



Wamiqa's choices

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

LEISURE | **P2**



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**



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**

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 arrests CRPF personnel

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested a CRPF personnel for allegedly spying for Pakistan, officials said Monday. The accused, Moti Ram Jat, was 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 with the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), was receiving funds from the PIOs through various conduits, officials said. The anti-terror agency has 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 the CRPF.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



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

'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 week-end. 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



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

PTI PHOTO

Under-construction rail tunnel collapses in Boudh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, May 26: A portion of the top soil over an under-construction railway tunnel caved in near Adenigarh in Boudh district, an official said Monday.

No one was injured in the incident that took place on the Khurda Road-Bolangir rail line stretch, he said.

"A minor incident of soil caving-in occurred this afternoon at Tunnel No. 4 on the Khurda-Bolangir railway line. It was due to loose

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 the project, it said.

DGP: Cyber command centre in City on cards

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, May 26: The state government has decided to set up a cyber command centre in Bhubaneswar to tackle the increasing menace of cyber crimes, Director General of Police (DGP) Yogesh Bahadur Khurania said Monday.

Speaking at the inauguration of a workshop on 'Cyber crime investigation and cyber intelligence' in the City, Khurania said the new command centre would play a vital role in expediting efforts to control, detect, and respond to cyber crimes, as well as provide immediate assistance to victims.

Khurania noted a surge in cyber crimes such as online investment frauds, financial scams, identity theft, digital 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.

The DGP said the state government has approved the establishment of 20 new cyber crime and economic offence police stations across Odisha. The state currently has 14 cyber police stations. These units, he said, would serve a pivotal role in preventing and investigating cyber crimes.

Khurania said similar workshops on cyber crime investigation would be held at range and district levels in the near future. Officers of all ranks will participate in these sessions, which aim at enhancing investigative skills and improving operational efficiency in handling cyber crime cases. Emphasising the need for continuous training, the DGP said, "To combat invisible criminals in the digital world, it is essential for police personnel to develop their capabilities and stay updated with the latest techniques."

Narrow escape for Sourav Ganguly's brother, sister-in-law

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Puri, May 26: Former Indian 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 administration to order an inquiry.

Though the incident occurred May 24 evening, it came to light Monday. Puri district collector Siddharth Shankar Swain said, "I have ordered an inquiry to look into the circumstances 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**

Srimandir's sacred terms to be patented

The naming of the Digha temple in West Bengal as 'Jagannath Dham' has caused agony and resentment among millions of devotees due to its religious, cultural, and emotional 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 identity of the 12th-century shrine, the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) has decided to seek patent protection for sacred terms such as Mahaprasad, Srimandir, Shree Jagannath Dham, Shreekshetra and Purushottam Dham, among others, associated with the temple



A proposal to this effect was approved at the SJTMC 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 Jagannath Dham, Padhee said the matter would be addressed by the state governments.

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

Replying to a query, the Gajapati Maharaja asserted 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.

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B.Tech Programmes			
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UG Programmes in other Disciplines

<ul style="list-style-type: none">B.Design (Automobile/ Graphic/Product)B.Design (Fashion / Textile)B.Tech & M.Tech Biotechnology (5yrs)B.Tech (Lateral Entry)B.ArchBCABBA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">B.Sc (Hospitality & Tourism)Bachelor of Film & Television ProductionBachelor of Communication & JournalismBachelor of Physical Education & SportsBA EconomicsBA Sociology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">BA EnglishBA PsychologyBA FrenchBA SpanishBA JapaneseBA GermanB.ComB.Sc (Economics & Data Analytics)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">B.Sc Computer ScienceB.Sc NursingB.PharmaD.PharmaBA LLB/BBA LLB/B.Sc LLB (Hons) 5yrs
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PG (1 year/2 years)/Integrated (5 years) Programmes

<ul style="list-style-type: none">M.TechLLM (1yr)MCAM.Sc BiotechnologyM.Sc Applied MicrobiologyM.ArchMBAMBA in Rural ManagementMBA in Agribusiness Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">MBA-IEV (Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Venture Development)Master of Communication & JournalismMaster in Urban & Regional PlanningMaster in Yoga & NaturopathyMaster of Hospital AdministrationMaster of Public Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none">MA in Fashion ManagementM. Design (Interior)M.Sc Computer ScienceMA EconomicsMA SociologyMA EnglishMA PsychologyMaster in Public PolicyM.ComM.Sc Physics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">M.Sc ChemistryM.Sc Mathematics & Data ScienceMaster in Library & Information SciencesMaster in Physical Education & SportsM.Sc NursingIntegrated M.Tech & Ph.DPh.D
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KIIT (Deemed to be University) has only one permanent campus in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. It has no other campus / off campus anywhere else in the country and globe.

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
If you are involved in monetary matters, today you will find yourself weighing the benefits. Aloof 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 remarkably eventful and gratifying day ahead.

GEMINI
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.

LEO
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 business, says Ganesha.

VIRGO
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 Ganesha says that this will be very effective.

LIBRA
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.

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 and your efforts may go in vain. No pains, no gains reminds Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS
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?

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.

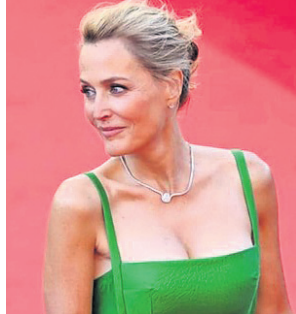
PISCES
Compromise is the name of the game when it comes to relationships, and you are adept at it. You realise the importance of losing an argument to win over a heart, and do so with panache. Indeed, this is an area where others emulate you, says Ganesha.



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*.



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 films—whether 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 Rajkumar 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.’

IAN5



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.

PTI

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 intervene, reasoning that it was ultimately “Khosla's film”, and



opted to speak with producer N N Sippy about the matter. “There were only a few days left for the shoot and the song was yet to be finalised. What was

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 pictured alongside actor Sadhana 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 “astounded” and admitted it was one of the best tunes he had ever come across.

PTI



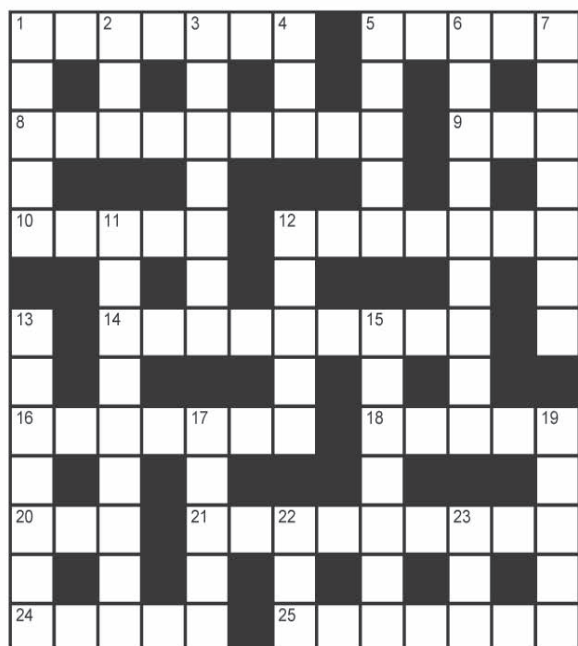
Shilpa's fitness challenge for men

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.

IAN5

FUN post

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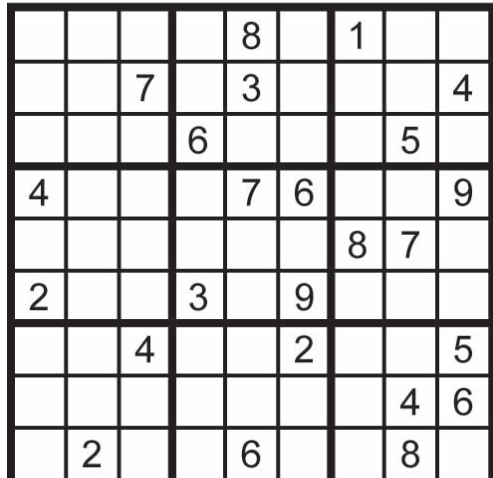
- Across**

 - 1 Rabbit-sized rodents of Central America
 - 5 Axes
 - 8 Assortment
 - 9 Duffer's dream
 - 10 Give the slip
 - 12 Unnerved
 - 14 Negative one
 - 16 Journalists
 - 18 Confess (3,2)
- Down**

 - 1 Sufficient
 - 2 Choose
 - 3 Mason's tools
 - 4 Round Table address
 - 20 Outback runner
 - 21 Dress shops
 - 24 Milquetoast
 - 25 Reason to go on a diet
- 5 Fleet
 - 6 Quack, for one
 - 7 Slight
 - 11 Boxer's blows
 - 12 Train tracks
 - 13 Tooth problem
 - 15 Worship
 - 17 London policeman
 - 19 Bothersome
 - 22 ET carrier
 - 23 Israeli weapon

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.

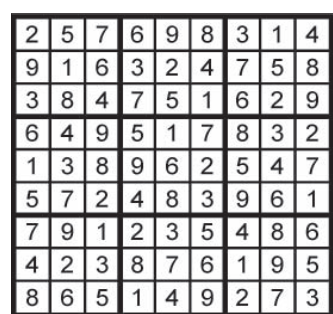


SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

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 large-scale 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 permeable 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-permeable 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

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 directions 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.”



DRAMA PERFORMANCE: Artistes stage a play *Mrudanga Madhav* organised by Board of Revenue Bar Association at Kala Vikash Kendra in Cuttack, Monday

OP PHOTO

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, Ayur-arogya Saukhyam Foundation, Action Lab 2050 Foundation, and the Odisha Menstrual Health and Hygiene Alliance.



Deputy Chief Minister Prava-ti Parida will attend the event as the chief guest.

This flagship event will bring together global experts, poli-cymakers, NGOs, healthcare providers, and educators for meaningful discussions and

actionable strategies around menstrual health.

Key topics will include breaking societal taboos, improving access to hygiene products, enhancing men-strual education, and addressing the environmental impact of

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 feature panel discussions on government-led menstrual health initiatives and long-term, sustainable solutions. Representatives from Unicef, AIIMS, NEST Sankalp Trust, and Ayur-arogya Saukhyam Foundation will deliver special addresses during the event.

‘Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan’ from May 29

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

Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Deputy Chief Ministers Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo and Pravati Parida, and Fisheries & Animal Resources Development Minister Gokulananda Mallik.

A preparatory meeting was held here Monday at Krushi Bhawan, chaired by Deputy CM and Agriculture Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo. Principal Secretary Ar-

abinda Kumar Padhee stated that preparations are in the final stages.

According to the itinerary, Minister Chouhan will first visit Srimandir and participate in a ‘Tiranga Yatra’ before inaugurating the campaign at Birgobindapur Krishi Vigyan Kendra in Sakshigopal.

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.

ECoR honours staffers for exemplary service

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 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-



jhargarh and Boddani Srinivasa Rao, Train Manager at Visakhapatnam.

Each of them demonstrated exemplary vigilance and presence of mind during their routine duties, taking swift and effective measures that helped prevent potential disruptions and safeguarded passenger safety.

While presenting the awards,

Funkwal praised their professionalism, dedication, and sense of responsibility, especially 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 station operators in maintaining the integrity and reliability of railway services.

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

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit 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-Nayikanidih, 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.

Three sleepless nights may raise risk of heart disease

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

People 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 sessions.

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 exercise lasting 30 minutes.

The researchers measured 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

when the participants were sleep-deprived.

Many of these proteins have already been linked to an increased risk of cardiovascular disease such as heart failure and coronary artery disease, said the researchers, in the study published in the journal Biomarker Research.

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.

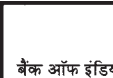
Cedernaes said that “further research is needed to investigate how these effects might differ in women, older individuals, patients with heart disease, or those with different sleep patterns.” IANS

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

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E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice Under SARFAESI ACT, 2002

Where as the Bank acting through its Authorised Officer in exercise of its powers under-Section 13(4) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (SARFAESI) has decided to put up for E-auction of the following property **"As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is"** basis for realization of the debts due to the Bank.

Sl. No.	BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrower / Partner/ Total Dues	Description of the Property	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increment Amount
1.	GOPALPUR BRANCH, PH.: 9007488999 / Borrower: M/s. Harapriya Engineering and Fabrication Work, At: Plot No.: 2273/2985, Tarol, Tangi, Thana No.:45, Cuttack, Odisha-754021 / Managing Partner: Mr. Manas Ranjan Samantaray (Property Owner) / Partner: Mrs. Anitarani Das, Both are At: B N/7, Raja Bagicha Labour Colony, Telenga Bazar, Cuttack Sadar, Cuttack, Odisha-753009 / Total Dues: ₹40,79,000/- (Approx.) + interest, costs and expenses, less any part amount repaid.	GF RCC Office Room & GCI Shed on Khata No.: 620/970, Plot No.: 2273/2985, Plot Area: Ac.0.075 Dec. i.e. 3267 Sqft, Mouza: Tarol, P.S.: Tangi (P.S. No.: 72), Tahasil: Tangi-Choudwar, Dist.: Cuttack, Odisha, Standing in the name of Mr. Manas Ranjan Samantaray, S/o.: Mr. Gobinda Chandra Samantaray, Bounded by North: Alekha Swain, South: Babuli Barik & Ranjan Barik, East: Road, West: Ramakanta Biswal	₹58,33,000/- (excluding GST & other statutory dues) / ₹5,83,300/- / ₹ 50,000/-
Date & Time of E-Auction: 25.06.2025 From 11.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. with unlimited extension of 10 (Ten) minutes each.			
Last Date & Time for submission of EMD & Documents: 25.06.2025 upto 4.00 P.M.			
Inspection shall be provided to the prospective bidders on any working day before 24.06.2025 with prior appointment of the authorised officer			
*Successful Bidder to deposit 25% of the bid amount by next working day which includes EMD money. The balance amount to be paid on or before 15th Day of confirmation of sale.			
The sale shall be subject to the terms and conditions and provisions prescribed in the SARFAESI Act 2002 read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. This is also a 15 days sale notice to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) of the aforesaid loan account for settlement of their outstanding dues with the Bank and to participate in the public auction on the above mentioned date. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in https://baanknet.com			
Place: Bhubaneswar Date: 27.05.2025			Authorised Officer Bank of India



Shocker For Trump

As 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.



Ajit Ranade

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

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 to do.

BOB DYLAN

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 E. FRANKL

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.

LOL

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

longhorns 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"?

SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

No development strategy can ignore climate



Marcos Vinicius Chiliatto & Michael Krake

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

After decades of industrialisation powered by fossil fuels, the costs of climate change are becoming ever more apparent in both the Global South and the Global North. 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

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 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 low- and middle-income countries by 2030. To be sure, humankind has

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 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 Infrastructure Investment Bank,

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 exchange-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.

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Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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

KHELO INDIA BEACH GAMES

TN fishermen fuel India's beach volleyball growth



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

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 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 commu-

The fisherman community has given us some of the strongest and most resilient players in the game. Their lifestyle—pulling fishing nets, walking on shifting sand, constant exposure to sun—builds the perfect stamina, balance, and strength needed for beach volleyball

AJ MARTIN SUDHAKAR | VETERAN VOLLEYBALL COACH

nity has given us some of the strongest and most resilient players in the game. Their lifestyle—pulling fishing nets, walking on shifting sand, constant exposure to sun—builds the perfect stamina, balance, and strength needed for beach volleyball," Sudhakar told SAI Media.

"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 reason why they excel."

Bharat and Robin are both unemployed despite their international medals. "Their families 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 forever," Sudhakar said. "If they get government jobs, at least 100-150 more youngsters from the community will take up the sport seriously."

"We are organising a 10-day camp in Chennai from next month 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

even cricket."

Beach volleyball was introduced 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 Mayiladuthurai 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 & Kashmir 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 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.



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

PTI PHOTO

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 between 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 proposed ₹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.

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: Researchers 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 Lepidotrigona arcifera Cockerell. The research has been published in several reputed, peer-reviewed journals, including International Journal of Farm Sciences.

According to Avinash Chauhan, Scientist and Principal Investigator (AICRP Honeybees and Pollinators), Department of Entomology, School of Agricultural 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



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 improve the beekeeping rearing techniques and to promote scientific beekeeping with honey bees and stingless bees for better honey production and pollination of crops. The focus is also to raise awareness among the people for the conservation of other wild honey bees and pollinators," he said.

Stingless bees are reported from North East India, Eastern India and Southern Indian States, with recent additions 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 domestication of these bees involving the development of scientific hives and mass multiplication of stingless bee colonies using queen cells is achieved in Nagaland and is extended to other states like Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh.

BOON FOR AGRICULTURE

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 Fibersgenix 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 self-help 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 in-

The listing of Greater Chennai Corporation bonds on the NSE is a strategic step to fund vital stormwater drain infrastructure, strengthen urban finances and reduce the fiscal burden through transparent and innovative financial management

MK 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 under the Project Sustainability Grant Fund in order to encourage the Chennai corporation and strengthen the investors' confidence.



of the day quote

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

PAWAN KALYAN | AP DEPUTY CM

We have allocated Rs 700 crore for drains, streets, toilets, bath-rooms, 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

Himachal 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 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.

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.



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

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.

Authorities in Kerala Monday said many of its containers have started to wash ashore, with some of those being found along the coasts of southern Kollam and Alappuzha districts. "As there is a risk of the oil spill spreading, a high alert has been issued along the entire Kerala coast," according to a statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) earlier

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 Defence said Sunday.

The ministry in a fresh statement Monday said hours after the container vessel sank, the Indian Coast Guard's surveillance aircraft detected an "oil slick" at the site, and the ICG has launched a "full-scale pollution response operation".

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



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



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 prevalent, Dr Behl said. "Samples from other places are being sequenced and we will know in a day or two if there are more variants."

The ICMR DG said there has been an uptick in cases --first from the south, then west and now from northern India. All these cases are being monitored through the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (ID-SP).

Besides that, ICMR's nationwide respiratory virus sentinel surveillance network is keeping a watch on emerging infections and pathogens, he said.

"Whenever cases increase, we look at three things. It's de-

pendent on three factors with the first being how transmissible it is, conversely how fast the cases are increasing. Previously 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 should be vigilant. There is no need to take any such action as of now," he said.

The officer added that the WHO database has been showing that the new variants were not causing severe disease.

"People do not need to take any immediate action. They should follow normal precautions. So, there is nothing special to do right now."

Asked about the need for a booster dose, he said there is no need for vaccination as of now. "India has the capability to make vaccines and if need be, we can make any vaccine in no time."



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

PTI PHOTO

SC collegium backs elevation of 3 HC judges to apex court

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 Roy. 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.

Elections to 8 RS seats in TN, Assam June 19

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 26: Elections for eight Rajya 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 Rajya 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 partner PMK will seek to retain the two seats they currently hold.

The terms of six members from Tamil Nadu -- Anbumani 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 political 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 nomination 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 Tamil 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.

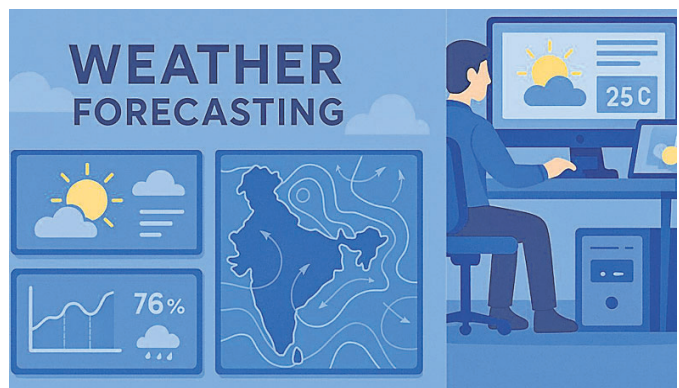
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 26: India Monday unveiled a home-grown 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.

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 Minister 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 forecasting model. Arka performs the

same data-crunching within four hours," Mukhopadhyay told PTI.

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

He said the data from a 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.

of the day

quote

Madhya Pradesh is witnessing continuous development, and in this journey, industrialists from across the country are welcome



OMAR 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


There have been lot of interests since Investors' Summit 2.0 and we are getting more proposals following the summit



HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CM

POST OF THE DAY

There are enough 2 faced people in the world. Business of "nationalism" is very different from being 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.

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.

Mumbai gets earliest monsoon in 75 years



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 western 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 inundated 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 Corporation (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 at entry/exit collapsed due to a sudden ingress of water from an adjoining utility." As a precautionary measure and to ensure passenger safety, train services between Worli and Acharya Atrey Chowk have been temporarily suspended, the agency said. However, the services from Aarey JVLR to Worli are not affected and are running regularly, it said. On May 9, the MMRC extended the underground metro services between the Bandra-Kurla Complex and Acharya Atre Chowk stations.

Apex court orders recount in SCBA president, executive polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 26: Conduct recounting of votes in the recently concluded Supreme Court Bar Association polls, the apex court told the election committee Monday in view of alleged irregularities in the process. 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

number of votes polled. He said the election committee had received a complaint from senior advocate Adish 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 two-three 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.

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 relationship 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 provi-sions 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

Political slugfest over waterlogging

Mumbai: The early arrival of the monsoon triggered a 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 spending. 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 heavy rains inundating an underground station. Another opposition party, the Congress, said despite spending crores of rupees, the government has failed 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 rain-water leaking along the escalators, while the false ceiling inside the station lay collapsed, and some machinery is seen scattered. Metro Line 3 is Mumbai's 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.

Pak sees terrorism as tourism: Modi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 tourism, 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



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 | 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."

Jaishankar clears air about US role

New Delhi: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Monday told a parliamentary panel that Pakistan 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", saying the decision to halt the military operation was taken bilaterally after a request from the Pakistan side. Addressing members of the Consultative Committee on External Affairs here, the minister said the cessation of Operation Sindoor was done only after Pakistan DGMO asked for the halting of hostilities and there was no question of US mediation between the two, the sources said.



A passenger ferry crosses the river Brahmaputra in Guwahati, Assam

PTI PHOTO

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 minister 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 India-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 manifestations", the ministry said. Khaleel also held a meeting with external affairs minister S Jaishankar. "Welcome Maldives' support and solidarity in combatting terrorism. India remains 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' solidarity with the people and government of India and its firm support to India in the fight against terrorism in all its forms and 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 wrestler 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 proceeding held August 1, 2023, the "minor" had told the judge who was previously holding the court that she was satisfied with Delhi Police's investigation 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 startling 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 Offences (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 evidence" was found.

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

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 investigation 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.

international

of the day quote

The current international situation is a stalemate. Unilateralism and protectionism are on the rise, bullying behaviour is increasing

LI QIANG | 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

His Majesty King Charles III will read the speech from the throne and thus present the plan of our government, our priorities, as Canada is facing a pivotal moment in its history, the biggest transformation of the global trading system since the fall of the Berlin Wall

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 tractors Monday, protesting 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.



By special title, today I can say that for you and with you I am Roman

POPE 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



GAZA CEASEFIRE

HAMAS AGREES TO 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.

An Israeli official dismissed the proposal, saying no responsible government could accept such an agreement and



Israeli strikes kill 30 in Gaza

Israeli 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 and if not today then we will tomorrow".

Trump calls Putin 'crazy'

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 Zelenskyy.

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



his mouth causes problems, I don't like it, and it better stop."

The Kremlin, asked about Trump's specific remarks about Putin being "crazy", thanked the US people and Trump in person for their assistance in launching peace negotiations but suggested Trump and others might be emotionally overloaded.

"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

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!

DONALD TRUMP | PRESIDENT, US

fierce fighting is underway along key parts of the front.

The Ukrainian air force said the overnight Russian attack hit targets in five locations, but did not elaborate, implying military damage.

The western region of Khmelnytskyi, 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 ministry said its strike hit targets at Ukraine's Starokostiantyniv

B'DESH NEW SERVICE LAW

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) Ordinance, 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 July mass uprising, these same people wore black badges and worked in offices supporting Sheikh Hasina," he said.

Hundreds of government employees briefly locked the sec-

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

retariat's main gate Monday.

The agitating employees 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 employees 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 PFI PHOTO

'Iran can survive without US nuclear deal'

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 sanc-



tions and bombing if no new nuclear agreement is reached.

"It's not like we will die of hunger if they refuse to negotiate with us or impose sanctions," Pezeshkian was quoted

as 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 — just south of Salt Lake City — 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 effort grew into a 15-acre oasis. Today, the Shri Shri Radha Krishna Temple stands at the center of the property — a striking, 10,000-square-foot structure inspired by North

FROM RADIO WAVES TO TEMPLE DOMES



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

Cows, llamas, and peacocks roam the grounds, while a small lake irrigates gardens that produce flowers and organic vegetables for a dona-

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, pro-

posed 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 visually stunning interior. She spent six months painting the sanctuary's vaulted ceiling with divine 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.

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

stand adorned with banners and flags emblazoned with slogans hailing their heroes.

Even Trent Alexander-Arnold — 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



Manchester City, Chelsea and 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.

Salah matches record with 4th Golden Boot

Liverpool's Mohamed Salah won the Premier League Golden Boot for the fourth time in his career, matching the record set by former Arsenal striker Thierry Henry. The award is given each season to 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.

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 Tournament here. Apart from Kanika (46', 50'), Sonam (21') was on target for India, while Milagros Seigal (3') and Agustina Mari (24') scored for Uruguay in the match here Sunday. Uruguay took an early lead in the third minute through Seigal's penalty corner. India will next take on hosts Argentina Tuesday.

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.

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-year-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.

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

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



Lewandowski passes century

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

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

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.

Athletic defender Oscar de

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 top-two 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



IPL STANDINGS						
TEAM	M	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	
MI	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

run scorer for the Mumbai outfit in an IPL season.

The India T20 captain has amasses 640 runs thus far, bettering Tendulkar's 618 scored in the 2010 edition.

Arshdeep Singh swung the ball both ways in the opening over of the game, troubling Ryan Rickelton (27 off 20) who managed to survive.

Suryakumar and Naman Dhir (20 off 12) got the much-needed hits in the death overs. The 20th over from Arshdeep Singh was exactly what Punjab Kings needed to close the innings. The left-arm pacer took two wickets and gave away just three runs.

Brief scores

Mumbai Indians: 184/7 in 20 overs (Suryakumar Yadav 57; Arshdeep Singh 2/28, Marco Jansen 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)

THAILAND OPEN

Pugilists Sanju, Anshul advance to semifinals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 International Boxing Tournament here Monday.

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 quarterfinal bout.

The National Games bronze medallist maintained her control throughout the three rounds, staying composed and showing clear technical superiority to outbox her opponent and secure a place in the last four stage.

In the men's 90+ kg division, Gill delivered a strong performance 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 India's impressive run in the tournament, with both boxers assuring themselves of at least a bronze medal finish.

India have fielded a 19-member strong contingent in the tournament that has attracted boxers from powerhouses like China, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, South Korea, and host Thailand.



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 on to 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 clay-court Grand Slam. He last won the title in



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 here on this court

2022 and played his final match 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

here

on

this

court," an

emotional Nad-

al 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 very 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-