

Dumani Mail

Published simultaneously from NEW DELHI, Bhubaneswar (Odisha), Keonjhar (Odisha).



Union Minister Amit Shah reiterates commitment to identify and deport illegal immigrants

New Delhi: Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah has reiterated the government's firm commitment to identify and deport every illegal immigrant from the country. Addressing a public rally after inaugurating and laying the foundation stone for various developmental projects worth Rs 340 Crore in the Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency today, Mr Shah emphasised that the government is committed to securing the borders and eradicating illegal immigration in the country. During his address, the Home Minister also congratulated the West Bengal government for swiftly providing 600 hectares of land to the Border Security Force within a week.



On the occasion of his birth anniversary, Mr Shah recalled the immense contributions of Veer Savarkar, highlighting his supreme sacrifice and lifelong dedication to the motherland. The minister, who is on a three-day visit to Gujarat, today inaugurated several public amenities developed under corporate social responsibility initiatives, including the Jedva village lake, newly built libraries, and new primary school buildings. In the evening, Mr Shah will inaugurate a new hostel building at the Mata Umiya Dham complex at Sola and the 'Bharat Mata Square' at Bhimjipura in Ahmedabad. Later, the Home Minister will chair a high-level review meeting at the Shahibaug Circuit House to assess infrastructure readiness for the upcoming Olympic, Commonwealth, and World Police and Fire Games.

PM Modi emphasises effective implementation of Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 at PRAGATI meeting

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has emphasised the need for effective implementation of Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 and underlined that the mission should move beyond infrastructure creation and ensure measurable outcomes through regular monitoring, citizen participation and convergence between various stakeholders.

Chairing the 51st PRAGATI Meeting in New Delhi, Mr Modi asked States to expedite the completion of solid waste management-related infrastructure, including waste processing plants and GOBARdhan plants. During the meeting, the Prime Minister reviewed seven critical infrastructure projects across the Railways, Power and Road sectors covering nine States

worth around 30 thousand crore rupees.

While reviewing power sector projects, Prime Minister emphasised the need to accelerate rooftop solar adoption across urban areas, with a special focus on cities, residential clusters and public institutions. He underlined that rooftop solar should be taken up in mission mode to reduce electricity costs, improve energy security and promote clean energy at the household and community level.

While reviewing road and port connectivity projects, it was emphasised that Vadavan Port should be developed as a model of port-led, multi-modal development, where every major mode of transport is seamlessly integrated to create a future-



ready logistics ecosystem. Mr Modi said the project should not be seen merely as a port but as a national gateway connected through coastal shipping, inland waterways, dedicated freight corridors, high-speed rail connectivity, highways and airport linkages.

While reviewing Ken-Betwa River Inter-linking Project, Prime Minister

observed that Ken-Betwa project should serve as a model for other States to resolve inter-State water issues through cooperation, timely clearances, technology-based monitoring and mission-mode execution. States were encouraged to identify similar opportunities where river-linking, water conservation, groundwater recharge and efficient

irrigation can be taken up in an integrated manner to ensure long-term water security.

The Prime Minister also underlined that the delay in the implementation of public projects leads not only to cost escalation but also deprives citizens of timely access to essential facilities and development benefits. He observed that every delay has a direct impact on people's lives, regional growth and public resources. He stressed that Ministries, Departments and States must adopt a more proactive and time-bound approach to resolve pending issues, remove bottlenecks and ensure faster execution.

Prime Minister also emphasised that innovative use of canal networks should be explored, including the installation of solar panels

along canals and over canals for clean electricity generation. He said his would help optimise land use, reduce evaporation losses, generate renewable energy and create additional economic value from water infrastructure.

At the beginning of the meeting, the Cabinet Secretary informed that, in pursuance of the directions of the Prime Minister, a system of monthly review of social sector schemes at the State level has also been operationalised. This mechanism aims to ensure regular monitoring, faster resolution of implementation issues and greater accountability at the State and district levels. As part of this initiative, Swachh Bharat Mission has been taken up for review at the State level in the first instance.

Global temperatures likely to hit near-record highs over next five years: report

New Delhi: Global average temperatures are likely to remain at or near record levels over the next five years, according to a report released by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and produced by the UK's Met Office on Thursday. The report added that Arctic temperature anomalies are expected to continue to remain higher than the global average.



The report stated that although the average temperature over the next five years is likely to exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, this does not constitute a breach of the Paris Agreement, which refers to long-term warming measured over a period of around 20 years.

Annual global mean near-surface temperatures during 2026-2030 are predicted to range between 1.3 and 1.9 degrees Celsius above the 1850-1900 average.

According to the report, there is an 86 per cent chance that at least one year between 2026 and 2030 will surpass 2024 as the warmest year on record.

The findings also showed a 91 per cent chance that the global mean near-surface temperature will temporarily exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius above the 1850-1900 average for at least one year between 2026 and 2030.

This threshold was also temporarily exceeded in 2024, when the global average surface temperature was around 1.55 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial baseline.

"There is an El Nino predicted for the end of 2026, which increases the chances of 2027 becoming the next record-breaking year," said Dr Leon Hermanson, lead author of the report.

The five-year predicted

average temperature in the central tropical Pacific (Nino 3.4 region) indicates a tendency towards El Nino conditions, particularly in 2027 and 2028.

Under the Paris Agreement, countries agreed to keep the rise in long-term global average surface temperature well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, while pursuing efforts to limit the increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The scientific community has repeatedly warned that warming beyond 1.5 degrees Celsius could trigger increasingly severe climate impacts and extreme weather events, while also reducing adaptation options.

India and China express satisfaction over maintaining peace and tranquility in border areas

New Delhi: India and China reviewed the situation in border areas and expressed satisfaction with progress made in maintaining peace and tranquillity. The two countries reviewed the situation during the 35th meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC). The meeting was held yesterday in Beijing. The Indian delegation was led by Joint Secretary (East Asia), Sujit Ghosh and the Chinese delegation was led by Director General of the Boundary and Oceanic Affairs Department of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs Hou Yanqi.

The Ministry of External Affairs said that the discussions were constructive and forward looking. The two sides discussed issues pertaining to delimitation,

border management, mechanism building and cross-border cooperation. The Ministry said that the Indian side stressed on early meeting of the next Expert Level Mechanism on Trans-border Rivers.

During the meeting, both sides agreed to maintain regular exchanges and contacts at the diplomatic and military levels through mechanisms including those that were agreed upon as part of outcomes of 24th Special Representatives (SR) Talks.

They also agreed to work together to make substantive preparation for the next meeting of the SR to be held in China. The Indian delegation leader met Director General of Department of Asian Affairs of Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs Liu Jinsong and made a courtesy call on Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Hong Lei.

India sends emergency pharmaceutical supplies to support Ebola outbreak response in Congo

New Delhi: India has sent emergency pharmaceutical supplies to support efforts to contain the Ebola outbreak in Congo, Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said. In a social media post, Ethiopia-headquartered Africa CDC said the consignment, donated by India, was received in Uganda by its Eastern Africa Regional Coordinating Centre. The supplies include essential diagnostics, therapeutics, infection prevention and control materials, and case management support, which will be deployed to affected communities in eastern DR Congo.

Africa CDC has welcomed the arrival of emergency pharmaceutical supplies generously donated by the Government and people of India to support the ongoing response to the Bundibugyo Ebola outbreak in Congo. It



thanked India for its continued support and commitment to protecting lives and advancing health security across the continent.

The Bundibugyo strain is one of the six known species of the Ebola virus and has caused periodic outbreaks in parts of Africa since it was first identified in Uganda in 2007.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), there are no approved drugs or vaccines for the strain of Ebola caused by the Bundibugyo virus. Ebola is a severe and often

fatal illness transmitted through direct contact with infected bodily fluids, contaminated materials or infected animals. Symptoms include fever, vomiting, diarrhoea and, in severe cases, internal and external bleeding.

The virus can get into the human population when people have close contact with the blood, secretions, organs or other bodily fluids of infected animals such as fruit bats, chimpanzees, gorillas, monkeys, forest antelope, or porcupines found ill or dead or in the rainforest.

Siddaramaiah quits as Karnataka Chief Minister, submits resignation at Lok Bhavan

Bengaluru: Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday submitted his resignation to Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot's Special Secretary, Prabhu Shankar, at Lok Bhavan, bringing an end to his tenure as the state's longest-serving Chief Minister.

The resignation also brought the curtain down on weeks of intense political speculation over a possible leadership change in Karnataka.

Siddaramaiah submitted his resignation letter in the presence of Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, cabinet ministers and senior Congress leaders.

Addressing a joint press conference in Bengaluru alongside Shivakumar and Home Minister G. Parameshwara,



Siddaramaiah said: "I have submitted my resignation from the post of Chief Minister to the Governor's Secretary."

"The Governor was not in town and officials informed me that he would return by tonight. In this situation, I submitted my resignation letter to the Governor's Secretary. I have always maintained, both inside and outside the Assembly, that I would step down whenever

directed by the party high command. Two days ago, the high command asked me to resign, and I have honoured that commitment," he said.

With his resignation, Siddaramaiah, 78, joins a select group of Karnataka leaders who have served as Chief Minister more than once, including S. Nijalingappa, Veerendra Patil, D. Devaraj Urs, Ramakrishna Hegde, H.D. Kumaraswamy and B.S. Yediyurappa.

India, South Korea hold 12th round of CEPA upgrade talks in New Delhi

New Delhi: India and the Republic of Korea held the 12th round of negotiations for upgrading the India-Korea Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (IK CEPA) in New Delhi from May 25 to 27, reaffirming their commitment to a balanced and future-oriented trade partnership.

The negotiations were held pursuant to the Joint Declaration signed on April 20, 2026, by Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Korean Trade Minister Yeo Han-koo during the State Visit of the President of the Republic of Korea to India. Both sides had agreed to accelerate the CEPA upgrade negotiations. The talks were co-chaired by Kapil Chaudhary, Joint Secretary in

the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and Park Geun-oh, Director General for Trade Agreement Policy at South Korea's Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (MOTIE).

According to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the discussions were conducted in a constructive and cooperative spirit, reflecting the strong bilateral relationship and the "Futuristic Partnership" envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and South Korean President Lee Jae-myung. Both countries reviewed the progress achieved in the negotiations and acknowledged India's growing bilateral trade deficit since the IK CEPA came into force in 2010. The two sides



agreed to address the issue within the broader CEPA framework.

During the latest round of talks, discussions focused on Trade in Goods, Trade in Services, Rules of Origin and Origin Procedures, Investment, and Sanitary and

Phytosanitary standards. India and South Korea also decided to constitute sub-groups to explore cooperation in digital trade, supply chain cooperation, and strategic industrial cooperation.

The two countries reaffirmed their commitment

to concluding the CEPA upgrade negotiations in a time-bound manner with the aim of achieving a modernised and mutually beneficial agreement that supports balanced bilateral trade and deeper economic cooperation.

CM and Vedanta Chairman Discuss Progress of Vedanta Projects in Odisha

Projects to be reviewed every 15 days to ensure timely completion: CM

Bhubaneswar 28 May 2026: Chief Minister Shri Mohan Charan Majhi met with Shri Anil Agarwal, Chairman of the Vedanta Group, at Lok Seva Bhawan today to discuss the progress of Vedanta's upcoming projects in Odisha, valued at over ₹1 lakh crore. The discussion primarily focused on ensuring the timely implementation of these projects.

It is noteworthy that with an investment exceeding ₹1 lakh crore, Vedanta has emerged as a major investor in the state.

Vedanta's proposed establishments in Odisha include:

A 60 lakh tonne capacity Alumina Refinery in Rayagada district.

A 30 lakh tonne capacity Aluminium Smelter in Dhenkanal district.

A 6000 MW capacity Power Project in Dhenkanal

district.

A Downstream Aluminium Park, along with Integrated Coal and Bauxite Industries.

These projects will collectively bolster the state's industrialization process. Vedanta will set up the Downstream Aluminium Park near its smelter to manufacture advanced aluminium products tailored for sectors like aerospace, electric vehicles (EV), and defence. These initiatives will position Odisha as the world's largest aluminium production hub, generating lakhs of employment opportunities and fostering the creation of thousands of new MSMEs.

Land allocation has already been completed for the Power Project and Smelter in Dhenkanal, as well as the Alumina Refinery project in



Rayagada. The provision of necessary infrastructure and facilities for these projects is progressing smoothly. The company's new coal block is targeted to become operational this year. Additionally, the Ministry of Railways has approved a proposed rail link near Vedanta's upcoming

bauxite mine.

During the discussion, the Chief Minister stated that this massive investment by Vedanta will create immense opportunities for our youth. The progress of Vedanta's projects will be reviewed every 15 days, and steps will be taken to ensure work commences on schedule. These projects will accelerate our journey toward transforming Odisha into a \$500 billion economy by 2036. It will significantly boost economic activities and infrastructure development, particularly in Central and Southern

Odisha."

Reflecting on the progress of the projects, Vedanta Group Chairman Shri Anil Agarwal remarked that the upcoming projects will bring a transformation to Odisha's economy. They will generate lakhs of jobs, empower local enterprises, and help build a future-ready industrial hub. Shri Agarwal thanked the Chief Minister for the government's support and reaffirmed Vedanta's commitment to being a steadfast partner in Odisha's growth story. The meeting was attended by Shri Hemant Sharma, Additional Chief Secretary (Industries); Shri Saswat Mishra, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister; Dr. Arabinda Padhee, Additional Chief Secretary (Revenue); along with senior officials from the Vedanta Group.

Puri to Host BRICS Meet on Disaster Management; Global Experts to Brainstorm on Resilience



Puri: Odisha is set to host a key international conference on disaster management as the temple town of Puri gears up for the second technical meeting of the BRICS Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group from June 3 to 5.

The high-level summit is expected to bring together delegates, policymakers and disaster-management experts from BRICS member nations to deliberate on strengthening global cooperation, enhancing resilience and improving disaster preparedness strategies. Odisha's proven track record in handling cyclones and natural calamities is said to be a major reason behind the state being chosen as the venue for the prestigious event. Officials believe the discussions in Puri could help shape future global frameworks for disaster risk reduction and emergency response. Representatives from countries including Brazil, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, United Arab Emirates and China are expected to participate in the deliberations.

The meeting will focus on disaster risk reduction mechanisms, capacity building, climate resilience and collaborative approaches to tackling natural disasters in vulnerable regions across the world. Officials said the conference will also provide an opportunity to showcase Odisha's disaster preparedness model, which has earned international recognition over the years for minimising casualties during severe cyclones and extreme weather events.

Arjit Harichandan cracked OCS exam securing an impressive rank-25

Khordha - 28/5- Arjit Harichandan of Bhalibadi in Khordha town, has achieved success in the Odisha Civil Services Exam held in 2025 by ranking 25th. He has achieved this success in his third attempt by learning online without any coaching.

Arjit started his primary education from Bangiriposhi Govt. Primary School in Mayurbhanja district and later completed his secondary education from Khordha DAV School. After completing his higher secondary education from Pokhaript DAV School, Bhubaneswar and B.Tech degree in Computer Science from Gunupur GIET, he was working in TCS company in Bhubaneswar as a software engineer and later left his job to prepare for the Odisha Civil Services Examination.

In the year 2023 Arjit attempt first time in OCS exam but not success. In the year 2024, he attempt second time the OCS exam and qualify the preliminary and main examination but due to some low marks he is not success in the



exam. In 2025, he successfully passed the OCS examination by ranking 25th in his third attempt. His father, Pramod Kumar Harichandan, retired from his job as a head master in Tribal Welfare Residential School (TRW). His mother, Sangeeta Harichandan, is a housewife. Arjit said that his success has been possible due to the blessings of Lord Jagannath and the inspiration of his father and mother. Being a OAS officer in the current digital era he will take care of the common people to get speedy justice using AI technology and will prepare for UPSC exam. Congratulations are pouring in from various quarters for his success.

Bari Daughter this Year Madhusudan Law University Topper.



Jajpur :- Dipti Pati, Daughter of Balibili village under Bari block in Jajpur district has made Jajpur proud through her remarkable academic achievements. The worthy legacy of Late Advocate Damodar Pati, a distinguished advocate of the Odisha High Court, Dipti has earned recognition through her dedication, perseverance, and academic excellence. She was honoured as

the Department Topper in Economics Honours at Christ College, Cuttack, under Utkal University, reflecting her outstanding academic brilliance. Adding another feather to her cap, Dipti also secured the top position in the Second Semester at Madhusudan Law University, further proving her commitment to excellence in legal education. Late Advocate Damodar Pati was widely

respected for his integrity, devotion to justice, and contribution to the legal profession. His ideals and inspiration continue to guide Dipti in her academic journey. Dipti's achievements are not only a matter of pride for her family but also for Balibili village, Bari, and the entire Jajpur district, inspiring many young minds to pursue excellence with determination.

Two youths Die As Car fell down in a bridge

Keonjhar : Two youths died and two others were severely injured after a car carrying four persons fell off a bridge near Rasol village on Brahmanipal- Harichandanpur - Keonjhar Road in Keonjhar district on Thursday. The deceased have been identified as Debabrat Das and Shivaswarup Rout, both are 30 years old. The injured Samresh Swain(28) and Iswar Prasad Beura (27) were admitted in Bhagamunda hospital and later teffered to Keonjhar district headquarter hospital. All are native of Amalapada village under Town police station in Dhenkanal district. According to the sources the accident took place at about 1 pm near Rasol Chhak under Daitari police limits, when the four friends were going from Dhenkanal to Ghatagain to visit Maa Tarini temple. Suddenly the driver lose control and collide the bridge and fell down in water and submerged. After the incident local people rushed to the spot and informed the police station. On being informed, police and Fire Service personnel reached the spot and rescued them with the help of local people and took to Bhagamunda where two among them were declared dead. The injured were later shifted to District Headquarters Hospital. Later the dead bodies were sent to Anandapur Sub-Division Hospital for postmortem. The incident is very unfortunate. Police have launched an investigation to find out the cause of accident. The car was seized and kept in the police station, said SDPO Ghatagaon Bijay Krushna Mohapatra.



IMD issues yellow alert for heat wave conditions in parts of Delhi



New Delhi: India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a yellow alert for heat wave conditions today over parts of Delhi, with maximum temperature expected to be hovering between 43 and 45 degrees Celsius. The Met Department has also predicted severe heat wave conditions during the day at isolated places over Haryana, Chandigarh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Vidarbha. Gangetic West Bengal, Konkan and Goa, Odisha, Saurashtra, Kutch, Tamil

Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal are expected to experience hot and humid weather conditions according to the IMD. Warm night conditions are likely to prevail over Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and Vidarbha tonight. The Weather Agency has further predicted heavy rainfall in parts of north-east India, Bihar, Interior Karnataka, Tripura, Sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Sikkim and Telangana for today while Similar conditions are predicted over Assam and Meghalaya tomorrow.

“Trouble Before the Start”

Questions Raised Over Administrative Ambiguity in Newly Formed Rengali NAC

Sambalpur, May 28(DMS) : A few months ago, the Odisha government announced the formation of a new Notified Area Council (NAC) at Rengali in Sambalpur district. Formed primarily by including the Rengali Gram Panchayat area, the new urban body initially created hopes for better civic infrastructure and planned urban development in the region. However, even before the administrative structure becomes fully functional, several questions have begun to emerge over the manner in which the process is being carried out. Although the NAC

office, administrative framework and regular operational procedures are yet to be formally established, the ward reservation list has already been published. At the same time, political discussions in the area have intensified over the reservation of the chairperson's post.

Amid this backdrop, sanitation work has reportedly been underway in the Rengali area for more than a month. Allegations have surfaced that a contractor has orally engaged several local men and women for the cleaning work. However,

no official clarity has emerged regarding the appointment process, wage structure, work guidelines or administrative approval for the initiative.

The issue has now taken a serious turn after sanitation workers reportedly began demanding their pending wages. Delay in payment has led to growing dissatisfaction among the workers, and the matter is gradually moving towards agitation.

The major question being raised is: under whose direction was the sanitation drive initiated when the NAC's formal administrative system is still not fully



operational? Which department or authority approved the process? Who is responsible for

appointing workers verbally without a transparent procedure? According to local

residents, if the newly formed NAC begins functioning without transparency and

accountability, doubts regarding the future governance of the civic body are natural. They fear that if temporary and unclear arrangements continue in the name of development, it could eventually create larger administrative complications.

The formation of the Rengali NAC is undoubtedly seen as an important opportunity for urbanisation and improvement of civic amenities in the industrial region of Sambalpur. However, many believe that unless the administration ensures proper rules, transparency and

accountability from the very beginning, public confidence may gradually turn into distrust.

Political observers also feel that if the present issue is not resolved properly and promptly, it could take a political shape ahead of the upcoming NAC elections. There are apprehensions that the controversy may directly influence the local electoral atmosphere and even lead to factional conflicts in the region.

Attempts were made to contact local BDO Pritam Kumar Tanti for his reaction on the matter, but he could not be reached as he did not respond to phone calls.

President Droupadi Murmu urges police forces to be more Citizen-Centric and sensitive towards vulnerable sections

New Delhi: President Droupadi Murmu conferred the prestigious President's Police Colour to the Sikkim Police today. The Alankaran Parade was held at the Paljor Stadium in Gangtok. Sikkim has become the 15th state of the country and 3rd from North East to receive this award.

Addressing the event, President Droupadi Murmu urged the police force to be more citizen centric. She also emphasised that police should be more sensitive while dealing with the people, particularly women, the poor and children. She said that police must be ready to deal with cybercrime, online fraud, deep fake, etc. She hoped that the Sikkim Police would deal with these challenges by using all modern means. She appreciated the role of the Sikkim Police in maintaining law and order situation as well as mitigating disasters.

The President's Police Colour is the highest ceremonial honour awarded to a police force in the country in recognition of exceptional service, unwavering discipline, and dedication to the nation.

Rising Number of Kidney Patients, Water Not Even Fit to Quench Thirst

People in Puri's Astarang Area Troubled by Contaminated Drinking Water

Puri: Residents of Nagar, Korana, Chhuriana, and Shishua panchayats under Astarang block in Odisha's Puri district are facing a severe drinking water crisis. Muddy and iron-contaminated water is coming out from tube wells in these areas. Be it summer or monsoon, the situation remains the same throughout the year. Declining groundwater levels have further worsened the problem.

Villagers say there is an acute shortage of safe drinking water. The water from tube wells and borewells contains excessive amounts of iron. In many places, even water drawn from depths of 150 to 200 feet has high iron content. The water is also reported to contain elevated levels of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, and calcium.

Mud-Like Layer Settling in Water

According to locals, a thick mud-colored layer settles at the bottom if the water is stored in a container for some time. The water also tastes salty. The situation has become so serious that

the water is not only unfit for drinking but also unsuitable for daily use. People are forced to filter the water using traditional methods with sand and gravel before using it.

Increase in Stomach, Kidney, and Skin Diseases

Residents allege that consuming this contaminated water is leading to a rise in stomach ailments, kidney diseases, and skin problems in the region. In the Korana area, iron content in water has reportedly reached 6.250 milligrams per liter, whereas the permissible limit is considered to be 1 milligram per liter.

Experts warn that excessive nitrogen in water can also affect the respiratory system and eyesight.

Villagers Accuse Administration of Negligence
Locals claim they have repeatedly informed public representatives, officials of the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Department, and the BDO about the issue, but no concrete action has been taken so far. Residents have demanded immediate supply of safe drinking water and regular water quality testing in the affected areas.

Villagers say there is an acute shortage of safe drinking water. The water from tube wells and borewells contains excessive amounts of iron. In many places, even water drawn from depths of 150 to 200 feet has high iron content. The water is also reported to contain elevated levels of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, and calcium.

NTA releases revised examination dates and admit cards for CUET UG 2026

New Delhi: The National Testing Agency (NTA) has released revised examination dates and admit cards for the Common University Entrance Test Undergraduate (CUET UG) 2026 examinations.

As per NTA, examinations will now be conducted on 31st of this month and 6th and 7th of next month. The examination which was scheduled for today was rescheduled due to Eid-ul-Azha. NTA said that admit cards for candidates appearing for the test on Sunday have been released and they can be downloaded from the official website of NTA - cuet.nta.nic.in.

The Admit Card for the remaining candidates whose examination is being scheduled on 6th and 7th of next month will be released soon.

4th Sub-Junior & Youth 50 balls cricket national championships 2026



Khordha -28/5- The 4th Sub-Junior and Youth 50 balls cricket national championships is underway in Bhubaneswar, Odisha from May-27 to 31st 2026. The tournament features young talents from across India competing in Under -15 and Under -19 categories for both boys and girls. In a press meet at KT Global school Khordha, 50 balls cricket association state head Odisha Alok Chaudhary said that more than 500 young cricketer and coaches from 22 states of India have participated in this competition. The competition will be held at 4 locations of Khordha BJB High School ground, KT Global School, C.V Raman Global University and Khordha Road railway stadium.

Eid Celebrated with great Joy

NUAPADA / KHARIAR ROAD, May 28 : Eid-Ul-Adha was celebrated with deep religious fervor and joy at Khariar Road in Nuapada District on Thursday, serving as a powerful symbol of sacrifice, brotherhood and community across the region.

The festivities began in the early morning. Under the leadership of President Muslim Zamat Khariar Road Mohammad Yakub, hundreds of Muslims offered prayers at Idgah ground situated in Ward No-14. They offered dua (supplication) for peace in the country. Hundreds of Muslims who were dressed in traditional attires, offered prayers at Mosque. This major Islamic festival honors Prophet Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son out of obedience to God and is marked by communal prayers, charity and the ritual sacrifice of livestock, said Md Juned. Everyone wished each other Eid Mubarak.



Oath taking ceremony to mark MHM day



Bhubaneswar : To sensitize the young girls living in urban poverty on the occasion on Menstrual hygiene day an awareness drive was organized by Actionaid in collaboration with Center for Child & Women Development (CCWD) and Rogi Arogya Samiti held at Mandap Slum under ward no-9 of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation. The objective of the awareness drive was to educate the young girls about proper using of sanitary pad and its disposal system said Bhaskar Chandra Pradhan. On this occasion ASHA worker

Pramila Sahoo and Shantilata Behera AWW, focused on government schemes related to health development of young girls and women. Among others Kalyani Rout and Snigdha Das spoke on this occasion. Lastly Swarnapriya Senapati proposed a warm vote of thanks to all. To mark this day Rangoli and oath taking ceremony was conducted. The event coordinated by Saraswati Parida, Bishnu Priya Samal, Shiba Sahoo, Manas Ranjan Pradhan and intern of Rajdhani Degree College Akankhya Pattanaik and Sonali Jena.

Vedanta Aluminium supports 7th State Yogasana Championship

Rayagada, May 28, 2026: Reinforcing its commitment towards holistic community well-being and youth development, Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest aluminium producer, supported the 7th State Yogasana Championship 2026, organised by the Yogasana Sports Association of Odisha (YSAO) at the Biju Patnaik Indoor Stadium, Rayagada, from May 21 to 26, 2026.

The championship brought together nearly 350 athletes from across Odisha, competing across junior, senior and veteran categories in a diverse range of Yogasana disciplines including traditional, artistic and rhythmic performances, along with specialised balance and flexibility events. The event celebrated physical

fitness, discipline and holistic well-being while providing a platform for athletes to showcase their talent and dedication.

Several eminent dignitaries attended the championship including Chief Guest Shri Nabin Chandra Naik, Additional District Magistrate (ADM), Rayagada, and Special Guest Shri Appal Swami Kadraka, Hon'ble MLA, Rayagada. Other distinguished guests included Shri Yella Venkata Raman, PAITDA Rayagada; Shri Bhajan Lal Majhi, District Education Officer; CA Dibakara Harichandan, State President, YSAO; Shri Manoj Kumar Mukharji, General Secretary, YSAO; Prof. Dr. Dusmant Kumar Mohanty; Dr. Alok Kumar Swain, Competition Director; and Shri Nrusingha



Kumar Bahinipati, President, YSAO.

Speaking on the occasion, General Secretary of Yogasana Sports Association of Odisha, Mr. Manoj Kumar Mukharjee said, "We appreciate Vedanta Aluminium's support towards

initiatives that promote wellness, sports and community engagement across Odisha. Yoga is deeply rooted in India's cultural heritage, and such platforms play an important role in inspiring healthier lifestyles, encouraging discipline, confidence and

overall well-being among youth."

Vedanta Aluminium actively supports initiatives across sports, wellness, education and culture as part of its larger commitment to community development in Odisha, and has successfully

produced national-level archery champions through its Sports Training Initiative in Kalahandi. The company's support to the State Yogasana Championship also aligns with the spirit of the upcoming International Day of Yoga, encouraging greater awareness around physical and mental well-being through traditional practices. Through its community development initiatives, Vedanta Aluminium continues to drive impactful interventions across Odisha in the areas of education, healthcare, sustainable livelihoods, women empowerment, sports promotion and rural infrastructure development, contributing towards inclusive and long-term socio-economic growth within the state.

78 Years After Independence, Odisha's Patpani Village Remains Stranded in Darkness ; Patients Carried on Cots as Welfare Schemes Fail.

NUAPADA/KHARIAR ROAD, May 28 : Despite the government's grand claims of rural development and digital transformation, a harsh and contrasting reality persists in the remote pockets of Odisha. Decades after independence, Patpani a hilltop tribal village in the Komna block of Nuapada district remains cut off from basic infrastructure, modern amenities, and essential civic services.

Surrounded by dense forests and rugged terrains, the residents of Patpani continue to live under primitive conditions, alleging that government welfare schemes vanish into thin air long before reaching the

grassroots.

Cots Double as Ambulances Amid Lack of Motorable Roads

The village completely lacks a concrete road. Due to the treacherous terrain, emergency services like ambulances cannot reach the hilltop. When a villager falls critically ill or a pregnant woman goes into labor, the locals are forced to tie the patient to a wooden cot (khatia) and carry them on their shoulders down the steep hill to Kamkeda village. Only upon reaching Kamkeda can they arrange vehicular transport to the nearest hospital. Locals report that these logistical delays frequently lead to

medical complications and, in tragic instances, preventable deaths.

No Voter IDs, No Houses : A Blow to Democratic Inclusion

While voting is hailed as the cornerstone of Indian democracy, many eligible villagers in Patpani, including Hiradei Majhi, Kabita Majhi, Mahindra Majhi, Duralabha Majhi, and Khageswar Majhi, do not even possess a Voter ID card. To exercise their franchise during elections, they must trek miles on foot to the Anupgarh polling booth.

Furthermore, the flagship 'Housing for All' initiative (Awas Yojana) has



been a total failure here. The poorest families continue to live in dilapidated, hazardous mud houses, highly vulnerable to the elements. Crippled Education, Dysfunctional Infrastructure, and Zero

Power The village has no grid electricity. While the administration installed solar streetlights and a solar-powered drinking water pump a year ago, both have stopped functioning due to a

complete lack of maintenance. Consequently, the village has plunged back into darkness, forcing residents to struggle for drinking water once again.

The Anganwadi Center

: Does not have its own government building and is currently operating out of a cramped, rented room.

Social Security Hurdles Senior citizens and widows are forced to navigate treacherous, rocky mountain paths on foot just to collect their subsidized PDS rice and pension money from the Tikrapada Panchayat office miles away.

Administration Steps In: Ray of Hope or Empty Promise.

Following widespread media reports detailing the plight of Patpani, the Block Development Officer (BDO) of Komna, Pabitra Samal, visited the hilltop village on Wednesday, the

27th May. After trekking up the hill, the BDO interacted with the tribal residents and took note of their grievances. "Steps will be taken immediately to address the lack of roads, electricity, and drinking water. We will also expedite housing and social security enrollment for eligible beneficiaries," BDO Samal assured the villagers.

While the administration's visit has brought a temporary wave of relief, the skeptical residents note that they have heard such assurances before. Only time will say whether this official visit translates into real development on the ground or remains another empty bureaucratic promise.

Quad Initiative

THE critical minerals framework, backed by nearly \$20 billion in public and private investment, is a key initiative by the Quad, which is struggling to stay relevant amid a bipolar world order. The member nations — India, the US, Japan and Australia — have signalled that the pursuit of strategic resources is no longer merely economic — it is deeply geopolitical and security-driven. The latest pact is prompted by China's overwhelming dominance in rare earths and critical minerals — resources vital for electric vehicles, semiconductors, batteries, drones and advanced defence systems. With China accounting for nearly 70 per cent of global rare earth mining and processing capacity, many nations have become vulnerable to supply disruptions and export controls.

As India makes a push for clean energy, digital manufacturing and defence modernisation, access to reliable supplies of lithium, cobalt, nickel and rare earth elements has become a strategic necessity. The separate India-US agreement on mining, processing, recycling and investment demonstrates New Delhi's intention to reduce dependence on China while integrating itself into trusted global supply chains.

Importantly, the initiative is not limited to resource extraction. It includes financing mechanisms, export credit support, recycling technologies, geological mapping and cooperation against unfair trade practices. Indeed, critical minerals require an entire ecosystem, not isolated mining projects. The Quad's broader agenda — covering maritime security, energy resilience and Indo-Pacific infrastructure — indicates that it is evolving into a more concrete coalition. China's criticism of "exclusive groupings" and "bloc confrontation" is not surprising. Yet Beijing's own use of export curbs has energised the very counterbalancing alliance it opposes. The Quad's challenge now is to implement the ambitious agreement on critical minerals. Large investments, regulatory coordination and sustainable mining practices will determine whether this framework becomes a viable counter to Chinese hegemony.

Groundwater Crisis HARYANA's groundwater crisis has entered a dangerous new phase. For years, the debate revolved around the rapidly falling water table caused by excessive extraction for the paddy-wheat cycle. Now, a study by Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University has revealed an equally alarming reality: barely 32% of the state's groundwater remains suitable for high-quality irrigation. The problem is no longer just about the quantity of water available underground, but also about its deteriorating quality. Large parts of Haryana are now confronting salinity, sodicity and chemical imbalances that gradually reduce soil fertility and agricultural productivity. In some districts, over-extraction has drained aquifers; in others, canal seepage and poor drainage have produced waterlogging and salt accumulation. Together, these twin crises expose the ecological limits of Haryana's Green Revolution model. The state's dependence on water-intensive paddy cultivation remains at the centre of the problem. Subsidised electricity, assured procurement and MSP incentives continue to encourage indiscriminate groundwater pumping. Farmers cannot be blamed entirely for responding rationally to the economic signals created by policy. Yet the long-term consequences are becoming increasingly visible beneath the fields themselves. Crop diversification must move from policy rhetoric to economic reality. Farmers require assured procurement and market support for less water-intensive crops such as maize, pulses and oilseeds. Techniques like direct-seeded rice, micro-irrigation and groundwater recharge need wider implementation, while canal systems require better drainage management. Most importantly, groundwater quality mapping must become central to district-level agricultural planning. Haryana's food security model cannot survive if its soil and aquifers continue to degrade simultaneously. The warning signs are visible. If corrective action continues to lag, the state risks transforming one of India's most productive agricultural regions into an increasingly water-stressed and chemically damaged landscape.

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Suresh Chandra Sarangi

There seems to be a significant shift in India with regard to consumption. It represents the total spending by individuals and households on goods and services. But it is generally accepted that boosting consumer demand spurs economic growth.

As we know, consumption is the key component of the demand side of economics. Sustainable Development Goal 12 (SDG 12) of the 2030 Agenda provides a comprehensive roadmap for advancing responsible consumption and production patterns and how to achieve them. Of late, there has been a huge outcry for decouple economic growth from resource overuse. This means going for actionable insights in reducing material use, improving energy efficiency, and cleaner production principles across the value chain.

A decade before consultancy firm Mckency brought out a paper stating that India and China would grow exponentially in view of their staggering population, and mind-boggling consumption, which triggers economic growth. The same has been consistently and aggressively growing, stoking growth. So, India's economy is uniquely domestic consumption-driven, with private household consumption accounting for 56% to 60% of the nation's GDP. On the one hand, because India is a consumer-oriented economy, it shields India from global recessions, signifying local growth that hinges heavily on domestic income and purchasing power. This compensated for the loss on account of what is experienced in export-heavy economies. This varies geographically, region-wise, depending on per capita consumption. There is a huge gap between the consumption of high-income groups and that of low-income groups.

The GST reforms before the busy season last year witnessed phenomenal sales in the auto sector and food and

beverages. Driven by rapid urbanization and mass-scale migration, coupled with a young workforce and digital access, consumers are generally consuming more because of the gig economy. High Disposable incomes help in consumption. Sometimes, leading to conspicuous consumption. The total consumer spending in India is expected to amount to US\$2.79 trillion in 2026. Private consumption accounts for 57 to 61% of India's nominal GDP. It is growing at an annual rate of 7.2%. The best part of the story is that India is now the fastest-growing consumer market, and the same is driven by a rising middle class and rising rural spending. Signs of both demonstrative effect and status symbol. Consumption for food, holiday, and travel is now getting squeezed in view of the continuous rise in oil and gas prices, in view of the Gulf War.

A survey done by Kotak Mutual Fund shows that the Indian household is not spending as much on food nowadays. The share of food expenses is falling in both urban and rural. The same is being replaced by automobiles, mobile phones, eating out, and rent. Within food, cereals fell from 22% to 5% in rural areas, 12% to 4% in urban. This signifies that the thali has shrunk and the wallet has been used and expended somewhere, from 2000 to date. As household consumption grew richer, the share spent on staples fell. The new categories where India is buying are totally different than what it was 20 years ago. The mushroom growth of meesho Ltd, Fantasy, Swiggy, Ott, paid subscription, Hearables, Blink Commerce Pvt Ltd, and the growth in SIPS, and Apple phones and Amazon, is a pointer to the fact that consumption pattern is changing rapidly, while the earlier consumption was on Air conditioners, FMCG, domestic air travel, hotels, 2 wheelers, Refrigerators, and on domestic tourism.

It is a fact that top 10% urban India

spends in multiples of the national average. The urban rent has been increasing by leaps and bounds. Rent as a percent of household spending has gone up from 4.5 to 6.6 in 2022_23. A sizeable part of income is going towards concerts, premieres, and the live event has grown from 19000 in 2022 to 34000 in 2025, including IPL, etc. Strangely enough, India's wallet is being spent more abroad. Foreign travel dominates outward, foreign trips in FY 26. Foreign travel growth doubled in FY 22_23. Overseas expenses increased 7.3x in the last 3 years. Overseas equity and debt investment surged rapidly in FY 25_26. Apple India's sales are almost 2x HUL. The number of phones sold almost remained flat, but the craze for premium phones is exploding. The expenditure on data use has been skyrocketing. In the last 8 years, the data bill has grown 15.7%, rural wage 5%, and the rural workers' data bill is growing 3x faster than their wages. 91% of individuals are losing money in forward and options in FY 25 in the stock market.

While income growth is deepening, it is not widening. Loans grew faster than salaries, and EMI burden growth is more than income growth, and that is how every household's debt burden is increasing, which speaks to the fact that over the last 7 years, EMI growth is more than salary growth, highlighting Charbek's philosophy of "jabat jibet, sukham jibet, runam kruta ghrutam pibet." All these expenses are affecting household savings, which in 9 months of March 20 was 7.8% of GDP and now has fallen to 9 months of FY 26. A lot of money is being spent or going down the drain due to fraud, cyber fraud, credit card fraud, ecommerce fraud, digital arrest, sextortion, and app/malware-based fraud. It would be observed that the wallet share has shifted, income growth deepening but not widening, meaning thereby inequality in income still persists, or avenues for a certain class of people are not properly tapped, or speculation

loss or fraud is eating into consumption.

The consumption pattern speaks of a rapid and total shift as a result of industrialisation, modernisation, liberalisation, and disposable income to spare, as there is upward vertical mobility. As the economy is expanding, consumer behaviour is undergoing radical changes. No matter the educational outlook, change in outlook because of Television, the internet, and social media. India has become a consumerist society. But with the advantage of very low CPI, things were affordable with higher disposable income. But in the last six months, CPI has been growing, as has WPI, for which the wallet will shrink. Raising the minimum income on which no income tax will be imposed up to Rs 12lacs, some more amount would be available for consumption expenses. There is a possibility of an increase in the salary structure of the central government employees after the Central Pay Commission comes out with the revised salary structure. But the conspicuous consumption is huge. In any marriage or social function, it is carnival time in India. people sell personal property, borrow, and fail to repay, and then commit suicide under stress. A study on Maharashtra farmers' suicide reaffirms that the deaths are more due to personal and social consumption and not because of the failure of Agriculture, so much.

Circular economy and sustainable consumption in the context of SDG12 are urgent in view of the fact that the SDG goals are ending in 2030. Consumption of resources is alright, as long as there is commensurate production. It stokes economic growth. But there should be a balance between available resources and consumption, for which sustainable practices of production and consumption have to be balanced. Let us remember Gandhi's talisman. There is enough in this world for the human being to provide for each one's need, but not for anyone's greed.

The paradox of devotion, the power of babas and justice

Indian society is tangled between prison, parole and religious influence.

- Dr. Satyavan Saurabh

In India, religion is not just a matter of faith; it has also become a major center of social influence, political power, and economic structure. This is why, when a prominent religious leader, a self-proclaimed saint, or the head of a spiritual organization faces serious criminal charges, the matter is not limited to the courts and the law. It erupts into a broader debate on social mindset, devotional politics, the judicial system, and the impartiality of the state. In the past few years, the country has witnessed numerous cases where prominent religious figures have been accused of sexual exploitation, financial irregularities, violence, illegal occupation, and abuse of power. In some cases, the courts have even resulted in convictions, but despite this, their influence, popularity, and number of followers have not diminished significantly. This paradox is one of the most complex realities of Indian society.

When a convicted godman is granted parole, receives a grand welcome upon his release from prison, a convoy of large vehicles follows, thousands of followers gather, and the entire atmosphere resembles a religious festival, a significant question arises before society: has faith become more powerful than justice in India? Under normal circumstances, a criminal's release from prison is merely an administrative process, but when that same person is the center of faith for millions, his every action takes on political and social significance.

The crisis of Indian democracy is that individuals often become "religious brands." Even a court verdict against them fails to completely shatter the faith of their followers. A large segment of their followers begins to view every accusation as a conspiracy, a political or religious plot. This is why, even after serious charges are proven against some babas, their camps, ashrams, and institutions continue to operate as before. Their supporters present them not as criminals but as "victim saints." This situation poses a challenge not only to the justice system but also to democratic consciousness.

The problem isn't limited to godmen; it also lies within a social



structure that prioritizes personality cults over reason. In many parts of India, religious godmen are not merely spiritual gurus but also influence people's life decisions, economic behavior, social relationships, and political thinking. The poor, the marginalized, and the emotionally broken often seek security, identity, and support in such organizations. Gradually, this faith turns into dependence. This dependence often erodes the ability to question. Instead of accepting the allegations against their guru, devotees begin to distrust the entire system.

It's also true that not all religious gurus or saints are the same. Many saints also perform important work in the fields of social service, education, health, and spiritual guidance. However, problems arise when an environment of "unlimited power" and "blind devotion" is created around a particular saint, leading him to consider himself above law and morality. History shows that whenever a person is declared "divine" without question, the potential for exploitation and abuse of power increases. In a democracy, no individual or institution, whether political leader, industrialist, or religious guru, can be kept beyond question.

In such cases, the role of the state and politics also comes into question. Large religious organizations command immense public support, which also has electoral implications. This is why political parties often adopt a lenient stance toward such organizations. Often, the perception is created that influential religious leaders receive greater social and political protection than the law. Whether this is entirely true or not, if the public develops a belief that the law is not equal for all, the moral credibility of the justice system begins to weaken.

Parole and legal relief are not inherently wrong. Indian law grants every prisoner certain rights. But when the parole of an influential guru becomes a public display of power, it

ceases to be merely a legal process. It sends a message to society that influence and mob violence can still influence the language of justice. This is why, after each such release, discontent grows among victims, women's rights activists, and social organizations. They feel that society quickly forgets the suffering of those who fought long for justice, while celebrating the return of influential figures.

This entire incident also raises serious questions about the role of the media and social media. Today, the image of religious leaders isn't just built in ashrams, but through cameras, viral videos, fan propaganda, and digital campaigns. Some portray them as "messiahs," while others portray them as "villains." In this process, facts are often left behind, and emotions take center stage. This is a dangerous situation for democracy, because the moral balance of any society is not built solely on emotions, but on conscience and truth.

India must now understand that a healthy society is impossible without striking a balance between religious faith and democratic justice. Everyone has the right to be worshipped, but no one has the right to consider any individual above the law. If society cannot draw a clear line between "saint" and "criminal," justice will always be entangled in emotional conflicts.

Today, the need is not just for courts, but also for social awareness. People must understand that true spirituality lies not in cultivating personalities, but in morality, sensitivity, and a commitment to truth. If any saint, sage, or religious leader wants to be respected in society, they must first set an example of transparency, accountability, and respect for the law.

Ultimately, this isn't a question about any one godman or any one organization. It's a question about a society that often suspends reason in the name of faith. Until a balance is struck between devotion and logic in India, such controversies will continue to arise again and again. The strength of democracy lies in respecting religion, but not placing justice below it.

-Experience Will Matter: BJP Leaders On Harsh Malhotra's Appointment As Delhi's New BJP Chief

New Delhi, 28/5: After BJP MP Harsh Malhotra took over as Delhi's new party President, BJP leaders in the national Capital emphasised that it is Malhotra's organisational as well as administrative experience which would be helpful in shaping the party's future in the Union Territory.

Speaking to IANS, former Delhi BJP chief, Virendra Sachdeva said: "Every responsibility in the party is important. The responsibility that Harsh Malhotra has been given... he has a lot of experience, both administrative and organisational." "Undoubtedly, the party will benefit from his experience, and together we will work to take it to even greater heights," he added. Chief Minister Rekha Gupta underlined that the BJP is one family where every member's role is important. "Harsh Malhotra has been entrusted with this new responsibility to take the Delhi organisation forward, to empower every Bharatiya Janata Party worker, and to strengthen the organisation. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to him for this," she told reporters. She also



congratulated Sachdeva who "worked hard for the welfare of the Union Territory". While congratulating Malhotra, BJP MP Manoj Tiwari said that the former Delhi party chief's tenure was also very successful. Referring to the BJP's victory in the Delhi Assembly polls, he said: "After 27 years, we had got a victorious president in Virendra Sachdeva. Now, under the leadership of Harsh Malhotra, we will further

take the Bharatiya Janata Party, Delhi Pradesh, forward." Mayor Pravesh Wahi also praised Sachdeva, saying, "He has worked very well. Under his (Sachdeva's) leadership, the party won major elections in the capital and the BJP government was formed in Delhi. Undoubtedly, the party will utilise him in a positive way in the future too." Delhi Minister Ashish Sood took aim at the Opposition, saying, "In the Bharatiya Janata Party,

leadership changes take place democratically after every short period of time. This is not new for us; it may be new for those where only members of one family become the president." Cabinet Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa said that Harsh Malhotra's appointment as the Delhi BJP President, will help Chief Minister Rekha Gupta-led government to further implement the welfare schemes at the ground level.

IAF Chief AP Singh Flies With Suryakiran Aerobatic Team To Mark 30th Anniversary

New Delhi, 28/5: Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh, led the ceremonial celebrations of the 30th Anniversary of the iconic Indian Air Force formation aerobatic team, Suryakiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT), by flying with the pilots, an official said on Thursday. The event to mark the Team's 30th Anniversary was held at Air Force Station Bidar on May 26 and the occasion commemorated three glorious decades of inspiring the nation through precision aerobatics and exceptional airmanship, said the statement. The celebrations were also attended by Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Training Command, Air Marshal S Shrinivas.

In a special highlight of the event, CAS and AOC-in-C flew with the team during the commemorative aerial display, said the statement. A poignant "Hollow Diamond" formation was flown in remembrance of the brave team members the Suryakiran Aerobatic Team lost during its illustrious journey, said the statement. The tribute reflected the deep



camaraderie, courage and enduring spirit that define the team, it said. Since its formation in 1996 at Bidar, the team has enthralled millions across India and abroad with over 800 air displays, symbolising the pride, precision and professionalism of the Indian Air Force, it said. Flying the Hawk Mk-132 aircraft in its iconic red-and-white livery, SKAT continues to inspire generations while upholding its motto - "Sadaiva Sarvottam" - Always the Best, it said. The SKAT is made up of experienced fighter pilots. Their main mission is to represent the Indian Air Force at national and international events, demonstrating the exceptional

skills of its pilots and the power of Indian aviation. On May 11, the SKAT performed a special air show over the Somnath Temple on Monday in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi as part of the 'Somnath Amrut Mahotsav' celebrations marking 75 years of the reconstruction of the temple. Sharing the glimpses from the air show on his X handle, PM Modi said, "In Somnath today, the skies witnessed a magnificent confluence of pride and valour. The Indian Air Force's Suryakiran Team showcased a breathtaking flypast. This spirit of Bhakti and Shakti filled every heart with deep joy."

NEET UG Paper Leak: Rajnath Singh Chairs High-Level Meeting



NEWDELHI, 28/5: Union Minister Rajnath Singh chaired a crucial meeting at his residence on Thursday to address the NEET UG 2026 paper leak controversy. The meeting lasted 40 minutes and included Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, NTA Director General Abhishek Singh, and senior PMO officials. Sources said the discussion focused on restoring the credibility of the NEET exam among students and parents. Officials also explored stringent measures against those found guilty of malpractice. Earlier, Dharmendra Pradhan took responsibility for errors in CBSE's On-Screen Marking (OSM) evaluation process. He assured corrective steps if irregularities were intentional. Pradhan emphasised that the government was committed to addressing grievances raised by students during the re-evaluation and verification of answer scripts. Pradhan explained that CBSE had scanned nearly forty crore pages of answer sheets for the first time using the OSM system, which he described as globally accepted and student-centric. He said the board was working to resolve technical and payment-related issues faced by students. The NEET UG 2026 exam, conducted on May 3, was cancelled by the National Testing Agency after reports of a paper leak. The re-examination has been rescheduled for June 21, 2026. Officials said the government's priority is to ensure transparency and fairness in the process.

'I resign, up to high command now': CBI arrests ex-judge Giribala Singh

NEWDELHI, 28/5: Veteran Congress leader Siddaramaiah resigned as Karnataka Chief Minister on Thursday, bringing an end to his three-year tenure amid growing speculation over a leadership transition within the ruling party. The outgoing chief minister submitted his resignation to the special secretary of Karnataka Governor Thawarchand Gehlot, who is currently out of town. Officials said the Governor will formally review and accept the resignation upon his return. Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar accompanied Siddaramaiah to the Governor's residence during the submission process, further intensifying political discussions over the state's next leadership move. Addressing reporters after resigning, Siddaramaiah said he stepped down voluntarily and that the Congress high command would decide who takes over as the next chief minister. "I have given my resignation on my own accord. Whoever the high



command and legislature party chooses will be the chief minister of the state," Siddaramaiah said. Despite repeated questions from the media, the senior Congress leader declined to indicate who might succeed him. Reflecting on his political journey, Siddaramaiah said he had never compromised on his ideology during nearly five decades in public life. "I never believed in making a fortune for myself. Only people's support can bring leaders to power. Even today, I stand firmly by the values and principles I believe in," he

said. The outgoing CM described the Constitution as "our dharma" and thanked voters, party workers, legislators, and senior Congress leaders for their continued support throughout his political career. Siddaramaiah also expressed gratitude to Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, and Mallikarjun Kharge, saying he had received immense affection and support since joining the party in 2006. He highlighted the achievements of his government and criticised the opposition for allegedly spreading misinformation about the

Congress administration.

"Opposition leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, claimed we would not be able to fulfill our promises and that the state treasury would collapse. But we proved them wrong," Siddaramaiah said. The resignation follows months of speculation over a possible power-sharing arrangement within the Karnataka Congress government. Ever since the Congress returned to power in 2023, discussions about Deputy CM DK Shivakumar eventually taking over the top post had continued within political circles. Sources indicated Siddaramaiah is expected to meet Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in New Delhi later in the evening, where discussions regarding the party's future leadership in Karnataka may continue. The political transition now places Karnataka Congress at a crucial juncture, with the party leadership expected to announce its next chief ministerial face in the coming days.

CBI arrests ex-judge Giribala Singh

New Delhi, 28/5: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Thursday arrested former judge Giribala Singh in connection with the death case of her daughter-in-law, Twisha Sharma, officials said. The arrest came a day after the Madhya Pradesh High Court rejected her anticipatory bail plea. According to officials, a CBI team reached Singh's residence in the Bag Mughaliya Extension area of Bhopal and questioned her before taking her into custody. Twisha Sharma's husband, lawyer Samarth Singh, is already in the custody of the central investigating agency in connection with the case, officials added.

Society Office Bearers Can Face Cheque Bounce Prosecution If Linked To Transaction: SC

New Delhi, 28/6: The Supreme Court has held that office bearers of a society can face prosecution under the Negotiable Instruments Act (NI Act) if there is prima facie material showing their active participation in financial transactions linked to a dishonoured cheque. A bench of Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and N.V. Anjaria partly allowed an appeal filed by M/s Mansi Finance (Chennai) Ltd. against a Madras High Court order which had quashed criminal proceedings against four office bearers of Ravindra Bharathi Educational Society in a cheque dishonour case. The apex court restored proceedings against the Society's Vice-President, Treasurer and Manager, while upholding the quashing of proceedings against an Executive Member, holding that no specific material linked him to the transaction. The dispute arose after the finance company allegedly advanced Rs 4.5 crore to the educational society in 2018 for development and

business requirements. According to the complaint, a cheque of over Rs 5.12 crore issued towards repayment was dishonoured in November 2019 with the endorsement "Account Blocked". The Madras High Court had quashed proceedings against the office bearers on the ground that the complaint contained only omnibus allegations and lacked specific averments necessary to attract vicarious liability under Section 141 of the NI Act. Setting aside the impugned order in part, the Supreme Court said that while mere designation in a company or society is insufficient to attract criminal liability, courts must examine whether the complaint and accompanying material disclose a factual foundation linking the accused to the transaction. "Mere designation as an office bearer of a company or society is not sufficient to attract Section 141 of the NI Act. Equally, a complaint containing only a bald reproduction of the statutory language without factual

foundation cannot be sustained," the Justice Mishra-led Bench said. The top court observed that the Vice-President, Treasurer and Manager were signatories to various antecedent financial documents, including promissory notes and the memorandum of understanding executed between the parties. "The documentary material forming part of the complaint furnishes the factual foundation necessary for continuation of the prosecution at this stage," the judgment held. It added that participation in the transaction giving rise to the debt constituted "a relevant and proximate circumstance" for determining whether the office bearers were responsible for the affairs of the Society within the meaning of Section 141 of the NI Act. However, the apex court held that no specific role had been attributed to the Executive Member apart

from a general assertion that he was an office bearer of the Society. "In the absence of any specific factual foundation connecting him with the transaction giving rise to the dishonoured cheque, the principle laid down in earlier decisions would squarely apply," it said. Clarifying the scope of proceedings at the quashing stage, the Supreme Court said courts are not required to assess the truthfulness of allegations or appreciate evidence at that stage. "Whether respondent nos. 1, 2 and 4 were in fact in charge of and responsible for the conduct of the affairs of the Society is ultimately a matter of evidence to be established at trial," it said. The apex court clarified that all contentions of the parties have been left open to be urged before the trial court, and the observations made in the judgment "shall not be construed as an expression on the merits of the allegations in the complaint".

Twisha Sharma Death Case: CBI Arrests Mother-In-Law Giribala Singh After Bail Cancellation

NEWDELHI, 28/5: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) arrested Giribala Singh, former judge and mother-in-law of Twisha Sharma, from her Bhopal residence on Thursday. The arrest followed the Madhya Pradesh High Court's decision to cancel her anticipatory bail a day earlier. CBI officials reached Singh's home in Bag Mughaliya Extension and questioned her before taking her into custody. The action came just weeks after 33-year-old Twisha Sharma was found dead at her matrimonial house in Bhopal on May 12, five months after her marriage to lawyer Samarth Singh. On



Wednesday, the High Court quashed the anticipatory bail granted to Singh in connection with the dowry case. She had moved a sessions court seeking protection just two days after Twisha's death. Twisha's husband, Samarth Singh, was arrested on May 23 from Jabalpur court premises after remaining absconding for nearly ten days.

He had withdrawn his anticipatory bail plea earlier that day and indicated his intention to surrender. A Bhopal court later sent him to seven-day police custody for questioning. Investigators are examining digital evidence, including WhatsApp chats and call records. Twisha's family alleged she faced harassment and pressure from her husband and in-laws. They claimed she felt suffocated in her marital home and raised concerns about attempts to tamper with evidence. The family also accused authorities of delaying the FIR and demanded a transparent probe.

PM Modi Takes Stock Of Work On Mega Projects Worth Rs 30,000 Crore

New Delhi, 28/5: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday that projects worth over Rs 30,000 crore were reviewed at the PRAGATI session held on Wednesday. "The works covered sectors like railways, power and road connectivity. Aspects relating to ports, Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 and other social sector schemes were also discussed," PM Modi said in a post on X. The Prime Minister

chaired the 51st meeting of PRAGATI, the ICT-enabled, multi-modal platform aimed at fostering Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation by seamlessly integrating efforts of the Central and state governments. During the meeting, he reviewed seven critical infrastructure projects across the railways, power, and road sectors covering nine states. He also reviewed the Ken-Betwa Link Project.

Uganda Says Tourist Sites Safe Despite Ebola Outbreak, Bans Public Gatherings

Kampala, 28/5: Uganda on Thursday assured tourists that national parks and other tourist attractions across the East African country remain safe to visit, saying Ebola prevention measures have been strengthened at all sites. Robust health and preventive measures have been put in place at tourist destinations, Bashir Hangi, communications officer of the Uganda Wildlife Authority, the state agency responsible for managing national parks, told Xinhua by telephone. "Our parks are safe. We are practising safe tourism. We have put in place SOPs (standard operating procedures) at our game parks and tourist attraction centres to protect the safety of our tourists," he said, Xinhua news agency reported. "We have thermal temperature screening stations at the park entrance, mandatory sanitisation, and have installed handwashing facilities, among others, to prevent and contain Ebola at our game parks," Hangi said. He noted that the Ebola outbreak has prompted some



tourists to postpone their travel plans to Uganda. "Some of them (tour companies) are telling us they are getting rescheduled. People are not refusing to come, but are choosing to come at a later date," Hangi said. Some countries have issued travel advisories against travel to Uganda following Ebola outbreaks reported in the country and neighbouring eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. Ugandan authorities, however, say the outbreak in the country has been contained, noting that no new cases have recently been reported. According

to the Ministry of Health, Uganda has recorded seven confirmed Ebola cases, while contacts linked to the cases are under quarantine. Uganda has banned mass public gatherings in an effort to curb the spread of the Ebola virus disease in the East African country. In a circular issued late Wednesday, the Ministry of Health said activities that attract large crowds, including music concerts, cultural festivals, public rallies, political mobilisation events, marathons, and cross-border marketing activities, are prohibited. "These activities

increase risk by promoting close physical interaction, uncontrolled crowd mixing, and unnecessary movement, which may facilitate transmission of Ebola infection where an infected person is present," the statement said. The ministry said official, institutional, and other essential gatherings may still be permitted, provided organisers strictly adhere to the standard operating procedures on Ebola prevention. For approved gatherings, organisers are required to ensure controlled attendance to avoid overcrowding, enforce mandatory handwashing or the use of alcohol-based hand sanitisers, conduct temperature screening before entry, and designate a focal person to oversee compliance with Ebola prevention and control measures. Security agencies and district authorities have been directed to strictly enforce the measures, particularly in high-risk and border areas, in order to limit non-essential movement and prevent further spread of the disease.

EAM Jaishankar Calls On Cyprus President, Discusses West Asia Situation And India's Mediterranean Interests

Nicosia, 28/5: External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar on Thursday called on Cyprus President Nikos Christodoulides, holding discussions on the evolving situation in West Asia and India's interests in the Mediterranean. "Delighted to call on President Nikos Christodoulides of the Republic of Cyprus today. Conveyed warm greetings of President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi," EAM Jaishankar posted on X after the meeting. "The recent State Visit saw significant outcomes, taking our partnership to its next phase. Assured the President of strong follow up. Discussed the evolving situation in West Asia/Middle East, as also India's interests in the Mediterranean," he added. EAM Jaishankar is currently on an official visit to Cyprus, where he attended the Informal Meeting of the European Union (EU) Foreign Ministers and met his counterparts from various nations, including Netherlands, Poland, France, Ukraine, Estonia and Saudi Arabia. Christodoulides was on a State Visit to India from May 20-23 which gave a significant boost



to bilateral ties. After their meeting at the Hyderabad House in New Delhi, PM Narendra Modi had announced that both countries have agreed to elevate bilateral ties to a Strategic Partnership. "Happy to have met President Nikos Christodoulides in Delhi. We held extensive deliberations on further strengthening the India-Cyprus friendship. Considering the close ties between our nations, we have decided to elevate our friendship into a Strategic Partnership," PM Modi wrote on X after meeting Christodoulides. "Ours is indeed a strong and futuristic partnership rooted in shared values. The growing investment linkages between our nations are a matter of

immense joy, and we hope to increase trade and economic ties in the times to come," he had added. According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), several key outcomes emerged from the bilateral discussions, including agreements on the establishment of a Joint Working Group (JWG) on Counter-Terrorism, cooperation between the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service and Cyprus' Diplomatic Academy, as well as collaboration in higher education and research. President Christodoulides also shared a memorable moment with PM Modi during the visit as the two leaders posed for a selfie at Hyderabad House.

PM Modi Congratulates Janez Jansa On His Election As Slovenia's PM

New Delhi, 27/5: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday congratulated Janez Jansa on his election as Slovenia's Prime Minister and expressed readiness to working closely with him to further strengthen bilateral ties. "Heartiest congratulations to Mr. Janez Jansa on his election as the Prime Minister of Slovenia. I look forward to working closely with him to further strengthen our bilateral ties for the shared prosperity and mutual benefit of our people," PM Modi posted on X. On May 22, Slovenia National Assembly appointed Janez Jansa as Slovenia's PM in a secret ballot, with 51 votes in favour in the 90-seat parliament, Balkan Insight reported. Jansa will serve his fourth term as Slovenia's PM despite his Slovenian Democratic Party (SDS) having narrowly failed to secure win in the elections in March, as per the report. In November, India and Slovenia discussed ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation, including in trade, tourism and technology. In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) stated, "Secretary (West) Sibi George received delegation from the Republic of Slovenia led by Mr. Peter Japelj, DG for Economic, Cultural and Scientific Diplomacy, MoFA



Slovenia. They discussed ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation, including in 3 Ts—Trade, Technology and Tourism." India and Slovenia also held the 10th session of the India-Slovenia Joint Committee on Trade and Economic Cooperation (JCTEC) in New Delhi last November. The two nations expressed optimism for the early conclusion of a balanced and mutually beneficial India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA), according to a statement released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Bilateral trade between India and Slovenia has shown a consistent upward trajectory over the past several years, reflecting the growing depth and resilience of the partnership. The officials reviewed

the current state of bilateral economic engagement, strengthen cooperation across key sectors, and charted a forward-looking roadmap for trade and investment between the two nations. "The discussions included a comprehensive review of the global and domestic economic landscape, as well as an assessment of bilateral trade and investment relations between the two countries. Sectoral cooperation was explored across agriculture, chemicals and pharmaceuticals, health, transport, energy, tourism, MSMEs, and Ayurveda and traditional systems of medicine, as well as other trade and business-related matters," the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said in the statement.

PM Modi Extends Eid Greetings To Bangladesh Counterpart Tarique Rahman, Reaffirms Closer Bilateral Ties

Dhaka, 28/5: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday conveyed Eid-ul-Adha greetings to his Bangladeshi counterpart Tarique Rahman and the people of Bangladesh, expressing New Delhi's readiness to work together on deepening bilateral cooperation across various sectors. "This sacred festival forms an integral part of India's rich and diverse cultural heritage and is celebrated with great joy and enthusiasm by millions of people of the Islamic faith across the country," Bangladesh's leading newspaper, The Daily Star quoted from PM Modi's letter shared by the Indian High Commission in Dhaka. He said that the festival embodies enduring values of sacrifice, compassion and brotherhood, which are vital for building a peaceful and inclusive world. PM Modi noted that India and Bangladesh share a deep-rooted partnership based on shared sacrifices, cultural similarities, and mutual goals of peace, stability and growth. "The Indian government looks forward to working closely with the Bangladesh government to strengthen people-centric cooperation in various domains. Our shared vision as reflected in



our national development goals is aimed at the mutual benefit of our peoples," he wrote. Wishing Rahman good health and well-being, PM Modi expressed optimism about the continued growth and prosperity of the people of Bangladesh. Meanwhile, Rahman thanked PM Modi for his wishes and expressed hope for continued strengthening of bilateral ties between the two nations anchored in mutual respect, friendship and goodwill. "I thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his very kind greetings to me and the people of

Bangladesh on the joyous occasion of Eid-ul-Adha. May the relations between the peoples of Bangladesh and India continue to be strengthened on the foundations of mutual respect, friendship, and goodwill," Bangladesh Prime Minister's Office posted on its social media platforms. On May 24, during his farewell call on Prime Minister Rahman, outgoing Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Pranay Verma had reaffirmed India's willingness to deepen multifaceted engagement with Bangladesh for the mutual benefit

and shared prosperity of the people of both countries. During the meeting, Rahman thanked the High Commissioner for his contributions to bilateral relations and conveyed best wishes for his next assignment. Bangladesh's Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman was also present during the meeting. According to the Indian High Commission in Dhaka, both sides also briefly discussed various potential areas of cooperation driven by the development priorities of the two countries.

UN Report Warns Of More Global Temperature Records

Geneva, 28/5: Global average temperatures are likely to continue at or near record levels in the next five years, with Arctic temperature anomalies expected to continue to be higher than the global mean, the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) stated on Thursday. The conclusion was drawn from the WMO report 'Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update 2026-2035', produced by Britain's Met Office and the WMO Lead Centre for Annual to Decadal Climate Prediction, which synthesised predictions contributed by 13 institutes. The update report also takes a look at the observed climate over the past five years and gives regional predictions for temperatures and precipitation over the next five years, Xinhua news agency reported. According to the report, annual global mean near-surface temperatures during the period from 2026 to 2030 will



range between 1.3 and 1.9 degrees Celsius above the 1850-1900 average. It is likely that one year coming between 2026 and 2030 will surpass 2024 as the warmest year on record. It predicted that the average global temperature for 2026-2030 will likely exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius above the 1850-1900 average, while no single year during the period is likely to exceed 2.0 degrees Celsius. The predicted

average temperature in the central tropical Pacific indicates a tendency towards El Niño conditions in the next five years, particularly in 2027 and 2028. Leon Hermanson, lead author of the report, said: "There is an El Niño predicted for the end of 2026, which increases the chances of the following year, 2027, being the next record-breaking year." The levels of 1.5 and 2.0 degrees

Celsius above the pre-industrial baseline specified in the Paris Agreement on climate change refer to long-term warming sustained over an extended period, typically assessed over 20 years. Individual years with annual global mean temperatures exceeding these levels do not mean that the long-term temperature goals of the Paris Agreement are out of reach. Temporary exceedances are expected to occur with increasing frequency as the underlying rise in global temperature approaches these levels. Another key finding of the report is that Arctic temperatures over the next five extended northern hemisphere winters running from November to March are predicted to be 2.8 degrees Celsius above average temperatures for 1991-2020, an anomaly more than three and a half times that of the global mean temperature anomaly over the same period.

From Suicide Drones To Robots, South Korea Showcases Advanced Homegrown Assets

Seoul, 28/5: South Korea staged an integrated military firepower exercise Thursday, showcasing advanced and homegrown assets, including suicide drones and robots, demonstrating ground and air combat capabilities. The Combined Joint Live-Fire Exercise was held at the Seungjin Fire Training Field in Pocheon, just 25 kilometres south of the inter-Korean border, for its final run open to the public, according to the defence ministry. It previously held two similar drills last week. It marked the first integrated live-fire drills staged under the Lee Jae Myung administration, Yonhap news agency reported. This year, the military mobilised some 1,400 troops from 27 units across the military branches—the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps—along with 457 pieces of equipment. It showcased a wide range of ground and aerial assets, including the Chunmoo multiple launch rocket system, K2 tanks, K9A1 self-propelled howitzers and a homegrown KF-21 fighter jet, among many others. Also mobilised were



various unmanned assets, deemed critical in modern warfare, such as surveillance drones, "suicide drones" and multi-legged robots. The first phase of the main drills began under a simulated attack scenario by an enemy, with troops utilising surveillance drones and satellite assets to collect data on the simulated target. To complete the defensive mission, an artificial intelligence-driven command and control centre gave recommendations to strike, with troops employing a combination of ground and aerial assets, as well as unmanned assets, such as multi-

purpose unmanned vehicles, to carry out the operation. After successfully pushing back the opponents, the troops turned to the second phase of the drills, focused on striking the enemy's mechanised forces and simultaneously deploying assets from land and air, while also employing manned-unmanned teaming combat systems. Thursday's event, hosted by Defence Minister Ahn Gyu-back, was attended by over 1,900 people, including 400 citizen observers.

China Steps Up Action Against Illegal Offshore Trading By Brokers Gold, Silver Prices Decline Amid Geopolitical Tensions, Elevated Crude Oil Prices

New Delhi, 28/5: China has stepped up enforcement against unauthorised overseas stock trading channels as regulators move to tighten oversight of capital outflows amid rising demand from mainland investors for access to global equities, according to multiple reports. The clampdown comes as financial regulators intensify action against platforms facilitating offshore trading outside approved investment routes, in a broader effort to reinforce capital controls and maintain financial stability. The China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) penalised Tiger Brokers, Futu Securities International and Long Bridge Securities for illegally offering mainland investors access to overseas stock markets without regulatory approval. According to the regulator, the firms promoted securities trading and processed orders within mainland China in violation of the country's Securities Law. The CSRC said illegal gains would be confiscated and further penalties imposed. The enforcement push reflects Beijing's growing concern that rising overseas investment demand, coupled with alternative



trading channels, could weaken capital controls and increase risks of unmonitored fund outflows at a time when financial stability remains a policy priority. Separately, Chinese authorities have pledged to eliminate illegal offshore stockbroking activity within two years, signalling a coordinated and sustained regulatory campaign. Moreover, Hong Kong's Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) has also

tightened scrutiny of brokerage operations, increasing checks on account openings and documentation to prevent misuse of cross-border investment channels. According to officials, such unauthorised activities disrupt market order, weaken regulatory visibility over capital flows and raise concerns around investor protection, necessitating stricter enforcement across jurisdictions. Despite these safeguards, informal and semi-

formal channels for overseas investing have continued to emerge, prompting regulators to intensify monitoring and close enforcement gaps. The crackdown has also weighed on sentiment in offshore brokerage stocks and highlighted the structural tension between investor appetite for global diversification and China's policy objective of managing capital mobility.

New Delhi, 28/5: Gold and silver traded lower in international markets on Thursday as a stronger US dollar and renewed geopolitical tensions following fresh US military action against Iran weighed on sentiment and heightened concerns that inflation could remain elevated for longer. Spot gold slipped nearly 2 per cent to \$4,368.99 per ounce, while COMEX gold was trading 1.80 per cent lower to \$4,367.90 per ounce. On the other hand, silver prices also came under pressure, with spot silver declining more than 3 per cent to \$71.94 per ounce. Similarly, COMEX silver traded 3.56 per cent lower at \$72.22 per ounce. On the domestic front, the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) remained closed on Thursday on account of Eid al-Adha. Commodity market experts said gold remained under pressure as uncertainty surrounding ongoing US-Iran negotiations continued to dominate investor sentiment. The yellow metal traded near the \$4,450-per-ounce level after declining for two consecutive sessions, with key disagreements between



Washington and Tehran remaining unresolved, according to market experts. Major sticking points include Iran's demand to retain control over the Strait of Hormuz and preserve its nuclear programme, while US President Donald Trump has reiterated that Washington would not accept what he described as a bad deal and ruled out easing sanctions despite Tehran's calls for financial relief. "Rising energy prices are adding to inflation concerns globally, lowering expectations for near-term interest rate cuts from major central banks," experts

said. They added that persistent geopolitical uncertainty, elevated oil prices and a stronger dollar are likely to keep precious metals volatile in the near term. Higher-for-longer interest rate expectations have continued to weigh on bullion prices, with gold currently trading more than 15 per cent below levels seen when the conflict initially erupted. Meanwhile, crude oil prices rose more than 3 per cent after Iran's Revolutionary Guards reportedly said they had targeted a US airbase in response to Washington's military action, further intensifying concerns over supply disruptions and inflation.

Hyundai Motor India to implement car price hikes up to Rs 12,800 from June 1

New Delhi, 28/5: Hyundai Motor India Limited on Wednesday said it will increase prices of its cars by up to Rs 12,800 from June 1, citing rising input costs, higher commodity prices and increased operational expenses. In a stock exchange filing, the company said the revised prices, which were earlier announced in April, will now come into effect from June 1. "In continuation to our earlier letter dated April 08, 2026 submitted in respect of price increase on Hyundai cars, considering the prevailing market conditions and to ensure balanced approach towards customer interest, we would like to inform that the new prices will now be made effective from June 01, 2026," the company said in the filing. The automaker said the "extent of price increase is up to a maximum of Rs 12,800 and it will vary depending on the model and variant." Explaining the



reason behind the price hike, Hyundai Motor India said the increase has been necessitated due to "rising input costs, increased commodity prices and higher operational expenses, amongst other reasons." "While the company continuously strives to optimise costs and minimise the impact on its customers, the company is constrained to pass on some of the increased costs to the market through this nominal

price increase," the filing added. The development comes days after Maruti Suzuki India Limited announced a price hike across its vehicle models by up to Rs 30,000 from June, citing rising input costs and operational expenses. Automobile manufacturers have increasingly been announcing price revisions amid persistent pressure from raw material costs and higher input prices across the sector.

Tata Tiago EV facelift lands in India at Rs 6.99 lakh with advanced tech and lifetime warranty

NEW DELHI, 28/5: Tata Motors has officially launched its refreshed entry-level electric hatchback in India with an aggressive starting price of Rs 6.99 lakh (ex-showroom). This pricing update represents a strategic cost reduction compared to previous variants, establishing a highly competitive baseline in the domestic green mobility market. Buyers looking for alternative financing can leverage a unique Battery-as-a-Service model, lowering initial entry costs to Rs 4.69 lakh while introducing a minor usage-based running fee. For the initial registered owner of the larger battery variant, the manufacturer provides a lifetime unlimited kilometer warranty on the high-voltage pack to address long-term battery degradation concerns. Occupant protection receives a major enhancement through structural rigidity adjustments and upgraded safety systems. Six



airbags now protect occupants as standard equipment across all variants, moving away from the previous base-level layouts. Drivers gain access to a 360-degree camera network and a blind-view monitor to navigate dense urban traffic comfortably. Electronic stability control, traction management, hill hold assist, and torque vectoring

via the braking system round out the electronic safety updates. Inside, a revised dual-tone black and grey layout replaces the previous design choices. Standard fabric upholstery covers the seating, while the dashboard incorporates a free-standing 10.25-inch infotainment screen with wireless smartphone pairing. Comfort

upgrades include specialized rear air vents, dual wireless device chargers, and high-output Type-C USB slots. In Odisha, where the capital city Bhubaneswar has been rapidly expanding its municipal charging infrastructure, these cabin convenience updates align perfectly with evolving consumer demands for daily cross-city commutes. Powertrain options maintain continuity through dual lithium-ion battery choices of 19.2kWh and 24kWh. The smaller energy system generates 62 horsepower and 110Nm of torque, achieving a certified 226km driving limit. Opting for the larger cell setup yields 75 horsepower and 114Nm of torque, though official testing logs a revised range limit of 285km. Utilizing a 30kW direct-current fast charger restores energy from 10 to 80 per cent within 35 minutes, providing quick turnaround times for urban motorists

Oil Rebounds Nearly 4 Pc As US-Iran Tensions Fuel Supply Fears

New Delhi, 28/5: Global oil prices rebounded nearly 4 per cent on Thursday after declining sharply in the previous session, as fresh US military strikes on Iran revived concerns over supply disruptions while uncertainty persisted over the future of the Strait of Hormuz. International benchmark Brent crude rose 3.83 per cent to trade at \$97.91 per barrel. Similarly, US benchmark West Texas Intermediate (WTI) traded around 4 per cent higher at nearly \$92 per barrel, recovering part of Wednesday's losses. Reports suggested that US forces carried out defensive airstrikes on a military site in Iran and intercepted drones targeting a commercial vessel while also striking a launch unit. The latest military action comes as Washington and Tehran remain divided over efforts to reopen the Strait of Hormuz. US President Donald Trump said he remained dissatisfied with the ongoing negotiations and rejected reports suggesting Tehran and Oman could jointly



oversee the waterway. "The strait's going to be open to everybody," Trump said, adding that the US would continue monitoring the route. However, negotiations remain complicated by disagreements surrounding Iran's nuclear programme and Tehran's demand to retain control over Hormuz, which remains under restrictions imposed by both sides. However, Trump

reiterated that Washington would not agree to a weak deal and signalled that sanctions relief remained off the table, conflicting with Tehran's demand for financial relief and an end to military attacks. Oil prices fell sharply on Wednesday, sliding more than 5 per cent to their lowest levels in over a month as investors awaited clarity on a possible framework agreement aimed at ending the conflict in West Asia.

Brent crude settled down \$5.29, or 5.31 per cent, at \$94.29 a barrel, while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude declined \$5.21, or 5.55 per cent, to close at \$88.68 a barrel. In addition, both benchmarks touched their lowest levels in a month during the session and recorded their weakest settlements since April 17. The decline also erased Brent's gains from Tuesday's session.

Quad Gains Momentum With Rubio's India Visit: USIBC

Washington, 28/5: The US-India Business Council (USIBC) on Wednesday welcomed a series of strategic initiatives announced during US Secretary of State Marco Rubio's visit to India, saying the outcomes demonstrate renewed momentum in the Quad grouping and deeper economic ambition between New Delhi and Washington.

In a statement issued after the visit, USIBC praised the signing of the US-India Framework on Critical Minerals and Rare Earths, calling it a major step toward expanding cooperation in mining, processing and advanced technology supply chains. "The Framework creates actionable pathways for investment, off-take agreements, co-development, and technology partnerships spanning mining, processing, and rare earth magnet value chains," the business body said. USIBC also welcomed the Quad's Critical Minerals Framework announced during the meeting, saying it "further reinforces the multilateral architecture underpinning these bilateral gains".

Union Bank of India - New Branch Inauguration

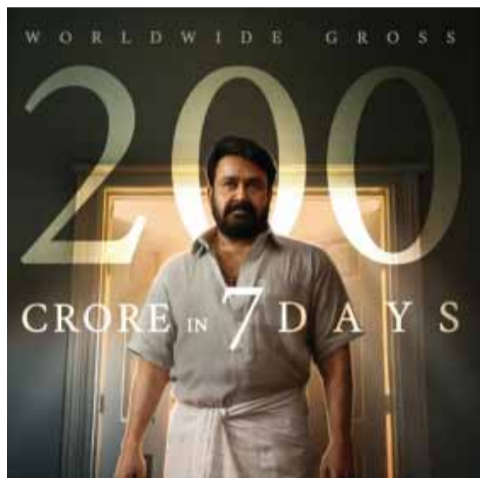
Sambalpur 28/5 (DMS): On May 28, 2026, Union Bank of India inaugurated three branches- Retail Loan Point (RLP), MSME Loan Point, and UMFB by the esteemed hands of Mr. Sanjiv Ranjan Sahay, General Manager and Zonal Head, Bhubaneswar. On this occasion, Mr. Jaygopal Behera, Regional Head Sambalpur, Mr. Pavan Kumar Kollu, Regional Assurance Head, Mr. Dhananjay Sinha, Assistant General Manager, MLP, Mr. Jiban Jyoti Behera, Branch Head, RLP and Mr. Biranchi Narayan Nayak, Branch Head, UMFB, were present. Union Bank of India is a leading public sector bank in India that provides various types of loan facilities to its customers. To make the loan process simpler, faster, and more expert-driven, specialized units such as Retail Loan Points (RLP) and MSME Loan Points (MLP) have been established. A Retail Loan Point (RLP) is a



dedicated processing centre where various type of retail loans like home loans, vehicle loans, personal loans, education loans & mortgage loans etc are processed. The MSME Loan Point (MLP) is a specialized processing centre designed for High value MSME & business loans. Its objective is to provide easy financial assistance to traders and entrepreneurs. UMFB is a modern and specialized branch where all banking services related to business for MSME customers are made available under one roof. Its aim is to provide faster and better banking facilities to small businesses, startups, and industries. Union Bank of India is committed to providing banking services to its customers. The bank's objective is to ensure that every citizen has access to safe, accessible, and transparent banking services.

'Drishyam 3' earns Rs 200 crore globally in first week, Mohanlal thanks fans

Malayalam superstar Mohanlal has celebrated the blockbuster success of 'Drishyam 3' after the film crossed Rs 200 crore at the worldwide box office within seven days of its release. Sharing a special poster on X, the actor highlighted the emotional journey of Georgekutty and his family across the popular thriller franchise and thanked audiences for their continued support. "Three films. Three chapters. One unbroken bond. Thank you for walking with Georgekutty & Family. #Drishyam3," Mohanlal wrote in his post. The film marks the third and final chapter in the acclaimed 'Drishyam' trilogy, directed and written by Jeethu Joseph. Released globally on May 21, 2026, to coincide with Mohanlal's birthday, the Malayalam crime drama thriller opened to a strong audience response and impressive box office collections. Mohanlal reprises his iconic role as Georgekutty in the film, alongside



Meena, Ansiba Hassan, Esther Anil, Siddique, and Asha Sarath. The project is produced by Antony Perumbavoor under the banner of Aashirvad Cinemas, with Pen Studios and Panorama Studios presenting the film.

The actor also acknowledged director Jeethu Joseph, the producers, and fans for helping sustain the success of one of Malayalam cinema's most celebrated franchises. The 'Drishyam' series follows Georgekutty and his family, who come under suspicion after the son of a senior

police officer goes missing. The first two films earned widespread acclaim for their gripping storytelling and unexpected twists, helping the franchise gain a massive following across India. The original 'Drishyam' was released in 2013, followed by 'Drishyam 2' in 2021. The franchise's popularity also led to remakes in several languages, including Hindi, Tamil, and Telugu. 'Drishyam 3' was initially scheduled for release on April 2, 2026, but was later postponed due to geopolitical tensions in the Gulf region before arriving in theatres worldwide on May 21.

SPORTS

Universe Baby Boss': Chris Gayle Crowns 15-Year-Old Vaibhav Sooryavanshi As His Successor After Record-Breaking IPL Knock

NEWDELHI, 28/5: Teen cricket sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi is rewriting IPL history at just 15 years of age, and now even legendary power-hitter Chris Gayle has acknowledged the youngster as his successor. The Rajasthan Royals batter delivered another jaw-dropping performance against Sunrisers Hyderabad, smashing 97 runs off just 29 balls in a breathtaking innings that powered RR into Qualifier 2 of IPL 2026. During the knock, Sooryavanshi hammered 12 massive sixes, surpassing Chris Gayle's long-standing IPL record for most sixes in a single season. Gayle had hit 59 sixes during the 2012 IPL season, while the young batter has already raced past 65 sixes this year. The explosive innings earned praise from cricket fans and former players across the world, including the legendary "Universe Boss" himself. Taking to social media platform X, Gayle wrote: "What a phenomenal player Vaibhav is. Great entertainment young man! New six machine." The post instantly went viral, with fans calling Sooryavanshi the "Universe Baby Boss" — a nickname that



is quickly becoming popular in the cricket world. Missed Fastest IPL Century By Just 3 Runs Vaibhav came agonisingly close to breaking another historic IPL record during the innings. The teenager needed just three more runs to surpass Chris Gayle's fastest IPL century record of 30 balls. However, he was dismissed on 97, narrowly missing what could have been one of the greatest T20 milestones ever achieved. Despite falling short of the century, cricket experts praised his fearless batting,

composure and unmatched striking ability at such a young age. Sooryavanshi first grabbed headlines last season after scoring a stunning 35-ball century on IPL debut. However, IPL 2026 has transformed him into one of the tournament's biggest superstars. The Rajasthan Royals batter currently leads the Orange Cap race with 680 runs in 15 matches. He has maintained an impressive average of 45.33 and an unbelievable strike rate of 242.85. His aggressive style,

clean ball-striking and consistency have drawn comparisons with some of the greatest T20 batters in cricket history. Rajasthan Royals are heavily depending on their teenage batting sensation as they continue their hunt for a second IPL title. With confidence soaring and records tumbling, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi could once again become the biggest game-changer when RR faces Gujarat Titans in Qualifier 2. For cricket fans, the rise of the "Universe Baby Boss" may just be the beginning of a historic career.

French Open: Starodubtseva Stuns 2nd Seed Rybakina With An Epic Comeback Win

Paris, 28/5: Yuliia Starodubtseva served up an almighty shock to overcome No.2 seed Elena Rybakina with an inspired comeback on Court Suzanne-Lenglen in a women's singles match of the French Open on Wednesday. The world No.55 was 0-6 in matches against top-10 opponents until Wednesday, but reached an inspired level of play to dismiss Rybakina 3-6, 6-1, 7-6[10-4]. The 26-year-old Ukrainian pulled off the biggest victory of her career and the biggest upset of this year's tournament with a dramatic three-set win over Rybakina. Starodubtseva, a former college player and tennis coach in the United States, returns to the Roland-Garros third round to meet either No.26 seed Hailey Baptiste or China's Wang Xiyu. "Honestly, it's hard to describe. I'm super happy. Elena is one of the top players and has had an incredible year," said the 26-year-old. "I expected her to come back. You can't be thinking it's ever going to be easy, even at 3-0 up (in the decider). I had a feeling it wasn't going to be easy. That was so!" It was a very hard third set, a very tough match, but I got it

done! I'm very proud I could do this today," she said. Rybakina, who could have left Paris as the world No. 1 on the WTA Tour Driven by Mercedes-Benz, broke Starodubtseva at her first opportunity to take a 3-0 lead. She earned a second break to go up 5-1 before the Ukrainian fought back. The Kazakh, however, served out the opening set 6-3. Starodubtseva turned the tables in the second set, breaking Rybakina twice to race to a 5-0 lead en route to a 6-1 set win. With the momentum on her side, she broke twice early in the decider to go up 3-0 and move within touching distance of the big win. Just when it looked like Rybakina was headed toward the exit, the Kazakh rediscovered her rhythm and recovered both breaks to level the set at 4-4. With the match moving into a third-set tiebreak, Starodubtseva jumped to a 6-2 lead and this time held on to close out a 3-6, 6-1, 7-6 (10-4) victory in 2 hours, 28 minutes. The key statistic from the match was Rybakina's 71 unforced errors compared with 23 winners, while Starodubtseva finished with 36 unforced errors and 13 winners.

Rakhi Sawant Defends Ranveer Singh Amid Don 3 Controversy

The controversy surrounding actor Ranveer Singh's reported exit from Don 3 continues to create waves in Bollywood. Amid the growing dispute between the actor and the Federation of Western India Cine Employees (FWICE), actor and television personality Rakhi Sawant has publicly come out in support of Ranveer, calling the criticism against him unfair. FWICE recently issued a non-cooperation directive against Ranveer Singh after filmmaker Farhan Akhtar reportedly approached the organisation regarding losses linked to the actor's sudden departure from

Don 3. During a recent interaction with Mumbai, Rakhi Sawant strongly defended Ranveer Singh and accused people in the industry of being jealous of his success. Speaking about the controversy, Rakhi criticised those calling for action against the actor and praised Ranveer and Deepika Padukone for building successful careers through hard work and dedication. She also questioned why only Ranveer was being targeted and claimed some people were trying to gain publicity through the controversy. Rakhi also took a swipe at filmmaker Farhan Akhtar, suggesting that the ongoing controversy was being amplified for attention. She alleged that Ranveer's name was being used to remain in the public spotlight. Her comments quickly went viral on social media, with fans divided over her



outspoken remarks. While some users appreciated her support for Ranveer Singh, others criticised the tone of her statements. The issue began after reports surfaced that Ranveer Singh had exited Don 3, the upcoming installment in Farhan Akhtar's popular action franchise. Ranveer was officially announced as the lead actor in 2023, taking over the franchise after Shah Rukh Khan headlined Don (2006) and Don 2 (2011). However, reports later claimed that the actor stepped away from the project following the success of his film Dhurandhar. According to reports, Farhan Akhtar and producer Ritesh Sidhwani alleged that Ranveer's abrupt exit caused significant financial losses to the production. FWICE subsequently issued a non-cooperation directive against the actor, escalating tensions within the film industry. Following the controversy, Ranveer Singh's spokesperson released an official statement clarifying the actor's position. "Ranveer Singh holds the highest regard for the film fraternity and for everyone associated with the Don franchise. Throughout the recent developments surrounding Don 3, he has consciously chosen to maintain silence, believing that professional discussions and personal equations are best handled with dignity, maturity and mutual respect," the statement said.

Wednesday Star Emma Myers Says 3 Idiots Is One of Her Favourite Films Ever



Hollywood actor Emma Myers, best known for playing Enid Sinclair in Netflix's hit series Wednesday, has revealed her admiration for Bollywood cinema. The actor recently shared that Aamir Khan's blockbuster film 3 Idiots is one of her all-time favourite movies. Emma's comments have delighted Indian fans, especially admirers of the cult classic that continues to enjoy global popularity years after its release. During a recent interview with Hits Radio, Emma Myers opened up about her love for Indian cinema and spoke enthusiastically about Bollywood storytelling. "I love Bollywood films. I think they are super fun," Emma said. She went on to praise 3 Idiots, calling it one of her favourite

films ever made. "One of my favourite films ever is 3 Idiots. I show it to people all the time. It is four hours long but you have the best time of your life," she added. Emma also mentioned her admiration for filmmaker S.S. Rajamouli's Baahubali franchise. "There is also a two-part saga called Baahubali, which I love," she said. Emma Myers is not the first international celebrity to praise 3 Idiots. Over the years, the film has received appreciation from several global stars and filmmakers. Earlier, martial arts icon Jackie Chan revealed that he became an Aamir Khan fan after watching the film. "I watch very few Bollywood movies, but I loved 3 Idiots. It

was a huge success in Hong Kong. I became an Aamir Khan fan overnight," Jackie Chan had said. Legendary Hollywood director Steven Spielberg had also praised the film. Kareena Kapoor Khan once recalled that Spielberg recognised her at a restaurant because of her role in 3 Idiots. According to Kareena, Spielberg approached her and asked whether she was "the girl in that very famous Indian film about three students." Directed by Rajkumar Hirani, 3 Idiots released in 2009 and became one of the most successful Indian films of its time. The comedy-drama explored themes such as academic pressure, friendship, innovation and personal ambition.

Veteran Actor Ramakant Dayama Passes Away

Veteran actor Ramakant Dayama, known for his roles in popular TV shows and films, passed away on May 26, leaving colleagues and fans in deep grief. Fellow actor Shubhangi Latkar confirmed his untimely demise and shared a heartfelt tribute along with an old video of him singing and dancing. She praised his warmth,

courage, and artistic talent, calling him a spontaneous dancer, soulful singer, brilliant actor, and wise advisor. Latkar's note described Dayama as a man full of life and energy who inspired others despite challenges. She recalled their unfinished plans to collaborate on a Hindi play and stage poetry recitals, expressing sorrow that those dreams

will remain incomplete. Dayama's career spanned several acclaimed TV shows and movies. He was admired not only for his acting but also for his ability to connect with people through music and dance. His colleagues remembered him as a strong and courageous personality who carried immense wisdom despite his modest appearance.