

Dumani Mail

Published simultaneously from Bhubaneswar (Odisha), Keonjhar (Odisha) and New Delhi.



Delhi CM Rekha Gupta approves 805.99 crore medical college in Dwarka to boost healthcare infrastructure

New Delhi : The Delhi Government, under Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, has approved the construction of a modern medical college and hostel complex at the Indira Gandhi Hospital campus in Dwarka. The project, estimated to cost Rs 805.99 crore, aims to be completed by the year 2028, as per the press release issued by the CMO.

In a major push to Delhi's healthcare and medical education infrastructure, the project received clearance at a recent meeting of the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) chaired by the Chief Minister.

According to the Chief Minister, the project will include a full-fledged medical college, separate hostels for male and female students,

faculty housing and a modern academic block. The initiative is expected to address the growing demand for doctors in the capital while significantly strengthening healthcare services in Delhi. The medical college will be developed in accordance with National Medical Commission (NMC) norms and will eventually accommodate 250 MBBS seats every year. Teaching activities will begin with an initial batch of 150 students, the release said.

CM Rekha Gupta said the project would be executed in phases. The first phase will focus on the construction of the academic block, student hostels and residential quarters for faculty

members. Around 1,17,246 square metres of area will be developed in this phase, including nearly 34,000 square metres of basement space for parking and other essential facilities. The academic block will be a multi-storey structure equipped with modern classrooms, laboratories and advanced teaching facilities. The hostels will be designed to accommodate a large number of students, while faculty residences will offer modern and comfortable living spaces. The Public Works Department (PWD) will carry out the construction work, while the Health and Family Welfare Department will oversee the project.

The Chief Minister also said the project would adopt



modern and sustainable construction techniques. The buildings will be earthquake-resistant and designed for energy efficiency. As part of the green building plan, the campus will feature solar

power systems, rainwater harvesting, water recycling mechanisms, ample natural lighting and proper ventilation. The entire campus will be made fully accessible for persons with disabilities, with ramps,

lifts, Braille signage and wheelchair-friendly pathways. Modern safety systems, including CCTV surveillance, fire alarms and fire safety infrastructure, will also be installed across the campus.

CM Rekha Gupta directed officials to strictly adhere to quality standards and project timelines. She said a robust quality assurance mechanism would be put in place and regular monitoring would be carried out to ensure timely completion. She also made it clear that unnecessary delays and cost overruns would not be tolerated.

The Chief Minister further said that procurement of equipment, recruitment of staff, university affiliation and other operational requirements for the medical college would be completed in later stages in line with NMC norms.

Calling the project a long-term investment in Delhi's healthcare future,

CM Rekha Gupta said the initiative was not just about building another medical college, but about strengthening the city's overall healthcare system. She said the government's goal is to ensure better and accessible healthcare for every resident of the capital, and increasing the number of trained doctors is crucial to achieving that objective.

She expressed confidence that once operational, the institution would benefit not only Delhi residents but also people from neighbouring regions seeking quality medical treatment. Reaffirming the government's commitment to quality medical education, the Chief Minister said the new institution would play a key role in producing skilled doctors for the future.

New Delhi: Man stabbed to death near Shastri Park fish market; Delhi police launch probe

New Delhi : The Delhi Police reached the fish market area of Shastri Park on Thursday following reports of a man being allegedly stabbed during the early hours. The victim was found near the Buland Masjid area with critical injuries and was immediately moved to a hospital, where he was declared dead upon arrival.

According to the Team of PS Shastri Park. "Today, on 07.05.2026, at around 1:30 AM, information regarding a stabbing incident was received at PS Shastri Park. When the police team reached

near Fish Market, Buland Masjid, Shastri Park, Delhi, they found Fakrudin in an injured condition with stab wounds. His family members took him to JPC Hospital, where the attending doctor declared him brought dead."

The Delhi Police further informed that in this regard, an FIR under Section 103(1) BNS was registered at PS Shastri Park, and an investigation was initiated. The forensic team inspected the crime scene and collected relevant evidence. The police team

worked continuously on the case, gathered important clues, and arrested the accused involved in the murder. The arrested accused has been identified as Mohsin.

The police informed that during sustained interrogation, the accused disclosed that he had an ongoing dispute with the deceased. Detailed verification further revealed that the accused Mohsin was previously involved in seven criminal cases related to assault, theft, and robbery.

Further investigation into the matter is underway. Earlier this month, in a separate incident, Delhi police informed about an incident which was reported from the Sarai Rohilla police station area in North Delhi, in which a man and his brother-in-law were allegedly stabbed.

According to officials, both injured persons were admitted to RML Hospital for treatment but succumbed to their injuries last night. "Investigation is in progress, and all angles are being examined," Delhi Police said.

Operation Sindoor signalled no terror sanctuary is safe: Indian military

New Delhi: Operation Sindoor signalled that no terror sanctuary is safe in Pakistan and the mission was just the beginning, the Indian military said on Thursday as it commemorated the first anniversary of the multi-domain combat campaign.

The heads of military operations of the Indian Air Force, Navy and the Indian Army addressed a press conference in Jaipur detailing various aspects of the operation that was billed as India's most expansive combat mission in half a century to punish Pakistan for its support to cross-border terrorism.

"Operation Sindoor was not an end and it was just the beginning," Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai, who played a key role in executing the operation in his capacity as the Army's



Director General of Military Operations (DGMO), said.

Ghai said Operation Sindoor saw India very coherently go beyond its erstwhile methods to target terror infrastructure across the Line of Control and international boundary with Pakistan.

It was a statement of resolve, responsibility and strategic restraint by our nation, he noted, adding it was executed with precision, proportionality and clarity

of purpose. "India will defend its sovereignty, its security, and its people decisively, professionally and with the utmost responsibility," Ghai said.

Operation Sindoor signalled that no terror sanctuary in Pakistan is safe, he said.

We planned, executed and concluded a complex multi-domain operation in a remarkably compressed timeframe, he said.

Air Marshal AK Bharti,

the then Director General of Air Operations, said Operation Sindoor reaffirmed primacy of air power.

In response to the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22 in which 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed, India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7 last year, carrying out airstrikes on nine terror infrastructures in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

The action triggered a rapid escalation in tensions with Pakistan launching retaliatory strikes, though most of them were thwarted by the Indian military.

The hostilities ended with an understanding on halting the military actions on May 10 following talks over the hotline between army officials of the two sides.

Delhi HC says it will pass order in businessman Aman Gupta's personality rights case

New Delhi : The Delhi High Court on Thursday indicated that it would pass an interim order protecting the personality rights of Businessman Aman Gupta, co-founder of boAt Lifestyle and judge on Shark Tank India.

Justice Tushar Rao Gedela observed, "We will pass an order," after hearing submissions in the matter.

Senior Advocate Diya Kapur, appearing for Gupta, told the Court that his name, image and trademark were being used

without permission across fake endorsements, merchandise sales, event booking platforms, AI chatbots and objectionable online content.

Counsel appearing for Google submitted that while certain infringing content could be removed, taking down memes and harmless content may not always be feasible. The Court, however, clarified that not every post would require removal while

signalling interim relief in Gupta's favour.

The Delhi High Court has, in a series of judgments, recognised personality rights as part of the right to privacy and dignity protected under Article 21 of the Constitution.

The Court has repeatedly held that a person's name, voice, image, likeness and mannerisms cannot be commercially exploited without consent, particularly in cases involving AI-generated

deepfakes, fake endorsements, misleading websites and unauthorised merchandise.

Over the years, the High Court has granted protection to several public personalities, including Anil Kapoor, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Abhishek Bachchan, Raj Shamani, Amitabh Bachchan, Allu Arjun, Mohanlal, Jubin Nautiyal, Pawan Kalyan, Sunil Gavaskar, Kajol, R. Madhavan, N. T. Rama Rao Jr., Sri Sri Ravi Shankar and Karan Johar.

Nora Fatehi apologises before NCW over 'Sarke Chunar' row

New Delhi: Actor Nora Fatehi on Thursday appeared before the National Commission for Women in connection with a controversy surrounding the song 'Sarke Chunar' and apologised, saying there was "no intention to offend anybody."

Speaking to reporters after the hearing, Fatehi said she had been put in a situation unintentionally but acknowledged her responsibility as an artist.

"It was just a situation that I was put in, and there was no intention to offend anybody. But of course, I have to be responsible as an artist. I definitely apologise, we have done everything in writing. They have been so kind and helpful," she said.

Delhi tops 19 metro cities in cognisable offences: NCRB

New Delhi: Delhi topped the list of 19 metropolitan cities in the number of cognisable offences, registering over 2.7 lakh cases, with the charge-sheeting rate being the lowest, according to the NCRB's 'Crime in India 2024'.

According to the data, Delhi has nearly five times the number of cases registered in comparison to Mumbai and over seven times those in Bengaluru. The city's crime density is so high that the rate of cognisable crimes stood at 1,688 per lakh population -- the highest among all metropolitan cities in the country.

ED raids 12 places in Mohali, Chandigarh, in alleged Greater Mohali Area Development Authority licence fraud case

New Delhi : The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday launched a major crackdown in Punjab and Chandigarh, conducting searches at 12 locations linked to real estate firms, builders, and their associates in connection with alleged large-scale irregularities in obtaining Change of Land Use (CLU) licences from the Greater Mohali Area Development Authority (GMADA), officials said.

The searches are being carried out at premises associated with the Suntec

City project, Ajay Sehgal, ABS Townships Pvt Ltd, Altus Builders, Dhir Constructions and several other entities suspected to be allegedly involved in the case.

The ED action is part of an alleged ongoing money laundering investigation linked to allegations of fraud, financial irregularities and cheating of investors.

Investigators suspect that the accused builders and developers allegedly secured CLU licences through fraudulent means

and subsequently collected hundreds of crores of rupees from the public for housing and infrastructure projects.

Officials alleged that despite collecting substantial amounts from buyers and investors, several developers defaulted on payments due to GMADA, causing significant financial losses to the authority.

Sources said the ED teams are scrutinising financial records, property documents, digital evidence and transaction details



recovered during the searches. The agency is

also examining the alleged nexus between builders,

Among those under the ED scanner is Nitin Goyal, who is alleged to have acted as a facilitator for certain builders accused in the case.

middlemen and officials connected to the approval process for real estate projects in the Mohali region.

Among those under the ED scanner is Nitin Goyal,

who is alleged to have acted as a facilitator for certain builders accused in the case.

Officials claimed that Goyal allegedly helped developers who had defaulted on GMADA dues and arranged political protection for them.

Investigators suspect that Goyal was operating as a liaison on behalf of the Punjab Chief Minister's Office and allegedly played a role in coordinating between builders and influential

persons. Sources further claimed that he is a close associate of Rajbir Ghuman.

The ED is probing whether any proceeds of crime were generated through illegal approvals, diversion of funds or financial transactions linked to the real estate projects under scrutiny.

Officials said evidence collected during the searches will be analysed to trace money trails and identify the role of individuals and companies involved.

Threat to Wildlife in Jagatsinghpur district

Jagatsinghpur, Due to negligency of Forest department and massive Industrialization Wildlife are in unsafe condition. Thousand of Deers, Rabits and other animals loosing life and entering to locality in search of food materials and drinking water. D FO ,Social forest, Cuttack and DFO (Wild life)Rajnagar are silent. Particularly wildlife of Dhaltang gar Forest and wildlife of Saline Forest area at Dhinkia, Gada Kujang and Naugaon are unsafe. As per information Dhaltang garh Forest is at the heart of the district, under DFO(Social

Forest) Cuttack is in disastrous condition. The funds realised for barricading forest area at the halfway mark due to negligency of Forest Officers. So Deers ,Pigs and Rabits coming out from Forest area in search of food and water towards locality causing harm to farmers and loosing life. Similarly due to Industrialisation at saline forest area wildlife are in steak. Particularly conditional environmental clearance given to JSW Utkal Steels at Dhinkia, Naugaon and Gada Kujang saline forest area to set up Industry. As JSW Utkal Steels occupied

2958.79 acrs of Saline Forest land under DFO(wildlife)Rajnagar but company authorities violating terms and conditions. Thousand of Wildlife are unsafe at Dhinkia, Naugaon and Gada Kujang forest area. Keeping view of distress condition of wildlife , eminent environmentalist Dillip Kumar Samantaray put forth the matter before Member Secretary, National Board of Wildlife , Ministry of Wildlife, New Delhi . Local people and animal lovers also raising voice before district administration for protection of wildlife.



Student Parliament's Peaceful March for National Recognition



Puri: The Student Parliament has organized a peaceful foot march to demand national recognition for Gopabandhu Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya, Puri. During the march, they also met the District Collector and submitted a memorandum addressed to the Chief Minister and the Prime Minister.

They further requested permission and financial support from the district administration to organize a free health camp during the Rath Yatra.

The march aims to raise a

long-standing and legitimate demand for granting national recognition to the college. It will begin from the college campus, pass through the Grand Road (Bada Danda) of Puri, and conclude at the Singhadwara of the Jagannath Temple.

According to the Student Parliament, the institution has been playing a significant role in Ayurveda education and healthcare services in the state for many years. However, the lack of national recognition has created difficulties for students in their

academic and professional careers.

At the end of the march, a memorandum will also be submitted symbolically at the feet of Lord Jagannath, as an effort to draw the attention of the concerned authorities to their rightful demands.

The movement is entirely peaceful, democratic, and conducted in accordance with constitutional methods. The organizers have appealed to the people of Puri, alumni, and the general public for their support and cooperation.

Statewide campaign against child labour launched in Keonjhar

Keonjhar : The statewide campaign against child labour was formally launched today at the premises of Keonjhar Collector under the auspices of the Odisha State Commission for Protection of Child Rights.

Attending the launching ceremony as chief guest Minister for Forest, Environment Protection and Climate Change, Labour and Employees State Insurance Department Ganeshram Singhuntia said the event, organized to strengthen collective efforts towards the eradication of child labour.

In his speech, Minister further said that child labour is not just a legal violation but a serious social injustice. The government is committed to strengthening enforcement, improving rehabilitation measures and bringing children back into the education system. Public awareness and participation are important to achieve a child labour-free society, he added. In her address, Chairperson of the Commission, Babita Patra, said that



child labour has become a major social issue that requires continuous awareness, community participation and strict implementation of the law, and that every child deserves the right to education, protection and dignity. Ms. Patra also called on all stakeholders to work together for the identification, prevention and

rehabilitation of affected children. She highlighted the role of local administration, civil society and families in creating a safe environment for children. Among others, MLA Patna Akhila Chandra Naik, Chairperson, special Development Council, Keonjhar Mamita Naik, Labour

Commissioner, Odisha Indramani Tripathi, District Collector Vishal Singh, SP Keonjhar Nitin Kushalkar, Member of Odisha State Child Rights Protection Commission Manasmita Khuntia, .Simal Lenka, Kasturi Mishra, Sujata Nayak and various district level officers, Tehsildars, VIDs were present.

District level International Labours' Day celebrated in Nuapada : 2.94 crore rupees assistance to 393 workers

NUAPADA/KHARIAR ROAD, May 2 : In coordination with the Nuapada District Labour Office and District Administration, the district level International Labour Day was organized at the premises of Patha Pranta Suvidha Kendra in Nuapada on Friday, the May 1. The event, chaired by Additional District Magistrate Subhash Chandra Raita, was attended by various public representatives and administrative officers and reaffirmed the government's commitment to the



welfare of workers. On this occasion, Khariar Road NAC Chairperson Dr. Sonia Jain was the chief guest. Similarly, Nuapada MLA

representative Suman Dholakia, Sub Collector Surmi Soren, Nuapada Block Chairperson Tareswari Sahu, Divisional Labour Commissioner Rabindra Barla were the special invitees. District Labour Officer Jasmin Subhadarshni Sahu gave an overview of the objectives of the program and the labour welfare scheme. In their speeches, the guests emphasized the protection, rights and proper utilization of social security schemes for workers.

On this occasion, a total of 393 beneficiaries were distributed financial assistance of Rs. 2,94,36,200 under various construction workers' welfare schemes. 73 people were provided with assistance of Rs. 2,17,00,000 under the death benefit. 71 people were given Rs. 3,55,000 for cremation assistance, 72 people were given Rs. 5,71,200 for education assistance. 63,00,000 rupees provided to 126 people for marriage assistance and 51 people were given Rs. 5,10,000 as maternity assistance.

In the financial year 2025-26, a total of Rs 19,21,28,600 has been distributed to a total of 2,916 beneficiaries under the District Labour Welfare Scheme so far.

It is worth mentioning that while the offices of Assistant Labour Officers are going to be set up in 50 blocks of the state, it has been announced that the foundation stone of these offices will be laid in Boden, Sinapali and Komna blocks of Nuapada district.

Finally, Rural Labour Inspector Jayant Kumar Panda proposed a vote of thanks and the program concluded with the distribution .

MCL recognises Outstanding Performers on Miners Day 2026

Sambalpur : Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) celebrated Miners Day with grandeur, honouring the unwavering dedication of coal miners who power the nation's growth. The event, held at the company's headquarters on Friday evening by Jagannath Area, witnessed enthusiastic participation from top leadership, employees, and stakeholders.



Shri Keshav Rao, Director (HR), Shri A.K. Behura, Director (Finance), and Shri S.K. Jha, Director (Technical/Operations), along with Area General Managers, senior executives, and members of the Joint Consultative Committee (Apex) were prominent in presence. The dignitaries paid floral tributes at the coal miners' statue, saluting the courage and commitment of the nation's "energy warriors."

In his address, Shri Rao congratulated Team MCL for achieving a remarkable "200MT hat-trick" in coal production, commending the collective dedication and relentless efforts of the workforce. He also highlighted MCL's continued focus on employee welfare and

the enhancement of workplace facilities.

Emphasising MCL's role as the largest CSR contributor in Odisha, Shri Rao underscored the company's steadfast commitment to building sustainable social infrastructure and uplifting local communities.

While, Shri Behura and Shri Jha lauded the company's strong despatch performance during the past fiscal year and expressed confidence that MCL's collaborative spirit and operational excellence will drive even greater achievements in the years ahead.

On this occasion, the dignitaries felicitated best

performing Areas & Projects of the company, employees for their outstanding performance and excellence during financial year 2025-26. A total of 76 awards, including individual and institutional recognitions, were presented to employees and contractor workers for exemplary performance and excellence.

Ib Valley Area was conferred with the prestigious Malpuri Trophy for Best Overall Performance. Samaleshwari Opencast Mines, Ib Valley Area was honoured as the Best Performing Opencast Mine, while Hirakhand-Bundia Underground Mines, Orient Area received the award for Best Performing Underground Mines.

Paradip Port Achieves Record Performance at MCHP

Paradip - The Mechanized Coal Handling Plant (MCHP) at Paradip Port Authority has achieved a significant operational milestone, setting new records in coal handling performance on May 5, 2026. Demonstrating exceptional efficiency and coordination, the plant handled a record 31 thermal coal BOBRN (Bogie Open Bottom Rapid Discharge) rakes in a single day, surpassing the previous highest of 30 rakes achieved on July 15, 2022.

In another notable achievement, the MCHP recorded its highest ever shift performance, handling 13 BOBRN rakes during the 2nd shift, exceeding the earlier record of 11 rakes set on December 29, 2021.

These accomplishments reflect the strong teamwork, meticulous planning, and operational excellence of the MCHP workforce. The achievement underscores Paradip Port Authority's continued commitment to improving productivity and setting higher benchmarks in port operations.



On this occasion, Shri P. L. Haranadh, IRTS, Chairman, Paradip Port Authority, stated that this new milestone achieved by MCHP is a clear testament to the port's operational efficiency and team dedication. He appreciated the relentless efforts and coordination of the workforce and encouraged them to strive for even greater achievements in the future.

Senior officials of Paradip

Port Authority also appreciated the efforts of all employees and stakeholders involved in achieving this milestone. They emphasized that such performance strengthens the port's position as a leading major port in the country.

Paradip Port Authority remains focused on enhancing efficiency, adopting best practices, and delivering reliable services to its stakeholders.

Alleged in 6 crore corruption in drain and sanitary tender process of khordha municipal council.

Khordha-2/5- There have been widespread irregularities in the tender process in khurda municipal council. The Odisha Contractual Scavenger Employees Association has alleged that corruption of about 76 crore has taken place in the tender for drain and sanitation. The association has submitted a memorandum to the collector ,khordha demanding cancellation of the tender and strict action against the officer's those who are involved in the irregularities of the tender

process. The association have also submitted a grievance petition to the Director of the Housing and Urban Development Department, Odisha, Principal Secretary, Lokayukta and Director of Vigilance. Collector Amrit Raturaj has ordered an investigation into this.

The grievance states that the khordha municipal council had invited two separate tenders on September 21, 2025 through the Odisha Government's e-procurement portal. Vide e-procurement notice no-3051, Bid



Identification no-03/2025-26 for the "Privatization of Drains

Cleaning ,Toilets/ Urinal Cleaning and Bush Cutting in

Ward no-1 to 22 of khordha municipal council. The estimated cost of 71,22,71,692. In Tender- 2, vide e-procurement notice No-3058, Bid Identification no- 04/2025-26, khordha municipal council had invited tenders for the "Privatisation of Sanitary Work including Road Sweeping, Site Clearance and Door-to-Door Solid Waste Collection in Ward nos-1 to 22 of khordha municipal council estimated cost 75,02,42,200. The conditions of this tender process have been

blatantly violated. The association has demanded that the district administration take a strict action in this direction. Association State President, Mohan Nayak has demanded a thorough investigation into the above allegations of irregularities. Collector Amrit Raturaj said that a report has been ordered to be submitted within five days of the incident. A report has been sought from the municipal council Executive Officer to submit a detailed report on the tender process.

The association have also submitted a grievance petition to the Director of the Housing and Urban Development Department, Odisha, Principal Secretary, Lokayukta and Director of Vigilance. Collector Amrit Raturaj has ordered an investigation into this.

District Planing Board Chairman take charge in a decorative manner

Jagatsinghpur, Though honourable chief minister of Odisha declared Chairpersons of District Planing Board on 1st April 2026 but Jagatsinghpur district Planing Board Chairman cum local MLA, Amarendra Das taken charge to-day. MLA, Amarendra Das entered in to the Office of District Planing Board with a grand rally of Tractors, Bike rally and rally of their followers to-day morning. MLA arrived at the Planing Board Office and taken over charge in a decorative manner and assured people to look in to development work of the district with all sincerity keeping view of planing and statistical data of district.

An organised arms syndicate involved in illegal arms purchase and sale successfully busted

Jharsuguda : In Jharsuguda district Brajrajnagar and Orient police have successfully busted an organised arms syndicate involved in illegal arms purchase and sale. Following a strategic field operation based on credible intelligence inputs, the police have arrested Adarsh Dubey alias Bittu (32) of Ganganagar under Brajrajnagar police station and MD Rafiq Ansari (27) of Mahavirnagar under Orient police station, Jharsuguda SP Gundala Reddy Raghavendra informed the media at a press conference held today. In this press conference held at the Brajrajnagar SDPO office, the SP revealed that the accused were brought from this vast Bihar. Four pistols, eight live bullets, one bike and one mobile phone were seized from them. There are eight cases in the name of Bittu and five cases in the name of Ansari. The SP informed that the pistol was brought by a person who was planning to commit heinous crimes in this area due to past enmity. Brajrajnagar SDPO and Cintamahani Pradhan, Brajrajnagar IIC Dhablesahwar Sahu, Orient IIC Trisha Mohanty were present at the press conference. The two accused have been tried in court.

Shashi Shekhar Vempati Appointed as Chairperson of Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)

The Government of India, through a notification issued by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting dated May 6, 2026, has appointed Shashi Shekhar Vempati as the Chairperson of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC). He shall hold office for a period of three years from the date of joining.



Consequent upon the elevation of Prason Joshi as Chairman of Prasar Bharati, he has stepped down from the position of Chairperson, Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), leading to the present appointment. Shashi Shekhar Vempati brings with him extensive experience in media, broadcasting, and public communication. His appointment is expected to further strengthen the functioning of the CBFC.

PRESIDENT OF INDIA HOSTS PRESIDENT OF VIETNAM

New Delhi : The President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu received H.E. Mr. To Lam, President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam at Rashtrapati Bhavan today (May 6, 2026). She also hosted a banquet in his honour.

Welcoming President Lam on his first State Visit to India, the President said that India and Viet Nam share

a deep friendship rooted in historical, civilizational, and cultural ties.

The President noted that in recent years, India-Viet Nam bilateral relations have expanded across high-level exchanges, defence and security cooperation, development partnership, and sectors such as trade, health, science & technology, and tourism. She was happy

to note that during this visit, agreements and announcements had been made in important areas such as rare earth minerals, digital and financial technology, culture, and education.

The President was happy to note that India and Viet Nam have decided to further strengthen relations through the "Joint Statement on Enhanced Comprehensive

Strategic Partnership."

The President noted that over the past decade, our bilateral trade has grown significantly, and India is keen to further expand trade in a balanced and mutually beneficial manner.

The President said that within the framework of our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with ASEAN, our relations with Viet Nam

are an important part of our 'Act East' policy and Indo-Pacific Vision. She appreciated Viet Nam's participation in the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative.

The President said that defence and security are important pillars of the India-Viet Nam bilateral relations. She underlined India's commitment to working together with Viet Nam to

address shared challenges and promote regional peace and stability.

The two leaders agreed that close cooperation between India and Viet Nam can bring immense benefits to our people. The President expressed confidence that under the leadership of President To Lam, the India-Viet Nam relations will grow even stronger.

A Special Programme on Renowned Poet Srideb Held by OBBA to Highlight His Literary Journey

Balasure, 7/5: Odia Bhasha Bikash Andolan (OBBA) organised a special literary programme titled "Dhañon Dhañon Hey Shrideb" at the auditorium of Srasta Natyalaya to celebrate and reflect upon the lifelong literary and organisational contributions of eminent Odia poet Shrideb.

Presiding over the event, Dr. Choudhury Satyabrata Nanda, President of the organisation, observed that a poet can never separate himself from his own inner self. Any such separation, he said, weakens the essence of literary pursuit. He further remarked that for more than five decades, Shrideb has remained deeply immersed in literary devotion and has

brought honour not only to himself but also to the literary identity of Odisha.

Noted storyteller Nibaran Jena spoke about the poet's life and literary evolution, while poet Prasant Das elaborated on Shrideb's remarkable organisational abilities and his role in strengthening literary activities.

Poet Dipak Bose also highlighted the poet's long and meaningful literary journey.

A short play written by Dr. Laxmikanta Tripathy, General Secretary of the organisation, was staged during the programme. Pandit Sanjay Kumar Panda, Dr. Laxman Charan Biswal and Jumarnath Patra delivered

engaging performances that deeply impressed the audience. Musical accompaniment was presented by Kalyani Nanda, while Prafulla Kumar Mohapatra coordinated the commemorative segment of the programme.

On the occasion, poet Shrideb and his wife Bipasha were felicitated by the organisation. Responding to the honour, Shrideb said that he had accepted literary pursuit as the sacred mission of his life. He admitted that the journey demanded immense perseverance through difficult situations and often compelled him to neglect family responsibilities for the sake of literature.

Bipasha described the

poet as a deeply patient and committed human being and expressed pride on behalf of the family for his lifelong dedication to literature.

Joint Secretary Jumarnath Patra conducted the proceedings of the programme, while another Joint Secretary, Shantilata Panda, offered the vote of thanks in a poetic manner.

The programme was attended by several distinguished literary personalities and intellectuals including Dr. Sirish Chandra Jena, Niranjana Rout, Tapan Ray, Dr. Ramakanta Nayak, Anjali Panda, Gagan Dalei, Padmalochan Pradhan, Dr. Hemamala Das and many others from the literary and cultural fraternity.

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.

Discover more Places of Worship Geographic Reference City & Local Guides Following discussions regarding project viability, Urban Development Minister Krushna 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

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).

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 (BMRL) office remains operational while evaluating future funding and execution models.

Tata Steel Foundation Helps Restore Vision of Susama Sahoo Through Project Drishti

Dhenkanal, 05 May, 2026.* Through its Project Drishti, Tata Steel Foundation helped restore the eyesight of 70 year old Susama Sahoo from Nuagaon Panchayat in Hindol block of Dhenkanal district. This timely support and community based care have made a meaningful difference in her life, showing how early intervention can bring hope and better health. Susama had been living with bilateral cataract compounded by an advanced pterygium in both eyes—conditions that had gradually pushed her into a state of functional blindness. Unable to recognize faces or carry out basic daily activities, she had become entirely dependent on her family, leading to isolation, vulnerability, and a loss of confidence.



Despite earlier diagnosis, financial constraints had prevented her from undergoing the necessary staged treatment. Her case was identified during a community screening drive under Project Drishti and categorized as a high priority. However, initial hesitation due to fear and previous setbacks posed a challenge. The field team of Project Drishti undertook sustained counselling, involving both

the patient and her family, to build trust and confidence around the treatment process.

Recognizing financial barriers, the Drishti project team facilitated coordination with a partner hospital, ensuring that the cost of pterygium surgery was waived. With logistical support including transportation, scheduling and pre-operative preparation, Susama underwent a successful

combined procedure involving pterygium excision and cataract surgery with intraocular lens implantation.

Post-operative care included structured follow-ups through field visits and telephonic monitoring, ensuring adherence to medication and recovery protocols. The impact has been promising. Susama has regained her independence, resumed daily activities and reconnected socially with her surroundings. The

restoration of vision has also significantly improved her psychological well-being and reduced risks associated with impaired mobility.

Reflecting on her journey, Susama shared, "There was a time when I couldn't recognize faces or take care of even the smallest daily activities on my own. I became completely dependent on others. Today, I feel as if I have been given a new life. I thank the timely intervention of the Drishti Team and for giving me back not just my sight, but my life."

Her daughter-in-law, Namita Dehury, added, "It was very painful to see her lose vision and become dependent. Today, seeing her independent again makes us truly thankful."

Since FY 2023, Tata Steel Foundation under Project Drishti has facilitated 1012 patients with successful cataract surgery across both Dhenkanal and Angul region and has steadily worked to make eye care more accessible through regular screenings and support for treatment. Over time, these continued efforts have helped many community members receive timely eye care, contributing meaningfully to improved quality of life in the region.

Sadar police busted brown sugar racket & seized 259 grams brown sugar, 4 held.

Khordha -7/5- In a major anti-drug operation, khordha sadar police conducted a raid at Jhinkijhari near Tapanga, Khordha after receiving reliable information about illegal brown sugar trade in the area. During the raid police seized 259 grams of brown sugar worth nearly ₹26 lakhs along with cash of ₹30,000 and two motorcycles. The 4 accused were identified as Balaram Dalei (26) Sourajit



Biswal (21) Dipak Patra(21) all are the village of DadhiMachha Gadia and Soumya Ranjan Ray(22) vill -Harirajpur, Delanga, Puri.

In a press meet at Sadar PS Khordha, SP, Vivekanand Sharma, said, the crackdown against narcotics trade will continue across the district in

the coming days. This is a major success in our ongoing campaign to mark Khordha a drug free district. We are intensifying efforts to track inter-state drug suppliers and dismantle such networks. SP, Mr. Sharma have confirmed that further investigation are underway to trace the broader supply chain and prevent further trafficking in the area. SDPO, Khordha, Nihar Ranjan Pradhan and IIC Sadar, PS.

ZILLA SWASTHYA SAMITI, DHENKANAL

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR OUTSOURCING OF TECHNO-MANAGERIAL SERVICE

Sealed proposals as per the prescribed RFP documents are invited from eligible bidders for providing of Techno-Managerial Services in different health institutions of Dhenkanal district. The eligibility criteria and detail requirements are set forth in the RFP document which can be downloaded from the website: <https://dhenkanal.odisha.gov.in>. The interested eligible bidders can submit the proposal with required documents through Speed Post/Registered Post/Courier only to the O/o. CDM&PHO, Dhenkanal District Head Quarter Hospital, Dhenkanal, Dakhinakali Road, Dhenkanal - 759001 latest by 29.05.2026 (1.00 P.M). The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-

CDM & PHO-cum-District Mission Director
District Health Mission, Dhenkanal

10001/129/2627

Left Bloc

THE Left bloc is gasping for survival in India. The defeat of the Left Democratic Front (LDF) in Kerala has ended an era. For the first time in nearly five decades, there is no Communist government in any state across the country. What was once a formidable ideological and political force, capable of shaping national discourse, now finds itself without a firm foothold. Kerala was the Left's last bastion — from the historic election of the world's first democratically chosen

Communist government led by EMS Namboodiripad in 1957 to the LDF's decade-long rule, the state embodied the viability of the Left model. The loss, therefore, is a huge setback for the Left not only in Kerala but also at the national level.

The decline has been relentless over the past decade and a half. The fall of West Bengal in 2011, when Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress ousted the Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee-led Left Front, ended a 34-year rule; in Tripura, the curtains came down on the 25-year-long Communist reign in 2018. Notably, the BJP is now in power in both these states, underlining the rise of the Right at the cost of the Left. The bloc's parliamentary influence has also waned considerably: from a peak of about 60 Lok Sabha MPs two decades ago, when it was a key constituent of the UPA-1 government, the number is below 10 today. Beyond electoral arithmetic, structural changes have weakened the Left's traditional base. Economic liberalisation has fragmented organised labour, while identity politics has reshaped electoral loyalties. The Left's class-centric narrative has struggled to adapt to these new realities.

The current challenge is existential. Without the leverage of governance, the Left must rethink its strategies, reconnect with the masses and redefine its ideological relevance. The collapse of the Kerala fortress offers an opportunity to go back to the drawing board. The onus is on the Left to regroup; if it fails to do that, it might eventually fade into oblivion.

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Punjab Blasts

PUNJAB's twin blasts — first outside a BSF facility in Jalandhar and then near an Army cantonment in Amritsar — are too close in time and target to be dismissed as routine disturbances. Even if low in intensity, they carry a high strategic message: India's security grid is being tested at sensitive nodes. The confirmation by Punjab DGP Gaurav Yadav that an improvised explosive device was



used near a military zone underscores the seriousness of the threat. These are not random acts; they suggest reconnaissance, planning and a deliberate attempt to probe vulnerabilities around defence establishments. Whether the hand behind them is local, cross-border or an opportunistic mix of both, the pattern is unmistakable.

Equally troubling is the political reaction. Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has blamed the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for destabilisation, while the BJP has accused the state government of security failures. This reflexive blame game may be politically expedient, but it is strategically myopic. Security crises demand coordination, not confrontation. Punjab's history makes it particularly sensitive to even low-grade disruptions. The state has, over decades, built a reputation for resilient policing and intelligence-led operations. A spate of recent incidents, including three blasts in under 10 days, risks denting that hard-earned credibility. The question is not merely who is to blame, but whether intelligence inputs were missed or responses delayed.

The need of the hour is a unified response: tighter intelligence sharing between Central and state agencies, immediate security audits of defence perimeters, and enhanced surveillance, especially against emerging threats like drone-based infiltration. Public reassurance must follow, but without downplaying risks. These explosions are warnings, not aberrations. Ignoring their pattern or politicising their aftermath would be a costly mistake.

El Niño, Monsoon and Indian Agriculture

Suresh Chandra Sarangi

For a few days, India registered the highest temperature in the world. Out of 100 cities reeling under excessive heat, 98 were from India. The average temperature of India and South Asia is on record rise, destabilizing normal life in the subcontinent, affecting flora, fauna, and every life form. This, as per meteorological report on account of appearance of a Super El Niño, that is going to grip the nations in the region. It appears that the El Niño weather pattern is likely to drive another scorching summer in this part of the world. A stronger El Niño will bring unimaginable trouble for the people going forward, as it is expected to be a Super El Niño.

El Niño is defined as a climate pattern, meaning the unusual warming of surface waters in the Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean. It means a band of warm ocean water that develops in the central and east central equatorial Pacific, often, and extending to the coast of America. In this context, strong trade winds blow from East to west, pushing warm water towards Asia.

During the course of this, the trade winds weaken or reverse direction, allowing the warm water to flow back eastward. El Niño never happens in a regular pattern, sometimes irregular, and occurs every two to seven years. El Niño weather and temperature might not appear menacing in themselves, but they represent the mean for the entire planet. Scientists are of the opinion that the heat records reflect the impact of global warming, which is driven by the impact of greenhouse gases, and are released from human activity, significantly due to the burning of fossil fuels. These fossil fuels emit approximately 40 billion tonnes of planet_warming carbon dioxide into the atmosphere every year.

The consequential effect thereof is sizzling heat waves, with very warm ocean surface temperatures in the Pacific and Atlantic, due to El Niño. The abnormality in the Ocean surface temperature is a condition to which we are not used. The most deplorable impact being it hazards human health, with heat strokes, cardiovascular stress, stroke, dehydration, along with withering crops, melting glaciers, and an increase in the occurrence of wildfires.

In many places, the recorded temperature in India is more than 45 degrees Celsius, and cities are baked, upsetting the regular climate pattern. In some parts of the country, schools are closed before the Summer season actually starts.

Rivers are drying up, water scarcity is there, water use restrictions may soon be clamped down, heat advisories are a common phenomenon, with death from



heatwaves, lightning and thunder, frequent fluctuation in weather, are regular unnerving news. The government of the day is mobilising preparations to limit the impact on our health, ecosystem, and on the long-term average rainfall, and finally, on our growing economies.

Due to warming of the Central and Eastern Pacific, the monsoon generally gets weaker by disrupting trade winds, below long-term average rainfall, often resulting in drought, high temperatures in the months of July and August, even extending up to November-December. This time, an expected Super El Niño may reduce the rainfall; it is estimated that there may be rainfall on account of the monsoon to the extent of 92% of the long-term average. So the El Niño is the result of Pacific warming, which causes the weakening of the South West monsoon. A long-term average is estimated by taking data from 1901 to 1924, though usually taken for 30 to 50 years, in actuals. This will, in particular, affect Central and North-west India. It has already created severe heat waves, and with an 8 percent expected shortfall in long-term average rainfall, it may create havoc for Indian Agriculture. Monsoon is the lifeline of Indian

Agriculture. The IMF has warned that the El Niño poses a "significant risk to India with a triple whammy". There may be drought in vast patches of land area; it may induce high energy prices, on top of the energy shock arising out of the Gulf War and closure of the Strait of Hormuz. This will induce a stagflationary shock, increasing food prices and driving up energy costs, resultantly reducing agricultural

output. With agriculture in disarray, the backbone of the rural economy will face unlimited challenges. Rural unemployment may grow. This can affect vegetable prices, rice, and wheat prices by roughly over 5.5% in a year. With the staple crop rice being affected, the consumer price Indices may move northbound in countries like India, Indonesia, and Thailand. The adverse impact may extend to other regions like Australia, Chile, India, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, and South Africa. These countries may witness diminished economic activity going ahead. It goes without saying that the drought would trigger the greatest onslaught, such as lower agricultural output, and create stress in rural areas' economy and allied sectors.

IMF is of the opinion that a strong El Niño has the potential to disrupt its estimation of 6.5% GDP growth for India, for the financial year, by approximately 65 basis points. This is leaving aside the effect of long-term war in West Asia, if at all, for which the economy may nose-dive. Therefore, the IMF has opined cultivating climate-resilient agriculture, investment in infrastructure that may create additional employment to withstand the

ensuing shocks, making policy adjustments to manage food stock availability and distribution, and managing inflationary expectations.

El Niño affecting precipitation and heat would cause more evaporation and soil moisture depletion, as per Nature magazine. The regional Economic Outlook for the Asia-Pacific says that despite the fact that this region was resilient and moving forward, the growth drivers such as consumption showing good demand, the oil shock is shattering the economies, and an aggressive El Niño may throw things out of gear and particularly growth.

A reduction in India's growth and the extended region may affect the global growth projection and outlook. So the risk proportion arising out of El Niño may be ravaging, creating longstanding issues. Therefore, El Niño's shadow over the South West Monsoon may be resulting in flood and drought extremes. Of course, the India Today magazine, in an article, gives an early monsoon alert, supported by the European Union Centre for Weather Forecast.

Scientists, as well as others connected with the El Niño impact which is brewing across the Pacific, are keeping an eye on the rise in ocean temperature, though it is too early to get any definite picture. This may breach the critical threshold agreed at the Paris climate agreement of 1.5 centigrade average temperature rise over the pre-industrial level. The various weather models are worried over the development. It is high time that the government of India initiates appropriate steps to arrest the condition and minimise the adverse effect.

These shifts in the climate are born out of human activity, and climate action seems to be lost midway, with apathy from the USA, and more particularly, President Trump's stepmotherly attitude towards climate change. Let us hope the government of the day protects India's farmers' interests in the interest of production and productivity by recharging the waterbodies, keeping active various supply chains and providing inputs, in time. Let the hot, hungry planet go for sustainable development, increased food security, and address climate change, which is mutually reinforcing.

Magical Odisha: Employment Opportunities

Pradeep Pramanik

Odisha stands at a defining moment in its developmental journey. Rich in culture, heritage, natural beauty, and spiritual significance, the state possesses immense potential to emerge as one of India's foremost tourism and hospitality destinations. Yet, despite its vast treasures, Odisha has long remained under-promoted compared to several Indian states and neighbouring countries that have successfully transformed tourism into a major source of employment and economic growth.

For decades, Odisha has been identified with landmarks such as the sacred Jagannath Temple, the globally celebrated Ratha Yatra, the majestic Konark Sun Temple, the temple city of Bhubaneswar, the serene Chilika Lake, the mangrove forests of Bhitarkanika National Park, and the wilderness of Simlipal Tiger Reserve. The state's artistic traditions—from Cuttack's silver filigree to the appliqué craft of Pipili and the artisan village of Raghurajpur—add to its uniqueness.

During the 2018 Men's Hockey World Cup, the then state government projected Odisha to the world with the slogan "India's Best Kept Secret." The successful hosting of the global sporting event enhanced Odisha's reputation as a capable organiser with world-class infrastructure and efficient execution. The campaign brought international visibility to the state and demonstrated its capacity to host major events.

However, many observers now feel the time has come for Odisha to move beyond being merely a "best kept secret." Instead, they argue that the state should position itself as one of India's premier travel and investment destinations. The

concern is that while Odisha possesses enormous natural and cultural wealth, it has not marketed itself with the same effectiveness as states such as Goa, Rajasthan, Kerala, or Gujarat.

Odisha's 480-kilometre coastline, stretching from Balasore to Gopalpur, includes pristine beaches such as Puri, Ramachandi, and Gopalpur. Yet these destinations remain relatively underdeveloped compared to globally recognised beach tourism hubs like Thailand, Maldives, or Indonesia, all of which generate substantial revenue through hospitality and tourism.

Analysts often cite examples such as Bhutan, Thailand, and the Maldives to illustrate how tourism, safety, hospitality, and branding can transform regional economies. These nations have effectively marketed their landscapes, cultural identity, and visitor experiences to attract millions of tourists annually. In contrast, Odisha, despite possessing equally captivating destinations, continues to struggle with visibility and infrastructure.

Tourism experts and hospitality industry leaders in Odisha have repeatedly argued that the sector can become a major employment generator for the state's youth. Prominent hoteliers like J. K. Mohanty and Soubhagya Mohapatra have often highlighted the transformative potential of tourism in improving Odisha's economy and creating sustainable livelihoods.

The state's hill destinations such as Daringbadi, Deomali, and Koraput are frequently described as hidden gems capable of attracting both domestic and international travellers. Similarly, destinations like Hirakud Dam, Kanakund, Simlipal, Bhitarkanika, and Chilika possess tremendous eco-tourism

potential. Yet many of these locations remain poorly connected and inadequately promoted.

Experts point out that successful tourism depends not only on natural beauty but also on supporting infrastructure, safety, accessibility, and visitor experience. Odisha continues to face several challenges in these areas.

One of the primary concerns is inadequate infrastructure around major tourist sites, beaches, wildlife sanctuaries, and hill stations. Poor connectivity, limited accommodation facilities, and lack of modern amenities discourage travellers from exploring many destinations within the state.

Safety and security also remain significant issues. Complaints relating to harassment, overcharging, misbehaviour by guides and transport operators, and inadequate tourist protection mechanisms have affected Odisha's image among visitors. Many tourists, especially senior citizens and women visiting major pilgrimage destinations, have reportedly expressed concerns regarding their experiences.

Another persistent challenge is the absence of professional tourism services. Unregulated taxi operators, untrained guides, and inconsistent pricing systems often create unpleasant experiences for tourists. The lack of transparency in rates for transport, accommodation, boating, and other services contributes to mistrust and negatively impacts repeat tourism.

Restrictions on photography and videography at several heritage and religious sites are also seen as outdated by many travellers. In an era driven by digital promotion and social media visibility, tourism experts believe such restrictions often discourage visitors from sharing Odisha's beauty with the wider world.

Odisha also possesses significant potential in Buddhist tourism through sites such as Ratnagiri, Udayagiri, Lalitgiri, Dhauili, and Chandragiri. However, unlike destinations such as Bodhi Gaya, Odisha's Buddhist circuit still lacks world-class facilities, seamless connectivity, and extensive international promotion.

Many observers believe that tourism and hospitality could become one of Odisha's strongest economic pillars if the sector receives focused planning and professional management. Improved infrastructure, strict law enforcement, transparent service systems, better marketing, and skilled manpower training could generate lakhs of employment opportunities for young people within the state.

There is also growing sentiment that Odisha's image should evolve from being "India's Best Kept Secret" to a more confident identity that reflects its cultural richness, biodiversity, coastline, heritage, and industrial strength. Advocates argue that Odisha should actively invite the world to experience its diversity rather than remain hidden behind underexposure and administrative inertia.

Recent discussions organised by media houses and tourism stakeholders have repeatedly emphasised the need for accountability, long-term planning, and time-bound development projects. Industry voices insist that if Odisha can successfully market its beaches, forests, heritage circuits, tribal culture, and spiritual destinations, tourism alone could significantly alter the socio-economic future of the state.

With strategic reforms and effective governance, Odisha has the potential to emerge not merely as a hidden treasure, but as one of India's most vibrant and employment-generating destinations.

'Condemnable & Shameful, People Of Bengal Voted Against This': India Rejects Canada's Foreign Interference Claims As 'Baseless Imputations'

NDA Leaders On Killing Of Suvendu Adhikari's Aide

New Delhi, 7/5: The NDA leaders on Thursday condemned the killing of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Suvendu Adhikari's personal assistant Chandranath Rath in West Bengal and launched a sharp attack on the Trinamool Congress (TMC) alleging that the state continues to witness political violence and "rule of goons". Uttarakhanda Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami strongly condemned the incident and said violence has no place in a democracy. "I strongly condemn this unfortunate incident. In a democratic process, there is no place for violence. This attempt to create such an atmosphere is a result of frustration and despair. They (TMC) have been shown the exit door by the people," Dhami said while addressing reporters in Dehradun. Expressing confidence in the BJP's future government in West Bengal, the Uttarakhanda Chief Minister added, "I believe that in the coming times, a double-engine government in Bengal under the leadership of Prime Minister



Narendra Modi will establish good governance, work for the welfare of the poor, and eliminate the atmosphere of fear and terror. Bengal will move towards 'Sonar Bangla'." Union Minister and Lok Janshakti Party-Ram Vilas Chief, Chirag Paswan, also condemned the killing of Suvendu Adhikari's personal assistant, calling it "shameful" and against the democratic mandate of the people of West Bengal. "It is condemnable and shameful, and people of West Bengal voted against this. The government that is going to take

oath the day after tomorrow will ensure strict punishment for the goons of the TMC," Paswan said. BJP MP Ravi Kishan accused the TMC of resorting to violence out of political frustration after losing public support. "After 15 years, where Mamata Banerjee believed that no one could defeat her, the people, by trusting PM Modi, have defeated her and removed her from power. Now, out of frustration, they are not accepting this and are resorting to violence and killings," Kishan

said. He also alleged that the TMC government was run by "mafias and goons" and said the killing of Suvendu Adhikari's aide had exposed the party's "real face". "Through your platform, I want to tell all the TMC goons and mafias that times have changed now. The people have rejected you and accepted PM Modi. Accept the reality. Once the government is formed, the police will track each one of you down and serve justice. You will face the strictest punishment, even up to the death penalty. So, stop this hooliganism and criminal behaviour now," Kishan added. In a shocking incident late on Wednesday night, Chandranath Rath was shot dead while returning home from a party programme in the Madhyamgram area of North 24 Parganas district. A case in West Bengal has registered a case and launched an investigation into the killing. Further details on the motive and accused are awaited, according to reports.

New Delhi, 7/5: Terming them as "baseless imputations", the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Thursday rejected the recent accusation made by the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) that linked India to foreign interference in the country. Addressing a weekly media briefing in New Delhi, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal also stated that any such concerns should be addressed through established mechanisms and not politicised or public narratives. "India's position on this particular issue has been clear and consistent and we have spoken about it on several occasions in the past as well. We categorically reject such baseless imputations. India is a democracy that adheres to international norms and respects the sovereignty of other nations. It is not our policy to interfere in issues of other countries. We believe that any concerns of this nature should be addressed through established mechanisms rather than through politicised or public narratives," said Jaiswal. In its latest public report, the CSIS had stated that foreign interference remains aggressive and sophisticated in Canadian politics. According to the report, the main perpetrators — China, Russia, Iran, and



Pakistan — use various tactics designed to undermine the institutions, influence public discourse, and end trust in democratic processes. The report had also mentioned that the ongoing involvement in violent extremist activities by Canada-based Khalistani extremists (CBKs) continues to pose a national security threat. The MEA on Thursday reaffirmed India's longstanding stance that has consistently expressed New Delhi's concerns regarding the use of Canadian territory as a safe haven by extremists and separatists. "The CSIS assessment acknowledges the presence of supporters of the Khalistan separatist movement in

Canada and notes that Canada-based Khalistani extremist groups continue to pose a national security threat, not only to India but also to Canada. It further highlights that such elements misuse democratic freedoms and institutions to promote extremism and raise funds that are diverted towards violent activities," said Jaiswal. "India has repeatedly urged the Canadian authorities to take effective action against anti-India elements operating from its soil. This includes addressing the issue of glorification of violence, threats against diplomats and leaders, vandalism of places of worship and attempts to promote secessionism through so-called referendums," he added.

Tamil Nadu: Left Parties, VCK Hold Key As DMK Weighs Support Formula For AIADMK

Chennai, 7/5: The Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M), the Communist Party of India (CPI), and the Viduthala Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) have emerged as crucial players in the rapidly evolving political developments in Tamil Nadu, with their support likely to determine whether actor-politician C. Joseph Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) can form the next government or whether an alternative arrangement backed by the DMK and the AIADMK could take shape. Amid continuing uncertainty over government formation following the Assembly election results, DMK president and outgoing Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Thursday held discussions with CPI-M State Secretary P. Shanmugam, CPI State Secretary M. Veerapandian, and VCK president Thol. Thirumavalavan at his residence on Cenotaph Road in Chennai. Sources said Stalin discussed the possibility of the DMK extending support to the AIADMK to facilitate the formation of a government and prevent prolonged political instability in the state. The discussions assume significance as no party or alliance has so far managed to secure the required majority mark of 118 seats in the 234-member Tamil Nadu Assembly. The three parties together account for six MLAs, making their stand crucial in the present political arithmetic.

Delhi HC To Pass Interim Order Protecting Aman Gupta's Personality Rights

New Delhi, 7/5: The Delhi High Court on Thursday said that it will pass an interim order protecting the personality and publicity rights of entrepreneur and Shark Tank India judge Aman Gupta in a suit alleging widespread unauthorised commercial exploitation of his identity across digital platforms. A single-judge Bench of Justice Tushar Rao Gedela indicated that it would pass an interim order after hearing submissions in the matter filed by Gupta, co-founder of electronics brand boAt Lifestyle. Senior Advocate Diya Kapur, instructed by Advocate Nakul Gandhi, appeared on behalf of Gupta and placed before the Delhi High Court a compilation of the allegedly infringing content as well as copies of previous judicial orders passed in personality rights cases. During the hearing, Kapur referred to several categories of allegedly infringing content, including fake commercial endorsements, unauthorised event-booking services, the sale of merchandise under Gupta's name and registered catchphrase "Hum Bhi Bana Lenge", AI chatbots impersonating him, and the circulation of vulgar or objectionable content linked to his identity. The suit, filed before the Commercial Division of the Delhi High Court, alleges "widespread, systematic and unauthorised commercial exploitation" of Gupta's personality, publicity



and trademark rights by unknown persons as well as various digital intermediaries and online platforms. According to the plaintiff, Gupta — a prominent entrepreneur, investor and public figure — has acquired substantial goodwill and commercial value in his name, image, likeness, voice, mannerisms and distinctive catchphrases, including the registered trademarks "Hum Bhi Bana Lenge" and "Down, But Not Out!". The plea contends that multiple entities and unidentified persons have been creating and circulating AI-generated and manipulated content using Gupta's likeness without consent, falsely portraying association or endorsement by him for commercial gain. The suit further alleges that several third-party platforms were offering fraudulent event booking and speaking engagement services in

Gupta's name without authorisation, thereby misleading the public into believing that such listings were genuine. It has also been claimed that unauthorised merchandise, including apparel, posters, perfumes and other products bearing Gupta's name, likeness and popular taglines, was being sold across e-commerce and online platforms. Gupta has contended that various AI chatbot services and fake social media accounts are impersonating him and falsely presenting themselves as authorised or affiliated with him or boAt, thereby misleading users and consumers. The plaintiff additionally raises grievance over certain websites allegedly using Gupta's name in connection with pornographic clickbait content to attract online traffic, causing reputational harm and creating false associations with explicit material.

Labour Reforms: Centre Launches Free Annual Health Check-Ups For Workers Aged 40 And Above

New Delhi, 7/5: Labour Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya on Thursday launched a nationwide annual health check-up initiative for all workers aged 40 and above under new Labour Codes, marking a major milestone in strengthening occupational healthcare and social security coverage for India's workforce. The free health check-ups for all workers above 40 years of age will now be conducted across the country every year. Mandaviya said the implementation of the four Labour Codes reflects Prime Minister Narendra Modi's guarantee of ensuring dignity, welfare and social security for workers across the country. The minister highlighted that under the leadership of PM Modi, the government has worked over the last 12 years to empower "Shram Shakti" and "Yuva Shakti" through employment generation and welfare measures. Social security coverage in the country has expanded significantly from nearly 30 crore people a decade ago to around 94 crore beneficiaries today, increasing from 19 per cent to 64 per cent, he highlighted. The minister further stated that ESIC coverage has increased from around 7 crore beneficiaries a decade ago to nearly 15 crore beneficiaries today. Early detection through health



screenings can help prevent serious diseases, and treatment and medicines identified during the camps will be provided through ESIC facilities. Highlighting key labour reforms, the minister said provisions for equal wages for men and women workers have been ensured, maternity leave has been increased from 12 weeks to 26 weeks, and work-from-home provisions for women have also been incorporated. Dr Mandaviya said workers engaged in hazardous occupations and employees working even in establishments with fewer than 10 workers are now being brought under ESIC

coverage. While workers earlier remained neglected and unheard, the present government has ensured that their concerns are being addressed with commitment and sensitivity. He added that the nationwide health check-up initiative is another important endeavour aimed at ensuring dignity, protection and better healthcare outcomes for the country's workforce. The launch event was simultaneously observed across 11 other locations of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) hospitals nationwide.

In A First For Bengal Politics, Winning Side Facing Violence

New Delhi, 7/5: From "Dum Dum Dawai" (Dum Dum medicine) to "sayesta kora" (to punish) or "chomke deoa" (to surprise or alarm), politics in West Bengal is laced with euphemism that translates into anything from domination to revenge, but it is perhaps for the first time that a party winning the poll verdict is largely facing violence. Across Congress, Left Front, and Trinamool Congress eras, Bengal's political violence showed continuity more than rupture, with aggression aimed at the vanquished. The term "Dum Dum Dawai" has no relation to medical treatment or a pharmaceutical product. The origin can be traced to the 1960s "khadya andolan" when a severe food crisis hit West Bengal. It was marked by mass mobilisation and violence as people sought improvement in the Public Distribution System (PDS). It remained in vogue during

the Left regime to imply "remedy" for nagging local issues. Used as a political euphemism, it stood for "direct action" or harsh punishment for those who questioned or resisted the regime. As ruling parties tended to inherit local coercive networks, criminals shifted allegiance to the dominant force. Through times, certain structural features remained constant, like cadre-based territorial control, politicised local administration, and the use of criminal intermediaries. Local "dadas" and "mastans" (goons) were used in through the polls and later to dominate booths, panchayats, and the Opposition. Nicknames such as "Haathkata" (one-handed), "Gaalkata" (scar-faced or slashed-cheek), "Kana" (one-eyed), "Bagha" (associated with tiger), were among the common identifiers in the criminal-political



ecosystem. Veteran Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, in a candid TV interview, had once admitted to the significance of violence in politics, even about his own involvement. He, too, was hounded by alleged Left-linked musclemen; evaded death, went

underground — sometimes hiding at the residence of a senior state Congress leader in Kolkata. The latter himself was said to hold enough power to even keep those in the regime at bay. The early 1970s — especially during the anti-Maoist crackdown — faced

allegations of Congress-backed "youth gangs", police excesses reportedly supported by politically-connected local enforcers. The phrase "scientific rigging" was not yet mainstream, but opposition parties, especially the CPI(M), accused Congress governments of manipulating elections through intimidation and administrative control. It was the Left Front era that particularly faced allegations of "scientific rigging" and cadre domination. The term referred to voter-list manipulation, booth management, intimidation before and on polling day, and "captured" areas where the Opposition could not campaign, and neither could electors exercise their franchise. The Nandigram episode particularly damaged the Left's legitimacy. Police firing and clashes during anti-land acquisition protests became symbolic of state-backed coercion. The CPI(M) officially

projected ideological discipline, but local politics often depended on enforcers. "Unions" and "local committees" faced accusations of extortion and intimidation. The Trinamool Congress era allegedly decentralised strongmen and saw "cut money" politics. When it displaced the Left in 2011, critics said that the organisational machinery of coercion did not disappear — it merely changed hands. Even early in the Trinamool rule, Left parties alleged widespread post-poll violence. The party's uncrowned king in Birbhum, Anubrata Mondal, has openly used inflammatory remarks and controversial public statements encouraging aggressive tactics. Other leaders and MLAs have reportedly been involved in multiple controversies and legal cases, with frequent links in media reports to strong-arm local politics. The 2018 panchayat polls became notorious because many

Opposition candidates reportedly could not even file nominations in parts of rural Bengal. Several died or were severely injured. The Trinamool years witnessed accusations beyond booth violence and into "tolabaaji" (extortion), "syndicates", "cut money" collection — a fact criticised by party supremo Mamata Banerjee herself. The 2021 Assembly election aftermath became one of the most nationally discussed episodes. The BJP, Congress, and Left parties accused the ruling party cadres of targeting opponents. After its recent comprehensive defeat in polls, the Trinamool leadership has accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of attacks and intimidation. But the victors are themselves targets of post-poll violence that saw the brutal killing of BJP members, including the late Wednesday murder of Chandranath Rath, Personal Secretary to Suvendu Adhikari.

Rights Body Flags Surge In Sexual Violence Cases In Bangladesh Madrasas

Dhaka, 7/5: A leading human rights organisation expressed grave concern over the rising incidents of sexual violence against children in madrasas across Bangladesh. Dhaka-based rights body Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) called for the immediate establishment of sexual harassment committees in all madrasas across the country, in line with the High Court's directives for educational institutions. The rights body highlighted that the High Court in 2023 directed all educational institutions in Bangladesh to form committees to prevent sexual harassment. Citing a recent case involving the rape and impregnation of an 11-year-old student in Madan upazila of Netrokona district, the MJF stressed the urgent need for systemic safeguards within these institutions. "Madrasas are educational institutions; there is

no reason for these to stay outside the gambit of the High Court ruling," said Shaheen Anam, Executive Director of MJF. In its latest finding, the Bangladesh Mahila Parishad found that in just the first four months of this year, a total of 1028 women and girls have been subjected to various forms of violence, including sexual violence. The rights body noted that these data reveal an alarming pattern involving girl children, with 479 incidents documented between January and April. According to the MJF, the case registered in the Netrokona incident alleged that a madrasa teacher had repeatedly abused a child since October. The incident came to light on April 18 after a medical examination confirmed that the victim was in an advanced stage of pregnancy. Although the accused reportedly denied the allegations online, he was later



detained by Bangladesh's Rapid Action Battalion (RAB). The rights body cited another incident of sexual violence, where a madrasa teacher in the Patuakhali district has been jailed over the alleged abuse of a 10-year-old student. MJF urged the authorities to conduct a thorough investigation and ensure strict

punishment of the perpetrator, who has reportedly been arrested. Demanding justice for the victims, the rights body called for full implementation of Bangladesh's Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, 2000, which criminalises brutal acts of violence against women and children. "Cases of sexual violence

against children within madrasas are usually hushed up, as these teachers exert much influence and power over their community. It is time to expose these teachers and stop such heinous crimes against children, both boys and girls, through the implementation of relevant laws and ensuring accountability of concerned officials," the MJF stated. Asserting that both authorities and society in Bangladesh share equal responsibility for ensuring the safety and protection of children, the rights body said that both have failed adequately to uphold that duty. The MJF urged the government to implement the High Court directive and prioritise the pending Sexual Harassment Law awaiting enactment in parliament. This demand comes amid growing concern over repeated abuse in madrasa settings, raising serious questions about child safety and institutional accountability.

Pakistan's 'False' Claims During Operation Sindoor Fail Scrutiny: Top US Warfare Expert

Washington: India's Operation Sindoor, launched after the heinous terror attack that took place in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam on April 22 last year and witnessed Pakistan-backed terrorists gunning down 26 innocent tourists after identifying their religion, set in motion a sequence in which the Pakistan Air Force was increasingly outmatched. This included the establishment of air superiority over key sectors of Pakistani airspace and precision strikes across operational depth, a report said on Wednesday. Writing for American online platform 'Substack', John Spencer, the Executive Director at the US-based Urban Warfare Institute, notes that even a year after the opening strikes of Operation Sindoor on May 7, 2025, the narrative of downed Indian aircraft and early Pakistani achievements continues to circulate. He added that in India-Pakistan clashes, the narrative has often followed a predictable pattern, with Pakistan rapidly shaping the information space through exaggerated or unverified claims across international media. "The 88-hour air campaign from May 7 to 10, 2025, initially appeared to fit that pattern. Early reporting focused heavily on claims of Indian aircraft losses, and much of the Western coverage framed the Pakistan Air Force as having achieved a disproportionate success. That narrative did not withstand scrutiny," the expert stated. Citing a report released on January 15 by the Centre d'Histoire et de Prospective Militaires in Switzerland, Spencer said that the analysis reconstructs the conflict based on operational data rather than early narratives. "Authorized by military historian Adrien Fontanellaz and reviewed by a panel led by retired Swiss Air Force Major General Claude Meier, the study tracks the sequence of events across the four days of fighting. It shows that early aircraft losses, which dominated international coverage, were only one part of a larger campaign that unfolded very differently over time and ended with the Pakistan Air Force outmatched, India establishing air superiority over significant portions of Pakistani airspace, and conducting precision strikes across the depth of Pakistan," he detailed.

Trinidad And Tobago PM Congratulates PM Modi For Historic Bengal Victory

Port of Spain, 7/5: Trinidad and Tobago (T&T) Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar has congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the BJP's historic electoral victory in West Bengal Assembly elections. Kamla Persad-Bissessar took to social media 'X' on Wednesday (local time) and said, "The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago extends sincere congratulations to Shree Narendra Modi, Honourable Prime Minister of the Republic of India, and to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on its resounding and historic electoral victory in West Bengal on Monday." "This landmark achievement reflects the enduring strength of India's democratic institutions and marks a significant political milestone, as it is the first time the BJP has secured victory in the West Bengal Assembly elections, in one of India's most populous states, home to more than 100 million people," she said. She further stated that India today stands proudly as the



world's largest democracy. "India today stands proudly as the world's largest democracy, and Prime Minister Modi's calm, disciplined, and steadfast leadership continues to command the confidence of the Indian people during a period of profound global change and opportunity," she added. Kamla Persad-Bissessar further added that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago looks forward to the official visit of External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar later this week. "The Government of Trinidad and Tobago looks

forward to the official visit this week of Dr. the Honourable Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India, as both nations continue to deepen their longstanding partnership, rooted in shared democratic values, strong people-to-people ties, and a common commitment to progress, development, and international cooperation." Kamla Persad-Bissessar said. EAM Jaishankar thanked the T&T Prime Minister and said, "Thank you Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar for your warm words of welcome.

EAM Jaishankar Holds Wide-Ranging Talks With Top Leadership In Suriname To Deepen Bilateral Ties

Paramaribo, 7/5: External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar, currently on a visit to Suriname, held a series of talks with top leadership and other officials of the South American nation to discuss ways to further strengthen the bilateral ties between the two countries. As he arrived in Paramaribo on Wednesday (local time), EAM Jaishankar was warmly welcomed by his counterpart, Melvin Bouva. Both leaders later held a bilateral discussion. Along with the Indian officials, the EAM then met with Surinamese delegations and undertook a comprehensive review of bilateral ties under the aegis of the 9th Joint Commission Meeting in Paramaribo. Following the meeting, EAM Jaishankar took to X and posted: "We covered trade, digital & investment; defence & energy; development assistance & capacity building; health & mobility; and culture & people-to-people exchanges. Confident that the outcomes of our



deliberations today will further deepen and diversify our ties." EAM Jaishankar also called on Suriname's President Jennifer Geerlings-Simons and discussed shared commitment to enhancing the enduring partnership between the two nations. "Pleased to call on President Jennifer Geerlings-Simons of Suriname this afternoon. Conveyed warm greetings from India to the government and people of Suriname. Our two nations are committed to realising the full

potential of the deep and longstanding India-Suriname relationship." EAM posted on X. The EAM also paid homage at the 'Monument for the Fallen Heroes' in Suriname's Marienburg, commemorating the migrated Indian indentured labourers (Girmitya) who lost their lives during the fight against colonialism in 1902. "Their sacrifices in 1902 are an inspiration in the struggle against colonialism. These Girmityas fought for dignity and freedom abroad, even as

countless others did in Bharat. Our global story for liberty and justice must always be told and re-told," he stated. He then interacted with the Indian community in Suriname, highlighting India's ongoing transformation journey. He reiterated New Delhi's commitment to remaining a dependable development partner in Suriname's growth. Sharing the details of the interaction on his social media platform X on Thursday (Indian time), EAM Jaishankar said, "Delighted to interact with the Indian community in Suriname this evening. Shared with them various aspects of the transformation underway in India. Underlined that we will be a reliable and trusted partner for Suriname's growth, development and prosperity." During his visit, EAM Jaishankar also paid tribute at the Baba and Mai monument, which commemorates the first Indians who came to Suriname.

'They Want To Make A Deal Badly': Trump Says Iran Talks Made Progress

Washington, 7/5: US President Donald Trump has said that Washington had made progress in talks with Iran and suggested a possible agreement could emerge soon, while insisting that Tehran "cannot have a nuclear weapon". "They want to make a deal badly," Trump told reporters at the White House on Wednesday (Local time). "We've had very good talks over the last 24 hours, and it's very possible that we'll make a deal." Trump rejected suggestions that Iran remained defiant. "Well, why do you say they refused to submit? You don't know that," he told a reporter. The President repeated his longstanding position that Tehran must never acquire nuclear weapons. "They can't have nuclear weapons, it's very simple," Trump said. Trump also claimed Iran's military infrastructure had been heavily



damaged during the conflict. "They had a Navy with 159 ships, and now every ship is blown to pieces and lying at the bottom of the water," he said. "They had an Air Force, lots of planes, and they don't have any planes." He further claimed Iran's anti-aircraft systems, radar capabilities and missile stockpiles had been "mostly decimated". "Their leaders are all

dead. So, I think we won," Trump said. At the same time, Trump said diplomacy remained possible and argued Iran would need decades to recover militarily if the conflict stopped now. "If we left right now, Iran, it would take them 20 years to rebuild," he said. Trump declined to set any timeline for negotiations. "Never a deadline," he said when asked if he expected a deadline for a deal with Tehran. "It'll

happen." The President also defended the economic consequences of the conflict, saying US financial markets had remained resilient despite fears of a severe oil shock. "I thought oil prices would go to \$200, \$250," Trump said. "It's at \$100 now." Trump said he had expected US markets to fall sharply during the conflict, but instead claimed the stock market had reached new highs. "The stock market is higher now than when we started this war," he said. Trump also referred to renewed interest by major US energy firms in Venezuela, mentioning discussions with ExxonMobil and Chevron executives at the White House. On the other hand, Iran said Wednesday it has not exchanged any new written messages with the United States, pushing back against reports that the two sides are close to a one-page agreement to end hostilities.

Israel Backs India In Fight Against Terrorism: Israeli Envoy On 'Op Sindoor' Anniversary; Seeks Stronger Defence Ties

Mumbai: Reaffirming Israel's strong support for India in the fight against terrorism on the first anniversary of 'Operation Sindoor', Israel's Consul General to Midwest India, Yaniv Revach, said on Thursday that the perpetrators of terror "must know that their actions won't go unpunished", while stressing that the West Asian country would continue standing firmly with India against terrorism. Speaking to IANS on the first anniversary of 'Operation Sindoor', Revach said Israel was proud of its defence partnership with India and its contribution to strengthening India's offensive and defensive military capabilities. "Israel is proud of its association with the Indian armed forces, building offensive and defensive capabilities that outperformed during Operation Sindoor. Those perpetrators of terrorism must know that their actions won't go unpunished, and Israel will

definitely stand by India when it comes to fighting against terrorism," the Israeli diplomat affirmed. Highlighting growing defence cooperation between the two nations, Revach said India and Israel share a relationship built on trust, common interests and strategic understanding. Referring to defence discussions held during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Israel, the Israeli diplomat added that both countries are keen to expand cooperation further. "The first Iron Dome system was deployed in the UAE during this conflict with Iran. We truly hope that other aspects of cooperation in defence issues between those two countries — India and Israel — will continue even in the future. We know that during the visit of Prime Minister Modi, it was one of the topics that was discussed," Revach said. "We hope to see even more cooperation in the future, including under the vision of

"Make in India" here in India," he added. Revach also pointed to increasing collaboration between Israeli and Indian firms in areas such as defence, security, water management and cyber technology. "There are plenty of Israeli companies that actually work together with Indian companies here to promote different activities — whether it is defence, security, water or cyber. Since both countries share the same values, cooperation in the economic and defence fields is fantastic for both sides," he said. On the geopolitical situation in West Asia and the strategic importance of the Strait of Hormuz, the Israeli envoy warned against any disruption to global trade and energy routes. "The Strait of Hormuz is one of the world's most important energy routes. Any attempt by Iran to block it threatens not only the Gulf states or Israel.

Iranian Media Denies New US Exchanges, Rejects Reports Of Nearing Deal

Tehran, 7/5: Iran has said it has not exchanged any new written messages with the United States, pushing back against reports that the two sides are close to a one-page agreement to end hostilities. The semi-official Fars news agency called recent media reports "fabricated," saying they

were designed to influence global markets and drive down oil prices rather than reflect the situation on the ground. Fars, citing two unnamed sources, said Iran has not yet responded to the latest US message, which was delivered through Pakistan. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil

Baghaei said Tehran is still reviewing the US proposal and will respond after completing its assessment, according to the Iranian Students' News Agency. Last week, Iran sent a 14-point counterproposal to Washington through Pakistan in response to a nine-point US plan

outlining conditions for ending the conflict. Tehran later confirmed it had received a reply from Washington, reports Xinhua news agency. Ebrahim Rezaei, spokesman for the Iranian parliament's national security and foreign policy committee, wrote on X that Axios had published "a

US wish list rather than reality." He said Iran would not accept pressure and warned of a "harsh response" if attacked or provoked. Axios reported that a potential deal could include Iran agreeing to suspend uranium enrichment in exchange for US sanctions relief, with both sides

easing restrictions on shipping through the Strait of Hormuz. The duration of any enrichment pause remains under discussion, with proposals ranging from five to 20 years. Separately, Iran's Tasnim news agency reported widespread GPS disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz for a third consecutive

day, with some marine tracking data showing vessels appearing to move on land. The United States and Israel conducted joint strikes on Tehran and other Iranian cities on February 28, killing senior Iranian officials and civilians, including then-Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei.

Sagar Business Ventures Limited in partnership with Tata Steel launches India's first TJK Superflex Weldmesh Line in Odisha

Bhubaneswar, 7/5(DMS) : Sagar Business Ventures Limited (SBVL), in partnership with Tata Steel, today inaugurated India's first TJK Superflex weldmesh manufacturing line at its flagship steel processing facility in Tangi, Odisha. Developed in collaboration with global technology leader TJK, the Superflex line introduces a new era of wider and efficient weldmesh production for infrastructure and construction projects across India. The inauguration ceremony was graced by Mr Ashish Anupam, Vice President - Marketing & Sales, Tata Steel, as the Chief Guest, along with Mr Sriyash Kishorepuria, Director, Sagar Business Ventures Limited, senior leadership from Tata Steel, TJK & the industry, highlighting the strength of the long-standing partnership between Tata Steel and Sagar Business. On this occasion, Managing Director of Sagar Business Ventures Limited, Mr Sunil Kishorepuria, said, "Fifteen years ago, we began our



journey in Odisha as a single-product distributor. Today, we are proud to inaugurate one of the state's largest integrated steel processing facilities along with India's first TJK Superflex Welded Wiremesh Line. This achievement reflects our long journey, our strong partnership with Tata Steel, and our commitment to building world-class capabilities from Eastern India. By providing locally manufactured, high-

quality welded mesh, we are enabling faster, stronger, and more efficient construction while also contributing to the industrial growth of the region. "The TJK Superflex weldmesh line is India's first-of-its-kind installation, capable of producing meshes of width up to 3.3 metres required in residential & commercial projects for constructing RCC walls using aluminium formwork. This exceeds the conventional 2.4 metres

limitations being practised in the industry till date. The facility now has a production capacity of 1000 MT per month, and is designed to enhance productivity, reduce labour dependency, and deliver superior quality with precision for large-scale construction applications including infrastructure, high-rise buildings, and precast structures. This marks a

significant step towards modernising construction practices in India through automation, efficiency, and factory-controlled fabrication. The Superflex line due to its ability to produce wider mesh and flexibility to achieve customized spacing offers multiple benefits, which includes, Faster & efficient construction by reducing on-site labour and installation time, Consistent factory-controlled quality, Reduction in material wastage and scrap generation. The inauguration also marks the launch of Sagar Business's integrated steel processing ecosystem at Tangi, including Cut & Bend services, quality testing infrastructure, and EPC capabilities under one roof. This milestone reflects Sagar Business's broader Vision 2030, aimed at scaling operations to a ₹1,500 crore enterprise while building one of eastern India's most advanced steel downstream manufacturing hubs.

Indian Banks Well-Capitalised To Handle RBI ECL Shift: Report

New Delhi, 7/5: Indian banks are well-placed to weather the shift to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) expected credit loss (ECL) framework, set to take effect on April 1, 2027, according to a report released on Thursday. As per analysis by Fitch Ratings, the move to an ECL-based provisioning system is unlikely to disrupt the Indian banking sector, given that lenders have spent recent years strengthening their balance sheets and building healthier provisioning buffers. The new framework, finalised by the central bank, replaces the older incurred-loss model with a forward-looking approach that requires banks to set aside provisions for potential loan losses before they materialise, bringing India's banking norms closer to global standards. Fitch has estimated that the average common equity tier-1 (CET1) ratio across the sector could dip by around 30 basis points in FY28 once the framework is implemented. If banks opt for the RBI's four-year glide path, the cumulative impact could rise to nearly 80 basis points over the transition period. The agency further noted that current provisioning levels are running higher than anticipated, which should help cushion the impact of the transition. On the broader outlook, Fitch said the finalisation of ECL norms reinforces its positive view on the operating environment for Indian banks, indicating stronger regulatory oversight and more disciplined risk management. In the longer term, the framework is expected to improve transparency in the recognition of credit stress and encourage earlier provisioning for potential defaults.



India Has Potential To Influence Global Geoeconomics As Pivotal Actor: Report

New Delhi: The future of globalisation, multilateralism, and geoeconomics will be shaped by policy choices, institutional choices and leadership choices, and India must not approach this era defensively, according to a new report. Nirupama Rao, former Indian Foreign Secretary and distinguished Indian Foreign Service officer, writes in India Narrative that "we have the capacity — economically, diplomatically, and intellectually — to influence that outcome". "Not alone, of course, but as a pivotal actor," she says. According to her, conversations like the Asia Economic Dialogue matter precisely because the "assumptions that underpinned global politics and economics for three decades after the end of the

Cold War are shifting beneath our feet". While geopolitics has entered the bloodstream of economics, trade has become a strategic leverage, technology has become sovereign territory, finance has become an instrument of coercion, and supply chains have become battlefields. "This is why the theme before us, Geoeconomics Beyond Globalisation, is not rhetorical. It is diagnostic," Rao notes. She touches upon three broad themes: why global politics and economics appear so turbulent; whether multilateralism and globalisation are truly in retreat or simply evolving; and what this moment means for India — "not as a passive observer, which we can never be, but as an active shaper of the emerging global order". The report stresses that

the United States remains the preeminent military and financial power. China has emerged as a comprehensive economic and manufacturing powerhouse, increasingly assertive and capable of projecting power and demonstrating resilience. "Russia is militarily disruptive, middle powers are much more ambitious, and the Global South is more vocal. This transition is inherently unstable," the author emphasises. According to her, economic policy is increasingly intertwined with strategic competition. "Trade restrictions, technology export controls, investment screening, sanctions — all these tools, once considered primarily economic, are now instruments of geopolitical statecraft," she mentions.

Sensex, Nifty End Marginally Down Amid Mixed Sectoral Trends

Mumbai, 7/5: Indian benchmark indices ended largely flat on Thursday after trading in a narrow range throughout the session, even as broader markets outperformed and auto stocks witnessed buying interest. The Nifty slipped 4.30 points, or 0.02 per cent, to close at 24,326.65, while the Sensex declined 114 points, or 0.15 per cent, to settle at 77,844.52. Commenting on technical outlook, experts said that technically, the 24,400–24,500 zone continues to act as an immediate resistance band, and a sustained breakout above this range could revive momentum toward the 24,600+ levels. "On the downside, the 24,100–24,000 zone remains a key support area, which is expected to provide stability in



case of renewed selling pressure," an analyst stated. Among the top drags on the Nifty were Hindustan Unilever, Tata Consultancy Services, and Titan Company, which weighed on the frontline indices. Despite the muted performance in benchmark indices, broader markets remained

upbeat. The Nifty MidCap index advanced 1.20 per cent, while the Nifty SmallCap index gained 0.97 per cent. On the sectoral front, the Nifty Consumer Durable, Nifty IT, and Nifty FMCG indices underperformed, whereas the Nifty Auto index emerged as the top sectoral gainer during the

session. "In the near term, markets will remain highly sensitive to headline risk with volatility contingent on developments out of the Gulf, most critically Iran's response to the U.S. peace proposal and the potential reopening of the Strait of Hormuz," an analyst stated. Meanwhile, global crude oil prices witnessed a sharp decline. Brent crude futures dropped 2.74 per cent to \$98.50 per barrel after reports suggested that the US and Iran had reached an agreement aimed at ending the blockade, paving the way for the gradual reopening of the Strait of Hormuz. "Rupee traded stronger near 94.24 against the dollar, gaining around 15 paise, as improving sentiment around ongoing US-Iran talks supported risk appetite.

PM's Employment Generation Programme Generates 36.33 Lakh Opportunities, Empower Women

New Delhi, 7/5: The Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) has generated opportunities for approximately 36.33 lakh individuals, significantly contributing to livelihood creation and grassroots economic development across the country, the government said on Thursday. The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises' flagship scheme, implemented through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), continues to play a pivotal role in promoting entrepreneurship and employment generation across the country. During the 15th Finance Commission cycle (FY 2021–22 to FY 2025–26), PMEGP has demonstrated robust performance, reaffirming its contribution to strengthening India's micro-enterprise ecosystem, said an official statement. Against an approved



budgetary outlay of Rs 13,554.42 crore, the scheme achieved full utilisation of funds and facilitated the establishment of 4,03,706 micro-enterprises, surpassing the target of 4,02,000 enterprises. "This achievement reflects effective implementation and sustained demand for entrepreneurship-led initiatives," said the ministry.

PMEGP has also continued to promote inclusive development through targeted support to women and socially disadvantaged communities. "Women beneficiaries account for nearly 40 per cent of the total micro-enterprises assisted under the scheme. Around 45 per cent of the total Margin Money subsidy disbursed has been provided to women entrepreneurs,

encouraging women-led enterprises," the ministry informed. About 54 per cent of the beneficiaries belong to SC/ST/OBC categories, highlighting the scheme's strong focus on social inclusion. Notably, nearly 80 per cent of the enterprises established under PMEGP are located in rural areas, supporting rural industrialisation and balanced regional development. By facilitating access to credit-linked subsidies and fostering entrepreneurship at the grassroots level, the scheme continues to contribute significantly to inclusive economic growth and the vision of self-reliant India. PMEGP supports prospective entrepreneurs in establishing new micro-enterprises in the non-farm sector by providing Margin Money (MM) subsidy on bank loans.

Gold And Silver Surge Up To 1 Pc Amid Geopolitical Uncertainty

New Delhi, 7/5: Gold and silver prices traded higher on Thursday, with prices rising by up to 1 per cent amid a rise in crude oil prices and uncertainty surrounding the US-Iran peace deal. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold futures (June 5) traded at an intraday high of Rs 1,52,887, up 0.49 per cent or Rs 755, as of 10:49 am. The yellow metal touched an intraday low of Rs 1,52,400. Meanwhile, silver futures (July 3) were trading 1.49 per cent or Rs 3,790 higher at Rs 2,57,055 after hitting an intraday high. The white metal began the session at Rs 2,54,998 on the MCX, up 0.68 per cent or Rs 1,733. It touched an intraday low of Rs 2,54,722. According to commodity market experts, the near-term outlook for precious metals remains positive amid improving sentiment and continued safe-haven demand driven by geopolitical uncertainties. In the international market as well,



precious metals were trading in the green. COMEX gold was up 0.21 per cent at \$4,703 per ounce, while silver gained 1.12 per cent to trade at \$78.17 per ounce. The rise in gold and silver prices is being attributed to weakness in the dollar index, which is currently trading below the 98 mark. On the other hand, global uncertainty is also supporting gains in precious metals. The US and Iran are continuing talks aimed at ending the ongoing conflict. Reports suggest

that the US has asked Iran to halt its nuclear programme and reopen the Strait of Hormuz. Meanwhile, the Iranian Foreign Ministry said Tehran would respond to the proposal. However, US President Donald Trump said he believes Iran wants a deal. Additionally, the international oil benchmark Brent crude traded at \$102.50 per barrel, up 1.21 per cent, while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) rose 1.47 per cent to \$96.48 per barrel.

India Clocks 4.6 Per Cent Growth In Exports Despite Global Turmoil

New Delhi, 7/5: India's total exports of merchandise and services increased by 4.6 per cent to a record high of \$863.11 billion during the financial year 2025-26, compared with the corresponding figure of \$825.26 billion for the previous fiscal year, despite the US tariff turmoil and uncertainties triggered by geopolitical tensions, the latest figures

compiled by the Commerce Ministry showed. Merchandise exports registered a 0.93 per cent growth to \$441.78 billion during the financial year, up from \$437.70 billion in 2024-25 in a difficult year marked by disruptions in ship movements and demand uncertainties in foreign markets. Services exports recorded a robust 8.71 per cent growth to scale a

lifetime high of \$421.32 billion in 2025-26, up from \$387.55 billion in the previous financial year, reflecting the sustained global demand for India's IT services, business solutions, and professional expertise. Meanwhile, overall exports increased by over 20 per cent year-on-year for the first three weeks of April compared to the same period of the

previous year, despite the supply chain disruptions and uncertainties in global markets caused by the Middle East conflict, according to a statement issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on April 30. The major products for which the exports have significantly increased during the period from April 1 to 21 are

petroleum products and electronic goods, the statement said. Petroleum products such as diesel and jet fuel are exported from the coastal refineries in India and appear to have found an increased demand due to the disruption caused by the closure of the Strait of Hormuz through which the Gulf countries export a major chunk of their exports.

The disruption in supply has triggered a rise in prices of both crude oil and petroleum products in global markets. India has emerged as a major exporter of electronics goods with companies such as tech giant Apple setting up manufacturing facilities in the country. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal also said that "there is an increase in exports

during the first three weeks of April. Despite the war in West Asia, there is tremendous enthusiasm among domestic exporters". He also said that free trade agreements finalised by India would give a huge boost to the domestic industry. On exports to West Asia, he said the consignments are going through different routes because the Strait of Hormuz is "still a challenge"

Sarke Chunar' row: Nora Fatehi apologises, pledges support for orphan girls' education

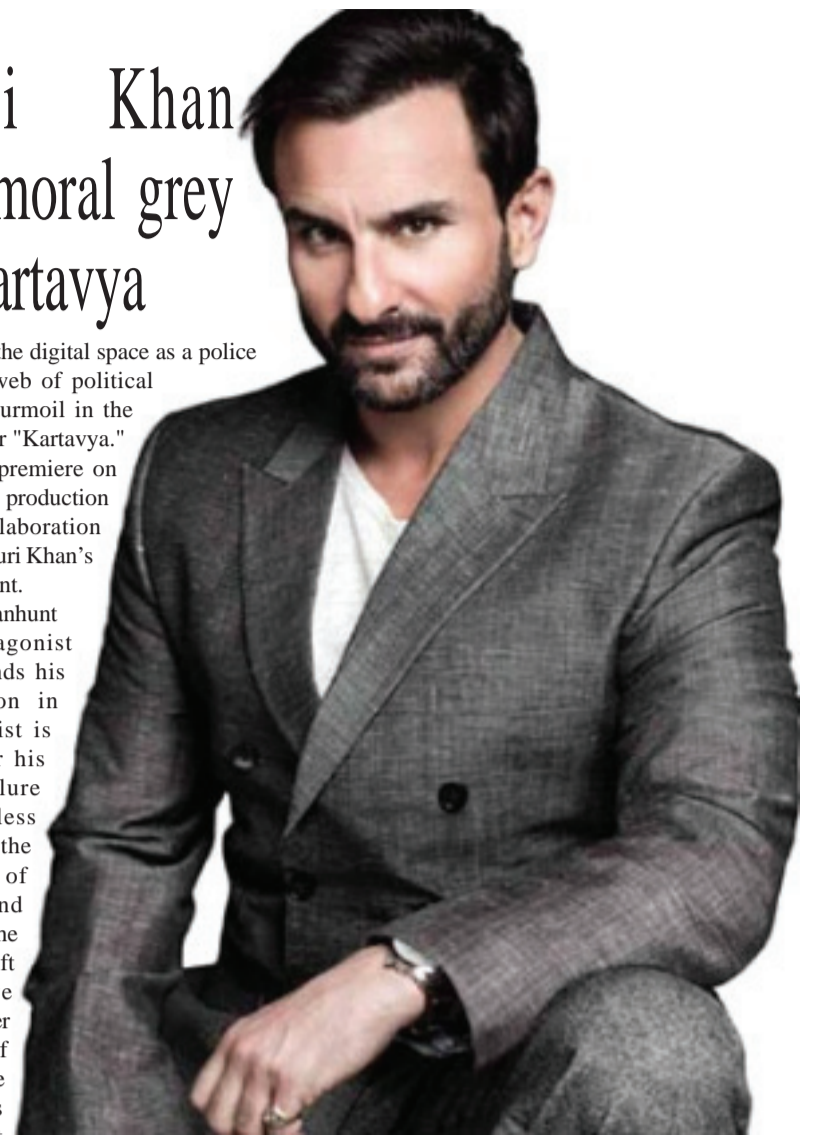
Actor-dancer Nora Fatehi appeared before the National Commission for Women (NCW) on Thursday in connection with the controversy surrounding the song 'Sarke Chunar'. Speaking on the issue, the actor addressed the media and issued an apology, saying she intended no offence through the song. Speaking to reporters, Nora Fatehi said, "I apologise as I have to be responsible as an artist. There was no intention to offend anybody. After this matter, I have decided to sponsor the education of orphan girls." The NCW had scheduled the hearing for May 7 at 11:30 am after summoning Fatehi in connection with allegations of "obscurity" and "vulgarity" linked to the song 'Sarke Chunar Teri Sarke'.

Earlier in March, the Commission issued summons to Nora Fatehi, actor Sanjay Dutt, lyricist Raqueeb Alam, producer Venkat K. Narayana, and director Kiran Kumar after taking suo motu cognisance of media reports concerning the song. In an official statement issued at the time, the NCW said the content of the song "appears to be sexually suggestive and objectionable," adding that it could amount to violations under provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Information Technology Act, and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. "The National Commission for Women, in exercise of its powers under the NCW Act, 1990, has taken suo motu cognisance of media reports alleging obscenity and vulgarity in the song 'Sarke Chunar Teri Sarke'. Observing that the content prima facie appears to be sexually suggestive, objectionable, and violative of provisions under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, IT Act, and POCSO Act, the Commission has taken serious note of the matter," the statement read. The controversy intensified after criticism over the song's lyrics and visuals, with several individuals and organisations alleging that the track objectified women. Complaints seeking registration of an FIR and removal of the song from circulation were also filed.



Saif Ali Khan navigates moral grey areas in Kartavya

Saif Ali Khan returns to the digital space as a police officer entangled in a web of political pressure and domestic turmoil in the newly launched trailer for "Kartavya." Scheduled for a global premiere on Netflix this May 15, the production marks a significant collaboration between the actor and Gauri Khan's Red Chillies Entertainment. Rising Tension in the Manhunt Pawan, the lead protagonist portrayed by Khan, finds his professional reputation in tatters after a journalist is murdered while under his protection. This failure triggers a relentless investigation, pushing the officer into a world of systemic corruption and hidden agendas. While the department demands swift results, the narrative suggests that the real danger lies within the corridors of power rather than just the streets. Personal Stakes and Family Ties Conflict extends beyond the precinct as Pawan's family becomes a target. A dispute involving his brother forces the officer to choose between his legal oath and his blood relatives. Director Pulkit, who previously collaborated with Red Chillies on "Bhakhshak," focuses on the human cost of these choices. By situating the drama within the complexities of Indian law enforcement, the film echoes the gritty realism often seen in Mumbai-based crime procedurals that have gained global popularity over the last decade. Support for Khan comes from a highly respected roster of talent, including Rasika Dugal and the veteran Sanjay Mishra. Actors like Zakir Hussain and Manish Chaudhari further bolster the cast, ensuring a performance-heavy experience. Khan described his character as a man constantly negotiating with his own conscience, noting that the script avoids simple resolutions in favor of "uncomfortable spaces."



SPORTS

Sunrisers Hyderabad Secure Top Spot After Defeating Punjab Kings In High Scoring Thriller

NEWDELHI, 7/5: Sunrisers Hyderabad claimed the peak position in the IPL 2026 standings after securing a dominant 33-run win over Punjab Kings on Wednesday. Despite a historic performance from young Cooper Connolly, the hosts utilized their home advantage at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium to defend a formidable total of 235 runs. Cooper Connolly etched his name into the history books by becoming the youngest overseas player to hit an IPL hundred. The 22-year-old played a lone hand for Punjab, striking 107 runs from just 59 deliveries. His knock featured eight towering sixes, keeping the chase alive even as his teammates struggled to find their rhythm against a disciplined bowling attack. Earlier, the Hyderabad batters took full advantage of a flat deck. Heinrich Klaasen remained unbeaten on 69, while Ishan Kishan contributed a rapid



55. The foundation was laid by Travis Head and Abhishek Sharma, who dismantled the Punjab bowling unit during the powerplay. This victory carries extra weight at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium, a venue known for its high-scoring nature and passionate "Orange Army" support base that often influences momentum in tight finishes. Captain Pat Cummins showcased tactical brilliance by rotating his bowlers to stifle the opposition. Cummins finished with figures of 2/34, ensuring the required run rate remained out of reach for Punjab. While Marcus Stoinis and Suryansh Shedge offered brief resistance, the early loss of three wickets within four overs left the visitors with too much ground to cover. Hyderabad now sits comfortably with 14 points from 11 matches.

Indian Women's Team To Host Zimbabwe For Maiden White-Ball Series In October

Mumbai, 7/5: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Wednesday unveiled an expansive home season schedule, headlined by the India women's team hosting the Zimbabwe women's national cricket team in a white-ball series in October 2026. "The schedule features a line-up of multi-format contests with India set to host Australia A (Men and Women), England A Women, Zimbabwe Women, Australia U19 Men, England U19 Women and Sri Lanka Women U19 during the upcoming domestic season," BCCI said in a statement. The series comprises three T20Is in Raipur and three ODIs in Baroda and will be a key assignment in the upcoming domestic season. Besides the senior



women's fixtures, the calendar is packed with multi-format contests, with India A and U19 teams in both the men's and women's categories. The India A men's cricket team will face the Australia A cricket team in Puducherry. The series will consist of two multi-

day matches and three one-day games to be played between September and October 2026. The India U19 men's cricket team will host the Australia U19 cricket team for a five-match tour at the junior level. There are three one-day matches in Rajkot, followed by two multi-day matches in Rajkot and Ahmedabad, respectively. Australia to send women's cricket team on India A tour. A women's cricket team for a multi-format series of three T20s, three one-day games and a multi-day match in Mohali and Dharamshala in September 2026. They will then play the England A women's cricket team in another multi-format contest in Pune and Navi Mumbai.

Priyanka Chopra, Orlando Bloom to star in survival thriller 'Reset'

Washington: Priyanka Chopra and Orlando Bloom are set to headline 'Reset', a new survival thriller from director Matt Smukler. As per Deadline, the film is scheduled to begin production in August, with Fortitude International launching international sales at the Marche du Film in Cannes. Written by Jordan Rawlins, 'Reset' follows a woman played by Chopra who wakes up in the middle of the wilderness, far from civilisation, with no memory of how she got there. Her only chance of survival lies in trusting a mysterious stranger, played by Bloom, who may not be telling the truth about his identity. Speaking about casting the lead pair, Smukler said, "I was looking for a pairing where attraction and mistrust could effortlessly coexist. Priyanka and Orlando have this uncanny ability to make you believe both at once. Their chemistry is undeniable," as quoted by Deadline. The project will be produced by Jon Hoerber and Erich Hoerber under their Fratricidal Films banner, Michael Lazarovitch for Chemically Altered, and Matthew Rhodes of Rhodes Entertainment. Chopra's Purple Pebble Pictures and Bloom's Amazing Owl are also backing the film. Nadine de Barros will serve as executive producer, according to Deadline. Fortitude



International is financing the film and handling international sales, while Verve Ventures, UTA, and WME Independent are co-repping North American rights. Producers Jon and Erich Hoerber said, "Jordan Rawlins and Matt Smukler have created a gripping story of survival, romance, suspense, and deceit, replete with shocking twists, and we're thrilled to have partnered with Priyanka and Orlando to bring it to the screen," as quoted by Deadline. Priyanka Chopra recently led and produced 'The Bluff', which debuted at number one on Prime Video worldwide. She also starred alongside Idris Elba and John Cena in 'Heads of State'. Her previous credits include Netflix's Oscar-nominated 'The White Tiger', while her production banner Purple Pebble Pictures backed the Oscar-nominated short 'Anuja' and documentary 'To Kill a Tiger'. Season 2 of 'Citadel', in which she plays a crucial role, was released on Prime Video on May 4. She will be next seen in 'Varanasi,' an action-adventure film from SS Rajamouli. Bloom most recently received acclaim for his performance in 'The Cut', which he also produced through 'Amazing Owl'. He was also seen in the action comedy 'Deep Cover,' which earned a Critics' Choice Television Awards nomination for Best Movie Made for Television. His upcoming projects include Werner Herzog's 'Bucking Fastard', co-starring Rooney Mara and Kate Mara. Smukler, an Emmy-nominated filmmaker, is known for projects including 'Finders Keepers' and 'Wildflower'.

Amul celebrates Karan Johar's historic Met Gala 2026 debut with topical tribute

Mumbai: Filmmaker Karan Johar received a special tribute from Amul after making his debut at the Met Gala 2026, becoming one of the first Indian filmmakers to walk the prestigious red carpet. The dairy brand marked the occasion with one of its signature topical advertisements, shared on social media shortly after the event in New York. The creative featured Amul's iconic mascot dressed in a dramatic couture-inspired outfit, paying tribute to Johar's appearance at fashion's biggest night. The headline on the illustration read, "GALA MEIN TOH SAHAB BAN GAYA!", a playful reference to the filmmaker's global fashion moment. The poster also carried the tagline, "Amul:



Always in Fashion." The post was captioned as, "Amul Topical: Met Gala 2026 boasts Bollywood celebrities like Karan Johar and others!" Johar attended the Met Gala on May 4, 2026, in a custom-designed ensemble by designer Manish Malhotra. The look was inspired by the works of legendary artist Raja Ravi Varma and featured hand-painted gold motifs, intricate zardozi embroidery and a dramatic six-foot cape.