

Wamiqa's choices

Actor Wamiqa Gabbi says she selects projects that resonate with her creatively and offer professional fulfillment as well LEISURE | P2

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 56 I www. orissapost.com

Trump calls Putin 'crazy'

Trump criticises Vladimir Putin's massive air assault on Ukraine as "absolutely CRAZY," considers new sanctions

INTERNATIONAL | **P10**

Gain for indices

Sensex jumps 455.37 points to 82,176.45, while Nifty climbs 148 points to 25,001.15 at closing hours, Monday

BUSINESS | P11

The naming of the Digha

temple in West Bengal as 'Ja-

gannath Dham' has caused

agony and resentment among

millions of devotees due to its

religious, cultural, and emo-

tional significance. It is seen

as a deviation from tradition

and a threat to the sanctity

and identity of Srimandir in

Puri. In a significant move to

safeguard the spiritual identi-

ty of the 12th-century shrine,

the Shree Jagannath Temple

Administration (SJTA) has

decided to seek patent pro-

tection for sacred terms such

as Mahaprasad, Srimandir,

Shree Jagannath Dham,

Shreekshetra and Purush-

ottam Dham, among others,

associated with the temple

Tribute to Rafa

Rafael Nadal gets a rousing reception as the 'King of Clay' steps onto Court Philippe Chatrier for the final time

SPORTS | P12

12 PAGE | ₹5.00

J&K NEET aspirant hangs self in Kota

Kota: An 18-year-old NEET aspirant from Jammu and Kashmir allegedly hanged herself from the ceiling fan of her paying guest room here at Pratap Chouraha in Kota, police Monday said. This is the 15th such incident this year and second this month alone. Before she killed herself Sunday evening, the girl, Zeeshan, spoke to a relative of hers on the phone and told him that she might commit suicide before hanging up, Circle Inspector Ramesh Kavia, posted at Mahaveer Nagar Police Station, said. Burhan, the relative, immediately called another student Mamta, who lived in the same building on the floor above, and asked her to check on Zeeshan, he said. Mamta rushed to Zeeshan's room, found it bolted from inside, and shouted for help. A crowd gathered and broke open the door with the help of a grinder they borrowed from some carpenters working nearby, he said. They found Zeeshan hanging from the ceiling. She was rushed to a hospital, but was declared dead.

Spying for Pakistan: NIA

Investigation Agency (NIA) has

arrested a CRPF personnel for

allegedly spying for Pakistan,

actively involved in espionage

activity and had been sharing

classified information related

to national security with the

Pakistan intelligence officers (PIOs) since 2023, they said.

Jat, an assistant sub inspector

Force (CRPF), was receiving

funds from the PIOs through

The anti-terror agency has

various conduits, officials said.

arrested Jat from Delhi and is

interrogating him, they said.

Meanwhile, the CRPF said it has

dismissed him from the service.

Jat came under the scanner in

the course of close monitoring

of his social media activity by

with the Central Reserve Police

officials said Monday. The accused, Moti Ram Jat, was

New Delhi: The National



STREET TURNS STREAM: Children play on a waterlogged road at Scion after heavy rains at Matunga in Mumbai, Monday

Under-construction rail tunnel collapses in Boudh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, May 26: A portion of the top soil rail line stretch, he said. over an under-construction railway tunnel caved in

arrests CRPF personnel near Adenigarh in Boudh district, an official said the Khurda-Bolangir rail-Monday

incident that took place on the Khurda Road-Bolangir "A minor incident of soil caving-in occurred this af-

ternoon at Tunnel No. 4 on way line. It was due to loose the project, it said.

No one was injured in the soil formation and continuous rainfall in the area," the East Coast Railway (ECoR) said in a statement.

There has been no impact on manpower or machinery, and the incident will not affect the overall progress of

"All necessary safety measures are in place, and work continues as planned," the ECoR said.

The 4,185-metre tunnel will connect Adenigarh and Charichhak stations in Boudh district, officials said.

Puri, May 26: In light of the ongoing dispute with West Bengal over the naming of the Digha temple as a Dham,' the Shree Jagannath Temple Managing Committee (SJTMC) Monday decided to patent certain words and logos associated with the 12th-century shrine.



Srimandir's sacred

A proposal to this effect was approved at the SJT-MC meeting chaired by the Gajapati Maharaja of Puri, Dibyasingha Deb, and attended by ex-officio members including Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja, Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) Chief Administrator Arabinda Padhee, Puri district Collector Siddharth Shankar Swain, Puri SP Vinit Agarwal, and others.

"The SJTA will soon apply to patent terms like Mahaprasad (bhog), Srimandir (temple), Shree Jagannath Dham (place), Shreekshetra (place), and Purushottam Dham (place), among others. A proposal in this regard has been approved by the SJTMC," said the SJTA

Chief Administrator.

Padhee noted that patenting specific words and logos related to the Jagannath Temple would serve as a legal instrument to protect the cultural, religious and spiritual identity of Srimandir. "This will help prevent misuse of the 12th century temple's original spiritual identity and unauthorised use of its sacred terminology," he added.

Regarding the ongoing row with the West Bengal government over the alleged misuse of the term Jagan nath Dham, Padhee said the matter would be addressed by the state governments.

Deb said. "The West Ben gal government cannot use the term 'Jagannath Dham for their temple at Digha. This is against Hindu scriptures and the age-old tradi tion of Lord Jagannath."

Replying to a query, the Gajapati Maharaja assert ed that the issue should be resolved amicably between the two state governments. as the Digha Temple is a project developed by the West Bengal government.

DGP: Cyber command Narrow escape for Sourav Ganguly's centre in City on cards brother, sister-in-law PRESS TRUST OF INDIA PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, May 26: The state government has decidsaid Monday.

The DGP said the state Puri, May 26: Former Ingovernment has approved the establishment of 20 new cyber crime and economed to set up a cyber command ic offence police stations centre in Bhubaneswar to across Odisha. The state tackle the increasing men- currently has 14 cyber poace of cyber crimes, Direc- lice stations. These units, he tor General of Police (DGP) said, would serve a pivotal istration to order an inquiry. Yogesh Bahadur Khurania role in preventing and in-The state

dian cricket team captain Sourav Ganguly's elder brother Snehasish Ganguly and wife Arpita had a narrow escape while enjoying a speedboat ride in Puri sea prompting the district admin-Though the incident oc-

vestigating cyber curred May 24 evening, it



AGENCIES

the CRPF.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



I wasn't watching anything dirty, sir. These are our party leaders

Speaking at the **government has** crimes. inauguration of a approved the workshop on 'Cyber crime investiof 20 new gation and cyber cyber crime intelligence' in the Khurania said the new com-

mand centre would efforts to control, detect, and well as provide immediate assistance to victims. Khurania noted a surge in

City.

cyber crimes such as online investment frauds, financial scams, identity theft, digital the DGP said, "To combat arrests, and the exploitation of children and the elderly. He said the Odisha Police

is conducting a large-scale campaign to raise awareness and prevent such offences.

Khurania said establishment similar workshops on cyber crime investigation would be held at range and economic and district levoffence police els in the near stations future. Officers of play a vital role in expediting all ranks will participate in these sessions, which aim

respond to cyber crimes, as at enhancing investigative skills and improving operational efficiency in handling cyber crime cases.

Emphasising the need for continuous training, invisible criminals in the digital world, it is essential for police personnel to develop their capabilities and stay updated with the latest techniques.²

"It was a moment where

came to light Monday.

Puri district collector Siddharth Shankar Swain said. "I have ordered an inquiry to look into the circumstanc es leading to the mishap. If lapses are found with the operator in terms of safety protocols, action will be taken. Official sources said Sky Drive Adventure and Water Sports, a private operator, was granted permission by the Odisha

Coastal Zone Management Authority to conduct water sports activities.

Puri SP Vinit Agarwal told this agency, "Though the mishap occurred on Saturday afternoon, family members did not lodge any formal complaint at the nearby police station. **P3**

'Squabble' with wife; Macron claims horseplay

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, May 26: French first lady Brigitte Macron appeared to push her husband away with both hands on his face just before they disembarked from their plane to start a tour of Southeast Asia this weekend. President Emmanuel Macron dismissed the gesture -- caught on camera -- as just horseplay, but it caused a stir back home.

French media Monday tried to decipher the interaction that cameras spotted through the just-opened door of the plane. The headline of a story on the website of the daily Le Parisien newspaper asked: "Slap or squabble? The images of Emmanuel and Brigitte Macron disembarking in Vietnam geo-planetary catastrophe."



said.

trigger a lot of comment." Macron later told reportsimilar explanation.

ers that the couple -- married since 2007 after meeting at the president and his wife the high school where he were decompressing one was a student and she was last time before the start of a teacher -- were simply jokthe trip by horsing around. ing around. It's a moment of complicity.

'We are horsing around and, really, joking with my wife," he said, adding that the incident was being overblown: "It becomes a sort of

Vietnam, Sunday -- showed a uniformed man pulling open the plane door and revealing the president standing inside, dressed in a suit and talking to someone who wasn't visible.

Two arms -- in red sleeves -- reached out and pushed Macron away, with one hand covering his mouth and part of his nose while the other was on his jaw bone. The French leader recoiled, turning his head away. Then, apparently realising that he was on camera, he broke into a smile and gave a little wave.

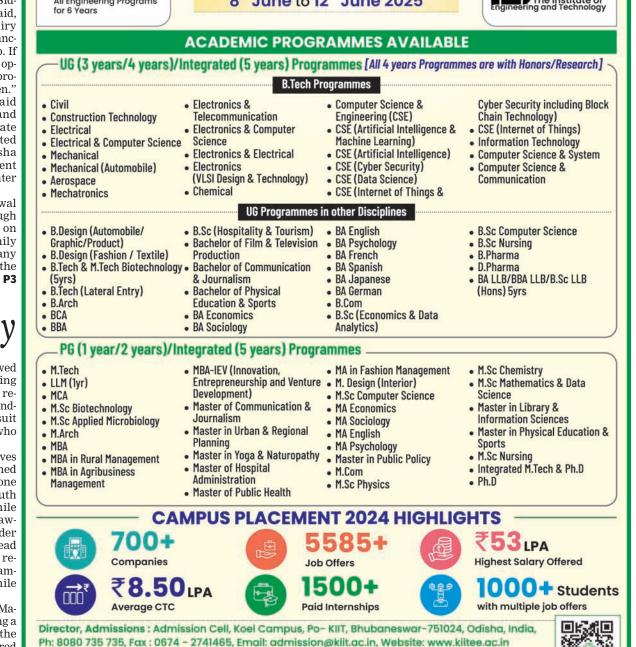
In subsequent images, Ma It was all that was needed to cron and his wife, wearing a give ammunition to the conred jacket, appeared at the spiracy theorists," his office top of the stairs. He offered an arm but she didn't take The video -- taken as the it. They walked down the Macrons arrived in Hanoi, carpeted stairs side by side.

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DEMI LOVATO MARRIES JORDAN LUTES IN LA

Singers Demi Lovato and Jordan Lutes got married in an intimate ceremony. The wedding took place Sunday evening in California. Lovato opted for a dress from Vivienne Westwood and said she has been a fan of the designs for a long time.

ANDERSON RAISES ALARM **ON UK HOMELESSNESS**

Actress Gillian Anderson, who is known for her work in The Crown, Hannibal, Sex *Education* and others, is afraid of the UK's growing problem of homelessness. The actress feels that the worst is yet to come for the UK with regards to homelessness, reports Female First UK.



JNE FORECAS

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If you are involved in monetary matters, today you will find yourself weighing the benefits.Aloan that you have applied for may be sanctioned. Look at a range of choices, says Ganesha, and you will end up feeling very happy about it.

TAURUS

You run failing punctuality, your insistence on following time schedules is due to be noticed and appreciated today. Your colleagues and superiors will be singing praises as soon as you arrive for work. If you are in an artistic or a creative profession, such as designing, journalism, multi media, you have a remark

ably eventful and gratifying day ahead.

You will feel blue and out of sorts today. You will feel that you are all alone in the world. emotionally. Your repressed desires and your philosophical streak will come to the fore today and will influence your dark mood. says Ganesha

CANCER

You are most likely to appear edgy and hypercritical to others, says Ganesha. Remain your typical poised self. Try not to be harsh to others, if you wish to save your relationships and sustain a reputable image. Avoid clashes with your superiors and colleagues.

I FO

Most of your time will be spent at the work place. You will excel in all your tasks today. Professional relationships will be

marked by co-operation. You will have cordial relations with your colleagues. It is an auspicious and progressive day for ousiness, says Ganesha



Confidently take on the challenges that in all likelihood will 🥖 test your business abilities. especially the ones that are related to your investments and monetary matters. You will most probably come up with novel ideas to solve long-pending issues, and Gaesha savs that this will be very effective.

Ganesha says that on the work front you may be in the midst of meetings or negotiations, which will work out favorably for you. This will help ease your tension and you will feel mentally free. Today you will feel more vibrant and active too and hence will be able to get more done.

Wamiqa on choosing films

New Delhi: Actress Wamiqa Gabbi has said she chooses projects that feel meaningful both creatively and professionally. If a role excites her and adds value to her work, that's what drives her to say yes.

When asked how she chooses filmswhether based on the value they add to her life or the value she brings to them—Wamiqa told this news agency "I think it's both. If you feel that you're contributing something, that your character is adding something to the story, then of course it feels interesting."

She added: "And if the project also adds value to your work — because you want to do good work — then it's the same thing, I'm just saying it in a different way. It all comes down to the same thing. When you feel like doing it will be exciting or fulfilling, that's when you say yes."

The actress' latest release is Bhool Chuk Maaf with Raikummar Rao. The film released May 23, which was earlier scheduled to release digitally May 16.

She will next be seen alongside actor Akshay Kumar in Bhoot Bangla. May 19, after the wrap up of the film, the actress called being part of the film, directed by Priyadarshan, 'a childhood dream.



Members of Satabdira Kalakar, one of the oldest theatre groups in the state, staged the Odia play Bapa (Father) at Bhanja Kala Mandap, Bhubaneswar, Monday as part of their golden jubilee celebrations. Penned by the troupe's general secretary, Dhira Mallick, the play was directed by Santosh Mohanty. Among others. Chandra Sekhar Hota, Secretary of Odisha Sahitya Akademi and renowned playwright Narayan Sahoo graced the occasion as guests. PIC' RIKASH NAVAI

How Manoj Kumar saved 'Lag Ja Gale' from rejection

New Delhi: Lag Ja Gale, that plaintive ode to love sung by Lata Mangeshkar in the 1964 classic Woh Kaun Thi. almost didn't see the light of day. Quite simply, director Raj Khosla didn't like the track and it took composer Madan Mohan to first convince the film's star Manoj Kumar who then persuaded the filmmaker that the song was finally included.

Once he heard the song again, Khosla picked up his shoe to hit himself, according to Raj Khosla: The Authorised Biography, released May 20 ahead of the filmmaker's 100th birth anniversary May 31.

"I got a call from Madan Mohan one day. 'Raj Khosla has lost his mind 'Madan said 'Ek gaana sunaya. Usko pasand nahi aaya. You come and handle this please," the book quotes Kumar as saying.

However, Kumar, who hadn't heard the song yet, was reluctant

to be done? Sippy concurred with the music director. He, too, wanted Manoj Kumar to approach Raj Khosla and sort this out". Kumar agreed to intervene when the composer played the song for him. Kumar, on whom the song was eventually picturised alongside actor Sadhana

Z

THPT PBT.

RIGHT.

Shivdasani, described the piece of music as a "brilliant composition" and was amazed that Khosla who joined the film industry with the dream of becoming a playback singer didn't like the song.

Later, after persistent urging from Kumar, Khosla finally agreed albeit reluctantly to listen to the song, but only after telling him that it is "really bad"

However, upon hearing it again, the late filmmaker was left "astonished" and admitted it was one of

FUN

DOST

Shilpa's fitness challenge for men

Mumbai: Bollywood actress and fitness enthusiast Shilpa Shetty has thrown down a unique fitness challenge that's catching attention — a no-hands mobility test designed to push limits, especially for men

In her latest Instagram post, the Hungama 2 actress mentioned that what looks like a simple move turns out to be surprisingly difficult, testing balance, core strength, and flexibility. Monday, Shilpa shared a video of herself completing the challenge

alongside a man who fails to succeed even after two attempts. In the clip, Shetty is seen laughing as the man struggles with the task

Alongside the clip, the Dhadkan actress wrote, "Looks like rest but it's a mobility test This one's a challenge, especially for men. It's harder than it looks! Challenge thrown to you: Can you get up without using your hands? #MondayMotivation #SwasthRahoMastRaho #Fitindia #Mobility-Move.

Shilpa is widely known for her dedication to fitness, and she regularly shares videos from her rigorous workout regime on social media. Whether it's yoga, strength training, or mobility exercises, Shilpa's updates offer a glimpse into the efforts behind her toned physique and energetic lifestyle.

On the professional front, Shilpa was most recently seen in the series Indian Police Force, directed by Rohit Shetty and Sushwanth Prakash. IANS

opted to speak with producer N N

'There were only a few days

Sippy about the matter.

to intervene, reasoning that it was ultimately "Khosla's film", and

left for the shoot and the song was yet to be finalised. What was the best tunes he had ever come across.



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

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

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

R	А	1	Ν	В	0	W		В	U	R	S	Т
А		G		Е		Е		1		Е		1
٧	А	L	Е	Т		В	А	Т	S	М	А	Ν
Е		0		Т		В		Е		А		
	1	0	D	1	Ν	Е		S	Т	R	A	Y
Е				Ν		D				R		A
Μ	А	Ν	А	G	Е		Т	1	D	Υ	U	Ρ
1		А				F		D				S
R	Е	T	G	Ν		R	U	1	Ν	Е	D	
		R		А		0		0		Q		0
S	Т	0	1	С	А	L		Т	Н	U	Μ	В
А		В		R		1		1		1		1
Ρ	R	1	D	Е		С	0	С	к	Ρ	1	Т

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

SCORPIO According to Ganesha, your new business venture is likely to keep you on toes today. You may even neglect your personal life to meet expectations at work.A feeling of disappointment may surround you as things do not go according to planning

SAGITTARIUS

no gains reminds Ganesha.

As Ganesha foresees, you will be religiously inclined today. Listening to soft, instrumental music will soothe your nerves. You also feel like going back to school days and dig into detective and suspense stories of Nancy Drew or Hardy Boys. It was funbeing kid. isn't it?

and your efforts may go in vain. No pains

CAPRICORN

Though less, you will get money from your investments and other resources. Don't ignore pending projects; complete them at the earliest so that you will have clear picture about your requirements and responsibilities, advises Ganesha. Once you are done with them, you will enjoy happy times with your friends and family in the evening.

AQUARIUS

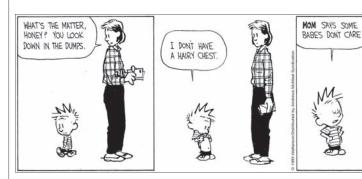
Today is a day of communication and associations. While at a family gathering, you will enjoy chatting nineteen to the dozen! But at work, you may be left teaching, explaining, negotiating, co-ordinating and arranging meetings. A productive but draining day, says Ganesha.

PISCES

Compromise is the name of the game when it comes to relationships, and you are adeptat it. You realise the importance of losing an argument to win over a heart, and do so with panache. Indeed, this is an area where others emulate you, says Ganesha.



CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY





CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW











SUDOKU





owntown

Gajapati questions ISKCON's silence over 'Jagannath Dham'



PNN & AGENCIES

Puri, May 26: Puri Gajapati Dibyasingha Deb Monday expressed surprise over ISK-CON's silence regarding the naming of the Jagannath temple in Digha as Jagannath Dham.

Speaking to the media, the Gajapati, who also serves as the chairperson of the Shree Jagannath Temple Managing Committee, stated that the Digha Jagannath temple is an initiative of the West Bengal government. The temple is being administered by a trust, and ISKCON has been entrusted with conducting religious services.

He said naming the Digha temple as Jagannath Dham is incorrect, citing references from religious texts to support his point. However, he noted that despite raising the issue, no corrective action was taken. The Shankaracharvas of both

Govardhan Peeth and Joshi Peeth have also voiced opposi-

tion to naming the Digha temple as Jagannath Dham.

The Gajapati urged the Odisha government to take up the matter with the West Bengal government, emphasising that sacred terms and names associated with the Srimandir should not be misused.

"We should engage in dialogue with the promoters of the Digha temple and resolve the issue amicably, rather than pursuing prolonged legal proceedings," the Gajapati stated.

Addressing another concern, he criticised ISKCON for organising Rath Yatra festivals for Lord Jagannath on dates that differ from the ones followed by the Srimandir.

He said that ISKCON had previously agreed, in 2021, to conduct the Rath Yatra in alignment with the auspicious dates prescribed by Srimandir. However, this agreement has not been uniformly implemented across all ISKCON-run Jagannath temples, particularly The Puri king also criticises ISKCON for organising Rath Yatra festivals for Lord Jagannath on dates that differ from the ones followed by Srimandir

those located abroad.

ISKCON has stated that it requires directions from its Governing Body Commission (GBC), based in Mayapur, India, to standardise these ob-

servances. "We are pleased to see hundreds of new Jagannath temples established in foreign countries, and more are on the way. However, these temples must follow the prescribed rituals and traditions as practised in the Srimandir," the Gajapati added.

A meeting between ISKCON representatives and Puri temple scholars was held in Bhubaneswar in March to address the issue. ISKCON submitted a written explanation justifying the untimely observance of the Rath Yatra, presenting various supporting facts. In response, Srimandir scholars have pre-

pared a counterstatement, which will soon be sent to ISKCON. "If ISKCON refuses to adhere to the traditions of the Puri temple, we will continue to seek an amicable resolution,

the Gajapati concluded.



POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, May 26: A woman Revenue officer has filed a complaint with the Pipli police, alleging inappropriate behaviour by an Additional Tehsildar. The woman, posted as a Revenue In-

> Teisipur under Pipli Tehsildar, lodged FIR an accusing Prabodh Kumar Mohanty, the Additional Tehsildar of Pipli, misbeof haviour

and inappropriate physical contact. The

According to the woman officer's complaint, the incident took place during heavy rainfall, when most employees had already left the office. She was waiting in a room located in front of the Additional Tehsildar's office for the rain to stop.

In the FIR, she stated that the Additional Tehsildar entered the room, and after a brief conversation, attempted to inappropriately touch her. "When I tried to move away, he forcibly pulled me towards him," she alleged.

She expressed her shock over the in-

investigation.

has transferred the accused Additional Tehsildar from Pipili.

allegations.



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Years)

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I'll write to Odisha CM over Puri SC: Much can happen water sport regulations: Arpita over a cup of coffee

AGENCIES

New Delhi, May 26: The Supreme Court Monday asked a couple engaged in divorce proceedings to go on a dinner tonight to iron out their grievances and settle the dispute amicably

A bench of Justice BV Nagarathna and Justice Satish Chandra Sharma was hearing a plea filed by a fashion entrepreneur seeking permission to travel abroad with her threeyear-old child. "You have a three-year-old child. What is the ego between the parties? Our canteen may not be so good for this. We will provide you another drawing room. Meet over dinner tonight. Much can happen over a cup of coffee," the bench observed.



PNN & AGENCIES

Puri, May 26: Arpita Ganguly, sisterin-law of former Indian cricket team captain Sourav Ganguly, who had a narrow escape along with her husband Snehasish Ganguly in the speedboat mishap at Puri sea, said she will write to the Odisha Chief Minister to properly regulate rubber floats to ensure the tourists' safety. A visibly shaken Arpita blamed the mishap on the 'greed' of the adventure sports operators. She alleged that the boat was unstable, with only four passengers aboard a vessel designed for 10, making it unbalanced and illequipped to withstand the heavy tide. 'Due to less weight, the boat lost

balance and could not encounter the huge wave. The sea was already very rough," she said, adding that adventure activities need to be stopped because of





alleged incident occurred May 24.

cident, calling it 'disturbing, illegal, and unacceptable in any workplace.' She has sought legal action against the accused.

Police have registered a case under Sections 74 and 75 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), and a woman sub-inspector (WSI) has been assigned to lead the

In the meantime, the administration

However, the Mohanty has denied the

The top court asked the couple to swallow the past like a bitter pill and think about the future.

Observing that it expects a positive outcome, the apex court posted the matter for Tuesday

"On prayer made by senior counsel for the petitioner for the travel of the petitioner along with the minor child, we have directed both parties to interact with each other and revert to the court tomorrow,' the bench said.

water sports at the famous tourist beach. "We were saved by the grace of God. I am still in trauma. This should not happen, and water sports in the sea must be properly regulated. I will write to Puri SP and Odisha Chief Minister after returning to Kolkata," Arpita said in a video, Monday.

A video footage aired by local television channels showed the boat being hit by a massive wave, losing balance and capsizing in the turbulent waters. Recounting the ordeal, Arpita said the boat was struck by a wave almost ten-storey high, which led to the vessel flipping over, throwing all passengers – including her and Snehasish — into the sea. "Thankfully, prompt action of lifeguards saved our lives." she added. Local police said lifeguards deployed on the beach rushed to the spot and rescued the tourists on board. They used

strong currents in Puri sea. Arpita said, "The operators assured us it was safe. But shortly after venturing out, a huge wave hit the boat and it capsized." Demanding that the government should tighten regulations on water sports, Arpita said the authorities should consider banning such activities here. Locals claimed that the speedboat was operated by untrained staff working under a private adventure company. "The crew lacked proper skills to handle high tides and the company ignored essential safety protocols mandated for such activities," an eyewitness said.

It was further alleged that the company was conducting water sports without requisite permission from the Puri district administration. Sources said the private operator had obtained a 'No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Wildlife Division, Puri, District Tourism Officer, Puri, and Puri Police. It was also granted permission to undertake sea sports activities from Odisha Coastal Zone Management Authority, sources claimed.

Married women observe Sabitri Brata



PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, May 26: Married women across Odisha Monday observed Sabitri Brata for the longevity and well-being of their husbands, symbolised by the 'Sindoor' (vermilion)

Women of various ages thronged

temples — particularly those dedicated to Laxmi-Narayan — and gathered around banyan trees to perform the Sabitri Brata rituals.

The puja is held annually on the new moon day in the month of Jyeshtha (May-June), according to the traditional Hindu calendar

"On the occasion of Sabitri, the

great festival of Odia culture and tradition, I extend my best wishes and greetings to all the Sadhva (married) mothers and sisters. I pray for a long and blessed married life for every Sadhva woman," Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi wrote on X. The state government has declared

the day a holiday.

The festival is dedicated to Sabitri, who, according to Hindu mythology, became a symbol of unwavering devotion and strength. She is believed to have confronted Yamraj, the god of death, to bring her husband Satyaban back to life. The story of Sabitri's bravery and spiritual resolve is found in the Mahabharata, said Bhaskar Mishra, a researcher in Shree Jagannath culture.

Mishra said a special puja is performed in the Jagannath Temple in Puri on the occasion.







Follow UP norms for roadside concretisation: NGT to states



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 26: The National Green Tribunal has directed all states and Union Territories (UTs) to conform to the guidelines issued by the Uttar Pradesh government to prevent indiscriminate concretisation of roadsides, roadberms and areas around trees till new rules regarding it are framed.

A bench of judicial member Sudhir Agarwal and expert member Afroz Ahmad was hearing the plea against the largescale concretisation of roadsides and open spaces across Noida and Greater Noida.

In an order dated May 21, the tribunal said, "Concretisation in a larger way increases the impervious layer (of soil). leading to reduction in ground water recharge or no ground water recharge and also results in wastage of run-off. It also affects biodiversity by damaging the ecosystem and ecological complex of the soil.'

It said that concretisation created heat islands, reflecting heat back into the atmosphere, thus causing harmful long-

wave infrastructural radiation and climate warming.

The tribunal underlined that the UP government had issued orders of in April 2001 and March 2018 regarding the basic guidelines to prevent excessive concretisation while developing urban areas by constructions, such as, roads, footpaths and road berms.

The tribunal noted that the 2001 UP government guidelines said, "In the parks, no permanent construction or permanent pavement should be made on an area beyond five per cent and as far as possible, footpath and tracks should be constructed with permeable or semi-per-

meable perforated blocks." It noted that in 2018, the UP government decided that "stabilised soil, coarse sand and granular sub-base should be prioritised in pathways and stoppable surfaces in parks" and that" construction of outer walls of parks, footpaths, platforms and seating arrangements should not exceed five per cent of the total available area."

The tribunal further said that the order also issued directions

and Fisheries & Animal Re-

sources Development Minister

held here Monday at Krushi

Bhawan, chaired by Deputy

CM and Agriculture Minis-

ter Kanak Vardhan Singh

Deo. Principal Secretary Ar-

A preparatory meeting was

Gokulananda Mallik.

for construction of road edges. specifying that only "perforated blocks/fly ash bricks/stones etc. should be used on both side of roads along with footpath edges up to a maximum of 0.50 meters width and where roads along with footpaths have been proposed, only perforated tiles/ fly ash bricks/stones should be used on the footpath.

According to the 2018 order, where footpaths had been proposed, "arrangements should be made for proper drainage of rain water/storm water through interlocking tiles/ paving blocks. The maximum width of footpaths should not exceed 1.50 meters. Roads should have open drains, culverts and other drainage facilities." the tribunal noted.

In its exhaustive 80-page order, the tribunal said, "The guidelines issued by the UP government cover substantial aspects and conform to the basic guidelines of the states/ UTs, till different guidelines are issued by any state/UT concerned." "We are issuing these direc-

tions pan-India, and a copy of this order shall be communicated to all the chief secretaries of states and UTs and state pollution control boards/pollution control committees for necessary action and compliance,"

the tribunal added. Advocate Akash Vashishtha, who appeared for the petitioners, told PTI, "The tribunal has accepted most of our contentions and has found merit in the submissions, especially the grave environmental hazards posed by indiscriminate concretisation.'



Menstrual health conference at IIT-Bhubaneswar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 26: The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhubaneswar is set to host a national-level conference on menstrual health and hygiene May 28 at its Argul campus auditorium.

The event is being organised under the initiative Project Period: Sanitation. Health & Hygiene, and Environment (SHE) — a collaborative effort by IIT Bhubaneswar's Research and Entrepreneurship Park, in partnership with Unicef, Ayu rarogya Saukhyam Foundation, Action Lab 2050 Foundation, and the Odisha Menstrual Health and Hygiene Alliance.



Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida will attend the event as the chief guest.

This flagship event will bring breaking societal taboos, imtogether global experts, poliproving access to hygiene cymakers, NGOs, healthcare providers, and educators for meaningful discussions and

menstrual practices.

One of the major highlights of the conference will be Project Care (Campus Action for Reusable Essentials), an initiative aimed at promoting the use of reusable menstrual products among school and college girls Additionally, the programme will include the inauguration of two sanitary vending machines donated by Canara Bank.

The conference will also fea ture panel discussions on government-led menstrual health initiatives and long-term, sustainable solutions. Representatives from Unicef, AIIMS, NEST Sankalp

products, enhancing menstru-Trust, and Ayurarogya Saukhyam al education, and addressing Foundation will deliver special adthe environmental impact of dresses during the event.

ECoR honours staffers for exemplary service 'Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan' from May 29 Funkwal praised their profes

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, May 26: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the 'Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan' virtually from Puri May 29, aiming to boost agricultural innovation and bring Central government initiatives to grassroots levels.

The campaign, which will run nationwide from May 29 to June 12, will be launched in the presence of Union Agriculture

ASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit

Minister Shivraj Singh Chouabinda Kumar Padhee stated han, Chief Minister Mohan that preparations are in the Charan Majhi, Deputy Chief final stages. According to the itinerary, Ministers Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo and Pravati Parida,

Minister Chouhan will first visit Srimandir and participate in a 'Tiranga Yatra' before inaugurating the campaign at Birgobindapur Krishi Vigyan Kendra in Sakhigopal.

A Krishi Ratha will be flagged off during the event. Chouhan is also scheduled to visit the Central Institute of

Freshwater Aquaculture (CI FA), attend a Mango Festival at the Central Horticultural Experiment Station, and take part in a programme at the Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT).

As part of the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign, tree plantation drives will also be organised. Padhee added that large numbers of students and farmers are expected to take active part in the events.

functioning of train operations. The honoured employees include Pujan Kumar, Track Maintainer at Titilagarh: Dinesh Kumar, Track Maintainer at Matagajpur; Jagadish Samal, Loco Pilot at Kendu-

Vedanta plans to

POST NEWS NETWORK



actionable strategies around

Key topics will include

menstrual health.

jhargarh and Boddani Srinivasa Rao. Train Manager at Visakhapatnam.

While presenting the awards,

Each of them demonstrated extion operators in maintaining emplary vigilance and presence the integrity and reliability of of mind during their routine duties, taking swift and effective measures that helped prevent potential disruptions and safeguarded passenger safety.

railway services. ECoR reiterated its commitment to recognising employee contributions and fostering a strong culture of safety, accountability, and operational excellence.

sionalism, dedication, and

sense of responsibility, espe

cially under the challenging

conditions railway personnel

often face. He emphasised the

vital role played by frontline

staff such as track maintainers

loco pilots, technicians, and sta-

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, May 26: East Coast Railway (ECoR) general manager Parmeshwar Funkwal felicitated four dedicated railway employees Monday in recognition of their exceptional service. alertness, and timely action that ensured the safety and smooth



MARKET WATCH

sworn before Executive Magistrate, Gunupur, dated- 13.05.2025, Vide No.- 191, my daughter's correct name is **BISHNUPRIYA** PIRIPAKA, D/o-Hari Piripaka instead of Vishnupriya Piripaka, Vill-Bada Achaba, P.O.- Panasaguda, P.S.- Gunupur, Dist.-Rayagada (Odisha). Henceforth, my daughter shall be known as Bishnupriya Piripaka for all purpose.

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before Executive Magistrate, Basudevpur, I Sagarika Nayak, W/o. Bijaya Nayak, At/ PO-Rajgharpokhari, PS-Nayikanidihi, Dist-Bhadrak declare that I have changed my minor daughter name from Suni Nayak to Sonalika Nayak. Henceforth she will be known as Sonalika Nayak for all purpose.

raise risk of heart disease

Three sleepless nights may

According to researchers, sleep loss triggered a rise in nearly 90 inflammation-related proteins—many of which are already linked to serious heart conditions

eople with poor sleep for just three nights may be at an increased risk of developing heart diseases, according to a study.

With chronic lack of sleep growing as a public health concern, researchers from Uppsala University in Sweden found that disturbed sleep may raise inflammation, increasing the risk of heart disease.

"Many of the larger studies that have been done on the link between sleep deprivation and the risk of cardiovascular diseases have generally focused on slightly older individuals who already have an increased risk of such diseases. That is why it was interesting that the levels of these proteins increased in the same way in younger and previously perfectly healthy individuals after only a few nights of sleep deprivation. This means that it's important to emphasise the importance of sleep for cardiovascular health even early in life," said Jonathan Cedernaes, a physician at Uppsala University.

The team analysed 16 healthy young men of normal weight -all with healthy sleep habits.



The participants spent time in a sleep laboratory where

their meals and activity levels

were strictly controlled in two

In one session, participants

got a normal amount of sleep

for three consecutive nights,

while during the other session,

they got only about four hours

of sleep each night. During both

sessions, morning and evening

blood samples were taken and

following high-intensity exer-

the levels of around 90 proteins

in the blood and were able to

see that the levels of many of

these that are associated with

increased inflammation rose

The researchers measured

cise lasting 30 minutes.

sessions.

sleep-deprived. Many of these proteins have already been linked to an in-

creased risk of cardiovascular disease such as heart failure and coronary artery disease. said the researchers, in the study published in the journal Biomarker Research.

when the participants were

Further, the team found that physical exercise generated a slightly different response after a lack of sleep.

However, the number of key proteins increased equally, whether the person was sleep-deprived or not. Thus, proteins that can be linked to the positive effects of exercise increased, even if the person had too little sleep.

The researchers have previously shown that exercise in the presence of sleep deprivation can result in a slightly increased load on the heart's muscle cells.

Cedernaes said that "further research is needed to investigate how these effects might differ in women, older individuals, patients with heart disease, or those with different sleep patterns.' IANS

establish world-class university in Puri

Bhubaneswar, May 26: Amid

global uncertainty and tighten-

ing policies in the West, India

has a unique opportunity to

become a global hub for high-

er education, said Vedanta Ltd

chairman Anil Agarwal. Tak-

ing to X (formerly Twitter), Agarwal announced Vedanta's

ambitious plan to establish a

world-class university near

Puri, modelled on institutions

Agarwal's vision is for a

large-scale, not-for-profit, digi-

tal-first university that will at-

tract top faculty and students

from India and abroad. The

project aims to provide full

financial support to students

from underprivileged back-

grounds, ensuring access to

quality education without fi

nancial constraints. The uni-

versity will be built to global

standards, leveraging Odis-

ha's picturesque coastline as

a constraint for building large universities," Agarwal

stressed, adding that such an

initiative could deliver phe-

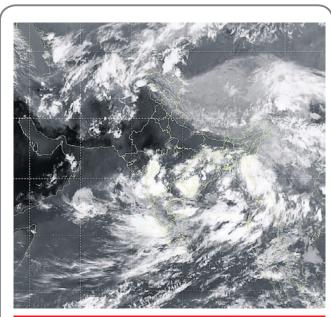
nomenal returns to society.

"Land should not become

its location.

like Harvard and MIT

CURRENCY			BOURSES	COMMODITIES		
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX		INDEX	VARIATION	
DOLLAR	85.10 • 0.24	SENSEX	8 2176.45 455.37	GOLD	₹ 95,812 	
EURO	96.90 + 0.03	NIFTY	25001.15 148.00	SILVER	8 ₹ 97,827 ♦ ₹23	



WEATHER

	BBSR	СТС	FORECAST
Max Temp	34.0°	34.8°	Partly cloudy sky
Min Temp	26.1°	24.2°	with possibility of rain or thunder-
Humidity	80%	81%	shower.
Rainfall	0.2	1.4	Ä

OUR BOOKING STATIONS TACI FOR CLASSIFIED ADV **'ERTISEMEN** CON 5

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.













state



4 accused held for assault on journo

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bolangir, May 26: Police Monday arrested four persons, including a juvenile, for allegedly assaulting a journalist in Bolangir district.

According to police, the incident took place in the district's Kulthipali village Saturday when Bijay Pradhan went there to report alleged irregularities in the construction of a guard wall.

accused allegedly The snatched Pradhan's mobile phone, microphone (boom) and other equipment. They also tied his hands and assaulted him in front of villagers, police said.

A video of the incident later went viral on social media. Acting upon Pradhan's com-

plaint at Puintala police station and video evidence, a case was registered and the four persons were arrested, Bolangir SP Abhilash G told reporters.



The accused have been identified as Abhinash Dalai, Aditya Jena, Gumara Nayak, and a minor.

"We are suspecting the involvement of the contractor engaged in the work. We will arrest him too," the SP said.

Minor dies of dengue; 8 infected in Aryapalli



POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, May 26: A minor boy died of dengue, while eight others have tested positive so far as an outbreak has been reported in Bada Aryapalli village under Chhatrapur block of Ganjam district.

The deceased has been identified as 13-year-old Mohit Kumar Sahu of Golasahi locality. He was undergoing treatment for the disease at a private hospital and succumbed around 1am Sunday. His brother, Rohit, is also infected and currently un-

dergoing treatment in the ICU of a private hospital. prevention. Two other infected individuals, B Balu and Pradyumna Sa-

hu, are receiving treatment at private hospitals in Berhampur and Bhubaneswar respectively. All eight cases have been reing to Dr Patra.

ported within the last six days. Responding to the outbreak, Dr Swadhin Patra, superintendent of the Munisi Pentha Community Health Centre, has alerted a medical team and initiated data collection. Under his supervision, the team visited the residence of the deceased

to gather information. A coordinated awareness drive has also been launched in the village. Medical officers from Nolia Nuagaon sector, block BPMs and supervisors. ASHAs, ANMs, and Anganwadi staff visited the village to raise awareness about dengue

Given the seriousness of the situation, a dedicated team has been formed to monitor the outbreak. A door-to-door survey is scheduled for Tuesday, accord-

Man held for duping 2 persons of ₹35 lakh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, May 26: Police have arrested a man for allegedly scamming two persons, including an NRI, of around ₹35 lakh under the pretext of selling housing plots in various places of Berhampur town, an official said.

The accused, identified as 58-vear-old Pattam Shyamababu Patro from Nayagarh, is a former executive engineer of Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC).

"Patro served as the executive engineer in BeMC from May 31, 2017 to December 31, 2019, before opting for voluntary retirement. He was residing in Bhubaneswar at the time of his arrest," a police official said.

Patro allegedly defrauded ₹10

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar.

Veterinary

Keonihar, May 26: The car-

cass of a 20-year-old female ele-

phant was found Sunday night

from a hill in Tamang reserve

forest under Talpada forest sec-

tion and Telkoi forest range in

Abhishek Nayak and Dr

Brajraj Yadav from Wildlife

Trust of India performed the

post-mortem Monday in the

presence of Divisional Forest

Officer Dhanrai HD and other

surgeon Dr

Female elephant dies of

suspected cardiac arrest

lakh from a woman residing in Gandhi Nagar, Berhampur, and ₹25 lakh from an Australia-based NRI through fraudulent land sale agreements, the officials informed.

been registered against him at Berhampur Town and Gosani Nuagaon police stations following complaints from the victims.

Police have seized several documents, including a land sale agreement, a bank cheque worth ₹10 lakh, and other relevant materials from the accused, SP Saravana Vivek M stated

He said the accused had entered into an agreement with the woman March 30, 2016, to sell around 0.590 decimal of land near Lochapada, on the

Two separate cases have

outskirts of Berhampur, for ₹71 lakh. The buyer transferred ₹25 lakh to the accused through a bank transaction as an advance. However, Patro neither handed over the land nor returned

the money, the SP said. When the woman followed up with the accused for repayment, he allegedly abused and criminally intimidated her.

"She warned him of police action, after which he returned ₹15 lakh in 2021," said another police officer.

However, he did not return the remaining ₹10 lakh, despite repeated requests.

Similarly, Patro allegedly cheated the Australian NRI under the guise of selling land. After prima facie evidence

was established, he was arrested from Bhubaneswar Sunday.

Woman beaten to death by son

Chhendipada: A woman was beaten to death by her younger son during a quarrel at Para village under Jarapada police limits in Angul district late Sunday night. The victim was identified as Shantilata, wife of Damodar Pendui, Police registered case after the deceased's sister lodged a complaint at Jarapada police station Monday. The body was nanded over to her family members after post-mortem. The accused's younger son Rathi has been arrested and will soon be produced in the court, police said. During a heated argument, an enraged Rathi picked up a stick and went on beating his mother. He struck her head resulting in critical injuries. Profusely bleeding, she lost her sense and collapsed on the ground. Rathi immediately rushed her to the district headquar ters hospital in Angul where doctors pronounced her brought dead.

POST NEWS NETWORK Lanjigarh, May 26: In a tragic incident, a 29-year-old woman and her seven-month-old son

died after accidentally coming in contact with a live electric wire at Poiguda village under Bijepur police limits of this block in Ka lahandi district Monday.

According to sources, Phu lamati Nayak was performing household chores while carry ing her infant son, Sabir, when she unknowingly touched an exposed electric wire. Both mother and child died on the spot due to

Woman, toddler electrocuted; 8-yr-old orphan lone survivor

electrocution. Eight-year-old Jagadish Nayak, the elder son of the deceased narrowly escaped the incident and is now left orphaned. The child, having lost his father jus eight months earlier, is now the only surviving member of the family. Phulamati had been working as a daily wage labourer to support her two sons fol lowing her husband's demise.

Upon receiving news of the incident, Bijepur police ASI Shy am Kulsika visited the scene and sent the bodies for post-mortem. The process was carried out in the presence of Laniigarh te hsildar Banamali Meher. An unnatural death case has been registered under Bijepur PS.

Officials from the electricity department, including Biswana thpur JE Sandeep Thakur, also inspected the site. Local leaders including ZP member Parikhit Nayak and Sarpanch representative Tika Majhi, expressed their condolences and urged the administration to provide imme diate government assistance to the bereaved child.

of suspected heart attack five days ago, Dr Nayak said.

Circumstantial evidences do not suggest any sign of electrocution or poaching, the DFO informed adding that the actual reason behind the death could be ascertained only after the post-mortem report is available.

Locals have raised questions over ignorance of the forest officials about the animal's death.

4 women critical in honeybee attack during Savitri Puja

Anandapur/Ghasipura: At least four women sustained critical injuries and several others were hurt in separate incidents of honeybee attack during Savitri Brata rituals at Purunia and Mangalpur villages under Ghasipura police limits in Keonjhar district, Monday. The critically injured women were identified as Ananya Sahu, Rita Maharana, Sulochana Sahu and Sukadi Sahu. A priest named Pabana Panda was also in jured while the identities of the other injured persons were yet to be established. The first incident occurred at Purunia village while women were offering prayers at a local 'choura' (a sacred platform for Basil plant) as part of the Savitri Brata rituals. In the mean time, a swarm of honeybees attacked the gathering, resulting in two women being critically injured and four others sustaining minor injuries. In a similar inci-dent, a swarm of honeybees attacked women when they were conducting Savitri Brata rituals on a village road. Two were critically injured, and another sustained minor injuries. All the injured persons were rushed to the Anandapur Sub-Divisional Hospital for treatment

2 killed as bikes collide head-on POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhanjanagar, May 26: Two people were killed and three others critically injured in a head-on collision between two motorcycles on the Sorada-Bhanjanagar main road near Kulangi in Ganjam district, Monday morning.

The deceased have been identified as Biranchi Bhuyan, 30, of Singhamardani village in Ganjam and Prabhat Pradhan, 45, of

Vedanta Aluminium holds mega health camp in Sundargarh dist

Bhubaneswar: Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest produced of aluminium, organised a mega health camp at Mund-herkhet gram panchayat office under Hemgir block in

Sundargarh district, reaching out to more than 200 beneficiaries. The initiative was undertaken by Vedanta as part of its continued efforts to strengthen healthcare access for rural communities in the region covering Mundherkhet, Jhar palam, Garjanjore, and nearby panchayats. The camp was inaugurated by Chinmay Kumar Mishra, Assistant Executive Engineer, Hemgir, in the presence of Sanyasi Bag, Sarpanch, Munderkhet GP, Hemgir. Bringing quality healthcare to

remote regions, the camp offered an array of free services, including specialised consultations and check-ups covering orthopaedics, obstetrics and gynaecology, paediatrics, der matology, ENT, chest and tuberculosis care along with the distribution of medicines free of cost. Additionally, awareness sessions on hygiene, nutrition, and disease prevention were conducted to promote preventive healthcare and

Zonal Office: बेक ऑफ इंडिया **BOI** 💥 Bhubaneswai CORRIGENDUM With reference to ou "E-Auction Sale Notice" published in the "Orissa Post on 24.05.2025, the Reserve Price & EMD of the property of Borrower: Mrs. Aryakanya Maharana of Gopalpur Branch Should be read as Rs.41,55,000/-& Rs.4,15,500/- instead of Rs.46,17,000/- & Rs.4,61,700/other facts remain All

unchanged. Place:Bhubaneswar Authorised Officer



EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION

SI. No.	Advertisement No.	Nature of Employmer	
1	11.73.4.1/2025/Cont/01 dated 15.05.2025	Driver (Through Walk-in-Interview)	FTFT Basis
2	11.73.4.1/2025/Cont/02 dated 21.05.2025	Draftsman	Contractua Basis
www	urther details please visit the lin .meconlimited.co.in. : 1. Only the post mentioned		

- Walk-in-Interview
- 2. Further, any corrigendum(s)/amendment(s) against this advertisement will be uploaded in: "Careers" Section of our website: www.meconlimited.co.in

CBC 40110/12/0003/2526 DP/6349/NW/2025

C-2, Ashok Nagar, Unit-II, Bhubaneswar

APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON (See Section 82 Cr. P.C./84 BNSS) Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused Himanshu Saha (Airman) S/o Sh. Nirakar Sahu authorized Signatory/Director of Prosperous Green Crops Pvt. Ltd. Also at Gali No. 4, Chander Shekhar Nagar, Bolangir-767002, Odisha also at Jhomi Pall Block Agalpur near Police Station, Loisingha (Orissa) has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in Case Reg. No. 5799/19 U/s 138 NI ACT PS Keshavpuram, Delhi and it has been returned to warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused Himanshu Saha (Airman) cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Himanshu Saha (Airman) has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that Himanshu Saha (Airman) in Case Reg. No. 5799/19 U/s 138 NI ACT PS Keshavpuram, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 16.09.2025. By order

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE

Ms Divya Arora Judicial Magistrate First Class North West, Court No. 112, 1st Floor Rohini Courts, Delhi

POSSESSION NOTICE

2002 read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 for Immovable Property)

ZONAL OFFICE :

Pin-751009, Ph.: 0674-2620423

forest personnel. Later, the carcass was buried at the spot. A preliminary investigation indicated that the animal died

Dihapadhal village in Nayagarh. Both were driving the two vehicles involved in the crash.

According to police, Prabhat and Kahnu Charan Pradhan were heading toward Navagarh for Savitri Brata. Meanwhile, Biranchi along with Rohit Swain and Sagar Bishoyi was en route to Gudipalli. The collision occurred near Lathipada on a narrow stretch of road.

Biranchi was declared dead at Sorada hospital, while Prabhat succumbed to his injuries at Bhanjanagar hospital

improve long-term community well-being. Speaking about the company's community-focused healthcare initiatives, Sunil Gupta, COO, Vedanta Aluminium, said, "At Vedanta, we recognise the fundamental importance of ensuring accessible healthcare for all. Through such mega health camps, we strive to bolster rural healthcare and create a lasting posi-tive impact on the well-being of our communities. Partnering with the district administration, we will continue to organise more such health interventions to substantially improve the lives of the people in the areas where we operate." Sanyasi Bag, Sarpanch, Munderkhet GP, Hemgir Block, Sundargarh expressed, "Access to quality healthcare is a challenge in our area, especially for the elderly and women. I thank Vedanta for bringing this camp to our community. It ensured that people received quality medical care and guidance without having to leave the village. This initiative was timely and well-executed." Vedanta Aluminium remains dedicated to empowering local communities through promoting education, healthcare, sustainable livelihood, infrastructure, and

19 yrs on, Basanti awaits missing husband's return

grassroots sports and culture

POST NEWS NETWORK

Astaranga, May 26: "He is alive, and he will surely return to me," she says with quiet conviction, as her belief remains firm despite the long absence of her husband and the silence surrounding his whereabouts.

For the past 19 years, Basanti Nayak of Kuhudi village in Puri district has been waiting for her missing husband's return. Now aged 60, she continues to observe the Savitri Brata with unwavering devotion, rekindling her hope year after year that her husband, Prafulla Nayak, will come back to her. In 2006, Prafulla travelled to Bangalore with a fellow villager to work as a labourer. That was the last time Basanti saw him. A few months later, a message arrived: "Prafulla is missing, and we cannot find him." De-

spite continuous efforts, Basanti was never able to trace his location.

She later filed a written complaint with Astaranga police, naming the man who took her husband to Bangalore. But dissatisfied with the police response, sought recourse she through the courts. The person who accompanied Prafulla, Basanti says, neglected his responsibility and failed to provide any

useful information. Basanti's belief in law enforcement has eroded over time. Despite several

visits to the police station, her search for Prafulla has yielded no results. Yet she refuses to give up. Every year, she performs Savitri Brata rituals like any other married Hindu woman. maintaining the vermilion in her forehead and the bangles on her wristsymbols of her hope and commitment.

Each day, Basanti fills a brass pot with water, places it by the door, and waits for dusk, just as she did when Prafulla was expected to return from work. Even after 19 years of loneliness, that door remains open in her heart.

"I still believe my husband is alive. One day. he will walk through that door," she says; her voice both fragile and firm.

The longing has become a part of her existence, and the hope has become a ritual. As yet, there is no end to her wait.



DESCRIPTION EXECUTION OF P.WAY LINKING WORKS IN CONNECTION WITH "PROVISION OF ONE ADDITIONAL LINE WITH HIGH LEVEL PASSENGER PLATFORM AT DOWN LINE SIDE OF PALASA STATION OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION".

Approx Cost of the work (₹): 11 Lakhs, EMD (₹): 2,06,800/-.

Lakris, EMD (1) 2,00,800/-. (2) etenderEastkur-68-2025, Dtd. 15.05.: DESCRIPTION PROPOSED P.I. LINKING WORK AND EXTENSION BRIDGE NO. 462DN INCONNECT WITH PROVISION OF O A D D ITION ALLOOP NEWGARHMADHUPUR (NG) NEWGARHMADHUPUR (NG STATION OF KHURDA ROAD (K DIVISION. Approx Cost of the work (२): 18 Lakhs, <u>EMD(२):</u> 2,40,300/-.

(3) etenderhgkur-69-2025, Dtd. 15.05.2

DESCRIPTION : MISCELLANE P.WAY WORKS AT PURI YARD AN APPROACHES WITHIN THE STA LIMIT UNDER THE JURISDICTION SENIOR SECTION ENGINE P.WAY/KUR OF KHURDA RUDIVISION(PHASE-III).

Approx Cost of the work (₹): .akhs, EMD (₹): 98,500/-

uthKUR-72-2025, Dtd. 16.0 DESCRIPTION : CONSTRUCTION RCC PRE-CAST BOUNDARY W NEAR STATIONS & ITS APPROAC TO PREVENT ENCROACHME TRESPASSING OF TRACK CHATRAPUR, BALUGAON JAGANNATHPUR STATIONS KHURDA ROAD DIVISION Approx Cost of the work (₹): 84 khs, <u>EMD (₹):</u> 5,72,7 Completion period: 12 (Twelve Mor (for SI. No. 1), 09 (Nine Months) (fo No. 2), 04 (Four Months) (for SI. No. 15 (Fifteen Months) (for SI. No. 4). Tender Closing Date and Time: At Hrs. of 06.06.2025 (for all Tenders). lo manual offers sent by Post / Co

Fax or in person shall be accepted ag such e-tenders even if these are subr on firm's letter head and received in All such manual offers shall be consid Invalid and shall be rejected summ without any consideration. Complete information including e-te documents of the above e-Tende

vailable in website : www.ireps.gov Note : The prospective tenderers advised to revisit the website 10 days before the date of closing of tend days before the date of closing of terms note any changes / corrigenda issue this tender. The tenderers/bidders is have Class-III Digital Signature Certifi and must be registered on IREPS Pr Only registered tenderer(s)/ bidder(s) participate on e-tendering.

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg) PR-168/Q/25-26 Khurda Ro

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the UCO Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued a Demand Notice under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrowers, Co-Borrowers & Guarantors to repay the amount as mentioned below within 60 days from the date of the said Notice. The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers, Co-Brrowers & Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken POSSESSION of the property/ies described here-in-below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the date mentioned below. The Borrowers, Co-Borrowers & Guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealings with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of the UCO Bank for the amount plus interest plus expenses-thereon. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of the Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them, to redeem the secured assets.

provisions of Sub-Section (8) of the Section 13 of the Act,	in respect of th	ne available to them,	to redeem the secur	ed assets.
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के ऑफ इंडिया Bank of India Where as the Bank acting through its Authorised Officer in ex of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest A property "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whateve	cone, 1/1D, Star var-751015, Mol kercise of its pow Act 2002 (SARF	House, Jayadev a.: 8985368533 E-Au vers under-Section 13 FAESI) has decided t	o put up for E-auctio	SARFAESIACT, 2 nd Reconstructi n of the followi
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Date & Time of E-Auction: 25.06.2025 From 11.00 A				minutes each.
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Inspection will be provided to the prospective bidder the authorised officer *Successful Bidder to deposit 25% of the bid amou amount to be paid on or before 15th Day of confirma The sale shall be subject to the terms and conditions Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. This is als of the aforesaid loan account for settlement of thei auction on the above mentioned date. For detailed te	nt by next wo ntion of sale. and provision to a 15 days sa	orking day which in ns prescribed in the le notice to the Born	ncludes EMD mone SARFAESI Act 20 rower(s)/Guarantor(ey. The balance 02 read with the solution of t
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Place: Bhubaneswar Date: 27.05.2025

Authorised Officer Bank of India













power post

If you can always smile at life, life will always smile at you.

THE MOTHER

Shocker For Trump

s the saying goes, "better late than never." It is good that US President Donald Trump has realised, though late, yet not too late, that his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin cannot be blindly trusted, as he has so far been doing, for ending Russia's war with Ukraine. The heads of state of most European countries endorsed the view of Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy that Putin would not easily agree to cease-fire and in the name of peace initiatives he was only buying time for reorganising his forces to launch fresh attacks on Ukraine. But, it was Trump alone who put his faith in Putin. The US President had even accused Zelenskyy of pushing the world to the "third world war" by his words and deeds. He found the latter his favourite target of attack in his resolve to establish peace and stop the war between Russia and Ukraine which in his warped view is the creation of "Biden (his immediate predecessor) and Zelenskyy." But, on 25 May Trump had the rude shock when his "friend" Putin launched the worst drone attack on Ukraine since the Russian invasion of the country three years back. He was forced to use the harshest words against Putin whom he now describes as "crazy." He even went on to warn that if Putin attempts to conquer all of Ukraine, it will lead to the "downfall" of Russia. In the same breath, he continued to criticize Zelenskyy in a post on 25 May night itself. His words are an admission of his failure to assess the reality as he had done in the case of his tariff war. He said: "I've always had a very good relationship with Vladimir Putin of Russia. But, he has gone absolutely CRAZY!'

He went even further to claim that he had always said Putin "wants All of Ukraine, not just a piece of it." In fact, this was the fear Zelenskyy had expressed repeatedly and Trump snubbed him for his views on Putin. It appears Trump is not ready even now to admit that his hostility towards Zelenskyy was rather misplaced. This is why he said he did not want Zelenskyy to open his mouth, while conceding to reporters that he was "very surprised" that Putin had intensified the bombardment of Ukrainian cities despite his efforts to broker a ceasefire.

As European countries stepped up sanctions against Russia, Trump had appeared to be in no mood to put pressure on Russia and took the stand that if peace proved elusive, the US would walk away from the whole process. Good sense seems to be dawning on him as he told a reporter in reply to a question that he was now seriously considering putting more sanctions on Russia. His exact words on that possibility are: "Absolutely. He's (Putin) killing a lot of people. What the hell happened to him?'

Earlier in the day, Zelenskyy condemned "the silence of America" after Russia carried out its largest air raid in three years of war, with a second straight night of massive drone and ballistic missile strikes killing at least 12 people, including three children from 24 to 25 May.

It is worth recalling that during his campaign for presidency, Trump repeatedly claimed that if elected, he would end the war in Ukraine in 24 hours. However, the intensity and frequency of this weekend's strikes contrasted sharply with Trump's claim that Putin was interested in peace. Ukraine and its European allies had sought to push Moscow into signing a 30-day ceasefire as a first step to negotiating an end to the war. In a blow to their efforts, Trump last week declined to impose further sanctions on Moscow.

It appears Trump is desperate to play the role of a peacemaker in different regions of the world and become the pivot of a new economic order. So far, in his typical style he is messing things up.

WISDOM CORNER

What's money? A man is a success if he gets up in the morning and goes to bed at night and in between does what he wants

BOB DYLAN

MIDDLE-INCOME TRAP

round 1990, India and China had roughly the same economic income in dollar terms. China's per capita income was lower than that of India. Both were ranked between 140 to 145 out of 190 odd countries. China's economic reforms had started in 1978 but the real momentum to their growth was yet to kick in. India's reforms started in the next year i.e. 1991, thirteen years behind that of China. Fast forward to the present. These two are now the second and fourth largest economies in the world. China became the second largest economy back in 2010. India has attained the fourth rank just this past week as per the International Monetary Fund, and this was proudly announced by the CEO of Niti Aayog, on the sidelines of the meeting of the Governing Council of Niti, chaired by the Prime Minister. The CEO was confident that India would

in the past three decades is

nothing short of spectacular,

historic and unprecedented.

Together the two giants of Asia

represent 40% of humanity.

India's economic size is pres-

ently about \$4.1 trillion, while

China is \$19 trillion which

is five times bigger. India's

economy has grown at 6.3%

per annum from 2000 till 2024

in real terms, as per World

Bank (WB). This is the fastest

growth rate among large econ-

omies. In recent years, the av-

erage rate of growth of India

has gone up to about 7.3%. As

compared to 1990, India's econ-

omy is now 11.5 times bigger,

while the population is only 1.6

times larger. This means the

per capita income has grown

substantially from about \$360

The contrast with China

is most telling. Back in 1990

in 1990 to \$2700 in 2025.



TO BE DONE TO ACHIEVE A HIGH GROWTH WHICH IS SUSTAINED FOR

TWO DECADES, AND ALSO INCLUSIVE



both countries had similar per capita incomes, but in 2025, China's per capita income has raced ahead to \$13,000, almost five times that of India. That's mostly because China's economy expanded by 51 times over the past 35 years. China was able to maintain a real growth rate of 10% per annum for three decades. The two countries were ranked similarly in 1990 in per capita income. But India now ranks 141 out of 197 whereas China's rank is 70. India is now firmly in the middle income bracket. as defined by the WB, whereas China has moved close to being considered a high income country (which is defined as above \$14000 per capita). Above that threshold the WB lingo refers to the grouping as developed economies. India is aiming to achieve that status by 2047. For that to happen India's growth rate has to accelerate and maintain an average of 7.8% in dollar terms for the next 20 years.

It is slightly higher than the average that has been achieved in recent years, i.e. 7.3% Why did India fare poorly as compared to China over the period 1990 to 2025? Is it because of

ignoring the potential of export led growth, dominated by labour intensive exports? Is it because of low investment in primary health and education? Is it be-

cause of the inspector raj which replaced license raj, which was dismantled in 1991? Is it because of India's three-tiered system of governance, which hinders the ease of doing business? Or is it because India's democratic system has a cost to pay in terms of

slower growth? There are many more questions regarding India's poor performance when compared to China, but pursuit of these is fruitless for now. It is time to focus on what needs to be done to achieve a high growth which is sustained for two decades, and also inclusive, so that it leads to growth in per capita incomes as well. This would mean growth of productivity, wages, household incomes and high quality jobs. If that is not achieved, then India might very well become the third largest economy by 2047, but will be stuck in the middle income trap, and per capita income may stagnate well below \$10,000. This has indeed been the fate of most economies in the past 50 years, as documented by the WB, whose report shows that only 34 countries have been able to transition from middle income to high income bracket, while 108 countries are stuck in the middle income trap. The trap is being stuck at a per capita income of about one tenth of the US or

about \$8000 in present terms. For India, lessons from countries like South Korea (the most impressive transition), Chile and Poland are probably most relevant to escape the middle-income trap. But time is running out. As WB research shows, it requires a combination of 3 I's, called investment, infusion and innovation, to ensure that a country transitions from middle income to high income.

As Prime Minister Modi said and urged in the meeting of the Governing Council of Niti. that all states should strive to attain developed economy status, nay all cities and villages in the states too. This means faster, sustained and inclusive growth at all levels. It means unshackling the growth potential of small firms (not micro), which contribute to growth in jobs, output and exports. It also means unshackling the farm sector, predominantly a state subject. The first "I" of WB stands for investment, which India must increase to 40% of GDP. It must also increase labour force participation of women from 35 to 50%. The second "I" refers to infusion of new technologies, by linking with global value chains, by trade agreements, and reducing tariffs and barriers to foreign investment. The third "I" is innovation, meaning enabling greater investment in research and development, both by the public and private sector, and massive upgradation to human capital with skilling, training and employability. India has to achieve this while facing the formidable task of net zero carbon emissions by 2070. keeping income inequality under control, and strengthening cooperative federalism, in a three-tiered robust democracy.

> The writer is a noted economist. ©THE BILLION PRESS

SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

No development strategy can ignore climate

fter decades of industrialisation powered by fossil L fuels, the costs of climate change are becoming ever more apparent in both the Global South and the Global North. quality. They also understand that climate and development financing are not at odds with one another or moving on separate tracks; rather, they are closely aligned with goals of made real progress in slowing climate change over the past few decades. But now more than ever, partnerships between development banks and their clients are crucial to restore destroyed

announced a \$1 billion loan to support these efforts.

Among other things, this project will establish Eco Invest Brazil, an initiative to offer currency hedging (protection against ex-

Pick the day. Enjoy it - to the hilt. The day as it comes. People as they come... The past, I think, has helped me appreciate the

present - and I don't want to spoil any of it by fretting about the future.

- AUDREY HEPBURN
- Everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of human freedoms - to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way.

VIKTOR F. FRANKI

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1660: The Treaty of Copenhagen between Sweden and Denmark-Norway was signed, concluding a generation of warfare between the two powers as well as helping to establish the modern boundaries of Denmark, Norway, and Sweden.
- **1703:** Founding of St. Petersburg. Founded this day in 1703 by Peter the Great, St. Petersburg has played a vital role in Russian history and is especially known as the scene of the 1917 revolutions and as a fiercely defended city during World War II.
- **1933:** Walt Disney released the animated short film The Three Little Pigs, which featured the song Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Wolf?; highlighting fortitude in the face of adversity, both the cartoon and the song proved highly popular with Depression-era moviegoers.
- **1942:** Czech resistance fighters kill Reinhard Heydrich. The high-ranking German Nazi official was one of the main architects of the Holocaust. In retaliation, the Nazis murdered all male inhabitants over 15 years of age in the Czech village of Lidice and deported most of the remaining people to concentration camps
- 1964: India's first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru died in New Delhi.
- **1994:** Exiled from the Soviet Union since February 13, 1974, for writing The Gulag Archipelago, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, who won the 1970 Nobel Prize for Literature, returned to his Russian homeland.

THE TEXAN FARMER

A Texan farmer goes to Australia for a vacation. There he meets an Aussie farmer and gets talking. The Aussie shows off his big wheat field and the Texan says, "Oh! We have wheat fields that are at least twice as large". Then they walk around the ranch a little and the Aussie shows off his herd of cattle. The Texan immediately says, "We have



that are at least twice as large as

your cows" The conversation has, meanwhile, almost died when the Texan sees a herd of kangaroos hopping through the field. He asks, "And what are those"?

The Aussie asks with an incredulous look, "Don't you have any grasshoppers in Texas"?



Marcos Vinicius Chiliatto & Michael Krake

MOST COUNTRIES KNOW THAT THEY CANNOT IGNORE CLIMATE CHANGE IN PURSUING THEIR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENDAS

In Germany, flooding in 2021 left 190 people dead, displaced 40,000, and caused \$40 billion in damage. And in Brazil, the 2024 Rio Grande do Sul flood claimed 183 lives and displaced more than 600,000 people, and Amazon wildfires destroyed an area the size of New Jersey and wreaked havoc on the regional economy, destroying livestock and agriculture, and causing tourism to plummet.

Even as US President Donald Trump has loudly proclaimed America's withdrawal from the Paris climate agreement (again), a silent revolution is taking place just about everywhere else. Most countries know that they cannot ignore climate change in pursuing their economic development agendas. They understand that climate policies boost investment in important industries such as energy and manufacturing, support the development of new technologies that enhance productive capacities, and improve job

driving productivity growth and social development.

This is certainly true for most countries served by the World Bank and its regional peers. These countries are demanding financing and expertise for "climate-smart" investments. They want to develop renewable energy sources as part of a broader strategy to improve energy access, cut emissions, and reduce dependencies. And they are strengthening the resilience of their infrastructure to more frequent floods, droughts, and storms, ultimately saving far more than they would spend on disaster recovery.

In response to these demands, the World Bank Group announced, in 2024, that it will raise its climate-finance target to 45% of its total loan portfolio. At the COP29 last November, multilateral development banks collectively committed to providing \$120 billion in annual climate financing for lowand middle-income countries by 2030. To be sure, humankind has

natural resources, and to develop new industries, standards, designs, and technologies to cope with a changing climate.

For example, the International Finance Corporation, the private-sector arm of the World Bank Group, was instrumental in designing climate-friendly "green" building standards. Now, buildings constructed according to these standards are cheaper to operate. Not only do they have lower energy and maintenance costs; they are more resilient to damage and tend to outperform in terms of property value. As the host of the next climate summit, COP30, the Brazilian government is implementing important structural reforms that recognise climate-change adaptation, mitigation, and biodiversity protection as essential drivers of productivity and growth. And in March, the World Bank, in close collaboration with the Inter-American Development Bank and the Asian Infra-

structure Investment Bank,

change-rate volatility) for green investments, thus creating the structural conditions for more private investment in the country's green transformation.

Developing countries will continue to grapple with persistent poverty and inequality, and the effects of climate change will only intensify. Since these challenges overlap and reinforce each other, they require integrated solutions.

That is why most countries are no longer treating climate action as a separate agenda. They are embedding adaptation and mitigation within their development strategies and aligning economic growth, job creation, and social inclusion with environmental sustainability. This shift is well underway. It is driven not by ideology, but by necessity and pragmatic governance.

The writers are Executive Directors of the World Bank Group. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

Uneven growth

Sir, This refers to "India now 4th largest economy," Orissa POST, May 26. India proudly claims its place as the world's fourth-largest economy, a milestone reflecting robust GDP growth and expanding markets. Yet, this impressive ranking masks deep structural inequalities. Economic size does not automatically translate into improved living standards for the majority. Despite growth, millions still struggle with poverty, inadequate healthcare, poor education, and unemployment. The GDP figure inflates with booming sectors like IT, finance, and manufacturing, but benefits of this growth remain unevenly distributed. Rural India, where most people live, continues to grapple with basic infrastructure deficits. Rising inflation and jobless growth fuel discontent, exposing the fragile foundation beneath the headline numbers. True progress demands inclusive growth, where prosperity reaches every household. This requires comprehensive reforms in education, healthcare, social security, and rural development-not just focusing on the GDP growth rate. Being the fourth largest economy is, no doubt, a milestone, but the real test lies in translating that size into tangible improvements in the people's lives. Until then, the numbers remain hollow victories.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

King of Clay

Sir, The emotional farewell on day one at the Roland-Garros was a wonderful tribute to the 'King of Clay' and fourteen-time French Open winner Rafael Nadal. It was like Nadal had guarded the Roland-Garros like a demesne, repelling one generation after the next. Playing against him on clay was akin to scaling the Mont Blanc without any ropes. Fourteen titles at the Roland-Garros that the great Spaniard won stands as one of sport's greatest achievements, a feat likely to stand forever. It was all the more fitting that Nadal's contemporary greats such as Roger Federer, Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray had turned up at the French Open to participate in the farewell, symbolising the approaching end of a golden era in men's tennis.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

10 requested to send their contact address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to:

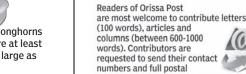


edit@orissapost.com

etters

TO THE EDITOR

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010













TWO STATES

KHELO INDIA BEACH GAMES

TN fishermen fuel India's beach volleyball growth

community has

strongest and most resilient

lifestyle-pulling fishing nets,

players in the game. Their

walking on shifting sand,

ed for beach volleyball

AJ MARTIN SUDHAKAR

VOLLEYBALL COACH

Media.

constant exposure to sun-

builds the perfect stamina,

balance, and strength need-

nity has given us some of the

strongest and most resilient

players in the game. Their

lifestyle-pulling fishing nets,

walking on shifting sand, con-

stant exposure to sun—builds

the perfect stamina, balance,

and strength needed for beach

volleyball," Sudhakar told SAI

"That is why they adapt to

beach volleyball faster than

most. Their lower bodies are

already conditioned for the

uneven terrain. Endurance

and adaptability to sand are

critical. Acclimatization is part

of the game. Fisherman boys

adapt faster because they live

in this weather. That's a major

Bharat and Robin are both

unemployed despite their in-

ternational medals. "Their fam-

ilies are not rich. Their fathers

are fishermen and plumbers.

But their biggest support has

been the freedom to pursue

the sport even without jobs.

This however can't go on for-

ever," Sudhakar said. "If they

get government jobs, at least

100-150 more youngsters from

the community will take up the

"We are organising a 10-day

sport seriously."

reason why they excel.'

given us some of the



Diu, May 26: Volleyball powerhouse Tamil Nadu became champions in both men's and women's categories at the Khelo India Beach Games (KIBG) 2025 in Diu. The dominance of the South Indian state in this sport is a routine affair; one story however stood out from the sand courts – the rise of beach volleyball players from the state's fishing hamlets.

Two athletes in particular, Robin Ravi, 23, and Bharat Somu, 22, have emerged from the Palavakkam coastal community to represent India at international events like the Central Asian Volleyball Association (CAVA) Continental Cup finals in Bangladesh in 2023, winning bronze. The duo also won the silver medal in the men's volleyball tournament at the inaugural KIBG Friday.

"We live on the beach. It's our life. Walking, working, and playing on the sand is second nature to us," Robin and Bharat said unanimously. Their journey, like many others in the fisherman community, began by watching seniors play volleyball in nearby makeshift courts. Both players started young - Robin at 10 and Bharat at 15. With no formal coaching in the beginning. they learned through observation and passion.

"They have been practicing on a ground within their own hamlet in Palavakkam. Their dream is to represent India at the Olympics," said AJ Martin Sudhakar, veteran volleyball coach and administrator, who was also the competition manager for the sport at KIBG 2025.

Sudhakar was the coach camp in Chennai from next

ven cricket

Beach volleyball was intro duced in the Khelo India platform for the first time this year. "This is one of the best spectator sports. It can be developed quickly. It's time we support it fully," Sudhakar, who has been an executive member of the Asian Volleyball Confederation's Beach Council for 12 years, said. Speaking of the Tamil Nadu's continuous dominance in indoor or beach volleyball, Sudhakar added, "We have courts even in schools. Districts like Nagapattinam and Maviladuthurai have produced excellent players.

"Other coastal states should also replicate this. European countries are creating artificial sand courts in towns. We don't even need that. We have natural beaches. Just put one foot of sand and start," Sudhakar, also the General Secretary of Tamil Nadu State Volleyball Association, said.

At the Khelo India Beach Games 2025, Jammu & Kashmir and Chhattisgarh reached the quarters, before Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Puducherry and Andhra Pradesh took over as semi-finalists, "Jammu & Kash mir players from the police unit came just one day before the

match, with no sand court back home. Still, they reached the quarterfinals. That's self-motivation." continued Sudhakar.

The model from Tamil Nadu is replicable for North Indian states too, he said. It starts with identifying the right environments, investing in basic infrastructure, encouraging youth through schools and universities, and giving financial security to top performers. "The northern states can start small. You don't need a beach. Just get sand, mark a court, and begin. The Federation must send coaches, hold clinics, and engage with state sports departments. That's the way forward,"

he added Sudhakar believes a national roadmap can change this. "Conduct seminars, train local coaches, and assign them to regional academies. Bring foreign experts from Brazil, USA, or Europe for three-month stints. That's how the sport will rise. We don't need snow-covered indoor sand courts like Europe. We have natural beaches-let's



Students stage a protest demanding an apology from Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla over the alleged removal of 'Manipur' signage from a state government bus, in Imphal, Monday

Nagaland varsity researchers identify stingless bee species

This is the maiden attempt to work out the pollination potential of stingless bees and quality production of honey, which led to increased income and sustainable livelihood

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 26: Research ers at Nagaland University have identified stingless bee species that can be used to increase quality and quantity of agricultural yield through pollination, according to officials.

The stingless bee species identified are Tetragonula iridipennis Smith and Lepido trigona arcifera Cockerell. The research has been published in several reputed, peer-reviewed iournals, including Internation al Journal of Farm Sciences.

According to Avinash Chau han, Scientist and Principal Investigator (AICRP Honeybees and Pollinators), Department of Entomology. School of Ag-



honey produced by the bees during the experiments also provided extra income besides good crop production." he said.

"Our team found that chilli crop, when pollinated by these bees, increases the crop production and quality as compared to crop where pollidorsata, A florea and other wild to be conserved." Chauhan said.

non pollinated crop (21.00 pc).

the different stakeholders with lots of opportunities to rear the stingless bees for quality honey production without fear of mixing of impurities in honey and minimizing bee losses, which led to more profitability in this profession," he said. 'We are still working to im-

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TUESDAY | MAY 27, 2025 | BHUBANESWAF

prove the beekeeping rearing techniques and to promote sci entific beekeeping with honey bees and stingless bees for

better honey production and pollination of crops The focus is also to raise awareness among the peo ple for the conservation of other wild honey bees and pol-

linators," he said. Stingless bees are reported from North East India, East-

ern India and Southern Indi an States, with recent addi tions from North, Central and Western Indian states. Unlike all the states where stingless bee rearing is still in nascent stages in North Eastern and Southern states, the stingless bees are reared in the traditional manner in homestead apiaries.

However, in the last 7-10 years, the scientific domesti cation of these bees involving the development of scientific hives and mass multiplication of stingless bee colonies using queen cells is achieved in Na galand and is extended to oth er states like Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh.

> The listing of Greater **Chennai Corporation** bonds on the NSE is a

strategic step to fund vital

ture, strengthen urban fi-

and innovative financial

management

stormwater drain infrastruc-

nances and reduce the fiscal

burden through transparent

NE SUMMIT **Arunachal attracts** investment proposals worth ₹6,357 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Itanagar, May 26: Arunachal Pradesh has attracted investment proposals worth ₹6.357 crore through the signing of 16 memoranda of understanding (MoUs) during the Rising Northeast Investors Summit, held in New Delhi from May 23 to 24, an official statement said here.

The agreements include key sectors such as agri-biofuel, afforestation, healthcare, education, information technology. tourism, and renewable energy.

The MoUs were signed be tween the state Planning & Investment secretary, and representatives from various companies, the statement said

Among the major projects is a ₹2,324 crore investment proposal by Agri-Biofuel Global Ltd to convert agricultural waste into aviation and maritime fuel, while Developer Group India Pvt Ltd committed ₹1,760 crore for afforestation and carbon credit monetisation, along with additional investments for bamboo plantations.

Inlamobi Pvt Ltd has pro-



benefit all stakeholders. The BOON FOR AGRI YIELD

nation is not accomplished. For supplementing the pollination deficit in chilli, stingless bees and honeybee species like A bees like halictid bees, syrphid bees and Amegiella bees need

In king-chilli the per cent fruit set was increased to 29.46 pc over

of Pradeep John and Mohan Poothathan, who gave India a 9th place finish in Volleyball at the 2006 Asian Games. This was Indian volleyball's best-ever finish at the continental event.

The fishermen community has a natural advantage, he said. "The fisherman commumonth specifically for the fisherman community. These efforts will scale our presence in national and international circuits," he added. "The community is very tight-knit. If one succeeds, everyone follows. It's not just volleyball. They play beach football, kabaddi, and use them wisely," he said.

"The easiest way to grow in global volleyball is through beach volleyball. And this is the best time. We also need to employ these players and give them a future. That's how you build a sports ecosystem," Sudhakar concluded.

posed ₹1,000 crore to set up a European Blue Valley Fragrances & Flavours Ayush cluster, while Medhavi Group will invest ₹178 crore to establish a skill, innovation and tribal entrepreneurship university at Ziro, expected to generate over 430 direct jobs.

ricultural Sciences, Nagaland University.

"Stingless bees could be used for pollination without fear of being stung. They are known for their popular medicinal honey and pollination potential, which paves the way formulation of crop pollination calendars to fruits were increased by 7.42 pc and 7.92 pc over non-pollinated crop. Similarly, seed weight which is an indicator of viability or germination increased by 60.74 pc when pollinated by stingless bees.

Likewise in Chilli (Capsicum an-

nuum), the fruit set and healthy

"The research outcomes of last seven to ten years provided

TN slaps fine on NHAI for dumping excavated material in Odiyur Lagoon



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, May 26: The Tamil Nadu State Coastal Zone Management Authority (TN-SCZMA) has imposed an environmental compensation of ₹9.60 lakh on the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for violating Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) norms during the construction of a bridge under the East Coast Road (ECR) expansion project.

The penalty was levied for the continuous dumping of excavated material into the ecologically sensitive Odiyur Lagoon in Chengalpattu district. The decision was taken at a recent meeting of the Authority, based on provisions of the CRZ Notification, 2011, and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986

The action follows a petition filed by Palluyir Trust for Nature Education and Research, which highlighted the violations occurring during the

bridge construction.

Following the petition, the Authority directed the District Collector of Chengalpattu to conduct an on-site inspection to verify whether the alleged dumping was taking place within the CRZ area and to take necessary action.

The District Collector's report confirmed that NHAI was indeed dumping construction debris into Odiyur Lagoon, in direct violation of CRZ clearance conditions.

According to the original CRZ clearance issued to NHAI in October 2020, one of the key stipulations was that no excavated material should be dumped in water bodies or surrounding areas.

Additionally, the site was to be restored to its near-original condition upon completion of the bridge construction. The Authority stated that NHAI had failed to comply with these conditions.

Vet-turned-entrepreneur weaves rural empowerment

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gangtok, May 26: A Sikkim-based apparel brand, which gained national recognition after being featured in the latest 122nd edition of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Mann Ki Baat, is helping the state's rural people earn livelihood through sustainable entrepreneurship.

The person behind the initiative is veterinary doctor Chewang Norbu Bhutia, who founded Crafted Fibres, an apparel brand that blends traditional handloom techniques with contemporary design.

Launched in July 2024 under Fibersgenisx Private Limited, the brand produces items such as shawls, stoles, gloves and socks, all crafted using modern aesthetics and indigenous craftsmanship.

According to Bhutia, about 30-40 per cent of the raw materials come from Sikkim itself. including wool from angora rabbits and sheep. Other fibres such as hemp,

banana silk and merino wool are sourced from outside, with Assam being a major supplier. The production process avoids synthetic dyes, opting



instead for natural. eco-friendly alternatives, he added.

Bhutia's journey began long before the brand's launch.

Since 2016–17, he has been working in South Sikkim, distributing livestock and training farmers in wool extraction, carding, spinning, and natural dyeing.

A significant portion of the workforce comprises women artisans, trained through selfhelp groups and producer collectives.

With support from NABARD, a cooperative society for weavers was established. Today, Crafted Fibres supports 15-20 weavers who earn between ₹15,000 and ₹30,000 monthly,

with payments ensured even when inventory remains unsold, Bhutia added.

With the project now acknowledged at the national level, Bhutia is looking to expand to urban and overseas markets while staying grounded in community welfare and cultural preservation.

Chief Minister PS Tamang took to Facebook to congratulate Bhutia on being featured in Mann Ki Baat. He said Bhutia's inspiring journey is a proud moment for us all. "This national recognition not only honours Dr. Bhutia's dedication but also celebrates Sikkim's cultural heritage and entrepreneurial spirit," he said.

Chennai corporation's municipal bonds listed on NSE; CM rings bell

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, May 26: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin Monday presided over the bell ceremony here to mark the listing of the municipal bonds of the Greater Chennai Corporation in the National Stock Exchange and the government said there has been excellent response to the bonds as the subscription was 4.21 times at ₹421 crore.

The Chennai Corporation has successfully raised ₹200 crore by issuing 10-year tenure municipal bonds at 7.97 per cent interest rate, the lowest among bonds of same category issued this year, an official release here said.

The bonds witnessed an excellent response, as the subscription was 4.21 times at ₹421 crore and the base issue was ₹100 crore, and this showed the great confidence of the inMK STALIN CM, TAMIL NADU vestors in the robust financial management of the Greater

Chennai Corporation. Also, India Ratings and Acuite Ratings have assigned AA+ rating for the municipal bonds of the GCC. The Tamil Nadu government has created special financial support un der the Project Sustainability Grant Fund in order to encourage the Chennai corporation and strengthen the investors confidence





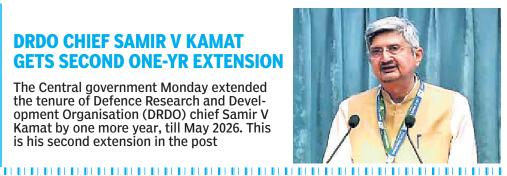
national



Facilities like toilets, drinking water, playgrounds, smart class-es, and digital libraries are now available in these schools YOGI ADITYANATH UP CHIEF MINISTER

DRDO CHIEF SAMIR V KAMAT GETS SECOND ONE-YR EXTENSION

The Central government Monday extended the tenure of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) chief Samir V Kamat by one more year, till May 2026. This is his second extension in the post



Liberian shipwreck; ICG ramps up oil spill response

It is a constraint of time. Let's accept ONOE and move forward embracing devel opment

PAWAN KALYAN AP DEPUTY CM

We have allocated Rs 700 crore for drains, streets, toilets, bathrooms, and parks in the slums

through DUSIB. I promise that slum dwellers will be provided pucca houses and till then you will live safely and stay put with all facilities

REKHA GUPTA DELHI CM



Pradesh government would not file an appeal against the order of the High Court to

transfer Vimal Negi death case to the CBI and will fully cooperate with the CBI as we want justice for Negi's family SUKHVINDER SINGH SUKHU

HIMACHAL PRADESH CM

SHORT TAKES

Karnataka govt to sue BJP for defamation

Bangalore: The Congress government in Karnataka has decided to initiate a defamation case against the state BJP for allegedly indulging in false propaganda about its performance. The government, in an official notification issued Sunday, has cited alleged misinformation, distortion and lies by the BJP through its campaign in visual media and print media under the title-"charge sheet about two years' failure of the state government".

Ex-BJP MLA dies

in road accident

Chhatrapati

Sambhajinagar: Former Maharashtra MLA and BJP leader from Beed district R T Deshmukh died in a road accident Monday evening in Latur district, a police official said. The accident took place at around 4.15 pm on a flyover near Belkund village

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi/New Delhi, May 26: As a Liberian cargo ship sank off the Kerala coast causing oil slick, the Indian Coast Guard has deployed offshore patrol vessels for monitoring of the site while pollution response vessel Samudra Prahari has been mobilised as the ICG intensified surveillance and spill mitigation efforts.

has been issued along the en-

tire Kerala coast," according to

a statement issued by the Chief

Minister's Office (CMO) earlier

The ministry in a fresh statement Monday said hours after Authorities in Kerala Monthe container vessel sank, the Indian Coast Guard's surveilday said many of its containers have started to wash ashore, lance aircraft detected an "oil with some of those being found slick" at the site, and the ICG has launched a "full-scale pollualong the coasts of southern Kollam and Alappuzha distion response operation". tricts. "As there is a risk of the The ICG has intensified oil spill spreading, a high alert

surveillance and spill mitigation efforts using aerial sorties and specialised dispersal equipment, the ministry said. The ICG launched a "full-scale

in the day. Liberian container

vessel -- MSC ELSA 3 -- sank off

the Kochi coast early Sunday,

due to flooding. It 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 of De-

fence said Sunday.



pollution response operation following the sinking of the Liberian vessel, which sank approximately 15 nautical miles southwest of Alappuzha, Kerala, the ministry said.

"By late morning May 25, the oil slick was spotted drifting east-southeast from the site of the sinking at a speed of 1.5 to 2 knots. Rough sea conditions and strong winds made response efforts more challenging. "Despite the hazardous situation, with over 100 cargo containers floating in the area, some breaking apart and releasing their contents, ICG continued operations with full effect. To ensure safety, all passing ships have been diverted, and mariners have been

THE LEAK HAS SPARKED A STATEWIDE ALERT, AS THE SPILL IS DRIFTING AND COULD SOON IMPACT THE ECOLOGICALLY SENSITIVE KERALA COASTLINE.

THE ICG HAS INTENSIFIED SURVEILLANCE AND SPILL MITIGATION EFFORTS USING AERIAL SORTIES AND SPECIALISED DISPERSAL EQUIPMENT, THE MINISTRY SAID.

warned to navigate cautiously due to floating debris and potential navigation hazards," it added.

The Mercantile Marine Department, Kochi, issued a pollution liability warning to the vessel owners M/s MSC under the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, the ministry said.

The MSC appointed T&T Salvage for container recovery, oil removal, and environ-

mental clean-up. Earlier in the day, a high-level meeting was convened by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan to assess the situation. An advisory has been issued urging coastal residents and fishermen to remain vigilant. So far, nine containers have washed ashore, and an advisory has been reiterated for coastal residents and fishermen to remain alert, according to a

statement issued by the CMO. The statement further noted that there is a higher likelihood of containers washing ashore along the coasts of Alappuzha, Kollam, Ernakulam, and Thiruvananthapuram districts.

A full pollution response preparedness has been activated by the Indian Coast Guard which was monitoring the situation along with the Indian Navy.

COVID SURGE Infection severity mild, says ICMR DG

Speaking about new Covid variants being traced, he said genome sequencing of samples in the west and south have shown that the new variants are not severe and are Omicron sub-variants



New Delhi, May 26: Amid an uptick in Covid cases in some parts of the country, Director General of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Dr Rajiv Behl Monday said the severity of infections as of now is generally mild and there was

no cause for worry. Speaking about new Covid variants being traced, he said genome sequencing of samples in the west and south have shown that the new variants are not severe and are Omicron sub-variants. These are LF.7, XFG, JN.1 and NB. 1.8.1.

The first three are more prev-

pendent on three factors with the first being how transmissible it is, conversely how fast the cases are increasing. Previouslv we saw Covid cases double in two days, but this time it is not that cases are increasing rapidly. He also said that the third factor is the percentage of severe cases in all Covid instances. "Are we getting a very severe disease without comorbidities? As of now, the severity is generally low. There's nothing to worry about. We should be vigilant and we should always be prepared," the ICMR DG asserted.

Dr Behl also informed reporters that the Union Health secretary chaired a meeting on Sunday that was also attended by the director general of health services and himself. "We have been closely

monitoring the situation. We should be vigilant at this moment, but there is no cause to worry. The general public



Married women perform rituals under a Banyan tree on Vat Savitri Puja in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

SC collegium backs elevation Elections to 8 of 3 HC judges to apex court Assam June 19

РТІ РНОТО

in the central Maharashtra district when Deshmukh was travelling on the Tuljapur-Latur road in an SUV, he said

Jobless teachers seek reinstatement in talks

Kolkata: A six-member delegation of agitating teachers, who lost their jobs following a recent Supreme Court order, met West Bengal education department officials Monday in an attempt to find a resolution to the ongoing impasse. The members of the Deserving Teachers' Rights Forum held a two-hour meeting with the Principal Secretary of education department and another senior official at Bikash Bhavan, the headquarters of the education department in Salt Lake.

alent, Dr Behl said. "Samples from other places are being seshould be vigilant. There is no quenced and we will know in need to take any such action a day or two if there are more as of now," he said. variants.'

Surveillance Programme (ID-

SP)

The officer added that the The ICMR DG said there has WHO database has been showbeen an uptick in cases --first ing that the new variants were not causing severe disease. from the south, then west and now from northern India. All "People do not need to take these cases are being monitored any immediate action. They through the Integrated Disease

should follow normal precautions. So, there is nothing special to do right now ' Asked about the need for a

Besides that, ICMR's nationwide respiratory virus sentinel booster dose, he said there is surveillance network is keepno need for vaccination as of ing a watch on emerging infecnow. "India has the capability to make vaccines and if need tions and pathogens, he said. be, we can make any vaccine "Whenever cases increase. we look at three things. It's dein no time."

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 26: The Supreme Court collegium Monday recommended the appointments of Karnataka High Court Chief Justice N V Anjaria, Gauhati High Court Chief Justice Vijay Bishnoi, and Bombay High Court judge Justice A S Chandurkar as judges of the top court.

The five-member collegium headed by Chief Justice B R Gavai decided to recommend the names as against the three existing vacancies of judges in the top court following the

superannuation of ex-CJI Sanjiv Khanna, and Justices Abhay S Oka and Hrishikesh Rov. Besides these three judges, the collegium has also recommended elevation of five high court judges as chief justices of the high courts of Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Gauhati. Patna and Jharkhand.

The collegium recommended that Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva, who is presently a judge of the Madhya Pradesh High Court, be appointed as the chief justice of that high court. It recommended that Patna High Court judge Justice Vipul

Manubhai Pancholi be elevated as the chief justice of that high court. The collegium further recommended that Himachal Pradesh High Court judge Justice Tarlok Singh Chauhan be appointed as the chief justice of the Jharkhand High Court.

It said vacancy in the Jharkhand High Court is likely to arise consequent upon transfer of the incumbent chief justice. Supreme Court judge Justice Bela M Trivedi is also set to superannuate June 9, and May 16 was her last working day at the apex court.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 26: Elections for eight Raiva Sabha seats two in Assam and six in Tamil Nadu -- will be held June 19, the poll panel announced Monday

The two Rajya Sabha seats in Assam and the six in Tamil Nadu fell vacant in June and July, respectively. The BJP-led NDA which has 84 seats in the 126-member Assam Assembly will look to retain both the Ra jya Sabha seats being vacated

by Birendra Prasad Baishya of the Asom Gana Parishad and Mission Ranjan Das of the BJP. In Tamil Nadu, the ruling DMK-led alliance appears set to win four of the six seats falling vacant, while the AIADMK and its alliance part ner PMK will seek to retain the two seats they currently hold.

The terms of six members from Tamil Nadu -- Anbu mani Ramadoss (PMK), N Chandrasegharan (AIADMK) Mohamed Abdulla (DMK), M Shanmugam (DMK), P Wilson (DMK) and Vaiko (MDMK) will end July 24.

The elections are unlikely to make any difference in the politi cal equations in the Rajya Sabha

The notification for the Rajya Sabha elections will be issued June 2, the Election Commission said and the counting of votes will take place on the same day The last date for filing nomina tion papers is scheduled for June 9. The results could be declared the same day if the number of persons filing the nomination papers is equal to the number of seats falling vacant.

Assembly elections are scheduled in Assam and Tam il Nadu next year and political equations such as the role of alliance partners in the state are expected to find a reflection in the selection of candidates.

India launches highest resolution weather forecasting model

UP: Leopard spotted in Saharanpur village

Saharanpur (UP): The forest department in Uttar Pradesh's Saharanpur district launched a search operation after some residents of Bastam village in Deoband area sighted a leopard on Monday morning. officials said. The sighting triggered fear across the area, prompting hundreds of residents to gather at the site.

Rains disrupt normal life in coastal K'taka

Mangaluru: Heavy monsoon rains lashed Karnataka's coastal belt for the third consecutive day Monday, severely disrupting normal life in Dakshina Kannada district, prompting authorities to issue a red alert and deploy disaster response teams.

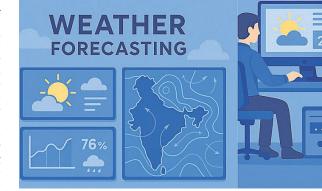
New Delhi, May 26: India Monday unveiled a homegrown weather forecasting system with a spatial resolution of six km -- the highest in the world -- that would enable the weather office to issue more localised and accurate forecasts.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Developed by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), the Bharat Forecasting System (BFS) will be operational from this monsoon season and place India among the global leaders in weather prediction, Earth Sciences Minis-

ter Jitendra Singh said. The BFS will be the only global numerical weather prediction system in the world deployed at such a high resolution, representing a major advancement in India's forecasting capabilities.

The numerical global forecast models run by the European, British and US weather offices have a resolution between



9 km and 14 km.

'The tropical region is a chaotic region for weather. The change in weather patterns is unpredictable and higher resolution models are required to capture the spatial changes,' M Ravichandran, Secretary,

Ministry of Earth Sciences said. Singh said the BFS would boost monsoon tracking, aviation, cyclone monitoring and disaster management, agriculture, waterways, defence, and flood forecasting, and also support key ministries.

"A proud marker of our rise as the world's fourth largest economy under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, this unique forecast system promises to supplement India's economy by saving on potential losses and simultaneously adding on potential gains," Singh said.

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

The Bharat Forecasting System will be the only global numerical weather prediction system in the world deployed at such a high resolution, representing a major advancement in India's forecasting capabilities

hopadhyay, was made possible due to the 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 forecast ing 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 network 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.











national



Had Balasaheb Thackeray been alive, he would have hugged Prime Minister Narendra **Modi for the success** of Operation Sindoor AMIT SHAH | UNION

DOVAL'S PLANNED TRIP TO MOSCOW CALLED OFF

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval's planned trip to Moscow this week has been called off as he is indisposed due to seasonal flu, sources said Monday







the country are welcome MOHAN YADAV | MP CM

A delegation from Thomas Cook' India's leading travel and forex company called on me today

at my office. We discussed strengthening tourism and travel opportunities in Jammu & Kashmir

omar abdullah | j&k cm



HIMANTA BISWA SARMA ASSAM CN





a nationalist. When people deliberately misguide you in the name of nationalism, you need to know. Devina ji has raised some very valid points.

@Akshat_World

SHORT TAKES

Pension, retiral benefits cannot be delayed: HC

Kolkata: The Calcutta High Court said pension and other retiral benefits, one earned by an employee after rendering long and continuous service, cannot be delayed even by a single day. In its order dated May 23, Justice Gaurang Kanth said delay in such cases causes hardships to retired employees, who depend on these dues for sustenance.

Image: Warding State of Basic State Image: Warding State



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 26: Monsoon arrived in Mumbai with a bang Monday, with heavy downpour leading to suspension of suburban train services on Central Railway's Harbour line, while waterlogging was reported from several areas in the metropolis. Heavy rainfall was also reported from parts of west-

ern Maharashtra and coastal Konkan region. A man died after being struck by lightning in Raigad district, an official said. Operations on the Metro line 3, also known as the Aqua Line, were suspended between Acharya Atre Chowk and Worli Monday, after heavy rains in-

undated an underground station, officials said. "The southwest monsoon made its onset over Mumbai today. This is the earliest onset in Mumbai in the last 75 years," IMD scientist Sushma Nair said.

Nair said southwest monsoon arrived in Mumbai May 29 in 1956. It arrived on the same date in 1962 and 1971, she added. The Mumbai Metro Rail Cor-

poration (MMRC) suspended the operation after flooding was reported at the under-

ground Acharya Atre Chowk station. The inundation inside the metro station has raised concerns about construction quality and monsoon preparedness of the underground metro station on the 33-km long Colaba-BKC-Aarey JVLR underground metro corridor.

The MMRC, in a statement, said, "Due to the sudden and intense rainfall today, water seepage was reported at the under-construction entry/exit structure of Acharya Atrey Chowk station along Dr Annie Besant Road. The incident occurred when the RCC water-retaining wall constructed

an adjoining utility.' As a precautionary measure and to ensure passenger safety, train services between Worli and Acharya Atrey Chowk have been temporarily sus-

pended, the agency said. However, the services from Aarey JVLR to Worli are not affected and are running regu-

larly, it said. Chowk stations.

over waterlogging

Mumbai: The early arrival of the monsoon triggered a political slugfest heavy rains inundating an underground station. Another opposition party, the Congress, said despite spending crores to clean Mumbai, improve roads, or fix the drainage system.

Viral videos showed waterlogging inside the station premises, including platforms, ticketing bay and surrounding areas

One of the videos shows rainwater leaking along the escalators, while the false ceiling inside the station lay collapsed. and some machinery is seen

first fully underground Metro line and is currently under phased construction.

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) said the highest precipitation was recorded at Nariman Point Fire Station (104 mm) in the southern tip of the city, followed by A Ward Office (86 mm), Colaba pumping station (83 mm), and Municipal Head Office (80 mm) between 9 am and 10 am.

Amid the India Meteorological Department's (IMD) warnings about thunderstorms and gusty winds, an intense spell of rain lashed parts of Mumbai, especially the island city, for a couple of hours.

Bhuj, May 26: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday asked the people of Pakistan to raise their voices against terrorism. asserting while India believes in tourism, "Pakistan considers terrorism as tourism," a mindset he warned was not only ruining their nation, but also posing a grave danger to the world.

Speaking at a rally in Bhuj Gujarat, on his first visit to the state since Operation Sindoor, India's military response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, in which tourists were targeted. Modi warned that if Pakistan's citizens do not choose peace, they would face the wrath of the Indian Army.

"Those who promoted terrorism ruined your future," Modi said to the gathering in Bhuj, a town in Kutch district that shares both land and maritime borders with Pakistan, in a message directed at the citizens of the neighbouring country.

"While India believes in tour ism, Pakistan considers terrorism as tourism, which is very dangerous for the world," he said while addressing the public after launching projects worth over ₹50.000 crore.

'Terrorism is a way of making money for your (Pakistan) government and Army. The people of Pakistan must come forward to end terrorism. Live a happy and peaceful life and have your meal. Otherwise, my bullet is there for you (sukh chain ki zindagi jio, roti khao. Varna meri goli to hai hee)," the Prime Minister asserted in the

Jaishankar clears **air about US role**

New Delhi: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Monday told a parliamentary tan was informed by the DGMO about Indian strikes on terror camps in their territory only after they were executed, sources said. He also said he never spoke to Pakistan and cleared the air about alleged US "interference", aying the decision to halt the military operation was taken bilaterally after a equest from the Pakistan side. Addressing members of the Consultative Comr tee on External Affairs here, the minister said the cessation of Operation Sinc was done only after Pakistan DGMO asked for the halting of hostilities and th s no question of US mediation between the two, the sources said



India, Maldives explore ways to boost strategic ties

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 26: India and Maldives Monday explored ways to boost trade and strategic cooperation even as Maldivian Foreign Minister Abdulla Khaleel backed New Delhi's fight against terrorism.

Khaleel, accompanied by a high-level delegation, is on a three-day visit to India to review the implementation of the comprehensive economic and maritime security partnership that was agreed during Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu's trip to New Delhi last October.

The Maldivian foreign minis ter led his country's delegation at a meeting of the High Level Core Group (HLCG) that was tasked to oversee progress in the implementation of the In dia-Maldives vision document on comprehensive economic and maritime security partnership



The discussions at the core group meeting focused on ways to intensify political exchanges, defence and security cooperation, development partnership, trade, economy, health and people-to-people linkages, the external affairs ministry said.

Khaleel "strongly condemned the terrorist attack in Pahalgam" April 22 and expressed the Maldives' "solidarity with the people and government of India and its firm support to India in the fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifesta tions", the ministry said.

Khaleel also held a meeting with external affairs minister S Jaishankar. "Welcome Maldives' support and solidarity in combatting terrorism. India re mains committed to Maldives progress and development, Jaishankar said in a social media post.

In a statement, the ministry of external affairs said Khaleel "expressed Maldives' solidari ty with the people and government of India and its firm support to India in the fight against terrorism in all its forms and

Apex court orders recount in SCBA president, executive polls

number of votes polled. He said the election commit-

New Delhi, May 26: Conduct tee had received a complaint recounting of votes in the refrom senior advocate Adish

at entry/exit collapsed due to a sudden ingress of water from

On May 9, the MMRC extended the underground metro services between the Bandra-Kurla Complex and Aacharya Atre

Political slugfest

in Maharashtra on Monday with the ruling Mahayuti bloc blaming the sudden downpour for Mumbai's waterlogging, while the opposition accused the government of failing to prepare the city despite heavy spend ing. The political sparring intensified with a sharp jab from opposition Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray, who said "the Metro line was aptly named Aqua, since it is under water today." His comment came after operations on Mumbai's new Metro Line 3 (Aqua) were suspended due to of rupees, the government has failed



I want to ask the people of Pakistan -- what have they achieved? Today, India is the 4th largest economy in the world. But what is your situation? Those who promoted terrorism ruined your future

NARENDRA MODI I PRIME MINISTER

direct message to those across the border. The Prime Minister, who

completed 11 years in office Monday, highlighted India's rise to become the world's fourth-largest economy, surpassing Japan, and challenged Pakistani citizens to reflect on their own nation's standing.

"I want to ask the people of Pakistan -- what have they achieved? Today, India is the 4th largest economy in the world. But what is your situation? Those who promoted terrorism ruined your future,' he said.

He recounted the aftermath of the Pahalgam massacre, stating "Post-Pahalgam attack, I waited for 15 days hoping Pakistan will take action on terrorism, but it seems it is their bread and butter. On the night of May 9 when Pakistan tried to attack civilians, our military attacked with double force and decimated their air bases.

scattered. Metro Line 3 is Mumbai's

Delhi BJP names 14 district unit presidents

New Delhi: Delhi BJP Monday declared the names of 14 district unit presidents of the party under its ongoing reorganisation process. The newly elected district presidents display a mix of experience and representation of various social categories. the party's Delhi unit president Virendra Sachdeva said.

Cop shot dead

Ghaziabad/Noida: A 28-year-old constable part of a Noida police team out to catch a wanted criminal in Ghaziabad was shot dead by his associates, police Monday said. The incident took place in Masoorie area's Nahal village late Sunday night, when the team raided a location looking for Qadir, wanted in a case of robbery registered in Noida's Phase-III Police Station.

cently concluded Supreme Court Bar Association polls, the apex court told the election committee Monday in view of alleged irregularities in the process.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

After recounting of votes for the post of president, Senior Advocate Vikas Singh secured 1,051 votes, Senior Advocate Pradeep Rai got 825 votes, Senior Advocate Adish Aggarwala secured 611 votes out of 2576 valid votes polled.

A vacation bench of Justice Surya Kant and Justice Dipankar Datta, earlier in the day, told senior advocate Vijay Hansaria, a member of the poll committee, that recounting of votes for the post of President of the bar body should be conducted first followed by the counting of votes for the executive members.

Hansaria said the election committee has decided to conduct a recounting of votes after there were complaints regarding votes counted exceeding the

Aggarwala, who has contested for the post of President that the total number of votes declared valid for the post of president was 2,651 which exceeded the total ballots issued, that is 2.588.

"The recounting of votes for the post of president will start first as it will take a shorter period of time which will be followed by votes for executive members, which will take twothree days," Hansaria informed the bench.

Justice Surya Kant said this matter is sub-judice before a special bench comprising him and Justice KV Viswanathan and therefore he is only asking the election committee to recount the votes on the administrative side without passing any judicial orders. Hansaria informed the bench

that Aggarwala had issued notice to the members of the election committee and threatened to initiate criminal action against them



A passenger ferry crosses the river Brahmaputra in Guwahati, Assam

Consensual relationship turning sour not grounds for criminal case: SC

The apex court's observations came while quashing a criminal case against a man in July 2023 in Maharashtra for allegedly raping a woman on the false assurance of marriage

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 26: A consensual relationship turning sour or partners becoming distant cannot be a ground for invoking criminal machinery and such conduct "not only burdens the courts but also blots the identity of accused", the Supreme Court said Monday

The apex court's observations came while quashing a criminal case against a man in July 2023 in Maharashtra for allegedly raping a woman on the false assurance of marriage.

A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Satish Chandra Sharma noted that even if allegations in the FIR were taken as true, it does not appear from the record that the complainant's consent was obtained against her will and merely on an assurance to marry.

"In our considered view, this is also not a case where there was a false promise to marry to begin with. A consensual rela-



tionship turning sour or partners becoming distant cannot be a ground for invoking criminal machinery of the State," the bench said.

The bench said the apex court has time and again warned

against the misuse of provisions and has termed it a "folly" to treat each breach of promise to marry as a false promise and prosecute a person for the offence of rape. The top court delivered its verdict on an appeal

filed by the accused who had challenged the Bombay High Court's June 2024 order which dismissed his plea seeking quashing of the case registered against him for alleged offences, including that of rape, in Satara.

The apex court noted the case was registered on a complaint by the woman who alleged that during June 2022 till July 2023, the accused forcibly had sexual intercourse with her on the false assurance of marriage.

The accused had denied the allegations. The bench noted after the FIR was lodged, the accused approached a trial court seeking anticipatory bail, which was granted in August 2023.

It said the accused and com-

plainant were acquainted since June 2022 and she herself admitted that they interacted frequently and fell in love. The bench noted the inves-

tigation had also revealed that 'Khulanama' was executed on December 29, 2022 which the complainant had obtained from her ex-husband.

'Khula' allows a Muslim woman to unilaterally divorce her husband by returning his dower. The bench said it also cannot ignore the complainant's conduct in visiting the native village of the accused without any intimation, which was also unacceptable and reflected the "agitated and unnerved state' of her mind.

manifestations

Delhi court closes sexual harassment case against ex-WFI chief

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 26: A court here Monday closed a sexual harassment case filed by a wres tler accusing former Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh of sexual harassment when she was a minor.

The judge passed the order while accepting a closure report of the Delhi Police, seeking to cancel the case. "Cancellation accepted," Additional Sessions Judge Gomti Manocha said.

During an in-chamber pro ceeding held August 1, 2023 the "minor" had told the judge who was previously holding the court that she was satisfied with Delhi Police's inves tigation in the case and was not opposed to the closure report.

Delhi Police June 15, 2023 filed the report seeking cancellation of the case involving the girl after her father made a star tling claim midway through the probe that he had made a false complaint of sexual harassment against Singh to get back at him for perceived injustice to the girl.

The police had recommended dropping the Protection of Children from Sexual Offence es (POCSO) Act case against Singh but charged him with sexual harassment and stalking in a separate case lodged by six women wrestlers.

The police had recommended the cancellation of the complaint involving the minor, saying "no corroborative evi dence" was found.









international



By special title, today I can say that for you and with you I am Roman OPE LEO XIV CATHOLIC CHURCH LEADER

AUSTRALIA TO BAN MACHETE SALES

After a violent gang fight at a Melbourne mall injured a young man, Victoria Premier Jacinta Allan announced a machete sales ban starting Wednesday to curb large knife violence



of the day **Trump calls Putin 'crazy'**

The current international situation is a stalemate. **Unilateralism and** protectionism are on the rise, bully

ing behaviour is increasing LI OIANG CHINESE PREMIER

We also reviewed the ongoing progress of our multifaceted

bilateral engagements. particularly in trade and investment, and reaffirmed our resolve to reaffirmed

our resolve to continue working closely to further strengthen these unshakable bonds of brotherhood and cooperation

SHEHBAZ SHARIF | PRIME MINISTER



MARK CARNEY | PRIME MINISTER, CANADA

SHORT TAKES

NK detains officials over destroyer failure

Seoul (South Korea):

North Korea authorities have detained four officials over the recent failed launch of a naval destroyer, an incident that leader Kim Jong Un said was caused by criminal negligence, state media said. The 5,000-ton-class destroyer was damaged on Wednesday when a transport cradle on the ship's stern detached early during a launch ceremony attended by Kim at the northeastern port of Chongjin. Satellite imagery on the site showed the vessel lying on its side and draped in blue covers, with parts of the ship submerged.

French farmers bring tractors to Paris

Paris: French farmers disrupted highway traffic around Paris and rallied in front of parliament with their

REUTERS

Washington/Moscow/Kyiv, May 26: US President Donald Trump said Vladimir Putin had "gone absolutely CRAZY" by unleashing the largest aerial attack of the war on Ukraine and said he was weighing new sanctions on Moscow, though

he also scolded Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy. Trump posted the remark on Truth Social as sleeping Ukrainians woke to a third consecutive night of massive Russian aerial attacks, listening for hours to drones buzzing near

their homes and eruptions of Ukrainian anti-aircraft fire. The Ukrainian air force said Russia had launched 355 drones and nine cruise missiles against Ukraine overnight, a

huge salvo that the air force's spokesman told Reuters made it Russia's largest drone attack of the war to date.

"Something has happened to him (Putin). He has gone absolutely CRAZY!" Trump said of the Russian president on Truth Social.

"I've always said that he wants ALL of Ukraine, not just a piece of it, and maybe that's proving to be right, but if he does, it will lead to the downfall of Russia!"

Trump also criticised Zelenskiy, posting that the Ukrainian leader "is doing his Country no favours by talking the way he does. Everything out of



his mouth causes always said that he wants ALL of problems, I don't like it, and it bet-Ukraine, not just a piece of it, and maybe that's proving to be right, but if he does, it will lead to the The Kremlin, about Trump's specifdownfall of Russia!

ic remarks about DONALD TRUMP Putin being "cra-PRESIDENT, US zy", thanked the US people and Trump in

person for their assistance in launching peace negotiations but suggested Trump and others might be emotionally overloaded.

ter stop.

asked

"This is a very crucial moment, which is associated, of course, with the emotional overload of everyone absolutely and with emotional reactions,' Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

Swarms of drones are being launched by both sides while

l've fierce fighting is underway along key parts of the front. The Ukrainian

air force said overnight the Russian attack hit targets in five locations, but did not elaborate, implying mil-

itary damage. The western region of Khmel-

nytskyi, which is home to a military airbase, was targeted by seven cruise missiles and scores of drones, and residential buildings and industrial facilities sustained damage. officials said. A 14-year-old boy was reported injured in the Black Sea region of Odesa. The Russian defence minis-

try said its strike hit targets at Ukraine's Starokostiantvniv

- Russia launches large-scale attacks for three consecutive nights
- Trump says considering more sanctions on Russia
- Trump says Zelenskiy should shut up
- Kremlin suggests Trump is emotionally overloaded

airbase in Khmelnytskyi region. The Kremlin said the attacks were directed at military targets and that the strikes were a response to significant Ukrainian attacks on Russian civilian targets.

Zelenskiy, in a post on X, did not directly address Trump's criticism, but said the world appeared to be spending more effort on dialogue with Putin than with actually exerting real pressure on the Kremlin chief. Russia, Zelenskiy said, can

only be constrained by force, and called again for additional sanctions on Russia.

Speaking to reporters at the airport in Morristown, New Jersey, Trump said of Putin, "I don't know what's wrong with him. What the hell happened to him? Right? He's killing a lot of people. I'm not happy about that.

He raised the possibility of imposing more sanctions on Russia in response to the ongoing attacks.

GAZA CEASEFIRE HAMAS AGREES TO **GAZA CEASEFIRE** GAZA PROPOSAL

REUTERS

Cairo, May 26: A Palestinian official said Monday that Hamas has agreed to a proposal by US special envoy Steve Witkoff for a Gaza ceasefire, only for an Israeli official to deny that the proposal was Washington's and add that no Israeli government could accept it.

Witkoff also rejected the notion that Hamas had accepted his offer for a hostage deal and a ceasefire in Gaza, telling Reuters that what he had seen was "completely unacceptable" and the proposal being discussed was not the same as his.

The Palestinian official, who is close to Hamas, had told Reuters that the proposal would see the release of 10 hostages and a 70-day ceasefire and was received by Hamas through mediators

"The proposal includes the release of 10 living Israeli hostages held by Hamas in two groups in return for a 70-day ceasefire and a partial withdrawal from the Gaza Strip,' the source said.

It also included the release of a number of Palestinian prisoners by Israel, including hundreds serving lengthy prison terms.



Israeli strikes kill 30 in Gaza

sraeli military strikes killed at least 30 Palestinians across the Gaza Strip Sunday, including a senior rescue service official and a journalist, local health authorities said. The latest deaths in the Israeli campaign resulted from separate Israeli strikes in Khan Younis in the south, Jabalia in the north and Nuseirat in the central Gaza Strip, medics said. In Jabalia, they said local journalist Hassan Majdi Abu Warda and several family members were killed by an airstrike that hit his house earlier Sunday. Another airstrike in Nuseirat killed Ashraf Abu Nar, a senior official in the territory's civil emergency service, and his wife in their house, medics added.

rejecting the assertion that the deal matched one proposed by Witkoff.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu later said in a recorded message on social media he "hoped very much' he would be able to deliver developments on the subject of Israel's fight against Hamas and releasing the hostages, "today



B'desh govt employees vow to continue protest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka/New Delhi, May 26: Hundreds of government employees in Bangladesh Monday vowed to continue their protest at the secretariat and urged their colleagues to stage nationwide demonstrations against a new service law which allows easier dismissal of officials for misconduct.

The protest at the secretariat, which houses ministries and important government offices, virtually paralysed the central administration for the third consecutive day Monday. According to media reports, employees of various ministries and offices continued their sit-in and protest marches under a banner called Bangladesh Secretariat Officers and Employees Coordination Council inside the compound, protesting the promulgation and enforcement of the Public Service (Amendment) Ordi-

B'DESH NEW SERVICE LAW



The protests started after Chief Adviser Muhammad **Yunus-led interim** government published the revised version of the law, allowing easier dismissal of officials for misconduct



uay, pro against amendments filed by opposition lawmakers to a bill that would loosen environmental regulations on farming. The draft legislation proposes simplifying approvals for breeding facilities and irrigation reservoirs and re-authorising a banned neonicotinoid pesticide used in sugar beet cultivation that environmentalists say is harmful to bees. It is part of a trend in numerous European Union states to unwind environmental legislation as farmers grapple with rising input costs and households struggle with the cost of living.

King Charles III in Canada

Ottawa: King Charles III arrives in Ottawa Monday to underscore Canada's sovereignty to US President Donald Trump. Trump's repeated suggestion that the US annex its northern neighbour prompted Prime Minister Mark Carney to invite Charles to give the speech from the throne that will outline his government's agenda for the new Parliament. The king is the head of state in Canada, which is a member of the British Commonwealth of former colonies.

11 hurt in Carolina beach town shooting

Little River (US): At least 11 people were taken to hospitals after a shooting Sunday night in a South Carolina beach town, authorities said. Horry County Police did not give the conditions of anyone hurt or detail how they were injured in the incident, which happened about 9:30 pm in Little River.

nance, 2025. They urged officials and employees across the country to hold demonstrations Tuesday against the "repressive" and "black law". Hasnat Abdullah. a prominent leader of the student-led National Citizen Party (NCP) formed with Muhammad Yunus' blessings in Feb-

ruary, warned the government employees against the protests, saying, "We will firmly resist it with the people's support".

Abdullah, a key leader of the Students against Discrimination movement that ousted then Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League regime last year, apparently referred protesters as collaborators of the deposed premier.

"Today, there are protests at the secretariat. NBR's (National Board of Revenue) reform processes are also being obstructed. Yet during the Julv mass uprising, these same people wore black badges and worked in offices supporting Sheikh Hasina," he said.

Hundreds of government employees briefly locked the secretariat's main gate Monday. agitating employ-The ees gathered near the main entrance around 12:30 pm. During that time, the gate was closed. It was reopened about half an hour later, around 1:00 pm. The protesting employees moved from the gate and gathered in a scattered way across the secretariat premises.

The authorities deployed extra police to enforce a vigil against any possible violence at the complex.

Also, the protest by employ ees of the Dhaka South City Corporation, demanding the installation of BNP leader Ishraque Hossain as its mayor in line with a court order, has paralysed administrative services.



A health worker administers a polio vaccine to a child at a neighbourhood, in Lahore, Pakistan, Monday PTI PHOTO

'Iran can survive without US nuclear deal'

tions and bombing if no new

nuclear agreement is reached.

hunger if they refuse to nego-

tiate with us or impose sanc-

tions," Pezeshkian was quoted

"It's not like we will die of

REUTERS

Dubai, May 26: Iran would be able to survive if negotiations with the US over its nuclear programme fail to secure a deal, President Masoud Pezeshkian said Monday, after President Donald Trump described weekend talks with Tehran as 'very good"

The negotiations aim to resolve a decades-long dispute over Iran's nuclear ambitions, and Trump has threatened Iran with crippling economic sancas saying by state media about the talks with Washington. "We will find a way to survive."

The stakes are high for both sides in the talks.

Trump wants to curtail Tehran's potential to produce a nuclear weapon that could trigger a regional nuclear arms race and perhaps threaten Israel. Iran, for its part, maintains that its nuclear programme is exclusively for civilian purposes and wants to be rid of devastating sanctions on its oil-based economy.

Unexpected journey of Krishna couple in Utah

A couple who moved from Los Angeles to Utah about 45 years ago to run a radio station is now operating the only Hindu temple in a predominantly Mormon town

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Spanish Fork (Utah), May 26: Charu Das was in Los Angeles in 1980 when a for-sale ad for a small radio station in rural Utah County — about 50 miles south of Salt Lake City caught his eye.

At \$225,000, the property -seemed like a perfect place to

pursue his dream of Krishna radio. Das and his wife. Vaibhavi Devi, longtime members of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), moved to Spanish Fork without knowing what lay ahead.

Surrounded by rolling hills and the snow-capped Wasatch Mountains, the site would eventually become a spiritual and cultural landmark. Most locals in the area were — and still are - members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, but the Hare Krishna couple was warmly received. What began as a modest ef-

fort grew into a 15-acre oasis. Today, the Shri Shri Radha Krishna Temple stands at the center of the property - a 10,000-square-foot striking. structure inspired by North



Indian temple architecture. With ornate domes, archways, and a serene pavilion, it serves both as a place of worship and a cultural gathering space.

FROM RADIO WAVES TO TEMPLE DOMES

The temple's biggest event is the annual **Festival of Colours,** which welcomes thousands each spring with vibrant powder throws, yoga, mantra music, and devotional dance

tion-based vegetarian buffet. 'This place is like Vrindavan in Mormon country," Das says, referring to Krishna's childhood city in India.

Initially, the couple lived in a log cabin and bred llamas for income. It wasn't until the early 1990s that Devi, an artist, proposed building a temple. They eventually built two - one in Spanish Fork and another in Salt Lake City — with support from devotees, local Hindus, and even members of the Latter-day Saints church.

Devi personally oversaw the temple's design, hiring an aerospace engineer for dome construction and using creative methods to craft a visual ly stunning interior. She spent six months painting the sanc tuary's vaulted ceiling with di vine imagery and lotus motifs

The temple has since become a regional landmark. Around 4,000 students tour it annually learning about Hindu beliefs and culture. It also serves as a hub for interfaith efforts, with Latter-day Saint youth groups volunteering there regularly.







Cows, llamas, and peacocks

roam the grounds, while a

small lake irrigates gardens

that produce flowers and or-

ganic vegetables for a dona-









India is entering a transformative era in logistics and remains a cornerstone of CJ Logistics' global strategy. Through deeper collaboration with CJ Darcl, we are committed to driving innovation and delivering high-efficiency logistics solutions that support India's evolving supply chain ecosystem

HEAD APAC, CJ LOGISTICS CORPORATION

US OFFICIALS TO VISIT INDIA SOON

A team of US officials is expected to visit India in the coming weeks for the next round of discussions on the proposed interim trade agreement between the two countries, sources said. The visit gains importance as India and US are likely to agree on an interim trade agreement before July 9



MFI portfolio continues to de-grow Early monsoon arrival eases trade worries

For us, the volume and the vibrancy of activity we are seeing in the AI and data space has

of the day

grown manyfold in the last 12 months

SIVA GANESAN | HEAD, TCS AI UNIT

With strong CASA (Current Account and Savings Account) growth, digital

cross-sell capabilities, and margin-sensitive asset allocation, we are building a scalable model for sustainable returns CS SETTY | CHAIRMAN, SBI

Our exports have come down due to cheaper **Brazilian cotton** in the interna-

tional market, which is 7 per cent lower than India's produce. Moreover, our production is also lower by over 11 per cent from the previous season resulting in an increase in imports

ATUL S GANATRA | PRESIDENT, CA

04 **RESULTS**

PC Jewellers profit up

New Delhi: PC Jewellers posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 94.78 for the fourth quarter of 2024-25 on higher sales. The company had reported a net loss of Rs 121.64 crore a year ago, according to a regulatory filing Sunday.

📕 Gillette India profit rises

New Delhi: Shaving products maker Gillette India I td Monday reported a 60.13 per cent rise in profit to Rs 158.68 crore in the March quarter. The company had reported a profit of Rs 99.09 crore in the corresponding guarter of the preceding year, according to a BSE filing. Its revenue from operations increased 12.74 per cent to Rs 767.47 crore during the January-March guarter.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 26: Microloans portfolio for all lenders de-grew by 14 per cent yearly to Rs 3.81 lakh crore at the end of the March quarter, a report said Monday.

Asset quality continued to remain challenging, even though loans unpaid for up to 30 days showed some improvement quarterly, the report by Crif High Mark, and a credit information company, said

It can be noted that the last year has been a difficult one for the microfinance industry, serving people at the bottom of the pyramid with smaller and livelihood-centric loans. Asset quality has worsened, and over-leverage and multiple lending relationships of borrowers have been called out as the key reasons for it.

The industry has taken a slew of actions, including limiting borrower's lender relationships to four, to arrest the slide in asset quality since

Byju's app removed from Google Playstore



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 26: Byju's learning app has been delisted from Google Playstore due to non-payment of dues to its vendor Amazon Web Services, according to sources.

While some of the other apps of Think and Learn, which operate under the Byju's brand, continue to be functional on Google Playstore

BYJU's Learning app has been delisted from Playstore because of non-payment to Amazon Web Services, which provides support to the app. Byju's business is now being managed by an Insolvency Resolution Professional who has to manage all payment-related issues as well, a source told PTL

An email sent to Think and Learn's Insolvency Resolution Professional (IRP) Shailendra Ajmera did not elicit any reply. Apps, which are being handled by other vendors, are functional as of now, sources aware of review petition is resolved. the development said. Byju's Leaning App covered mathematics, physics, chemistry and biology for classes 4-12 and social studies for classes 6–8 as well. The app also provides preparation support for competitive exams like JEE, NEET, and IAS. The app continues to be available on Apple's App Store. Byiu's Premium Leaning app and Byju's Exam Prep app continue to be available on Google Playstore.



Top court puts BSPL

2024. The threat of ordinances led lenders to contract faster in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, which showed a 7 per cent decline in gross lending portfolio quarter-on-quarter, while West Bengal showed a 1.5 per cent increase.

The number of active loans declined 14 crore at the end of March, down from 14.6 crore in December and 16.1 crore in the year-ago period, Crif report said.

The industry disbursed 1.33 crore loans in the three-month



New Delhi, May 26: The Supreme Court Monday ordered a status quo on the liquidation proceedings of Bhushan Power and Steel Ltd (BPSL), giving interim relief to JSW Steel.

The verdict came on a plea filed by JSW Steel seeking a stay on the liquidation process initiated by BPSL's former promoter, Sanjay Singhal

JSW Steel has been allowed to file a review petition against the Supreme Court's May 2 verdict that quashed its Rs 19,300 crore resolution plan, which had come as a major setback for the Sajjan Jindal-led company.

A Supreme Court bench directed the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) to put the matter on hold until the apex court passes a verdict on the review plea.

Asking JSW Steel to file the petition within the 30-day prescribed limitation period, the apex court noted that the "status quo needs to be maintained in the interest of justice", meaning no further action on liquidation will proceed until the



period between January and

March, which is down from

2.40 crore in the year-ago peri-

od. When compared to the quar-

ter-ago period, the number of

loans was higher at 1.2 crore in

the October-December period.

the CIC report said early de-

linquency of loans unpaid for

up to 30 days improved to 1.4

per cent in March against 1.8

per cent in December, but add-

ed that the same continues to

rise in other buckets, signal-

ling ongoing challenges.

On the asset quality front,

Sanjay Singhal, former promoter of the BPSL, had approached the NCLT seeking liquidation based on the Supreme Court's earlier judgment.

The Supreme Court's May 2 judgment came as a huge setback for JSW Steel, which acquired the BPSL through the corporate insolvency resolution process more than five years ago and has made significant investments in the company.

The apex court had set aside the resolution plan on grounds of non-compliance with key provisions of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), which included the failure to adhere strictly to the plan's approved timeline.

BPSL's steel plant in Odisha has a capacity of 4.5 million tonnes per annum (MTPA), forming a key part of JSW Steel's total domestic capacity of 34.2 MTPA

Having adopted certain guard rails, the industry seems to prefer to lend high er amounts, the report said; pointing out that portfolio for loans above Rs 1 lakh grew by 38.5 per cent yearly, while those below Rs 30,000 were down by 36 per cent.

The CIC said the MFI sector is on the path to long-term sustainability. While current indicators suggest cautious lending and persistent stress in parts of the portfolio, improvement in early-stage performance and a gradual move towards higher-quality credit segments are encouraging trends

"Lenders are making conscious choices that favour resilience, stability and long term impact, as institutions recalibrate and regulatory frameworks evolve, we are confident that the sector is laying the groundwork for stronger and more inclusive growth," its director and head of sales Ramkumar Gunasekaran said.

Trump issues fresh tariff deadline for EU

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, May 26: President Donald Trump has said that US will delay implementation of a 50 per cent tariff on goods from the European Union from June 1 until July 9 to buy time for negotiations with the bloc

That agreement came after a call Sunday with Ursula von der Leyen, the president of the European Commission, who had told Trump that she "wants to get down to serious negotiations," according to the US president's retelling.

"I told anybody that would listen, they have to do that,' Trump told reporters on Sunday in Morristown, New Jersev, as he prepared to return to Washington. Von der Leven. Trump said, vowed to "rapidly get together and see if we can work something out.

In a social media post Friday, Trump had threatened to impose the 50 per cent tariff on EU goods, complaining that the 27-member bloc had been "very difficult to deal with" on trade and that negotiations were "going nowhere."

Sensex jumped 455.37 points to 82,176.45 while Nifty climbed 148 points to 25,001.15 at closing hours following a bucket of positive macro factors



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 26: Benchmark Sensex Monday advanced by 455 points to close at over a week's high due to buying in auto and IT shares following positive macro factors and easing trade worries as US President Donald Trump delayed 50 per cent EU tariffs to July 9.

Rising for the second session, the 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 455.37 points or 0.56 per cent to settle at 82,176.45. During the day, it surged 771.16 points or 0.94 per cent to 82,492.24.NSE Nifty climbed 148 points or 0.60 per cent to settle at 25.001.15, a level not seen since May 16.

The early arrival of monsoon clubbed with the Reserve Bank announcement of hefty dividend started an optimistic trend in the markets, experts said.

Among Sensex stocks, leading tractor and auto manufacturer Mahindra & Mahindra rose the most by 2.17 per cent. HCL Tech, Tata Motors, Nestle, ITC. Hindustan Unilever, Larsen & Toubro, and Tech Mahindra were the major gainers.

In contrast, Eternal, UltraTech Cement, Power Grid, Tata Steel and Kotak Mahindra Bank were among the laggards. Eternal dropped the most by 4.51 per cent.

crude climbed 0.17 per cent to India has become the fourth USD 64.89 a barrel. On Friday largest economy in the world; the 30-share BSE benchmark overtaking Japan has made the surged 769.09 points or 0.95 per talks in market. cent to settle at 81.721.08. The



Rinfra turns profitable

New Delhi: Reliance Infrastructure Ltd (RInfra) Monday reported a net profit of Rs 4,387 crore in the March guarter, mainly aided by a reduction in expenses. It had posted a net loss of Rs 220.58 crore in the January-March period of 2023-24, the company said in an exchange filing.

Insolation Energy profit surges

New Delhi: Insolation Energy Monday reported a 60.89 per cent rise in its net profit to Rs 65 crore in the October-March period of FY25, against the same period a year ago. The company had posted a Rs 40.4 crore net profit in the six-month period of preceding 2023-24 financial year, the company said in an exchange filing.

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal has started insolvency proceedings against Byju's on appeal by various inin 2024-25. vestors, including lender-au-

consolidated PAT of Rs 4,376

Those tariffs would have kicked in starting June 1.

The US decision to consider extending the deadline for im-

Nifty rallied 243.45 points or 0.99 per cent to 24,853.15.

posing aggressive tariffs on EU

coupled with a decline in the

dollar index, contributed to a

rebound in the domestic equity

markets. These developments

suggest that trade negotiations

are progressing constructive

ly, which could help moderate

0.56 per cent and small cap index

The BSE mid cap gauge climbed

Among sectoral indices, auto

jumped 1.04 per cent. BSE Fo-

cused IT (1.04 per cent), FMCG

(0.93 per cent), industrials (0.98

per cent), IT (0.95 per cent), cap

ital goods (0.91 per cent), teck

(0.88 per cent) and oil & gas (0.67

ly laggard. As many as 2,30

stocks advanced while 1,772

declined and 194 remained un

rea's Kospi and Japan's Nikkei

225 index settled in the positive

territory, while Shanghai's SSE

Composite index and Hong

Kong's Hang Seng ended lower.

trading higher in mid-session

deals. US markets ended lower

Friday. Foreign Institutional

Investors (FIIs) bought equities

worth Rs 1,794.59 crore Friday,

Global oil benchmark Bren

according to exchange data.

Markets in Europe were

In Asian markets, South Ko-

changed on the BSE.

Services emerged as the on-

market volatility.

per cent).

went up by 0.48 per cent.

Decent growth prediction for two-wheelers in FY25

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 26: Hero MotoCorp expects the domestic two-wheeler industry to grow by a 'mid-to-high' single digit in the current fiscal with favourable macroeconomic factors in play, according to its acting CEO Vikram Kasbekar.

The two-wheeler major maintained a market leadership position with sales of 59 lakh units

The company reported a

crore in last fiscal compared to Rs 3,742 crore in 2023-34, an increase of 17 per cent. Its total income increased to Rs 41,967 crore last fiscal against Rs 38,643 crore in FY24

While there is ongoing global turmoil due to the border situation and trade tensions on the domestic front, the economy has started on a positive note, driven by tapering inflation, lowering interest rates and income tax cuts and expectations of a better monsoon, Kasbekar said in an

Gen Z rewriting rules of work-life balance

analyst call.

"With regards to the two-wheeler industry, riding on the wave of positive economic momentum, demand is shaping up nicely, boosted particularly by a strong marriage season in May and June. Overall, we expect the industry to grow in the mid and high single digits in FY26." he added.

Predictions of a good monsoon, positive impact of income tax relief and a lot of government spending are expected to help the industry grow this year, he stated.

"On the global business, our strategy of making products specific to countries in Latam, Bangladesh, and Nigeria is yielding very good results, which is evident from last year's performance. And going forward, we are quite aggressive on the growth in the segment," Kasbekar stated.

On EVs, the company stated that it intends to grow volumes, scale up the business, grow market share and improve profitability going ahead.

Jio seeks DoT approval for 26 GHz band spectrum WiFi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 26: Reliance Jio has approached the telecom department's Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC) to seek approval to use radio waves in a 26 GHz band for Wi Fi services.

It is pertinent to mention that the notice inviting application (NIA) or the bid document for the 2022 auction specifies that prior clearance is a must in case the spectrum assigned for 5G is being used for other technology

In case of switching over to a different technology (other than GSMWCDMALTE CD MAIMT-2020 - 5G technology) while rolling out the networks for compliance of roll-out obligations, information regarding the new technology should be given at least six months before any new technology Base Sta tion site is offered for testing The technology should be based on standards approved by ITU TEC or any other International Standards Organisation bodies according to the NIA.

The telecom spectrum auctions conducted in 2022 re ceived Rs 1.5 lakh crore of bids in all, with Mukesh Ambani's Jio cornering nearly half of all the airwaves sold with a Rs

88,078 crore bid. Jio, India's largest telecom firm had acquired spectrum in the 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 1800 MHz, 3300 MHz and 26 GHz bands in that auction.

Hi-Tech Pipes profit grows

New Delhi: Steel pipe maker **Hi-Tech Pipes Monday** posted a 59 per cent rise in consolidated net profit to around Rs 18 crore for the March guarter, driven by higher income. It had recorded a net profit of Rs 11.12 crore in the January-March guarter of 2023-24. the company said in an exchange filing.

Starbucks losses widen

New Delhi: Tata Starbucks' loss has widened to Rs 135.7 crore in FY25, but its revenue increased by 5 per cent to Rs 1,277 crore, according to the latest annual report of Tata Consumer Products Ltd (TCPL). Starbucks had reported a net loss of Rs 82.16 crore in FY24.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 26: A new generation of workforce the Gen Z (those under the age of 35) is rewriting the rules of career growth, as they are stepping away from conventional education pathways, questioning linear career growth, and disengaging from rigid corporate cultures. a senior executive of a digital recruitment platform said.

thorised agency Glas Trust.

India is home to the world's largest youth workforce. And within that, Gen Z is rapidly emerging as a force of its own: they are expected to comprise 27 per cent of India's workforce by 2025.

"We are witnessing a profound generational shift in the workplace, one that challenges not just how we recruit, but why we exist as employers.



India is at the heart of this change," said Devashish Sharma, Founding Member and CEO Taggd, a digital recruitment platform. Gen Z is giving more impor-

tance to purpose than perks, and a non-linear growth in career over guarantees. For them, flexibility is a non-nego-

tiable standard. The 9-to-5 model doesn't resonate for them. They values independence as the trend of working from home made it easy to work at your comfort.

"In order to cater to this culture, the companies are responding with hybrid structures, result-driven roles, and

To achieve this, topdown management must give way to participative leadership, policy-heavy cultures must be replaced with people-first ecosystems, and, most importantly, trust must be gained via action

DEVASHISH SHARMA | CEO, TAGGD

internal gig economies," Sharma said.

Since the Gen Z workforce is resetting the manner in which past generations have worked, organisations need to evolve in order to remain relevant. According to Taggd India Decoding Jobs Report 2025, there is a 35 per cent rise in skill-based hiring, as companies prioritise adaptability, problem-solving, and role-specific competencies over degrees. This change is indispensable for building a

workforce ready for cross-functional roles that define the hybrid work era

The methods of hiring must evolve to cater to the needs of ever-evolving industries. Taggd IDJ Report 2025 predicts that hiring will skyrocket, for instance, 20 per cent in IT and 25 per cent in manufacturing.

The insights of the report were distilled from conversations with over 200 industry leaders and insights from the very people shaping the future of work.

The year 2025 is all about designing a workforce that is fluid, future-fit, and fiercely human. The companies must embrace flexibility wholeheartedly because the future belongs to organisations bold enough to reimagine work not as a place, but as a promise, Sharma said.











OrissaPO TUESDAY | MAY 27, 2025 | BHUBANESWAR

SPORTS

PREMIER LEAGUE

Reds wear English crown

Arne Slot's side wrapped up their record-equalling 20th Premier League run with a demolition of Tottenham in April, but the long-awaited trophy presentation was saved for the final game of the season

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Liverpool, May 26: Virgil van Dijk lifted the Premier League trophy after Liverpool's 1-1 draw with Crystal Palace Sunday as the Reds held a title party with their own fans for the first time in 35 years.

Arne Slot's side wrapped up their record-equalling 20th English crown with a demolition of Tottenham in April, but the long-awaited trophy presentation was saved for the final game of the season.

Liverpool's last title in 2020 was won during the Covid-19 pandemic, meaning the trophy was held aloft by then-captain Jordan Henderson in front of an empty stadium.

The Reds made the most of their first title celebration in a packed Anfield since 1990 as the 61,000-capacity crowd partied along with the great and good of Liverpool's illustrious past.

"It's always special to win something, but at certain clubs maybe a little bit more," Slot



said. "I don't think you expect anything like this. If you look at the Premier League in the last few seasons it was always a race to the end. To be part of it was already nice, let alone to win it."

Alan Hansen who captained Liverpool in their last trophy lift at a full Anfield in 1990, presented the silverware to current Reds skipper Van Dijk.

Kenny Dalglish, Liverpool's manager 35 years ago, was watching from the stands, as was Jurgen Klopp, who masterminded the Reds' Premier League triumph in 2020 before leaving last year.

Fireworks, smoke and red ticker tape filled the air as the trophy was paraded around Anfield, with the famous Kop

Salah matches record with 4th Golden Boot

iverpool's Mohamed Salah won the Premier League Golden Boot for the fourth time in his career.

natching the record set by former Arsenal striker Thierry Henry. The award is given each season

the leading goal scorer in the Premier League, with Salah scoring 29 times. Salah also was awarded the Premier League Playmaker of the Season award, after leading the

league with 18 assists. It is the second time Salah has completed the Golden Boot-Playmaker sweep twice in a career. Salah became the first player ever to

win the Golden Boot, Golden Playmaker and Player of the Season awards in a single campaign. The honours cap a record-setting season for the 32-year-old, whose 47

combined goals and assists were the most ever in a 38-game season. The production came while guiding Liverpool to the Premier League title under first-year manager

Arne Slot. It was the club's first title since 2020. Salah also claimed the Golden Boot, given to the league's top scorer, in 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2021-22. He

signed a two-year extension with Liverpool through the 2026-27 season.

and flags emblazoned with slogans hailing their heroes. Even Trent Alexander-Ar-

nold — the Liverpool right-back controversially set to leave in a widely-expected move to Real Madrid - was embraced by fans on his final appearance for his boyhood club.

Liverpool failed to win any of their four games after sealing the title.

But that couldn't detract from the festive atmosphere, which was in full swing before the game even kicked off as Slot's team were given a guard of honour onto the pitch by Palace's players, before the Reds returned the favour to salute the FA Cup winners.

Man City, Chelsea, Newcastle bag Champions League spots



Mand Newcastle secured the remaining Champions League places on a dramatic final day of the Premier League season. Aston Villa and Nottingham Forest were the big losers Sunday - missing out in the race for the top five. Villa was left with a sense of injustice after having a goal ruled out against Manchester United just moments before going behind and eventually losing 2-0 at Old Trafford. A draw would have been enough for Unai Emery's team on a day when Newcastle lost 1-0 at home to Everton. Chelsea beat Forest 1-0 to secure a return to the Champions League after a two-year absence. City ended the season in third place with a 2-0 win against Fulham. Arsenal was second behind champion Liverpool.

Punjab Kings seal top-two spot

Thumping win for Iyer and Co over Mumbai Indians PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, May 26: Priyansh Arya displayed remarkable maturity for a rookie while Josh Inglis produced a momentum changing knock as Punjab Kings downed Mumbai Indians by seven wickets here Monday to seal a spot in Qualifier 1 of the Indian Premier League.

Chasing 185, Punjab Kings could not accelerate in the powerplay but Inglis (73 off 42 balls) and Arya (62 off 35) more than made up for a sluggish start with a match-winning 109-run partnership off 59 balls to get their team home in 18.3 overs.

Captain Shreyas Iyer (26 not out off 16) hit a six off Trent Boult to complete a dominating win.

Punjab Kings bowlers had done well to limit Mumbai Indians to 184 for seven after putting them in to bat at a venue that has produced 200-plus first innings scores for majority of the season.

While both teams had already sealed their playoffs berth, the winner of this match was assured of a toptwo finish in the standings, providing two chances to reach the final.

Punjab Kings, who have made the playoffs for the first time since 2014, now travel back to their home ground in Mullanpur for the Qualifier 1 scheduled May 29.

The Eliminator will be played at the same venue on the following day. The complete playoffs line-up will be decided after the contest between Royal Challengers Bengaluru and the already eliminated Lucknow Super Giants on Tuesday.

The architect of Punjab's win was the batting duo of Arya and Inglis. The highlight of Arya's third fifty of the season was his ability to gauge the situation and play sensibly when Inglis was going ballistic



					20
				DIN	GS
TEAM	М	w	L	NRR	PTS
PBKS	14	9	4	0.372	19
GT	14	9	5	0.254	18
RCB	13	8	4	0.255	17
МІ	14	8	6	1.142	16
DC	14	7	6	0.011	15
SRH	14	6	7	-0.241	13
LSG	13	6	7	-0.337	12
KKR	14	5	7	-0.305	12
RR	14	4	10	-0.549	8
CSK	14	4	10	-0.647	8

at the other end.

Arya's knock comprised sublime drives on the off-side while Inglis was more audacious, bringing scoops and reverse scoops into play.

Earlier, Suryakumar, who has been a picture of consistency this season, broke Sachin Tendulkar's 15-year-old record to become the highest

Brief scores Mumbai Indians: 184/7 in 20 overs (Suryakumar Yadav 57; shdeep Singh 2/28, Marco Janse 2/34, Vijaykumar Vyshak 2/44) lost to **Punjab Kings:** 187/3 in 18.3 overs (Priyansh Arya 62, Josh Inglis 73; Mitchell Santner 2/41)

run scorer for the Mumbai

amasses 640 runs thus far, bet-

tering Tendulkar's 618 scored

ball both ways in the opening

over of the game, troubling

Ryan Rickelton (27 off 20) who

Suryakumar and Naman

Dhir (20 off 12) got the

much-needed hits in the death

overs. The 20th over from Ar-

shdeep Singh was exactly what

Punjab Kings needed to close

the innings. The left-arm pac-

er took two wickets and gave

away just three runs.

The India T20 captain has

Arshdeep Singh swung the

outfit in an IPL season.

in the 2010 edition.

managed to survive.

THAILAND OPEN

Pugilists Sanju, **Anshul advance** to semifinals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Monday.

terfinal bout.

Bangkok, May 26: Indian boxers Sanju and Anshul Gill registered convincing wins to move into the semifinals as the

country's pugilists continued

their solid run at the fourth

Thailand Open Internation-

al Boxing Tournament here

Competing in the women's 60 kg category, Sanju notched

up her second straight win of

the tournament with a clean 5-0

verdict over Indonesia's Reka

Mariana Kasibulan in the quar-

The National Games bronze

medallist maintained her con-

trol throughout the three rounds,

staying composed and showing

clear technical superiority to

outbox her opponent and secure

In the men's 90+ kg division,

a place in the last four stage.

ISSF JUNIOR WORLD CUP India top medals tally

Tejaswini wins gold in women's 25m pistol

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Suhl, May 26: In a memorable show, India's Tejaswini claimed the gold medal in the women's 25m pistol event to help the country pip China and finish on top of the standings in the ISSF Junior World Cup here Monday. This was the 20-vear-old from Haryana's first individual World Cup medal, India's 11th of the campaign and their third gold, to go with four silver and bronze each. China also won three gold but have just an additional bronze in their tally. The Indian shot 31 in the final as Alina Nestsiarovich of the Individual Neutral Athletes (AIN) shot 29 for silver and Hungary's Miriam Jako, 23, for the bronze medal.

out of a possible 300 points. In the second rapid-fire round Monday, she shot a strong 293, which gave her a total of 575

and fourth place overall in the 50-strong field. India have now topped four of the last five ISSF Junior compe-

Lewandowski passes century

The star strikes twice for champion Barcelona but can't catch Mbappe for scoring title

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

an early lead in the third minute through Seigal's penalty corner. India will next take on hosts Argentina Tuesday.

match here Sunday. Uruguay took

SHORT TAKES

Eves beat Uruguay

Rosario: Kanika Siwach scored a

brace as the Indian junior women's hockey team secured a hard-

fought 3-2 win over Uruguay in its

second match of the Four Nations

Kanika (46', 50'), Sonam (21') was

on target for India, while Milagros

Tournament here. Apart from

Seigal (3') and Agustina Mari

(24') scored for Uruguay in the

India banks on stars

Gumi: The redoubtable Neeraj Chopra will be missing in action but the 59-strong Indian contingent would nonetheless aim for a double-digit medal haul, riding primarily on strong performances by its track athletes when the 26th Asian Athletics Championship gets underway here Tuesday. Chopra has yet again decided to skip the biennial event to focus on the Diamond League series leaving Pakistan's Olympic champion Arshad Nadeem as the top draw in the men's javelin throw competition.

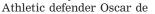
Tejaswini, who began the day 24th on the grid, after day one of qualification had yielded 282

titions including the previous combined World Cup in Suhl in 2023 and the combined Junior World Championships in Lima, Peru last year.



Madrid, May 26: La Liga champions Barcelona celebrated a successful season with a 3-0 win at Athletic Bilbao Sunday in their final match, with Robert Lewandowski netting twice to pass his 100 goal milestone for the club.

The veteran Polish forward, 36, reached 27 league goals for the season, although he finished behind Real Madrid's Kylian Mbappe on 31. Barcelona wrapped up a domestic treble with Copa del Rey and Spanish Super Cups wins, while fourth-place Athletic also had a fine season and returned to the Champions League for the first time in 11 years.





Marcos made his 570th and final appearance for the club, behind only Jose Angel Iribar, a goalkeeper who played 614 times in the 1960s and 70s, in the club's history.

Even Iribar might not have saved Lewandowski's opener after the striker was fed by Fermin Lopez, brilliantly scooping over current Bilbao goalkeeper

orting striker Victor d Mohamed Salah (29 goals)

Mbappe wins maiden

European Golden Shoe

ylian Mbappe has won the Europ

Golden Shoe for the first time coring twice in Real Madrid'



and rack up the Catalans' 100th league goal of the season.

vak Diokovic, fresh from win-

ning his 100th ATP title Satur-

day, Roger Federer and Andy

Murray all joined him on the

The trio walked out after Na-

dal's speech to greet their fellow

former world number one, to a

"After all these years fighting

for everything, it's unbelievable

how time changes the perspec-

tive of things," Nadal said to the

other members of the 'Big Four'.

here. I really enjoyed a lot push-

ing myself to the limit every

single day to compete with all

of you." Nadal hung up his rac-

quet following the 2024 Davis

Cup Finals in Malaga, initially

denying him an opportunity to

wave goodbye to his adoring

fans in Paris.

"It means a lot that you're all

deafening roar from the fans.

main Chatrier court.

Roland Garros pays unforgettable tribute to 'King Of Clay'

RAFA'S LONG-TIME RIVALS NOVAK DJOKOVIC, ROGER FEDERER AND ANDY MURRAY ALL JOINED HIM ON THE MAIN CHATRIER COURT

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Paris, May 26: Rafael Nadal was given a rousing reception as the 'King of Clay' stepped onto Court Philippe Chatrier for the final time Sunday in a ceremony to celebrate his career at the French Open.

The 38-year-old, who retired from tennis last November. was serenaded by the Roland Garros crowd, with spectators wearing different coloured t-shirts to create the message "14 RG, Rafa"

Nadal dominated the French Open after winning on debut as a teenager in 2005, lifting the trophy a record-breaking 14 times. The Spaniard finished with a remarkable 112-4 win-loss record at the clav-court Grand Slam. He last won the title in



2022 and played his final match here on the Paris clay last year when he was defeated by Alexander Zverev in the first round.

"I don't know how to start... I've been playing on this court for 20 years. I suffered, I won, I lost. I have lived many emotions

don't know how to start... I've been playing on this court for 20 years. I suf-ered, I won, I lost. I have lived many emotions

here on this court RAFAEL NADAL on this court," an

emotional Nadal told the crowd after watching a video of his career highlights at Roland Garros. Nadal's family and friends



watched from the player's box, along with many of his former coaching staff, including his uncle Toni.

Without doubt, the most important tennis court of my career," Nadal added to cheers

"It's been an incredible story that began back in 2004 when I came to Roland Garros for the verv first time. I could barely walk on crutches due to a foot Nadal dominated the French Open after winning on debut as a teenager in 2005, lifting the trophy a record-breaking 14 times. **The Spaniard finished** with a remarkable 112-4 win-loss record at the clay-court Grand Slam

injury. I climbed to the top of the court and looked out and couldn't wait to play here." Nadal won the title the very next year after that injury setback, downing Mariano Puerta in the final.

Old rivals meet

Nadal's long-time rivals No-



Unai Simon to put Barca ahead

Gill delivered a strong perfor mance against Kazakhstan's Daniyal Saparbay, to win by unanimous decision. Gill kept a steady rhythm from the start, combining tight defense with effective counters to keep the Kazakh boxer at bay. He will next face Uzbekistan's Rustamov Abdurakhmon in the semifinals. Sanju and Gills's progress added to In dia's impressive run in the tournament, with both boxers assuring themselves of at least

a bronze medal finish India have fielded a 19-mem-

ber strong contingent in the tournament that has attracted boxers from powerhouses like China, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, South Korea, and host Thailand.



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