

Dumani Mail

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Prime Minister Modi to address 134th episode of 'Mann Ki Baat' today

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the 134th episode of his monthly radio programme, 'Mann Ki Baat' today. The programme is scheduled to be broadcast at 11 a.m. across All India Radio (Akashvani), DD News, and official government digital platforms.

Taking to social media platform X on Saturday, PM Modi posted: "Do tune in tomorrow, 31st May, at 11 AM for the Mann Ki Baat episode. It's always a delight to showcase inspiring life journeys that make our society better."

In the previous episode of the programme, aired on April 27, the Prime Minister highlighted the National Archives of India's unique digital database, created through the dedicated Abhilekh Patal Portal, which provides access to more than 20 crore invaluable documents related to India's history.

The Abhilekh Patal



Portal for Access to Archives and Learning is an initiative of the National Archives of India aimed at making its vast repository of archival records easily accessible to the public with just a click.

The platform contains reference material from nearly 100 million files preserved by the institution.

Addressing the previous episode of 'Mann Ki Baat', the Prime Minister underlined the growing role of technology in connecting people with their past.

"In these rapidly changing times, technology has become a huge part of our lives. Today, we are witnessing the wonders of technology in connecting our past with the present. A

recent development in this direction has delighted those involved in education and history," PM Modi said.

"Just a few days ago, the National Archives of India shared a unique database on a dedicated portal. This organisation has digitised and made public more than 20 crore invaluable documents. Some

of these are very interesting, including 7th-century Gilgit manuscripts written on Bhoj Patra. Here, you will also find an interesting 8th-century text, Shri Bhupalay. This text, based on numbers, is presented in the form of a grid," he added.

The Prime Minister also spoke about Class 12 student Sanjana Philo Chacko from Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, who brought laurels to the country by winning a silver medal at the European Girls' Mathematical Olympiad (EGMO) 2026, held in Bordeaux, France.

In the same episode, PM Modi also referred to Kalari cheese, a traditional delicacy from Udhampur in Jammu and Kashmir.

He described the cheese as part of India's cultural heritage and hailed its global recognition after its success at an international cheese competition held in Brazil.

ECI holds National Conference of Counsels to strengthen electoral legal framework

New Delhi: The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Saturday convened the second National Conference of ECI Counsels at the India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM) in New Delhi, aimed at further strengthening the Commission's legal framework and strategy.

Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar inaugurated the conference in the presence of Election Commissioners Dr. Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Dr. Vivek Joshi. The event brought together advocates representing the Commission before the Supreme Court and various High Courts, along with Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) and senior ECI officials from across the country.

Addressing the gathering, CEC Gyanesh Kumar emphasised the importance of accurate electoral rolls in ensuring free and fair elections. "Fair rolls lead to fair polls. That's the moment today and India

is in it," he said. He also described Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and Booth Level Agents (BLAs) as the backbone of electoral roll management and congratulated voters in the recently concluded Assembly elections in Assam, Kerala, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal for their strong participation. He also noted the high level of electoral competition witnessed during the polls and praised the Commission's legal counsels for their efforts in defending ECI's positions before courts.

Election Commissioner Dr. Sukhbir Singh Sandhu said the conference would help enhance coordination between the Commission and its legal representatives nationwide. Election Commissioner Dr. Vivek Joshi highlighted the importance of the forum in addressing emerging legal challenges and sharing experiences to formulate effective legal strategies for safeguarding electoral integrity.

Held under the theme "A Year of Legal Challenges, Experiences, Learnings and the Way Forward", the conference served as a platform for discussions on key electoral and legal issues. Interactive sessions focused on electoral roll management, Special Intensive Revision (SIR), polling and counting procedures, and Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) demonstrations.

The conference also featured experience-sharing sessions by advocates and deliberations on election laws, judicial proceedings, legal reforms, institutional coordination, media narratives, and the Commission's technology-driven initiatives, including ECINET.

Building on the outcomes of the inaugural National Conference of ECI Counsels held in 2025, the event provided an opportunity to review progress, exchange insights and identify future priorities for strengthening the Commission's legal and institutional framework.

PM Modi's Mann Ki Baat highlights unsung heroes of society: BJP chief Nitin Nabin

New Delhi: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) national president Nitin Nabin on Saturday praised the role of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Mann Ki Baat" programme in showcasing grassroots contributors working silently in society.

Addressing a meeting of Booth Committee 138 in Garhi Cantt in Dehradun, he said the programme brings forward stories of individuals who work for social change without seeking recognition. "Through Mann Ki Baat, we get to hear of people across the country who served society through their hard work and resolve, and keep doing their work without coming into the limelight. Such people do not want fame but they want a change in society through their work," BJP chief Nabin said.

He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's initiative helps give a national platform to such efforts.

"Through the efforts of the Prime Minister, these people receive a platform,



and the citizens of the country also learn how people in different regions are serving society with such a selfless spirit, without any expectations," he said.

He further gave examples of the kind of work highlighted in Mann Ki Baat, adding, "Someone is working on water conservation and someone else in remote forests is providing education to poor and underprivileged families. There are many different types of people learning various farming techniques and conducting

different experiments. The Prime Minister provides a platform for these efforts, and for us to get to know."

Earlier in the day, Nitin Nabin 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 Shivaling.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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"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 Jyothis 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.

Delhi to stay cool this weekend; IMD predicts gradual rise in temperature

New Delhi: Residents of Delhi received much-needed relief from the intense summer heat as thunderstorms, strong winds, and light rainfall swept across parts of the National Capital Region (NCR), significantly lowering temperatures and improving air quality.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), cloudy skies and intermittent weather activity have helped keep temperatures below seasonal norms. However, the department has forecast a gradual rise in temperatures after Saturday, indicating the return of warmer conditions in the coming days.

The weather changed dramatically late Thursday evening when strong winds, thunderstorms, and light showers affected several

parts of Delhi-NCR. The impact continued on Friday, with overcast skies and cooler conditions prevailing across the region due to the influence of a western disturbance.

The IMD reported that Delhi's maximum temperature dropped by around 5 degrees Celsius within 24 hours. While no heatwave conditions were recorded on Thursday, the city had experienced severe heat just a day earlier. On May 27, temperatures reached 45.6°C at Ridge, 44.4°C at Ayanagar, and 44.3°C at Safdarjung.

Overall, maximum temperatures across Delhi declined by 7.5°C to 9.4°C between Wednesday and Friday. The IMD stated that temperatures are likely to remain lower until May 30 before rising by 6°C to 7°C over the



next five days.

Delhi has already witnessed two major heatwave spells this summer. The first occurred from April 23 to 25, while the second affected parts of the city between May 18 and 21. Safdarjung, Delhi's base weather station,

recorded official heatwave conditions on April 25 and May 19, with temperatures reaching 42.8°C and 45.1°C respectively.

On Friday, the maximum temperature at Safdarjung settled at 36.8°C, nearly 4 degrees

below the seasonal average and considerably lower than Thursday's 41.1°C. Despite the drop in temperature, humidity levels pushed the "feels-like" temperature to around 39.5°C during the afternoon.

Friday was recorded as

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the coolest day in Delhi in the last three weeks, with lower temperatures last observed on May 8.

The IMD has issued a yellow alert for Delhi on Saturday and Sunday, forecasting light rain, thunderstorms, and strong winds. The department expects relief from extreme heat to continue for the next two to three days before temperatures begin rising again.

The overnight rainfall

and gusty winds also improved air quality across the city. The highest wind speed of 61 kmph was recorded at Palam. According to the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), Delhi's daily average Air Quality Index (AQI) improved significantly from 207 on May 28 to 123 on May 29.

In light of the improved air quality and favorable weather conditions, the

CAQM's Sub-Committee on the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) revoked all Stage-I restrictions across the NCR with immediate effect.

Meanwhile, in its latest monsoon outlook, the IMD stated that southwest monsoon rainfall across India is expected to be around 90 percent of the Long Period Average this year. While northeastern states are likely to receive normal rainfall, most other regions may experience below-normal precipitation during the monsoon season.

The recent spell of rain and cooler temperatures has brought temporary relief to Delhi residents, although weather officials caution that warmer conditions are likely to return in the coming days.

Municipality Project Triggers Legal Storm Easement Rights Row Rocks Gunupur Municipality

Rayagada: Municipal and development authorities, as instrumentalities of the State, are constitutionally required to function in a fair, transparent and reasonable manner. They are not empowered to extinguish vested civil or easementary rights, nor alter the character of land traditionally used for public purposes under the guise of development activities.

is being planned on a long-standing public access road. According to municipal records, a tender worth 74.23 lakh was invited for the project in January 29, 2026, vide Letter No.508. However, it is claimed that the identified site is a 16-foot-wide pathway shown as a road in the approved layout plan and has been used by the public for decades.



Chandra Miniaka stated that the disputed land is reflected as a road in the layout plan and that affected property owners possess easementary rights under the Indian Easements Act, 1882. He confirmed that legal notices have been issued to the concerned municipal and development authorities.

raised questions regarding the feasibility assessment and technical approvals granted for the project. It is a mandatory principle of every executing agency before execution of any public infrastructure project, authorities are expected to undertake feasibility studies, verify the suitability of the proposed site, assess

potential impacts on adjoining property owners, examine public objections, and ensure that no legally protected rights are adversely affected. Technical approval processes ordinarily include site verification, geo-tagging, feasibility assessment and preparation of detailed estimates. However, the officers don't seem to have done any due diligence in this case.

Efforts to obtain comments from municipal officials EO Santosh Kumar Naik & D. Yudhisthir were unsuccessful at the time of filing this report. The issue has generated considerable public discussion, with residents demanding transparency and adherence to legal and planning norms before further construction proceeds.

The occupant of House No. 043 has reportedly objected to the project, alleging that the construction would obstruct access and infringe upon easementary rights associated with the property. A representation seeking reconsideration of the project site has been submitted to the municipal authorities.

Senior advocate Ram

The controversy has also

Balasore : 19 Vehicles, 40 Kg Explosives Seized in Night Enforcement Drive

Balasore : In a major crackdown on illegal mining and transportation of minor minerals, enforcement teams seized 19 vehicles and recovered about 40 kg of explosives during a district-wide night enforcement drive conducted across Balasore.

Hyva truck was seized in the Bagudi area, while two more such vehicles were detained under Jaleswar police station limits. In Jaleswar Tahasil, officials seized four tractors loaded with morrum and kept them at the Tahasil office for further action.

an illegal stone mining site under Bagudi Tahasil and recovered approximately 40 kg of explosives. The seized explosives were handed over to Soro Police Station for investigation and further legal action.

The operation was carried out under the leadership of the Mining Officer, Balasore, along with Junior Mining Officers (JMOs) of the district, with active support from local police stations. The coordinated raids targeted several locations suspected of illegal extraction and transportation of sand, morrum, and stone chips.

The enforcement teams also detained two Hyva trucks and one dumper transporting morrum in the Jaleswar area. Similar action was taken in Khaira, where two morrum-laden Hyva trucks were seized. In Nilagiri, three Hyva trucks carrying morrum and another Hyva truck loaded with stone chips were detained. One morrum-laden Hyva truck was also seized in the Soro police station area.

Officials said the operation forms part of the district administration's intensified efforts to curb illegal mining and unauthorized transportation of minerals. All seized vehicles have been detained at the respective police stations and Tahasil offices pending inquiry and legal proceedings.

During the drive, two Hyva trucks carrying sand were intercepted in the Simulia police station area and handed over to the police. Another sand-laden

In a separate operation, officials raided

Sources in the Mining Department stated that similar enforcement drives will continue across the district to ensure strict compliance with mining regulations and to prevent the loss of government revenue caused by illegal mining activities.

Farewell felicitation held for Retired headmaster.

Jajpur :- Grand Farewell felicitation was held in Rudra Charan Govt. High School on Sunday for Sudhanshu Bhusan Rout, the retired Headmaster of this institution. Beginning his teaching career at the school in 2020, he served above of 5 years providing his best towards mass development.



The school family welcomed and honoured their Headmaster with songs and music, followed by a solemn meeting. The event was graced by Local Sarapanch Smt. Bishnupriya Mahakud along with Ps Member

Narayan Jena, Ex Sarapanch Ganesh Chandra Mahakud, Ashok Mohanty, Naib Sarapanch Manorama Das, local educationist and School Staff. Management committee, former

teachers, alumni, members, Associate Staff, guardians, well-wishers, and students were participated and wished their beloved Headmaster.

They all offered their respects with bouquets, gifts with baskets of good books.

Pride of Rayagada: ICSE State Second Rank Holder Uday Kumar Honoured by the Governor of Odisha

Rayagada, May 31, 2026: Rayagada is celebrating a moment of immense pride as A. Uday Kumar, a student of Dipti Higher Secondary School, has been honoured by the Hon'ble Governor of Odisha for his outstanding academic achievement.

secured an impressive 99.2% marks in the ICSE Examination, earning the Second Rank in the State of Odisha. In recognition of this remarkable achievement, he received an official invitation from the Governor's Office to attend the felicitation ceremony.

Hon'ble Governor interacted with the students and congratulated them on their achievements. He also acknowledged the invaluable contribution of parents and educational institutions in shaping the success of young achievers.

staff, were present to receive and congratulate him.

parents for their unwavering support and encouragement. They also appreciated the dedication and guidance of the teachers who played a significant role in his academic journey. The entire Dipti Higher Secondary School family congratulates Uday Kumar on this remarkable achievement and wishes him continued success in all his future endeavors. His accomplishment serves as an inspiration to countless students and stands as a shining example that hard work, discipline, and determination are the keys to success.

At a prestigious ceremony held on May 29, 2026, at Lok Seva Bhavan in Bhubaneswar, Uday Kumar was felicitated by the Hon'ble Governor of Odisha in recognition of his exceptional performance in the ICSE Examination 2026.

The event brought together 26 meritorious students from BSE, CBSE, ICSE, and State Board institutions across Odisha. Among them, Uday Kumar stood out as a source of pride for both Rayagada district and Dipti Higher Secondary School.

On the morning of May 30, 2026, Uday Kumar arrived at Rayagada Railway Station with his family, where he received a grand welcome from the Dipti Higher Secondary School community. Principal Sister Grace, Vice-Principal Sister Lismi, Class Teacher Mrs. P. Padmaja Varma, along with other faculty members and

The school authorities expressed their deep pride in Uday Kumar's accomplishment and extended their heartfelt congratulations to his

The son of Mr. A. Shankar Rao and Mrs. A. Varalakshmi, Uday Kumar

During the ceremony, the

Annual general body meeting of co-operative societies employee's union held.

Khordha :-31/5-- The annual general body meeting of Khordha Central Co-operative Bank Ltd. co-operative societies employee's union was held under the chairmanship of President Kelucharan Jagdev. In this meeting, the invited presidents of all the primary agricultural credit societies (PACS) under the Khordha central co-operative Bank Ltd. were present and gave their valuable suggestions and said that the primary agricultural credit societies working in the rural areas have played an important role in the cooperative movement of the Odisha government for the upcoming year 2036, which has contributed in large numbers to the state government. The PACS are working for the benefit of the public, more than 70 percent



of the farmers are given agricultural loans and various types of non-agricultural loans, fertilizers, seeds, agricultural machinery, etc. are sold. They are doing everything as per the rules and regulations set by the government. The government has declared the PACS as a public interest organization. 172 PACS was working under of Khordha Central Co-

operative Bank out of which more than 80 percent of the societies are running in losses. Therefore, the societies is completely unable to pay 60 percent of the profit to the cadre fund. In this regard, a unanimous decision was taken in the meeting to submit memorandum to the Chief Minister of Odisha, that all the employees working in the society should be paid by the government cadre

under the supervision of the cooperative department and their salary should be fixed in the government budget, and the salary of the elected representatives of the society should be made like the representatives of the gram panchayat. The demands for gratuity, leave salary, pension etc. for the employees of the society, life insurance of ? 20 lakhs

for the employees of the society and provide 2 acres of government land to the society on lease etc. Among others, Anadi Sahu, Ms. Annapurna Mishra, Rabindra Kumar Jena, Parsuram Dash, Purnachandra Kalas, Manoj Kumar Pradhan, Abhimanyu Nayak, Hari Babu, Liton Kumar Das, were prominently present. The general secretary of the union Bishwanath Maharana, Jhaja Samantray, Manas Chhotray, Soumya Ranjan Rautray, Kunu Patnaik, Patanjali Pradhan, Naresh Mohanty, Bankanidhi Pradhan, Nirimakhi Sahu, Paramananda Nayak contributed significantly. At the end of the event the Vice- President of the union Nityananda Dash, proposed the vote of thanks.

State-Level Seminar on Forest Conservation Held at Kakatpur

Puri: A state-level seminar on forest conservation was organised at Deulimath in Kakatpur on the second day of World Environment Protection Week. The programme was jointly hosted by the Puri Suraksha Parishad and the Lata Charitable Trust.

He said forests play a vital role in maintaining ecological balance, preserving wildlife habitats, purifying the atmosphere, regulating rainfall and replenishing groundwater resources.

sensitise young people about ecological issues and encouraged them to take up regular tree plantation and maintenance activities in their homes and communities.

The seminar was presided over by Parishad Executive President Laxmi Narayan Pattnaik. At the outset, organising committee chairman Binay Nrusingha Mahapatra outlined the objectives of the discussion and highlighted the need for greater public participation in environmental protection.

Former Assistant Conservator of Forests Dayanidhi Tripathy underscored the need for large-scale plantation drives in vacant lands and forest areas. He also called for curbing indiscriminate tree felling, creating awareness about the benefits of forests and introducing environmental education initiatives at the school level.

Programme coordinators Lalatendu Mishra and Kaliprasad Nayak were among those present on the dais. On the occasion, Smrutirekha Malla and Tulasi Behera, students of Mangala College, participated in the discussion and pledged to undertake tree plantation activities.

Addressing the gathering, botanist and academician Prof. Abhimanyu Bhuyan stressed the importance of collective commitment towards protecting forests.

Speaking on the occasion, Lata Das, founder of the Lata Charitable Trust, emphasised the role of students in environmental conservation. She urged schools and colleges to

Among others, Jhansi Mishra, Sujata Satapathy, Jyotiprabha Pritam, Pitabas Rath and Rajkishore Mahanti took part in the seminar. The programme was supported by Tapan Kumar Sethi and Pradeep Kumar Nayak, while Sandeep Karmakar proposed the vote of thanks. More than 100 students attended the event.

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.

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.

of Forests Ashok Kumar Behera, adviser Pratibha Tripathy, senior advocate Rachita Rautray, and Lata Charitable Trust founder Lata Das.

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.

Model police nabs 2 drug peddler, 11 grams brown sugar seized.

Khordha:-31/5- Model police, Khordha seized 11 grams brown sugar and arrested two drugs peddlers from new NH road Gurujanga, Khordha. The accused has been identified as Deepak Pradhan (25) and Raka Sethi (20). Acting on a tip-off as per the direction of SP, Parmar Smit Parshottamdas, Khordha under the supervision of SDPO Khordha Pankaj Kumar Majhi and IIC Model PS Sanjaya Kumar Nayak formed a team headed by SI, Basanta Pattnaik carried out a surprise raid and



apprehended the above two drug peddlers. Police also seized mobile phone from their possession, which is expected to provide crucial leads about his suppliers and customers. The police officials

said that efforts are underway to trace the larger supply network and identify the individuals connected with the racket. The accused has been booked under the NDPS Act, and further investigation is in progress.

Action Aid holds Sramik Pathasala for Workers



Bhubaneswar : Under the Workers School a "Sramik Pathasala" focused to self-education for the empowerment of workers living under abject of urban poverty was held at Pathrabandha Slum under ward no-17 of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation. The objective of the Pathasala was to aware the workers on labour their rights and entitlements e.g. minimum wages, worksite safety

measures, etc said Manas Ranjan Pradhan. Focused to workers' rights and dignity as well as social security measures every worker should gain knowledge and educate to other workers said Bhaskar Chandra Pradhan. IEC materials like Leaflets on rights and dignity of workers were distributed amongst the participants. In this Pathasala Programme construction workers, daily wage labourers, and domestic workers attended.

One person was killed in an elephant attack, and property was damaged

Keonjhar: Panic spread in the Champua sub division area of Keonjhar district after a man was killed by a tusker attack and elephants caused widespread damage in different areas over the last two days. A 35-year-old man Birsa Munda of Loidapada under the Barbil forest range was died after a tusker attacked him on Saturday evening. The incident took place when Birsa along with other villagers went to a nearby forest to collect mangoes. Suddenly, a single-tusked elephant appeared and attacked him. Other ran away from the spot, whereas Birsa was caught by the elephant in its trunk and crushed him in its foot. He died on the spot. Later, after receiving information, the forest official rushed to the spot, recovered the body and sent it to Barbil Government Hospital for an autopsy.

In other hands, panic gripped Kainta village under Champua Range in Keonjhar district after two wild elephants entered the area and caused widespread damage. The elephants reportedly broke into an Anganwadi center, consumed food supplies, and later damaged the boundary wall, grill, and gate of a nearby school. They also vandalized a villager's house and ate stored paddy and rice, causing significant property loss. Forest officials have reached the spot, are monitoring the elephants' movement, and have advised residents to remain alert. Villagers have demanded adequate compensation for the damage caused. Range officer Akshaya Chhatra said the forest team is tracking the elephant's movement. Compensation will be paid to the victim families according to the government rules. Villagers are aware not to go near the elephant and should be alert, especially in the early morning and evening when going outside.

Ghaziabad Accident: Canter Driver Killed, Truck Driver Seriously Injured in Collision on Eastern Peripheral Expressway



Ghaziabad: A canter driver was killed and a truck driver sustained serious injuries in a horrific road accident on the Eastern Peripheral Expressway in Ghaziabad on Sunday, police said.

According to officials, the accident occurred on the Baghat-to-Duhai stretch near Milak Chakarpur village under the local police station area when an Eicher canter collided with a truck. The impact of the collision was severe, resulting in the death of the canter driver on the spot.

The deceased has been identified as Praveen, son of Bhim Singh, a resident of Hisar in Haryana. Upon receiving information about the accident, police teams rushed to the scene and initiated rescue operations.

During the preliminary investigation, police found

that the truck had collided with the canter, causing extensive damage to both vehicles. The truck driver, Saddam, son of Salim and a resident of Masuri in Ghaziabad, suffered serious injuries to his legs and other parts of his body.

The injured driver was immediately shifted to Sanjay Nagar Hospital for treatment, where he is currently undergoing medical care.

Police have sent Praveen's body to the mortuary for post-mortem examination after completing the necessary legal formalities. The victim's family has been informed about the incident.

Authorities have launched an investigation into the accident and are carrying out further legal proceedings in the case.

Four arrested in Wildlife Poaching in Keonjhar

Keonjhar : Keonjhar Forest Division, acting on credible intelligence regarding wildlife poaching activities inside Ate Reserve Forest under Patna Range, conducted a swift and coordinated operation.

During the operation, forest staff apprehended four accused persons while they were allegedly processing and

cutting spotted deer meat for sale. This has said DFO Keonjhar Dhanaraj HD in a press release on Sunday.

The accused persons are identified as Laxman Majhi (40) and Jadumani Majhi (55), of Village Banamahuldiha, Gopal Majhi (67) and San Karan Majhi (37), of Village of Bentkarpada under



Thakurmunda PS of Mayurbhanj district. During the search and seizure operation, the following articles were recovered and seized: One cut head of a wild spotted deer (without horns), 10 kg of raw meat, Three plastic bags, One weighing machine, Three bows, Ten arrows and Two axes. The seized materials indicate involvement in illegal

hunting and trade of wildlife. Forest department lodged a case against them under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, and further investigation is underway to ascertain the species involved, identify other persons connected with the offence, and determine the extent of poaching activities in the area.

Bear enters Primary Health Center premises, Video goes on viral

Keonjhar: Fear gripped the Gadabandogoda area under Anandpur forest range of Anandpur Wild Life Division of Keonjhar district after a wild bear entered in the Primary Health Center premises on Saturday night. Local villagers said a wild bear entered the hospital as soon as dusk fell, coming from the nearby Baranga Reserved Forest. To avoid incidents, there is a demand to build a wall around the health center. A video of a bear moving within the hospital premises went viral,



the bear fled after a group of stray dogs barked upon seeing it. Sources said that four to five wild boars often move from the Baranga reserve forest to the nearby

Gadabandogoda village in search of food. On Saturday night, a wild bear entered the hospital premises and rested on the floor. Consequently a group of stray dogs started

barking when they saw it. The bear ran away. This incident has spread panic among the medical staff as well as the villagers.

"Since the Barang Reserved Forest is nearby, a group of bears often comes near the hospital. Staff with vehicles have been provided in that area to monitor and track the movement of the bears and other wild animals," said Prashanta Kumar Panda, Divisional Forest Officer of the Anandpur Wildlife (WF) division.

Cop shot, interstate gang busted after chase in Palwal; 5 held

Gurugram: An interstate gang leader was injured and caught, while three of his accomplices were arrested following a gunfight with police on Maroli Road in Palwal on Friday night, police said on Saturday.

Police constable Devender Kumar also sustained a gunshot wound to his leg during the exchange of fire, officials said. Both Kumar and the injured gang leader were admitted to the Civil Hospital in Palwal. Police said the gang leader will be formally arrested once doctors declare him medically fit.

One gang member managed to flee during the operation, police said, adding that all the suspects hail from

Etawah, Uttar Pradesh.

Police seized a 12-bore firearm, a .315 bore country-made weapon, a pistol, 11 live cartridges, 12 spent cartridges and a Maruti Baleno from the suspects.

According to police, the gang leader has 25 criminal cases registered against him in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, including cases of robbery, dacoity, kidnapping, attempted murder and charges under the Gangster Act. Two of the three arrested suspects have six or more criminal cases of a heinous nature registered against them in Uttar Pradesh, police added.

DSP (Headquarters) Sahil Dhillon said the arrests followed a tip-off received by

the Hathin anti-vehicle theft (AVT) team regarding the movement of the suspects from Etawah to Palwal in a Maruti Baleno.

"The team laid a trap to intercept the car on the KMP expressway, but the suspects managed to escape toward Hodal. The raiding team chased the suspects' car for several kilometres and intercepted it near the Mundkati Chowk. Then constable Kumar got out of his vehicle and tried to forcibly open the Baleno's door to pull the suspects out. However, one of the suspects opened fire at the constable, leaving him injured," Dhillon said.

"The suspects then sped away towards Maroli

Road and police teams continued chasing them. They intercepted the suspects again when the Baleno's tyre exploded," he said.

Investigators said members of the raiding team then got out of their vehicles to apprehend the suspects. However, the suspects allegedly opened fire at the police and damaged a police vehicle. In retaliatory firing, police personnel injured the gang leader, who investigators said had fired at constable Kumar, and apprehended four suspects.

Police said the suspects had planned to meet their associates in Palwal and carry out criminal activities.

Petrol bombs attacked on Paradip Municipality chairman's house

Paradip, (DMC) :- Panic gripped Paradip town after unidentified miscreants hurled petrol bombs at the residence of Paradip municipality chairman on Saturday evening. According to sources, three petrol bombs were thrown at the house of the chairman, Basanta Biswal, in the Madhuban area at around 7 pm. Biswal was not at home at the time of the incident. No injuries or property damage were reported due to the incident.

Upon receiving information, police rushed to the spot, seized three broken bottles suspected to have been used in the attack, and launched an investigation. The incident has raised



concerns over law and order situation in Paradip.

Police are investigating all possible angles, including personal enmity, political rivalry and attempts to create panic among the public. CCTV footage from the locality is being examined, and efforts are underway to identify and apprehend those involved.

Meanwhile, a police team led by Paradip Model police station inspector-in-charge (IIC) Babita Dehury visited the spot and initiated an inquiry to ascertain the identities of the accused persons. Further investigation is in progress.

Local residents expressed shock and concern, describing the

attack as an attempt to create fear and disrupt peace in the port town. The incident drew widespread condemnation from local residents, who demanded stringent action against those responsible and urged the police to ensure that such acts do not undermine public safety and security.

This daring daylight-style attack has sent shockwaves across the region, with political violence being suspected as a primary motive. Jagatsinghpur SP Ankit Verma have rushed to the spot and have launched an intensive investigation, including CCTV footage analysis, to identify the culprits.

Ghaziabad Fire: Blaze Erupts at Thread Manufacturing Factory, Firefighters Bring Situation Under Control in Two Hours

Ghaziabad: Panic spread in the Sahibabad Industrial Area on Sunday morning after a fire broke out at a thread manufacturing factory and quickly intensified, prompting a major firefighting operation.

The incident occurred at Jain Zari, a thread manufacturing unit located in Site-4 of the Sahibabad Industrial Area. Thick smoke and towering flames were spotted by local residents, who immediately alerted the police and fire department.

Chief Fire Officer (CFO) Rahul Pal said that the factory is involved in thread production and stores a significant quantity of chemicals used in the manufacturing process. The presence of these chemicals increased the risk of the fire spreading rapidly.

Following the alert, multiple water tenders from Vaishali, Sahibabad, and Noida were rushed to the spot. Firefighters launched an intensive operation to contain the blaze and prevent

it from spreading to nearby industrial units.

According to the CFO, the fire had broken out in a section of the factory that was difficult to access. Fire personnel had to break through a wall to reach the affected area and extinguish the flames effectively.

After nearly two hours of continuous efforts, the fire was brought under control. Officials confirmed that there were no casualties or injuries in the incident.

"The blaze was contained

before it could spread to adjacent factories, averting a major industrial disaster," Rahul Pal said.

Cooling operations were still underway to eliminate any remaining hotspots and prevent the fire from reigniting. Authorities are expected to investigate the cause of the fire.

The timely response of the fire department helped prevent significant damage to surrounding industrial units and ensured the safety of workers and nearby residents.



Moving Scorpio Catches Fire Near Gurugram Sector-93 Police Outpost

Gurugram: A major accident was averted after a moving Scorpio SUV suddenly caught fire near the Sector-93 police outpost in Gurugram on the evening of May 30. Quick action by police personnel helped bring the blaze under control before it could cause injuries or spread further.

According to reports, Pawan Kumar, a resident of Laxman Vihar, was travelling with a friend in his Scorpio towards Sector-93 on Friday evening. During the journey, they noticed smoke emerging from the vehicle's bonnet. Realizing something was wrong, the occupants immediately pulled the vehicle over to the roadside and got out safely. When they opened the bonnet to inspect the issue, flames suddenly erupted and quickly engulfed the front portion of the SUV. Police personnel stationed at the nearby Sector-93 outpost responded swiftly to the emergency. They stopped a passing water tanker and used it to spray water on the burning vehicle, successfully extinguishing the fire before it could spread. Although no injuries were reported, the Scorpio sustained significant damage in the incident. Preliminary indications suggest that the fire may have been caused by a short circuit in the vehicle's wiring system.

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)	
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT	
IDENTIFICATION NO: RWS&S DIVN, PURI - 07 OF 2026-27	
@ (06752) 251276 E-mail - eprocurement@gmail.com	
The Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Puri on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage rate price bids through e-procurement in double cover system according to the norms of e-procurement system, in on-line mode from eligible contractors.	
Sl. No.	Nature of work:
1.	Construction of Sub-Divisional water testing Laboratory at RWS&S Sub-Division, Delang in Puri District
2.	No. of works: 01(One)
3.	Estimated Cost: Rs. 48.43 lakhs (app.)
4.	Time for completion: 06(Six) Months
5.	Cost of bidding document: Rs.6000/-
6.	Class of Contractors eligible: B
7.	Availability of bids on-line: From 11.00 hour of 04.06.2026 to 17.00 hours of 17.06.2026
8.	Last date and time for seeking clarification: 17.00 hours of 11.06.2026
9.	Date & time of opening of technical bids: On 18.06.2026 at 11.30 Hours in the office of the Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Puri (All documents should be submitted in online only. No original documents should be dropped in dropping box before opening of technical bid in Division Office).
10.	Date and time of opening of financial bids: To be decided.

Further details can be seen from the website <https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in>. Subsequent corrigendum if any shall appear in the web site.

25001/276/2627

Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Puri

Delayed Judgement

INVOKING Article 142 of the Constitution with the aim of delivering "complete justice", the Supreme Court has directed all high courts to curb delays in the pronouncement of judgments. The timeline spelt out for verdicts — within three months from the date of reserving the order — is a step in the right direction. The Court has yet again acknowledged a troubling reality: delayed judgments are not merely administrative lapses but a denial of justice itself. It was in the Anil Rai case (2001)



that the SC observed the worrisome practice among HC judges of first reserving verdicts and then failing to pronounce judgments for months or even years — or delivering only operative parts of the verdict with a promise to provide detailed reasons later, which in some cases was not done.

Litigants suffer when cases are "reserved for judgment" indefinitely. Undertrials continue to languish in jail despite hearings being completed, while victims and their families remain gripped by uncertainty. The Court's insistence that bail orders be issued on the same day — or at the latest, the next day — is therefore both humane and constitutionally necessary. The SC's focus on transparency is also welcome. By directing high courts to upload judgments within 24 hours and disclose timelines relating to reservation, pronouncement and uploading of verdicts, the judiciary is embracing greater accountability. Public confidence in courts depends not only on the quality of judgments but also on their timely delivery. The apex court would also do well to ensure that its own judges don't err on this front.

It's lamentable that the SC has to repeatedly remind high courts to do the needful. The figures are stark: over 64 lakh cases are pending in HCs across the country (around three-fourths are more than a year old). The latest directions are an attempt to institutionalise discipline within the judicial process. At the same time, judicial delays cannot be viewed solely as the failure of individual judges. Timelines must be accompanied by broader reforms, including expedited judicial appointments, better technological support and efficient case management systems.

Punjab Election

PUNJAB's local body election results may not be a definitive pointer to the Assembly elections due early next year, but they do offer important political signals. Civic polls are shaped more by local concerns than by broader state-level narratives. Historically, ruling parties enjoy an advantage in such contests because voters often believe



development funds and administrative support flow more smoothly to areas aligned with the government of the day. That trend was visible again as the AAP swept the polls, leaving the Congress at a distant second, with the SAD and the BJP trailing behind even Independents. But these figures must be viewed with caution. Punjab recorded an overall turnout of nearly 64%, but participation in municipal corporations remained below 60%, reflecting subdued enthusiasm in larger urban centres. Local body polls have generally witnessed uneven and lower voter mobilisation, reducing their predictive value for Assembly contests where turnout is usually higher and political issues broader. Even so, the verdict underlines a troubling reality for the opposition: despite criticism of the government over drugs, gangsterism, law and order and governance issues, rival parties have failed to convert public discontent into meaningful gains. The Congress continues to suffer from factionalism and leadership uncertainty, while the SAD is still struggling to recover from the political fallout of the sacrilege controversy and the farmers' agitation. The BJP, though still a marginal player in the state's electoral landscape, appears to have begun preparing early for 2027. The appointment of Kewal Singh Dhillon, a Jat Sikh, as the Punjab BJP chief is significant as it signals an attempt to move beyond its traditional urban Hindu base.

The road to the Assembly elections remains long. But for now, the AAP has seized the early advantage while the Opposition is still searching for coherence and direction.

Bermuda Triangle: Between Myth and Mystery

The Bermuda Triangle has fascinated humanity for generations, standing at the intriguing crossroads of myth, mystery, and scientific inquiry. Few places on Earth have inspired as much speculation and debate as this vast stretch of ocean in the western North Atlantic. Bounded by Miami in Florida, Bermuda Island, and San Juan in Puerto Rico, the region forms an imaginary triangle covering nearly 500,000 square miles. Over the decades, stories of vanished ships, missing aircraft, unexplained radio transmissions, and mysterious navigational anomalies have transformed the Bermuda Triangle into one of the world's most enduring maritime legends.

The reputation of the Bermuda Triangle rests largely on reports of disappearances that began attracting public attention during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Although the region is one of the busiest maritime and aviation corridors in the world, a number of incidents occurring there gave rise to theories that ranged from the scientific to the supernatural. These stories captured public imagination and continue to fuel fascination even today.

One of the earliest and most famous mysteries associated with the Bermuda Triangle was the disappearance of the USS Cyclops in 1918. The enormous United States Navy cargo ship was carrying more than three hundred crew members and passengers while travelling from Barbados to Baltimore. Without sending a distress signal, the vessel vanished completely. No wreckage was ever recovered, and no conclusive explanation has emerged. The incident remains one of the largest non-combat losses in the history of the U.S. Navy and continues to be cited in discussions about the Bermuda Triangle.

The legend gained even greater prominence in December 1945 with the disappearance of Flight 19. This squadron of five U.S. Navy bombers departed from Florida on a routine training mission. During the exercise, pilots reportedly encountered navigational confusion and communication difficulties. Radio messages suggested compass



malfunctions and uncertainty regarding their location. Eventually, contact with the aircraft was lost. None of the planes returned, and a rescue aircraft dispatched to search for them also disappeared. The loss of twenty-seven men transformed the incident into one of the most discussed mysteries of modern aviation history.

In the decades that followed, several additional disappearances were linked to the Bermuda Triangle. Researchers estimate that around fifty ships and twenty aircraft have been associated with the region over the past century. Although many of these incidents were later explained through conventional causes, the accumulation of such reports created an enduring aura of mystery. Books, magazine articles, and documentaries further amplified public interest.

A major turning point came in 1974 with the publication of Charles Berlitz's bestselling book *The Bermuda Triangle*. The book presented a range of extraordinary explanations, including extraterrestrial intervention, time distortions, magnetic anomalies, and connections to the lost civilization of Atlantis. Its immense popularity transformed the Bermuda Triangle from a regional curiosity into a global phenomenon. Soon, the region became a recurring subject in films, television programmes, novels, and popular

culture.

Despite the sensational theories, scientific investigations offer more practical explanations. Meteorologists point out that the Bermuda Triangle lies within the Atlantic hurricane belt, making it vulnerable to powerful storms, hurricanes, waterspouts, and rapidly changing weather conditions. Before modern forecasting systems became available, sailors and pilots often had little warning of approaching dangers. Such conditions undoubtedly contributed to numerous maritime and aviation accidents.

Oceanographers also emphasize the role of the Gulf Stream, a powerful ocean current flowing through the region. The Gulf Stream moves rapidly and can disperse wreckage over vast distances within a short period. Consequently, debris from accidents may become difficult to locate, creating the impression that vessels or aircraft vanished without a trace. The absence of physical evidence has often reinforced perceptions of mystery.

Human error provides another important explanation. Investigations conducted by maritime and aviation authorities repeatedly indicate that navigational mistakes, mechanical failures, poor judgment, and adverse weather conditions account for many incidents linked to the Bermuda Triangle. Before the introduction of GPS

technology and advanced navigation systems, even small errors in position or direction could have serious consequences, especially during storms or periods of poor visibility.

Some researchers have proposed the methane hydrate theory. According to this hypothesis, methane gas trapped beneath the ocean floor may occasionally erupt and rise through the water column. Such releases could reduce water density and potentially cause ships to lose buoyancy and sink rapidly. Although laboratory experiments support the possibility of this phenomenon, there is little direct evidence linking methane eruptions to actual Bermuda Triangle disappearances.

Recent studies have also highlighted the existence of rogue waves. These enormous waves can rise unexpectedly to heights exceeding thirty metres and possess tremendous destructive power. Advances in satellite technology and oceanographic research suggest that rogue waves occur more frequently than previously believed and may contribute to maritime disasters in certain parts of the Atlantic Ocean.

Importantly, major scientific organisations do not consider the Bermuda Triangle uniquely dangerous. Statistical analyses indicate that accident rates in the region are comparable to those in other heavily travelled oceanic areas. Insurance companies do not impose special premiums on ships operating there, and commercial airlines continue to fly through the region routinely and safely.

Yet the legend continues to thrive because mystery possesses a powerful hold over the human imagination. Vast oceans, sudden storms, missing wreckage, and unexplained events combine to create a compelling narrative that blends fact and folklore. The Bermuda Triangle also reflects humanity's age-old fascination with the sea, which has long symbolized adventure, uncertainty, and the unknown.

Today, advanced navigation systems, satellite communications, radar technology, and sophisticated weather forecasting have greatly improved safety throughout the region. Nevertheless, the Bermuda Triangle remains a subject of enduring curiosity. Standing between myth and reality, it reminds us that nature is often more powerful and complex than we imagine. Whether viewed as a maritime legend, a scientific puzzle, or a symbol of humanity's fascination with the unknown, the Bermuda Triangle continues to captivate minds around the world and remains one of the most intriguing mysteries of the modern age.

Madhusudan Mishra, IAS (Retd.)

Helen Keller: A Living Exemplar of Courage

Helen Keller (1880-1968) was an American author, educator, and disability rights advocate who became a prominent voice for the blind and women's suffrage. Born in Tusculum, Alabama, she lost her sight and hearing at 19 months due to illness. With the help of her teacher Anne Sullivan, she learned to communicate and went on to earn a degree from Radcliffe College. Keller used her platform to champion social justice, labor rights, and accessibility, becoming a global symbol of resilience and advocacy.

Anne Sullivan's impact on Helen Keller's life was profoundly transformative. When Sullivan arrived at the Keller home in 1887 as a 20-year-old teacher, Helen was nearly 7 - isolated, frustrated, and unable to communicate beyond basic gestures. Sullivan's breakthrough came by spelling words into Helen's hand, most famously at the water pump, where Helen finally connected the word "water" with the actual sensation. That moment unlocked language for her. Sullivan's key contributions include: Breaking through isolation: She taught Helen a means of communication (finger-spelling) that opened up the world. Education and mentorship: Sullivan taught Helen to read Braille, write, and eventually speak - and even accompanied her to Radcliffe College, spelling lectures into her hand. Resilience and discipline: Sullivan refused to coddle Helen, insisting she learn manners, independence, and persistence. Lifelong companionship: They remained inseparable until Sullivan's death in 1936, with Sullivan helping Helen navigate public life as a writer and activist.

Keller later said, "The most important day I remember in all my life is the one on

which my teacher, Anne Mansfield Sullivan, came to me." Helen Keller's major contributions to disability rights include: Public advocacy and awareness: As a deaf-blind person who achieved public prominence, she challenged perceptions about what people with disabilities could accomplish, using her fame to speak and write about the capabilities of disabled individuals. Co-founding the ACLU: In 1920, she helped found the American Civil Liberties Union, which has been instrumental in disability rights litigation. Lobbying for blind services: She campaigned extensively for state and federal programs to provide education, vocational training, and services for blind people, including helping establish state commissions for the blind. American Foundation for the Blind (AFB): She worked with the AFB for over 40 years, raising funds, lobbying legislators, and helping to establish braille publishing programs and talking-book libraries. International influence: She traveled to over 35 countries after WWII, advocating for services for the deaf-blind and disabled, influencing policy development abroad. Social model of disability: Her insistence that her limitations were primarily due to societal barriers (lack of education, communication tools, and access) rather than her impairments anticipated the modern "social model" of disability that underpins today's disability rights movements.

She also supported broader labor rights, women's suffrage, and anti-war causes, recognizing that disability rights intersected with other social justice issues. Helen Keller was a passionate

and vocal supporter of the women's suffrage movement, and she wielded her influence in several key ways: Public Advocacy and Speaking - Despite being deaf and blind, Keller gave speeches across the United States advocating for women's right to vote. She used her platform as a famous public figure to draw attention to the cause, arguing that women's inferior legal and political status was unjust. Participation in Major Events - Keller marched in the Women's Suffrage Procession in Washington, D.C., a landmark demonstration that pressured the government to act on voting rights. Her presence at such events lent significant visibility to the movement. Suffrage in the Context of Broader Justice - Keller didn't see suffrage in isolation - she tied it to workers' rights and economic equality for the poor and disenfranchised 1. She argued that women, especially working-class women, needed the vote to secure fair wages and better living conditions. This intersectional approach helped broaden the movement's appeal beyond middle-class women.

Later in life, Keller also co-founded the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), an organization that continues to defend voting rights and gender equality. Her advocacy demonstrated that disability was no barrier to political engagement and helped cement women's suffrage as part of a broader struggle for human dignity. People with physical disabilities can learn a great deal from Helen Keller's life and approach. Here are some of the most important lessons: Communication Finds a Way - Keller

proved that communication isn't limited to speech or sight - with the right tools (sign language, braille, tactile signing), connection and expression are possible. She developed a rich inner and outer life despite being unable to hear or see, showing that the human drive to connect transcends sensory limitations. Education Opens Doors - She didn't let her disabilities stop her from pursuing higher education. She became the first deaf-blind person to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree.

Resilience Is Built, Not Born - Her early years were marked by frustration and isolation before Anne Sullivan arrived. She didn't start out resilient - she became resilient through struggle, patience, and the support of others. This is a hopeful message: you don't have to have it all figured out from the start. Allyship Matters - Keller's success was inseparable from Anne Sullivan's dedication - and later, from the networks of activists she worked with. This reminds us that seeking help, relying on others, and building community are strengths, not weaknesses. Intersectional Activism - She understood that disability rights don't exist in a vacuum - they're connected to women's rights, workers' rights, and racial justice. For people with disabilities today, this is a reminder that fighting for your own rights can and should include solidarity with others facing different forms of oppression.

Asit Mohanty
Columnist & Convener, Odia Language Protection Campaign
Sujanpur, Jajpur
Cell - 9437288028

SIR Phase III: Enumeration, House Visits By BLOs Begin In Odisha, Mizoram, Sikkim, Manipur

New Delhi, 31/5: The Election Commission of India (ECI) said on Sunday that the enumeration phase under the Special Intensive Revision - Phase III has started for Odisha, Mizoram, Sikkim and Manipur. An official said in a statement that the enumeration phase for Odisha, Mizoram, Sikkim and Manipur began on Saturday. "All eligible electors whose Enumeration Forms are received by the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) on or before June 28, 2026, will be included in the Draft Electoral Rolls," the ECI said. "Electors who are unable to submit their Enumeration Forms by June 28, 2026, may apply through Form-6 along with the prescribed Declaration Form during the claims and objections period," it added. During the enumeration phase of SIR, Booth Level Officers (BLOs) conduct house-to-house visits and provide Enumeration Forms to all existing electors. The ECI said electors



may submit the duly filled form either through the BLO or online. To ensure maximum coverage, BLOs will visit each household, for distribution, collection, and verification of forms. "During house-to-house enumeration, the BLOs carry at least 30 blank Form-6 along with blank Declaration Forms, to supply to anyone who seeks to enroll as a new elector," it added. "With a view to ensure more involvement of political parties, the Commission has

allowed Booth Level Agents (BLAs) of recognised political parties to collect from the public, up to 50 forms/day and hand it over to the BLO before the Draft Publication," the ECI said. National and state-recognised political parties may appoint more BLAs to assist BLOs in the smooth and effective conduct of the SIR process, the Commission added. The ECI, in exercise of its powers under Article 324 of the Constitution of India; Section 21 along with other applicable

provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, ordered SIR in 16 states and 3 Union Territories (UTs) on May 14. The Commission said the main objective of the SIR is — No eligible citizen is left out while no ineligible person is included in the Electoral Roll. Every person who is a citizen of India and who is not less than 18 years of age on the qualifying date and is not otherwise disqualified under any law shall be entitled to be registered in the electoral roll, the ECI added.

"In Odisha, there are 3.34 crore electors, 38,123 BLOs and 8,391 BLAs of political parties. In Mizoram, there are 8.75 lakh voters, 1,353 BLOs and 3,430 BLAs. Sikkim has 4.71 electors, 572 BLOs and 681 BLAs," the ECI said. In Manipur, there are 20.92 lakh electors, 2,996 BLOs and 5,003 BLAs, the ECI said, urging electors to cooperate with election officials during the house-to-house visits.

'Mann Ki Baat' Is Now 'Jan Ki Baat': BJP Leaders On PM Modi's Monthly Radio Address

New Delhi, 31/5: Following the 134th episode of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Mann Ki Baat', leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) said that the monthly radio program is a "rare" regular communication by the Prime Minister of a country and that it has now turned into "Jann Ki Baat". BJP leader Virendra Sachdeva said that 'Mann Ki Baat' has now transformed into "Jann Ki Baat". "Information which may not be available on public platforms are received through the 'Mann Ki Baat' address," he told IANS. Referring to PM Modi's mention of cleanliness in his address, Sachdeva added: "We all should focus on cleanliness in our surroundings." Delhi BJP President Harsh Malhotra said that Prime Minister Modi is among the few global leaders who regularly communicates with citizens. Malhotra said: "Such regular communication is rare on the global stage." He also mentioned that while radio addresses by national leaders

were seen in countries such as the US decades ago, Prime Minister Modi has transformed the format into a regular and extensive public dialogue. BJP MP Praveen Khandelwal also described 'Mann Ki Baat' as an extraordinary initiative by the Prime Minister, saying it has become an effective medium for connecting governance and administration directly with the public. He said: "In the latest episode of the 'Mann Ki Baat', the Prime Minister discussed several important issues, including extreme summer conditions, inspiring stories from the sports world that promote healthy competition as well as friendship." The BJP MP was referring to PM Modi statement regarding the national record in the Men's 100-metre race. "Within a span of just two days, the national record in the Men's 100-metre race was broken three times. The two athletes who achieved this remarkable feat are Gurinder Singh and Animesh Kujur," the

Prime Minister said. Khandelwal also noted that Prime Minister Modi also highlighted the work of social organisations engaged in wildlife conservation and mentioned an ambulance service launched for dolphin conservation. According to Khandelwal, this demonstrates that under PM Modi's leadership, the Union government places equal importance on environmental protection, biodiversity, and wildlife conservation alongside human welfare. BJP National General Secretary Dushyant Gautam, told IANS that PM's monthly radio show generates special enthusiasm among children and young people throughout the country. He emphasised: "Mann Ki Baat is not a political program but a medium to highlight India's talent, innovation, and social initiatives." "Some objectives cannot be achieved solely through government efforts. But when society and local communities come together, remarkable results can be achieved," he added.

Uttarakhand: Major Disaster Averted During 'Jod Mela', SDRF Personnel Rescue Over 50 Stranded Devotees

Dehradun, 31/5: More than 50 devotees had a narrow escape on Sunday as they headed to Gurudwara Shri Reetha Sahib during the ongoing 'Jod Mela' in Uttarakhand; however, the vigilant disaster teams averted the tragedy by swiftly mounting a timely operation to rescue all of them. The incident occurred at the historic Shri Reetha Sahib Gurudwara in Champawat district, where Sikh devotees had arrived in droves to participate in the three-day annual fair, held to commemorate Guru Nanak Dev's historic visit. The fair, on average, draws 2 lakh devotees every year. As the group of pilgrims were taking a bath in the Ladhya river, the sudden rise in water levels left them in a precarious position, putting their lives in peril. The SDRF team, after getting information about the mishap, swiftly moved in and saved the lives of over 50 devotees, who got stranded due to a sudden rise in the water stream. The sudden gush of water created chaos, and devotees panicked. According to eyewitnesses, a large number of devotees were bathing in the water reservoir, at the confluence of the Ladhya and Ratiya rivers, before



offering prayers at the Gurudwara Sahib. Heavy rainfall in the region caused the river's water level to rise suddenly, forcing more than 50 devotees to scramble for safety. They clung to a small structure in the middle of the river, and the rescue teams pulled them to safety. Due to the rising waters, several vehicles also became stuck in the riverbed area. Assessing the gravity of the situation, the SDRF team took charge and guided the vehicles to safety. They demonstrated courage, patience, and exceptional professional skills to safely guide all the stranded devotees across the river and also provided assistance in moving the vehicles stuck in the

water to safer locations. Upon receiving information, the local police and traffic police also sprang into action. Barriers were put on both sides to regulate the movement of people, and other devotees were prevented from entering the riverbed area. Through the joint efforts of the SDRF, the police, and the district administration, all the stranded individuals were safely rescued, and no loss of life occurred. SDRF Commandant Arpan Yaduvanshi, briefing the newsmen, stated that, looking at massive crowds of devotees at the fair, sensitive weather conditions, and potential risks, the team had been deployed in advance.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan Rolls Out Roadmap For Nationwide 'Khet Bachao Abhiyan'

New Delhi, 31/5: Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Sunday gave a clarion call for launching the 'Khet Bachao Abhiyan' from Monday to enlighten farmers across the country on the harm that excessive use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides causes to the health of the soil. Ahead of the national launch of the campaign on June 1 from Ramsiya village in Madhya Pradesh's Raisen district, Chouhan held a virtual interaction with Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) institutions, agricultural universities, senior agricultural officials of the Central and state governments, and others working for farmers' welfare nationwide. He said that rising temperatures, the indiscriminate and imbalanced use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides, the deterioration of soil health, and the growing climate crisis have emerged as serious challenges before agriculture. "Therefore, timely awareness generation and practical interventions have become essential." Chouhan added that the nationwide 'Khet Bachao Abhiyan' will focus on creating awareness among farmers regarding balanced



fertiliser use, soil testing, soil health cards, natural farming, crop selection, water conservation, green manuring, alternative agricultural practices in conditions of low rainfall, and the identification of counterfeit fertilisers, seeds and pesticides. He emphasised farmers' confidence would have to be strengthened through field-level demonstrations, scientific evidence and practical examples. The Union Minister said that a detailed roadmap extending up to June 30 should be prepared across the country, clearly identifying which officer, scientist, institution or team would visit which village and on what date. He directed that

district-level programmes should be planned in advance, monitoring should be dashboard-based, adequate arrangements should be ensured at the local level, and effective coordination should be visible at every stage of the campaign. Highlighting the crucial role of state agriculture departments, Chouhan said that the campaign could succeed only if the Centre, state governments, ICAR, agricultural universities, Krishi Vigyan Kendras, public representatives, students and farmer-support organisations worked together in a coordinated manner. He also stressed the need

to involve Members of Parliament, legislators and other elected representatives in the campaign and encouraged them to present practical examples of natural farming and sustainable agricultural practices. He called upon all stakeholders to visit villages with complete dedication, preparation and sensitivity, provide farmers with accurate information, and transform the resolve to protect Mother Earth into a mass movement. Chouhan also announced that he himself would visit villages in different states during the campaign and interact directly with farmers. The Union Minister said he had also spoken over the phone with the Chief Ministers of all states to seek their participation in this important initiative. He also added that the campaign should be given a multi-dimensional character by ensuring that the benefits of schemes such as the Kisan Credit Card, Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, Crop Insurance Scheme, Soil Health Cards, Mini Seed Kits, Pulses and Oilseeds Mission, and Agricultural Mechanisation programmes reach farmers.

'Rahul Gandhi Is Major Burden On Congress': NDA On Ramachandra Guha's Remark Against LoP

New Delhi, 31/5: National Democratic Alliance (NDA) leaders on Sunday cited the remark made by historian Ramachandra Guha against Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition (LoP) and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, to criticise the LoP. They referred to LoP Gandhi as a "major burden" on the grand old party. A controversy erupted after Ramachandra Guha, in an article, said that Congress works like a "family firm", referring to the Nehru-Gandhi family. He questioned Rahul Gandhi's leadership style, saying the LoP "lacks gravitas" and is "unable to learn from past mistakes". The row gains pace since Guha was once known to be close to the Congress leadership. BJP



Spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla said: "First, the public rejected Rahul Gandhi; he has lost 99 elections. Then alliance partners rejected him. Then even leaders within the Congress party have said that he should be removed and Priyanka Gandhi

should be brought in." He called Rahul Gandhi a "non-performing asset" and "liability" in terms of politics. "From public to their own leaders, everyone has rejected him. He should find a different profession for himself," he told IANS. BJP leader Syed

Shahnawaz Hussain claimed that the Congress is unable to find a proper leadership and that it has "no future". "It's not something new; people have believed for a long time that Rahul Gandhi is a major burden on the Congress party. Under his leadership, the Congress keeps losing elections," he told IANS. He added: "Sometimes due to our (BJP's) anti-incumbency, the Congress comes to power in some places. This does not mean that the people like them." BJP MLA C. P. Singh said: "A person like Rahul Gandhi who does not know what and where to speak... since he is a member of the Gandhi family, Congress leaders are carrying his burden." JD-U Spokesperson Rajiv Ranjan

Prasad said that given Ramachandra Guha's closeness to the Nehru-Gandhi family, "this is a serious remark which has raised questions on Rahul Gandhi's existence." "Congress leaders are stressed that under Rahul Gandhi's leadership, whether they will be able to retain the party's rule in the few states where they are currently in power or not," he told IANS. Prasad said that Congress should take the statements made by intellectuals like Ramachandra Guha, seriously. Citing Guha's remark, Shiv Sena Spokesperson Krishna Hegde said that if the Congress wants to move ahead, it needs to find a leader outside the Nehru-Gandhi family.

PM SVANidhi Empowering Street Vendors With Dignity, Financial Security And Self-Reliance: Minister

New Delhi, 31/5: Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal on Sunday said that the PM SVANidhi Scheme, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2020, has emerged as a major initiative to empower street vendors and strengthen the livelihoods of the urban poor across the country. Highlighting the impact of the scheme, the Union Minister said the initiative was aimed not only at providing collateral-free loans to street vendors, but also at ensuring dignity, confidence and opportunities for them to move forward in life with financial security and social recognition. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi, recognising the hard work, struggles and contribution of street vendors, launched the PM SVANidhi Scheme in 2020 with the vision of empowering the urban poor and strengthening their livelihoods," he said. "The objective of the scheme was not merely to provide collateral-free loans, but also to ensure dignity, confidence and opportunities for street vendors to move forward in life with financial security and social recognition," he added.

PM Modi Praises Farmers For Taking India's Rich Mango Heritage To Global Markets

New Delhi, 31/5: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday highlighted India's diverse mango varieties and praised farmers engaged in mango cultivation, saying their contribution extends beyond agriculture and plays a significant role in strengthening the country's economy and expanding its presence in international markets. Speaking during the 134th episode of his

monthly radio programme, Mann Ki Baat, the Prime Minister said that with the arrival of summer, mangoes become one of the most talked-about subjects in households across the country. "As soon as summer arrives, another topic of discussion starts in every household, and that is mangoes. Mangoes are a common topic of discussion. There's hardly a home

in India where mangoes are not talked about in the summer," PM Modi said. The Prime Minister noted that every region of India is known for its own distinctive mango variety. "Every region... its own mango, its own flavour, its own aroma. Maharashtra and Konkan's Hapus, Alphonso, Gujarat's Kesar, it's the soul of Aamras, Uttar Pradesh's Dussehri, and my Kashi's

Langra," he said. Sharing an interesting observation about one of the country's popular mango varieties, PM Modi said, "Incidentally, the Langra mango has a special quality: it often remains green even after ripening. Bihar's Zardalu, whose aroma can be recognised from afar." He referred to Chausa and Malda mangoes, saying that each variety carries its own memories and

associations. He also highlighted prominent varieties from southern India, including Banganapalli, Totapuri, Neelam and Malgova, along with Bengal's Himsagar and the Suvarnarekha variety cultivated in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. "In other words, as the place changes, the mango's appearance, colour and taste also change," PM Modi

said. Highlighting the growing reach of Indian mangoes, the Prime Minister observed that the fruit's journey now extends well beyond local markets and villages, reaching consumers across the world. "This journey of the mango is now reaching the global market from the village," he said. PM Modi also used the occasion to acknowledge the efforts of farmers who cultivate

mangoes and contribute to the agricultural sector through their hard work and dedication. "Today, through 'Mann Ki Baat', I will praise my farmer brothers and sisters involved in mango cultivation. You are not just ordinary farmers... You are very special to the agricultural economy of the country. May you keep shining like this," he added.

Rajnath Singh, Australian Counterpart Marles To Co-Chair Defence Ministers Dialogue Today

New Delhi,31/5: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Richard Marles will co-chair the second India-Australia Defence Ministers' Dialogue in New Delhi on Monday, with talks focused on strengthening defence and security cooperation. During the meeting, the two ministers will review the progress in bilateral defence cooperation and identify new avenues for collaboration. The discussions will focus on strengthening defence and security cooperation, enhancing military interoperability, industry collaboration, including co-development and co-production opportunities, and regional and global security developments of mutual interest, according to a statement released by the



Ministry of Defence. The meeting is expected to further strengthen defence ties, enhance strategic trust and cooperation, promote stability and security in the Indo-Pacific region and identify new areas of collaboration in defence and security. "The visit of Mr Richard Marles follows the inaugural Dialogue held in Australia in

October 2025 and reflects the growing momentum in the India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. Australia is a key partner in India's vision of a free, open, inclusive and prosperous Indo-Pacific. The visit underscores the growing depth and maturity of the India-Australia defence partnership," the Ministry of Defence said in a

statement. Highlighting that the first Australia-India Defence Ministers' Dialogue was held in Australia last October, the Australian Defence Ministry stated on Thursday that the meeting showcases unprecedented progress in the bilateral defence partnership and a shared ambition to enhance cooperation. Marles stated that he is looking forward to meeting Rajnath Singh. "Australia and India are top-tier security partners. I look forward to meeting with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to further strengthen our defence partnership following the strong progress we made during his visit to Australia last year," Marles was quoted as saying in a statement released by the Australian Defence Ministry ahead of the visit.

Defence Secretary Discusses Strengthening Ties With Defence Ministers Of Singapore, New Zealand

Singapore,31/5: Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh held a meeting with Defence Ministers of New Zealand and Singapore on the sidelines of the Shangri-La Dialogue on Sunday, with discussions focussed on strengthening bilateral defence ties, enhancing maritime cooperation, advancing information-sharing mechanisms. Sharing details regarding the meeting, the Ministry of Defence stated, "The engagements focused on strengthening bilateral defence ties, enhancing maritime cooperation, advancing information-sharing mechanisms, and reaffirming a shared commitment to a secure, stable and inclusive Indo-Pacific." The Shangri-La Dialogue, being held in Singapore, features plenary debates led by government ministers and important opportunities for bilateral discussions among delegations. On Saturday, Rajesh Kumar Singh met Singapore

President Tharman Shanmugaratnam at the Istana reception hosted on the sidelines of the Shangri-La Dialogue, with talks focused on further strengthening bilateral strategic ties and advancing cooperation in areas of mutual interest, according to the statement released by the Ministry of Defence. Singh also met Sweden's State Secretary to the Minister of Defence, Peter Sandwall, discussing avenues to strengthen defence cooperation and expand collaboration in areas including technology and innovation between the two nations. "Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh interacted with State Secretary to the Minister of Defence, Sweden Peter Sandwall. Discussions focused on strengthening India-Sweden defence engagement and exploring opportunities for enhanced bilateral defence cooperation, including in the domain of defence technology and innovation," the

Ministry of Defence said. Singh held talks with the Netherlands' Chief of Defence General Onno Eichelsheim, where the two sides discussed ways to deepen bilateral defence ties, including military exchange programmes and joint training events. Rajesh Kumar Singh also interacted with Belen Martinez Carbonell, Secretary General of the European External Action Service, and Lieutenant General Enrico Barduani, Deputy Chair of the European Union Military Committee (DCEUMC). According to the Defence Ministry, the meeting advanced strategic dialogue between India and the European Union, with discussions centred on shared security interests and avenues for deepening defence and strategic cooperation.

US Military Disables Ship Attempting To Reach Iranian Port: CENTCOM

Washington: US Central Command (CENTCOM) said that it disabled a Gambia-flagged maritime vessel attempting to sail toward an Iranian port. "CENTCOM forces observed M/V Lian Star transiting international waters toward an Iranian port on the Gulf of Oman and issued more than 20 warnings while informing the vessel it was in violation of the US blockade," according to a statement issued by CENTCOM on social media on Saturday. "A US aircraft disabled the vessel by firing a Hellfire missile into the ship's engine room after Lian Star's crew failed to comply," said CENTCOM's statement. "The ship is no longer transiting to Iran." CENTCOM said in the statement that the US military has disabled a total of five commercial vessels and "redirected" 116 vessels during the naval blockade, Xinhua reported.

US President Donald Trump announced the blockade after

negotiations between Iranian and American delegations faltered in April. Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth said on Saturday that the blockade is "very much still in place" amid reports that there is a tentative deal between the US and Iran to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, which Trump has not yet decided on. The blockade applies to Iranian ships and vessels traveling to Iranian ports. The Pentagon estimated earlier this month that it has cost Iran around \$4.8 billion in oil revenue. Earlier, US forces operating in the Arabian Sea enforced naval blockade measures against an Iranian-flagged cargo vessel attempting to sail toward an Iranian port on April 19. Guided-missile destroyer USS Spruance (DDG 111) intercepted M/V Touska as it transited the north Arabian Sea at 17 knots enroute to Bandar Abbas, Iran. American forces issued multiple warnings and informed the Iranian-flagged vessel it was in violation of the US blockade.

Nepal's Ruling RSP Chief Rabi Lamichhane To Visit India On June 1-2

Kathmandu,31/5: Rabi Lamichhane, President of the ruling Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) of Nepal, is scheduled to visit India on June 1-2, at a time when the proposed visit of Prime Minister Balendra Shah has been uncertain. Manish Jha, spokesperson of the party, told IANS that Lamichhane is visiting New Delhi for two days at the invitation of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) National President Nitin Namb. Besides the BJP President, Lamichhane is also scheduled to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar, among other leaders. "We will announce details about the visit on Monday," Jha said. In recent years, the BJP has been prioritising party-to-party relations besides state-to-state bilateral relations. In the past years, leaders of Nepal's political parties also visited New Delhi at the invitation of the BJP. However, neither side has



made an announcement about this visit of Lamichhane. RSP, which secured nearly two-thirds majority in the House of Representatives, the lower house, is now running the first "Gen-Z backed" government in Nepal's history. Several RSP leaders said that a visit by the chief of the ruling party to the neighbouring country should be viewed as a natural development. Lamichhane's planned visit comes against a backdrop of apparently growing

friction between Kathmandu and New Delhi, with tensions appearing to build over several actions taken by the two countries in recent weeks. Nepal strongly protested and sent notes of dissent to both India and China following the two neighbours' announcement in early May that Indian pilgrims would visit Kailash Mansarovar via the disputed Lipulekh region without Nepal's approval. Both Nepal and India claim sovereignty over the Lipulekh, Kalapani and

Limpiyadhura regions, which are currently under India's effective control. India has also indirectly expressed concerns over Nepal's strict enforcement of customs duties on goods worth more than Rs 100 brought into Nepal from India. Although the rule is not new, its stricter implementation affected businesses across the border that rely heavily on Nepali customers, prompting sporadic protests by Indian traders. The Nepalese government argued that the move was intended to curb smuggling. Following an interim order from Nepal's Supreme Court, the rule is currently not being enforced. Meanwhile, India's requirement for mandatory laboratory testing of every shipment of Nepali tea entering India adversely affected Nepal's tea exports. The Indian government has since amended the rule, requiring such tests only for tea intended for re-export to third countries through India, while exempting tea meant for domestic

consumption. Amid these developments, bilateral relations between the two neighbours appear to be under strain. The abrupt cancellation of Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri's planned visit to Nepal on May 11 further raised concerns about the direction of the relationship. Though Prime Minister Narendra Modi formally invited Prime Minister Shah to visit India, he has not shown urgency to do so. A senior RSP leader said Prime Minister Shah is not keen to undertake a foreign visit until he completes at least 100 days in office. He was appointed as Nepal's Prime Minister on March 27. Nepal's Foreign Ministry earlier said that Shah's visit to New Delhi would take place once several pending bilateral issues are discussed at the bureaucratic level and a certain degree of understanding is reached on a number of agenda items so that the visit can be fruitful.

Trump Says Iran Deal Near, Warns Military Option Remains

Washington,31/5: US President Donald Trump said the United States is close to reaching a nuclear agreement with Iran but warned that military action remains an option if negotiations fail. In an interview with Fox News at the White House, Trump said his administration's priority is ensuring that Iran never obtains a nuclear weapon. "We're close to a very good deal, and if we can make it good, otherwise we just start up with the Department of War, as we call it," Trump said. Trump said Iran had agreed to language barring it from developing or acquiring a nuclear weapon. "The one guarantee that I have to have is that there will be no nuclear weapons," he said. "They've agreed to that." He said negotiators had expanded the terms under discussion after he raised concerns about Iran potentially obtaining a weapon from another source. "They originally said we will not develop a nuclear weapon. I said, well,



what happens if you buy a nuclear weapon?" Trump said. "Now it says we will not develop or in any way purchase a military weapon." The President described the negotiations as difficult but said progress was being made. "Very tough negotiators. It takes a long time," he said. "Slowly but surely, we're getting. I think, what we want." Trump said he preferred a negotiated settlement but reiterated that the

United States would act if its demands were not met. "If we don't get what we want, we're going to end it a different way," he said. Asked what could trigger further military action, Trump said a deal that failed to protect US interests would be unacceptable. "A deal that wasn't going to be good for us is the line ultimately," he said. Trump argued that Iran was negotiating from a weakened position

following US military operations. He also claimed that a successful agreement would allow the Strait of Hormuz to reopen immediately. "Number one, the Strait (of Hormuz) has to be opened immediately, and has to be free, no tolls... and number two is they can't have a nuclear weapon," he said. The President dismissed concerns that political considerations surrounding next year's midterm elections would influence his approach to Iran. "I have to do what's right," he said. During the interview, Trump also criticised US media coverage of the conflict and accused Democrats of opposing key elements of his domestic agenda, including tax cuts and border security measures. The latest remarks come as the administration continues efforts to secure a long-term agreement with Tehran following months of heightened tensions in the Middle East.

WHO Chief Appeals Against Travel Bans As Ebola Cases Surge In DRC, Uganda

Bunia,31/5: World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus called on countries that have imposed travel bans or closed borders in response to the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Uganda to reconsider such measures. Speaking at a joint press conference on Saturday in Bunia, the capital of the northeastern Ituri Province and the epicenter of the Ebola outbreak, Tedros said such restrictions could complicate response efforts and risk discouraging transparency and trust, which are essential to saving lives. Xinhua news agency reported. "I call on countries that have imposed travel bans or border closures to reconsider. These measures make the response harder, and they discourage

transparency and trust that saves lives," Tedros said. Despite the lack of approved vaccines and specific medicines, the WHO chief said patients could still recover if they receive timely, quality medical care. Tedros said his visit to Bunia was also aimed at engaging directly with affected communities in this outbreak, in which over 1000 suspected cases have been reported. Uganda has also reported nine confirmed cases after detecting two new infections in the capital, Kampala, the Ugandan health ministry said on Friday. DRC Health Minister Roger Kamba said the country aims, "in the best-case scenario," to contain and end the outbreak within "four to six months," based on its experience in responding to epidemics and the known course of the Ebola virus disease. He said

the immediate priority is to contain the virus within the three



affected provinces — Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu — and prevent further spread. Kamba also highlighted the country's strengthened laboratory testing capacity, with no backlog of samples remaining. Around 900 samples had been tested, of which about 260 were positive, he said, adding that the country now has the capacity to process all incoming samples, even if daily testing rises to 200 or 300 samples.

Iran's IRGC Says It Shot Down A US MQ-1 Drone

Tehran,31/5: Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) said in a statement on Sunday that it had shot down a US MQ-1 drone, the state-run Islamic Republic News Agency reported. The drone entered Iranian territorial waters with the intention of conducting hostile operations, but was promptly detected and brought down by air defence missiles, the report said. Earlier on Tuesday, the IRGC said that it reserved the "legitimate

and definite" right to retaliate against any ceasefire violations by the United States, adding that its air defence units had shot down a US MQ-9 drone. According to local media reports, the IRGC also claimed to have fired at a fighter jet that had entered Iranian airspace. This comes after the US said it conducted fresh "self-defence strikes" on Iran. The US military struck missile launch sites and mine-laying boats in southern Iran earlier on Monday,

according to the US Central Command (CENTCOM). "US forces conducted self-defence strikes in southern Iran today to protect our troops from threats posed by Iranian forces," CENTCOM spokesperson Tim Hawkins said in a statement. "Targets included missile launch sites and Iranian boats attempting to emplace mines. US Central Command continues to defend our forces while using restraint during the ongoing ceasefire," he said.

IRGC Warns Against US Interference In Strait Of Hormuz Management

London,31/5: Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) Navy warned that any US interference in the "management" of the Strait of Hormuz would be met with a "strict military response." According to recordings from a public maritime radio channel provided to Xinhua by crew members aboard vessels stranded near the strategic waterway, the IRGC Navy issued a warning to ships operating in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, stating that the Strait of Hormuz remains closed and that transit is permitted only with authorization from the IRGC Navy and through routes designated by the Islamic Republic of Iran. The warning added that any violations of the regulations would seriously jeopardize maritime security. In the radio broadcast, the IRGC Navy also stated that any action by the US Navy aimed at interfering in "the management of the Strait of Hormuz or disrupting navigation" would face strict military action. US President Donald Trump announced on

Friday that he would lift the US blockade of Iranian shipping in the Strait of Hormuz, Xinhua news agency reported. However, a notice issued on Friday by the Joint Maritime Information Center (JMIC) through the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations said that the US blockade of Iranian ports remains in effect and that vessels are prohibited from entering or leaving Iranian ports. The JMIC, a multinational maritime advisory body operating under a US-led framework, also warned that vessels refusing to comply with blockade instructions could be engaged by US forces, including through actions intended to disable or destroy them. Recordings from the same public maritime radio channel, provided by seafarers near the Strait of Hormuz, also indicated that a US military aircraft broadcast a warning to a vessel early Saturday, instructing it to turn back immediately and stating that its course was being monitored.

Govt Revises Fuel Export Levies For Fortnight Beginning June 1, Domestic Rates Unchanged

New Delhi, 31/5: The Central government has revised export levies on petrol, diesel and aviation turbine fuel (ATF) for the fortnight beginning June 1. The duty has been set at Rs 1.5 per litre on petrol exports, Rs 13.5 per litre on diesel exports and Rs 9.5 per litre on ATF exports, as per an official notification. However, the Centre has left excise duty rates on petrol and diesel sold in the domestic market unchanged. According to the notification, the revised rates have been prescribed based on the average international prices of crude oil, petrol, diesel and ATF prevailing during the period since the last review. The export levies were introduced on March 27, 2026, to ensure domestic availability of petroleum products by discouraging exports in the backdrop of the West Asia crisis. The last revision came into effect on May 16, 2026. On May 16, the government revised export



taxes on petroleum products, imposing a special additional excise duty (SAED) of Rs 3 per litre on petrol exports while reducing the duty on diesel to Rs 16.5 per litre. The notification by the Ministry of Finance stated that the entry of Rs 3 per litre

shall be substituted for petrol exports, while diesel has been revised to Rs 16.5 per litre. It further said the road and infrastructure cess has been reduced to zero on petrol and diesel exports. Domestic fuel tax rates remained unchanged. Earlier, export duty on diesel was revised multiple times. It was first set at Rs 21.50 per litre on March 26, then raised to Rs 55.5 per litre on April 11. Later, it was cut to Rs 23 per litre on April 30, and has now been further reduced to Rs 16.5 per litre. Similarly, aviation turbine fuel (ATF) followed a similar pattern. The duty was first Rs 29.5 per litre, then increased to Rs 42 per litre. It was later reduced to Rs 33 per litre and has now been brought down to Rs 16 per litre. The windfall tax framework was introduced to ensure adequate domestic fuel availability and curb exports amid volatile global oil markets triggered by the West Asia crisis.

Mumbai CNG price jumps to Rs 86 per kg following latest Mahanagar Gas Limited rate revision

Mumbai, 31/5: Mahanagar Gas Limited increased the retail price of Compressed Natural Gas by Rs 2 per kg across the Mumbai Metropolitan Region on May 30, pushing local fuel costs to Rs 86 per kg. This adjustment reflects immediate operational pressures on domestic city gas distributors. Households and transport operators face compound strain as petrol and diesel prices also rose by more than Rs 2.50 per litre earlier this week. Commercial drivers and private vehicle owners are adjusting to rapid budget changes. This decision marks the second rate increase in just over two weeks, following a similar Rs 2 increase implemented on May 14. The distribution network covers several regions outside the immediate city limits, including Thane, Navi Mumbai, Kalyan, Raigad, and Ratnagiri,



expanding the financial impact across Western India. Geopolitical conflicts thousands of miles away directly trigger these local retail updates. Rising tensions in the Middle East, particularly around critical maritime trade corridors like the Strait of Hormuz, continue to destabilize global energy markets and raise import expenses for Indian utility firms. Despite recent

market revisions, natural gas continues to hold an economic advantage over traditional petroleum options. Fleet operators confirm that the per-kilometre operating cost for eco-friendly vehicles remains lower than standard combustion alternatives. Local energy experts suggest consumers maintain regular vehicle maintenance to maximize efficiency while retail markets navigate this volatile period.

RBI likely to hold rates steady amid global uncertainty

New Delhi, 31/5: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is widely expected to keep its benchmark policy rate unchanged at 5.25 per cent when the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) concludes its three-day meeting on June 5, as policymakers weigh mounting global uncertainties and their potential impact on inflation and economic growth. Market participants and economists anticipate that the central bank will maintain its cautious stance, choosing to closely monitor evolving developments in West Asia and their implications for commodity prices, supply chains and financial markets before taking any policy action. The six-member MPC, chaired by RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra, will meet from June 3 to June 5 to review the monetary policy framework. The committee had also left rates unchanged at its previous meeting in April, citing uncertainties arising from geopolitical tensions and their possible effects on inflation and growth prospects. While a status quo on interest rates is seen as the most likely

outcome, some economists believe the central bank may revise its macroeconomic projections. Rising crude oil prices, persistent supply chain disruptions and pressure on the rupee due to external factors could prompt the RBI to raise its inflation forecast while trimming its GDP growth estimates for the current financial year. A recent report by the State Bank of India's economic research department expects the central bank to maintain the existing policy rate amid a volatile global backdrop. According to the report, inflation trends suggest that consumer price inflation could remain above 5 per cent for the next three quarters, even though inflation during the current quarter is expected to remain in the range of 4 to 4.1 per cent. The report projects India's real GDP growth at around 7.2 per cent in the fourth quarter of FY26 and estimates overall economic growth for FY26 at 7.5 per cent. However, it cautioned that prolonged



geopolitical uncertainties could alter the outlook and necessitate revisions to growth forecasts as fresh data becomes available. For FY27, the SBI research team currently estimates GDP growth at 6.6 per cent, though it acknowledged that the forecast remains subject to change depending on developments in the global economic and geopolitical environment. The report argued that the RBI should continue to adopt a data-driven approach while keeping rates unchanged for now. It noted that if inflationary pressures intensify, the central bank has alternative policy tools at its disposal, including measures such as Operation Twist, which can help manage market conditions without altering benchmark interest rates.

SBI Research calls for stronger RBI intervention as rupee slide outpaces fundamentals

New Delhi, 31/5: SBI Research has called for stronger intervention by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to support the rupee, arguing that the currency's recent depreciation is excessive and not in line with India's economic fundamentals. In its report, SBI Research said the speed of the rupee's decline against the US dollar has been unusually sharp, even as the Indian economy continues to exhibit strong macroeconomic indicators.

"The speed of rupee depreciation has been reckless, and rupee took only 152 days to depreciate by Rs 5 per dollar (from Rs 90 to Rs 95)," the report said, noting that the rupee touched 96.83 against the US dollar on May 20. According to the report, the current depreciation is higher than what India's underlying economic conditions would warrant. "The present Rupee depreciation is indeed higher when seen against India's macroeconomic fundamentals and clearly when compared with other currencies against the dollar strength," SBI Research said. The report argued



that India's foreign exchange reserves remain adequate to counter excessive volatility in the currency market. "India's FX reserves are optimally sufficient to combat the unidirectional slide of rupee," it said. SBI Research noted that foreign exchange reserves have declined by about USD 47 billion since February 27, 2026, but still remain around USD 680 billion, providing the RBI with sufficient room to intervene when required. The report said stronger and

sustained intervention by the central bank could help stabilise the rupee during periods of heightened global uncertainty. "We believe RBI's wholehearted/ large-scale intervention ideally helps Rupee to stabilize," it said, citing instances where stronger intervention was followed by appreciation in the currency. The research team also observed that the rupee's weakness appears to be driven not only by global dollar strength but also by risk

aversion linked to the ongoing conflict in West Asia and large foreign portfolio outflows from Indian equities. India has witnessed net foreign institutional investor (FII) equity outflows of USD 22.7 billion since the outbreak of the West Asia conflict, according to the report. SBI Research further argued that the rupee is currently undervalued and has weakened beyond levels implied by broader trade-weighted measures. "The current Rupee value is not in synchronization with India's domestic macro fundamentals," the report said. The report maintained that while the RBI is expected to keep policy rates unchanged at the upcoming Monetary Policy Committee meeting, the central bank should continue using its available tools to address excessive currency volatility and support orderly market conditions. SBI Research expects the RBI to maintain status quo on interest rates amid rising inflation risks stemming from higher crude oil prices, fuel price hikes and continued geopolitical uncertainties.

US Legal Issues Behind Us, Focus Now On Accelerating Next Phase Of Growth: Gautam Adani

New Delhi, 31/5: Billionaire Gautam Adani has said that matters related to the Adani Group's legal proceedings in the United States were now "behind us" and the conglomerate was focusing on accelerating investments across energy, transport, logistics and digital infrastructure as part of the next phase of growth. Gautam Adani said that the group's biggest challenge was no longer access to capital but executing projects fast enough to meet India's infrastructure and energy needs, particularly as Artificial Intelligence drives demand for power-intensive digital infrastructure. Adani Group chairman described the Rs 24,930 crore rights issue in the company's flagship Adani Enterprises as a vote of confidence from investors, at a time when the conglomerate faced questions over governance and regulatory issues. "Even though it was a year in which the world grew more fractured, complex energy security models returned to the centre of national strategy and technology became inseparable from sovereignty, Adani Group remained anchored to an unwavering belief –



India's future cannot wait. While others debated, the Group built, advancing its journey as the world's most integrated infrastructure platform – across energy, transport, logistics, utilities and industrial manufacturing," Gautam Adani said. And this progress did not come in calm conditions for the ports-to-energy conglomerate. "It came in the middle of extraordinary scrutiny. However, we did not bend. We did not pause," he remarked. "Because what we have always been defined

by is: Not the noise that surrounds us, but the strength of our response. Not the intensity of the challenge, but the clarity of our purpose. Not the criticism, but the nation-building we continue to believe in," the Adani Group chairman said. "The matters related to our US legal proceedings are now behind us thereby allowing us to focus with renewed confidence and belief on the next phase of our growth," he said. The Chairman outlined a strategy centered on what he called two converging growth

drivers – infrastructure and intelligence – arguing that the rapid adoption of artificial intelligence will require massive investments in power generation, transmission networks, data centres and logistics infrastructure. "Before AI can think, energy must flow," Adani remarked. For the financial year 2025-26, the group's portfolio companies reported consolidated revenue of Rs 2.92 lakh crore, up 7.4 per cent from a year earlier, while profit after tax rose 13.9 per cent to Rs 46,377 crore.

Centre waives customs duty on cotton imports from June 1 to Oct 30

New Delhi, 31/5: The government on Saturday announced a temporary exemption on all customs duties on the import of cotton from June 1 till October 30, to augment its availability for the Indian textile sector amid geopolitical tensions. The temporary duty exemption is expected to reduce input costs across the textile and apparel sector, thereby providing targeted relief to manufacturers and consumers, while also keeping the interests of domestic farmers in mind, according to an official notification. 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. Earlier this month, the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved an outlay of Rs 5,659.22 crore for the Mission for Cotton Productivity (2026–27 to 2030–31) aimed at addressing bottlenecks, declining growth, and quality concerns in India's cotton sector. The mission aligns with the government's 5F vision (Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to

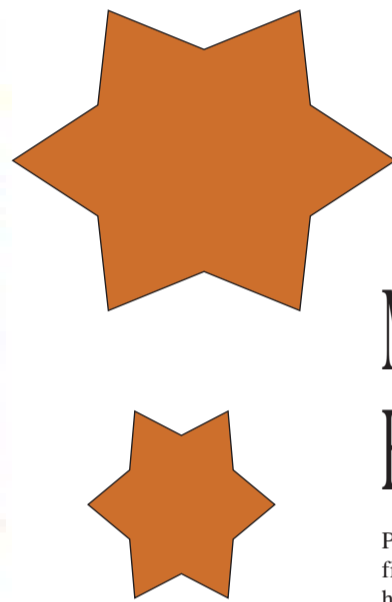


Foreign). It focuses on enhancing cotton productivity through the development of high-yielding variety (HYV) seeds resistant to disease and pests, scaling up of existing and latest crop production technologies through state governments, Krishi Vigyan Kendras, and State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) through large-scale promotion and adoption of latest crop production technologies, ensuring a least-contaminant cotton supply to industry, and promoting high-quality cotton exports. The major focus of the mission is on the development of high-yielding, climate-resilient, pest-resistant seeds and other

production technologies, upscaling improved cotton production technologies like High Density Planting System (HDPS), Closer Spacing (CS), Integrated Cotton Management, and promotion of Extra Long Staple (ELS) Cotton. It also works on augmenting the quality of cotton through capacity building and promoting modernisation of ginning and processing factories, including the adoption of best processing practices and strengthening cotton testing infrastructure across the country with modern, standardised, and accredited facilities to ensure reliable quality assessment and global benchmarking.

Shekhar Kapur Says He Could Have Cast IPL Star Vaibhav Sooryavanshi in Masoom

Filmmaker Shekhar Kapur expressed admiration for IPL sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, saying he could have cast the teenage cricketer in his upcoming film *Masoom: The New Generation* if not for his cricket career. Taking to X, Kapur shared a photo of the Rajasthan Royals star and wrote, "If Sooryavanshi wasn't such a sensational cricketer, I could have cast him in *Masoom*." The veteran director's remark quickly drew attention online, with fans noting the parallel between Vaibhav's youthful innocence and the emotional tone of Kapur's 1983 classic. Kapur's new project, *Masoom: The New Generation*, reimagines the original film through themes of identity, family, and migration while retaining its emotional depth. The film features Naseeruddin Shah, Shabana Azmi, Manoj Bajpayee, Nithya Menen, and Kaveri Kapur, and is currently in pre-production. Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, a left-handed batter from Bihar, has become one of India's most exciting young talents. Playing for Rajasthan Royals, he made history in IPL 2025 by scoring the fastest century by an Indian — 101 off 38 balls against Gujarat Titans. In IPL 2026, he continued his explosive form, amassing 776 runs at a strike rate above 237, including 72 sixes. Kapur's comment added a cinematic twist to Vaibhav's cricketing rise, blending the worlds of sport and art in a moment that captured fans' imagination.



Muskan Karia Reveals Real Instagram Subscriber Earnings, Clears Up Viral Rs 3.6 Crore Claim

Popular content creator Muskan Karia has finally addressed viral claims surrounding her Instagram subscription earnings, revealing that the figures circulating online are far from reality. The influencer, known for her signature catchphrase "I bet you didn't know this," recently disclosed her actual earnings from Instagram subscribers during a livestream, surprising many followers who believed she was earning lakhs every month through the platform. Muskan Karia is a social media influencer and content creator who has built a strong presence through product reviews, lifestyle content, and engaging short-form videos. With more than 1.5 million followers on Instagram, she has become a recognizable face among young digital audiences. Her unique presentation style and viral catchphrase have helped her establish a loyal fan base across social media platforms. Over the past year, several social media posts claimed that Muskan Karia was earning over ₹30 lakh per month through Instagram subscriptions. The estimates were based on the assumption that all of her subscribers paid the standard monthly fee of ₹399. Since Karia has over 5,800 subscribers on Instagram, some users calculated that her annual subscription income could exceed ₹3.6 crore. These claims quickly gained traction online and sparked widespread discussion about influencer earnings. During a recent livestream with fellow content creator Rachit Yadav, popularly known as Rachitroo, Muskan Karia clarified that the viral figures were inaccurate. According to Karia, a large number of users subscribe using Instagram's free trial option and cancel before the paid billing cycle begins. As a result, the actual earnings generated through subscriptions are significantly lower than public estimates. "I make around \$20 a month," Muskan said during the livestream. Rachit Yadav further revealed that her total lifetime earnings from Instagram subscriptions have been approximately \$1,500. Based on current exchange rates, that translates to roughly ₹1.5 lakh in total earnings from subscriber-based content. The gap between public perception and reality highlights how Instagram's subscription model works. Many followers opt for promotional free trials to access exclusive content but do not continue with paid memberships. While subscriber counts may appear high, only active paying users generate recurring revenue for creators. This means that subscriber numbers alone do not accurately reflect actual earnings. While subscription income appears modest, Muskan Karia's overall earnings are not limited to Instagram subscribers. Like many successful influencers, she generates revenue through brand partnerships, sponsored content, collaborations, product promotions, and other monetization opportunities. These income streams often contribute a significantly larger share of earnings for digital creators than subscription-based content alone. Instagram Subscriptions allow creators to offer exclusive content, special updates, subscriber-only posts, and additional perks in exchange for a monthly fee. The feature is designed to help creators build recurring income while strengthening engagement with their most dedicated followers. However, as Muskan Karia's experience demonstrates, subscriber counts do not always translate into substantial earnings, especially when free trial periods are involved. Her candid revelation has provided followers with a more realistic understanding of how creator monetization works on social media platforms.



SPORTS

Marta Kostyuk Stuns Iga Swiatek in Straight Sets at Roland Garros

NEWDELHI, 31/5: Iga Swiatek's 25th birthday turned bitter as Ukrainian 15th seed Marta Kostyuk defeated her 7-5, 6-1 in the French Open Round of 16. The former champion's pursuit of a fifth Roland Garros title ended abruptly in a straight-set shocker. Both players traded early breaks, but Kostyuk held firm in the 11th game and sealed the first set with a stunning backhand crosscourt winner. It was her first-ever set win against Swiatek after three previous losses. Riding the momentum, Kostyuk broke early in the second set and raced to a 3-1 lead. turn0edgesection7? Kostyuk celebrated her victory by raising her arms in triumph, soaking in the moment of reaching her first Roland Garros quarterfinal.



The win extended her perfect clay-court record this season to 16-0. ?turn0edgesection10?Her



emotional post-match remarks reflected her passion for the sport. "I'm not playing tennis to win. I'm playing tennis because I love it. I want to connect to people. I want to make people happy and unite people," she said.

PSG Win UEFA Champions League As Arsenal Suffer Penalty Shoot-Out Heartbreak

Budapest, 31/5: Arsenal star Gabriel blew over a decisive penalty as Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) came back from a goal deficit to retain their European title on penalties after a 1-1 draw against the Gunners in the 2025/26 UEFA Champions League final at the Puskás Aréna in Budapest, Hungary on Saturday night. PSG scored four of their five penalties in the shootout, and Nuno Mendes blew out their only effort, while Eberechi Eze and Gabriel missed two penalties for Arsenal in the final. Kai Havertz gave the Gunners the early lead, only for Ousmane Dembélé to level from the penalty spot as the match ended 1-1 in regulation

time. The Gunners, fresh from winning their first English Premier League title for 22 years, took early control and wasted no time in taking the lead. Leandro Trossard charged down a clearance, and Havertz, scorer of the only goal in the 2021 final for Chelsea against Manchester City, strode clear before hammering his finish high past Matvei Safonov from a tight angle. The holders were unruffled and dominated the remainder of the first half. Still, the Arsenal defence, superbly marshalled by Gabriel and William Saliba, allowed no clear-cut chances, and Paris' frustrations were highlighted by Ousmane Dembélé and Désiré Doué firing over with rare strikes

from outside the area. Mikel Arteta's side could even have doubled their advantage but for a last-ditch block from Marquinhos to deny Havertz a second goal. Arsenal had only conceded six goals heading into the decider and knew a record-equalling tenth clean sheet of this campaign would bring them a first title. Still, Christian Mosquera felled Khvicha Kvaratskhelia in the area after a neat exchange of passes, and Dembélé sent David Raya the wrong way from the penalty spot to restore parity. Luis Enrique's side continued to probe patiently, but it was a counterattack that provided their next moment of threat,

Kvaratskhelia driving into the area and firing an effort that deflected against the upright. Vitinha and substitute Gonçalo Ramos found the roof and side of the net respectively with late chances, but extra time could not be avoided. The pattern of the contest continued — swathes of Paris possession but little goalmouth action — and a first penalty shoot-out in the decider since 2016 was the outcome. There, Eberechi Eze swept wide and Nuno Mendes immediately saw his effort saved by David Raya before the last, and decisive moment, of the shoot-out, Gabriel firing over to ensure Paris became the first side to retain the trophy since Real Madrid in 2018.

Brad Pitt Wins Key Court Ruling in Château Miraval Dispute With Angelina Jolie

Nearly a decade after their highly publicized separation, Hollywood stars Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie remain locked in a legal battle over Château Miraval, the French winery they once owned together. While the former couple finalized their divorce in 2024, disputes surrounding the multimillion-dollar estate continue to generate fresh courtroom developments. In the latest twist, Brad Pitt has secured a favorable

court ruling related to Angelina Jolie's 2021 sale of her stake in Château Miraval. According to court records, a Michigan judge ordered Todd Culyba, the former General Counsel of the Stoli Group, to return for a second deposition. The decision comes after Pitt's legal team argued that several important questions regarding the winery transaction remained unanswered during previous testimony. The ruling requires Culyba to respond

to questions concerning the business aspects of Jolie's sale of her stake to Tenute del Mondo, a company associated with the Stoli Group. The Château Miraval dispute dates back to 2022 when Pitt filed a lawsuit claiming Jolie sold her ownership share without his consent. Pitt's legal team argues that the former couple had an agreement restricting either party from selling their stake without mutual approval.