While nepotism continues to spark debates in the film industry, actor Adah Sharma shares her perspective on it

LEISURE | P2



Strauss' waltz in space

Strauss' 'Blue Danube' is heading into space this month to mark the 200th anniversary of the waltz king's birth

INTERNATIONAL | P10



4th largest economy

India has surpassed Japan to become the 4th largest economy in the world, NITI Aayog CEO BVR Subrahmanyam confirms

BUSINESS | P11



Historic moment

Kush Maini becomes the first Indian to win a Formula 2 race at the Monaco **Grand Prix**

SPORTS | P12

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Liberian vessel sinks off Kerala coast

24 crew rescued: **Coast Guard, Navy** on high alert for possible oil spill

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi/New Delhi, May 25: A Liberian vessel carrying 640 containers, including 13 with hazardous cargo, sank off the Kochi coast Sunday, sparking fears of a possible oil spill. All 24 crew members were rescued after the ship developed a critical tilt Saturday, according to officials

So far, no oil spill has been reported, the Ministry of Defence said Sunday as full pollution response preparedness was activated by the Indian Coast Guard which was monitoring the situation along with the Indian Navy.

"Liberian container vessel MSC ELSA 3 sank off the Kochi coast at around 0750 hrs today on May 25, 2025, due to flooding. The vessel went down with 640 containers, including 13 with hazardous cargo and 12 containing calcium carbide. It was also loaded with 84.44 MT of diesel and 367.1 MT of furnace oil,' the ministry said in a statement.

Of the 24 crew members, 21 had been rescued by the Indian Coast Guard Saturday, and the remaining three were later rescued by INS Sujata, which joined the rescue operation launched by the ICG.

Given the sensitive marine

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

Decriminalising adolescent love

is fine--as long as they belong

to the same religion

NDA CMS' CONCLAVE

Showcased 'impactful'

Bhubaneswar, May 25: Chief

Minister Mohan Charan Majhi

Sunday said he showcased his

government's "impactful" ini-

tiatives at the meeting of NDA

Majhi, the first BJP Chief

Minister of Odisha, said he

also drew inspiration from the

success of other NDA governed

sions, bold ideas, and actionable insights on governance, development, and nation-build-

"Reaffirmed our unshakable

resolve to deliver good gover-

nance, ensure national securi-

ty, and drive inclusive growth

for every Indian," he said in a

"Proudly showcased Odi-

sha's impactful initiatives

and drew inspiration from the

success stories of other NDA governed states. One mission.

One goal. Viksit Bharat," he

PM Modi and Union minis-

ters Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh

and Nadda attended the one-day

conclave.

Describing his experience at the conclave, Majhi said it was a day of high-energy discus-

initiatives: CM Majhi

PNN & AGENCIES

CMs in New Delhi.



SHIPWRECK: The Liberian cargo ship that developed a critical 26-degree list nearly 38 nautical miles southwest of Kochi Saturday tilts further in the sea off the coast of Kerala, in Kochi, Sunday

ecosystem along Kerala's coast, the ICG has activated full pollution response preparedness and ICG aircraft equipped with advanced oil spill detection

surveillance, officials said.

ICG ship Saksham, carrying pollution response equipment, remains deployed at the site. So far, no oil spill has been report-

The Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSD-MA) has cautioned the general public against touching any cargo containers or oil spills coast guard has confirmed that the vessel was carrying Marine Gas Oil (MGO) and Very Low Sulphur Fuel Oil (VLSFO). Deploying its ships and aircraft, the Indian Coast Guard had

launched a rescue operation Saturday following a distress call from the Liberian container vessel that developed a critical 26-degree list nearly 38 nautical

New normal; there will be price to pay, says Tharoor in US

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York, May 25: Congress MP Shashi Tharoor has said that post-Pahalgam attacks. there is now going to be a new norm that no one sitting in Pakistan is going to be allowed to believe that they can just walk across the border and kill Indian citizens with impunity, as he asserted that there will be a "price to pay."

In an interaction hosted by the Consulate General of India in New York with a select group of prominent members of the In dian-American community and individuals from leading media and think tanks Saturday, Tharoor said that India's message to Pakistan has been clear: "We didn't want to start anything.

"We were just sending a message to terrorists. You started, we replied. If you stop, we stop. And they stopped. There was an 88-hour war. We look back on that with a great deal of frustration because it needn't have happened at all. Lives have been lost. But at the same time, we look back on this experience with a steely and renewed sense of determination.

"There is now got to be a new norm. No one sitting in Pakistan is going to be allowed to believe that they can just walk across the border and kill our citizens with impunity. There will be a price to pay and that price has been going up systematically," Tharoor said.

He said that India has fo cused on a very different narrative from some of its neigh bours. "Our focus for some years now has been on being the world's fastest growing free markets democracy, attempting to focus on the development of our economy, our high emphasis on technology and techno-



logical growth and pulling large numbers of people from below

the poverty line" not just into the 21st Century, but into the world and the opportunities the 21st-century offers. Tharoor is leading a delega-

tion of Indian parliamentarians to Guyana, Panama, Colombia. Brazil, and the US, conveying India's resolve against terrorism and emphasising Pakistan's links to terrorism.

to different countries will underline that the recent conflict with Pakistan was triggered by the Pahalgam terror attack and not Operation Sindoor, as alleged by Islamabad.

The multi-party delegations

Srimandir: Critical Pak sees India as repairs during Rath 'existential threat'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 25: The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) in Puri and the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) have agreed to undertake collaborative initiatives to preserve the 12th-century shrine's architectural heritage and structural integrity, officials said. SJTA Chief Administrator

Arabinda Padhee and ASI Director General Yaduvendra Singh Rawat Saturday held discussions on the conservation efforts for the Puri Jagannath temple, including critical restoration works in the Garbha-Griha (sanctum sanctorum) during the upcoming Ratha Yatra from June 27, they said. "The meeting focused on ef-

forts to preserve the temple's architectural heritage, structural integrity and cultural significance," a release issued by the SJTA said.

The meeting also addressed the need for timely completion of the remaining conservation



and repair works of the 'Ratna Bhandar' (temple treasury) by the ASI. Another important agenda was the early execution of the proposed ramp system at the North Gate entrance of the shrine to ensure easier access for elderly and differently-abled devotees.

Padhee and Rawat also discussed the provision of an air-conditioning system in the 'Nata Mandapa' (dance hall) to improve conditions for devotees and priests, along with the installation of façade lighting to enhance the temple's aesthetic and spiritual ambience, the release said.

Attention was given to con-

servation work required for the sloping roof outside the 'Jagamohana' (assembly hall), along with the installation of lightning arrestors on several high-rise subsidiary temples, including the Bimala, Mahalaxmi, Bhubaneswari, Adi Nrusingha, and Surya temples, to enhance safety during storms.

Discussions also covered structural reinforcements such as strengthening the M.S. joist supports and vertical steel columns currently placed beneath the cantilevered chali stones of the Jagamohana and Bhogamandapa.

Additionally, chemical cleaning and surface treatment of the outer stone surfaces of the main temple were identified as priorities to preserve the sanctum's

visual and material integrity. "I had a productive meeting with the Director General of the ASI and his high-level team. We discussed in detail some of the ongoing and future conservation initiatives for Shree Jagannatha Temple," Padhee said in a post on X.

telligence Agency's 2025 report, Pakistan, viewing India as an 'existential threat', prioritises nuclear modernisation and counters internal militancy while also maintaining close ties with China. The report highlights India's strategic focus on countering China as its primary adversary, while viewing Pakistan as a secondary threat. India continues military modernisation and regional defence partnerships to bolster deterrence and global leadership, the report says, adding that India-Russia defence ties persist despite reduced arms procurement.

AGENCIES

Washington/New May 25: Pakistan continues to regard India as an existential threat and is accelerating the expansion of its nuclear weapons programme in response, according to the United States Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA) in its 2025 Worldwide Threat Assessment. The report raises fresh concerns about growing

According to US Defense In-military tensions and the risk of conflict in South Asia.

Despite India's conventional military superiority, Pakistan remains focused on strengthening its deterrence through the development of tactical, or battlefield, nuclear weapons. The DIA estimates Pakistan's current nuclear stockpile at approximately 170 warheads, warning that this number could rise to 200 by the end of 2025. Unlike India, Pakistan has not adopted a 'No First Use' policy.

"Pakistan is modernizing its nuclear arsenal and maintaining the security of its nuclear materials and nuclear command and control. Pakistan almost certainly procures WMD-applicable goods from foreign suppliers and intermediaries," the report says. WMD here means Weapons of Mass Destruction.

In contrast, India views China as its principal strategic adversary, with Pakistan considered a secondary threat to be managed. With Pakistan's deepening alliance with China, South Asia remains a critical flashpoint for potential nuclear conflict, it said.

'12-YR LOVE STORY' BRINGS 6-YR BANISHMENT

Lalu expels elder son Tej Pratap from RJD, snaps all family ties

Patna, May 25: In a dramatic turn of events, RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav expelled his elder son Tej Pratap Yadav from both the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and the Yadav family for six years, citing his "irresponsible behaviour" and deviation from party and family values

Tej Pratap had Saturday

evening announced on social media that he was in a relationship for 12 years with a woman, despite being married and his divorce petition still pending before a family court here. He, however, deleted the post a few hours later, claiming on X that his Facebook page was hacked.

Photos and a video of Tei Pratap with the woman named Anushka Yadav went viral on social media Saturday.

Sources close to the family suggest Lalu Prasad Yadav was taken aback by the nature and timing of the revelation, particularly as it came without consultation or prior family

Lalu made no mention of the previous day's happenings, but criticised his elder son's actions, public conduct and irresponsible behaviour, saying disregard for moral values in personal life weakens our collective struggle to achieve social justice. He admonished Yadav for behaving in a manner not in consonance with the values of my family and declared that he shall have no role, henceforth, in the party and the family. He is expelled from the party for six years.



The development came with barely a few months left for the

Bihar Assembly polls. When Tejashwi Yadav, the

former deputy chief minister, was asked about what was the proverbial last straw, he gave a guarded response but minced no words in stating "things have

not been to my liking" Tej Pratap Yadav had made his political debut in the Assembly polls of 2015, and is a second-term MLA with two brief stints in the state cabinet. But unlike his younger brother, he has been in the news for all the wrong reasons.

A few months ago, he made headlines for threatening a policeman in his security with suspension upon refusal to dance as per his command and speeding on a two-wheeler with out wearing a helmet. Earlier, he had been in the news for an ugly marital dispute, besides antics like supporting rebels in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, floating a parallel outfit Lalu Rabri Morcha and occupying the chair reserved for the national presi dent while at the RJD office.

Notably, Aishwarya, the granddaughter of Daroga Prasad Rai, who tied the knot with Tej Pratap Yadav in 2018, left his house a few months later, alleging that she was driven

out by her husband and in-laws.

eisure



JOSH O'CONNOR TO STAR IN *JACK OF SPADES*

British actor Josh O'Connor, best known for *The Crown*, is set to star in *Jack of* Spades. According to the entertainment news outlet *Deadline*, the upcoming film is directed by Joel Coen. The shooting is expected to begin in summer in Scotland.

TURNER VOICES SUPPORT **FOR EX-HUSBAND**

Things may not have turned out exactly the way actress Sophie Turner and her ex-husband Joe Jonas but they are maintaining cordial relations. The Game of Thrones star recently voiced her support for Joe Jonas following the release of his new album, reports Female First UK.



accuracy • reliability • trust

You may be spoilt for choices today! Contemplating a change of job, business, or even a relationship? Consider long-term implications before you commit to anything, says Ganesha. A romantic evening

TAURUS

Overall, it will be a good day to relax and enjoy good health, says Ganesha. However, there is a catch: you will need to be vigilant when it comes to money matters as there is a looming threat of swindling or mismanaging. An evening of merry-making will subdue your love for delicacies and good food.

Ganesha advises you to remain steadfast and disciplined in any work that you take up today. You will be full of enthusiasm, and will try to complete all your pending work. However, you need to make sure that your energies are being channeled in the right direction. You need to take care of your health as well, says Ganesha.

CANCER

You get full co-operation of Dame Luck, says Ganesha. You will plan a new business strategy to achieve success. Kids will benefit as also profit and prestige is indicated from your father's side, too. Hopes of foreign travel may blossom. Today you feel a unique sense of joy and zest for life.

Rise and shine! There is

a very bright chance that today will be one of those super energetic and enthusiastic days. Ganesha predicts you will have a great time socialising with neighbours, friends and relatives. Also, you may end up spending a small fortune in trying to please your sweetheart.

Despite all the adversity that

you face, you will stay firmly down to earth. Ganesha says there is a strong likelihood of the afternoon bringing some good tidings and good results that you have been looking orward to.Love and peace will prevail in vour domestic life.

Sharing is the key to joy, and

today, you shall be unlocking many doors with that key as you reveal your innermost feelings. Share them unabashedly with your family members. You are backed up with high energy levels

SCORPIO

Though not like in an X-Files series, expect to find yourself open to the unknown and the supernatural today, says Ganesha. Time spent at your work station will be troublesome. You may end up spending a small fortune on your health.

SAGITTARIUS

Your mood is high on expectations today. You shall plan meticulously before noon, and the ninthe afternoon, your plans shall fall in place,and deliver expected results. The opposite sex will find you intellectually stimulating and attractive. But be careful in matters of dollars and dimes in the evening, says Ganesha.

CAPRICORN

Striving hard to meet deadlines and taking time out to pursue your passion will be the major highlights of the day, says Ganesha. You may also wonder why your boss suddenly appears so pleased with you, but don't get carried away by the outward show. When everything seems right is exactly when you need to watch out for trouble.

AQUARIUS

Legal issues may be resolved in your favour today and that will bring a huge sigh of relief! You may just wish to spend time with your family after all that anxiety. Ganesha says you should go for more exciting stuff to take your mind off. Why not join a dance class?

old ones, says Ganesha.

PISCES For those who are single, today is a good day to 'get hitched'. For those who are married or have lovers, a romantic day awaits you which will bring you closer to your partner. New partnerships in business are also a possibility. It is a good day to form new relationships or to renew



Cannes: Iranian dissident filmmaker Jafar Panahi won the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival for his revenge thriller It Was Just an Accident handing the festival's top prize to a director who had been banned from leaving Iran for more than 15

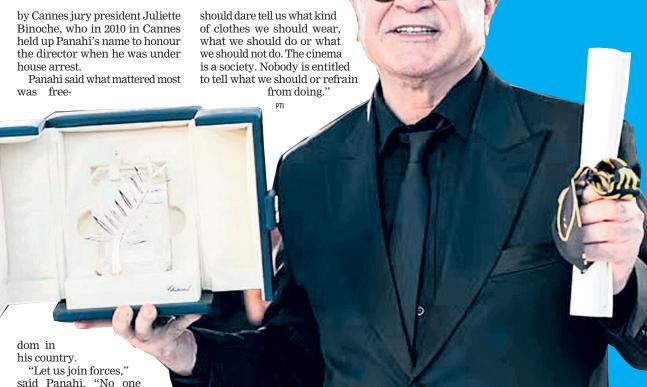
Cate Blanchett Saturday presented the award to Panahi, who three years ago was imprisoned in Iran before going on a hunger strike. For a decade and a half, he has made films clandestinely in his native country, including one film (This Is Not a Film) made in his living room, and another (Taxi) set in a car. The crowd rose in a thun-

derous standing ovation for the filmmaker, who immediately threw up his arms and leaned back in his seat in disbelief before applauding his collaborators and the audience around him. On stage, Panahi was cheered

Adah on

nepotism

should dare tell us what kind of clothes we should wear, what we should do or what we should not do. The cinema is a society. Nobody is entitled to tell what we should or refrain from doing.'



Mumbai: Kajol is all set to re-

Mumbai: While nepotism continues to spark debate in the film industry, actor Adah Sharma has her own take on it. "Had I been from a film family, they would've waited to launch me with the perfect romantic movie, she quips. "My film family wouldn't let me do a horror movie. Who starts their career looking possessed on screen with black teeth? I didn't have the opportunity to start my career with a usual romantic movie that probably would have happened if I had the DNA of a famous person. I started with 1920 and I feel fortunate for that. The audience has accepted me whenever I try something crazy and maybe that's why filmmakers also have the guts to cast me in different roles," she adds. In an industry where star kids often get

tailor-made debuts, Adah has carved her niche without shortcuts. She has seamlessly transitioned between genres-doing high-octane action in the Commando series, portraying a layered character in The Kerala Story, and surprising viewers as a bar dancer in Sunflower Season 2 and an IPS officer in Bastar: The Naxal Story. Now preparing to play a devi in her upcoming project, For Adah, the key to success lies in making every character believable and distinct. AGENCIES

Kajol sparks curiosity with latest post mediately flooded the comments turn to the big screen with Maa, with speculation and anticipaa gripping thriller directed by tion. From curious questions Vishal Furia. Ahead of the like

has stirred excitement by unveiling mysterious poster with cryptic message, world Shaitaan. Sharing the eerie visual on Instagram. Kajol wrote, "Fear begins Jiay tuned! #Maa," tomorrow. companied by haunting background music

from Shaitaan,

tional

rative.

hinting at a

dark, emo-

Fans im-

nar-

film's release, the actress

a mother's love and the lengths she will go to ensure her child's safety, blending horror, suspense, and raw emotion. AGENCIES

"Shaitaan 2?" to enthusiastic reactions like **'BRING** IT ON. the buzz around Maa is undeniable. In this emotionally charged drama, Kajol

takes on what she calls her "strongest role ever" as a fearless mother willing to battle sinister forces to protect her daughter. The film explores the depth of

Alia's

sweet gesture

Mumbai: Actor Alia Bhatt, currently representing India at the 2025 Cannes Film Festival, recently warmed hearts with a touching gesture towards a fan. A video shared on X (formerly Twitter) captures a sweet moment between Alia and an elderly admirer. As she ascended a staircase, the fan called out, "Alia ji! The photo didn't come out well." Without hesitation, Alia smiled, extended her hand, and said, "Let me click." The fan handed her phone to Alia,

who patiently waited as the woman entered her password. The two shared a lighthearted exchange, ending with mutual smiles and gratitude. The internet quickly reacted to the clip, praising Alia's humility. "Such a sweet soul," one user wrote. Another commented, "Who does that nowadays?"

Beyond her fan interactions, Alia has been turning heads on the red carpet. On the first day, she wore a pastel off-shoulder fishtail gown adorned with delicate floral embroidery, paired with minimal makeup and a bun. At the closing ceremony, she stunned in the first-ever

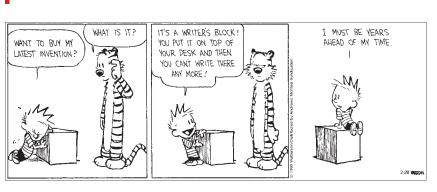
ci saree, embellished with Swarovski crystals. Alia, the global ambassador for L'Oréal Paris, confirmed her

Cannes debut earlier this year and continues to charm fans world-

PEANUTS



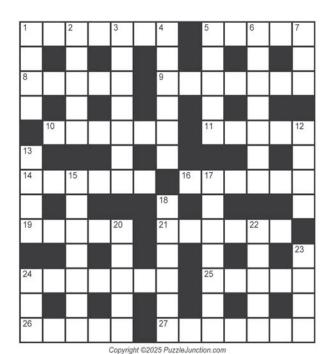
CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY



DOST **CROSSWORD**



25 Hitch-hiker's

digit

26 Animal group

27 Aircraft part

Across 1 Colourful arc

- 5 Explode
- 8 Hotel employee 9 Cricket hitter
- 10 First-aid item 11 Digress
- 14 Be in charge
- 16 Clean house
- 21 Destroyed
- (4,2)

24 Unemotional

- 19 Have the throne
 - 5 Chomps

Down

6 Get hitched

again

- 2 Ice house 3 Gambling
- 4 Like geese feet

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

1 Four-star review

- 20 Mother-of-pearl 22 Outfit

7 Malaysian

12 Shrill barks

15 Capital of

Kenya

17 Ridiculous

18 Lark about

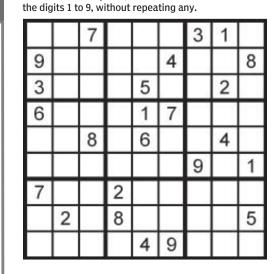
13 Fujairah bigwig

export

- 23 Passing
- remarks? 24 Tree juice

SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains



SOLUTIONS

AGE ABUNDANT WOSOME E S P K E C STEELGUITAR DISASTER

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

SUDOKU

owntown

MUSICAL NIGHT

Artistes perform at 'Samarpana'. a classical musical programme organised by Saswati Samaiika Sanskrutika Kendra, at Soochana Bhawan in Bhubaneswar Sunday



Heavy rains to pound state for next 5 days

IMD predicts likelihood of low-pressure area over BoB by May 27

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 25: Rainfall activity will increase in several parts of the state in the next five days as a low-pressure area is likely to form over the west-central and adjoining Bay of Bengal (BoB) around May 27, the India Metrological Department (IMD) said Sunday.

However, there is no need to panic as there is no forecast for a cyclone, the weather bureau said. According to an IMD bulletin, increased rainfall along with thunderstorm and lightning will occur in several part of the state during May 25 to 31.

The weather bureau has advised fishermen not to venture into the deep sea from May 28 as squally weather with wind speed



of 35 - 45 kmph is very likely over central bay and adjoining north Bay of Bengal. The sea condition likely to be moderate to rough, the IMD said.

An orange alert has been issued for thunderstorm with lightning with gusty surface wind speed reaching 40-50 kmph, gusting to 60 kmph, and heavy rainfall in the afternoon/evening hours at one or two places over Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Puri, Khurda, Jaipur, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhargarh, Balasore, Bhadrak, Koraput, Nuapada, Kalahandi, Kanddistricts during this period.

The IMD has asked people to keep watch on weather and take safe shelter during the thunderstorm activity to protect from lightning and follow traffic advisories in urban areas.

"Also harvesting of crops may be regulated judicially and farmers are advised to use hail nets to protect vegetables and crops from hail," the IMD bulletin added. However, the IMD has not made any forecast on the date of arrival of the southwest monsoon in Odisha.

"It will arrive in Odisha only after it covers the entire Northeast and the southern peninsula," Manorama Mohanty, Director of Meteorological Centre in Bhubaneswar told PTI.

Meanwhile, the weather bureau said all 30 districts are likely to receive rain Monday for which a yellow warning has



FEST PREP: Heavy rush at Market Building in Bhubaneswar Sunday ahead of Savitri Amabasya

Inmate found hanging inside Choudwar jail

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chouwdar, May 25: An inmate serving a sentence in a murder case at Choudwar Circle Jail was found hanging from a mango tree inside the prison premises Sunday.

The deceased has been identified as Bishnu Charan Swain, 37, of Samantarapur village under Jaripada panchayat in Cuttack district's Tangi police limits.

While the exact cause of the suspected suicide remains unclear, an investigation has been launched into the incident.

According to initial reports, a jail warder noticed Swain missing from his ward during a routine round Saturday afternoon. He also observed that the inmate had not consumed the food provided by the jail authorities. The matter was subsequently reported to the jail superintendent.

A subsequent search led to the discovery of Swain hanging from a mango tree near an old building inside the prison complex. He had reportedly used a gamucha (traditional cotton towel) to hang himself. Prison staff immediately rushed him to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack, where doctors declared

him dead upon arrival.

Swain had been lodged in Choudwar Jail since 2021 in connection with a murder case. Over the last four years, he was granted parole four times and had spent time with his family during those periods. His most recent parole was for 10 days to perform his mother's postdeath rituals. He returned to jail May 11. Speaking to reporters, Swain's sister said he had spoken cheerfully with his wife over the phone around 10am Saturday. During the conversation, he had asked her to visit him in jail Monday, which coincides with the observance of Sabitri Brata. She questioned the circumstances of his death and demanded a thorough investigation

Bihar man held for ₹20L fraud

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 25: The Cyber Police Sunday arrested a 23-year-old Bihar native for allegedly duping a City-based resident of around ₹20 lakhs under the fake promise of setting up a petrol pump.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Jagmohan Meena said ₹15,000 cash, six mobile phones, one laptop, identification documents, bank cheques and some incriminating documents have been seized from the accused following his arrest. Meena identified the accused as Satish Kumar, a native of Nawada district in

The DCP said the victim. Sarada Prasanna Routray, lives in Mancheswar area. On May 2, Routray lodged an FIR at the Cyber Police Station alleging that a man duped him to the tune of ₹19,97, 500 on the pretext of helping the former get license for a new Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)



"Though Routray never met Satish, he transferred the money by trusting the fake photos of approval documents provided by the former. Routray was tricked into believing the bonafides of the bank account which the fraudster had registered under the name 'IOCL',' said Meena.

Giving details of Satish' mo-

Routray was tricked into believing the bonafides of the bank account which the fraudster had registered under the name **IOCL, the DCP said**

dus operandi, the DCP said the fraudster would open multiple accounts in various banks every month by submitting fake documents, "He used fake SIM cards to register the bank accounts," Meena said, adding that Satish is suspected to have been helped by some more people to run the con business.

"He (Satish) appears to be part of a larger syndicate. Our investigation is on to identify and arrest the other players in the syndicate," Meena added.

The Cyber Police booked Satish under BNS Sections 238, 318 (2), 318 (4), 319 (2), 336 (2) (3) and produced him before a local court for remand Sunday.

IIT-Guwahati uses mushroom waste for wastewater treatment

New Delhi, May 25: Researchers at IIT-Guwahati have developed an eco-friendly alternative to conventional wastewater treatment methods by combining biochar derived from Spent Mushroom Waste and laccase, a natural enzyme, according to officials.

The technology -- BHEEMA (Biochar-based Hydrological Enzyme regulated Efficient Mechanism for Antibiotics removal) employs laccase-mediated degradation to remove antibiotics from wastewater, preventing the formation of toxic byproducts commonly associated with conventional treatment methods.

The findings of this research have been published in the prestigious Journal of Environmental Management.

The developed system has been recognised as the top seventh finalist under the Water wakarma Awards 2024, organised by the Maker Bhavan Foundation.

According to Sudip Mitra, the Head of the School of Agro and Rural Technology at IIT Guwahati, the research team targeted the removal of harmful fluoroquinolone group of anti-

biotics, including Ciprofloxa-

cin, Levofloxacin, and Norfloxa

cin, generally found in hospital

discharge, industrial effluents and surface water. "Contrary to traditional wastewater treatment methods such as advanced oxidation and membrane reactors, which are both costly and generate secondary pollutants, our approach uses laccase, a naturally

occurring enzyme, to degrade

the contaminants.

"To make the enzyme stable for reusability, our research group immobilised it on biochar derived from spent mushroom waste, an easily available agro-waste product in this re gion," Mitra told PTI

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Govt to unveil Bharat Forecasting System today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 25: The government will Monday unveil a new 'Bharat Forecasting System' that will enable the weather office to provide more accurate and localised predictions.

Developed by Pune-based Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), the Bharat Forecasting System (BFS) will provide forecasts with a 6 km resolution - the highest in the world - that would allow forecasters to predict small-scale weather features more accu-

"We will now be able to issue more localised and accurate weather forecasts," M Ravichandran, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, told PTI.

The new forecasting model, developed by researchers including Parthasarathy Muk-



hopadhayay, was made possible due to installation of the new supercomputer Arka at the IITM campus last year with a capacity of 11.77 petaflops and storage capacity of 33 petabytes.

"The previous supercomputer 'Pratyush' used to take up to 10 hours to run the forecasting model. Arka performs the same data-crunching within four hours," Mukhopadhyay told PTI.

Ravichandran said the BFS provides insight into weather events likely to take place in a grid of 6 km by 6 km against the earlier models that gave predictions for a 12 km grid. He said the data from a net-

work of 40 Doppler Weather Radars from across the country will be used to run the BFS model that would enable the weather office to issue more localised forecasts and nowcasts.

Gradually, the number of Doppler radars will increase to 100, which would allow the weather office to issue nowcasts - weather forecasts for the next two hours - across the country.

The BFS can provide 6 km resolution forecasts for the tropical region that falls between 30 degrees South and 30

degrees North Latitudes. The Indian mainland extends between 8.4 degrees north and 37.6 degrees north latitudes.

According to Ravichandran, the global forecast models run by the European, British and the US weather offices have a resolution between 9 km and

Union Earth Sciences Minister Jitendra Singh is scheduled to dedicate to the nation the BFS at a special function here

Monday. "This significant milestone represents a major leap in India's self-reliance in meteorological sciences, enabling more accurate and granular weather forecasts up to panchavat level for disaster risk reduction, agriculture, water resource man

agement and public safety," a senior official from the Earth Sciences Ministry said.

PM praises Odisha weightlifter on 'Mann Ki Baat'

PNN & AGENCIES

Berhampur, May 25: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday praised a 16-year-old weightlifter from Odisha, who set two new national records in weightlifting in the recently concluded Khelo India Youth Games-2025 in Bihar.

'The brilliant performances of Asmita Dhone of Maharashtra, Harshvardhan Sahu of Odisha, and Tushar Chaudhary of Uttar Pradesh in the weightlifting competition won everyone's heart," Modi said in the 122nd edition of his monthly radio address 'Mann Ki Baat' aired Sunday.

"I was very much surprised when our Prime Minister mentioned my name along with some other Khelo India participants in his Mann Ki Baat address," said Sahu who is now taking training in the Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports (NSNIS) in Patiala.

"I have been encouraged by his address and will try to do better in the coming events, and grateful to him," he said

A resident of Haradakhandi in Berhampur town, Harshvardhan has bagged a gold medal and set new records in the 7th Khelo India Youth Game. (under 18) held at Bihar from May 4 to 15.



In the 49-kg category, Harshvardhan has lifted 88 kg in snatch and record-breaking 115 kg in clean and jerk, totalling 203 kg. He has broken the previous record of 202 kg set by

Jharkhand's Babulal Hembrom. Before participating in Khelo India, he had bagged a bronze medal by lifting 197 kg (snatch 87 kg, clean and jerk 110 kg) in

the World Youth Championships held at Lima in Peru. Harshvardhan belongs to a middle-class family and his father does a small business. He was taking training at the Army Sports Institute (ASI) Pune,

before shifting to NSNIS. Young weightlifters in the country, particularly in Odisha will be encouraged as the Prime Minister mentioned the name of the young weightlifting prodigies, including Harshvardhan from the state," said K Ravi Kumar, Arjuna award winner in weightlifting.

Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida, Commerce and Transport minister Bibhuti Bhusan Jena and several MLAs of Ganiam district thanked the Prime Minister for taking the name of Harshvardhan in 'Maan Ki

"We are very much grateful to the Prime Minister for taking the name of Harshvardhan of Berhampur," said Jena.

Berhampur has produced several renowned weightlifters, which brought fame not only for the state but also for the country, said K Anil Kumar, MLA of Berhampur.

Fire at Mancheswar factory, no one hurt



AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, May 25: A fire broke out at a mattress factory here in the early hours of Sunday, officials said.

No one was injured in the blaze, though damage to property and equipment was report ed, they said. The fire started around 1 am in the factory located in Mancheswar area, an official said. The blaze was brought under control after more than four hours, he said.

Orissa POST

downtown



Mayor faces complaint over immigrant remark

Controversy brews as BMC Mayor Sulochana Das' alleged pro-immigrant comments lead to police complaint and public criticism



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 25: A controversy erupted Sunday Bhubaneswar **Municipal Corporation** (BMC) Mayor Sulochana Das for her alleged remarks in support of Bangladeshi immigrants. The complaint was submitted by the Anchalika Surakhya Mancha at the Capital Police

Jagannath Pradhan, president of the outfit, along with several supporters, alleged that the Mayor had expressed sympathy toward Bangladeshi immigrants during a recent media interaction. According to Pradhan, the Mayor had reportedly

stated that the immigrants were comments friends" of local criticism and protests people and

across the City should be allowed complaint but have not many had already obtained Aadhaar and

> voter ID cards. She allegedly added that it was not feasible to deport them.

stay

Pradhan condemned the remarks, calling them irresponsible and inappropriate for

Odisha unveils plans to boost road safety

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 25: A crucial meeting was held recently to review and discuss various road safety initiatives, chaired by Commerce and Transport department principal secretary Usha Padhee. Transport commissioner Amitabh Thakur, and Road Safety Consultant Venkatesh Balasubramanian from IIT Madras. The session emphasised several key measures aimed at reducing road accidents and promoting safer driving practices across Odisha.



The rollout of the Zero Accident Development (ZAD) programme is set to begin soon, marking a significant step toward advancing the state's road safety objectives. In addition, the upcoming 'Chintan Shibira' event—fully supported by the Odisha government and hosted at a state-provided venue—will bring together stakeholders and experts to discuss and strategize on road safety measures.

Governor highlights Odisha's maritime legacy at ICICH

Studies in organising the con-

ference, calling it a meaningful

step to reconnect with Odisha's

He explained that Kalinga

(present-day Odisha) main-

tained strong cultural and mar-

itime ties with Southeast Asia

for over 2,000 years. This legacy

is reflected in the architecture

of temples like Angkor Wat

and Borobudur, as well as in

glorious past.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 25: Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati emphasised the importance of history in addressing modern challenges while speaking at the valedictory ceremony of the third International Conference on Indian Cultural Heritage (ICICH) held here Sunday Highlighting Odisha's maritime heritage, he said it plays a vital role in connectivity, cultural exchange, and sustainable development.

On the theme 'Kalinga and Southeast Asia: The Civilization Connect,' the Governor noted that ancient Kalinga's maritime trade and cultural links with countries like Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam offer valuable lessons for today's environmental and developmental challenges. "Odisha's maritime history is not only a matter of pride but also a guide for regional cooperation," he

Kambhampati praised the

Language, Literature and Culand festivals such as Nyepi and ture department, Utkal Univer-Pchum Ben. sity, and the Institute of Media Among others who spoke

on the occasion were Cuttack MP Bhartruhari Mahtab, for mer foreign secretary Lalit Mansingh, Odia Language Literature and Culture depart ment principal secretary Sanjeeb Kumar Mishra, and One Asia Foundation chairman Patita Paban Mishra. Vote of thanks was delivered by third ICICH chairman Professor Upendra Padhi.



'CASTE CENSUS NOT DIVISIVE'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 25: Nixing insinuations that caste enumeration would create chasms in society, National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) Chairperson Kishor Makwana said the data gathered would serve as a foundation for policy decisions and strengthen social justice.

It will help uplift the marginalised backward communities, he told PTI in an interview.

With the BJP-led NDA government deciding to include caste enumeration in the next census, Makwana welcomed the move, saying that unlike in 2011, "definite figures would be available" that would ensure proportionate access to welfare schemes.

The UPA government conducted the Socio-Economic and Caste Census in 2011, which was the first attempt since 1931 to collect caste data nationwide. However, the caste data from SECC-2011 was never fully released

MGRSFT recognises road safety warriors

someone holding public office.

'Many underprivileged citizens

in Bhubaneswar are still strug-

gling for basic needs. Instead of

focusing on their welfare, the

Mayor seems more concerned

about illegal immigrants. This

will only encourage further

infiltration and could lead to

He also referenced Ban-

gladesh's alleged diplomatic

stance during the recent In-

dia-Pakistan conflict as a rea-

son to be cautious about har-

bouring immigrants from the

The organisation has de-

Meanwhile, a senior official

from Capital Police Station

confirmed receiving the writ-

ten complaint but said that no

official case has been registered

yet. "Given the sensitivity of

the issue, we cannot comment

further at this stage," the offi-

Mayor Sulochana Das has

not issued any public statement

in response. Her remarks have

sparked city-wide protests and

drawn sharp criticism from

cial stated.

various quarters.

manded strict action against

Mayor Das, including a public

neighbouring country

a spike in criminal activities,

he said.



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 25: The Master Girija Road Safety Foundation Trust (MGRS-FT), an organisation committed to promoting road safety awareness, organised a memorial event at Rotary Bhawan Sunday to mark the 6th death anniversary of Master Girija, a 17-year-old who tragically lost his life in a road accident.

Professor Manas Kumar Behera of Ramadevi Women's University graced the occasion as the chief guest,

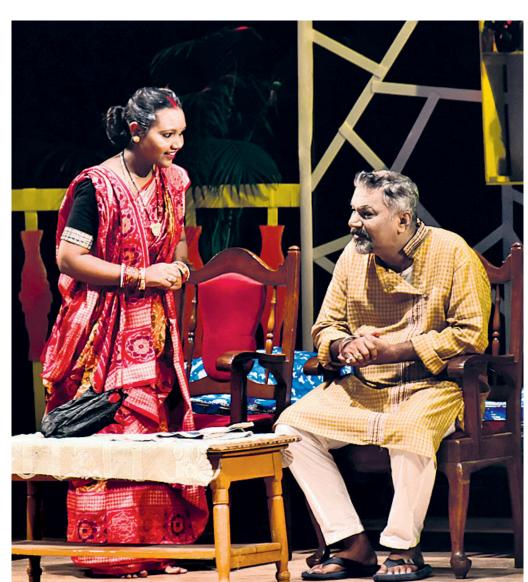
while Bhubaneswar Traffic DCP Tapan Kumar Mohanty attended as the guest of honour. The event was presided over by MGRSFT Managing Trustee Amiyabala Parida. Additional Commissioner of GST and Services Tax. Kananbala Nayak, along with other dignitaries, also partic-

ipated in the event. Twenty-six meritorious students from CBSE and CHSE, who excelled in their Class X examinations, were felicitated with the 'Girija Medha Award' for academic excellence. Several journalists, including Orissa POST's Reshmi Yadav and Dharitri's Anuradha Maharana, were honoured with the 'Girija Seva Samman' for their contributions to journalism.

Sambit Kumar Behera received the prestigious 'Girija Debaduta Samman' for his dedication to the cause of road safety. Premananda Mallik was also conferred with 'Prerana Samman' in recog-

nition of his social work. Addressing the gathering, Behera highlighted the dual nature of technology, stressing the need for responsible usage. "Technology is a double-edged sword. It can empower us, but excessive use, especially of mobile phones while riding or driving, has become a major cause of accidents. We need to remain alert and focused on the road — not on our screens,'

Mohanty lauded the foundation's efforts and stated, "Awareness is the first step towards change. By creating awareness, we can significantly reduce road accident



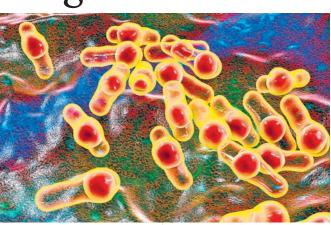
THEATRE SHOW: Artistes from Bidyakanak perform 'Eka Bhinna Nispati' on the concluding day of Nationa Theatre Festival at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

Scientists find germ that consumes hospital plastic

While plastic-eating microbes could help tackle global waste, their presence in hospitals raises new concerns about medical safety and infection risks

lastic pollution remains one of the most pressing environmental challenges of our time, and recent discoveries suggest that some of the smallest organisms in nature may offer a surprising way forward. Microbiologists have identified bacteria capable of breaking down various types of plastic, raising hopes for more sustainable waste solutions. However, these plastic-degrading microbes could also present new problems-particularly in medical settings.

Researchers have investigated whether bacteria commonly found in hospitals might be able to break down plastic materials



Plastic materials in hospitals might unintentionally support harmful bacteria by serving as a food source

used in medical devices. Plastics are widespread in healthcare environments, forming the basis of items such as dissolvable sutures, wound dressings, catheters, and implants.

A new study focused on the genomes of known hospital pathogens to see if they con**← Understanding plastic-eating** germs is crucial for designing safer medical equipment and infection control strategies

tained the same plastic-degrading enzymes previously identified in environmental bacteria. To the researchers' surprise, some hospital-acquired pathogens—including Pseudomonas aeruginosa—appeared to carry such enzymes.

Pseudomonas aeruginosa is

responsible for an estimated 559,000 deaths globally each year and is a common cause of hospital-acquired infections. It poses particular risk to patients with ventilators, surgical

wounds, burns, or catheters,

The researchers examined one specific strain of P aeruginosa that had been isolated from a wound infection and found to possess a gene encoding a plastic-degrading enzyme. Laboratory tests confirmed that the bacterium could not only break down plastic but also use it as a nutrient source. The enzvme responsible, named Pap1, enabled the bacteria to grow using plastic as food.

This bacterium also formed more robust biofilms—protective layers that shield bacteria from antibiotics and immune responses. The presence of Pap1 enhanced this effect, allowing the bacteria to build larger, stronger biofilms using degraded plastic as part of the matrix. Essentially, the plastic acted like a form of biological

"cement," reinforcing the bacterial community.

These findings raise concerns about the potential for plastic-eating pathogens to thrive in hospital environments. where plastic is abundant. The researchers suggest that this capability may help explain the persistence of certain superbugs in clinical settings.

The study highlights the need for caution when selecting materials for medical devices While some efforts are already underway-such as adding antimicrobial substances to plastics—this new evidence suggests that plastic-degrading traits in pathogens must be taken into account to prevent treatment failures and worsening of patient conditions.

The research underscores the double-edged nature of microbial plastic degradation: while it may hold promise for tackling environmental waste, it could also complicate infection control in hospitals.

(The Conversation)



WEATHER								
BBSR	CTC	FORECAST						
34.2°	33.6°	Generally cloudy						
25.6°	24.5°	sky with one or two spells of rain						
92%	95%	or thunderstorm						
37.1mm	18.4mm							
	BBSR 34.2° 25.6° 92%	BBSR CTC 34.2° 33.6° 25.6° 24.5° 92% 95%						

BOOKING OUR SSIFIED AD ISEMENTS CON

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.

Absence of 'division' leaves kendu leaf collectors in lurch

Despite contributing significantly to state exchequer, over 26,000 kendu leaf collectors in Subarnapur district remain deprived of basic welfare schemes, and face exploitation in the hands of middlemen and unscrupulous persons

du leaf workers in the district

are involved in tasks ranging

from plucking, drying, and

turning leaves to storing them

in godowns. Despite the gov-

ernment's formation of welfare

committees for both collectors

and binders, implementation

remains inadequate. Provisions

such as footwear for plucking

during dry seasons, financial

aid, and insurance allegedly

remain on paper. Workers are

also entitled to benefits like

gratuity upon retirement and

essential supplies—mosquito

nets, blankets, and lanterns-

The state government has

committed to paying insurance

premiums under the Janashree

Bima Yojana for kendu leaf

workers. In case of natural

death, workers' families are

entitled to receive ₹30,000, and

₹1 lakh in case of accidental

death, alongside annual edu-

cational assistance for up to

two children from Class IX to

XII. However, these schemes

are reportedly falling through

the cracks due to the apathy of

While kendu leaf trade in the

departmental officials.

for binders.



Sonepur, May 25: Absence of a dedicated kendu leaf division has led to persistent exploitation of rural labourers - who collect these leaves - and poor implementation of the welfare schemes meant for them in Subarnapur district.

Often referred to as the green diamond' of western Odisha, kendu leaf provides vital seasonal income to thousands of collectors who sell those to the government.

According to reports, at present, Subarnapur has no independent kendu leaf division. Instead, its nine kendu leaf ranges operate under the jurisdictions of Bolangir, Sambalpur, and Redhakhole divisions.

For example, the ranges in Khaliapali, Singhbahali, and Tarbha under Sonepur block fall under Bolangir division. Similarly, the Ulunda block's Ulunda, Jaloe, and Sindol ranges are managed by the Sambalpur division, while Bahalpadar and Khandhata ranges in Birmaharajpur block are under

the Rairakhol division. Approximately 26,000 kendistrict generates over ₹7 crore in annual revenue, workers' voices remain unheard. Most are unable to travel to divisional offices located in Bolangir. Sambalpur, or Redhakhole due to financial and logistical constraints. Consequently, despite their crucial role in sustaining this revenue stream, these labourers-many from impoverished families—continue to be exploited.

Further allegations of corruption surface annually during leaf procurement. Workers claim they are pressurised to collect more leaves than officially required, with the excess not being accounted for in government records-raising concerns about misappropriation and underpayment.

Experts said the lack of a dedicated divisional office in Subarnapur district has severely hindered the fair administration of welfare measures and allowed systemic exploitation to persist. Establishing a local division could pave the way for accountability and much-needed relief for the district's kendu leaf workers, they added.

When contacted, Subrata Kumar Patra, DFO of Redhakhole Kendu Leaf Division in Sambalpur district, said that due to cotton cultivation on forest and grazing land, the production of kendu leaves has decreased in the Bahalpadar and Badakirasira areas. "These two ranges fall under Subarnapur district. Whenever complaints related to labour exploitation comes to our knowledge, we are addressing them," he added.



DIVINE MARRIAGE: State Revenue Minister Suresh Pujari carrying out a last minute check on the items to be gifted to Goddess Parvati during the upcoming Sital Sasthi Jatra in Sambalpur as his wife Padmini Nayak and other family members looks on, at their Sakshipada residence in the City, Sunday. Pujari and his wife will discharge the role of the Goddess' parents, and will give the deity away in marriage to Lord Lokanath Baba of Jhaduapada temple in the town during the festival.

₹52.93-crore master plan for Maa Kichakeswari temple revamp

Baripada, May 25: A detailed master plan worth ₹52.93 crore has been prepared for the development of the revered Maa Kichakeswari temple at Khiching in Mayurbhanj district.

The project falls under the Central government's PRA-SHAD scheme (Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive), overseen by the Ministry of Tourism.

Reports said that the plan aims to enhance the temple's infrastructure and overall pilgrimage experience through destination development and improved tourism facilities. Once approved, the historic

temple is expected to become a model spiritual site and could drive transformational change in regional development.

Khiching, the former capital of the princely state of Mayurbhanj, is already a prominent tourist destination. To support the temple's revival, President Droupadi Murmu visited the site February. 29, 2024, and announced its inclusion in the PRASHAD scheme.

Following the announcement, a committee was formed, and after approval from the State Integrated Plan Approval Committee (SIPAC), the Odisha Tourism department drafted a comprehensive development plan.

The proposal includes 34 projects, such as the construction of a heritage gate, renovahadev Temple, beautification of the temple pond, road and transport upgrades, a bus stand and parking facility, public parks, a Kalyan Mandap (community hall), a yagna mandap (ritual pavilion), enhancement of the temple frontage, develop ment of a pilgrims' resting area (Yatra Padia), a dining hall, a cultural marketplace (Anand Bazaar), a museum and accommodation for guests.

tion of the Mrutyunjaya Ma

Work on the proposed proj ects will begin once final ap proval is granted, officials said An official said that the move will help in increasing tourist footfall in the area and help put the site in the global tourism

Car accident in Sambalpur leaves 2 dead

Bhubaneswar, May 25: Two persons were killed and two others injured after the car in which they were travelling crashed into a road divider and then hit a truck on the opposite side of the road in Sambalpur district, police said on Sunday.

A police officer said the accident happened Saturday near Laldukhai village on National Highway 53.

The village falls under the jurisdiction of the Burla police station of Sambalpur district.

The front portion of the car was completely damaged, the officer said.

Locals rescued all four occupants of the car and took them to VSS Medical College and Hospital (VIMSAR) in Burla. where doctors declared two of them dead on arrival, the police officer said.

The deceased were identified as Manish Yadav and Subrat Sahu, he said, adding that the two injured persons, Saurabh Gupta and Akash Pattnayak, are undergoing treatment at the hospital.

The police have launched an investigation into the accident,

103-year-old Bhanjanagar DFO office to get new address soon



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhanjanagar, May 25: The 103-year-old office building of Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) in Bhanjanagar, which now stands in a dilapidated condition, will soon find a new

Originally built in 1922, the ageing structure standing on a 1,856-sq ft plot has grown increasingly unfit for use, especially with a rise in the number of officers and staff. The lack of adequate workspace further underscores the need for a new

Following a directive from local MLA Pradvumna Kumar Nayak, DFO Himanshu Sekhar

Mohanty has initiated steps for the construction of a new office. A proposal has been submitted to build the new facility on the Lal Singh Permanent Nursery premises along the College

The Forest department is in the process of preparing the design for a two-storey building on 18,000 sq ft land. The blueprint will be sent to higher departmental authorities for approval, after which the government will take the next steps. The estimated cost of the

project is over ₹ 5 crore. Once completed, the office will be shifted there from the old building, resulting in an official change of address.

The DFO office is part of a broader legacy of British-era infrastructure in Bhanjanagar. During their rule, the British took numerous steps to develon the region—then known as Ghumusar—in areas such as education, irrigation, transport and healthcare. Notable projects included the Bhanjanagar Lohrakhandi bridge, Russelkonda reservoir, medical fa cility and sub-jail, all of which

were constructed by 1884. They also focused on forest conservation, establishing the Ghumusar North forest division in 1922 and the Mujagada forest range in 1915. British administrators built a glasshouse on the Balingia hills in 1904 as a leisure retreat and forest outpost, which now remains inaccessible and in ruins due to the surrounding dense jungle.

In 1913, they also built the Rambha Dak Bungalow in the region, further expanding the forest infrastructure.

Meanwhile, other colonial-era buildings in Bhanjanagar—including the sub-collector's office and tehsil office-are also facing structural decay and may require demolition and reconstruction in the near future.

DURGAPALI ROB UNVEILED IN SAMBALPUR

Sambalpur, May 25: Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, who is on a visit to the City, inaugurated the Durgapali Railway Over Bridge (ROB), built at a cost of over ₹60.43 crore, Sunday.

Speaking on the occasion, Pradhan said the construction of the ROB is a good step towards making the City more beautiful and modern, with the joint cooperation of the Central and state governments. This will reduce traffic congestion in the area and make public movement safe and smooth.

In the coming days, Sambalpur be developed into a prosperous city by the double engine governments. Roads, drinking water, health and sanitation will be improved. Communication and related infrastructure will be strengthened, he said.

He said a ring road will be built in Sambalpur, while internal roads within the city will be constructed. A bridge will be built over the Mahanadi, connecting Yaga Burla and Hirakud, he added.

'Our government is committed to making Sambalpur city a large corporation," he said.

Rescued deer dies during treatment



POST NEWS NETWORK

Baghiapada, May 25: A wild deer that was rescued by villagers after the animal strayed into Kamira village in Boudh district Sunday morning, died during treatment at a veterinary hospital later during the day.

According to Forest officials, the deer had entered Kamira village, under Mundapada panchayat in Boudh block, in the morning hours from the Gandisar forests. Local residents managed to safely capture the animal and alerted the Forest department.

Forest guard Ramakanta

Panigrahi took the injured deer from the villagers and shifted it to the Boudh veteri nary hospital. The animal had sustained head injury, and had

a broken antler. Following a necropsy, the carcass was buried by Forest of ficials at the Bamanda nursery

Officials suspect the deer might have been targeted by poachers, as the nature of the head injury suggests external trauma. Villagers said deer are occasionally seen roaming in the nearby protected forest and they have urged the Forest department to step up conservation efforts to ensure the an imals' safety.

Historic Bhudharchandi temple wallowing in neglect

Nilagiri, May 25: Despite the state government providing substantial grants for the development of religious sites such as monasteries and temples, many historic and culturally significant shrines remain neglected due to administrative apathy

One such example is the ancient temple of Goddess Bhudharchandi at Sajanagarh in Balasore district.

Situated just five kilometres from Nilagiri, the temple. under the management of the Endowment Department, can trace its origin to the rule of the Nilagiri royal dynasty. While there is no conclusive historical documentation regarding its establishment, it is believed that in 1452 AD, King



Narayan Basanta Birata Bhuianga Mandhata founded the

Later, during the late 1500s the temple was attacked and partially vandalised by the invader 'Kalapahad'. The idol was reportedly hidden under a neem tree to protect it. Eventually, King Ramachandra

Mardaraj Harichandan rebuilt the temple following a divine

Today, this heritage site is in a dilapidated condition. The outer boundary wall of the temple is crumbling, with visible cracks and peeling plaster. Due to long-term neglect, the wall is now covered in moss and blackened layers, with vegetation growing from the cracks.

Despite being a regular destination for devotees and tourists, particularly during festivals, the lack of maintenance of the monument has caused growing discontent among visitors. A public toilet constructed near the temple at considerable government expense is currently defunct and unusable, causing perennial inconvenience to female devotees and tourists.

In 2024, the state government had sanctioned ₹20 lakh for the renovation of the temple's boundary wall, and the amount was allocated to the Nilagiri Adivasi Unnayana Sanstha. However, reports suggest that no work has been carried out vet.

When contacted, Karu Soren, project administrator of the integrated tribal development agency, admitted the funds were received 10 months ago. He explained that while estimates had been prepared and a project tender had been floated, a lack of cooperation from the assistant executive engineer had delayed the process. Consequently, a letter had been prepared to return the funds due to inaction.

Temple head priest Bijay Kumar Panda expressed his frustration, stating that while the government has been proactive in restoring many other temples and monasteries, the indifferent attitude of certain officials has stalled progress in this case. Local residents have strongly demanded immediate administrative intervention to ensure restoration efforts begin without further delay.

5 poachers arrested in Kuldiha

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nilagiri, May 25: Five armed poachers have been arrested with a country-made gun, bows and arrows from a forest in Kuldiha wildlife sanctuary under Nilagiri sub-division of Balasore district, an official said Sunday.

The accused were identified as Ramesh Munda, 45, Ganeshwar Munda, 21, Gopi Ho, 35, and Hadia Bhadra, 27, forest personnel said. They were interrogated in this connection and later, produced in the court. Out of the five poachers, four belong to Oupada area in Balasore district and another to neighbouring Mayurbhanj, a forest official said.

The incident took place Saturday, after the poachers allegedly tried to steal a trap camera installed inside the



forest, and their images were recorded in another camera secretly installed inside the forest, he said. These poachers have been stealing trap camer as to escape arrest.

Based on that information, a team of forest officials raided an area near Chemchata beat house and arrested them, he added.



The whole world yearns after freedom, yet each creature is in love with his chains; this is the first paradox and inextricable knot of our nature





Strategic Red Flag

n a disconcerting development that could pose a serious threat to India's strategic interests, Afghanistan has decided to join the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project. The foreign ministers of China, Pakistan and Afghanistan announced this at Beijing last week as part of broader efforts to boost "trilateral" cooperation. India has been opposing the \$62 billion CPEC project because it violates the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity by passing through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). Now, the westward expansion of the CPEC could have grave geopolitical consequences for India, especially in the wake of the recent military confrontation with Pakistan.

The trilateral meeting took place against the backdrop of Islamabad's ongoing criticism of the interim Taliban government for not taking action against militant groups based in Afghanistan that are waging war against Pakistan. Islamabad has consistently condemned the interim Taliban government for failing to take action against the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan and the Balochistan Liberation Army, which it alleges are fighting for the independence of Balochistan. For an extended period, the three countries maintained a trilateral foreign ministers' mechanism, which has not met recently due to increasing tensions between Islamabad and Kabul over Pakistan's forcible repatriation of thousands of Afghan refugees

Now, in the aftermath of the Indo-Pak conflict, China's efforts to bring Pakistan and Afghanistan closer to its sphere of influence could pose several challenges for New Delhi.

The CPEC is Beijing's ambitious initiative designed to link China's Xinjiang province with the Gwadar Port in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province through a network of roads, railways, and energy projects. Spanning 3,000 kilometres, this connectivity project is seen by China as a way to boost its "all-weather friend" Pakistan's struggling economy while providing Beijing with direct access to the Arabian Sea. However, Beijing's investment in infrastructure in PoK and Balochistan raises concerns for India, as it may enhance military mobility for both Pakistan and China in the region. Additionally, New Delhi worries that the CPEC could undermine its own regional connectivity efforts, such as the Chabahar port in Iran, by establishing alternative trade routes that exclude India. Another significant concern for New Delhi is the potential for Pakistan to use Afghan territory to conduct anti-India operations, given that Afghanistan has previously harboured terrorists from groups like the Jaish-e-Mohammed and the Lashkar-e-Taiba. In this context, it is pertinent to note that following India's airstrikes on Pakistan in response to the Pahalgam terror attack, some terrorist groups in Afghanistan, especially the Al Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent, issued a statement condemning the airstrikes as an "act of aggression" and vowed to launch a "jihad" against India.

All said and done, Afghanistan joining the China-Pakistan axis is yet another failure of India's foreign policy establishment. This is true especially if seen in the context of India having invested over \$3 billion in Afghanistan, primarily in infrastructure and other development projects. Not long ago, India had good ties with most of its neighbours, with the exception of Pakistan of course. However, something has gone wrong with our diplomacy that China has been successful in winning over one after another of India's neighbours - Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Myanmar - over the last decade

WISDOM CORNER

Once conform, once do what other people do because they do it, and a lethargy steals over all the finer nerves and faculties of the soul. She becomes all outer show and inward emptiness; dull, callous, and indifferent

We shall probably get nearest to the truth if we think of the conscious and personal psyche as resting upon the broad basis of an inherited and universal psychic disposition which is as such unconscious, and that our personal psyche bears the same relation to the collective psyche as the individual

A man who becomes conscious of the responsibility he bears toward a human being who affectionately waits for him, or to an unfinished work, will never be able to throw away his life. He knows the 'why' for his existence, and will be able to bear almost any 'how.'

VIKTOR E. FRANKL

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- **1896:** The Dow Jones Industrial Average is first published. The Dow Jones is one of the world's most important stock market indices. Today it comprises data from 30 major US companies
- 1897: Irish writer Bram Stoker published the Gothic horror classic Dracula, which became the basis for an entire genre of literature and films about
- 1908: Engineers make the first major oil find in the Middle East. The discovery in Masjed Soleyman in Iran had a major impact on the country's and the world region's economy and politics. More than half of the world's oil reserves are located in the Middle East.
- 1927: The Ford Motor Company ended production of its famed Model T, which had helped "democratize the automobile."
- 1940: During World War II the British began to evacuate their troops from Dunkirk, France.
- 1966: Formerly a colony of the Dutch and later the British, Guyana gained
- 1972: The Soviet Union and the United States sign the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. The ABM Treaty regulated the establishment of anti-ballistic missile shields against nuclear missiles. It was one of the most important treaties between the two superpowers during the Cold War.



THE DENTIST

couple of old guys were golfing when one said he was going to Dr. Taylor for a new set of dentures in the morning. His friend remarked that he had gone to the same dentist a few vears before. "Is that so?" the first said. "Did he do a good job?" "Well, I was on the course vesterday



"The ball most have been going 200 mph when it hit me in the stomach. That," he added, "was the first time in two years my teeth didn't hurt.'

FOCUS GEOPOLITICS

A DIVIDED WEST

JD Vance's hostile speech at February's Munich Security Conference and President Donald Trump's shameful treatment of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy during his Oval Office visit later that month, even the most naive Europeans were forced to confront a sobering reality: the US, under Trump, is no longer on their side.

To be sure, Trump's unpredictability leaves room for sudden policy reversals, particularly when it comes to the strongmen he openly admires. His recent criticism of Vladimir Putin suggests growing frustration with the Russian president's refusal to agree to a ceasefire in Ukraine. Similarly. Trump has noticeably distanced himself from Israeli PM Binyamin Netanyahu, as evidenced by his overtures toward Iran and multibillion-dollar AIchip deals with Gulf states.

That said, it is clear that the transatlantic alliance has entered an especially difficult period -worse than during Trump's first term. Notably, Trump's attacks are not limited to specific countries and their leaders but extend to the EU itself. He despises the EU a supranational, liberal project fundamentally incompatible with his nationalist worldview.

But viewing the emerging transatlantic divide as geopolitical is misleading. The split is ideological. On one side is an illiberal, extremist project led by Trump and his allies in Europe; on the other are those determined to preserve liberal democracy, rooted in the eighteenth-century Enlightenment principles that have guided the West since 1945. Trump's administration and supporters promote ideas, ranging from nationalist populism to Silicon Valley libertarianism, that resonate in Europe, where leaders like



As the liberal-democratic camp struggles to regroup, its illiberal adversaries are proving far more coordinated

Hungarian PM Viktor Orbán, Slovakia's Robert Fico, Italy's Giorgia Meloni (who has, however, moderated her rhetoric since taking office in 2022), and various opposition parties champion similar illiberal views.

To be sure, Romanians recently rejected far-right candidate George Simion in favour of his pro-EU liberal opponent, Nicu or Dan, but Europe's political landscape remains in flux. Voters in Poland may soon elect a president backed by the far-right Law and Justice Party, and Russian interference particularly in Romania's election – has been widespread and well-documented. As French President Emmanuel Macron noted in January, the global alliance of far-right populist forces reflects the emergence of a "reactionary international."

On the other side of Europe's political divide are leaders committed to defending liberal democracy: Macron, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, British PM Keir Starmer, Polish PM Donald Tusk; and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. Their closest ideological counterparts in the US include centrist Republicans and moderate Democrats. The former have largely disappeared from the political map; the latter remain disoriented, fragmented, and without clear leadership in the wake of Trump's re-election.

As the liberal-democratic camp struggles to regroup, its illiberal adversaries are proving far more coordinated. For years, far-right intellectuals and politicians on both sides of the Atlantic have engaged in frequent and intense exchanges over shared grievances, such as immigration and the perceived moral decay of the West. French author and conspiracy theorist Renaud Camus – especially his "Great Replacement" conspiracy theory – has been widely embraced by the American far right and Trump-aligned politicians.

So far, efforts to establish a transatlantic "populist international" have yielded only limited progress, mainly because the practical interests of these groups often clash. But that did not deter Trump from inviting several prominent figures from Europe's radical right including Reform UK leader Nigel Farage, French far-right polemicist and Reconquête leader Éric Zemmour, and Alice Weidel of Alternative für Deutschland - to his inauguration. In many ways, Trump himself serves as a symbolic figurehead linking these otherwise disparate movements.

Liberal thinkers have lacked their illiberal counterparts' strategic focus. For decades, relations among Western democracies have evolved naturally through established channels and institutions, with political leaders reaffirming their shared democratic values during official visits. Former US President Joe Biden's rousing speech on the beaches of Normandy on the 80th anniversary of D-Day, in which he extolled the virtues of freedom and democracy, is a prime example. Given that liberal values underpinned the Western-led international order, there appeared to be little need for deeper reflection or debate about the importance of democracy and human rights. Liberalism was like water in an aquarium: essential, yet invisible to the fish. Western academics, writers, and mainstream commentators operated within this framework without questioning its underlying assumptions. With the rise of Trump, Orbán, and other far-right demagogues, these assumptions can no longer be taken for granted.

There is much to discuss: How can younger voters be convinced of the enduring value of democracy and the rule of law over the allure of charismatic strongmen? How can we devise economic policies that support workers without undermining the international trade system or accelerating climate change? And how should liberals respond to immigration pressures? Transatlantic discussion of these issues could play a vital role in revitalising liberal ideals and developing political platforms capable of defending democratic governance in the

The writer is Head of the Americas Program at the Institut français des relations internationales.

SPECTRUM CLIMATE CHANGE

Laurence Nardon

VIEWING THE

TRANSATLANTIC

GEOPOLITICAL

IS MISLEADING.

THE SPLIT IS

IDEOLOGICAL

EMERGING

DIVIDE AS

Moving towards irreversible damage



Sanjib Kumar

RESEARCH BY THE CLIMATE **IMPACT LAB, USA PREDICTS THAT ODISHA COULD BECOME THE HOTTEST INDIAN STATE BY 2100**

TO THE EDITOR

are most welcome to contribute letters

requested to send their contact

address/email ID. They may also send in

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suggestions, preferably by email, to:

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numbers and full postal

columns (between 600-1000

xtreme heatwaves are a public health concern. According to the WHO, more than 166,000 people died due to heatwaves in India between 1998 and 2017. This number includes deaths directly attributed to heatstroke and heat exhaustion: as well as. other heat-related illnesses. In 2024, India reported more than 40,000 heatstroke cases and more than 100 heat-related deaths. According to a recent study conducted by CEEW (Council on Energy Environment and Water), 3/4th of India's population is currently at high to very high heat risk.

In April of 2025, industrial town Jharsuguda, Odisha, experienced a record-breaking heatwave, reaching a temperature of 46.2°C. This temperature not only surpassed the previous highest April temperature recorded in Jharsuguda: but also made it the hottest place in India. This occurred amidst a severe heatwave, which affected at least 15 other districts of Odisha, with temperatures exceeding 40°C. Similarly, on 16 March, Boudh recorded the highest temperature (43.6°C) in the country; whereas, other places like Jharsuguda, Angul and Bolangir also experienced extremely high temperatures. As per IMD, in March this year four of the top-five hottest places in the country were from Odisha. Routinely many climate disasters are happening in Odisha; which are causing extreme heat during summer. According to reports, this year between February and March the Forest Survey of India has detected thousands of fire points in different forests across Odisha. For most of the cases fire spreads unchecked destroying vast patches of forest. This burning of vegetation releases heat and carbon into the atmosphere. Coal-fired thermal power plants located in Jharsuguda, Angul, and Talcher are also responsible for a lot of environmental problems, including air pollution and rising temperatures. These areas have been identified as critically polluted due to intense industrial activities, including coal mining and power generation. The release of pollutants like suspended particulate matter is a major cause of concern.

Mahanadi is the lifeline of Odisha. Several towns -- Sambalpur, Subarnapur, Athamalik, and Boudh -- are located on its banks. Mahanadi experiences reduced flows and even several dry stretches during the summer. As the water level decreases, the riverbed gets exposed and dries out quickly, especially in areas where the river channel is wide. The sand and soil on the riverbed heat up

significantly under the summer sun, leading to very high temperatures. This is creating a desert-like environment in some areas, with hot, dry conditions.

Odisha has experienced deforestation in several districts. Mining activities and land diversion for other purposes are maior contributors to deforestation. Certain areas have seen a decline in green cover. A decrease in green cover in-combination with deforestation, can lead to rapid increase in temperature.

It is estimated that by 2030, more than 40% of India's population would be living in the urban areas. Urbanisation is responsible for rise in surface temperatures, a phenomenon known as the Urban Heat Island effect. This phenomenon occurs because urban areas are warmer than surrounding rural areas due to replacement of natural surfaces with built-up areas, which absorb more solar radiation and emit more heat. In reality, urban areas are hit hard by climate change.

Heatwaves have broader impacts on health, environment. infrastructure, and economy. Research by the Climate Impact Lab, USA predicts that Odisha could become the hottest Indian state by 2100. According to estimation, by 2100 around 40,000 people could die in Odisha each year due to excessive heat.

It is worth mentioning that the Odisha govt had implemented several measures for plantation. For example, the Green Mahanadi Mission was started with around ₹500 crore budgetary outlay to create a green cover and to rejuvenate major rivers. The mission is a failure since most saplings died without care. Solving environmental issues should be a top priority of the government. Focus should be on increasing green cover through plantation and forest conservation, implementing water management, and avoiding over-concretization of open spaces. In consultation with environmentalists, authorities should set-up Miyawaki forests to increase the tree cover in all district headquarters and urban centres. These measures will help to increase the state's ability to withstand and mitigate the effects of high temperatures and extreme heat events. The government also needs to build heat shelters in rural and urban areas both for people and animals. Policymakers urgently need to implement transformative measures to combat the ongoing climate crisis. Failure to act will result in significant adverse impacts on people and ecosystems, pushing the Earth towards irreversible damage.

The writer is a scientist.

Blueprint for development

Sir, The recently held 10th Governing Council meeting of the NITI Aayog, under the theme "Viksit Rajya for Viksit Bharat@2047", saw Prime Minister Narendra Modi reiterate the need for Centre-state synergy to fast-track national development. While this vision of "Team India" is commendable, it was met with both collaboration and contention. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin rightly pointed out the deviation from the promised 41 per cent devolution of Central taxes, highlighting a pressing fiscal concern. Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, meanwhile, raised issues of perceived "stepmotherly treatment" of the Centre towards the state and called for equitable water-sharing and financial support. However, what stood out as a constructive roadmap was Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's proposal to establish three focused sub-groups between the Centre and the states. These would target GDP growth through investment and job creation, harness India's demographic dividend, and usher in technology-led governance. His pitch reflects a pragmatic, structured approach to cooperative federalism. As India charts its course toward 2047, such data-driven, solution-oriented contributions deserve attention beyond rhetoric.

Gopalaswamy J, CHENNAI

Nightmare on flight

Sir, An Indigo flight from Delhi to Srinagar faced a nightmare when it was denied permission to enter Pakistani airspace while flying over Pathankot, due to turbulent weather on its normal route. To avoid the hailstorm, it needed to deviate 180 km into Pakistan and then re-enter India to land safely at Srinagar. Alternatively, it could have turned southwest to Amritsar but it did not, the reasons of which are under probe now. However, the flight continued straight into the storm, suffering nose damage. and eventually landed safely at Srinagar with Indian Air Force guidance. In this context, it is essential that NOTAMs (Notice to Airmen) must account for emergencies, ensuring civilian aircraft of any nation are granted airspace or landing rights on humanitarian grounds after proper identification.

RS Narula, PATIALA



TWO STATES





WAY OF Women reroute bandits to farming

Karauli, once among Rajasthan's worst-hit dacoit areas, witnessed a transformation after community-led water conservation efforts by women revived

groundwater sparked hope and renewed farming opportunities

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Karauli, May 25: Until about 15 years ago, Sampatti Devi and many women like her in Rajasthan's Karauli district lived in constant fear, dreading the day their husbands might not return home.

Repeated droughts, driven in part by declining rainfall linked to climate change, had turned their land barren. Water sources dried up, crippling agriculture and animal husbandry, the lifeblood of their livelihood.

With no other way to survive, many men were forced into

dacoity, hiding in jungles and risking their lives every day to evade the police. Karauli's average annual rainfall dropped from 722.1 mm (1951-2000) to 563.94 mm (2001-2011), according to government data.

But in the 2010s, something remarkable happened. The women, weary of fear and despair, resolved to reclaim their lives. They convinced their husbands to come out of the jungle and give up arms.

Together, they began reviving old, dried-up ponds and constructing new pokhars (water bodies) with the help of Tarun Bharat Sangh (TBS), an Alwar-based NGO dedicated to water conservation since 1975.

"I would have been dead by now. She convinced me to come back and start farming again,' recalls Jagdish, Sampatti Devi's husband, now 58, who surrendered his weapons and chose

Pooling every penny earned over the years by selling milk, they built a pokhar at the base of a hill near their village, Alampur, in 2015-16.

When the rains came, the



pokhar filled and for the first time in years, their family had water, enough to sustain them for a longer period.

"Now, we grow mustard, wheat, pearl millet and vegetables," says Sampatti Devi, sitting proudly on the pokhar's embankment. She even rents it out for water chestnut cultivation, earning about Rs 1 lakh each season.

Over the years, 16 such pokhars have been built in the surrounding forest, each capturing runoff from the slopes. Diesel pumps now lift water to irrigate fields.

"With water, stability is returning," says Karauli Superintendent of Police Brijesh Jyoti Upadhyay.

Sumit Dookia, an associate professor at Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University and a Rajasthan native, says the Chambal region's rocky terrain hastens rainwater runoff, limiting groundwater recharge.

He says that similar transformations have also occurred in Uttar Pradesh's Etawah, where former dacoits returned to farming.

SERNI RIVER REVIVED

In Karauli, this wave of conservation has transformed the Serni, once a seasonal river, into a perennial one. Just a decade ago, the river would run dry after Diwali, leaving people desperate for water.

"Now, the river holds water even in the peak of summer. The groundwater level has risen to just five to 10 feet below the surface," says Ranveer Singh from TBS.

Forty years ago, he says, the river flowed all year round, but overuse and climate change had drained it dry. With no options left, some men migrated to cities in search of work, while others turned to mining or dacoity.

"Illegal mining exposed them to lethal silica dust, causing silicosis, a painful and incurable lung disease. Many did not live past 40," said Rajendra Singh, the Magsaysay Award and Stockholm Water Prize-winning water conservationist who

A 2013 study by the National Institute of Miners' Health (now part of ICMR-NIOH) found that 74 per cent of surveyed sandstone workers in Karauli suffered from silicosis.

Water scarcity even disrupt ed marriage decisions. Families of prospective brides avoided sending daughters to this parched land, while poverty forced many Karauli parents to marry off their daughters early. In Bhoorkheda village, where

many families were forced to marry off their daughters early under the weight of financial hardship, 55-year-old Prem. the wife of a former dacoit, gave up four bighas of her own land to build a pokhar on the village's edge.

Though she speaks little of her husband's past, she proudly shares how the pond has brought water to grow wheat and pearl millet and fed the families in her village.

Lajja Ram, 60, also from Bhoorkheda admits he turned to dacoity out of desperation.

"My father was a farmer. There was enough water in his time. But as I grew up, rainfall declined, wells dried up and farming became impossible. We were lucky to produce even two to four manns (80-160 kg) per bigha. Our cattle died, and we felt like we were next," says Lajja Ram, who once faced 40 criminal cases. It was his sister who finally persuaded him to surrender and join water conservation efforts.

On a scorching May after noon, Karauli's ponds and pokhars shimmer with water. The Serni river flows gently with children splashing and cattle grazing along its banks.

"A decade ago, no one would have imagined this. Our women made this possible!" says

Tripura's rare Bostami turtles face extinction



Agartala, May 25: The softshell Bostami turtles, an endangered species found in a lake surrounding the Tripureswari Temple in Tripura's Gomati district, are facing extinction, officials said.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) had classified the specimen as extinct in the wild, they said.

The 15th-century temple,

constructed by King Dhanyamanikya in Udaipur, around 55 km from Agartala, is considered to be one of the holiest Hindu shrines in the country, and it is among the 51 'Shakti Peeths'. It is also known as 'Kurma Pitha' as the temple premises resem-

The state government has sanctioned funds for a year-long study on Bostami turtles to be conducted by the Turtle Survival Alliance Foundation.

ble 'Kurma' or turtle.

Gomati District Magistrate Tarit Kanti Chakma said the study is a priority for both the forest department and the district administration.

District Forest Officer (DFO)

H Vignesh said a meeting in this connection was held re cently between the DM and forest officials.

"A comprehensive study will be undertaken by the Turtle Survival Alliance Founda tion, an Uttar Pradesh-based organisation, to determine the current population and its problems. Hatching generally occurs with the onset of monsoon. Accurate population data is lacking due to the absence

of scientific studies," Vignesh told PTI.

Spread over 6.4 acres the Kalyan Sagar These turtles are Lake had been a considered a living natural habitat of relic of the turtles. How biodiversity and ever, around two have symbolic decades ago, the

traditions H VIGNESH | DISTRICT

significance in

religious

which led to the death of several turtles, officials of the state fisheries

temple commit-

tee cemented the

banks of the lake

department said. According to experts, the

construction of the embankments increased the mortality of the turtles, disrupting their natural habitat and places for laying eggs.

301 B'deshi infiltrators deported from Rajasthan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jodhpur, May 25: A total of 301 Bangladeshi infiltrators have been deported from Rajasthan between May 14 and 23, as part of a large-scale crackdown on illegal immigrants in the state.

In the second round of deportation, 153 Bangladeshi nationals were flown from Jodhpur Airport to West Bengal on a special Air India flight, an official said Saturday.

From there, the Border Security Force (BSF) will facilitate their handover to Bangladesh. In the first round May 14, 148 infiltrators had been deported.

The Bangladesh government has been duly notified of the repatriation of its citizens.

The deportation drive gained momentum following the terrorist attack in Pahalgam. In response, Chief Minister Bhaian Lal Sharma instructed district authorities to identify and detain illegal Bangladeshi and Rohingya immigrants residing in Rajasthan.

A statewide campaign was promptly launched. Many of the infiltrators were found living under false identities across several districts.

Over 1,000 individuals were arrested during the operation, most of whom lacked valid Indian identity documents. According to sources, many of the certificates seized were forged, and an investigation is underway to determine how and with whose help these documents were produced.

Under this operation, infiltrators were apprehended from multiple districts.

From Sikar, 394 Bangladeshi nationals were arrested. In Aimer, 31 Bangladeshi nationals have been arrested. In Jaipur, around 218 Bangladeshis were arrested and from Alwar, 117 people were arrested.

To manage the influx of detainees, the Rajasthan government has set up six detention

A Permanent centre has been created in Alwar while temporary arrangement has been made in Jhadol (Udaipur), Merta (Nagaur), Behror, and two locations in Jaipur.

These centers were established as part of a special campaign targeting Bangladeshi infiltrators. Currently, about 1,008 individuals are housed in these detention facilities.

GREAT INDIAN BUSTARD SAVIOR

Conservationist's death shocks wildlife lovers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, May 25: The untimely deaths of three wildlife activists, including prominent conservationist Radheshvam Pemani Bishnoi, and a forest guard in a road accident in Jaisalmer have shocked wildlife lovers and locals.

Radheshyam (28) was an animal rescuer from Dholia village in Pokhran, who was known for his efforts to save the Great Indian Bustard (GIB), the state bird of Rajasthan, considered India's most critically-endangered bird species.

Radheshyam, conservationists Shyam Bishnoi and Kanwar Raj Bhati, and Surendra Chaudhary, a forest guard, were killed when their camper vehicle collided with a truck in the Lathi area of Jaisalmer Friday night.

With the support of villagers, Radheyshyam created more than 100 watering holes for birds across Pokhran, a desert area, which were filled regularly using tankers.

"Radheshyam made wildlife conservation his life's mission. He worked on the ground. He started a great mission to pro-



vide water to birds and animals inhabiting this desert area. I urge the youth of the region to come forward and carry forward his mission." Shivrai Bishnoi from the Akhil Bhartiya Jeev Raksha Bishnoi Sabha

On Friday night, Radheshyam, Shyam Bishnoi, Bhati and Chaudhary were going to check on a tip-off about poaching activity in the Lathi area. But before they could reach the spot, their camper vehicle collided with a truck, leaving all four

dead, police said. Radheshyam was known for raising the plight of the Great Indian Bustard in the desert region. He also rescued and rehabilitated many birds and

Reopening of border haats: Volatile B'desh situation adds to uncertainty

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Agartala, May 25: The five 'Border Haats' -- two in Tripura and three in Meghalaya -- have remained closed for a long time, and their prospects are uncertain amid the volatile situation in Bangladesh, officials said

These 'Border Haats' (border markets) along the India-Bangladesh borders have remained closed since March 2020 after the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic and the subsequent lockdowns. However, three 'Border Haats' in East Khasi Hills district and South West Garo Hills district in Meghalaya reopened in 2022, and the south Tripura border market reopened in May last year. But, these border markets again closed after the violence in Bangladesh began in June-July last year, especially after the fall of the former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League government on August

A senior official of the Tripura Industries and Commerce Department said in Agartala that before the unrest began in Bangladesh in June-July last vear, district administration officials of the concerned dis-



tricts of the two countries held a series of meetings to reopen the 'Border Haats', but there has been no positive progress after that.

In the weekly border market, on average, at least 25 to 27 vendors, including women from both sides of the border, sell their products and various items.

The first 'Border Haat' was inaugurated in 2011 between the West Garo Hills district of Meghalaya at Kalaichar and Kurigram in Bangladesh. Subsequently, other 'Border Haats' were set up in Meghalaya and

According to Indian officials, before the unrest in Bangladesh started, the governments of the two countries had approved 10 more 'Border Haats' along the India-Bangladesh border in Tripura and Meghalava, Out of them, six are in Meghalaya, and four are in Tripura.

Both the Indian and Bangladeshi governments were earlier keen to reopen more 'Border Haats' in the four northeastern states -- Tripura, Meghalaya, Assam and Mizoram, which share a 1,880-km border with Bangladesh to boost the local economy and increase the income of the border villagers.

IPFT to hold 'Tipraland statehood day' Aug 23

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Agartala, May 25: The Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT), an ally of the BJP-led coalition government, has de cided to organise a mega rally August 23 to mark 'Tipraland statehood day', said a party leader Sunday.

The rally will also mark the party's campaign for the elections to Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) due in March or April next year.

"We had a state committee meeting here on Saturday to take stock of the state's prevailing political situation and discussed organisational issues in view of the next year's elections in tribal council," party general secretary

Swapan Debbarma said. The party has always been voicing in favour of Tipraland's demand in Delhi's Jantar Man tar by organising mass gathering August 23 but this time it will be held in the state to garner

people's support, Debbarma said. "The state committee has decided to organise a rally demanding Tipraland to mark the statehood day on August 23 in the state, unlike previous years. This will be a big rally after the party's election rally for 2023 Assembly elections,

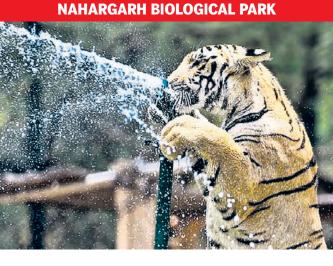
Ice cream, 'sattu': Animals get treats to beat the heat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, May 25: To shield animals from the intense summer heat, Jaipur's Nahargarh Biological Park has made several arrangements, such as installing desert coolers in their enclosures and incorporating ice cream and 'sattu' in their diet.

Senior veterinary doctor Arvind Mathur said that fruit ice cream has been introduced into the animals' diets. The sloth bears are being provided with 'sattu' (protein-rich flour), honey and special fruit ice cream, while deer and hippopotamuses are being served watermelon and cucumber, Dr Mathur said.

Mercury in the city is soaring, with the day temperature Saturday being recorded at 42



degrees Celsius, which is expected to rise further in the days to come.

"Special measures have been taken to safeguard the animals from the ongoing heat waves.

he dietary plans of the animals have been adjusted to match the season, with special attention given to the tiger and lion cubs. some of whom are experiencing the sweltering heat for the first time

Desert coolers have been installed, and rain guns have been positioned in the open enclosures of tigers, lions and leopards. These devices help keep the temperature down by spraying water in the enclo-

sures," Dr Mathur explained. He also said that a hippopotamus gave birth to a calf a couple of days back, and extra care is being taken to ensure the mother and calf are comfortable.

"Green nets, sprinklers and mud ponds for sambar (deer) and water ponds for other animals have been arranged. Adult

temperature Saturday being recorded at 42 degrees Celsius. which is expected to rise further in the days to come animals are housed in open en-

ercury in Jaipur is

soaring, with the day

closures, while the cubs have been placed in the zoo area. where they are a key attraction for visitors," he added "To help regulate their body heat, they are given ice cream

made from milk and fruits to bears well as fresh fruits, honey and sattu. Seasonal fruits like watermelon and cucumber are also part of the diet for deer, hippopotamuses and chital," he said.

To protect other animals, such as panthers, leopards, foxes, baboons, and various species of deer, from the heat,

water sprinklers have been installed outside their cages, while desert coolers have been placed in the enclosures of tigers and lions

Nahargarh Biological Park has diverse species, including Asiatic lions, Bengal tigers, panthers, hyenas, wolves, deer, crocodiles, sloth bears, Hima layan black bears and wild boars. The park currently has 13 tigers, including seven cubs. five lions, including one cub three leopards and five sloth bears, including two cubs.

The park, which spans 720 hectares and is part of the Na hargarh Sanctuary, is located on the Jaipur-Delhi highway about 12 km away from Jaipur It is known for its rich flora and fauna, hosting numerous bird

and animal species.

national



Maharaja Agrasen Ji was a great and visionary ruler who, during his reign, initiated a unique system to provide livelihood resources to the weaker sections of society

ARVIND KEJRIWAL AAP NATIONAL CONVENE

LUDHIANA WEST BYPOLL TO TAKE PLACE JUN 19

The bypoll to Ludhiana West assembly seat in Punjab will take place on June 19 and the counting will be held June 23, officials said Sunday. The Election Commission of India announced the schedule for the bypoll Sunday

निर्वाचन सदन NIRVACHAN SADAN भारत निर्वाचन आयोग ELECTION COMMISSIO OF

Over the cade, under NDA's good governance, Bharat's growth story has been driven

by innovation, infrastructure, inclusion, and digital transfor-PAWAN KALYAN | AP DEPUTY CM

The views expressed hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @ narendramodi ji on 'Operation

Sindoor' in today's @mannkibaat programme express the 'Mann Ki Baat of India'. Under the successful leadership of the prime minister, 140 crore Indians are united against terrorism and stand with the Indian Army with full confidence and commitment

YOGI ADITYANATH UTTAR PRADESH CM

Modi Govt. is known for creating histories. This time along with making history it has also



made the nation proud. India overtakes Japan to become 4th largest economy in the world. India becomes a \$4 trillion

MANIK SAHA | TRIPURA CM

SHORT TAKES

Panic grips Patna; 6 cops suspended

Patna: Unidentified miscreants in an SUV fired several rounds in the air reportedly over a parkingrelated dispute at Patna's Boring Canal road area before fleeing, triggering panic in the locality, police said Sunday. No one was injured in the incident that took place Saturday evening, they said.

CDS conducts 'strategic review'

New Delhi: Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan Sunday carried out a strategic review of the Indian Army's combat readiness at the force's northern and western theatres following the Operation Sindoor. In separate visits to the two crucial commands that played a major role during the operation, Gen Chauhan commended the overall synergy and timely accomplishment of tasks under challenging conditions.

Three dead as car hits truck

Mahasamund: An elderly couple and a 34-year-old man died and three persons were injured after their car rammed into a stationary truck in Chhattisgarh's Mahasamund district Sunday, a police official said. The incident took place at 3am near Kodar Dam on national highway 53 under Tumgaon police station limits. he added.

Kerala battered by intense rains

Thiruvananthapuram: Intense rains lashed Kerala Sunday, uprooting trees across the state, including one that fell on a moving train in Thrissur and another that caused a fatality in neighbouring Kozhikode. Houses were damaged, rivers were in spate, and shutters of some as the southwest monsoon gained strength.

Delhi: Bad weather diverts 49 flights

New Delhi: As many as 49 flights, including 17 international ones, were diverted at the country's largest IGI airport here due to heavy rain and thunderstorms that battered the national capital overnight.

Kerala on alert after leak from capsized cargo ship

According to an official note issued after the meeting, the leaked fuel is drifting at a speed of approximately three kilometres per hour, posing serious environmental and navigational threats

ficial said.

Thiruvananthapuram, May 25: A Liberian cargo ship, carrving 640 containers including 13 with hazardous cargo, capsized and sank in the sea off the state's coast in the early hours of Sunday, and the incident has led to a major oil leak, a top of-

The cargo reportedly fell from the Liberian-flagged ship MSC ELSA 3, which was Saturday en route to Kochi port from Vizhinjam before it sank in the Arabian Sea

In response to the environmental threat and potential public safety hazards, the Kerala government has launched urgent containment measures.

Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) have been deployed to manage the risk of drifting cargo containers and a possible coastal oil spill. A high-level emergency meeting chaired by the Chief Secretary directed the Factories and Boilers Department and the Pollution Control Board to constitute the



The District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs). police, and other key agencies have been instructed to provide all necessary assistance for emergency operations.

According to official sources, MSC ELSA 3 sank approximately 14.6 nautical miles (around 27 km) off the Thottappally coast. Nearly 100 containers are believed to have fallen into the

The Kerala government has sounded a statewide alert, and fishermen have been advised not to venture into the sea, and the Coast Guard is working to contain the spill

With the rescue of 3 more crew members by a Navy ship, all the 24-member crew have been rescued

sea, with many now drifting towards the shore at a speed of around 3 kmph.

The Indian Coast Guard has launched a full-scale containment operation. Two Coast Guard ships are currently engaged in the area, while a Dornier aircraft is being used to spray chemical dispersants over the affected zone

The Director General of the Coast Guard, who also leads the National Oil Spill Response Plan, is personally supervising the operations. In anticipation of oil settling on the seabed, the state government is preparing a contingency plan involving coordinated underwater cleanup efforts. This will

sentiments, Congress gener-

al secretary Jairam Ramesh

alleged that BJP leaders were

be a joint operation involving the Coast Guard, Navy, Forest Department, and the Factories and Boilers Department.

To bolster precautionary measures, the Port Department, Coast Guard, and Navy have been instructed to mobilise additional booms and skimmers to contain any potential oil spread

District-level task forces have also been activated to address various emergency scenarios, including recovery of containers, shoreline cleanup, and marine pollution control.

A public advisory has been issued urging coastal residents to stay at least 200 metres away from any unfamiliar objects or containers that may wash ashore. Citizens are requested to immediately alert authorities by dialling the emergency number 112 and are advised not to gather near such sites. Fishermen have been strongly ad vised against venturing into deep-sea waters, particularly within a 20-nautical-mile radius



A woman attempts to shield her children amid rains in Kolkata,

BJP MP JANGRA ROW

Cong wants Modi's apology



New Delhi, May 25: The Congress Sunday objected strongly to BJP MP Ram Chander Jangra's remarks that tourists should have put up a fight against terrorists in Pahalgam, demanding his sacking and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's apology in the matter.

The Prime Minister and the BJP leadership's silence should be seen as a "tacit approval" of Jangra's statement, said the Opposition party. Its chief Mallikarjun Kharge claimed BJP leaders were competing with each other to malign the Pahalgam victims and the armed forces. Jangra's comments are being seen by the Congress as the latest in a series of deplorable remarks made recently by BJP leaders -- Madhya Pradesh minister Vijay Shah and the state's deputy chief minister Jagdish Devda.

While the Congress claimed that Devda had said the entire Indian Army and brave soldiers were bowing at the feet of PM Modi, Shah had to apologise after his remarks linking the religion of terrorists behind the Pahalgam strike with that of Col Sofiya Qureshi, triggered an

The Prime Minister and the BJP leadership's silence should be seen as a "tacit approval" of Jangra's statement, said the Opposition party

■ Its chief Mallikarjun Kharge

claimed BJP leaders were competing with each other to malign the Pahalgam victims and the armed forces

outrage. Col Qureshi and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh had briefed the media alongside Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and on Operation Sindoor.

Chiding the BJP in a post in Hindi on X, Kharge said, "The BJP Rajya Sabha MP Ram Chander Jangra's shameful statement has once again exposed the petty mentality of RSS-BJP. "MP Deputy Chief Minister Jagdish Devda insulted our brave Army, but PM Modi did not take any action. MP Minister Vijay Shah made lewd comments on our brave colonel, but has not been sacked to date," he said.

In the long post, he noted that when the wife of the naval officer killed in Pahalgam was being trolled on social media, "Modi ii was silent even then". Echoing the party chief's

constantly insulting the Indian Army and the martyrs, "which exposes their petty and lowly mindset". "This shameful state ment of Jangra shows that the BJP, intoxicated with power, has become so insensitive that instead of blaming the security lapse... in Pahalgam... BJP MPs are questioning the martyrs and their wives," Ramesh said in a post on X. Claiming the BJP has taken no action against Shah and Devda, he said the new statement is "highly objectionable"

Later, addressing a press conference, All India Mahila Congress president Alka Lamba condemned the "insult" of the Army and martyrs' families by BJP leaders and sought the prime minister and BJP president's apology.

Lamba played a few purport ed videos of the BJP leaders, including the Haryana MP Madhya Pradesh deputy chief minister, and a minister, in which they are heard "insulting" the defence forces.

She claimed Jangra suggested that wives of the tourists killed in the Pahalgam terror attack "lacked courage and the spirit of warrior women and if they had fought back, casualties would have been lower"

The Mahila Congress president said the law will take its own course as an FIR has been registered in one of the cases, and that too at the instance of the high court, and an SIT has been constituted on the orders of the Supreme Court. But she questioned the BJP for "defending and protecting" its leaders like Devda, Shah and Jangra.

Storm disrupts power supply across Delhi



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 25: Power supply was disrupted in many parts of the national capital due to damage caused to electrical installations by the overnight heavy rains and thunderstorm, discoms said Sunday.

Power supply was disrupted in parts of Bawana, Ghogha village, Sector 25 Rohini, DSIIDC Narela, Sultanpuri, Sector 22 Rohini, Karala. Badli, Siraspur, Avantika, Mangolpuri, RU Block Pitampura and Rithala village among others in north Delhi, said a spokesperson of Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited (TPDDL).

"Our teams were immediately pressed into action and restoration work began on priority," he added.

Many areas under BSES discoms -- BYPL and BRPL including Mundka, Jaffarpur, Hari Nagar, Madipur, Tagore Garden, Chhatarpur, parts of Pitampura, Rohini, Model Town, Mukheriee Nagar, Timarpur, Mayapuri, Sangam Vihar, Nand Nagri and Karawal Nagar also faced outages during the thunderstorm.

A BSES spokesperson said that the instances of power dis-

AAP slams BJP for waterlogging

The Aam Aadmi Party Sunday lambasted the BJP-led dispensation over waterlogging in Delhi, calling it a failure of the "four-engine" government. While there was no immediate reaction from the BJP, Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena shared videos of key drains with a free flow. An overnight thunderstorm accompanied by heavy rain disrupted flight operations. uprooted trees and electricity poles. and caused waterlogging in several areas of the city

ruption in parts of the city late last night were primarily due to waterlogging and the falling of trees and their branches on electricity cables.

"BSES Operations and Maintenance teams were on a high alert, with Quick Response Teams (QRTs) promptly deployed to attend to complaints," he added. The spokesperson said that in most cases, power supply was restored quickly.

However, in a few pockets. restoration took longer than usual due to two key reasons -- the need to wait for water to recede and the damage caused to electricity infrastructure due to fallen trees and their branches, he added.

est issue of RSS-linked weekly magazine Organiser. This interaction was in the

backdrop of the Akhil Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha of RSS March 21-23, 2025, and was recorded before Operation Sindoor, at the Organiser-Panchjanya office, the magazine said. "We must strive for strength.

Mohan Bhagwat calls for

making Bharat mighty

New Delhi, May 25: RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat has called for

unity in the Hindu society and

making Bharat so mighty in

military power and economy

that it cannot be "conquered"

even if "multiple powers come'

He, however, stressed that

strength should be combined

with virtues and righteous-

ness as a "mere brute power'

can be directionless leading to

"blatant violence". India has no

option but to be powerful as it

has been "witnessing the wick-

edness of the evil forces" on all

its borders, Bhagwat said in an

interview published in the lat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

together.

As we pray through the daily prarthana (prayer): 'Ajayyam cha visvasya dehisa saktim (Grant us such strength that globally we are invincible), Bhagat told the magazine when asked to share the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's vision on national security, military strength and economic power.

He stressed that India must not be dependent on others for national security "True strength is internal. We should be able to defend our selves. No one should be able to conquer us, not even if multiple powers come together.'

"There are evil forces in the world that are aggressive by nature," he said, adding, "We have no option but to be powerful as we have been witnessing the wickedness of the evil forces on all our borders.

Playing cards without gambling not moral turpitude: SC

The Supreme Court ruled that playing cards for fun without gambling doesn't involve moral turpitude, reinstating Hanumantharayappa YC's election in Karnataka's cooperative society

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 25: Playing cards for entertainment and recreation without an element of betting and gambling does not involve moral turpitude, the Supreme Court has said as it restored the election of a man in a cooperative society in

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh noted that one Hanumantharayappa YC, who was elected to the board of directors of

Government Porcelain Factory Employees Housing Co-operative Society Ltd, was allegedly fined ₹200 without any trial when some persons, including him were caught playing cards sitting on a roadside.

"In the very nature of things, we find it difficult that the misconduct attributed to the appellant involves moral turpitude. It is well known that the expression moral turpitude is used in legal as well as societal parlance to describe a conduct, which is inherently base, vile,

deprave or having some connection showing depravity. Every action against which one can raise an eyebrow may not necessarily involve moral turpitude," the bench said.

Noting that Hanumantharay appa was not a habitual gambler, the bench said, "There

are so many forms of playing cards. It is difficult to accept that every form of such playing would involve moral turpitude, especially when it is played as a mode of entertainment and recreation.

In fact, in most parts of our country, playing simpliciter cards, without an element of gambling or betting is accepted as a poor man's source of entertainment."

The top court said that Hanumantharayappa was elected to the Board of Directors of the cooperative society with the highest votes and the consequential punishment of setting aside his election is highly disproportionate to the nature of misconduct said to have been committed by him.

It set aside the Karnataka High Court's judgement upholding the decision to remove Hanumantharayappa from the post of the directors in the cooperative society.

At the outset, the top court noted that Hanumantharavappa was elected to the Board of Directors of the Society by securing the highest votes and his election was held February

Sri Ranganath B, who lost the election, raised an election dispute before the joint regis trar of cooperative societies inter alia, alleging that the appellant was convicted in a criminal case for the offence punishable under Section 87 of the Karnataka Police Act, 1963 allegedly for gambling.

Hanumantharayappa was held guilty of an offence involving moral turpitude and his election was set aside in view of Section 17(1) of the Karnataka Cooperative Societies Act, 1959

The high court also upheld the decision of setting aside his election after which Hanuman tharayappa approached the top

national



Our army has proved that if any country promotes terrorism on our territory, the consequences would be more severe than **Operation Sindoor**



are from India. Our and we will also accept modern science and technology, and we want a society to do so. A balance

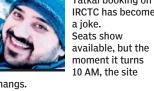
IITIN GADKARI | UNION MINISTER

We welcomed delegations from over 80 countries -- from Japan to Europe to ASEAN nations - and there was one unanimous sentiment: India's

future lies in Northeast IYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA | UNION MINISTER One Nation, One Election

will not only save thousands of crores of rupees. but will also allow better utilisation of administrative machinery, security forces, and human resources in national interest





available, but the moment it turns 10 AM, the site 10 AM: Seats visible.

10:01: Website freezes. 10:03: All seats gone-even in 10:04: Site suddenly smooth. By the time it works again, all tickets are gone even for small

Then the website runs smoothly because nothing's left to book. This used to happen years ago. Suresh Prabhu had fixed it, but now it's back. Agents win, common people lose

#IRCTC #TatkalBooking

#IndianRailways

@Panks Arora

Boy electrocuted in park in Delhi's Kalkaji

New Delhi: A nine-year-old boy got electrocuted while playing in a park in southeast Delhi's Kalkaji area, police said Sunday. The incident took place Saturday night, Arvaman Chaudhary was playing at a MCD park when he came in contact with an open electric switchboard, they said. The police said they received a PCR call regarding the incident at around 9.30 pm.

Doctor arrested for taking bribe

New Delhi: The CBI has arrested a senior doctor working as an assessor with the National Medical Commission (NMC) for allegedly taking a bribe of Rs 10 lakh in West Bengal's capital Kolkata for issuing favourable inspection report of a private medical college, officials Sunday said.

Protesters scuffle with security forces

Imphal: A scuffle broke out between protesters and security forces Sunday while they were on their way to gherao the Raj Bhavan here against the removal of the state's name from a government bus. The protesters responding to a call by COCOMI (Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity) to stage mass agitation gathered at Khwairamband and took out a rally for some 500 metres before they were stopped by security forces.

VIKSIT BHARAT

PM urges NDA states to adopt best practices

The sources said Modi noted that his government has worked for those left behind, be it geographic regions like the North East and backward districts or women as a gender, in every sector

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 25: Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted Sunday that caste enumeration is a step towards bringing into the mainstream of development those left behind, as he emphasised that his government does not believe in caste politics but in the empowerment of the marginalised. Addressing a conclave of

NDA chief ministers and deputy chief ministers, Modi said the success of Operation Sindoor was an endorsement of the country's push towards self-reliance in the defence sector, an apparent reference to the important role played by indigenous defence technology in the recent India-Pakistan conflict, sources said. Presentations on seven best

governance practices, including the Uniform Civil Code in Uttarakhand, in as many states were made by different CMs and deputy CMs. Modi suggested forming a committee to study them and how they can be integrated elsewhere. A synergised effort from the

NDA-ruled states can speed up the realisation of 'Viksit Bharat', he added.

Sources said the prime minister also asked leaders to avoid the tendency to speak out of turn, seen as an expression of disapproval in the backdrop of political rows triggered by insensitive and contentious remarks made by the members of the ruling alliance at several places following Operation Sindoor.

Briefing reporters, BJP president JP Nadda said 20 chief ministers and 18 depu-



Modi's brave leadership in the context of the recent military action and another praising the decision of caste enumeration in the next census-were passed.

Nadda said the prime minister in his remarks praised the bravery of the armed forces. Modi also emphasised the goal to turn India into a developed country at a fast pace and to make it "powerful, capable and self-reliant", the BJP president

A census of castes, Nadda said, was always part of the ruling alliance's imagination. noting that the Bihar government headed by JD(U) leader and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar was the first to do it.

The resolution has made it clear that the NDA does not believe in caste politics but acknowledges the need for a caste census to bring into the mainstream of development the

deprived, exploited, Dalits and others left behind. It is the need of the society, he added.

Andhra Pradesh Minister and TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu did not attend the meeting due to a prior commitment in his state, sources said.

The sources said Modi noted that his government has worked for those left behind, be it geographic regions like the North East and backward districts or women as a gender, in every sector.

Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini proposed the resolution, which was seconded by Andhra Pradesh Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, both leaders from backward classes.

The resolution on Operation Sindoor was read out by Rajasthan CM Bhajanlal Sharma and seconded by Maharashtra Deputy CM Eknath Shinde.

The resolution said Operation Sindoor has boosted the self-confidence of Indians,

Maldivian Foreign Minister begins three-day India visit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 25: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Maldivian counterpart Abdulla Khaleel will Monday take stock of the implementation of the India-Maldives comprehensive economic and

maritime security partnership. Khaleel, accompanied by a high-level delegation, arrived in Delhi this evening on a three-day visit. It is his third trip to India this year. The India-Maldives vision document on comprehensive economic and maritime security partnership was adopted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu in October last year. "Warm welcome to FM @abkhaleel of Maldives to India," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in a social media post.

Monsoon reaches Maha, earliest onset in 35 years

official said Sunday

TAJ MAHAL TO GET **DRONE PROTECTION**

The security of the iconic Taj Mahal is set to become more

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 25: The southwest monsoon arrived in Maharashtra Sunday, making it the earliest onset of the annual rainfall season over the state in 35 years, the India Meteorological Department said. The southwest monsoon

is expected to advance to Mumbai and some other parts over the next three days, the IMD added. In 1990, southwest monsoon made onset over Maharashtra May 20, IMD scientist Sushma Nair said.

The monsoon advanced into some more parts of the Arabian Sea, Karnataka, entire Goa, parts of Maharashtra, north Bay of Bengal, and parts of Mizoram, parts of Manipur and Nagaland Sunday, the

The northern limit of monsoon passes through Devgad, Belagavi, Haveri, Mandya, Dharmapuri, Chennai, Aizawl and Kohima, it said.

"Conditions are favourable for further advance into some more parts of central Arabian Sea, more parts of Maharashtra including Mumbai, Karnataka including Bengaluru, some parts of Andhra Pradesh, remaining parts of Tamil Nadu, more parts of west-central and North Bay of Bengal and some more parts of North Eastern states during next three days," the IMD said.

In Maharashtra, the coastal Konkan stretch and Mumbai have been witnessing heavy pre-monsoon rains over the last two days. The southwest monsoon hit Kerala Saturday. marking its earliest arrival over the Indian mainland since 2009 when it had reached the southern state May 23.

Normally, the southwest monsoon marks its onset over Kerala by June 1 and covers the entire country by July 8. It starts retreating from northwest India around September 17 and withdraws completely by October 15.

It usually reaches Maharash tra around June 7 and Mumbai

Mizoram may soon collect biometric data of Myanmar refugees



to the govt's

Mizoram

Aizawl, May 25: The Mizoram government may soon collect biometric details of over 33,000 refugees from Myanmar taking shelter in the state, an official of the home department said The official said that Union

Home Minister Amit Shah had informed Chief Minister Lalduhoma during **According**

a meeting in New Delhi on Friday that the Centre has completed rectification of a portal for collecting biometric data of Myanmar refugees taking shelter in Mizoram.

"A demonstration of a portal was held recently online and was recommended for the Home Ministry's approval. Once the MHA gives its approval for format and credentials, we will begin biometric enrollment," the official told PTI on condition of anonymity. "The earlier format demanded various mandatory credentials, which are not possible for the refugees to produce or furnish. Moreover, the format was primarily designed for the deportation of illegal immigrants. They were not suitable for recording the biometric details of Myanmar nationals, who are classified as displaced people and are given shelter on humanitarian grounds," the official said.

The displaced Myanmar nationals, mostly of Chin community from Chin state, who share ethnic ties with the Mizos, have been taking shelter in Mizoram since February 2021 after the military takeover in the neighbouring country. In April 2023, the MHA had di-

rected the governments of both Mizoram and Manipur, which share borders latest record, there are with Myanmar, 33,023 displaced people to capture the biometric and from Myanmar, including biographic de-12,361 children, currently tails of "illegal immigrants" taking shelter in in their states.

Again in June, the

Centre directed the states that the exercise be completed by the end of Septem-

ber that year and directed both to prepare a plan and initiate the process. Although the Mizoram

government had initially processed the initiative towards the Centre direction by conducting training and appointing nodal officers, the Council of Ministers in its meeting held in September 2023 decided not to conduct biometric and biographic enrollment for refugees citing it is not advisable to undertake the exercise due to the state Assembly polls to be held in November that year.

SNIPPETS

Himachal police tussle: DGP recommends SP's suspension

Shimla: Taking strong exception to allegations levelled by Superintendent of Police of Shimla Sanjeev Kumar suspension of the SP to the Himachal Pradesh government, officials said Sunday. In a letter to the Additional Chief Secretary (Home), the DGP said that Gandhi had made "unsubstantiated and inappropriate allegations against senior government functionaries and constitutional authorities", and he should be suspended, "pending the outcome of a departmental inquiry and the CBI investigation" into the death of HPPCL engineer Vimal Negi.

Akali Dal councillor shot dead in Amritsar; 3 assailants identified

Amritsar/Chandigarh: A Shiromani Akali Dal councillor was shot dead by a group of assailants in Amritsar's Chehertha area Sunday, police said. Harjinder Singh was the councillor of Ward No. 2 under the Jandiala Assembly constituency. ADCP Harpal Singh Randhawa said three to four persons tried to intercept the councillor, who was on a bike, before firing three to four bullets at him. Singh was rushed to a nearby hospital where he succumbed to his injuries, the officer said. Police said they have identified three persons, who were allegedly involved in the murder of the councillor. They have been identified as Gopi, Amit and Karan Kira, all residents of Jandiala Guru, police said, adding that they will be arrested soon.

Canopy at Delhi airport's Terminal 1 partially collapses

New Delhi: The canopy at the arrival forecourt of the Delhi airport's Terminal 1 partially collapsed Sunday morning due to heavy rains and strong winds, a according to a source. The revamped Terminal 1 (T1) was recently opened for flight operations at the national capital's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), which is also the country's largest and busiest airport. In a statement, airport operator DIAL said that as a part of the design's natural response to extreme conditions and to prevent excessive water retention, a section of the external tensile fabric at the T1 arrival forecourt adjusted under pressure, thereby aiding in water dispersal.

CBSE Sugar Boards to guide informed sugar choices: Experts

New Delhi, May 24: With the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) directing schools to set up dedicated 'Sugar Boards' to underline the importance of limiting sugar consumption, experts feel the move will encourage both students and parents to make informed choices on sugar intake. The initiative targets a growing public health concern: the silent but significant rise in childhood obesity, Type-2 diabetes, and metabolic disorders.

The initiative comes amid increasing concern over children's excessive intake of added sugars, contributing to a spike in obesity, Type-2 diabetes, and metabolic disorders. CBSE has asked its 27,000 affiliated schools to display sugar awareness boards that highlight hidden sugars in daily diets.

Cricketer Virat Kohli with wife Anushka Sharma during a visit at Hanumangarhi

Dr R Goswami, professor of endocrinology at AIIMS Delhi, called it a commendable step. He explained that foods high in free sugars, such as cold drinks and refined flour-based snacks, are cheaper and more accessible than protein-rich alternatives. "Excessive consumption of such carbohydrate-rich foods, especially without adequate exercise, leads to obesity. While moderate sweet consumption doesn't cause diabetes by itself, portion control is key," he said.

India has over 250 million school-aged children, and the potential public health impact of this initiative is substantial. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), added sugars should make up less than 10% of daily caloric intake,

ideally below 5% for additional head of dietetics at Max Healthhealth benefits. However, Indicare, Delhi, applauded the inian children far exceed these limtiative, calling it vital to comits. Data shows children aged bat empty calorie intake from 4-10 consume about 13% and sugary beverages and snacks. those aged 11–18 nearly 15% of their daily calories from added

sugars—almost three times the

Dr Ritika Samaddar, regional

recommended amount.

"This poses a significant public health concern, impacting not just physical health but also behavior and cognitive devel-

opment," she said.

INDIA HAS OVER 250 MILLION SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN, AND THE POTENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT OF THIS INITIATIVE IS SUBSTANTIAL

ACCORDING TO THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO). ADDED SUGARS SHOULD MAKE UP LESS THAN 10% OF DAILY CALORIC INTAKE, IDEALLY BELOW 5% FOR ADDITIONAL HEALTH BENEFITS

HOWEVER, INDIAN CHILDREN

FAR EXCEED THESE LIMITS. DATA SHOWS CHILDREN AGED 4-10 **CONSUME ABOUT 13% AND THOSE** AGED 11-18 NEARLY 15% OF THEIR DAILY CALORIES FROM ADDED

SUGARS-ALMOST THREE TIMES THE RECOMMENDED AMOUNT The Sugar Boards will serve

as interactive, real-time nutrition education tools. Schools will display sugar content in commonly consumed snacks, drinks, and meals. Infographics, comparison charts, and weekly updates will help students recognize hidden sugars in items like flavored yogurts, packaged juices, and breakfast cereals.

Workshops and engaging activities will further reinforce healthy eating habits, making the message both educational and enjoyable. Isha Vashisht, wellness expert and founder of the Forever Healthy India cam paign, hailed the CBSE's move as a "national movement in the making." She emphasized its role in instilling lifelong healthy eating habits and ad dressing lifestyle diseases at the grassroots level.

The initiative marks a shift toward integrating health lit eracy into school culture-an essential step in safeguarding the well-being of India's future generations.

international



someone (Elon Musk) that is very popular these days, at least in the press, who suggested that it is a sign of the weakness of western civilisations to

KAMALA HARRIS

VENEZUELANS VOTE

Voters in Venezuela were choosing lawmakers, governors and other officials Sunday in polling being held against a backdrop of heightened government repression and opposition calls to boycott the election. The election is the first to allow broad voter participation since last year's presidential contest, which President Nicolás Maduro claimed to have won despite credible evidence to the contrary.



international situation is a stalemate.. **Unilateralism and** protectionism are

LI OIANG | CHINESE PREMIER



ing production and trade patterns worldwide. A global economic slowdown is likely to happen MOHAMAD HASAN

MALAYSIAN FOREIGN MINISTER



protect fundamental rights cannot bend to political cycles. If they do, we risk eroding the very stability they were built to ensure

ALAIN BERSET COUNCIL OF EUROPE SECRETARY GENERAL

SHORT **TAKES**

Journalist shot dead in Pak

Karachi: A iournalist in Pakistan's Balochistan province was allegedly killed when he resisted an attempt by unidentified gunmen to abduct him Saturday. A senior police official said that the journalist. Abdul Latif Baloch, who worked for a Ouetta-based newspaper. was shot dead when the gunmen entered his house and tried to kidnap him. "When he resisted, he was shot dead. killing him on the spot," DSP Danival Kakar said. The killers fled the scene and could not be arrested till this morning. An investigation into the killing is underway, police said. Incidentally, the eldest son of Baloch was also kidnapped a few months ago and was later found dead. Journalist organisations, including the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists, have condemned the killing of Baloch, who worked for the Daily Intekhab newspaper.

Bodies of 5 skiers found

Warsaw: The bodies of five skiers have been found on a glacier above the Swiss resort town of Zermatt, authorities said Sunday, after two hikers reported seeing abandoned skis near the Rimpfischhorn, a 4,000-meter peak in the Valais Alps. Valais cantonal police said Sunday the victims were located on the Adler Glacier following aerial and ground searches. Formal identification of the victims is still underway, and their nationalities have not yet been released. Authorities have opened an investigation into the circumstances of the accident. Weather conditions and avalanche activity in the region are being examined as part of the probe.

B'desh tribunal

charges 8 persons Dhaka: Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal Sunday framed charges against a former police commissioner and seven other officers for their alleged atrocities during last year's anti-government protests. The protests had led to the ouster of then prime minister Sheikh Hasina's regime. The tribunal for the first time took cognizance of a case filed over mass killings and atrocities committed during the July 2024 uprising. A three-member bench of the tribunal, headed by Justice M Golam Mortuza, accepted the charges submitted by the prosecution against Dhaka's ex-police commissioner Habibur Rahman Habib and seven other policemen and set June 3 as the date for starting

hearing in the case.

Strauss' 'Blue Danube' waltz launching into space

Cape Canaveral, May 25: Strauss' "Blue Danube" is heading into space this month to mark the 200th anniversary of the waltz king's birth.

The classical piece will be beamed into the cosmos as it's performed by the Vienna Symphony Orchestra. The celestial send-off on May 31 livestreamed with free public screenings in Vienna, Madrid and New York — also will celebrate the European Space Agency's founding 50 years ago.

Although the music could be converted into radio signals in real time, according to officials, ESA will relay a pre-recorded version from the orchestra's rehearsal the day before to avoid any technical issues. The live

performance will provide the accompaniment.

The radio signals will hurtle away at the speed of light, or a mind-blowing 670 million mph (more than 1 billion kph).

That will put the music past the moon in 1 ½ seconds, past Mars in 4 1/2 minutes, past Jupiter in 37 minutes and past Neptune in four hours. Within 23 hours, the signals will be as far from Earth as NASA's Voyager 1, the world's most distant spacecraft at more than 15 billion miles (24 billion kilometres) in interstellar space.

NASA also celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2008 by transmitting a song directly into deep space: the Beatles' "Across the Universe." And last year, NASA beamed up Missy Elliott's "The Rain (Supa Dupa



Music has even flowed from another planet to Earth - courtesy of a NASA Mars rover. Flight controllers at California's Jet Propulsion Laboratory sent a recording of will.i.am's "Reach for the Stars" to Curios-

ity in 2012 and the rover relayed it back. These are all deep-space transmissions as opposed to the melodies streaming between NASA's Mission Control and orbiting crews since the mid-

Now it's Strauss' turn, after

getting passed over for the Voyager Golden Records nearly a half-century ago.

Launched in 1977, NASA's twin Voyagers 1 and 2 each carry a gold-plated copper phonograph record, along with a stylus and playing instructions for anyone or anything out there.

The records contain sounds and images of Earth as well as 90 minutes of music. The late astronomer Carl Sagan led the committee that chose Bach, Beethoven, Mozart and Stravinsky pieces, along with modern and Indigenous selections.

Among those skipped was Johann Strauss II, whose "Blue Danube" graced Stanley Kubrick's 1968 sci-fi opus "2001: A Space Odyssey.'

The tourist board in Vienna,

this "cosmic mistake" by sending the "the most famous of all waltzes" to its destined home among the stars.

ESA's big radio antenna in Spain, part of the space agency's deep-space network, will do the honours. The dish will be pointed in the direction of Voyager 1 so the "Blue Danube' heads that way.

"Music connects us all through time and space in a very particular way," ESA's director general Josef Aschbacher said in a statement. "The European Space Agency is pleased to share the stage with Johann Strauss II and open the imag inations of future space scientists and explorers who may one day journey to the anthem

Unease grips Bangladesh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 25: A sense of unease intensified in Bangladesh overnight amid protests in the civil administration and the business sector over policies of the interim government led by Muhammad Yunus. The mass circulation Proth-

om Alo newspaper carried a report headlined "protests in the secretariat, NBR turned dysfunctional, Nagar Bhan under lock and key" referring to an ongoing demonstration of government employees against a proposed law involving government employees service. protests of officials of national revenue board and the employees of Dhaka South City Corpo-

A prominent business community leader, Showkat Aziz Russell, meanwhile, said businessmen in the country were being killed just like the intellectuals in the 1971 Liberation War. He warned of famine-like situation as more people become jobless.

"We don't know how we will pay bonuses and salaries to workers ahead of Eid-ul-Adha,' said Russell, who is the president of Bangladesh Textiles Mills Association (BTMA), at a joint press conference of business chambers. He told the press conference, co-hosted by the apex Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI), that in the last eight months, the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority had failed to bring in a single investor.

"You are inviting foreigners to invest in the country... (but) foreigners know that investment in Bangladesh is not viable. They know Vietnam is more profitable than Bangladesh." Russell said.

employees, Government

meanwhile, for a second consecutive day staged protests inside the Bangladesh Secretariat, the heart of the administration, on Sunday against the proposed Government Service (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025.

The protesters have been demanding its withdrawal, calling it a black law that made it easy for authorities to take punitive actions and terminate the government employees.

Chief Adviser Yunus's interim Cabinet approved the law last week and now awaits presidential assent. National Board of Revenue (NBR) officials also abstained from work for the second consecutive day demanding scrapping of a separate new ordinance and on Sunday announced an indefinite halt to nearly all import-export activity from Monday.

The announcement prompt ed the government to issue a statement promising not to implement the law without discussions with the Revenue Reform Advisory Committee and other key stakeholders.

The protest began after the NBR Reform Unity Council rejected the finance ministry decision to amend the revenue policy and revenue management ordinance which seeks to dissolve the NBR and form two separate divisions, separating tax policy making from administration.

Yunus's government in the past two days faced several other challenges. There have been reports of discord between the military and the interim government over the possible timeline for holding the parliamentary elections and other policy issues related to Bangladesh's security affairs, particularly involving a proposed humanitarian corridor of aid channel to Myanmar's rebel-held Rakh-

Russia hits Ukraine with largest air attack of war



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kyiv, May 25: A massive Russian drone-and-missile attack targeted the Ukrainian capital, Kviv, and other regions in the country for a second consecutive night, killing at least 12 people and injuring dozens, officials said early Sunday.

The scale of the onslaught was stunning — Russia hit Ukraine with 367 drones and missiles, making this the largest single attack of the more than three-years-long war, according to Yuriy Ihnat, a spokesperson for Ukraine's

In all, Russia used 69 missiles of various types and 298 drones, including Iranian-designed Shahed drones, he told The Associated Press.

It was "the most massive strike in terms of the number of air attack weapons on the territory of Ukraine since the beginning of the full-scale invasion in 2022," Ihnat said.

There was no immediate comment from Moscow.

For Kyiv, the day was particularly sombre as the city observes Kyiv Day, a national holiday that falls on the last Sunday of May commemorating its founding in the 5th century.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that Russian missiles and drones hit more than 30 cities and villages across Ukraine and urged Western partners to ramp up sanctions on Russia.

That has been a long-standing demand of the Ukrainian leader but one that — despite warnings to Moscow by the United States and Europe have not materialised in ways to deter Russia.

Zelenskyy wrote on X that Sunday's targets included Kyiv, Zhytomyr, Khmelnytskyi, Ternopil, Chernihiv, Sumy, Odesa, Poltava, Dnipro, Mykolaiv, Kharkiv and Cherkasy regions "These were deliberate strikes on ordinary cities. Or-

dinary residential buildings were destroyed and damaged,' "Without truly strong pres-

sure on the Russian leadership, this brutality cannot be stopped. Sanctions will certainly help," Zelenskyy said. "Determination matters now the determination of the United States, of European countries, and of all those around the world who seek peace.

The attack came on the third day of a planned prisoner swap between Russia and Ukraine. the only tangible outcome from peace talks in Istanbul earlier this month that have so far failed to produce a ceasefire. The exchange amounted to a rare moment of cooperation between the warring sides.

Meanwhile, Russia's Defence Ministry said its air defences shot down 110 Ukrainian

drones overnight. Sounds of explosions boomed throughout the night in Kyiv and the surrounding area as Ukrainian air defence forces persisted for hours in efforts to shoot down enemy drones and missiles. At least four people were killed and 16 were injured in the capital itself, according to Ukraine's

"A difficult Sunday morning in Ukraine after a sleepless night. The most massive Rus sian air attack in many weeks lasted all night," Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha said on X.

security service.

Can Pope Leo remain a US citizen? Israel's latest strikes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, May 25: Pope Leo XIV's election as the first US-born leader of the Catholic Church elevated him to the extremely rare, and legally thorny, position of being an American citizen who now is also a foreign head of state.

Born in Chicago as Robert Prevost in 1955, the new pope for the past decade has held dual citizenship in the US and Peru, where he spent time as a missionary and bishop. As pope. Leo serves as leader

of both the Holy See, the governing body of the Catholic Church, and Vatican City, an independent state. Can the pope remain a US citizen while leading a foreign government? Here are things to know about Leo's citizenship.

Is the Vatican considered a sovereign nation? In addition to being the spiri-

tual leader for what the church says is roughly 1.4 billion Cathworld's smallest nation.

olics worldwide, Leo is also the head of what's recognised as the Vatican City covers just 0.17 square miles (0.44 square kilometers) and has a population of

a few hundred people. It became

an independent state in 1929 un-

der a treaty between Italy and the Holy See Could Leo be stripped of his

Americans working for for-

eign governments aren't automatically at risk of forfeiting their US citizenship. But the US State Department

says on its website that it may "actively review" the citizenship status of Americans who "serve as a foreign head of ment, or foreign minister."

state, foreign head of govern-"Such cases raise complex questions of international law, including issues related to the level of immunity from US ju-

risdiction that the person so

serving may be afforded," the policy states.

The State Department declined to comment on the pope's status. A spokesperson said the department doesn't discuss the citizenship of individuals.

The core issue is whether foreign leaders should hold American citizenship when they also enjoy broad immunity from US laws, said Peter Spiro, a Temple University law professor and an expert on citizenship law. Such immunity clashes with the constitutional principle that no US citizen should be

However, the US Supreme Court in a 1980 decision ruled

above the law.

that Americans can't be stripped of their citizenship unless they

intentionally renounce it. The State Department never assumes that you intend to lose your citizenship unless you specifically say so through the renunciation process," Spiro said. He said it would be hard to argue that Leo, by becoming pope, demonstrated an intent to give up being a US citizen.

"I think it's highly unlikely that the US moves to terminate the pope's citizenship," Spiro said. Can the pope remain a citizen of Peru?

Peruvian law has no conflict with Pope Leo remaining a citizen, said Jorge Puch, deputy director of registry archives at Peru's National Registry of Identification and Civil Status.

Leo was granted Peruvian citizenship in August 2015, the month before Pope Francis appointed him bishop of Chiclayo in the South American country's northern region. To qualify, he had to live in Peru for at least two years and pass a civics test.

"It is the most praiseworthy thing our beloved supreme pontiff could have done: Wanting to have Peruvian nationality without having been Peruvian by birth," Puch said.

in Gaza kill 38 people

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deir Al-Balah (Gaza Strip), May 25: Israeli strikes over the past 24 hours killed at least 38 people in Gaza, including a mother and her two children sheltering in a tent, local health officials said Sunday, with no data available for a second straight day from now-inaccessible hospitals in the north.

Further details also emerged of the local doctor who lost nine of her 10 children in an Israeli strike Friday.

Gaza's Health Ministry said 3,785 people have been killed in the territory since Israel ended a ceasefire and renewed its offensive in March, vowing to destroy Hamas and return the 58 hostages it still holds from the October 7, 2023, attack that triggered the war.

Israel also blocked the import of all food, medicine and fuel for 2 1/2 months before letting a trickle of aid enter last week after experts' warnings of famine and pressure from some of Israel's top allies. Israel has been pursuing a new plan to



tightly control all aid to Gaza which the United Nations has

rejected. Israel also says it plans to seize full control of Gaza and fa cilitate what it describes as the voluntary migration of much of its population of over 2 million Palestinians, a plan rejected by Palestinians and much of the international community. Ex perts say it would likely violate international law.

The new strike on the tent housing displaced people that killed the mother and children occurred in the central city of Deir al-Balah, according to al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital. A strike in the Jabaliya area of northern Gaza killed at least five, including two women and a child, according to Gaza's Health Ministry.

business



zation of recovery and preventing fresh slippages are going to be priority areas. We are targeting a higher total recovery of Rs 16,000 crore as against of recovery of about Rs 14,000 crore in FY'25...we are expecting that the quarterly our slippages will be in the range of around Rs

Going forward, maximi-

1,500 crore to Rs 1,700 crore

CENTRALISED OVERSIGHT MECHANISM FOR TRIBUNALS: CII

Establishing a centralised oversight institution for tribunals would significantly enhance India's justice delivery system, making it more responsive and efficient, industry body CII said Sunday. This move would also boost regulatory credibility, improve ease of doing business, and increase investor confidence, CII added



Grade A++ commercial real estate has emerged as a global value proposition offering world-class quality at a more efficient cost

SRIRAM KHATTAR VC, DLF The Reserve Bank of India is expected to

adopt a more accommodative monetary policy stance. This could involve further rate cuts to stimulate domestic demand and support economic growth. The sudden escalation at the border has also added more uncertainties for the coming year RAMESH BABU | MD. KARUR VYASA BANK

Organisations must recognise that offering sustainable. future-focused benefits is not

just an HR function, but a strategic investment in employee loyalty, productivity, and growth

RP YADAV | MD, GENIUS CONSULTANTS

SHORT **TAKES**

NSDL posts profit

New Delhi: IPO-bound **National Securities Depository** Ltd (NSDL) Sunday reported a 4.77 per cent rise in consolidated net profit to Rs 83.3 crore for the three months ended March 2025. The company had posted a net profit of Rs 79.50 crore in the same quarter of the preceding fiscal. Its total income rose 9.94 per cent to Rs 394 crore in the quarter under review from Rs 358 crore in the January-March quarter of 2023-24, NSDL said in a statement. For the full fiscal year, the depository's net profit surged 24.57 per cent to Rs 343 crore and total income rose 12.41 per cent to Rs 1,535 crore over FY24. The depository's board of directors has recommended a final dividend of Rs 2 per equity share for the financial year FY 2024-25, subject to the approval of the shareholders. The depository cut its initial public offering (IPO) size as per the addendum of its draft paper. The issue now comprises 5.01 crore shares compared to 5.72 crore shares mentioned in the draft red herring prospectus earlier.

RGICL profit up New Delhi: Reliance General **Insurance Company Limited** (RGICL), an arm of Reliance Capital recently acquired by IndusInd International Holdings Ltd (IIHL), reported 12.5 per cent growth in net profit to Rs 315 crore for the financial year ended in March 2025. Gross Direct Premium (GDP) of the company rose to Rs 12,548 crore, an increase of 7.4 per cent over the last financial year, outpacing general insurance industry growth of 5.2 per cent. Net worth of the company also witnessed 10.2 per cent improvement to Rs 3,429 crore in FY25, Reliance General Insurance said in a statement. IIHL, which acquired Reliance Capital through the insolvency process in March this year, infused Rs 100 crore in May 2025 in the general insurance company reinforcing its financial strength and growth momentum. To resurrect the position of the company, the new promoter infused capital amounting to Rs 300 crore during the insolvency process Solvency margin stood at 159 per cent as against regulatory requirement of 150 per cent at the end of March 2025. Reliance General Insurance CEO Rakesh Jain said the financial year 2024-25 marked a year of disciplined execution, strategic investments, and resilient

growth, even in a dynamic

and challenging market

environment.

INDIA now 4th largest economy

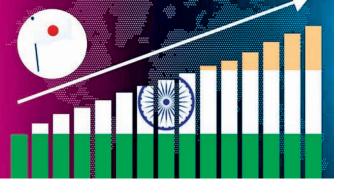
New Delhi, May 25: India has surpassed Japan to become the fourth largest economy in the world, NITI Aayog CEO BVR Subrahmanyam confirmed.

Subrahmanyam said the overall geopolitical and economic environment is favourable to India. Citing IMF data, Subrahmanyam said India, today is larger than Japan. Till 2024, India was the fifth-largest economy in the world.

"It is only the US, China and Germany which are larger than India, and if we stick to what is being planned and what is being thought through, in 2.5-3 years, we will be the third largest economy," Subrahmanyam said. The International Monetary

Fund (IMF), in its World Economic Outlook (WEO) report released in April had said that India is expected to be the fourth largest economy in the world with a GDP of \$4.19 trillion in 2025, ahead of Japan. India's nominal GDP for 2025

(FY26) is expected to be \$4.187 billion marginally more than the likely GDP of Japan which is estimated at \$4.187 billion,



are the

fourth largest

economy as I speak

the IMF had said.

According to IMF data, India's per capita income has doubled from \$1,438 in 2013-14 to \$2,880 The IMF in its

BVR SUBRAHMANYAM WEO report also said the Indian economy is projected to grow at 6.2 per cent in 2025-26, slower than earlier estimated rate of 6.5 per cent, due to escalated trade tensions and global uncertainty

"For India, the growth outlook is relatively more stable at 6.2 per cent in 2025, supported by private consumption, particularly in rural areas," the IMF had

According to the

said.

We are a \$4 trillion report, the global economy as I speak growth is projected at 2.8 per cent in 2025, lower by 0.5 percentage points estimated earlier. In 2026, the global economy is estimated to grow at 3 per cent.

NITI Aayog approach paper titled Viksit Rajya for Viksit Bharat 2047 said from being considered a part of the 'fragile five' economies of the world, India rose to become the top five

a decade.

The World Bank defines high-income countries as those whose annual per capita income is more than \$14,005 (2024-25). India has the potential and aims to be a high-income country by 2047. The approach paper said a Viksit Bharat 2047 will be a \$30 trillion economy.

"It will have all the attributes of a developed country with a per capita income that is comparable to the high-income countries of the world today, the paper said.

According to the paper, in order to achieve the goal of a Viksit Bharat by 2047, an over all framework for strategic interventions and reforms based on six key building blocks, with a total of 26 themes covered across all the building blocks have been identified.

The six key building blocks are: Macro-economic goals and strategy; Empowered citizens; A thriving and sustainable economy; Technology and innovation leadership: A Global Leader (Vishwa Band hu); Enabling factors like Governance, Security and

WEEKLY UPDATE

Mcap of six top valued firms erodes by ₹78,166.08 crore

New Delhi, May 25: The combined market valuation of six of the top-10 most valued firms eroded by Rs 78,166.08 crore last week, with Reliance Industries taking the biggest hit, in line with weak trends in equities.

Last week, the BSE benchmark dropped 609.51 points or 0.74 per cent and the Nifty declined 166.65 points or 0.66 per cent. While Reliance Industries,

TCS, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Infosys and Hindustan Unilever were the laggards. HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, Bajaj Finance and ITC were the gainers from the top 10 list. The market valuation of Re-

liance Industries declined by Rs 40,800.4 crore to Rs 19,30,339.56 crore. Tata Consultancy Services' valuation dropped by Rs 17,710.54 crore to Rs 12,71,395.95 crore. The valuation of Infosys went

lower by Rs 10,488.58 crore to Rs 6,49,876.91 crore and that of Hindustan Unilever eroded by Rs 5,462.8



crore to Rs 5,53,974.88 crore.

The market capitalisation (m cap) of ICICI Bank edged down by Rs 2,454.31 crore to Rs 10,33,868.01 crore and that of SBI dipped by Rs 1,249.45 crore to Rs 7,05,446.59 crore.

However, the mcap of Bharti Airtel jumped Rs 10,121.24 crore to Rs 10,44,682.72 crore

The valuation of Bajaj Fi nance surged Rs 4,548.87 crore to Rs 5,74,207.54 crore and that of ITC climbed Rs 875.99 crore to Rs 5,45,991.05 crore. The mcap of HDFC Bank

went up by Rs 399.93 crore to Rs 14,80,723.47 crore. Reliance Industries remained

the most valuable firm followed by HDFC Bank, TCS, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Infosys, Bajaj Finance Hindustan Unilever and ITC.

Four main board IPOs to hit D-Street next week



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 25: The initial public offering (IPO) lane will be busy next week, with four main-line companies, including Leela Palaces Hotels & Resorts operator Schloss Bangalore Ltd and Aegis Vopak Terminals tapping the primary market to raise over Rs 6,600 crore collectively.

Other public issues scheduled for the week are Prostar Info Systems and Scoda Tubes.

Additionally, D-Street will witness the debut of two firms, including Borana Weaves and Belrise Industries, expected to list on May 28 and May 29, respectively.

Overall, there has been a slowdown in new listings as only 12 firms came out with their IPOs in 2025 so far owing to volatility in the equity market due to a combination of global and domestic factors.

This shift followed a remarkable 2024, in which 91 maiden public issues collectively raised Rs 1.6 lakh crore, driven by robust retail participation, a resilient economy, and booming private capital expenditure.

Despite the slowdown, an impressive number of documents are getting filed and waiting for market conditions to stabilise. According to Axis Capital IPO Market Update May 2025, 57 companies have received final observations from the markets

regulator, and another 74 firms are awaiting Sebi's final observations, which is necessary to float public issues.

These companies planning to raise funds through IPOs are staggered across sectors like solar renewable, co-working spaces, pharma-healthcable-wire-electrical, tubes-pipes, manufacturing, chemicals, realty, Indian arms of global MNCs, and even film entertainment, among others.

For Schloss Bangalore, the company's Rs 3,500-crore IPO is a combination of a fresh issue of equity shares worth Rs 2.500 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of stocks valued at Rs 1,000 crore by promoter Project Ballet Bangalore Holdings (DIFC) Pvt Ltd.

Schloss Bangalore, plans to use the proceeds of the fresh issue to pay loans availed by the company and its subsidiaries and for general corporate purposes, with a price band of Rs 413-435 per share. The issue will be open for public subscription during May 26 to 28.

On the contrary, Aegis Vopak Terminals aims to raise Rs 2,800 crore from a fresh issue of equity shares. Proceeds worth Rs 2,016 crore will be used for payment of debt. Rs 671.30 crore to fund capital expenditure for the acquisition of a cryogenic LPG terminal at Mangalore and the remaining amount will be allocated for general corporate purposes.

Airtel proposes peers to collab against rising scams Gone are the days when scams were limited to

theft and dacoity. With technology advancement, scammers are also taking a step ahead as digital fraud

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 25: Airtel has informed the government and Telecom regulatory authority of India (TRAI) that it has approached Reliance Jio, Vodafone Idea (Vi) with a proposal for a joint initiative to unite the industry against rising telecom fraud and scams.

Airtel has also urged all telcos to collaborate and collectively address the growing threat of deceptive and malicious scams targeting vulnerable individuals.

In separate letters to the telcos, it cited data that India recorded over 1.7 million cv-

bercrime complaints in the first nine months of 2024, resulting in financial losses exceeding Rs 11.000 crore

The call for action comes at a time when cybercriminals are using increasingly sophisticated tactics like phishing links. fake loan offers, and fraudu lent payment pages, leading to a surge in digital fraud and identity theft incidents.

Airtel has upped the ante on the war on digital spams and scams, and the last few weeks have seen the Sunil Mittal-led telco rolling out fraud detection solution to block rogue sites across communication OTT

WhatsApp, Telegram, Facebook, Instagram and others.

apps, and platforms, including

"However, given the recent alarming rise in phishing attempts and malicious URLbased scams targeting unsuspecting individuals, it became evident that more coordinated industry action was needed. These sophisticated fraud schemes often exploit the gaps in coordination between service providers," Airtel wrote in letters to Telecom Secretary Neeraj Mittal and Trai Chair man Anil Kumar Lahoti.

Airtel said that to combat this growing threat of telecom frauds, spams and scams and in the spirit of unified industry action; it has reached out to TSPs with a proposal to launch a Joint Telecom Fraud Initiative May 14, 2025.

Airtel recalled that in October of 2024, it had written to all Telecom Service providers (TSPs) with a proposal to adopt a collaborative approach to address the growing issue of Unsolicited Commercial Communications (UCC).

The proposal emphasised the mutual sharing of details of corporate connections used for commercial calling in a standardised format to enable proactive spam monitoring and mitigate any potential misuse

"We also proposed the es tablishment of a centralised data-sharing platform akin to the existing Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT) system to en hance our collective ability to combat UCC without disrupting legitimate enterprise services Airtel said.

Meanwhile. Airtel Vice Chairman and MD Gopal Vittal will soon reach out to customers on the issue of financial frauds and scams that have become a

regular threat for Indians. Talking about the new solution. Vittal assures customers that whenever they are on the Airtel mobile network or connected to Airtel Wi-Fi, this

added layer of protection will be active by default.

RBI's dividend eases govt's fiscal position **India registers triple**

growth in RE sector New Delhi: India has logged

threefold growth in its renewable power capacity in the last decade, with the installed green energy capacity reaching 232GW, including large hydro power plants, currently compared to 75.52GW capacity in March 2014, official sources said. India has emerged as a global front runner in renewable energy space as the traiff of the grid-connected solar power plants has gone down by 80 per cent to Rs 10.95 per unit (for 170MW at Neemuch), sources said. In March 2014, India's installed solar energy capacity was 2.82 GW, which has crossed 108GW now, recording multifold growth. Wind energy capacity has more than doubled to 51GW presently from 21GW in 2014. In 2024, India has transformed into a global leader, with solar module manufacturing skyrocketing to

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 25: The Reserve Bank of India's bumper dividend of about Rs 2.7 lakh crore will ease the fiscal position of the government, economist at SBI said in a report.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget for 2025-26 projected a dividend income of Rs 2.56 lakh crore cumulatively from the RBI and public sector financial institutions. With the RBI's transfer. this number would now be much higher than the budgeted estimates.

"We expect the fiscal deficit to ease by 20 basis points from the budgeted level to 4.2 per cent of GDP. Alternatively, it will open up for additional spending for around Rs 70,000 crores, other things remaining unchanged."

according to the latest edition of SBI Research's Ecowrap.

RBI announced a record Rs 2.69 lakh crore dividend for the financial year 2024-25 (April 2024 to March 2024) compared with Rs 2.11 lakh crore transferred in the previous FY24, an increase of 27.4 per cent. "The (RBI) Board had rec-

ommended that the risk provisioning under the Contingent Risk Buffer (CRB) maintained within a range of 7.5 per cent to 4.5 per cent of RBI's balance sheet," it said. "This surplus payout is driv-

en by robust gross dollar sales, higher foreign exchange gains, and steady increases in interest income. Notably, the RBI was the top seller of foreign exchange reserves in January among other Asian central banks," the report said.

In September 2024, foreign exchange reserves peaked to \$704 billion and the RBI has sold truck loads of dollar to stabilize the currency. The dynamics of surplus for RBI was decided by its Liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) op erations and interest income from its holding of domestic

and foreign securities. System liquidity turned to surplus mode and stands at Rs 1.2 lakh crore. Average liquid ity deficit from December 16, 2024, to March 28, 2025, was Rs

1.7 lakh crore. Durable liquidity is likely to remain surplus in FY26, supported by several factors, like OMO purchase, RBI's dividend transfer, BOP surplus of around \$25-30 billion in FY26, according to the report.

Range Rover limited edition trims to debut in Indian market

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gaydon (UK), May 25: India could see the introduction of more Range Rover limited edition trims, especially curate for the country, to cater to the diverse set of customers in the market, according to a top company executive.

The brand is looking at enhancing its presence and growth in Indian market with the number of high-net-worth individuals expected to rise at a fast clip by the end of this

The global MD of Range Rover, Martin Limpert said that with localisation to a certain extent, the brand has been able to offer products for customers seeking value for money. Jaguar Land Rover plans

to develop individual growth strategies for its four brands; Jaguar, Range Rover, Discovery, and Defender, each cater to a specific audience and retail landscape. Range Rover has already an-

nounced the local manufacturing in India.

"Customers appreciated the fact that we are building a context with the Indian market. We have that experience in other markets as well. So, we want to build more on this, either limited editions or small collector



series for the Indian market,' Limpert stated.

"We want to build on this equity. We want to further sharp-

It's a big market, obviously 1.5 plus billion people. I think 65 per cent of the people are younger than 35 so going forward, there's an opportunity for us to grow with those people, the working population, and the wealth that is increasing MARTIN LIMPERT | MD, RANGE ROVER

en that positioning as part of the House of Brands strategy for the next level of success in the Indian market," he added.

The company recognises the fact that there is a big growth opportunity in India. The Indian economy is growing by 6-7 per cent annually, which is quite outstanding at the moment in the global context. And since the brand

launched the locally manufactured products, sales increased by 2.5 times for Range Rover and Range Rover Sport, Limpert added "So, we of course are inves-

tigating what should be our future strategy, we are understanding the growth opportu nity in the market. We know the high net worth individuals which are around 9 lakh can grow to 12 lakh by the end of the decade. So, there's a market for us," he said.

FORMULA 2 KUSH SCRIPTS HISTORY IN MONACO

THE RACER BECOMES FIRST INDIAN TO WIN IN MONACO WITH SPRINT RACE TRIUMPH

Monte Carlo, May 25: Kush Maini secured victory in the Monte Carlo Sprint Race for DAMS Lucas Oil, converting pole position at the Circuit de Monaco. The Indian driver held off fellow Alpine Academy talent Gabriele Minì, who finished second for PREMA Racing, and became the first Indian driver to win a race at the iconic venue.

Maini got the perfect start, but Luke Browning fell down the order to fifth by Turn 1. His poor getaway allowed Gabriele Minì to climb up to P2.

Into Mirabeau, Lindblad attempted a pass on Jak Crawford for third but contact between the two allowed Browning back past for fourth and ahead of the American. The Campos driver emerged from the tangle in third but was later handed a 10-second time penalty for causing a collision.



With DRS enabled, Minì was on the rear wing of the race leader, the gap hovering at 0.3s in the opening 10 laps while the pair pulled over eight seconds clear of Lindblad in third.

The gap was neutralised on Lap 12 when the Safety Car

and a dream come true. I want to say thank you to DAMS and everyone who has supported me. We keep

was deployed to recover Joshua Duerksen's AIX Racing car. The Paraguayan driver was left in the barriers ahead of Portier following contact with MP Motorsport's Oliver Goethe out of Mirabeau that left the AIX with race-ending damage.

Back to racing conditions entering Lap 15, Maini escaped from DRS range to Minì behind while Lindblad had Browning right on his gearbox in the bat-

tle for third on the road. Goethe was on the move again, sneaking his MP car up the inside of Victor Martins at

IPL STANDINGS

TEAM M W L NRR PTS

13 8 4 0.327

13 8 4 0.255

13 8 5 1.292

14 7 6 0.011

14 6 7 -0.241

13 6 7 -0.337

14 5 7 -0.305

14 4 10 -0.549

paddock, making 44 in just 3.4

overs, courtesy Mhatre's brutal

assault on pacer Arshad Khan.

6, 6, 4, 4, 6 in the second over

to milk 28 runs and Chennai

rarely let that momentum slip.

Mhatre, who was recently

appointed as the India U19

skipper, soon fell to Prasidh

Krishna, skying him to Moham-

med Siraj in the deep. But Urvil

continued the aggressive ways

while adding 63 runs for the

second wicket with Conway.

Chennai Super Kings: 230 for

5 in 20 overs (Dewald Brevis

Krishna 2/22) beat Gujarat

57. Devon Conway 52: Prasidh

Titans: 147 all out in 18.3 overs

Kamboj 3/13, Noor Ahmed 3/21)

Brief Scores:

Mhatre carved Arshad for 2,

14 4 10 -0.647 8

RCB

DC

SRH

KKR

14 9 5 0.254

La Rascasse to take P9 on the road. Contact between the pair resulted in a 10-second time penalty for Goethe.

With 10 laps to go, Minì was back to within 0.2s of the race leader, while Lindblad had dropped back by over 10 seconds in order to set up a late-race charge to minimise his time penalty. The Red Bull Junior Team driver was told to push on Lap 22, and he immediately upped his pace to put a buffer between himself and Browning.

By the final lap, he was on the rear wing of Minì in second with Maini a further couple of seconds up the road. With Lindblad's time penalty applied, it gave Browning P3 and dropped the Campos driver to eighth position.

Crawford wound up fourth ahead of Richard Verschoor, Sebastián Montoya, Leonardo Fornaroli, as Lindblad completed the points in P8.

Djoko bags 100th ATP Tour title

With his 100th tour-level trophy, Djokovic joined Jimmy Connors (109) and Roger Federer (103) as the only men in the Open Era to hit the triple-digit mark

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Geneva, May 25: Novak Djokovic fought back from a set down to beat Hubert Hurkacz and captured his 100th tour-level title at the Gonet Geneva Open here Saturday. The former No 1 player in the ATP Rankings dug deep in an absorbing championship match and rallied for a 5-7, 7-6(2), 7-6(2) victory over sixth seed Hurkacz to triumph at the clay-court ATP 250 event.

Ahead of the upcoming French Open, Djokovic rallied from 2-4 in the deciding set before sealing victory after three hours and five minutes, the longest match of this year's tournament.

"I had to work for it, that's



for sure. Hubi was probably closer to victory (in) the entire match than I was," Djokovic said. "I had some chances in the first set to break his serve, then had a bad game which ended up with the double fault on set point, Djokovic told the ATP Tour Saturday.

"I was just trying to hang in there, I don't know how I broke his serve. He probably broke himself in the third, when he was 4-3 up, but this is what happens at the highest level. Very few points decide the winner Incredible match, 7-6 in the third with a full stadium and a beautiful atmosphere. I'm just grateful to clinch the 100th here," the Serbian star said.

CSK dent GT's hopes

Brevis, Conway fire Chennai Super Kings to 83-run win over the Titans

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, May 2: Gujarat Titans' hopes of a top-two finish in the IPL suffered a massive dent when they went down by 83 runs to Chennai Super Kings, who were powered by fifty-makers Devon Conway and Dewald Brevis, here Sunday. The Titans have 18 points

after a full set of 14 league matches and are still on top of the table despite the Net Run Rate taking a nose dive after this big defeat.

To maintain their position inside the top two, GT now require Royal Challengers Bengaluru (17 points) to go down to Lucknow Super Giants in their final league match.

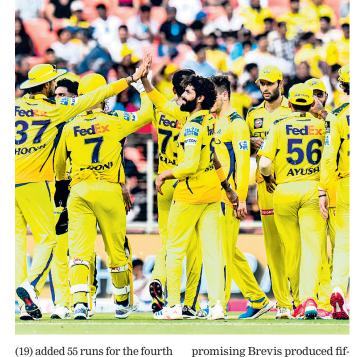
It's important because either Mumbai Indians (16) or Punjab Kings (17 points) will overtake GT with a win from their face-off.

Cutting back to the match, once asked to chase a stiff 231, the Titans floundered badly losing in-form skipper Shubman Gill, Jos Buttler and Sherfane Rutherford in the Power Play passage itself with just 35 runs on the board.

The Gujarat side was bowled out for 147 in 18.3 overs.

Pacer Anshul Kamboj did the early damage, claiming the wickets of Gill and Rutherford. Sai Sudharsan (41, 28b), the

latest entrant into the India Test squad, and his Tamil Nadu team-mate M Shahrukh Khan



(19) added 55 runs for the fourth wicket to infuse some interest into the chase.

dra Jadeja returned for his second spell to dismiss both Sudharsan and Shahrukh in the space of four balls in the 11th over, and the match effectively ended at that point.

CSK finished their IPL 2025 engagements at the bottom of the pile with eight points from 14 matches, the five-time champions' worst ever finish in the 10-team league.

Earlier, seasoned Conway and

ties of contrasting character, laying the foundation for Chennai But left-arm spinner Ravin-Super Kings' healthy 230 for five.

Once the Super Kings elected to bat on a super hot afternoon, Conway and Brevis led the charge with a 52 off 35 balls, and

a 23-ball 57 on a smooth pitch. But Conway's knock was put to shade a bit by cameos by Ayush Mhatre (34, 17b) and Urvil Patel (37, 19b), who made runs at a respective strike rate of 200 and 194, ensured runs

came at a fast clip for CSK. The CSK raced out of the

SRH 'OutKlaas' KKR by 110 runs PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 25: Sunrisers Hyderabad ended an IPL season of 'what ifs' with a power-packed batting effort just like it had started, etching a crushing 110-run victory over Kolkata Knight Riders riding on Heinrich Klaasen's 37-ball century here Sunday.

In the season opener, SRH scored an imposing 286 against Rajasthan Royals and on this day at the half-filled Feroz Shah Kotla, Klaasen (105 not out off 39 balls) and Travis Head (76 off 40 balls), who had saved his best for the last, helped the 'Orange Army' post an unassailable 278 for 3 in 20 overs.

Despite Kotla track being a featherbed, KKR were never in the hunt as they managed 168 in 18.4 overs with seasoned Jaydev Unadkat (2/23 in 3 overs) picking initial wickets with his clever change of pace.

Left-arm spinner Harsh Dubey (3/34 in 4 overs) and Sr Lankan pacer Eshan Malinga (3/31 in 3.4 overs) also had a

SRH skipper Pat Cummins and the entire team is bound to feel disappointed about how they performed in between the first and the last games. On flat tracks, SRH looked

menacing with their batters in flow but on pitches where they needed to adapt and bat differ ently, they fell flat. Eventually, they won six

games, one game was washed out and lost at least two games they should have won.

The rub of the green didn't go SRH's way when it came to small margins and that ulti-

mately became the reason for of the flattest decks on offer. them missing out on play-off

Klaasen (105 not out off 39 balls) was way more severe compared to Head as he completed his half-century off just 18 balls after coming in at the fall of opener Abhishek Sharma (32 off 16 balls).

qualifications

The South African literally continued the mayhem even after Head departed, hitting seven fours and nine sixes, most of them into the second tier of the stands here.

Klaasen muscled the KKR bowlers, mainly in the straighter arc and the likes of Anrich Nortje (0/60 in 4 overs), Harshit Rana (0/40 in 3 overs). Varun Chakravarthy (0/54 in 3 overs) and Sunil Narine (2/42 in 4

On a ground where SRH had set the new batting record in 2024, scoring 125 in Power-

play against Delhi Capitals. Head and his partner in crime Abhishek added 79 in the first six overs to set the tone. The Kotla track was one

where any batter could just plonk his front foot and hit through the line or rock back to pull it over mid-wicket.

Brief Scores:

Sunrisers Hyderabad: 278 for 3 in 20 overs (Heinrich Klaasen 105. Travis Head 76: Sunil Narine 2/42) beat Kolkata Knight Riders: 168 all out in 18.4 overs (Manish 3/31, Harsh Dubey 3/34, Jaydev Unadkat 3/24)

SHORT TAKES

Xabi returns to troubled Madrid

Madrid: Xabi Alonso is returning to Real Madrid to take over a club that failed to meet expectations this season. The Spanish powerhouse announced the hiring of Alonso Sunday to replace Carlo Ancelotti, who is leaving to take over the Brazil job. Alonso will take over June 1 and will be given a contract through June 2028, the club said. He's to be presented as coach Monday. The 65-yearold Ancelotti is departing after four mostly successful seasons with Madrid. He bid a tearful farewell on Saturday in the team's final Spanish league match. Ancelotti's contract ran to the end of next season, but the club confirmed his departure Friday after he had already been announced as the next Brazil coach.

Eves beat Chile 2-1

Rosario: The Indian junior women's hockey team came back from one-goal down to beat Chile 2-1 and begin its campaign in the Four Nation Tournament on a positive note here. Sukhveer Kaur (39th minute) and Kanika Siwach (58th) netted the goals for India while Javeria Saenz (20th) scored the only goal for Chile. India, however, equalised in the third quarter, courtesy of Sukhveer in the 39th minute. Kanika then scored the winning goal in the 58th minute to ensure India's victory.

CM Trophy to empower Odisha's grassroot sporting talent: Suraj



Bhubaneswar, May 25: The logo, trophy, jersey and anthem of the CM Trophy (Under-15) Football Championship 2025 were officially unveiled Sunday at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar by Sports and Youth Services Minister Suryabanshi

Speaking on the occasion, Suraj emphasised that the CM Trophy initiative is a significant step towards nurturing grassroots level sporting talent in Odisha. He stated that the state government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, is committed to identify and promote voung sporting talent.

The CM Trophy 2025 is being organised jointly by the Sports and Youth Services Department, Government of Odisha and the Football Association of Odisha.

The first phase of the tournament, held from 16th January to 19th April this year, witnessed the participation of 271 football clubs and over 5,000 players from across all districts of the state. The zon-

al level (second phase) of the championship is scheduled to take place from 28th May to 5th June, 2025. Teams selected from the districts will be grouped into four zones such as Sambalpur, Bhubaneswar, Keonjhar and Berhampur, to compete for a place in the state level final round. The three-phase tournament

structure, district, zonal and state, aims to provide a robust platform for young athletes to showcase their skills and talent. "This championship will be instrumental in identifying exceptional talent from the grassroots level. The newly launched anthem beautifully captures the energy, passion and commitment of young athletes. The Government is committed for the overall development of Sports and athletes in the state", said Suraj.

Football Association of Odisha Secretary Ashirbad Behera, Principal Secretary of Sports and Youth Services Department Bhaskar Sarma, Director Deepankar Mohapatra, Additional Secretary Bijay Kumar Swain and Joint Secretary Bijayananda Nayak were present in the event.

Arsenal win Women's Champions League

Arsenal women have now added another continental title to their illustrious history. which has seen them lift a record 15 league titles, 14 FA Cups and seven League Cup

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lisbon, May 25: Arsenal women have won the 202425 UEFA Women's Champions League after beating Barcelona 1-0 in Lisbon thanks to Stina Blackstenius' goal.

Having previously been the only English side to become European champions courtesy of their 2007 success, Arsenal women have now added another continental title to their illustrious history, which has seen them lift a record 15 league titles, 14 FA Cups and seven League Cups.

The victory in Portugal caps a remarkable campaign for

the side, who entered the tournament in the first qualifying round back in September. After beating Hacken and Rangers to reach the group stages, Arsenal finished ahead of Bayern Munich, Juventus and Valarenga to reach the knockout stages. despite Renee Slegers replacing Jonas Eidevall as manager back in October.

They then embarked on a dramatic route to the final, overturning a 2-0 first leg loss to beat Real Madrid 3-0 at Emirates Stadium in the quarter-finals, and then hammering Lyon 4-1 on their own patch to advance 5-3 on aggregate to book their place in the Lisbon

Arsenal women beat the three-time winners and previous holders, with Blackstenius coming off the bench to net a 74th-minute winner and secure the silverware, becoming the first English team to win eight matches in a single edition of the competition.

Slegers, who is a former academy product and won her first five group games to ensure they made it into the knockouts, has become the first Dutch manager to win the Women's Champions League, and third overall to win either the men's or women's competition after Louis Van Gaal and Frank Rijkaard

MALAYSIA MASTERS

Srikanth's inspired run ends with defeat in final

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kuala Lumpur, May 25: His long title drought did not end but shuttler Kidambi Srikanth capped a remarkable campaign with a runner-up finish at the Malaysia Masters Super here Sunday, going down in straight games to China's world No. 4 Li Shi Feng in the men's singles final.

The 32-year-old, who charted a long road back from injuries and missed opportunities, made his first BWF World Tour final in six years, starting from the qualifiers and riding a resurgent wave all the way to the title clash of the BWF 500 tournament.

The former world No 1 was erratic and struggled to break through the second-seeded Li's solid defence and was unable to convert openings, eventually losing in 11-21 9-21 in 36 minutes

"It has been pretty good week. It's my third tournament, played decently well in the first two as well but couldn't really win those matches. But pretty happy with the way how it went so far. Not exactly the way I wanted to be today but still I think he played really well, Srikanth said.

Despite the loss, it was an inspirational show from Srikanth, who, after slipping to world No 82 earlier this month, showed grit and class to remind the world of his calibre.



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