



Big break

Actor Triptii Dimri is on cloud nine as she replaces Deepika Padukone as lead in much-anticipated flick 'Spirit'

LEISURE | **P2**



Prisoner swap

Russia and Ukraine exchange hundreds more prisoners as part of a major swap

INTERNATIONAL | **P10**



LIC bags Guinness title

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) earns a Guinness World Records title for most life insurance policies sold in 24 hours

BUSINESS | **P11**



Napoli take crown

Napoli fend off Inter Milan's pressure to register its fourth Serie A title after a 2-0 home victory against Cagliari in the final round

SPORTS | **P12**

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Odisha to be India's growth engine: CM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, May 24: Asserting that Odisha will be the growth engine in the country's development journey over the next 25 years, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Saturday said that the state aspires to become a USD 1.5 trillion economy by 2047. Majhi said this while speaking at the NITI Aayog Governing Council meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi. "I assure you Sir (PM), Odisha will be the growth engine in the country's development journey over the next twenty-five years," Majhi was quoted saying in a press release issued by the Chief Minister's Office here. Noting that India's econ-

omy is the fastest-growing among all major global economies with a growth rate of 6.5 per cent in 2024-25, Majhi said: "During the same period with the double engine push, the state has grown at 7.2 per cent. I am deeply grateful to the Prime Minister for visit-

NITI MEET
ing Odisha five times in the last 11 months which shows his commitment to the development of Odisha." While thanking the Centre for sanctioning new railway projects worth ₹73,000 crore and National Highways projects worth ₹4,600 crore, another ₹17,500 crore projects in the pipeline to be sanctioned, Majhi said that the state in close coordination with the Centre is actively implement-

ing PM USHA, PM SHRI, Mamata- PMMVY, NEP 2020 and PM JAY. As his government will complete one year in office next month in June, Majhi said his government has laid the foundation for 'Samrudha' (developed) Odisha, 2036 – a vision for a prosperous and empowered Odisha as per the mantra of Prime Minister Mo-

di's 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas'. He said the year 2036 will mark 100 years of Odisha's formation and 2047, the centenary of India's independence. "Our Vision 2036 and 2047 documents - our ambitious resolve to build a prosperous, developed, and proud Odisha – a 'Viksit Odisha' that shines brightly within a 'Viksit Bharat'. The people of Odisha aspire to see Odisha's economy touch USD 500 billion by 2036 and soar to USD 1.5 trillion by 2047," he said. The CM said the state government was committed to provide 40 per cent urbanisation by 2036 and 60 per cent by 2047 from the current 17 per cent. "We plan to develop a metropolitan region of 7,000 sq km around Bhubaneswar, Khurda, Jatni, Cuttack, Paradip, and Puri, with similar plans for other growth centres," the Chief Minister said. Revealing that Odisha's Vision document will be launched June 12, the day his government completes one year in Odisha, Majhi said it is a comprehensive, actionable, and inclusive

report with suggestions received from over 3,20,000 people of the state through an online portal and analysed using AI. Majhi said as per Odisha's vision, his government has started working to bring all our cultivable areas under irrigation to raise agricultural productivity and farmer's income and focus on rapid urbanisation as an engine of growth. "We look forward to building world-class roads, railways and air connectivity with the support from the Centre. We seek to leverage the state's long coastline with port-based special economic zones, as a part of global value chain, to drive economic growth and create employment opportunities," he said. **MORE P3 & 9**



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Creative Visualization.

MEAN MACHINE: The car of Ferrari driver Lewis Hamilton of Britain is lifted for towing after a crash during the third free practice ahead of the Formula One Monaco Grand Prix race at the Monaco racetrack in Monaco, Saturday

Poachers shoot forest guard dead

In a crude reminder of the killing of two forest guards by poachers in Similipal Tiger Reserve in 2023, a gang of four poachers shot a forest guard dead at Satkosia Tiger Reserve in Dhenkanal district in the wee hours of Saturday. However, despite the setback, the patrolling team of Forest personnel put up a brave fight and managed to nab the armed miscreants, before handing them over to police. Meanwhile, the Forest Employees' Association of Dhenkanal said that forest guards should be adequately equipped to deal with armed poachers, lest their lives will be at stake while protecting wildlife. Following the Similipal incidents, the state government had decided to deploy armed police personnel inside forests. However, even after two years, reserve forests in the state are yet to be equipped with armed policemen, with the only exception of Similipal

where he was taken to the Angul district headquarters hospital. There, he was declared dead, they said. Divisional Forest Officer (Dhenkanal) Sumit Kar told **Orissa POST** that four poachers were arrested and a gun was seized. He identified them as Sitaram Pradhan, Sunil Kumar Jena, Prakash Chandra Dehuri and Laxmidhar Amak. While two of them are from Narsinghpur, the rest two are residents of Hindol, he said. They are suspected to have ventured into the forest to kill wild boar, or some game animal, when they were sighted by the Forest team, Kar added. He said Pradhan was a highly decorated Forest personnel who had won the state-level best Forest Guard award from the PCCF's office. On the fateful night, though he was carrying a gun, he could not open fire as the poachers made an ambush from a hiding place, Kar added. Expressing grief over the death of the forest guard, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi announced a compensation of ₹30 lakh for his family. The CM directed the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) Prem Kumar Jha to visit the spot and investigate the incident. Following the incident, Forest Employees' Association secretary (Dhenkanal) Birendra Dehuri said forest guards should be adequately equipped to deal with armed poachers.

Shubman Gill named India Test captain

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 24: Batting star Shubman Gill was Saturday entrusted with India's Test leadership to steer through a 'massive transition' phase with the swash-buckling Rishabh Pant as his deputy for next month's tour of England that is expected to be nothing short of a trial by fire. At 25 years of age, Gill will be India's fifth youngest Test captain after Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi, 21, Sachin Tendulkar, 23, Kapil Dev, 24, and Ravi Shastri, 25. The five-match series against England will begin June 20 in Leeds. **P12**

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

It went okay. I was expecting it to start with a Mahabharat shloka and end with a blood test

Monsoon reaches Kerala, earliest since 2009

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 24: The southwest monsoon hit Kerala Saturday, marking its earliest arrival over the Indian mainland since 2009 when it reached the southern state May 23, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said. Normally, the southwest monsoon makes its onset over Kerala by June 1 and covers the entire country by July 8. It starts retreating from northwest India around September 17 and withdraws completely by

October 15. The monsoon had set in over the southern state May 30 last year; June 8 in 2023; May 29 in 2022; June 3 in 2021; June 1 in 2020; June 8 in 2019; and May 29 in 2018, IMD data showed. Data available since 1975 showed that the monsoon reached Kerala the earliest in 1990 (May 19), 13 days before the usual date. According to meteorologists, there is no direct relationship between the onset date and the total rainfall over the country during the season. The monsoon arriving early or late in Kerala does

not mean it will cover other parts of the country accordingly. It is characterised by large-scale variabilities and global, regional and local features, an IMD official said. The IMD in April forecast above-normal cumulative rainfall in the 2025 monsoon season, ruling out the possibility of El Nino conditions, which are associated with below-normal rainfall in the Indian subcontinent. According to the IMD, rainfall between 96 per cent and 104 per cent of the 50-year average of 87 cm is considered 'normal'.

Rainfall less than 90 per cent of the long-period average is considered 'deficient'; between 90 per cent and 95 per cent is 'below normal'; between 105 per cent and 110 per cent is 'above normal'; and more than 110 per cent is considered 'excess' precipitation. India saw 934.8 mm of rainfall in 2024, 108 per cent of the average and the highest since 2020. In 2023, it recorded 820 mm, 94.4 per cent of the average. In 2022, it saw 925 mm; 870 mm in 2021; and 958 mm in 2020, according to IMD data.

Govt ratifies FY25 EPF interest rate at 8.25%

AGENCIES

New Delhi, May 24: The government has ratified the rate of interest on employees' provident fund at 8.25 per cent for FY25, enabling retirement fund body EPFO to deposit the annual interest accumulation in the post-retirement funds of over 7 crore subscribers. EPFO, February 28, had decided to retain the interest rate of 8.25 per cent on employees' provident fund

(EPF) deposits for the financial year 2024-25, equal to the rate provided in the preceding fiscal. The approved rate of interest for 2024-25 was sent for concurrence of the Ministry of Finance. "Ministry of Finance has given concurrence to 8.25 per cent rate of interest on the EPF for 2024-25 fiscal year and labour ministry sent a communication regarding this to the EPFO on Thursday," a Labour ministry official said.

Sanderling sighted in Kashmir after 134 years

AGENCIES

Srinagar, May 24: A group of birdwatchers Saturday claimed to have sighted a Sanderling, a migratory bird, for the first time in 134 years at Hokersar Wetland in Kashmir. Reyan Sofi, Mufeeq Ahmad Malik and Mansoor Shayir spotted the Sanderling at Hokersar wetlands in the outskirts of Srinagar Thursday. "During an evening birding section to Hokersar, we

encountered various wader species. While my friends were busy capturing images of other birds, I promptly directed their attention to a specific species that I had identified instantly due to its size difference from a Little Stint," Sofi said. Shayir was initially skeptical but was convinced after comparing the sizes. This is for the first time a Sanderling has been spotted in Kashmir in past 134 years. Also, it is the first time the bird has been captured in a photograph in Kashmir, a

birdwatcher claimed. "This sighting is significant, representing one of the best records for Jammu and Kashmir and a new addition to the region's checklist," Shayir said. He said they have submit-

ted their record to Indian Birds, a Journal of South Asian Ornithology, for authentication. Sanderlings are small, plump sandpipers, typically measuring 18 cm to 20 cm in length and weighing between 40 gm to 100 gm. They are well-known for their behaviour of running back and forth, chasing waves on open beaches as they forage actively in the sand. They breed in the high Arctic tundra and winter on coastlines across the globe, excluding Antarctica. Outside the breeding season, they are highly gregarious, but become solitary when nesting.

Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) is a small wading bird, weighing between 40 gm to 100 gm. They breed in the high Arctic tundra and winter on coastlines across the globe, excluding Antarctica. The name derives from Old English sand-yrilling, 'sand-ploughman'. It is a complete migrant, travelling between 3,000 to 10,000 km (2,000 to 6,000 miles) from its breeding grounds to its wintering sites.

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You will find some decisions difficult to make, but be intent and resolute. Emotions may put you off course, but once you have resolved, don't stray from it. Besides, Ganesha advises you to learn to endure setbacks in a mature manner.

TAURUS
You are likely to get into arguments today, predicts Ganesha. You should avoid any open confrontation. Legal disputes may bother you as well. Try your hand at meditation or resort to music of your preference to relax and unwind. It is best if you delay the start of any important activity today, suggests Ganesha.

GEMINI
Today, it's time to meet those who are close to you, and maybe even those who were close to you at some point in time. Also, it's time to revive old friendships, old memories, and sink into nostalgia. You may want to buy a valuable historic artifact, says Ganesha.

CANCER
You will take on new responsibilities, says Ganesha. So you will be busy with your tasks. You may feel exhausted due to hectic work, which entails mental tension.

LEO
Some people have the world at their feet. And today, you are one of them, says Ganesha. With your gorgeous appearance and gregarious attitude, it is easy for you to open all doors with just a touch. So, you have the luxury to choose – either you entertain yourself through multiple avenues such as movies, theatre, and music, or you be the entertainer with your superior performing skills. But irrespective of what you decide to do, you shall excel in both, confirms Ganesha.

VIRGO
Money matters will hit a major snag today, says Ganesha. Let your mind overrule your heart. Take extreme care of personal belongings, legal responsibilities, and new ventures with long-term effects in mind.

LIBRA
Ganesha says today will be the start of a new love story for you, and you will be able to spend time with someone very dear to you. You will be more conscious of your appearance today and may even go to the beauty parlor. Do remember the saying - beauty lies in the eye of the beholder. Ganesha says that you will be equally conscious of your dressing style and clothes and may go shopping for a new wardrobe today.

SCORPIO
It's the same old routine today, says Ganesha. Nothing new, nothing exciting. However, people from the opposite sex may bring you out of the routine and try to enliven your spirits, predicts Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS
It's time for you to sit back, relax, and let your actions do the talking. After all, actions speak louder than words, they say. You will also wrap up all the pending tasks today, says Ganesha. You play an important role in resolving troubles, either for yourself or for others.

CAPRICORN
If at first you don't succeed, try again. Many people underestimate the power of perseverance and patience. But, these qualities will lead you to success. Rather than exploding with anger and anxiety, keep your faith in your plans intact, especially when the results are not as per your plans, advises Ganesha. If you fail to follow the advice, you may spoil your image in society.

AQUARIUS
It's an uphill struggle today! But the heavens are on your side, and you will be saved from being swindled. Otherwise, it's an eventful day at work. You may initiate big business deals and new projects as well. It will take all your energy, and Ganesha suggests you hit the deck early.

PISCES
While you like cooperating with your colleagues, there is nothing like a little competition to spice things up. You will nonchalantly take on the challenges coming your way and thrive on the sweet smell of success today. Luck is in your favor as well. Make the most of it, says Ganesha.



HEATHER LOCKLEAR SPLITS FROM FIANCÉ

American actress Heather Locklear has split from Chris Heisser, her fiancé of five years. The 63-year-old *Melrose Place* actress and Chris Heisser – who were once high school sweethearts – got engaged in 2020 after rekindling their romance but they have now ended the relationship for good.

BRITNEY SPEARS WARNED FOR LIGHTING CIGARETTE MID FLIGHT

Pop icon Britney Spears was reprimanded in-flight over her behaviour. Multiple sources confirmed that while traveling from Cabo San Lucas to Los Angeles with her security, the singer was drinking alcohol and lit a cigarette during the flight, which is a violation of federal aviation regulations, reports *people.com*.



Triptii on cloud nine

MUMBAI: Actress Triptii Dimri is on cloud nine as she has once again joined forces with *Animal* director Sandeep Reddy Vanga for her next. The diva has been roped in for the filmmaker's much-anticipated flick *Spirit*.

Sharing one of the biggest professional updates in her career to date, Triptii wrote on her Instagram handle, "Still sinking in.... So grateful to be trusted with this journey Thank you @sandeepreddy.vanga .honoured to be a part of your vision."

The *Bulbbul* actress will be seen sharing screen space with Prabhas in this ambitious project. *Spirit* will mark Triptii's first professional association with the *Baahubali* actor.

Triptii will be replacing Deepika Padukone as the leading lady for *Spirit*. Recently, reports surfaced that Sandeep Reddy Vanga's next.

While the reason for her exit is not known, if the reports are to be believed, the director was discouraged by the long list of demands from the diva, which reportedly included limited working hours, a significant paycheck, and a share in the film's profits.

Spirit was supposed to be Deepika's second collaboration with Prabhas after *Kalki 2898 AD* last year.

IAN S

Wamiqa's awkward encounter

MUMBAI: The first meeting top star Shah Rukh Khan has always been memorable for many. However, *Baby John* actress Wamiqa Gabbi is not among them. On the contrary, it was little awkward, recalls the actress.

In a recent interview with *Mashable India*, Wamiqa shared, "My conversation was very weird with him. We were all at *Baby John*'s muhurat when Shah Rukh Khan visited the set for 15 minutes. My brother Hardik was with me on the set. When he came, everybody was so charmed by him that they stood around him and heard him talk. My brother and I were standing at the back and we were having our own conversation, anticipating our possible conversation with the star. I asked Hardik, 'If he will come to speak to me while leaving, what do you think I should speak with him?' Hardik joked, 'Nas kaat de'. We are laughing talking all this."

The Jubilee actress added, "And as anticipated, he did come to me before he left as I was also in the film. He said 'okay, bye' and I said, 'It was so nice meeting you sir, my brother was suggesting I cut my wrist but obviously I won't do that.' Now, as soon as I told this to him, everyone went quiet, and SRK simply left. After he left, a person from the production came

running to me and was like, 'Did you just talk about cutting your wrist?' My brother was shocked. I honestly thought SRK will get the humour, but he didn't."

AGENCIES



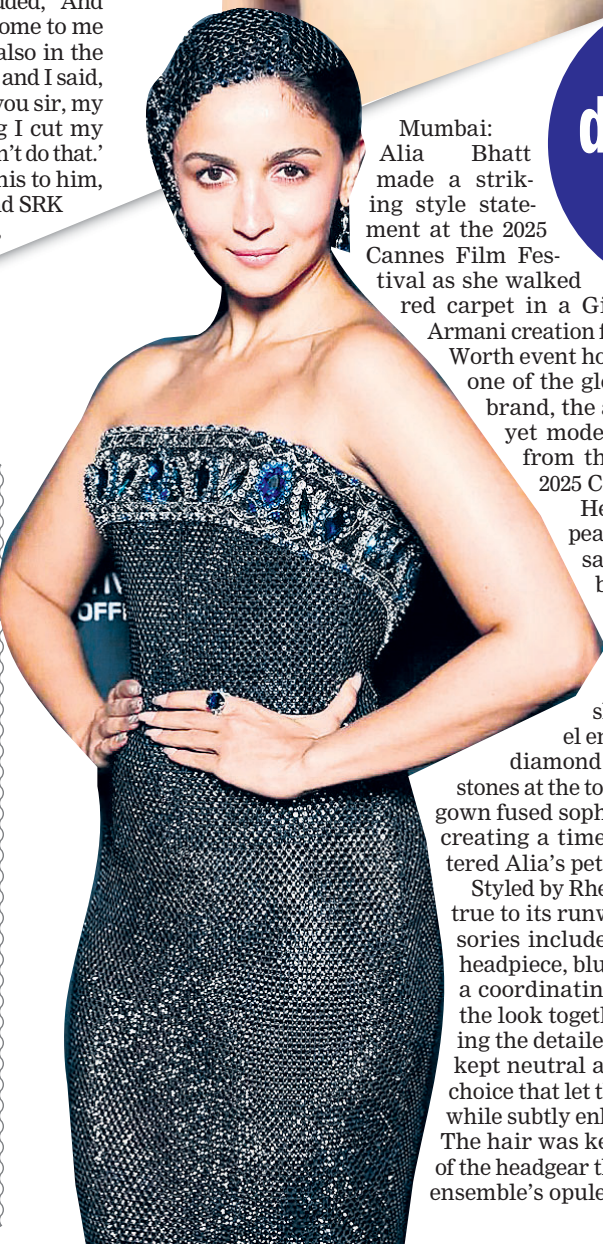
Alia dazzles at Cannes

Mumbai: Alia Bhatt made a striking style statement at the 2025 Cannes Film Festival as she walked the red carpet in a Gi- the orgio the Armani creation for the Lights on Women's Worth event hosted by L'Oréal Paris. As one of the global ambassadors of the brand, the actress pulled off a regal yet modern look in an ensemble from the Armani Privé Spring 2025 Collection.

Her second red carpet appearance at Cannes this year saw her in a stunning navy blue off-shoulder gown crafted from crystal-embellished fabric. The gown sparkled under the spotlight, evoking a moonlit shimmer thanks to the jewel embellishments. Featuring diamond and sapphire-toned gemstones at the top and bottom hemline, the gown fused sophistication with glamour, creating a timeless silhouette that flattered Alia's petite frame.

Styled by Rhea Kapoor, the look stayed true to its runway essence. Alia's accessories included a matching statement headpiece, blue gemstone earrings, and a coordinating ring - all of which tied the look together without overshadowing the detailed gown. Her makeup was kept neutral and understated, a smart choice that let the outfit take centre stage while subtly enhancing her natural glow. The hair was kept simple for the benefit of the headgear that perfectly balanced the ensemble's opulence.

AGENCIES



Mukul Dev passes at 54

MUMBAI: Actor Mukul Dev, who is known for his work in films like *Son of Sardaar*, *R... Rajkumar*, *Jai Ho* and others, has passed away at the age of 54 on Friday night.

The cause of the actor's death could not be ascertained at the time of filing of this report. Further details are awaited including a statement from his friends and family.

Actress Deepshikha Nagpal, who was his close friend, confirmed the news on social media as she shared an Instagram Story and posted a throwback picture saying, "RIP"

The actor, who was last seen in the Hindi film *Anth The End*, was the brother of actor Rahul Dev.

Mukul Dev was born in New Delhi into a Punjabi family with roots in a village near Jalandhar. His father Hari Dev, an assistant commissioner of police, and was the one who

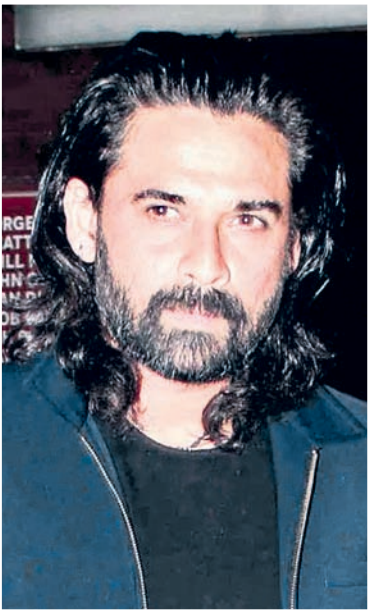
introduced him to Afghan culture. His father could speak Pashto and Persian.

An early exposure to the world of entertainment for the actor was when in class 8 he got his first pay cheque when he impersonated Michael Jackson for a dance show organized by Doordarshan.

The actor was also a trained pilot from the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi.

He made his foray in the world of acting with the television serial *Mumkin* in which he played the role of Vijay Pandey in 1996. He also acted in Doordarshan's *Ek Se Badh Kar Ek*, a comedy Bollywood countdown show.

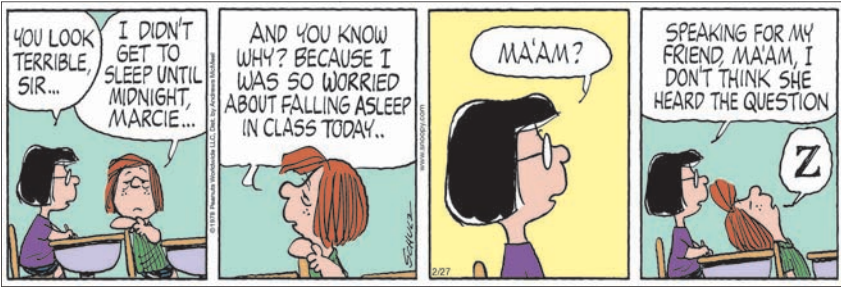
He was also the host of *Fear Factor India* season 1. He started his journey in films with *Dastak*, in which he essayed the role of ACP Rohit



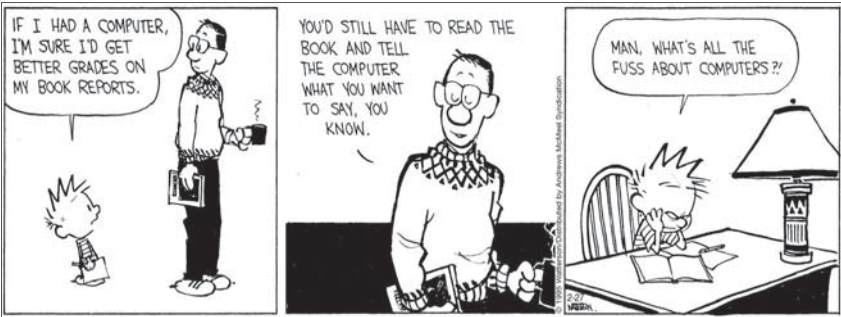
Malhotra. The film also marked the debut of the former Miss Universe Sushmita Sen.

IAN S

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

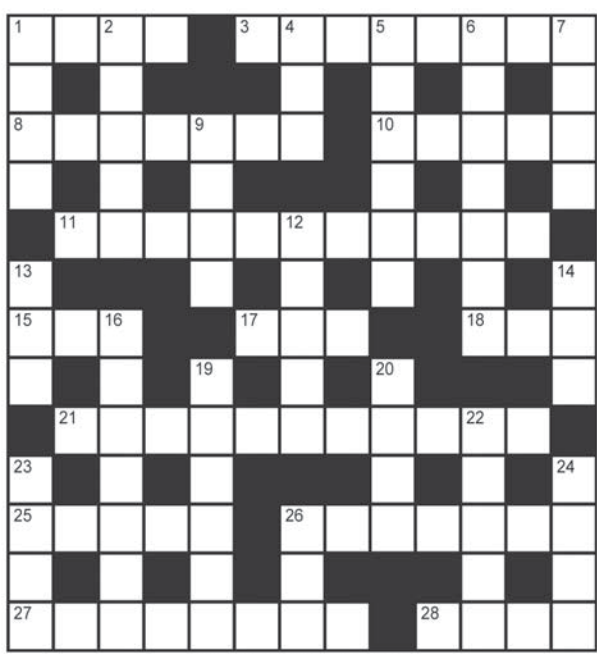


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



- Across**

1 Zoo feature

3 Plentiful

8 Duet

10 Eye part

11 "Twangy" instrument (5,6)

15 Beast of burden

17 Wine container

18 Conceit

21 Actor's worst nightmare (5,6)

25 Sign of life
- Down**

1 Quote

2 Spectre

4 Honey maker

5 Table linen

6 Placate

7 Barber's supply

9 German automaker
- 26 Flavourless

27 Catastrophe

28 Knock about

12 Brusque

13 Swindle

14 Solemn promise

16 Tea makers

19 Means of escape

20 Rugs, to some

22 River horse, briefly

23 Floored it

24 Wax-coated cheese

26 Hot temper

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.

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

SOLUTIONS

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

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Pre-monsoon showers lash Odisha; more rain on cards



According to IMD, a low-pressure area is likely to form over the west-central Bay of Bengal around May 27

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, May 24: Pre-monsoon showers Saturday brought much-needed relief from the scorching heat across most parts of Odisha, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

Widespread rain, accompanied by thunderstorms, is expected to continue across the state till May 30, though no major change in temperature is likely.

IMD scientist Umashankar Das noted that these rains are not Kalbaisakhi in nature. “The current systems are advancing inland from the sea, a typical pattern of pre-monsoon showers,” he explained.

The IMD advised people to take safe shelter during a thunderstorm to protect themselves from lightning.

Meanwhile, the Centre for Environment and Climate (CEC) also hinted at an early monsoon onset in Odisha due to the forming low-pressure zone. CEC director SC Sahu said that light rain and thunderstorms are expected to intensify from the afternoon of May 27, peaking May 28 and 29.

Heavy rain is forecast in coastal and inland districts including Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Dhenkanal, Sundargarh, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Puri, and Khurda.

Sahu also noted that a depression over the Arabian Sea has now moved into southern Maharashtra, enhancing moisture flow into Odisha and aiding the ongoing rainfall activity.

Koraput received the highest rainfall at 45 mm, followed by Bhubaneswar (37 mm), Angul (36 mm), Khurda (22 mm), Cuttack (18.4 mm), and Talcher (12.4 mm)

“Almost all districts witnessed cloudy skies with light to moderate rain, while some areas experienced heavy downpours,” said Manorama Mohanty, director of the Meteorological Centre in Bhubaneswar. She attributed the weather to a cyclonic circulation over north coastal Odisha.

A low-pressure area is also likely to form over the west-central Bay of Bengal around May 27, which could intensify rainfall further, she added.

Between 8:30 am and 5:30 pm Saturday, Koraput received the highest rainfall at 45 mm, followed by Bhubaneswar (37 mm), Angul (36 mm), Khurda (22 mm), Cuttack (18.4 mm), and Talcher (12.4 mm).



STAGE ROLEPLAY: Artists from Nirman Kala Manch, Patna, perform the drama ‘Bidesia’ at the National Theatre Festival organised by Bidyakanak at Rabintra Mandap, Bhubaneswar, Saturday

PICT: BIKASH NAYAK

Padhee reviews urban flood response in City

Top officials inspect key drainage channels while stressing integrated planning and ecological restoration for a flood resilient Bhubaneswar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 24: In a bid to tackle urban flooding and promote sustainable water body management in the Capital region, Housing and Urban Development Department principal secretary Usha Padhee conducted an early morning visit to the Ganguanala and Daya West Ca-

nal areas here Saturday.

Padhee was accompanied by key officials, including Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) commissioner Rajesh Prabhakar Patil, Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) vice chairman N Thirumala Naik, additional secretary Satrugnan Kar, along with senior engineers and planners.

Padhee assessed the condition of critical drainage channels and associated water bodies, which play a vital role in the City’s flood management system. Discussions were held on immediate and long-term measures for desilting, cleaning, and restoring the natural



flow of these channels.

The team also reviewed encroachment issues, structural bottlenecks, and emphasised the need for integrated planning to improve the water-carrying capacity and environmental quality of these urban watercourses. Padhee emphasised the im-

Action plan with clear timelines to boost flood preparedness underway

Officials address encroachment and structural bottlenecks in water channels

portance of a holistic approach that integrates engineering solutions with ecological restoration and community involvement.

She instructed officials to develop an action plan with clear timelines for intervention, ensuring alignment with Bhubaneswar’s broader vision of becoming a flood-resilient and sustainable urban centre.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit no.-460 on dt.22.05.2025 sworn before Executive Magistrate, Koraput. Surendra Tanti, S/o - Ramachandra Tanti, Village-Dhepaguda, PO-A.Malkangiri, PS- Koraput (Sadar), Dist.-Koraput declare that I have changed my daughter name from Jharana Priyadarshini Tanti to Anwsha Priyadarshini Tanti for all purpose.

LOST

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before Notary Public, Bhadrak,dtd. 30.04.2025, I Narendra Prasad Jena (60 yrs), S/o-Managobinda Jena, Vill-Kalyanpur, PO-Ertal, PS- Basudevpur, Dist.- Bhadrak, at present Erein, PO-Charampa, PS-Bhadrak(R), Dist.- Bhadrak declare that I have Purchased the land in my name and obtained sale deed & ROR Chain deed No. 612, dt. 21.02.2015 which was executed by Prakash Chandra Barik in favour of Smt. Puspanjali Das and another sale deed No. 4109, dt. 06.12.2017 which was executed by smt. Puspanjali Das in favour of Kartik Chandra Mohapatra were lost somewhere and inspite of my best effort I am unable trace out the same. That I am swearing this affidavit to produce it before the Competent Authority for the purpose of avoiding future complicacies.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 24: The Crafts Council of Odisha inaugurated the “Master Crafters” exhibition at Bhubaneswar Club, Saturday, showcasing the artistry of 20 master craftspeople, including national and state award winners.

The two-day event showcases Odisha’s rich craft heritage, featuring traditional art forms such as Pattachitra, Palmleaf Engraving, Terracotta, Stone and Wood Carving, Appliqué, Golden Grass, Sabai Grass, Silver Filigree, Seashell Art, Dhokra Casting, Tribal Painting, and Handwoven Ikat.

Handloom, Textiles & Handicrafts department Commissioner-cum-Secretary Guha Poonam Tapas Kumar an-



nounced the government’s plans to establish dedicated craft clusters under the Srujanika initiative. “We will create clusters for crafts such as Pattachitra, Dhokra, Golden Grass, and Sabai Grass, which

will enhance product branding and offer marketing and market linkage support to artisans,” she said.

Crafts Council of Odisha chairman Santosh Kumar Mohapatra emphasised the

Excess sitting raises post-chest pain risks

New research shows that patients recovering from chest pain can lower their risk of complications or death by replacing just 30 minutes of sitting with movement or sleep



Patients hospitalised with chest pain face a significantly higher risk of additional heart issues or death within a year if they remain sedentary after discharge. That’s the key finding from a new peer-reviewed study published in Circulation: Cardiovascular Quality and Outcomes.

In the study, researchers

monitored 609 emergency room patients with chest pain (average age 62) using wearable physical activity trackers for 30 days post-discharge. The devices recorded movement, sitting time, and sleep. Patients were then followed for a year to assess health outcomes.

The results revealed that patients who averaged more

than 15 hours of sedentary behaviour daily (excluding sleep) were more than twice as likely to experience further cardiac events or death compared to those who averaged 12 hours.

The research team aimed not only to highlight the risks of prolonged sitting but also to identify actionable alternatives. Replacing 30 minutes of sedentary time with moderate or vigorous activity—like brisk walking or running—was associated with a 62 per cent reduction in risk. Even substituting with light activity, such as slow walking or household chores, lowered the risk by 50 per cent. Adding 30 minutes of sleep reduced the risk by 14 per cent.

This finding is especially relevant in the U.S., where over 8 million individuals are hospitalized annually with chest pain related to potential acute coronary syndrome (ACS). Even those discharged without an ACS diagnosis remain at high risk, as unexplained chest pain can precede more severe cardiac events.

Previous research showed that patients with ACS often feared physical activity and spent more than 13 hours a day

sitting. Given the established link between sedentary behaviour and poor cardiovascular outcomes, the researchers sought to understand the impact in this vulnerable group.

While the study confirms the dangers of excessive sitting, it also offers a hopeful message: any amount of movement—regardless of intensity—can help improve outcomes post-hospitalisation. This is critical for patients who find formal exercise intimidating or physically challenging.

Although the exact biological mechanisms remain unclear, prolonged sitting is believed to negatively affect muscle activity, blood sugar, and lipid levels, potentially leading to inflammation, arterial plaque buildup, and organ damage.

The authors emphasise that more clinical trials are needed to verify whether replacing sedentary time with activity or sleep can directly improve prognosis. However, the current findings underscore the importance of encouraging even small lifestyle changes to support heart health after hospitalisation for chest pain.

(THE CONVERSATION)

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 24: The Cyber Police Saturday arrested a 34-year-old man from Balasore for allegedly duping a city-based investor of ₹12 lakh by promising high returns through a fake trading application. According to Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Jagmohan Meena, the accused had been operating the fraudulent scheme from his in-laws’ residence in Balasore for an extended period.

Following the arrest, police seized ₹8.39 lakh in cash, three mobile phones, bank cheque books, debit cards, rubber stamps, and other incriminating materials.

DCP Jagmohan Meena identified the accused as Pramod Kumar Mahinti, a native of Kendrapara district. Despite having studied only up to matriculation, Pramod used his technical know-how to deceive the victim. He operated a company named ‘Baishnabi Enterprises,’ using a

fake GST registration certificate to gain the complainant’s trust and secure the investment.

The investigation began after a complaint was filed with the Cyber Police May 7 by the victim Milan Kumar Beura, a resident of the Nayapalli area “Milan alleged that Pramod lured him with the promise of a seven per cent monthly return on investments made through an application called ‘Blinkx-Pro.’ Between March 19 and May 6, he in-

vested a total of ₹12 lakh in two different bank accounts,” said DCP Jagmohan Meena.

Preliminary investigation revealed that one of the bank accounts used for the transactions was registered in Delhi, while the other was based in Balasore.

The Cyber Police have booked Pramod under Sections 318(2)(4), 319(2), 336(2)(3), and several other provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). He was produced before a local court Saturday for remand.



WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	34.2°	33.6°	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thunderstorm
Min Temp	27.2°	29.6°	
Humidity	71%	81%	
Rainfall	37.1mm	18.4	

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Systemic Suppression

The project of democracy is essentially about the liberty of the individual. Adherence to social mores and cultural values can be appealed to under any form of government. Democracy, the culture of it, the practice of it, the spirit of it must lift a nation by lifting its individuals through empowerment. That is what it is intended to do. In one of his essays, CS Lewis tells us that the “first qualification for judging any piece of workmanship from a corkscrew to a cathedral is to know what it is — what it was intended to do and how it is meant to be used. After that has been discovered the temperance reformer may decide that the corkscrew was made for a bad purpose, and the Communist may think the same about the cathedral. But such questions come later. The first thing is to understand the object before you: as long as you think the corkscrew was meant for opening tins or the cathedral for entertaining tourists you can say nothing to the purpose about them.”

To think of democracy as purely a series of elections is to mistake form for substance. It is more than tribal struggles over succession. There is no difference between a tyranny and an elected autocracy if the underlying condition is that the state suppresses the individual in both, by curbing their freedom of expression, corraling their opinion and their autonomy and enforcing uniformity of thought. The dissent of the judge ruling against the state is important in democracies because the judge is authorised to stand up to the state and protect the individual. It may sound extreme but in democratic systems the judge must liberate the individual from the tyranny of the state. This flows from the correct assumption that all forms of state seek to bind the individual because she is a nuisance in the smooth running of the apparatus.

You can read the meaning of the words above into any event in our country and to speak of any particular event would be a distraction. As a writer one is interested in direction and the possibilities, if any, of change. One is also observant of how the general population responds to the shifts produced by the state.

It is not especially productive or necessary to elaborate on the details of these shifts. This is because they have been in the domain for long enough (we are now in year 12 of this dispensation) and endorsed through elections. But it is instructive to go through the headlines and then, if interested, the reader can look up the details and assess if what is happening here is an empowerment of the individual and the deepening of democracy or its opposite.

The state is leading us in a particular direction and, given the length of time it has done so under current management, we have long left the shallows. This direction it has shown us through legislation.

One set of laws is as these: The Uttarakhand Freedom of Religion Act 2018, the Himachal Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act 2019, the Uttar Pradesh Vidhi Viruddh Dharma Samparivartan Pratibandh Adhyadesh 2020, the Madhya Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act 2021, the Gujarat Freedom of Religion (Amendment) Act 2021, the Karnataka Protection of Right to Freedom of Religion 2022, the Haryana Prevention of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act 2022.

Another set is these: The Maharashtra Animal Protection Act 2015, the Haryana Gauvansh Sanrakshan and Gausamvardhan Act 2015, the Gujarat Animal Preservation (Amendment) Act 2017, the Karnataka Prevention of Slaughter and Preservation of Cattle Act 2017.

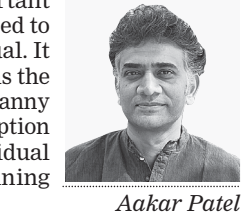
A third set is as follows: The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act 2019, the Right to Information (Amendment) Act 2019, the Uttar Pradesh Recovery of Damage to Public and Private Property Act 2020, the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules 2017, the Aadhaar And Other Laws (Amendment) Act 2019.

The years are important because they show us progression, movement. They have brought us to where we are today. Behind the events that occupy the news stories is this structure that is now in force through law, with each tooth ratcheted in and immovable.

You could have a well-managed tyranny, and there are examples of these around the world, particularly in and around our neighbourhood. The management here is purely of an economic nature and the individual has to surrender her autonomy and liberty, whether or not she wants to.

Unfortunately, there are no examples to be found of a democracy that blossoms under systemic suppression. The rewards and the fruits of democracy are achieved through intensification of freedom and not suppression. The recognition is that the free individual will be more productive, more creative and more capable.

The road that leads away from this does not lead towards success. Unless, of course, success is defined as the systematic and gratuitous hobbling of individuals and groups and the joy that is derived from doing this.



Aakar Patel

THE REWARDS AND THE FRUITS OF DEMOCRACY ARE ACHIEVED THROUGH INTENSIFICATION OF FREEDOM AND NOT SUPPRESSION. THE RECOGNITION IS THAT THE FREE INDIVIDUAL WILL BE MORE PRODUCTIVE, MORE CREATIVE AND MORE CAPABLE



Carl Bildt

TRUMP SIMPLY CANNOT GET OVER THE FACT THAT THE US IMPORTS MORE GOODS THAN IT EXPORTS

Are we heading into an era when the United States simply matters less? This question may sound odd, considering that America remains the world’s leading military and technological power, reserve-currency issuer, and anchor of the global financial system. But with the US having chosen to retreat from its global role, it will gradually lose much of the power and influence that it now takes for granted.

To be sure, America’s power and influence has already waned. For decades after World War II, the US could shape the global system to serve its own purposes; and during the brief “unipolar” moment that followed the collapse of the Soviet Union, its status was unrivaled. But other powers have since grown in stature and are pursuing global ambitions. While China is the most obvious example, Europe, too, is seeking the unity required to assert itself as a serious global player, and many middle powers want to raise their profiles as well.

This is the context in which President Donald Trump has hastened America’s retreat. While no one is surprised to see an “America First” administration ditching global responsibilities, the sheer pace of the change has been remarkable. Already, a growing void is opening up within the world order.

Clearly, trade is central to Trump’s thinking. Failing to understand that it can benefit all who engage in it, he sees only a zero-sum game that America has been losing. Never mind that this belief flies in the face of basic economics (and common sense); Trump simply cannot get over the fact that the US imports more goods than it exports.

No one – not even Trump –



One thing already seems certain: America’s role in the global economy will decline as trading with it (let alone trusting it) becomes more difficult

knows what will come from the global trade war that America launched on “Liberation Day” (2 April). But one thing already seems certain: America’s role in the global economy will decline as trading with it (let alone trusting it) becomes more difficult.

In fact, while the US is a significant trading power, trade as a share of its GDP does not reach the level of China or the EU. China is the top trading partner to around 120 countries, and the EU to around 80, whereas America is number one for only 20 or so countries. And now that Trump has imposed or threatened sweeping tariffs against friends and foes alike, the US position is bound to decline further.

America’s absence will be even more obvious in the realm of multinational cooperation – both within and outside the UN system. Now that Trump has withdrawn the US from the World Health Organization, China has stepped forward as the WHO’s single largest financial contributor. Others will also have to assume greater responsibility for international humanitarian efforts – which have long depended on US funding and are already rapidly receding

– and for the fight against climate change.

While Trump issues threats to take over the Panama Canal, Canada, and Greenland, US diplomacy is in retreat more broadly. Administration officials claim that Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine is “Joe Biden’s war,” and they initially responded to the dangerous flare-up between India and Pakistan by declaring it none of America’s business. Trump’s recent trip to the Middle East was almost exclusively about securing business, investment, and arms deals. Beyond making bizarre statements about turning Gaza into a resort, he has basically ignored the Israeli-Palestinian question, leaving Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu free to pursue whatever policy he wants.

Withdrawal can be dangerous, though. Even Trump, who is commendably averse to war, seems to recognise the logic of pursuing a new nuclear deal à-vis Iran, lest Netanyahu get the war that he has long sought.

But these isolated cases of diplomacy are the exceptions that prove the rule – and Trump still might walk away from them. The US retreat is underway, and until other re-

sponsible actors assume some of the roles it played, some state and nonstate actors will exploit the situation for their own advantage, thus creating more global instability.

The EU is an obvious candidate to fill the void left by the US. It has a unique opportunity to strengthen its own position in what will be a less US-centric trading system. For example, linking up with the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership could pay major dividends, as would a new trade agreement with India.

China, for its part, will probably step up more within the UN system. A rebalancing of power there is necessary, and probably inevitable, and it could accelerate under the banner of boosting the influence of the Global South. But given China’s weight within the global economy, its own role in managing various global challenges will undoubtedly grow.

Thus, it will matter immensely how the Sino-European relationship evolves. Had Chinese President Xi Jinping not lent political and economic support to Russia these past three years, the path forward would be clearer. But though the situation is complicated, China could still change course if it wanted to.

Another big unknown is how NATO will adapt as US military resources return home from Europe and the Middle East (or are shifted toward East Asia). Trump’s proposal to build a “Golden Dome” of layered domestic defence systems is a perfect symbol of an isolationist America. Outside the dome, in the post-American world, the future is up for grabs.

The writer is a former prime minister and foreign minister of Sweden.

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SPECTRUM MULTILATERALISM

The key to global public health



Nadia Calviño & Sania Nishtar

IF WE FAIL TO ENSURE THAT ALL COUNTRIES HAVE THE RESOURCES THEY NEED TO IDENTIFY NEW OUTBREAKS AND RESPOND QUICKLY, WE WILL ALL BE AT RISK

The COVID-19 crisis taught the world fundamental lessons about the importance of global cooperation to fight disease. But that cooperation is under strain, as are the conditions needed to sustain it. Future funding for health and science is being called into question, and cuts to development assistance by some traditional donors are casting doubt on our ability to prevent and respond to infectious diseases in the world’s most fragile countries.

To ensure future resilience to pandemics, these gaps must be filled. The key to success lies in strong, innovative new partnerships between multinational organisations, private- and public-sector institutions, and civil society. We already know from recent experience that strong global partnerships work. Five years ago, we managed to overcome vaccine nationalism (the hoarding of limited supplies) in formulating the global response to COVID-19.

Gavi, a global alliance of public, private, and civil-society groups, partnered with the European Investment Bank Group (EIB) – the financing arm of the European Union, owned by its

27 member states – to mobilise 600 million euro (\$720 million) in donor funding toward the COVAX initiative. Without this funding, COVAX would not have been able to move at the speed and scale that ultimately delivered nearly two billion vaccine doses. More than 100 (mainly) poor countries benefited because we had the foresight to respond to the pandemic cooperatively. Nor were the benefits confined to these countries. Recall the mantra of the pandemic: “No one is safe, until everyone is safe.” More widespread and prolonged shutdowns meant greater disruptions to supply chains and the global economy. The faster we could provide access to testing, monitoring, and contact-tracing technologies, the better our ability to detect new variants of the virus and adapt accordingly. It was lab techs in South Africa who first identified and called attention to the notorious Omicron variant.

Recognising the imperative to be even better prepared for the next pandemic, we have continued to build on this previous success. The EIB is providing Gavi with 1 billion euro in liquidity to accelerate

access to vaccines for viruses with pandemic potential (such as Ebola), and to support routine vaccination against preventable diseases like measles, malaria, and the HPV, which is a leading cause of cervical cancer.

Boosting regional vaccine production is a critical priority. Africa accounts for 20% of the world’s population, but produces just 0.1% of the world’s supply of vaccines. Building the continent’s vaccine-manufacturing base is a key part of any strategy to strengthen overall pandemic preparedness. Here, too, the EIB’s partnership and financial innovation are a game changer. Gavi’s \$1.2 billion African Vaccine Manufacturing Accelerator – backed by over 750 million euro from European governments, as well as institutions including the EIB – is designed to dismantle barriers to local vaccine production. To help Africa achieve vaccine sovereignty, the EIB is also directly financing production facilities in Ghana, South Africa, and Senegal, through the Institut Pasteur de Dakar.

By combining our expertise, the EIB-Gavi partnership helps countries build stronger health

systems and improve their ability to respond to pandemics and save lives. As leaders of mission-driven organisations, we know that protecting global health demands bold action. By investing in innovation and ensuring that resources reach those who need them most, we can reduce the risk of future outbreaks, safeguard communities, and create a world where health crises no longer derail lives and livelihoods.

Viruses don’t care about politics, visas, tariffs, or wars. They respond to tough immune systems and effective vaccines. If we fail to ensure that all countries have the resources they need to identify new outbreaks and respond quickly, we will all be at risk. We cannot protect ourselves, our loved ones, or our economies without global cooperation. Investing in innovative global health partnerships is our best defense against the next big outbreak, implying large returns in terms of worldwide stability and security.

Nadia Calviño is President of the EIB. Sania Nishtar is CEO of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.

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WISDOM CORNER

The highest reward for a person’s toil is not what they get for it, but what they become by it.

JOHN RUSKIN

Two roads diverged in a wood and I - I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference.

ROBERT FROST

Talent hits a target no one else can hit; Genius hits a target no one else can see.

ARTHUR SCHOENHAUER

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1889: Aircraft designer Igor Sikorsky, who successfully developed the helicopter, was born in Kiev, Ukraine, Russian Empire.
- 1895: The trial of acclaimed Irish writer Oscar Wilde ended with him being found guilty of “committing acts of gross indecency with certain male persons”; he was sentenced to two years of hard labour.
- 1963: 32 African countries form a coalition against white rule. The Organisation of African Unity was founded to promote decolonization and end white minority governments in Africa. The OAU was replaced by the African Union in 2002.
- 1977: George Lucas’s space opera film Star Wars (later known as Star Wars: Episode IV—New Hope) was released, launching one of the most successful and influential franchises in motion picture history.

Letters TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa Post are most welcome to contribute letters (100 words), articles and columns (between 600-1000 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

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Stop funding Pak

Sir, This refers to “India to oppose WB’s \$20 billion loan to Pakistan,” Orissa POST, May 24. India is absolutely right in strategising to push for Pakistan’s re-entry into the FATF Grey List and to oppose World Bank loans to Islamabad. The world cannot afford to keep funding a nation that treats terrorism as state policy and foreign aid as terror capital. Repeated intelligence and international reports show a consistent pattern: Pakistan diverts global funds meant for development into supporting terror infrastructure and harboring extremist groups. The World Bank and global financial institutions have a responsibility—not just to taxpayers, but to humanity. Funding Pakistan without strict scrutiny is akin to fueling the fire that burns peace. When money meant for public welfare ends up arming militants, the consequences ripple far beyond South Asia. Terrorism knows no borders, and neither should accountability. India’s stance isn’t just a regional imperative—it’s a global necessity. By seeking to cut off financial lifelines to terror, India is sounding an alarm the world must heed. It’s time for the international community to stop rewarding duplicity and start demanding reform. Terror-funded regimes cannot be trusted with development funds. Humanity deserves **N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE**

Sugar Boards at schools

Sir, Type 2 diabetes mellitus, which once was a predominantly adult condition, is on the rise in children. Commonest reason for the changing trend is not difficult to guess: easy access to sugary snacks and beverages. The primary focus should lie on school children who are lured by cakes, pastries, cold drinks that are readily available in the vicinity of schools. Against this backdrop, it is good to know that the Central Board of Secondary Education has, acting on the suggestions of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, asked all affiliated schools to setup Sugar Boards at schools. These should display information, as well as educated children about the perils of excessive sugar intake. Awareness should be created among children on the recommended intake and health risks of sugary foods and beverages. A healthy school atmosphere should be the overall aim. **Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA**

Bihar migrant’s story now part of Kerala’s curriculum

The memoir written in Malayalam by Bihar’s Dharaksha Parveen, Thozhilinte Ruchi, Bhashayudeyum (which translates to The Taste of Labour and Language), recalls how her impoverished family, with no resources or proper educational infrastructure in their native village in Darbhanga, rebuilt their lives after arriving in Kerala

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, May 24: A small tiled house in Muppathadam, near Eloor in Ernakulam, has been receiving many visitors in recent days. People are coming to meet and congratulate Dharaksha Parveen, a young woman originally from Bihar, whose life story has now found its way into the school curriculum.

Twelve years ago, Dharaksha moved from Bihar to Kerala.

Now, a memoir in the form of a letter to a friend—where she recalls her childhood in Bihar

and how her life changed after moving to Kerala—has been included in the new textbook for sixth standard students in Kerala.

The memoir she wrote in Malayalam, Thozhilinte Ruchi, Bhashayudeyum (which translates to The Taste of Labour and Language), recalls how her impoverished family, with no resources or proper educational infrastructure in their native village in Darbhanga, rebuilt their lives after arriving in Kerala.

It also highlights how the Kerala government’s special



education programme Roshni, designed for the children of migrant labourers, helped her achieve her dream.

"In Bihar, I studied up to the 3rd standard. The school had no benches, desks, or even enough teachers. When we came to Kerala, I joined the 4th standard here. We had everything we needed—good furniture, books, and teachers. My siblings also joined school here," an excited Dharaksha told PTI.

Dharaksha soon began learning Malayalam and even tutored the children of migrant labourers in government schools under the Roshni programme.

"The children face difficulties with the language when they join schools here, so I helped them using my knowledge of Hindi and my basic understanding of Bengali and Oriya," Dharaksha said.

Her father, Muhammed Sameer, works at a footwear

manufacturing company in Ernakulam, and from a young age, Dharaksha was eager to earn something on her own. She has a passion for fashion design and enrolled in an ITI course immediately after completing her 10th standard.

"I wanted to study fashion design as I’ve always been passionate about creating clothes. Now I’m working in that field and also pursuing a degree in Hindi language through distance education from Indira Gandhi National Open University," she said.

Her mother, Rajiya Khath, is a housewife. Her brothers—Mohammed Sameer, studies at MES College, Marampilly, and Mohammed Adil is a Plus Two student at GHSS Muppathadam.

It was a teacher from Palakkad who, after hearing Dharaksha’s story, encouraged her to write down her experiences. Her account was later selected by the state government’s textbook committee to be included in the curriculum for sixth-grade students.

'STAIN REMOVED'

Centenarian acquitted in murder case after spending 43 yrs in jail

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kaushambi, May 24: After spending 43 years in jail on charges of murder, Lakhan, now 104 years old, moved out of Kaushambi district jail following his acquittal from the high court.

The "stain" is finally gone, his daughter Asha said.

Lakhan’s release, facilitated by the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), came after the Allahabad High Court acquitted him earlier this month.

Of the four convicts who appealed against the trial court verdict that gave him a life term, three died during the case’s pendency.

A resident of Gauraye village in the Kaushambi district, Lakhan, born January 4, 1921, according to his jail records, was arrested in 1977.

Lakhan and three other men accused of being involved in the killing of a man, Prabhu Saroj,



during a fight between two groups August 16, 1977.

They were then sentenced to life imprisonment by the District and Sessions Court Prayagraj in 1982. Subsequently, he appealed to the Allahabad High Court, which acquitted him after 43 years on May 2, 2025.

"Following the court order and with the cooperation of the District Jail Superintendent, Lakhan was released from Kaushambi District Jail on Tuesday," said Additional District Judge Poornima Pranjai, Secretary of the Kaushambi DLSA.

Chains, placards, buffalo lead power outage outcry in UP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jhansi: In a strikingly theatrical protest that captured both attention and imagination, politicians and activists from various parties in Jhansi took to the streets to highlight the ongoing power crisis gripping the region.

With relentless power cuts and an overwhelmed grid, frustration has reached such a peak that former Union Minister Pradeep Jain Aditya and fellow demonstrators turned to symbolism and satire. At the centre of the protest, held at Jhansi’s bustling Elite Chauraha, was a buffalo.

As a local man passed through the protest site with his buffalo, demonstrators seized the moment. A placard labelled "Electricity Department" was swiftly hung around the animal’s neck. In what became the image of the day, Pradeep Jain Aditya, armed



with a flute-like been, stood in front of the buffalo and began playing—mimicking the traditional act of a snake charmer.

The message through metaphor: "Bhains ke aage been bajana"—blowing the flute before a buffalo, a popular Hindi proverb used to describe efforts wasted on an unresponsive audience (Electricity Department). "This is symbolic," Jain told reporters. "We are not harming the animal. In fact, even buffalo are suffering due to this heat and power outage. This isn’t just about humans anymore," he argued.

Bihar battle goes online

Ahead of electoral clash in Bihar, RJD, NDA engage in social media war



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, May 24: The NDA and the RJD, the two main rivals in politics of Bihar, where assembly polls are due in a few months, Saturday made the use of social media and animation technology to pin each other down.

On its X handle, the RJD, which hopes that its young leader Tejashwi Yadav will rise to power, trained its guns at Chief Minister and JD(U) supremo Nitish Kumar.

In an animated video, with a background commentary rendered like a "rap" number, Kumar has been called "paltu" (a turncoat) whose "baate hain faltu" (talks nonsense).

Notably, the longest-serving CM of Bihar has also had two short-lived alliances with the RJD, headed by his arch rival Lalu Prasad, and Yadav, the latter’s younger son and heir apparent, occupied the post of deputy chief minister on both occasions.

Now in the opposition, the RJD minced no words in voicing its frustration, as it wondered whether the septuagenarian had allegedly applied "fevicol" to his seat of power, to retain it despite "political somersaults".

Although the barbs were



aimed at the JD(U) supremo, it was the alliance partner BJP, known to have superior machinery, that came forward to pay the opponent in the same coin.

The saffron party’s Bihar unit came out with two videos on its X handle to deride Prasad and his family, who controls the opposition party.

In one of these, Prasad and his two sons, Tejashwi and Tej Pratap, have been shown to be riding an autorickshaw, with the driver showing them the "vikas" (development) that has taken place in the last two decades.

The trio is later shown to have been miffed, asking the driver to stop as they did not wish to be taken for a ride by an alleged "NDA supporter".

Yet another video has been titled "Gangs of Ghotalebaz", an obvious parody of "Gangs of Wasseypur", a blockbuster film about the mafia culture that once prevailed in mineral-rich parts of undivided Bihar, now in Jharkhand.

Lots of morphed videos and photos of Lalu and Tejashwi figure in the video, with a parody of a 1980s Bollywood number, describing the various "scams" (ghotala) the father-son duo has been accused of.

UP on track to become eco-tourism hotspot

Tourists will now be able to enjoy safaris even during the monsoon season, as tiger reserves are being kept open for longer periods

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, May 24: In line with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath’s vision, the Forest and Wildlife Department of Uttar Pradesh is actively transforming the state into a hub of eco-tourism.

Significantly, the department is working to preserve the natural beauty and biodiversity of Uttar Pradesh, while launching new initiatives to promote sustainable tourism. One such initiative is the 'Buffer Mein Safar' (journey through the buffer zones) scheme. This scheme aims to ramp up tourist experiences in the buffer zones of



tiger reserves across the state.

As part of what is being seen as a big initiative, new safari routes are being developed in the buffer zones of Dudhwa, Pilibhit Tiger Reserve, and North Kheri. Areas such as Bhira and Mohammadi are being explored for new eco-tourism opportunities. The Forest

and Wildlife department is also imparting training to residents so as to serve as guides, restaurant operators, and other tourism-related roles. This is how the department is aiming to promote local employment and skill development.

The initiative is already showing positive results, with



Army personnel pay respects to mortal remains of Lieutenant Shashank Tiwari, who lost his life while saving a fellow soldier from drowning in Sikkim, during a ceremony, at Gaddopur in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh, Saturday

PTI PHOTO

Dried up for years, Bundelkhand’s Noon River sees revival

The river, once ecologically neglected, is undergoing restoration through community-led desilting attempts. So far, over 300 people have taken part in the effort to restore its course

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jalaun, May 24: Once a vital artery of life in the Bundelkhand region, the Noon River, after long years of ecological neglect, is now on course of restoration to its previous untrammelled flow with the locals hunkering down to desilt it with spades.

Originating from the Satah village in Koch development block, and meandering towards

Agra, the river had long been written off as a vast stretch of waterlogged, unusable land.

"The Noon used to flow freely, fed by canal waters and natural springs," recalls Satah village head Harikishore Patel. "But over time, the land around it was overfarmed and the water had nowhere to go. What we had instead of a river was a stagnant swamp."

The Noon spans 87 kilometers and has experienced significant drying in a 40-kilometre stretch not far from its mouth.

The ecological collapse led to thousands of acres of farmland becoming submerged and infertile, while water for drinking and irrigation began to disappear, worsening the plight of those dependent on it.

Steps towards rejuvenating the river began as early as 2019 with measures to stem the rainwater run-off. In 2021 the district administration began work of desilting.



The efforts were also lauded by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his monthly Mann Ki Baat address in November of 2021. District Magistrate Rajesh Kumar Pandey and Jal

Shakti Minister Swatantra Dev Singh sought locals’ help in the form of shramdan, or voluntary labour.

As a consequence, a series of gram chaupals (village gather-

One thing was clear, reviving the Noon River was not just an environmental priority – it was essential for the region’s survival

RAJESH KUMAR PANDEY | DISTRICT MAGISTRATE

ings) were held across affected regions, giving farmers a platform to suggest solutions.

On April 13, 2025, Singh and Pandey wielded spades alongside villagers to clean the river in a symbolic gesture. Since then, the movement has gathered momentum, with locals rallying around the cause, offering to desilt and clear the riverbed. So far, over 300 people have taken part in the effort to restore the river’s course.

"People are working day and night," said Shankar Singh, Gram Pradhan of Mahewa vil-

lage. "The Noon was completely dry near Kukar, and its water had been diverted to the Abdani River through a polluted drain. Now, we hope to restore a clean, continuous flow," he added.

Pandey on a recent visit to Sheikhpura, the village of former dacoit-turned-politician Phoolan Devi, instructed local block development officers to ramp up desilting operations and deploy more hands at grassroots level.

A 20-kilometre stretch of the river has already been restored, while the remaining is expected to be finished before the monsoon arrives in the first week of July, said the DM.

The project’s potential impact is significant. Once fully restored, the Noon is expected to irrigate approximately 2,800 hectares of farmland across 47 villages. It will bolster agricultural productivity, give clean drinking water, and feed livestock and wildlife.

Bihar’s Chanakya National Law University inks pact with Leicester University

Patna: City-based Chanakya National Law University (CNLU) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Law School of Leicester University, UK, for admission of CNLU graduates into Leicester’s LLM programme. According to a statement by Prof. Faizan Mustafa, Vice-Chancellor of CNLU and Daniel Greco, Global Partnerships Manager, Global Operations, Future Students Office, University of Leicester. Prof. Mustafa expressed the hope that the CNLU will soon enter into similar understandings with other foreign Universities, which will pave the way for the admission of CNLU graduates in the leading foreign universities". "Such collaborations will foster joint research efforts and help build lasting academic relationships," the statement added. Under the agreement, CNLU students admitted to the LLM programme at Leicester will receive a 30 per cent fee concession, it said. Additionally, CNLU will offer scholarships to support economically weaker students. Mustafa noted that with the Supreme Court reviving the "three-year rule" for eligibility to appear in Judicial Services exams, CNLU is now focusing on opening new academic and professional avenues for its students.

of the day

quote

Our goal is not just to navigate this uncertain world, but to help shape it for the better, by working with like-minded partners, and upholding shared principles and values, so that small nations too have a place under the sun

LAWRENCE WONG | SINGAPORE PRIME MINISTER



Engaging in any talks with the puppet Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government is pointless. This illegitimate Form-47 installed government has already wasted two months. Its only objective is to cling to false authority. It holds no real power

IMRAN KHAN | FORMER PAKISTAN PRIME MINISTER



If the time comes when we have more capacity available than voluntary registrations, then a decision may be made to make recruitment mandatory. That is the roadmap

BORIS PISTORIUS | GERMANY DEFENCE MINISTER



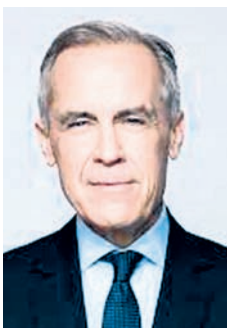
SHORT TAKES

Soldier among 2 killed in Pak

Peshawar: At least two people, including a soldier, were killed and five security personnel injured in two separate suspected terror attacks in Pakistan's northwestern province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Saturday, official sources informed. Five security personnel and a civilian were injured when a bomb went off near a security post when the bomb disposal unit was on a routine check in the Shakai area in the south Waziristan tribal district. The civilian was injured in the blast while crossing the check post on his motorbike at the time of the explosion. He later succumbed to injuries at the district headquarters hospital in Wana town. In a separate incident in the province's Khyber district, a soldier succumbed to injuries in a sniper attack in the Bar Qambar Khel area. He was the driver of a security convoy crossing the area along with the deputy commandant. The security forces' contingents rushed to both sites and cordoned off the areas. The forces launched a combing operation to arrest the accused.

Stabbing attack at Hamburg station

Berlin: More than a dozen people who were injured in a stabbing attack at the central train station in the German city of Hamburg were in stable condition, police said Saturday. A 39-year-old woman, a German national, was arrested at the scene of Friday's attack without putting up resistance, and police said they believe she acted alone. The Hamburger Abendblatt newspaper reported that two passersby managed to overpower the woman and take the knife from her. It quoted a fire department spokesman, Philipp Baumann, saying that the attack injured 18 people between the ages of 19 and 85. Three women aged 24, 52 and 85, and a 24-year-old man were critically injured. According to the police, however, all four were in stable condition Saturday. There was no immediate indication of any political motive, and police said that investigators were looking into whether the suspect may have been mentally ill. The woman was expected to appear before a judge on Saturday and then be placed in a psychiatric ward.



The Komagata Maru tragedy is a stark reminder of how, in moments of our history, Canada fell short of the values we hold dear

MARK CARNEY | CANADA PRIME MINISTER

POWER OUTAGE HITS CANNES

A major power outage struck southeastern France Saturday morning, threatening to jeopardise the Cannes Film Festival's closing celebrations, including the much-anticipated Palme d'Or ceremony. Police said they have opened an investigation into possible arson.



Trump's sanction puts Harvard's allure at risk

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cambridge, May 24: For students around the world, an acceptance letter to Harvard University has represented the pinnacle of achievement, offering a spot among the elite at a campus that produces Nobel Prize winners, captains of industry and global leaders. That allure is now in jeopardy. In its intensifying fight with the White House, Harvard has dealt its heaviest blow yet on Thursday, when the government blocked the Ivy League school from enrolling foreign students. The move threatens to undermine Harvard's stature, revenue and appeal among top scholars globally. Even more than the government's USD 2.6 billion in research cuts, the administration's action represents an existential threat for Harvard. The school summed it up in a lawsuit seeking to block the

action: "Without its international students, Harvard is not Harvard." Within hours of the decision, the consequences started becoming clear. Belgium's Princess Elisabeth, who just finished her first year in a Harvard graduate programme, is waiting to find out if she can return next year, the palace said. The Chinese government publicly questioned whether Harvard's international standing will endure. "The relevant actions by the US side will only damage its own image and international credibility," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said at a briefing in Beijing. A federal judge Friday blocked the administration's decision as the lawsuit plays out, but the order is only temporary. On the Harvard campus, international students said they were stunned, confused and



deeply concerned about what the government's action means for their degrees, future plans and legal status in the United States. Walid Akef, a Harvard graduate student in art history from Egypt, said the Trump administration action would cost him "20 years of my life." "Coming to Harvard — I'm not exaggerating — I planned for it for 15 years," Akef said. He earned two master's degrees

and learned multiple languages before arriving at the university. He also worries what the changes will mean for his family, since his wife is pregnant and will soon be unable to travel. "This is absolutely disastrous. I'm going to lose not just stability, but I also lose my dreams and then lose, I don't know, my beautiful life." Akef is cautiously optimistic that Harvard "will take care of

this," but he is also considering other options as US policy becomes increasingly inhospitable to foreign students. A graduating law student from Asia said he had planned to stay in the United States and find work, "but not anymore." "I don't know what I'll do, but my future doesn't appear to be here," said the student, who spoke on condition of anonymity out of fear of retaliation. With a USD 53 billion endowment, Harvard can weather federal funding losses that would cripple other institutions. But this new sanction strikes at the heart of its campus. Already, the change is causing disarray, as thousands of students consider whether to transfer or risk being in the country illegally. It could wipe out a quarter of the university's student body, while halving some of its graduate schools and threatening students who work as researchers

and teaching assistants. Some sports teams would be left nearly empty. For many, it has been a time of panicked calls home and huddles with fellow international students. For Kat, a data science student from China, the news comes as she prepares to graduate. Foreigners set to receive degrees from Harvard next week can still do so. "My biggest fear is whether I would get deported immediately" after graduation, Kat said. She spoke on the condition that she be identified only by her first name out of concern about retaliation. "We're not sure about our status." If the government's action stands, Harvard would be banned from admitting new international students for at least two school years. Even if it regains its place as a global magnet, top students may shy away for fear of future government reprisals, the school said in its lawsuit.

Russia & Ukraine swap hundreds more prisoners



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kyiv, May 24: Russia and Ukraine exchanged hundreds more prisoners Saturday as part of a major swap that amounted to a rare moment of cooperation in otherwise failed efforts to reach a ceasefire. The exchange came hours after Kyiv came under a large-scale Russian drone and missile attack that left at least 15 people injured. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Russia's defence ministry said each side brought home 307 more soldiers on Saturday, a day after each released a total of 390 combatants and civilians. "We expect more to come tomorrow," Zelenskyy said on his official Telegram channel. Russia's defence ministry also said it expected the exchange

to continue, though it did not give details. Hours earlier, explosions and anti-aircraft fire were heard throughout Kyiv as many sought shelter in subway stations as Russian drones and missiles targeted the Ukrainian capital overnight. In talks held in Istanbul earlier this month — the first time the two sides met face to face for peace talks since Russia's 2022 full-scale invasion — Kyiv and Moscow agreed to swap 1,000 prisoners of war and civilian detainees each. Officials said Russia attacked Ukraine with 14 ballistic missiles and 250 Shahed drones overnight while Ukrainian forces shot down six missiles and neutralised 245 drones — 128 drones were shot down and 117 were thwarted using electronic warfare. The Kyiv City Military Ad-

ministration said it was one of the biggest combined missile and drone attacks on the capital. "A difficult night for all of us," the administration said in a statement. Posting on X, Ukraine's Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha called it "clear evidence that increased sanctions pressure on Moscow is necessary to accelerate the peace process." Meanwhile, the EU's ambassador to Kyiv described it as "horrific." "If anyone still doubts Russia wants war to continue — read the news," Katarina Mathernová wrote on the social network. The debris of intercepted missiles and drones fell in at least six Kyiv city districts. According to the acting head of the city's military administration, Tymur Tkachenko, six people required medical care after the attack and two fires were sparked in Kyiv's Solomianskyi district. The Obolon district, where a residential building was heavily damaged in the attack, was the hardest hit, with at least five wounded in the area, the administration said. Yurii Bondarchuk, a local resident, said the air raid siren "started as usual, then the drones started to fly around as they constantly do." Moments later, he heard a boom and saw shattered glass fly through the air.



The pack rides during the 14th stage of the Giro d'Italia cycling race from Treviso to Nova Gorica/Gorizia, Italy, Saturday

AP PHOTO

Yunus to continue as interim govt chief

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, May 24: Muhammad Yunus will remain as the head of Bangladesh's interim government, an adviser in his cabinet said Saturday, two days after a key ally said he had mulled resignation. "He (Yunus) didn't say he will leave. He said that while we face many obstacles in carrying out the work and responsibilities assigned to us, we are overcoming them," Planning Adviser Wahiduddin Mahmud told reporters after an unscheduled meeting of the advisory council. "He (Yunus) is definitely staying," Mahmud said. He said none of the advisers were going anywhere as "the responsibility entrusted to us is a significant one; we cannot abandon this duty." The chief adviser's decision to stay in office came two days after he told student-led National Citizen Party (NCP) leaders that he was mulling resignation as he felt "the situation is such that he cannot work", citing

difficulties in working amid the failure of political parties to find common ground for change. Yunus reportedly expressed an identical desire to quit in a cabinet meeting earlier Thursday, where his colleagues persuaded him not to relinquish. As many as 19 advisers, effectively ministers, joined the abruptly called closed-door meeting, which Yunus decided to convene following a scheduled meeting of the Executive Committee of National Economic Council (ECNEC) at the Sher-e-Bangla Nagar area in Dhaka. The chief adviser's press wing later issued a "statement from the advisory council", saying the two-hour long meeting included detailed discussions on "three primary responsibilities entrusted to the interim government — elections, reforms, and justice". "The Council discussed how unreasonable demands, deliberately provocative and jurisdictionally overreaching statements, and disruptive

programmes have been continuously obstructing the normal functioning environment and creating confusion and suspicion among the public," it said. The statement said despite all obstacles, the interim government continued to fulfil its responsibilities by putting national interests above group interests. "However, if — under the instigation of defeated forces or as part of a foreign conspiracy — the performance of these responsibilities becomes impossible, the government will present all reasons to the public and then take the necessary steps with the people," the council said. It said the interim government upheld the "public expectations of the July Uprising" but "if the government's autonomy, reform efforts, justice process, fair election plan, and normal operations are obstructed to the point of making its duties unmanageable, it will, with the people, take the necessary steps".

INDIAN DETERRENCE & PAK'S PROXY WAR

Nearly two weeks after India and Pakistan established a fragile ceasefire, both New Delhi and Islamabad disagree on the events leading up to it. While Islamabad expressed gratitude to US President Donald Trump for his role in ending the conflict, New Delhi refuted any claims of mediation. Despite the ongoing uncertainty, some outcomes are evident. The recent clashes mark a significant escalation in the long-standing cross-border tensions between India and Pakistan. Unlike India's previous limited punitive strikes, this offensive penetrated much deeper into Pakistani territory. India's Operation Sindoor extended well beyond Pakistan-occupied Kashmir into Punjab, the heart of Pakistan, targeting not only militant group facilities but also military installations, including air bases. By expanding its operations deeper into Pakistan and targeting a wide range of objectives, India aimed to reestablish deterrence and dissuade the Pakistani military from supporting militant groups operating in Indian territory. However, this strategy is likely to backfire. Instead of

detering its rival, India's actions have triggered a response that has increased the Pakistani military's domestic support. This outcome is unlikely to deter Islamabad from continuing its proxy war against New Delhi or from risking future confrontations between these two nuclear-armed nations. Pakistan's military has a history of employing proxies against India. A group linked to Lashkar-e-Taiba, responsible for the devastating 2008 Mumbai attack, claimed responsibility for the massacre in Pahalgam in April. Although Pakistan denied any involvement, India remained unconvinced. In response to the attack, India took the unprecedented step of unilaterally suspending the Indus Water Treaty, a 1960 agreement facilitated by the World Bank to regulate the flow of water essential for hydropower, irrigation, and agriculture in Pakistan. This treaty had withstood multiple wars and militarized conflicts between the two nations, but that was no longer the case. The government ultimately combined its diplomatic efforts with a military strike on multiple targets within Pakistani



territory. It likely hoped that this approach would alleviate domestic anger over the Pahalgam incident without escalating into a broader conflict. However, New Delhi misjudged the situation. Indian officials failed to recognize the Pakistani military's need to showcase its readiness and resolve to its own citizens. The crisis emerged at a time when the public perception of the Pakistani army and its chief, General Asim Munir, had significantly declined. This situation has now contributed to restoring the military's legitimacy at home. Munir had been facing criticism due to the crackdown on the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, led by Imran Khan, the former prime minister and the country's most

popular leader. In May 2023, the army imprisoned Khan on charges of politically motivated corruption and subsequently prosecuted his supporters in military courts after they attacked military installations. In February 2024, the army also manipulated the parliamentary elections to strengthen the position of Khan's main rivals. This political unrest was exacerbated by the country's dire economic conditions; Pakistan narrowly avoided a debt default in 2023, while inflation soared to 38 percent. New Delhi anticipated that a punitive response, coupled with the threat of economic pressure, would deter Pakistan from pursuing proxy warfare. However,

the recent conflicts are likely to produce the opposite outcome. Rather than discouraging the Pakistani military, India's attacks may reinforce the belief among its leaders that their aggressive strategy is effective. Historically, the military, which has governed Pakistan for a significant portion of its existence, has often leveraged hostility toward India to divert attention from its own shortcomings. The ceasefire does not guarantee a lasting peace, although Indian policymakers may think that the Pakistani military has been temporarily deterred from future aggression due to the increased costs involved. However, this perspective differs from that of Pakistan's military leaders. Rational decision-makers would avoid engaging in a proxy war, as Pakistan cannot sustain ongoing confrontations with a rival that is both economically and militarily stronger. Similarly, India should not desire continuous conflict with Pakistan if it aims to establish itself as a great power. Nevertheless, any break from violence is likely to be short-lived as long as either side believes it can benefit from attacking the other.

More restrictions on press at Pentagon

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, May 24: Be-deviled by leaks to the media during his short tenure, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth issued a series of restrictions on the press late Friday that include banning reporters from entering wide swaths of the Pentagon without a government escort — areas where the press has had access in past administrations as it covers the activities of the world's most powerful military. Newly restricted areas include his office and those of his top aides and all of the different locations across the mammoth building where the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Space Force maintain press offices. The media will also be barred from offices of the Pentagon's senior military leadership, including Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen Dan Caine, without Hegseth's approval and an escort from his aides. The staff of the Joint Chiefs has traditionally maintained a good relationship with the press.

business

of the day quote

AI in vehicles is improving safety, increasing fuel efficiency, and providing drivers with enhanced connectivity features. This is the new context in which we craft our strategies for the future

N CHANDRASEKARAN | CHAIRMAN, TATA MOTORS

We remain committed to the shared prosperity of India and the EU. Let us keep this pace going

PIYUSH GOYAL | COMMERCE MINISTER

Ukraine continues to be a key strategic market for us. This renewed GMP certification enhances our credibility with regulators and partners across the region, enabling us to deepen our market presence, expand product portfolios, and provide high-quality medicines to a wider patient base

ADITI K CHAUDHARY | PRESIDENT, VENUSREM

Q4 RESULTS

AMSL profit grows

New Delhi: Apollo Micro Systems Ltd (AMSL) Saturday reported an 8 per cent year-on-year rise in consolidated net profit to ₹14 crore for the March quarter. It had posted a net profit of ₹12.9 crore in the January-March period of 2023-24, the company said in a statement. AMSL's operational revenues increased by 19 per cent to ₹161.7 crore from ₹135.4 crore in Q4 FY24.

Transrail reports profit

New Delhi: EPC player Transrail Lighting (Transrail) has reported a 27 per cent rise in consolidated net profit to ₹126.57 crore for the March quarter, driven by higher operational revenues. It had reported a net profit of ₹99.72 crore in the January-March period of 2023-24, the company said in a statement Saturday.

GNFC profit up

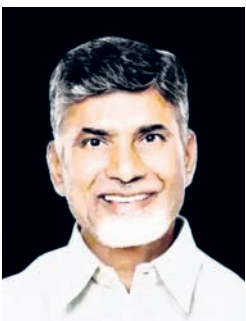
New Delhi: Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd (GNFC) Saturday reported a 62 per cent increase in consolidated net profit to ₹211 crore for March quarter. Its net profit stood at ₹130 crore in the year-ago period.

JKCL profit jumps

New Delhi: JK Cement Ltd Saturday reported an increase of 64.5 per cent in its consolidated net profit to ₹361.33 crore in the March quarter of FY25. The company had posted a profit of ₹219.68 crore in the January-March period a year ago, according to a regulatory filing from JKCL. JKCL's total expenses were at ₹3,092.04 crore, up 9.8 per cent year-on-year in the March quarter.

NTPC profit surges

New Delhi: State-owned power giant NTPC Saturday reported a nearly 22 per cent rise in consolidated net profit to ₹7,897.14 crore in the March quarter of FY25, aided by higher revenue from its generation business. The power major had reported a net profit of ₹6,490.05 crore in the January-March period of 2023-24, the company said in an exchange filing. NTPC's total income increased to ₹51,085.05 crore in the latest March quarter from ₹48,816.55 crore in Q4 FY24. The company earned a revenue of ₹49,352.99 crore alone from the generation business, up from ₹47,088.70 crore revenue garnered from the segment in fourth quarter of FY24.



Rooted in family-centric governance, innovation, digital infrastructure, and sustainability, the Swarna Andhra @2047 vision offers a scalable, inclusive model for national development

N CHANDRABABU NAIDU | CM, ANDHRA PRADESH

STEEL PLAYERS TO DISCUSS IMPORT ISSUE AT GLOBAL SUMMIT IN JUNE

Thousands of stainless steel players from across the globe will come together to discuss various opportunities and challenges including issues related to imports at the Global Stainless-Steel Expo 2025 (GSSE 2025) beginning June 4 in Mumbai



FPI outlook in India seems positive despite global developments



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, May 24: While short-term uncertainties may persist due to global political developments, the long-term outlook for foreign portfolio investor (FPI) flows into India remains positive, analysts said Saturday.

This will happen if corporate earnings align with current market valuations, enhancing investor confidence and justifying sustained capital inflows, said Saurabh Patwa, Head of Research and Portfolio Manager, Quest Investment Advisors.

History suggests that periods of intense FPI sell-offs are often followed by strong rebounds. Early signs of renewed interest have emerged in recent weeks, indicating potential optimism.

"India's position as one of the fastest-growing major economies remains a key attraction for global investors," he mentioned.

According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in the midst of global trade realignments and industrial policy shifts, India is increasingly positioned to function as a connector country that can become a key intermediary in sectors such as technology, digital services, and pharmaceuticals.

As per IMF projections, India is projected to remain the fastest-growing major economy and is likely to surpass Japan this year to become the world's fourth-largest economy.

According to market experts, despite heavy FII selling over the past few days, the Indian market showed resilience, supported by strong buying by domestic institutional investors (DIIs) and retail participants, reflecting continued confidence in India's long-term growth prospects.

FPI flows in India have seen significant outflows in recent quarters, primarily driven by weak corporate earnings, and a slowdown in urban consumption.

These domestic concerns were compounded by global headwinds, including fears of a slowdown due to potential policy changes, such as tariffs from US President Donald Trump administration, impacted global currencies, bond markets and delayed decision making by large global corporations.

Going forward, notwithstanding the daunting challenges on the horizon, India stands well-positioned to navigate the ongoing global headwinds with confidence, ready to harness emerging opportunities and consolidate its role as a key driver of global growth, said the RBI in its latest bulletin.

LIC bags Guinness title for selling most policies in 24 hours

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, May 24: Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) Saturday said it has earned a Guinness World Records (GWR) title for most life insurance policies sold in 24 hours.

January 20 this year, a total of 4,52,839 agents of LIC successfully completed and issued an astounding 5,88,107 life insurance policies across India. This monumental effort established a new global benchmark for agent productivity in the life insurance industry within a 24-hour period, according to the LIC.

The record attempt was the culmination of a thoughtful initiative by Siddhartha Mohanty, CEO and MD, LIC in the form of

RECORD BREAKING PERFORMANCE



an appeal to every agent to complete at least one policy on Mad Million Day (January 20, 2025).

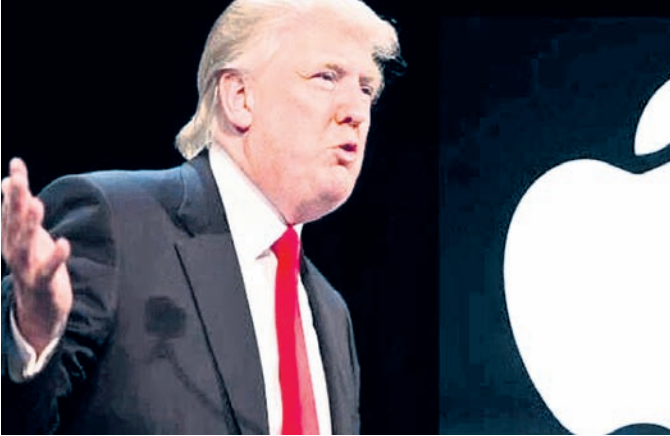
Mohanty thanked all esteemed customers, agents and employees for making Mad Million Day historic as their

incredible performance of procuring record number of policies on a single day has now been recognised globally.

"Team LIC is absolutely thrilled to receive this prestigious Guinness World Records

iPhone to get dearer for US, say experts

TRADE TUSSLE



The recent announcement on tariff has created havoc in global market. Experts believe that 'Made in US iPhone' can cost nearly ₹3lakh (\$3,000)

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

it will be at least 10-20 per cent more expensive. So it would eventually be as expensive as the 25 per cent tariff," he said.

Trump has again pushed for the manufacturing of iPhones in US and not in India or anywhere else for sale in the country.

Earlier, Trump has specifically expressed reservation on expansion of iPhone production in India.

An analysis by Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) estimates that Apple, through its software, design, and brand, claims the lion's share of around \$450 in each iPhone sold for \$1,000.

US component makers such as Qualcomm and Broadcom add another \$80, Taiwan earns \$150 for chip manufacturing, South Korea adds \$90 for OLED screens and memory chips, and Japan contributes \$85, mainly via camera systems.

Other countries like Germany, Vietnam, and Malaysia account for a modest \$45 through smaller parts while India gets only \$30, of which a large part is paid back through production linked incentive schemes.

"In India, assembly workers make roughly \$230 per month. In contrast, US minimum wage

laws in states like California mean monthly labour costs could rise to \$2,900, a 13-fold increase. The cost of assembling each iPhone would jump from \$30 to about \$390. Apple's profit per device would drop from \$450 to around \$60, unless offset by price hikes," GTRI Founder Ajay Srivastava said.

He said that if Apple's assembly moves out, India will be forced to stop propping up shallow assembly lines and instead invest in deeper manufacturing: chips, displays, batteries, and beyond.

"The cost to Apple's margins is real -- but so is the gain in domestic employment, economic rebalancing, and supply chain resilience. Even India, once the dust settles, may benefit by being pushed toward deeper, more valuable manufacturing," Srivastava said.

Shah said if not China, then India remains the only potential manufacturing destination for Apple as the ecosystem is mushrooming aided by lower cost English speaking skilled labour, world class software talent, favourable government policies such as PLI (production linked incentive) and a huge domestic consumption market.

"USA's request to Apple could also be a way to gain leverage against India in negotiations as they understand India needs marquee companies such as Apple to catalyse and build a domestic supplier ecosystem in this strong push for Make in India from semiconductors to finished electronics products," he said.

Cook had previously stated that Apple will source majority of iPhones sold in the US from India in the June quarter, while China will produce the vast majority of the devices for other markets amid uncertainty over tariffs.

Mix performance week for markets



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

MARKET RECAP

Mumbai, May 24:

The Indian stock markets concluded the week on a subdued note, as investors grappled with global uncertainties and awaited key domestic developments.

The benchmark indices experienced volatility, with the Sensex and Nifty oscillating within a narrow range before closing marginally lower. The Nifty settled at 24,853.15, while the Sensex ended at 81,721.08, reflecting cautious investor sentiment.

According to market watchers, the muted performance was driven by a combination of global and domestic factors.

"On the global front, rising US bond yields and concerns over the United States' mounting debt burden triggered foreign portfolio outflows, putting pressure on emerging markets, including India," said Ajit Mishra, SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd.

Additionally, speculation around favourable developments in US-China trade deal raised concerns about potential capital outflows or reduced inflows into Indian markets, further denting sentiment.

On the domestic front, mixed corporate earnings and delays in finalising India-US trade agreement added to the uncertainty,

prompting profit-booking and a guarded stance among market participants, he added.

The week saw a mixed sectoral performance. Realty and metal sectors remained top performers for the second consecutive week, while auto, IT, and FMCG sectors edged lower.

Among broader indices, the small cap segment managed to gain nearly half a percent, whereas the midcap index ended with marginal losses.

On the thematic front, select stocks in the defence space continued to attract buying interest.

According to analysts, expectations of a normal monsoon, which is favourable for agricultural productivity, combined with declining crude oil prices, are likely to keep inflationary pressures subdued.

In the week ahead, market participants will first react to the RBI's record dividend transfer of ₹2.7 lakh crore to the government and its implications for fiscal policy.

Additionally, the release of India's industrial and manufacturing production data for April, scheduled for May 28, along with the Q1 GDP growth figures, will offer insights into the economic recovery trajectory, said experts.

Property prices rise in cities



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 24: As many as 48 cities out of 50 registered an increase in property prices during the fourth quarter of 2024-25, according to data released by the National Housing Bank (NHB).

Out of the 50 cities covered, two cities Howrah and Thiruvananthapuram registered a decline in property prices, the latest residential housing price index NHB RESIDEX said. The 50-city Housing Price Index (HPI), based on valuation prices of properties collected from banks and housing finance companies, recorded an annual increase of 7.5 per cent during the fourth quarter of 2022-24 compared to 5.1 per

cent a year ago, it added.

Eight key primary residential markets witnessed an appreciation in property prices during January-March 2025. As per HPI, published by the NHB, prices in Ahmedabad recorded a 6.1 per cent rise, Bengaluru (13.1 per cent), Chennai (9 per cent), Delhi (2.9 per cent), Hyderabad (4.8 per cent), Kolkata (9.6 per cent), Mumbai (5.9 per cent) and Pune (6.8 per cent).

Quarterly, the 50-city index registered an expansion of 1.9 per cent in January-March 2025. Meanwhile, the interest rate on home loans moderated by 25 basis points in February 2025, when RBI reduced the repo rate by 25 basis points, the first rate cut in 5 years.

RBI proposes updates to tackle KYC issues

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 24: Faced with growing complaints on know-your-customer (KYC)-related matters, the Reserve Bank said it is contemplating to allow banks to take help of the vast network of business correspondents.

The central bank further said it is also mulling to allow authorised business correspondents of banks to help activate inoperative accounts.

In a draft circular on periodic update of KYC, the central bank said it has observed a large pendency in periodic update of KYC, including in the accounts opened for credit of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) under government schemes to facilitate credit of DBTs.

It has also been observed that the troubles are being faced by the accounts opened under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) as well, it said.

The RBI has also been re-



ceiving complaints regarding challenges faced by the customers in periodic updation of their KYC, it said.

"In order to further ease the process for the convenience of customers, the instructions regarding periodic update of KYC are being amended with the intent, inter alia, to allow BCs to facilitate in the process of KYC and KYC update," he draft circular said.

The general public can submit their comments on the proposals by June 6.

The RBI is also considering a proposal to ask banks to organise camps and launch intensive campaigns focusing on periodic update of KYC, especially in rural and semi urban branches and the branches having pendency in periodic update of KYC, it said, exhorting lenders to take an "empathetic view".

As per the central bank, the difficulties are being faced despite simplifying the instructions on customer onboarding and update/periodic update of customers' KYC.

On the issue of inoperative accounts, the RBI's draft circular said deposit accounts maintained with banks which have not seen any activity for over ten years result in the deposit amounts being transferred to the Depositor Education and Awareness Fund (DEAF).

"...an authorised BC of the bank may be utilized for activation of inoperative accounts," the draft circular reads.

Additionally, it said banks should make available the facility of update of KYC for activation of inoperative accounts/unclaimed deposits at all branches including the non-home branches and through Video-Customer Identification Process, if a customer requests for it. The public can comment on the draft on inoperative accounts by June 6, the central bank said.

NEW ERA BEGINS

Gill to lead India's NextGen in Test

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 24: Batting star Shubman Gill was Saturday handed India's Test leadership to steer through a "massive transition" phase starting with next month's tour of England that will be nothing short of a trial by fire for the relatively inexperienced 18-member squad announced here.

He will have the swashbuckling but erratic Rishabh Pant as his deputy for the five-match series that will begin June 20 in Leeds. "Last year or so we have looked at Shubman (for leadership). We are hopeful he is the guy who is going (to take the team forward). It is a heavy pressure job but he is a terrific player," said chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar after announcing the squad, which offered no major surprises.

Gill has appeared in 32 Tests so far and averages a rather modest 35 for his 1893 runs with five hundreds and seven fifties at the top of the order since making his debut in 2020.

The 27-year-old Pant, on the other hand, is a bit more experienced with 43 Tests under his belt and a better average of 42.11 for his 2948 runs lower down the line-up. He has smashed six hundreds and 15 half-centuries since coming into the side in 2018.

"Pant is one of our best batters in Test cricket over the last four-five years. A wicketkeeper can see the game well and that's

why he is Shubman's deputy," Agarkar added while explaining the big-hitter's role.

The selectors' decision on the team's leadership was on expected lines following the retirement of senior stars Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, both of whom called it quits within a week of each other earlier this month.

As a captain, Gill has not got a lot of experience in domestic cricket but has been leading IPL franchise Gujarat Titans for the past couple of seasons.

"It is a massive transition. Both Rohit and Virat were around for a long time," added Agarkar, who said deciding Kohli's replacement at number four would be a call taken by the team management comprising Gill and head coach Gautam Gambhir.

Bumrah not available for all 5 Tests

Besides Gill, Bumrah was another strong contender for captaincy but the selectors decided to hand over the leadership responsibility to the batter from Punjab.

There were also questions over Bumrah's fitness and Agarkar acknowledged that the

star pacer's availability for the full series is a concern.

"I don't think he's available for all five Tests as far as, again, (from what) the physios and the doctors have told us," Agarkar said on Bumrah. "Whether it's four or three (Tests), we'll see how

the right temperament and has the game to succeed at the top level...we have been looking at him for a while," Agarkar said, referring to the IPL's top scorer this season.

son with 638 runs at an average of 53 so far for Gujarat Titans.

Like Sudharsan, Arshdeep too has experience of playing in county cricket.

The left-arm pacer, who has been picked ahead of Khaleel Ahmed, is India's leading wicket-taker in T20 cricket but proving himself in the traditional format will be a much tougher challenge.

Persistent Nair in, unfit Shami out

The squad also features Karun Nair, who returns to the national set-up after eight years. Having last played in 2017, Nair was dropped from the team soon after becoming

the second triple centurion in Tests from India.

A notable exclusion was pacer Mohammed Shami, who was deemed not fit enough for the long series that will end only in the first week of August.

"He has been trying to get fit for the series but he has had a little bit of a setback last week...and he has got some MRIs done. I would like to mention, I don't think he was going to be available for all five Tests. I don't think his workload is where it needs to be," Agarkar said.

Easwaran, Thakur too make the cut

A heavy scorer in domestic cricket, Abhimanyu Easwaran has found a place in the extended squad as a reserve opener. He has been

picked in the past as well but could never feature in the playing eleven.

With doubts over Nitish Reddy the bowler, the selectors have picked another fast bowling all-rounder in Shardul Thakur, who last played for India in December 2023.

Thakur was part of India's previous trip to England where he smashed back to fifties in the Oval Test that India won by 157 runs.

Squad for England tour

Shubman Gill (captain), Rishabh Pant (vice-captain), Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL Rahul, Sai Sudharsan, Abhimanyu Easwaran, Karun Nair, Nitish Reddy, Ravindra Jadeja, Dhruv Jurel, Washington Sundar, Shardul Thakur, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Akash Deep, Arshdeep Singh and Kuldeep Yadav.

Strange selection, says Manjrekar; Irfan, Harbhajan congratulate Gill

Former India batsman Sanjay Manjrekar Saturday described India's 18-strong Test squad for the tour of England as "strange" but asked for a patient approach towards newly-appointed Test captain Shubman Gill. "Strange team selection overall. But India go to England with nothing to lose. It's a team in transition so we can only wish it the very best & yes, be patient when it comes to returns on investment.#indianteam," Manjrekar, a former batter, wrote on his 'X' handle without explaining the reasons for his observation. Congratulating the team, former seam-allounder Irfan Pathan wrote: "Many Congratulations to Sai Sudarshan, Arshdeep Singh, Karun Nair for being selected for the ultimate format and the challenging English summer. "Congratulations to Shubman Gill for being appointed as Indian test captain. But surely team India is going to miss Mohammed Shami's services in those conditions," he said. "Congratulations @ShubmanGill. Good luck in England," wrote former India skipper Harbhajan Singh. The IPL franchises also took to social media to congratulate Gill. "Congratulations Shubman Gill and Rishabh Pant, it's your time to shine the brightTEST. Go on, build your legacy, and turn dreams into reality!", tweeted Royal Challengers Bengaluru. Chennai Super Kings wrote: "From Next Gen to The Next Captain. Shubman Gill leads India into a new Test chapter! Gill's IPL franchise Gujarat Titans, whom he led to the playoffs this season, also congratulated him. "Ek naye Test era ka-aarambh! Our Captain, now #TeamIndia's Test Skipper!"



SHORT TAKES

Lakra new asst coach

New Delhi: Former defender Birendra Lakra has been appointed assistant coach of the Indian junior men's hockey team ahead of the Junior World Cup later this year, Hockey India said Saturday. The 35-year-old will work closely with legendary goalkeeper PR Sreejesh, who is currently serving as the coach of the team. "It is a great honour to be part of the Indian Junior Men's setup at such an important time. I know what it takes to wear the India jersey, and now I look forward to helping the next generation of players prepare for the big stage," Lakra said in a release.

Hassan makes history

Paris: Benjamin Hassan made history by becoming the first Lebanese tennis player in the Open era to qualify for the main draw of the French Open. The 30-year-old defeated Japan's James Trotter 6-2, 7-6 (5) in the final round of qualifying. Germany-born Hassan secured his place at Roland-Garros by winning three straight matches in the qualifying tournament on the clay courts of Paris. His qualification is the second major milestone for Lebanese tennis this year. In January, Hady Habib, who is currently ranked 159th, won a first-round match at the Australian Open. This was the country's first Grand Slam match victory.

MALAYSIA MASTERS

Srikanth storms to finals

Shuttler enters first final in six years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kuala Lumpur, May 24: Indian shuttler Kidambi Srikanth stormed into his first men's singles final of a BWF event in six years with a straight-game win over Japan's Yushi Tanaka at the Malaysia Masters Super 500 badminton tournament here Saturday.

The 32-year-old, a 2021 World Championships silver medalist, dished out a superlative game, showing glimpses of his vintage self with sharp net play and attacking flair to outwit world number 23 Tanaka 21-18 24-22 in a thrilling contest.

"I'm pretty happy. It's been a while," Srikanth said after the win.

He will face second seeded Chinese Li Shi Feng in the summit clash Sunday.

This is Srikanth's first final appearance on the BWF World Tour since finishing runner-up at the 2019 India Open.

A former world number one, Srikanth — currently ranked 65 — has endured a rough patch over the past few seasons due to form and fitness issues.



"Physically I've been feeling well, but also the fact that I haven't played too many matches on last year, playing qualifying, so may be kind of lost that touch of playing matches. And yeah, somehow everything worked out this time. I've been working hard last month. It's just these wins, after a very long time, that is what has been my emotions," he added.

A naturally gifted player, Srikanth became the first Indian to win four BWF titles in 2017 and then led the country to its first-ever Commonwealth Games gold in the team event.

Napoli back on top in Italy

Napoli win fourth Serie A title with one point over Inter

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Rome, May 24: Napoli fended off Inter Milan's pressure to register its fourth Serie A title Friday after a 2-0 home victory against Cagliari in the final round, making the Nerazzurri's win over Como to no avail.

The Scudetto race was practically a two-horse race before Friday. Napoli entered its final matchday with 79 points, one point ahead of Inter, so Antonio Conte's side only needed one victory to secure its Serie A champion, regardless of Inter's result.

Cagliari had confirmed its Serie A status after the 37th round and had nothing to play for on Friday, but Napoli only broke the deadlock on the stroke of halftime when Matteo Politano whipped in a cross, Scott McTominay found the net with a stunning acrobatic scissor kick, reports Xinhua.

Romelu Lukaku doubled the lead just six minutes after the break when the Belgian collected the ball in the midfield and surged forward, resisting shoulder-to-shoulder challenges before finishing with a low-strike.

It is Napoli's second Serie A



championship in three years, as it had relished the glory with huge advantage in the 2022-2023 season under Luciano Spalletti, ending a 33-year wait.

It is also a historic moment for Conte, who became the first coach to win Serie A title with three different clubs, having already steered Juventus and Inter Milan to the laurel.

Elsewhere, Inter rotated the starting line-up massively but still rose to a 2-0 away victory with a pair of goals from Stefan de Vrij and Joaquin Correa,

KHELO INDIA BEACH GAMES

Odisha eves reign supreme in beach soccer

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Diu, May 24: Odisha Women picked up their first gold of the competition after a tough fight from Gujarat in the beach soccer competitions of the Khelo India Beach Games (KIBG) 2025 Friday evening.

Odisha women looked to run away with two early goals against Gujarat women who appeared to have the support of local spectators, the large part of the crowd which also was dancing to the Garba and Bollywood tunes in the company of Pearls – dolphins – mascots for the Games.

In the third and final period, with Gujarat trailing 3-0, Shaikh Naaz breathed a lot of life into the match by scoring a brace in less than a minute and making it 3-2. Bhumisha David then had a great chance to make it 3-3 in the dying moments of the match but to the disappoint-



ment of the large part of the crowd, she couldn't finish it.

In the end, Odisha were still leading 3-2, and thus they sealed the gold medal. They had put together the squad under coach Gitanjali Khuntia only a couple of weeks before the Khelo India Beach Games 2025.

Captain Jasoda Munda, who led her troops with great

HISTORIC MOMENT

Rahul KP first Indian to represent English Premier League club

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 24: In a groundbreaking moment for Indian football, Rahul KP, the dynamic winger of Odisha FC, has been extended a prestigious invitation to represent English Premier League powerhouse West Ham United in the highly anticipated summer edition of The Soccer Tournament (TST), an elite 7 v 7 football competition featuring 48 teams from across the globe.

This is the first time in Indian football history that an Indian player will represent a top-division English Premier League club men's team.

The tournament is scheduled to take place from June 4 to June 9, 2025, in Raleigh, North Carolina, United States.



Rizvi, Nair power DC to win over Punjab

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, May 24: Young Sameer Rizvi struck a high-quality, maiden half-century after Karun Nair marked his return to the Indian Test team with a vital knock as Delhi Capitals pulled off a six-wicket win over Punjab Kings to end their IPL season on a positive note here Saturday.

Set a stiff target of 207, DC completed the task in 19.3 overs with the 21-year-old Rizvi remaining unbeaten on 58 off 25 balls, which included five sixes and three fours. Nair had earlier contributed 44 in 27 deliveries with two sixes and five fours.

This was after Marcus Stoinis brought his big-hitting abilities to the fore following Shreyas Iyer's sparkling half-century as Punjab Kings posted a challenging 206 for eight.

Given their recent record, it looked like a difficult target for Delhi, but impact sub KL Rahul (35 off 21 balls) and stand-in



skipper Faf du Plessis (23 off 15) provided their team with a good start, quickly adding 55 runs in less than six overs to keep them in the game.

Having played some fine shots, including a beautifully-timed boundary through cover-point off Azmatullah Omarzai and a spectacular straight six off Harpreet Brar, Rahul got out to an innocuous delivery as he sliced a slow off-cutter from Marco Jansen for a running Shashank Singh to complete the catch.

Recalled to the Indian Test team after eight years, Karun Nair started his innings with a six over fine leg off Jansen.

Du Plessis wasted his start and in what turned out to be a soft dismissal, the seasoned South African found Priyansh Arya at backward point after failing to keep his cut shot down.

Leg-spinner Praveen Dube, who dismissed Sediqullah Atal (22 off 16), was hit for four successive boundaries by Nair as DC reached 111 for three in the 11th over. When Nair was bowled by Brar at a crucial juncture, it looked difficult for DC.

IPL STANDINGS					
TEAM	M	W	L	NRR	PTS
GT	13	9	4	0.602	18
PBKS	13	8	4	0.327	17
RCB	13	8	4	0.255	17
MI	13	8	5	1.292	16
DC	14	7	6	0.011	15
LSG	13	6	7	-0.337	12
KKR	13	5	6	0.193	12
SRH	13	5	7	-0.737	11
RR	14	4	10	-0.549	8
CSK	13	3	10	-1.030	6

Brief Scores:

Punjab Kings: 206 for 8 in 20 overs (Shreyas Iyer 53, Marcus Stoinis 44 not out, Josh Inglis 32; Mustafizur Rahman 3/33, Kuldeep Yadav 2/39, Vipraj Nigam 2/38) beat **Delhi Capitals:** 208 for 4 in 19.3 overs (Sameer Rizvi 58 not out, Karun Nair 44; Harpreet Brar 2/41)