

#### 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

Bhubaneswar, May 24: Asserting that Odisha will be the growth engine in the country's development journev 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 Aavog 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 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 Chief Minister's Office here. close coordination with the Centre is actively implement-



ing PM USHA, PM SHRI, Mamata-PMMVY, NEP 2020 and

complete one vear in office next month in June Maihi said his government has laid the foundation for 'Samrud-- a vision for a prosperous and mantra of Prime Minister Mo- within a 'Viksit Bharat'. The

di's 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas'. He said the year 2036 will mark 100 years of Odisha's As his government will formation and 2047, the centenary of India's independence, "Our Vision 2036 and 2047 documents - our ambitious resolve to build dha' (developed) Odisha, 2036 a prosperous, developed, and proud Odisha – a 'Viksit empowered Odisha as per the Odisha' that shines brightly see Odisha's economy touch received from over 3,20,000 USD 500 billion by 2036 and people of the state through soar to USD 1.5 trillion by 2047," he said.

The CM said the state gov-Bhubaneswar, Khurda, Jat-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

people of Odisha aspire to report with suggestions an online portal and analysed using AI.

Majhi said as per Odisha's ernment was committed to vision, his government has provide 40 per cent urban- started working to bring all isation by 2036 and 60 per our cultivable areas under cent by 2047 from the cur- irrigation to raise agriculturrent 17 per cent. "We plan al productivity and farmer's to develop a metropolitan income and focus on rapid region of 7,000 sq km around urbanisation as an engine of growth. "We look forward to ni, Cuttack, Paradip, and 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.



# 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 nah the armed miscreants before handing them over to police. Meanwhile, the Forest Employees' Association of Dhenkanal said that forest guards should be adequately eauipped 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 them are from Narsinghpur. June 20 in Leeds. 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

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, May 24: A forest guard was killed allegedly by poachers near Satkosia Tiger Reserve in Dhenkanal district in the early hours of Saturday, officials said. Acting on a tipoff, an eight-member team of the Forest department went to Tantichira village around 3.30 am when they came face to face with the poachers.

Soon, the poachers opened fire, and Prahallad Pradhan, the in-charge forester of Hindol range, was shot in the stomach, officials said. However, the Forest mm, 94.4 per cent of the department team managed to overpower the poachers and arrested them.

Pradhan was rushed to a nearby health facility, from



where he was taken to the Angul district headquarters hospital. There, he was de-

clared 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 Lax- tri,25. The five-match series midhar Amak. While two of against England will begin 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 steep through a 'massive transi tion' phase with the swashbuckling 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 fifth young-Test

Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi, 21 Sachin Tendulkar, 23, Ka pil Dev,24, and Ravi Shas-

#### X SERVICES FACE **LONGEST OUTAGE**

after

New Delhi, May 24: Social media platform X services remained down for the longest period ever, with users reporting glitches on the platform for the third day in a row, Saturday.

Elon Musk-led X started facing a glitch May 22 due to data centre outage and remained down in several parts of the globe including in India Saturday as well.

'We're still experiencing issues from yesterday's data center outage. Login and sig nup services are unavailable for some users, and there may be delays in notifica tions and Premium features Our team is working 24/7 to resolve this. Thanks for your patience -- updates soon." X engineering team official account said Saturday.

# IRREGULAR by MANJUL Monsoon reaches Kerala, earliest since 2009

New Delhi, May 24: The southwest monsoon hit Kerala Saturday, marking 3 in 2021; June 1 in 2020; June 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 It went okay. I was expecting by July 8. It starts retreatit to start with a Mahabharat ing from northwest India around September 17 and withdraws completely by

had set in over the southern state May 30 last year; June 8 in 2023: May 29 in 2022: 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

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'.

of rainfall in 2024, 108 per cent of the average and the highest since 2020. In 2023, it recorded 820 average. In 2022, it saw 925 mm; 870 mm in 2021; and 958 mm in 2020, according to IMD data.

Rainfall less than 90 per

cent of the long-period aver-

age 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' precip-

itation. India saw 934.8 mm

#### Sanderling sighted in Kashmir after 134 years species. While my friends were busy capturing images of other birds, I promptly direct ed their attention to a specific species that I had identified instantly due to its size difference from a Little Stint," Sofi said. Shavir was initially skeptical but was convinced after

birdwatcher claimed.

cant, representing one of the best records for Jammu and

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,

Small wading bird, weighing breed in the high Arctic tundra and winter on coastlines across the globe, excluding Antarctica. The name derives from Old English sand-vrðling, 'sand-ploughtravelling between 3.000 to 10,000 km (2,000 to 6,000 miles) from its breeding grounds to its wintering sites.

side the breeding season, they are highly gregarious. but become solitary when

## **Govt ratifies FY25 EPF** interest rate at 8.25%

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.

shloka and end

with a blood test

EPFO, February 28, had decided to retain the interest rate of 8.25 per cent on employees' provident fund try official said.

(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 minis-

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 photograph in Kashmir, a

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

Kashmir and a new addition "This sighting is signifi-

to the region's checklist. Shayir said.

He said they have submit-

excluding Antarctica. Out-

# leisure



#### **HEATHER LOCKLEAR** SPLITS FROM FIANCÉ

American actress Heather Locklear has split from Chris Heisser, her fiance 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.





You will find some decisions difficult to make, but be ntent 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. artifact, says Ganesha.

**CANCER** 

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

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 import ant 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.



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 <mark>journey</mark> Thank you @sandeepreddy.vanga ..honoured to be a part of your vision." The Bulbbul actress will be

seen sharing screen space with P<mark>rabhas</mark> in this ambitious projct. Spirit will mark Triptii's first professional association with the Baahubali actor. Triptii will be replacing Deep-

ika Padukone as the leading lady for Spirit. Recently, reports surfaced that Deepika has backed out from Sandeep Reddy Vanga's 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 Deep-

ika's second collaboration with Prabhas after Kalki 2898 AD last

introduced him to Afghan culture.

His father could speak Pashto and

of entertainment for the actor was

when in class 8 he got his first pay

cheque when he impersonated Mi-

chael Jackson for a dance show or-

from the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya

of acting with the television serial

Mumkin in which he played the role

of Vijav Pandev in 1996. He also act-

ed in Doordarshan's Ek Se Badh Kar

Ek, a comedy Bollywood countdown

He was also the host of Fear Factor

India season 1. He started his jour-

ney in films with Dastak, in which

The actor was also a trained pilot

He made his foray in the world

ganized by Doordarshan.

Uran Akademi.

er of police, and was the one who he essayed the role of ACP Rohit Sushmita Sen.

An early exposure to the world

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

# Wamiqa's awkward encounter

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 didn't.'

Mumbai: lia Bhatt

made a strik-

ing style state-

ment at the 2025

Cannes Film Fes-

tival as she walked

SUDOKU

2

1

6

7

8

2

Alia

Alia dazzles at **Cannes** 

red carpet in a Gi-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 ap-

pearance at Cannes this year

saw her in a stunning navy

blue off-shoulder gown

crafted from crystal-em-

bedded fabric. The gown sparkled under the spot light, 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 flat tered Alia's petite frame. Styled by  $\tilde{R}$ hea Kapoor, the look stayed

true to its runway essence. Alia's acces sories included a matching statement headpiece, blue gemstone earrings, and a coordinating ring - all of which tied the look together without overshadow ing 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.

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a

manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains

3 6

1

4

4

8

2 9

> 4 5

the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

3

9 3

8 6

6



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 cause of the actor's death

could not be ascertained at the time

of filing of this report. Further de-

tails are awaited including a state-

Actress Deepshikha Nagpal, who was his close friend, confirmed the

news on social media as she shared

an Instagram Story and posted a

The actor, who was last seen in the

Mukul Dev was born in New Delhi

into a Punjabi family with roots in

a village near Jalandhar. His father

Hari Dev, an assistant commission-

Hindi film Anth The End, was the

throwback picture saying, "RIP"

brother of actor Rahul Dev.

ment from his friends and family.

the age of 54 on Friday night.

#### CALVIN AND HOBBES



#### BREVITY

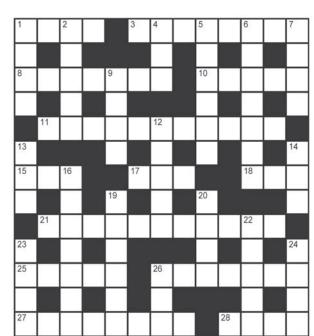


# POST

Malhotra. The film also marked the

debut of the former Miss Universe

#### **CROSSWORD**



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Acr	OSS	
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
- 25 Sign of life

- nightmare (5,6)
- 26 Flavourless
- 27 Catastrophe
- 28 Knock about
- Down 1 Quote
- 2 Spectre 4 Honey maker
- 5 Table linen
- 6 Placate

- 7 Barber's supply
- automaker
- 9 German

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

cheese 26 Hot temper

12 Brusque

13 Swindle

16 Tea makers

19 Means of

escape

20 Rugs, to some

22 River horse,

briefly

23 Floored it

24 Wax-coated

14 Solemn promise

# **SOLUTIONS** IMITATE ZESTY OBTAIN



SUDOKU

3 4 8 2 7 1 9 6 5



# owntown

# CM MEETS PM IN DELHI Vision docu launch June 12: CM

Bhubaneswar, May 24: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Maihi Saturday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and discussed the developments taking place in the state under the BJP government.

Majhi, who is on a four-day tour to the national capital, had earlier in the day attended the NITI Aayog's governing council meeting before meeting the Prime Minister. He also met BJP national pres-

ident JP Nadda during the day. Sources said that Majhi extended an invitation to Prime Minister Modi and the BJP president to attend a function marking the completion of one year of his government in Odisha June 12.

The Prime Minister had attended the swearing-in of Majhi government June 12, 2024.

"CM of Odisha, Shri @Mohan-MOdisha, met PM @narendramodi. @CMO\_Odisha," the Prime Minister's Office posted on X.

Majhi said on X, "Honoured to meet Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi today. Deeply grateful for his unwavering support and inspiring



vision for Odisha's development. We held meaningful discussions on the state's holistic progress with a strong emphasis on accelerating growth in infrastructure, welfare, and employment. Committed to working together for the progress of our state and nation, driven by the shared vision of Viksit Odisha, Viksit Bharat,'

In another post on X. Maihi said, "Today, I had the privilege

of meeting Hon'ble BJP National President and Union Health Minister Shri @JPNadda Ji in New Delhi. We held productive discussions on strengthening Odisha's healthcare system. I emphasised our state's commitment to universal health coverage and sought continued central support to enhance medical infrastructure, expand medical education, and improve healthcare access in remote areas."

New Delhi/Bhubaneswar, May 24: Odisha's vision document - 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 - will be launched June 12, the day BJP government completes one year in Odisha, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said at the NITI Aayog Governing Council meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi Saturday.

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 document is an 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.

"Odisha's vision document

day our government completes one year in Odisha," Maihi said It is a comprehensive, actionable, and inclusive report made with suggestions received from over 3,20,000 people of the state through an online portal and analysed using AI, he added.

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,

The CM also said that the state is making all-out efforts to attract investment in textiles, garments, food processing industries and also newage industries for large-scale

a metropolitan region of 7,000 sq km around Bhubaneswar, Khurda, Jatni, Cuttack, Paradip and Puri, with similar plans for other growth centres MOHAN CHARAN MAJHI | CHIEF MINISTER

employment generation.

'The state has the best in class skilling ecosystem for which 'Skilled in Odisha' is a global brand name and we are 'Skilling for the World'. Odisha is emerging as an ITeS and global capability centres hub," he said.

On empowerment of women, the CM said the state government has put in place an inclusive social security system through schemes like 'Subhadra' for women in the age group of 18-59 years. The allocation for education and health sectors has been substantially enhanced to make our future citizens educated, skilled and healthy to contribute to our state's growth process.

This apart,  $\rm \bar{M}$ ajhi said, "We have formulated schemes and

quality of life of the people through provision of basic amenities like roads, pucca houses, electricity, drinking water, telecom services, sports infrastructure and other social and economic infrastructure along with livelihood opportunities for all.

On achievements during the last 11 months, Majhi informed the meeting that Odisha has brought out development of Hirakud in the western region as a Special Tourism Zone. "We also intend to specifi-

cally develop the Buddhist circuit in Odisha. The integrated master plan will be taken up for iconic destinations with a phased execution," he said.

The CM said the state govern ment 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 sim ilar plans for other growth centres," the CM said.

# Awareness campaign against drug trafficking from May 31

Bhubaneswar, May 24: Odisha will launch a comprehensive programme in coordination with various departments to curb illegal drug trafficking and marijuana cultivation across the state. Excise Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan an-

Harichandan stated that public awareness would be raised through traditional folk performances such

as Pala, Daskathia, Goti dance, roadside plays, and school-level essay competitions aimed at educating youth about the dangers of drug abuse and trafficking.

According to official sources Saturday, illegal drug trafficking has declined since the new government assumed office.

The Excise department, along with the police and special squads, has been conducting regular raids. As a result, numerous illegal liquor shops have been shut down, and large quantities of raw materials and vehicles have been seized. Several individuals involved in the trade have also been arrested. "However, we must all intensify our efforts to completely eradicate the illegal drug trade from our state,

Harichandan emphasised. Presiding over a review meeting, the Excise minister announced that an awareness campaign will be held from May 31 to June 26 to prevent the use and trafficking of illegal drugs across Odisha. He emphasised that every

department has a vital role in the state-wide programme. "From school campuses

to village panchayats, the message of drug awareness must reach every corner of the state," he said.

To ensure the campaign's success. Harichandan stressed the need to highlight the harmful effects of drug abuse through street plays in busy marketplaces and folk art forms like Pala and Daskathia.

He instructed senior officials to promote awareness through mobile awareness vans at the district, sub-district, and block levels and directed the department to compile a daily activity schedule for the campaign.

Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja recommended organising essay competitions on drug abuse at the school level, involving selfhelp groups from villages, and conducting sustained



#### **PRE-MONSOON RAINS**

#### State govt gears up to protect paddy in mandis

Bhubaneswar, May 24: The state government has initiated comprehensive measures to protect paddy stocks in mandis amid the ongoing Rabi procurement season, following predictions from the India Meteorological Department (IMD) about the onset of pre-monsoon rains in Odisha.

With several regions already experiencing unseasonal rainfall, the Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare (FS&CW) department has taken proactive steps to safeguard paddy from weather-related damage.

To ensure smooth continuation of the procurement process and minimise losses, the FS&CW department has imple-

mented necessary precautions. Officers have been instructed to educate farmers on proper storage of harvested paddy at

safe and dry locations.

"Precautionary measures are essential to prevent crop damage from the expected rainfall," said K Sudarshan Chakravarthy, Managing Director of the Odisha State Civil Supplies Corporation.

Chakravarthy has directed officials to expedite the evacuation of paddy from mandis in coordination with rice millers. He emphasised that all stock should be properly covered with high quality tarpaulin sheets to protect it from rain and moisture.

Additionally, instructions were issued to ensure proper drainage systems around storage areas. Farmers have been warned in advance about the expected rain, and millers have been asked to prioritise lifting the paddy stock.

Further, arrangements for temporary shelters, drinking water and ORS (Oral Rehydration Solution) have been mandated at all mandis to support

workers and farmers. A review meeting, co-chaired by Chakravarthy, decided to enhance surveillance by using CCTV and maintaining strict monitoring of vehicles transporting paddy from mandis to mills.

# 2 held for 'pro-Pak' Justice BV Nagarathna to become slogans in Cuttack part of Supreme Court Collegium

Cuttack, May 24: Odisha Police Saturday arrested two persons here for allegedly raising 'pro-Pakistan' slogans.

The two persons identified as Sourav Kumar Sahoo, 27, and Goutam Lenka, 28, of Chauliagunj area in the Millennium City, were accused of attempting to inflame ill feelings among different communities with the intent to incite hatred and create disturbances. disrupting public tranquillity and religious harmony, the po-

Investigations revealed that May 15 the accused, along with other associates, were present at the Mahanadi embankment in Gandhipalli Gada. Sourav shouted slogans 'Pakistan Zindabad, Pakistan Zindabad', which was video-recorded by Goutam using his mobile

phone, they said. After recording the video,

Goutam circulated it across various WhatsApp groups, the police said.

'The accused deliberately created and disseminated a video containing the slogan 'Pakistan Zindabad, Pakistan Zindabad' with the malicious intent to disturb public harmony...," the police said.

Given that Cuttack is a communally-sensitive city, the circulation of such a video is likely to incite communal disharmony and provoke individuals to disturb peace and public order both in the state and across the country, the police

said in a statement. The aforementioned acts clearly demonstrate the malicious intent of the accused persons to outrage the religious feelings of a section of citizens. Their intention was to cause

disorder and incite violence. Police have seized two mobile phones from the possession of the accused persons.

New Delhi, May 24: Justice BV Nagarathna, in line to become the first woman Chief Justice of India, is set to become a member of the Supreme Court Collegium after the retirement of Justice Abhay S Oka.

Being the fifth senior most judge now, Justice Nagarathna will officially become part of the Collegium May 25 and will be part of it until she retires as Chief Justice of India October 29, 2027.

The Collegium will now comprise Chief Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai, Justice Surya Kant, Justice Vikram Nath, Justice JK Maheshwari,

and Justice Nagarathna. According to apex court sources, CJI Gavai is likely to convene his inaugural Collegium meeting Monday to address vacancies in the top court and make crucial appointments in several high courts.



After Justice Oka's retirement, there will be a vacancy

of three judges in the top court. Under the collegium system, which came into existence in 1993 after a Supreme Court judgement, five top judges of the apex court recommend the appointment, transfer and elevation of judges to the Supreme

Court and the 25 high courts. The government can return

the recommendation to the Collegium under this system. It usually accepts the recommendation if it is reiterated by the Collegium. But there have been cases when the government has returned the file again or has not responded to the recommendations.

Justice Nagarathna, born October 30, 1962, is the daughter of former CJI E S Venkataramiah.

She enrolled as an advocate October 28, 1987, in Bangalore and practised in the fields pertaining to the Constitution, commerce, insurance and service.

She was appointed as an Additional Judge of the High Court of Karnataka February 18, 2008, and became a permanent Judge February 17, 2010.

She will have a tenure as an apex court judge till October 29, 2027 and may have a tenure of over one month as the first woman CJI after September 23, 2027.

### Man held for job fraud

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 24: The twin city Commissionerate Police Saturday arrested a 28-year-old man on charges of duping a youth of Rs 3.15 lakh on the promise to help him get a job in East Coast Railway

police said. Maitri Vihar IIC Rabinarayan Behera identified the accused as Anil Kumar Das of Jaleswar area in Balasore

district. The IIC said Satyananda Malick, a resident of Kharavelnagar area, lodged a complaint with police in connection with the fraud December 12, 2023.

"Anil promised Satyananda to help him get a Group-D job in East Coast Railway. Accordingly, Satyananda gave him Rs 5.13 lakh in September 2022, the IIC said.

A few months later, Satvananda realised the fraud and demanded back money from Anil. "The accused returned Rs 1.98 lakh to Satyananda and remained incommunicado,' the IIC said, adding that the accused was arrested Saturday.

## Vigilance arrests JE over DA

Bhubaneswar, May 24: Junior Engineer (JE) Susanta Kumar Sethy was arrested Saturday by the Vigilance on charges of possessing disproportionate assets (DA).

Sethy, who was working at Khariar under the Nuapada R&B Division, will be produced before the court of the Special Judge, Vigilance, Bhubaneswar, according to the anti-corruption wing sources.

The Junior Engineer was found to be in possession of DA. including three multi-storeyed buildings, one farmhouse, nine high-value plots, and two expensive four-wheelers (including one benami vehicle).

He also had deposits amounting to Rs 55 lakh and household articles worth over Rs14 lakh all of which he failed to account

for satisfactorily, they said. Vigilance sources further revealed that Sethy had hidden a large amount of ill-gotten money — Rs 55 lakh in cash and



1.4 kg of gold — in the house of his tenant to evade detection during Vigilance raids.

However, the tenant allegedly misappropriated the valu-

In connection with this, Sethy's spouse filed an FIR at Dhauli police station April 13, 2024 against the tenant for failing to return the cash and gold. The case is currently under investigation by the Dhauli

The cash and gold ornaments are suspected to be ill-gotten assets belonging to Sethy and their origins are being verified by the Vigilance.



BEAUTIFICATION DRIVE: The area around the Chandi Temple in Cuttack being beautified, Saturday

**Orissa POST** 

# **Pre-monsoon showers lash** Odisha; more rain on cards



districts wit-

nessed cloudy

skies with light

to moderate rain,

while some areas

experienced heavy

downpours," said Manora-

ma Mohanty, director of the

Meteorological Centre in Bhu-

baneswar. She attributed the

weather to a cyclonic circula-

tion over north coastal Odisha.

likely to form over the west-cen-

tral Bay of Bengal around May

27, which could intensify rain-

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

fall further, she added.

A low-pressure area is also

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

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 prothemselves from lightning.

Meanwhile, the Centre for 45 mm, followed by Environment Bhubaneswar (37 mm), and Climate Angul (36 mm), Khurda (CEC) also (22 mm), Cuttack hinted at an (18.4 mm), and early monsoon onset in Odisha **Talcher** due to the form-(12.4 mm) ing 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.



STAGE ROLEPLAY: Artistes from Nirman Kala Manch, Patna, perform the drama 'Bidesia' at the National Theatre Festival organised by Bidyakanak at Rabindra Mandap, Bhubaneswar, Saturday

# 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 Dava West Canal 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 Satrughan Kar, alongwith senior engineers and plan

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

uniqueness of the event. "This

exhibition is special because

it features only a select group

of master crafts people, many

of whom are award winners.

Our aim is to spark public in-

terest in Odisha's crafts," he

said. Mohapatra also noted

the event's timing. "Usually,

we hold exhibitions in the

winter, but this time we're

hosting it in the summer to

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

portance of a holistic approach that integrates engineering solutions with ecological restoration and community involve-

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

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 Anwesha Priyadarshini Tanti for all purpose.

#### LOST

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before Notary Public, Bhadrak, dtd. 30.04.2025, I Narenara 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. Puspaniali 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.

# Master Crafters' exhibition unveiled

Talcher (12.4 mm).

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 ar-

tisans," she said. Crafts Council of Odisha chairman Santosh Kumar Mohapatra emphasised the

Council of Odisha

ity of Odisha's crafts. Other dignitaries present at the event included Rebati Pani, Ramesh Swain, and Adyasha Dash from the Crafts

#### support artisans during the lean season," he added. the accused had been The exhibition fosters dioperating the fraudurect interaction between arlent scheme from his tisans and buyers, providing in-laws' residence in Balasore for an exfinancial support to the artisans and boosting the visibiltended period.

ing materials.

fied 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

Max Temp

Min Temp

Humidity

Rainfall

10th pass man held for ₹12L fraud fake GST registration certificate

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,

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

DCP Jagmohan Meena identi-

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 Kumaı

> 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 San hita (BNS). He was produced before a local court Saturday for remand.

# 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



monitored 609

room patients with chest pain

(average age 62) using wearable

physical activity trackers for 30

days post-discharge. The devic-

es recorded movement, sitting

time, and sleep. Patients were

then followed for a year to as-

The results revealed that

sess health outcomes

emergency

atients 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

were more than twice as likely to experience further cardiac events or death compared to those who averaged 12 hours.

than 15 hours of sedentary be-

haviour daily (excluding sleep)

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

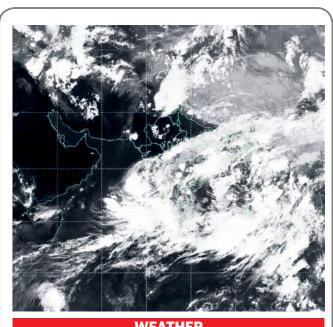
cardiac events. Previous research showed that patients with ACS often feared physical activity and spent more than 13 hours a day

sitting. Given the established link between sedentary behaviour and poor cardiovascular outcomes, the researchers sought to understand the im-

pact 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-hospi talisation. 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.



#### WEATHER **BBSR** CTC 34.2° 33.6 27.2° 29.6°

71%

37.1mm

**FORECAST** Generally cloudy 18.4

sky with one or two spells of rain or thunderstorm

#### patients who averaged more FOR CL ASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STA

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

## Jumbo calf found dead



Sambalpur, May 24: Forest personnel Saturday recovered the carcass of an elephant calf in a jungle near Halukhulia Sorishbadi village under Jhankarpali forest section and Sambalpur forest division, officials said.

The actual reason behind the death of the animal is yet to be ascertained. The calf is suspected to have died three to four

days back. The matter came to the fore after locals spotted the carcass in the jungle and informed the local forest personnel. Veterinarians conducted a post-mortem of the carcass at the spot and buried it.

Jujumura forest range officer Harishankar Nayak said, 'We rushed to the forest after getting information from locals that a carcass was found in the forest near the Halukhulia Sorishbadi village.'

"The cause of death can be ascertained only after the post-mortem report is available," he added.

Reports said that the death of the jumbo calf is third such case this year in Sambalpur forests. Earlier, the carcass of a 20-vear-old tusker was recovered from Jaduluisingh jungle January 29. Three days back, an elephant was electrocuted at Khasuapali Lavadera Bolanga reserve forest under Sadar



PROVIDENTIAL ESCAPE: Fire fighters clearing a large tree that got uprooted and fell on a moving truck near Gopalput village on Koraput-Sunabeda National Highway 26, Saturday. The truck sustained damage but fortunately, the driver and two other bikers had a close shave.

#### Police arrested 12 in ₹38.88L cyber fraud

POST NEWS NETWORK

Barbil, May 24: Cyber police of Keonjhar district arrested 12 persons and produced them in Barbil court Saturday in connection with a cyber fraud involving ₹38.88 lakh.

The accused have been identified as Amal Kumar Navak of Khajurikhaman village under Barkote PS in Deogarh district, Abinash Nayak from Talcher Thermal area under Colliery PS in Angul district, Amit Gochhayat of Balanda village, Subhendu Behera from Jagannathpur village, Vivekananda Yadav of Nehru Nagar under Bolangir Town PS, Akash Bag of Ganrei village under Muribahal PS, Jamil Akhtar and Sheikh Mustakin from Chadak Mohalla under Bhadrak PS. Sheikh Saif Kadri from Puruna Bazar in Bhadrak, Punit Kumar of Khawad village under Dhanaura PS in Amroha district of Uttar Pradesh, MD Anwar of F-64 area under Nariman Vihar PS in east Delhi and Sadre Alam of Pali village under Ghanshyampur PS in Bihar.

According to reports, a businessman named Pradeep Kumar Dubey, a resident of Sundarabasti area in Barbil, received a WhatsApp link on his mobile phone for online trading from a company named 'Jep Morjen' in October 2024. Pradeep registered through the link and deposited a total of ₹38.88 lakh in several instalments since November 6, 2024 into the bank account provided by the company.

Later, when Pradeep tried to withdraw the deposited money online in December 2024, he was asked to deposit an additional 30 per cent of the amount. which raised suspicion in his mind. Upon investigating further, Pradeep discovered that the company was fraudulent and filed a complaint with the cyber police in Keonjhar.

Based on the complaint, Keonjhar Cyber Crime and Economic Offense Police registered a case (31/2024) December 5, 2024, and began a probe.

# Kalahandi's waterlocked villagers rely on Nabarangpur for survival



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawanipatna, May 24: When one speaks of the remotest, tribal-dominated areas in Kalahandi district, the name of Thuamul Rampur block often comes up.

Among the most neglected, five of its panchayats -- Podapadar, Maligaon, Gopinathpur, Adri, and Talanagi -- are waterlocked by the Indravati reservoir. The situation in these areas is such that locals have to rely heavily on neighbouring Nabarangpur district for their day-to-day needs.

Living on the fringes of Kalahandi district, the tribal residents often travel nearly 15 km

to Tentulikhunti in Nabarangpur in order to access essential goods and services. To get there, they board motor boats from the canal ghat in Indravati reservoir, and cover a 500-metre stretch to reach Tentulikhu-

their waterlocked villages. "Whether it's a visit to the doctor, for buying groceries, or accessing basic services, we head to Tentulikhunti," said Rudra Harijan and Barun Ma-

nti, the nearest small town from

ihi, two villagers from the area. Travelling to their own block headquarters, Thuamul Rampur, is difficult as it is 60-70 km away from their villages. The waterlocked villages do not have a healthcare centre,

road network. In case of medical emergencies, including childbirth, patients are transported via country boat across the Indravati reservoir despite

One alarming outcome of this prolonged isolation is the loss of cultural identity. Though Kalahandi has its own distinct dialect, these villagers now speak different dialects of Nabarangpur and Koraput districts. Their only formal link to Thuamul Rampur is the Aadhaar card, which lists them as the natives of this block.

Despite years of governance and changes in administration, the situation remains the same. The 24-year rule of the previous BJD government did not address their plight despite repeated demands, locals say, adding that political leaders and officials rarely, if ever, visit the area.

As a new government takes charge in state, the waterlocked residents of the remote villages wait with cautious hope. It remains to be seen whether this administration will finally listen to their voices or leave them waterlocked and forgotten like the previous regime.

#### Woman trampled to death by jumbo

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, May 24: A woman was trampled to death by an elephant while her one-year-old son escaped death by a whisker in a jungle near Garagadi village under Jodia panchayat and Bisoi police limits in Mayurbhanj district Saturday early morning.

The deceased was identified as Charmi Naik, 27, wife of Kundia Naik at Kashipentha village. On being informed, Forest personnel rushed to the spot and launched an investigation. Villagers have demanded financial assistance to the bereaved family.

The incident occurred when the deceased had gone to her parent's house along with her son. She went to collect tooth sticks from the nearby jungle carrying the child with her. She left her son nearby and went inside the jungle to collect tooth sticks, when she came face to face with an elephant which attacked and trampled her to death.

Family members searched for her and found her son standing and crying near the jungle. They later discovered her mutilated body inside the forest.

# Man awarded life term for rape, murder of minor girl

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur Town, May 24: Jajpur POCSO Court Saturday sentenced a man to life imprisonment for kidnapping, raping, and then murdering a minor girl and disposing of her body in a septic tank in 2016.

Judge Bijav Kumar Jena also imposed a fine of ₹10,000 on the convict Nabakishore Majhi, a resident of Raneswarpur village under Korei police limits. In case of non-payment of the fine, the accused would have to undergo an additional six months jail term, the judge ordered.

According to the details, the 17-year-old girl, a Plus II student at the Women's College in Jajpur Town, was in a romantic relationship with the accused. Her family, however, disapproved of their relationship.

abducted Nabakishore the girl and took her to his village January 3, 2016. He reportedly raped her on the verandah of a school in his village. To destroy evidence, he killed her behind the school by slitting her throat. He then dumped her body in the school's septic tank.

Some students of the school noticed bloodstains near the septic tank the next day and informed their teacher, who in turn alerted the police. The police recovered the girl's body from the tank. Later, her maternal uncle identified the body. Following this, her brother lodged a formal complaint at the Korei police station.

Based on this complaint, police registered a case (3/2016) and began an investigation During the probe, police found the girl's vanity bag, some gold jewellery, her father's ATM card, and her mo bile phone at Nabakishore's house. He had also used the ATM card to withdraw ₹10,000 at Jajpur Road before fleeing to Balasore.

However, he was spotted in Tentulikhunta village under Korei police limits January 7, and arrested by police. He was then produced in court and remanded to judicial custody. Since then, he had been in the Jajpur Sub-Jail as an undertrial prisoner.

## One dead as ambulance crashes

**Dharmasala:** A person died and two others were seriously injured after ar ambulance met with an accident early Saturday morning near Rathiya on National Highway 16 under Dharmasala police limits in Jajpur district. According to reports, the ambulance was returning from Cuttack after dropping off a patient when it crashed. The front portion of the vehicle was completely damaged in the accident. The deceased has been identified as Achyutananda Barik of Madhupur area under Dasarathpur block. The injured have been identified as driver Kaulas Panda and pharmacist Tapas Patra of the government ambulance bearing registration number OD-02-BJ-1463. Local residents rescued the injured and admitted them to the Dharmasala Community Health Centre. Barik was declared dead by doctors, while Panda and Patra were given first aid and later shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack for advanced treatment. Sources said the ambulance, based in Dasarathpur, had completed six trips during the day. It was returning from Cuttack in the evening when it reportedly crashed into a stationary vehicle near Rathiya. Reports suggest the ambulance staff were being forced to work 24-hour shifts in violation of labour laws, leading to repeated accidents. A local union claimed that lack of proper rest for drivers is contributing to such incidents and demanded that ambulance drivers be allowed to work as per labour regulations.

# Chorus grows for turtle research centre near Rushikulya estuary

Berhampur, May 24: As Rushikulya river mouth in Ganjam district has emerged as a major rookery for Olive Ridley turtles, wildlife lovers and experts have demanded the establishment of a turtle research centre in the area to study the behaviour of the marine animal.

The demand in this regard was made at a meeting observing the 'World Turtle Day' May 23, at Purunabandh, near the river mouth. The meeting was organised by the Khallikote forest range

It's high time the government took steps to expedite the proposal for setting up of a turtle research centre near the rookery, said Rabindra Nath Sahu, secretary, Rushikulya Sea Turtle Protection Committee, an organisation working on conservation and protection

of the Olive Ridley turtles. The Forest department has identified around 3.5 acres of government land near Purunabandh for the establishment of the proposed



centre, sources said.

Many speakers at the meeting said that due to the active participation of local people in the protection and conservation of the endangered sea turtles, the Rushikulya river mouth has emerged as a major rookery. A record number of around 9 lakh Olive Ridley turtles visited the beach for mass nesting in two phases this year, they said.

While 6,98,698 Olive Ridleys had laid eggs on the beach in their first phase of mass nesting from February 16 to 23 in the 5-km stretch from Podampeta to Bateswar, over 2.05 lakh turtles laid eggs in the same stretch in the second phase of mass

nesting from March 22 to 27, said

Dibya Shankar Behera, Assistant Conservator of Forest (ACF) in-Charge in Khallikote range.

He said a record number of Olive Ridley hatchlings had also emerged from the pits and moved towards the sea with the help of forest staff and local volunteers.

Anil Mohapatra, a senior scientist of Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) said Olive Ridley turtles preferred to return to Rushikulya rookery for mass nesting due to its safety and protection.

He said around 12,000 female turtles had been tagged by the ZSI and Forest department in the 2021-23 period at Rushikulya rookery to monitor their movement. "We have recaptured over 553 of them in the same site so far. This indicates that they preferred to revisit the rookery for mass nesting," he added.

Shankar Naryan Bez, coordinator of district Eco-Club, lauded the community participation in the protection and conservation of Olive Ridley turtles near the Rushikulya river mouth.

## **Zonal Office:**

CORRIGENDUM With reference to our "E-Auction

Sale Notice" published in the "Orissa Post" on 24.05.2025 Bank is cancelling the E-Auction of the Property of Borrower: Mr. Durga Sankar Parida (SI No. 1) & Borrower: Mrs. Mandakini Parida (SI No. 2) of Chakeisiani Branch which was supposed to be held on 25.06.2025. All other facts remain unchanged.

Place Bhuhaneswar Authorised Office Date: 25.05.2025 Bank of India

M/Engg/KUR/25-26/E-Tend Dated: 21.05.2025

(1) Tender No. e-Tender-estatekur-61-2025, Dtd. 13.05.2025

DESCRIPTION 
MISCELLANEOUS REPAIRS TO D-TYPE QUARTERS (TY-IV) AT RAIL VIHAR COLONY, C HANDRAS AS EKHARPUR, BHUBANESWAR.

Approx Cost of the work (₹): 303.28 (2) Tender No. e-Tender-CENTKUR-67-2025 Dtd. 14.05.2025 DESCRIPTION: NEW WORKS, ADDITIONS AND ALTERATIONS TO THE EXISTING STRUCTURES, ALL ORDINARY REPAIR AND

MAINTENANCE WORKS OF MISCELLANEOUS NATURE AND SUPPLIES EACH COSTING RS. 5,00,000/- OR LESS IN THE SECTION BARANG (IN) TO RAJATHAGARH (EX) UNDER SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER(WORKS)/BARANG FOR THE PERIOD UPTO 30.06.2026. Approximate Cost of the Work : Approx Cost of the work (₹): 80.64 Lakh

Completion period: 12 (Twelve) Month

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

lo manual offers sent by Post / Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tender even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejecte marily without any consideratio Complete information including e-tende ocuments of the above e-Tender is available in ebsite: www.ireps.gov.in

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

bidder(s) can participate on e-tendering. Divisional Railway Manager (Engg) PR-165/Q/25-26 Khurda Road

NAME OF WORK: PROVISION OF MSDAC TO INCREASE RELIABILITY IN AUTO SECTION FROM MACHAPUR TO KHURDA ROAD, AT RAJ ATHGARH & HINDOL STATIONS OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION OF EAST COAST

88,09,95,138.48, EMD : ₹ 45,55,000/-

Completion Period: 12 Months Tender Closing Date and Time: At 1500 Hrs. of 04.05.2025.

No manual offers sent by Post/ Courier ax or in person shall be accepted agains on firm's letter head and received in time All such manual offers shall be considere valid and shall be rejected summarily vithout any consideration.

Complete information including -tender documents of the abov -tender is available in website ww.ireps.gov.in

Note: The prospective tenderers are dvised to revisit the website 15 days efore the date of closing of tender to te any changes / corrigenda issued

Dy. Chief Sig. & Tele. Engineer/Project Bhubaneswa PR-31/CI/25-26

#### EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. 12/ET/SBP/ ENGG/2025-26, Dated: 19.05.2025 (1) e-Tender No.17-eT-DENC-SBP-25 NAME OF WORK : EXECUTION OF BALANCE CIVIL WORKS IN THE NEWLY COMMISSIONED SONEPUR-BICHHUPALI SECTION UNDER THE

JURISDICTION OF DEN (CENTRAL)

Approximate Cost of the Work 5,89,10,007.97, Bid Security: ₹ 4,44,600/-(2) e-Tender No.18-eT-DENC-SBP-25 AME OF WORK: SLOPE EASENING
OF DEEP CUTTINGS AT KM. 243/27-7 &
245/19-247/6 IN THE NEWLY
C OMMISSIONED SONEPURBICHHUPALI SECTION UNDER THE
JURISDICTION OF DEN (CENTRAL)/
SAMBALPUR.

3,11,80,653.62, Bid Security: ₹3,06,000/completion Period for the Work: 0 Six) Months (for both Tenders)

Tender Closing Date and Time: At 1500 Hrs. on 11.06.2025 (for both Tenders). lo manual offers sent by Post / Courier ax or in person shall be accepted against uch e-tender even if these are submitted or m's letter head and received in time. Al uch manual offers shall be considere valid and shall be rejected summaril

complete information including e-tende ecuments of the above e-tender allable in website: www.ireps.gov.in Note: The prospective tenderers and advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifter dvised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen, ays before the date of closing of tender to ote any changes / corrigenda issued for his tender. The tenderers/bidders musiave Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS Portal July registered tenderer/ bidder car articipate on e-tendering.

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.) PR-159/Q/25-26

#### EAST COAST RAILWAY

**E-AUCTION PROGRAMME FOR JULY & AUGUST-2025 FOR SCRAP SALE** 

SCHEDULE OF E-AUCTION Date as mentioned below:

		July-2023			August-2025				
JULY	Depot Mancheswar	1	8	15	22	4	11	18	25
&	Khurda Road Division	2	9	16	23	5	12	19	26
UGUST-	Waltair Division	3	10	17	24	6	13	20	28
2025	Sambalpur Division	4	11	18	25	7	14	21	29
Way fitti iscellane	ed rolling stocks (Loco, Congs (switches, crossings ous workshop scrap (druinning and boring etc), Mi	, fish	plat bogie	es, s fran	leepe	ers, i	fish to	oolt e	etc.), uffer

plunger, turning and boring etc), iniscellaneous terrous, Non-terrous, Non-metallic scrap, condemned machinery and plants, condemned vehicles, condemned office equipments of Sambalpur, Khurda Road & Waltair divisions and scrap materials of Railway Electrifications are expected to be offered on "AS IS WHERE IS" basis. Railway administration shall be at liberty to include other items too in the e-auction and the complete details of materials and terms and conditions will be as per Auction Catalogue, which shall be available with the espective auction conducting authority of East Coast Railway or from our website www.ireps.gov.in within 07 (seven) days prior to the date of auction.

Principal Chief Materials Manager, Bhubaneswa

Punjab & Sind Bank पंजाब एण्ड सिंध बैंक

Zonal Office: Vijayawada 4th floor, House No.: 54-14-4C/1, R K Galleria, Ring Road, Srinivasnagar Bank Colony, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh - 520008, Phone: 0866-2974191/92/94

#### E-mail: zo.vijayawada@psb.co.in PREMISES REQUIRED

Punjab & Sind Bank requires suitable ready built and vell-constructed hall type building having Carpet Area including space for ATM) upto 1200 Sqft on lease /rental basis. Premises should be preferably located in Ground Floor at below

SI No.	District	Location				
1.	Jagatsinghpur	Jagatsinghpur Town				
2.	Mayurbhanj	Baripada Town				
3.	Koraput	Jeypore Town				
4.	Nabarangpur	Nabarangpur Town				
5.	Rayagada	Rayagada Town				
6.	Angul	Angul Town				
7.	Bolangir	Bolangir Town				
8.	Dhenkanal	Dhenkanal Town				
9.	Keonjhar	Keonjhar Town				
10.	Sundargarh	Sundargarh Town				
11.	Sonepur	Sonepur Town				

remises offered should have all clearance certificates from statutory authorities. Interested owners / registered Power of Holders of such premises in the desired locality who are eady to lease out their readily available premises on long term ease basis preferably for 15 years or more may send their offers n the prescribed format available on Bank's Website www.punjabandsindbank.co.in or the same may be obtained rom the above address during office hours. The complete offer uly sealed & signed should reach the undersigned on or before

14.06.2025 by 5.00 PM at the above mentioned address No brokerage will be paid by the Bank. Bank reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers at its sole discretion without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

**ZONAL MANAGER** Date: 25.05.2025



Do not give way, hold tight. It is when everything seems lost that all is saved.





# **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, corralling 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



Aakar Patel

**THE REWARDS** 

**AND THE FRUITS** 

**OF DEMOCRACY** 

INTENSIFICATION

**ARE ACHIEVED** 

**OF FREEDOM** 

**SUPPRESSION.** 

RECOGNITION

**WILL BE MORE** 

PRODUCTIVE,

**AND MORE** 

**CAPABLE** 

**MORE CREATIVE** 

FREE INDIVIDUAL

**IS THAT THE** 

**THROUGH** 

**AND NOT** 

THE

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 Adhy-

adesh 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

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

#### WISDOM CORNER

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

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

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

#### 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.

FOCUS GEOPOLITICS

# FAREWELL, AMERICA

re 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 visà-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 reof 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.

**SPECTRUM** 

**TRUMP SIMPLY** 

**OVER THE FACT** 

**IMPORTS MORE** 

**GOODS THAN IT** 

**CANNOT GET** 

**THAT THE US** 

**EXPORTS** 

#### **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** 

he 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.

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:

OrissaPOST B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

#### **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

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

Sir, Type 2 diabetes mellitus, which once was a



# TWOSTATES





# 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 curric-

Twelve years ago, Dharaksha moved from Bihar to Ker-

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

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 Palak-

kad 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 in cluded in the curriculum for sixth-grade students

#### 'STAIN **REMOVED**'

## Centenarian acquitted in murder case after spending 43 yrs in jail

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 vil-

lage 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 Saroi,

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 Pranjal, Secretary of the Kaushambi

#### 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,



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 Teiashwi Yadav will rise to power, trained its guns at Chief Minister and JD(U) supremo Ni-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 be-

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 ing explored for new eco-tourism opportunities. The Forest

skill development. The initiative is already showing positive results, with

and Wildlife department is also

a significant rise in the number of eco-tourism visitors to the state in recent years. Tourists will now be able to enjoy safaris even during the monsoon sea son, as tiger reserves are being kept open for longer periods.

In addition to the existing ti ger reserves and wildlife sanc tuaries, the Forest and Wildlife Department is also expanding eco-tourism prospects to new locations. In southern Kheri tourist circuits have been de veloped in Gola, Mohammadi Range, and Bhira. The Semra Lake, a known habitat for migra tory birds, is also being included in the tourism circuit for bird watching and nature excursions

Furthermore, jungle safaris have been initiated in the buf fer zone of Katarniaghat, which lies close to the Nepal border With its natural beauty, rich biodiversity, and abundance of wildlife, the area is expected to become a major attraction for tourists seeking an immersive nature experience.



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

# 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 free

ly, 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 kilome-

ters 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-

reviving the Noon River was not just an environmental priority it was essential for the region's survival

RAJESH KUMAR PANDEY | DISTRICT

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 riv er 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

"People are working day and night," said Shankar Singh, Gram Pradhan of Mahewa village. "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 state-ment by the CNLU, "The MoU was signed 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 wil 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 relation ships," 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

# national



If the money reaches Dharmika Parishad then we can provide them insurance cover. We want their families to get at least ₹5 lakh if something happens to them

THAAWARCHAND GEHLOT | GOVERNOR, KARNATAKA

#### TMC FLAGS POOR UPKEEP OF RASH **BEHARI BOSE'S GRAVE IN TOKYO**

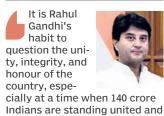
Trinamool Congress leader Saket Gokhale Saturday urged the Indian Ambassador in Tokyo to "immediately" speak to the Japanese authorities about the "concerning" state of the grave of freedom fighter Rash Behari Bose at the city's Tama cemetery





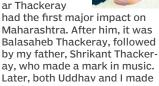
very enterpris Vedanta Group Shri Anil Agarwal

Ji. We spoke on operationalcommitment made during AdvantageAssam2. Vedanta is keen to expand its footprint in the state's hydrocarbon sector HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | CHIEF MINISTER.



India's sovereignty and unity IVOTIRADITYA SCINDIA | LINION MINISTER As far as the Thackeray





some elements are questioning

RAJ THACKERAY | MAHARASHTRA NAVNIRMAN

SHORT **TAKES** 

#### **Pharma-drug** syndicate busted

New Delhi: Delhi Police has busted a drug syndicate supplying pharmaceutical-based narcotics in and around Delhi University's North Campus with the arrest of five people, an official said Saturday. The accused have been identified as Manish Bhatle (26), his maternal uncle Devender (57). Nikhil alias Gunnu (28), Ankit Gupta (40) and Kapil (28). the official said. He added that police recovered 2,360 Tramadol-based capsules along with 135 bottles of codeine-based cough syrup worth over ₹1 lakh in the international market.

#### Govt approves ₹800cr for Delhi Jal Board

New Delhi: In a major financial boost, the Central government has recently approved ₹800 crore for the Delhi Jal Board under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) scheme to provide sewer connections in slums and unauthorised colonies across the city.

#### Man booked for 'assaulting' daughter

Kannur (Kerala): Police booked a man Saturday after disturbing visuals of him "brutally assaulting" his eightyear-old daughter went viral on social media recently. In the footage, the man could be seen beating the child and trying to slam her head against the wall as she cries in fear. As the issued triggered widespread outrage on social media platforms, Health, Women and Child Development Minister Veena George and General Education Minister V Sivankutty came out strongly condemning the act and assured stringent leagal measures against the accused.

#### 4 killed after truck crashes into car

**Guvvalacheruvu (Andhra** Pradesh): Four people, including two children, died after a truck crashed into their car in Kadapa district Saturday, police said. Srikanth, a Bangalore-based software engineer was heading to Chintaputtayapalle village with his family, when the incident occurred on Guvvalacheruvu ghat road at 9.30 am, they said.

#### **Gujarat man arrested** for sharing sensitive info with Pak spy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, May 24: The Gujarat Anti Terrorist Squad (ATS) has arrested a contractual health worker posted in the border district of Kutch for allegedly sharing sensitive information about military establishments with a Pakistani spy, officials said Saturday.

Accused Sahdevsinh Gohil, 28, was lured by a Pakistani agent, who identified herself as Aditi Bharadwaj, to share information about under-construction as well as existing establishments of the Border Security Force and Indian Navy in the area, said the ATS in

Since June 2023, Gohil, a resident of Lakhpat taluka of Kutch, had shared photos and videos of various BSF and naval facilities in Kutch district via WhatsApp with the Pakistani spy for money, said Superintendent of Police (ATS) Siddharth Korukonda

The Pakistani agent first contacted Gohil, who was a contractual health worker at a government centre in Mata No Madh village in Lakhpat, on his WhatsApp number in June 2023 and befriended him.

"After winning his trust, the agent sought photos and videos of BSF and Indian Navy offices and ongoing construction around his village. Gohil shared the requested classified information via WhatsApp,' said the SP, adding that Gohil knew she was a Pakistani spy.

Based on a tip, he was brought to the ATS office a few days ago for questioning, and his phone was sent for a forensic analysis, said Korukonda.

# Pak violated IWT spirit with wars, terror attacks

**Harish told the UN** meeting that India had entered into the Indus Waters **Treaty 65 years ago** in good faith

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

United Nations, May 24: India ripped through Pakistan's "disinformation" at the UN on the Indus Waters Treaty, asserting that Islamabad violated its spirit by inflicting three wars and thousands of terror attacks on India that seek to hold hostage lives of civilians, religious harmony and economic prosperity.

"We are constrained to respond to the disinformation being carried out by the delegation of Pakistan with regard to the Indus Waters Treaty. India has always acted in a responsible manner as an upper riparian state," India's Permanent Representative to UN Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish said Friday.

Harish was addressing the UN Security Council Arria Formula meeting organised by the Permanent Mission of Slovenia on 'Protecting Water in Armed Conflict - Protecting Civilian Lives.

Harish highlighted four aspects to expose the "disinformation" by Pakistan, which spoke about India's decision to suspend the Indus Waters

In the wake of the horrific



April 22 Pahalgam attack in Jammu and Kashmir in which 26 civilians were killed, India had decided that the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 would be held in abeyance with immediate effect until Pakistan credibly and irrevocably abjures its support for cross-border terrorism.

Harish told the UN meeting that India had entered into the Indus Waters Treaty 65 years ago in good faith.

Noting that the Preamble of the Treaty describes that it was concluded 'in a spirit of good will and friendship', Harish said throughout these six and a half decades, "Pakistan has violated the spirit of the treaty by inflicting three wars and thousands of terror attacks on India."

The Indian envoy underlined that in the last four decades, more than 20,000 Indian lives have been lost in terror attacks. the most recent of which was the dastardly targeted terror attack on tourists in Pahalgam.

Even as India has shown extraordinary patience and magnanimity throughout this period, Harish said Pakistan's "state-sponsored cross-border terrorism in India seeks to hold hostage the lives of civilians, religious harmony and economic prosperity." Harish pointed out that India

has formally asked Pakistan to discuss the modifications of the Treaty on several occasions in the past two years but Islamabad continues to reject these.

"Pakistan's obstructionist approach continues to prevent the exercise of full utilisation of legitimate rights by India," he said.

Further, Harish said that in the past 65 years, far-reaching fundamental changes have taken place not only in terms of escalating security concerns through cross-border terror attacks but also growing requirements for producing clean energy, climate change and de-

# SC orders CAPF cadre review in 6 months



The court's direction came on a batch of pleas seeking Non Functional Financial Upgradation, cadre review and restructuring and amendment of recruitment rules to *eliminate IPS deputation* 

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 24: The Supreme Court has directed to conduct a cadre review, which was due in 2021, in all the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), including ITBP, BSF, CRPF, CISF and SSB, to be carried out within six months.

A bench of justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan Friday directed the Department of Personnel and Training to take an appropriate decision within three months of receipt of action taken report from the Ministry of Home Affairs regarding cadre review and review of existing service rules/ recruitment rules.

The court's direction came on a batch of pleas seeking Non Functional Financial Upgradation, cadre review and re-

Delhi LoP Atishi slams

structuring and amendment of recruitment rules to eliminate IPS deputation.

"Keeping in mind the twin objectives of service mobility of the cadre officers of CAPF removing stagnation on the one hand and the operational functional requirement of the forces on the other hand, we are of the view that the number of posts earmarked for deputation in the cadres of the CAPFs up to the level of Senior Adminis trative Grade (SAG) should be progressively reduced over a period of time, say within an outer limit of two years.'

"This will bring in a sense of participation of the cadre officers belonging to the CAPFs in the decision-making process within the administrative framework of the CAPFs there by removing the long-standing grievances of the cadre officers," the bench said.

The court said the role of CAPFs is crucial for maintaining security at the borders of the country as well as for discharging internal security duties.

There are various issues connected with the deployment of CAPFs, including coordinating with the state governments and the state police force, it said

# Rahul visits shelling hit areas in Poonch

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Poonch (J&K), May 24: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Saturday visited the shelling-affected areas in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, where 28 civilians were killed and over 70 injured in Pakistani cross-border attacks between May 7 and 10. Calling the incident a "big tragedy, Gandhi said Poonch symbol ized the "harmony, unity, and patriotism of Hindustan" and vowed to raise the concerns of victims at the national level.

During his nearly two-hour visit, Gandhi met with affected families and visited Gurdwara Singh Sabha, Geeta Bhawan temple, Madrassa Zia-ul-Uloom, and Christ High School, where he interacted with children who lost two classmates to shelling. "Don't worry, everything will return to normal. Study hard, play hard, and make friends, he told the students.

In posts on X, he praised the resilience of the local population and said attempts to divide India would never succeed. "This is Poonch - this is Hindustan," he declared.

The BJP, however, criticised Gandhi's remarks, accusing



him of downplaying the attack. BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla slammed him for calling it a "tragedy" instead of an "act of terror," saying it "rubbed salt on the nation's

Gandhi was accompanied by senior Congress leaders, including J&K Minister Javed Ahmed Rana, AICC's Syed Naseer Hussain, and J&K Congress chief Tariq Hameed Karra.

Congress leader Lal Singh praised Gandhi for visiting Poonch and meeting families across communities. He also criticised the central government for not acting on Gandhi's call for a special Parliament session post-Operation Sindoor and questioned alleged intelligence leaks.

#### Liberian vessel carrying marine fuel lists off Kerala coast

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram/Kochi, May 24: A Liberian container vessel carrying marine fuel listed several degrees, 38 nautical miles off the Kerala coast Saturday afternoon, causing its cargo to spill into the sea, authorities said.

The Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSD-MA) cautioned the general public against touching the cargo containers or oil spill if they wash ashore.

They also asked people to immediately inform the police if they see container or oil spill on the shore

According to a Defence release, the 184 metre long vessel -- MSC Elsa 3 -- departed for Kochi from the Vizhinjam port Friday and at around 1.25 pm May 24, the company owning the ship informed Indian authorities that it was listing by 26 degrees and sought urgent assistance.

It said that the Coast Guard was coordinating rescue operations by maintaining ships and aircrafts near the distressed vessel and of the 24 crew onboard. nine were in liferafts.

sage "#PahalgamTerrorAttack

Justice is Served. Jai Hind!"

## over water crisis **BJP calls assertion 'fabricated falsehood'**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 24: Claiming a water crisis in the national capital, Leader of Opposition Atishi has written a letter to Chief Minister Rekha Gupta seeking immediate time to dis cuss the pressing issue.

Atishi in her letter claims that Delhiites, particularly women and children, are struggling as they are lining up in front of water tankers and purchasing bottled water due to disrupted supplies.

"Scenes of women standing in queues with buckets and children waiting with pots are becoming the new identity of Delhi," Atishi wrote, questioning whether this was the vision promised by the BJP to people of the city.

Criticizing the BJP-led Delhi government the former chief minister said water supply is being cut off for 24 hours at a time while the administration remains silent. "Despite the BJP's four-en-

gine government at the Centre.



with the LG. MCD and the CM's office. Delhi's citizens are still struggling for basic needs like drinking water," she added.

Warning of a looming crisis as temperatures continue to rise in the coming weeks, Atishi said, "If this is the condition in May, what will happen when the heat peaks? Does the government want to leave people at the mercy of God for water?

Labeling the issue as more than an administrative failure. the former chief minister described it as a sign of "gross negligence" by the BJP government.

She urged Gupta to respect democratic norms and grant

time to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLAs to meet her and present the concerns of Delhi's The BJP, however, later

rubbished the charges, calling them a "fabricated falsehood" and attributing the current situation to the previous AAP government's failures

Asserting that there is no major water crisis in the city, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva credited the present government's Summer Action Plan for preventing any serious

"The Aam Aadmi Party leaders have one political narrative a lie every day and under this narrative, Atishi has fabricated a falsehood regarding a severe water crisis in Delhi," he said in a statement.

Sachdeva said that despite peak summer heat, there is no widespread talk of a major water crisis in Delhi due to effective implementation of the Summer Action Plan, improved water distribution and GPS-enabled water tankers.

#### **POETRY AND POWERFUL MUSIC**

# Army's sharp social media tactic hammers in Op Sindoor message

A powerful video featuring a rock-style rendition of a key verse from Ramdhari Singh Dinkar's 'Rashmirathi'-'Krishna ki **Chetavani'—set the tone for India's military** message to Pakistan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 24: It is the message delivered that matters. While Operation Sindoor showcased India's military prowess and firm stand against terrorism, the armed forces put out sleek social media posts and videos, one with rock renditions of lines from Dinkar's ballad 'Rashmirathi', to drive home the point

India decimated nine terror

camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied-Kashmir under Operation Sindoor with precision strikes early May 7 in response to the dastardly April 22 Pahalgam massacre. At 1:44 am that day, the

government, in a statement, underlined that India has demonstrated "considerable restraint" in the selection of targets and method of execution and that "no Pakistani military facilities have been targeted".



Shortly after, the Indian Arthe Indian Army's 1:51 am X my's social media handles carried a poignant message with a poster that has now become a defining image of Operation Sindoor. Along with the mes-

post carried a poster that was concise in words but heavy on

The poster had 'OPERATION SINDOOR' written on it with a small bowl carrying vermilion (worn by married Hindu wom-

second word while the second 'O' had a dash of the powder around it. Since then, the Indian Army

en) forming the first 'O' of the

has come up with several thematic short videos on social media platforms that have been widely shared and appreciated.

All these videos were made in-house, by the Social Media Section of the Indian Army's Additional Directorate General of Strategic Communication. sources in the military establishment said.

The songs were carefully chosen, each based on the content and theme, they added.

But a video that has stood out for its lyrical appeal and arresting visuals, is the one that was

briefing of the Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) on Operation Sindoor May 12.

played just before the press

A powerful video featuring a rock-style rendition of a key verse from Ramdhari Singh Dinkar's 'Rashmirathi'—'Krishna ki Cheta vani'-set the tone for India's military message to Pakistan.

As the verse echoed, visuals of India's military prowess-missiles, naval assets, air defence systems-flashed on screen with subtitles like "prepared, "tracked," and "monitored." The Hindi lyrics translated to a stark warning, "When doom hovers, wisdom fades... you ignored friendship... this is the final resolve-war, not pleading.'

# national



This is a meeting of Team India to take decisions for the country's development. Jairam Ramesh is finding fault in this too

SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN

#### HARYANA HIGH COURT CHIEF JUSTICE WITHDRAWS CASE

The Chief Justice (CJ) of Punjab and Haryana High Court has withdrawn a case from its judge "in the interest of the institution" and to "protect the reputation" of the judge after receiving "oral and written" complaints, according to an order from the CJ





who are meant to protect people unleash violence against them. It signals the breakdown of democratic order. This is an undeclared emergency unfolding in Andhra Pradesh YS JAGAN MOHAN REDDY YSRCP CHIEF

We are not afraid of ED or Modi. The DMK nurtured by Kalaignar (his grandfather and former Chief Minister M Karunanidhi), is a party with self-respect firmly moored to the principles of Periyar (rationalist leader E V Ramasamy)

UDHAYANIDHI STALIN | DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER, TAMIL NADU

The first subgroup on GDP growth aims to boost investments, manufacturing, exports and job creation. supported by Central viability gap

funding for PPP projects N CHANDRABABU NAIDU | CHIEF MINISTER,



did not use the method nature used - wings. We used the same physical principles, not the same tools and physical shapes.

The problem with 'intelligence' is that brain's operating mechanisms the fundamental algorithms and the massively complex networks aren't understood. It's more likely that if we ever invent true intelligence, it would not resemble the human version at all.

@sandeep\_PT

#### SHORT **TAKES**

#### BRS demands T'gana CM's resignation

Hyderabad: Stepping up his attack on Telangana Chief Minister, BRS Working President KT Rama Rao Saturday demanded that A Revanth Reddy step down after ED named him in a chargesheet filed in National Herald case. Addressing reporters here, Rama Rao claimed that the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) move to name the Chief Minister in its chargesheet has hurt the state's honour at national level.

#### COVID-19 patient dies in Thane

Thane: A COVID-19 patient died while eight new cases of the viral infection were reported in the city Saturday, the Thane Municipal Corporation (TMC) said. There are a total of 18 active COVID-19 patients in the city, it said, adding that only one of them is undergoing treatment at hospital while others are in home isolation. The condition of all of them was stated to be stable.

#### Meitei to boycott **Manipur guv**

Imphal: A leading Meitei group announced a civil disobedience movement across Manipur from Sunday in protest against Governor Aiav Kumar Bhalla's alleged refusal to apologise for the removal of the state's name from a government bus. In a statement Saturday, the Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI) said that the 48-hour deadline given to the governor to issue a public apology has expired. The committee stated that this development "confirms (the governor's) disconnect from the ground reality and their disdain for the sentiments of the people."

## **DGP, HIS STAFF OF MISCONDUCT**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla (HP), May 24: In a rare public outburst, Shimla Superintendent of Police (SP) Sanjeev Kumar Gandhi Saturday accused Himachal Pradesh Director General of Police (DGP) Atul Verma of obstructing investigations and misleading the court in the Vimal Negi death case. Gandhi alleged that the DGP filed a status report questioning the SIT probe, which he led, due to "ulterior motives" and personal vendettas.

Speaking at a press conference a day after the Himachal Pradesh High Court transferred the case to the CBI, Gandhi launched a series of allegations against the DGP and his staff. He said he would rather resign than tolerate such "insults" and vowed to present facts and documents in court to expose the alleged misconduct. Vimal Negi, a chief engineer

at Himachal Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (HPPCL), went missing March 10 and was found dead March 18. His wife alleged workplace harassment and demanded a CBI probe. The case sparked political controversy. with the BJP alleging a cover-up.

The High Court, in its order, cited "grave concerns" raised by the DGP about the investigation's conduct, Gandhi, however, defended the SIT's work, calling the DGP's affidavit "irresponsible.'

He further claimed that a member of the DGP's personal staff had ties with the Sanjay Bhuria drug gang.





PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 24: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday said that global investors are hugely interested in India and the states should utilise this opportunity to attract investments by removing

policy bottlenecks, as he stressed that if the Union government and states work together like Team India, no goal is impossible.

Addressing the 10th Governing Council meeting of Niti Aayog, Modi said India has signed trade agreements with the United Kingdom, UAE and Australia, and states should utilise the opportunity to the optimum.

Briefing reporters about the meeting, Niti Aayog CEO BVR Subrahmanyam said the meeting was attended by 31 states and Union Territories of a total of 36, adding those who could not make it had prior commitments and informed the Council.

The states which did not attend the meeting were Karnataka, Kerala, West Bengal, Bihar and Puducherry, he said, adding the 10th meeting of the Council saw maximum attendance.

**AAYOG** evervone present MEETING at the meeting unanimously sup-Operation ported Sindoor, undertaken

Subrahmanyam

further said that

infrastructure in Pakistan. "Prime Minister mentioned that 'Operation Sindoor' should not be treated as a one-off ini-

by India to destroy terror

tiative and we must adopt a long-term approach," said a Niti Aavog statement. "Prime Minister mentioned that we must modernise our ap-

proach to civil preparedness, The statement said the prime

minister observed that global investors are hugely interested hit out at the Centre and alleged its meeting was yet another exercise in "hypocrisy and diversion". Reacting sharply, Hussain said the Congress leader keeps finding faults in every meeting convened by the government to create some controversy. "Jairam Ramesh Congress ki Ram Ram kar ke hi chodenge (Jairam Ramesh will finish off the Congress)," he said.

Ramesh's tendency to stir

controversies harming Cong: BJP

he BJP Saturday slammed Jairam Ramesh for his remarks on the NITI

Aayog meeting, saying the Congress leader will finish off his party with

his tendency to create controversy over some or other issues. "This is a

meeting of Team India to take decisions for the country's development.

Syed Shahnawaz Hussain said. Calling the NITI Aayog an "Ayogya" (unfit)

body. Ramesh, Congress general secretary in-charge of communications.

Jairam Ramesh is finding fault in this too," BJP national spokesperson

"Citing recent trade agreements with UAE, UK and Australia, the prime minister encouraged the states to utilise this opportunity and make it

easy for investments," it added. Quoting Modi, the Niti Aayog CEO said states are places where action is, therefore states need to focus on expanding services and manufacturing sector

to create jobs. They (states) need to reduce policy bottlenecks, removes obsolete laws, create investor friendly environment...remove

unnecessary regulation at state level," Subrahmanyam said, quoting the prime minister.

Modi urged states to develop at least one global-standard tourist destination each to attract international visitors and boost local economy.

'We have to increase the speed of development. If the Centre and all the states come together and work together like Team India, no goal is impossible." Niti Aavog said in a post on X, quoting the prime minis-

#### 2 Maoists killed in gunfight in Jharkhand

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Latehar (Jharkhand), May 24: Two Maoists, including JJMP supremo Pappu Lohra were killed in a gunfight with security forces in Jharkhand's Latehar district Saturday morning A Maoist and a police per-

sonnel were also injured in the encounter. Awadh Singh, the injured policeman, was airlift ed to Ranchi for better medical care, officials added. Jharkhand Jan Mukti Parishad (JJMP) chief Lohra, who was carrying a bounty of Rs 10 lakh on his head, and Prabhat Ganjhu, the sub-zonal commander of the or ganisation who carried a reward of Rs 5 lakh, were killed during the operation, police said. The ioint operation was carried out by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and Jharkhand Police in Ichabar forest area under Latehar police station limits a senior officer said.

"Two Maoists were killed in a gunfight with security forc es. Police have recovered their bodies," Palamu DIG YS Ramesh told PTI. Police confirmed that the bodies of Lohra and Gan ihu were recovered from the encounter site. Ashish Kumar another wanted member of the group who was injured during the operation, has been arrested An INSAS rifle was recovered during the subsequent search Ramesh said.

Acting on a tip-off about the presence of Lohra and his associates in the forest, a team of security personnel, led by Latehar SP Kumar Gauray launched a search operation

# Fugitive Angad Singh deported from US

Chandhok, who was wanted in a case of allegedly cheating Union Bank of India in 2014, had managed to escape to the US in 2016 with his family members to escape from the legal proceedings

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 24: Alleged fraudster Angad Singh Chandhok, who had an Interpol Red Notice against him, was deported from the US Saturday in an operation "closely coordinated" by the CBI, officials said.

He was brought to the Indira Gandhi International Airport where the CBI detained him and later put him under arrest, they said.

He was produced before a special court which sent him to judicial custody. Chandhok, who was wanted in a case of allegedly cheating Union Bank of India in 2014, had managed to escape to the US in 2016 with his family members to escape from the legal proceedings.

"The subject along with his family members: father Surendra Singh, mother Harleen Kaur and brother Harsahib Singh in criminal conspiracy



with four other accused including bank officials had cheated the Union Bank of India causing wrongful loss to the bank,' the CBI said in a statement.

They were declared proclaimed offenders and open-ended arrest warrants were issued against them by the court, it said.

In 2017, the CBI got the Interpol Red Notice against him which alerts all the member

countries to locate and detain the wanted person.

"Efforts are continuing for return of family members of the subject, who are other wanted accused in this case. The return of the subject, main co-conspirator in the fraud, will help in starting the trial," the agency said.

While in California, US, with his asylum application pending, Chandhok got involved with a gang of tech scam perpetrators who were cheating American citizens including senior citizens of their savings. He had routed proceeds of crime to India through money laundering channels

He operated a "long-running and complex money laundering network, in which he created and used shell companies to move millions of dollars stolen from Americans through an online tech support scheme, and later an online travel fee scheme", US Department of Justice had said in 2022.

Chandhok was sentenced in 2022 to six years imprisonment by a Rhode Island court on money laundering charges.

#### **Most Covid cases in** India mild in nature

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 24: Most of the Covid cases reported in various states are mild in nature and the patients are under home care, official sources said amid a rise in cases in some countries.

matter regarding COVID-19 cases was reviewed by the Union Health Secretary Saturday with the Secretary, Department of Health Research (DHR) and Director General of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), DGHS and National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) etc, they said.

Some COVID-19 cases have been reported mainly from States like Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Karnataka, etc. Sources that there is a robust pan India system for surveillance of respiratory illnesses including Covid-19 through the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) and ICMR's pan India respiratory virus sentinel surveillance network.

"It is observed that most of these cases are mild and under home care," an official source said.

## CM Yogi offers prayers to Ram Lalla, Hanuman Garhi

Ayodhya, May 24: Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath arrived in Ayodhya on a one-day visit this Friday. He was warmly welcomed at the helipad in Ram Katha Park by local public representatives and BJP leaders. From there, CM Yogi proceeded directly to Hanumangarhi, where he performed the aarti of Lord Hanuman and offered pravers.

Following this, he attended the inauguration ceremony of the 'Shri Hanuman Katha Mandapam.' Afterwards, he visited the Shri Ram Lalla temple to seek blessings for the welfare. happiness, and prosperity of Uttar Pradesh and the nation.

This marks the Chief Minister's second visit to Ayodhya in May, having visited May 10 to inaugurate the beautification of the ancient SantRavidas temple and the newly constructed SatsangBhawan. Chief Minister Yogi Aditya-

nath offered his respects at the Ram Lalla temple and engaged

sible for the temple's manage ment. He inquired in detail about the arrangements and ongoing construction works, including the rampart and preparations for the upcoming PranPratishtha of the idols.

The Chief Minister empha sised the importance of com pleting all construction activi ties at the Ram temple promptly and assured the state government's full support in facilitat ing this progress.

# PLASTIC-FOR-MEALS, Rural India reimagining sanitation solutions

An ODF Plus Model village is one that sustains its ODF status, manages both solid and liquid waste, ensures visual cleanliness, and actively promotes sanitation awareness

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 24: India's path to achieving the milestone of having 77% of its villages designated as ODF (Open Defecation-Free) Plus Model has been shaped not just by policies, but by quiet, community-led innovations. From bartering plastic waste for meals to leveraging tourism revenues, rural India is finding creative, localized ways to address sanitation challenges

An ODF Plus Model village is one that sustains its ODF status, manages both solid and biogas plants are registered, and 6.38 lakh vehicles are deship at the grassroots.

issues," Tripathi said.

In the same district, Ghoraw-

war Pal has taken a hands-on approach—collecting plastic waste in an e-rickshaw while encouraging residents to reduce single-use plastic. "It's not glamorous work, but it starts conversations and changes habits," he said.

A different model thrives in Uttarakhand's Sirasu village,

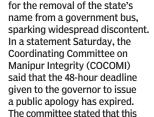
As per official data, over 5.10 lakh villages have solid waste management systems, and more than 5.26 lakh manage liquid waste

Additionally, over 1,200 biogas plants are registered, and 6.38 lakh vehicles are deployed for waste collection

located on the banks of the Ganga. Once lacking basic sanitation, the village now funds its cleanliness efforts through tourism. Since 2018, the local panchayat has generated Rs 50 lakh by charging Rs 1,000 for pre-wedding photoshoots and renting out tents and lighting. The funds are used to maintain toilets, run plastic collection centres, and enhance tourist infrastructure. "The photoshoots bring money that keeps the village clean," said a panchayat member. In Nagaland's Ghokito vil-

lage, near Kuhuboto town, backyard farming lies at the heart of waste management. Households turn kitchen waste into pig feed, reducing landfill burden and supporting livelihoods. Meanwhile, chil dren from the Sunday School collect and segregate plastic waste, selling it to recycling units and using the proceeds for ministry activities. Cleanliness is embedded in village culture, with monthly inspec tions and a focus on migrant worker hygiene. While the Centre has facili-

tated this transformation with over 1,825 rural plastic waste units, the real change is driven by communities. As one official noted, "Whether through informal barters or lever aging tourism, rural India's waste crisis is being tackled in ways that go beyond poli cy documents." The key challenge now is ensuring these models remain sustainable. community-led, and econom ically viable.



liquid waste, ensures visual cleanliness, and actively promotes sanitation awareness. As per official data, over 5.10 lakh villages have solid waste management systems, and more than 5.26 lakh manage liquid waste. Additionally, over 1,200

ployed for waste collection.

However, real progress lies beyond these numbers-in the stories of people taking owner-In Haryana's Karnal dis-

trict, Suman Dangi's self-help group runs a novel "plasticfor-meals" initiative at the Atal Kisan Mazdoor Canteen in Bhushli village. Villagers bring 500 grams of clean, recyclable plastic and receive a hot meal in return. Started with a modest Rs 50,000 loan, the initiative has collected over 1,500 kilograms of plastic and served more than 3,000 meals. "Plastic is everywhere and people are hungry. We found a way to tackle both," Dangi explained. In Sonbhadra district, Uttar

Pradesh, women are tackling

plastic pollution and menstru-

al hygiene simultaneously. Un-

der the initiative 'Mera Plastic,

Meri Jimmedari', spearheaded

by village head Archana Tripa-

thi, women in Unchadeeh pan-

chayat receive sanitary pads

in exchange for 2 kg of plastic waste. Supported by health workers and teachers, the program not only reduces plastic litter but also breaks menstrual taboos. "It's a small effort but it helps address two pressing

al block's village head Parmesh-

# international



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

MARK CARNEY

#### **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 muchanticipated Palme d'Or ceremony. Police said they have opened an investigation into possible arson.



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

SINGAPORE PRIME MINISTER

LAWRENCE WONG

**Engaging in** any talks with the puppet **Pakistan Muslim** League-Nawaz (PML-N) govern-

ment 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

IMRAN KHAN FORMER PAKISTAN PRIME MINISTER



capacity available than voluntary registrations, then

tory. 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

## Stabbing attack at

accused.

**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.

# Trump's sanction puts Harvard's allure at risk

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 was 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

tional 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

deeply concerned about what the government's action means for their degrees, future plans and legal status in the United

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 language es 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 disas trous. 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 ing 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 govern ment 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 largescale Russian drone and missile attack that left at least 15 people

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 ear $lier this \, month -- the \, first \, time$ the two sides met face to face for peace talks since Russia's 2022 full-scale invasion — Ky iv 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.



# 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 carrving 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 stay

ing," 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 gov ernment continued to fulfil its responsibilities by putting national interests above group

"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 unmanage able, it will, with the people, take the necessary steps".

# INDIAN DETERRENCE & PAK'S PROXY WAR

early 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

deterring 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 mul-

tiple 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

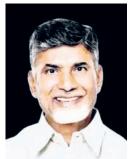
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, May 24: Bedeviled by leaks to the media during his short tenure, De fense 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 gov ernment 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, Ma rine 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



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

#### 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



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 MOTOR

We remain committed to the shared prosper ity of India and the EU. Let us





tion 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 yearon-vear 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 O4 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 compa 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

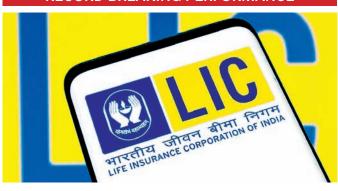
New Delhi: State-owned power giant NTPC Saturday reported a nearly 22 per cent rise in consolidated net profit to ₹7,897.14 crore in the March quarter of FY25, aided by higher revenue from its generation business. The power major had reported a net profit of ₹6,490.05 crore in the January-March period 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

# LIC bags Guinness title for selling most policies in 24 hours

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

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 prestiA total of 4,52,839 agents of LIC successfully completed and issued an astounding **5,88,107 life insurance** policies across India **January 20, 2025** 

title. It is a powerful validation of the relentless dedication, skill, and tireless work ethics of our agents. This achieve ment reflects our deep commitment towards our mission to provide vital financial protection to our customers and their families," said the company.

LIC recently reported a 9.91 per cent increase year-on-year in new business premium for April -- surpassing the industry growth rate of 8.43 per cent and private life insurers' growth of 6.09 per cent.

As per data released by the Life Insurance Council, LIC collected ₹13.610.63 crore in new business premiums last month, up from ₹12,383.64 crore in the same month last year.

The overall life insurance industry garnered ₹21,965.73 crore, marking an 8.43 per cent rise over ₹20,258.86 crore collected in the same month last year. Private life insurers contributed ₹8,355.10 crore, registering a 6.09 per cent growth over the previous year's ₹7,875.22 crore

#### **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 Manag er, 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 men-

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 con nector country that can become a key intermediary in sectors such as technology, digital services, and pharmaceuticals.

As per IMF projections, In dia 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 consump-

These domestic concerns

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

# iPhone to get dearer Mix performance week for markets



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

New Delhi, May 24: US President Donald Trump's push on tariffs on imported iPhones will make the device expensive for Americans due to higher duty along with higher cost of production, analysts and experts said.

Neil Shah, Vice President of Research at Market research and analysis firm Counterpoint Research, said that relocating Apple's manufacturing ecosystem to USA in near to midterm is not only impractical but also infeasible as Apple's supply chain is completely Asia-heavy around China, India and Vietnam.

"It's not just about Foxconn opening a factory in the USA but also the supply chain has to relocate closer to the USA, which is beyond question. Second, even if Apple's partner starts assembling in the USA, 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

US and not in India or anywhere else for sale in the country. Earlier, Trump has specifically expressed reservation on

the manufacturing of iPhones in

expansion of iPhone production 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

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

paid back through production

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

"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,"

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



MARKET

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE Mumbai, May 24:

**RECAP** 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 vields 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.

speculation Additionally, 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 According to analysts, expec-

tations 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.

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

RBI in its latest bulletin.

# Property prices rise in cities



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 20224-25 compared to 5.1 per

cent a year ago, it added. Eight key primary residen-

tial 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.

Mumbai, May 24: Faced with growing complaints on know-your-customer (KY-C)-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-



challenges faced by the customers in periodic updation of their KYC, it said. "In order to further ease the

of KYC and KYC update," he

draft circular said.

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

mit 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 nonhome 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 GIII 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 sauad announced

He will have the swashbuckling but erratic Rishabh Pant as his deputy for the fivematch 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 high pressure job but he is a terrific player," said chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar after announcing the squad, which offered no major

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

has not got a lot of experience

in domestic cricket but has

been leading IPL franchise Gu-

jarat Titans for the past couple

"It is a massive transition.

Both Rohit and Virat were

around for a long time," added

Agarkar, who said deciding

Kohli's replacement at num-

ber four would be a call tak-

en by the team management

comprising Gill and head

coach Gautam Gam-

Besides

Bumrah

was another strong

contender for cap-

taincy but the selec-

tors decided to hand over the

leadership responsibility to the

There were also questions

over Bumrah's fitness and

Agarkar acknowledged that the

Bumrah not available

Gill.

batter from Puniab.

of seasons.

Gill will be India's han Pataudi (21), Sachin Tendulkar (23), Kapil Dev (24) and Ravi

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),

the series goes and how his

body can take the workload.

Needless to say, how important

es," he added.

harsan and left-arm

pacer Arshdeep Singh,

Test

who earned their

"Sai has not

been picked

based on IPL,

maiden

call-up.

Arshdeep

he is. So, even if he's fit

for whether it's three or

four Tests, he's going to

Maiden call-ups for Sai,

Among the no-

table inclusions

were young

left-hander

B Sai Sud-

win us a few Test match-

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

game to succeed at the top level...we have been looking at him for a while,' Agarkar said,

ament and has the

referring to the IPL's top scorer this sea-

runs at an average of 53 so far for Gujarat

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

> proving himself ditional format will be

T20 cricket but

a much tougher

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

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 squad as a reserve opener. He has

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

With doubts over Nitish Reddy the bowler, the selectors have picked another fast bowling all-rounder in Shardul

Thakur, who last played for In-

dia in December 2023. Thakur was part of dia's previous trip to England where he smashed back to fifties in the Oval Test that India

won

## **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, Dhurv 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

ormer India batsman Sanjay Manjrekar Saturday described India's 18-strong Test squad for the tour of England as "strange" but asked for a natient approach towards new-"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 brighTEST. 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

#### 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 medallist, 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

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 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 Se rie 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 Mc-Tominay 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,

while Como's veteran goalkeeper Pepe Reina, who has decided to retire after the season, ended his career with a red card when he rushed out to bring down Mehdi Taremi outside the box in the first half.

Inter eventually capped off the Serie A season on second place with 81 points, one shy of Napoli, But Simone Inzaghi's men have no time to dwell on the regret, as they have to shift the focus to the Champions League with the massive final awaiting them May 31.

#### **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 Shrevas 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 Dubey, 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	М	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)

#### **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 Dravid then had a great chance to make it 3-3 in the dving 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

Captain Jasoda Munda, who led her troops with great

Beach Games 2025.

aplomb with two goals, was ec static after guiding Odisha to their first gold of the 2025 Khelo India Beach Games

"It's a moment of great pride for us to win our first gold here In the match, we started well but then the opponents figured out our positions and marked us very well. It was a close affair," said Jasoda.

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