



Janhvi's reply

Actor Janhvi Kapoor finally shuts down plastic surgery rumours with a blunt, no-nonsense response to critics

LEISURE | P2



CBI chargesheets Malik

CBI files chargesheet against former J&K governor Satyapal Malik and others over alleged corruption in Kiru hydropower project

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India-UK FTA talks

UK agrees to accord non-discriminatory treatment to Indian companies in its public procurement system

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Tottenham triumph

Tottenham beat Manchester United 1-0 to win the Europa League final and lift its first European trophy in more than four decades

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CM unveils, lays stones for ₹1.15L-crore projects

Jajpur, May 22: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Thursday inaugurated and laid foundation stones for 24 industrial projects in this district with a total investment of ₹1.15 lakh crore which are expected to generate employment opportunities for 36,000 people.

Taking part at a function here, the CM inaugurated four projects, including Tata Steel Limited's 5 MTPA Integrated Steel Plant expansion at Kalinga Nagar industrial hub with an investment of ₹47,599 crore. The project is expected to create 4,625 jobs.

Other projects the CM inaugurated are: JSL Group's petroleum and solar power venture (Rs 470 crore), Jatia Steel Limited's 0.75 MTPA TMT Rebar-cum-Wire Rod Mill (Rs 220 crore) and Abis Exports India Private Limited's poultry feed plant (Rs 161.57 crore).

Majhi also laid the foundation stones for 20 industrial projects. Among them is Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited's 8.52 MTPA

steel plant expansion at an investment of ₹61,769 crore. This unit is poised to become one of the largest steel manufacturing facilities in the region and is expected to create 14,000 direct jobs, an official said.

"Together, these 24 projects will not only bring foreign capital and cutting-edge technology to Odisha, but also serve as a catalyst for job creation, MSME collaboration, and downstream industrial growth in the region," an official said, adding that the state is emerging as a trusted destination for both domestic and international investors.

Addressing the gathering, Majhi said, "Today, Odisha stands at a historic turning point. With the inauguration and groundbreaking of industrial projects worth ₹1.15 lakh crore in Jajpur, we are not merely laying foundation stones, we are building the future. Now, 36,000 employment opportunities are being created, ensuring that our youth can grow with pride in their own land."

RIOT OF COLOURS: Participants fly giant kites during a festival at Mannavanur Lake meadows, near Kodaikanal, in Dindigul district, Thursday. Organised for the first time in the region, the event features uniquely shaped kites, including those resembling a dragon, lily pad, Jalikattu bull, and the Indian national flag

16-member Kotia panel

Bhubaneswar: The state government Thursday formed a 16-member committee, with Revenue and Disaster Management (R&DM) Minister Suresh Pujari as chairman, to look into the issues concerning the Kotia group of villages under Pottangi block in Koraput. Other members of the panel include R&DM department ACS, Home department ACS, Koraput Collector and the district's SP. The committee is tasked with defining a special agency structure, its hierarchical and funding patterns, ensuring convergence of various development schemes, and conducting a comparative analysis of similar schemes offered by the bordering state (Andhra Pradesh) to support the development of the Kotia Gram Panchayat.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) once again came under the scanner of the Supreme Court which called out the excessive methods applied by the agency in making out cases under PMLA. "Your ED is crossing all limits," a top court bench of Chief Justice BR Gavai and Justice Augustine George Masih told Additional Solicitor General SV Raju, appearing for the ED, while issuing notice to the anti-money laundering probe agency on a plea filed by the Tamil Nadu government and Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation (TASMAT). Tamil Nadu's ruling DMK welcomed the SC order, saying the stay is a 'big blow' to alleged efforts by the BJP to malign the party-led government in the state and that the ED was a 'blackmailing organisation'.

This is not the first time that the ED has come under fire from the SC. The ED has previously been pulled up by several benches of the SC for allegedly misusing the provisions of PMLA. Opposition parties, too, have protested against the alleged abuse of PMLA provisions by the Central agency against the government's political opponents.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Chennai, May 22: The Supreme Court Thursday rapped the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and stayed its money laundering probe against Tamil Nadu's state-run liquor retailer TASMAT over alleged corruption in grant of

wine shop licences, observing the Central agency is 'crossing all limits' and violating the federal concept of governance.

"Your ED is crossing all limits," a bench comprising Chief Justice BR Gavai and Justice Augustine George Masih told Additional Solicitor General SV Raju, appearing for the ED, while issuing notice to the anti-money laundering probe agency on a plea filed by the Tamil Nadu government and Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation (TASMAT). Tamil Nadu's ruling DMK welcomed the SC order, saying the stay is a 'big blow' to alleged efforts by the BJP to malign the party-led government in the state and that the ED was a 'blackmailing organisation'.

This is not the first time that the ED has come under fire from the SC. The ED has previously been pulled up by several benches of the SC for allegedly misusing the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). Opposition parties have also protested against the alleged abuse of PMLA provisions by the ED against the government's political opponents.

Questioning the ED raids over TASMAT, CJI Gavai said, "The Enforcement Directorate is violating the federal concept (of governance)." The CJI-led bench took note of the submissions of senior advocates Kapil Sibal and Amit Anand

Tiwari, appearing for the state government and the TASMAT, and stayed ED's probe against TASMAT in the meantime.

Raju opposed the order, saying the issue involved corruption of over ₹1,000 crore and the ED is not crossing limits 'at least in this case'. Sibal said that it is the state and the TASMAT which have launched criminal prosecution into alleged illegalities in granting liquor shop licenses. He said as many as 41 FIRs were lodged against purported wrongdoers in cases related to the allotment of liquor shop licences from 2014 and now the ED jumps in the picture and raids the TASMAT.

"How can you raid the state-run TASMAT?" the CJI asked.

The DMK government and TASMAT moved the SC against the raids conducted by the ED on the premises of the liquor retailer. The petition challenged an April 23 order of the Madras High Court that upheld the ED's actions, alleging grave violations of constitutional rights

and the federal structure.

"The present petition raises questions of law having wide ramifications including the issue of federalism laid bare by the respondent 1 (ED) exceeding its remit and attempting to usurp the State's right to investigate offences occurring therein," the state government said.

The plea challenged the legality of the ED's 60-hour search and seizure operation conducted between March 6 and 8, 2025.

"On March 6, respondent 1 (ED) conducted a search and seizure proceeding under Section 17 of the PMLA at the headquarters of respondent 2 (TASMAT) which is a 100% owned instrumentality of the petitioner/state," it said. TASMAT itself is not named as an accused in any of these FIRs and, in several cases, is the complainant, the plea added.

In the absence of any predicate offence involving TASMAT as an accused, the ED had no jurisdiction to initiate proceedings under the PMLA, it said. The petitioner also questioned the timing of the search, pointing out the delay in action as the last FIR was registered in 2021.

The ED's actions amounted to a 'roving and fishing enquiry', rather than a targeted investigation, and that the agency failed to demonstrate the mandatory 'reasons to believe' required under Section 17 of PMLA, it was submitted.

STATE GOVT PLANS TO BUY SC, ST LAND

Bhubaneswar, May 22: The state government is planning to purchase land directly from people belonging to SC and ST communities to prevent them from being exploited during financial emergencies, Revenue and Disaster Management (R&DM) Minister Suresh Pujari said Thursday.

Pujari said a corpus fund would be created to facilitate these land purchases and protect marginalised communities from being forced to sell their properties at throw-away prices to wealthy individuals, middlemen, or influential groups.

"SC and ST individuals often face administrative hurdles when they need to sell their land in times of need, despite existing legal protections," the minister said, adding, "Because of these barriers, regular buyers hesitate, leaving room for affluent and powerful groups to exploit the situation."

To ensure fair land transactions and prevent distress sales, the government intends to step in as a buyer. "This move will not only protect vulnerable landowners from exploitation but will also allow them the opportunity to reclaim their land in future," Pujari said.

He said that a high-level committee has already been formed under the chairmanship of the Additional Chief Secretary of R&DM department. The committee will study the issue and submit its report. Additionally, feedback will be gathered from SC and ST organisations, political parties, the House Committee on SC/ST Development, and legislators. The final decision will be made based on the committee's report and stakeholder consultations, Pujari added.

He said the government will purchase land from individuals who wish to sell it to cover expenses such as their daughter's marriage, medical treatment, or their children's higher education.

The government will hold the land for a period of two to three years, keeping it secured. If the original owner wants to reclaim the land within that timeframe, they will be allowed to repurchase it from the government.

However, if the original owner does not wish to reclaim the land, any property previously owned by STs will only be auctioned off to others from the same community.

2 Israeli Embassy staffers shot dead in US

Washington, May 22: Two staff members of the Israeli Embassy in Washington were shot and killed Wednesday evening while leaving an event at a Jewish museum, and the suspect yelled, "Free, free Palestine" after he was arrested, police said.

Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar identified the victims as Yaron Lischinsky and Sarah Milgrim. Lischinsky was a research assistant, and Milgrim organised visits and missions to Israel. They were leaving an event at the Capital Jewish Museum when the suspect approached a group of four people and opened fire, Metropolitan Police Chief Pamela Smith said at a news conference. The suspect, identified as Elias Rodriguez, 30, of Chicago, was observed pacing outside the museum before the shooting, walked into the museum after

the shooting and was detained by event security, Smith said.

When he was taken into custody, the suspect began chanting, "Free, free Palestine," Smith said. She said law enforcement did not believe there was an ongoing threat to the community. The stunning attack prompted Israeli missions to step up their security. The shooting comes as Israel has launched another major offensive in the Gaza Strip in a war with Hamas that has heightened tensions across the Middle East and internationally. "These horrible DC killings, based obviously on antisemitism, must end, NOW!" President Donald Trump posted on social media early Thursday. "Hatred and Radicalism have no place in the USA."

Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu's office said Thursday that he was 'shocked' by the 'horrific, antisemitic' shooting.

Oval Office turns 'ambush office' for world leaders

Washington, May 22: For world leaders an invitation to the Oval Office used to be a coveted prize. Under Donald Trump it's become a ticket to a brutal political ambush.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa became the latest victim in a long line that started with Trump's notorious row with Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenskyy in February.

Trump has turned what were staid diplomatic 'photo sprays' under his predecessor Joe Biden into punishing, hour-long tests of nerve in the heart of the US presidency, played out on live television. The sight has become all too familiar – a world leader perched nervously on the edge of their gold-upholstered chair in front of the famed fireplace,

waiting to see what happens.

Will the 78-year-old Republican lay on the charm? Will he show off the new gold-plated decor he has been proudly installing in the Oval? Will he challenge his guest on tariffs or trade or US military assistance?

Or will he simply tear into them? Nobody knows before they get there. All they know is that when the cameras are allowed into the most exclusive room in the White House, they will be treading the most perilous of political tightropes.

And the hot, confined space of the Oval Office adds to the pressure-cooker environment as the unpredictable billionaire seeks to wrongfoot his guests and gain the upper hand. Trump set the benchmark when he hosted Zelenskyy February 28.

Tensions over Trump's

sudden pivot towards Russia spilled into the open as a red-faced US president berated the Ukrainian leader and accused him of being ungrateful for US military aid against Russia.

Many wondered if it was a deliberate ambush – especially as Vice President JD Vance ap-

peared to step in to trigger the row. Whether or not it was on purpose, the goal in foreign capitals ever since has been to 'avoid a Zelenskyy'. But Ramaphosa's visit to the Oval Wednesday was the closest yet to a repeat – and this time it was clearly planned.

Ramaphosa arrived with top

South African golfers Ernie Els and Retief Goosen in tow, hoping to take the edge off the golf-mad Trump's unfounded claims of a 'genocide' against white South African farmers.

But his face was a picture of bemusement when after a question on the issue, Trump suddenly said to aides and said, "Turn the lights down, and just put this on." A video of South African politicians chanting 'kill the farmer' began to play on a screen set up at the side of the room. A stunned Ramaphosa looked at the screen, then at Trump, and then back at the screen. Yet unlike Zelenskyy, who argued back with an increasingly enraged Trump, the South African president largely stayed calm as he argued his case. Nor was he asked to leave the White House as Zelenskyy was, causing the Ukrainian to miss lunch.

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You have your hands full to-day. There will be planning, meetings and a lot of work to do. You may feel tired and dejected due to insufficient inputs from others. However, Ganesha says things will become clear slowly as matters come to a conclusion.

TAURUS
You may feel let down as your folks may not extend the support you expected from them, says Ganesha. You should try to remain practical and not get swayed by emotions. It is highly likely that family feuds may erupt today. Ganesha advises you to avoid confrontations and keep smiling to emerge a winner.

GEMINI
Today, you will decide to become a bit more conscious about your health. You may or may not enrol yourself into a gym and measure your calories, but you will be concerned about your lifestyle and food habits today, predicts Ganesha. That's quite unlike a Piscean.

CANCER
Today, you are likely to be brimming with love and compassion. However, certain negative thoughts will spoil all your good work. But don't fret! Your efforts won't go wasted and you will get the desired results sooner or later, says Ganesha.

LEO
Working hard, or hardly working — there is a vast difference between the two. You would be wiser to be working hard today, especially if it is success that you desire, says Ganesha. Remember that there is no substitute for hard work, and the sooner you realise this, the better. So sweat it out today. Also, hardwork always pays its dividends, so, after a long day at work, you can look forward to an enchanting evening with your love.

VIRGO
The bulb of ideas will burn bright today. A possible see-saw between your contractual obligation and current duties may baffle you. New contacts will stand you in good stead. Blood will prove thicker, and family and friends will consolidate their place in your life.

LIBRA
Your instincts are at their peak today. Generally, this means a lot of good, but for you, it may also mean having to put up with the trouble of small things bothering you in a big way. So, it becomes highly important for you to remain balanced and focused.

SCORPIO
Ganesha predicts today will be a day full of focus and a clear thought process. The clarity of thought you have has been acquired over a period of time, says Ganesha, and that could make all the difference. A crisp application of thoughts to ideas and actions will bring much appreciation from bosses and peers.

SAGITTARIUS
Settling for a new, better employment will help you fast-track your career growth. A telephonic interview might ring in a new offer. A lucrative deal with an MNC would serve well. Your dedication and devotion to work will also peak today, says Ganesha.

CAPRICORN
You will find the day to be taxing, mostly because of the amount of work delegated to you, says Ganesha. But it will take trouble quite an effort to dampen your spirit. You will be in the fray in the latter part of the day, but will leave your rivals trailing behind in terms of business strategies.

AQUARIUS
You may huff and puff, but to-day is not the day when you'll finish what you started. Don't lose heart, the future is promising. Take a break, says Ganesha, you've worked enough. The results are on the way.

PISCES
You are likely to be grinding yourself under at the workplace today. A turning point will arise in romantic liaisons, though if the evening awaiting you is anything to go by, it is something you should welcome wholeheartedly, says Ganesha.



JOEY KING IN TALKS FOR PRACTICAL MAGIC 2

Joey King is reportedly in negotiations to join *Practical Magic 2*, playing the daughter of Sandra Bullock's character. The sequel will see Bullock and Nicole Kidman reprise their roles as witch sisters Sally and Gillian Owens, continuing the story of their enchanted family legacy and magical lineage.

MILEY CYRUS TALKS ABOUT TRAUMATIC HEALTH SCARE

Pop icon Miley Cyrus has recently opened up about a terrifying health scare that nearly caused her to step away from the music industry. Cyrus revealed that she suffered a painful ovarian cyst rupture during a live performance on New Year's Eve in 2023, an incident that shook her to the core.



Aish Cannes look creates buzz

New Delhi: Former Miss World, actor and Cannes regular for over 20 years, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan once again owned the red carpet of the film festival gala in a Manish Malhotra ivory saree. But what got everyone talking, both online and elsewhere, was the vivid 'sindoor' in her hair parting.

Was it a subtle homage to Operation Sindoor, sindoor a key word at the centre of impassioned discourse across drawing rooms, offices and social media platforms? Was it her way of silencing long rumours of a rift with husband Abhishek Bachchan? Or part of careful-curated ivory and red

look, complemented by Malhotra's custom ruby jewellery?

The questions burst forth back home almost as soon as Aishwarya descended on the Croisette steps Wednesday evening in Cannes and her photographs and videos went into rapid circulation.

Thursday, Malhotra re-shared a post on his Instagram Story which linked Aishwarya's look to Operation Sindoor.

Then there were some who called it a celebration of Sanatan culture.

"The Queen of Cannes! Aishwarya owns it like no one. Wearing Sindoor at the international platform empowers all the woman who still love to wear it, celebrating Sanatan culture," read a post on X.

One post left the debate open.

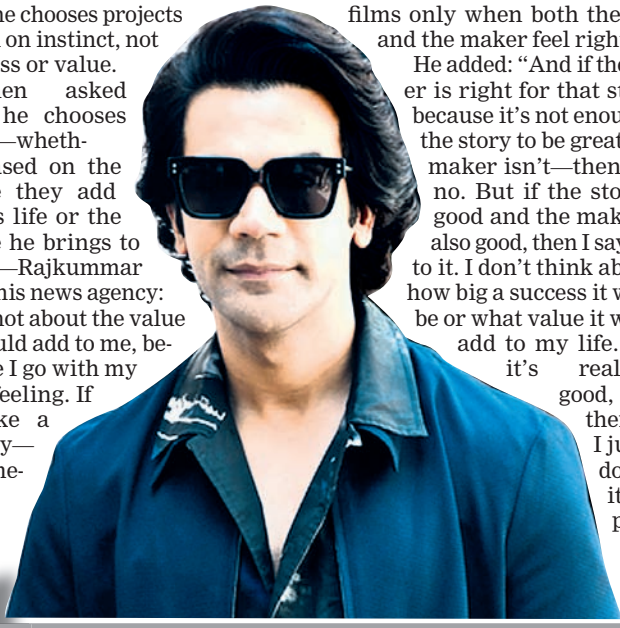
"What's your take- Aishwarya Rai flaunting sindoor is : A) a nod to Operation Sindoor B) a gesture to stop separation rumours C) just a fashion statement." PTI



Rajkummar: I go with my gut feeling

Mumbai: National Award-winning star Rajkummar Rao says he chooses projects based on instinct, not success or value.

When asked how he chooses films—whether based on the value they add to his life or the value he brings to them—Rajkummar told this news agency: "It's not about the value it would add to me, because I go with my gut feeling. If I like a story—some-



thing that excites you—there's something about it... some kind of chemical reaction, a spark that happens inside when you hear a good story."

Rajkummar, who is gearing up for the release of his upcoming film *Bhool Chuk Maaf*, says he picks films only when both the story and the maker feel right.

He added: "And if the maker is right for that story—because it's not enough for the story to be great if the maker isn't—then it's a no. But if the story is good and the maker is also good, then I say yes to it. I don't think about how big a success it will be or what value it will add to my life. If it's really good, then I just do it. Simple." ^{was}



Mumbai: Actor Janhvi Kapoor, currently at the Cannes Film Festival, has finally shut down speculation about her looks with a blunt and cheeky response.

For years, the actor has faced constant scrutiny over alleged plastic surgery. Now, in a behind-the-scenes video that's gone viral, Janhvi addressed the chatter head-on. While getting ready for an appearance, she looked into the camera and said, "I look mesmerising. I look breathtaking. I cannot wait to eat." She then added with a smirk, "They are going to say it is plastic, but who cares?"—a remark that

drew laughter from her glam squad and sent a clear message to her critics.

Last year, her sister Khushi Kapoor made headlines when she revealed that she had undergone cosmetic surgery, including a nose job and fillers.

Janhvi is in Cannes to promote *Homebound*, a film directed by Neeraj Ghaywan, also starring Ishaan Khatter and Vishal Jethwa. The story follows two friends from a North Indian village whose bond is tested after they join the police force.

The film was screened in the Un Certain Regard section of the festival and received a nine-minute standing ovation. Martin Scorsese serves as the executive producer, with Karan Johar, Adar Poonawalla, Apoorva Mehta, and Somen Mishra producing. Co-producers include Marijke de Souza and Melita Toscan Du Plantier.

AGENCIES

Mandira bats for mental health

Mumbai: Actor-host Mandira Bedi Thursday said she has joined the mental and emotional wellness platform Full Circle as co-founder.

The actor, known for TV shows such as *Shanti*, *Ghar Ja-mai*, *Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi* as well as films such as *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge* and *Dus Kahaniyaan*, has been a fitness enthusiast for years now.

Full Circle is a modern mental wellness space dedicated to helping individuals navigate life's challenges through access to qualified professionals, curated support systems, and evidence-based practices, a press release issued here said.

As co-founder, Bedi will play an active role in shaping the platform's vision, curating experiences, and encouraging more people to take charge of their mental well-being.

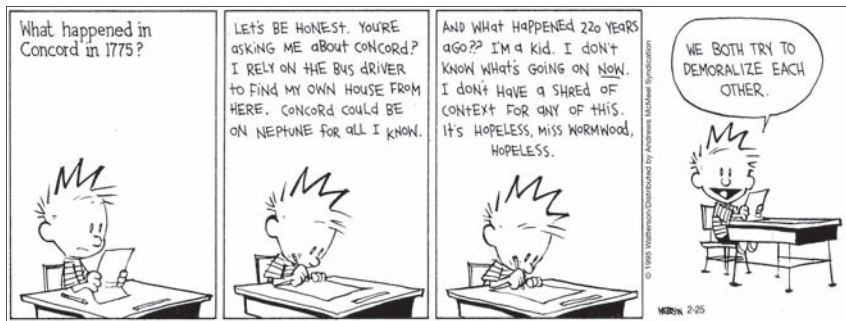
"I've spent years advocating for physical fitness, but the last few years have shown me just how vital mental health is. Full Circle is a platform that truly resonates with me, it's a space where people can find the support they need from professionals, when they need it most. Healing into wholeness isn't just a philosophy, it's a necessity and I'm honoured to be a part of this journey," she said in a statement. ^{PTI}



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

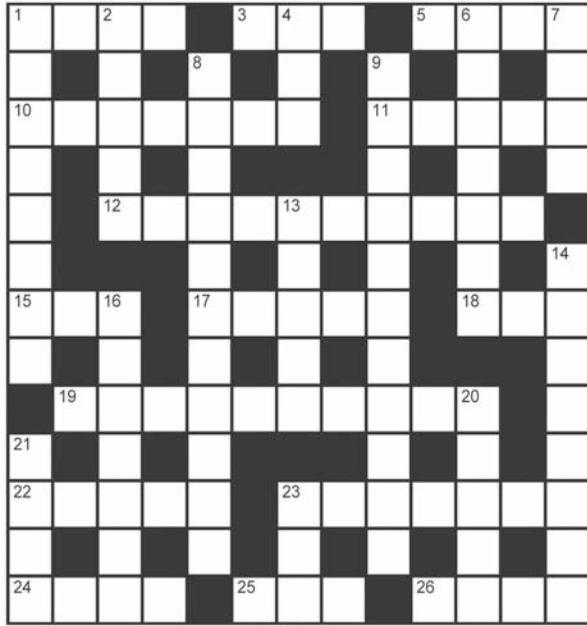


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



- Across**
- Remote button
 - Barbary beast
 - Verdi opera
 - Passion
 - Deadly snake
 - Letter closer (5,5)
 - Mythical bird
 - Goat (3,2)
 - Collector's goal
 - Mountain peak in the Alps
 - Judicious
 - Words to a sad sack (5,2)
 - Paddles
 - Flowery verse
 - Cried
 - Film maker's offering
 - Again and again (4,3,4)
 - Some sweet lumps
 - Poker decision (5,3)
 - Before music or pot
 - Hospital figure
 - Capital on a fjord
 - Bounder
- Down**
- Scarves
 - Late
 - Average
 - African antelopes
 - Haywire

SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

			4	5				
4			1					3
		1						2
		5						
2				3		9		
		3		7		6		
	4		8	1				
		8				2	1	
7						6		5

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

A	L	M	S	M	E	R	C	U	R	Y
S	U	A	A	U	L	A				
T	A	N	A	G	E	R	M	I	S	E
R	C	A				O	I	T	E	N
A	C	H	E	S	T	R	U	D	E	L
N			I	R		R	U			
G	A	P	E	E	L	F	A	S	P	S
E	R	P	T							E
P	I	C	A	S	S	O				
F	N	R		O	G	C				
A	C	T	O	R						
T	E	O	R							
E	R	R	A	T	I	C		E	A	S

SUDOKU

8	1	4	7	9	6	5	2	3
5	2	7	8	1	3	4	9	6
6	9	3	4	5	2	8	7	1
7	3	5	9	4	1	6	8	2
9	8	1	2	6	5	7	3	4
4	6	2	3	8	7	9	1	5
1	7	6	5	2	8	3	4	9
2	4	8	6	3	9	1	5	7
3	5	9	1	7	4	2	6	8

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

INT'L DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Harmony with nature key to sustainable future: Min



Minister Ganesh Ram Singhuntia urges sustainable resource use and eco-friendly lifestyles to protect the state's rich natural heritage

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 22: Forest, Environment and Climate Change Minister Ganesh Ram Singhuntia Thursday emphasised that living in harmony with nature is essential to ensuring a better quality of life and a sustainable future for the people of Odisha.

Addressing the state-level celebration of the International Day for Biological Diversity at the Lok Seva Bhawan Convention Centre, the minister highlighted the urgent need to protect

Odisha's rich biodiversity. He stressed responsible use of natural resources—land, water, forests, and wildlife—to preserve them for future generations.

This year's theme, "Harmony with Nature and its Sustainable Development," underscores the vital role biodiversity plays in supporting human life. Singhuntia noted that biodiversity has always been central to civilisation, providing essentials like food, medicine, clothing, energy, and shelter.

He said Odisha, with its diverse geography from the Eastern Ghats to the Bay of Bengal, is among India's most biodiverse states. The region hosts over 5,000 species of plants and fungi—including orchids, sea grasses, and mangroves—as well as numerous species of birds, reptiles, mammals, and

- Over 7,200 local committees working to document and conserve nature
- Forest cover of 36.71% plays crucial role in climate resilience

amphibians. It is also home to endangered species such as the Olive Ridley turtle and the Irrawaddy dolphin.

The minister added that Odisha's forest and tree cover stands at 36.71 per cent, spread over 57,160 square kilometres, playing a crucial role in maintaining ecological balance and mitigating climate change. The Forest department, he said, has launched various initiatives to conserve forests and promote sustainable practices.

He also praised the Odisha State Biodiversity Board, established in 2009, for promoting biodiversity conservation through awareness and public participation.

More than 7,200 Biodiversity Management Committees across Gram Panchayats are actively documenting local biodiversity and encouraging its sustainable use, the minister said.

Concluding his speech, Singhuntia urged citizens—especially students—to adopt a lifestyle that values and protects nature. Collective effort, he said, is key to securing a healthy, sustainable planet for future generations.



INSPIRING PERFORMANCE: A visually-challenged artiste performs at Grishma Utsav 2025, organised by Swetapadma Sangeetala Cultural Trust at Geeta Govinda Sadan in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

Governor reviews devpt work in Khurda

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 22: Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati conducted a high-level review of development initiatives in Khurda district at the zilla parishad conference hall here Thursday. The review focused on the implementation of Central and state welfare schemes and development projects across key sectors such as health, agriculture, tourism, water resources, and rural infrastructure.

The Governor assessed the Central schemes such as



Ayushman Bharat, PM Awas Yojana, PM Gram Sadak Yojana, and the Jal Jeevan Mission. While expressing satisfaction with overall progress, he emphasised the need for faster execution, particularly in achieving 100 per cent tap water coverage under the Jal Jeevan

Mission. Currently, about 70 per cent of households in the district have pipe water supply. Kambhampati also flagged delays in some large-scale projects and urged the administration to address bottlenecks to ensure timely completion. Acknowledging Khurda's strategic

importance as the Capital district, he stressed its role in setting a development benchmark for the state.

Highlighting industrial growth, the Governor noted that 21 industrial estates are under development in the district, encouraging youth to take advantage of available infrastructure and support for MSMEs.

He also praised the promotion of Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Yojana and called on citizens to leverage rooftop solar subsidies for long-term savings.

Odisha Yatri app hits 2 lakh trips

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 22: The Odisha Yatri app, launched by the State Transport department in January 2025, has achieved a significant milestone, completing over 2 lakh trips within just five months. Designed as a no-commission government cab platform, the app has enabled more than 10,000 registered drivers to collectively earn over ₹2 crore.

According to reports, drivers in the Capital region have earned over ₹2.5 crore, while those in Cuttack have earned ₹5.9 lakh. By eliminating commission fees, the Odisha Yatri platform has significantly boosted drivers' incomes, making it a preferred alternative to private cab aggregators. The app has also earned strong public trust by prioritising neutrality, safety, and clean-



liness.

Over 1.24 lakh users in Bhubaneswar and 37,000 in Cuttack have registered, while more than 10.5 lakh people have searched for the app. So far, 1.61 lakh passengers have successfully completed trips through the platform in these the twin-city.

"The two lakh trip milestone is not just a number—it reflects the growing trust in a homegrown mobility solution," said Commerce and Transport and Housing and Urban Development departments' principal secretary Usha Padhee. She also highlighted future plans to

- ODISHA YATRI WINS TRUST WITH SAFETY, NEUTRALITY, AND POLICE-BACKED SECURITY
- CAPITAL DRIVERS EARN ₹ 2.5 CRORE; APP RIVALS PRIVATE CAB SERVICES
- OVER 1.6 LAKH PASSENGERS SERVED, WITH PLANS FOR STATEWIDE EXPANSION

expand the service statewide and eventually at the national level, including integration of domestic ambulance services to prevent exploitation of patients and their families.

"Safety remains a core pillar of Odisha Yatri, with police surveillance and prompt response mechanisms in place, setting it apart from private systems where ride cancellations and fare manipulation remain common issues, especially at night," she added.

550 NCC cadets undergo Junior Rakshak training

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, May 22: The State Transport Authority (STA), under the aegis of Commerce and Transport department, conducted the 'Junior Rakshak' training programme at the ongoing NCC camp in Puri Thursday, training 550 NCC cadets from higher secondary schools across Puri, Khurda, and Nayagarh districts in first aid and road safety awareness.

The camp was inaugurated by NCC Colonel Sudip Sinha and Puri RTO Rabin Pattnayak. The sessions were conducted by master trainers Amiya Bala Parida, Itishree Sundara, Subash Chandra Pradhan, and Rabindra Ku-

mar Sahu, who focused on the importance of the golden hour and techniques for providing first aid, and safe methods of transporting accident victims to nearby hospitals.

The trained cadets will now act as road safety brand ambassadors, pledging to follow traffic rules and spread awareness in their schools, families, and local communities. They were also sensitised about the Good Samaritan Scheme, which encourages citizens to assist accident victims and offers a ₹2,000 reward for their timely intervention.

Assistant motor vehicle inspector Amit Rana and ARTO Debashis Panda were also present during the training sessions and encouraged cadets to take forward the message of road safety.

The Junior Rakshak programme, launched last year, continues to gain momentum across the state as part of the department's larger campaign to reduce road fatalities. The STA is also exploring technology-based engagement to keep cadets informed and motivated in their roles as road safety ambassadors.

OCCL celebrates Foundation Day

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha Construction Corporation Limited (OCCL) celebrated its 63rd Foundation Day with a special workshop 'Vision OCCL @ 2036 and Vision OCCL @ 2047' at the World Skill Center here Thursday. The event highlighted OCCL's six-decade journey in infrastructure development and laid out strategic plans for its future.

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an Affidavit sworn before the Notary, Cuttack, dated 22.04.2025, I, Arnapurna Sahoo, D/o - Chandramohan Sahoo, resident Jachhak Lane, Kumbharsahi, P.O. - Buxibazar, P.S. - Mangalabag, Dist. - Cuttack, declare that I have changed my name from Annpurna Sahoo to Arnapurna Sahoo. Henceforth, I shall be known as Arnapurna Sahoo for all purposes. Arnapurna Sahoo

Congress stages 24-hour dharna

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, May 22: The Congress Thursday launched a 24-hour dharna near Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi's official residence here over a five-point charter of demands, including 27 per cent reservation for candidates belonging to the Socially and Economically Backward Class (SEBC) in education and jobs.

Party leaders and workers led by Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) president Bhakta Charan Das and AICC in-charge for the state, Ajay Kumar Lallu, sat on a dharna at a tent near the CM's residence at the Mahatma Gandhi Marg here.

"Our dharna will continue for 24 hours till 10am Friday. The Congress leaders and workers will spend the night at the 'satyagraha' site here," Das told reporters here.

The Congress 'Satyagraha' on the SEBC reservation came a day after Opposition BJD staged a protest rally near Raj Bhavan over a similar demand Wednesday.

DEMAND FOR 27% SEBC RESERVATION



Both the parties hit the streets after the state's BJP government last week announced its decision to provide 11.25 per cent quota for SEBC students in the higher education system. However, there was no provision of reservation for SEBC students in medical, engineering and other technical courses as it has been done for ST and SC students.

Both the parties demanded that SEBC students must get

27 per cent reservation in education including technical education and jobs.

However, the ruling BJP said that the state government will soon make provision for reservation for SEBC students in medical and engineering courses. BJP state president Manmohan Samal said his party introduced the quota for the SEBC students within 11 months of forming the government while the BJD 'failed' to

do so during its 24 years of rule from 2000 to 2024.

The OPCC president said that the Congress' five-point charter of demands include 27 per cent reservation for SEBC students in government jobs, quota provision for them in technical education including medical and engineering courses, reservation should also be implemented immediately in Panchayati Raj elections and in the private sector.

Das said his party also demands strengthening of the SC, ST Development Finance Cooperative Corporation Limited. "The government should keep ₹5,000 crore in the Corporation so that the SEBC people can take credit and do business," he said, adding that the population ratio of SEBC in Odisha was above 50 per cent.

Meanwhile, Opposition Chief Whip in Odisha Assembly Pramila Mallik of BJD said that her party would continue to demand 27 per cent reservation for SEBC. "In fact, we are of the opinion that the reservation should be in proportion to the population ratio," she said.

MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	85.99 ♦ 0.41	SENSEX	80951.99 ♦ 644.64	GOLD	₹95,536 ♦ ₹63
EURO	97.17 ♦ 0.09	NIFTY	24609.70 ♦ 203.75	SILVER	₹97,755 ♦ ₹490

WEATHER			
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	32.8°	33.2°	mostly cloudy sky
Min Temp	24.5°	23.6°	
Humidity	92%	90%	
Rainfall	1.6mm	Nil	

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

Acharya Vihar-DayalAgency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech- Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemann-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

Poachers' electric snares put lives at risk

Special drive: Police nab 12

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh, May 22: Live wires laid by poachers along the forest trails in Ranpur range under Khurda forest division as well as Nayagarh forest division and Mahanadi wildlife division to hunt wild animals have become a growing cause of concern for local residents and animal lovers.

Reports indicate that over the past eight years, three people, one elephant, and more than 1,500 wild boars have died in these areas after coming in contact with illegal live wires.

Although the live wires are primarily intended for hunting wild boars that destroy farmlands, they are also leading to unintended deaths of other wildlife, including elephants. Despite the recurring nature of this issue across several forested areas of Nayagarh district, little action has been taken to curb the practice.

The death of three individuals after accidentally stepping on these electric snares in Bahadajhola forest under



Odagaon forest range, Datta Pokhari, and Khajuria forests are some cases in point. Similarly, a tusker was electrocuted in Dhipisahi jungle area of Chammundia wildlife range.

Reports said poaching activities are on a rise in forests across Nayagarh, driven partly by an expanding boar population, bamboo thickets and declining food availability for the animals. As wildlife venture closer to villages and towns in search of food, poachers are exploiting the opportunity by setting up live wires near farmlands to target them.

These traps, typically made using live electric wires drawn

from nearby poles, involve hooking iron wires, wooden stakes, or fencing. Notable hotspots include Manibhadra forest, Satapuri hill, Ostapata, Patikata jungles under Gania forest range, Raigadia, Chirini hills, Bethiasahi hill under Chhamundia forest range, Sapua reserve forest, Shulia, Ratnamala jungles near Bhanrapalli village, Gadiasahi, Singhapada, Kiajhara jungle and Kotapokhari forest areas under Khali Sahi panchayat and various jungles in Ranpur and other parts of the district.

Power supply goes off when an animal is ensnared in the live wire. The poachers dis-

connect the live wire from transmission line to pick up the carcass of the wild animals.

The poachers often wait nearby for the kill. As a result, areas where such electric traps are laid remain without power especially at night. In many villages, power is restored only after the poachers remove the illegal connections.

This issue is particularly prevalent in the forested areas of Kotapokhari, Gadiasahi, Singhapada, Kiajhara and Khalisahi panchayats under the Khandapada block. Owing to frequent laying of live wires for poaching, these villages plunge into darkness during night time.

When contacted, Divisional Forest Officer Kshyama Sarangi said action is taken whenever complaints are received about electric snares in the forest. She confirmed that steps have also been taken after the death of elephants. The Forest department is also conducting awareness campaigns to prevent the laying of live wires for poaching, she added.

6 firearms seized; suspected Bihar link under probe

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, May 22: In a major crackdown on organised crime, police arrested 12 suspects and seized a cache of weapons including six firearms in Berhampur amid suspicion over their link to arms factories in Bihar's Munger district.

The arrests were made following coordinated raids in four police station areas – Badabazar, Sadar, Nimakhandi, and Digapahandi – under the jurisdiction of the Berhampur police district. Along with the firearms, police also seized 12 rounds of ammunition, six magazines, seven mobile phones, six sharp-edged weapons like sword, and a toy gun.

The accused were identified as Bhalu Samal alias Lagen, 46, his nephew Lingaraj Samal alias Rinku, 22, Satyanarayan Das, 21, K Prasad Rao, 29, Mantu Gouda, 21, Ranjan Nayak, 26,



Rakesh Padhi alias Rocky, 25, Partha Das alias Bajrangi, 22, Ashok Kumar Panigrahi, 30, Tuna Nayak, 28, Sangram Panigrahi alias Shiva, 27, and Ajit Sethy alias Balia, 26.

The matter came to the fore at a presser held at the Berhampur police headquarters. IG (Southern Range) Niti Shekhar praised the operation calling it a significant breakthrough. He credited the success to the leadership of Berhampur SP Saravana Vivek M and the sustained efforts of the dedicated police team.

The operation was part of a broader special drive launched under the direction of the Berhampur SP to clamp down on

professional criminals and repeat offenders who have recently returned from prison. The crackdown comes in the wake of a surge in violent crimes, including murders, robberies, and gang activity reported over the past two months in Ganjam district.

Officials suspect that the seized weapons may have been sourced from illegal arms manufacturing units of Munger in Bihar. A special police team has been formed to investigate possible interstate links and trace the full extent of the gang's network.

Berhampur SP, senior police officers, and local officials were present at the press conference.

Elderly man killed in elephant attack

POST NEWS NETWORK

Joda/Keonjhar, May 22: A 53-year-old man was trampled to death by a tusker at Joda Chipinda village under Kut-runga panchayat and Bamebari police limits in Keonjhar district Thursday.

The incident occurred when the victim, identified as Turu Naik, had gone out to attend nature's call early Thursday morning. He came face to face with a tusker which chased and trampled him to death. Bamebari police registered a case and sent the body for post-mortem, IIC Jhasaketan Bhoi said. This is the second death in attacks by the same tusker in the past week. It had attacked and killed an elderly man when he had gone to collect firewood from Dabuna jungle under Balibandha forest section and Champua forest range May 15.

Locals have demanded the Forest department to launch efforts to free the area of elephant menace as the tusker is on a killing spree.

Woman, 2 sons drown in Rengali dam reservoir

POST NEWS NETWORK

Deogarh, May 22: In a tragic incident, a woman and her two minor sons drowned while fishing in the Rengali Dam reservoir near Taleisara village under Kundheigola police limits in Deogarh district Wednesday night while her husband had a close shave.

The deceased were identified as Jyotsna Penthei, wife of Bulu Penthei, and their two sons, Ayush, 6, and Riyansh, 4, of Pudadihi village under Kundheigola panchayat.

The mishap occurred when Bulu had taken his wife and children along with him for fishing in the reservoir in a country boat as usual. While casting the fishing net, a sudden gust of wind reportedly capsize the boat, plunging all four into the water.

Sources said the bodies of the two children were recovered a few hours later by Bulu. Jyotsna, however, remained untraced until Thursday morning, when her body was found

entangled in a fishing net at a short distance from the mishap site.

Fire personnel from Riamal and locals conducted a search operation and retrieved the body around 10 am. The bodies were sent to the Deogarh district headquarters hospital for post-mortem. Police have initiated an investigation into the deaths.

Locals have urged the state government for financial assistance to the bereaved man as he is very poor. Deogarh MLA Romancha Ranjan Biswal visited the site and offered condolences to the grieving man.

Sub-Collector Parikhita Sahu, the district fisheries officer, and the Riamal tehsildar also reached the scene and conducted a preliminary inquiry. The administration has announced financial assistance of ₹15,000 from the district Red Cross fund and financial support under the Harishchandra Yojana for the last rites of the deceased persons. Further aid will be provided based on the post-mortem report, the sub-collector said.

Nayagarh celebrates Biodiversity Day with pledge to protect wildlife



POST NEWS NETWORK

Sarankul, May 22: The International Day for Biological Diversity was observed Thursday with great enthusiasm in Nayagarh district under the theme 'Harmony with Nature and Sustainable Development', bringing together environmental activists, intellectuals, conservationists and local communities to address the critical issue of wildlife protection.

The day-long programme, jointly organised by Green Club Hariharpur, Friends Help Group Nayagarh and Odisha Paryavaran Sanrakshan Abhiyan Trust at Sarankul, focused on creating a comprehen-

sive action plan to combat increasing wildlife crimes in the region.

Participants engaged in intense discussions about protecting the rich biodiversity of Nayagarh forest division, which encompasses ecologically vital areas including Daspalla, Mahipur, Odagaon, Khandpara and Panchirida ranges.

This bio-diverse region serves as habitat for numerous wildlife species including elephants, leopards, spotted deer, sambar and Southern red muntjac along with various reptiles and avian species. However, the area faces severe threats from rampant poaching activities and illegal wildlife trade, with forest-dependent communities often

involved in hunting and open sale of bushmeat in local markets.

During the deliberations, environmental experts emphasised the urgent need for multi-pronged approach to conservation. "We must focus on educating young minds about the native biodiversity, ecological importance of forest ecosystems while simultaneously creating alternative livelihood options for forest-dependent communities," said Soumya Ranjan Biswal, managing trustee of OP-SA Trust. He further stressed that regular awareness campaigns and strict enforcement of wildlife protection laws could bring substantial change in the current scenario.

The event witnessed active participation from prominent environmental activists including Secretary, Friends Help Group Sujit Kumar Pradhan, Secretary Kumar Barad from Green Club Hariharpur, Suman Pradhan from OPSA Trust, environmentalist Pami Nayak, Pupun Sahoo, and Green Club Hariharpur members Yogaguru Baikunthanath Pradhan, Pramod Kumar Mohapatra, Saudagar Pradhan, Kailash Maharana.

Vigilance arrests 4 officials for embezzling govt funds over ₹20L

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rayagada, May 22: The Vigilance department Thursday arrested four government officials for allegedly embezzling public money over ₹20 lakh.

On the allegations of misappropriation of government funds without excavation of farm ponds under MGNREGA in Kashipur block of Rayagada district, the Vigilance department conducted an investigation and found that the four were involved in financial irregularities, said an official. The Vigilance arrested an assistant project director, two soil conservation overseers, and a soil conservation

extension worker, he said.

All the four are serving in the office of Project Director (PD), Watershed, Rayagada. They were found to have embezzled government money over ₹20 lakh without excavating 23 farm ponds in different villages of Kashipur block in the district, he said. The accused officials were found to have siphoned off the amount to accounts of labourers having job cards and withdrawn the same. Transactions are under verification, the official said.

In this connection, a case has been registered at Koraput Vigilance police station against all the accused persons. Further investigation is under process, he added.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for the general information that I was previously known as Mr. Girish Chandra Senapati Son of Mr. Bharat Chandra Senapati, R/O - Flat No. - 007 Sunrise Sarovar Apartment, Hansapal, Nahrakanta, VTC - Balianta, PO - Balianta, Dist - Khordha, Pin - 752101 and after being diagnosed with gender dysphoria under the supervision of registered medical practitioner in New Delhi have changed my gender as female.

I henceforth be known as Ms. Gouri Senapati, Daughter of Mr. Bharat Chandra Senapati, R/O, Flat No. - 007 Sunrise Sarovar Apartment, Hansapal, Nahrakanta, VTC - Balianta PO - Balianta, Dist - Khordha, Pin-752101. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in the connection.

Girish Chandra Senapati

EAST COAST RAILWAY

File No. DRM/Engg/KUM/25-26/E-Tender/18
Date: 19.05.2025

(1) e-Tender-NORTHKUR-64-2025, Dtd. 13.05.2025

DESCRIPTION : NEW WORKS, ADDITIONS AND ALTERATIONS TO THE EXISTING STRUCTURES, ALL ORDINARY REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE WORKS OF MISCELLANEOUS NATURE AND SUPPLIES EACH COSTING RS. 5,00,000/- OR LESS IN THE SECTION TOMKA (EX)-JAROLI (EX) IN TKB LINE UNDER ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER/ KENDUJHARGARH FOR THE PERIOD UP TO 30.06.2026.

Approx Cost of the work (₹) 108.23 Lakh, EMD (₹) 2,04,100/-

(2) e-Tender-NORTHKUR-63-2025, Dtd. 14.05.2025

DESCRIPTION : PROVISION OF LIMITED HEIGHT SUBWAY (LHS) AT THE PASSING LOCATION AT KM. 346/7-9 BETWEEN JAKHAPURA-JENAPUR UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION. (CUT & COVER METHOD).

Approx Cost of the work (₹) 418.53 Lakh, EMD (₹) 3,59,300/-

(3) etenderEastkur-65-2025, Dtd. 14.05.2025

DESCRIPTION : PROVISION OF SAFETY FENCING ALONG THE TRACK FOR RUNNING OF TRAINS WITH SPEED 130 KMPH & ABOVE IN JENAPUR-BARANG SECTION OF DIVISIONAL ENGINEER/ EAST OVER KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Approx Cost of the work (₹) 3636.04 Lakh, EMD (₹) 19,68,000/-

Completion period: 12 (Twelve) Months (for Sl. No. 1 & 3) & 08 (Eight) Months (for Sl. No. 2).

Tender Closing Date and Time: At 1500 Hrs. of 04.06.2025 (for all Tenders).

No manual offers sent by Post / Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-Tender is available in website : www.ireps.gov.in

Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigenda issued for this tender. The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer(s) bidder(s) can participate on e-tendering.

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg) / PR-155/Q/25-26

आईआरईएल (इंडिया) लिमिटेड / IREL (India) Limited

Formerly Indian Rare Earths Limited
(A Government of India Undertaking)
CIN : U15100MH1950GO008157 Website : www.irel.co.in
ISO 9001 : 2015, ISO 14001 : 2015 & ISO 45001 : 2018 Company
Ref : ADVT. NO.25-26/04 Date : 22.05.2025

TENDER NOTICE

आईआरईएल, आंतरात्मिक निम्नलिखित नामों / जगह विवरण के लिए प्रस्ताव हेतु अनुरोध आमंत्रित करता है।
IREL, OSCOM invites for proposal for the following items / job descriptions

क्रि सं / Bid No.	विवरण / Job/Item Description
2025 IREL 234975_1	ARC for Warman make Pump Spares
GEM/2025/B/6230297	Supply of 15 TPH & 25 TPH Hydrosizer
GEM/2025/B/6238331	AMC for Mechanical Maintenance work at REEP
GEM/2025/B/6230636	Supply of Spiral HG10I
GEM/2025/B/6251981	Spares for Maintenance of IHC Holland Dredge
GEM/2025/B/6238349	Excavation, Loading and Transportation of Raw Sand from the different locations of Mining areas

केबलिंग सिस्टम दस्तावेज <http://irel.co.in>, <http://gem.gov.in> or <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> से डाउनलोड कर सकते हैं। उपरोक्त निविदाओं का कोई भी सुधार / विवरण केवल उपरोक्त वेबसाइट पर ही भेजें किया जाएगा। Bidder may download tender document from <http://irel.co.in>, <http://gem.gov.in>, <https://eprocure.gov.in> or <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>. Any corrigendum / Extension to above tenders shall be hosted in above websites only.

CBC 48146/12/0004/2526 त. / Sd./ महाप्रबंधक (एडमिन), आईआरईएल / GM & HEAD, OSCOM



बैंक ऑफ महाराष्ट्र
Bank of Maharashtra
एक परिवार का बैंक
एक परिवार एक बैंक

BANK OF MAHARASHTRA
ZONAL OFFICE : BHUBANESWAR
First Floor, Door Sanchar Bhavan, Unit-IX,
Near Rupali Square, Bhubaneswar -751022,
Email id: dzmbbsr@mahabank.co.in

VEHICLE
DEMAND /
RECALL NOTICE

Recall Notice & Pre Intimation for Possession of Hypothecated Asset

We have to inform the below mentioned Borrower that the following credit facilities has been sanctioned to you by **Bank of Maharashtra, Balangir Branch**. That you have executed the necessary documents in favour of the Bank in consideration of the said credit facilities availed and also created charges and securities in favour of the Bank. Despite our repeated requests, you have not yet repaid the amount due. Therefore, due to non-payment of Installment/Interest/Principal debt, the account(s) have been classified as NPA A/c as per the RBI Guidelines. Demand/Recall Notice was issued by the authorized officer against the following Borrower of **Bank of Maharashtra, Balangir Branch** but the same could not be Served on the below mentioned parties which was sent by Regd. Post A.D. The details are given below:

BALANGIR BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrower	Nature / Limit	Date of Demand Notice/ Outstanding	Details of Property Mortgaged
Borrower: Mr. Prakash Kumar Shukla, S/o: Harish Kumar Shukla, At: Thikadar Pada, Dist.: Balangir, Odisha	TERM LOAN / ₹5,50,000/-	16.04.2025 / ₹5,21,409/- as on 16.04.2025 + subsequent interest thereon	Hypothecation of Motor Car (asset) in the name of Mr. Prakash Kumar Shukla , Details of which are as under: Vehicle Detail: Registration No.: OD 03 AB 5218, Year of Manufacturing: 2024, Model: MARUTI ALTO K10 VXi+ 1L AGS BS6, Colour: Silver Silky Metallic, Chassis No.: MA3SFM61SRA246042, Engine No.: K10CN1223203, Insurance Details: Policy No.: MN0004304309 (08.04.2024 to 07.04.2025)

That the Bank in exercise of powers conferred under the agreement/s executed by you in Bank's favour, hereby calls upon you to repay the full amount mentioned above plus interest & other charges thereon within 15 days from the date of receipt of this notice, failing which the bank shall be entitled to seize the vehicle and proceed for its sale to recover Bank's dues as per the terms of Loan Agreement/ documents executed by you besides exercising other rights available to the Bank. Please take notice that after receipt of this notice, you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease of the vehicle Hypothecated to Bank in the above loan A/c. In this connection Bank shall engage the services of recovery Agency/ seizure Agency on Bank's panel to assist the Bank in taking all necessary steps for repossession/ Seizure/Seize/sale of the vehicle. That the Bank will not be liable or responsible for any loss or damage that may result due to or in taking repossession/seizure of and selling the Hypothecated Assets. That the Bank issuing this Notice without prejudice to the rights to initiate legal proceeding before appropriate Court for Recovery of dues. Further, you will be sole responsible for the charges/ expenses/costs incurred in this regard and liable to pay the same, which mentioned above. We hope, you will avoid such situation and deposit the amount immediately.

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 23.05.2025 Authorised Officer, Bank of Maharashtra



बैंक ऑफ महाराष्ट्र
Bank of Maharashtra
एक परिवार का बैंक
एक परिवार एक बैंक

BANK OF MAHARASHTRA
ZONAL OFFICE : BHUBANESWAR
First Floor, Door Sanchar Bhavan, Unit-IX,
Near Rupali Square, Bhubaneswar -751022,
Email id: dzmbbsr@mahabank.co.in

DEMAND
NOTICE

We have to inform the below mentioned Borrowers/Co-Applcant/Guarantor that the following credit facilities has been sanctioned to you by **Bank of Maharashtra, Jharsuguda Branch**. That you have executed the necessary documents in favour of the Bank in consideration of the said credit facilities availed and also created charges and securities in favour of the Bank. Inspite of our repeated Demands, you have not Paid the outstanding amount in your Account. Therefore, due to non-payment of installment/ interest/Principal debt, the account(s) have been classified as NPA as per the RBI Guidelines. Demand Notice was issued by the authorised officer against the following Borrowers/Co-Applcant/Guarantor of **Bank of Maharashtra, Jharsuguda Branch** but the same could not be Served on the below mentioned Parties which was sent by Regd.post A.D. The details are given below:

JHARSUGUDA BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrowers/ Co-Applcant/Guarantor	Nature / Limit	Date of NPA / Date of Demand Notice/ Outstanding	Details of Properties Mortgaged
Borrowers: 1) M/s. Singh Brother, Prop.: Mr. Rahul Kumar Singh, At: Cox Colony, Babua Bagicha, Bombay Chowk, Jharsuguda, PIN-768203, 2) Mr. Rahul Kumar Singh, S/o: Late Birendra Singh, At: Plot No.: 3567/6473, Khata No.: 1067/1507, Ward No.: 04, Dipupada, Near Kalimandir Road, Jharsuguda, Odisha, PIN-768201 / Co-Applcant: Mrs. Sunita Rao, W/o: Rahul Singh / Guarantor: Lalati Devi, W/o: Late Birendra Singh, Both are At: Plot No.: 3567/6473, Khata No.: 1067/1507, Ward No.: 04, Dipupada, Near Kalimandir Road, Jharsuguda, Odisha, PIN-768201	1) Term Loan / ₹15,00,000/- / 2) Cash Credit / ₹9,90,000/- Total: ₹24,90,000/-	30.04.2025 / 02.05.2025 / ₹23,11,800.48 as on 02.05.2025 + subsequent interest thereon	1) Hypothecation of Stocks & Book Debts Standing in the name of Mr. Rahul Kumar Singh , 2) All that pieces and parcels of Land & Building situate & being lying at Mouza/Village: Dipupada, Ekatali, Registration District: Jharsuguda, Sub-District: Jharsuguda, Plot No.: 3567/6473, Khata No.: 1067/1507, admeasuring Area: Ac. 0.031 Dec. i.e. 1348.5 sqft., Standing in the name of Lalati Devi, W/o: Late Birendra Singh , together with the Building and Structures constructed to/to be constructed thereon and all the fixed plant, machinery and fixtures annexed thereto, Bounded by North: Plot No.: 4667(p), South: Plot No.: 4667(p), East: Road, West: Plot No.: 4667 (p)

Borrower: Tribikram Singh (Deceased) (Represented through its legal heirs), S/o: Mr. Lambodara Singh / Co- Applicant: Mrs. Arati Singh, W/o: Late Tribikram Singh, Both are at Plot No.: 743/3234, Khatiyon No.: 212/847, Brundamal, Badmal, Jharsuguda, Odisha-768202 / Guarantor: Mr. Rahitush Rohidas, S/o: Mr. Krupa Rohidas, At: Brundamal, Badmal, Jharsuguda, Odisha-768202

Housing Loan (Term Loan) / ₹49,00,000/-

01.05.2025 / 02.05.2025 / ₹60,45,796.13 as on 02.05.2025 + subsequent interest thereon

All those pieces and parcels of Land & Building lying at Mouza: Brundamal, PS: Jharsuguda (Badmal), Dist.: Jharsuguda, bearing Khata No.: 212/847, Plot No.: 743/3234, admeasuring Area: Ac. 0.100 Dec., Standing in the name of **Late Tribikram Singh (Represented through its legal heirs)**, together with the Building and Structures/ Residential Block constructed to/to be constructed thereon admeasuring 4356 sq.ft in aggregate and all the fixtures annexed thereto, Bounded by East: Plot No.: 743 (p), West: Road, North: Plot No.: 743 (p), South: Plot No.: 743 (p)

Hence in exercise of Powers conferred on the Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of security Interest Act 2002 (SARFAESI) and without prejudice to the rights of the Bank, the Bank hereby Calls Upon you to repay the amount in Full mentioned above plus future interest and other charges thereon within **60 days** from the date of receipt of this notice, failing which in addition to and without prejudice to the other rights available to the Bank, the Bank shall be entitled to exercise and /or all of the powers under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the aforesaid Act in respect of these securities/properties enforceable under the Act, in which case you shall also be liable to further pay all costs, charges and expenses or other incidental charges. The Powers available under the Act inter alia include: **a)** To Take possession of the secured assets of the borrower including the right to transfer by the way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured assets. **b)** To Take over the management of the secured assets including the right to transfer by the way of lease, assignment or sale and realize the secured assets. **c)** To Appoint any person (hereafter referred to as the manager) to manage the secured assets the possession of which has been taken over by the secured creditor. **d)** Require at any time by notice in writing to any person who has acquired any of the secured assets from the borrower and from whom any money is due or may become due to the borrower, to pay the bank, so much of the money as is sufficient to pay the secured debt. Please take a note that as per Sec.13 (13) of the Act, after receipt of this notice, you are restrained from disposing off or dealing with the above securities without our prior written consent. **That attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.**

Place: Bhubaneswar Date: 23.05.2025 Authorised Officer Bank of Maharashtra

We must march on with the quiet certitude that what has to be done will be done.

THE MOTHER



Women As Peacemakers

Despite all the progress that has been made toward gender equality globally, many are still tempted to view armed conflict as primarily the domain of men. In fact, women often prove decisive in such settings, including in combat, non-combat, and leadership roles. Nonetheless, they are routinely sidelined in formal peace processes and post-conflict governance. This pattern reflects a moral and practical failure.

During armed conflicts, women become more vulnerable to genocide, trafficking, slavery, and sexual violence, with all the associated health risks and psychological trauma. This alone earns them the right to participate in peace processes. But women are not only passive victims of conflict: as we have seen in Ukraine, they make profound wartime contributions on the battlefield, as well as in civil society and as peace advocates.

In this sense, women often increase their agency during times of conflict, despite the risks they face. But when they are then excluded from peace negotiations and what follows – as is the case, so far, in Ukraine – these agency gains are reversed, with outdated gender norms reasserting themselves. This is especially true in conflict-affected countries with more entrenched patriarchal structures.

Legal frameworks promoting women’s inclusion in conflict resolution, peace-building, and post-conflict reconstruction have so far failed to turn the tide, owing partly to implementation and operational challenges. For example, United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, adopted in 2000, “urges all actors” to increase women’s participation and “incorporate gender perspectives in all UN peace and security efforts.” But, as of 2018, the number of women signing peace agreements had not significantly increased.

This has important implications for the content – and outcomes – of peace agreements. In a recent study, my co-authors – Matthew Clance, Rомуалd Meango, and Charl van Schoor – and I used natural language processing to examine the use of gendered language (including words like man, girl, boy, her, his, female, male, wife, and daughter) in peace agreements reached between 1990 and 2023. We created a “gender bias index” – ranging from -0.6 to 0.6 – with a lower score indicating lower use of gendered language and, thus, a reduced focus on gender-based outcomes.

None of the peace agreements we studied had a particularly high gender bias index, but even those that used more gendered language – which reflected a somewhat positive bias toward women – were not necessarily associated with significant improvements in women’s agency. In other words, even frameworks that were gender-sensitive (acknowledging gender inequality) did not bring about meaningful change.

The problem is that the mentions of gender were not accompanied by concrete requirements, let alone monitoring and enforcement mechanisms. For example, a peace agreement might advocate for increased women’s political participation, but include no targets to be met, and thus produce few, if any, results. This approach can even harm gender equality, by giving the impression that action is being taken when it is not.

Other studies show that peace agreements with disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) components rarely mention women. This compromises the post-conflict rehabilitation of women combatants, who might be excluded from the kinds of interventions aimed at their male counterparts.

Evidence shows that including women in conflict-resolution and peace-building processes leads to better outcomes for everyone. As a 2018 analysis found, there is a “robust correlation” between the inclusion of female delegates as signatories of peace agreements and the durability of the ensuing peace. Moreover, agreements signed by women tend to include significantly more provisions focused on political reform, and boast higher implementation rates for such provisions.

In El Salvador, the 1992 agreement that ended the country’s 12-year civil war extended DDR benefits to women fighters, and included non-combatant female members of the opposition movement in reintegration programmes. Women went on to play a stabilising role in reintegration processes and to make major contributions to reconstruction efforts. The communities that received more consistent, systematic support through reintegration and reconstruction programmes made greater progress on gender equality and, ultimately, on development.

Similarly, in Liberia, women were involved in negotiations to end more than a decade of civil war in the early 2000s. Female representation in politics subsequently increased significantly, with Ellen Johnson Sirleaf in 2005 becoming the first female elected head of state in Africa.

The message is clear: women must be included in all dimensions of any peace process, from designing, negotiating, and signing agreements to implementing post-conflict stabilisation and reconstruction plans. They also must have access to all relevant benefit programmes, such as those related to DDR, as well as initiatives to address gender-specific needs.

More broadly, peace processes must clearly recognise and directly promote women’s agency. This does not mean paying lip service to women’s needs and contributions, while relying on ambiguous language to minimise accountability. Rather, supporting women’s agency in making peace and forging the post-conflict future demands concrete, enforceable measures to uphold women’s rights and expand their participation in all forms of decision-making.

The writer is Associate Professor of Economics at the University of Pretoria. @PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

To have faith is to trust yourself to the water. When you swim you don't grab hold of the water, because if you do you will sink and drown. Instead you relax, and float.

ALAN WATTS

Every man has a property in his own person. This nobody has a right to, but himself.

JOHN LOCKE

The first principle is that you must not fool yourself and you are the easiest person to fool.

RICHARD P. FEYNMAN



Rajdeep Sardesai

WHAT IS CLEAR IS THAT WE SEEM TO HAVE A NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED COPS AND A JUDICIAL SYSTEM WHERE THE PROCESS IS THE PUNISHMENT

Supporting women’s agency in making peace and forging the post-conflict future demands concrete, enforceable measures to uphold women’s rights and expand their participation in all forms of decision-making



Carolyn Chisadza

SPECTRUM TRADE PACTS

Does India stand to gain?

The global trade scenario is complex and the situation is unlikely to improve shortly. With the US imposing tariff barriers, it is unclear which countries stand to lose and what will be India's position. India reached a favourable free-trade agreement with the UK which has been hailed by business and industry groups as it is expected to facilitate trade, boost jobs and growth for both economies. Analysts are of the opinion that such a treaty augurs well at a time when Indo-US trade agreement is under negotiations to substantially reduce tariffs.



Dhurjati Mukherjee

INDIA'S MANUFACTURING SECTOR GROWTH HAS REMAINED STAGNANT AT 15% OF GDP OVER THE YEARS

After the successful trade deal with the UK, India has also firmed up an economic partnership agreement with Chile to build upon the preferential pact that was signed several years ago. The new deal will cover a broader set of sectors, including digital services, investment promotion and cooperation, MSME and critical minerals. Meanwhile, negotiations with New Zealand have already started and are expected to be finalised shortly. Additionally, the one with EU, which has been in the pipeline for nearly two years, is also expected to move

faster, especially after Union Commerce Minister's Piyush Goyal parleys with Marcos Sefcovic, the EU Commissioner for trade and commerce earlier this month.

India which has a trade surplus with the US must face a big challenge given its dependency on Washington. Though the spectrum of India's trade has been widening, it has not been successful in penetrating the global market due to lack of proper technology and efficiency in manufacturing. Some sectors such as handloom textiles and hand-knitted carpets endured on the strength of tradition, skill and labour intensity. But many others struggle against efficient and cost-competitive imports.

Though the license permit raj has been abolished, there's corruption in getting clearances from the government. India has the capability to benefit from the changed trade scenario, but substantial measures are needed to make this effective. Challenging China at this juncture is obviously not possible but India may try to come near it through technological collaborations with Western companies.

According to the World

Bank, India's exports of goods and services as a percentage of GDP stood at 21.9% in 2023 as compared to 13% in 2000. The enhancement of the export sector improves foreign exchange reserves, stabilizes the national currency and aids the financial health of the country. Achieving a target of \$2 trillion in exports holds great significance for India in terms of the social and economic aspect.

India's manufacturing sector growth has remained stagnant at 15% of GDP over the years, which should have improved with new policies and incentives of the government. However, it is interesting to note that almost 30% firms plan to invest in upgradation, supporting the robust increase in capital spending for the year despite challenges such as weak demand, geopolitical tensions and high borrowing costs, as per a survey of private sector capital expenditure released by the statistics ministry. The slightly lower capex for 2025-26 at Rs 4.9 lakh crore, though still above 2023-24 levels of Rs 4.2 lakh crore reflects cautious planning after a strong 2024-25 when the intended capital expenditure was estimated

case of Khan with that of Vijay Shah, a Madhya Pradesh minister, who made the most disparaging, sexist and communally loaded remarks against Colonel Qureishi. Instead of sacking the minister or at the very least publicly upbraiding him, the BJP leadership in MP rallied around their colleague, the Centre was conspicuously silent while the minister gave a token apology. It required the high court to insist that a suo motu FIR be filed against the minister and for the Supreme Court to describe his remarks as a 'national shame'. And while a court-appointed SIT has been formed to 'investigate' the minister's remarks, the MP police didn't swoop in to arrest the minister as was the case in Delhi with Khan.

Which is why there is a third and more pressing issue that underlies the Khan case. A professor with a doctoral degree from Cambridge University and impeccable academic credentials, Khan has one red mark on his CV: he is an Indian Muslim who is unafraid to speak his mind. That he comes from the erstwhile Mahmudabad royal family and his grandfather Mohammed Aamir Ahmad Khan was a key figure in the pre-Partition Muslim League makes him the perfect 'enemy' figure for a Hindutva-driven ecosystem whose prime objective it to 'demonise' the Indian Muslim as 'unpatriotic', pro-Pakistani and of questionable character.

Post-script: The Supreme Court while granting interim bail to Khan has appointed the SIT to look into his Facebook posts. Just what the SIT can 'investigate' is unclear. What is clear is that we seem to have a number of unemployed cops and a judicial system where the process is the punishment.

The writer is a senior journalist and author. His latest book is 2024: The Election That Surprised India.

Shifting trade dynamics

Sir, India's recent imposition of trade restrictions targeting goods from Bangladesh—particularly through its northeastern land ports—has triggered significant economic concern, notably for Bangladesh's export-driven garment sector. The move came in the wake of comments by Bangladesh's interim chief advisor, Muhammad Yunus, who referred to India's northeastern states as “landlocked”—a remark New Delhi viewed as undermining regional connectivity efforts. These restrictions impact around \$770 million worth of bilateral imports, or nearly 42% of total trade volume, compelling Bangladesh exports to be rerouted through Kolkata and Nhava Sheva ports. This diversion has not only disrupted established supply chains but also driven up logistics costs, disproportionately affecting small- and medium-sized enterprises. The ready-made garment (RMG) industry, a cornerstone of Bangladesh's economy with \$618 million in annual exports to India, is particularly exposed. The added transportation costs threaten the sector's global competitiveness, potentially resulting in job losses and reduced margins. The International Labour Organization has cautioned that the disruptions could have enduring consequences on formal employment as firms struggle to absorb the shock.

Amarjeet Kumar, HAZARIBAGH

Turning the tide

Sir, When water crosses the threshold of patience, especially with ineffective outcomes despite heavy sacrifices, the tide often turns toward pragmatic and truthful solutions. The unfolding situations in Gaza and Bangladesh reflect this global pattern. In Gaza, prolonged suffering and relentless loss of civilian lives have led many to question Hamas' leadership and motives, with some turning against the group they once supported. Meanwhile, in Bangladesh, the military is reportedly showing signs of discontent under the caretaker government of Muhammad Yunus. Burdened with non-military duties and political management, the army increasingly signals a desire to return to professional military roles. These developments underscore a broader truth in current geopolitics: national stability hinges on functional institutions led by capable individuals in the right roles.

RS Narula, PATIALA



INTERNATIONAL BIODIVERSITY DAY

Degraded Noida land turns botanical mosaic

Spread across 10 acres near the eastern boundary of the Shiv Nadar Institute of Excellence campus, the garden is now home to 805 species of plants, birds, both resident and seasonal/migratory, insects and also nilgais, wild boars and porcupines

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 22: It was a degraded land with construction debris, tall grasses and a neglected wetland. A decade later, the Thematic Botanic Garden in Greater Noida is a biodiversity haven with birds, insect life and 3,000 plants, right from high altitude 'rudraksh' trees to cacti usually found in arid deserts.

Spread across 10 acres near the eastern boundary of the Shiv Nadar Institute of Excellence (IoE) campus, the garden is now home to 805 species of plants, birds, both resident and seasonal/migratory, insects and also nilgais, wild boars and porcupines.

"When this university was being built, the idea was to develop a garden where students and faculty can observe variety of plant species, can study them and can, in general, enjoy the environment," Sanjeev Galande, dean, School of Natural Sciences at the Shiv Nadar IoE, a short drive from the national capital, told PTI.

The eco-restoration is the brainchild of then pro-chancellor Shikhar Malhotra and vice chancellor Rupanjali Ghosh. Assisting them was botanist Jyoti Sharma, who had earlier developed a similar thematic garden in Kerala.

Thus started a massive exper-

iment of painstakingly converting a rocky site into a living lab. After the debris was removed, a 10-degree slope was created for natural flow of water.

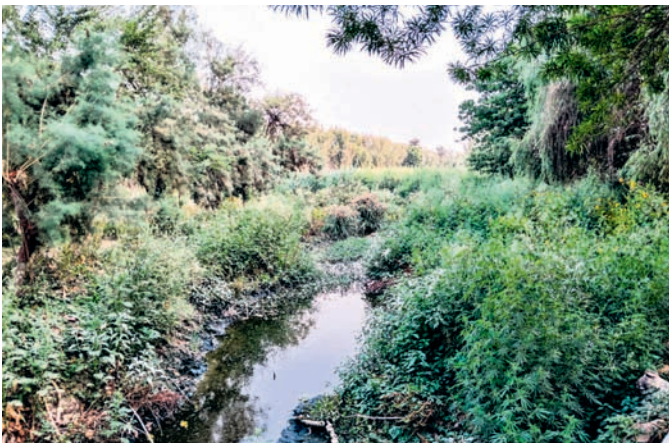
Planting started in February 2015. Sharma travelled to various parts of India and collected vast numbers of plant species, many of them rare and endangered.

These include the barringtonia, baobab (kalpvriksha), Bud-dha coconut, camphor, chinara, Indian tree of heaven, fern leaf tree, fiddle-leaf fig, kattha, lemon-scented gum, magnolia, mahogany, mahua, red sandalwood, shikakai, reetha, singa-pore cherry, tea tree and four species of willow.

The result is a phenomenal range that showcases plants found at higher elevation and those from flatlands, almost at sea level, to those from desert areas, all co-existing, albeit in their specially created conditions.

"Many plants were procured from horticultural gardens across the country. Some others came from specific areas of the country. Prof Sharma physically went and brought them here. He and his team studied the plants and their habitat, recreated them here so that those plants can thrive," Galande recalled.

Once the shrubs were old and sturdy enough, they were planted in designated areas.



Thematic gardens serve as living repositories for conservation, support research on plant adaptability and restoration, enable seed banking and propagation for reintroduction into the wild, promote public education and awareness on conservation, act as testing grounds for climate resilience strategies, and sustain pollinators by maintaining native plant diversity

SANJEEV GALANDE | DEAN, SCHOOL OF NATURAL SCIENCES AT THE SHIV NADAR IOE

Ten years on, the plants are now all grown up, some as high as 20 feet.

"The team put to test their scientific knowledge of botany, did plant habitat analysis, studied the ecology of the space and used all of that together here to recreate this environment for different thematic areas," Galande added.

The 12 theme gardens has plants belonging to 475 species.

The themes include those on medicinal plants, ferns and fern-allies, rare, endangered and threatened (RET) plants, aquatic plants, spices, condiments and herbs.

For instance, one stretch has 108 xerophytic plant species that have adapted to life in dry

habitat. The university stands on fertile soil with a high water table where one does not expect cacti to grow. So, cacti were grown on a raised area simulating sand dunes and semi-arid zone with rocky out crops.

The complex also provides an opportunity to observe plants becoming rare due to various anthropogenic factors. Like the khirnee, barhal or kaith fruits that were commonly available 30-40 years ago and can no longer be seen.

About one-fourth of the area, all along the boundary, is part of Bil Akbarpur Wetlands, where a natural population of equisetum, commonly known as horse tail or 'saanp ghaas' in Hindi, is conserved.

According to Amit Tripathi, a postdoctoral research associate, equisetum is one of the oldest living genera of vascular plants and is also the sole living representative of a large and ancient group of equisetales, which inhabited the Earth during the Jurassic period.

Visitors can walk down the equisetum trail to observe the luxurious growth of the tall grass. Another species that dominates the area around the wetland is the thick plantation of willow trees (Salix Babylonica) that has helped change the ambient atmosphere there.

"During summer, it is extremely hot around here. But compared to the other areas of the campus, you will feel at least one degree Celsius difference in temperature in the thematic garden. Further, when you reach the wetland, the temperature difference is at least 2 to 3 degrees Celsius," Tripathi said.

Hemraj Sharma, a gardener, proudly pointed to the rudraksha tree generally found at high altitudes in the Himalayas.

"When it was a tiny shrub, we kept it under a net, covered with wet cloth, and watered it a lot. As a result of such care in the initial days, we are proud to tell you that it has now grown into a healthy adult tree," he said.

The sprawling acres now a veritable botanical tapestry, an essential green lung amid a concrete jungle, the garden now also serves as a place to carry out botanical experiments and works to spread awareness about different species.

Yamuna water fails to meet quality standards

According to the report by Delhi Pollution Control Committee, the higher concentrations of BOD, COD and fecal coliform indicate severe organic and bacterial contamination



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 22: The latest monthly assessment of the Yamuna river at most places in the national capital fails to meet basic water quality standards, the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) said in a report.

On May 1, water samples were collected from eight monitoring points including - Palla, Wazirabad, ITO, Nizamuddin, Okhla, and Asgarpur - which showed high concentrations of biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), chemical oxygen demand (COD) and fecal coliform, it said.

According to the report, the higher concentration of BOD, COD and fecal coliform indicate severe organic and bacterial contamination.

The committee said BOD which reflects the amount of oxygen needed by bacteria to break down organic matter in water, were recorded at extremely high levels ranging from 4.0 milligrams per litre at Palla to 64.0 milligrams per litre downstream at Okhla.

The permissible BOD level for Class 'C' water (designated for outdoor bathing) is only 3 milligrams per litre.

It said that COD levels, which indicate the presence of oxidisable pollutants, peaked at 171 milligrams per litre at ITO Bridge - above the acceptable limit of 250 milligrams per litre for inland surface waters.

Fecal coliform levels, an indicator of sewage contamination, at the ITO Bridge reached 92,000 most probable number of microorganisms per 100 millilitres of a sample - nearly 37 times the maximum permissible limit of 2,500 MPN/100ml.

Elevated coliform levels were also logged at all other downstream points, pointing to widespread sewage discharge and untreated waste entering the river, the report added.

NGT raps Delhi Jal Board for supplying sewage mixed drinking water

The National Green Tribunal has pulled up Delhi Jal Board for supplying non-potable water to Janakpuri residents in the capital. Households in the area were allegedly supplied sewage-mixed drinking water. In an order May 14, a bench of NGT Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava said, "Supply of drinking water which is unfit to the residents of the city is very serious matter but ignoring such a seriousness the DJB has not taken expeditious action to remediate it and the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has not done the needful to get the water sample report expeditiously in terms of the previous order of the tribunal." The bench also comprising judicial members Justices Sudhir Agarwal and Arun Kumar Tyagi, and expert member Afroz Ahmad, directed the CPCB to collect water samples from the area and file a fresh report. The tribunal specified that the samples had to be collected from 10 new and old locations each without informing any authority, including DJB, and that the samples had to be analysed expeditiously, particularly for faecal coliform and E. coli bacteria. A resident welfare association from the area moved the green body and claimed corroded water supply pipelines led to the mixing of untreated sewage with the drinking water. During the proceedings, the applicant's counsel said the residents were suffering after consuming the contaminated water, and one of the residents was hospitalised after being diagnosed with Hepatitis A and E. coli.

Ammonical nitrogen, a marker of domestic and industrial waste-water, was also found to be in excess, with levels rising up to 5.75 milligrams per litre at Nizamuddin Bridge. The safe threshold for this parameter is typically below 1 milligrams per litre.

RECORD ALLOCATION

₹2,475cr scholarships disbursed to students of backward classes in UP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, May 22: The Uttar Pradesh government Thursday said it has disbursed scholarships worth ₹2,475 crore in 2024-25, benefitting nearly 30 lakh students from backward categories.

In a statement, the government said the Scholarship and Fee Reimbursement Scheme of the Backward Classes Welfare Department has significantly expanded access to education.

"For 2024-25, a record ₹2,475 crore was allocated, benefitting nearly 30 lakh students and marking the highest scholarship disbursement to date. This reflects the government's strong commitment to linking backward communities with higher education," it added.

Under the scheme, pre-matric students receive ₹2,250 annually, while post-matric students get scholarships and reimbursements ranging from ₹10,000 to ₹50,000. The amount is directly credited to their bank accounts, the government said.

It said recognising the need for digital competence alongside formal education, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched a large-scale Computer Training Scheme targeting educated and unemployed OBC (other backward classes) youth.

In 2023-24, a budget of ₹22.52 crore was utilised to train 23,697 students in courses such as CCC (course on computer concepts) and O-level (ordinary level). The previous financial year witnessed 29,769 trainees benefitting from an outlay of ₹32.92 crore.

"This training initiative equips youth with essential digital skills, significantly enhancing their employability in the private and public sectors. Under this scheme, the government plans to introduce new-age courses in areas like artificial intelligence to boost technological empowerment further," it said.

The state government said it has taken significant steps under the Hostel Construction and Maintenance Scheme to support students from remote areas. A provision of ₹2 crore was made for the upkeep of 105 hostels offering free accommodation to students, it said.



Firemen douse a fire as smoke billows from a factory, at Ujhani area, in Budaun district, Uttar Pradesh, Thursday

PTI PHOTO

'SASHAKT KRISHI' PROJECT

Mandoli Jail transforms into agricultural hub

The inmates have already harvested over 310 kilograms of organic fruits and vegetables for internal consumption

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 22: In a bid to cut jail expenses, promote sustainability and impart vocational skills, around 1.5 acres of unused land inside Mandoli Jail has been transformed into a thriving agricultural zone under the 'Sashakt Krishi' project.

The inmates have already harvested over 310 kilograms of organic fruits and vegetables for internal consumption.

The project, launched in jail number 13 of Mandoli complex, is currently in its first phase and employs 25 inmates, who have been selected based on physical fitness, willingness and good conduct.

The initiative aims to engage prisoners in productive, skill-based activity while also reducing the facility's dependence on external food procurement.

"Seasonal and regionally appropriate crops were chosen in consultation with horticulture experts and the Agricultural Department," said a senior jail official, adding that vegetables like bottle gourd, cucumber, okra (lady finger), bitter melon and fruits such as custard apple, muskmelon and banana are being grown.

Herbs like mint, coriander and green chili - commonly



used in jail kitchens - have also been cultivated. The official said that farming efforts have already made a visible impact.

"About 150 kg of kitchen waste has been converted into compost and used in cultivation. This initiative not only cuts costs but also supports sustainable waste management," he added.

In the upcoming second phase, authorities plan to ex-

pand cultivation by 30 to 40 per cent and introduce vermicomposting (a natural process whereby earthworms convert waste material with rigid structures into compost) using red worms. There are also plans to plant more fruit-bearing trees, including guava, lemon and mango.

A vocational training component in horticulture in partnership with the Skill India

Mission will also be integrated to enhance post-release employability of inmates.

The third phase will focus on converting jail number 13 into a model unit for 'green jail' practices. The plans include developing a 'Krishi Van' or green belt within unused jail yards and setting up an inmate-run nursery for plant saplings, which could potentially be sold to the public.

"We aim to replicate this model in other units of Mandoli Jail, with trained inmates from jail number 13 acting as facilitators," the official added.

The project also had a positive psychological effect on inmates, with officials noting improved mood, better sleep and reduced stress among participants.

"Word is spreading and more inmates are expressing interest in joining the initiative," he said.

Besides supplementing jail meals and enhancing nutritional value, the project has added aesthetic value to the jail environment, the official said.

The initiative was conceptualised and implemented by Jail Number 13 Superintendent Ashish Kumar under Director General (Prison) Satish Golcha's guidance.

Drive to remove illegal encroachments in Delhi

New Delhi: The Delhi Traffic Police conducted a three-day special drive from May 19 to 21 across the New Delhi Range to remove illegal encroachments and ease congestion, officials said Thursday. The massive crackdown targeted key traffic corridors including Arjun Path, Old Delhi-Gurugram Road, Mahipalpur Market, Sarojini Nagar Market and South Campus Ring Road, they said. The crackdown also targeted Nelson Mandela Road, RK Puram, Khan Market, Barakhamba Road, Janpath Marg and several other high-footfall areas with heavy vehicular movement during peak hours, officials added. A total of 11,361 challans were issued and 302 vehicles were towed for illegal parking or obstruction. Legal action under appropriate sections of law was initiated against the violators, the traffic police said in a statement. According to officials, the drive was aimed at reclaiming public spaces and ensuring smoother flow of traffic by addressing obstructions such as illegally parked autorickshaws, private taxis, e-rickshaws, and street vendors (rehri-partis), which were narrowing roadways and obstructing pedestrian movement.



ଅଧୀକ୍ଷକ ଇଞ୍ଜିନିୟର, (ରାସ୍ତା ଓ କୋଠାବାଡ଼ି) ବିଭାଗ, କଣ୍ଟାବାଞ୍ଜି
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, (R&B) DIVISION, KANTABANJI

Email: eerbkbj@rediffmail.com
Bid Identification No. 05/KBJ/2025-26

No. B-150: The Superintending Engineer, Kantabanji (R&B) Division, Kantabanji on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites **Percentage rate Bid in Single Cover** system in ONLINE MODE for the E.I. work detailed in the table below from the contractor registered the State Government ELBO for execution of **Electrical Work**. The proof of registration from the appropriate authority shall be enclosed along with the Bid.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. No. of Work | : 01 No. (Single Cover) |
| 2. Nature of Work | : E.I. Work |
| 3. Class of Contractor | : HT |
| 4. Approximate value of work | : Rs.16.67 lakh |
| 5. Tender Cost | : Rs.6,000/- |
| 6. Date and time of availability of bid documents in online | : From 08.00 A.M. of Dt.23.05.2025 upto 05.00 P.M. of Dt.29.05.2025 |
| 7. Date of opening of Bid in online | : Dt.30.05.2025 at 11.30 A.M. |
| 8. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the e-procurement portal " www.tendersodisha.gov.in " | |
| 9. The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website " www.tendersodisha.gov.in ". All future corrigendum will be available on ONLINE MODE only. | |

Sd/- Superintending Engineer
Kantabanji (R&B) Division

OIPR-34099/11/0019/2526

Whether it's sports, health, education, tourism, or infrastructure, Bundi's landscape is set to change in the coming times

OM BIRLA | LS SPEAKER

The farmer must involve thoroughly with marketing of agriculture produce as well as value addition. A major change in the farmer's income will come only when the farmer also engages in the business of agriculture

JAGDEEP DHANKHAR | VICE PRESIDENT

The liquor scam is a sham in which charges are fabricated only to nullify and weaken the liquor case in which Chandrababu Naidu is on bail and the irregularities being carried out by him

YS JAGAN MOHAN REDDY | YSRCP CHIEF

POST OF THE DAY

Attended the Defence Investiture Ceremony-2025 (Phase-1), where Gallantry Awards were presented.

India will always be grateful to our armed forces for their valour and commitment to safeguarding our nation.

@narendramodi

SHORT TAKES

Delhi govt moves apex court

New Delhi: The seven bitterly contested cases filed by the erstwhile AAP-led Delhi government against the Centre and the Lieutenant Governor (LG) over issues including the control over services in the national capital have been sought to be withdrawn from the Supreme Court following the change in regime. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh directed to list the application filed by the BJP-led Delhi government for Friday. Appearing for the Delhi government, Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati said the application seeks the withdrawal of seven cases pending in the top court, which challenged the authority of the LG in several committees, including solid waste management, Yamuna cleaning and against the validity of Acts and ordinances.

BJP MLA sent to jail

Darbhanga (Bihar): A local court in Bihar's Darbhanga district Thursday sent Alinagar BJP MLA Mishri Lal Yadav and his associate to judicial custody in connection with a 2019 assault case. "Suman Kumar Diwakar, additional district and sessions judge of Special MP/MLA court of Darbhanga, ordered security personnel to take the MLA into custody when he and his associate deposed before the court," Assistant Public Prosecutor Renu Jha told reporters.

Tennis coach gets 7-year jail term

New Delhi: A tennis coach has been sentenced to seven years of rigorous imprisonment for allegedly sexually assaulting his minor student, the police said Thursday claiming the case was solved in 50 days. The case was registered at the Nihal Vihar police station March 17 following a complaint by the 13-year-old girl, the Delhi Police said in a statement.



Modernity has sidelined these traditions, leading to environmental imbalance and rising health issues

YOGI ADITYANATH | UTTAR PRADESH CM

TAMIL NADU RECORDS 26 ENDANGERED BIRD SPECIES

As many as 26 out of 37 endangered bird species available in Tamil Nadu besides 17 nocturnal bird species, were recorded during the state-wide synchronised bird census 2025. This year, the annual bird census laid special emphasis on documenting the endangered birds and nocturnal birds



INDIGO TURBULENCE

Pakistan rejected pilot's request to use its airspace

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/ Mumbai, May 22: An IndiGo pilot operating the Delhi-Srinagar flight, which encountered a sudden hailstorm Wednesday, initially sought Lahore Air Traffic Control's permission to briefly use the Pakistan airspace to avoid the turbulence, but the request was rejected, sources said Thursday.

The incident of flight 6E 2142 encountering severe turbulence is being probed by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), the sources said.

The flight, carrying more than 220 people, including Trinamool Congress MPs encountered a sudden hailstorm, and the pilot reported the "emergency" to air traffic control at Srinagar airport. The flight had landed safely Wednesday.

When the aircraft was overflying Amritsar, the pilot noticed turbulence and sought Lahore Air Traffic Control's (ATC) permission to take a deviation through the Pakistan airspace Wednesday.

The request was made in order to avoid the turbulence, but it was rejected by the Lahore ATC, the sources told PTI.

As a result, the aircraft operated on the original flight path, where it encountered severe turbulence, they added.

In the wake of tensions between India and Pakistan following the Pahalgam terror attack that killed at least 26 people, Pakistan airspace is closed for Indian carriers.

Acharya Prasanna Sagar honoured at Patanjali varsity

POST NEWS NETWORK

Haridwar, May 22: Patanjali University Thursday warmly welcomed Antarmana Acharya Prasanna Sagar Ji Maharaj, a revered saint of the Digambar Jain tradition, with a grand ceremony marked by spiritual discourse and interfaith dialogue.

During the event, Jain Muni Prasanna Sagar Ji praised Yoga Guru Swami Ramdev and Acharya Balkrishna for their selfless efforts in promoting Yoga, Ayurveda, and global harmony.

Swami Ramdev, Chancellor of Patanjali University, hailed the Acharya's visit as a profound moment for Indian philosophy.



cal thought, stating that Jainism represents the purest essence of Sanatan Dharma, guiding humanity through penance, non-violence, and soul awareness.

Acharya Balkrishna, Vice-Chancellor and renowned Ayurvedacharya, paid poetic tribute to the Acharya through Sanskrit verses, describing his spiritual strength as beyond words. As part of the honours, the Jain community presented a citation to Swami Ramdev, while the university offered a special tribute to Acharya Prasanna Sagar Ji for his renunciation and spiritual contributions. The Acharya also visited the Patanjali Research Institute and participated in a tree plantation at the Herbal Garden.

The event was graced by other Jain monks including Muni Piyush Sagar Ji, Apramatt Sagar Ji, Parimal Sagar Ji, Acharya Naigam Sagar Ji, and nuns Mata Gyanprabha, Charitraprabha Ji, and Punyaprabha Ji. Key attendees from Patanjali University included Chief Disciplinary Officer Prof. Sadhvi Devpriya, Pro Vice-Chancellor Prof. Mayank Kumar Agrawal, all faculty heads, teachers, researchers, and students.

CBI chargesheets Malik, 7 others

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 22: The CBI has filed a chargesheet against former Jammu and Kashmir governor Satyapal Malik and seven others in connection with alleged corruption in the award of ₹2,200-crore civil works for Kiru hydropower project, officials said Thursday.

After three years of probe, the central agency submitted its findings in the chargesheet before a special court in Jammu.

In its chargesheet, the CBI has named Malik and his two aides Virender Rana and Kanwar Singh Rana, the officials said.

The other persons named in the chargesheet included the then Chenab Valley Power Projects Pvt Ltd (CVPPPL) managing director M S Babu, its directors Arun Kumar Mishra and M K Mittal, managing director of construction firm Patel Engineering Ltd Rupen Patel and private person Kanwaljeet Singh Duggal, they said.

The agency has invoked Section 120-B (criminal conspiracy) of Ranbir Penal Code and provisions of J&K Preven-

KIRU HYDROPOWER CORRUPTION CASE



tion of Corruption Act as the alleged crime took place before abrogation of Article 370 August 5, 2019 when these archaic legal provisions in erstwhile state were replaced by Indian Penal Code and Prevention of Corruption Act.

Soon after the news of the chargesheet flashed, a photo of 79-year-old Malik was posted on his 'X' handle showing him lying in a hospital bed surrounded by an array of medical apparatus, including an intravenous infusion device and a ventilatory support system.

"I am getting calls from many of my well-wishers which I

am unable to take. My condition is very bad right now. I am admitted in the hospital and am not in a condition to talk to anyone," the accompanying message read on 'X'.

When contacted, his private secretary Kanwar Singh Rana told PTI that the former governor is in critical condition in Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital here. He said the move of the CBI to chargesheet the "complainant (Malik)" is "sheer harassment".

"Last year also when he (Malik) was admitted in Max hospital, the CBI had conducted searches and now when he is



Buddhist monks perform a traditional mask dance at Tupchiling Monastery, in Lahaul. The ritualistic dance, rooted in Buddhist, Hindu, and tribal traditions, features performers wearing masks of deities, mythological characters, and animals to express stories and emotions

PTI PHOTO

UP storm triggers factory fire, wall collapse; 15 dead

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow (UP), May 22: At least 15 people were killed and several injured as a powerful storm with heavy rains swept across parts of Uttar Pradesh, triggering fires, wall collapses, and accidents. The storm caused extensive damage to infrastructure, property, and crops across multiple districts.

In Meerut, three people, including a doctor, died in separate incidents. One was killed by a falling unipole, another crushed under a tree, and the third trapped under a collapsed wall. The storm also disrupted power supply and damaged hoardings and electric poles.

A massive fire broke out at an oil factory in Budaun after strong winds caused a partial collapse, leading to sparks igniting mentha oil and chemicals. Firefighters battled the blaze overnight, which intensified due to hydrogen cylinder explosions early Friday.

In Bijnor, a constable died after hitting a fallen tree while riding his motorcycle. In Jhansi, a loader driver was killed when a large hoarding collapsed on his parked vehicle.

Etah saw four deaths, with over 15 injured in incidents including wall collapses and falling debris. In Udayapura and nearby villages, fatalities included men crushed under

collapsing structures. A family of six was injured in Jalesar when a tin shed and wall collapsed on them.

Three people died in Bulandshahr, including a man whose house wall collapsed, a person who fell from his roof while securing a solar plate, and a teenager killed by a falling tree.

The storm also affected crops—20% of mangoes in Rataul fell prematurely—and caused major power outages. Over 20 electric poles were damaged in Barot town alone.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed officials to expedite relief work, assess damages, and ensure aid reaches affected families.

Consider Maha's Zudpi Jungle as forest lands: SC

The apex court 1996 verdict defined the term "forest". A bench of Chief Justice B R Gavai and Justice Augustine George Masih noted that "zudpi" was a Marathi word, literally translating to bushes or shrubs and "zudpi" lands meant an inferior type of unoccupied lands with bushy growth

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 22: The Supreme Court Thursday declared Zudpi Jungle lands in Maharashtra's eastern Vidarbha region as forests in line with its 1996 verdict but protected the structures existing on it for decades.

The apex court 1996 verdict defined the term "forest". A bench of Chief Justice B R Gavai and Justice Augustine George Masih noted that "zudpi" was a Marathi word, literally translating to bushes or shrubs and "zudpi" lands meant an inferior type of unoccupied lands with bushy growth.

The top court was dealing with the issue over the status of such lands in the districts of Nagpur, Wardha, Bhandara, Gondia, Chandrapur and Gadchiroli in Maharashtra's eastern Vidarbha region.

The bench directed such lands would not be permitted to be used for compensatory afforestation unless there was a certificate of the state chief secretary regarding non-availability of non-forest land for afforestation.

In such cases, compensatory afforestation must be carried out on double the area of "Zudpi Jungle" lands, according to the existing guidelines of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and

Climate Change, it added.

"Zudpi jungle lands shall be considered as forest lands in line with the order of this court dated December 12, 1996 in the present proceedings," the verdict penned by the CJI said.

The top court underlined maintaining a balance between environmental protection and the need for sustainable development. Various developmental activities, it said, were already undertaken on "Zudpi Jungle"

lands like construction of irrigation dams, roads, schools, public health centres and other utilities facilities.

The bench annexed a list of institutions, buildings, residential areas, public utilities which would be affected in the city of Nagpur alone.

It said even the buildings in which the high court, high court judges' residences, state governments' secretariat, central government's buildings, defence



international

of the day quote

The country is days away from implementing a new aid system in Gaza that has come under heavy international criticism

BENJAMIN NETANYAHU | PRIME MINISTER, ISRAEL

I renew my heartfelt appeal to allow the entrance of dignified humanitarian aid to Gaza and to put an end to the hostilities whose heartbreaking price is being paid by children, the elderly and sick people

POPE LEO XIV | CATHOLIC CHURCH LEADER

I have called on the international community to take effective preventive measures against the continuation of Israeli threats, which if unchecked, will compel Iran to take special measures in defence of our nuclear facilities and materials

ABBAS ARAGHCHI | FOREIGN MINISTER, IRAN

SHORT TAKES

Hindu temple's land illegally occupied in Pak

Karachi: The land on which a 100-year-old Shiv temple stands near Tando Jam town of Pakistan's Sindh province has illegally been occupied by grabbers who have begun construction around it, a Hindu community representative said Thursday, appealing to the government to stop the illegal establishment. "The temple is more than a century old, but these land grabbers have occupied and started illegal construction on the land surrounding the temple and obstructed the roads/entrances which lead to the Shiv Mandir," Shiva Kachhi, who heads the Darawar Ittehad Pakistan, said in a video released on social media. The organisation represents the Hindu community in Pakistan.

6.1-magnitude quake jolts Greek islands

Athens: An undersea 6.1-magnitude earthquake scale struck off the Greek island of Crete early Thursday and was felt across the Aegean Sea, but there were no immediate reports of injuries or significant damage. The powerful quake occurred some 55 kilometres north of the island, according to the Geodynamics Institute of Athens at a depth of 37 kilometres beneath the seabed.

Plane crashes into San Diego neighbourhood

San Diego: A small plane crashed into a San Diego neighbourhood during foggy weather early Thursday, setting about 15 homes fire and evacuating homes along several blocks, authorities said. "We have jet fuel all over the place," Assistant Fire Department Chief Dan Eddy said during a news conference. "Our main goal is to search all these homes and get everybody out right now."

Imran refuses lie detection test

Lahore: Pakistan's jailed former prime minister Imran Khan Thursday refused to undergo lie detection and facial and voice analysis tests for the third consecutive time in 12 terrorism cases against him, the Punjab government said. "The founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Thursday refused to undergo a polygraph test for the third time, thereby he is not only defying court orders but also evading the truth," Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari said in a statement.

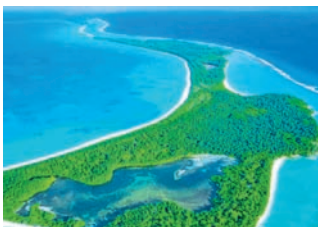
UK lifts ban on transferring Chagos Islands to Mauritius

The UK has agreed to hand Mauritius the Indian Ocean archipelago, which is home to a strategically important naval and bomber base on the largest of the islands, Diego Garcia

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, May 22: A British court said Thursday that the UK can transfer sovereignty over the contested and strategically located Chagos Islands to Mauritius, overturning a block that was imposed hours before the agreement was due

to be signed. High Court judge Martin Chamberlain said after a hearing Thursday that an injunction barring the handover should be removed. He said "the public interest and the interests of the United Kingdom would be substantially prejudiced" if there was a further delay. The UK government welcomed the ruling, saying "this deal is vital to protect the British people and our national security." The UK has agreed to hand Mauritius the Indian Ocean archipelago, which is home to a strategically important naval and bomber base on the largest of the islands, Diego Garcia. The UK would then lease back the base for at least 99 years.



The agreement was due to be signed by British Prime Minister Keir Starmer and Mauritian leader Navin Ramgoolam at a virtual ceremony Thursday morning. But a judge granted an injunction in the early hours of Thursday, blocking the British government from taking any "conclusive or legally binding step" to hand the islands to a foreign government. The injunction came in re-

- High Court injunction had blocked deal at last minute
- Chagos islanders want better consultation on deal
- Deal is aimed at securing future of US-UK air base

sponse to a claim by two Chagossian women representing the islands' original residents, who were evicted decades ago to make way for the American base. Bernadette Dugas and Bertrice Pompe, both British citizens, fear it will become even harder to return once Mauritius takes control of the islands. After the injunction was lifted, Pompe said it was "a very sad day, but vowed to continue fighting." "We do not want to hand over

our rights to Mauritius. We are not Mauritians," she said outside the High Court. "The rights we are asking for now, we have been fighting for for 60 years," she added. "Mauritius is not going to give that to us." One of the last remnants of the British Empire, the Chagos Islands have been under British control since 1814. Britain split the islands away from Mauritius, a former British colony, in 1965, three years before Mauritius gained independence. Britain evicted as many as 2,000 people from the islands in the 1960s and 1970s so the US military could build the Diego Garcia base, which has supported US military operations from Vietnam to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Some bread, baby food reach Gazans as blockade eases

REUTERS

Cairo, May 22: Flour and other food aid will start reaching some of Gaza's most vulnerable people Thursday after Israel let some trucks through, but nowhere near enough to make up for shortages caused by an 11-week blockade, Palestinian officials said. Israel said it allowed 100 trucks also carrying baby food and medical equipment into the enclave Wednesday, two days after announcing its first relaxation of the restrictions under mounting international pressure.

Boys and young men gathered after one vehicle arrived in the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis Wednesday night, but kept back as men, some holding guns, watched over the unloading of sacks. Israel imposed the blockade on all supplies in March, saying Hamas was seizing deliveries for its fighters - a charge the group denies. The UN said a quarter of Gaza's 2.3 million people were at risk of famine. "Some bakeries will begin receiving flour to produce bread, and we expect the distribution of bread to begin later today," Amjad al-Shawa, director of the Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations Network in Gaza, told Reuters. He said just 90 trucks had got through. "During the ceasefire, 600 trucks used to enter every day, which means that the current quantity is a drop in the ocean, nothing," he said. Bakeries backed by the UN's World Food Programme would produce the bread and the agency's staff would hand it out - a more controlled system than previously when bakers sold it directly to the public at a low cost, he added. The International Committee of the Red Cross said it had got one truck of medical supplies through to replenish its field hospital in Rafah, but more was needed.

Border talks with India, Bhutan advancing: China

The 23-page security paper released recently in Mandarin has outlined a host of threats and challenges faced by China

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, May 22: Talks to resolve border issue with India and Bhutan "continue to advance", a new white paper on China's national security has said, identifying a host of internal and external threats faced by the country and its one-party political system. The 23-page security paper released recently in Mandarin has outlined a host of threats and challenges faced by China. China has settled boundary issues with 12 of its 14 land neighbours and the negotiations with India and Bhutan continue to advance to resolve the border disputes, said the white paper titled 'China's National Security in the New Era'. Beijing has completed the demarcation of the Beibu Gulf waters between China and Vietnam, signed border defence cooperation agreements with nine neighbouring countries, established border defence talks and meetings mechanisms with 12 countries, and regularly carried out friendly visits, working talks, joint patrols, and joint cross-border crime drills, the paper said. While China's border disputes with India and Bhutan remain to be resolved, the country has a maritime dispute with several countries, including Japan in the East China Sea, and the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan



China has settled boundary issues with 12 of its 14 land neighbours and the negotiations with India and Bhutan continue to advance to resolve the border disputes, said the white paper titled 'China's National Security in the New Era'

While China's border disputes with India and Bhutan remain to be resolved, the country has a maritime dispute with several countries, including Japan in the East China Sea, and the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan in the South China Sea.

India and China have held 23 rounds of Special Representatives-level talks to resolve the border disputes spanning 3,488 km along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). China and Bhutan held 25 rounds of talks to resolve about 400 km of the boundary issue. Significantly, the white paper identifies threats to the political system ruled by the Communist Party of China (CPC) headed by President Xi Jinping. The core of political security is regime security and system security, it said. The most fundamental thing is to maintain the leadership and ruling status of

the CPC and maintain the socialist system with Chinese characteristics. If political security is not guaranteed, China will inevitably fall into a fragmented and scattered situation, the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation will be out of the question, and the fundamental and long-term interests of the people will not be guaranteed, it said. It is necessary to enhance political sensitivity and political discernment, eliminate various political risks in a timely manner, and prevent non-political risks from spreading into political risks, it said. Any attempt to separate the Communist Party from the people and to set them against each other will never succeed, the paper said. For China, external security pressure is increasing. Western anti-China forces are doing everything they can to contain, suppress and contain China, implement different strategies against it by carrying out infiltration and sabotage activities, it said. Foreign forces are stepping up their efforts to interfere in China's neighbouring affairs, and posing a threat to the security of China's borders and surrounding areas.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, May 22: Pakistan government Thursday announced expulsion of a staffer of the Indian High Commission. India Wednesday expelled a Pakistani official working at the Pakistan high commission on charges of involvement in espionage, in the second such expulsion in a week, people familiar with the matter said. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the staffer at the Pakistan mission has been declared "persona non grata" for indulging in activities not in keeping with his official status and that he has been given 24 hours to leave India. India had expelled another Pakistani official for allegedly indulging in espionage May 13. Following India's action, Pakistan had also expelled an Indian staffer posted at the Indian high commission in Islamabad. According to a statement by the Foreign Office, the "Government of Pakistan has declared a



staff member of the High Commission of India, Islamabad, as persona non grata for engaging in activities inconsistent with his privileged status. The concerned official has been directed to leave Pakistan within 24 hours," it said. The Indian Chargé d'Affaires was called to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to convey this decision. It was stressed that none of the diplomats or staff members of the Indian High Commission should misuse their privileges and status in any manner, the statement said. Tensions between India and Pakistan escalated after the Pahalgam attack, which claimed 26 lives.

NK's 2nd naval destroyer damaged in failed launch

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seoul, May 22: North Korea's second naval destroyer was damaged in a failed launch this week, state media reported Thursday, sparking fury from leader Kim Jong Un, who wants bigger warships to deal with what he calls escalating US-led threats against his country. It's not common for North Korea to acknowledge military-related setbacks, but observers say the disclosure of the failed ship launch suggests that Kim is serious about his naval advancement programme and confident of ultimately achieving that objective. During a launching event

at the northeastern port of Chongjin Wednesday, the newly built 5,000-ton-class destroyer became unbalanced and was punctured in its bottom sections after a transport cradle on the stern section slid off first and became stuck, according to the Korean Central News Agency. KCNA didn't provide details on what caused the problem, the severity of the damage or whether anyone was injured. According to KCNA, Kim, who was present at the ceremony, blamed military officials, scientists and shipyard operators for a "serious accident and criminal act caused by absolute carelessness, irresponsibility and unscien-

tific empiricism". Kim called for a ruling Workers' Party meeting slated for late June to address their "irresponsible errors". "It's a shameful thing. But the reason why North Korea disclosed the incident is it wants to show it's speeding up the modernisation of its navy forces and expresses its confidence that it can eventually build" a greater navy, said Moon Keun-sik, a navy expert who teaches at Seoul's Hanyang University. Moon suspected the incident likely happened because North Korean workers aren't yet familiar with such a large warship and were rushed to put it in the water.

INTERNATIONAL TEA DAY

The Permanent Mission of India to the UN hosted the high-level event Wednesday on the theme 'Tea for Livelihoods, Tea for SDGs' to mark the International Tea Day, a celebration of the world's most consumed drink, after water

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

United Nations, May 22: The aromas and flavors of popular Indian teas permeated the halls of the United Nations headquarters as India hosted a special event to commemorate International Tea Day to highlight the beverage's contribution in empowering communities and fostering inclusive economic growth.

The Permanent Mission of India to the UN hosted the high-level event Wednesday on the theme "Tea for Livelihoods, Tea for SDGs" to mark the International Tea Day, a celebration of the world's most consumed drink, after water. The event concluded with a special curated tea tasting experience where guests enjoyed a variety of Indian teas, including the famous Darjeeling tea, Masala chai, Assam and Nilgiri teas. India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish, Director of the FAO UN Liaison Office in New York Angelica Jacome, and representatives of Kenya, Sri Lanka and China, the other major tea producing countries, spoke on the occasion and highlighted the challenges faced by the tea growers, especially the small tea farmers. "The story of tea in India is



not merely one of trade and taste but also one of transformation. What began in the early 19th century from the misty hills of Assam to the slopes of Darjeeling and Nilgiris, India's tea industry has grown to become a cornerstone of rural employment, women's empowerment and export-led development," Harish said at

the houseful event attended by UN envoys, senior UN personnel and community members. The UN General Assembly had in 2019 proclaimed May 21 as International Tea Day following a proposal moved by India at the Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) Intergovernmental Group (IGG) on Tea in October 2015.

The event concluded with a special curated tea tasting experience where guests enjoyed a variety of Indian teas, including the famous Darjeeling tea, Masala chai, Assam and Nilgiri teas

The UNGA resolution recognised the long history and the cultural and economic significance of tea around the world, as well as the significant role it plays in rural development, poverty reduction and food security in developing countries. India is one of the largest producers and consumers of tea

globally and the sector directly employs over 1.5 million workers, the majority of whom are women. It supports over 10 million livelihoods, including small landholder farmers and those engaged in allied industries. Harish pointed out the complex challenges faced by the tea industry. "Climate change is disrupting growing conditions and then, there are rising input costs," Harish said, adding that market volatility and structural inequities threaten the economic viability of small producers who are responsible for over 60 per cent of global tea production. "There's also an urgent need to improve working conditions and secure equitable returns, both for labourers and growers. Addressing these challenges requires not only policy action, but innovation and ability to think out of the box," he said.



towards longer-tenure contracts. These changes have notably reduced participation from smaller investors, Deepinder Singh, Vice President and Sector Head, Financial Sector Ratings, ICRA, said. In March 2025, the number of investors with a monthly premium turnover below ₹10,000 on the NSE dropped by 49 per cent YoY, while those in the ₹10,000-Rs 1 lakh crore declined by 37 per cent. The investor count with higher monthly premium turnovers was however less impacted, he added.

Tottenham beat Manchester United 1-0 for Europa League title and end long trophy drought

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bilbao, May 22: Tottenham's title drought is finally over.

Spurs beat Manchester United 1-0 to win the Europa League final and lift its first European trophy in more than four decades Wednesday.

It is the first major title for Tottenham since it won the English League Cup in 2008, and first European triumph since it won its second UEFA Cup — the equivalent of the Europa League now — in 1984.

Brennan Johnson squeezed in the winner at the end of the first half to help Spurs salvage a dismal season in which it will finish near the bottom of the Premier League standings. "This is what it's all about," Johnson said. "This club hasn't won a trophy for 17 years. This is what it means, it means so much. Ever since I came here it's been, Tottenham are a good team but can never get it done.' We got it done."

The title guarantees Spurs a spot in next season's Champions League, and brings some much-needed relief for manager Ange Postecoglou after he struggled to keep his team on track all year.

The victory in Europe's second-tier competition comes six years after Tottenham fell short against Liverpool in the Champions League final. Tottenham finished its Europa League campaign with 10 wins, three draws and two losses.

No team has won more games in the UEFA Cup-Europa League than Tottenham, according to UEFA. Its 98th victory in the competition Wednesday moves it clear of the joint record of 97 it previously held with Roma. The defeat adds pressure on United coach Ruben Amorim, whose team sits in 16th place — just ahead of Tottenham — in the Premier League. The club won't play in any European competition next season.



It is the first major title for Tottenham since it won the English League Cup in 2008, and first European triumph since it won its second UEFA Cup — the equivalent of the Europa League now — in 1984

"I am not going to talk about the future, tonight we need to deal with the pain of losing this match," Amorim said. "We were the better team and the guys tried everything to win the game."

United came close to equalizing the match Wednesday when a header by Rasmus Hojlund was acrobatically cleared at the

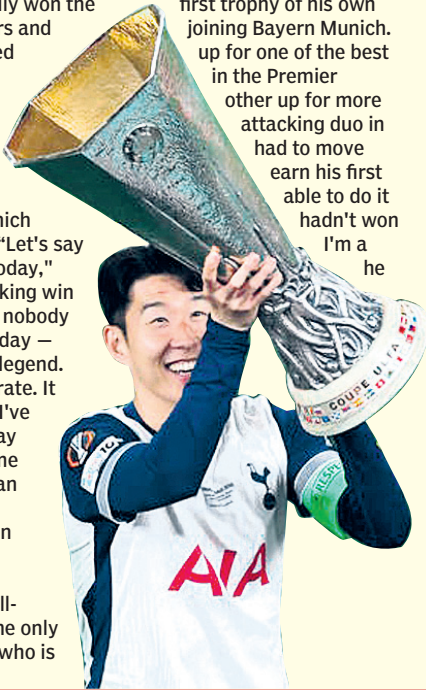
goal line by Tottenham's Micky van de Ven in the 68th. Deep into stoppage time, a header by Luke Shaw prompted a difficult save by Tottenham goalkeeper Guglielmo Vicario.

"I still can't believe what we've done tonight, it's unbelievable," Vicario said. "We have written history, in the real sense of the term. This group of players has written history in 2025. There was also one Micky van de Ven save, on the line. We knew before the game that we needed the effort from everyone and we did it, we delivered. Now we must celebrate."

It had been an even match, with neither team creating many significant scoring opportunities, until Tottenham got on the board in the 42nd minute after a cross by Pape Sarr into the area. The ball ricocheted off Shaw and fell in front of Johnson, who seemed to get just enough of it to poke it across

'Legend' Son shares fate with Kane

There he was, kissing the trophy before lifting it in front of his teammates. It was a dream-come-true moment for Son Heung-min, the South Korea star who finally won his first title in Europe as Tottenham defeated Manchester United in the Europa League final Wednesday. "I felt the pressure. I wanted it so badly," Son said. "The last seven days, I was dreaming about this game every single day. It finally happened, and I can sleep easy now." Only a few weeks ago, Son was congratulating Harry Kane, his former Tottenham teammate. Kane for finally won the first trophy of his own career after leaving Spurs and joining Bayern Munich. Son and Kane had teamed up for one of the best attacking duos in the Premier League, setting each other up for more goals than any other attacking duo in the competition. Kane had to Bayern to finally earn his first trophy. But Son was while still with Spurs, which a major title since 2008. "Let's say legend. Why not? Only today," said of the drought-breaking win with Spurs. "In 17 years, nobody has done it. Today's the day — probably I will say I'm a legend. Let's enjoy it, let's celebrate. It feels amazing. It's what I've always dreamed of. Today is the day the dream came true. I'm the happiest man in the world." Son and Kane were together when Tottenham lost the 2019 Champions League final to Liverpool in another all-English decider. Son is the only starter from that match who is still at Tottenham.



the goal line.

"I knew I touched it, and then I looked up because I didn't catch it cleanly," Johnson said. "Then the ball was trickling in the goal. I can't describe the feeling."

United pressed forward after conceding but was not able to get the equalizer in front of a mostly split crowd of nearly

50,000 at Athletic Bilbao's San Mames Stadium.

There were some confrontations between the clubs' supporters overnight as more than 50,000 English fans converged in Bilbao and other nearby Basque Country cities. But it was all mostly peaceful throughout the day of the final Wednesday.

SHORT TAKES

Boxing contingent

New Delhi: A 19-member squad will represent India at the 4th Thailand Open International Boxing Tournament, scheduled in Bangkok from May 24 to June 1. Held under the aegis of Asian Boxing, the Thailand Open will see top national teams from across the continent compete, including powerhouses like China, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Japan, Korea, and host nation Thailand. The squad comprises 10 men and 9 women. The Boxing Federation of India, being run by an interim committee, followed its selection criterion, providing opportunities to silver medalists from this year's men's and women's National Championships. The Thailand Open marks an important international outing in India's boxing calendar, providing a platform to elite boxers to test themselves against Asia's best, with momentum building toward the World Boxing Cup later this year.

European leg squad

New Delhi: Hockey India Thursday announced a 24-member Indian men's team for the European leg of FIH Hockey Pro League to be played in Amstelveen, Netherlands and Antwerp, Belgium, from June 7. India will begin their European leg with two matches each against the Netherlands June 7 and 9, followed by a double header against Argentina June 11 and 12 at the Wagner Stadium in Amstelveen. They will then travel to Antwerp to face Australia on June 14 and 15 before ending their campaign against hosts Belgium June 21 and 22. India played the home leg of the Pro League in Bhubaneswar earlier this year where they secured 15 points with five wins in eight games and now stand third in the points table. With the highest-placed team of the league securing a spot in the 2026 Men's FIH World Cup, India will be hoping to improve upon their performance and win maximum points in the remaining eight matches of the tournament.

Mhatre to lead India U19 in England tour

New Delhi: Mumbai's Ayush Mhatre was Thursday appointed captain of the India U-19 team for next month's tour of England, while 14-year-old batting sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi is also included in the squad. The tour, scheduled to begin June 24, will include a 50-over warm-up match, followed by a five-match Youth One-Day series and two Multi-Day matches against England U19. Suryavanshi's selection comes on the back of a breakthrough IPL season with Rajasthan Royals.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, May 22: After 12 glittering years in the Spanish capital, Luka Modric has announced he will leave Real Madrid following this summer's FIFA Club World Cup.

The Croatian maestro, who has been the heartbeat of Madrid's midfield since 2012, confirmed the emotional news on Thursday through a heartfelt post on Instagram, calling time on an era that saw him become the most decorated player in the club's illustrious history.

Modric's final match at the Santiago Bernabéu will come this Saturday against Real Sociedad in what will be Madrid's final La Liga fixture of the season. While the 39-year-old confirmed he will remain with the squad for their Club World Cup campaign in the United States



The time has come. The moment I never wanted to come, but that's football, and in life, everything has a beginning and an end
LUKA MODRIC | MIDFIELDER, REAL MADRID

next month, it will mark the last time he wears the famous white shirt on Spanish soil.

"The time has come. The moment I never wanted to come, but that's football, and in life, everything has a beginning and an end," Modric wrote. "Playing for Real Madrid changed my life as a football player and as a person. I am proud to have been part of one of the most successful eras of the best club in history."

Arriving from Tottenham Hotspur in 2012, Modric overcame a difficult start to etch his name into Real Madrid folklore. With nearly 600 appearances and almost 30 major trophies—including a record six UEFA Champions League titles and four La Liga crowns—Modric's impact has been nothing short of legendary.

His 2018 Ballon d'Or win, breaking the Messi-Ronaldo duopoly, symbolised his quiet dominance on the global stage.

Known for his vision, control, and elegance on the ball, Modric has been the soul of Madrid's midfield, orchestrating countless victories with grace and determination. Though he will soon step away from the pitch, his influence will echo through the club's history.

"Although, after the Club World Cup, I will no longer wear this shirt on the pitch, I will always be a Madridista," he added.

Bengal, Odisha eye next Khelo India Beach Games

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Diu, May 22: Buoyed by the success of the inaugural Khelo India Beach Games here, two eastern coastal states of West Bengal and Odisha have shown interest in hosting the next edition of the sports extravaganza.

The scenic Ghoghla Beach has been buzzing with over 2,100 athletes competing across eight disciplines in this six-day festival. First held last year as a regional event, the Games have now been elevated under the Khelo India banner following a mention in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Mann Ki Baat'.

Odisha is exploring the possibility of bidding. With a 480-km coastline and venues like Gopalpur, Puri, and Chandipur, the state sees beach sports as a

natural extension of its sporting and tourism ambitions.

"Our 46-member contingent has won one silver and three bronze medals in pencak silat. The Games have been a big success," said Dhiraj Pattanayak, Officer on Special Duty, Sports and Youth Affairs Department. "Hosting KIBG 2026 is something we will definitely consider. It could be the way forward," he added.

Bengal Olympic Association general secretary Jahar Das said the state is ready and willing to host the next edition.

"It's really nice, very beautifully developed. I'm proud of the Union Territory government. Kudos to all the participants -- it's their credit," Das told PTI here. He said Bengal's popular beaches like Digha,



Mandarmani, and Gangasagar offer ideal venues.

"The BOA will give full cooperation. We already have the infrastructure. With Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee promoting tourism and the new Jagannath Temple attracting

lakhs, adding sports would be a double delight. In 2019, we hosted an invitational beach games, and the crowd was mindboggling. In the age of social media, it will get even more traction. Kolkata has perfect connectivity, so logistics won't

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, May 22: Gujarat Titans messed up on a golden opportunity to seal a top two spot in the league table as Lucknow Super Giants earned a consolation 33-run victory riding on Mitchell Marsh's maiden hundred in the Indian Premier League here Thursday.

Batting first, Marsh's brilliant 117 off 64 balls took LSG to 235 for 2 after stipulated 20 overs.

The total was commanding and LSG did well enough to keep the home team at bay, restricting them to 202 for 9 in 20 overs.

New Zealander Will O'Rourke, who has come in as Mayank Yadav's replacement, was the pick of the bowlers for LSG with figures of 3 for 27.

Shahrukh Khan (57 off 29 balls) did give LSG a scare with some lusty blows but that was never going to be enough in the end despite a riveting 86-run stand with Sherfane Rutherford for the fourth wicket in just 6.4 overs.

GT, who have already qualified for the playoffs, could have taken a giant leap towards top two finish by ensuring 20 points. They will now try to win the last match and give themselves the best chance to finish in top two of the league table with both Punjab Kings and RCB also having a fair shot at the pole position.



The chase of 236 started in earnest with B Sai Sudharsan (21 off 16 balls) and skipper Shubman Gill (35 off 20 balls) starting the innings with some crisp boundaries.

However, the league's current top run accumulator,

Sudharsan couldn't convert the start and Gill despite his short arm pulls was also snapped brilliantly by Abdul Samad.

It was Jos Buttler (33 off 18 balls) who hit a couple of sixes but left-arm fast bowler Akash Singh, who split the webbing of

OLYMPIC VISION 2036

Govt revamps funding norms for federations

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, May 22: In a significant step toward bolstering India's ambitions of becoming a global sporting superpower and potential host of the 2036 Olympic Games, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has unveiled revised norms under the Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs).

This overhaul — the first since February 2022 — aligns with the new Olympic cycle post-Paris 2024 and addresses the growing needs and challenges in India's sports landscape.

Reflecting the rising cost of training, infrastructure, equipment, and athlete welfare, the revised norms promise enhanced financial aid across key areas. National Championships will now receive increased support, with High Priority sports eligible for ₹90 lakh and Priority sports for ₹75 lakh — a significant leap from the earlier ceiling of ₹51 lakh. The budget for hosting international tournaments in India has also doubled, with federations now able to access up to ₹2 crore.

Coaches, often considered the backbone of an athlete's journey, will now see a considerable hike in remuneration. Chief national coaches will be entitled to monthly salaries of ₹7.5 lakh, up from ₹5 lakh, while other coaches will see a rise from ₹2 lakh to ₹3 lakh.

In parallel, dietary charges for athletes have also seen a steep hike. Senior athletes will now receive ₹1000 per day, and juniors ₹850 — up from ₹690 and ₹480, respectively.

IPL STANDINGS

TEAM	M	W	L	NRR	PTS
GT	13	9	4	0.602	18
RCB	12	8	3	0.482	17
PBKS	12	8	3	0.389	17
MI	13	8	5	1.292	16
DC	13	6	6	-0.019	13
LSG	13	6	7	-0.337	12
KKR	13	5	6	0.193	12
SRH	12	4	7	-1.005	9
RR	14	4	10	-0.549	8
CSK	13	3	10	-1.030	6

his right hand, took pace off a floating delivery that breached the Englishman's defence.

At this point that Shahrukh and Rutherford (38) joined forces and the target that looked improbable till then suddenly started looking gettable.

The LSG bowlers, especially India Test specialist Akash Deep and his state team colleague Shahbaz Ahmed leaked runs. LSG's ground fielding also was not up to the mark.

BRIEF SCORES:
Lucknow Super Giants: 235 for 2 in 20 overs (Aiden Markram 36, Mitchell Marsh 117, Nicholas Pooran 56 not out; Sai Kishore 1/34) beat **Gujarat Titans:** 202 for 9 in 20 overs (Shahrukh Khan 57; William O'Rourke 3/27).

nine-member contingent to Diu, has won two silver medals so far. A third medal chance in 5km open water swimming was lost due to injury Thursday.

"We will work to develop more beach sports athletes. With proper use of the ₹840.03 crore sports budget, Bengal can become a powerhouse," Das said, adding that the state has strong traditions in sepak takraw and beach football.

The Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu has undergone a sports infrastructure transformation, led by Secretary of Sports Dr Arun T.

Over ₹300-crore has been spent on infrastructure in the past eight years. A world-class cricket stadium is coming up in Silvassa, alongside archery and athletics facilities.