

# Dumani Mail

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



## PM Modi condoles loss of lives in China mining accident



New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday condoled the loss of lives in a mining accident in China's Shanxi Province and expressed solidarity with the neighbouring country during the tragedy.

In a message posted on X, the Prime Minister conveyed condolences on behalf of the people of India to Chinese President Xi Jinping and the people of China. He also prayed for strength for the bereaved families and hoped for the

early and safe recovery of those still missing after the accident.

"Saddened by the loss of lives in a mining accident in Shanxi Province in China. On behalf of the people of India, my condolences to President Xi Jinping and the people of China. May the bereaved families find strength in this tragic hour. Praying for the early and safe recovery of all remaining missing persons," PM Modi said in his post on X.

## NEET-UG 2026 accused sent to judicial custody till June 6

New Delhi: The Rouse Avenue Court on Sunday sent NEET-UG 2026 paper leak accused Shubham Khairnar to judicial custody until June 6.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had produced the accused before the court earlier today.

Earlier, the Director General (DG) of the National Testing Agency (NTA), Abhishek Singh, on May 21 appeared before a Parliamentary committee to provide a detailed briefing on the NEET-UG paper leak and the steps being taken to reform the examination process.

Sources said the standing committee members asked about the NEET-UG paper leak and ways to make the NTA test process more robust. They asked about the computer-based test infrastructure, frequency, duration of test

and other parameters, such as NEET-UG, one of India's most important entrance examinations, shifts to computer-based testing from next year.

Speaking to ANI, Digvijaya Singh, Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports, stated that the meeting went off very well and that they received input from all the members.

Noting that all members are "very concerned" about issues discussed, such as the NTA exam, and mentioned he "can't go into details" regarding specifics at this time.

Regarding plans and when the findings would be presented, that "It depends" and concluded by saying, "let's see" when asked about the date of the next meeting.

Sources familiar with



the development stated that the NTA Director General gave replies to the committee regarding the current status of investigations and future protocols.

According to sources, committee members raised sharp queries regarding the NEET-UG Paper Leak 2026 and sought clarity on measures to make the NTA's

testing mechanism more robust.

According to sources, members asked about lapses and responsibility for the paper leak and officials said

that a CBI probe is being conducted and will also help identify any loopholes and that efforts are being made to make the system foolproof

Meanwhile, political tensions heightened amid protests over NEET UG 2026, which was cancelled on May 12 following allegations of a coordinated paper leak. The exam, conducted on May 3 across 551 cities in India and 14 cities abroad, saw participation from over 22 lakh candidates.

The Union Education Ministry has ordered strengthened security measures for the upcoming re-examination scheduled on June 21. Officials have also indicated that NEET-UG will be conducted in computer-based test (CBT) mode from next year to prevent such irregularities.

## Delhi CM Rekha Gupta resolves 2018 power issue, 36 Harsh Vihar families get electricity relief

New Delhi: Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta has resolved a long-pending electricity issue affecting several families in Harsh Vihar A-3, bringing relief to residents who had been waiting for power connections since 2018.

According to the Chief Minister's Office (CMO)'s statement, CM Rekha Gupta met members of 36 families during a Jan Sunwai and took immediate cognisance of their grievances regarding delayed electricity connections.

The families informed the Chief Minister that they had been awaiting electricity connections for several years.

Following their interaction, swift administrative action was initiated and officials were directed to resolve the matter on priority.

"Chief Minister Smt. Rekha Gupta today met members of 36 families from Harsh Vihar A-3 who had waited for electricity connections for years.



During Jan Sunwai, the families informed the Chief Minister that they had been awaiting electricity connections since 2018. Immediate directions were issued, and in mission mode, a transformer has been installed and new electricity connections are now being provided, bringing long-awaited relief to the families," the CMO said in a statement.

The development comes amid a series of infrastructure and environmental initiatives announced by the Delhi

**CM Gupta on Sunday approved mega projects worth over Rs 1,000 crore under 'Mission Yamuna', aimed at cleaning the Najafgarh Drain, upgrading sewage treatment plants, and improving water management across the capital, according to the CMO.**

government under the leadership of the Chief Minister.

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worth over Rs 1,000 crore under 'Mission Yamuna', aimed at cleaning the Najafgarh Drain, upgrading sewage treatment plants, and improving water management across the capital, according to the CMO.

Earlier, the Chief Minister, along with Cabinet Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa and MLA Harish Khurana, inspected air purification technologies in Delhi, including filterless air purifiers, EV-mounted anti-smog guns, and pollution control devices deployed at key locations.

"Delhi's battle against pollution continues unabated. This is not just a seasonal effort, but a campaign running 365 days a year for clean air and better public health," CM Gupta said, highlighting systems that treat PM2.5, PM10 and other pollutants and aim to create cleaner air corridors in the city.

## IMD issues red colour warning for Heat Wave to Severe Heat Wave

New Delhi: The India Meteorological Department has issued red colour warning for Heat Wave to Severe Heat Wave conditions for East Uttar Pradesh, East Madhya Pradesh, and Vidarbha today.

The weather agency also forecast heat wave conditions in isolated pockets over Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi during the next 5 days.

The met department predicted that these places may experience severe heatwave conditions during the next three days.

The IMD said that conditions are favourable for further advance of southwest monsoon into some more parts of southwest and southeast Arabian Sea, Comorin Area, southwest, southeast and east central Bay of Bengal and remaining parts of Andaman Sea during the next 2-3 days.

The weather agency estimated heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Sub Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim today.

The IMD forecast heavy rainfall over Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, Kerala, Mahe, Lakshadweep, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Tamil Nadu Puducherry and Karaikal during the day.

## CBSE to refund excess payments deducted during Class 12 answer book application process

New Delhi: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has issued an update regarding the Class 12th post-result process after technical issues on 21st and 22nd of this month led to incorrect fee deductions in some cases. In a statement, CBSE said that the issue occurred during applications for scanned copies of evaluated answer books. It added that in some instances, excess payment was deducted, while in others, lesser amounts were charged.

The CBSE noted that in all cases

of excess payment, the exact excess amounts will be refunded to the same payment method which was used for payment. Similarly, in cases where lesser payment was deducted, candidates shall be informed separately regarding payment of the balance amount, if required. It further noted that scanned copies of the evaluated answer books shall be provided in all such cases, without candidates being required to submit fresh requests.

## Union Minister Piyush Goyal criticises Rahul Gandhi's remarks against PM Modi

New Delhi: Senior BJP Leader and Union Minister Piyush Goyal today accused Congress leader Rahul Gandhi of creating a serious plot to spread anarchy in the nation.

In a social media post, he said that Mr Gandhi's statement against Prime Minister Narendra Modi points towards a major conspiracy by the Congress party, along with all opposition parties.

Mr Goyal alleged that the Congress Party's true intentions are to defame the country, insult constitutional institutions, and go

abroad to appeal to foreign powers to interfere in India's internal affairs.

The Union Minister stated that the citizens of the country are wise and have a clear understanding of Rahul Gandhi and the opposition parties that are acting against the nation's interests.

He said that the public has repeatedly given resounding responses to these people. Mr Goyal added that the INDI alliance's conspiracy will never succeed.

## WFI respects Delhi HC order, to allow Vinesh to compete in trials; Asiad participation still uncertain: Sources

New Delhi: Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) will not challenge the Delhi High Court's order permitting Vinesh Phogat to participate in the Asian Games 2026 selection trials, federation sources confirmed on Sunday.

The development comes a day after the Delhi High Court directed the WFI to allow the Olympian and two-time World Championships medallist to compete in the trials, which are scheduled for May 30 and 31 in New Delhi.

The court also ordered that the entire selection process be video-recorded

and monitored by independent observers from the Sports Authority of India (SAI) and the Indian Olympic Association (IOA).

Confirming the federation's stance following the ruling, WFI sources said the body would comply with the court's directions. "We respect the court order and the WFI will not challenge the decision. Let her (Vinesh Phogat) compete in the trials," WFI sources told IANS.

However, the federation indicated that logistical complications

could arise even if Phogat qualifies through the trials, as the list of participants for the competition had already been sent to Japan earlier this month.

Asked about the possibility of Phogat making the final squad if she wins the trials, the sources added, "It is not in our hands now. If, by any chance, we manage to include her as an iconic player, she will have to compete in the 50kg category." While granting interim relief to Phogat, the Delhi High Court strongly criticised the WFI's selection framework and observed that motherhood could not



be used as a basis to exclude female athletes from professional opportunities.

A Division Bench headed by Chief Justice Devendra Kumar

Upadhyaya held that the federation's policy failed to adequately account for Phogat's maternity-related break and post-partum recovery period, which

overlapped with the qualifying competitions listed under the eligibility criteria. "Motherhood must be viewed as a natural and deeply significant aspect of life that deserves accommodation and institutional sensitivity. Therefore, the law must ensure that motherhood does not become a ground for exclusion or marginalisation of female athletes such as the appellant," the court observed.

The Bench further noted that preventing Phogat from participating in the trials would render her

pending writ petition meaningless, adding that allowing her to compete was necessary "in the interest of sport and justice."

The court also criticised the language used by the WFI in a show-cause notice issued to the wrestler earlier this month, particularly references to her disqualification from the Paris Olympics final after failing the weigh-in.

The Bench described the federation's remarks calling the incident a "national embarrassment" as "deplorable" and "vindictive." Phogat had challenged the federation's Asian Games selection

policy issued in February, along with a subsequent circular and show-cause notice, arguing that she had been unfairly excluded despite informing both international and domestic authorities about her maternity-related sabbatical.

During the hearings, the WFI maintained that the policy applied uniformly to all wrestlers and that no exemptions could be made.

The court, however, noted that earlier federation guidelines had allowed "iconic players" to compete in selection trials even without meeting standard eligibility conditions.

# Panchayat Polls to Be a Major Political Test for BJP and BJD in Odisha

Sambalpur-23/05 (DMS) : Political activity in Odisha is gathering momentum as major parties begin strategizing for the crucial Panchayat elections scheduled for 2027. The rural polls are expected to serve as the biggest political test before the 2029 Assembly elections and could significantly influence the state's political landscape.

For the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which came to power in Odisha for the first time in 2024 by ending the 24-year rule of the Biju Janata Dal (BJD), the Panchayat elections will be a key indicator of whether its Assembly victory reflected

a lasting political shift, a wave of anti-incumbency against the previous government, or a broader appeal based on Odia identity and governance promises.

On the other hand, the Panchayat polls will offer the BJD an opportunity to demonstrate whether it still retains its formidable grassroots strength. A strong performance could revive the party's political momentum and reaffirm its relevance at the village level. However, questions remain about who will lead the party's electoral campaign and organizational revival in the post-defeat period.

Panchayat elections in

Odisha have traditionally been viewed as the most accurate measure of a party's grassroots influence. The 2022 Panchayat election results highlighted BJD's dominance, with the party winning 766 of the 852 Zilla Parishad seats. BJP secured only 42 seats, while Congress won 37. The overwhelming victory underscored BJD's deep organizational network across rural Odisha.

Political analysts believe BJP must significantly improve its rural performance in 2027 to prove that its 2024 Assembly triumph was not solely driven by public dissatisfaction with the previous government. The

party will seek to showcase the impact of the development and welfare initiatives implemented under the government led by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi.

Observers also argue that public resentment against the growing influence of former bureaucrat V. K. Pandian played a significant role in BJP's 2024 electoral success. With Pandian no longer expected to be a factor in future elections, the responsibility for mobilizing voters is likely to fall on party leaders, MPs, MLAs, and local organizational structures.

Nearly two years into BJP's tenure, the government

has implemented several welfare initiatives, including the women-focused Subhadra Yojana. However, concerns persist over the party's organizational reach at the grassroots level. Political observers point to gaps between the government, the party, and its organizational machinery. In many rural and urban areas, leaders and networks associated with the previous BJD regime are still believed to wield considerable influence, leading to frustration among BJP workers who had expected greater participation after the change in power.

Former Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik continues to

enjoy significant popularity, particularly in rural Odisha. Despite its defeat in 2024, BJD's local organizational structure remains largely intact and active. The party is expected to rely heavily on this network as it seeks to regain political ground.

With both BJP and BJD preparing for a high-stakes contest, the 2027 Panchayat elections are widely expected to become a defining moment in Odisha politics. The results will serve as a political report card for the Mohan Majhi government while also testing the organizational strength, public support, and future prospects of both major parties ahead of the 2029 Assembly elections.



## Engineering student drowns in Kanjhari dam

Keonjhar : In a shocking incident a 20-year-old engineering student drowned in Kanjhari dam under Sadar police station on Saturday morning, while going with his friends to take bath. The deceased student has been identified as Aditya Mahanta and his house is in the Magurgadia area of Keonjhar town.

According to police information, Aditya was studying BTech in government college of engineering (GCE), Keonjhar. On Saturday morning around 9 am, he went for a bath in Kanjhari dam with some friends. While taking a bath, he slipped into deep water. Since he did not know how to swim, he got swept away in the water. He struggled to get back but could not. His friends tried to rescue



him but failed despite their best efforts.

After informing the Sadar police station, police officials along with the fire service reached the spot and rescued him. But at that time his condition was critical. Later, the police recovered his body and sent it to the district head quarter hospital, where the doctor declared him dead. The police informed his family. Later

police handed over the body to the family after the postmortem and began further investigation to ascertain the cause of death.

In this regard, IIC Sadar Police Station Amit Kumar Bhuyan said that he had gone to the dam for bathing and drowned in deep water. As a result, he died. A case of unnatural death has been registered and further investigation into the incident is underway.

## “Patent Medicine” for Drunkards! Surprise Raids by Administration

Paradip: 23/05 - After District Collector Mr. J. Sonal and Superintendent of Police (SP) Mr. Ankit Kumar Verma joined duty in Jagatsinghpur district, the law and order situation across the district has reportedly improved significantly. Illegal trade in intoxicants had been flourishing in various parts of the district, but now liquor, ganja, and drug mafias, along with those illegally occupying government land, have come under fear. Even youths and adults consuming ganja and drugs are now afraid to do so openly in public places. At present, the focus of these two tough officers is on Paradip, the industrial port town of the district. Last month, after IPS officer Mr. Babu Rao Mane took charge as Additional SP, several long-running illegal ganja outlets and illicit liquor dens operating in different parts of Paradip were shut down under the direction of the

District Collector and SP. Even the bhang and ganja stalls operating for decades near the Shani temple established by port employees in front of Paradip Model Police Station were permanently closed. Raids are also continuing in other locations.

According to reports, the 60-year-old Bijaya Market area of Paradip has more than seven government-authorized open and sealed liquor shops that have existed since the establishment of the port. Day and night, people speaking different languages openly consume alcohol around these liquor shops, in nearby corners, and even in open spaces without regard for society, especially women. Drunken individuals often create disturbances and unpleasant situations.

As Paradip is one of India's major commercial hubs, thousands of outsiders visit the town daily. Many



quickly buy liquor bottles, water bottles, and plastic glasses, consume alcohol on the spot, and leave immediately. This practice has continued since the early days of the port. Many administrative officers have come and gone, but no one seriously addressed the issue. Though everyone knows the reasons behind it,

it is said that they cannot be openly written about. However, in an attempt to stop this long-standing practice, Jagatsinghpur District Collector J. Sonal and SP Ankit Verma conducted a sudden raid in the Bijaya Market area last Friday evening. Late into the night, checking and raids continued across Paradip.

Complaints had long been received regarding people openly drinking near liquor shops and creating disturbances, and now the administration has taken strict action. During the surprise raids, police detained several individuals who were allegedly consuming alcohol on roadsides and creating nuisance, and took them to the police station. The District Collector and SP personally toured various locations and reviewed the situation. It is learned that in the coming days, such raids will become more intense to curb intoxication-related activities and open drinking. Strict action will also be taken against drunk and drive persons. While the general public has welcomed this action by the administration, all eyes are now on how much impact it will have on open public drinking in Paradip and how effectively the local administration can control the situation.

## Old man commits suicide by hanging

Keonjhar : In a very shocking incident, an 80 years old man committed suicide by hanging himself from a window railing on Saturday morning in Putulia village under Sadar police station in Keonjhar. The deceased is identified as Dhaneswar Prusty native of Kalikaprada village under Champua block. But after retirement from government service, he had lived in Putulia village with his wife, son and daughter-in-law for about 15 years.

Sources said that he had gone to bed yesterday after talking diner like other days. On Saturday morning, he hanged himself from the window railing. When his family saw him hanging, they informed the police.



After receiving information police rushed to the village and seized the body following an inquest.

Sadar police station Sub Inspector Sanatan Mahanta along with other staff reached the spot, seized the body and started the investigation. Police handed over the body to the family after the autopsy at the

District Headquarters Hospital, Keonjhar.

IIC, Amit Kumar Bhuyan of Sadar police station said that after preliminary investigation it was learned that Dhaneswar committed suicide due to mental anguish related to old age. His untimely demise has created a mournful atmosphere in Putulia village.

## Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Training Campaign Held in Paradip

Paradip, (DMC) 21/5 :- The Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Training Campaign is a nationwide training initiative organized by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The primary objective of this campaign is to inspire party workers with ideology, principles, and the vision of nation-building.

In this context, a two-day district-level training programme of BJP, Jagatsinghpur was organized on Friday at the Paradip Port Biju Convention Hall. The programme was conducted under the presidingship of BJP Jagatsinghpur district president Pratap Kumar Mishra.

Deputy Chief Minister of Odisha Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo attended the event as the chief guest and formally inaugurated the



training campaign. Paradip MLA and Odisha Minister for Industries, Skill Development and Technical Education Sampad Chandra Swain delivered the welcome address and introduced the guests.

Among others Jagatsinghpur MLA Amarendra Das, BJP leader Subash Jena, Dibakar Harichandan, state executive members Satyabrata Mohapatra,

Upendra Biswal, Raj Kishore Behera, Satya Sarathi Mohanty and Sanjay Mohanty, BJP state vice-president Dr. Jatin Mohanty, BJP media secretary Purna Chandra Mallik, and general secretary Ganesh Prasad Mohanty were present.

The speakers encouraged party workers to work for the growth of the party and maintain the momentum of victory in the

upcoming Panchayat elections.

Chief guest Deputy Chief Shri Singh Deo emphasized on discipline and organizational ethics within the party. He advised the workers attending the camp to remain inspired by the party's ideology, principles, and nation-building philosophy. Similarly, Minister Sampad Swain and other speakers highlighted the importance

of the training camp and strengthening organisation in their addresses.

The programme was coordinated by BJP district president Pratap Mishra, while Paradip Mandal president Subrata Pradhan, minister's representative Sarbeswar Baliarsingh, councillor Pratap Nayak, BJP activists Tapan Tripathy and Sarbeswar Jena, among others, actively assisted in organizing the event.

# Peace and Coordination Committee Meeting Held for Sital Sasthi 2026

Sambalpur-22/05 (DMS) : Preparations have begun for the renowned and sacred Sital Sasthi Festival of Sambalpur, which is scheduled to commence on June 15, 2026. To ensure the festival is conducted in a peaceful, well-organized, and secure manner, the district administration has initiated extensive planning and coordination efforts. Sital Sasthi is one of the most significant cultural and religious festivals of Western Odisha, celebrated as the ceremonial marriage of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati.

A crucial Peace and Coordination Committee Meeting was held under the chairmanship of Sambalpur

Collector Siddheshwar Baliram Bondar (IAS). During the meeting, all concerned departments were directed to take necessary measures to ensure smooth management of the festival and the massive influx of devotees expected this year.

The Collector appreciated the cooperation of various festival committees and the public for making last year's celebration a grand success. Considering the anticipated increase in the number of devotees and visitors, special emphasis has been placed on security, crowd management, and public convenience.

To facilitate the smooth movement of processions,

the administration has fixed a detailed schedule for all Sital Sasthi committees. Organizers have been instructed to strictly follow the minute-to-minute timing plan so that one procession does not obstruct another. Separate exit routes will also be arranged in highly crowded areas such as Nandapada, Jharuapada, and Bada Sadak to enable devotees to disperse safely after viewing the festivities.

Comprehensive health and sanitation measures will be put in place. Twenty-four-hour control rooms will operate at the District Headquarters Hospital and the Sambalpur Municipal Corporation office.



Temporary health camps will be established at key locations, ORS packets will be distributed to festival

committees, and mobile ambulances will remain on standby for emergency services. Food quality

inspections will also be conducted in hotels and restaurants. To ensure uninterrupted drinking water

supply during the festival, WATCO and the Public Health Department will install Sintex tanks at various locations and provide water tankers for each procession. Non-governmental organizations will also assist in water distribution activities.

The administration has directed TPWODL to maintain uninterrupted power supply throughout the festival period. Additional lighting arrangements will be made along major roads and the Ring Road, while streetlights will be repaired before the celebrations begin.

Under the direct supervision of the Sambalpur Superintendent of Police, extensive police deployment,

traffic regulation, and patrolling arrangements will be implemented. The Fire Services Department will remain on high alert to respond to any emergency situation.

The Collector further instructed all departments to complete pre-festival works, including road cleaning, drainage repairs, removal of encroachments, and trimming of roadside tree branches within the stipulated timeframe.

The district administration has appealed to citizens to cooperate in ensuring that Sambalpur's prestigious cultural festival is celebrated peacefully, safely, and with traditional grandeur.

# Rath construction work in Puri picks up pace, construction of the three chariots nearing final stage

Puri. The construction work of the chariots is progressing rapidly. Till yesterday, storage of wood for Panchadanda Chaupata and axle construction work for all three chariots continued at the outer Rath Khala.

According to sources, the 14 Nahaaka Chaupata work has begun on all three chariots. After completion of the four Nahaaka section, the 14 Nahaaka construction work has now started. With the assistance of Rath Ameen and Bhoi servitors, five pieces each of 20-foot-long Dhaura wood have been supplied for the chali of all three chariots. Following this, the Maharana servitors

have started the Chaupata work. After completion of the Chaupata, the octagonal carving work (Ashta-koni Aansa) will be carried out.

As part of the construction process, the 14 Nahaaka sections will run around all three chariots and connect from the first floor to the second floor frame structure. After completion of the Garagara Chaupata work, drilling work (Bindha) has begun. Rectangular holes are being carved on both ends of each 20-foot Garagara by Maharana servitors, which will later be used to connect the four Nahaakas.

The axle construction



work has also reached its final stage, with work on Sana Uchula, Nahaaka, and Padi Nahaaka axles nearing

completion.

Meanwhile, Rupakar servitors are engaged in engraving, polishing, and

decorative work on the Sal Guja, along with carving lion and deer figures on the sharp Gujas.

## Paradip Art of Living to Celebrate Sri Sri Ravi Shankar's Birthday as 'Seva Diwas'

Paradip - The 70th birth anniversary of globally renowned spiritual guru Param Pujya Sri Sri Ravi Shankar and the 45th Foundation Day of the Art of Living will be celebrated from May 13 to December 31 this year. This was announced by Sri Kali Prasad Mishra, Chief Coordinator of the Paradip Centre.



The inaugural programme on May 13 saw participation from several officials working at IFFCO, PPL, AM/NS, and IOCL in Paradip, along with over 300 members of the public. The day began with a free yoga session, followed by distribution of fruits and biscuits at the children's home and Santoshii Old Age Home in Paradipgarh.

In the evening, 108 trees were donated along with a kund, a bhajan-satsang was held, and over 300 people took part in prasad sevan.

Swami Anand Brahm, chief disciple of Param Pujya Baba Balia, inaugurated the event by lighting the

ceremonial lamp.

May 13 will be observed as 'Seva Diwas' by Art of Living, Paradip every year. This year, multiple service-oriented programmes such as tree plantation, tree donation, annadan, vastra daan, free yoga camps, and de-addiction awareness camps will be organized until the end of December, informed Sri Tapas Ranjan Pati, Head and Yoga Guru of Paradip Art of Living.

The people of Paradip have widely appreciated Art of Living and the officials working at the port for their full cooperation and support in such social service initiatives.

## Purushottam Month Recognised as the 13th Month in Astrology: Experts

Puri : Puri A discussion session on the significance of Purushottam Maas was organised at the premises of Shri Jagannath Veda Karmakanda Mahavidyalaya under the aegis of Shrigundicha Adhyatmik Trust Odisha. The event was presided over by the trust's vice-president Binod Kumar Panda.

Speaking as the chief guest, Prof Dr Satyanarayan Acharya, Vice-Chancellor of Odia University, said Indian astrology is broadly divided into two streams — mathematical astrology and predictive astrology. He explained that the concepts



of solar and lunar months are determined on the basis of the Earth's daily rotation and orbital movement.

Acharya said the Earth takes 365 days to revolve

around the Sun, while the lunar cycle is completed in 354 days, creating an 11-day difference. "This difference results in an additional month once every two years and

eight months, which is known as Adhika Maas or Purushottam Maas," he said, adding that special worship of Mala Narayan is performed during this sacred

period.

Historian Madan Mohan Mahapatra, while outlining the theme of the discussion, said Jagadguru Shrimad Shankaracharya had played a major role in curbing the influence of Buddhism between 788 AD and 820 AD. He further stated that the idol of Mala Narayan depicts Buddha in a yogic posture among the Dashavatar representations.

Among others present on the dais were senior servitor Bhagaban Suar, college principal Prof Harapriya Dash, senior trust member Pratibha Tripathy and general secretary Laxminarayan

Pattnaik.

On the occasion, the trust's publication titled Shri Purushottam Maas Mahatmya was also unveiled by the guests. Scholars including Pandit Sadashiv Mishra, Dr Pramod Kumar Dalai, Pandit Dayanidhi Tripathy, Dr Kartik Kumar Das, Prof Ravishankar Mishra, Suresh Pattnaik and Ananta Pradhan participated in the deliberations.

Charan Nrusingha Mohanty, Pooj Pradhan and Sandip Karmakar assisted in conducting the programme, while advocate Sarbani Das proposed the vote of thanks.

## Silver Jubilee of Birupa High School Successfully Ended.



Jajpur : The two days Silver Jubilee celebration of Birupa High School, Mahakalpada under Bari Block Concludes on Sunday.

Bari MLA Biswa Ranjan Mallick was the chief guest on the ending day along with Bari Derabish Ex-MLA Chinmaya Behuria, Institution head, Local Sarapanch, PS Member, educationists, Social workers in the region.

Addressing the gathering, Bari MLA Biswa Ranjan reflected on the inspiring journey of this institution, which began with the aim of fulfilling education facilities for the local as it is the end part of Bari Constituency. He emphasized that the school's journey had been one of nurturing character, shaping dreams and building responsible citizens. During his government he has

provided necessary development works under 5T and in coming days other development works will be initiated very soon.

He also congratulated the Silver Jubilee family on completing 25 glorious years and praised the institution's commitment to education and values.

In this regard Souvenir "Birupa" also unveiled by Sri Mallick.

## GB Nagar: 206 challans issued against overloaded trucks in May

Greater Noida: In its enforcement drive against overloaded trucks, the Gautam Budh Nagar transport department has issued challans to 206 vehicles in May so far and recovered ₹50.8 lakh as compounding fees, officials said on Saturday.

According to officials, overloaded trucks and mini-trucks were checked at multiple locations across the district, including Sector 142, Jewar, Knowledge Park, Badalpur, and D Park in Sector 62.

Regional transport officer (enforcement) Udit Narayan Pandey said, "The enforcement drives aim to curb overloaded vehicles in the district. During the campaign this month, 206 overloaded vehicles have been penalised and penalties amounting to ₹1.29 crore

were imposed, out of which ₹50.8 lakh has been recovered."

Officials said the drive also led to the impounding of several vehicles from Sector 142, Jewar, Knowledge Park, Badalpur, and Sector 62.

Transport department officials said that overloading poses serious safety risks and leads to damage to vehicles, roads and the environment. Excessive load increases the chances of brake failure, tyre bursts, and vehicle overturning, thereby endangering drivers and other commuters, they added.

"Overloading puts additional pressure on engines, suspension systems, tyres and brakes, resulting in faster wear and tear and increased maintenance costs," Pandey said.

**[GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA]**  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,**  
**BARGARH (R&B) DIVISION, BARGARH**  
 E-mail - [espwdbgh@gmail.com](mailto:espwdbgh@gmail.com) Phone/Fax-06646-234819  
**INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (I.F.B.)**  
 e-Procurement Notice  
**IDENTIFICATION NO. I.F.B.-SE PWD BGH No.02 OF 2026-27**  
**No. 2495, Dated. 18.05.2026**

- 1) The Superintending Engineer, Bargarh (R&B) Division, Bargarh on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bid in Single & Double Cover System in ONLINE MODE for the Civil & Electrical work as detailed in the Detailed Tender Call Notice (D.T.C.N) from the eligible class of contractors.
- 2) No of Civil & Electrical work: - 05 Nos.
- 3) Cost of Tender Paper: - Rs.6,000/- & Rs.10,000/-
- 4) Class of contractor:- "B" Class Contractor & "HT" Electrical Contractor
- 5) Date & Time of available in web site & receipt of Bids: - 11:00 Hrs. of 29.05.2026 to 17:00Hrs. of 08.06.2026.
- 6) Date of opening of Technical Bid: - 09.06.2026 at 11:30 Hrs.
- 7) The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the State Govt. Portal website <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>
- 8) Any corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the website <https://tendersodisha.gov.in> only

34001/246/2627  
 Superintending Engineer,  
 Bargarh (R&B) Division

## Odisha Bhaskar Live Khordha District Representative Subhalakshmi Samantray Felicitated.

Khordha -24/5- Journalist of khordha Subhalakshmi Samantray has achieved another milestone for her outstanding contribution and courage in the field of journalism. She was felicitated at the hotel 'Taj Vivant' in Bhubaneswar. Subhalakshmi, who works as the Odisha Bhaskar Live khordha district representative of the state's leading daily newspaper 'Odisha Bhaskar', was given this inspiring honor, which has created waves of happiness in the local area. She started writing from a very young age to bring various problems of the society and the voices of the neglected classes to the attention of the administration. Today, by presenting truthful and impartial news, she has created a special identity for herself. Her indomitable courage and dedication to



journalism were highly appreciated and honored at this conference.

Subhalakshmi is not only a dedicated journalist, but also an eloquent speaker and social worker. She works day and night for the rights and justice of the people. She is always involved in the happiness and sorrow of the people and tries to solve their problems. Due to this great quality of hers, today she has become a source of inspiration for many youth. Eminent

personalities and senior journalists who attended the conference as guests wished Subhalakshmi a bright future and said that in today's society, there is a great need for fearless and socially conscious young journalists like Subhalakshmi. After receiving this honor, her responsibility in the field of journalism has increased further and expressed gratitude to the 'Odisha Bhaskar' authorities and all the well-wishers.

## Madhu Babu Pension Scheme:- Beneficiaries struggling with delays and frustration & dies without receiving pension for two months.

Khordha - 24/5- While the state government's Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Department (SSEPD) is providing ₹1000 per month to each beneficiaries and ₹3500 to those above 80 years of age for Madhu Babu Pension Yojana (MBPY) to eligible beneficiaries, for the past two months, a large number of beneficiaries in 22 Gram Panchayats under the khordha Panchayat Samiti and 22 wards under khordha Municipal Council have been deprived of receiving the allowance. This incident brought to the notice of the officers and employees incharge of distribution of allowances those who have not received they said that the allowance money will go to their accounts as per the government's decision. But after two months, the money has not been credited



to the accounts of the beneficiaries, as a result of which many beneficiaries have died waiting for the allowance. A glaring example of which can be seen in Bhatpada village of Bangida, GP, under Khordha Panchayat Samiti. In that

village, Rangi Patalsingh W/O- Sidhanath Patalsingh was bedridden due to illness for a long time. For two months, despite receiving widow pension and having a ration card since November-2025, she could not get any ration items and

died on 16.5.2026. As per the rules of the state government, the beneficiaries who are unable to come to the panchayat to collect the allowance due to illness are provided by going to their homes and paying the allowance. While the

Panchayat Executive Officer (PEO) working in Bangida GP, due to his reckless attitude, she was deprived of getting the allowance and finally died. After this news was circulated in this area the PEO, took prompt action and on 21.5.2026, he paid Rangi Patalsingh one month allowance of ₹1000 after taking a finger print from his grandson Subrata Patalsingh. Rangi Patalsingh husband Sidha Nath Patalsingh passed away on 27.11.2025 no ration has been provided to her till date, having her name in the ration card vide ration card no- 19090210489. After the incident was brought to the attention of BDO Khordha, he said that the incident was investigated and strict action would be taken against the guilty. Otherwise, another incident like Jeetu Munda will not happen who will say.

## Sharp, Direct and Highly Readable

BhaskarParichha  
China's 90% Model: China Has America by the Throat: Here's How to Fight Back and Win by RAM CHARAN is a provocative and fiercely argued book. It presents China's rise not as a normal story of economic competition, but as a coordinated and systemic effort to dominate global industrial capacity at the expense of the United States and the existing international economic order. Urgent in tone and unapologetically strategic in outlook, the book reads less like conventional business analysis and more like a warning siren directed at corporate leaders and policymakers.

At the core of the argument lies what Charan calls the "90% Model"-a strategy in which China allegedly builds overwhelming industrial capacity, supports exports through state subsidies and currency advantages, and floods global markets with low-cost products until foreign competitors collapse. The book traces how sectors such as furniture, textiles, chemicals, pharmaceutical ingredients and solar panels have already been hollowed out, while warning that advanced industries like artificial intelligence, aerospace and biotechnology may be next.

One of the book's greatest strengths

is the author's authority and experience. Charan has spent decades advising global CEOs and working closely with Chinese companies, giving the narrative an insider's immediacy. The inclusion of anonymous executive testimony adds further intrigue and suggests the climate of fear and caution surrounding discussions of China in corporate America.

Whether one agrees fully with the book's conclusions or not, it is difficult to dismiss the depth of concern it captures.

The writing is sharp, direct and highly readable. Unlike academic works burdened by jargon, this book is structured for impact, often employing concise arguments and vivid examples to sustain momentum. Its central claim-that America is engaged in an economic war it barely recognizes-gives the work a sense of urgency that will resonate strongly with business leaders and geopolitical observers.

At times, however, the book risks

"This is a wake-up call. America is encircled."

**CHINA'S  
90%  
MODEL**

*China Has America by the Throat  
Here's How to Fight Back and WIN*

**RAM CHARAN**

*Co-Author of the #1 NEW YORK TIMES  
Bestseller EXECUTIONS*

oversimplifying an extraordinarily complex global relationship. China's economic rise involves multiple factors beyond predatory state strategy, including global consumer demand, multinational corporate decisions and weaknesses within Western industrial policy itself. Readers seeking a more balanced geopolitical

analysis may find the book occasionally one-sided and alarmist.

Nevertheless, the book succeeds as a forceful intervention in contemporary debates about globalization, industrial policy and economic sovereignty. Bold, controversial and strategically focused, it challenges readers to rethink assumptions about free markets, national competitiveness and the future balance of global power.

**China's 90% Model  
RAM CHARAN  
Simon & Schuster India  
New Delhi**

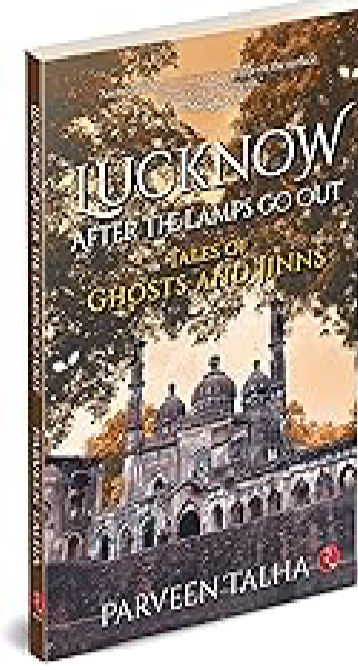
## Haunted Histories of Lucknow

Arun Mishra

In Lucknow, After the Lamps Go Out: Tales of Ghosts and Jinns by Parveen Talha is an atmospheric and hauntingly beautiful exploration of memory, folklore and the supernatural embedded within the cultural fabric of Lucknow. More than a collection of ghost stories, the book becomes a meditation on how cities remember their past through whispers, ruins, legends and silences.

What distinguishes this work from conventional horror fiction is its emotional and historical depth. Talha is not interested in cheap thrills or dramatic scares. Instead, her stories unfold gently, almost conversationally, allowing unease to emerge from atmosphere rather than shock. The ghosts and jinns that inhabit these pages feel less like monsters and more like lingering traces of grief, displacement and unfinished histories.

The city itself is the true protagonist of the book. Through old neighbourhoods, graveyards, railway stations, abandoned kothis and colonial ruins, Talha reconstructs a Lucknow where the past constantly presses against the present. Particularly powerful is the way the



trauma of Indian Rebellion of 1857 shadows many of the narratives. Sites such as the Residency, Begum Kothi and Firangi Mahal are transformed into spaces where history refuses to fade quietly.

Talha's prose is elegant, restrained and deeply evocative. She writes with the intimacy of someone

who knows the city from within-its tehzeeb, rhythms, anxieties and fading aristocratic memories. Her treatment of jinn lore adds a distinctive cultural and theological richness rarely explored in Indian supernatural writing. The stories move fluidly between faith, oral tradition and lived experience, leaving readers uncertain where reality ends and imagination begins.

Another strength of the book is its melancholy tone. Beneath the supernatural surface lies a profound awareness of loss-the loss of worlds, families, languages and ways of living that survive only in fragments. This gives the collection unusual literary weight and emotional resonance.

In Lucknow, After the Lamps Go Out is a book about haunted histories rather than haunted houses. Thoughtful, immersive and quietly devastating, it will appeal not only to lovers of ghost stories but also to readers interested in cities, memory and the invisible lives carried within old places.

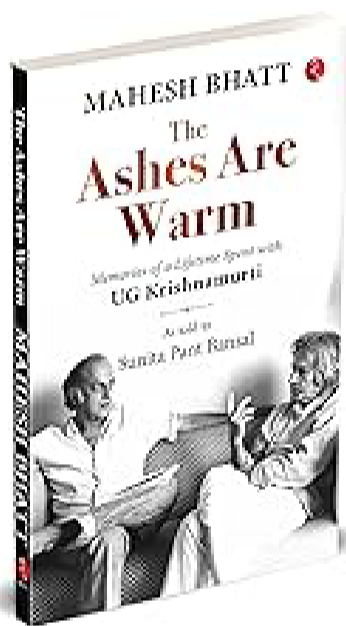
**Lucknow, After the Lamps Go Out  
Parveen Talha  
Rupa Publications  
New Delhi**

## Searching and profoundly Human

BhaskarParichha

The Ashes Are Warm: Memories of a Lifetime Spent with UG Krishnamurti is not a conventional memoir, nor merely a book about spirituality. It is a deeply intimate excavation of the self, assembled from the scattered diary fragments of filmmaker Mahesh Bhatt and sensitively shaped by author Sunita Pant Bansal into a haunting narrative of emotional and spiritual disintegration. What gives the book its unusual power is its refusal to offer comfort or neat conclusions. These are not polished recollections written with hindsight, but raw entries born in moments of despair, anger, confusion and fleeting clarity. The result is a work that feels startlingly immediate and emotionally exposed. Bhatt appears here not as the celebrated director known to the public, but as a man stripped of certainty-restless, wounded, searching, and often painfully self-aware.

At the centre of the narrative stands U. G. Krishnamurti, whose presence looms like a force of destruction rather than guidance. UG is portrayed neither as guru nor philosopher in the traditional



sense, but as someone who dismantles illusions and spiritual pretensions with merciless intensity. Through this relationship, the book becomes less about enlightenment and more about the collapse of identity itself.

Sunita Pant Bansal deserves considerable credit for preserving the

fractured, intimate texture of Bhatt's writings while giving them coherence and rhythm. Her experience as a mythologist and interpreter of spiritual traditions is evident in the way she frames Bhatt's turmoil without romanticising it. The prose remains accessible yet reflective, allowing readers to engage with complex emotional and philosophical questions. What ultimately distinguishes The Ashes Are Warm is its brutal honesty. It challenges the reader to confront uncomfortable truths about ego, ambition, love, and the human hunger for meaning. There are moments when the narrative feels repetitive or emotionally exhausting, but perhaps that is inevitable in a book born from inner conflict rather than literary design. Dark, searching, and profoundly human, The Ashes Are Warm is a courageous meditation on what remains after illusion, identity, and certainty have been reduced to ashes.

**The Ashes Are Warm  
Mahesh Bhatt /Sunita Pant  
Bansal  
Rupa Publications  
New Delhi**

## Exploration of Human Behaviour

BhaskarParichha

MicroStimuli: Decisions In Milliseconds: The New Science of Persuasion | Behavioural Economics, Artificial Intelligence and Neuroscience for Business by Biju Dominic is an ambitious and thought-provoking exploration of human behaviour in the age of neuroscience and digital distraction. Blending psychology, behavioural economics, artificial intelligence, and design thinking, the book proposes a radical idea: that human decisions are often shaped not by conscious reasoning, but by tiny, almost invisible triggers acting within milliseconds before action.

At the centre of the book is Dominic's concept of "MicroStimuli"-small, nonconscious persuasive cues designed to activate the brain's fastest decision-making pathways. Rather than relying on lengthy messaging or rational persuasion, these interventions aim to influence behaviour at the precise point of action. The argument is both provocative and timely, especially in an era where attention spans are fragmented and human interaction increasingly mediated through screens.

One of the book's greatest strengths is its practical orientation. Dominic does not

remain trapped in theory; instead, he demonstrates how MicroStimuli has been applied to real-world problems ranging from road safety and insurance mis-selling to medication adherence and digital marketing. These case studies make the book engaging and accessible, showing how behavioural insights can solve problems that conventional awareness campaigns often fail to address.

The writing is clear, energetic, and highly readable despite dealing with complex scientific ideas. Dominic succeeds in translating neuroscience into everyday language without oversimplifying it. His critique of traditional advertising and rational-choice assumptions feels especially relevant in today's hyper-distracted digital culture. The observation that people glance at phones thousands of times daily while advertisers still rely on thirty-second commercials effectively captures the changing nature of attention itself.

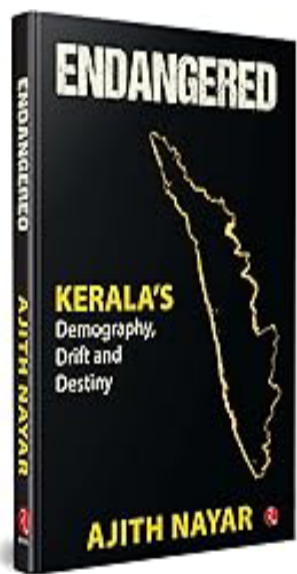
At times, the book's enthusiasm for



behavioural influence may leave readers questioning the ethical implications of nonconscious persuasion. While Dominic presents MicroStimuli as a tool for positive social and organisational change, the same techniques could potentially be misused in manipulative ways. The book touches on these concerns but could have explored them in greater

depth. Nevertheless, MicroStimuli is a fascinating and important contribution to contemporary behavioural studies. It challenges readers to rethink how decisions are made and how change truly occurs. Insightful, innovative, and deeply relevant, the book is essential reading for marketers, policymakers, designers, and anyone interested in the hidden mechanics of human behaviour.

**MicroStimuli  
Biju Dominic  
Penguin Random House  
Gurugram**



## Measured, Analytical and Accessible

Dharma Raj

Endangered: Kerala's Demography, Drift and Destiny by Ajith Nayar is an intelligent, timely and deeply reflective examination of Kerala's uncertain future beneath the surface of its celebrated development model. Rather than attacking Kerala's achievements, the book asks a more difficult question: what happens when a successful society begins to drift structurally, even while continuing to take pride in its past accomplishments?

Nayar approaches Kerala not as a detached academic observer but as an entrepreneur and institution-builder concerned with the long-term sustainability of societies. This perspective gives the book both urgency and practical relevance. The central argument is compelling: Kerala's demographic transition-marked by ageing, migration, shrinking workforce participation and expanding welfare commitments-may gradually erode the foundations that once made the

state exceptional.

One of the book's greatest strengths is its global comparative framework. By drawing parallels with ageing societies such as Japan, Italy, South Korea and Lebanon, Nayar demonstrates that decline in advanced societies is rarely sudden or catastrophic. Instead, it emerges quietly through institutional stagnation, declining productivity and the inability to adapt to changing demographic realities. These comparisons elevate the book beyond regional

commentary and place Kerala within a larger global conversation about ageing societies and economic resilience.

The prose is measured, analytical and accessible. Nayar avoids sensationalism, preferring careful reasoning over ideological rhetoric. Particularly insightful is his discussion of the "Kerala paradox"-a state that produces highly skilled, globally employable citizens yet struggles to create sufficient opportunities for them locally. This

contradiction lies at the emotional and economic core of the book.

At times, the book's emphasis on structural drift may appear overly pessimistic, especially to readers emotionally invested in the Kerala model. Some may also wish for more detailed policy prescriptions. Yet the author's aim is less to provide a technical roadmap than to provoke serious civic reflection before demographic trends harden into irreversible decline.

Endangered is ultimately a

courageous and necessary book. It challenges complacency while remaining deeply invested in Kerala's future. Thoughtful, provocative and globally informed, it deserves to be widely read by policymakers, students, entrepreneurs and citizens concerned about how successful societies renew themselves before success turns into stagnation.

**Endangered: Kerala's  
Demography, Drift and Destiny  
Ajith Nayar  
Rupa Publications  
New Delhi**

## Celebration of a Mystic

BhaskarParichha

Peero: The Spiritual Mother of Punjab's Gulabdas Sect is far more than a collection of translated mystical verses; it is an act of literary recovery and cultural justice. Through this remarkable volume, scholar and translator Neeti Singh rescues the voice of Peero-Punjab's first known female mystic-poet-from centuries of neglect and restores her to the centre of the Bhakti-Sufi tradition.

What makes the book compelling is not only the poetry itself but the extraordinary life behind it. Born into hardship and forced into world of Lahore's HeeraMandi, Peero transformed personal suffering into spiritual rebellion. Her journey from courtesan to revered mystic becomes a powerful challenge to

patriarchy, religious orthodoxy, and social hypocrisy. In many ways, her life embodies the radical freedom that her poetry celebrates.

The translations are lucid, lyrical, and emotionally alive. Peero's voice emerges as fearless and deeply human-sensuous yet spiritual, rebellious yet compassionate. Her poetry rejects rigid boundaries between sacred and profane, Hindu and Muslim, asceticism and worldly pleasure. Instead, she imagines spirituality as a space of inclusion, ecstasy, and liberation. Particularly striking is her celebration of marginalized figures and her refusal to submit to the authority of the "Pandit and the Qazi."

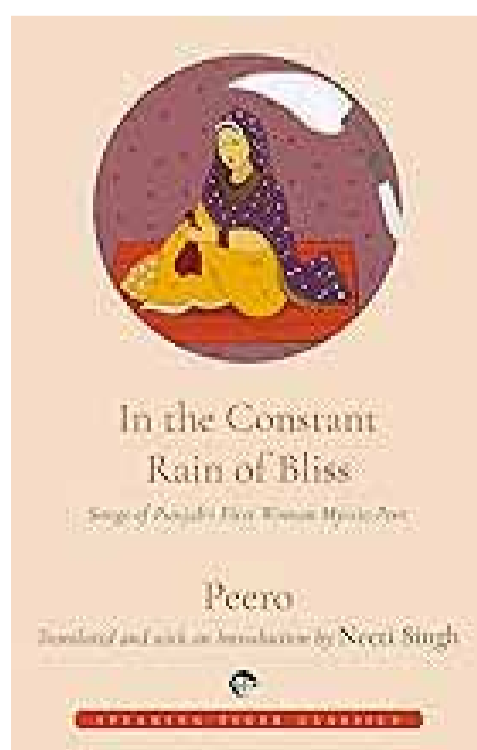
Neeti Singh's scholarship provides valuable historical and literary context without

overwhelming the reader. Her deep engagement with Bhakti literature and music enriches the translations and helps modern readers appreciate Peero's unique place within the Nirguna Bhakti tradition.

This book is important not only for students of literature and religion but for anyone interested in women's voices, resistance, and the hidden histories of South Asia. It reminds us how many extraordinary women have been erased from mainstream literary memory.

Rich, provocative, and deeply moving, Peero is both a rediscovery and a celebration of a mystic whose voice still feels astonishingly modern.

**In the Constant Rain of Bliss  
Neeti Singh  
Speaking Tiger  
New Delhi**



## Calmness Indicates A Strong Mind

Dr. Tapan Kumar Pal

Still waters run deep, and the great universal forces are inaudible. Where calmness is, there is the greatest power. Calmness is the sure indication of a strong, well-trained, patiently disciplined mind. The calm man knows his business, be sure of it. His words are few, but they tell. His schemes are well planned, and they work true, like a well-balanced machine.... As he is prepared for all events, so he is ready for all men...he commands by an inherent force which calmness has rendered habitual and unconscious. Calmness, as distinguished from the dead placidity of languor, is the acme of concentrated energy. There is a focused mentality behind it. In agitation and excitement, the mentality is dispersed.

This simple realization is what gives the saints and mystics such a calm approach to life. They realize that our true self is the soul, a citizen of the higher regions. The soul is a mere traveler in this physical world. It wears a physical body and is given a physical mind. While here, we are witness to the passing illusion and maya of this world. It is like going to the theater except we are part of the play.

Sometimes we are given a happy part to play and sometimes we play a sad role. The events laid out for us are due to our past karma. Some events of the play are scripted for us, but as actors and actresses we also have some free will to improvise and play the part the way we want. However, at the end of the play, the curtain closes and we return back to our true Home.

As the play progresses, there will be ups and downs in our role. We will have happy events and sad events. The key is to realize that each of them is like clouds that too will pass. Although no one likes the sad parts, they will also pass. As we pass through our day, instead of being battered about by happy moods and sad moods as the play of our life unfolds, we can remain calm. We can avoid the ups and downs of life by realizing they will all pass. We should instead keep our attention on God and spend time daily in meditation. In this way we can remain in a calm state. Then, like the seeker, we too can experience joy and laughter because we know that whatever happens is but a passing dark cloud that will blow away to leave the skies clear again.

**State Bank of India, Staff Colony,  
Daula Sahi, Tulasipur, Cuttack,**

# PM Modi Highlights Rich Legacy And Progress Of Sikkim

New Delhi, 24/5: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday shared an article authored by Union Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia as Sikkim enters its 51st year of statehood. The Prime Minister noted that the article highlights Khangchendzonga, lauding it as the protector of the land, memory, and consciousness of Sikkim. "He highlights that the five treasures of Khangchendzonga continue to illuminate the state's journey, paving the way for Viksit Sikkim 2047," PM Modi wrote on X. The minister writes that Khangchendzonga, the "mountain massif", stands out in our imagination as distant Himalayan peaks wrapped in Lungta prayer flags, clouds and snow. Nearly one-fourth of Sikkim's land is embraced by the Khangchendzonga National Park.

For centuries, Khangchendzonga has lived in the folklore of the indigenous communities as a sacred civilisational force — the protector of land, memory and consciousness of Sikkim itself. The great Lama Lhatsun Chempo interpreted this belief with poetic brilliance, calling the five summits as the Five Treasures of the Eternal Snow, "the peak most conspicuously gilded by the rising sun is the treasury of gold, the peak that remains in cold grey shade is the storehouse for silver, and other peaks are vaults for gems, grains and the holy books." The minister states that during his recent visit for Sikkim's 51st Statehood Day celebrations, this lore revealed itself with renewed contemporary relevance. The first treasure is gold, and nowhere is Sikkim richer than in its people. Development acquires permanence only when it grows



from the confidence of communities, and Sikkim offers compelling evidence of that truth in the unity and social harmony of the Lepcha, Bhotia and Nepali communities, Scindia observed. He underscored that the second treasure, silver, manifests itself through Sikkim's elemental beauty and biodiversity. The

Teesta and Rangeet rivers revealed themselves between the dense forests and clouds, while unbloomed cherry trees stood amongst the slopes of tea gardens, awaiting the onset of winter. The third treasure is gems, and in Sikkim, these gems are cultural, spiritual and civilisational. They appear in various monasteries, in

the grand Buddha Park at Ravangla, in the Bhaleydhunga skywalk overlooking the valley and in the sacred geography blessed by Guru Padmasambhava himself. Sikkim continues to preserve a sense of spirituality that feels increasingly precious and pristine in today's restless world. This spiritual inheritance now coexists with modern aspirations, the minister states. He also highlights that the fourth treasure, grains, carries the story of sustenance. Sikkim's journey as a 100 per cent organic state is among the most important developmental achievements in contemporary India. The state's success in organic farming, cardamom cultivation and sustainable agriculture demonstrates how mountain ecosystems can sustain prosperous

local economies. The fifth treasure, the holy books, is Sikkim's intelligence. It lives in education, where the new educational institutions and the permanent campus of Sikkim State University in Namchi reflect a future that respects tradition while opening doors to knowledge, skill and innovation. The future of Viksit Bharat shall depend substantially upon how effectively such institutions nurture talent across the frontier regions of the country. PM Modi's visit made this clear, as he spoke of education, connectivity, health care, urban development and tourism as the pillars of Sikkim's next phase. The old and the new meet here with unusual grace, and the result is a development model rooted in heritage, the minister added.

## Next AI Chapter In India To Be Spoken In Languages Of Its People: Arundhati Bhattacharya

Mumbai, 24/5: In a bid to enable Indian organisations deliver more natural, multilingual, and inclusive AI-powered customer experiences at scale, global major Salesforce on Tuesday announced the launch of Agentforce Voice in Hindi. Arundhati Bhattacharya, President and CEO, Salesforce South Asia, said the next chapter of AI in India will not be written in code alone; it will be spoken in the languages of its people. The capability is designed to support natural Hindi and Hinglish conversations, helping businesses engage users more intuitively while extending AI adoption deeper into tier 2 and 3 markets, the company said during the 'Agentforce World Tour Mumbai 2026' event. Built on the trusted Agentforce platform, the solution combines conversational AI, enterprise data, and workflows with deterministic guardrails and controls to help ensure secure, consistent, and policy-aligned customer interactions.

## Falta Repoll: BJP Candidate Wins By A Margin Of 1,09,021 Votes, CPM Finishes Second

Kolkata, 24/5: Results for the Falta Assembly repoll in West Bengal have been declared at the end of all the rounds of counting on Sunday, with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate Debangshu Panda being declared elected by a landslide margin of 1,09,021 votes. While Panda secured a total of 1,49,666 votes, CPI(M) candidate Sambhunath Kurmi came in the second position, securing a total of 40,645 votes. Congress candidate Abdur Razzak came in the third position, receiving 10,084 votes. Trinamool Congress candidate Jahangir Khan ended fourth in the tally, securing 7,783 votes. The deposits of both Congress and Trinamool Congress candidates have been forfeited. The results of the Falta repoll are unique from two angles. This is for the first time in any election in history since the Trinamool Congress' foundation in January 1988, that any party candidate has finished the race in the fourth position. Secondly, this is the first time since 2011, which marked the end of the 34-year Left Front regime and the beginning of the Trinamool Congress' 15-year regime, that any party candidate has had his or her deposit



forfeited. The repoll at Falta was conducted on May 21. With the victory of Panda in Falta, BJP's total tally in the 294 West Bengal Assembly constituencies now stands at 208, followed by Trinamool Congress at 80, Congress and Aam Janata Unnayan Party (AJUP) at two each and CPI(M) and All India Secular Front (AISF) at one each. The trend on Sunday is a complete study in contrast to the results in Falta, both in the 2021 West Bengal Assembly polls as well as in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. In the 2021 West Bengal Assembly elections, the Trinamool Congress' Shankar Kumar Nashkar was elected by a margin of 41,000 votes from Falta,

which is one of the seven Assembly constituencies under the Diamond Harbour Lok Sabha constituency. Abhishek Banerjee, Trinamool Congress general secretary and Mamata Banerjee's nephew, has represented the Diamond Harbour seat three times. In the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, the Falta Assembly constituency gave Banerjee a lead margin of around 1,20,000 votes, which opposition parties described as a mockery of the polling process. Polling for the Falta Assembly constituency was conducted on April 29 in the second phase of the recently concluded two-phase Assembly polls in the state.

## Law & Order Completely Collapsed': Swati Maliwal Slams Punjab Govt

New Delhi, 24/5: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Rajya Sabha MP and former Delhi Commission for Women chief Swati Maliwal on Sunday launched a sharp attack on the Punjab government over the law and order situation in the state, alleging that the administration has completely failed to control rising crime. In a post on X, Maliwal claimed that law and order in Punjab had "completely collapsed" and accused the state government of failing to maintain control over prisons while crime continued to escalate on the streets. "On one hand, this is the condition of Punjab's jails. Prisoners are creating chaos, vandalising property, and setting things on fire. They all appear to have mobile phones in their hands as well. In Punjab's jails, inmates are being given VIP treatment," she wrote. Referring to the recent killing of a police officer in Amritsar, she said: "On the other hand, in Amritsar, a Punjab Police ASI on duty was murdered in broad daylight." Earlier in the day, a Punjab Police Assistant Sub-Inspector was shot dead in Amritsar district's Majithia as



unidentified bike-borne assailants opened fire at him while he was on his way to duty. The attackers reportedly fled the spot after raining bullets on ASI Joga Singh. Maliwal further alleged that crime in Punjab was steadily rising and prisoners were operating beyond the control of authorities. "Crime is continuing to rise in Punjab, prisoners are beyond control, and the Punjab Chief Minister has abandoned his responsibilities and accepted subservience to Arvind Kejriwal.

It is shameful," she said in the post. The remarks come amid a fresh political row over the law-and-order situation in Punjab, with opposition leaders targeting the Aam Aadmi Party government over allegations of deteriorating security and prison administration. Punjab has witnessed repeated political sparring over law and order in recent months, with opposition parties raising concerns over incidents of violence and the functioning of correctional facilities in the state.

## NCW Takes Cognisance Of Pune's Acid Attack, Domestic Cruelty Case

New Delhi, 24/5: The National Commission for Women (NCW) on Saturday took suo motu cognisance of "deeply disturbing" media reports regarding an alleged acid attack and extreme domestic cruelty against a woman in Pune. The case involves a man who allegedly poured floor-cleaning acid on his wife's private parts over suspicion of an extramarital affair, confined her inside the house for several days, and denied her medical treatment, according to the Commission. NCW Chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar wrote to the Director General of Police, Maharashtra, "directing immediate, stringent, and time-bound action in the matter". The Commission has also sought a detailed Action Taken Report (ATR) within seven days. The Commission has sought the ATR on the FIR registered in the matter, provisions invoked under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), status of investigation, arrest, and custodial interrogation of the accused, medical treatment and forensic examination of the survivor, and recovery of the chemical substance used in the crime. The NCW also sought details regarding measures taken to ensure the safety, protection, and rehabilitation of the survivor and her children, and directed that the investigation be conducted with "utmost sensitivity and urgency". "The National Commission for Women has strongly condemned the incident and stated that crimes involving acid attacks, domestic torture, and violence against women are heinous in nature and must invite the strictest action under law," the Commission added. This incident took place in the Uruli Kanchan region of Pune, where a man is accused of pouring acid on his 24-year-old wife's intimate areas and keeping her locked in the home for almost 15 days. The incident occurred on April 20 when the suspect came home intoxicated and confronted his wife about an alleged affair. The dispute escalated into violence, with the husband reportedly abusing and attacking her. The accused was also frustrated about having daughters instead of a son. During their altercation, he is said to have taken a bottle of acid and assaulted the woman, causing her extreme pain.

## India Issues Ebola Travel Advisory After WHO Declares Global Health Emergency

NEW DELHI, 24/5: The Indian government has issued a fresh travel advisory asking citizens to avoid non-essential travel to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda and South Sudan following a growing Ebola outbreak in Central and East Africa. The advisory comes after the World Health Organization officially classified the outbreak as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). According to the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Indian citizens should avoid all non-essential travel to affected countries until further notice. The ministry stated that Indian nationals currently residing in these countries should strictly follow local public health guidelines and maintain heightened safety precautions. The move follows WHO recommendations aimed at controlling the international spread of the virus. The WHO announced on May 17 that the Ebola outbreak linked to the Bundibugyo strain had become a global public health concern under International Health Regulations. The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention also declared the outbreak a Public Health Emergency of Continental Security. Health authorities have urged countries to strengthen surveillance at airports and border checkpoints to detect travellers showing symptoms such as unexplained fever.

## CBSE Issues Notice on Class XII Post-Result Fee Discrepancies

NEW DELHI, 24/5: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) released an official notice on May 24, 2026, addressing technical issues that occurred during the Class XII post-result process. The board confirmed that incorrect fee deductions took place on May 21-22 while students were applying for scanned copies of their evaluated answer books. CBSE stated that in some cases, excess payments were deducted, while in others, lesser amounts were charged. The board assured that all excess payments will be refunded directly to the same payment method used by candidates. For cases involving lesser payments, students will receive separate communication regarding the balance amount. The notice, signed by Controller of Examinations Dr Sanyam Bhardwaj, clarified that scanned copies of evaluated answer books will be provided automatically to all affected candidates. Students will not need to submit fresh requests for the same.



## Cockroach Janata Party Founder Gets Police Protection as Viral Political Movement Sparks Nationwide Debate

New Delhi, 24/5: Police security has been deployed outside the parental home of Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke in Maharashtra's Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar after the online satire movement exploded across social media platforms. According to officials, the protection was provided to prevent overcrowding and maintain law and order as the issue continues to trend online. Deputy Commissioner of Police Pankaj Atulkar confirmed that round-the-clock police protection had been arranged outside Dipke's residence in the MIDC Waluj area. "This is to ensure there is no crowding at his place since the CJP issue is trending on social media right now," Atulkar said. Police clarified that no formal complaint had been registered in connection with the matter. The Cockroach Janata Party began as an online satire movement and quickly transformed into one of India's most talked-about digital campaigns. The movement reportedly gained more than 20 million Instagram followers within days, attracting nationwide attention for its sharp criticism of the political establishment and governance issues. The group has not yet been formally registered as a political party. Abhijeet Dipke claimed that several official



social media accounts and the movement's website were either removed or compromised amid the controversy. He also alleged receiving threatening messages and videos. "I even received a video in which a man is saying that he has reached outside my home," Dipke reportedly said. Dipke currently studies in Boston, United States, while his parents remain in Maharashtra. Dipke's parents said they were worried about the sudden attention surrounding their son and his online movement. His father, Bhagwan Dipke, admitted that the family had been under stress since the controversy erupted. "I have not slept for the past two nights worrying about what might happen to him," he said in an

interview with a Marathi news channel. His mother, Anita Dipke, also urged her son to stay away from politics and focus on his career. According to Dipke, the idea behind the Cockroach Janata Party emerged after remarks allegedly linked to Chief Justice of India Surya Kant during a court proceeding. The controversy began after reports claimed the CJI used terms such as "cockroaches" and "parasites" while criticising certain individuals entering the legal profession through fake credentials. However, the CJI later clarified that the remarks were misinterpreted and were not directed at unemployed youth. The viral rise of the Cockroach Janata Party has triggered sharp political reactions online. Several ruling

party leaders questioned the movement's intentions and alleged foreign influence behind its rapid growth. Dipke, however, denied those allegations and shared social media analytics to defend the authenticity of the movement's audience base. The controversy has now evolved into a larger debate around political satire, online activism, freedom of expression, and digital influence in India. The Cockroach Janata Party story has gained massive traction because it combines politics, youth activism, satire, and social media influence. With millions following the movement online and political reactions intensifying, the issue continues to dominate conversations across platforms.

## Confirmed Ebola Cases In Uganda Rise To Five

Kampala, 24/5: Uganda on Saturday confirmed three more new Ebola cases, raising the total number of infections in the country to five. The country's Ministry of Health updated that a Ugandan driver who transported the first confirmed case, a Ugandan health worker who got exposed while taking care of the first confirmed case, and a Congolese woman from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) who entered Uganda with symptoms are the new confirmed cases. The ministry noted that all three patients are now receiving treatment. It also added that all contacts linked to the confirmed cases have been identified and are being monitored closely by response teams. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organisation (WHO), on Saturday acknowledged Uganda's Ministry of Health for their efforts to detect, monitor and care for people suspected of and confirmed to have contracted the Ebola virus. "At this critical moment in the outbreak response, it is vital that authorities maintain high



vigilance to control the expansion of the virus," the WHO chief noted. "WHO is working side by side with Africa CDC and partners in the DRC and Uganda, to contain the outbreak, support affected people, and bolster a coordinated response," he added. The public health risk from the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo has been upgraded from high to very high, the WHO said

on Friday. "We are revising our risk assessment of Ebola to very high at the national level, high at the regional level, and low at global level," Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a press conference. Meanwhile, the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) called for enhanced solidarity to rapidly contain the latest Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the

Congo (DRC) and Uganda. United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Tom Fletcher, said on Friday that he is allocating up to \$60 million from the world body's Central Emergency Response Fund to accelerate the response to the Ebola outbreak in Congo and the wider region.

## Islamic State Issues AI Precaution Manual To Avoid Security Surveillance

New Delhi, 24/5: The Islamic State, in recent years, has proven to be one of the leading terror outfits when it comes to the use of technology. When it commenced operations in Syria and Iraq in late 2013, the focus was heavy on creating fear. For this, it had set up Hollywood-style studios where it shot beheading videos. While some of them were real, many were fake, and these videos were shot and circulated to create a perception of how lethal the outfit is. This worked well for the outfit, and many even ended up joining the group. Later, the Islamic State relied heavily on propaganda and radicalisation through its encrypted communication channels. It even has magazines today and sends out regular newsletters to its subscribers. The advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has also been a boon for the Islamic State. It has used the technology extensively to generate content in the form of videos. The videos are currently available in many languages thanks to the technology available. While the



Islamic State has used such technology to further its agenda, it has now been advising its followers to also use AI carefully. The outfit has realised that using technology extensively also has its drawbacks. Currently, it is engaged in lessons on how to use the technology and not end up getting tracked by the security agencies. Indian intelligence officials say that the Islamic State uses its Voice of Khorasan to send out messages to its followers. For

the last couple of months, the message has been largely around how to avoid getting tracked by the security agencies. There are lessons on how AI can be used for anonymous private research. In an article published in the Voice of Khorasan, it says that chatbots should not be used to share sensitive information, as this could be used by the agencies to track them. The Islamic State suggests that its followers should use tools such as Brave Leo to

share sensitive information, and this protects privacy. "AI is like fire and can be used to light a home and also burn it down." The emphasis is largely on being a responsible fighter and the need to take precautions while operating. The Islamic State advises that its mujahideen should be aware of all the available technology. The article says that AI can end up learning too much about you, and all measures should be taken to be cyber-conscious. While advising the mujahideen to learn technology, it also urges them to prepare their children from a very young age for the use of technology. An Intelligence Bureau official says that the advice comes in the wake of security agencies closing in on Islamic State operations across the world, where the use of technology is concerned. The outfit realises that many of its operatives are being careless while using technology, and hence, such frequent tutorials are being imparted, the official said.

## Ivanka Trump Targetted By Terrorist Trained By IRGC: Report

Washington, 24/5: Ivanka Trump, daughter of US President Donald Trump, was allegedly targetted by a terrorist trained by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), determined to avenge the killing of General Qasem Soleimani, eliminated by the United States in a raid in Baghdad in January 2020. The New York Post reported that the 32-year-old Iraqi Mohammad Baqer Saad Dawood Al-Saadi allegedly "swore" to kill Ivanka and managed to obtain a floor plan of her Florida residence. According to sources cited by the newspaper, Al-Saadi reportedly said that "killing Ivanka would mean burning Trump's house as he burned ours." The man also allegedly posted a map of the residential area where Ivanka lives with her husband, Jared Kushner, on social media, accompanied by threats in Arabic against the Trump family and the American secret services. Adnkronos news agency reported. Al-Saadi, considered close to the Shiite militias Kata'ib Hezbollah and the IRGC, was arrested in Turkey on May 15 and



extradited to the United States. The US Department of Justice accuses him of coordinating or planning at least 18 attacks and attempted attacks in Europe and North America against US and Jewish targets. Among the contested incidents, the Post cites the throwing of Molotov cocktails at the Bank of New York Mellon in Amsterdam, the stabbing of two Jewish citizens in London, and a shooting at the US consulate in Toronto. Federal authorities also link him to arson attacks against Jewish places of worship in Belgium and the Netherlands. According to Entifadh Qanbar, a former

military attaché at the Iraqi Embassy in Washington, Al-Saadi reportedly grew up in Baghdad and was subsequently trained in Iran by the IRGC after the death of his father, Iranian General Ahmad Kazemi. Qanbar claims that the suspected terrorist used a purported religious travel agency to travel abroad and establish connections with extremist cells. Al-Saadi was very active on social media, where he posted images of Iranian military symbols and messages of support for Soleimani. He is currently held in solitary confinement at the Metropolitan Detention Centre in Brooklyn.

Washington: 24/5 President Donald Trump swore in Kevin Warsh as Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board and said he would restore confidence in the US' Central bank. Speaking at the White House East Room ceremony on Friday, Trump called Warsh "one of the truly great chairmen of the Federal Reserve that we've ever had." "He's respected by everybody, and that's so important in that position," the US President said. Warsh took the oath of office from Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas before an audience that included House Speaker Mike Johnson, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick and former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. Trump said he wanted Warsh to operate independently. "I want Kevin to be totally independent," he added. "Don't look at me, don't look at anybody, just do your own thing and do a great job." The US President criticised the Federal Reserve's recent direction. He said the institution had become distracted by "climate policy and Diversity,

## BRICS Delhi Meeting Kept Core Agenda Intact Amid Ongoing Tensions: Report

Moscow, 24/5: The recent BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi held under India's 2026 chairship showed that the bloc has navigated the intense geopolitical turbulence, successfully insulating its core agenda from the escalating tensions of the Gulf War. According to a report in the think tank Politeia Research Foundation (PRF), although the forum has weathered the crisis, the real challenges lie ahead, making "quiet and smart diplomacy" essential for the Delhi summit's success. Following the meeting held on May 14-15, the members agreed not to issue a joint statement, opting instead for a 'Chair's Statement and Outcome Document'. According to India's Sherpa for BRICS and Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, Sudhakar Dalela, the document reflected the "common position" of members on almost all subjects. "A close reading of the long document, which runs to 63 paragraphs, shows that despite persistent differences over the Gulf War, the central BRICS agenda has advanced, with progress in strengthening the forum and its essential goals. Hence, some observers who rushed to announce the demise or downfall of BRICS may have got



it wrong," the report noted. The BRICS meeting, it said, was widely anticipated to witness a direct confrontation, with delegates from Iran and the UAE accusing each other over the outbreak of armed hostilities and the continuing war involving Israel and the US. As the BRICS chair, External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar acknowledged without hesitation, "There were differing views among some members regarding the situation in West Asia/the Middle East". The report highlighted that most participants called for an early resolution of the current conflict through dialogue and diplomacy while stressing respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity. At the same time, there was also broad agreement on ensuring safe

maritime trade routes and protecting civilian infrastructure and lives — reflecting convergence alongside differences. "Beyond the Middle East, BRICS foreign ministers had before them a rich menu of ideas and proposals to address, keeping in mind that their meeting was a bridge between the successful summit held in July 2025 in Rio de Janeiro and the forthcoming summit in Delhi, which is likely to take place in September this year," the report stated. Highlighting the successful outcome of the meeting, the report said that document mirrored almost all of India's key priorities, including "stronger formulations on UN Security Council reform, disaster management, food security, Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), and terrorism."

## China Coal Mine Accident Leaves 82 Dead, Nine Trapped

Taiyuan, 24/5: The coal mine accident in north China's Shanxi Province has left 82 dead, with nine others still trapped, according to Xinhua reporters at the site. The gas explosion occurred on Friday at the Liushenyu coal mine in Qinyuan County, with rescue operations currently underway. China has dispatched six national mine emergency rescue teams, totaling 345 personnel with equipment, to assist in rescue efforts following a coal mine gas explosion in Qinyuan County, north China's Shanxi Province, the Ministry of Emergency Management said on Saturday. A person responsible for the company involved in a coal mine gas explosion in north China's Shanxi Province has been placed under control in accordance with the law, Xinhua



news agency reported quoting the rescue headquarters. Following the incident, Chinese President Xi Jinping urged authorities to make every possible effort to rescue survivors and ensure proper treatment for the injured. The President also asked the

government to investigate the cause of the accident and hold those responsible to account. Hundreds of rescuers have been sent to the site. Footage from state media showed paramedics carrying stretchers at the site, with ambulances in the background.

## Kevin Warsh Sworn-In As Federal Reserve Chair, Trump Wants Him To Be 'Independent'



Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives" instead of focusing on inflation and employment. Trump also praised Warsh for supporting reforms at the central bank. "He'll bring much needed reform and modernisation," Trump said, referring to data collection, economic modelling and the Fed's communication practices. Warsh said the Federal Reserve must remain focused on price stability and maximum employment. "Our mandate at the Fed is to promote price stability and maximum

employment," he added. "When we pursue those aims with wisdom and clarity, independence and resolve, inflation can be lower, growth stronger, real take-home pay higher, and America can be more prosperous." He pledged to lead what he called a "reform-oriented Federal Reserve". "I will lead a reform-oriented Federal Reserve learning from past successes and mistakes," Warsh said. Trump used the event to promote his administration's economic record. He said the stock

market had hit new highs during trading on Thursday. "Stock market's up 600 points," Trump said. "That means they like you." President Trump also said the United States had attracted "\$18 trillion being invested in the US" during the first 11 months of his administration. He credited tariffs and deregulation for driving manufacturing and technology investment. "We're building factories, car plants, everything, AI, everything all over the country," Trump said.

# Sunger, PHC Undergoes a Significant Transformation

Bhubaneswar, 24/5(DMS): Strengthening healthcare access for remote communities in Odisha, Vedanta Aluminium, under the CSR initiative of its Sijimali Bauxite Mines, has strengthened medical service delivery at the existing Sunger Primary Health Centre (PHC) through deployment of skilled medical manpower and essential healthcare support, significantly expanding health coverage in the region. Undertaken in collaboration with the District Health Administration, Rayagada, the initiative addresses persistent healthcare manpower gaps at the Sunger Primary Health Centre (PHC), which caters to nearly 20,000 people across the hilly and tribal catchment area as per Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) norms. Vedanta Aluminium has supported deployment across all 11 staff positions at the PHC, including an MBBS Doctor, AYUSH Doctor, Pharmacist and nursing staff, along with

ambulance support. During the last health camp in the area, community members had specifically demanded the provision of a permanent doctor and nursing staff, and this intervention responds directly to that need. The mortuary van is proposed as part of the broader healthcare strengthening effort and is not yet deployed. The enhanced healthcare support was formally inaugurated on May 22, 2026, marking a key step towards improving access to timely and quality healthcare for communities in the Sijimali region. The strengthened medical services are expected to significantly reduce the need for villagers to travel long distances for basic treatment and emergency care, ensuring quicker medical attention for pregnant women, children, elderly residents, and critically ill patients in remote surrounding villages. The inauguration ceremony was graced by Govinda



Ch Naik, husband of Kuni Kumari Naik, Ex Vice Chairman, Kashipur Block; Sunil Kumar Rai, Kashipur Block Program Manager (National

Health Mission), Damayanti Sahoo, ANM, alongside Gaurav Mani Naik, Head Master, Kantamal, Suryanaraya Singh,

Head Master and local health officials, Samiti Members, Anganwadi Workers, ASHA Workers, SHG members, and

community representatives. The event witnessed participation from approximately 200 attendees, reflecting strong community support for the initiative. Speaking on the occasion, Head Master, Dumerpadar School, Suryanaraya Singh said "The Sunger PHC catchment area had been facing shortages in healthcare manpower, impacting access to medical services for local communities. Vedanta Aluminium's intervention is expected to bridge these critical gaps by strengthening primary healthcare infrastructure, enabling faster medical response, and ensuring better continuity of care for residents across surrounding villages." Vedanta Aluminium has been undertaking several healthcare interventions across Odisha to improve access to quality medical services in remote and underserved regions. Through mobile health units, health awareness campaigns, maternal

and child healthcare programmes, specialist health camps, nutrition initiatives, and infrastructure support to government healthcare institutions, the company continues to strengthen public healthcare systems in districts such as Rayagada, Kalahandi and Jharsuguda. Vedanta Aluminium also caters to communities in Koraput district through Kodingamali mines interventions. The Mobile Health Unit forms an important part of this wider outreach by taking essential healthcare services to people's doorsteps, including basic consultations, screening, primary treatment, referral support and health awareness services for remote villages with limited access to fixed medical facilities. The company's healthcare initiatives have positively impacted thousands of community members by enabling timely diagnosis, preventive care, emergency medical support, and improved healthcare accessibility closer to their homes.

## Nearly 1 In 2 Firms In India Identify AI, Digital, Data Skills As Key Workforce Constraint

New Delhi, 24/5: As artificial intelligence (AI) unfolds an exciting yet uncertain future at the global level, 45 per cent of organisations in India identify AI, digital, and data skills as their single largest workforce constraint, according to a new report. Around 54 per cent of organisations report moderate to low urgency on AI investment in the country. Green and ESG capabilities follow, with 41 per cent reporting a large gap. Only one in 14 organisations qualifies as advanced in ESG talent capability, while 31 per cent remain in the awareness and planning stage, says the 'SHRM India Skill Intelligence Report 2026'. The learning investment picture makes this harder to fix. Nearly 60 per cent of L&D budgets go toward digital self-paced content and classroom instruction. On gig workforce



models, the hesitation is a trust problem, not a regulation problem. About 53 per cent of adoption barriers relate to skill quality and career continuity. Just 13 per cent cite regulatory complexity, said the report. India is at a defining moment in its workforce transformation journey. As organisations accelerate investments in AI, digital transformation, and sustainability, the real differentiator will be their ability to build future-ready skills at scale, said Achal Khanna, CEO, SHRM APAC and MENA. Around the world, leaders are

confronting the same challenge: how to prepare people and organisations for work that is being reshaped in real time. "What stands out in India is the scale of opportunity. With one of the world's youngest workforces and a rapidly evolving digital ecosystem, India is uniquely positioned to set the benchmark for how nations build resilient, future-ready talent," said Johnny C Taylor, Jr., President and CEO, SHRM. The report found that while awareness of the skills challenge is high, organisational capability to act on it at scale remains critically underdeveloped.

## RBI Dividend, Middle East Tensions, Crude Oil Prices To Drive Dalal Street Next Week

Mumbai, 24/5: The Indian stock market is expected to remain volatile next week as investors closely track the impact of the RBI's record dividend transfer to the government, developments surrounding the ongoing US-Iran conflict, and fluctuations in global crude oil prices. Persistent weakness in the rupee, inflation concerns, and global cues are also likely to influence market sentiment. Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended the week with modest gains despite witnessing sharp intraday swings and range-bound trade throughout the sessions. The volatility in the market was driven by mixed global signals, sectoral rotation, weakness in the Indian rupee, and concerns over inflation and interest rates. The



Nifty rose 0.32 per cent during the week to settle at 23,719.30, while the Sensex gained 0.23 per cent to close at 75,415.35. Going into the new week, market participants are expected to focus on the Reserve Bank of India's record surplus transfer to the Centre. The RBI on

Friday announced a dividend payout of Rs 2.87 lakh crore to the government for FY26. Experts believe the large dividend transfer could provide fiscal support to the government and improve liquidity conditions, which may aid market sentiment in the near

term. Geopolitical tensions in West Asia are also likely to remain a key trigger for Dalal Street. US President Donald Trump reportedly said on Saturday that talks between Washington and Tehran were "moving much closer" to a final agreement aimed at ending the conflict. Crude oil prices will also remain in focus next week. Brent crude futures settled at \$103.54 per barrel, rising 96 cents or 0.94 per cent, while US West Texas Intermediate crude futures ended at \$96.60 per barrel, up 25 cents or 0.26 per cent. Experts said that apart from these factors, investors will also keep an eye on foreign institutional investor activity, movement in the rupee, and global economic cues for further direction in the market.

## Piyush Goyal To Visit Canada With 150 Business Leaders To Boost Economic, Trade Ties

New Delhi, 24/5: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal will visit Canada from May 25-27 with a delegation of nearly 150 industry leaders to boost bilateral economic and trade ties, it was announced on Saturday. India and Canada aim to reach \$50 billion in bilateral trade over the next five years. In a news briefing, Goyal said India expects to sign a free trade agreement (FTA) with Canada, covering sectors such as energy and critical minerals. The discussion would also focus on cooperation in technology, food processing, clean energy and critical minerals. According to the minister, Canadian pension funds and companies have invested nearly \$100 billion in India. Nearly 600 Canadian companies operate in India, with both sides aiming to raise that number to 1,000, he informed. Both countries have renewed discussions on a

broader trade deal and maintain strong ties in agriculture, energy, education and technology. Goyal is leading a delegation of Indian business leaders with engagements in Ottawa on May 25 and a two-day programme in Toronto from May 26 to 27. The visit carries forward the mandate given by the Prime Ministers of India and Canada during Prime Minister Mark Carney's visit to India in March 2026, and seeks to impart renewed momentum to bilateral engagement across trade, investment, energy, technology, and people-to-people ties. A central focus of the visit is the advancement of India-Canada Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) negotiations. The Terms of Reference were signed during Prime Minister Carney's visit to India in March 2026. The first round of negotiations was conducted virtually in March to expand

broader trade deal and maintain strong ties in agriculture, energy, education and technology. Goyal is leading a delegation of Indian business leaders with engagements in Ottawa on May 25 and a two-day programme in Toronto from May 26 to 27. The visit carries forward the mandate given by the Prime Ministers of India and Canada during Prime Minister Mark Carney's visit to India in March 2026, and seeks to impart renewed momentum to bilateral engagement across trade, investment, energy, technology, and people-to-people ties. A central focus of the visit is the advancement of India-Canada Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) negotiations. The Terms of Reference were signed during Prime Minister Carney's visit to India in March 2026. The first round of negotiations was conducted virtually in March to expand

## GIFT City Emerging As Key Pillar Of India's Global Financial Architecture: FM Sitharaman

Gandhinagar, 24/5: India's efforts to position itself as a global financial and investment destination received fresh emphasis during a high-level review of Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City), where Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman noted that the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) was helping channel international capital flows into the country through globally benchmarked institutional frameworks, regulatory agility and a supportive social ecosystem. Addressing the review meeting on Friday, Sitharaman said GIFT City had emerged as an important pillar of India's international financial architecture and reflected the country's growing economic confidence and global aspirations. "India, today, offered a unique combination of scale, technology and talent and growth opportunities. The ecosystem being developed at GIFT City was strengthening the country's position in global finance and investment," she said. The



Finance Minister also underlined the need for futuristic policy discussions to result in immediate implementation and measurable changes on the ground. "The progress achieved so far is encouraging, and continued coordination among stakeholders will further strengthen GIFT City's role in India's growth journey towards Viksit Bharat

@2047," she said. The review meeting focused on the development of the International Financial Services Centre ecosystem, institutional capacity building and infrastructure expansion aimed at attracting global financial institutions, investors and skilled professionals. In his post-review address, the Principal Secretary

to the Prime Minister, P.K. Mishra, highlighted the importance of translating the Prime Minister's vision for GIFT-IFSC into concrete outcomes by bringing in skilled professionals and creating world-class infrastructure. He also lauded the work undertaken so far towards developing the financial hub and stressed the

need to continue strengthening the ecosystem to support GIFT City's emergence as a globally competitive international financial centre. At present, GIFT City hosts more than 1,150 entities operating across financial services, technology and allied sectors. Banking assets at GIFT City have crossed USD 110 billion, while capital commitments under fund management activities have exceeded USD 32 billion. The ecosystem includes 37 banking units, 217 fund management entities, 36 insurance companies, 35 aircraft lessors and 36 ship leasing entities, along with international exchanges, fintech firms and international universities. Among those present were Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi, senior officials from the Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, state government, International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), and GIFT City officials.

## SBI Staff Strike Deferred, Banking Services To Continue Uninterrupted

New Delhi, 24/5: State Bank of India (SBI) on Friday announced that the two-day nationwide strike proposed by the All India State Bank of India Staff Federation (AISBISF) for May 25 and 26 has been deferred following discussions between employee representatives and the bank's management, ensuring uninterrupted banking operations across the country. In a customer advisory, the country's largest public sector bank informed customers that all branches and banking services would function normally during the scheduled strike period. "This is to advise our esteemed customers that the proposed strike by the All India State Bank of India Staff Federation (AISBISF) on 25th and 26th May 2026 has been deferred. All our branches will function normally and provide all regular banking services," SBI said in its statement. The strike had been called by the employees' federation over a range of issues, including staff shortages, outsourcing of permanent jobs, pension-related concerns and wage disparities. The union had alleged that several long-pending employee grievances remained unresolved and accused the management of weakening worker protections. AISBISF had submitted a 16-point charter of demands seeking recruitment of messengers and armed guards, filling vacant positions across branches, halting outsourcing of regular jobs and introducing greater flexibility under the National Pension System (NPS). The federation had also demanded inter-circle transfer options for employees recruited after 2019 and a review of the existing career progression framework. The union had expressed concerns over declining workforce strength and increasing workload on employees, while highlighting security risks arising from shortages of armed guards at branches. It had further alleged disparities in wage revisions between officers and workmen despite industry-wide settlement agreements.

## Aishwarya Rai Bachchan brings romantic elegance to Cannes 2026 in baby pink cape gown



Aishwarya Rai Bachchan delivered another memorable fashion moment at the 79th Cannes Film Festival as she attended L'Oreal Paris' annual "Lights On Women's Worth" gala in a romantic blush pink ensemble by Sophie Couture. Appearing on the French Riviera, the Cannes veteran embraced soft glamour in a custom baby pink gown featuring a heart-shaped fitted silk silhouette paired with a flowing chiffon cape and embellished floral detailing. Celebrity stylist Mohit Rai shared glimpses of the appearance on Instagram and captioned it: "GIVING FABULOUS FEMININE @AISHWARYARAIBACHCHAN\_ARB IN @SOPHIECOUTURE". The couture creation featured a strapless corseted bodice crafted with delicate Fortuny pleating and asymmetrical ruching designed to accentuate the waistline. Swarovski-crystal floral applique in shades of rose gold, copper and deep mauve cascaded elegantly from the bodice to the hips, adding texture and dimension to the pastel-toned outfit. The dramatic gown was completed with a heavily draped satin-silk crepe skirt and a sheer floor-length chiffon cape that extended into a soft trailing train, creating a sweeping red-carpet effect. Keeping the styling understated, Mohit Rai avoided a statement necklace to maintain focus on the intricate detailing of the gown. The actor accessorised the look with statement rings and delicate diamond drop earrings, complemented by her signature voluminous side-parted auburn waves. Her beauty look featured a muted rose-pink lip, matte base and classic winged eyeliner that matched the soft pastel palette of the ensemble. The appearance marks Aishwarya Rai Bachchan's 24th year at Cannes, further reinforcing her long-standing association with the global film festival and L'Oreal Paris. The blush pink appearance came shortly after her dramatic "Luminara" look earlier during the festival, designed by Indian couturier Amit Aggarwal. The deep sapphire-blue sculptural gown explored the idea of light in motion through architectural construction and crystal embellishments developed over more than 1,500 hours of handwork. Speaking about the collaboration, Amit Aggarwal said, "Aishwarya has always approached Cannes with a strong sense of individuality and evolution. With Luminara, Mohit and I wanted to create something that felt less like a garment and more like an energy field around her. The piece explores the idea of light as strength, movement, and transformation, while honouring the extraordinary radiance she has carried through decades on the global stage," in a press note.

## Madhuri Dixit, Triptii Dimri's 'Maa Behen' trailer brings chaos, madness, lies, cover-up and more

Mumbai, The trailer for Madhuri Dixit, Triptii Dimri, and Dharna Durgaa-starrer crime-comedy 'Maa Behen' is finally out. "Where lies spiral out of control, suspicions run wild, and the dysfunctional mother-daughter trio must somehow survive their biggest KAAND yet!" the makers tease. The trailer showcases the madness surrounding Rekha (Madhuri Dixit), Jaya (Triptii Dimri), and Sushma (Dharna Durgaa), who are already struggling to survive each other before the worst strikes. After finding a dead body in their house, what follows is a complete rollercoaster of panic, cover-ups, emotional meltdowns, and hilariously questionable decisions. Others in the cast are Ravi Kishan, Geetanjali Kulkarni, Arunoday Singh, and Shardul Bhardwaj.



## SPORTS

### Gurinderveer Singh Breaks National Record in Ranchi: 10.09 Seconds Gold at Federation Cup

NEWDELHI: Gurinderveer Singh stunned the athletics world by winning gold in the 100-meter freestyle race at the Federation Cup 2026 in Ranchi. He finished in 10.09 seconds, setting a new national record and becoming the fastest Indian sprinter in history. Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann congratulated Gurinderveer on social media, calling him "our brave son" and praising his achievement as a proud moment for Punjab and India. Mann highlighted that Gurinderveer broke the national record twice in two days, cementing his place among India's top athletes. The Federation Cup witnessed fierce competition between Gurinderveer and Animesh Kujur. On Friday, Gurinderveer broke Animesh's record with 10.17 seconds in the first heat.



Minutes later, Animesh reclaimed the record with 10.15 seconds. The rivalry set the stage for a dramatic final. On Saturday, Gurinderveer delivered a historic performance, clocking 10.09 seconds. Animesh finished second at 10.20 seconds, while Pranav Pramod secured third place with 10.29 seconds. Gurinderveer's victory not only gave him the gold medal but also qualified him for the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games.

### Sachin Tendulkar Pens Emotional Message for Son Arjun After Long-Awaited IPL 2026 Opportunity

NEWDELHI: Sachin Tendulkar shared a heartfelt message for his son Arjun Tendulkar after the young pacer finally received his opportunity in IPL 2026 with Lucknow Super Giants. Arjun made his debut for LSG during their final league-stage match against Punjab Kings after waiting the entire season for a chance. Although LSG lost the match, Arjun impressed with his composure and picked up an important wicket on debut. Following the match, Sachin posted an emotional message praising his son's patience and resilience throughout the season. According to the post, Sachin said he was proud of how Arjun had stayed positive, continued working hard quietly



and remained prepared despite waiting until the final match of the season for an opportunity. The legendary batter also reminded him to stay grounded and continue enjoying the game. The message quickly gained attention among cricket fans, many of whom appreciated the emotional support from the former India captain. Arjun's IPL journey has largely been about patience. During his time with Mumbai Indians between 2022 and 2025, he featured in only

a handful of matches despite spending multiple seasons with the squad. After moving to LSG for IPL 2026, he once again had to spend most of the season on the bench before finally being included in the playing XI. His opportunity came after LSG had already been eliminated from playoff contention. How Arjun Performed Against Punjab Kings: LSG captain Rishabh Pant introduced Arjun immediately after the powerplay. The left-arm pacer made an encouraging start: He troubled Prabhsimran Singh with a sharp bouncer, conceding only four runs in his opening over. He showed good control under pressure. However, Punjab Kings batters later attacked him aggressively in his second spell.

### South Actress Vishnu Priya files complaint against YouTube channel over defamatory content

South actress Vishnu Priya has lodged a complaint with police alleging that a YouTube channel published false and defamatory content about her personal and professional life, a senior police officer confirmed on Friday. According to Detective Inspector G. Ramesh Naidu of Miyapur Police Station under the Cyberabad Police Commissionerate in Hyderabad, the actress sought action against the channel "Play Like Incognito" for allegedly publishing and circulating misleading and damaging content through a video on the platform. The complaint stated that the video contained "distorted facts, speculative statements, and objectionable commentary" aimed at provoking public outrage and online harassment. The actress claimed that the content was designed to tarnish her reputation, encourage negative opinions, and result in trolling, abusive comments, and



mental distress. "The video has exaggerated allegations, irresponsible commentary, and unverified claims without any factual basis or evidence. Its circulation has seriously affected the petitioner's personal reputation, emotional well-being, and professional standing," the police cited from her complaint. Based on her complaint, the Miyapur police registered a case under Sections 67 and 67(A) of the IT Act, which deal with publishing obscene material in electronic form. Authorities said the investigation will proceed based on the evidence gathered. Vishnu Priya is known for her roles in South Indian films such as Rathri Mazha, Keralotsavam 2009, and Puthumugangal Thevai.

### Bollywood Singer Mika Singh seeks blessings at Puri's Jagannath Temple, pledges devotional bhajans

: Popular Bollywood singer and rapper Mika Singh visited the famed Jagannath Temple in Puri on Friday afternoon to offer prayers to Lord Jagannath. Expressing his joy, Mika said he feels truly blessed to visit Puri for the second consecutive time, attributing this opportunity to the grace of Lord Jagannath. The singer mentioned that he came to Odisha at the invitation of a friend but added that he believes it was ultimately a divine call that brought him back to the sacred temple town. Mika was accompanied by a Sikh religious leader during his visit. Upon arriving at the temple, he participated in rituals at the Singhadwara and then proceeded for darshan of the deities, offering prayers



and seeking blessings from the holy Trinity. Mika further shared his deep devotion toward Lord Jagannath, expressing a desire to sing devotional bhajans dedicated to the deity in the future if he continues to receive divine blessings. His visit attracted the attention of devotees and fans near the temple, adding a touch of celebrity charm to the spiritual atmosphere of the city. "I feel fortunate to receive the divine blessings of Lord Jagannath. Every visit here grants me a beautiful darshan of the Lord. Very soon, I will sing a bhajan dedicated to Him," Mika said.