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India's design-linked incentive scheme showing good results: Ashwini Vaishnaw

New Delhi: India's design-linked incentive (DLI) scheme is showing good results, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has said, hailing the country's first flagship AI system on chip (SOC) 'A2000' at 12nm technology node designed by Thiruvananthapuram-based fabless semiconductor startup Netrasemi.

The chip has now achieves successful silicon Bringup and getting ready for commercial production.

"Netrasemi has designed India's first Edge AI System-on-Chip (SoC) 'NETRA A2000', at advanced 12 nm node. At commercial scale, this will power smart vision devices for surveillance, automotive, robotics, drones, etc," the minister posted on X.

The chip with smart vision and real-time video analytics capabilities enables on-device AI for smart cameras and Edge AI platforms.

The chip, fabricated at TSMC's 12nm advanced process node, targets high-TOPS AI performance, computer vision, Video streaming, secure boot and significant IO capabilities.

It features Netrasemi's in-house Neural processor (NPU), Vision cores (VPU), Image Signal Processor (ISP), Crypto-Engines and other hardware acceleration IP cores.

It also features their patented Heterogeneous graph-stream parallel



processing architecture.

The chip design will be shared with select OEMs for joint R&D to develop further commercial use cases. The chip commercial production is likely to begin next year at TSMC, Taiwan, according to the startup.

"Our SoCs goes beyond conventional AI/ML integration by combining proprietary hardware acceleration IPs with domain-specific optimisations tailored for high-performance, real-time edge AI," said Jyothi Indirabhai, Co-founder and CEO, Netrasemi.

"We are currently working with several leading OEMs to facilitate early sample evaluations, co-development, and advanced R&D initiatives," said Indirabhai.

The semiconductor design-linked incentive (DLI) and design infrastructure support (DIS) schemes have played a key role in achieving this critical milestone.

The company was one of the first four startups selected for Rs 15 crore DLI support in 2023 by MeitY. Netrasemi has raised Rs 125 crore in total funding to date.

IIMC launches its AI academy in Delhi

New Delhi: The Indian Institute of Mass Communication, IIMC, has launched its Artificial Intelligence in Media and Entertainment, AIME Academy in New Delhi today. Speaking on the occasion, Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Chanchal Kumar said that the Academy will function on five key pillars which include Capacity Building, Research, Innovation and Incubation, Responsible AI and Policy Development, and Industry-Academia Collaboration.

The Secretary underlined that AI adaptation cannot only happen through policy statements, but it has to happen through capacity building, hands-on exposure, and confidence



building. He emphasised that AI capability must not remain limited to metropolitan newsrooms, but it must become part of the wider Indian Ecosystem. Mr. Kumar said that IIMC has a strong legacy of media education

and it has trained generations of media professionals and communication officers. He stressed that the launch of the AIME Academy could help IIMC to move from traditional media training to future media capability.

The Vice-Chancellor of

IIMC, Dr. Pragya Paliwal Gaur, highlighted that the AIME Academy will serve as a first-of-its-kind national hub dedicated to AI literacy, applied skills, and innovation in the Media and Entertainment sector. She noted that the national hub

will curate specialized training programmes and AI toolkits for premier broadcasting and media organisations, including Doordarshan, Akashvani, and the Press Information Bureau. It also proposes to launch a dedicated Journal on AI in Media and Entertainment to document the sector's digital transformation.

To mark the occasion, IIMC Delhi and the Google News Initiative also organised a Graduation Day at the campus to celebrate the successful completion of the AI Skills Program. Launched in 2025, this multi-track training and mentoring initiative has equipped participants from over 100 newsrooms and media colleges with foundational AI literacy and real-world AI skills and tools.

NIA raids 19 places across three states in illegal explosives case linked to Kerala

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday carried out extensive search operations at 19 locations across Kerala, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu in connection with its ongoing probe into the seizure of illegal explosives from Kerala's Malappuram district.

An official said the searches are part of a coordinated effort to trace the origin, supply chain, and possible network involved in the storage and movement of the explosives.

The case pertains to the recovery of a significant quantity of unauthorised explosive materials from Malappuram, raising concerns over potential misuse and security threats.

The NIA took over this case earlier this year from Kerala Police, considering the gravity of the case.

The multi-state raids are being conducted simultaneously since early Saturday at premises linked to suspects believed to be associated with the procurement and distribution of the seized materials.

Investigators are focusing on uncovering links between individuals and any organised groups that may be operating

across state boundaries.

Preliminary inputs suggest that the explosives may have been sourced and transported through a network spanning southern states, prompting the NIA to widen the scope of its investigation.

Officials are also examining whether the

The case pertains to the recovery of a significant quantity of unauthorised explosive materials from Malappuram, raising concerns over potential misuse and security threats.

materials were intended for unlawful activities or illicit trade.

Search teams have been deployed at multiple residential and commercial locations, where they are scrutinising documents, digital devices, and other evidence that could shed light on the case.

The NIA, India's premier counter-terrorism investigative agency, has intensified its efforts in recent months to curb illegal arms and explosives networks, particularly those with inter-state linkages.

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan reviews fund utilisation under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan

New Delhi: Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan held a detailed review meeting on fund release and utilisation under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, with a focus on making Samagra Shiksha 3.0 more efficient, transparent and outcome-oriented.

In a social media post, Union Minister said that an integrated approach through the convergence of key schemes, including Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), PM-POSHAN (Pradhan

Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman), ULLAS (Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society), PM-SHRI (Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India) and other flagship programmes, will be undertaken from this year. He said this will ensure greater coordination and impact across the school education ecosystem.

During the meeting yesterday, participants also discussed strengthening Centre-State engagement while upholding the spirit of

cooperative federalism.

Mr Pradhan said there will be a renewed focus on the effective implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, with special emphasis on innovation, nutrition, skill development, sports and arts among students.

He added that these efforts will play a pivotal role in nurturing empowered learners and building the human capital required for Viksit Bharat 2047.

CCPA imposes ₹7 lakh penalty on coaching centre over misleading UPSC advertisement

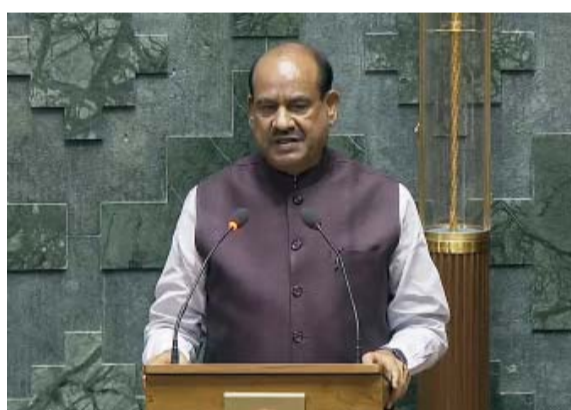
New Delhi: Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Prahlaad Joshi today said that the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has imposed a penalty of ₹7 lakh on a private coaching centre for misleading advertisements regarding the UPSC Civil Services Examination 2023 results. He said the Authority has passed a final order under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019. In a social media post, Mr Joshi said the action reinforces consumers' right to be informed and reflects the government's commitment to ensuring transparency, accountability and fair practices in the coaching sector. The Minister highlighted that the CCPA has so far issued more than 60 notices to coaching institutes and imposed penalties exceeding ₹1.46 crore. He said the Authority continues to safeguard students' interests and promote informed decision-making.

CBSE to open Class 12 re-evaluation and verification portal from 1 June

New Delhi: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has said that its designated Post-Result Activities Portal for the re-evaluation and verification of this year's Class 12 answer scripts will be operational from 1 June. CBSE said yesterday that the move is aimed at ensuring a transparent and glitch-free process for the verification and re-evaluation of answer books for Class 12 students seeking to submit applications. The Board said the initiative is intended to uphold the highest standards and protocols of evaluation. Students with queries may contact the CBSE Tele-Counselling Helpline at 1800 11 8004 or write to resultcbse2026@cbse.shiksha.in.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla extends greetings on Hindi Journalism Day

New Delhi: Hindi Patrakarita Diwas is being observed today. The day is celebrated every year on 30 May in India to commemorate the beginning of journalism in Hindi. It marks the publication of 'Udant Martand', the first Hindi newspaper in India, which was launched on 30 May 1826 from Kolkata. The newspaper was founded and edited by Pandit Jugal Kishore Shukla, who is regarded as a pioneer of Hindi journalism. On the occasion, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla today extended his greetings to journalists, writers and enlightened individuals



dedicated to the Hindi language. In a social media post, Mr Birla said that Hindi journalism has served as a

powerful medium for awakening social consciousness, strengthening democracy and reflecting the sentiments of the people.

Rain lashes parts of Delhi-NCR; IMD issues red, orange alerts

New Delhi: Rain lashed parts of Delhi-NCR on Saturday evening, followed by dust storms and strong winds, bringing relief from the heat as the India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued red and orange alerts warning of thunderstorms, lightning, hail and further rainfall across the national capital.

According to the weather department, parts of central, northeast, southwest, west, northwest and north Delhi are likely to witness a dust storm followed by severe thunderstorms, lightning, hail and light to moderate rainfall. The IMD said wind speeds in these areas could range between 70 and 90 kmph, with gusts reaching up to 100 kmph.

Read also: Massive dust storm engulfs parts of Rajasthan; Churu witnesses near-zero visibility. Several other parts of the city, including southeast, east, central, northeast, south, southwest, west, northwest and



north Delhi, along with Shahdara and New Delhi districts, are also expected to receive light to moderate rain accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning.

In these areas, winds are likely to blow at speeds of 40 to 60 kmph, with gusts of up to 80 kmph. The weather department also forecast light rainfall in parts of south Delhi. Residents have been advised to stay indoors during the weather activity, avoid sheltering under trees, keep away from weak structures and disconnect electrical appliances during

thunderstorms. The IMD said the sudden change in weather is linked to an active western disturbance over north-west India and an associated cyclonic circulation, which have increased moisture and instability across the region. The change comes after several days of hot weather in Delhi and is expected to provide temporary relief from the heat. Earlier on Saturday, the city recorded a minimum temperature of 24.6 degrees Celsius, which was two degrees below normal. The maximum temperature is expected to remain around 36 degrees Celsius.

Nitin Nabin performs 'Jalabhishek' at Tapkeshwar Mahadev Temple in Dehradun

New Delhi: Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) national president Nitin Nabin on Saturday morning arrived at Tapkeshwar Mahadev Temple in Dehradun to perform prayers and 'Jalabhishek' ritual.

He performed the rituals for Jalabhishek with devotion and offered milk, water (Jal), and flowers to the Shivling.

The temple visit comes on the final day of his three-day tour to Dehradun from May 28 to 30, during which he attended several party organisational programs.

A day earlier, Nabin, along with Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, BJP national secretary (organisation) BL Santhosh and other senior party



leaders, visited the residence of former Uttarakhand CM Bhuvan Chandra Khanduri in Dehradun to pay tribute to the late leader and offer condolences to his family.

CM Dhami said Khanduri consistently upheld the organisation's ideology and the spirit of

"Nation First", adding that his disciplined leadership and commitment to public service would continue to inspire generations within the party.

Ritu Bhushan Khanduri, Speaker of the Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly and daughter of the late former Chief

Minister, expressed gratitude for the visit.

Speaking to ANI, she said, "I express my deep gratitude to the National President and the National General Secretary for visiting our home and paying tribute to my revered father, General BC Khanduri. Their visit shows their love and respect for my father, and I am very grateful to them."

Later, Nitin Nabin and CM Dhami also held meetings with all Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha MPs from Uttarakhand at Welcomhotel by ITC Hotels, The Madhuban, as part of preparations for the upcoming Assembly elections.

BJP state president Mahendra Bhatt said the discussions focused on

strengthening the party organisation and electoral strategy.

"A list of 100 intellectuals from each Assembly constituency will be prepared, and contact will be established with them. Coordination between the government and organisation must be strengthened, and MLAs should help in strengthening booths where teams are incomplete," he added.

Bhatt further said, "For seats where the BJP could not win, MPs and MLAs will be given additional responsibility, and full-time workers will also be deployed. There was no discussion on any MLA survey. For seats won with narrow margins, efforts will be made to increase victory margins."

Mourning Over the Untimely Demise of Netaji Admirer Pabitra Mishra



Paradip (DMC):- Deep sorrow has gripped the region following the untimely demise of Pabitra Mohan Mishra (65), a retired employee of Paradip Port, a devoted admirer of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Working President of the Bharatiya Bandar Mazdoor Sangh, and founder of the Netaji Memorial Club. Mr. Mishra passed away due to a cardiac arrest at around 9 PM on Thursday night at his residence in Garee Sasan village under Kujang Block of Jagatsinghpur district.

It is noteworthy that late Mishra was an ardent devotee of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, and through his efforts, a statue of Netaji had been installed at the Badapadia Bus Stand Square in Paradip.

His sudden demise has cast a shadow of grief across the local area. His mortal remains were brought near the Netaji statue for public homage and final viewing.

Several dignitaries and local leaders paid floral tributes and offered their last respects, including Municipality Chairman Basant Biswal, prominent

labour leader Prakash Tripathy, Bharatiya Bandar Mazdoor Sangh President Rakesh Kumar Pattnaik, General Secretary and Paradip Port Trustee Srikant Ray, senior labour leader Bishnu Muduli, BJD President Kumarbar Nayak, BJP President Subrata Pradhan, BJD leader Chinmaya Parida, Professor Akshaya Mishra, NCC Alumni Association President Ambika Mahapatra, former Chamber of Commerce President Kshirod Swain, Paradip Port Chamber Secretary Golekh Sahu, retired Paradip Port officer Prakash Mishra, businessman Naresh Bhatt, women leaders Manorama Khatua, Nalini Sahu, Kanchan Majhi, and Manoj Khatua of Netaji Trust, among others.

Later, his son Devi Prasad Mishra and daughter Priya Darshini Mishra carried his mortal remains in a funeral procession towards Swargadwar in Puri for the last rites. His demise has left the entire Paradip region and Netaji admirers deeply saddened.

Culture Department to Provide Rs 1 Crore 8 Lakh Financial Assistance for Sital Sasthi Celebrations in Sambalpur

Bhubaneswar : As per the directions of Chief Minister Shri Mohan Charan Majhi, the Odia Language, Literature and Culture Department will provide financial assistance of Rs 1 Crore 8 Lakh for the celebration of the Sital Sasthi festival in Sambalpur district. This year, a total of 21 festival committees in the district will receive financial support amounting to Rs 1 Crore 8 Lakh. "Welcoming the Chief Minister's decision, Culture Minister Shri Suryabanshi Suraj's aid, "Sital Sasthi is a vibrant celebration of Odisha's rich traditions, cultural heritage and spiritual ethos. The State Government remains committed towards preservation and promotion of such vibrant cultural traditions. This assistance will ensure the festival is celebrated with greater grandeur and enthusiasm, while further strengthening Odisha's distinct cultural identity at the national and global levels." Amlan Das, Public Relations Officer



Bhubaneswar : In a major crackdown on financial irregularities within cooperative banking institutions, today, Odisha Vigilance has arrested a cooperative official for the misappropriation of government funds of Rs.33,80,963/-. The accused, identified as Sri Patitapaban Majhi, is the former Secretary of the Garhsantri Service Co-

operative Society (SCS) under the Angul United Central Co-operative Bank (AUCCB) Ltd., Banarpal Branch. He is presently working as a banking assistant at the Angul United Central Co-operative Bank Ltd. headquarters in Angul. "Based on the alleged embezzlement of Govt funds over Rs.33 Lakhs, an investigation was taken up by Odisha Vigilance. The

thorough investigation revealed that the financial crime dates back to the financial year 2017-18." During his tenure as the Executive Secretary of the Garhsantri SCS, Sri Majhi was entrusted with managing daily financial collections and government deposits. Sri Majhi allegedly made a series of fraudulent and fabricated entries in the primary account logs

(Day Books) of the Garhsantri Service Co-operative Society and diverted the funds. While the books showed the transactions as balanced or accounted for, the corresponding physical cash totalling to Rs. 33,80,963/- was never deposited into the Angul United Central Co-operative Bank. The diverted funds, meant for agricultural and cooperative development schemes, were

instead pocketed and diverted for personal use. "In this connection, Cuttack Vigilance PS Case No 21 dated 29.05.2026 under Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 & different sections of IPC has been registered against the accused Sri Majhi. He is being forwarded today to the Honourable Court of Special Judge, Vigilance, Angul. "Detailed report follows.

Odisha Begins Intensive Voter List Revision Drive From Tomorrow

Puri: Odisha will launch the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls across the state from Saturday, with Booth Level Officers (BLOs) set to conduct door-to-door visits till June 28, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) R.S. Gopalan said on Friday.

Speaking after inaugurating a sand art awareness campaign on Puri's Niladri Beach, Gopalan urged citizens to cooperate in what he described as a "national exercise" aimed at ensuring error-free voter lists.

The CEO said BLOs would distribute two forms to every voter during the house visits. Voters are required to retain one copy and submit the other to the concerned BLO after verification. He added that BLOs would assist voters in correcting errors related to names, parents' names, date of birth, address and photographs in the electoral rolls.



Keeping in view the prevailing heatwave conditions, BLOs will conduct field visits during morning hours and remain available at their respective booths every day from 3 pm to 5 pm, he said.

Gopalan informed that nearly 95% mapping work in the state has already been

completed, terming it a "major achievement", and thanked BLOs for their efforts.

Puri collector Divya Jyoti Parida said all arrangements for the SIR exercise in the district had been completed and BLOs as well as supervisors had undergone training.

Voters can also download forms from the Election Commission's official website — voters.eci.gov.in? — fill them up and upload them online. BLOs will provide assistance to those facing difficulties in completing the process, officials said.

The CEO further stated

that non-Indian citizens would be removed directly from the electoral rolls.

Among those present at the programme were additional CEO Sushant Kumar Mishra, additional district magistrates Sarat Chandra Behera, Dr Sarat Chandra Mohapatra and Nilamadhab Bhoi, deputy

CEO Laxmiprasad Sahu, Anamika Singh, finance adviser and additional secretary Sanjay Lugun, sub-collector Raj Kishore Jena, deputy secretary Shashwata Pradhan, additional sub-collector Nilamadhab Majhi and election deputy collector Runita Pradhan.

Officials also outlined the timeline for the revision exercise. July 1 has been fixed as the qualifying date for the revision. Door-to-door verification by BLOs will continue from May 30 to June 28, while rationalisation of polling booths is scheduled to be completed by June 28.

The draft electoral roll will be published on July 5, followed by the claims and objections period from July 5 to August 4. Disposal of claims and objections will continue till September 2, and the final electoral roll will be published on September 6, officials said.

Paradip Trailer & Transporters Joint Coordination Committee meeting held

Paradip (DMC) -: A significant meeting was held on Friday at Hotel Golden Anchor involving the Joint Coordination Committee (JCC), formed by three trailer associations of Paradip — Paradip Trailer and Gas Tanker Owners' Association, Paradip Trailer Owners' Association, and Prakruti Container Trust along with representatives of 17 transporter organizations.

The meeting was chaired by JCC Chairman and renowned trade union leader Prakash Tripathy. Trailer owners and representatives of 17 transport companies participated in the discussion.

As container-based cargo handling has increased in Paradip, the number of trailers operating in the region has also risen considerably. Various issues arising out of this situation were discussed



during the meeting. While transporting container cargo for Paradip Port, trailer operators are facing problems regarding vehicle parking in the port area. The Estate Department of Paradip Port is reportedly charging a parking fee of ₹10,000 per vehicle, which

drew strong dissatisfaction and concern during the meeting. JCC Chairman Mr. Tripathy stated that the matter would soon be brought to the attention of the port administration to seek an early resolution.

At present, trailer owners are already finding it

difficult to pay vehicle installments and drivers' salaries. In such circumstances, the additional burden of paying ₹10,000 as parking fees has become extremely challenging for them. Besides, several other issues were also discussed during the meeting, and efforts were made to resolve them. Among those present at the meeting were JCC President Prakash Tripathy, along with Prakash Kumar Jena, Nagendra Rout, Karmeshwar Swain, Manoj Kumar Swain, Tusharkanta Bhoi, Arun Kumar Mangaraj, Satyajit Pradhan, Ashutosh Swain, Niranjan Behera, Prabhjanjan Senapati, Rajendra Mana, Rabinarayan Pradhan, Jayaprakash Swain, Fakir Mohan Sahu, Bishwajit Behera, and representatives of 17 transporter organizations.

World Environment Protection Week 2026 inaugurated in Puri

Puri : World Environment Protection Week 2026 was inaugurated at the local Sanskriti Bhavan under the joint initiative of the Puri Suraksha Parishad and Lata Charitable Trust. The week-long programme will continue until June 5.

Presiding over the inaugural function, Executive President of the Parishad Lakshmi Narayan Pattnaik highlighted the growing environmental challenges facing the world. Chief guest Judge Manas Ranjan Mishra said that environmental degradation caused by human activities and self-interest is pushing the planet towards a crisis. He stressed that ecological imbalance has become a major global concern and called for greater collective responsibility towards environmental conservation.

Guest of honour and District Sub-Registrar Tapan Kumar Tarai

emphasised the need for the younger generation to remain conscious of environmental issues. He pointed out that large-scale deforestation driven by population growth has emerged as a major threat. Air and water pollution, along with the deteriorating ecological condition of Chilika, are matters of serious concern, he said,

urging people to undertake plantation drives and promote environmental awareness.

Among those present on the dais were Dr Abhimanyu Bhuyan, Assistant Conservator of Forests Ashok Kumar Behera, adviser Pratibha Tripathy, senior advocate Rachita Rautray, and Lata Charitable Trust founder Lata Das.

Earlier, organising committee chairman Binaya Nrusingha Mohapatra outlined the objectives of the programme, while Krishna Mohapatra delivered the welcome address. Parishad secretary Bhagabat Prasad Pattnaik conducted the proceedings.

An interactive discussion session saw participation from Dr Kartik Kumar Das, Santosh Kumar Mohanty, Jyotiprabha Pritam, engineer Keshab Chandra Patra, Bipin Dalai, Pitabas Rath and others.

On the occasion, District Sub-Registrar Tapan Kumar Tarai, Sujata Satpathy, Manasi Rath, Sarbani Das, Sandeep Karmakar, Tapan Sethi and Happiness Foundation founder Pradeep Pradhan were felicitated by the guests for their contributions.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by social worker Jupiter Das.

Rengali's Soul Fades Under the Shadow of Industry

The Light of Development Must Not Remain Confined Within Industrial Walls.

A Special Feature by Ramakanta Biswal, Senior Journalist and Sambalpur District Correspondent, Dumani Media House.

Industrialisation is undoubtedly essential for a nation's economic growth. Industries and mining activities strengthen the economy, generate revenue, and create employment opportunities. However, an important question remains: Development for whom? If development comes at the cost of the environment, public health, culture, and traditional lifestyles of local communities, can it truly be called inclusive development?

The Cry of Rengali's Soul.

The Rengali region of Sambalpur district has emerged as a prominent

industrial and mining hub over the years. Amid grand promises of development, revenue generation, and industrial expansion, the villages, natural environment, and social fabric of the region appear to be facing a silent crisis. Looking at present-day Rengali, one cannot help but feel that somewhere along the path of progress, the bond between people and their land has been left behind.

There was a time when village ponds were not merely water sources; they were the heart of community life. Bathing at the pond

ghats, evening gatherings, festivals, and strong bonds of brotherhood gave rural life its unique charm. Temples, Bhagabata Tungis, and devotional songs filled the atmosphere with spirituality and cultural richness. Today, those familiar sounds have largely faded. The sweet echoes of traditional hymns seem to have been drowned out by the roar of machinery and the noise of industrial activity.

Development is necessary, but it must not come at the expense of the very people it is meant to benefit. The challenge lies in balancing economic growth with environmental sustainability and cultural preservation.

Governments continue to announce large-scale drinking water projects worth crores of rupees. While these schemes



often appear impressive on paper, the reality on the ground is frequently different. Many villages still struggle with drinking water shortages, inadequate water

conservation measures, and neglected local water bodies. Ponds that once served as lifelines for rural communities have fallen into disrepair. Their restoration could

significantly ease water-related problems and strengthen local water security. The burden of this transformation is often borne by lower and middle-income

families. Many people who lost land for industrial projects continue to face uncertainty regarding sustainable livelihoods. While employment opportunities were promised, the benefits have not reached everyone equally. As industrial chimneys rise higher into the sky, the hopes of many local residents seem to be fading.

This is a crucial moment for policymakers and administrators. Development cannot be measured solely in terms of industries, investments, and revenue. Equal importance must be given to people, the environment, and cultural heritage. Restoration of village ponds, environmental protection, proper rehabilitation of displaced

families, and preservation of rural traditions require urgent attention.

The people of Rengali are not opposed to development. Their aspiration is simple: the benefits of progress should reach their homes and communities, rather than remaining confined within the walls of industrial establishments. Otherwise, history may record that a vibrant rural culture was sacrificed in the name of development.

True development will be achieved only when village ponds sparkle alongside industrial growth, temple bells continue to ring amidst progress, and ordinary people can live with dignity on their ancestral land. Only then can the development of Rengali be considered meaningful and complete

Armed Dacoity Gang Busted: All Five Accused Apprehended Following Exchange of Fire and Intensive Combing Operation

Jharsuguda : Jharsuguda Police has successfully busted an armed criminal gang allegedly involved in preparations for committing dacoity and apprehended all five accused persons following a coordinated operation under Rengali Police Station.

On the night of 29.05.2026, Jharsuguda Police received credible intelligence that a group of armed criminals had entered the Rengali area and were allegedly planning to commit a dacoity targeting a financial institution. Acting on the intelligence, a special police team was constituted and strategic

surveillance and interception measures were undertaken.

During the operation, a suspicious pickup vehicle was traced near Maa Ghanteswari Temple, Kadamghat. When signalled to stop, the occupants attempted to flee. Police pursued the vehicle and resorted to controlled firing at the rear portion of the vehicle to safely intercept it.

Subsequently, one of the accused allegedly opened fire at the police party. Despite being repeatedly asked to surrender, he continued firing, compelling police personnel to return fire in

exercise of their right of private defence. During the exchange of fire, accused Jay Chouhan (30), of Brajrajnagar, sustained a gunshot injury to his right thigh and was apprehended. He was immediately provided medical assistance and shifted for treatment.

Following the incident, the remaining accused fled towards the adjoining forest area taking advantage of darkness. A massive search and combing operation was launched by Jharsuguda Police. Through sustained efforts and intensive area domination, all four absconding accused were subsequently apprehended. The arrested accused are:

1. Jay Chouhan (30), Brajrajnagar
2. Karan Chouhan (28), Brajrajnagar
3. Biswajit Nayak (27), Brajrajnagar
4. Santosh Mahato @ Bade (28), Brajrajnagar
5. Rohit Kumar Singh @ Rabi @ Barud (30), Brajrajnagar

Preliminary investigation reveals that several of the accused are habitual offenders with criminal antecedents involving offences such as attempt to murder, robbery, preparation for dacoity, theft, criminal intimidation and Arms Act violations. Seizure : During the operation, police recovered and seized:

- One country-made pistol
- Two empty cartridges
- One Bhujali (sharp-edged weapon)
- One imitation firearm
- One pickup vehicle used by the accused persons

Scientific examination of the seized articles and further investigation are underway. A case has been registered under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Arms Act. Efforts are continuing to ascertain the gang's wider criminal activities and possible involvement in other offences. Jharsuguda Police remains committed to taking firm action against organized crime and ensuring the safety and security of the public



Press Conference on SIR held in Nuapada

NUAPADA/KHARIAR ROAD, May 30 (T.Dewangan) : A press conference regarding the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the voter list was held in Nuapada under the Chairmanship of District Election officer & Collector Madhusudan Dash on Saturday.

During the meeting, the collector gave a detailed presentation on the SIR schedule, distribution and collection of enumeration forms, duties of BLOs and BLO supervisors, form filing procedures, objection filing and disposal, training of BLOs and help desk arrangements. The collector stated that the main objective of the SIR process is to make the voter list accurate, error free and transparent by including eligible voters and removing ineligible entries. He emphasized that successful implementation of this process is a major



responsibility and highlighted the important role of the media in creating public awareness about SIR.

From May 30 to June 28, BLOs will conduct door to door visits across the district. The District Collector informed that out of a total of 2,49,972 voters in the 71- Nuapada assembly constituency, the mapping of 2,39,048 has been completed, which is 95.63 percent.

Similarly, in the 72- Khadial assembly constituency, out of a total of 2,55,304 voters, the mapping

of 2,43,848 has been completed, giving a turnout rate of 95.51 percent.

Informing about the next phase of the SIR process, the Collector said that the draft voter list will be published on July 5th. Demands and objections will be accepted from July 5 to August 4 and the final voter list will be published on September 6. The draft voter list will be prepared based on the information received through this form. The Collector urged the public not to believe in rumors or false information related to the SIR process.

Odisha's Pride: Para-Archer Payal Nag Felicitated for International Glory

Bhubaneswar : The Sports & Youth Services Department, Government of Odisha, felicitated Odisha's para archer Payal Nag for her outstanding performance at the World Para Archery Series 2026 in Bangkok, where she clinched two Gold Medals and secured qualification for the upcoming Para Asian Games. In recognition of her remarkable international achievement, Payal Nag was awarded a special cash award of 5,46,666 lakh for winning two Gold Medals, along with an additional 3,23,100 lakh towards procurement of sports equipment to support her future training and competition preparations. The felicitations ceremony



was graced by Hon'ble Minister Sports & Youth Services Sri Suryabansi Suraj, Hon'ble MLA, Kantabanji, Shri Laxman Bag, and officials of the Sports & Youth Services Department (DSYS), who extended their best

wishes to Payal for continued success at the Para Asian Games and future international competitions. Congratulating Payal on her exceptional accomplishment, the Hon'ble Minister Sports &

Youth Services Shri Suryabanshi Suraj said, "Payal Nag's success on the international stage is a proud moment for Odisha and the nation. Her determination, discipline, and achievements are truly inspiring and

reflect the growing strength of para sports in Odisha. I am very happy to be back in Odisha and among my people after this memorable achievement. The encouragement and support I have received from the Government of Odisha, Hon'ble Sports Minister, and Hon'ble MLA Kantabanji Shri Laxman Bag mean a lot to me and motivate me to continue working harder for the country. I sincerely thank everyone for recognising and supporting my journey. The Government of Odisha remains committed to supporting athletes through world-class infrastructure, financial assistance, and high-performance initiatives to help them excel at the highest level.

Fine of Rs 15 lakh for excessive mining in Shalbeda stone quarry

Naresh Chandra Pattanayak

Keonjhar : The Shalbeda stone quarry under Harichandanpur tehsil in Keonjhar district is being mined illegally at many times the permitted rate, causing the government crores of rupees in lost revenue. After complaints were made, the Minor Mineral Mining Department, Keonjhar, issued a notice to the quarry owner to pay a fine of Rs 15 lakh. The Minor Mining Department has begun investigating the issue as a large amount of stone is being mined in violation of the mining plan. It is alleged that the quarry is located in an area of 4.177 hectares and the

mining plan was violated and the quarry was mined in an unsafe manner. A company called SRSC Infra was given a transit pass for 3120 cubic meters for this quarry, but it is alleged that it has excavated and transported much more than this amount. While the said company carried out the repair work of National Highway 20 from Panikoili to Rimuli, a total of 52,523 cubic meters of stone chips were used. However, it was alleged that an additional 49,403 cubic meters of stone chips were used without permission. During the excavation in the quarry, environmental protection laws were allegedly completely ignored,

endangering wildlife, cattle and people. Although the work has stopped, a proper investigation before surrender is believed to show that the mining was done unsafely, deviating from the mining plan, and involved large-scale revenue fraud. In this regard, Mining Officer Tarini Kumar Singh of the Keonjhar Minor Mineral Mining department said that the company has deposited the fine after it was imposed. The mining work is stopped but the company has not surrendered. Therefore, the investigation is ongoing. According to the rules, the leaseholder must barricade the safety zone and plant trees there. But instead of



doing that, it is alleged that the 7.5-meter safety zone or safety belt of the mine was destroyed and reckless

mining was carried out. The maximum depth the mine can be mined is 6 meters. But since mining is being done

much lower than this, the mine has become dangerous. Now, since there is no barricade in the safety

zone, there is a risk of wild animals and domestic animals falling. But a complete blind eye has

been turned to this aspect. Since this area is not regularly inspected, it is alleged that the leaseholder has deliberately mined more than the permission. The mine boundary has not been fenced and no place has been designated for storing overburden, so it is being dumped here and there, causing widespread environmental pollution and making the mine area unsafe. While the mine is not being managed properly, the company is trying to surrender the quarry without completing the formalities; therefore, a proper investigation is demanded.

Paradip Port Authority Secures Top Honours at Sagar Aankalan Awards, Emerges as India's Leading Dry Bulk Cargo Port

Paradip, (DMC) - Paradip Port Authority (PPA) has achieved a major national distinction by securing top rankings at the prestigious Sagar Aankalan Awards, organized by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways. The achievement reaffirms Paradip Port's position as one of India's best-performing ports and highlights its excellence in cargo handling, operational efficiency, and logistics performance. The awards were presented during a special ceremony held yesterday evening in Mumbai, where Shri P. L. Haranadh, Chairman, Paradip Port Authority, received the

prestigious Sagar Aankalan Awards from the Hon'ble Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal. The ceremony brought together senior dignitaries from the maritime sector. The recognition reflects Paradip Port Authority's outstanding performance in cargo handling, operational efficiency, and logistics excellence, reinforcing its position among India's leading ports.

Under the Sagar Aankalan Certificate for Logistics Port Performance, issued by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Paradip Port Authority secured 1st Rank in

recognition of its outstanding overall performance in handling Dry Bulk Cargo in the category of ports handling greater than or equal to 5 Million Tonnes of cargo. This distinction underscores Paradip Port's leadership in bulk cargo operations and its vital contribution to India's industrial and energy supply chains.

Adding to this achievement, Paradip Port Authority also secured 3rd Rank under the Sagar Aankalan Certificate for Logistics Port Performance for its outstanding overall performance in handling Container Cargo in the



category of ports handling less than 0.5 Million TEUs. The recognition reflects the port's growing capabilities in container operations and its commitment to delivering

efficient and reliable services across diverse cargo segments.

During the event, the Hon'ble Union Minister launched the Logistics Port Performance Index (LPPPI), a

comprehensive national benchmarking framework developed under the Sagar Aankalan initiative to assess and improve the competitiveness, efficiency, and service standards of Indian ports.

The awards recognize ports that demonstrate excellence in operational efficiency, cargo handling performance, infrastructure utilization, turnaround time, logistics facilitation, and customer service. Paradip Port's strong performance in both dry bulk and container cargo categories reflects its sustained focus on modernization, digital transformation, and

operational excellence. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal emphasized that the Logistics Port Performance Index would encourage greater transparency, efficiency, and global competitiveness across Indian ports, supporting the vision of making India a leading maritime nation. Expressing his happiness over the achievement, P. L. Haranadh, IRTS, Chairman, Paradip Port Authority, said that "These recognitions are a testament to the dedication and hard work of the entire Paradip Port family, including employees, stakeholders, port users, and

trade partners. Securing the 1st Rank in Dry Bulk Cargo performance and the 3rd Rank in Container Cargo performance under the Sagar Aankalan framework reflects our unwavering commitment to operational excellence, efficiency, and customer satisfaction. We remain committed to strengthening India's maritime sector and supporting the nation's economic growth." The latest recognition further strengthens Paradip Port Authority's reputation as a high-performing maritime gateway and a key driver of India's trade, logistics, and economic development

Revisiting the Defining Moments

Bhaskar Parichha

The assassination of Mahatma Gandhi remains one of the most debated and emotionally charged events in modern Indian history. In *Hey Ram! An Authentic Investigation of the Gandhi Murder Case*, Prakhar Shrivastava seeks to move beyond familiar narratives and examine the circumstances surrounding Gandhi's death through a detailed investigation of historical records and primary sources. The result is a provocative and meticulously researched work that challenges readers to revisit a defining moment of the nation's past.

Rather than treating the assassination as an isolated act committed by Nathuram Godse, the author situates the event within the turbulent political and social environment of the 1940s. The book explores the final years of the freedom struggle, the demand for Pakistan, the horrors of Partition, communal violence, the plight of refugees, and the deep anxieties that shaped public opinion during that period. By placing Gandhi's murder against this broader backdrop, Shrivastava presents the assassination as the culmination of a complex historical process rather than a single act of violence.

One of the book's important strengths is its reliance

on primary sources, including police investigation reports, witness testimonies, court proceedings, and case diaries. This documentary approach lends credibility to the narrative

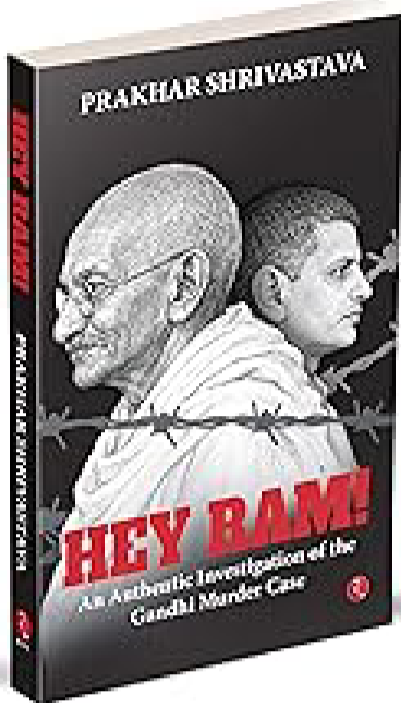
and allows readers to engage directly with the evidence. The author also raises difficult and often controversial questions, particularly regarding Gandhi's political decisions during the Partition era and his stance on issues that generated resentment among sections of the Hindu population.

The book does not seek easy answers. Instead, it encourages critical examination of accepted assumptions and invites readers to consider multiple perspectives. While some of its conclusions may be debated, its commitment to evidence-based inquiry makes it a valuable contribution to discussions on Gandhi, Partition, and the early years of independent India.

Hey Ram! is not merely a book about an assassination; it is an exploration of the political tensions, ideological conflicts, and human tragedies that accompanied the birth of a nation. Thought-provoking and extensively researched, it will appeal

to readers interested in history, politics, and the complexities of historical truth.

Hey Ram!
Prakhar Shrivastava
Rupa Publications
New Delhi



Unique Perspective on Israel

Bhaskar Parichha

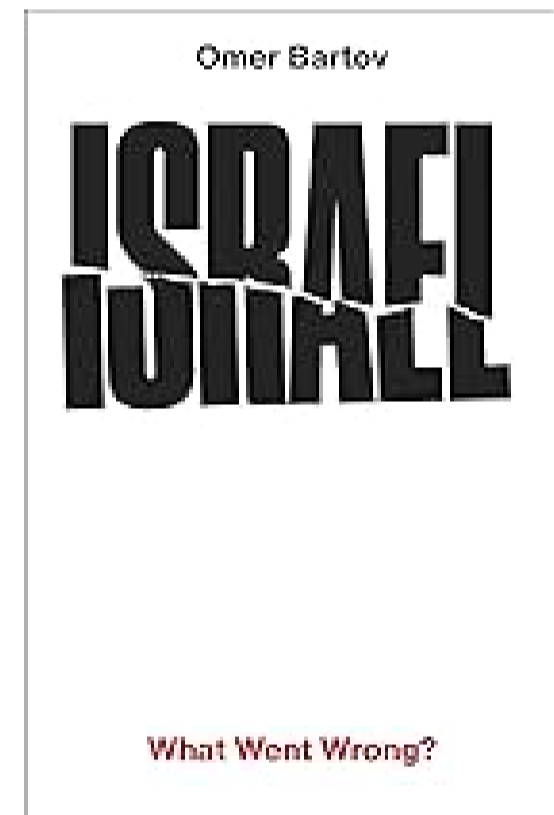
In *Israel: What Went Wrong?*, renowned historian and genocide scholar Omer Bartov delivers a deeply personal, intellectually rigorous, and profoundly unsettling examination of Israel's political and moral trajectory. Drawing on a lifetime of engagement with Jewish history, the Holocaust, and Israeli society, Bartov seeks to explain how a state founded in the aftermath of one of history's greatest catastrophes has become the subject of intense international criticism and accusations of grave human rights violations.

What distinguishes this book from many contemporary works on Israel and Palestine is the author's unique perspective. Born on a kibbutz, raised in Tel Aviv, and a veteran of the Yom Kippur War, Bartov writes not as an external observer but as someone intimately connected to the Israeli experience. At the same time, his distinguished academic career as a scholar of genocide and the Holocaust enables him to approach the subject with analytical depth and historical sensitivity.

Bartov traces the evolution of Zionism from a movement dedicated to Jewish self-determination and security into what he argues has become an increasingly exclusionary and ethno-nationalist state project. Through a careful examination of historical developments, political decisions, and military policies, he explores the roots of the ongoing conflict with the Palestinians and the growing international concern over Israel's conduct in the occupied territories and Gaza.

The book's greatest strength lies in its willingness to confront difficult questions without resorting to slogans or polemics. Bartov examines not only state policies but also the social and political dynamics that have enabled them, asking how a society shaped by memories of persecution has come to accept practices that many critics view as oppressive. His analysis also extends beyond Israel, raising broader concerns about the credibility of international law and the global response to allegations of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

While readers may disagree with some of Bartov's



interpretations and conclusions, the book is impossible to dismiss. Thoughtful, meticulously argued, and morally urgent, the book is a significant contribution to one of the most contentious debates of our time. It challenges readers to engage seriously with the historical forces shaping the present and to reflect on the future of both Israelis and Palestinians.

Israel: What Went Wrong?
Omer Bartov
Speaking Tiger
New Delhi

Mindset behind Effective Policymaking

Dharma Raj

In a world where public policy is often discussed through landmark decisions, political controversies, and institutional outcomes, *The Policy Self* by Nitin Saluja offers a refreshingly different perspective. Rather than focusing on high-profile case studies or policy successes and failures, the book turns its attention to the often-overlooked human dimension of policymaking—the habits, instincts, judgments, and values that shape effective practitioners.

Drawing on nearly two decades of experience across government, industry, and diplomacy, Saluja presents policy not merely as a technical profession but as a discipline of character. Through ten reflective chapters, he explores the subtle yet powerful skills that define influence in complex environments: knowing when to speak and when to listen, how to navigate ambiguity, how to build trust, and how to exercise judgment under pressure.

One of the book's greatest strengths is its emphasis on the intangible aspects of professional life. Saluja examines the psychology of meetings, the ethics of communication, the rhythm of negotiation, and the importance of timing with remarkable clarity. These are areas rarely addressed in traditional policy literature, yet they often determine whether ideas succeed or fail. By focusing on these dimensions, the author reveals that influence is less about authority and more about perception, credibility, patience, and self-awareness.

"A rigorous and deeply practical framework for policy professionals."
Michael Boveaux,
Professor of Public Management, USC

THE
POLICY
SELF

LEARNING TO THINK,
INFLUENCE, AND STAY HUMAN
IN PUBLIC SYSTEMS

NITIN SALUJA

The writing is measured and thoughtful, reflecting the very qualities the book seeks to cultivate. There is no grandstanding or oversimplification. Instead, readers are invited into a reflective conversation about professional growth and leadership. The tone is calm and mentoring, making the book feel less like a manual and more like guidance from an experienced practitioner who understands the complexities of working within and between institutions.

Importantly, *The Policy Self* has relevance beyond the policy community. While public servants, diplomats, corporate affairs professionals, consultants, and students of governance will find immediate value in its insights, the book's lessons on communication, judgment, and influence are applicable to anyone working in complex

organizational settings.

Thoughtful, nuanced, and deeply practical, *The Policy Self* stands out as an exploration of the mindset behind effective policymaking. It reminds readers that policy is not only about shaping outcomes but also about cultivating the qualities that enable meaningful and responsible influence. In doing so, it offers a compelling vision of policy as both a profession and a way of being.

The Policy Self
Nitin Saluja
Simon & Schuster India
New Delhi

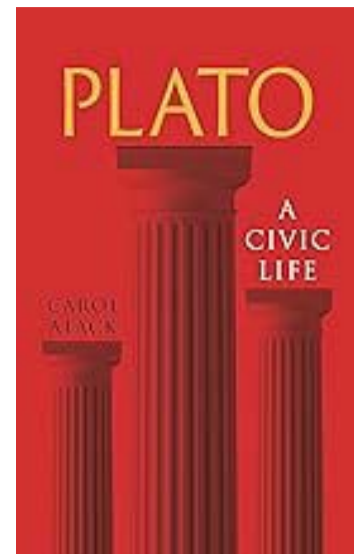
Not a Conventional Biography

Bhaskar Parichha

In *Plato: A Civic Life*, Carol Attack offers a fresh and engaging portrait of one of history's most influential thinkers. Rather than treating Plato solely as an abstract philosopher whose ideas exist outside time and place, Attack situates him firmly within the political, social, and intellectual world of ancient Athens. The result is a compelling biography that illuminates the profound connections between Plato's lived experience and his philosophical vision.

Plato is often encountered through his enduring ideas—justice, virtue, knowledge, and the ideal state. Yet Attack reminds readers that these ideas emerged from a turbulent historical context. Born during the Peloponnesian War, Plato witnessed Athens' military defeat, political instability, and social upheaval. Most significantly, he lived through the trial and execution of his teacher, Socrates, an event that left an indelible mark on his understanding of democracy, power, and civic responsibility.

One of the book's greatest strengths is its ability to weave together biography and intellectual history. Attack carefully explores how



Plato's experiences shaped his thought without reducing his philosophy to mere circumstance. She demonstrates how the institutions, debates, and public life of Athens provided the framework within which Plato developed his distinctive ideas. His dialogues emerge not simply as philosophical texts but as creative responses to the challenges and contradictions of the society around him.

The author also highlights Plato's literary brilliance, showing how he

transformed the Socratic dialogue into a sophisticated philosophical method. Through these dialogues, Plato created imaginative spaces where competing ideas could be examined, challenged, and refined. Attack's discussion of this achievement makes the book particularly valuable for readers seeking to understand not only what Plato thought but also how he thought.

Written in a clear and accessible style, *Plato: A Civic Life* succeeds in making a complex historical and philosophical figure approachable without sacrificing depth. It offers an insightful introduction for newcomers while providing fresh perspectives for readers already familiar with Plato's work.

More than a conventional biography, this book reveals Plato as a citizen shaped by the fortunes and failures of Athens. By placing his philosophy within the realities of civic life, Carol Attack deepens our understanding of both the man and his enduring legacy. It is an illuminating and thought-provoking contribution to the study of one of the foundational figures of Western thought.

Plato: A Civic Life
Carol Attack
Macmillan India
New Delhi

Exploring Human Values

Bhaskar Parichha

In an age of constant distraction and uncertainty, *The Foundation of a Fulfilling Life* by Deepam Chatterjee offers a refreshing return to timeless wisdom. Drawing upon some of the most enduring stories from India's sacred and classical traditions, the book presents ancient insights in a form that is both accessible and relevant to contemporary readers.

The author brings together narratives from the Mahabharata, Ramayana, Upanishads, Puranas, Panchatantra, Hitopadesha, and the Jatakas, demonstrating how these centuries-old tales continue to illuminate the challenges of modern life. Rather than treating these stories as distant myths, Chatterjee reveals them as living repositories of human experience, filled with lessons on courage, perseverance, humility, devotion, and self-discovery.

Among the book's strengths is its ability to connect legendary characters with everyday dilemmas. The determination of Eklavya, the unwavering devotion of Savitri, the resilience of Dhruva, and the courage of Hanuman are presented not merely as admirable virtues but as practical examples of how individuals can navigate obstacles, setbacks, and moral choices. These stories resonate because they deal with universal emotions and struggles—ambition, doubt, pride, love, sacrifice, and the

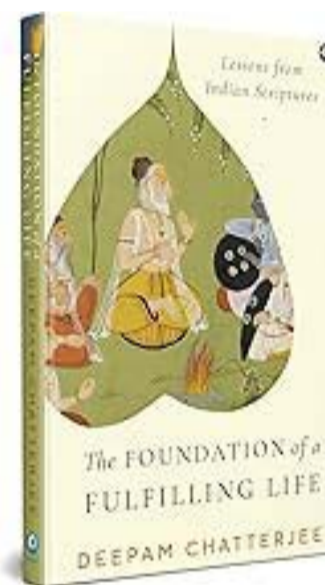
search for purpose.

What makes the book particularly appealing is its tone. Chatterjee avoids the pitfalls of moralizing or dogmatic instruction. Instead, he invites readers to engage with the stories thoughtfully and draw their own conclusions. The emphasis is on reflection rather than prescription, making the book accessible to readers from diverse backgrounds, whether they approach these texts from a spiritual, cultural, or literary perspective.

The writing is clear and engaging, preserving the essence of the original narratives while presenting them in a contemporary style. The author succeeds in making ancient wisdom feel immediate and relevant without oversimplifying its depth.

The Foundation of a Fulfilling Life is more than a collection of retold stories; it is a thoughtful exploration of enduring human values. Insightful, inspiring, and deeply rooted in India's rich intellectual heritage, it serves as a gentle reminder that many of the answers to modern challenges can still be found in the wisdom of the past.

The Foundation of a Fulfilling Life
Deepam Chatterjee
Aleph Books
New Delhi



Scientific Rigor with Lyrical storytelling

Arun Mishra

In *The Wild Heart of India*, naturalist and wildlife scientist T.R. Shankar Raman invites readers on a journey through some of India's most diverse landscapes while simultaneously guiding them toward a deeper understanding of humanity's relationship with nature. Blending scientific observation, personal reflection, and literary sensitivity, this remarkable collection of essays is both a celebration of the natural world and a thoughtful meditation on conservation in contemporary India.

The book traverses a wide geographical canvas—from the shifting cultivation landscapes of Mizoram and the bird-rich Himalayas to the lush rainforests of Kalakad and the biodiversity hotspots of the Western Ghats. Yet its true subject extends beyond places and species. Raman seeks to reveal the intricate connections between people and the ecosystems they inhabit, reminding readers that nature is not confined to distant wildernesses but exists all around us, including in towns, cities, and cultivated landscapes.

One of the book's greatest strengths is the author's ability to combine scientific rigor with lyrical storytelling. As a seasoned wildlife researcher, Raman brings a wealth of ecological knowledge to his observations. However, he never allows science to overshadow wonder. Every bird, animal, forest, and landscape becomes part of a larger narrative that encourages readers to observe more

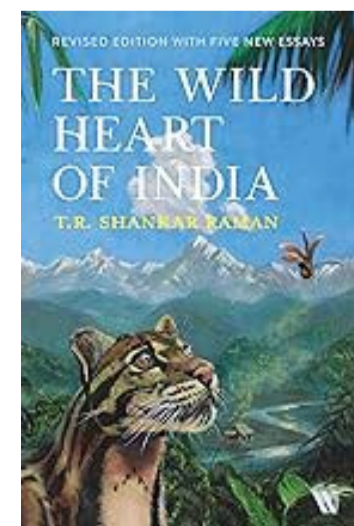
closely and think more deeply about the living world. His essays demonstrate that conservation is not merely about protecting species but about cultivating awareness, empathy, and responsibility.

The author's reflections are especially compelling because they avoid sensationalism. In an era when environmental discourse is often dominated by alarming headlines and dramatic imagery, Raman chooses a quieter and more contemplative approach. He emphasizes attentive observation and meaningful engagement, encouraging readers to discover the extraordinary within the ordinary and to recognize their own place within nature's web.

Written with clarity, elegance, and passion, *The Wild Heart of India* appeals equally to nature enthusiasts, conservationists, and general readers. It is not a comprehensive survey of India's environmental challenges but a personal exploration of why nature matters and how it enriches human life.

By the final page, readers are likely to find themselves sharing the author's conviction that the wild heart of India is not confined to forests or mountains—it beats within all who remain open to the beauty, complexity, and wonder of the natural world.

The Wild Heart of India
T.R. Shankar Raman
Westland
Chennai



Class 11 student stabbed to death in Ghaziabad; 3 of 5 accused arrested

Ghaziabad,30/5: A Class 11 student stabbed during an altercation in Ghaziabad has died during treatment, police said on Saturday, adding that three of the five accused have been arrested and a hunt is on to trace the other two. Surya Chauhan, a resident of Navneet Vihar Colony in Khoda, was admitted to a local hospital with stab wounds on May 28. He was referred to a private hospital in Noida where he died on Friday, police said. Chauhan's family members alleged that he received a call asking him to come to a meeting spot on the afternoon of May 28.

They claimed that as he went there with his friends, an argument broke out after which he was stabbed in the abdomen. Surya ran nearly 200 metres to save his life, but the assailants chased him and attacked him again with knives, the family claimed. ACP Abhishek Srivastava said that on being alerted around 3.30 pm, police rushed the injured teenager to a hospital. Chauhan died during treatment around noon on Friday, the officer said. Acting on a complaint lodged by Chauhan's family, police have arrested three of the five accused, and efforts are underway to arrest the remaining two, the ACP said, adding that the

exact motive behind the murder will be known after all the accused are interrogated. Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati has termed the incident "extremely tragic and worrying". In a post on X, Mayawati said the government and the administration must take effective steps to prevent such incidents, and demanded that the culprits be brought to justice. She also cautioned that such crimes could have wider repercussions with the state heading to polls next year, and urged the government to remain fully vigilant.

New Delhi,30/5: A Delhi court on Saturday ordered framing of charges against alleged conman Suresh Chandrashekar and 20 others for various offences, including under the stringent MCOCA provisions, in a case registered by the city police's special cell. Additional Sessions Judge Prashant Sharma said, "I conclude that based on record and appreciation of the present case, the accused persons have prima facie committed offences. They have to be charged with the said offences." The court ordered framing of charges against Suresh for personating a public servant, extortion, cheating, criminal intimidation, criminal conspiracy, along with IT Act provisions and MCOCA sections for committing an organised crime and possessing

unaccountable wealth on behalf of members of an organised crime syndicate. It also ordered framing of similar charges, except for the offence of personating a public servant, against Suresh's wife Leena Paulose. The court also said that charges be framed against 17 others for various penal offences, and under the IT Act and MCOCA provisions for committing organised crime. Three others were ordered to be charged with offences of criminal conspiracy and cheating. All 21 accused persons have been summoned on June 3 for the formal framing of charges, following which the trial in the case will commence. MCOCA, or the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act, 1999, is a law enacted to combat organised

crime syndicates and terrorism. The act equips authorities with special powers to track, intercept, and penalise gang-related criminal activities that normal penal codes fail to deter. The case, which was probed by the Economic Offences Wing, was registered based on a complaint by Aditi S Singh, claiming that on June 15, 2020, she received a call from a landline number on her mobile phone in which the caller introduced himself as a senior official in the Union law ministry and proposed to help her resolve legal matters related to her husband and her companies. Aditi claimed the person demanded ₹20 crore for getting the work done and conveyed the modalities regarding delivery of money. Thereafter,

the caller through his associates hatched a conspiracy by impersonating high-ranking government officials and extorted money to the tune of around ₹217 crore on multiple occasions. According to the prosecution, after a technical surveillance of the cellphone used by the caller, the extortionist was identified as Suresh, who was already lodged in the Rohini Jail in a case of taking money from AIADMK leader T T V Dinakaran on the pretext of helping him retain the 'two leaves' symbol for his party. It said the special cell of Delhi Police raided Suresh's prison cell on the intervening night of August 7-8, 2021, and recovered two mobile phones from his possession.

Two teenagers injured in separate thunderstorm incidents in Noida

Noida,30/5: Two teenagers sustained injuries during a thunderstorm in two separate incidents in Noida and Greater Noida on Thursday night, police said. The two were admitted to nearby hospitals and their conditions are stable, they added. In the first incident, a 15-year-old boy sustained severe head and leg injuries after strong winds caused the bricks of an adjacent building's under-construction wall to fall onto the roof of his room in Sector 63. "We received information about the incident on Thursday night and police personnel from the Sector 63 police station rushed to the spot. They found that the boy had already been admitted to a nearby hospital," a police officer said. During the investigation, it was revealed that around 8pm on Thursday, bricks from the under-construction wall on the third floor collapsed onto the makeshift roof built over the ground-floor room. "The boy was

inside the room with his mother when the bricks hit his head and leg," said the officer, requesting anonymity. The officer added, "The owner of the under-construction house rushed the boy to a nearby hospital, where his condition is reported to be stable." As the house owner agreed to bear all the medical expenses for the boy's treatment, the victim's family did not file any complaint, police said, adding that no case has been registered in connection with the incident. In the other incident, a 16-year-old boy sustained injuries in Bistrakh after a signboard was blown away due to strong winds and heavy rainfall and struck his leg late Thursday, police said. The 16-year-old, a resident of a high-rise society in Greater Noida West, was on his way to a nearby shop at City Plaza when the incident occurred. "The boy sustained minor injuries to his leg and is out of danger," Noida Police said in a statement.

Faridbad: 28-year-old held in Palla over kidnapping and rape of minor

Faridabad,28/5: A 28-year-old man was arrested within hours of allegedly kidnapping and raping a 13-year-old girl in the Palla area of Faridabad on Thursday night, police said. The victim, a Class VI student at a private school, was on her way to a birthday party in her locality after 9.30pm when the suspect lured her to his rented accommodation, said Yashpal Yadav, public relations officer, Faridabad police. "After taking her inside, the suspect raped her. "The victim had fainted,

after which he had carried her to the terrace and hid her in a corner behind an overhead water tank," Yadav said. When the girl did not return home by 11pm, her family — she had been living with her maternal uncle and aunt in Palla for six years — began searching for her. "They came to know that she had not even attended the birthday party. After failing to locate her anywhere, the family started searching her," Yadav said. Investigators scanned CCTV footage from the locality and identified the

suspect escorting the girl. The family entered his room but found her on the terrace, unconscious. After reviving her, she narrated her ordeal before fainting again. She was rushed to hospital, and police were alerted. An FIR was registered on Friday on the complaint of the victim's maternal aunt under Section 6 (aggravated penetrative sexual assault) of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act at Palla police station. The suspect has confessed to the crime, police said.

Haryana has assured to supply 1,000 cusecs of water to national capital: Delhi CM

New Delhi,30/5: The Haryana government has assured supply of 1,000 cusecs of water, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said on Saturday. Gupta held a detailed review meeting on drinking water challenges and water supply situation with Delhi Jal Board officials. "To tackle the water-related challenges, an assurance has been given by Haryana to maintain a minimum of 1,000 cusecs of water supply through the Munak Canal," she said after speaking to Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini. Being a landlocked city, Delhi is dependent on neighbouring states of Haryana and Uttar Pradesh for raw water supply. DJB's overall average production capacity ranges between 990 and 1,000 million gallons per day of drinking water, including the tubewells. The chief minister also said that efforts

are being made to provide relief to the people through more than 980 tankers and over 6,000 daily trips. In the past several days, the DJB had been struggling to maintain its average water production which has fallen by around 90 million gallons per day from its target of 1,002 MGD this year. In the past week, the DJB received 11,055 complaints on its helpline, out of which more than 8,500 complaints have been resolved, claimed officials. "In the past few days, the DJB was receiving around 900 to 924 cusecs of water through the Munak Canal, the neighbouring state has assured to provide 100 cusecs more than the allocated amount of 924 cusecs to Delhi," a DJB official said. Water Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh said the water level at Wazirabad has fallen from its normal pond level of 674.5 feet

to nearly 668 feet, resulting in a shortage of raw water and affecting water production by nearly 80-100 MGD. "This situation has been aggravated by the prolonged dry spell in the upper reaches of the Yamuna," Singh added. The chief minister directed the officials to take immediate action by considering every incident of water leakage seriously. "Every single drop of water is precious and any kind of wastage will not be acceptable. The government is paying equal attention to immediate relief measures as well as long-term solutions so that the water crisis can be permanently controlled in the future," the chief minister said in a statement. Gupta also said that the DJB will be roping in IIT Roorkee to conduct a feasibility study of bringing water through a pipeline from Haryana as a long-

term effort. "Work on long-term water management plans should also be done at an equal pace, so that future requirements can also be effectively met along with immediate relief. Under this, a study on the feasibility of bringing water through a pipeline from Haryana is being conducted by IIT Roorkee, so that water loss and leakage can be reduced," Gupta added. Additionally, by establishing additional borewells in the Yamuna Khadar area, water production capacity has been increased by 10.5 MGD per day. She said that as part of water conservation efforts, the government is working on a plan for the construction of 500 new rainwater harvesting structures and the revival of 1,000 old structures has started. The tender process for this has also been initiated, she added.

Power outages hit several Gurugram areas after rain, maintenance work

Gurugram,30/5: Power outages triggered by rain, overloading, broken tree branches falling on power lines and scheduled maintenance work disrupted electricity supply across several parts of Gurugram from Thursday night to Friday evening, residents and officials said. Residents reported prolonged and repeated outages in parts of Old Gurugram, including Sheela Colony and Ashok Vihar, sectors along Dwarka Expressway, and several blocks of DLF Phase I, II and III. In DLF areas, a scheduled shutdown for maintenance of the 66 kV substation in DLF Q-Block led to an outage lasting around one-and-a-half hours on

Friday evening. Dilip Mukherjee, a resident of Sheela Colony, said electricity remained unavailable for over five hours in his area. "Linemen and other lower-rank officials of Dakshin Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam Limited had kept phones switched off. There was no one to update us on what the fault was which resulted in the outage and when the power supply will be restored," he said. Mukherjee said prolonged outages had become a regular issue during the ongoing heatwave. "These long outages highlight there is severe strain on the infrastructure of the Dakshin Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam Limited. They need to address

the shortcomings," he added. Satish Yadav, a resident of Ashok Vihar Phase-III, said power supply remained disrupted throughout the night and was restored only after 6am. "None updated us on what caused the outage and when the supply will be restored." It has become an everyday scenario," he said. Meanwhile, at least 17 residential and industrial areas supplied through the 66kV substation in Sector 9 experienced a scheduled outage of up to four hours on Thursday. Officials said the shutdown was required to install an additional transformer to address overloading issues that had persisted for nearly 20 days.

Navy Chief Admiral Tripathi Briefs PM Modi On Maritime Security, Operational Preparedness

New Delhi,30/5: Outgoing Indian Navy chief, Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi, called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and briefed him on the operational preparedness of the force and the prevailing security environment in the Indian Ocean Region, officials said on Saturday. The meeting took place on Friday, just days before Admiral Tripathi is scheduled to retire from service on May 31. Sharing details of the meeting on X, the Indian Navy said Admiral Tripathi provided the Prime Minister with a comprehensive overview of the force's readiness and the evolving maritime security landscape. "Adm Dinesh K Tripathi, CNS, called on Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 29 May 26. Prior to handing over command of the Indian Navy on 31 May 26, CNS briefed the Hon'ble Prime Minister on the operational readiness of the Indian Navy and the overall security situation in the Indian Ocean Region, including the impact of emerging challenges and galloping technology in the maritime domain," it said. The Navy reiterated its commitment towards safeguarding India's maritime interests across the region. "The Indian Navy, as a combat-ready, credible, cohesive and future-ready Atmanirbhar force, remains committed to safeguarding our

national maritime interests — anytime, anywhere, anyhow," the post added. Following Admiral Tripathi's retirement, Krishna Swaminathan will take over as the new Chief of the Naval Staff. Admiral Tripathi took charge as the 26th Chief of the Naval Staff on April 30, 2024. Before assuming the top naval position, he served as the Vice Chief of the Naval Staff and held several important operational and administrative assignments during his distinguished career. An alumnus of Sainik School Rewa and the National Defence Academy, Admiral Tripathi was commissioned into the Indian Navy on July 1, 1985. He specialised in Communication and Electronic Warfare and went on to build a career spanning multiple operational and strategic appointments. His command assignments included leadership of INS Vinash, INS Kirch and INS Trishul. During his tenure as Commanding Officer of INS Kirch, he played a key role in humanitarian



assistance and disaster relief operations following the devastating tsunami of December 2004. His contribution earned him a letter of appreciation from the then-President of Sri Lanka. Over the course of his naval career, Admiral Tripathi also served as Executive Officer of INS Mumbai, Fleet Electronic Warfare Officer, Fleet Communication Officer, and Fleet Operations Officer of the Western Fleet. His staff appointments included positions such as Director of Naval Operations, Principal Director of Network Centric Operations and Principal Director of Naval Plans, giving him extensive exposure to planning, operations and strategic decision-making.

Nuh violence erupts in two villages, 14 people sustain injuries

Noida,30/5: At least 14 people were injured in two separate incidents of violence in Nuh on Thursday, prompting police to deploy additional personnel in the affected villages to maintain law and order, officials said on Friday. The first incident occurred in Nizampur village, where at least six people were injured in a clash allegedly linked to a long-standing political rivalry stemming from past panchayat elections. A senior police official said two groups, led by a former sarpanch and his rival, were returning after offering Eid prayers when supporters allegedly exchanged provocative remarks. "Two groups were led by person who was earlier a sarpanch and another one led by his rival were returning after offering prayers when supporters made adverse comments on each other," the official said. Police said the argument escalated into a violent clash in which people allegedly attacked each other with rods, sticks and sharp weapons. Investigators said around 10 people were injured

in the violence. An FIR was registered against at least 45 suspects at Akera police station under provisions related to rioting, assault and other offences of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. No arrests had been made till Friday. In a separate incident in Singar village, at least eight people were injured after a dispute allegedly triggered by a Facebook post. Police said two villagers had exchanged abusive remarks online, leading to a confrontation between four to six people before supporters from both sides joined in. Officials said sharp-edged weapons were used during the clash, causing cut injuries to some victims. No written complaint had been submitted at Bichhore police station till Friday. Krishan Kumar, public relations officer of Nuh police, said, "Police are recording statements of the injured victims too. Meanwhile, in the second incident, police personnel are trying to trace the victims to get an FIR registered for action against suspects.

Ghaziabad Teen's Murder: Deputy CM Maurya Assures Strict Action; Probe Underway

New Delhi,30/5: Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister, Keshav Prasad Maurya, has assured stringent action in the Ghaziabad youth murder case, stating that the state government is committed to ensuring justice and maintaining law and order. Reacting to the fatal stabbing of a 17-year-old boy in Ghaziabad's Khoda Colony, Maurya said, "Whoever the murderer may be, he will not be spared. He will be traced and found, and strict legal action will be taken to ensure that the person responsible for the murder is punished according to the law, including capital punishment where applicable. The government is very serious about law and order, and those involved in such crimes will face the strictest possible legal action." The Deputy Chief Minister added, "We have received information that this is a tragic incident. If there are any accused in this matter, legal action will be taken against them."

Holy Relics Of Lord Buddha's Disciples Arrive In Mongolia Via Special IAF Flight

Ulaanbaatar,30/5: Underscoring shared Buddhist heritage, the holy relics of the chief disciples of the Buddha — Arahant Sariputta and Arahant Mahamoggallana — arrived in the Mongolian capital on Saturday afternoon for a 10-day public exposition at the Gandan Tegchenling Monastery on the occasion of Mongolian Buddha Purnima. The relics, which enjoy the status of the Head of State in terms of protocol and security, arrived in Ulaanbaatar by a special Indian Air Force (IAF) flight from New Delhi, accompanied by a high level delegation led by Assam Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya. The nearly 45-member delegation also includes senior officers and reputed monks from India and Sri Lanka. According to the Indian Embassy in Mongolia, the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) is also actively involved in the organisation of the important exposition. Together, the Mahabodhi Society of Sri Lanka, National Museum of India under the Ministry of Culture in



association with the Government of Madhya Pradesh, brought the holy relics to Mongolia at the request of the Gandan Tegchenling Monastery. "India and Mongolia are strategic partners and spiritual siblings with deep civilization linkages due to Buddhism. In this context, the exposition is a good opportunity for the followers of Buddhism in Mongolia to pay their tributes to the relics of Lord Buddha's two chief disciples," the Indian Embassy in Ulaanbaatar mentioned. On the sidelines of the exposition, the National Museum of India and IBC would also be organising a special exhibition on

Buddhism. "The Government of Mongolia is extending the necessary support for the exposition of the holy relics. The Gandan Tegchenling Monastery is looking after the religious aspects of the exposition commensurate with the special high status of the relics. Devotees from all over Mongolia will visit the Monastery to pay their tributes. The exposition of the holy relics will further strengthen the existing spiritual bond between India and Mongolia," the Indian Embassy highlighted. The exposition, which begins on May 31 — the Mongolian Buddha

Purnima — and continues till June 10, was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the State Visit of Mongolian President Khurelsukh Ukhnaa to India in October 2025. "The relationship between India and Mongolia is not merely diplomatic — it is a bond of warmth and spirituality. The true depth and breadth of our relationship is reflected in our people-to-people ties. For centuries, both countries have been bound by the thread of Buddhism, which has led to us being called spiritual siblings. Today, to further strengthen this tradition and give new strength to our historical ties, we have taken several important decisions," PM Modi stated while addressing a joint press meet with the Mongolian President Khurelsukh Ukhnaa following their talks at the Hyderabad House in New Delhi on October 14. "I am pleased to announce that next year, the holy relics of two great disciples of Lord Buddha — Sariputra and Maudgalyayana — will be sent from India to Mongolia.

Press Freedom Group Condemns Jailing Of Senior Hong Kong Journalist, Warns Of 'Dangerous Precedent'

Paris,30/5: A leading international press freedom organisation strongly condemned the imprisonment of a senior journalist and former chairman of the Hong Kong Journalists Association (HKJA), Ronson Chan, on charges of "obstructing a police officer", warning that the ruling sets a "dangerous precedent" and undermines press freedom in Hong Kong. According to Reporters Without Borders (RSF), Chan, former deputy assignment editor of the now-defunct Hong Kong-based Stand News, lost his appeal against the conviction for "obstructing a police officer" on Friday and was sentenced to five days in prison, which took effect immediately. The group stated that Chan was initially arrested in September 2022 while covering a homeowners' meeting at a residential estate in Hong Kong's Mong Kok area for independent media Channel C, after questioning a plainclothes police officer who attempted to obstruct his reporting, alleging Chan was acting "suspiciously". "The



imprisonment of Ronson Chan, a leading figure in independent journalism in Hong Kong, on trumped-up charges, demonstrates how far the authorities are willing to go to silence independent media. The verdict sets a dangerous precedent, effectively giving the police a free hand and further eroding already dismantled press freedoms," said Aleksandra Bielakowska, Advocacy Manager, RSF Asia Pacific. The group noted that Chan previously served as a deputy assignment editor at Stand News, a non-profit Chinese-language news outlet once regarded as the second most influential

independent media outlet after Apple Daily. The publication, it said, was forced to shut down following a police raid in 2021, during which six of its journalists were arrested, while editor-in-chief Chung Pui-kuen and Patrick Lam were later sentenced to prison terms. Meanwhile, the RSF highlighted that HJKA — a non-profit organisation dedicated to protecting press freedom and supporting journalism in Hong Kong — since 1968, has been subjected to numerous attacks over the past decade by the government and pro-Beijing supporters.

Brahmos Cruise Missile Deal With Vietnam Already Signed: Defence Secretary

Singapore,30/5: Highlighting India's expanding expertise in missile manufacturing and increasing outreach, Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh on Saturday announced that a BrahMos missile deal has already been signed with Vietnam with another similar agreement with Indonesia currently in the final stages. "My understanding is that with both Indonesia and with Vietnam, the deal is in the final stages. In fact, for Vietnam, I understand that it has already been signed, probably not publicly announced, but it's already been signed. Obviously, you are in the category of friendly foreign countries with whom we would be happy to share this kind of advanced technology," Singh said while responding to a question from a Vietnamese delegate during a media event held on the sidelines of the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore. With the Philippines being the first buyer of supersonic cruise missiles jointly produced by India and Russia, Defence Secretary Singh asserted that India has a strong commitment to the ASEAN nations. "We treat you all as friendly foreign countries with whom we can share advanced



defence technology," he told the gathering in Singapore. The Philippines received the first batch of the BrahMos missiles in 2024, becoming India's first customer of the missile, while India delivered the second batch of the missiles in April 2025. Earlier this month, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh travelled to Hanoi, holding extensive discussions with his Vietnamese counterpart, General Phan Van Giang, on the expanding defence partnership between both nations and discussing ways to deepen cooperation in maritime security, defence industry, training, and regional stability. Singh's visit marked 10 years of the Comprehensive

Strategic Partnership between the two nations, which was upgraded to Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership during the State visit of Vietnamese President To Lam earlier this month. During his visit, he also called on the Vietnamese President and reaffirmed India's commitment to strengthening cooperation under the Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the two nations. "India and Vietnam share a strong bond rooted in mutual trust, shared values and close cooperation in defence, security and regional stability," the Defence Minister wrote in a post on X after the meeting.

India, Australia Review Strategic Defence Cooperation During Bilateral Talks

Singapore,30/5: Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh on Saturday held bilateral discussions here with his Australian counterpart, Meghan Quinn. During the meeting, on the sidelines of the Shangri-La Dialogue, both sides reviewed the progress of the India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, discussed upcoming high-level engagements, and explored opportunities to further strengthen defence cooperation in areas of mutual interest. "Defence Secretary Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh held bilateral discussions with Defence Secretary Australia Ms Meghan Quinn. Both sides reviewed the progress of the India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, discussed forthcoming high-level engagements, and explored avenues to further strengthen Defence Cooperation in areas of mutual interest," the Defence Ministry said in a post on X. On Friday, Singh met Canada's Senior Associate Deputy Minister of National Defence, Kelvin Brosseau, on the sidelines of the dialogue. "Both sides discussed



ways to strengthen India-Canada defence cooperation and explored opportunities for deeper collaboration across key domains, reflecting the growing convergence of strategic interests between the two nations," the Ministry of Defence's Directorate of Public Relations said in a post on X. Singh also met Seychelles' Chief of Defence Forces Major General Micheal Rosette and discussed ways to further strengthen defence cooperation and maritime security collaboration in the Indian Ocean Region, it said, adding: "...The interaction reaffirmed India's

commitment to advancing peace, security and stability with its trusted partners in the region". The Shangri-La Dialogue, being held in Singapore, features plenary debates led by government ministers and important opportunities for bilateral discussions among delegations. Earlier on Friday, the Defence Secretary held a meeting with the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) Military Committee's Chair, Admiral Giuseppe Cavo Dragone, with discussions focused on enhancing strategic dialogue and evolving global

security challenges, the Defence Ministry said, adding that the "interaction reaffirmed India's commitment to constructive engagement with key multilateral defence organisations". Singh also met US Indo-Pacific Command Commander Admiral Samuel J Paparo, with discussions focused on strengthening military-to-military cooperation, enhancing collaboration in the Indo-Pacific and addressing emerging security challenges, "reaffirming the shared commitment towards deepening India-US strategic defence ties", the directorate posted on X. On the sidelines of the Shangri-La Dialogue, the Defence Secretary engaged with leading think tanks and academia on strengthening the Indo-Pacific security architecture, defence industrial collaboration and emerging technology partnerships." Addressing a distinguished gathering on 'India's Defence Diplomacy for a Stable, Secure and Inclusive Indo-Pacific', he shared India's vision for regional security and strategic engagement. High Commissioner of India to Singapore Dr Shilpak Ambule also joined the interaction," the Directorate of Public Relations posted on X.

Conflict-Related Sexual Violence Up Sharply Worldwide In 2025: UN Report

United Nations,30/5: Verified cases of conflict-related sexual violence more than doubled globally in 2025 over the previous year, according to a UN report. "Cases of conflict-related sexual violence verified by the United Nations in 2025 rose sharply from 2024, marked by extreme brutality, and overwhelmingly targeted women and girls," said the annual report of the UN secretary-general. A total of 9,788 cases of conflict-related sexual violence were documented in 2025, more than doubling the figure from 2024 (with 4,617 cases), according to the report, which was submitted to the Security Council on Thursday and was made available to the press on Friday, Xinhua news agency reported. The report notes that the cases of conflict-related sexual violence should be understood not as the full picture, as violations remained largely unseen and underreported when ongoing



conflict, insecurity, and restrictions on humanitarian access increasingly obstructed reporting and documentation, which was further undermined by mission drawdowns and budget cuts in which specialised capacity on gender and women's protection were often the first to be reduced. A total of 77 parties, including state and non-

state actors, are listed for cases of conflict-related sexual violence in this 17th annual report, which covers 21 conflict-affected countries for which information verified by the United Nations was available. Two new state actors are listed: the Israeli armed and security forces, and the Russian armed and security forces. Three

new non-state actors operating in the Democratic Republic of the Congo are listed in this report. The report says that in 2025, documented cases of sexual violence as a tactic of war, torture, terrorism and political repression surged, while multiple and overlapping political, security and humanitarian crises worsened. Civilians were

targeted with rape, gang rape, abductions and sexual slavery by state and non-state actors. Sexual violence and exploitation in the context of abduction and trafficking in persons continued to be observed as a tactic of terrorism. Displaced, refugee and migrant women and girls faced elevated risks of sexual violence. Sexual violence was perpetrated in detention in multiple settings, such as in Israel and the State of Palestine, Russia and Ukraine, according to the report. Impunity for conflict-related sexual violence persisted in 2025. Overall, the level of compliance by parties to conflict with applicable international norms remained low. Over 65 per cent of the parties listed in the annex to the present report are persistent perpetrators, appearing in the annex for five or more years without taking remedial or corrective action, according to the report.

Trump Delays Decision On Iran Deal After Situation Room Talks

Washington,30/5: US President Donald Trump ended a two-hour Situation Room meeting on a proposed Iran agreement without announcing a decision, media reports said. Trump had earlier said he would make a "final determination" on a proposal aimed at extending a ceasefire with Iran, reopening the Strait of Hormuz and launching negotiations over Tehran's nuclear programme. However, after the meeting concluded, the White House offered no indication that a final decision had been reached. CNN reported that a White House official said only that the meeting had lasted about two hours and reiterated the administration's position that Iran must never possess a nuclear weapon. According to The Washington Post, the proposed memorandum of understanding would extend the current ceasefire for 60 days while Washington and Tehran negotiate details of a broader agreement, including the future of Iran's enriched uranium stockpile. Before the meeting, Trump outlined conditions he said Iran would need to meet, including

reopening the Strait of Hormuz, removing mines from the waterway, agreeing never to develop a nuclear weapon and allowing the United States to remove or destroy highly enriched uranium. Iran signalled that negotiations remain incomplete. CNN reported that Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei said contacts between Tehran and Washington were continuing but that a memorandum of understanding had not yet been finalised. The New York Times separately reported that Iranian officials continue to object to several U.S. demands and that internal opposition from hard-line factions in Tehran remains a hurdle to any agreement. Despite the lack of a final announcement, officials on both sides appeared to suggest that negotiations were continuing. The Washington Post reported that Iranian negotiators are seeking the release of frozen assets and relief from economic restrictions, while US officials continue to push for measures addressing Iran's nuclear activities and regional security concerns.

Nifty, Sensex End Lower This Week Over Below-Normal Monsoon Forecast, FII Selling

Mumbai,30/5: The Indian equity benchmarks posted notable losses during the week due to sustained FII selling and below-normal monsoon forecast, causing fears of food inflation. Nifty lost 0.72 per cent during the week and dipped 1.50 per cent on the last trading day to reach 23,547. At close, Sensex was down 1,092 points or 1.44 percent at 74,775. It declined 0.85 per cent during the week. Large caps remained under pressure even as the broader market demonstrated meaningful resilience as midcaps briefly touched its all-time high. "PSU Banks led on mark-to-market treasury gains from yield compression while autos and metals benefited from crude's sharp decline. FMCG, healthcare, and consumer durables declined as defensive premiums unwound on improving risk appetite," an analyst said. MSCI index rebalancing-related adjustments also triggered substantial institutional selling in the last trading session. Overall, the macro backdrop is more constructive than it was a fortnight ago, but confirmation through policy clarity, monsoon normalisation,



and geopolitical de-escalation is needed before large cap conviction builds into the next meaningful leg higher, market participants said. Crude oil staged a sharp weekly decline driven by optimism around a potential US-Iran diplomatic breakthrough but IMD's below-normal monsoon forecast offset resultant gains. The rupee firmed modestly through the week after RBI's commentary signalling that the INR remains

undervalued. Cumulative outflows by foreign institutional investors (FIIs) stood at approximately Rs 23,700 crore during the week, they said. Broad market indices showed divergence with benchmark indices, as Nifty Midcap100 added 0.54 per cent, while Nifty Smallcap100 gained 1.02 per cent during the week. Nifty 50 is expected to see the 24,000-24,100 region as a strong resistance zone and the 23,300-23,000 region

remains a crucial support area, market participants said. In Bank Nifty, immediate resistance is placed around the 54,600-54,800 zone and the 54,200-54,000 region continues to act as an immediate support zone. Investors remain keen on cues from the upcoming RBI monetary policy decision, India's GDP data release, Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) and the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) data.

India-Bound Tanker Crosses Hormuz Safely With 270,000 Tonnes Of Oil

New Delhi,30/5: Nissos Keros, a Marshall Islands-flagged crude oil tanker carrying approximately 270,000 MT of crude oil cargo for India, safely crossed the Strait of Hormuz and is expected to arrive at Visakhapatnam on June 3, according to the official update issued on Friday. All oil refineries in the country are operating at high capacity with adequate crude inventories, while sufficient stocks of petrol and diesel are being maintained. Domestic LPG production from refineries has been increased to about 52 TMT/day to support domestic consumption, the statement said. Meanwhile, during the last four days, about 1.80 crore LPG cylinders were delivered against bookings of around 1.78 crore cylinders. Online LPG cylinder bookings increased to



about 99 per cent on Thursday, while Delivery Authentication Code (DAC) deliveries based on registered mobile numbers of consumers have increased to about 96 per cent to prevent diversion. Citizens are advised to avoid panic purchase of petrol, diesel and LPG as the Government is making all efforts to ensure availability. People are urged to beware of rumours and rely on official

sources for correct information. LPG consumers are requested to use digital booking platforms and avoid visiting distributors. Citizens are encouraged to use alternative fuels such as PNG and electric or induction cooktops. All petrol pumps are operating normally across the country. Unusually high sales and heavy crowding have been observed at retail outlets in certain areas. However, it

is informed that there are adequate stocks of petrol and diesel available at all petrol pumps in the country, the statement said. Bulk and industrial consumers are requested to procure diesel from authorised procurement channels. All citizens are requested to make necessary efforts to conserve energy in their daily use during the current situation. The Centre has also asked the States to monitor and review district-wise diesel and petrol offtake patterns, intensify inspections and enforcement activities in vulnerable areas and along major transportation/industrial corridors to prevent unauthorised procurement of diesel through retail outlets by industrial and commercial consumers, and initiate prompt penal action against violators, the statement added.

Finance ministry flags oil, inflation and monsoon risks in monthly economic report

New Delhi, May 30: India's near-term economic outlook remains one of "cautious resilience" as domestic fundamentals hold up despite intensifying global shocks from the West Asia conflict, the Department of Economic Affairs said Saturday in its Monthly Economic Review for May. While PMIs, labour market and forex reserves provide insulation, the department flagged elevated crude prices, tightening financial conditions and a below-normal monsoon as key risks to consumption and inflation in the months ahead. "The near-term outlook for the Indian economy is one of cautious resilience," the Department of Economic Affairs noted. "Domestic fundamentals remain broadly intact, manufacturing and services PMIs are in expansionary territory, the labour market is stable, and foreign exchange reserves provide meaningful insulation against external shocks." The department added that the global environment has become "materially more challenging" since the onset of the West Asia conflict, with elevated crude prices and weakening growth momentum across major economies posing headwinds

India "cannot fully insulate itself from." Inflation dynamics warrant vigilance, according to the DEA review. "The current divergence between retail inflation and wholesale prices signals that upstream cost pressures are building, and the passthrough to consumers, while limited so far, may not be far behind," it said. Retail inflation rose only marginally to 3.48% in April 2026 and stayed below RBI's target, but wholesale inflation accelerated sharply to 8.3%, driven by global energy prices, currency depreciation and low base effect. The department warned that the recent hike in petrol and diesel prices "may activate both direct and indirect transmission channels," and a deficient monsoon could add food price pressures on top of energy-driven ones. Industrial activity showed mixed signals in April 2026. The DEA observed that "resilience in cement, steel, and electricity generation continued to support overall momentum, reflecting sustained domestic demand from infrastructure and construction activity." The HSBC India Manufacturing PMI stayed in expansionary territory even as

rising input costs weighed on conditions. Export orders, employment and investment commitments in automobiles, semiconductors, electronics and defence manufacturing pointed to underlying resilience. Gross FDI inflows reached a historical peak of \$94.5 billion in FY26, "indicating continued long-term investor interest," while services exports growth narrowed the trade deficit, the department highlighted. The report said "the duration of the Strait of Hormuz disruption remains the single most consequential variable for India's external and price outlook." With the IMD projecting monsoon rainfall at around 92% of the long-period average, the department cautioned that "any significant rainfall deficit coupled with current geopolitical conditions could translate into food inflation, weakening rural demand and aggregate growth." It concluded that navigating FY27 "will require agility across monetary, fiscal and structural dimensions to safeguard growth momentum and keep inflation durably anchored, even as the global environment remains uncertain.

Centre waives customs duty on cotton imports from June 1 to Oct 31

New Delhi, 30/5: The Central Government has exempted customs duty on cotton imports for a five-month period beginning June 1, 2026, in a move aimed at improving cotton availability for the domestic textile sector and reducing input costs for manufacturers. The decision was notified by the Ministry of Finance through a notification issued on Saturday. The notification exempts imported cotton from the entire basic customs duty as well as the Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess levied on the commodity. According to the notification, the exemption will remain in force from June 1, 2026, up to and including October 31, 2026. The Finance Ministry said the measure has been introduced "to augment availability of cotton for the Indian textile sector." Explaining the rationale behind the decision, the ministry said the temporary duty exemption is expected to lower raw material costs across



the textile value chain." The temporary duty exemption is expected to reduce input costs across the textile and apparel sector, thereby providing a targeted relief to manufacturers and consumers, while also keeping the interests of domestic farmers in mind," the Ministry said in a statement. It said the move is expected to support the performance of the domestic textile industry, particularly small and medium

enterprises that depend on stable cotton supplies. "Overall, the measure is anticipated to have a positive impact on the performance of the domestic textile industry, especially the small and medium enterprises, ensuring better availability of cotton in the market," it added. The customs notification was issued by the Department of Revenue under powers conferred by the Customs Act,

1962 and the Finance Act, 2021. It stated that the government was satisfied that granting the exemption was necessary in the public interest. India's textile and apparel sector is one of the country's largest manufacturing industries and a major consumer of cotton. Industry participants have often sought lower import costs during periods of tight domestic supplies and elevated raw material prices.

Gold Dips 1.36 PC This Week Over Stable Dollar, Fed Rate Hike Expectation

New Delhi,30/5: Gold prices dipped 1.36 per cent during the week as a stable dollar and stronger than expected US inflation data reinforced expectations that the US Federal Reserve may raise interest rates later this year. On Friday, MCX gold June futures dipped 0.59 per cent while MCX silver May futures lost 0.94 per cent. Currently, gold futures stand at Rs 1,56,000, while silver futures at Rs 2,67,000 per kg. The price of 10 grams of 24-carat gold was at Rs 1,56,463 on Friday down from Rs 1,58,622 seen on Monday market opening, according to data published by the India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA). The dollar index rose about 0.10 per cent, while US personal consumption expenditures (PCE) rose 3.8 per cent (year on year) in April, the fastest pace since May 2023, bolstering expectations of US Fed rate hikes this year. "Gold and silver continue to attract selective safe-haven and value-oriented



buying near key technical levels, although upside momentum remains closely linked to expectations surrounding US monetary policy, bond yields and the trajectory of the US dollar," an analyst said. Higher energy prices fuel inflationary pressure increasing the likelihood of Fed tightening, denting gold's appeal as investors gravitate toward yield-bearing assets. The recent US Fed's meeting minutes showed that more officials are now open to the possibility that they may need to hike rates. COMEX Gold

is currently trading in the \$4,570-\$4,600 range, with weekly price action continuing to reflect a consolidation phase and a cautious undertone, he added. Technically, immediate resistance is placed in the \$4,600-\$4,650 region and the \$4,400-\$4,350 range continues to serve as a critical support area, market participants said. For MCX Gold, immediate resistance is placed in the Rs 1,60,000 to Rs 1,62,000 range and the Rs 1,54,000-Rs 1,52,000 region continues to act as a critical support base.

RBI, Vietnam Central Bank Sign MoU To Boost Digital Payments, Cross-Border QR Transactions

New Delhi,30/5: India and Vietnam have taken a major step towards strengthening cooperation in digital payments and financial innovation, with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the State Bank of Vietnam (SBV) signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), the Ministry of Finance said on Friday. The agreement, signed with the approval of the Union Cabinet, aims to deepen collaboration in areas such as financial innovation, regulatory coordination, information sharing, and digital payment systems. A key focus of the MoU is the development of payment system connectivity to enable cross-border QR code-based merchant payments between the two countries. The MoU is being seen as a forward-looking initiative that could enhance bilateral financial ties while positioning India as a major fintech hub in the region. It is expected to improve the efficiency of cross-border transactions by making payments more transparent, real-time, convenient, and cost-effective for users and businesses in both



countries. According to the details of the agreement, the RBI and the SBV will cooperate on sharing information related to emerging market trends, innovative technologies, standards and best practices in digital payments, and regulatory frameworks governing financial innovation. The arrangement will also support the development and oversight of digital payment systems in financial services. The agreement provides a broad framework for collaboration and implementation support, in line with the laws and regulations applicable in both

countries. It also opens the door for potential joint innovation programmes and projects in the future. Officials said the payment connectivity initiative is expected to facilitate trade and tourism between India and Vietnam, while creating greater export opportunities for Indian businesses. The framework will also help maintain smooth cross-border financial activities through cooperation in fast payment systems, messaging systems, and card switches. The MoU was signed by the Deputy Governors of the RBI and the SBV.



Ali Fazal, Sonali Bendre's 'Raakh' to be released on June 12

Ali Fazal and Sonali Bendre-starrer investigative thriller 'Raakh' has got a release date. The show will be out on Prime Video on June 12. Aamir Bashir has also a key role in 'Raakh', which is directed and executive produced by Prosit Roy. Official synopsis of the show reads, "Raakh is an investigative drama that unfolds as a visceral study of the criminal mind and the darkness that lingers beneath the surface of everyday life. When two teenagers vanish without a trace, a close-knit family is shattered and an entire city is left on edge. A relentless investigating officer launches a nationwide manhunt to uncover the truth -- but the deeper he goes, the more the case pulls him into a world of violence and human depravity." On what fans can expect from the show, Prosit Roy in a press note said, "Raakh has been one of the most creatively fulfilling and emotionally intense projects I have worked on, because at its heart, it goes far beyond being a crime thriller. What excited me most about Raakh was the opportunity to merge the thrill of a gripping manhunt with an unflinching exploration of trauma and the darker impulses of human nature. Anusha and Sandeep have created a world that is meticulously researched, intricately layered, and rich with moral ambiguity. Ali brings a quiet ferocity that anchors the entire narrative, while Sonali and Aamir inhabit their characters with an intensity that makes every moment feel real." 'Raakh' is produced by Deepak Dhar, Rishi Negi, Mrinalini Jain, and Shyam Rathi under the banner of Endemol Shine India in association with BhaDiPa.

'About evolved India, empowering villages': Ram Charan recalls telling PM Modi about film Peddi

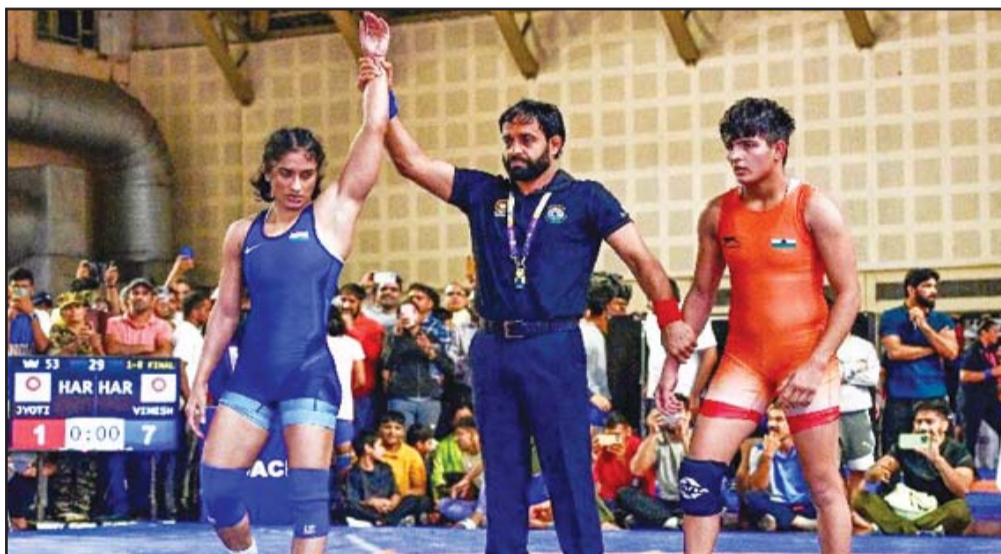
Ram Charan recalled his interaction with Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi over his upcoming film Peddi during the press conference on Thursday in New Delhi. Peddi is Ram Charan's upcoming film, slated to hit theatres on June 4. The film is expected to be based on the challenges in a rural village and its empowerment. While addressing the media at the press conference on Thursday, Ram Charan recalled his conversation with PM Modi, saying that he told the Prime Minister that his upcoming film is about "evolved India" and "empowering villages." "The last time I met our Honourable Prime Minister Modi ji in Delhi, he asked me what Peddi was about. I told him it's about an evolved India and empowering our villages. Modi ji then shared a story from West Bengal, where decades ago a footballer from a small village represented India, and today over 85 people from that same village play football," he said. The actor met PM Modi last year along with his wife, Upasana Konidela and father-in-law Anil Kamineni. The meeting took place at the sidelines of the Archery Premier League tournament in 2025. Ram Charan, who was present in the national capital for the Archery Premier League's celebratory event, shared pictures from the meeting on X and expressed his honour at meeting the Prime Minister. He wrote, "Honoured to meet Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji the success of the world's first Archery Premier League, led by Anil Kamineni Garu. This is our small step to preserve the legacy of archery and promote it worldwide. Congratulations to all the athletes. We hope many more will join this incredible sport." Meanwhile, the film also stars Divyenndu and Boman Irani in pivotal roles. The film is directed by Buchi Babu Sana.



SPORTS

Vinesh Phogat Makes Winning Return At Asian Games Selection Trial

New Delhi, 30/5: Vinesh Phogat made her return to competitive wrestling with a strong 7-1 win over Jyoti in the women's 53kg category at the Asian Games selection trials in New Delhi on Saturday. This came just a day after the Supreme Court and the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) intervened, allowing her to compete. The accomplished wrestler had been limited to the 50kg category by the WFI but confidently started her campaign after the federation changed its mind. This change followed intervention from WFI president Sanjay Singh, who supported her entry into the 53kg trials. In her first match against Jyoti, Vinesh began cautiously and used standing wrestling moves to extend her lead to 7-0 before Jyoti secured a late push-out point to avoid a shutout. This win sets up a second-round match against Nishu, who advanced after defeating Riya by fall. If the matches proceed as drawn, Vinesh and fellow star wrestler Antim Panghal are on track for a highly anticipated final. However, Vinesh is likely to meet the skilled Meenakshi Goyat in



from Jyoti. Taking advantage of the counter, Vinesh executed two quick scoring moves to extend her lead to 7-0 before Jyoti secured a late push-out point to avoid a shutout. This win sets up a second-round match against Nishu, who advanced after defeating Riya by fall. If the matches proceed as drawn, Vinesh and fellow star wrestler Antim Panghal are on track for a highly anticipated final. However, Vinesh is likely to meet the skilled Meenakshi Goyat in

the semifinals first. Antim also had a powerful start, needing just 34 seconds to eliminate Tannu by technical superiority. The young wrestler quickly secured her opponent in a fitley move and rolled her five times in a row to claim victory decisively. Vinesh's participation in the trials followed a dramatic 48 hours. On Friday, the Supreme Court ruled that she could compete in the Asian Games selection trials. A bench led

by Justice P.S. Narasimha stated that the wrestler deserved the chance after achieving success for the country over the years. Initially, the WFI decided Vinesh could only compete in the women's 50kg category, a decision she strongly opposed, accusing the federation of discrimination. After further discussions and intervention from the federation's leaders, the WFI changed their mind on Saturday morning and permitted her to enter the 53kg trials.

From Strong Start To Final Showdown: RCB's Road To IPL 2026 Title Clash

New Delhi, 30/5: Defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) will take inspiration from their amazing journey in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 league stage and the Qualifier 1 when they take on 2022 winners Gujarat Titans in the final at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Sunday. After lifting their maiden IPL trophy last year, RCB are set to face the challenge of defending the crown for the first time in franchise history. The Rajat Patidar-led side responded in impressive fashion, finishing at the top of the points table with nine wins from 14 league matches before sealing a place in the final with a convincing victory over the Gujarat Titans in Qualifier 1. RCB made an immediate statement at the start of the season. They opened their campaign with a successful chase against Sunrisers

Hyderabad before registering a comfortable win over Chennai Super Kings in Bengaluru. Their first defeat came against Rajasthan Royals, who chased down a 200-plus target in Guwahati. However, RCB quickly returned to winning ways with victories over Mumbai Indians and Lucknow Super Giants. A narrow defeat against Delhi Capitals at home briefly halted their progress, but RCB answered with a strong run of performances. They defeated the Gujarat Titans in Bengaluru and then produced one of their most dominant displays of the season against the Delhi Capitals, bowling them out for just 75 before completing the chase in rapid fashion. The middle phase of the season brought another challenge. Consecutive losses against Gujarat Titans and Lucknow Super Giants left RCB needing a strong finish to secure a playoff berth.

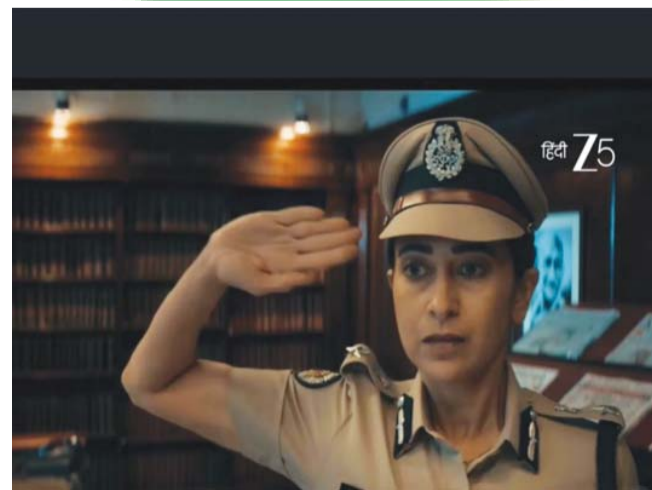
Trailer of Karisma Kapoor's 'Brown' series unveiled, actress dons cop role



The trailer of 'Brown' series, starring Karisma Kapoor, was unveiled on Saturday afternoon.

Headlined by Karisma Kapoor in the role of a cop, the series also features Surya Sharma, Jisshu Sengupta, and Soni Razdan in pivotal roles. As per the makers, Brown is a "neo-noir psychological crime thriller set against the haunting beauty and moral chaos of Kolkata. At its centre is Rita Brown (played by Karisma Kapoor), once the city's finest cop--now a disgraced, alcoholic officer haunted by past." The synopsis further read, "When a series of brutal murders shocks the city--beginning with the daughter of an influential businessman--Rita is reluctantly pulled back into the system. This is not just another case; it is her last chance at redemption. Teaming up with a grieving junior officer, Inspector Arjun (Surya Sharma), Rita is drawn into a dark and disturbing investigation in a city that has grown more corrupt, more fractured, and far more dangerous than she remembers." "As they close in on a killer who understands pain as intimately as they do, the case begins to mirror their own fractured psyches--forcing both to confront buried trauma, unresolved guilt, and the demons that threaten to consume them," according to the synopsis. Sharing her experience working on the show, Karisma in a press note had said, "Rita Brown is unlike any character I've played before. She is flawed, vulnerable, emotionally bruised, yet incredibly resilient in the way she keeps moving forward despite everything life throws at her. What drew me to Brown was the emotional honesty of the writing.

There's no attempt to glamorise pain or simplify human relationships." The role pushed Karisma "to tap into emotions that are very raw and real," with Karisma adding,



"Over the years, I've played many strong women, but Rita's strength lies in her fragility and silence as much as in her courage. Living with this character stayed with me long after the camera stopped rolling, and I think that's what made the journey so personal and transformative for me." Jisshu Sengupta added, "What I enjoyed about Brown is that it keeps unfolding layer by layer. There's suspense, but there's also a lot of emotional depth in the writing, which makes it feel more personal than just a conventional thriller. As an actor, those are the worlds I have always enjoyed being part of. And of course, seeing Kolkata become such an integral part of the storytelling made it even more special for me." Kaveri Das, Business Head - Hindi ZEE5 said, "Brown stands apart from the conventional crime thrillers we see today as it is not driven by the mechanics of a whodunnit, but by a deep dive into its characters--their flaws, their past trauma, and the emotional baggage they carry. At its core, the series is an exploration of damaged, complex individuals who feel real and unfiltered. What drew us most to Brown is its protagonist--a fiercely resilient yet deeply flawed woman, whose journey is as much about confronting her own demons as it is about solving a case. It's a story of redemption, vulnerability, and the messy, imperfect nature of healing."