

Dumani Mail

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IMD forecasts severe heatwave conditions over North India



New Delhi: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a red alert for warm night conditions over Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and Vidarbha till tomorrow. The weather agency has forecast heatwave to severe heat wave conditions over Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan during the next two to three days. Similar conditions are likely to prevail over Chhattisgarh, Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Jharkhand and Uttarakhand till tomorrow. The IMD has also predicted hot and humid weather over Gangetic West Bengal, Konkan, Goa, Saurashtra, Kutch, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal during the next two days. According to the Met Department, thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds are likely to prevail over Bihar, Kerala, Mahe, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Lakshadweep, Madhya Maharashtra, North Interior Karnataka and the North Eastern region tomorrow. Similar weather conditions are expected over the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Coastal Karnataka till tomorrow.

PM Modi set to visit Australia in "near future", says Australian FM Penny Wong

New Delhi: Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong shared on Tuesday that Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Australia in the near future.

She made the remarks while speaking to the press here in the national capital.

Wong said, "My Prime Minister has today announced that Prime Minister Modi will visit Australia in the very near future. We look forward to that visit". She added that she looked forward to meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi later today.

She hailed the ties between the two countries and underlined how they

share a vision of a peaceful, stable and prosperous Indo-Pacific.

"We want to work together for our region and for our people", Wong said.

"We (India-Australia) are comprehensive strategic partners. We have a relationship that is anchored in strategic trust. We have a great deal of strategic alignment. And our economic ties continue to deepen. India is the world's fastest-growing major economy. It's an essential economic partner for Australia. As we seek to diversify supply chains and grow our economy and our productivity, this relationship only grows",



Wong further noted.

Penny Wong participated in the Quad Foreign Ministers Meeting, which took place earlier

today in New Delhi. Along with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi and US

Secretary of State Marco Rubio, the leaders underlined deepening collaborations for a free and open Indo-Pacific. The foreign ministers of

the Quad grouping (India, the United States, Japan and Australia) on Tuesday unveiled a broad set of initiatives focused on critical technologies, energy security, resilient supply chains and humanitarian cooperation during their meeting in New Delhi.

Shortly after the meeting, India, Australia, Japan and the United States on Tuesday unveiled the Quad Critical Minerals Initiative Framework, pledging to mobilise up to USD 20 billion in government and private sector support to strengthen secure and resilient critical minerals supply chains across the Indo-Pacific region.

BJP president Nitin Nabin felicitates MP Debashish Samantaray on joining the party

New Delhi: MP Debashish Samantaray met Bharatiya Janata Party National President Nitin Nabin on Tuesday shortly after joining the party.

During his meeting, he was felicitated by BJP National President Nitin Nabin in the presence of Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Odisha CM Mohan Charan Majhi, Manmohan Samal and other senior leaders as they welcomed Samantaray in the BJP.

Earlier, after joining the BJP a day after resigning from Biju Janata Dal, Debashish Samantaray said that he was inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "programs and personality" and affirmed the commitment to working for Odisha as a BJP member.

"I want to thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Inspired by his programs and personality, I am joining the BJP today. I have a lot of work to do for the BJP in Odisha; I will try to strengthen it," he said.

BJP National Secretary Arun Singh formally welcomed Samantaray in the party during a press conference in the national capital. BJP in charge of Odisha, Vijaypal Singh Tomar and Odisha BJP President, Manmohan Samal, were also present during the welcome.

BJP chief spokesperson Anil Baluni reflected on the political background and experience of Debashish Samantaray, also noting his contributions to the development of Odisha and its culture. He then extended a warm welcome to Samantaray on joining the



party.

"As you know, a prominent leader of the BJD, Debashish Samantaray ji, resigned from the party as well as from his Rajya Sabha membership yesterday and is joining the BJP family today. We warmly welcome Debashish Samantaray ji into the Bharatiya Janata Party family. As you all know, he resigned from the Rajya Sabha yesterday and also from the BJD. Debashish Samantaray ji has been a three-time MLA. He is a leader deeply connected to the grassroots and has worked at a very significant level in Odisha politics. Previously, from 2000 to 2004, he was elected from the Tirtol assembly constituency in Odisha, and from 2009 to 2019, he served twice as a member of the Odisha assembly from the Barabati-Cuttack constituency. He has also been the Chairman of the Odisha Tourism Development Corporation and has significantly contributed to various fields like folk art, culture, and poverty alleviation in Odisha. We are delighted to welcome him into the BJP

today," he said. Earlier today, Biju Janata Dal accused Rajya Sabha MP Debashish Samantaray of prioritising "business interests over the party's expectations" and "turning" to the BJP after he tendered his resignation from the primary membership of the party. Expressing stern disappointment over Samantaray's decision, the BJD reflected on the facilities provided to him by the party, including giving a ticket for a fifth time, appointment as Chairman of OTDC, among other organisational positions. BJD accused the MP of using them and resigning to "pursue his own interests". This comes a day after MP Debashish Samantaray resigned from the primary membership of Biju Janata Dal (BJD). In a resignation letter addressed to BJD president Naveen Patnaik, he expressed gratitude for being nominated to the Rajya Sabha and for the opportunity to serve the people of the undivided Cuttack district and raise issues of Odisha at the national level.

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Delhi: Crime Branch busts illegal adulterated spice manufacturing unit in Khari Baoli; one arrested

New Delhi: Delhi Police's Crime Branch has busted an illegal adulterated spice manufacturing unit operating in the area of Khari Baoli, Old Delhi and arrested one accused involved in the preparation and supply of fake and adulterated spices in the Delhi NCR region.

According to the officials, the accused arrested has been identified as Kamaljeet, aged 31.

A case has been registered under FIR under section 274/275/318(4)/3(5) BNS at Police Station Crime Branch, Delhi.

On May 23, 2026, acting upon specific secret information, a team of AEKC, Crime Branch, comprised of SI Yuzvendra, SI Arvind, SI Praveen, SI Rajbir, ASI Rajiv Kumar, HC Lalit, HC Mohit, HC Ravinder, HC Deepak, HC Nitin and Ct Nishant, under the supervision of Insp.

Amit Solanki and overall supervision of ACP Pankaj Arora conducted a raid at Khari Baoli, Delhi, where an illegal spice grinding/manufacturing unit was found operating.

During inspection, a huge quantity of adulterated spices, artificial colours and raw materials used in the preparation of fake spices were recovered from the premises, as per the officials.

The accused disclosed that he used to prepare fake and adulterated turmeric powder, red chilli powder, yellow chilli powder, coriander powder, amchoor powder and garam masala by mixing low-grade substances, artificial colours, rice fragments, chilli stalks and other adulterants and used to supply the same in Delhi/NCR for wrongful profit.

Officials of the Department of Food &



Safety, GNCTD, also reached the spot during the raid and collected samples of spices for laboratory examination and further legal action under Food Safety laws.

The recoveries from the site included a large quantity of adulterated chilli powder, turmeric powder and yellow chilli powder, along with artificial food colours suspected to be non-edible.

Police also seized rice fragments, chilli stalks, coriander stems and other adulterants, as well as raw materials used for the preparation of fake spices and spice grinding machinery used in the manufacturing process, the officials said.

The total seized material weighed approximately 801.88 KG. The entire seizure proceedings were photographed and videographed through the E-Sakshya App as per legal provisions.

The accused has been arrested in the case, and a two-day Police Custody Remand (PC Remand) has been obtained from the Court for further investigation.

Efforts are being made to identify the supply chain, buyers and other associates involved in the adulterated spice racket operating in Delhi/NCR, the officials further stated.

NIA arrests 15 people in 2 SIR-based road blockades and judges detention case

New Delhi: In a special operation in West Bengal's Malda district, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday arrested 15 protestors in connection with last month's road blockades and illegal detention of judges engaged in a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise of electoral rolls ahead of the Assembly elections in the state. NIA, which had taken over the investigation on the Election Commission of India's

direction after the Supreme Court took suo moto cognisance of the acts, carried out an extensive operation in Malda district yesterday. A total of 15 persons were apprehended for their involvement in the blockade of roads and the illegal detention of judicial officers on duty in two separate cases. In one case, 12 individuals, including the main accused, Joshim Sk and Asmaul Sk, were arrested for detaining a lady judicial officer

for about 8 hours along the road between Haibatola and Amlitola. Three other persons, identified as Alamgir Sk, Nurul Islam and Habibur Rahman, have been arrested in connection with the blockade of Bagmara Bridge in Mothabari block. Investigations to trace the others involved in the incidents are in progress. NIA is trying to unveil the larger conspiracy behind the coordinated blockades and judges' detentions.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh describes 12 years of Modi govt

New Delhi: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh today hailed the completion of 12 years of the Narendra Modi Government, describing it as a transformative phase in India's civilisational and developmental journey.

In a social media post, he said May 26, 2014 marked a decisive shift in the country's governance, vision, leadership and national resolve as Mr Modi took the oath as Prime Minister.

He said that from infrastructure growth and

decisive global leadership to a stronger national security framework, India has progressed with unprecedented speed and scale under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Highlighting Mr Modi's commitment to India's development journey, Mr Singh said his unwavering resolve and selfless devotion towards the nation continue to inspire millions.

He added that the slogan

'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas' has been reflected in governance and policymaking at every level, making India stronger, prouder and more self-confident than ever before.

BJP President Nitin Nabin also said that 26 May marks 12 years of a historic moment in the nation's reclaimed self-confidence and cultural renaissance after Prime Minister Narendra Modi assumed Office on this day in 2014.

In a social media post, Mr Nabin said that this 12-year journey of good governance and nation-first ethos now forms the strongest foundation for the grand resolve of Viksit Bharat 2047.

He added that under the leadership of the Prime Minister, India today stands secure, capable and fully prepared to safeguard its sovereignty, backed by resolute strikes against terrorism and the rising valor of its armed forces.

The BJP president further said that with the foundational mantra of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas and the supreme principle of Antyodaya, Mr Modi has transformed government policies from mere documents into instruments of change.

He also highlighted that the resolve of Vikas Bhi, Virasat Bhi has revitalised the nation's cultural pride alongside modern infrastructure.



Memorandum Submitted to Union Home Minister Seeking Inclusion of OBC Category in Census Questionnaire

Sambalpur-(DMS) : Members of the District OBC Forum's Rengali Block unit on Monday submitted a memorandum to the Union Home Minister through the Rengali Tahsildar, demanding the inclusion of a separate OBC category in the ongoing census questionnaire.

The forum alleged that Question No. 12 of the census questionnaire (Question No. 13 in Odisha) does not specifically provide for the enumeration of Other Backward Classes (OBCs). Similar concerns regarding the absence of an explicit OBC category in the census format have also been raised by OBC organisations and political groups in different parts of the country.

According to the memorandum, the absence of caste-based data on OBC communities would hinder efforts to ensure social justice and formulate effective welfare policies for one of the country's largest social groups. The forum argued that the lack of comprehensive OBC data has affected the community's proportional representation in education, employment and local governance



institutions.

Addressing the gathering, State OBC Forum President Shankar Patra and General Secretary Hiralal Behera said that a democratic government should ensure proper enumeration of OBC communities to facilitate equitable development and representation. They expressed hope that the Centre would consider adding a separate OBC column to the census questionnaire.

The memorandum, addressed to Amit Shah, was submitted through the Rengali Tahsildar and received by Additional Tahsildar Kishore Sahu.

The programme was attended by OBC leaders and activists, including Kiran Behera, Satyanarayan Agrawal, District OBC Forum Convener Saroj Sahu, Kripasindhu Khamari, Naresh Mahana, Jatindra Kumar Pradhan, Sunil Pradhan, Dinesh Mahana, Manoranjan Pradhan and Bhabani Shankar Pradhan, along with representatives of various communities from Rengali Block.

The participants urged the Union Government to ensure comprehensive OBC enumeration in the census process, stating that accurate demographic data is essential for policy planning, welfare measures and social justice.

Navoditya Higher Secondary School Khariar Road Shines in CBSE 12 Exams

NUAPADA/KHARIAR ROAD, May 28 : Newly opened, Navoditya Higher Secondary School Khariar Road in Nuapada District has delivered an outstanding performance in the CBSE Class 12th examinations, showcasing the academic brilliance of its students. In Class 12th Ansh Agrawal led the Commerce stream in Nuapada with an impressive 94.4%, while Ayush Kumar Joshi topped the Science stream in Nuapada block



with 91% and Sameekshya Singh shared the better position in the Arts stream with 90%. The school's pass percentage in CBSE was

92.68% while in CHSE pass percentage was 95.83%. The Chairman Ashik Rahman congratulated Principal, the teaching faculty, students and

parents for this remarkable achievement, crediting the school's consistent commitment to excellence and holistic education.

Meeting Held with Daitapati and Puja Panda Nijogs Regarding Rath Yatra

Puri: The administration has intensified preparations to ensure that the rituals and services of Lord Jagannath during the upcoming Rath Yatra are conducted in a disciplined manner as per the prescribed traditions and guidelines. As part of the arrangements, the Shri Jagannath Administration held separate meetings with the Daitapati Nijog and Puja Panda Nijog to discuss the smooth management of the festival.

The meetings were held on Monday at the conference hall of the Shri Jagannath Temple office



under the chairmanship of Deputy Chief Administrator of the temple and District Collector Divyajyoti Parida. During the discussions, the Nijogs placed their demands, while the administration emphasized maintaining discipline and proper

coordination during the rituals.

According to sources, discussions focused on improving coordination between senior and young servitors to ensure smooth conduct of Rath Yatra rituals. Special emphasis was laid on

the safety of the deities, orderly pahandi procession, and ensuring that only authorized servitors perform the designated rituals and services.

The meeting also stressed maintaining close coordination between the servitors and the administration so that all rituals of the deities can be completed within the scheduled time. The administration is also planning to hold further discussions with other major Nijogs in the coming days regarding Rath Yatra arrangements.

Collector pushes for camping against dengue and malaria

Khordha:- 26/5- Collector Khordha on Tuesday directed the official's to ensure the eradication of Dengue and Malaria campaign evolves into a mass movement with active participation of students and gaon kalyan samiti in identifying and eliminating mosquito breeding sites such as stagnant water in coolers, flower's pots and overhead. Chairing the district level task force meeting along with CDM & PHO, Khordha, Dr. Sanjaya Chandra Ray, stressed the need for a coordinated and unified response to tackle vector borne, water borne disease across the district. Collector,

Amrit Raturaj emphasized that the battle against disease like dengue, malaria required a 'One Health' approach integrating human animal and environmental health strategies. He highlighted that the diagnostic infrastructure now offering free ELISA testing for dengue at 47 Sentinel surveillance hospital of district headquarter hospital, Khordha and capital hospital Bhubaneswar. While reviewing the district health department contributions, Collector, Mr. Raturaj lauded the health department for its consistent efforts as of 25.5.2026 blood samples of 8290 patients have been tested, while 5 dengue

patients have been identified so far. The number of dengue patients in the district has reduced by 70% in 2025 compared to 2024. The odisha government dengue control (HOPCI) 1 and 2 models played a special role in this success. He stressed that the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme was now utilising the Integrated Health Information Platform portal for real time reporting of outbreak and called upon the private practitioners immediately report all notifiable diseases to help the district administration take timely remedial actions. The meeting was attended by Additional Director of Health

(VBD) Dr. Subhasish Mohanty, Additional District Public Health Officer (VBD) Dr. Jibanta Kumar Acharya, District Public Health Officer, Dr. Ranjan Mitra, Additional District Public Health Officer (Family Planning) Dr. Pradeep Kumar Sahu, DPM(NHM) Subhankanta Gantayat, DSWO, Kusumu Kumari Praharaj, DWO, Dr. Gitanshu Mohan Dash, DI & PRO, Laxman Kumar Behera and other district level officers were present. District Vector-Borne Disease Advisor Asit Kumar Dash presented the details information on dengue and malaria symptoms and their diagnosis through power point.

OSL awarded as best Stevedores FY 2025-26 at Paradip

Paradip, (DMC) : Orissa Stevedores Limited (OSL) continues its remarkable legacy of excellence by once again securing the distinction of being the best Stevedores for handling the highest volume of cargo during the financial year of 2025-26 at Paradip Port one of the prime Major Port of India. The award was presented to OSL Paradip at the Annual Stakeholders Meet and Awards Nite 2026 held on 20th May 2026 at Mayfair Bay Resort in Paradip by P. L. Haranadh, Chairman, Paradip Port Authority (PPA). After achieving the success, OSL founder Mahimananda Mishra and Director Charchit Mishra thanked PPA and every member of team OSL for making this achievements possible year after year.



Gundicha Temple Set for Makeover Ahead of Rath Yatra, Says SJTA Chief

Puri: Ahead of the annual Rath Yatra festival, the administration has intensified preparations at Gundicha Temple, with officials promising an improved experience for devotees visiting the shrine during the festivities. Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) Chief Administrator Aravind Padhee on Tuesday visited the temple premises to review the ongoing works and assess the readiness of the site before



the festival. Senior officials of the temple administration were also present during the

inspection. According to Padhee, efforts are being made to give the Gundicha Temple a "new look" before

Rath Yatra so that devotees can have a better experience during their visit. He further said that the administration is also exploring the possibility of opening the temple to the general public after the Niladri Bijje ritual. The Rath Yatra, one of Odisha's biggest religious festivals, draws lakhs of devotees to Puri every year, with the Gundicha Temple serving as the destination of Lord Jagannath's annual chariot procession.

Major Crackdown on Illegal Liquor Manufacturing Network Along Odisha-Chhattisgarh Border*

Jharsuguda, 26th May, 2026: The District Police conducted a major special operation against illegal country liquor manufacturing and smuggling activities in the border areas under Rengali Police Station. Acting on credible intelligence regarding large-scale illicit liquor manufacturing near the Hirakud backwaters and Odisha-Chhattisgarh border, a coordinated pre-dawn raid was launched at Khajuriapada under Baddhara village, GP-Badimal, PS-Rengali, Dist.-Jharsuguda.

The operation was conducted under the direct supervision of SP Jharsuguda Shri G R Raghavendra. The raiding team comprised Addl. SP IUCAW, Addl. SP (HQ), DSP IUCAW, IIC Lakhapur PS, OIC Rengali PS, other police officers and staff, along with 03 platoons of police force including women police personnel. The raid was conducted in presence



of the Executive Magistrate-cum-Addl. Tehsildar, Lakhapur. During the operation, simultaneous house searches and combing activities were conducted in the interior areas adjoining the Hirakud reservoir to prevent escape of suspects through difficult terrain and water routes.

Police unearthed multiple illegal distillation units allegedly engaged in manufacturing illicit country liquor using fermented mahua material. Around 17 illegal brewing chulhas used for distillation were demolished and destroyed on the spot. **Total Seizure & Action Taken:**

* ID Liquor Seized - Approximately 870 litres
* Mahua Pocha/Pouch Seized - More than 30 quintals
* Mahua Material Destroyed - More than 20 quintals
* Vehicles Seized - One four-wheeler and four two-wheelers

* Utensils, furnaces and other incriminating materials used in liquor manufacturing seized Preliminary investigation indicates involvement of an organised illegal liquor manufacturing and supply network operating in the interstate border region. Further investigation is underway to identify financiers, transporters and other persons connected with the illicit trade.

Character Antecedent Of The Accused:

1. Kunja Behera (28), S/o- Rupram Behera
2. Prafulla Behera (24), S/o- Jaydev Behera
3. Kartika Behera (66), S/o- Late Sarba Behera,
4. Akshya Kumar Behera (23), S/o- Basanta Behera
5. Bharat Behera (47), S/o- Ratna Behera
6. Sanjay Behera (45), S/o- Khiteswar Behera
7. Rupram Behera (57), S/o- Ratna Behera
8. Bhumisuta Behera (45), W/o- Iswar Behera



GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
KHORDHA IRRIGATION DIVISION, KHORDHA
Dist: Khordha, Odisha - 752056
Tel/Fax: 06755-796308
Mail id: eekhurda Irrigationdivision@gmail.com

'e'-Procurement Notice No. KHD- 03 OF 2026-27, Dtd. 25.05.2026

1. Name of the work : 15 (fifteen) nos. of Civil Work
2. Tender Cost : Varies from Rs 8.96 Lakhs to Rs 44.15 Lakhs
3. Bid Document Cost : Rs 4000/- 6000/-
4. Bid Security : Varies from Rs. 9000/- to Rs 44200/-
5. Class of Contractor : D C & B
6. Period of Completion : 06 (six), 12 (twelve) calendar months
7. Other details are as follows.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding		Date of Opening of Bid
		From	To	
Superintending Engineer, Khordha Irrigation Division, Khordha	KHD 03-01 of 2026-27	28.05.2026 at 11.00 A.M	06.06.2026 up to 5.00 P.M	08.06.2026 at 11.00 A.M.
	to KHD 03-15 of 2026-27			

8. e-mail id eekhurda Irrigationdivision@gmail.com

9. If required lottery may be held on 18.06.2026 at 11.00 AM

Further detail conditions can be seen from the Govt. website www.tendersodisha.gov.in

32001/286/2627

Superintending Engineer
Khordha Irrigation Division,
Khordha.

India–Japan Seminar Marks New Momentum in Workforce Cooperation

Bhubaneswar : A joint seminar was held in Tokyo on 25th May to discuss workforce mobility Co-operation between India and Japan. The seminar was organised jointly by the Embassy of India in Japan and ASEAN ONE Co. Ltd., Japan. Ms. Vandana Gurnani, Secretary, Ministry of Labour & Employment, Government of India, delivered the keynote address.

The seminar brought together Japanese policymakers, industry leaders, academic institutions and workforce mobility stakeholders to discuss long-term cooperation in skilled workforce mobility and human resource development between India and Japan.

The event was attended by several prominent dignitaries from India and Japan, including Members of the House of Representatives of Japan such as Mr. Yamashita, former Minister of Justice; Mr. Ino, State Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry; Mr. Nakamura, State Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology; Mr. Tadashi



Maeda, Chairman, Japan Bank for International Cooperation; Mr. Kengo Otsuka, Deputy Director-General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan; and Ms. Nagma Mohamed Mallick, Ambassador of India to Japan.

In her keynote address, Secretary, Ministry of Labour & Employment, highlighted India's growing role as a trusted global workforce partner. She underlined the Government of India's commitment to building transparent, ethical and scalable international labour mobility pathways. She emphasised that India's demographic strength, robust skilling ecosystem and

institutional reforms position the country as a reliable source of skilled manpower for global economies, including Japan.

She also elaborated on India's large-scale workforce preparation ecosystem, supported by higher education institutions, Industrial Training Institutes, apprenticeship systems, digital skilling platforms and career services. She highlighted India's international labour mobility framework, including the Ministry of External Affairs' eMigrate platform, the National Career Service platform, Model Career Centres, and the broader skilling ecosystem involving

the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, States and educational institutions.

Secretary further stressed the need to strengthen Japanese language readiness, sector-specific skilling, testing infrastructure, skill mapping, occupational alignment, structured demand aggregation, ethical recruitment practices and institutional collaboration between India and Japan.

Special messages were received from the Japanese Prime Minister, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam, Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, and the Director of IIT Guwahati, outlining a

medium- to long-term vision for proactive India–Japan personnel exchange. The growing role of Indian States and higher education institutions in preparing globally skilled workforce aligned to international requirements was also highlighted.

The seminar witnessed participation from around 250 representatives of leading Japanese companies, including senior executives and human resource managers exploring structured engagement with India's skilled workforce ecosystem.

Participants recognised strong potential for India–Japan cooperation across sectors such as manufacturing, caregiving, construction, automobile maintenance, hospitality, agriculture, IT and digital services, and emerging green economy sectors. Discussions also underlined the importance of digital public infrastructure and employment facilitation systems in creating transparent and scalable workforce mobility pathways.

As a way forward, both sides discussed expanding

Japanese language and testing centres in India, strengthening collaboration between Japanese employers and Indian skilling institutions, improving demand visibility from Japan, promoting skill-recognition and occupational alignment, and building trusted workforce mobility pathways through closer institutional cooperation.

The Assam Government's Foreign Language Initiative for Global Talent (FLIGHT) was highlighted as a State-led initiative to prepare candidates for global workforce opportunities, particularly for Japan-oriented pathways.

The event concluded with remarks by Mr. Toshiaki Nishikawa, Chairman & CEO, ASEAN GROUP Co. Ltd., who reiterated the importance of long-term India–Japan people-to-people partnerships. He expressed optimism about future workforce cooperation and conveyed his enthusiasm for realising a Japan–India personnel exchange programme involving 50,000 people over the next 10 years.

Bubunu Sahu brings glory to Keonjhar by topping the OAS exam



Keonjhar: Bubunu Sahu, from Tolankpada village of the Anandapur sub-district, has made the name of the entire region bright by topping the Odisha Administrative Service (OAS) exam.

After the news of his success was published, waves of happiness spread in Anandpur sub-district and the entire Keonjhar district.

Coming from a small village, Bubunu has achieved this success through hard work, indomitable willpower and determination. He has now become a symbol of inspiration for the youth of the region. A festive atmosphere has been created among his family, friends and villagers regarding his

success. Various social organizations, intellectuals and residents of the region have congratulated Bubunu Sahu and wished him a bright future.

After completing graduation in Geology from Ravenshaw University he went to Indian School of Mining at Dhanbad for post graduate. After completing post graduate he has joined police department and was under training in police academy for DSP.

He appeared the Odisha civil service exam and became top. In his reaction Bubun said " my sincere effort and blessing of parents, achieved the goal".

His father is a farmer and mother a house wife.

“CLEAR” technology can revolutionize protein imaging & facilitate detection of Cancer and Neurobiological Diseases

New Delhi : A novel imaging platform called Cleavable Light-Erased Antibody Reporter (CLEAR) could help researchers visualize an unprecedented number of proteins within the same biological sample using just a single fluorescent marker.

This could unveil new possibilities for high-resolution, multiplexed imaging across cells and tissues, with important implications for disease diagnosis and biological research.

Proteins are the primary orchestrators of biological function and remain the principal targets for therapeutic intervention, as well as key

markers for disease diagnosis. A comprehensive proteomic map of a tissue sample—capturing the identity and precise spatial organisation of every protein within its native context could help pathologists in diagnosing cancers or understanding complex neurological disorders. However, mapping a large number of proteins within their native spatial context has remained a major challenge. In order to overcome this challenge, researchers at the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), Bengaluru, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) developed the imaging platform

CLEAR that can enable scientists to visualize a large number of proteins within the same biological sample using a single fluorophore. It could make comprehensive protein mapping possible at high resolution with the potential of transforming diagnosis in areas such as cancer biology, immunology, and neurological disorders, where understanding spatial protein organization is critical.

The team led by Prof. Sarit S. Agasti designed and synthesized the CLEAR probes, developed the imaging workflow, and validated the platform across different biological systems. Experimental design, probe

chemistry, and imaging analysis were carried out within the group. Collaborative efforts with researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) helped demonstration of the platform in complex biological settings, particularly in immune cell systems.

They introduced a light-cleavable probe system that enables repeated cycles of labelling and imaging within the same spectral window. Unlike existing multiplexing techniques, CLEAR combines high multiplexing capability with speed, high spatial resolution, and compatibility with delicate biological samples, including live cells.

The scale of impact already reflects the growing relevance of such interventions

New Delhi : Through strong industry linkages, trainees have found opportunities with leading hotels and hospitality chains across India. However, the true impact of Vedanta Aluminium's initiatives is best understood through the many stories of individual resilience and transformation.

Dasabanti Chandan, hailing from Kalahandi, has one such story. Widowed at a young age and raising a child amid severe financial hardship, she faced an uncertain future with limited educational qualifications and

no stable source of income. Through the Vedanta Skill Development Centre in Bhawanipatna, she enrolled in the Guest Service Associate course, where she received training in professional hospitality practices and workplace readiness. Within months, she secured employment at a major electronics firm in Bengaluru, enabling her to achieve financial independence and create a more secure future for her child.

For young people like Laxmi Majhi, skilling has

also become a pathway to overcoming both social and economic barriers. Coming from a farming family in Odisha's Balangir district, Laxmi had to discontinue her education after Class 10 due to financial constraints. With limited prospects available, she enrolled at the Vedanta Skill Development Centre, where she received training in hospitality operations and communication skills. The programme helped her transition into professional employment, opening the door to financial stability and personal confidence.

Vedanta Aluminium's skilling initiatives reflect a broader shift in how community development efforts are evolving in India. By integrating vocational training with industry partnerships and placement opportunities, the Vedanta Skill Development Centres are working towards creating sustainable employability outcomes rather than temporary support systems, contributing to a more confident, skilled and employable workforce for the future.

KVIC Releases Provisional Data for Financial Year 2025-26

Chairman Shri Manoj Kumar highlights Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's guidance in infusing new momentum into rural economy through initiatives like 'Vocal for Local' and 'Local to Global'

New Delhi : Under the leadership and guidance of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Khadi and Village Industries sector has surpassed an extraordinary journey of growth and transformation over the last 12 years. In the financial year 2025-26, the sales of Khadi and Village Industries products reached a historic level of Rs.1,87,105 crore, marking the highest sales figure to date and stands as a powerful testament to rural India's growing entrepreneurship, self-reliance, and economic empowerment. Inspired by national campaigns such as 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', 'Vocal for Local', and 'Local to Global', Khadi presently is no longer merely a traditional product however; it has evolved into a vibrant symbol of the 'New India's' self-reliant, indigenous pride, and rural prosperity. Creating new benchmarks in production, marketing, and employment generation, the Khadi and Village Industries sector has brought new energy and direction into the country's rural economy.

KVIC Releases Provisional Data for Financial Year 2025-26

While releasing the provisional data for the financial year 2025-26 at the

KVIC'S office located at Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat, New Delhi, Shri Manoj Kumar Chairman KVIC stated that the Commission has established new records in the fields of production, sales, and employment generation. He highlighted that, compared to the year 2013-14, a remarkable growth of 501 percent in sales, 380 percent in production, and 56 percent in employment generation has been recorded over the last 12 years. Highlighting the growths of previous years, he noted that in the financial year 2024-25, sales grew by 447 percent and production by 347 percent in comparison to 2013-14; similarly, in the financial year 2023-24, a growth of 400 percent in sales and 315 percent in production was recorded in comparison to 2013-14.

Sales of Khadi and Village Industry Products Surpasses Rs.1.87 Lakh Crore Mark

Chairman Shri Manoj Kumar stated that this remarkable performance by KVIC is not only accelerating the resolution of 'Viksit Bharat@2047' but is also making a significant contribution towards positioning India among the world's leading economy. He recognized this achievement

to the effective guidance of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the inspiration drawn from Mahatma Gandhi, and the hard work of millions of artisans working in the remote rural areas of the country. The KVIC Chairman further informed that while the production of Khadi and Village Industry products remained at Rs.26,109 crore in the financial year 2013-14, it surged nearly fivefold, registering a jump of 380 percent, to reach Rs.1,25,296 crore in the financial year 2025-26. While sales stood at Rs.31,154 crore in the financial year 2013-14, it surged nearly six fold, registering an unprecedented growth of 501 percent which reached Rs.1,87,105 crore in the financial year 2025-26, marking the highest sales figure until now.

Unprecedented Growth in the Production and Sale of Khadi Textiles

Remarkable progress has also been noted in the Khadi textiles sector. Production, which stood at Rs.811 crore in 2013-14, soared to Rs.3,974 crore in the financial year 2025-26, marking an increase of approximately 390 percent. Simultaneously, sales has increased from Rs.1,081 crore to reach

Rs.7,869 crore, reflecting a growth of approximately 628 percent. The positive impact of the Prime Minister's sustained promotion and propagation of Khadi is clearly evident in the sector's growing acceptance and market expansion.

New Records in Production and Sales within the Village Industries Sector

Substantial progress has also been witnessed in the village industries sector. While the production of village industry products was Rs.25,298 crore in 2013-14, it has grown to Rs.1,21,322 crore in the financial year 2025-26, an increase of approximately 380 percent. Similarly, sales has increased from Rs.30,073 crore to Rs.1,79,236 crore, reflecting a growth of approximately 496 percent. The village industries sector has also made a significant contribution to employment generation. While 1.19 crore people were employed in this sector in 2013-14, this figure increased to nearly 1.99 crore in the financial year 2025-26, highlighting the sector's growing role in creating rural livelihoods. Driven by the impact of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's campaigns such as 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Ghar-Ghar

Swadeshi', the demand for village industry products has witnessed a continuous upward trend; consequently, this sector has emerged as a vital pillar for the expansion of rural industries, market consolidation, and employment generation.

KVIC's Historic Achievement in Employment Generation

KVIC has also achieved a remarkable milestone in the realm of employment generation. While cumulative employment in activities related to Khadi and Village Industries stood at 1.30 crore in the year 2013-14, it has augmented to 2.04 crore in the financial year 2025-26, marking a growth of 56 percent, thereby highlighting KVIC's vital role in generating rural livelihoods.

PMEGP Gives New Momentum to Self-Employment and Entrepreneurship

Under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), 66,494 new units were established during the financial year 2025-26 and for these units, a margin money subsidy of Rs.2,457 crore was disbursed against loans amounting to Rs.7,375 crore. Through these units, employment opportunities were provided to 7,31,434

people. Since the start of the scheme, a total of 10,84,679 units have been established, for which a margin money subsidy of Rs.29,623 crore has been disbursed against loans totalling to Rs.80,705 crore. Through this initiative, employment has been provided to approximately 97.95 lakh people till date.

Empowering Artisans through Tool-Kit Distribution under the Gramodyog Vikas Yojana

Under the Gramodyog Vikas Yojana, so far 51,230 electric pottery wheels, 2,46,099 bee-boxes and bee colonies, 2,674 automatic and pedal-operated Agarbatti manufacturing machines, 7,669 footwear manufacturing and repair tool-kits, 836 paper plate and dona making machines, 7,571 tool-kits for AC repair, mobile repair, tailoring, electricians, and plumbers; 5,138 machines for turnwood, waste wood crafts, and wooden toy making and 1,789 machines for palm jaggery, Oil Ghani extraction, and tamarind processing machines have been distributed. During the financial year 2025-26, 37,769 machines, toolkits, and equipment have been distributed under this scheme. A review of the last four years indicated that

21,874 units were distributed in 2022-23, 29,540 in FY 2023-24, 38,904 in FY 2024-25, and 37,769 machines and equipment in FY 2025-26. Thus, under the Gramodyog Vikas Yojana, KVIC has so far distributed a total of 3,23,006 machines, toolkits, and equipment, thereby making a substantial contribution towards the realization of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.

Promoting Women's Empowerment through KVIC's Efforts

KVIC has played a vital role in the sector of women empowerment as well. During the financial year 2025-26, 79,682 trainees received training under various KVIC training programs; notably, 47,382 of these trainees were women, accounting for approximately 59 percent of the total. Furthermore, under the PMEGP scheme, 28,180 women entrepreneurs established business units during 2025-26, thereby generating employment opportunities for 3,09,980 women, a statistic that emphasizes the scheme's significant role in promoting women's entrepreneurship. With women establishing over 80 percent of the approximately 5,00,000 artisans in the Khadi sector, this domain serves as an effective vehicle for women-

led economic empowerment. Up to 275% Increase in Artisans' Remuneration

There has also been a remarkable increase in the remuneration paid to artisans, which has increased from Rs.4 per hank in 2013-14 to the current rate of Rs.15 per hank, marking an increase of approximately 275 percent.

Growth in Government Procurement, Exhibition Sales, and Demand for National Flags

Alongside, government procurement of Khadi and Village Industries products has increased to Rs.92.08 crore, reflecting the sector's growing acceptance and increasing institutional demand. Similarly, sales amounting to Rs.30.83 crore were recorded through exhibitions and marketing initiatives for Khadi products, thereby reinforcing market expansion and consumer engagement. Additionally, there has been a notable increase in the sales of National Flags, rising from Rs.0.87 crore in 2013-14 to Rs.2.35 crore in the financial year 2025-26. This growth emphasizes the impact of mass campaigns such as 'Har Ghar Tiranga' in the country, as well as the increasing public engagement with Khadi.

Illegal Immigration

U PPING the ante against illegal immigration, the BJP government in West Bengal has directed district authorities to set up "holding centres" for apprehended foreigners and released foreign prisoners. The move comes amid an aggressive push against people from neighbouring countries — particularly Bangladesh — who are accused of entering India without valid documents or overstaying, especially in BJP-ruled states. Framed as an administrative measure aligned with Home Ministry guidelines, the Bengal government's step is also unmistakably political. By institutionalising the "detect, delete and deport" mechanism, the Suvendu Adhikari-led dispensation is transforming a poll plank into state policy.

Bengal shares a long and porous border with Bangladesh, and concerns over undocumented migrants have persisted for decades. The state government contends that illegal immigration strains public resources, alters the demographic balance in sensitive districts and raises security concerns. The creation of holding centres appears to be aimed at streamlining deportation and reducing delays. The state's endeavour is also linked to the Centre's Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025, which imposes stricter penalties on offenders.

However, the new policy raises troubling legal and humanitarian questions. The most contentious aspect is the order to hand over suspected illegal migrants directly to the Border Security Force without first producing them before courts. Bypassing legal scrutiny can lead to arbitrary detention and wrongful deportation. There is also the danger of conflating illegal immigration with religious or ethnic identity. While the government insists that communities protected under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act will remain exempt, the rhetoric revolving around "infiltrators" (ghuspaithiye) can deepen social polarisation in a politically charged state. The long-term legitimacy of Bengal's initiative will depend on whether it can balance national security with the constitutional promise of justice and due process.

Jalandar Express

IN just 10.09 seconds, Gurindervir Singh rewrote Indian athletics history. But the story of India's fastest man was not built on a stopwatch alone. It was shaped on dusty village roads, exhausting commutes to training grounds and a father's quiet sacrifices that rarely make headlines. The sprinter from Patial village near Jalandhar has become the first Indian to breach the 10.10-second barrier in the men's 100m race. His feat at the Federation Cup in Ranchi has placed him among the country's finest athletes and revived hopes of a Commonwealth Games medal.

Yet what makes Gurindervir's achievement truly moving is its deeply human core. Reports of his father purchasing a second-hand scooter on EMIs so that his son could attend practice sessions capture the reality of Indian sport beyond cricket's glamour. The sailor-athlete's journey also highlights the role of the Indian Navy, which provided stability and support while he pursued excellence on the track. Many athletes from small towns survive on parental determination and sacrifice. Behind every national record often stands a family that silently gives up comfort, savings and security for a child's ambition. Equally inspiring was Gurindervir's interaction with young girls in Jalandhar before his historic run. His simple message — "Tusi vi ethe takk pahunchna hai" — carried extraordinary emotional force. For children growing up in villages and modest households, seeing someone from their own background shatter a national record expands the boundaries of possibility and self-belief.

Punjab has long produced sporting heroes through grit rather than privilege. From Flying Sikh Milkha Singh to Jalandhar Express Gurindervir, they all prove that talent flourishes when discipline, opportunity and family support come together. His dash is not merely about speed; the record may eventually be broken. It is about aspiration outrunning limitation and inspiring a generation to dream bigger.

Case Study of a Disoriented State

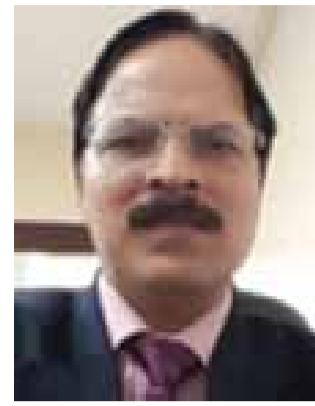
W illiam Dalrymple in his book "The Anarchy" writes about seventeenth century Bengal "The finest and most fruitful country in the world, according to the French traveller François Bernier. It is one of the richest

most populous and best cultivated countries, agreed the Scot Alexander Dow. With its myriad weavers — 25,000 in Dhaka alone and unrivalled luxury textile production of silks and woven muslins of fabulous delicacy, it was by the end of the seventeenth century Europe's single most important supplier of goods in Asia and the wealthiest region of the Mughal empire, the place where fortunes could most easily be made". The fortunes of Bengal rose with that of the East India company and Calcutta became the capital city of British India from 1773 till 1911 when the capital was shifted to Delhi to escape the rising nationalist unrest in Bengal. Bengal was pioneer in English education in India and the schools and colleges set up during British era were top class. This together with the nationalist movement gave rise to top class writers, poets, lawyers, social reformers, scientists and litterateurs among the Bengali elite. Names like Rabindranath Tagore, Chittaranjan Dash, Jagadish Chandra Bose, Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, Sarat Chandra, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar, Raja Rammohun Roy, Arobindo and Swami Vivekananda are well known in

the country.

Fast forward to 1947. At independence and partition, Bengal was the most industrialized region in India, contributing nearly 24% of the nation's GDP and about 27% of the total industrial output of the country. West Bengal's manufacturing sector was dominated by jute mills, tea plantations, and coal mining. The division of the territory between India and East Pakistan in 1947 severed the raw material-producing East Pakistan (Now Bangladesh) from the industrial hubs of the West Bengal. The animosity between India and Pakistan saw restriction on movement of raw material from East Pakistan to the industries in the west Bengal. The partition forced millions of displaced people into West Bengal which stressed the state's resources and infrastructure. The movement of 7 million refugees to West Bengal during the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation war added to the misery of Kolkata and West Bengal.

West Bengal has always been in the centre of events. Right from the days of independence struggle, making bombs and country guns has been a cottage industry in the state. The uprising of the Naxalite movement in Naxalbari, a town in the Darjeeling district in 1967 diverted many bright students from their medical, engineering and professional courses to the underworld operations and soon it gave rise to the leftist movement in many other states. The capture of power by the leftists in 1977 in the state gave rise to pro labour and anti-industrial movement. During the 34 years rule of the CPM in the state, most of the jute



Subash Chandra Misra

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and cotton industries got closed down due to labor disputes, gherao, lockouts and power outage which extended up to 7-8 hours a day in the eighties. As the state focused on agrarian reform and rural development and indirectly supported worker union

movements in industries with an objective to curtail the monopoly power of big business houses in the organized sector, industries shifted operations to Maharashtra and Gujarat. In addition to closure of 7000 large and medium factories including several jute and cotton mills one document lists closure of 85 large factories during left rule in which some of the big names were Jessops, Metal Box, Bengal Lamps, Sulekha, Usha, Dunlop Tyres, Eastern Paper Mill, Titagarh Paper Mills, Avery, Glaxo, Shalimar Tar, Kesoram Cotton, Mahindra and Mahindra, Hindustan Motors (Ambassador), Tata Oil Mill and American Refrigerator. By 2007, the share of industrial production in the state has come down to 3.90% from 24% in 1955 (University of Connecticut Report). It remains at a level of 3.00-3.50% now. Though it has the highest number of bicycle riders in the country and 78% of households owning a bicycle, the cycle factory at Asansol was closed. TMC came to power in 2011 on the anti industry wave by driving out the Tata Nano factory from Singur which created an image of anti industry for the party. Resultantly, the 15 years rule by the TMC has not been able to get any major industry back in to the state although many industrial houses attended the annual industry meet and promised the government to bring investment to the state. On the financial front, it is one of the most indebted states among the large states. The debt to GSDP ratio at 40% as at end March 2025 is second highest after Punjab (46.9%) and the interest expenditure constitutes 20-21% of the revenue receipts as against all India average of 12%. In terms of per capita income the state has gone down from third rank at

independence to 24th rank now. The social fabric is disoriented due to high politicization and large scale pre and post poll violence during the TMC rule. The state needs to reorganize its education system up to high school level which has been suffering from large scale corruption during the TMC rule in recruitment of teachers. Unauthorised toll collection from vehicles, daily tola from shops, busses, auto rickshaws, syndication in selling construction materials and allocating construction workers by individual politicians in their area added to the sufferings of the common man during the last decade.

However, everything is not lost with the state. Its vast area of fertile land on the Gangetic basin is the strength of its agriculture sector. It is the largest producer of rice and jute and second largest tea and fish producer in the country. It is the highest vegetables producer with a national share of 17% and top flower producer (25%) and second largest producer of potato (20%). In terms of GSDP it stands sixth in the country with a share of about 5.5%. It ranks among the top three states in microfinance institutions in terms of outstanding and despite the absence of large industries it has a fair share (14%) of the MSME units in the country. West Bengal ranked second among Indian states in 2024-25 with a share of 15% of international tourist footfall in the state and people of Bengal being great lovers of travel and tourism fan out across India through out the year for tourism. The new BJP government targets to build over these positives and lead it to a better future.

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

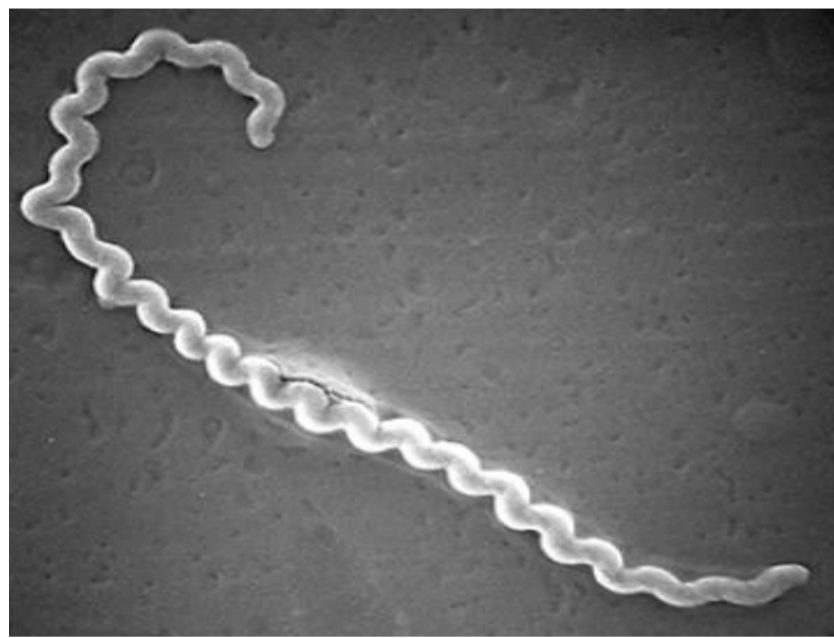
Zoonotic Infection : Leptospirosis



Dr. Subhashri Mishra

Leptospirosis is a worldwide zoonotic infection with a much greater incidence in tropical regions and has now been identified as one of the emerging infectious diseases. The epidemiology of leptospirosis has been modified by changes in animal husbandry, climate, and human behavior. Leptospirosis is an infectious disorder of animals and humans. It is the most common zoonotic infection in the world. It is easily transmitted from infected animals through their urine, either directly or through infected soil or water. It can cause a self-limiting influenza-like illness or a much more serious disease. It is known as Weil disease, and it can progress to multiorgan failure with the potential for death.

Leptospira can invade nonintact skin and mucous membranes. The infection is acquired by coming into contact with infected animals or their infected urine or body tissues. Sometimes Leptospira can even be acquired after contact with contaminated soil and water. Historically, exposures were primarily from recreational water, but more recently the United States has



seen an upswing in occupational exposures from agricultural workers.

When the organism is shed in the infected animal's urine, it can survive in freshwater for up to 16 days and in soil for almost 24 days. They can then enter the human host through open wounds, mucous membranes, or the lungs if infected water is inhaled. It can also be transmitted across the placenta if an infected human is pregnant, leading to a miscarriage in the first two trimesters. If infected during the third trimester, pregnancy can result in stillbirth or intrauterine death. Once within the body, the bacteria goes into the lymphatics and then into the bloodstream. From the bloodstream, the

infection can spread to the entire body but tends to settle in the liver and kidneys. It usually takes between 1 to 2 weeks for the infected person to begin to show symptoms, but could take up to a month.

The differential diagnosis for Leptospirosis is extremely large and varies from benign processes like viral upper respiratory tract infections, other viral flu-like illnesses, to severe infections from rarer "travel" conditions including Dengue Fever, malaria, Hantavirus, hemorrhagic fevers, and typhoid fever. Also consider other more common conditions like cholecystitis, mononucleosis, primary HIV, or if unvaccinated measles or rubella.

The diagnosis of leptospirosis is made by growth in a specialized culture or microscopic agglutination test. Because multiple organ systems are involved, other bloodwork may include renal and liver function tests, coagulation studies, CBC, CSF, and chest x-ray. If there is a concern for aseptic meningitis in the immune phase, a lumbar puncture to sample the CSF is necessary.

The treatment of leptospirosis depends on the severity. Most experts suggest withholding antibiotics in mild cases. These individuals will benefit from fluids as well as pain and fever control. In outpatient cases, antibiotics that may be used include doxycycline, amoxicillin, or ampicillin. If the infection is severe, one may use intravenous penicillin G, third-generation cephalosporins, or erythromycin. Patients with icteric leptospirosis usually need intensive care unit admission as multiple organs can be involved and decompensation can occur rapidly. In the presence of renal failure, corticosteroids may be helpful, but their use is controversial. Respiratory distress due to lung involvement may require mechanical ventilation. Additional therapies include the use of ophthalmic drops, diuretics, and inotropic agents including renal dosed dopamine. The mild form of leptospirosis is rarely fatal, but the severe form or Weil disease does carry a high mortality rate.

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Look upon the entire mankind as one family

Alekha Chandra Samal

Spirituality, however, does not mean leading a solitary, ascetic life. Spirituality means looking upon the whole of mankind as one family and realising the unity in diversity. This is the essence of Indian Culture.

This ancient culture, rooted in the villages, spread over the years to the cities. Today the situation is reversed. The practices of the cities are spreading to the villages. Modern education and modern ways of living cannot serve to improve the quality of life. People must ponder over the values of the culture that has come down to us from ancient times. The well-being of the village determines the well-being of the nation. By providing the essential amenities for the people in the villages, promoting mutual co-operation amongst them

and developing fraternal feelings among them, the progress of the village has to be ensured. At the individual level, there may be differences. But these should be set aside and all efforts concentrated on the development of the village as a whole. When rain falls from the sky, the rain water is totally pure. But depending on the nature of the place where it falls, the name and form of the water become various. Likewise, there may be diversity among men on account of regional and other factors, but the historical reasons for this diversity will have to be borne in mind.

It is only when we equip ourselves well as village officials that the villagers will enjoy peace and prosperity. What is past is past. But the future is dependent on what we do in the present. Our actions

in the present will determine the shape of things in the future. If we wish to secure a great future, we have to conduct ourselves in the present in an ideal and sacred manner.

The nation's welfare depends on the individual. The individual's welfare depends on the family. The welfare of the family is bound up with the condition of the village and so on right up to the national level. At the base of all is the individual. And only when all the individuals in a community act in unison can the society progress. Unity, is, therefore, the essential means for accomplishing anything.

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12 Years Since India Embarked On A Path To Growth, Security

New Delhi, 26/5: This day, exactly 12 years ago, India stepped into a new political era as Narendra Modi took oath as the 15th Prime Minister of the country at the forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi. The day was significant because on May 26, 2014, he led the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to a 282-seat victory, crossing the majority mark in the 543-member Lok Sabha. It marked the first time in three decades that a single party secured an outright majority in the Lok Sabha. It was also the first time in 30 years that a single party won the mandate of more than half of the country's electors who participated in the poll process. Earlier, in 1984, the then Rajiv Gandhi-led Congress won a landslide victory with over 400 seats following Indira Gandhi's assassination. The party was elected with more than 76 per cent of the vote share at that time. Between 1989 and 2014, India saw coalition governments, and no single party managed to cross the majority mark. Alliances like the United Front, National Democratic Alliance (NDA), and United Progressive Alliance (UPA) governed with combined strength. Thus, the 2014 BJP victory marked the beginning of a new phase where one party could govern independently. But it still respected the "coalition dharma", leading the NDA alliance, which



together held 336 seats. It was perhaps the first occasion that an Indian Prime Minister elect was sworn in with heads of government from all eight SAARC countries in attendance, signalling a fresh, outward looking chapter in India's foreign policy narrative. The ceremony that evening took place in the forecourts of Rashtrapati Bhavan, where over 4,000 guests – diplomats, politicians, business leaders, artists, and civil society figures – gathered in what became one of the largest oath taking gatherings in India's history. Then, President Pranab Mukherjee administered the oath of office and secrecy. Narendra Modi's first

Council of Ministers comprised 24 Cabinet ministers, 12 ministers of state, and 10 ministers of state with independent charge, reflecting both the BJP's renewed organisational strength and the coalition friendly nature of the NDA. The new Prime Minister had experience in leading Gujarat as Chief Minister for nearly 13 years. His 2014 Lok Sabha campaign, built around the slogan "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" (Together with all, development for all), was framed as a shift from a politics of "entitlement" to one of "performance". It was the time that India was grappling

with a slowdown in growth, high inflation, frequent power outages, and a perception of corruption and policy paralysis at high places. The 2014 verdict was widely interpreted as a public desire for decisive leadership, administrative efficiency, and a renewed focus on infrastructure and job creation. Over the years, the Modi government introduced a series of structural measures aimed at modernising India's economy and governance. The Goods and Services Tax (GST), rolled out in 2017, unified more than a dozen separate central and state taxes into a single indirect tax regime, simplifying compliance and

reducing cascading tax effects on manufacturers and traders. Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), launched before his first oath but accelerated under his leadership, expanded formal banking access to hundreds of millions of unbanked citizens, laying the groundwork for direct benefit transfers. India's economy, buffeted by global shocks and the pandemic, nonetheless posted periods of growth in the 7-8 per cent range in the pre COVID years, while the country's nominal GDP roughly doubled from around USD 2 trillion in 2014 to some USD 4.2-4.3 trillion by 2025. Meanwhile, key infrastructure projects sought to address long standing bottlenecks. The Modi era is also closely associated with a rapid digitalisation of governance. The "Digital India" initiative promoted e governance, broadband connectivity in rural areas, and a push towards paperless, remote services. The Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system, tying subsidies to Aadhaar linked bank accounts, helped reduce leakages in schemes such as LPG subsidies and rural employment guarantees. Flagship welfare programmes like the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (housing for all), Ujjwala Yojana (free LPG connections for poor women), and the Ayushman Bharat health insurance scheme have been

cited as evidence of a broad based social security push. His government also launched the "Make in India" campaign to attract manufacturing investment, simplify regulatory clearances, and develop industrial corridors and smart cities. On the international stage, the Modi government emphasised strategic autonomy, diversified defence and trade partnerships, and a more visible "India first" diplomacy. High profile visits to the United States, Japan, Russia, and European capitals, along with initiatives such as the Act East Policy and the International Solar Alliance, reinforced India's self image as a key global player. Also, the 2016 "surgical strikes" across the Line of Control in response to a terrorist attack at Uri, and the 2019 Balakot airstrike after the Pulwama attack, underscored a more assertive national security posture. The Modi years have also witnessed a transformation in how political communication and public information are delivered. Twelve years after that historic evening at Rashtrapati Bhavan, Narendra Modi's first oath remains a distinct phase of Indian politics. The period since then is marked by centralised decision making, large scale welfare schemes, digital governance, muscular nationalism, and an ambition to place India among the world's leading economies.

Five Labourers Die In Panna Well Collapse

Panna, 26/5: All five labourers lost their lives after a massive soil collapse at an under-construction well in Nayapurwa hamlet of Biharpurwa village, under Ajaygarh block in Madhya Pradesh's Panna district, on Tuesday morning. Seven labourers were working at the site when the incident occurred. Two of them had climbed out of the well moments earlier to drink water and were safely rescued, while the remaining five were buried under the debris, officials said. Despite frantic rescue efforts, only one body could be recovered initially, and none of the trapped labourers survived. Five Labourers Die In Panna Well Collapse. Panna, 26/5: All five labourers lost their lives after a massive soil collapse at an under-construction well in Nayapurwa hamlet of Biharpurwa village, under Ajaygarh block in Madhya Pradesh's Panna district, on Tuesday morning. Seven labourers were working at the site when the incident occurred. Two of them had climbed out of the well moments earlier to drink water and were safely rescued, while the remaining five were buried under the debris, officials said. Despite frantic rescue efforts, only one body could be recovered initially, and none of the trapped labourers survived.

High Court sets aside stay on Delhi Race Club eviction proceedings

New Delhi, 26/5: The Delhi High Court has set aside an interim order that had restrained the Estate Officer from proceeding against the Delhi Race Club under the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971, holding that the Union government has a statutory right to initiate eviction proceedings against an alleged unauthorised occupant of public premises. A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia held that the Single Judge's order dated April 24, 2026, which deferred proceedings arising from the show-cause notice issued to the Delhi Race Club, could not have been passed without recording findings on a prima facie case, balance of convenience, and irreparable loss. Appearing for the Union of India, Additional Solicitor General Chetan Sharma, along with CGSC Ashish K. Dixit and other government counsel, argued that the writ petition challenging the show-cause notice itself was not maintainable and that the Delhi

Race Club ought to raise all its objections before the Estate Officer in proceedings under Section 4 of the Public Premises Act. The Bench observed that the Estate Officer's proceedings under Section 4 of the Public Premises Act stem from a statutory right available to the government for eviction of unauthorised occupants from public premises. It held that any interim order restraining the Estate Officer from proceeding further directly impacts that statutory right and therefore amounts to a "judgment" amenable to an intra-court appeal under Clause 10 of the Letters Patent. The Court noted that the Delhi Race Club's lease pertaining to 84,484 acres of land granted in 1926 had expired on December 31, 1994, and no further extension or renewal had been granted thereafter. Referring to the definition of "unauthorised occupation" under Section 2(g) of the Public Premises Act, the Bench held that even occupants whose possession was lawful at inception would become unauthorised once the lease expired.

Govt Monitoring Fuel Supply-Distribution, Will Initiate Action Against Hoarders: CM Fadnavis

Mumbai, 26/5: Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Tuesday stated that there has been a significant increase in regional retail fuel consumption compared to typical seasonal patterns, highlighting that the state's Food and Civil Supplies and Home Departments are jointly overseeing the supply and distribution pipelines. The state has expanded petrol distribution by 23 per cent and diesel by 52 per cent to stabilise market demand, he said. The CM stated that there seems to be hoarding of fuel, which is being monitored. He further added that there is also a possibility of diversion of fuel for commercial use, which is also being looked into. Addressing the media after the weekly cabinet and accompanied by Deputy CM Eknath Shinde, CM Fadnavis said that specific regions are recording distinct surges, with Akola showing an increase of 154 per cent, and several districts, including Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar,



Beed, Bhandara, Buldhana, Gondia, and Hingoli, reporting up to a 70 per cent climb in regular market consumption. "The administration is analysing variations between commercial and retail fuel supply segments to verify that retail resources are effectively reaching agricultural and consumer lines," he said. The CM's statement comes a day after the Maharashtra government and PSU Oil Marketing Companies

(BPCL, IOCL, and HPCL), through the State Level Coordinator (Oil Industry), Maharashtra, Mihir Ganesh Joshi, on Monday, assured consumers that adequate petrol, diesel and LPG stocks are available across the state. Supply operations are being closely monitored and maintained without disruption, they said. The PSU Oil Marketing Companies have assured that there are

adequate stocks of petrol and diesel available at all petrol pumps as well as storage locations of Oil Companies across Maharashtra. Stocks at petrol pumps are being regularly monitored by the state government as well as Oil Companies and replenished to ensure uninterrupted availability. On the present onion crisis, CM Fadnavis criticised the opposition for playing politics

over the issues faced by the onion growers, saying that the state government is quite sensitive to address their concerns and help them in the present situation. He announced that the Centre has convened a meeting on Wednesday to discuss the problems faced by the onion growers. Addressing the ongoing crop concerns and agricultural storage adjustments, CM Fadnavis detailed recent collaborative market pricing structures. "The Central government has enhanced onion procurement support, increasing rates by Rs 3.5 to arrive at approximately Rs 15 per kg. The state government has requested a comprehensive review with central authorities, which is scheduled for tomorrow evening to evaluate long-term market intervention strategies and support systems for farmers," he added. He reiterated that the opposition is doing politics for photo ops on the issues faced by onion growers, saying that the state and Centre will take more steps to help them.

CM Vijay writes to PM Modi on Mekedatu Dam dispute between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka

Chennai, 26/5: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay on Tuesday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to intervene immediately and halt Karnataka's proposed Mekedatu Reservoir Project across the Cauvery River, alleging that the initiative violates both the Supreme Court's verdict and the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) award. In a detailed letter to the Prime Minister, Vijay expressed serious concern over Karnataka's announcement of a "Bhoomi Puja" for the project, saying it had triggered anxiety among farmers in Tamil Nadu who rely heavily on Cauvery water for agriculture and livelihood. The Tamil Nadu government maintained that the Mekedatu project was never approved under the CWDT Final Award, which was later upheld by the Supreme Court in its February 16, 2018 judgment. The Chief Minister noted that the Cauvery basin has already been classified as a

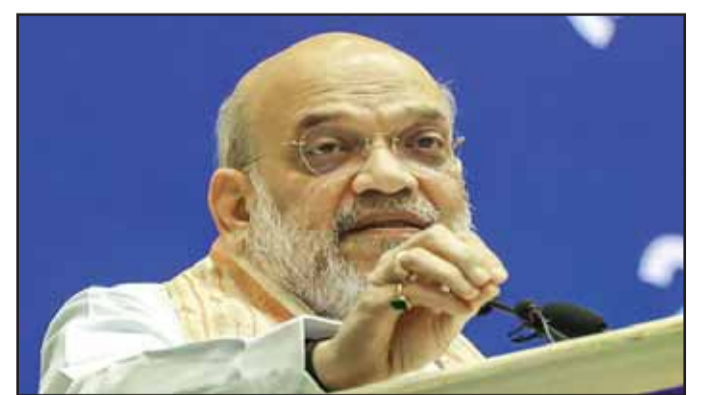
water-deficient basin, with the available water fully allocated among the riparian states. "You may be well aware that a solution to the sensitive Cauvery water dispute was obtained after a long legal battle lasting nearly three decades, and the judgment dated February 16, 2018, is currently under implementation. The Mekedatu Project does not figure in the list of projects permitted by the Tribunal, which has been affirmed by the Supreme Court judgment. There is no scope for additional utilisation or creation of a new massive storage reservoir, since the Cauvery basin is already recognised as a deficit basin and the available water at 50 per cent dependability has been allocated among the party states," Vijay stated in the letter. He further argued that any new project across the Cauvery River or its tributaries, apart from those specifically permitted under the Tribunal's final award and upheld by the apex court, would amount to interference with the

Supreme Court judgment. According to the Chief Minister, Karnataka's proposal to construct a reservoir with a storage capacity of 67.16 TMC near the Tamil Nadu border could obstruct the natural flow of water allocated to Tamil Nadu under the CWDT award and the Supreme Court ruling. Vijay also pointed out that the Supreme Court had clearly stated that upper riparian states should not undertake measures affecting the scheduled release of water to lower riparian states. In this regard, Tamil Nadu alleged that Karnataka's move to proceed with the reservoir project constitutes a direct violation of the court's ruling. The Chief Minister further noted that the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change had earlier refused to grant Terms of Reference (ToR) for an Environmental Impact Assessment due to unresolved inter-state disputes linked to the project. Questioning the role of the Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Central Water Commission

(CWC), the Tamil Nadu government asked why Karnataka's proposal continued to be considered despite strong objections from Tamil Nadu. "Under these circumstances, I request you to direct the officials of the Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Central Water Commission to reject the Detailed Project Report (DPR) of the Mekedatu project, as it is contrary to the CWDT Final Award dated February 5, 2007, and the judgment of the Supreme Court of India. The Government of Karnataka should also be advised not to undertake any new project without obtaining the concurrence of co-basin states and not to violate the Supreme Court judgment in its entirety," Vijay added. Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Puducherry have long been engaged in a dispute over sharing of Cauvery River water, with the proposed Mekedatu dam emerging as the latest flashpoint between the neighbouring states.

HM Amit Shah Announces Justice Naolekar Panel To Address Unnatural Demographic Change

New Delhi, 26/5: Reiterating the national security threat from unnatural demographic change, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday announced the constitution of a five-member committee led by retired Justice Prakash Prabhakar Naolekar to address infiltration-related issues. "Infiltration and other reasons causing unnatural demographic change pose a very significant challenge to the present and future of any nation," Union Minister Shah said on social media platform X. "To address this very challenge, on August 15, 2025, Prime Minister @narendramodiji had announced the 'High-Level Committee on Demographic Change'. I am delighted to inform you that the government has now constituted this committee," he added. He said the Justice Naolekar Committee will analyse patterns of abnormal population shifts at the levels of religious and social communities and present a planned and time-bound solution for the demographic change. This committee, chaired by Justice Naolekar (retired), will include Census Commissioner along with Durga Shankar Mishra



(retired IAS), Balaji Srivastava (retired IPS), and Shamika Ravi as members, he said, adding that the Joint Secretary (Foreigners-I) of Ministry of Home Affairs Sumant Singh will serve as the Member Secretary of this committee. The Union Minister said, "Demographic change is a serious issue linked not only to our sovereignty but also to national security, law and order, profound changes in social structure, and the preservation of tribal society." This committee will conduct a comprehensive assessment of demographic changes occurring across India due to illegal immigration and other unnatural causes, analyse

patterns of abnormal population shifts at the levels of religious and social communities, and present a planned and time-bound solution for the same," he added. The constitution of the Committee assumes significance in light of the infiltration issue dominating the political discourse ahead of the recently concluded West Bengal Assembly elections. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) cornered the then Mamata Banerjee government on this issue and managed to defeat the Trinamool Congress and came to power with an absolute majority in West Bengal.

South Korea Mulling Timing Of Oil Release With Possible Supply Crisis In August

Seoul,26/5: South Korea is taking a cautious approach with the timing of its oil stockpile release under the agreement among International Energy Agency (IEA) members amid concerns there could be a global oil crisis in August, an industry ministry official said Tuesday. Earlier this year, Seoul pledged to release 22.46 million barrels of oil from its strategic reserves by June 9 under a joint plan adopted by 32 member nations of the IEA as part of efforts to help address disruptions in oil markets sparked by the US-Israeli war against Iran in late February. But Yang Ghi-wuk, deputy minister for trade, industry and resources security, told reporters in a regular press briefing that the Seoul government is trying to cautiously determine the timing of the release, as the option should be used as a "final" card for the worst situation, Yonhap news agency reported. "Concerns over (a possible oil crisis) have



somewhat eased recently with news that the situation in the Middle East may get better, but until just a few days ago, there have been projections that oil supplies may suffer disruptions if the effective closure of the

Strait of Hormuz continues for longer," he said. IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol warned last week that commercial oil inventories are depleting at a "very fast" pace, noting that oil markets could enter a "red zone" in July or

August. Yang said the government does not feel much need for an oil release at the moment, thanks to the country's efforts to secure alternative supplies and the crude swap system with private firms. "We are trying to adhere to

the IEA's plan as much as possible, but it is not an obligation or something we could get penalised for," he explained, adding that the timing and the way of the release can differ by country. The industry ministry has said South Korea's crude oil supplies are relatively stable for now, with about 85 per cent of pre-Iran war supplies having been secured for use throughout July. Meanwhile, the combined share of South Korea's oil supplies tentatively secured from regions other than the Middle East for use in the May-July period reached 51.5 per cent, sharply up from the 30.9 per cent tallied last year, according to the ministry. The share of shipments from North and South America increased to 35.6 per cent from 23.1 per cent over the same period, with shipments from Asia rising to 7.4 per cent from 5 per cent. Shipments from Africa expanded to 8.3 per cent from 2.2 per cent, the latest findings showed.

US Forces Strike Iranian Missile Launch Sites, Mine-Laying Boats

Washington: The US military struck missile launch sites and mine-laying boats in southern Iran on Monday, according to the US Central Command (CENTCOM). "US forces conducted self-defence strikes in southern Iran today to protect our troops from threats posed by Iranian forces," CENTCOM spokesperson Tim Hawkins said in a statement. Xinhua news agency reported. "Targets included missile launch sites and Iranian boats attempting to emplace mines. US Central Command continues to defend our forces while using restraint during the ongoing ceasefire," he said. The strikes threatened an already fragile ceasefire that began April 8 as the United States and Iran struggle to reach an accord to end a war that has rattled the global economy with a severe disruption of energy flows. Iran has maintained controls on Gulf shipping through the Strait of Hormuz despite the US Navy enforcing a blockade on Iran's ports. Last week, US Central Command said the naval blockade on Iran had redirected 100 vessels and disabled four. The blockade is "allowing zero trade into and out of Iranian ports, which has squeezed Iran economically", CENTCOM commander Admiral Brad Cooper said. Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump on Monday said negotiations with Iran were "proceeding nicely" and called for several Middle Eastern countries, including Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Pakistan, to join the Abraham Accords as part of a broader regional settlement. In an extended Truth Social post, Trump said the talks with the Islamic Republic of Iran could either result in a "Great Deal for all" or risk renewed conflict. "It will only be a Great Deal for all or no Deal at all — Back to the Battlefield and shooting, but bigger and stronger than ever before — And nobody wants that!" Trump wrote. The remarks came after Trump announced over the weekend that a broad regional understanding involving Iran and multiple countries in the Middle East and South Asia was nearing finalisation.

South Korean President Calls For Stepped-Up Efforts To Acquire Nuclear-Powered Submarines

Seoul,26/5: South Korea's President Lee Jae Myung on Tuesday instructed officials to accelerate efforts to fulfil South Korea's plan to acquire nuclear-powered submarines. The president made the call during a Cabinet meeting, highlighting the need to enhance the country's self-defence capabilities amid North Korea's growing nuclear and missile threats. In a fact sheet released after a South Korea-US summit late last year, Washington expressed support for Seoul to build nuclear-powered, conventionally armed attack submarines, and to pursue civilian uranium enrichment and spent fuel reprocessing for peaceful purposes, Yonhap news agency reported. "We need to accelerate the adoption of artificial intelligence and drone technologies, while speeding up the introduction of nuclear-



powered submarines, which are core strategic assets for future defence capabilities," Lee said. While presiding over a defence strategy committee meeting in South Gyeongsang Province later in the day, Lee described the envisioned submarines as "a symbol of our

will to take responsibility for peace and security on the Korean Peninsula on our own." During the committee meeting, Defence Minister Ahn Gyu-back outlined Seoul's plan to launch the first batch of nuclear-powered submarines in the mid-2030s before putting them into service

Trump Exposes Islamabad Power Core by Directing Abraham Accords Invite Straight To Army Chief

USA,26/5: United States President Donald Trump sparked intense diplomatic tremors globally by completely ignoring Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. In a public call for expanding the Abraham Accords, addressing his message directly to Army Chief Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir Ahmed Shah instead. Writing on his platform, Truth Social, the American head of state advocated for a broad regional realignment to normalize relations with Israel, naming key Muslim nations including Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Egypt, Turkey, and Pakistan. While regional counterparts were acknowledged by their standard civilian state positions, the explicit designation of Munir as Pakistan's representative has sent ripples through international foreign policy circles. This dramatic omission exposes the internal governance dynamic of Islamabad, where the defence establishment traditionally dictates national security and external relations. Trump's direct communication channel indicates a transactional approach that focuses on actual power centers rather than constitutional formalities. Observing this American initiative presents a profound dilemma for Pakistan. Legally and historically, the state rejects any formal recognition of Israel, tying diplomatic ties strictly to the creation of a sovereign Palestinian state based on pre-1967 borders. Diplomatic reports reveal that the military chief has built direct, quiet channels into the current US administration's inner circle. This growing alignment bypasses elected officials, consolidating defense control over critical strategic decisions. Moving closer to the American peace plan risks triggering intense domestic blowback from civil society, yet outright rejection could alienate Washington during a severe domestic fiscal crisis.

India, Canada Push To Seal Trade Pact By Year-End

Washington/Ottawa: India and Canada have signalled a rapid reset in bilateral ties, with leaders from both countries expressing optimism about concluding a long-pending free trade agreement by the end of this year while sharply expanding trade, investment and business cooperation. Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said negotiations on a free trade agreement with India would be "a game changer for Canadian workers and businesses". "We're negotiating a free trade deal with India. This will be a game changer for Canadian workers and businesses — unlocking a massive new market," Carney wrote on social media on Monday (local time) after meeting Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal in Ottawa. Carney said both sides reviewed progress in negotiations and explored opportunities in "energy, agri-food, tech, and education". Goyal, who is leading what Canadian officials described as the largest-ever Indian business delegation to Canada, said he



conveyed "warm greetings" from Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Carney and recalled the Canadian leader's recent visit to India. "His recent visit to India has imparted fresh momentum and renewed confidence to the India-Canada partnership," Goyal said. He said both countries held "forward-looking discussions on further deepening bilateral cooperation" and expressed optimism over an early conclusion of the India-

Canada Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). In a joint media address in Ottawa, Canada's International Trade Minister Maninder Sidhu said both countries were moving quickly to conclude the agreement. "We promised Canadians that we'd be moving fast," Sidhu said, adding that two rounds of negotiations had already been completed. He said Canada wanted to diversify trade

ties and unlock "roughly \$300 billion of additional non-US exports". Goyal described the relationship as "being reset very, very rapidly". "It has set in motion the pathway to a complete overhaul of this relationship, setting new agendas, new goals in mission mode," he said. The minister said the two Prime Ministers had tasked negotiators with completing "the free trade

agreement with a comprehensive outlook before the end of this year or earlier". He added that both countries aimed to sharply raise bilateral trade by 2030. "We feel empowered to be able to make rapid progress to deliver results not only to businesses, but to the people of both countries," Goyal said. During his visit, Goyal also met Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand, Agriculture Minister Heath MacDonald and Sidhu to discuss trade, food security, agri-tech, sustainability, technology and investment cooperation. Anand said she discussed "strengthening and expanding our trade relationship to create new opportunities for businesses, workers, and investors in both our countries". Sidhu said India was "one of the world's fastest-growing major economies" and strengthening ties with New Delhi was central to delivering economic results for Canadians.

New Positive For Hantavirus Confirmed Among Quarantined Spaniards

Madrid,26/5: The Spanish Ministry of Health confirmed a new positive case of hantavirus among the 14 Spaniards who were among the passengers of the cruise ship MV Hondius affected by an outbreak of the disease while crossing the Atlantic Ocean in April. The 14 Spanish nationals from the vessel were evacuated from the island of Tenerife in a tightly controlled operation on May 10 and have since remained in preventive quarantine at Madrid's Gomez Ulla Central Defence Hospital. The latest positive case was detected during routine PCR testing conducted under the isolation and control system already in place, according to the ministry. The patient, currently asymptomatic, has been transferred to the hospital's High-Level Isolation Unit (UATAN), where he remains under specialized medical supervision and strict biosafety protocols, the ministry said. The detection of this new case does not alter the risk level for the general population or alter the epidemiological response measures currently in place, the ministry added. It is the second Spaniard to test positive after arriving in Madrid, with the first patient reported to be recovering favorably after showing symptoms, Xinhua news agency reported. According to the WHO, Hantaviruses are zoonotic viruses that naturally infect rodents and are occasionally transmitted to humans. Infection in people can result in severe illness and often death, although the diseases vary by type of virus and geographical location. In the Americas, infection has been known to lead to hantavirus cardiopulmonary syndrome (HCPS), a rapidly progressive condition affecting the lungs and heart, while in Europe and Asia hantaviruses have been known to cause haemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome (HFRS), which primarily affects the kidneys and blood vessels.

South Korea Mulling Timing Of Oil Release With Possible Supply Crisis In August

Seoul: South Korea is taking a cautious approach with the timing of its oil stockpile release under the agreement among International Energy Agency (IEA) members amid concerns there could be a global oil crisis in August, an industry ministry official said Tuesday. Earlier this year, Seoul pledged to release

22.46 million barrels of oil from its strategic reserves by June 9 under a joint plan adopted by 32 member nations of the IEA as part of efforts to help address disruptions in oil markets sparked by the US-Israeli war against Iran in late February. But Yang Ghi-wuk, deputy minister for trade, industry and resources security,

told reporters in a regular press briefing that the Seoul government is trying to cautiously determine the timing of the release, as the option should be used as a "final" card for the worst situation, Yonhap news agency reported. "Concerns over (a possible oil crisis) have somewhat eased recently with news that the

situation in the Middle East may get better, but until just a few days ago, there have been projections that oil supplies may suffer disruptions if the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz continues for longer," he said. IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol warned last week that commercial oil inventories are

depleting at a "very fast" pace, noting that oil markets could enter a "red zone" in July or August. Yang said the government does not feel much need for an oil release at the moment, thanks to the country's efforts to secure alternative supplies and the crude swap system with private firms. "We are trying to adhere to

the IEA's plan as much as possible, but it is not an obligation or something we could get penalised for," he explained, adding that the timing and the way of the release can differ by country. The industry ministry has said South Korea's crude oil supplies are relatively stable for now, with about 85 per cent of

pre-Iran war supplies having been secured for use throughout July. Meanwhile, the combined share of South Korea's oil supplies tentatively secured from regions other than the Middle East for use in the May-July period reached 51.5 per cent, sharply up from the 30.9 per cent tallied last year, according to the ministry.

Sensex, Nifty End Lower Amid Gold, Silver Trade Lower Amid Reports Of Fresh US Strikes In Iran Renewed West Asia Tensions

New Delhi, 26/5: Indian benchmark indices ended sharply lower on Tuesday as escalating geopolitical tensions in the Middle East weighed heavily on investor sentiment after fresh US strikes in southern Iran reduced hopes of a possible peace deal. The Nifty settled at 23,913.7, down 118 points or 0.49 per cent, while the Sensex closed at 76,009.7, declining 479.26 points or 0.63 per cent. Commenting on Nifty technical outlook, experts said that 24,000 now becomes the immediate resistance level after the classic role reversal from support to resistance. "Above this, 24,100 remains another key hurdle where higher Open Interest (OI) build-up is visible, indicating active Call writing and supply pressure from institutional participants," an analyst stated. "On the downside, 23,850 acts as the immediate support level for the index. Below this, the broader 23,500-23,600 zone continues to remain a critical



demand area backed by significant Put OI concentration," as per the analyst. Trent, TCS, Bajaj Finance and Bharti Airtel were top losers on Sensex pack. On the other hand, Adani Ports, Eternal and Tech Mahindra led the gains on Sensex. Among the top losers in the Nifty index were Apollo Hospitals Enterprise, Wipro and Bharti Airtel. Sector-wise, the Nifty Consumer Durables index emerged as the worst performer,

ending more than 1 per cent lower. The Nifty Financial Services and Nifty Private Bank indices also witnessed notable declines amid broad-based weakness in banking and financial stocks. However, the broader markets showed resilience despite volatility in frontline indices. The Nifty MidCap index ended 0.54 per cent higher after touching a fresh high during the trading session, while the Nifty SmallCap index gained 0.35 per

cent. Metal and chemical stocks outperformed the broader market, with the Nifty Metal and Nifty Chemical indices closing in positive territory, helping limit losses in the broader market segment. Market sentiment turned cautious after reports said the United States carried out fresh defensive strikes in southern Iran on Tuesday morning despite ongoing negotiations. According to reports citing the US Central Command, the strikes were aimed at protecting American troops from Iranian forces. The uncertainty surrounding the geopolitical situation triggered selling pressure across key sectors, particularly in consumer durables and financial stocks. Analysts said investors remained cautious due to rising geopolitical uncertainty and its potential impact on global markets, crude oil prices and risk sentiment.

Mumbai, 26/5: Gold and silver prices traded lower on Tuesday, declining up to nearly 2 per cent after the US military launched fresh strikes on southern Iran. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold futures (June 5) were trading 0.61 per cent or Rs 971 lower at Rs 1,58,110 at around 10:25 am. The yellow metal touched an intraday low of Rs 1,58,000, down 0.67 per cent or over Rs 1,000 from the previous close of Rs 1,59,081. It also recorded an intraday high of Rs 1,58,789, down 0.18 per cent or Rs 292. On the other hand, silver futures (July 3) also witnessed selling pressure, slipping nearly 2 per cent or over Rs 5,000 to hit an intraday low of Rs 2,71,972 so far. At the last count, the white metal was trading at Rs 2,72,008, down 1.7 per cent or Rs 4,708. It recorded an intraday high of Rs 2,74,727, still lower by 0.71 per cent or Rs 1,989.

On the commodity exchange, silver and gold earlier opened at Rs 2,74,727 and Rs 1,58,789, respectively. The selling pressure in the precious metals came after the US military launched fresh strikes in southern Iran and targeted missile sites and boats allegedly attempting to lay mines. Washington described it as a 'self-defence' operation. The attacks came even as senior Iranian negotiators were in Doha for talks with Qatar's prime minister on a possible agreement to end the three-month-long conflict involving the US and Israel. According to commodity market experts, MCX gold opened with a mild gap down and continued to trade above the Rs 1,58,000 mark, indicating a cautious undertone in price action. "Immediate resistance is placed in the Rs 1,59,000-Rs 1,59,500 range, while a sustained move above this zone

could push prices towards the Rs 1,60,000-Rs 1,60,500 levels," they said, adding that on the downside, a break below Rs 1,58,000-Rs 1,57,500 may extend weakness towards the Rs 1,56,000-Rs 1,55,000 zone. For silver, they said that MCX silver was holding above the Rs 2,73,000 mark, with resistance seen near Rs 2,75,000. A sustained breakout above the level could support recovery towards Rs 2,77,000-Rs 2,78,000, while support is placed around Rs 2,72,000. "Safe-haven demand and geopolitical developments continue to influence the direction of precious metals," the experts noted. Meanwhile, global crude oil prices rebounded, with international benchmark Brent crude rising 1 per cent to \$98 a barrel, while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude gained more than 3 per cent to nearly \$94.

CNG Prices Hiked In Delhi By Rs 2 Per Kg Indian Equity Markets Trade Flat After Fresh US Strikes In Iran

Mumbai, 26/5: Gas distributor Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) on Tuesday announced a fresh increase in compressed natural gas (CNG) prices, marking the fourth hike in less than two weeks. CNG prices in Delhi have been hiked by Rs 2 per kg. Following the latest revision by IGL, CNG in Delhi will now cost Rs 83.09 per kg, up from Rs 81.09 per kg. However, prices were revised upward across the National Capital Region, with consumers in Noida, Ghaziabad and Greater Noida now paying Rs 91.70 per kg, while rates in Gurugram rose to Rs 88.12 per kg. In Ajmer, CNG prices increased to Rs 92.44 per kg. The increase comes shortly after a Rs 1 hike announced on Saturday, continuing a steady upward trend in fuel rates over the past several days. The repeated rise in CNG prices is expected to significantly impact users of CNG-powered vehicles, especially in metropolitan cities like Delhi and Mumbai, where public transport systems, taxis, and commercial vehicles heavily depend on the fuel. Transport operators fear that the higher operating costs may eventually lead to increased fares for passengers. At the same time,



state-owned oil marketing companies (OMCs) have revised petrol and diesel prices upward for the fourth time in under two weeks. The back-to-back hikes are being attributed to volatility in global energy markets and growing concerns over crude oil supply amid continuing tensions in the Middle East. In Delhi, petrol prices have risen by Rs 2.61 per litre and are now retailing at Rs 102.12 per litre. Diesel prices in the national capital have increased by Rs 2.71, taking the rate to Rs 95.20 per litre. Kolkata witnessed one of the sharpest increases among major cities. Petrol prices there climbed by Rs 2.87 per litre to reach Rs 113.51, while diesel prices rose by Rs 2.80 to Rs 99.82 per litre. Mumbai also recorded a significant rise in fuel prices. Petrol rates in the financial capital

increased by Rs 2.72 to Rs 111.21 per litre, while diesel prices went up by Rs 2.81 and are currently being sold at Rs 97.83 per litre. In Chennai, petrol prices increased by Rs 2.46 per litre to Rs 107.77, while diesel rates rose by Rs 2.57, reaching Rs 99.55 per litre. The latest round of hikes follows a series of fuel price revisions earlier this month. On May 15, petrol and diesel prices were increased by Rs 3 per litre each. Another increase of 90 paise per litre followed on May 19. On May 23, petrol prices were again raised by 87 paise per litre, while diesel rates saw an increase of 91 paise per litre. Experts say fuel prices are closely linked to international crude oil rates, currency exchange fluctuations, and domestic taxation policies.

Mumbai, 26/5: Indian equity markets traded flat in morning trade on Tuesday after fresh US strikes in southern Iran targeting boats attempting to lay mines and missile launch sites. In early trade, Sensex was at 76,339.29, down 150 points or 0.20 per cent, while Nifty slipped 45 points or 0.19 per cent to 23,986.40. Earlier in the day, the benchmark indices opened at 76,224.14 and 24,004.10, respectively. Among sectoral indices, IT, chemicals, media, PSU banks and metal stocks traded in positive territory. Nifty IT rose 0.61 per cent, while Nifty Chemicals gained 0.58 per cent and Nifty Media advanced 0.54 per cent. On the downside, consumer durables, healthcare, cement and realty indices were under pressure. Nifty Consumer Durables emerged as the top sectoral loser, falling 0.57 per cent, while Nifty Healthcare, Nifty Cement and Nifty Realty declined up to 0.3 per cent. From the Nifty basket, InterGlobe Aviation (IndiGo) declined over 1 per cent, emerging as one of the top laggards on the benchmark indices. Other notable losers included SBI Life Insurance



Company, Max Healthcare Institute, Titan Company, Bharti Airtel, Eternal Ltd and Trent, which fell up to 1 per cent. In the broader market, small-cap and mid-cap indices outperformed. Nifty Smallcap 100 climbed 0.59 per cent, while Nifty Midcap 150 gained 0.13 per cent. Meanwhile, the volatility tracker India VIX slipped 1.43 per cent. Market experts said that despite ongoing negotiations aimed at ending the West Asia conflict, there are no

indications of an immediate resolution. They noted that the recent US "self-defence strikes" in southern Iran have temporarily dampened sentiment, although markets are not viewing the development as the beginning of another phase of military escalation. According to experts, investor risk appetite remains strong, with markets rallying whenever there are signs of easing tensions and a decline in crude oil prices. "The sharp rally in the previous session reflected

optimism about the resilience of the domestic economy," they added. However, experts believe that a resolution of the conflict and a further decline in crude oil prices could help ease macroeconomic pressures facing the economy. Meanwhile, crude oil prices rose, with international benchmark Brent crude gaining 1.17 per cent to \$98.39 a barrel, while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude climbed more than 3 per cent to \$93.90 per barrel.

RBI mandates 3-year cooling-off period for Co-operative bank directors after 10-year tenure to curb circumvention India Based Founders Building AI For Global Customers: Microsoft's Jay Parikh

New Delhi, 26/5: The Reserve Bank of India has tightened governance norms for both urban and rural co-operative banks, mandating a minimum three-year cooling-off period for directors who complete a continuous tenure of ten years on the board of the same bank. The move, effective immediately under the RBI (Urban Co-operative Banks - Governance) Amendment Directions, 2026 and RBI (Rural Co-operative Banks - Governance) Amendment Directions, 2026, aims to stop directors from skirting statutory tenure limits by resigning briefly and getting re-elected or co-opted. The Banking Laws (Amendment) Act, 2025, had raised the maximum continuous tenure of directors of UCBs, State Co-operative Banks and Central Co-operative Banks from eight years to ten years, with the amended provision coming into effect on August 1, 2025. "The provision had come into force for UCBs with effect from June 29, 2020," the RBI said in the UCB release. For STCBs and CCBs, it applied "with effect from April 1, 2021." RBI flagged



instances where the intent of the law was being defeated. "In a few cases, directors have been found to be resorting to certain methods to circumvent the provisions of the Act, such as resigning briefly from office and being re-elected/co-opted to the Board within a short period of time, thereby continuing to be on the Board of a UCB for an extended period beyond the legally permissible tenure, which defeats the intent and spirit of the statutory provision," the UCB directions state. Identical language

appears in the RCB directions for STCBs and CCBs. To close the loophole, RBI has inserted a new paragraph 7A in both the 2025 governance directions. "A director on the Board of a UCB, after completing a continuous tenure of ten years in office, shall be eligible to be re-appointed, whether by election or co-option or in any other manner, as a director on the Board of the same UCB only after undergoing a minimum cooling-off period of three years," the amendment reads. The same rule

now applies to RCBs. During the cooling-off period, the director's link with the bank will be limited. "During the cooling-off period, the said director shall not be associated with the UCB in any capacity/manner other than as a member/customer," the directions specify. However, the RBI clarified: "This, however, shall not preclude him/her from being appointed as a director on the Board of another bank, if otherwise eligible." For computing tenure, RBI has defined continuity.

New Delhi, 26/7: India-based founders are building AI for global customers in close collaboration with partners and investors worldwide, Jay Parikh, Executive Vice President of CoreAI at Microsoft said on Tuesday. India combines developer velocity and scale, rapid enterprise adoption of AI and digital public infrastructure that uniquely position the country to deploy AI at population scale, Parikh said. He mentioned GitHub's community in India of over 27 million developers, with over 2 million joining the platform in 2026, and noted Indian developers are the second largest contributors to open source globally with over 7.5 million contributions to AI specific projects. "India didn't lead the first wave of technological innovation — but it built one of the world's most important developer ecosystems and turned that foundation into a global engine of scale through the IT services industry," Executive VC of CoreAI said in a blog post. According to Parikh, Rahul Regulapati, the founder and CEO



of Galleri5, exemplifies the new kind of builder in the agentic AI era with deep technical skills, as his studio released India's first AI generated television series. Indian companies are moving AI from experiment to production faster than most others in the rest of the world, the post said, adding that as of November 2025, 47 per cent of Indian enterprises have multiple generative AI use cases live in production, with another 23 per cent in the pilot phase. As AI converges with DPI, India races to become the world's first large-scale AI public infrastructure, where intelligent

systems are embedded across sectors from financial services to healthcare and education. "The next phase of AI won't be defined by who builds the best models, but by who can deploy them at scale with trust, speed, and real-world impact. India is uniquely positioned for that shift, and increasingly, it's where that future is taking shape," the post said. Deloitte's 2026 enterprise AI survey ranked India first out of 15 countries on at-scale AI adoption, and 40 per cent of Indian respondents report significant or full AI use, against a global average of 28 per cent.

"God said take double...": Divyanka Tripathi, Vivek Dahiya blessed with twin baby boys

Television actors Divyanka Tripathi Dahiya and Vivek Dahiya have announced the arrival of their twin baby boys, marking the beginning of a new chapter in their lives as parents. The couple shared the happy news on social media on Tuesday, drawing congratulatory messages from fans and followers across platforms. Vivek Dahiya revealed the news through a heartfelt Instagram post featuring an image of two baby boys. The post carried the message, "We asked for happiness... God said, 'Take double.' Blessed with twin baby boys." In the caption, Dahiya expressed his excitement about embracing parenthood. "The wait is finally over... 'The Boys' are here and life already feels more beautiful than we ever imagined," he wrote. Adding a playful cinematic reference, the actor quoted the iconic film 'Karan Arjun', writing, "Mere Karan Arjun aa gaye!" Dahiya also sought blessings from fans and well-wishers as the couple begins their parenting journey. "Need all your love and blessings as Div and I begin this incredible new chapter of parenthood," he added. Soon after the announcement, social media was flooded with congratulatory messages celebrating the arrival of the "Divek" babies. Divyanka Tripathi and Vivek Dahiya tied the knot in 2016 after meeting on the sets of the television show 'Yeh Hai Mohabbatein'. The couple has remained one of television's most popular celebrity pairs over the past decade. Divyanka rose to fame with the daily soap 'Banoo Main Teri Dulhann' and later expanded her television career through reality shows, including 'Nach Baliye 8', 'Khatron Ke Khiladi 11'



'Maa Inti Bangaaram' trailer: Samantha Ruth Prabhu packs a punch in fierce avatar

The much-awaited trailer of Samantha Ruth Prabhu's much-awaited action entertainer 'Maa Inti Bangaaram' is finally unveiled, bringing the actor in a never-before-seen action avatar. The trailer opens to show Samantha trying to be a good daughter-in-law, only to find herself struggling to keep up with the family's expectations. However, things take an unexpected turn after Samantha's character is shown fighting dangerous enemies in a bid to protect her family. The actor could be seen performing high-octane action sequences, dominating the trailer with her daring moves. Earlier this month, the makers announced that the film's release had been postponed. The film, which was earlier supposed to hit the theatres on May 15, will now release on June 19. Sharing the update, Samantha took to Instagram and wrote, "It's time to pull the trigger. #MaaIntiBangaaram in theatres worldwide on JUNE 19, 2026." "Maa Inti Bangaaram follows a woman who arrives in a traditional household as the new daughter-in-law - composed, obedient, scrutinised. What the family doesn't know is what she's hiding. When the past she buried refuses to stay buried, she must protect the very people who don't fully trust her, without ever letting them see who she really is, read a press note. Speaking about the film, Samantha Ruth Prabhu earlier said, "Maa Inti Bangaaram tells the story of a woman whose strength comes as much from her vulnerability as from her courage," as per a press release. She added, "Playing this character and nurturing this film as a producer has been an incredibly fulfilling journey for me. The world of this film is rooted and emotional with a narrative style



dedicated to being family first and slice of life, whilst maintaining its quirky, edgy energy. I'm truly excited for audiences to experience this story and connect with its spirit when it reaches them." Produced by Raj Nidimoru, Samantha and Himank Duvvuru, the film is helmed by acclaimed filmmaker Nandini Reddy.

SPORTS

Norway Chess: Praggnanandhaa, Gukesh Earn Armageddon Wins; Divya Stuns World Champion

Oslo, 26/5: Norway Chess 2026 opened with high drama in Oslo as Indian stars R Praggnanandhaa and World Champion D Gukesh launched their campaigns with gritty Armageddon victories after hard-fought drawn classical games. While Praggnanandhaa outclassed Wesley So in the tiebreaker with an aggressive attacking display, Gukesh staged a remarkable comeback against Vincent Keymer after surviving a difficult endgame in the classical encounter. The biggest upset of the opening round, however, came when Alireza Firouzja stunned World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen in classical chess, handing the Norwegian superstar a rare defeat on home soil to take the early lead in the tournament standings. Praggnanandhaa and Wesley So played out a balanced classical game that ended in a draw after a tense battle. The Indian Grandmaster, however, raised the tempo in the Armageddon decider and produced a sharp attacking performance to secure the bonus points. In another gripping contest, Gukesh faced Germany's Vincent Keymer in a strategic duel that nearly went against the Indian. Keymer outplayed the reigning world



champion in the endgame and looked set for victory, but Gukesh showed tremendous defensive resilience to hold on for a draw. Carrying that momentum into Armageddon, Gukesh turned the tables and clinched the tiebreak win. Firouzja's victory over Carlsen proved to be the defining result of the day. Carlsen appeared in control for large parts of the game, but severe time trouble led to a costly mistake that the French Grandmaster punished clinically to register the only classical win in the open section. In the Women's

tournament, reigning Women's World Champion Ju Wenjun and Divya Deshmukh also ended in a draw after a tense battle in which Ju Wenjun was pressing for a win. Divya delivered a strong performance in the Armageddon decider, winning the Armageddon tiebreak game. In another matchup, Bibisara Assaubayeva produced the standout result by defeating Indian No. 1 Koneru Humpy in classical chess. The Kazakh player handled the middlegame complications

confidently before converting her advantage with precision. Anna Muzychuk and Zhu Jiner drew their classical encounter, after which Zhu emerged victorious in Armageddon to claim the additional points. Reigning Women's World Champion Ju Wenjun was also held to a draw by India's Divya Deshmukh, who later impressed with a confident Armageddon victory. At the end of Round 1, Firouzja leads the open section after the only classical win of the day, while Assaubayeva sits atop the women's standings.

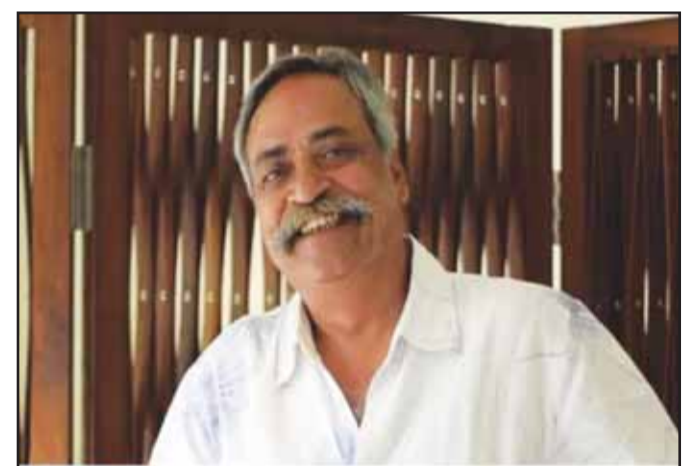
Royal Challengers Bengaluru pacer drops bombshell revelation over missed matches this season

NEWDELHI: Royal Challengers Bengaluru bowler Yash Dayal publically rejected official team narratives regarding his current absence from the squad, asserting that sitting out the tournament was not a personal choice. This statement directly challenges earlier remarks by team management. Before the tournament commenced, Director of Cricket Mo Bobat told media outlets that the left-arm fast bowler would sit out the tournament due to a private domestic scenario. Speaking during a recent podcast appearance, the cricketer clarified that he remains part of the retained squad roster, noting that the franchise chose not to secure a replacement player. Franchise leaders continue to navigate high-stakes tournament pressure as defending champions, making internal

communication public discrepancies highly visible to fans. Despite the conflicting public statements, the player confirmed that communication channels between himself and team leadership remain functional. Regular conversations continue with team mentor Dinesh Karthik and coaching staff members to ensure clarity. "Decisions rest with management figures, and I remain unaware of the underlying motivations behind this specific squad ruling," Dayal stated during his broadcast appearance. Legal filings from earlier months indicate that the athletic star currently navigates ongoing court procedures in Ghaziabad and Jaipur, which legal experts note standardly complicates professional sports participation.

Padma Awards 2026: Advertising legend Piyush Pandey conferred with Padma Bhushan posthumously

New Delhi: President Droupadi Murmu on Monday conferred Padma Bhushan on advertising legend late Piyush Pandey. The award was received by his wife Neeta Joshi. Droupadi Murmu presented Padma Awards 2026 at Civil Investiture Ceremony - I at Rashtrapati Bhavan. Often hailed as the "voice of Indian advertising", the Padma Bhushan recognises Piyush's transformative and decades-long contribution to the Indian advertising and creative communication. Piyush Pandey's award was received by his wife Neeta Joshi on his behalf at the Rashtrapati Bhavan today. Advertising legend Piyush Pandey passed away on October 24, 2025, at the age of 70 years. According to one of the relatives, Pandey had been suffering from pneumonia for the past few weeks after he returned from a trip. His health continued to worsen, and he had not been responding to treatment. Pandey, 70, started his advertising journey in 1982 with Ogilvy & Mather India (now Ogilvy India), beginning as a trainee account executive before



transitioning to the creative side. With his talent, he literally changed the face of Indian advertising. He was the mastermind behind iconic ad campaigns like Asian Paints' "Har khushi mein rang laaye", Cadbury's "Kuch Khaas Hai", and Fevicol's iconic "Egg" film. In 2004, Piyush Pandey etched his name in history as the first Asian to serve as jury president at the Cannes Lions International Festival of Creativity. His trailblazing contributions were later recognised with the CLIO Lifetime Achievement Award in 2012 and the Padma Shri, making

him the first figure from Indian advertising to receive the national honour. Piyush's last rites were attended by the legendary actor Amitabh Bachchan and others. Meanwhile, for the year 2026, the President has approved conferment of 131 Padma Awards, including 2 duo cases (in a duo case, the Award is counted as one). The list comprises 5 Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan and 113 Padma Shri Awards. 19 of the awardees are women and the list also includes 6 persons from the category of Foreigners / NRI / PIO / OCI and 16 Posthumous awardees.

"Tears welled up...": Hema Malini recalls feeling Dharmendra's "warm presence" while receiving Padma Vibhushan on his behalf

New Delhi: In an emotional and heartfelt note, actor-BJP MP Hema Malini opened up about the overwhelming moment of receiving the Padma Vibhushan on behalf of her late husband, and cinema icon Dharmendra. President Droupadi Murmu presented the prestigious award to Hema Malini on Monday at the Civil Investiture Ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. During the ceremony, Ahana Deol got emotional when her father Dharmendra's name was announced. She was seated with her husband, Vaibhav Vohra, by her side. Sharing her feelings after the prestigious event, she described it as "an euphoric moment" and said "Dharam ji's warm presence" could be felt beside her as she walked up

to receive the honour. "An euphoric moment! A moment when I actually felt my husband Dharam ji's warm presence, holding my hand and guiding me to the dais where his Padma Vibhushan award awaited him," she wrote. Recalling the ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan, she said she was filled with immense pride as President Droupadi Murmu personally handed over the award. "Yesterday at the serene Padma award got emotional when her father Dharmendra's name was announced. She was seated with her husband, Vaibhav Vohra, by her side. Sharing her feelings after the prestigious awards to the deserving achievers, I sat representing Dharam ji and felt an immense pride rise within me," she shared. The veteran actor also reflected on the many memories she shared with Dharam ji, both

as his co-star and later as his life partner. "Memories of the years spent with him, first as a co-star in so many hit movies and later as his life partner. Tears welled up as these thoughts were stirred within me," she wrote. Describing Dharam ji as a loving husband, affectionate father and grandfather, she said he was admired by everyone who knew him. "He had been a loving and caring husband, an affectionate father and a grandfather, a well-meaning friend, a true philosopher, a trusted guide. Dharam ji exemplified all these noble qualities and much more. He was a generous, giving, good human being recognised and loved by all who knew him," she added.