iran has taken shots at a South Korean cargo ship and other targets, noting that it is time for Seoul to participate in a mission to reopen the crucial Strait of Hormuz. Trump made the remarks in a social media post as the United States launched an operation, called Project Freedom, on Monday (local time), to guide commercial vessels stranded by the US-Israeli war against Iran, out of the waterway, a key shipping route for oil, fertiliser and other commodities. "Iran has taken some shots at unrelated Nations with respect to the Ship Movement, PROJECT FREEDOM, including a South Korean Cargo Ship. Perhaps it's time for South Korea to come and join the mission!" Trump wrote on Truth Social. "We've shot down seven small Boats or, as they like to call them, 'fast' Boats. It's all they have left. Other than the South Korean Ship, there has been, at this moment, no damage going through the Strait," he added. Trump's comment came



after Seoul's foreign ministry said that an explosion occurred on a Panama-flagged ship operated by HMM Co., a major South Korean shipping firm, in the Strait of Hormuz, and that the cause of the explosion is under investigation, reports Yonhap news agency. The ship was anchored in waters near the United Arab Emirates within the strait. It was carrying 24 crew members on board - six South Koreans and 18 foreign nationals. No casualties were reported. Amid Iran's pushback in the waterway, Trump warned in a phone



Post reported. According to the statement, the group conducted an intelligence-based operation on May 2 in the Naag-Grari area of Washuk, killing two "armed death squad agents". The BLF claimed that its fighters attacked the main Pakistani military camp in the Tirteeg area of Awaran on April 29, beginning with a sniper strike that killed a soldier on guard. The attack, followed by fire from LMGs and other heavy weapons, caused additional losses and destruction inside the camp. Additionally, the group said it carried out an attack on a Pakistani military checkpoint in

the Geshkour-Zek area of Kolwah in Awaran on April 28, killing one soldier with a sniper shot before targeting the checkpoint with heavy weapons, causing further losses and damage to defensive positions. The BLF said its fighters attacked personnel stationed at the Cadet College checkpoint in Mastung on April 27 using automatic weapons, killing two soldiers and subsequently establishing a blockade on the highway. The group further said that it set up another blockade on the same day near Makka Hotel in Khad Kocho, during which the Aziz checkpoint

was attacked with heavy weapons, killing four Pakistani soldiers and injuring several others. The BLF further claimed an attack on a Pakistani military checkpoint installed at the post. The statement also cited two earlier cases in the Konshqal area of Tump, where the BLF said it detained and subsequently executed two men accused of spying for Pakistani forces and alleged involvement in enforced disappearances and targeted killings of Baloch civilians.

supply. Last month, the US president pointed out that South Korea was "not helpful" to the US despite America having stationed its troops "in harm's way" in the Asian country, which he stressed is located "right next to" North Korea's nuclear forces. Trump has taken steps against European countries that have shown a lack of support for the Iran war or have not acceded to his calls for naval assistance to secure the Strait of Hormuz. The Pentagon has announced a plan to withdraw around 5,000 troops from Germany, while Trump said last week that he would raise tariffs on cars and trucks from the European Union to 25 per cent from 15 per cent. The explosion on the Korea-linked vessel came as the US kicked off the new operation to restore freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz, which Iran has effectively blocked in the midst of the Middle East war. During a phone news conference, US Central Command (CENTCOM) Commander Adm. Brad Cooper said that the US

military has destroyed six Iranian small boats and intercepted Iranian cruise missiles and drones as the operation, Project Freedom, got underway, according to Reuters. The rise in tensions darkened the prospects for what appears to be a fragile ceasefire between the US and Iran. For the new operation, CENTCOM has said that the US would deploy guided-missile destroyers, more than 100 land and sea-based aircraft, multi-domain unmanned platforms and 15,000 service members. Under Project Freedom, the US Navy helps commercial ships transit the Strait of Hormuz by advising them on how to avoid mines and being on standby to intervene if Iran launches an attack on them, Axios reported. The U.S. has no current plan for full naval escorts, it added, citing US officials. CENTCOM wrote on social media earlier in the day that two US-flagged merchant vessels have successfully transited through the strait and are safely headed on their journey.

## Healthcare to the Last Mile: Vedanta Aluminium's efforts in Rayagada and Kalahandi

BHUBANESWAR, 5/5(DMS): Across the interior regions of Rayagada and Kalahandi districts in Odisha, access to healthcare has been shaped as much by distance, terrain and low awareness as it has as by proximity to infrastructure. Villages here are largely scattered and transport options limited, with medical facilities concentrated in semi-urban areas far from where several sections of the local population live and work. These circumstances have led to significant challenges in combating seasonal diseases such as malaria and led to the proliferation of undiagnosed chronic conditions and delayed treatments. This dire situation places added pressure on already vulnerable households, particularly tribal and rural communities. In these districts, where healthcare access is frequently disrupted by geographical and livelihood constraints, early diagnosis and continuity of care is critical, yet

elusive. It is within this context that Vedanta Aluminium's Project Aarogya operates, anchoring healthcare delivery in the lived realities of Rayagada and Kalahandi. In FY26 alone, the initiative benefited nearly 1.26 lakh people across the two districts by taking essential healthcare services to people, building preventive awareness, and strengthening emergency and referral support. One of the most visible interventions under the project has been the deployment of well-equipped Mobile Health Units, which now regularly cover over 100+ villages in the farthest reaches of Rayagada and Kalahandi. Functioning as portable primary care centres, these units offering consultations, diagnostics and medicines, especially crucial in locations where the nearest health facility may be several kilometres away. For many residents, this has been their first consistent point of contact with trained medical professionals. "Earlier we ignored



small symptoms because visiting a hospital meant losing a workday. Now check-ups happen in the village itself. This project has been a true boon for our communities," said Bhumita Majhi, a resident of

Rayagada. In addition to regular outreach, 12 mega health camps were organised in FY26 across Kalahandi, benefiting over 5,000 patients by bringing multi-specialty services to numerous underserved

regions. These camps addressed concerns ranging from general ailments to more complex issues such as orthopaedic issues and eye care, conditions that often go untreated in the absence of specialist access.

## Sensex, Nifty End Lower As Geopolitical Tensions Drag Markets

Mumbai, 5/5: Indian equity benchmarks ended lower on Tuesday, as rising geopolitical tensions in West Asia weighed on investor sentiment, pulling down banking, realty, and oil and gas stocks. The Nifty slipped 86.50 points, or 0.36 per cent, to close at 24,032.80, while the Sensex declined 251.61 points, or 0.33 per cent, to settle at 77,017.79. The benchmarks erased gains from the previous session as selling pressure intensified through the day. Sectorally, banking, real estate, and oil and gas stocks emerged as the biggest laggards — reflecting concerns over global growth and rising uncertainty in energy markets. In contrast, auto and FMCG stocks showed resilience, providing some support to the broader market. The broader indices, however, displayed a mixed trend. The Nifty MidCap index ended 0.17 per cent higher, while the Nifty SmallCap index gained 0.28 per cent. Market sentiment remained cautious amid escalating tensions in West Asia. Reports suggested that the United States and Iran have exchanged fire near the Strait of Hormuz, despite a ceasefire that had been in place for over a month. The renewed conflict has raised fears of prolonged instability in the region, which is critical for global oil supplies. "Going ahead, market direction is likely to stay sensitive to geopolitical developments and incremental cues from upcoming earnings," a market expert stated. Meanwhile, Rupee extended its weakness, slipping below 95.25 to trade near 95.30 as elevated crude prices above \$100 kept pressure on the currency. "In the near term, 94.70 is likely to act as resistance, while 95.50 is seen as immediate support, with markets closely tracking US non-farm payrolls and unemployment data this week for further direction," an analyst stated.

## India Has Ample Fertiliser Stocks To Meet Farmers' Needs: Govt

New Delhi, 5/5: India's fertiliser stocks remain substantially higher than the requirement in states reflecting the strong opening position for the ongoing kharif season, the Department of Fertilisers said on Monday. The availability of urea is at 62.28 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) on May 3, as against a requirement of 2.66 LMT, while DAP's availability is 20.32 LMT against 0.85 LMT requirement, MOP availability is 7.60 LMT against 0.22 LMT requirement, NPK availability is 49.71 LMT against 1.16 LMT requirement, and SSP availability is 24.60 LMT against 0.55 LMT requirement, the department said in a statement. For kharif 2026, the fertiliser requirement has been assessed by the Ministry of Agriculture at 390.54 lakh metric tonnes (LMT), and against this, the stock as on Monday is around 195.71 LMT, which is more than 50 per cent of the total requirement for the entire season. This is significantly higher than the usual level of about 33 per cent of earlier years. India's fertiliser security remains strong, stable, and



well-managed, with availability consistently exceeding requirements across all major fertilisers, according to the statement. This reflects improved planning, advance stocking, and efficient logistics management by the government, the statement said. A total of approximately 84 LMT of fertilisers has been added to the availability after the crisis situation developed in West Asia. In April this year, urea production achieved the domestic production of 20.98 LMT as compared to 21.89 LMT in April last year, the statement said. India has secured a total of 38.07 LMT

of urea through global tender since February-end to date. The country has also secured around 6 LMT of NPK, which is scheduled to arrive at Indian ports in May and June. Indian fertiliser companies have issued an aggregated global tender for the procurement of 12 LMT DAP, 4 LMT TSP, and 3 LMT ammonium sulphate last week. These will help to ensure adequate availability during the peak season. Availability of inputs for production of fertilisers, including urea and P&K fertilisers, is being regularly reviewed by the Department of Fertilisers, the statement added.

## India's Steel Exports Surge 29.1 Per Cent Amid Rising Self-Reliance

New Delhi, 5/5: India's exports of steel rose by 29.1 per cent in March 2026 compared to the same month of the previous year, while imports declined sharply by 9.5 per cent, reflecting the increasing self-reliance in the sector, according to an official statement issued on Tuesday. The positive shift underscores India's emergence as a reliable global steel supplier. It also demonstrates the country's improved ability to meet rising domestic demand. India's steel production registered a robust 9.1 per cent growth in the financial year 2025-26 compared to the same period last year, reflecting the increasing self-reliance in the sector. India has also established itself as a leading exporter of iron and steel alloys. Rising exports of steel and related products contribute to higher foreign exchange earnings. This, in turn, helps improve the trade balance. It supports the broader vision of a self-sustained and resilient industrial ecosystem under Atmanirbhar Bharat, the statement said. The top destinations for India's finished steel exports in March 2026 were Vietnam, Belgium, and Taiwan. Together, they comprise more than 50 per cent



of India's total finished steel exports. Besides, exports of finished steel increased by 35.80 per cent in FY 2025-26 compared to the same period last year. Meanwhile, imports declined by 46.47 per cent during the same period. The government has implemented several measures to strengthen raw material availability, ensure global market access, and reduce import dependence. These steps have lowered production costs, driven growth in the steel industry, and

supported MSMEs and small steel producers. Under the PLI scheme, Rs 23,022 crore investment supported specialty steel production and job creation. This resulted in 2.4 million tonnes of output and over 13,000 new jobs. India has achieved about 66 per cent of its National Steel Policy production target. Specialty steel is the downstream, value-added product of the steel manufacturing process. It is one of the 14 sectors covered under the PLI Scheme,

which aims to boost domestic production of high-value steel. It will improve the trade balance and raise export value realisation. It will also help the Indian steel industry upgrade technology and move up the value chain, the statement said. Going forward, green steel aims to reduce emissions by avoiding the use of fossil fuels to reduce the carbon footprint. India is also committed to decarbonising the sector and achieving net-zero emissions by 2070, the statement added.

## New AI Frontiers Open as Global Leaders Enter Indian Enterprise Market

NEW DELHI, 5/5: Anthropic and OpenAI have officially expanded their enterprise operations within India, signaling a direct challenge to established domestic IT leaders like TCS and Infosys. This strategic entry involves the launch of localised AI services designed to integrate advanced models directly into the core workflows of Indian businesses. By establishing physical offices in Bengaluru and Mumbai, these firms aim to capture a significant share of the rapidly growing demand for specialized automation and data-driven intelligence.

The arrival of these Silicon Valley giants marks a shift from general-purpose chatbots to mission-critical business tools. OpenAI has introduced its "OpenAI for India" initiative, which includes a sovereign AI infrastructure plan in collaboration with the Tata Group. Meanwhile, Anthropic is leveraging its Claude models to provide high-performance coding and workflow solutions, citing India as its second-largest global market for technical usage. Historically, the Indian IT sector has relied on labor-intensive



service models, but the rise of "Agentic AI" - systems capable of executing complex tasks autonomously - is forcing a transition toward AI-native engineering. While domestic firms like TCS are responding by building massive IGW green-energy data centers through their HyperVault unit, the presence of direct service offerings from AI

creators adds a new layer of competition to the outsourcing landscape. Industry analysts suggest that this influx of technology could redefine roles within the nation's massive software workforce. Instead of displacing workers, the focus is shifting toward augmentation, where Indian developers use these tools to accelerate software

lifecycles. For Odisha, a state rapidly emerging as a technology hub with initiatives like O-Hub and various IT parks, this global expansion offers local startups direct access to world-class AI resources, potentially narrowing the gap between regional innovation and international standards.

## Indian Markets Stage Partial Comeback Despite Global Pressure and Rising Oil Costs

NEW DELHI, 5/5: Indian benchmark indices staged a notable recovery from their intraday lows during Tuesday's session, with the Nifty 50 returning to the 24,000 zone. While the morning trade saw a sharp decline of over 700 points on the Sensex due to escalating friction in the Middle East, buying interest emerged at lower levels to cushion the fall. Global markets remain on edge as supply concerns regarding the Strait of Hormuz keep Brent crude prices volatile, hovering between \$107 and \$110 per barrel. Locally, investors are balancing these external shocks against domestic political stability following recent state election results. Historically, Indian markets have shown a tendency to consolidate during the month of May as corporate earnings reports take center stage, shifting the focus from broad sentiment to individual company



fundamentals. Information Technology stocks emerged as a defensive shield during the session, with companies like Infosys and TCS seeing gains of over 1%. This contrarian buying helped offset losses in the banking and financial services sectors, which faced heavy selling pressure. Small-cap and mid-cap indices also showed pockets of strength, suggesting that retail

participation remains active despite the headline volatility. Market experts suggest that the near-term trajectory depends heavily on whether crude oil prices stabilize. Investors are currently adopting a cautious approach, focusing on fundamentally strong businesses in consumption and infrastructure to navigate the current turbulence.

