

Dumani Mail

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Delhi CM directs govt officials to minimise the use of vehicles

New Delhi: Following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal to citizens to contribute towards economic resilience by reducing dependence on imported fuel, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta has directed cabinet colleagues, all MLAs of the



BJP, public representatives, officers of the Delhi government, and all departments to use the minimum number of vehicles as per requirement and prioritise carpooling and public transport. In line with this initiative, she travelled by the Delhi metro today. She said that Energy conservation is a responsibility linked to national interest, and Delhi government is working with full commitment to promote fuel conservation and public transport. Ms Gupta urged all Delhi residents to also join this national effort for energy conservation.

Hinduism way of life, not mandatory to go to temple to prove belief: SC

New Delhi: Observing that Hinduism is a way of life, the Supreme Court on Wednesday said it is not necessary for a Hindu to mandatorily go to a temple or perform a ritual in order to remain a Hindu and even lighting a lamp inside house is enough to prove one's belief. The observation of a nine-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant came while hearing petitions related to discrimination against women at religious places, including the Sabarimala temple in Kerala, and on the ambit of religious freedom practised by multiple faiths, including Dawoodi Bohras. Justices B V Nagarathna, M M Sundresh, Ahsanuddin Amanullah, Aravind Kumar, Augustine George Masih, Prasanna B Varale, R Mahadevan and Joyimalya Bagchi are also part of the nine-judge bench.

TVK Government Wins Floor Test in Tamil Nadu Assembly

Chennai: Newly elected Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) chief C. Joseph Vijay on Wednesday won the floor test in the state Legislative Assembly with 144 votes in favour.

A total of 22 MLAs voted against the motion, while five members abstained. The strength of the House reduced during voting after the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) staged a walkout from the Assembly.

The TVK, along with its allies, held a combined strength of 120 MLAs in the House. However, the final tally of 144 votes in support of the government indicated that a section of AIADMK rebels voted in favour of the trust motion, despite the party whip directing members to oppose the government.

The TVK government received support from Congress, CPI, CPI(M), Viduthala Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK), and the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML). Expelled Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (AMMK) MLA Kamaraj also backed the



government during the confidence vote.

Speaking after the vote, Kamaraj said he would continue supporting the TVK government for the next five years and expressed confidence in Chief Minister Vijay's leadership.

Earlier, AIADMK General Secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami had stated that all 47 party MLAs would vote against the confidence

motion. However, the Assembly proceedings witnessed differences within the AIADMK camp, with former minister and party MLA SP Velumani speaking during the debate despite objections from supporters of Palaniswami.

Palaniswami also alleged attempts to lure MLAs with offers of ministerial posts and board chairman positions in exchange for supporting the government. He said

the AIADMK intended to function as a "responsible Opposition."

The TVK currently holds 107 Assembly seats after Vijay resigned from the Trichy East constituency and retained Perambur. However, only 106 TVK MLAs were eligible to vote after the Madras High Court directed party leader Srinivasa Sethupathi not to participate in the confidence motion following a legal challenge

to his election from Tirupattur.

The ruling coalition's strength included Congress with five MLAs, along with CPI, CPI(M), VCK and IUML, which have two MLAs each, besides support from an expelled AMMK legislator. Leader of Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin announced the DMK walkout during the proceedings and took a swipe at the TVK over the support extended by former allies of the DMK,

including Congress.

"We are walking out of the Assembly. Once we walk out, you will get the majority. Govern well with it," he said, while urging the government not to politicise welfare schemes introduced by the previous dispensation.

The TVK emerged as the single-largest party in the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections, marking a shift from the state's long-standing DMK-AIADMK political dominance.

Centre launches national-level quiz for Viksit Vibrant Villages Program 2026

New Delhi: The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, through MY Bharat, in collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), has launched a national-level quiz for the Viksit Vibrant Villages Program (VVVP) 2026 to encourage youth participation in border village development initiatives.

The online quiz, hosted on the MY Bharat portal, marks the first stage of selection for a youth engagement programme scheduled to be held in June 2026 across strategically

important border regions.

According to the Ministry, VVVP 2026 is a youth-led national initiative aimed at strengthening grassroots participation, community engagement, cultural exchange, and awareness about border village development in regions including Leh-Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand.

The quiz is being conducted from May 10 to May 20, and is open to youth from across the country.

The Ministry said the initiative is designed to

enhance awareness about the vision and objectives of the Vibrant Villages programme while encouraging greater youth participation in nation-building and frontier community development.

The quiz will also serve as an interactive learning platform covering topics such as border village transformation, local culture, environmental awareness, governance initiatives, community participation, and government efforts aimed at strengthening frontier regions.

Top-performing participants will undergo

eligibility and fitness assessments, following which 500 MY Bharat volunteers from different States and Union Territories will be selected to participate in the one-week Viksit Vibrant Villages Program in June 2026.

Selected volunteers will take part in immersive field activities and community outreach programmes in identified border villages. The programme will include cleanliness drives, youth interaction sessions, environmental campaigns, cultural exchange activities, awareness initiatives,

career counselling programmes, and experiential learning opportunities focused on grassroots development and national integration.

The Ministry said the initiative reflects its broader commitment to empowering youth as active contributors to the vision of "Viksit Bharat @2047" while promoting awareness about the importance of resilient and vibrant border communities.

Interested participants can register and take part in the quiz through the official MY Bharat portal.

NEET-UG cancellation: ABVP workers protest outside NTA office in Delhi

New Delhi: The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad members on Wednesday staged a protest outside the NTA office in Delhi over the cancellation of the NEET-UG 2026 following allegations of paper leak and irregularities.

Raising slogans against the National Testing Agency (NTA), the protestors demanded strict action against those responsible for the alleged irregularities and called for greater transparency in the conduct of competitive examinations.

During the protest, several Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) members attempted to enter the NTA office and jump police barricades installed outside the premises. However, they were pushed back by the Delhi Police and the Rapid Action Force (RAF) forces deployed at the spot.

Prateek Yadav's death: Condolences pour in from across party lines for Mulayam Singh Yadav's son

New Delhi: Leaders cutting across party lines on Wednesday offered their condolences on the death of Prateek Yadav, younger son of late Samajwadi



Party founder Mulayam Singh Yadav and a stepbrother of SP chief Akhilesh Yadav, who died under mysterious circumstances at 38. Prateek was taken to the Civil Hospital in Lucknow in the early hours of Wednesday but was declared dead there, sources said. SP leader and Prateek's uncle Shivpal Singh Yadav described the death as "extremely sad" and prayed for peace to the departed soul.

1998 Pokhran tests showcased India's unwavering resolve to the world: PM Modi

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said the 1998 Pokhran nuclear tests demonstrated India's unwavering resolve to the world and proved that no global power could force the nation to bow under pressure.

The Prime Minister shared a Sanskrit Subhashitam on X and said, "On this very day in 1998, the nuclear tests conducted by India demonstrated to the world how unwavering our nation's resolve is. After the May 11 tests, the entire world mounted pressure on India, but we showed that no power can bend India."

Pokhran-II, also known as Operation Shakti, was a series of five underground nuclear tests conducted by India in May 1998 at the Indian Army's Pokhran Test Range in Rajasthan. Three tests were conducted on May 11, followed by two more on May 13.

The tests were authorised by former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, with key scientific leadership provided by A. P. J. Abdul Kalam and the Atomic Energy Commission. The successful tests established India as a nuclear-armed state, and May 11 is now observed annually as

National Technology Day.

Earlier on May 11, while addressing the Somnath Amrut Mahotsav celebrations in Gujarat, PM Modi recalled the Pokhran tests, adding that India conducted three nuclear tests on May 11, 1998, followed by two more on May 13, sending a strong message to the world about the country's scientific capability and political resolve.

"Our scientists showcased India's strength and capabilities before the world. The tests sent shockwaves globally," the Prime Minister said while addressing the gathering after



the Kumbhabhishek ceremony at the Somnath Temple.

He noted that several global powers reacted strongly to India's nuclear programme and imposed economic sanctions and restrictions on the country.

"Anyone could have been shaken when powerful nations came together against India. But we are made of different soil. Even after the May 11 tests, when global powers intensified pressure and surveillance, our scientists completed the mission. On May 13, India conducted two more nuclear tests, and the

world witnessed the 'Atal' resolve of India's political leadership," PM Modi said.

The Prime Minister said that despite tremendous international pressure, the government led by Atal Bihari Vajpayee demonstrated that national interest remained paramount and that no external force could compel India to compromise.

PM Modi also elaborated on the significance of the mission's name, "Operation Shakti", saying it symbolised India's growing self-confidence and strategic strength in the face of global challenges.

Affidavit Filed in NGT Over Construction Without Environmental Clearance

Puri: The State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Odisha, has alleged that the Swami Narayan Trust carried out construction work without obtaining prior environmental clearance. The statement was made in an affidavit submitted before the Eastern Zone Bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT). The revelation has raised serious concerns regarding compliance with environmental laws in the state.

In the ongoing matter, Original Application No. 12/2026/EZ, SEIAA filed a counter affidavit outlining the relevant environmental laws and regulations. The affidavit referred to an Office Memorandum dated August 8, 2019, issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC). According to the memorandum, any project located near national parks or



wildlife sanctuaries must obtain prior environmental and wildlife clearances before commencing construction.

The affidavit is being considered significant because it clearly states that the project proponents proceeded with construction activities without securing the mandatory

environmental approvals. This has been described as a direct violation of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations. The petition in this case was filed by two social activists. The matter is being argued by Akhanda, an advocate practicing at the Odisha High Court.

Cyber Police arrested the black maler

Jagatsinghpur, Cyber crime and Economic Offender Police station arrested a criminal who created fake Instagram ID to defame a lady and to take revenge. Report says that, one married lady made complain at Jagatsinghpur Cyber Police station on 2/4/26 and cyber police registered case no. 3/26 and started investigation. Finally Police successfully detected the accused and

forwarded to court to-day. Sources said that one Saroj Kumar Behera from Kudanagari of Kendrapara district was working in a garrage as mechanic. He created friend ship with the husband of the victim and tried to keep sexual relationship. When the married lady refused the proposal that mechanic Saroj Kr. Behera became aggrieved and started a new plan. He changed the SIM

card of his VIVO Y-28 S mobile phone and make a fake Instagram ID on 26/12/25 and prepared morphed obscene photo with another person and created a show in Instagram. He used to sent it to the husband of the victim and to her relations in order to blame the married lady and to take revenge upon the lady. Jagatsinghpur Cyber Police arrested the accused and forwarded to court.

The law and order situation in the district has completely deteriorated, alleged the district unit of BJD during a press conference.



Puri : Odisha has traditionally been a peaceful state. However, after the formation of the "double-engine government," the law and order situation in the state, including Puri district, has worsened significantly. It was alleged that even threats had been issued to political leaders and to the Shree Jagannath Temple administration.

Referring to several recent incidents, the leaders cited: the brutal attack and firing incident in Kanas,

the rape of a six-year-old minor in Brahmagiri, the gang rape at Baliharachandi in Brahmagiri, the Gopalpur gang rape case, the incident in Balanga where a minor girl was allegedly

set on fire after kerosene was poured on her, and the gruesome murder at Balianta.

They stated that such incidents have brought disgrace to the state and reflect a severe collapse of law and order. Questions were also raised over the role and approach of the police administration.

The leaders further alleged that in the Brahmagiri incident, where a minor boy was paraded on the road with his hands tied, no one has been arrested so far. They described the Kanas incident as "medieval barbarity" and strongly condemned the deteriorating law and order situation in the state.

They also claimed that three more such incidents had occurred in the state on the same day.

In protest against the worsening law and order situation, a BJD delegation announced that it would stage a demonstration in front of the SP office on the 14th. The party warned that if such incidents continue, they would launch larger protests on the streets. They further stated that if the state government is unable to restore law and order, the Chief Minister should resign on moral grounds.

Among those present at the press conference were Rajya Sabha MP Subhasish Khuntia, BJD State Vice-President Sanjay Das Bu

Murder case Judgement after 27 years Life imprisonment to two accused

Jagatsinghpur, To-day Honourable Addl. District and sessions Judge Hars Prasad Pattnaik convicted two accused life long imprisonment and 10000 rupees fine. Without payment of fine both accused will go for six month RI. This case occurred in 13 th January 1999 and after 27 years the accused were punished by court of law. Sources said that due to previous enmity the accused murder victim Bira bar Behera by sharp weapon at Biridi hat under Jagatsinghpur Police station. The wife of the victim Pratima Behera reported at Police station and Jagatsinghpur police station registered case no 13/1999. She stated in the report that while Bira bar Behera going to medicine store suddenly Sukadev Behera, Basudev Behera, Gaurang Mohanty and others attacked him by sharp weapon and Bira bar died on the spot. After 27 years honourable Addl. District and session Judge convicted two accused namely Gaurang Mohanty and Basudev Behera after taking witness of 10 people and sentenced life imprisonment and 10000 rupees fine to accused.

N Rangasamy sworn in as Puducherry CM for record fifth term; PM Modi congratulates

New Delhi: N. Rangasamy was sworn in as Puducherry Chief Minister for a record fifth term on Wednesday, as the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) retained power in the Union Territory following the recent Assembly elections.

The swearing-in ceremony was held at the Lok Bhavan in Puducherry, where Lieutenant Governor K. Kailasanathan administered the oath of office and secrecy to Rangasamy and the newly inducted ministers.

Along with the Chief Minister, A. Namassivayam and Malladi Krishna Rao took oath as Cabinet ministers in the new NDA government. The ceremony was attended by senior BJP leaders, alliance partners, elected representatives, and party workers, with tight security arrangements in place around the venue.

With the latest swearing-in, Rangasamy has become the first leader in Puducherry's history to hold the office of Chief Minister five times, further cementing his position as one of the Union Territory's most influential political figures.

The NDA alliance secured a comfortable majority in the recently concluded 30-member Puducherry Assembly elections. Rangasamy's All India N.R. Congress emerged as the dominant force in the alliance with 12 seats, while the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won four seats.

The All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) and Latchiya Jananayaga Katchi (LJK) secured one seat each.

The opposition saw the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) winning five seats and the Indian National Congress (INC) securing one seat, while Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) opened its account with two seats.

Addressing reporters after oath ceremony, Rangasamy thanked the people for their support and said his government would focus on welfare and development.

"It is our government's duty to implement all necessary schemes for the welfare of the people even more effectively. We will certainly fulfill this responsibility with excellence," he said.

The Chief Minister also expressed his vision to transform Puducherry into a major development and tourism hub. "We are going to develop our Puducherry like Singapore," he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Rangasamy on assuming office and praised his administrative experience.

In a post on X, PM Modi said, "Congratulations to Thiru N. Rangasamy Ji on taking oath as Puducherry's Chief Minister. He has made a mark as an experienced and effective administrator who has strengthened Puducherry's growth journey."

The Prime Minister also extended his wishes to Namassivayam and Malladi Krishna Rao, expressing confidence that the new ministers would contribute to Puducherry's progress and improve the "Ease of Living" for its people.

Emphasis on Scripturally Authentic Rituals for Rath Yatra

Puri: An important symposium was organized in Puri under the joint aegis of the Shree Jagannath Sanskrit University, and Prof. Bhakta Samaj and Shree Jagannath Sanskriti Prachar Sansthan. The program was conducted under the guidance of the institution's president, Dr. Narayan Mahapatra.

During the morning session, participants had darshan of the deities at the Jagannath Temple. In the afternoon session, a detailed discussion on the topic "Rath Yatra Festival: Scriptures and Tradition" was held at the Bhakta Salabega Samadhi Peetha under the chairmanship of Prof. Purnachandra Mahapatra, a priest of the Jagannath Temple and professor. On this occasion, Prof.

Prabhat Kumar Mahapatra, Vice Chancellor of Shri Jagannath Sanskrit University, and Prof. Satyanarayan Acharya, Vice Chancellor of Odia University, highlighted the ancient origins of the Rath Yatra tradition, stating that it has continued since Vedic times. They emphasized that the Rath Yatra must be conducted strictly according to scriptures and the established traditions of the Jagannath Temple, rather than through controversy or arbitrary decisions.

The scholars further stated that all religious processions associated with the Jagannath Temple are believed to have been instructed by Lord Jagannath himself to King Indradyumna, and

therefore no deviation from these traditions is acceptable.

During the discussion, Ramachandra Das Mahapatra, the Badagrahini of Goddess Subhadra, called for a boycott of any Rath Yatra conducted against scriptural principles and urged all organizations to unite on the issue. Similarly, Ramnarayan Pujya Panda stated that disrespect toward Jagannath culture is unacceptable under any circumstances.

Chairperson Prof. Purnachandra Mahapatra also explained the spiritual depth of the Snana Yatra and Rath Yatra, emphasizing that they should not merely be viewed as festivals or "car festivals," but as profound

scriptural and cultural traditions.

He further informed attendees that from July 24 to 27, a program titled "Shree Jagannath Pancharatra" and an international seminar, "Vedic Deity Shree Jagannath Purushottam," will be organized at the Shree Jagannath Temple in Pragpur, Himachal Pradesh.

During the event, the book Shree Jagannath Saurabh Sambhar – Book 2 was also officially released by the guests. Several distinguished personalities and members of the organization, including Umakanta Mishra, Ravi Narayan Mahapatra, Dr. Pradeep Chandra Acharya, Dr. Shashikant Rath, Veer Ananta Panda, and Ashutosh Panda, were present.

Sudam Charan Das awarded in highest "Platinum Excellence Award"

Jajpur :- The 15th Foundation Day and Outstanding Officers' Award Ceremony of the National Crime Investigation Bureau (NCIB), which works across India to reduce crime and corruption as per government regulations, was held in Lucknow in a dignified atmosphere.

Among the prominent officers from various states who attended the event from all over India, Odisha State Director Sudam Charan Das was awarded the highest award "Platinum Excellence Award" for his excellent organizational style, social awareness and active role in crime prevention. Baidyanandranath



Sahoo, Manoj Kumar Chakra and Suresh Kumar Nayak were also awarded in "Support Excellence Award".

National level officers of the

organization were present at the ceremony and called for continued awareness in the society about prevention of crime, corruption, human trafficking, cyber crime and

child protection. Post this news goes viral many intellectuals, organisations, individuals, Political Leaders in the region have wished these eminent persons.

17th National Human Rights Conference Held Under CHRC Banner

• Distinguished personalities and meritorious students felicitated

Balasure, 12/5 (Krushna Kumar Mohanty): The Foundation Day celebration of the Citizens Human Rights Clinic (CHRC), Baripada Branch, along with the 17th National Human Rights Conference, was observed with grandeur at the Rotary Club premises in Baripada. The conference centred on the themes of human rights and their protection, animal rights and welfare, and environmental protection.

Addressing the gathering as chief guest, Krushna Chandra

Mahapatra, Minister of Housing and Urban Development and Public Enterprises, stressed the importance of safeguarding human rights and ensuring constitutional rights for every citizen. He remarked that awareness of both rights and responsibilities is essential for building a healthy and progressive society.

Among the distinguished guests present were Netrananda Mallik, Deepak Gochhayat, Mahendra Kumar Mohanty and Seema Das. The speakers

appreciated the initiative of CHRC and observed that such efforts would play a significant role in spreading legal awareness and extending support to the common people.

Other prominent participants included Gopabandhu Mallik, advisor Niranjan Barik, Bansidhar Mallik, representatives of AIFFTC, and Rashmi Raul, who shared their views on various human rights issues.

The meeting was presided over by Swarup Kumar Basa.

On the occasion, Bijay Kumar Agrawal, Debabrata Swain, Shyamsundar Das and Sanjay Choudhury were appointed as advisors to the Baripada branch. Several members including Ashish Basa, Somnath Singh, Sai Prakash Mohanty, Anil Behera, Gokul Chandra Das, Vivekananda Patra, Ashwini Das, Murchhana Pattnaik, Kanika Bose, Sudhamayi Das, Dillip Das Verma, Bapi Mishra and Debashish Das extended active support for the successful organization of the programme.

Jagatsinghpur district runners-up in state level Wako Kickboxing Championship



Paradip/Jagatsinghpur - Jagatsinghpur district became runners-up in the state level kickboxing competition held at Biju Patanaik Stadium in Ganjam. A total of 560 competitors and officials from 30 districts of Odisha participated in the state-level

Wako Kickboxing competition held from Mat 6th to 9th, 2026. Out of them, 45 competitors from Jagatsinghpur district participated and won a total of 33 gold, 16 silver and 15 bronze medals, leaving behind all the districts and becoming the runners-up. This has

been possible for Odisha Wako Kickboxing President Kartak Dakua, President Vichitra Narayan Jena and Ranjan Sutar. The players from Jagatsinghpur district have achieved this success under the leadership of national level coaches Amar Jyoti Rout and Manas Dora.

Orissa High Court Orders Seizure of Russian Oil Tanker 'MT Unit' at Paradip Port Over 4 Crore Dues



Paradip - The Orissa High Court has ordered the arrest of the oil tanker MT Unit at Paradip Port. Following a lawsuit by UAE's Pristine International FZE over 74 crore in unpaid fuel dues, the Russian vessel is detained after delivering crude oil to IOCL.

Following an order, the oil tanker "MT Unit" has been detained. The vessel was intercepted by a Marshall acting under special judicial powers following a legal dispute regarding significant unpaid financial obligations.

The legal action was initiated by Pristine International FZE, a fuel supply company based in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The firm approached the court alleging that the vessel failed to pay for bunker oil supplied in January. The outstanding dues in question exceed Rs 4 crore, prompting the company to seek a court order to prevent the ship from leaving Indian waters until the debt is settled.

New Puri-Koraput Tri-Weekly Express Approved: Major Rail Connectivity Boost for Odisha



Rayagada :- In a major boost to rail connectivity across Odisha, the Ministry of Railways has approved the introduction of a new tri-weekly express train between Puri and Koraput.

The newly introduced train, numbered 18407/18408 Puri-Koraput-Puri Express, will operate via Khurda Road, Bhubaneswar, Angul, Sambalpur, Bargarh Road, Balangir, Titlagarh, Kesinga, Muniguda, Rayagada, Kakiriguma and

Damanjodi. The service is expected to significantly improve connectivity between coastal, western and southern Odisha while enhancing passenger convenience and regional accessibility.

The introduction of this train fulfills a long-standing demand of people from several underserved regions of the state for a direct and convenient rail link connecting Puri, Bhubaneswar and the tribal-

dominated districts of southern Odisha. The service will benefit passengers travelling for pilgrimage, education, healthcare, employment, tourism and business purposes.

The train will serve major districts including Puri, Khordha, Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Angul, Sambalpur, Bargarh, Balangir, Kalahandi, Rayagada and Koraput. It is expected to particularly strengthen rail connectivity

in the KBK region and improve access to important educational, medical and administrative centres across Odisha. Important stoppages of the train will include Khurda Road, Bhubaneswar, Dhenkanal, Talcher Road, Angul, Boinda, Rairakhol, Sambalpur, Bargarh Road, Balangir, Titlagarh, Kesinga, Muniguda, Rayagada, Tikiri, Laxmipur Road, Kakiriguma and Damanjodi. The new rail service is expected to enhance regional integration and socio-economic development by improving mobility between coastal Odisha and the interior districts of western and southern Odisha. It will also provide seamless travel for pilgrims visiting the Jagannath Temple in Puri and tourists travelling to the scenic and tribal regions of Koraput and Rayagada.

PN Autonomous College 18th Final Year Graduation Examination Results Published, Girls students ahead of boys.

Khordha-13/5 : Autonomous College 2023-2026 Final Year Graduation examination results have been published with the approval of the Vice-Chancellor of Utkal University. While the overall pass rate of the students in this examination was 90.06 percent, this year the girls students in Arts, Science and Commerce are ahead of the boys students. This year the pass rate of the students was 92.84 percent, while the boys students' pass rate is 86.57 percent. While the pass rate in the Arts stream was 90.20 percent, the pass rate in the Science and Commerce stream is 94.93 and 83.39 percent respectively. Sushree Disha Agarwal, a student from the Commerce department, Kiran Kumar Pradhan, a student of Psychology Honours from the Arts department, and Ms. Monalisa Behera, a student of Computer Science Honours from the Science department, have been the

top graduates. These students will be awarded the gold medal in the upcoming commemoration day-2027. Sushree Monalisa Behera, an honors student in Computer Science from the Department of Science, has earned the honor of becoming the best graduate of the college by securing the highest marks. The final examination results have been prepared based on the total results of the six semester examinations. The results were released by the President of the College Managing Committee, Jyotirindra Nath Mitra, Former Vice Chancellor of North Odisha University, Maj. Khirod Prasad Mohanty, Principal of the College Dr. Purnima Nayak, Controller of Examinations Prof. Dr. Nandita Chhotray, all members of the Examination Department and faculty members, staff, media representatives and students of the college were present.

IFFCO DAV school delivered exemplary performance in CBSE XII Exam



Paradip - The DAV public school of IFFCO, Paradeep has delivered an exemplary performance in the CBSE Class XII Board Examination results for both Science and Humanities streams.

In the Science stream, 41 out of 43 students secured First Division. The school topper is Miss Tanisha Jena

with an outstanding 93%. She is followed by Miss Ayesha Sahu, who secured the second position with 92.40%, and Master Shreemaya Parija, who stood third with 90.20%.

In the Humanities stream, all 8 students passed with First Division marks. Miss Abhilipsa Das emerged

as the topper with 88%, followed by Miss Swetlina Sahoo in second position with 85.60%, and Miss Sharon Zenith Tirkey in third position with 83.20%.

The school congratulates all the successful students, their parents, and teachers for this remarkable achievement and wishes them a bright and successful future.

Demands to Trace Out the Fraud Gang: Lakhs of People Allegedly Looted Through "5 Times Return in One Hour" Scam

Balase, 13/05: An account named Deepak Wadhwa Official Trading was allegedly created to run a large-scale fraud operation in the name of online trading across various states of the country. Vijay Kumar Sakharam Patil, along with six others, is accused of operating the scam. It is alleged that lakhs of people are becoming victims of this fraud every day.

According to reports, Deepak Wadhwa and

Vijay first created groups on social media platforms and lured people with attractive investment offers. They claim that investors will receive five times the deposited amount within one hour. For example, Rs 2,000 is promised to become Rs 10,000 in an hour, Rs 5,000 becomes Rs 25,000, Rs 8,000 becomes Rs 35,000, Rs 10,000 becomes Rs 45,000, and Rs 20,000 becomes Rs 65,000.

They also reportedly introduced special

schemes under the name "Invest Ratna", claiming that an investment of Rs 25,000 would become Rs 85,000 within an hour, while Rs 50,000 would become Rs 1 lakh.

As per the alleged modus operandi, once a person sends Rs 2,000 and waits for an hour, a message arrives saying that the money will be transferred within two minutes, along with a screenshot showing fake processing details. This creates trust

among the victims. However, shortly afterward, another message is sent claiming that Rs 3,199 must be paid as a withdrawal charge to receive Rs 13,199, including trading profit.

Believing the claim, many victims reportedly sent the additional amount. But instead of receiving the promised money, they are again told that the transaction failed due to a low balance issue. They are then asked

to send more money, such as Rs 6,200, with promises of receiving Rs 35,000 or more. In this manner, the demanded amount keeps increasing up to Rs 65,000 or beyond.

By the time victims realise the fraud, they have already lost substantial amounts of money. There is now a strong demand for authorities to trace the fraud gang, arrest those involved, and take strict action against the accused.

STD.-XII CBSE BOARD RESULT

PERFORMANCE OF DAV, KALINGA NAGAR

Bhubaneswar- Students of DAV, Kalinga Nagar have fared very well with a thumping result in the recently published CBSE AISC-2026 Examination. They have made the Alma mater glorious with a School average of 80.45% in Science & 80.60% in Commerce with a combined school average of 80.48%. The Highest percentage of the school in science has reached 96.80% and 96.40% in commerce respectively. In science, out of 66 students 54.55% (36 nos.) students have scored above 80% marks, 90.91% (60 nos.) students have scored above 70% marks, and 100% (66 nos.) students have scored above 65% marks. Pratik Sarangi topped the list of meritorious students with 96.80% while Omm Prakash Satapathy has secured second position with 94.60% and Sriguru Sankar Mati bagged the third

position with 93.60% in science. Similarly in Commerce, out of 15 students, 53.33% (8 nos.) students have secured above 80% marks, 80.00% (12 nos.) students have secured above 70% marks and 93.33% (14 nos.) students have secured above 60%. Anjelina Bhuyan has topped the list of meritorious students with 96.40% while Shreyashree Panda has secured second position with 94.80% and Anwesa Ananya has secured the third position with 92.40% respectively. Chairman of the school, S. Arun Kumar Rath, Regional Director, DAV Institutions, Odisha Zone Dr. K. C. Satapathy, Regional Officer & Manager of the school Dr. Sujata Sahu, and Principal of the school Mr. Balaram Mahapatra congratulated the students, parents & the teachers for their success & effort.

District-level "Chief Minister's Kanya Vivah Yojana" program was held.

39 newlyweds tied the knot in a mass wedding ceremony

Keonjhar: The Keonjhar District Administration, in collaboration with the Women and Child Development Department of the Government of Odisha and the implementing agency "Indian By Birth", Keonjhar, organized a mass wedding ceremony under the District-level Chief Minister's Kanya Vivah Yojana (CMKVY) program today at the Keonjhar Shankarpur Sports Complex. Thousands of people and officials witnessed the ceremony.

Deputy Chief Minister of Odisha Parvati Parida attended as the chief guest and blessed the newlyweds. Total, 39 bride-groom pairs who applied under the scheme got married in today's program.



Mrs. Parida said this scheme of the government has become very popular because it aims to reduce the

financial burden of marriage for backward classes and ensure women's self-respect and social security. It has

emerged as an important step to promote widow remarriage and eliminate the dowry system. This

marriage program will help in further strengthening women empowerment and social security and blessed the newlyweds and took group photos with them.

Sources said that candidates whose daughters are between 18 and 35 and whose sons are between 21 and 35 have applied to the Child Protection Officer. Later the deputy CM review progress of different development and welfare programs mostly under women and child development at Keonjhar collectorate. She discussed the progress of works on going Anganwadi Centers, child nutrition centers and implementation of subhadra yojana. Besides that, she discussed Mission Shakti,

Samarthya, Shakti Sadan, Creche, and an awareness program on preventing child marriage. She also reviewed projects underway funded by the DMF in the Child and Women Development Department, as well as rehabilitation and educational assistance for children in childcare institutes. She also reviewed the progress of developmental activities in Maa tarini temple, Sanghagara, Khandadhar and Badaghagara waterfall.

Keonjhar MP Ananta Nayak, District Planning Committee Chairman and Honorable Telkoi MLA Dr. Fakir Mohan Naik, District Collector Vishal Singh, Dr. Priyanka Marandi among others, attended the program as guests and peo.

Padma Shri Sachi Rautraya's birth anniversary celebrated

Khordha-13/5- The birth anniversary of Padma Shri Sachi Rautraya was celebrated at his birthplace, Gurjunga Dewan Sahi, Khordha in association with the Sachi Rautraya Sahitya Sansad. A poetry reading festival was organized under the patronage of the vice-president of Sachi Rautraya sahitya sansad poet Aarti Manjari Dash and retired lecture Subhadarshini Devi. Poets from Khordha and Gurjunga regions participated in this and paid tribute to the great poet of the land, Sachi Rautraya, through poetry. In the second phase, the mouthpiece of the Sahitya Sansad 'Shatdal' was launched. A meeting held under the chairmanship of poet and President

of Sahitya Sansad, Sweta Padmasini Mohanty. Poet Narayan Das's poetry book 'Kasa tandi-4' was presented to the public in the presence of distinguished guests. Researcher Satyabadi Baliarsingh, who participated as the guest of honor at this event, spoke about the poet's contribution to the freedom struggle. The keynote speaker and lecture of the Department of Odia Language and Literature, Dr. Sasmita Pattanaik, starting with Sachi Rautraya's novel 'Chitragrib', and presented a brief overview of the poetic ideology that has spread from the pre-Sarala period to the modern era in Odia literature, by delving into the unique potential of his short story



empire and poetry. The chief guest and former president of Khordha Sahitya Sansad, Baikuntha Nath Rajguru, wished the institution named after Sachi Rautraya a bright future and spoke on the poet's political life and rural literature. In his speech, historian and former lecture of Odia department Gopal Krushna Das

spoke about the love of childhood and other thoughts in Sachi Rautraya's stories. He asked how the poet's literature can be more popular and called on the state government's Culture Department to install a statue of freedom fighter Sachi Rautraya and show their enthusiasm. On this occasion, late Pandit Harikrushna

Pradhan, Baidhar Mahapatra and Akshay Sahu, were awarded posthumously 'Shatdal Samman'. The annual report was read by the secretary Bhabani Prasad Kar and the vote of thanks was given by the organization secretary Santosh Kumar Sahu. In memory of the poet, the vice-president Aarti Manjari Dash discussed his famous poem Bajraut. In the presence of true literature lovers, the Siba Sundar Pattanaik, columnist and professor Tushar Ranjan Palata Singh and Prafulla Samantaray participated in the discussion. The program was conducted by the members of the organization and social workers Jayantha Mohanty.

CUTTACK MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

"e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Tender ID : 2026_ORULB_129206

Bid Reference No. MC(CMC)CTC_Div-I_No.03/2026-27

Tender Call Notice No. 5044 (PW) Date. 12.05.2026

Name of Works : Civil Works

No of Works : 14 Nos

Bid Value : Rs. 3.37 Lakh to Rs. 30.60 Lakh

Period of Completion : One Calendar Month to

Four Calendar Months

Date and Time schedule :

Start	End	Opening
3.00 PM on dt. 14.05.2026	5.00 PM on dt. 25.05.2026	11.00 A.M. on dt. 29.05.2026

Tender Details : can be seen from the procurement portal : www.tendersorissa.gov.in

Executive Engineer, City Div-I

NEET Exam

THE first part-cancellation of the NEET-UG exam in 2024 was bad enough. The second, on Tuesday, is criminal. Lakhs of students, after years of relentless preparation, sleepless nights and immense emotional strain, have been told that their career-defining examination stands nullified because the authorities entrusted with safeguarding its integrity failed to protect the sanctity of a "guess paper". Heads must roll for allowing a repetition of this unforgivable scandal. The emotional devastation caused by this fiasco cannot be repaired by



announcing revised dates. Every paper leak strengthens criminal syndicates while punishing honest students. There must be transparent investigations, criminal prosecution and administrative accountability.

In 2024, NEET was rocked by allegations of paper leaks, inflated ranks and controversial grace marks. Though the entire exam was not cancelled then, the episode triggered nationwide outrage, judicial scrutiny and promises of reform. The government assured students that safeguards would be strengthened and lessons had been learnt. Instead, the rot has deepened. The cancellation of the 2026 exam proves that the authorities hardly treated the earlier crisis with the seriousness it deserved. The National Testing Agency's credibility is in tatters. Nor can Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan escape accountability. Such a monumental failure affecting millions of young citizens calls for an overhauling of the entire system of education. The whole cycle of infamy — from coaching classes which practically hold the student's life to ransom, to large-scale fraud in "guess papers" — must be reimagined.

India needs to break the stranglehold of this magic bullet, three-hour test that decides whether you are worth becoming a doctor or not. The shift to NEET, replacing multiple state and private exams, was intended to create a standardised, merit-based admission process. Clearly, it hasn't worked. Both babus and politicians must be held responsible for the trauma they have caused 22 lakh children.

Phogat Case

THE face-off between Vinesh Phogat — a champion wrestler on the comeback trail — and the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) is a new low in the country's sporting annals. A dispute over eligibility rules has turned into a political battle. This is a test of the Indian sports administration's transparency, fairness and credibility. Vinesh's attempt to compete in the National Open Ranking tournament at Gonda (Uttar Pradesh) was thwarted on Monday. The treatment meted out to her indicates that the authorities are more keen on exercising procedural control than resolving the conflict.

The WFI has argued that anti-doping regulations and return-to-competition rules cannot be ignored. Sporting frameworks exist to ensure a level playing field, and no athlete, however accomplished, should be exempt from compliance. Questions regarding retirement protocols and disciplinary conduct deserve answers. However,



in the case of Vinesh, who is a Congress MLA from Haryana, the timing of the show-cause notice has understandably raised suspicion. If the federation had concerns about her eligibility after her December 2025 comeback declaration, why was decisive action taken only days before a major tournament?

Administrative opacity has fuelled allegations of bias. Vinesh has been one of the most visible faces of the protests against former WFI chief and BJP leader Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who has been accused of sexual harassment by several wrestlers. Vinesh's emotional remarks about being branded "anti-national" underline how quickly athletes who challenge authority can become targets of public vilification. A democracy must allow sportspeople to protest injustice without fear of professional retaliation or character assassination. Indian wrestling in particular needs an independent, credible dispute-resolution mechanism that athletes can trust. Without institutional fairness, disciplinary action may appear vindictive, laying bare the perils of mixing politics with sport.

BJP Dominance and Fragility of Opposition Unity

Tejeswar Patnaik

The recent Assembly election results have once again highlighted the growing political dominance of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the weakening of both regional parties and the opposition. From retaining power in Assam and Puducherry to securing a major victory in West Bengal by defeating the Trinamool Congress (TMC), the BJP has further strengthened its political dominance across India. These results have also raised serious questions about the future of the opposition INDIA alliance and the ability of Congress and regional parties to challenge the BJP-led NDA effectively.

Since 2014, the BJP's political trajectory has been remarkable. At that time, the party ruled only seven states. Today, the NDA alliance is in power in 22 states and Union Territories, with the BJP independently governing 14 states and sharing power with allies in eight more. In contrast, the Congress party is in power on its own in only four states and with allies in six others currently. Before 2014, the Congress-led UPA had formed governments in 14 states. Over the years, the political landscape has changed. NDA-governed states now account for nearly 78 per cent of India's population, reflecting the scale of the BJP's national reach.

The BJP's victory in West Bengal marks a major political milestone. By ending the TMC's fifteen-year rule, the party has proved that it is no longer confined to North India. The Bengal election was fiercely fought, with allegations of violence, voter manipulation, and controversy surrounding the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. The opposition alleged that the deletion of nearly 90 lakh voters influenced the outcome. However, the BJP successfully built its campaign around

A major factor behind the BJP's rise has been its successful use of the Hindutva narrative and welfare policies. In West Bengal and Assam, the party strongly projected issues related to identity, religion, and cultural nationalism. In Bengal, the BJP projected itself as the protector of Hindu interests and accused the TMC of minority appeasement. It raised slogans around cultural pride, temple politics, and the restoration of Bengal's lost glory. This emotional and ideological appeal helped consolidate Hindu votes across caste and class lines.

issues such as law and order, corruption, political violence, and governance failures under the TMC government.

A major factor behind the BJP's rise has been its successful use of the Hindutva narrative and welfare policies. In West Bengal and Assam, the party strongly projected issues related to identity, religion, and cultural nationalism. In Bengal, the BJP projected itself as the protector of Hindu interests and accused the TMC of minority appeasement. It raised slogans around cultural pride, temple politics, and the restoration of Bengal's lost glory. This emotional and ideological appeal helped consolidate Hindu votes across caste and class lines.

Similarly, in Assam, concerns over illegal immigration from Bangladesh were linked with Assamese identity and Hindu security. The BJP successfully connected nationalism with regional identity and positioned itself as the defender of both national interest and cultural heritage. This strategy of combining Hindutva with local identity politics has given the party strong electoral leverage in several states.

Political observers also believe that the BJP's success in Bengal was driven by rising anti-incumbency against the TMC, weak governance, industrial stagnation, and unemployment. Many voters were attracted by the BJP's promises of industrialisation, infrastructure development, and job

creation. The party effectively used both emotional and developmental narratives to expand its support base.

Equally important is the BJP's strong organisational machinery. Its booth-level management, digital outreach, and continuous voter engagement have helped it build a powerful grassroots network. Thousands of dedicated workers carry out door-to-door campaigns, monitor welfare delivery, and ensure precise voter targeting. The BJP's electoral strategy functions throughout the year, not only during election season, giving it a major advantage over opposition parties that often become active only during campaigns.

The BJP has also expanded successfully in states once dominated by strong regional parties. In 2024, it defeated the formidable BJD in Odisha, ending Naveen Patnaik's 24-year rule. It unseated the Aam Aadmi Party in Delhi and made major gains in Maharashtra by splitting the Shiv Sena and NCP. It also attracted influential leaders from Congress, TMC, BJD, AAP, and other smaller parties by offering them political space, tickets, and ministerial positions.

In contrast, the opposition INDIA alliance faces serious internal contradictions, leadership confusion, and the absence of a common political narrative. Fragmented opposition naturally benefits the BJP because it weakens democratic competition. A

healthy democracy requires not only a strong government but also a strong and credible opposition.

The Congress party, in particular, faces the biggest challenge in taking on the BJP. Since 2014, it has suffered repeated defeats and lost its hold over most major states. It needs to relook and rebuild itself from the grassroots by strengthening local leadership, reconnecting with voters, and presenting a credible economic and governance model. Mere criticism of the BJP or repeated allegations of misuse of central agencies will not be enough to regain public trust.

Leaders of the opposition INDIA alliance partners need to rise above personal ambitions and ego clashes for the sake of political unity. A common minimum programme, mutual trust among alliance partners, and clarity on leadership are essential for the alliance to survive. Regional parties and Congress must work together sincerely rather than relying on short-term electoral adjustments.

People will trust the opposition only when they see a strong and stable alternative to the BJP. Congress, as the second-largest national party, bears special responsibility in this regard. It must strengthen its organisation, and empower regional leadership. The opposition's task is to highlight on real public issues such as unemployment, inflation, farmers' distress, social justice, and institutional accountability instead of relying only on anti-BJP rhetorics.

The emergence of the BJP is the result of long-term planning, strong organisation, leadership clarity, ideological messaging, and effective social engineering. To challenge the BJP's dominance, the opposition must move beyond anti-BJP sentiment and offer a positive, credible, and united vision for India's future. Only then can Indian democracy maintain a healthy political balance and ensure stronger democratic accountability.

Teaching And Learning: A Two-way Process

Gopinath Dash

The tradition of holding our teachers in reverence is steeped in traditions of the East. It grew out of an acknowledgement that learning is not something to be hoarded; it is to be passed on. The wisdom that the sages of old acquired was synonymous with knowledge in as much as it meant not just scriptural knowledge or assimilation of information but knowledge gained from experience of life's lessons. Since life embraces all without distinction, its lessons become a shared experience. In this experience the teacher and student enter into a relationship in which both are students and teachers of one another. There is no room for superiority.

In its origins, all teaching was ultimately spiritual. The advent of modern science has tended to blur the lines of congruence between knowledge and wisdom. Acquiring 'knowledge' is now synonymous with acquisition of power. Aren't we confusing knowledge with information? Being well read or well informed need not necessarily put you above those who have been denied access to information and education. Some highly educated people do share their knowledge but often, it is an act of condescension. We sometimes forget that "education" etymologically is a "drawing out" from within. Far from being a social concern, it sometimes degenerates into a financial enterprise. Some of us may on this day loathe the teachers in our lives who seemed to delight in pointing out our mistakes and correcting them. But it is because of their vigilance and concern that many of us have learnt from our mistakes and become better at what we do.

The guru-sishya parampara of ancient times was a great tradition that enabled holistic education and made possible for teachers and students to find dedicated time to grow in their relationship in the teaching-learning process. Today's education system may not afford forging of such long term bonding; however, we do remember our teachers and we might even make the time to send a personal note to a teacher who became a significant role model in our childhood. Some of us will think of sending a bouquet of flowers to the teacher, who, from among many, touched our hearts, not so much by what they taught us, but by empowering us to be fully human.

A personal visit from a past student

is known to have warmed the hearts of many a retired teacher. Beyond examinations, unit tests, the measurement of ability, the grades and percentages that indicate only how effectively we can reproduce information stored in the hard-disks of our brain, we somehow remember only those teachers who went beyond them. These are the teachers who transcended the 'self' and whose words and deeds are etched in our memory only because in so doing, they enabled and empowered us to transcend ourselves.

These are the teachers who made us



realise that the signpost is not the road. They showed by example that the journey itself was as important — or even more important — as the destination. Refusing to be identified only with the journey, or the goal, they walked with us in spirit as we negotiated the many twists and turns of life, leading us with compassion and inspiring us to never give up. In the course of teaching, teachers too learn from students just as students learn from their teachers. And when teaching and learning become shared experiences, it becomes evident that it is a two-way process.

Hariharananda Balashram, Pattamundai, Kendrapara, Mob.: 8895296167

15th May (Savitri Brata) transformation of earthly life into the Life Divine

Nibedita Priyadarshini Sukla

Savitri Amavasya or Savitri Brata which is most auspicious for the married Hindu women with husbands alive. Women observe as a vow with great devotion and pray for the long life of their husbands. It is a story of conjugal loves which conquers death. One can beat all odds in life through true devotional love.

The name Sabitri, also spelled as Savitri, is a traditional Indian name of Sanskrit origin, deeply rooted in Hindu mythology. It signifies "relating to the sun" or "daughter of the sun," derived from "Savitri," a solar deity in the Vedas. Savitri Mata is revered in Hindu tradition, primarily known as the devoted wife of Lord Brahma who cursed him to be worshipped only in Pushkar after he took another wife, Gayatri, for a yajna. She is also identified with the legendary Princess Savitri from the Mahabharata, who used wit and devotion to bring her husband Satyavan back from Yama, the God of Death.

Savitri Brata is a significant fasting ritual observed by married Odia women on Jyestha Amavasya for their husbands' longevity and happy married life. Women wake early, wear new clothes/bangles, worship Goddess Savitri and the Banyan tree, offer fruits, listen to the Katha, and break the fast in the evening. It narrates the spiritual ascent of the king Aswapati to the highest planes of consciousness to bring down a divine power, and the subsequent birth and yoga of Savitri who must descend into the grip of death and ignorance to conquer them.

Savitri offers a vision of truth that goes beyond the ordinary mind through realms of overmind and supramental truth. Hence Savitri cannot be described only rationally, but must be felt, experienced, and realized. Savitri takes as its theme the life of the human and the movement of one's soul over the cosmic planes.

The central message of Savitri is this promise of terrestrial transformation, the transformation of earthly life into the Life Divine and of the present human being into the supramental being of the future. The central message of Savitri is that Love not only conquers Death but transforms it. In conclusion, the chastity of Savitri in Savitri: A Legend and a Symbol by Sri Aurobindo is shown as a powerful symbol of spiritual strength and purity. Aurobindo presents chastity not just as physical purity, but as an inner power that helps Savitri achieve her higher spiritual goals.

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Cabinet Approves Rs 20,667 Crore Double Line Railway Project In Gujarat

New Delhi, 13/5: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved the Ahmedabad (Sarkhej)-Dholera semi-high-speed double line railway project – the first of the Indian Railways planned with indigenously developed technology, with a total investment of Rs 20,667 crore. The project section will provide faster connectivity between Ahmedabad, Dholera SIR, the upcoming Dholera Airport and the Lothal National Maritime Heritage Complex (NHMC), a Cabinet statement said. Connecting Ahmedabad with Dholera will cut down passenger travel time, enabling comfortable daily commuting and same day return trips. This semi-high-speed railway will not only bring the two cities closer but also benefit people living hundreds of



kilometres away. It will serve as a pioneer project, acting as a reference model for the phased expansion of semi-high-speed rail across the country, it added. The project covering the Ahmedabad district in Gujarat will increase the existing network of Indian Railways by about 134 km. The proposed projects will enhance

connectivity to around 284 villages, with a population of about 5 lakh. The new line proposal will provide direct connectivity and improve mobility, providing enhanced efficiency and service reliability for Indian Railways. The project is in line with Prime Minister Modi's vision of a New India,

which will make people of the region "atmanirbhar" by way of comprehensive development in the area, which will enhance their employment opportunities, the statement said. The project is planned in accordance with the PM-Gati Shakti National Master Plan, with a focus on enhancing multi-modal connectivity and logistics efficiency through integrated planning and stakeholder consultations. These projects will provide seamless connectivity for the movement of people, goods, and services, the statement said. The Railways, being an environment-friendly and energy-efficient mode of transportation, will help both in achieving climate goals and minimising logistics cost of the country, reduce oil import (0.48 crore Litres) and lower CO2 emissions (2 Crore kg), which is equivalent to the plantation of 10 lakh trees, the statement added.

Cabinet Approves AAI Land Lease Extension For Nagpur Airport Modernisation Project

New Delhi, 13/5: The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday approved the extension of the lease period of land owned by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and leased to MIHAN India Limited (MIL), paving the way for the transfer and long-term development of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport under the public-private partnership model. The decision will enable MIL to license the Nagpur airport to GMR Nagpur International Airport Limited (GNIAL) for 30 years from the Commercial Operation Date (COD), marking a significant milestone in the development of the Multi-modal International Cargo Hub and Airport at Nagpur (MIHAN) project. According to the government, the extension of the lease period beyond August 6, 2039, will make it co-terminus with the 30-year concession period granted to GNIAL. The

move is expected to facilitate the smooth handover of the airport to GNIAL and accelerate infrastructure development and modernisation at the airport. MIL was formed in 2009 as a joint venture between AAI and Maharashtra Airport Development Company (MADC) with a 49:51 equity structure. Although airport assets were transferred to MIL in 2009 for operational purposes, the execution of the lease deed was delayed due to land demarcation issues, after which the land was leased only up to August 6, 2039. In 2016, MIL floated a global tender to identify a private partner to operate the airport under the PPP model. GMR Airports emerged as the highest bidder with a quoted revenue share of 5.76 per cent, which was later revised to 14.49 per cent of gross revenue. However, MIL

annulled the bidding process in March 2020, triggering legal proceedings. The annulment was challenged by GMR Airports before the Bombay High Court, which ruled in favour of the company. The matter later reached the Supreme Court, which also upheld GMR's position in its judgment delivered on September 27, 2024. Following the apex court's verdict, MIL signed the concession agreement with GNIAL on October 8, 2024. The government said the latest Cabinet approval would usher in a new phase of growth for Nagpur airport by combining private sector efficiency with government oversight. GNIAL is expected to transform the airport into a world-class aviation hub with phased infrastructure expansion plans aimed at increasing passenger handling capacity to 30 million annually.

Cabinet Okays Increase In MSP For 14 Kharif Crops

New Delhi, 13/5: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved the increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for 14 kharif crops for Marketing Season 2026-27 to ensure remunerative prices to farmers. The highest absolute increase in MSP over the previous year has been recommended for sunflower seed at Rs 622 per quintal, followed by cotton (Rs 557 per quintal), nigerseed (Rs 515 per quintal), and sesamum (Rs 500 per quintal), according to an official statement issued on Wednesday. The increase in MSP for kharif crops for Marketing Season 2026-27 is in line with the Union Budget 2018-19 announcement of fixing the MSP at a level of at least 1.5 times of the all-India weighted average cost of production. The expected margin to farmers over their cost of production is estimated to be highest in the case of moong (61 per cent), followed by bajra (56 per cent), maize (56 per cent), and tur/arhar (54 per cent).



For the rest of the crops, the margin to farmers over their cost of production is estimated to be at 50 per cent, the statement said. In recent years, the government has been promoting the cultivation of crops other than cereals, such as pulses and oilseeds, and nutri-cereals/'Shree Anna', by offering a higher MSP for these crops. During the period 2014-15 to 2025-26, MSP amount paid to paddy-growing farmers was Rs 16.08 lakh crore, while during the period 2004-05 to 2013-14, the amount paid to farmers was Rs 4.44 lakh crore. During 2014-15 to

2025-26, the MSP amount paid for 14 kharif crops-growing farmers was Rs 18.99 lakh crore, while during the period 2004-05 to 2013-14, the MSP amount paid to farmers was Rs 4.75 lakh crore. During 2014-15 to 2025-26, procurement of paddy was at 8418 lakh metric tonnes (LMT), while during the period 2004-05 to 2013-14, procurement of paddy was 4590 LMT. During the period 2014-15 to 2025-26, procurement of 14 kharif crops was 8,746 LMT, while during the period 2004-05 to 2013-14, procurement was 4,679 LMT, the statement added.

I-PAC Raid Row: SC To Hear ED Plea Against Mamata Banerjee On May 22

New Delhi, 13/5: The Supreme Court on Wednesday adjourned to May 22 the hearing on a plea filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) alleging interference by then West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and senior state police officials during search operations conducted earlier this year at the office of political consultancy firm Indian Political Action Committee (I-PAC) in Kolkata. A Bench of Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and N.V. Anjarlia deferred the matter after Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the ED through video conferencing, sought an early listing for next week. "I am requesting for next week," SG Mehta submitted, pressing for an expedited hearing after Justice Mishra-led Bench observed that the matter could otherwise be listed in July. During the brief hearing, the Centre's second-highest law officer informed the apex court that the respondents had already concluded their preliminary submissions and that the ED was ready to advance arguments. After hearing the parties, the Justice Mishra-led Bench posted the matter for further hearing on May 22. The matter arises out of search operations conducted by the ED



on January 8 in connection with a multi-crore money laundering probe linked to an alleged coal smuggling scam. The federal anti-money laundering agency has alleged that former Chief Minister Banerjee, accompanied by police personnel and senior officials, entered the I-PAC office and the residence of its co-founder, Pratik Jain, while searches were underway and interfered with the investigation. The ED has sought directions for registration of FIRs against Mamata Banerjee, then Director General of Police (DGP) and the Kolkata Police Commissioner, besides seeking transfer of the probe to the CBI. During the previous hearing, the apex court had orally remarked that alleged interference

by a sitting Chief Minister in the midst of an ongoing investigation could place "democracy in peril". "This is not per se a dispute between the State and the Union. This is, per se, an act committed by an individual who happens to be the Chief Minister of a State, keeping the whole system and democracy in jeopardy," the Justice Mishra-led Bench had orally observed. The ED has alleged that its officials were obstructed and "terrorised" during the searches. Earlier, Additional Solicitor General S.V. Raju, appearing for the federal anti-money laundering agency, had strongly refuted allegations that the ED had "weaponised" its powers. "It (ED) has not been weaponised, it has been

terrorised," ASG Raju had submitted before the apex court. In her counter-affidavit, Mamata Banerjee denied allegations of obstruction, asserting that her limited presence at the premises was only to retrieve confidential and proprietary data belonging to the Trinamool Congress. According to the affidavit, she had visited the premises after receiving information that sensitive political data linked to the party's strategy for the 2026 West Bengal Assembly elections was being accessed during the searches. The affidavit further claimed that ED officials had permitted retrieval of certain devices and documents, and that the searches thereafter continued "peacefully and in an orderly manner". Earlier, the then West Bengal government had also questioned the maintainability of the ED's writ petition under Article 32 of the Constitution, contending that the matter essentially concerns an inter-governmental dispute. In an order passed on January 15, the Supreme Court had stayed FIRs registered by the West Bengal Police against ED officials in connection with the searches and directed preservation of CCTV footage and other digital records from the searched premises.

India And Iran Discuss Bilateral, Regional Issues During Iranian Deputy FM's Delhi Visit

New Delhi, 13/5: Secretary (West) at the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Sibi George, held a meeting with Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs, Kazem Gharibabadi in New Delhi on Wednesday with discussions focussed on bilateral and regional issues, including recent regional developments. Iran's Ambassador to India, Mohammad Fathali and other officials were also present during the meeting. "Secretary (West) Sibi George received Dr. Kazem Gharibabadi, Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs of Iran. Discussions focused on bilateral and regional issues, including recent developments," MEA posted on X after the meeting. External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar and his Iranian counterpart Seyed Abbas Araghchi have held several conversations over phone in the past few



weeks on a host of bilateral and geopolitical issues since the US-Israeli strikes on Tehran and other Iranian cities on February 28. Last month, EAM Jaishankar received a phone call from Araghchi during which both ministers held a "detailed conversation" on the ongoing conflict in West Asia, as well as bilateral relations. "Received a phone call from Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi of Iran this evening. Had a detailed conversation about various aspects of the current situation. We agreed to remain

in close touch," EAM Jaishankar posted on X after the latest phone call on April 29. The Iranian Embassy in New Delhi stated that, during their phone call, Foreign Minister Araghchi and EAM Jaishankar discussed and exchanged views on the latest developments related to the ceasefire, bilateral relations, as well as regional and international issues. "During a phone conversation between Seyed Abbas Araghchi, Foreign Minister of Iran, and Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs of India, the two sides

discussed and exchanged views on the latest developments related to the ceasefire, bilateral relations, as well as regional and international issues," it posted on X. On March 21, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, discussing the security situation in the West Asia region. During the call, PM Modi condemned attacks on critical infrastructure in the region and also asserted the significance of safeguarding freedom of navigation along with keeping the shipping lanes open and secure. Both leaders had earlier spoken over phone on March 12 when PM Modi had voiced his concern over the escalation of tensions in the region, pointing to the loss of civilian lives and damage to infrastructure. He had also reiterated India's consistent position that all issues must be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy.

NEET-UG Paper Leak: CBI Detains 3 From Ahilyanagar, One Woman From Pune

Mumbai, 13/5: The investigation into the NEET-UG 2026 paper leak case intensified on Wednesday as the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) took three suspects into custody for questioning from Maharashtra's Ahilyanagar district, while a woman was detained from Pune and later handed over to the central agency for further investigation. Officials said the three suspects are currently being interrogated at the Ahilyanagar Superintendent of Police's office. Sources indicated that the accused, Dhananjay Lokhande, is suspected to be among the three individuals being questioned by the agency. A Mumbai-based CBI team has been camping in Ahilyanagar since Tuesday as part of the probe into the nationwide examination leak case. Investigators are also reportedly examining the possible involvement of several other individuals who have come under the agency's radar during the course of the investigation. Officials said the questioning is aimed at determining the exact role the three suspects played in the alleged circulation and distribution of the leaked NEET examination paper. The CBI's move



in Ahilyanagar followed disclosures allegedly made by Shubham Khairnar, who was earlier arrested in Nashik in connection with the case. Khairnar is suspected to have played a key role in procuring and distributing the leaked paper across different states. Meanwhile, Pune Police confirmed that a woman had also been detained in connection with the case, and subsequently, she was handed over to the CBI for further investigation. Pune City Police Commissioner Amitesh Kumar said the woman was taken into custody from the Bibewadi area of Pune. "We interrogated her and handed her over to the CBI for further investigation," Kumar told IANS. However, the Police

Commissioner declined to disclose further details regarding the woman's exact role in the alleged paper leak network. The latest developments came amid an expanding probe into the NEET-UG 2026 controversy, which led to the cancellation of the examination conducted on May 3 for more than 22 lakh students across the country after allegations surfaced that the question paper had been leaked before the test. The CBI is now investigating the wider network allegedly involved in the leak, including suspected middlemen, distributors and beneficiaries across multiple states.

KiiT International School Excels in Class XII CBSE Board Exams

Bhubaneswar, 13/5(DMS): KiiT International School has set a high benchmark in academic excellence in Class XII CBSE Board exams, the results of which were declared on Wednesday. The school reported a 98 percent first division, with a significant number of students achieving top scores.

In an impressive display of academic prowess, 35 percent of students scored above 90 percent. Anwesha Sundaray scored the highest 98.4 % marks in Science; Tamanna Agarwal topped in Commerce with 98.4%, and Saanvi S Patel topped in Humanities with 98%. The school also highlighted its commitment to inclusive education through the SEN Global initiative, which focuses on providing quality education to children with special needs. All students enrolled under this



initiative passed with first-division marks, with the top scorer 92 percent. The school average stands at an outstanding 84.2 %. Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Founder, KIIT & KISS, congratulated the students for their success and wished them

all the best in their future endeavors. He also thanked Dr. Mona Lisa Bal, Chairperson, KiiT International School, and Principal Dr. Sanjay Suar. "Students of KiiT-IS have consistently excelled, and this year is no exception. These

results are a testament to the hard work of our students and the dedication of our faculty. We are particularly proud of our SEN Global initiative students who have overcome diverse challenges to perform brilliantly," he added.

RBI Chief Says Fuel Prices May Go Up If Iran War Continues

New Delhi, 13/5: RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said that if the Middle East conflict continues, India may be forced to raise petrol and diesel prices due to the soaring cost of crude oil in the global market. The RBI Governor highlighted that rising energy prices due to the Iran war are testing India's flexible inflation targeting, necessitating potential policy intervention by the Reserve Bank. The central bank's next monetary policy meeting is slated for June 5, when it will take a call on key interest rates, which it has left untouched to promote economic growth. The Governor indicated that raising retail fuel prices is "a matter of time" if the West Asia crisis persists, which in turn would lead to an increase in transportation costs and inflation. In its April 2026 meeting, the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee unanimously decided

to keep the repo rate unchanged at 5.25 per cent, maintaining a neutral stance. This decision reflects a "wait and watch" strategy to balance strong domestic growth while keeping an eye on inflation amid global uncertainties. "We are being more and more data dependent. The RBI is being flexible in its approach and is ready to look through the shock if it is transitory, but if it is entrenched, we need to take action," Malhotra said at a conference hosted by the Swiss National Bank and the International Monetary Fund in Switzerland on Tuesday. He pointed out that excise duties had been reduced while the public sector oil companies were absorbing the rise in global crude prices amid the continuing Middle East conflict. Meanwhile, Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has stated that petrol, diesel and LPG stocks in the country are

adequate, but hinted that prices may have to be raised due to the heavy losses that public sector oil companies were piling up. Puri said state-run oil marketing companies are incurring losses of nearly Rs 1,000 crore per day because fuel prices have not been increased despite the sharp rise in the cost of crude oil in the international market, which has crossed the \$100 per barrel. India imports as much as 88 per cent of its crude oil requirement, and any increase in global prices leads to a sharp rise in the cost of production of petrol, diesel and LPG. According to the minister, under-recoveries have reached Rs 1.98 lakh crore while losses for the June current quarter stand at nearly Rs 1 lakh crore. Puri said the oil companies have increased LPG production to 55,000-56,000 tonnes from around 35,000 tonnes earlier to ensure an uninterrupted supply.

Import Duty Hike On Precious Metals Aimed At Strengthening India's Economic Resilience

New Delhi 13/5: The increase in import duty on precious metals is a part of a broader strategy aimed at conserving foreign exchange, protecting the current account, prioritising essential imports, and strengthening India's economic resilience in the face of evolving global uncertainties, government sources said on Wednesday. The measure represents a balanced, proportionate, and nationally responsible response to extraordinary external conditions while maintaining due regard for macroeconomic stability and long-term economic resilience, they added. The government has increased the customs duty on imports of precious metals, including gold, silver, platinum, etc., as a policy measure aimed at safeguarding macroeconomic stability, conserving foreign exchange, and moderating non-essential imports during a period of heightened global uncertainty arising from the ongoing West Asia crisis. Import duty on gold and silver has been increased from 6 per cent to 15 per cent and the import duty on platinum has been increased from 6.4 per cent to 15.4 per cent. Consequential changes have also been made to other items such as gold/silver dore, coins, findings, etc. The current geopolitical situation has created significant volatility in global crude oil markets and international shipping routes. As a large importer of crude oil, India remains vulnerable to elevated energy prices and supply-side disruptions, which can increase the import bill, exert pressure on inflation, and the Current Account Deficit (CAD). In such circumstances, prudent management of the country's external sector becomes essential. Historically, customs duty adjustments have been used as one of several policy instruments to support macroeconomic stability and effectively manage CAD-related pressures during periods of global volatility, said sources. India's foreign exchange resources must, therefore, be prioritised towards essential imports such as crude oil, fertilisers, industrial raw materials, defence requirements, critical technologies, and capital goods. These imports directly support economic activity, food security, infrastructure, manufacturing, exports, and national security. In contrast, precious metals, while culturally and financially significant, are predominantly consumption and investment driven in nature. Such imports involve substantial outflow of foreign exchange. Further, precious metals occupy a unique position in the import basket because they involve significant foreign exchange outflows while being relatively less linked to productive industrial activity compared to sectors such as energy, manufacturing inputs, infrastructure, or technology, said sources.

India's GDP Growth Projected At 6.7 Pc In FY27, RBI To Hold Rates This Fiscal: Morgan Stanley

New Delhi, 13/5: Morgan Stanley economists said on Wednesday they forecast India's real GDP growth at 6.7 per cent in FY27 and 7 per cent for FY28 amid geopolitical tensions, adding that the RBI policy measures would likely remain supportive to minimise damage to growth. The West Asia energy shock is most pronounced in quarter ending June 2026, when growth troughs at 6.5 per cent YoY amid elevated commodity prices and lingering supply chain frictions. "Thereafter, as supply-side constraints ease and commodity prices moderate, we expect a gradual normalisation in activity, with growth converging to trend by March 2027," said Upasana Chachra, Chief India Economist at Morgan Stanley. "That said, global conditions remain fluid, with elevated uncertainty. Sustained high oil prices could trigger non-linear and progressively larger impacts on growth, as the burden on households and firms intensifies over time, leading to cutbacks in consumption and investment," Chachra added. The report expects growth to hinge on



domestic demand amid external uncertainty. "While the starting point of macro stability is favourable, prolonged supply disruptions and elevated commodity prices are likely to erode stability. Policy will likely remain supportive to minimise damage to growth," it noted. Despite a weaker external backdrop, April activity indicators show resilience, supported by strong domestic demand. While the

ongoing conflict and higher oil prices will likely weigh on growth, "we expect outcomes to exceed earlier expectations," said report. Urban demand, government capex on infrastructure/defence, and services exports should provide offsets. Commodity passthrough to CPI should remain limited, although WPI pressures may rise due to imported inflation and currency

depreciation. "We continue to monitor second-round effects and food inflation risks from weather and input availability. Higher oil prices could widen the current account deficit to 1.8 per cent of GDP, while slower capital inflows may keep the BoP in deficit for a third consecutive year, increasing currency vulnerability," said the economist.

Echoes of the Earth: How Odisha's Saura Tribe is Painting a Brighter Future

Bhubaneswar, 13/5: For generations, members of the Saura tribe in Odisha have documented their rich legacy on the mud walls of their homes. Using simple materials such as rice paste, natural pigments and bamboo brushes, they painted intricate constellations of stick-like figure scenes of harvest, hunting, childbirth and ritual. These were more than mere decorations; they functioned as a vivid dialogue with their ancestors, spirits and denizens of the natural world. With time, however, the younger generations of the tribe were pressed by economic realities. The time-intensive nature of the craft, the absence of structured markets, and limited access to materials and platforms meant artisans struggled to earn even subsistence incomes. Despite its richness, Saura art offered little economic security for its remaining artists, with many families forced to choose survival over heritage and opt for work as migrant labourers. What had once been a traditional practice for eons, now risked being reduced to memory. An art form rooted in dignity now stood on the cusp of disappearance, not because it lacked relevance, but because it lacked adequate support. It was



within this scenario that Project Adikala, launched in 2018 by Vedanta Aluminium, took shape. The company's vision was deliberate and respectful: revival would only work if it happened within the community, by the community, and on their terms. A dedicated Adikala Art Gallery was established in the region. Elders became skilled mentors and the youth became avid learners. Artisans were trained to adapt their traditional art from mud walls to canvas, paper and other modern materials, while preserving ancient techniques.

Just as importantly, the project helped build direct market linkages, connecting Saura artists to institutional buyers, exhibitions and organised platforms. The result was something rare: economic upliftment without cultural compromise. Traditionally, Saura art uses materials drawn directly from nature to follow a circular rhythm: created from the earth, returned to the earth. This worldview mirrors Vedanta Aluminium's broader sustainability ethos: respecting natural resources and using them efficiently. To understand the

impact of Project Adikala, one must look at the life of 24-year-old Rajo Majhi from Chanalima village. Orphaned while young, Rajo's formal education ended in Class 8. With the responsibility of supporting her siblings, she turned to tailoring. Her small tailoring jobs brought in less than ₹1,000 a month, barely enough to survive. But when she heard about Vedanta's Adikala Art Gallery, something shifted. Determined, Rajo walked five kilometres every day to attend training. The centre provided materials, infrastructure and access. Within

months, Rajo was contributing to live commercial projects. Her income rose to nearly ₹20,000 a month. Her art travelled far beyond her village, finding homes in urban spaces and galleries. Today, Rajo mentors other young learners at the same training centre. Rajo is one of over 120 artisans across six village clusters who are part of the Adikala ecosystem today. What began with just 10 artists has grown steadily, with average artisan incomes increasing by over 150%. Many now earn up to ₹20,000 a month. Vedanta Aluminium's role has remained intentionally understated. The company has adopted the role of an enabler, providing infrastructure, certified trainers, and market access through reputed platforms such as the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED) and the Odisha Rural Development and Marketing Society (ORMAS), while protecting the tribe's creative ownership. As the Adikala brand continues to grow and mature, a long-term roadmap envisions the eventual transition of ownership to tribal community itself. And so, the tribe paints on, with the promise of a brighter future shaped by its own hands.

Govt Hikes Gold, Silver Import Duty To 15 Pc To Ease Forex Pressure

New Delhi, 13/5: The government on Wednesday announced a hike in customs duties on gold and silver to 15 per cent from 6 per cent as policymakers move to contain pressure on India's foreign exchange reserves and the external account amid the ongoing West Asia conflict. Moreover, the revised duty on platinum imports has been raised to 15.4 per cent from 6.4 per cent. According to official changes, the revised structure imposes a 10 per cent basic customs duty along with a 5 per cent Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess (AIDC) on gold and silver imports, taking the effective import tax to 15 per cent. The move comes as India's import bill remains elevated, with precious metals among the key contributors to higher foreign exchange outflows. The duty hike is expected to discourage inbound shipments and support macroeconomic stability. Earlier in the month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged citizens to avoid non-essential



gold purchases for a year and adopt austerity measures to conserve foreign exchange reserves amid global uncertainty linked to the West Asia crisis. India is among the world's largest consumers of gold, with demand driven largely by jewellery, investment and festival-related purchases. Meanwhile, inflows into gold exchange-traded funds (ETFs) surged in April, reflecting continued investor interest in the yellow metal despite higher import costs.

According to data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI), gold ETF inflows jumped 34 per cent month-on-month to Rs 3,040 crore in April, compared with Rs 2,265 crore in March. However, silver ETFs continued to witness sustained outflows, marking the third consecutive month of withdrawals. AMFI data showed silver ETFs recorded an outflow of Rs 126 crore in April, following outflows of Rs 683 crore in March and Rs 826 crore in February.

India Remains Fastest Growing Major Economy, Performs Better Amid Global Uncertainties: Assocham

New Delhi, 12/5: India's economy continues to show resilience despite rising global uncertainty and the impact of the ongoing West Asia conflict, remaining the fastest-growing major economy in the world, an Assocham 'Global Economic Outlook' said on Tuesday. Despite global challenges, India's economic fundamentals continue to remain resilient, with GDP growth expected to stay around 7 per cent in 2026-27. India entered this period with strong macroeconomic fundamentals, supported by steady growth, controlled inflation, healthy financial conditions and robust domestic demand. Several economic indicators have shown positive trends in recent months. GST collections reached a record high, bank credit growth remained robust, exports continued to expand, and IIP remains in a steady zone. According to the report, inflation remained under control, and government spending on infrastructure and development projects supported economic activity. Major investments in roads, renewable energy, digital infrastructure, semiconductors, and technology during recent months reflect a focus on a long-



term growth trajectory. Most of the states also reported progress in industrial development, investment, clean energy, and the technology sector. "New policy measures on exports, start-ups, transport, and finance improve the ease of doing business and further strengthen the economy. However, the global economic outlook remains uncertain due to the ongoing tensions between the US and Iran, with no clear

resolution emerging so far despite ongoing discussions," the outlook mentioned. At this stage, financial and commodity markets may remain volatile, keeping investor sentiment cautious, it added. "Any positive progress towards peace talks between the US and Iran would bolster investor confidence and business sentiment with a strong rebound in financial markets," according to the Global Economic

Outlook. The RBI has projected India's real GDP growth at 6.9 per cent for F27, with Q1 at 6.8 per cent; Q2 at 6.7 per cent; Q3 at 7.0 per cent; and Q4 at 7.2 per cent. While risks remain because of the global situation and possible weather-related disturbances, India's economy is considered to be in a stronger position compared to previous crisis periods, the report added.

April Inflation Reflects Relatively Stable Price Conditions, Monsoon A Key Factor

New Delhi, 12/5: The moderate jump in inflation in April reflects relatively stable price conditions across several core consumption categories, particularly transport, industry leaders said on Tuesday. However, food price pressures remain elevated in select commodities, indicating the continued importance of supply-side monitoring, said PHDCCI. "Among major commodity groups, transport inflation remained subdued at near-zero levels as Government has not increased retail pump prices despite Brent crude oil prices remaining above \$100 per barrel in the international markets since the East Asia Crisis," said Rajeev Juneja, President, PHDCCI. India's retail inflation (CPI) stood at 3.48 per cent in April on a year-on-year basis, according to provisional estimates. Food inflation rose to 4.20 per cent compared with 3.87 per cent in March 2026. Rural food inflation at 4.26 per cent was higher than urban food inflation which stood at 4.10 per cent. However, precious metal prices recorded comparatively higher inflation rates due to jump in international metal prices and



depreciating INR compared to US dollar, Juneja added. On the other hand, at the food item level, potatoes, onions, motor cars and jeeps, peas and chickpeas, and air conditioners recorded the lowest inflation rates during April. "In India, recently, a deviation between food and non-food inflation trends continues to impact the inflation outlook. Volatility in agricultural commodities, barring seasonal commodities, and precious metals may continue to influence household inflation expectations in the near term," said Dr. Ranjeet Mehta, SG and CEO, PHDCCI. Rajeev Sharan, Head of Research, Brickwork Ratings,

said with the monsoon forecast still uncertain, the outlook hinges on whether early rains stabilise vegetable and cereal supplies or amplify existing stresses in perishables. Core inflation at 3.3 per cent remains relatively contained, with categories such as housing (2.15 per cent), health (1.64 per cent), household goods (1.61 per cent), and several non-food categories showing moderate price momentum. "Overall, inflation is within a manageable range, but the monsoon will determine whether India sustains this benign core trend or faces renewed, broad-based price pressures," said Sharan.

Sensex, Nifty Open Lower Amid Crude Spike, Geopolitical Tensions

Mumbai, 12/5: Indian equity benchmarks traded sharply lower on Tuesday for the second consecutive day in morning trade, with both indices declining around 0.5 per cent amid geopolitical tensions. Sensex declined as much as 0.62 per cent or 474 points to trade at an intraday low of 75,541 in early trade, while Nifty was seen trading at 23,689, down 0.53 per cent or 126 points from the previous close. Sector-wise, IT, chemicals, realty, cement and financial indices were among the top losers, declining by over 2 per cent. Meanwhile, Infosys, Tech Mahindra, TCS, HCL Tech, Wipro, SBI Life, HDFC Life, Maruti Suzuki, ICICI Bank, Asian Paints, Dr Reddy's Laboratories and Bajaj Finance were among the top laggards. In contrast, Nifty Metal, Nifty Oil & Gas and Nifty PSU Bank were the only sectors trading in the green. Earlier in the day, the Sensex opened at 75,688.39, down 0.43 per cent or 326 points, while the 50-scrip basket began the session at 23,722.60, lower by 0.4 per cent or 93 points. According to a market expert, sectors that are unlikely to be impacted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's austerity appeal are expected to



remain resilient. "Pharmaceuticals is one segment that is unlikely to be impacted at all since the sector has inelastic demand," the expert said, adding that the sector also benefits from rupee depreciation. "FMCG, too, is expected to remain largely unaffected. One sector to watch out for is capital goods. There are clear signs of recovery in capital formation, as reflected in the 67 per cent surge in private capex in September last year," the analyst said. "This positive development has been overshadowed by a flood of negative news. If the private capex cycle sustains, capital goods stocks are likely to perform well. Demand in sectors such as

automobiles and renewable energy continues to remain buoyant, supporting capex growth in these segments," the expert added. In commodities, international oil benchmark Brent crude rose 1.09 per cent to \$105.35 per barrel, while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude gained 1.23 per cent to \$99.28 per barrel. Among global equities, Asian markets showed a mixed trend. Japan's Nikkei traded 0.48 per cent higher, Hong Kong's Hang Seng gained 0.31 per cent, while South Korea's KOSPI declined more than 2 per cent. Overnight in the US, the S&P 500 closed 0.19 per cent higher, while the Nasdaq settled 0.10 per cent up.

Indian Economy Has Shown Resilience In Times Of Global Crisis: Piyush Goyal

New Delhi, 12/5: Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal on Tuesday said that the Indian economy has continued to show resilience amid global geopolitical and economic challenges, with strong fundamentals and growing global confidence in India. Speaking at the CII Annual Business Summit 2026 here, Goyal said India has consistently emerged stronger from global crises and stressed that closer collaboration between the government, businesses and citizens would be critical to safeguard the country's economic resilience. He called on Indian companies to prioritise domestic suppliers and strengthen industrial cooperation within the country, saying the current geopolitical and economic environment demands a shift away from "business as usual": "What we need today is a wake-up call," Goyal said, referring to recent appeals by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for economic discipline and self-



reliance. "It cannot be the government versus the industry, it is the government and business and industry and the people of India," he added. The minister framed his remarks around what he described as the "India spirit", saying the country possesses the ability "to defend and fortify ourselves against any challenges" despite rising geopolitical, technological and economic pressures globally. In a strong

message to corporate India, Goyal urged companies to back domestic producers and suppliers rather than depending excessively on overseas sourcing. Drawing comparisons with industrial coordination models followed in countries like Japan and South Korea, he said Indian businesses must develop stronger domestic linkages for long-term national and corporate benefit. "Indian

industry must learn to support each other. Look at the Korean and Japanese style of working," he said. "How long are we going to be myopic in our views that we don't recognise that the common good of Indian industry will help our individual futures also," Goyal mentioned. Calling it an "imperative" rather than merely a suggestion, Goyal said industry itself must take responsibility for strengthening India's economic ecosystem instead of relying solely on government intervention. "It doesn't need governments to stop Indian steel from going to Korea and Japan. Industry make sure they support each other," he said. The minister's remarks come at a time when countries across the world are increasingly focusing on supply-chain resilience, domestic manufacturing and strategic trade dependencies amid continuing geopolitical tensions and volatility in global energy markets.

India's retail Inflation rises to 3.48% in April 2026, food prices edge higher

New Delhi, 12/5: India's retail inflation rose to 3.48 per cent in April 2026 on a month-on-month basis from 3.40 per cent in March 2026, according to the provisional Consumer Price Index (CPI) data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on Tuesday. The increase, was driven by higher food inflation even as prices of key vegetables like potato and onion declined sharply. Rural inflation for April stood at 3.74 per cent, up from 3.63 per cent in March, while urban inflation edged up to 3.16 per cent from 3.11 per cent. The overall CPI index for April was recorded at 105.12 at the combined national level, compared to 104.84 in March. Food inflation, as measured by the Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI), accelerated to 4.20 per cent year-on-year in April from 3.87 per cent in March. The rise was more pronounced in rural

areas at 4.26 per cent compared to 4.10 per cent in urban areas. The CFPI index for April stood at 104.39, up from 104.14 in the previous month. The uptick in food inflation was largely attributed to elevated prices of tomato, jewellery and coconut copra. Tomato inflation remained high at 35.28 per cent in April, though slightly lower than in March. Silver jewellery recorded the sharpest increase at 144.34 per cent, followed by coconut copra at 44.55 per cent and gold, diamond and platinum jewellery at 40.72 per cent. Cauliflower also saw a notable rise of 25.58 per cent during the month. Offsetting this pressure was a significant fall in vegetable prices. Potato inflation plunged to -23.69 per cent in April from -19.03 per cent in March, while onion inflation eased to -17.67 per cent from -27.78 per cent. Other items with low inflation included motor cars and

jeeps at -7.12 per cent, peas and chickpeas at -6.75 per cent, and air conditioners at -5.06 per cent. Housing inflation remained moderate at 2.15 per cent nationally in April 2026. Rural housing inflation was recorded at 2.65 per cent, while urban housing inflation was lower at 1.96 per cent. The March 2026 final figures showed CPI inflation at 3.40 per cent and CFPI at 3.87 per cent. The rural and urban CPI for March was 3.63 per cent and 3.11 per cent respectively, while the CFPI stood at 3.95 per cent for rural and 3.71 per cent for urban areas. The April data collection saw a 100 per cent response rate across both rural and urban markets. Price data was collected from 1,407 urban markets, including online platforms, and 1,465 villages across all States and Union Territories by the Field Operations Division of the National Statistical Office.

Gold And Silver Prices Gain Up To 1 Pc As Geopolitical Concerns Intensify

Mumbai, 12/5: Gold and silver prices traded higher on Tuesday, with both precious metals witnessing gains of up to 1 per cent amid rising global uncertainty. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold futures (June 5) opened at Rs 1,53,999 per 10 grams, up Rs 336 or 0.22 per cent from the previous close of Rs 1,53,663. At around 10:25 am, gold was trading at Rs 1,53,808, higher by Rs 145 or 0.09 per cent. The yellow metal touched an intraday high of Rs 1,54,243, up Rs 580 or 0.37 per cent, while the intraday low stood at Rs 1,53,771, higher by Rs 108 or 0.07 per cent. On the other hand, silver futures (July 3) opened at Rs 2,80,229 per kg on MCX, rising Rs 1,988 or 0.70 per cent from the previous close of Rs 2,78,311. The white metal touched an intraday high of Rs 2,82,755, up Rs 4,444 or 1.6 per cent. It also touched an intraday low of Rs 2,79,244, higher by Rs 933 or 0.33 per cent. According to commodity market experts, precious metals' near-term bias remains cautiously bullish amid



ongoing geopolitical tensions. The experts added that immediate resistance for gold stands in the Rs 1,54,750-Rs 1,55,000 range, and a sustained move above this level could extend the rally towards Rs 1,55,500-Rs 1,56,000. "On the downside, Rs 1,53,000 acts as immediate support, while a failure to hold above this level could drag prices back into the Rs 1,51,500-Rs 1,53,500 consolidation zone," they said. For silver, immediate resistance stands at Rs 2,84,000-Rs 2,85,000, and a sustained

move above this level could extend the rally towards Rs 2,87,000, with a possible test of Rs 2,90,000 if bullish momentum persists, they added. "On the downside, Rs 2,77,000 acts as immediate support, with Rs 2,75,000 and Rs 2,71,000 serving as stronger bases if momentum weakens," the experts noted. In the international market as well, precious metals traded in the green. COMEX gold was trading at \$4,733 per ounce, up 0.08 per cent, while COMEX silver gained 1.05 per cent to \$86 per ounce.

Stable SIP inflows indicate continued strength in equity market participation

Mumbai, 12/5: Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) inflows remained resilient in April 2026 despite market volatility, according to a report by Nuvama. The report stated that active equity inflows remained strong during the month, supported by steady SIP contributions and a recovery in lump sum investments. According to the report, SIP inflows stood at Rs 31,100 crore in April 2026, remaining close to all-time highs despite a 3 per cent month-on-month decline. It stated, "Active Apr-26 equity inflows of Rs 46,900 crore (+3.8 per cent MoM) were strong, as lumpsum recovery (+20.6 per cent MoM to Rs 15,800 crore) layered on top of a structurally resilient SIP base (Rs 31,100 crore, near all-time high despite a -3.0 per cent MoM dip) signals flow durability". The report noted that the strong SIP base reflects continued investor confidence and durability in retail participation. Active equity inflows in April stood at Rs 46,900 crore, registering a 3.8 per cent month-on-month increase.



Anupam Kher's 'Jaane Pehchaane Anjaane' set for Mumbai shows on May 15-16

Actor Anupam Kher is all set to bring his play 'Jaane Pehchaane Anjaane' back to the stage in Mumbai after its world premiere at the NCPA Tata Theatre last month. On Wednesday morning, Kher took to Instagram and shared a video inviting fans to watch the play on May 15 and 16 at the Tata Theatre in Mumbai. Along with the video, the actor wrote, "Doston! Pichhle kai saalon se filmon, theatre aur apni kahaniyon ke zariye aapka manoranjan karta aaya hoon. Aapne hamesha mujhe itna pyaar diya ki har naya kaam karne ka hausla milta raha." "Ab 15 aur 16 May ko Mumbai ke Tata Theatre mein hamara natak 'Jaane Pehchaane Anjaane' manchit ho raha hai. Dil se chahta hoon ki aap aakar ise dekhin. Theatre ki sabse badi khoobsurti yahi hoti hai ki kalakaar aur darshak ek hi pal ko saath jeete hain. Wahi saansein, wahi hansii, wahi bhavnaayein. Kuch seats abhi bhi baaki hain. To socha pyaar se yaad dila doon... baad mein yeh mat kahiye ga 'Anupam ji, bataya nahin!," he added. The play has been written and directed by Gajendra Ahire. Music for the production has been composed by veteran singer and composer Anu Malik, marking his stage debut. The songs of the play have been written by Kausar Munir, while singers Shaan, Sukhwinder Singh and Anandi have lent their voices to the production. The play has already received praise from members of the film and theatre industry. Filmmaker Ashoke Pandit called Kher a "rockstar," while actor Parvin Dabas described the play as "entertaining and emotional."

Anil Kapoor Pens Fashion Statement With Pop-Culture Ink For Met Gala

Actor Anil Kapoor is also joining the Met Gala mania albeit with an AI twist. On Wednesday, the actor took to his X, formerly Twitter, and shared an AI-generated picture of himself at the Met Gala. In the picture, he can be seen wearing an outfit inspired by his painting from 'Welcome'. He wrote, "When MET Gala met Majnu Bhai... @cultr_IN has proven that art knows no boundaries".

The painting featured in 'Welcome', and was created by his character in the film. It has a huge pop-culture significance, and has been a part of the meme culture for over a decade now. The iconic painting that looks hilariously distorted and childlike. The humor lies in his complete confidence and artistic delusion, treating the painting as a masterpiece while others struggle to react. The scene has become a meme classic in India, symbolizing overconfidence and comic absurdity. Its exaggerated style and Majnu Bhai's quirky personality turned a simple prop into a lasting pop culture reference. Anil Kapoor is fairly active on social media, and is known for his quirky and nostalgic posts when he is not promoting his work. Earlier, the actor that he was extremely nervous about working with Hema Malini in the action thriller 'Yudh'. Marking 41 years since the release of the movie, Anil confessed that dancing with Hema Malini was one of the most challenging parts of the drama for him. Sharing a still from their dance sequence on social media, the 'Animal' actor wrote, "41 years of Yudh and I still can't forget this moment... Playing a double role was a breeze compared to dancing with Hema ji, That aspect of Yudh had me seriously nervous! She was already the biggest star of the country, with that larger-than-life presence... and there I was, a skinny young boy just spouting 'Jhakaas' and trying to keep up! (sic)". Meanwhile, the actor will be next seen in the Netflix show, 'Family Business', co-starring Vijay Varma, Rhea Chakraborty, Neha Dhupia, and Dhruv Sehgal.



SPORTS

Hockey India Expands Level-1 Coaching Programme As Certified Coaches Cross 600 Nationwide

New Delhi, 13/5: Hockey India has announced the next phase of its Coaching Education Pathway Level '1' programme, extending the initiative to new centres in Coimbatore and Haridwar as the federation continues its push to strengthen India's grassroots coaching structure. The upcoming batches will be held in Coimbatore and Haridwar in May and June 2026, with registrations opening on May 13 and closing on May 17. The programme, introduced as part of Hockey India's long-term developmental roadmap, has certified more than 600 coaches between 2019 and 2026. The federation views the initiative as a key pillar for building a technically stronger, more self-sustaining domestic ecosystem. The coaching pathway has been designed to provide a structured progression system, beginning at the grassroots level and extending through to elite international coaching standards. It combines online modules with practical, face-to-face assessments and competency-based evaluations. Former Indian captain Rani Rampal, now an FIH Academy Level 3-certified coach, highlighted the importance of formal coaching education in helping former players transition into leadership roles. "Transitioning from a player to a coach is a



distinct journey, and the Hockey India Coaching Education Pathway has been absolutely instrumental in that process," said Rani, who also benefited from this programme and is an FIH Academy Level 3 Certified Coach. "Progressing through the formal levels gave me a much deeper and more structured understanding of modern coaching methodologies, tactical planning, and athlete management." The former skipper also stressed the system's wider impact on player development across age groups. "For our domestic ecosystem, this framework is truly a game-changer. It ensures that coaches across the country speak the same

technical language. In my role with the sub-junior team, I see firsthand how applying these advanced international concepts at the developmental stage directly accelerates the growth of our young athletes and prepares them for the highest level," she added. According to Hockey India, the current tally of certified coaches in the pathway includes 337 Level 1 coaches and 54 Level 2 coaches, along with multiple certifications under the FIH Academy structure. The pathway has also produced 74 FIH Academy Level 3-certified coaches and 4 Level 4-certified coaches. Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey described the milestone as an important step in

building long-term sporting excellence, as he said, "A robust homegrown coaching structure is the bedrock of any world-class sporting nation. Passing the milestone of over 600 certified coaches reflects our vision to make Indian hockey self-reliant and technically sound from the grassroots up. By equipping our domestic coaches with modern methodologies, we are directly ensuring that the next generation of young athletes receives the highest standard of mentorship right from their formative years." Meanwhile, Hockey India secretary general Bhola Nath Singh said the expansion into different regions reflected the federation's broader commitment to inclusivity and accessibility.

Gujarat Titans dismantle Sunrisers Hyderabad by 82 runs to reclaim top spot in points table

NEWDELHI, 13/5: Gujarat Titans climbed to the summit of the IPL 2026 standings after clinical bowling performances from Kagiso Rabada and Jason Holder secured a crushing 82-run win over Sunrisers Hyderabad on Tuesday. Defending a competitive

total of 168 at the Narendra Modi Stadium, the Titans produced a lethal opening spell that left the visiting side in ruins. Hyderabad collapsed to just 86 runs in 14.5 overs, marking their lowest-ever total in the history of the tournament. Kagiso Rabada set

the tone early by removing the dangerous Abhishek Sharma and Ishan Kishan within the powerplay. His figures of 3 for 28 provided the foundation for the defense. Jason Holder matched this efficiency, taking 3 for 20 by exploiting the extra

bounce on the surface to dismiss Heinrich Klaasen and Nitish Kumar Reddy. Mohammed Siraj also contributed significantly, starting the second innings with a wicket- maiden by sending Travis Head back for a duck.

'Avatar: Fire and Ash' to stream on Disney+ from June 24

Washington DC: The much-awaited sci-fi film 'Avatar: Fire and Ash' is all set to arrive on Disney+ on June 24, giving fans another chance to return to the world of Pandora, according to Variety. Directed by James Cameron, the third film in the 'Avatar' franchise follows Jake Sully and his family as they face a dangerous new Na'vi tribe. The movie stars Sam Worthington along with returning cast members Zoe Saldana, Sigourney Weaver, Stephen Lang, Kate Winslet, Bailey Bass, Britain Dalton, Trinity Bliss, Jack Champion and Eddie Falco. Actors Oona Chaplin and David Thewlis also joined the franchise with new roles. The film released in theatres on December 19 and has already earned around \$1.4 billion globally, Variety said. It also became one of Hollywood's biggest films of 2025 to cross the \$1 billion mark, joining Disney films 'Lilo & Stitch' and 'Zootopia



2'. With the success of 'Fire and Ash', James Cameron's 'Avatar' films have now become the highest-grossing film trilogy of all time. The first 'Avatar' film released in 2009 and became the highest-grossing movie in worldwide box office history with more than \$2.9 billion in earnings. Its sequel, 'Avatar: The Way of Water', released in 2022 and collected around

\$2.3 billion globally. James Cameron has already planned more films in the franchise. The fourth 'Avatar' movie is expected to release in 2029, while the fifth part is scheduled for 2031. The filmmaker has also shared that the upcoming films will further explore the Sully family and new characters introduced in 'Fire and Ash'.

Kannada actor-producer Dileep Raj passes away at 47

Bengaluru, : Kannada actor and producer Dileep Raj passed away on Wednesday morning at the age of 47 after reportedly suffering a severe heart attack at his residence, family sources said. According to sources close to the family, the actor complained of uneasiness while at home. The actor was reportedly rushed to a nearby hospital; however, he did not respond to treatment and passed away on the way. His sudden demise has left the Kannada film and television industry in shock. Following the news of his death, members of the Kannada film fraternity and fans paid tribute to the actor and

remembered his contribution to films and television. Actor Rishab Shetty took to his X account to remember the actor. He wrote, "A good actor, director, producer, and above all, a good human being... Even though the occasions we met were very few, the impression of your personality remains firmly in my heart and will never fade. May your soul rest in peace. Rest in peace #DileepRaj." Dileep Raj was widely known among Kannada audiences for his memorable role in Puneeth Rajkumar-starrer 'Milana'. The film became an important turning point in his career and helped him gain recognition across Karnataka.

He also appeared in films like 'U-Turn' and 'Boyfriend'. Over the years, Dileep created a strong place for himself in Kannada cinema and television through films, serials, theatre, production, and dubbing work. His early screen appearances included the telefilm 'Kambada Mane' and the serial 'Janani,' where he acted alongside veteran actress Bharti Vishnuvardhan. He later featured in several well-known Kannada serials, including 'Artha Satya,' 'Rangoli,' 'Mangalya,' 'Malebillu,' 'Preetigaagi,' and 'Rathasapthami.' Apart from acting, Dileep Raj was also active as a producer through his banner DR Creations.