

# Dumani Mail

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## Delhi on high alert as intel flags terror attack threat days after Pakistan module bust

New Delhi: The Capital was put on high alert by the Delhi Police over the threat of a terror attack, after the Special Cell received inputs over an attack on government buildings and political party premises in Lutyens' Delhi, officers aware of the matter said. They said specific inputs pointed to the possibility of an attack on the Bharatiya Janata Party headquarters.

Officers said that the inputs were received in the aftermath of Thursday's arrest of nine members of a network linked to Shahzad Bhatti, a gangster linked to

Pakistan who operates cross-border.

The accused were involved in recruiting foot soldiers through social media platforms. "The accused were tasked with carrying out random firing at security personnel in north India and the Delhi-NCR. Some of them were allegedly involved in arms trafficking for the Shahzad Bhatti network," said additional commissioner of police (Special Cell) Pramod Singh Kushwah.

A senior officer, who refused to be named, said, "We received inputs that



BJP headquarters could be targeted in a terror attack. We were also told to keep a

check on nearby government offices and in Lutyens' area. Due to last

year's car bombing terror attack near Red Fort, we started looking into suicide

attacks, car bombs, weapons and IEDs."

Police said they increased security at the BJP headquarters and across important offices in New Delhi.

A Delhi BJP functionary said, "The security has been ramped up keeping in view threat prevailing following the swearing-in ceremony of the government in West Bengal. From what we have learnt, security has been heightened at BJP headquarters nationwide. The bandobast has been there over the last couple of days."

## Two wanted shooters held after exchange of fire in central Delhi



New Delhi: Two alleged shooters wanted in Karol Bagh firing case were arrested after a brief exchange of fire with the Delhi Police in the Kamla Market area, an official said on Sunday.

The accused, identified as Deepanshu alias Sahil Bouncer, 28, and Avinash, 24, were apprehended on the night of May 9 during an ongoing anti-gangster crackdown, he said.

According to police, the duo was wanted in a firing case registered at Karol Bagh police station in April and had been evading arrest for a long time.

Police said several other accused linked to the same case, including Pankaj alias

Mohit, Ajay alias Gunga, Montu and Aakash, had already been arrested earlier.

"Acting on a tip-off, a team laid a trap near Zakir Turkman Road near Zakir Hussain College in Kamla Market after receiving information that the two accused would arrive there on a scooter around 10 pm with plans to target a member of the rival Rohit alias Mota gang," the police officer said.

At about 10.20 pm, the suspects arrived on the scooter and, upon finding themselves surrounded, took positions behind the scooter and a tree before opening indiscriminate fire at the police party, he said.

## LG orders restoration of 77 water bodies across Capital

New Delhi: The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) will begin restoration of 77 water bodies across the capital in a phased manner following directions from Delhi lieutenant governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu, officials said on Saturday.

The restoration roadmap was reviewed by the LG during a presentation by the DDA on Friday amid concerns over encroachment, neglect and declining groundwater levels in Delhi. According to officials, six

water bodies will be revived within 30 days, 48 within 60 days and 23 larger water bodies within 90 days, while the remaining sites will be taken up in later phases. The budget allocated for restoration of the 77 water bodies has not been disclosed yet.

In the first phase, the DDA will undertake dredging, excavation and desilting of dead or dying water bodies, along with clearing catchment areas to improve rainwater flow and

groundwater recharge. The second phase will include strengthening embankments, plantation drives, fencing, installation of sewage treatment plants (STPs) and decentralised sewage treatment plants (DSTPs), and beautification works.

Among the sites identified for restoration within 30 days are water bodies in Sultanpur Dabas, Rani Khera, Madanpur Dabas, Bankner and Mamoorpur. Other locations identified under the 60-day



and 90-day plans include Bamnoli, Chhawla, Kapashera, Ghitorni, Mahipalpur, Rajokari,

Burari and Alipur.

Officials said the LG directed departments to immediately implement the restoration plans and adhere to timelines, stressing that lakes and ponds are critical for groundwater recharge, ecological balance and climate resilience.

Separately, Sandhu on Saturday reviewed operations and expansion plans at Indira Gandhi International Airport and stressed leveraging the airport and Aerocity ecosystem to position Delhi

as a global hub for commerce, tourism and investment. He praised the airport's "Zero Waste to Landfill" policy and rainwater harvesting infrastructure and said, "Highlighted the importance of balancing rapid growth with the well-being of residents by addressing aircraft noise pollution. We remain committed to fostering an aviation hub that is both a global business magnet and ecologically responsible," in a post on X.

## Vijay to take oath as Tamil Nadu CM with nine ministers today

Chennai: C. Joseph Vijay will take oath as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu today along with a nine-member council of ministers after his party, Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam, secured the support of 120 MLAs, crossing the majority mark in the 234-member Assembly.

According to a release from Lok Bhavan, Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar approved the list of ministers recommended by Vijay for induction into the new cabinet.

The ministers set to take oath are N. Anand, Aadhav Arjuna, Dr K.G. Arunraj, K.A. Sengottaiyan, P. Venkataramanan, R. Nirmalkumar, Rajmohan, Dr T.K. Prabhu and S. Keerthana.

The swearing-in ceremony will be held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Chennai in the presence of several national and regional leaders.

Congress leader and Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi arrived in Chennai on Sunday morning to attend the event.

## PM Modi congratulates Vijay on taking oath as Tamil Nadu Chief Minister

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday congratulated C. Joseph Vijay after he took oath as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, extending his best wishes for the new tenure and assuring full cooperation from the Centre for the state's development.

In a post on X, the Prime Minister said, "Congratulations to Thiru C. Joseph Vijay on taking oath as Tamil Nadu Chief Minister. Best wishes for his tenure ahead. The Central Government will keep working with the Tamil Nadu Government to improve the lives of people."



The message came shortly after Vijay was sworn in as Chief Minister in Chennai, marking a major political shift in Tamil Nadu with the

end of nearly six decades of alternating rule between the DMK and AIADMK. Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

administered the oath of office and secrecy to Vijay at a grand ceremony held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Chennai.

## RSS leader Hosabale exhorts young women to actively participate in ABVP activities

New Delhi: Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale on Sunday exhorted young women to actively participate in its student wing Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP). Hosabale said ABVP ideologue and organisational thinker Yashwantrao Kelkar strongly advocated women's participation, full-time involvement of girl students and constructive work in student organisations. He noted that Kelkar played a key role in building the ideology and organisational structure of the student body.

## Gurugram: Realtor dupes client of over Rs 15 crore, held

New Delhi: Gurugram Police has arrested a 50-year-old owner of a real estate firm for allegedly duping people of crores by promising land agreements, officials said on Sunday.

The accused has been identified as Mahesh Mugam, a resident of Sector 75, Noida, they said.

According to the police, on January 20, a man filed a complaint stating that Neon Infra Construction Solutions Company and its affiliates had shown him documents promising to sell approximately 11.33 acres of land in Ghughera village in Palwal district of Haryana.

(2.15kWh).

In a second operation, a team led by PVVNL assistant engineer (raid) Ajit Kumar, carried out checks in Shri Ji Villa, Vayu Enclave, and Sahara City

within the Dadri police station limits. "Nine more cases of unauthorised electricity use were detected in this phase," the official added.

The accused in this

## IMD forecasts heavy rainfall in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Lakshadweep

New Delhi: India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast heavy rainfall today in parts of Kerala, Mahe, Lakshadweep, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal. Places over Chhattisgarh and Gangetic West Bengal are expected to experience thundersquall today.

According to the Meteorological Department, thunderstorms and lightning are likely in parts of north-east India, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Lakshadweep, Odisha, Sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim during the next 2-3 days. IMD also predicted heat wave conditions today over Gujarat and West Rajasthan.

Konkan and Goa will experience hot and humid weather during the day. According to the weather agency, warm night conditions are likely to persist in places over West Rajasthan during the next 7 days.



New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the 45th Anniversary Celebrations of The Art of Living in Bengaluru this morning. He also inaugurated the newly constructed Dhyana Mandir at the Art of Living International Centre. Addressing the gathering the Prime Minister lauded the role of the Art of Living Foundation in promoting service, spirituality and social transformation. He also called for collective efforts to build a developed India through environmental responsibility, youth empowerment and inner well-being. Mr Modi also emphasised that societal participation was more powerful than political systems and was essential for nation-building.

The Prime Minister said that support of spiritual centres such as the Art of Living foundation can help

the farmers and rural communities in encouraging natural farming and discourage the use of chemical fertilisers that are harming our mother Earth. He said they can play an active role in promoting per drop more crop initiatives, help conserve water, create awareness about saving power and discourage use of single use plastics. They can also encourage desi products and promote a lifestyle that is harmonious with nature. The Prime Minister noted that Yoga, meditation, pranayam are part of our spiritual heritage that can empower our youth to make valuable contributions towards the progress of our country. Speaking about the Vksit Bharat goal, the Prime Minister said it can be a reality when the society realises its responsibilities towards national goals and becomes proactive to realise them.

## 21 caught stealing electricity across GB Nagar

Noida: At least 21 individuals were caught stealing a combined electricity load of 53.54 kiloWatt (kW) across Gautam Budh Nagar during two joint enforcement drives on Thursday night, officials said on Friday.

The raids, jointly conducted by two teams from the Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (UPPCL) and the

Purvanchal Vidyut Vitaran Nigam Limited (PVVNL), targeted areas fed by the 33/11 kV substations at Bankapur and Bishnoli.

In the first operation, an enforcement team conducted early morning checks in Kanpur village within the Rabupura police station limits. "A total of 12 premises were found involved in

electricity theft during the inspection," an official said.

Those identified include Rahul (2kW), Satpal (2kW), Ganga Sharan (4.61kW), Vipin (4.46kW), Satish (4.67kW), Prempal (2kW), Dinesh (2kW), Yashpal (2kW), Kanhaiya (3.19kW), Sheelu (1.53kW), Rishipal (5.99kW), and Sameer

In a second operation, a team led by PVVNL assistant engineer (raid) Ajit Kumar, carried out checks in Shri Ji Villa, Vayu Enclave, and Sahara City

within the Dadri police station limits. "Nine more cases of unauthorised electricity use were detected in this phase," the official added.

The accused in this

cluster include Seema (1.2kW), Shivam Soni (2.7kW), Priyanka Mishra (1.5kW), Girish Chandra (2kW), Rekha (2kW), Varsha Kumari (1.5kW), Seema Rai (2kW), Rita

(2kW), and Narendra (2kW).

"All 21 premises were found using electricity illegally, with a combined connected load of 53.54kW. Legal action is being initiated against the accused under Section 135 of the Electricity Act, 2003. Cases will soon be registered at the Anti Power Theft police station in

Sector 63, Noida," said Sanjay Kumar Jain, chief engineer, PVVNL Noida zone.

Executive engineer Kumar, from Noida's urban electricity distribution division (raid), said strict action will be taken against those involved and enforcement drives will continue in high-loss areas to reduce revenue leakage.

Paradip Marine police busted deep-sea diesel smuggling network : 3,500 litres of fuel seized

Paradip - The Marine police in Paradip of Odisha have busted a deep-sea diesel smuggling network and seized around 3,500 litres of fuel from a boat. The cops have also arrested a person in this connection.

According sources, the officials of the Marine police intercepted a boat near Paradip port sea on Saturday and seized around 3,500 litres of diesel, clandestinely procured from ships anchored in deep sea areas.

The Marine police also seized the boat and arrested one Sunnapalli Neelayya of Srikakulam area in Andhra Pradesh. He was residing in Sandhakuda area of Paradip town for last few days, reports added. It is noted that the government has imposed restrictions on fishing to increase the fish population in the sea. However, at this time, some boats are involved in smuggling in the sea in the fishing nets. In this connection, Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Ajinkya Baburao Mane said that it is suspected that various smuggling activities may have been going on at sea. Police have tightened patrolling at sea and are keeping a sharp eye on the situation. According to Paradip ASP Ajinkya Mane, the accused and his associates were reportedly using fishing activities as a cover to carry out the illegal operation. The diesel was being siphoned from anchored cargo ships in deep-sea areas and transported through boats via unauthorised routes. The seized boat and other materials used in the operation have been confiscated, and preliminary investigations suggest the involvement of an organised network operating in coastal waters. Police suspect that the racket was operating through unauthorised offshore exchanges and coordinated transfers at sea, posing a threat to maritime and economic security. A manhunt has been launched to trace the absconding accused and identify the alleged mastermind behind the network, added Ajinkya Mane, ASP, Paradip.

59th Kerangs Annual Peace Conference Inaugurated.

Khordha--:10/5-The 59th Annual Peace Conference was inaugurated at Keranga Idgah premises on the outskirts of Khordha. The first session of the conference was presided over by Saifur Ahmed, President of District Khordha and Nayagarh. The proceedings began after hoisting the Ahmadiya Muslim flag. Maulana Nurul Haque Khan recited the Holy Quran, while its Odia translation was read out by Solomon Ahmed, Youth President of District Khordha and Nayagarh. Urdu Nazm Sangeet Israel Khan performed. Maulana Halim Khan of Bhubaneswar, who joined as the chief speaker, expressed his views on the existence and primacy of God. Girish Kumar Mahapatra, Chief Organizer of Khordha Shishu Mandir School, joined as the guest of honor and expressed his views on the gradual development and prosperity of man.

The second speaker was Maulana Maqsd Alli of Sunguda and he spoke about the life of the great man Muhammad and his good behavior with his family. The third speaker was Maulvi Mir Subhan Alli who spoke about Islamic jurisprudence.

Sk.Ekram performed Odia Najam Sangeet .The fourth speaker incharge of Bhadrak and Jajpur Maulana Mir Abdul spoke about establishing a strong relationship with the Khilafat system and that only by obeying it can one improve spiritually.

The chief guest was Maulana Muhammad Shahabuddin, Deputy Secretary of the Central Ahmadiyya Muslim Organization, spoke about financial contributions to religion. In his presidential address, District President of Khordha and Nayagarh, Saifur Ahmad, called for self-control, devotion to God, repentance, purity and being a good person in society. At the end, a collective silent prayer was offered for world peace. Maulana Harun Rashid, President of District Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Angulu, Kendrapara, Additional Islah and Ershad Chief Secretary Ataul Mujib Lone, Deputy Secretary of Central Ahmadiyya Awqaf Jadid Department T. Abdul Mujib, Kerang President Osim Ahmed attended the conference as the guests of honor. The program was moderated by Keranga Maulana Halim Ahmed.



OUIWJ khordha district unit organizational meeting and friendship program held

Khordha -10/5- An organizational meeting and friendship program of OUIWJ khordha district unit was held in the temple courtyard of 'Maa Bauti', Kumbasta near Khordha. The program was presided by OUIWJ, khordha district unit President Prakash Kumar Hati. More than 30 members from Khordha, Jatni, Balugaon, Chilika, Banpur, Begunia, Bolgarh, Tangi areas were participated in the program and presented their views on various activities of the association. In his speech, President, Mr. Hati asked all the members to work sincerely on how to strengthen the organization from the grassroots level.

Two Workers dead at KIP site



Keonjhar : Two workers died of electrocution at the Kanupur Irrigation Dam construction site, near Basudevpur under the Joda police station on Sunday. The incident occurred when the workers along with others were executing electrical welding at the spillway site. They are identified as Bekkar Roy (34) and Apu Roy (33) of Jalpaiguri, West Bengal.

According to reports, today at about 11:30 am, while the two were welding, suddenly received an electric shock and both fell down. They were rescued from there and first admitted to Basudevpur CHC for treatment. Later they referred them to Dharanidhar Medical College Hospital, Keonjhar, where the doctors declared both of them dead. After receiving information, the police went to the spot and started the investigation. Police seized the



bodies and sent them for a post-mortem examination. After the incident, questions were raised about worker safety. Since both workers are native to West Bengal, hence police verifying whether the migration of labour act has been followed or not. Locals alleged that the workers are working in an unsafe environment without safety measures. They urged an inquiry into the incident.

IIC Joda Prasanta Kumar Samal said, "The investigation is ongoing regarding how the accident took place and the details about the deceased workers. After a detailed inquiry, the details about the accident could be ascertained." KIP, conceived about 40 years ago and inaugurated by the Chief Minister, is still not completed. Present government has assured the people of Keonjhar that the project will function within two to three months.

76 th Birth anniversary of Natyakar Sudhakar Diwadi

Jagatsinghpur, 76 th Birth anniversary of Natyakar Sudhakar Diwadi celebrated at Adikavi Saraladas Sanskriti Bhawan by Sudhakar Smruti Parisad. Meeting presided over by Alekh Chandra Beheram and programme inaugurated by MLA, Jagatsinghpur Amarendra Das. Zilla Parisad President Manoj Bhoi, retd. Lecturer Himansu Acharya and Suresh Chandra Rout address the gathering. MLA, Amarendra Das said that, in future he will try to celebrate birth anniversary of all the dramatic personalities of the district. He will renovate Adikavi Saraladas Sanskrit Bhawan will place the statue of Adikavi Saraladas shortly. Secretary Saroj Kumar Diwadi presented the Annual report. Souvenir inaugurated by guest and winner of different competition were awarded by guests. Cultural programme presented by Dukhiram Swain institute of art and culture.

Development Projects Worth 194 Crore Inaugurated and Launched in Sambalpur.

Projects will bring major transformation in people's socio-economic lives: Dharmendra Pradhan

Sambalpur-May10(DMS) : Union Education Minister and Sambalpur MP Dharmendra Pradhan on Saturday inaugurated and laid foundation stones for 48 development projects worth around ?194 crore in the Rairakhol Assembly constituency of Sambalpur district.

Addressing a public programme at Naktideul, Pradhan said Sambalpur is a land of immense potential and ensuring its holistic development is a collective responsibility. He stated that the projects focused on education, healthcare, transportation, and agriculture would significantly improve the social and economic lifestyle of local residents in the coming years.

Among the projects, 17 schemes worth approximately ?9.17 crore were inaugurated, while foundation stones were laid for 31 new projects worth around



?184.69 crore across Rairakhol, Naktideul, and Jujumura blocks.

The Union Minister also remembered noted freedom fighter Madhu Gadhia for his fearless struggle against British rule and his sacrifice for the nation.

Pradhan informed that development work for the Bhimamandali Eco Heritage Site has begun with an investment of

?8.30 crore. A new building for the Community Health Centre along with a BPHU unit at Naktideul will be constructed at a cost of around ?18 crore.

To promote sports among youth, steps have been taken for the construction of a mini stadium at an estimated cost of ?16.10 crore. He further said that the upgradation work of the

Rampur-Girischandrapur road under Rairakhol block is being accelerated with an investment of ?47.24 crore to improve regional connectivity.

Other important projects include a Sub-Divisional Veterinary Hospital at Rairakhol, a veterinary dispensary at Charmal, improvement of Chamunda-Burda and NH-6 to Marangabahal roads in Jujumura block, and development of new market complexes at Sarapali and Jamujhari.

Highlighting agriculture as the backbone of Naktideul, Pradhan said the Government of India has selected it as a "Aspirational Block." He added that the government is committed to empowering local farmers economically by promoting dairy farming, vegetable cultivation, and mango farming in the region.

The Minister reiterated that the overall development of

Other important projects include a Sub-Divisional Veterinary Hospital at Rairakhol, a veterinary dispensary at Charmal, improvement of Chamunda-Burda and NH-6 to Marangabahal roads in Jujumura block, and development of new market complexes at Sarapali and Jamujhari.

Rairakhol, Naktideul, Jujumura, and the entire Sambalpur district remains a top priority. He also thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Odisha government for supporting the developmental initiatives.

The programme was attended by Odisha Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister Rabi Narayan Naik and Rairakhol MLA Prasanna Acharya, among others.

Paradip Marine police busted deep-sea diesel smuggling network : 3,500 litres of fuel seized

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According sources, the officials of the Marine police intercepted a boat near Paradip port sea on Saturday and seized around 3,500 litres of diesel, clandestinely procured from ships anchored in deep sea areas.

The Marine police also seized the boat and arrested one Sunnapalli Neelayya of Srikakulam area in Andhra Pradesh. He was residing in Sandhakuda area of Paradip town for last few days, reports added. It is noted that the government has imposed restrictions on fishing to increase the fish population in the sea. However, at this time, some boats are involved in smuggling in the sea in the fishing nets. In this connection, Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Ajinkya Baburao Mane said that it is suspected that various

smuggling activities may have been going on at sea. Police have tightened patrolling at sea and are keeping a sharp eye on the situation. According to Paradip ASP Ajinkya Mane, the accused and his associates were reportedly using fishing activities as a cover to carry out the illegal operation. The diesel was being siphoned from anchored cargo ships in deep-sea areas and transported through boats via unauthorised routes. The seized boat and other materials used in the operation have been confiscated, and preliminary investigations suggest the involvement of an organised network operating in coastal waters.

Police suspect that the racket was operating through unauthorised offshore exchanges and coordinated transfers at sea, posing a threat to maritime and economic security. A manhunt has been launched to trace the absconding accused and identify the alleged mastermind behind the network, added Ajinkya Mane, ASP, Paradip.

House owner arrested for blackmailing and circulating nude photos and videos of married women

Keonjhar : Keonjhar Police has arrested one 34 year old house owner in connection with black mailing for circulating obscene intimacy photographs and videos of a woman, a tenant. Police arrested Sudarsan Dash (34 years) of Village Matiapada under Talabania police station in Puri district yesterday and forwarded him to court today after registering a case based on a complaint from a 35 years old married woman.

As per the allegations, while the victim and her husband were staying in a rented house in the Keonjhar town, the accused house owner allegedly attempted to establish

an illicit relationship with her. Subsequently, taking advantage of her husband's absence, the accused allegedly entered her room and forcibly committed sexual assault upon her. It was further alleged that the accused recorded obscene photographs and videos of the incident and later used them to repeatedly blackmail and sexually exploit the victim over a prolonged period.

It was also alleged that the accused created a fake Facebook profile under the name "Prachi Priti," using the victim's photograph and circulated obscene photographs and screenshots through social

media platforms with the intent to defame and humiliate her. Immediately after registering the case, Keonjhar Town Police initiated an investigation. "During the investigation, the victim and other witnesses gave recorded statements. Various incriminating digital evidence, including mobile phones, WhatsApp screenshots, fake Facebook profile details and other electronic materials were seized said the police.

"The accused was apprehended and one mobile phone was seized from his possession. Examination of the seized device led to the recovery



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of obscene photographs, screenshots and other digital materials relating to the offence. The entire search and seizure process was conducted legally in the presence of Government official witnesses and was videographed" said the Town IIC Srikanta Sahu.

Further investigation revealed that

the accused allegedly continued to threaten and intimidate the victim by calling her repeatedly and warning that the obscene photographs and videos would be made public if she refused to comply with his demands. When the victim allegedly refused to obey him, the accused circulated obscene materials through social media platforms,

the IIC said. Investigation has further revealed that due to the continuous acts of sexual exploitation, blackmail and circulation of obscene content, the victim suffered severe mental trauma, humiliation and social embarrassment. Investigation into the digital evidence and other related aspects of the case is continuing, IIC added.

Daitapati Bhabani Jie invited Suwendu Adhikari CM west Bengal to visit Puri and seek the blessings of Lord Jagannath at Srimandir



PURI: After taking oath as the new Chief Minister of West Bengal, Suwendu Adhikari received the blessings of Lord Jagannath during a religious programme held in Kolkata.

During the occasion, Adhikari met young Daitapati Bhabani Prasad Das Mahapatra and said that his success had come through the blessings of Mahaprabhu Shri Jagannath.

Bhawani Prasad Das Mahapatra presented the chief minister with the sacred angavastra, flowers and Mahaprasad sent from the Shree Jagannath Temple in Puri.

On the occasion, the Daitapati invited Adhikari to visit Puri and seek the blessings of Lord Jagannath at the Srimandir.

Earlier, special rituals

and a Mahayajna had been organised for BJP's massive victory in West Bengal and for the success of Suwendu Adhikari. The special religious ceremony and Mahayajna in Kolkata were conducted by young Daitapati Bhabani Das Mahapatra.

Adhikari also offered prayers and sought blessings from Mahaprabhu during the programme in Kolkata.

A blood donation and eye screening camp was organized by Ban Bharati Foundation and Sambad Ama Odisha

Balasure, May 9: A blood donation and eye screening camp was organized at Trishakti Club, Nayabali Bishnupur under Baliapal block.

The twin camps were jointly organized by Ban Bharati Foundation and Sambad Ama Odisha.

The programme was jointly inaugurated by District Blood Donors' Association President Kamal Kumar Chakraborty and Ban Bharati Foundation President Nagendra Nath Samal.

Among the distinguished guests were District Blood Donors' Association Organizing Secretary Manoranjan Das and Balasure Blood Centre Officer Dr. Basant Kumar Upadhyay, who encouraged the blood donors.

A total of 22 units of blood were collected during the camp. Staff members of the Balasure Blood Centre carried out the blood collection process. Club members Paresh Kumar Kar, Nayan

Panigrahi, Harekrushna Jena, Archana Senapati, Ramesh Kar, Sangram Kar, Kavita Sethi, Anita Panigrahi, Aparajita Kar, Manas Acharya, Lilima Samal, Nabin Sahu, Priti Deb Kar, Mrutyunjay Samal and Sambad North Odisha Edition Ama Odisha Coordinator Lakshmidhar Barik managed the camp successfully.

More than 50 people attended the eye screening camp. Those diagnosed with cataract were referred to hospitals for surgery.

## Wheel-Axle Ritual of Rathas Completed During Bhaunri Festival

Puri: The auspicious Chaka-Akha Dera ritual, marking the ceremonial joining of wheels and axles of the three Rathas, was completed on the occasion of the sacred Bhaunri Utsav on Saturday.

As part of the ritual, three axles were attached to six wheels of the three chariots after the arrival of the sacred Agyanmala from the temple. The ceremonial work was carried out by the Biswakarma artisans with assistance from the Bhoi servitors.

According to tradition, one axle was connected to two wheels of each chariot. The remaining work involving a total of 42 wheels and 21 axles will continue in the coming days as preparations for the annual Rath Yatra gather pace.

The ritual marked another important phase in the construction of the three grand chariots of Lord Jagannath, Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra. While the



chariot construction began ceremonially on the occasion of Akshaya Tritiya, the wheel-and-axle joining ceremony was performed on the holy Bhaunri day.

Following the completion of the morning rituals at the

Shree Jagannath Temple, servitors carried the Agyanmala for the three Rathas to the Ratha Khala, the chariot construction yard. The Biswakarma Maharana craftsmen prepared the wheels, while

the Bhoi servitors completed the axle fitting ceremony. The rituals were conducted smoothly in the presence of senior officials, including Chief administrator Aravind Padhee, Collector Divyajyoti Parida, SP

Prateek Singh and ADG Soumendra Priyadarshi.

Devotees and officials prayed for the smooth and disciplined conduct of this year's world-famous Rath Yatra in the presence of lakhs of devotees.

## Haryana Assembly to hold special session on Apr 27, bill on promotion of Group D staff likely

New Delhi: The Haryana Assembly will sit for a special one-day session on April 27, in which the government is likely to introduce a bill on the promotion of Group D employees, along with a censure motion against the opposition parties for the defeat of a bill to amend the women's quota law in the Lok Sabha recently.

Addressing the media here, Chief Minister Nayab Saini accused the opposition parties, including the Congress and the Samajwadi Party, of stalling the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill in the Lok Sabha on April 17.

Under the bill, Lok Sabha seats were to be increased to up to 816 from the current 543 to operationalise the women's reservation law mandating 33 per cent reservation for women in legislative bodies before the 2029 parliamentary polls, following a delimitation exercise based on the 2011 Census.

## Delhi HC refuses to entertain PIL over LPG shortage

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Wednesday refused to entertain a PIL raising concerns over an "acute shortage" of domestic LPG cylinders, observing that everyone is aware of the circumstances affecting the supply of resources and the issue falls within the government's domain.

Terming it a "fallout of the war" in West Asia, a bench of Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia said it will not pass "futile" directions when the Centre has already issued various orders on the supply of LPG including an order under the Essential Commodities Act.

"Are we running a government? We do not interfere in such matters," the bench told the petitioner.

## Rape-murder accused killed in Ghaziabad encounter; family refuses to claim body

New Delhi: The family of a 55-year-old man accused of raping and killing his four-year-old niece has refused to claim his body after he was killed in a police encounter in Ghaziabad, with locals also expressing support for the police action.

The accused, Jasim, was wanted for the rape and murder of the girl, whose body was found concealed in a car in the Shalimar Garden area.

Jasim was killed late Sunday night during an encounter in the Teela Mod police station area when he allegedly opened fire while trying to evade arrest.

## No plan yet to raise petrol, diesel prices: Oil Min

New Delhi: The government on Thursday dismissed reports suggesting petrol and diesel prices may be hiked by Rs 25-28 a litre soon after assembly elections, saying there is no such proposal under consideration.

"There are some news reports suggesting a price hike of petrol and diesel. It is hereby clarified that there is no such proposal under consideration by the government," the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas said in a post on X.

The clarification came after a report by Kotak Institutional Equities hinted of a steep increase in petrol and diesel prices once the polling for assembly elections in states like West Bengal ends on April 29. Kotak projected a Rs 25-28 a litre increase in price based on crude oil staying close to USD 120 per barrel.

## Union Minister Attends Seva Bharati Annual Function in Sambalpur

Sambalpur-09/05 (DMS) : Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Saturday praised Seva Bharati for its dedicated humanitarian work while attending the annual function of Seva Bharati, Odisha West Region, in Sambalpur.

Addressing the gathering, Pradhan said Seva Bharati is not merely an organisation but a symbol of selfless service. He lauded the institution's contribution in the fields of education, healthcare, social reform and disaster management, stating that its continuous efforts for the welfare of deprived and underprivileged people are highly inspiring.

He said the organisation has been working with the philosophy of "Service is God" and has successfully brought smiles to the faces of neglected sections of



society through its commitment and social outreach activities.

"We should not show pity or sympathy towards others; rather, we must perform our duties sincerely. Social responsibility itself is our culture," Pradhan remarked.

The Union Minister further stated that Seva Bharati has remained closely

connected with society by addressing local needs and issues. Through social welfare programmes, traditional community activities and drinking water initiatives, the organisation has strengthened social harmony and collective responsibility among people.

Pradhan also appreciated the ambulance

service provided with the support of the district administration, saying it would help strengthen healthcare services in the region. He urged society at large to actively participate alongside Seva Bharati in running gaushalas and medical camps.

Expressing concern over children's health and nutrition, he said building a

healthy and educated future generation is a collective responsibility of society.

Highlighting environmental concerns and rising temperatures, Pradhan called for large-scale plantation drives and complete avoidance of single-use plastic. "Only when we treat society as our own family can we build a healthy and well-organised social system," he said.

Among others present at the programme were Odisha Panchayati Raj, Rural Development and Drinking Water Minister Rabi Narayan Naik, Sambalpur MLA Jayanarayan Mishra and several dignitaries.

Pradhan congratulated Seva Bharati for continuing its social service activities by taking all sections of society along with it.

## Preparatory Meeting Held for Majhighariani Chaitra Festival at Saipriya Nagar, Rayagada

Rayagada: A preparatory meeting for the upcoming Maa Majhighariani Chaitra Festival was organized by the Majhighariani Puja Committee of Saipriya Nagar at the local Majhighariani Puja Mandap in Rayagada.

The meeting focused on the smooth and disciplined conduct of the five-day annual religious festival, which is scheduled to be held from June 23, 2026 to June 27, 2026. Members of the committee discussed various important arrangements related to the

celebration, including decoration and lighting facilities, musical and cultural arrangements, crowd management, sanitation, and maintenance of law and order during the festival period.

Special emphasis was laid on ensuring the safety and convenience of devotees who are expected to visit the puja mandap in large numbers during the Chaitra celebrations. The committee members also discussed coordination with local administration and volunteers for proper management of traffic and

public movement around the venue. The meeting was attended by Puja Committee President Chinna Rao, Treasurer Babuji, along with several committee members and local residents who actively participated in the discussions and shared suggestions for the successful organization of the festival.

The Majhighariani Chaitra Festival is considered one of the important religious celebrations in the area and is observed every year with great devotion and enthusiasm by devotees and residents of Rayagada.

## Annual Cartoon Exhibition of Odisha Cartoon Academy Inaugurated

• Late Gyan Rath and Kishore Rath Honoured for Lifetime Contribution

Balasure, 9/5: A two-day Annual Cartoon Exhibition 2026, organised by the Odisha Cartoon Academy, was inaugurated showcasing cartoons by renowned cartoonists of Odisha along with works of emerging young cartoonists.

The exhibition, held at Jayadev Bhawan, was

formally inaugurated by chief guest Amitabh Thakur, Chairman of the Odisha Transport Authority and Transport Commissioner.

Distinguished guests included Subu R. and Sharada Prasad Mahapatra, Chairman of the National Human Welfare Board Trust.

The programme was presided over by Kamalakanta Rath, President of the Odisha Cartoon Academy. On this occasion, late cartoonists Gyan Rath and Kishore Rath were posthumously honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award for their lifelong dedication to cartoon art.

Addressing the gathering, chief guest Amitabh Thakur stated that cartoons carrying messages on transport and road safety play a significant role in creating public awareness. He also assured support for nurturing more young cartoonists in the coming days. Distinguished guest

Subu R. shared his views on the connection between auditing and cartoons, while Sharada Prasad Mahapatra appreciated the organisation's efforts in promoting new cartoonists and expressed his commitment to extending direct support.

From the family of cartoonist Kishore Rath,

his wife Rosalini Sadangi and elder son Debadalan Rath received the honour on his behalf.

Outstanding participants of cartoon competitions organised in various schools across Odisha were felicitated with plaques and certificates. Cartoons by artists including Kishore

Rath, Gyan Rath, Sunaram Singh, Keshu Das, Paresh Nath, K.K. Rath, Utkal Gaurav, Ashwini Abani, Chudamani Das, Debashish Singh, Prashant Majhi, T. Nandeshu, Prashant Mahakur and Bibek Das, along with works of young cartoonists, were

displayed at the exhibition.

Secretary Debashish Singh delivered the introductory address, while artist Kesu Das proposed the vote of thanks. A large number of cartoon lovers, students and parents visited the exhibition and appreciated the display.

## ECI Selection

AMID a heated debate about the role played by the Election Commission of India (ECI) in the just-concluded West Bengal elections, the very law governing the appointment of the poll panel's members is under judicial scrutiny. The Supreme Court is hearing arguments on a batch of pleas challenging the validity of the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners



(Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023. In its March 2023 verdict, the Court had ordered that the ECI's members be appointed on the advice of a committee comprising the Prime Minister, the Chief Justice of India (CJI) and the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha — till a law was made by Parliament. The law, which was eventually enacted in December that year, excluded the CJI from the selection process; instead, it included a Union Cabinet minister — to be nominated by the PM — among the committee's three members.

It's obvious that this arrangement gives an edge to the executive, represented by the PM and the Cabinet minister, whose recommendations will count even if the LoP disagrees with them. Even as the ECI continues to be under fire from the Opposition over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bengal, it's imperative to devise a fair mechanism for these vital appointments.

The independence of the ECI is a constitutional mandate. It can ensure free and fair elections across the country only if it is insulated from executive interference. The Court has stated that its 2023 judgment did not lay down norms for Parliament to frame the law in any particular manner. Thus, the onus is on the legislature to take the initiative of amending the Act so that no questions or doubts are raised about the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and two Election Commissioners. At stake is the ECI's credibility — and also the health of our electoral democracy. 'One Nation, One Election' can wait; the priority right now should be to make the law loophole-free.

## TN Uncertainty

TAMIL Nadu's unfolding post-election uncertainty has once again brought the constitutional role of the Governor under scrutiny. With Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam emerging as the single largest party but falling short of the halfway mark, the question before Raj Bhavan is politically explosive yet constitutionally settled: who should be invited to form the government? The Constitution does not automatically grant the single largest party the right to govern. The Governor is expected to determine which formation is most likely to command the confidence of the Assembly. However, decades of political controversies have shown how this discretionary power can become a source of suspicion, allegations of bias and charges of partisan intervention.

The Supreme Court has repeatedly clarified the constitutional position, emphasising that majority must be tested on the floor of the House, not in the Governor's subjective satisfaction. The Karnataka 2018 episode is the clearest precedent, when the BJP emerged as the single largest party but lacked a majority. The Governor invited it to form the government and granted 15 days to prove numbers. The SC intervened, ordered an immediate floor test to prevent prolonged political manoeuvring and possible defections. Unable to gather support, BJP's Yediyurappa resigned before the trust vote, after which HD Kumaraswamy formed the government with Congress support. In 2017, in Goa, the Governor invited a post-poll coalition because it demonstrated majority support earlier than the Congress, despite the latter being the largest party. These cases establish a crucial principle: numbers on the Assembly floor matter more than claims outside it.

If Vijay can demonstrate a workable majority, he should be allowed to take oath and face a floor test within days. Equally, if another coalition reaches the majority mark first, it too has a legitimate constitutional claim. Hung verdicts are part of democracy. Constitutional ambiguity should not be.

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# Rediscovering the Roots of Human Intelligence

Madhusudan Mishra, IAS (Retd.)

Artificial Intelligence (AI) today stands as one of the most transformative forces shaping the modern world. From autonomous vehicles and precision healthcare to predictive governance and advanced language models, AI is redefining how societies function and evolve. Governments, universities, and industries across the globe are investing heavily in machine learning, neural networks, and data-driven systems. Yet, amid this rapid technological ascent, an intriguing intellectual realization is emerging: many foundational ideas underlying AI are not entirely new. Their conceptual roots can be traced back to ancient civilizations—most notably, to the rich and sophisticated knowledge traditions of India.

Long before the advent of computers and algorithms, ancient Indian scholars had developed highly structured systems of logic, linguistics, mathematics, and cognitive analysis. These were not merely philosophical abstractions but deeply analytical frameworks aimed at understanding intelligence, communication, and reasoning. In many respects, they parallel the conceptual architecture of modern AI.

One of the most remarkable examples is the work of the ancient Sanskrit grammarian Panini. His treatise, the *Ashtadhyayi*, composed around the 5th century BCE, consists of nearly 4,000 concise rules that systematically describe the structure of Sanskrit. What makes Panini's work extraordinary is its algorithmic precision. His rule-based system, complete with meta-rules and recursive structures, bears a striking resemblance to modern programming languages and computational linguistics. Today's Natural Language Processing (NLP) models—used in translation systems, chatbots, and voice assistants—operate on similar principles of structured syntax and pattern recognition. Panini's grammar can thus be seen as an early model of linguistic intelligence encoded into a formal system.

Equally significant is the Nyaya school of philosophy, which developed a rigorous framework for logic and epistemology. Nyaya scholars explored how knowledge is acquired through perception, inference, comparison, and testimony—collectively known as *Pramana*. Their structured approach to reasoning, including the five-step syllogism, mirrors modern logical

*Ancient Indian medicine, especially Ayurveda, offers another compelling parallel. Ayurveda emphasized personalized diagnosis by considering an individual's constitution, environment, and lifestyle. Modern AI-driven healthcare systems similarly rely on data analytics to deliver personalized treatment and predictive diagnostics. The Ayurvedic approach of viewing the human body as an interconnected system resonates strongly with contemporary systems biology and AI-based health modeling.*



frameworks used in AI for decision-making and inference. Just as AI systems evaluate data and derive conclusions, ancient Indian logicians analyzed truth through systematic reasoning and evidence validation.

The mathematical traditions of ancient India also provide profound connections to AI. Scholars such as Pingala introduced combinatorial methods and binary-like representations while studying poetic meters. His recursive techniques resemble the logic underlying modern algorithms and binary computation. Furthermore, the contributions of mathematicians like Aryabhata, Brahmagupta, and Bhaskaracharya—particularly the invention of zero, the decimal system, and advances in algebra and trigonometry—laid the groundwork for all computational sciences. Without these numerical innovations, the development of AI would have been unimaginable.

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Beyond technical disciplines,

Indian philosophical traditions such as Yoga and Vedanta explored the nature of consciousness, cognition, and mental processes. While modern AI seeks to replicate intelligence externally through machines, these traditions investigated intelligence internally through disciplined self-observation. Concepts of attention, memory, perception, and awareness—central to Yogic science—are now being revisited in cognitive science and AI research. This convergence highlights a deeper dimension: the quest to understand not just artificial intelligence, but intelligence itself.

Similarly, Kautilya's *Arthashastra* demonstrated sophisticated approaches to governance, including data collection, intelligence networks, and strategic planning. Modern governance increasingly relies on AI for predictive analytics, policy design, and public administration. The emphasis on information-driven decision-making in ancient Indian statecraft reflects an early understanding of data-centric governance.

What distinguishes ancient Indian knowledge systems is their holistic approach. They were not solely concerned with efficiency or technical mastery but with the ethical and philosophical dimensions of knowledge. Modern AI, while immensely powerful, raises critical concerns regarding bias, privacy, accountability, and ethical use. Machines can process data, but they lack moral judgment and human sensitivity. Here, the principles of

Dharma, ethical restraint, and social responsibility from Indian thought can provide valuable guidance.

India today stands at a unique crossroads. It has the opportunity to blend its ancient intellectual heritage with cutting-edge technological innovation. By integrating AI with disciplines such as Sanskrit studies, Indian logic, philosophy, and traditional mathematics, the country can pioneer new frontiers in research. Interdisciplinary initiatives could lead to breakthroughs in computational linguistics, ethical AI, and consciousness studies.

Educational institutions must play a pivotal role in this transformation. Ancient Indian knowledge systems should be studied not merely as cultural artifacts but as rigorous intellectual traditions with contemporary relevance. Establishing research centers focused on "AI and Indian Knowledge Systems" could position India as a global leader in this emerging field. Ancient India did not invent computers or machine learning in the modern technical sense. However, it undeniably developed foundational ideas related to logic, structured reasoning, language processing, combinatorics, cognition, and systems analysis.

At the same time, it is essential to maintain academic rigor and avoid exaggerated claims. Ancient India did not develop AI in the modern technological sense. However, it undeniably laid down foundational concepts in logic, language, mathematics, and cognition that resonate strongly with today's AI frameworks. These parallels should be explored with scholarly discipline rather than emotional glorification.

As the world advances deeper into the age of intelligent machines, it is also searching for wisdom to guide their use. Ancient Indian knowledge systems offer not just intellectual insights but an ethical compass. They remind us that intelligence is not merely about computation but about understanding, balance, and responsibility.

In this light, the future of AI may not lie solely in creating smarter machines, but in rediscovering the timeless principles of human intelligence preserved in ancient traditions. The synthesis of these two worlds—modern technology and ancient wisdom—may ultimately define a more humane and enlightened path for humanity.

## The silence of Energy at Jagannath

Bikram Mohapatra

Ratna Singhasana is the lotus shaped rostrum at the innermost chamber of Puri Jagannath temple. This is also called Ratna Vedi and is the seat of the Lord—the three deities Jagannath, Balabhadra & Subhadra who are accompanied by Shree Sudarshana, Shree Devi, Bhu Devi and Lord Madhava, making it "the Saptavigrahas" or the seven deities. The chamber of the Lord is not a mere seat of resting but is believed to be the dynamic energy field of the universe from where the Supreme bestows blessings through diverse shapes, geometric patterns, 'blueprints' and 'reactors'—the divine energy sources. And this chamber of energy is also the 'zone of silence', the place of no-thought or shunya.

The Skanda Purana in the fourth chapter mentions that the angels, the celestial bodies, the devatas (the Lords) love to be at Ratna Singhasana to pay obeisance to Lord Jagannath & His company. Such is the magnetism of the Lord on the Ratna Singhasana. The benediction from Ratna Singhasana reaches every soul, matter and place in the cosmos in utter and blissful silence. I have myself experienced an eternal silence inside the sanctum sanctorum. He is Silence.

Aste yatra svayamdevomuktida purushottamam dhanyastevibudhipraksya yavasanti kulenarah, In the place the Lord Himself, the Supreme identity and the most worship able figure, awards liberation to the very fortunate souls who live there under His protection." bharate cot kaledese bhuvarge purushottamedaru rupi jagannatha bhaktanam abhaya pradaha, and protects His devotees from all fears."

The Lord is the epicentre and he rests at the navel of the Conch, the Sankha Khetra or the conch shaped location. The central area of Purushottama khetra is called Nilachala or Sankha khetra, described as a daksinavarta sankha (a special Lakshmi conch shell with the hollow part on the right side) having an area of 16 square km (the original area including the periphery) of which some part is

*The Skanda Purana in the fourth chapter mentions that the angels, the celestial bodies, the devatas (the Lords) love to be at Ratna Singhasana to pay obeisance to Lord Jagannath & His company. Such is the magnetism of the Lord on the Ratna Singhasana. The benediction from Ratna Singhasana reaches every soul, matter and place in the cosmos in utter and blissful silence. I have myself experienced an eternal silence inside the sanctum sanctorum. He is Silence.*

submerged under the sea. The Lord being at the navel is meaningful.

This invisible energy, called Prana, is vital life force, which keeps us vibrant, healthy, and alive. The navel or the Manipura chakra functions as an Auric energy generator. Shakti in this chakra is Lakshmi and She is the goddess of spiritual prosperity and of wealth. This chakra through the power of Lord Karthikeya represents the power of youth. The Lord being at the navel of Sankha khetra which is the Ratna Singhasana bestows on humanity, the source of personal power and governs self-esteem, the base life energy, and the power of transformation for the Universe. The element of this Chakra is fire and the colour are yellow, bright like the sun. And hence the Beshas (the attire of the Lord) has colours which are in sync with the energy colours or nuances. The multi coloured appliques which are tied with the Kanka mundi over the deities on the Ratna Singhasana bear colours which are earth colours, and which radiate energies, unimaginable.

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## Studying in the Midst of Hot Winds: The Unseen Problem of Children and Teachers

Dr Vijay Garg

Every year, summer arrives with rising temperatures, scorching sunlight, and hot winds that make daily life difficult for millions of people. In many parts of India, temperatures cross 45 degrees Celsius during the peak summer months. While people working in offices or staying at home may find relief through fans, coolers, or air conditioners, millions of school children and teachers continue to spend long hours in classrooms that often lack even the most basic facilities. For many schools, especially in rural and economically weaker regions, summer is not just a season—it becomes a challenge to survival, concentration, and health. Children sit in overcrowded classrooms with poor ventilation, broken fans, inadequate drinking water, and unbearable heat. Teachers struggle to conduct lessons while dealing with exhaustion, dehydration, and discomfort themselves.

Despite affecting the physical and mental well-being of both students and educators, this issue rarely receives the attention it deserves. It appears briefly in discussions during heatwaves, but long-term solutions remain limited. The problem of studying in extreme heat has silently become one of the overlooked crises within the education system. Rising Temperatures and Changing ClimateClimate change has intensified weather conditions across the world, and India is among the countries facing severe heat-related challenges. Summers are becoming longer, hotter, and more dangerous. Heatwaves that were once occasional are now frequent. Rapid urbanization, deforestation, pollution, and the increasing use of concrete structures have contributed to the "urban heat island" effect, making cities even hotter. Rural regions are also experiencing changes in weather patterns. Schools, especially government institutions with limited resources, are highly vulnerable to these conditions. Many school buildings were constructed years ago without considering extreme heat conditions. As temperatures rise year after year, classrooms become increasingly unsafe and uncomfortable.

# 'Afforestation Argument Bogus': Congress Seeks Access To Green Panel Report On Great Nicobar Project

New Delhi, 10/5: The Congress on Sunday once again opposed the Great Nicobar Island development project, calling the compensatory afforestation argument "bogus" and seeking access to the report of a High-Powered Committee (HPC) set up by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) to review the green nod to the project that entails felling of more than seven lakh trees. In a letter to the Environment Minister Bhubender Yadav, former Union Minister and Congress MP Jairam Ramesh said, "In the interests of good governance and informed public debate, please make the HPC report public" and "pause, reflect, and revisit the project in its present design and detail". Ramesh challenged the Frequently Asked Questions published by the Union government on the project, rubbishing the claim that potential ecological impacts of the project are being effectively handled through a detailed Environmental Management Plan. He said that the HPC was constituted by the NGT in 2023 holding that there were "unanswered deficiencies" in the clearance and directing the Committee to re-visit the environmental clearance. Opposing the



Environment Ministry's stand that the HPC report is confidential, Congress MP Ramesh said, "I am at a complete loss to understand the logic and legality behind the claim of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change that the HPC's report is confidential. This goes against all basic principles of transparency and accountability to which you claim commitment." Questioning the confidentiality of the report, the Congress leader said, "When the original environmental clearance

appraisal process was in public domain, is it legal to contend that the product of a court mandated reconsideration exercise is confidential?" Ramesh, the Congress General Secretary Communications Incharge, said, "When the Environmental Impact Assessment reports, detailed project reports, master plan for the township and even the Detailed Project Report of the airport are in the public domain, what is the basis to contend that the HPC report is confidential? In the interests of good

governance and informed public debate, please make the HPC report public." Seeking a rethink on the project, the Congress leader said, "The Great Nicobar Island's biodiversity is globally unique, and new discoveries are being made from time to time. It is this unique ecosystem that will be destroyed by the Great Nicobar Island development project." "The compensatory afforestation argument is completely bogus, and you know it. Security experts have themselves written that the

country's essential security needs can be met without inflicting such ecological devastation. I once again urge you to pause, reflect, and revisit the project in its present design and detail," Ramesh added. Earlier, dismissing environmental concerns, the Union Environment Ministry said that the proposed Great Nicobar Island development project balances port-led growth with calibrated environmental safeguards and protection of indigenous communities. The Project seeks to transform Great Nicobar into a strategic maritime and economic hub by leveraging its proximity (about 40 nautical miles) to the East-West shipping route and reducing dependence on foreign transshipment ports keeping in view the defence and national security purpose, it added. "Key components of the projects include: An international Container Transshipment Terminal with a capacity of 14.2 million TEU (Twenty-Foot Equivalent Unit); greenfield International Airport (4,000 Peak Hour Passengers-PHP); a 450 MVA (Megawatt Ampere) gas and solar-based power plant and a new township spanning 16,610 hectares," the Ministry said in a statement.

# Saudi Oil Giant Exports 7 Mn Barrels Of Oil A Day Via Pipeline To Skirt Hormuz

New Delhi, 10/5: Saudi Arabian Oil Company (Aramco) president and CEO Amin H. Nasser said on Sunday that the oil giant's East-West Pipeline has reached its maximum capacity of 7.0 million barrels of oil per day and is proving to be a crucial alternative to the Strait of Hormuz for ensuring energy supplies to world markets. Aramco announced a 25 per cent increase in its quarterly profit as it increased exports via a pipeline that bypasses the Strait of Hormuz, after the Iran war stopped normal ship movement through the vital waterway. The Saudi Arabian national oil company, which is the world's top oil exporter, posted a net profit of \$32.5 billion for the three months ending March 31, up from \$26 billion in the same period last year. "Aramco's first-quarter performance reflects strong resilience and operational flexibility in a complex geopolitical environment. Our East-West Pipeline, which reached its maximum capacity of 7.0 million barrels of oil per day, has proven itself to be a critical supply artery, helping to mitigate the impact of a

global energy shock and providing relief to customers affected by shipping constraints in the Strait of Hormuz," said Aramco CEO Nasser. CEO Amin Nasser warned of potential long-term oil market disruption lasting until 2027 if the Strait of Hormuz remains closed. Aramco is utilising its East-West pipeline to its maximum 7 million barrels-a-day capacity to bypass the closed Strait of Hormuz, transporting more crude to the Red Sea. Profits have also jumped due to the surge in global oil prices, which have shot past the \$100 per barrel mark. CEO Amin Nasser warned that if trade remains curtailed, the market may not normalise until 2027. He added that about 1 billion barrels of oil have been lost from the market. The Samref refinery in Yanbu faced an aerial strike, highlighting risks to the alternative export routes. However, the company continues to provide substantial payouts to the state despite the volatile situation. It is manoeuvring through a severe regional crisis by redirecting exports via the Red Sea, which has acted as a critical lifeline.

# Delhi CM Rekha Gupta Approves Scheme To Support Orphans Even After 18

New Delhi, 10/5: Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said on Sunday that the state government will continue supporting orphaned children even after they turn 18, offering assistance in college education and job search. The launch of the Aftercare Scheme for Young Persons on the occasion of Mother's Day reflects that the Delhi government's belief that its responsibility does not end with providing shelter and protection to children. "The aim is to ensure that every child and young adult gets the opportunity to build a safe, dignified and self-reliant future without ever feeling abandoned or unsupported," Chief Minister Gupta added. The Delhi government has earmarked Rs 3.5 crore for the scheme in the current financial year, a statement said. Under the scheme, eligible beneficiaries will receive assistance for higher education and college studies, along with access to skill development and vocational training programmes. "The Delhi government will also focus on connecting young people with



internships and employment opportunities. Financial support and a monthly stipend have also been included in the scheme," the statement added. Marking the occasion of Mother's Day, the Chief Minister visited the Village Cottage Home in Lajpat Nagar, where she spent time interacting warmly with children living at the facility run by the Women and Child Development Department. During the interaction, Chief Minister Gupta shared details of the new aftercare initiative and said that Delhi currently has 88 Child Care Institutions, operated jointly by the government and

various NGOs. These institutions provide care, protection, education, rehabilitation and essential support to children up to the age of 18. The Chief Minister also noted that Delhi already has two aftercare homes, one for boys and one for girls, where young adults above 18 are provided accommodation, food, educational support and other basic facilities to help them transition towards independent living. Chief Minister Gupta said the Delhi government's approach goes beyond institutional care and focuses on preparing children for life ahead.

# Space Labs, Advanced Research Infrastructure Expanding India's Scientific Outreach: Dr Jitendra Singh

New Delhi, 10/5: India is rapidly widening access to advanced scientific infrastructure, space-related laboratories and cutting-edge research facilities across universities and institutions to strengthen innovation-driven learning and emerging technology capabilities among students and researchers, Union Minister of State Dr. Jitendra Singh said on Sunday. Dr. Singh visited Banaras Hindu University and reviewed the Sophisticated Analytical & Technical Help Institute (SATHI), a national-level interdisciplinary research facility established with the support of the Department of Science & Technology (DST). During the visit, the Minister said the DST is expanding scientific infrastructure and research support systems across universities and higher educational institutions to democratise access to advanced technology, innovation and scientific facilities across the country. "Initiatives such as SATHI, FIST, ARRF-linked research support mechanisms and



other institutional programmes are helping build a strong ecosystem for research, innovation, start-ups and industry-academia collaboration, particularly for young researchers, MSMEs and emerging enterprises," he stated. He added that several universities and colleges are being connected through space-related laboratories and research programmes to promote scientific temper, research-oriented learning and emerging technology capabilities among students and young researchers. "Several universities and colleges are also being connected through

space-related laboratories and research programmes to promote scientific temper, innovation-driven learning and emerging technology capabilities among students and young researchers," Dr Singh mentioned. The Minister complimented Vice Chancellor Prof A.K. Chaturvedi and the faculty members of BHU for building a successful model that other institutions can emulate. He also reviewed the infrastructure, analytical capabilities, achievements and future roadmap of the SATHI facility and inspected several high-end scientific instruments installed at

the centre. The ministry informed the Minister that SATHI-BHU has been established with financial support of nearly Rs 72 crore from the DST as a shared scientific infrastructure facility offering advanced instrumentation, analytical services and technical expertise to academia, research institutions, industries, MSMEs and start-ups. Functioning through a Section 8 company model within the university ecosystem, the centre has emerged as a multidisciplinary analytical and research support hub. The facility houses advanced technologies including Super Resolution Confocal Microscopy with Live Cell Imaging, high-end NMR spectroscopy systems, High Resolution Accurate Mass Spectrometry, clean room facilities, chromatography platforms, electrochemical workstations and isotope analysis systems. These are supporting research in pharmaceuticals, healthcare, semiconductors, life sciences, biotechnology, food sciences, environmental sciences and advanced materials.

# SC Seeks Compliance Reports From States On 25 Per Cent RTE Quota Implementation

New Delhi, 10/5: The Supreme Court has sought compliance reports from several states and Union Territories (UTs) over the implementation of Section 12(1)(c) of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, warning that failure to file affidavits may compel the top court to summon the Principal Secretaries of their Education Departments. A bench of Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta and Vijay Bishnoi was hearing a writ petition filed by Md Imran Ahmad concerning the implementation of the 25 per cent reservation mandate for children belonging to weaker and disadvantaged sections in private unaided schools under the RTE Act. During the hearing, senior advocate Salman Khurshid, appearing for the petitioner, placed before the apex court a chart categorising states and UTs into five groups based on their implementation status of Section



12(1)(c). According to the chart, the first category comprised states and UTs which had allegedly refused to implement the provision. The second category relates to states and UTs which framed rules allegedly aimed at bypassing or overruling Section 12(1)(c) of the RTE Act. The third category included states and UTs which were either silent on the issue or had not framed rules to implement the provision,

while the fourth category consisted of those which had partially implemented it. The fifth category comprised states and UTs which claimed to have enforced the provision but had not submitted proof before the Supreme Court. Taking note of the submissions, the Justice Vikram Nath-led Bench granted four weeks' time to the states of Punjab, West Bengal, Kerala, Goa, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, and Nagaland,

along with the Union Territory of Puducherry, to obtain instructions and file appropriate affidavits regarding the "true and faithful implementation" of Section 12(1)(c) of the RTE Act. "Failing which the Court will be compelled to summon the Principal Secretaries of the Education Department of the said States/UTs," the Supreme Court said in its order passed on May 7. It further recorded that the Union Territories of Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir, and Andaman and Nicobar Islands, along with the states of Mizoram and Sikkim, were not represented during the hearing. The bench directed the registry to forward copies of the order to the Chief Secretaries and standing counsel of the states and UTs concerned within a week and directed them to fully comply with the apex court's directions within the stipulated period. The matter has been listed for further hearing on July 22. Earlier, in February this year, the Supreme Court had expressed

displeasure over the delay by certain states in filing responses in the matter and warned that the Chief Secretaries of Telangana, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir would have to remain personally present if affidavits were not filed. Subsequently, in March, the counsel appearing for the petitioner informed the top court that all states had filed their respective affidavits. In a recent judgment concerning the denial of admission to a child selected under the 25 per cent quota in Uttar Pradesh, the apex court had reiterated that neighbourhood schools have a binding constitutional and statutory obligation to admit students allotted by the government under the RTE Act. "The right to education, a fundamental right guaranteed under Article 21A of the Indian Constitution, will remain an empty promise if the mandate of the RTE Act, 2009, is not worked out in its letter and spirit," the top court had observed.

# Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan To Take Charge Of Western Naval Command

New Delhi, 10/5: In a significant development, Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan has been appointed as the chief of the Indian Navy's Western Naval Command, to succeed Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, who has been named as the new chief of the force. Currently serving as the Deputy Chief of Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Vatsayan is slated to take charge of one of the country's most strategically important naval commands, headquartered in Mumbai. This naval command is regarded as the Indian Navy's 'Strike Force', entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring India's maritime security, combat readiness, and strategic operations within the Arabian Sea region. Its role in monitoring the western maritime frontiers and safeguarding maritime interests is considered to be of paramount importance. Vice Admiral Vatsayan joined the Indian Navy in January 1988 and trained as a specialist officer in gunnery and missile systems. Over the course of his long military career, he has commanded several major warships and naval units. He has held command of key Indian Navy warships such as INS Nishank, INS Vibhuti, INS Kuthar, and INS Sahyadri. He has also served in several pivotal capacities, including as the Commander of the Eastern Fleet, Chief of Staff of the Eastern Naval Command, and in various key roles related to policy, plans, and force development at the Headquarters of the Integrated Defence Staff. In August last year, he assumed office as the 47th Deputy Chief of Naval Staff. For his distinguished service and exemplary leadership, he has been conferred with the Param Vishisht Seva Medal, the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, and the Nao Sena Medal. Defence experts believe that his extensive operational experience, strategic acumen, and leadership capabilities will further bolster the combat readiness and maritime security framework of the Western Naval Command.

## US State Department Reports Highlight China's Repression In Tibet

Washington,10/5: The US State Department in its recent two reports exposed the severity of China's repression in Tibet while also stressing the need for greater efforts to deal with this repression and calling for a peaceful resolution to the ongoing Tibet-China conflict, a report has stated. The 2026 Report to Congress on Access to Tibetan Areas, which covers the 2025 calendar year and continues to be mandated by the 2018 Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act, states that China restricts journalists, diplomats and tourists from visiting Tibet, International Campaign for Tibet detailed in a report. The 2025 Report to Congress on Tibet Negotiations was also released in April. According to the Access Report, many of the same restrictions for travelling into the Tibetan Autonomous Region (TAR) remained in effect in 2025, with permits needed for travelling into the region and intimidation by Chinese officials for foreigners visiting Tibetan areas. Notably, consular officials from the US embassy in Beijing travelled to TAR for an official visit in



September last year, the first allowed since 2019. US consular officials met with the TAR Foreign Affairs Office and major tour operators and visited hospitals and cultural sites. The TAR is the only region of China where foreigners, including diplomats and foreign officials, need to have special permits to travel. US officials visited Tibetan areas outside the TAR; however, meetings with local officials or offices were sometimes denied, and US officials often faced intimidation and harassment by Chinese officials through conspicuous surveillance when they were in Tibetan areas. According to the report, the

tourists and journalists continue to face restricted access to the Tibet Autonomous Region and nearly all US journalists were not allowed to travel to the region, according to the Foreign Correspondents' Club of China. US journalists who were able to report from Tibet faced intimidation by Chinese officials. US citizens with Tibetan heritage experience more strict screenings than other Americans when applying for permits, and many Tibetan Americans report self-censoring their behaviour in the US over fear of retribution against their family members in Tibet, according to a report in the International Campaign for

Tibet. The Negotiations Report stated that the US has made several statements on Tibet and demanded an end to human rights abuses in Tibet by the Chinese government. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, in a social media post and statement, wished people on Losar, the Tibetan New Year, where he reaffirmed the US' commitment to "protecting the universal, fundamental, and inalienable human rights of Tibetans" in February 2025. In a report, the International Campaign for Tibet stated, "While it is critically important for the US to call out the human rights abuses in Tibet, the report documents a failure to meaningfully engage the Chinese government on the resumption of Sino-Tibetan dialogue. No formal negotiations have occurred between the Chinese government and the Dalai Lama or his representatives since 2010, and the 2025 Report to Congress on Tibet Negotiations does not highlight any specific appeals for the resumption of dialogue made by US officials."

## People Of Finland Support EU Reducing Economic And Technological Dependency On China, US

Helsinki,10/5: People in Finland have expressed support for European Union lowering its economic and technological dependency on the US and China, a new survey has revealed. According to a survey published by the two think-tanks – the state-supported Finnish Innovation Fund (Sitra) and the Finnish Business and Policy Forum (Eva), 77 per cent of respondents said that Europe must reduce its technological and economic reliance on the US, even if it impacts bilateral ties. However, nine per cent of respondents were against it, Finland-based Yle reported. In a statement, the researchers said: "This is not direct anti-Americanism. Finns seem to distinguish between security cooperation and economic and technological dependence." Nearly three-quarters of respondents back tighter restrictions on energy networks, ports, and other strategic assets for security reasons. The same number of respondents stated that European firms should be supported in public



procurement, even if that means higher prices. Nearly three out of four respondents express support for developing partnerships with emerging economies like India, Brazil, or Vietnam to reduce dependence on China. The majority of respondents said security should be given more priority than climate goals when required. Nearly two-thirds back reducing Europe's technological dependence on China, like batteries and electric cars, even if that would slow climate action. Asked about the issues that the EU should emphasise

more in the future, self-sufficiency and security were ranked highly by the respondents, Yle reported. As many as 65 per cent of the respondents said more emphasis should be given to common defence, while 44 per cent said that the focus should be more on the fight against climate change. The survey was conducted by Taloustutkimus in March, and responses were taken from more than 2,000 adults in mainland Finland and 34 invited EU experts. It stated that the margin of error is 2-3 percentage points in either direction.

## Nepal Government, Judiciary Clash Over Chief Justice Nomination

Kathmandu: Nepal's government and judiciary have come into open conflict following the Constitutional Council's recommendation of a Supreme Court judge, who ranks fourth in seniority, for the post of Chief Justice. On May 7, the council, headed by Prime Minister Balendra Shah, recommended Justice Manoj Sharma to President Ram Chandra Poudel for appointment to the post of Chief Justice, despite Sharma being fourth in seniority among Supreme Court justices, thereby breaking the decades-long tradition of appointing the senior-most justice to the position. National Assembly Chairperson Narayan Dahal and Leader of the Opposition in the House of Representatives Bhisma Raj Angdembe wrote notes of dissent against the recommendation, stressing that the long-standing tradition should not be broken. On Saturday, acting Chief Justice Sapana Pradhan Malla reacted strongly to the Constitutional Council's decision, saying efforts were being made to bring the judiciary under the government's control. Following

the conclusion of an event marking 74th National Law Day, Malla, the senior-most justice of the Supreme Court, said: "It is an attempt to turn the judiciary into an institution that surrenders and compromises with the executive body." She said the long-held tradition of seniority had been broken. "It is not important who has been affected, but it is an attempt to control the judiciary through the discretionary power of the government," she told journalists. With the government saying that Sharma, who was recommended for chief justice, had demonstrated greater capability than other senior judges, Malla remarked: "On what basis capability was tested, I do not know. Capability can be tested through competition and work. Whatever details about capability have been presented are not correct. The question of how you judge capability as a whole is important." The government had, however, presented the statistics that Sharma issued more verdicts than the other three senior judges during the period of evaluation. Earlier, at a special

ceremony organised to mark the 74th Law Day, Malla said the essence of justice must not be undermined by pressure from a two-thirds majority government or threats of impeachment. Addressing judges attending the event, she encouraged them to work with high morale and integrity. "Justice cannot prevail under fear or influence," Malla said. "Whether it is the fear of a powerful government or the threat of impeachment, judges must rise above such narrow constraints." She called on members of the judiciary to uphold the sanctity of justice with courage and impartiality, stressing that fearless decision-making is essential to preserving the independence and dignity of the judiciary. The harshest criticism of the council's decision has come from former Prime Minister Sushila Karki, who was also Nepal's first woman Chief Justice. Speaking to news portal Onlinekhabar following the recommendation, she noted that a capable woman justice had been denied the opportunity to become the Chief Justice of the country.

## Pakistan: Transporters Hold Protest Against Hike In Prices Of Petroleum Products

Islamabad,10/5: Transporters in Pakistan's Peshawar and across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province held protests against a hike in prices of petroleum products, local media reported on Sunday. Dozens of transport operators gathered at the Hajji Camp Terminal in Peshawar on Saturday and demanded an immediate reduction in prices of petrol and diesel. The Express Tribune reported. While addressing the protesters, transport leader Zubair Ahmed Qureshi said that the prices of petroleum are increasing while CNG is unavailable. "Eid is approaching, but hyperinflation has made shopping impossible. Unemployment had already broken the poor. This is a great oppression on the low-income class. Flour is now beyond the common man's reach. More inflation means burying people alive." The protest was held as their transporters have increased fares for the fifth time within a single month after the latest fuel adjustment. Fares of AC vehicles have witnessed a steep rise, while the fares of non-AC buses have



increased by five per cent, as per the report. Fares have increased from Pakistani Rupees (PKR) 50-500 for travelling from Peshawar to Nowshera, Mardan, Abbottabad, Hariapur, Swat, and Malakand. Passengers who have to travel to Rawalpindi and Lahore have to now pay up to PKR 3,000 more. City buses in Peshawar have increased minimum fares from PKR 10 to

30, while goods transport vehicles have also increased prices. On April 30, the Pakistan government raised the price of high-speed diesel (HSD) by Pakistani Rupees (PKR) 19.39 per litre and the price of petrol by PKR 6.51 per litre for one week. As per the notification issued by Pakistan's Petroleum Division, the price of HSD has been increased from PKR 380.19 to PKR 399.58, while

petrol will be sold at 399.86 per litre compared to the previous rate of Rs 393.35 at PKR 393.35. The Express Tribune reported. High-speed diesel is used in the transport and agriculture sectors. As the sowing season is underway, the sharp rise in its price is expected to impact the agriculture sector. Fertiliser prices have increased due to a hike in transportation costs.

## Twelve Policemen Killed In Suicide Attack In Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Islamabad,10/5: At least 12 police personnel were killed and several others injured after a suicide bomber rammed an explosive-laden vehicle into a police installation in Pakistan's northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, official sources said on Sunday. The attack targeted the installation in Bannu district of the province at 8:55 p.m. local time on Saturday, causing massive destruction to the facility, the sources told Xinhua news agency on condition of anonymity. "The assault involved a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device, followed by quadcopter drone activity and a subsequent ground attack by militants," the sources added. Rescue teams, assisted by heavy machinery, continued clearance operations at the site as authorities feared more bodies could still be trapped under the debris, officials said. The Bomb Disposal Squad estimated that between 1,200 and 1,500 kg of explosives were used in the attack, the sources added. A militant outfit identified as Ittehad-ul-Mujahideen



Pakistan (IMP) claimed responsibility for the bombing through social media channels. Pakistan has witnessed a surge in militant attacks in its northwestern regions bordering Afghanistan in recent months, particularly targeting security personnel and law enforcement agencies. Earlier, on Friday, Pakistani security forces claimed

to have killed five militants in two separate intelligence-based operations in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, reports Xinhua news agency. Four militants belonging to the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan were killed during an operation in Tank district after an intense exchange of fire between security forces and militants, the Inter-Services

Public Relations (ISPR), the media wing of the military, said in a statement. In another operation conducted in Dera Ismail Khan district, security forces killed one militant during a gun battle, the statement added. Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the killed militants, who were allegedly involved in multiple terrorist activities in the area, the ISPR said.

## UN Chief Welcomes Ceasefire, Exchange Of Prisoners Between Ukraine, Russia

United Nations,10/5: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres welcomes a three-day ceasefire and a planned exchange of prisoners between Ukraine and Russia, his spokesperson said. "The Secretary-General reiterates his call for an immediate, full, unconditional and lasting ceasefire, as a first step toward a just, sustainable and comprehensive peace, in line with the UN Charter, international law and relevant UN resolutions," Guterres' spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said in a statement. Russia and Ukraine on Friday agreed to a ceasefire from Saturday to Monday and a "thousand-for-thousand" prisoner exchange, Xinhua news agency reported. Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump announced that a three-day ceasefire has been agreed between Russia and Ukraine, describing it as a possible step toward ending the long-running war. "I am pleased to announce that there will be a THREE



DAY CEASEFIRE (May 9th, 10th, and 11th) in the War between Russia and Ukraine," Trump said in a statement. He said the ceasefire would coincide with Russia's Victory Day commemorations and noted Ukraine's role in World War II. "The Celebration in Russia is for Victory Day but, likewise, in Ukraine, because they were also a big part and factor of World War II," he said. According to Trump, the agreement includes a halt to active combat operations. "This Ceasefire will include a

suspension of all kinetic activity," he said. He added that both sides have also agreed to a large prisoner exchange. "And also a prison swap of 1,000 prisoners from each Country," Trump said. The US President said the initiative was driven directly by him. "This request was made directly by me," he said, expressing appreciation to both Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for agreeing to the terms.

## Vedanta Aluminium expands NandGhar footprint in Odisha with new centre in Gunpur, Kalahandi

Bhubaneswar, 10/5 (DMS)—NandGhar, the flagship social impact initiative of Vedanta under the aegis of the Anil Agarwal Foundation, has marked a key milestone with the inauguration of a new centre at Saisurni village in Gunpurgram panchayat, Kalahandi district by Sarpanch Sujata Majhi. It is set to further strengthen the last-mile delivery of early childhood care and women-centric services in a remote tribal region of Odisha, while adding to the company's growing network of 631 NandGhars across the state. NandGhars are modernised Anganwadis developed by Vedanta, which have emerged as crucial hubs of women and child development across rural India. Designed to enhance service delivery under the national Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) framework, the NandGhar in Saisurni is equipped with child-friendly infrastructure including Building as Learning Aid (BALA) walls, LED-enabled smart learning tools, hygienic kitchens and sanitation facilities, solar



power, safe drinking water systems, and age-appropriate furniture. The model combines improved infrastructure with programme support through implementation partners, enabling access to millet-based nutrition, regular health check-ups, immunisation, and community-led interventions focused on

behavioural change. Women from the village are also engaged in the project through self-help groups, supporting skilling and livelihood opportunities that contribute to greater financial independence. The new centre was launched under a MoU signed with the District Social Welfare Offices of Rayagada

and Kalahandi to modernize 100 Anganwadis into NandGhars in each district. Aligned with national priorities such as Poshan 2.0, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, and Digital India, the initiative complements government efforts to address malnutrition,

strengthen early childhood education, and expand access to primary healthcare services in underserved areas. Speaking at the inauguration, Sarpanch Sujata Majhi said, "Vedanta's NandGhar is a blessing for Saisurni. The facility, and the infrastructure and education support for our children will be good. This will help improve our block and support its development. We are thankful for this initiative." NandGhar is a nationwide network of modernised Anganwadi centres delivering integrated services across nutrition, education, healthcare, and women's empowerment. With over 13,000 centres across 17 states in India, the initiative is envisioned to impact 7 crore children and 2 crore women. The Saisurni centre represents a scalable model of community development in Odisha, anchored in strong institutional partnerships and designed to deepen impact across tribal districts.

## Sensex, Nifty Outlook Remains Positive Despite Iran-US Tensions: Analysts

Mumbai: Indian equity benchmarks ended lower on Friday amid rising geopolitical tensions after reported clashes between Iran and the US near the Strait of Hormuz dampened investor sentiment. Despite the weakness, market experts believe the broader trend for both the Sensex and Nifty remains positive, although volatility could persist in the near term. The Nifty declined 0.55 per cent to settle at 24,193, while the Sensex fell 0.67 per cent to close at 77,321. However, both benchmark indices managed to end the week with gains of more than 0.70 per cent despite sharp intra-day swings. In the broader market, the Nifty Smallcap 100 rose 0.22 per cent, while the Nifty Midcap 100 slipped 0.15 per cent. According to market experts, the Sensex continues to show strength from a technical perspective despite Friday's correction. "In the near term, immediate downside support is placed in the 54,600-

54,200 zone in case selling pressure re-emerges," an analyst stated. "On the upside, 56,400 acts as immediate resistance, while 56,800 stands as the next key supply zone," the analyst added. Traders are advised to remain cautious and follow disciplined risk management while closely tracking key levels for the next directional move, market experts added. On the Nifty, market experts said the index ended the week at 24,176.15, gaining 178.60 points or 0.74 per cent on a weekly basis. "On the upside, resistance levels are placed at 24,500 and 24,600. On the downside, support is seen at 24,000 and 23,800. A breakdown below 23,800 could result in increased selling pressure," an analyst stated. "Given the current market structure, traders are advised to remain disciplined and adhere to strict stop-loss strategies amid ongoing volatility," the analyst added.

## Veg, Non-Veg Thali Costs Rise In April As Tomato, LPG Prices Spike: Crisil

New Delhi, 10/5 The cost of preparing both vegetarian and non-vegetarian thalis at home increased 2 per cent year-on-year in April, mainly due to a sharp rise in tomato prices and higher cooking fuel costs, according to the latest Roti Rice Rate (RRR) report released by Crisil Intelligence. The report noted that tomato prices jumped 38 per cent compared to the same period last year following lower production caused by a reduction in acreage across southern states. At the same time, prices of vegetable oil and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinders rose 7 per cent each amid global supply-related pressures. "The cost of both home-cooked vegetarian and non-vegetarian thalis rose 2 per cent on-year in April as tomato, vegetable oil and LPG cylinders became expensive," said Pushan Sharma, Crisil Intelligence. Crisil warned that tomato prices could remain elevated in the coming months and may rise further during July and August. The report attributed the expected pressure to lower summer sowing, weak price sentiment among farmers and the possibility of heatwaves affecting key tomato-growing regions in northern India.

The report also highlighted concerns over onion and potato prices. Onion prices are expected to remain high due to an estimated 4-6 per cent decline in rabi crop production this year. Potato

prices may also move upward as harvesting season concludes and stored supplies from cold storages start entering the market. According to the report, vegetable oil prices are likely to stay firm in the near term because of continued geopolitical uncertainty in West Asia, which has impacted global supply conditions. However, the report offered some relief on pulses prices. Crisil said pulses are expected to remain soft due to adequate supply and subdued demand. It added that favourable import parity, release of government buffer stocks and steady domestic arrivals are likely to keep markets well supplied despite lower domestic production levels.



## Demographic Change Increasingly Reshaping Legal Systems in Odisha: Reflective Compendium

Bhubaneswar, 10/5 (DMS): In a first-of-its-kind initiative examining the interaction between demographic transition and legal systems in Odisha, the Department of Law, Government of Odisha, in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), has released a reflective compendium titled "Law in a Changing Society: Demographic Transition and Legal Frameworks in Odisha." The compendium presents an extensive analysis of nearly 400 judicial decisions and adjudications to understand how changing demographic realities are increasingly influencing legal systems, governance institutions and social welfare frameworks in the state. The report highlights that Odisha is currently undergoing a rapid demographic transition characterised by declining fertility, increasing life expectancy, changing family structures and a steadily rising elderly population. With fertility levels declining to around 1.7 and the elderly population projected to rise significantly in the coming decades, the state is witnessing important structural shifts in age composition, caregiving systems and social relationships. The analysis draws upon demographic projections, judicial trends and evolving institutional responses



to argue that demographic transition is no longer merely a population issue, but increasingly a governance, legal and social justice issue. One of the central observations emerging from the report is that courts are increasingly becoming sites where tensions between changing demographic realities and existing legal frameworks become visible. While laws are often framed around past and present realities, demographic transition gradually reshapes the contexts within which those laws operate. The report highlights that courts and institutions are increasingly encountering disputes arising out

of changing family forms, ageing, infertility, adolescent relationships, migration, reproductive technologies and evolving caregiving responsibilities. A major section of the report examines how demographic transition is influencing emerging legal questions relating to ageing and care systems. With rising longevity, shrinking family sizes and migration, traditional systems of familial support are increasingly coming under pressure. Judicial trends analysed in the report indicate growing disputes relating to maintenance, abandonment, caregiving

responsibilities and property involving elderly persons. The compendium also examines emerging legal and institutional questions linked to Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ART), surrogacy and infertility. The report notes that delayed marriages, declining fertility and changing reproductive realities are gradually creating social contexts that legal frameworks are only beginning to engage with. The report further highlights that demographic transition is deeply gendered. Women continue to disproportionately bear caregiving burdens while simultaneously navigating changing reproductive

expectations, labour force participation and vulnerabilities linked to social protection and access to justice. Discussions during the consultation also highlighted emerging concerns around legal disputes linked to changing family realities, including issues arising from two-child norm provisions in local governance laws, questions of parentage, adoption, timing of childbirth and evolving family structures. The compendium argues that courts are not merely adjudicating disputes, but are increasingly responding to deeper social transformations emerging from demographic transition. The report calls for greater integration between demographic evidence, governance systems and legal frameworks as Odisha advances towards Viksit Odisha 2036 and 2047. It emphasises the importance of anticipatory governance, evidence-based policymaking and continuous institutional dialogue to ensure that laws and institutions remain responsive to emerging human futures. The initiative is expected to contribute to future discussions on governance reforms, legal interpretation, institutional preparedness and social policy in the context of Odisha's ongoing demographic transition and long-term development vision.

## Cricket for Environment and Community Bonding at Angul

Angul, 10/5: A friendly Day-Night T20 cricket match was organized between the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB), Odisha and Jindal Steel, Angul, with the objective of promoting sportsmanship, spreading awareness on environmental responsibility and community bonding. The exciting match witnessed enthusiastic participation from officials, employees, and members of the local community, reflecting the spirit of teamwork and collaboration beyond the workplace. Captained by Sitakantha Sahu, the SPCB team posted a competitive total of 136 runs in 18.4 overs. In reply, the Jindal Steel team, led by Dhananjay Kumar Singh, successfully chased the target with 140/5 in 12.4 overs, securing a five-wicket victory. The SPCB team displayed remarkable fighting spirit and commendable performance throughout the match. Dibyanjan Pradhan was declared "Man of the Match" for



his explosive innings of 52 runs off just 21 balls. Senior dignitaries present on the occasion included Executive Director Angul ++, Mr. P. K. Biju Nair, Executive Director (Iron Zone), Mr. Damodar Mittal, and Vice President, EMD, Mr. Alok Kumar Sahu from Jindal Steel, along with senior officials from the

State Pollution Control Board. Welcoming the players, Mr. P. K. Biju Nair and Mr. Damodar Mittal encouraged the spirit of sportsmanship and teamwork. Mr. Biju Nair stated that the State Pollution Control Board has been partnering with Jindal Steel in promoting environmental

responsibility and creating a better future for coming generations. The event carried a strong message on environmental awareness in the local eco system and emphasizing the importance of continuing to maintain excellent housekeeping and nourish greenery across the plant premises.

## Women's role in India's labour market is shifting toward stability, SBI Research finds

New Delhi, May 10: India's female labour market may be on the cusp of a structural upgrade, with education, household agency and social mobility driving a gradual shift from casual to regular wage employment, a research report by SBI Research showed. The trend points to a more resilient workforce in the coming years, even as disparities across education levels, geography and social groups persist. SBI Research's unit-level analysis using a multinomial logit model shows that female household heads have a 4.4 per cent higher probability of being in regular wage work and a 4.2 per cent lower probability of being in casual labour, with little change in self-employment. The pattern is more pronounced in urban areas, where headship is linked to a 10 per cent rise in regular wage work and an 8 per cent drop in self-employment. In rural areas, headship reduces

casual labour by 5 per cent while modestly improving both self-employment and regular wage work. The findings indicate that greater agency and bargaining power within households are translating into more stable employment outcomes, though the form varies by local labour markets. SBI Research found that education de-casualises women's work first, and regularises it only beyond a threshold. Among non-literate women, the probability of casual labour stands at 0.21, falling to 0.12 for those with middle-to-secondary education. The decisive shift comes at higher secondary and above, where the probability of regular wage work jumps to 0.44, casual labour drops to 0.03, and self-employment recedes. This suggests that expanding access to higher education will be critical for creating durable, salaried opportunities for women.

Social background also shapes outcomes in a polarised way. Relative to the "Others" group, SC women have a 5.4 per cent higher probability of being in regular wage work, the only group with a statistically significant premium, but they also face the highest exposure to casual labour at +14.5 per cent. Women from Scheduled Tribe and Other Backwards Classes show similar patterns of reduced self-employment and higher casualisation, highlighting segmentation in the labour market. Industry composition reveals further contrasts. While casual labour remains concentrated in construction and agriculture for both men and women, women outperform men in securing regular wage work in transport. In mining and industry, however, the share of women in regular wage employment remains significantly lower than that of men.

## Shilpa Shetty to host new comedy cooking show 'Maa Hai Na'

Shilpa Shetty Kundra will host 'Maa Hai Na,' a new Hindi comedy cooking show, ZEE5 announced on Sunday. The 10-episode non-fiction series will bring together six Gen Z celebrities and their mothers for a mix of cooking challenges, emotional conversations and family bonding moments. Produced by Lil Frodo Productions House, 'Maa Hai Na' explores the clash and connection between modern Gen Z lifestyles and traditional maternal wisdom through the setting of a kitchen. According to the makers, the show focuses on "what happens when two generations are forced to truly listen to each other one recipe at a time." The series will feature mother-child pairs navigating "miscommunication, pressure, affection, and rediscovered comfort" while cooking together. The platform described the kitchen as a space where "memories, nostalgia, laughter, arguments, and emotions" unfold beyond food. The contestants announced for the show include Sunita Ahuja with daughter Tina Ahuja, Urvashi Dholakia with son Kshitij Dholakia, Tanya Mittal with mother Sunita Mittal, Gullu with mother Munesh Tanwar, Shahida Ansari with nephew Afghan, and Bhagyashree E Sharma with mother Rinju Sharma. Speaking about the show, Kaveri Das, Chief Channel Officer, & TV and Business Head, Hindi ZEE5, said, "No matter how independent or fast-paced our lives become, there are certain relationships that continue to ground us, and the bond we share with our mothers is one of them. At Hindi ZEE5, we wanted to create a format that reflects this emotion through a lens that feels fresh, entertaining, and deeply relatable for younger audiences today," in a press note. She added, "Maa Hai Na brings together the energy, humour, and everyday chaos of Gen Zs with the warmth, instincts, and life lessons that only a mother can bring. As we continue to experiment with newer non-fiction formats on the platform, the idea was to create a show that feels authentic to modern family dynamics while reminding audiences that no matter how much life changes, Maa Hai Na." Producers Neeti and Preeti from Lil Frodo Productions House said, "At Lil Frodo Productions, we are always looking to tell stories that feel deeply personal yet universally relatable. With Maa Hai Na, we wanted to go beyond a conventional cooking format and create something that captures the emotional fabric of Indian households," in a press note. They further said, "The kitchen is often where the most honest conversations happen, and this show uses that space to explore the evolving dynamic between Gen Z and their mothers. Working with Shilpa Shetty Kundra as the host brought the perfect balance of warmth, relatability, and energy to the format." Described as heartwarming, funny and emotionally rich, 'Maa Hai Na' is set to stream soon on Hindi ZEE5.



## Trisha Krishnan arrives for Vijay's Tamil Nadu CM swearing-in ceremony in Chennai



Actor Trisha Krishnan arrived at Chennai's Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on Sunday ahead of Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) chief C. Joseph Vijay's swearing-in ceremony as the next Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. The actor was seen leaving her residence in Chennai earlier in the day when reporters asked her about the significance of the occasion. Responding briefly, Trisha said, "Thank you, looking forward," before heading to the venue. Trisha appeared in a seafoam-green saree paired with a golden-motif blouse for the ceremony. She completed her traditional look with a neatly tied bun adorned with a white gajra and accessorised with jewellery featuring red stones. Her appearance was complemented by subtle makeup. The oath-taking ceremony is scheduled to begin at 10 am at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium amid heightened security arrangements. Vijay is set to assume office after TVK secured 118 seats in the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections, achieving the majority mark with additional support from Congress, CPI, CPI(M), VCK and IUML. Tamil Nadu Governor Rajendra Arlekar formally appointed Vijay as Chief Minister on Saturday and asked him to prove his majority in the Assembly before May 13. Vijay's parents also expressed happiness at the milestone. Director SA Chandrasekhar said he was looking forward to witnessing his son take oath as Chief Minister, while Vijay's mother Sobha described the occasion as especially emotional as it coincides with Mother's Day. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is also expected to attend the swearing-in ceremony. With the formation of TVK's first government, Vijay will become the first leader outside the DMK and AIADMK formations to head the Tamil Nadu government since 1967.

## SPORTS

### IPL 2026 Points Table Update: Gujarat Titans Go 2nd, Gill Shines, Rabada Leads Purple Cap

Gujarat, 10/5: Titans stormed to second place in the IPL 2026 points table after a commanding 77-run victory over Rajasthan Royals in match number 52. Shubman Gill led from the front with a sparkling 84 off 44 balls, while Sai Sudharsan added a steady 55 to power Gujarat to 229/4, their highest total of the season. Rajasthan's chase never gained momentum. Vaibhav Sooryavanshi managed a brisk 36 but failed to convert it into a big score. Rashid Khan dismantled the middle order with 4/33, and Jason Holder cleaned up the tail with three wickets. Rajasthan folded for 152 in 16.3 overs. This win pushed Gujarat level on

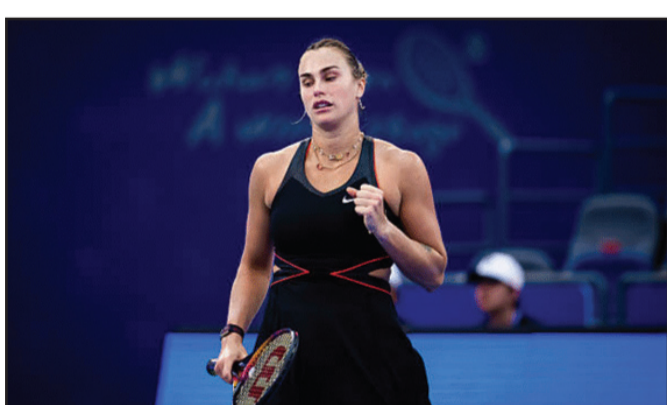


points with Sunrisers Hyderabad, who remain top due to a superior net run rate. The

contention. Gill's knock propelled him to fourth in the Orange Cap standings with 462 runs. Sudharsan and Sooryavanshi are tied at 440 runs, just behind Gill. Heinrich Klaasen (494), Abhishek Sharma (475), and KL Rahul (468) continue to lead the pack. In the Purple Cap race, Kagiso Rabada extended his lead with 18 wickets from 11 matches. Bhuvaneshwar Kumar and Anshul Kamboj follow with 17 wickets each, while Prince Yadav and Eshan Malinga sit at 16. With two matches scheduled today—CSK vs LSG and RCB vs MI—the points table and cap races could see further dramatic shifts.

### Aryna Sabalenka Faces Fitness Scare Ahead of French Open

NEW DELHI, 10/5: Aryna Sabalenka revealed that a lower back and hip issue affected her performance during her Italian Open third-round loss to Sorana Cirstea in Rome. The World No. 1 took a medical timeout in the deciding set after struggling with movement and rotation. Sabalenka admitted that the discomfort limited her ability to play at full strength. "It's probably my lower back connected to the hip, which is limiting my full rotation. I'll take a few days off and focus on recovery," she said after the



match. The Belarusian started strongly, winning the first set 6-2 and leading 2-0 in the second,

but her rhythm faded as errors mounted. Cirstea capitalised on the momentum shift to claim a 2-6, 6-3, 7-5 victory. Sabalenka's defeat marked her second consecutive early exit following her loss to Hailey Baptiste at the Madrid Open. She acknowledged that physical limitations and frustration affected her focus, saying her body "was limiting" her from performing at her best. Despite the setback, Sabalenka praised Cirstea's aggressive play and called the match a learning experience. She plans to rest and recover before the French Open later this month, where she will aim to regain form and chase her maiden Roland Garros title.

### Shubman Gill Suffers Injury Scare During Gujarat Titans' Big Win

NEW DELHI: Shubman Gill gave Gujarat Titans fans a brief scare during the IPL 2026 match against Rajasthan Royals at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium on Saturday. The Gujarat Titans captain appeared to be in discomfort while batting and was seen struggling with his foot during the innings. However, after the match, Gill reassured fans that the issue was not serious and confirmed that he had only twisted his ankle while running between the wickets. Speaking after Gujarat Titans' commanding 77-run victory, Gill explained that the injury was painful initially but improved after some time. "I twisted

my ankle a little while taking a run. It was quite painful, but after around half an hour, it settled down." The update came as a relief for Gujarat Titans supporters, especially considering Gill's recent injury concerns. Over the past few months, the Indian batter has dealt with neck sprains that forced him to miss international matches, including the ODI series and a Test against South Africa. He had also missed one IPL 2026 game earlier in the season, during which Rashid Khan led the team. Despite the ankle discomfort, Gill delivered a match-winning performance with the bat.

### Disha Patani makes Hollywood debut in Kevin Spacey's film 'The Portal of Force'



Actor Disha Patani is gearing up for the release of her Hollywood debut 'The Portal of Force', which also stars veteran actor Kevin Spacey. On Friday, the trailer of the film was unveiled. The trailer introduces Disha as Jessica, the emotional and narrative epicentre of an epic supernatural showdown between two ancient factions -- the Statiguards and the Hologuards.

The Portal of Force, the first film of the Statiguards vs Hologuards Saga, marks the beginning of a new cinematic universe created by Lado Okhotnikov. At the heart of the story lies a confrontation between two ancient forces: the Statiguards, who stand for order and the rules that hold the world together, and the Hologuards, who live by a very different code. Framed as "the Chosen One," Jessica is revealed to be the daughter of rival leaders on both sides -- a living bridge between warring worlds -- and the ultimate decider in a battle that could determine how this war ends, and humanity's fate along with it. Excited about her Hollywood foray, Disha in a press note said, "I've waited with bated breath for the trailer of this very special project. Stepping into my first international outing was both thrilling and terrifying - but the scope to explore the craft was massive. Working with an experienced, diverse cast was an education in itself. You realise that storytelling transcends language and geography -- honesty on screen is

universal. I've always loved action and to bring what I've learned on the home turf to a global platform feels incredibly empowering." In the upcoming months, Disha will also be seen in 'Awarapan 2'.

### I wish you were here with me...: Sanjay Dutt shares emotional Mother's Day tribute to late mother Nargis Dutt

New Delhi: On the occasion of Mother's Day, Sanjay Dutt shared an emotional tribute to his late mother, Nargis Dutt, through a heartfelt Instagram post. Posting a carousel of nostalgic black-and-white photographs, the veteran actor reflected on the deep bond he continues to share with his mother, who passed away in 1981. Alongside the images, he wrote, "Mumma, I miss you. I wish you were here with me. Your love and blessings are always with me. Love you mom." The photo

series offered rare glimpses into Sanjay Dutt's childhood. One striking image showed a smiling young Sanjay in Nargis' arms, while other candid moments captured the warmth, affection, and closeness they shared as mother and son. Mother's Day is a special occasion dedicated to honouring mothers, motherhood, and the invaluable influence of mother figures in our lives. It is a day to express gratitude for their unconditional love, endless sacrifices, and the vital role they play in shaping our character and society.