

#### VOLUME 15, ISSUE 60 I www. orissapost.com

LEISURE | P2

### NEET-PG 2025 be held in one shift, orders SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 30: In a significant order, the Supreme Court Friday issued directions that the postgraduate medical entrance exam scheduled for June 15 be conducted in a single shift, saying holding it in two shifts 'creates arbitrariness'.

A bench, headed by Justice Vikram Nath, directed the authorities to make arrangements for holding NEET-PG 2025 in one shift and to ensure that complete transparency is maintained and secured centres are identified.

"Any two question papers can never be said to be having an identical level of difficulty or ease," said the bench, also comprising Justices Sanjay Kumar and NV Anjaria.

It said normalisation may be applied in exceptional cases but not in a routine manner year after year.

The bench passed the order on pleas challenging a notification on holding the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Post Graduate (NEET-PG) 2025 in two shifts.

The top court said the total number of candidates who have applied for the examination is 2,42,678 and the test is held all over the country and not in one

"We are not ready to accept that in the entire country and considering the technological advancement in the country, the examining body could not find enough centres to hold the examination in one shift," the bench said.

## **FSSAI** bans use of '100%' on food labels

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 30: The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has issued a strong advisory against the use of the term '100%' in food la-



MONSOON LIFE: People carry their children as they wade through a waterlogged road during rainfall in Guwahati, Friday

CASH GOES OUT OF WINDO

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

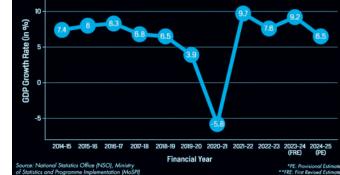
Bhubaneswar, May 30: Vigilance sleuths Friday recovered over ₹2 crore in cash and valuable assets from the possession of a government engineer, which are suspected to be disproportionate to his known sources of income, offi-



**Growth hits 4-yr low** 

At 6.5 per cent, India's GDP for the financial year 2024-25 grew at its slowest pace since the pandemic year of 2020-21, mainly on account of a slump in the manufacturing sector even as growth in the farm sector, the backbone of India's economy, accelerated. In the 2023-24 fiscal year, the economy had grown by 9.2 per

India's GDP growth rate over the past 10 years From Financial Year 2014-15 to 2024-25



against ₹47.82 lakh crore in the year-ago quarter, registering a growth rate of 7.4 per cent. Nominal GDP in Q4 of FY25 is estimated at ₹88.18 lakh crore against ₹79.61 lakh crore in Q4 of 2023-24, showing a growth rate of 10.8 per cent.

BUSINESS | P11

Real gross value added (GVA) is estimated at ₹171.87 lakh crore in the FY25, against the FRE for the FY24 of ₹161.51 lakh crore, registering a growth rate of 6.4 per cent. Nominal GVA is estimated to attain a level of ₹300.22 lakh crore during FY25 against ₹274.13 lakh crore in FY24, showing a growth rate of 9.5 per cent. On an annual basis, the growth in the key manufacturing sector decelerated to 4.5 per cent from 12.3 per cent in 2023-24. However, in the agriculture sector, the output increased to 4.6 per cent in 2024-25 compared to 2.7 per cent in the preceding fiscal. During the fourth quarter, the manufacturing sector output slowed to 4.8 per cent from 11.3 per cent in the year-ago quarter. The construction segment grew 10.8 per cent in the quarter from 8.7 per cent in the corresponding period of 2023-24. The agriculture sector growth accelerated to 5.4 per cent from 0.9 per cent in the final quarter of the last fiscal.

## Sikkim mishap: CM rushes special team to assist Odia tourists

SPORTS | P12

12 PAGE | ₹5.00

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 30: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Friday directed that a special team be rushed to Sikkim as some residents from Odisha were in the tourist vehicle which plunged into Teesta river in Mangan district of the Himalayan state. One person was killed, two injured and eight others went missing when a vehicle carrying 11 tourists plunged into the

Teesta river, police said Friday. The tourist vehicle plunged more than 1,000 feet into the Teesta near Munsithang along the Lachen-Lachung highway Thursday night, they said.

Odisha BJP Mahila Morcha secretary Iti Shree Jena is among the six from the state, who were among the missing persons. Jena was travelling with her fam ily from Jajpur when the tragic accident occurred. Her son and nephew have been rescued, local police sources said.

Odisha CMO sources said Majhi called Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang and inquired about the fate of Odisha passengers in the tourist vehicle. He expressed concern over passenger safety and medical treatment. Majhi also asked officials to make arrangements for the safe return of the Odisha passengers from Sikkim, they said

belling, citing concerns over its potential to mislead consumers.

The apex food regulator, in a statement, said it has asked all Food Business Operators (FBOs) to refrain from using the term on food labels, packaging, and promotional content, owing to its ambiguity and potential for misinterpretation within the existing regulatory provisions.

In the advisory issued Thursday, FSSAI highlighted a noticeable surge in the use of the term '100%' across food product labels and promotional platforms.

The Authority emphasised that such terminology is not only undefined under current regulations but also misleading and likely to create a false impression among consumers.

As per the Food Safety and Standards (Advertising and Claims) Regulations, 2018, the term '100%' is not defined or referenced in any manner under the FSS Act, 2006, or the Rules and Regulations made thereunder.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



We already know. Your ruling party keeps WhatsApping all this. Tell us something new, you Urban Naxal!

cent. However, private consumer spending, which makes up 57 per cent of GDP, slowed to a yearon-year increase of 6 per cent in the March quarter, down from a revised 8.1 per cent growth in the previous quarter. This decline was attributed to a decrease in urban spending, while rural demand for durable goods and agricultural equipment, such as tractors, showed improvement

#### PNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi, May 30: India's economic growth slowed to 7.4 per cent in the January-March period and pulled down the annual growth rate for 2024-25 to a fouryear low of 6.5 per cent, mainly due to the manufacturing sector, official data showed Friday.

The size of the Indian economy rose to ₹330.68 lakh crore or about USD 3.9 trillion and set the stage for achieving the USD 5 trillion target in the next few

years. In the previous 2023-24 fiscal year, the economy grew 9.2 per cent. The economic expansion was recorded at 7.4 per cent during January-March 2025, while it was 6.4 per cent in October-December 2024, 5.6 per cent in July-September 2024, and 6.5 per cent in the April-June quarter of the last financial year, according to economic estimates released by the National Statistics Office (NSO). The GDP had expanded by 8.4 per cent in the January-March

quarter of 2023-24. The NSO, in its second advance estimate released in February, had projected the GDP growth for 2024-

25 at 6.5 per cent. "Real GDP or GDP at Constant Prices is estimated to attain a level of ₹187.97 lakh crore in FY2024 25, against the First Revised Estimates (FRE) of GDP for the FY 2023-24 of ₹176.51 lakh crore, registering a growth rate of 6.5 per cent. Nominal GDP or GDP at Current Prices is estimated to attain a level of ₹330.68 lakh crore in the FY 2024-25 against ₹301.23 lakh crore in FY 2023-24, showing a growth rate of 9.8 per cent." NSO said in a release.

NSO further said that real GDP or GDP at Constant Prices in the fourth quarter of 2024-25 is estimated at ₹51.35 lakh crore cials said.

The search operation at the residences and the office of the engineer is underway, they said. "The anti-corruption wing of the Odisha Police raided the residences and the office of Baikuntha Nath Sarangi, Chief Engineer, Plan Roads, RW Division, Odisha, Bhubaneswar," a statement said.

Around ₹1 crore in cash was recovered from his Bhubaneswar flat. and ₹1.1 crore was found at Sarangi's residence at Angul, one of the officials said.

"On seeing the Vigilance officers, Sarangi threw bundles of cash in ₹500 denomination through the window of his flat in Bhubaneswar. The cash was recovered in the presence of witnesses.<sup>7</sup> another official said.

He was accused of possessing assets disproportionate to his known sources of income.

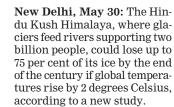
Simultaneous raids are being conducted as search warrants were issued by Special Judge Vigilance, Angul.

The Vigilance team locat ed a two-storeyed residential house at Karadagadia, Angul, and flats in Bhubaneswar and at Siula, Pipli in Puri district. an official said.

Sarangi's ancestral house and relatives' homes in Angul district were also searched. His office chamber, located at the Chief Engineer, RD Planning and Road, Bhubaneswar, is also being raided.

# Hindu Kush Himalaya could lose 75% ice by century's end

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



If countries can limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, the study published in the journal Science said 40-45 per cent of glacier ice in the Himalayas and the Caucasus would be of warming. preserved. In comparison, the study found that only about one-quarter of glacier ice glob-

by the end of this century, the path the world is on if today's climate policies continue. Glacier regions most important to human communities, such as the European Alps, the Rockies of the western US and Canada, and Iceland, would be especially hard hit, it said.

These regions could lose nearly all their ice at 2 degrees Celsius, with only 10-15 per cent of their 2020 levels remaining. Scandinavia could face an even grimmer future, with no glacier ice left at all at this level

The study highlighted that limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, a target set by the 2015 Paris Agreement, would help preserve some glacier ice in



These findings come as global attention turns to the melting of glaciers and its impact, with world leaders gathering in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, for the first UN conference on glaciers starting Friday. Over 50 countries are attending, including 30 at the ministerial level or higher. Speaking in Dushanbe, Asian

Development Bank Vice-President Yingming Yang said, "Melting glaciers threaten lives on an unprecedented scale, including the livelihoods of more than 2 billion people in Asia. Switching to clean energy to cut the release of planet-warming emissions remains the most effective way of slowing glacial melt.<sup>3</sup>

"At the same time, it is essential to mobilise financing to help the most vulnerable adapt to a future of more floods, droughts, and rising sea levels across Asia and the Pacific." he added.

To get these results, a team of 21 scientists from 10 countries

used eight glacier models to calculate the potential ice loss of the more than 200,000 glaciers worldwide, under a wide range of global temperature scenarios For each scenario, they assumed that temperatures would remain constant for thousands of years

In all scenarios, the glaciers lose mass rapidly over decades and then continue to melt at a slower pace for centuries, even without further warming. This means they will feel the impact of today's heat for a long time before settling into a new balance as they retreat to higher altitudes.

"Our study makes it painfully clear that every fraction of a degree matters," says co-lead author Dr Harry Zekollari from the Vrije Universiteit Brussel.





ally will be left if the world

warms by 2.7 degrees Celsius





It predicted that 54 per cent

of present-day glacier ice would

remain globally and 20-30 per

cent in the four most sensitive

regions, if this goal is met.

all regions





# elsure

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accuracy • reliability • trust

Today you will have to give

in to your spouse's demands

ment at home. In your own interest it will

stay focussed on them as you are the one

day off from your work and immersing your self in domestic activities. A

lot of time will be spent blissfully with you

family folk chatting away or doing this and that. The idea of getting your interiors

redone and give your house a new look will

surely occur to you. Instead of doing things

on your own, it is very likely you will engage

ind it difficult to meet all of them. How-

ever, you will be able to meet the require-

ments that need to be met to salvage the

day. People will praise your intelligence

be advisable, says Ganesha, to hasten

the measures needed to be taken and

for improving the environ-

who is guilty of neglect.

TAURUS

Ganesha sees you taking a

a professional for the job.

GEMINI

You will be faced with a slew

and creativity, says Ganesha

CANCER

You will tackle with ease,

even the most confounding

of demands from various people today, and you will



### **JOHANSSON DISCUSSES ROAD AHEAD IN ACTING**

Hollywood star Scarlett Johansson said she remains committed to acting in projects she'd personally enjoy watching, even as she makes her directorial debut with the new drama film Eleanor the Great. Johansson will be seen on screen in the upcoming film Jurassic World Rebirth.

### **ANDERSON TO BE HONOURED AT MUNICH FILM FESTIVAL**

Actress Gillian Anderson will be honoured with CineMerit Award at the Munich International Film Festival during its upcoming edition, which runs from June 27 to July 6. Anderson will be handed the awards during a ceremony at the Deutsches Theater.



# **Deepika on feminism** 'UNE FORECAST

Mumbai: Deepika Padukone has found herself at the center of controversy after director Sandeep Reddy Vanga posted a cryptic and strongly worded message on X (formerly Twitter), which many believe was aimed at her. The drama unfolded following reports that Deepika was originally approached for the Prabhas-starrer Spirit, but the role eventually went to Triptii Dimri. Vanga's post accused an unnamed actor of breaching trust, undermining a younger actor, and misusing feminism, ending with the sharp remark: "You didn't get it.

You won't get it. You will never get it. #dirtyPRgames.'

As speculation swirled, many revisited Deepika's thoughtful take on feminism during the promotions of Fighter in 2024. When asked about playing strong roles in male-driven films like Pathaan and Singham Again, She highlighted how men and women need to work together and hinted that the traditional definition of feminism might need a refresh. She said, "But to complete my thought, you never anyway ever do anything

alone. I don't think women can succeed without men and men can't succeed without women. I think we need to rephrase the definition of feminism," she added.

On the professional front, Deepika has some big projects lined up. After welcoming her daughter with husband Ranveer Singh last year, as per reports, she is set to return in Shah Rukh Khan's upcoming film King.

AGENCIES

# Nitanshi goes global

Mumbai: Nitanshi Goel has made history by becom ing the youngest Indian to rank globally at #4 in the official Earned Media Value (EMV) Top Voices report by influencer marketing platform Lefty. With an impressive EMV of \$5.42 million, Nitanshi emerged as one of the most talked-about personalities at the Cannes Film Festival 2025, surpassing even global fashion icons like Bella

Hadid and Naomi Campbell in media visibility. Making her Cannes debut as a representative of L'Oréal Paris, Nitanshi captivated audiences with her elegance, confidence, and standout style. Sharing the spotlight with Alia Bhatt, she garnered immense attention from international fashion watchers and media outlets, signaling her arrival on the global stage.

The Cannes red carpet, known for its glamour and high-profile appearances, served as the perfect backdrop for Nitanshi to make a lasting impression. Her sartorial choices. poise, and youthful charisma turned heads and earned widespread admiration.

With this achievement, Nitanshi joins the elite league of Indian celebrities like Alia Bhatt and Kiara Advani, who previously topped EMV charts during their Met Gala appearances. Her debut at Cannes marks

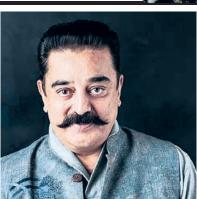
a major milestone, positioning her as a powerful new voice in fashion and media.

AGENCIES

# Surveen's traumatic experience

Mumbai: Surveen Chawla has once again spoken out about the harassment she faced in the film industry. In a recent interview, she recalled a disturbing casting couch incident with a filmmaker who tried to kiss her after a professional meeting, despite knowing she was married. "This happened on Mumbai's Veera Desai Road," she shared. "We had a meeting in his office cabin, where we even spoke about my marriage. As he walked me to the gate, he suddenly leaned in to kiss me. I was shocked and had to push him away."

This was not an isolated incident. Surveen revealed she had endured multiple such experiences over the years. She also spoke about a South Indian filmmaker who conveyed, through a middleman, his intention to sleep with her, as he was uncomfortable speaking directly due to language barriers. Surveen further opened up about the harsh scrutiny she faced while transitioning from television to films. Her first Bollywood meeting turned sour when she was questioned about her appearance, including her weight and body measurements. "They put you in a space where you begin to ques-tion yourself," she admitted. AGENCIES



PEANUTS

# Kamal makes startling revelation

ing a fresh perspective ble with him is that

Mumbai: Superstar Kamal Haasan recently made a surprising revelation, disclosing that the script for the upcoming film Thug Life was originally his own work, titled Amar Hai. In a recent interview, Haasan. who also stars

in the film, opened up

about an interesting

beginnings. Speaking with a news agency, the Kalki 2898 AD actor disclosed that the film was originally inspired by a script he had penned himself, called Amar Hai. He went on to share insights into the story's original concept, offertrailer says, 'The trou-

aspect of Thug Life's

on the project.

Kamal was quoted as saying, "I finished the script. It was called Amar Hai at that time. Amar hai is a pun; a man who is believed to be dead is not dead. His name is Amar, and that's the problem. The

he's dead.' It starts with a mysterious dead body, and then he appears and peeks in. I wrote this and that character, but he (Mani Ratnam) took it like an idea. It's like telling a joke—you sav you like it, but the final punch could be

sharper." IANS

You will try to do the best work possible by putting in your maximum efforts. However, the results might turn out tobe lower than your expectations. You need to be warv of excessive expenses or financial loss today. You need to escape losses today by keeping your wits above you, says Ganesha.



Ganesha foretells that your writing abilities will help you give vent to your emotions without hurting others. You will finish all your incomplete tasks successfully.Gane shasays that you will experience success in everything that you choose to do today.

# LIBRA

Ganesha says today is a good day to renovate

#### your home. You will be able to decorate your home artistically because of your designing skills. The atmosphere at your home will be a happy one with the arrival make plans to go of quests

fears Ganesha, as it shakes you and lowers your self-confidence. But shakeoff your weaknesses and obtain Lots of energy

challenges. You may be the scapegoat.

### LEO

You are advised to be more attentive to your work today.

picnic with close friends or relatives.

#### **SCORPIO**

It's time to influence people and win their hearts whether it's your crush, love or your boss. You may be eager to express your feelings for them.At work, you are

likely to work actively and kick start the projects in the pipeline. Ganesha, advises your to keep your eyes and ears open.

### SAGITTARIUS

Tough times do not last. but tough people do, remember this fact and move ahead in life. Try to make the complicated life simpler by your optimistic approach. Speak up when it is required and don't get bogged down by unnecessary pressure.

# CAPRICORN

The hassle and bustle around you will not disturb you today. You've been holding your emotions in your heart and they have started suffocating you. Such an uncomfortable situation may hamper your logical reasoning power and make you feel trapped. But, this too shall pass. You will easily come out of the negative zone and move ahead on the path, foretells Ganesha.

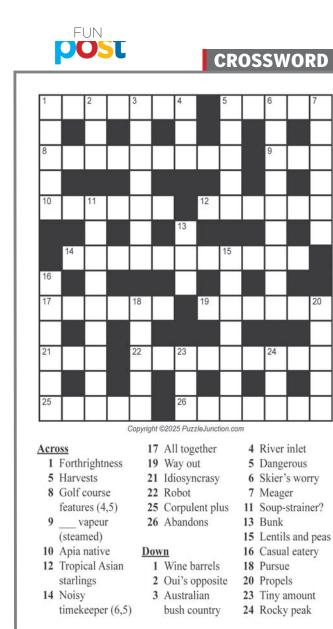
## **AQUARIUS**

You will go through some heavy mood swings today. And the people who know you well will get shocked and find it difficult to deal with you. Keep your guards on, and don't take uncalled-for decisions, advises Ganesha, rather get your current assignments cross the finishing line.

### PISCES

There is a thick chance that your day will be profitable on the monetary front. Money may pour in from business or even through overseas investments. Your knack for good public relations and networking will work to your benefit and good deals will come from far and unexpected sources as well.

#### WELL, I'VE BEEN HAVING TROUBLE STAYING HOW LONG YES, DOCTOR ... A AN EXAMINATION? FRIEND OF MINE YES, SIR ... DO I HAVE TO AWAKE IN CLASS SUGGESTED I COME LIVE, DOC? AND SHE THINKS IT TO SEE YOU. MIGHT BE BECAUSE OF MY EYES этш u E m 3 A TAL LE. LUBSICI R **CALVIN AND HOBBES** A BOX OF NEW CRAYONS! SOON THEY'LL BE A BUNCH SOMETIMES LIFE SEEMS OF GROUND-DOWN, ROUNDED NOW THEY'RE ALL POINTY. UNBEARABLY TRAGIC. LINED UP IN ORDER, INDISTINGUISHABLE STUMPS BRIGHT AND PERFECT ! MISSING THEIR WRAPPERS AND SMUDGED WITH OTHER COLORS. BREVITY I RULE THIS ROOST, WITH A FIRM HAND AND A TRUE HEART! DELUSIONS OF GANDER



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

## SUDOKU

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

					8		5	3
			7					
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	3			4				
	2		1			6		

### SOLUTIONS

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# owntown Attack on scribe: NHRC ED dy dir remanded to 14-day judicial custody seeks report from DGP

rissapo

SATURDAY | MAY 31, 2025 | BHUBANESWAR

Bhubaneswar, May 30: Taking suo motu cognisance of the brutal assault on TV journalist Bijay Pradhan in Bolangir, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Friday has issued a notice to the Director General of Police (DGP), requesting a detailed report within two weeks.

On May 25, 2025, Pradhan was reportedly tied up and attacked by a group of people at Kulthipali village in Bolangir district while investigating alleged corruption at a construction site in the locality. The attackers later paraded an injured Pradhan through the village and destroyed his mobile phones, video camera, Pradhan was reportedly tied up and attacked by a group of peop district while investigating allege

The attackers later paraded an njured Pradhan through the village and destroyed his mobile phones, video camera, and other reporting

widely circulated video on socia d dragged, with the assault

and other reporting equipment. He was also threatened against disclosing the incident or reporting the alleged corruption, reports said. A widely circulated video on

social media showed him being kicked and dragged, with the assault lasting for nearly two hours and resulting in a ruptured eardrum. He is currently receiving treatment at Bhima Bhoi Medical College and Hospital in Bolangir.

Following an official complaint, five persons, including the prime suspect, have been arrested.

They are being investigated under various charges including assault, voluntarily causing hurt, theft, misappropriation, and damage to property.

The NHRC has deemed the incident a serious violation of human rights, particularly the freedom of the press and personal safety.

New Delhi/Bhubaneswar, May 30: A deputy director of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in Odisha – arrested for taking ₹20 lakh as bribe from a Bhubaneswar-based businessman Thursday - was remanded to judicial custody for 14 days Friday, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) sources said.

Chintan Raghuvanshi demanded ₹5 crore from businessman Ratikanta Rout, who has a stone mining business in Dhenkanal, for giving him 'relief' in an ED case registered against him, they said.

According to the CBI FIR, Rout approached the agency with a complaint that he was summoned for questioning at the ED office in Bhubaneswar in March this year. Raghuvanshi called him to his chamber and asked him to meet a person named Bhaghti to get 're-

lief' in the case, it said.

Bhaghti had since then been in contact with Rout, putting pressure on him over Facetime to pay Raghuvanshi to settle the matter, it alleged. On May 27, Bhaghti allegedly met Rout and said Raghuvanshi had demanded ₹5 crore for 'not attaching his hospital, not arresting him and to settle his

case', the FIR alleged. Rout expressed his inability to arrange such a large sum.

Bhaghti then made him talk to Raghuvanshi, who reduced the demand to ₹2 crore, it said. The CBI laid a trap following

inputs that he was going to take the first instalment of the bribe amount from Rout, they said. Raghuvanshi, a 2013 batch

**Chintan Raghuvanshi** demanded ₹5 crore from businessman **Ratikanta Rout.** who has a stone mining business in **Dhenkanal, for giving** him 'relief' in an **ED case registered** against him

IRS officer of Customs and Indirect Taxes, was caught during the operation and later arrested after questioning, they added.

Siddhant Mohanty, the ED officer's lawyer, said in Bhubaneswar that a special CBI court has remanded Raghuvanshi to judicial custody for 14 days. "However, his bail peti tion has not been rejected. It will be heard June 4," Mohanty said

#### **CAR FEST AHEAD**

An Oiha servitor shapes nails to be used for construction of chariots in Puri, Friday





Prasanna Patanayak died at a private hospital here Friday, family sources

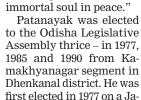
said. Patanayak was 76 and survived by wife and two daughters. He was admitted to the hospital Thursday after his condition worsened, they said.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, BJP state

unit president Manmohan Samal, many ministers and MLAs have condoled the demise of the party's first lawmaker from the state. The Chief Min-

ister posed on X, "I am deeply saddened and shocked

over the passing away of Prasanna Patanayak, a hardworking leader of Odisha politics and the first BJP MLA from the state. His contribution in the fields of education, social service and politics, and immense contribution to strengthening the organisation of our party will always be remembered.



nata Party ticket in 1977. However, Patanayak



the Assembly for the third time. Patanayak later returned to the saffron fold in 2014.

His body was brought to the state BJP headquarters here where people from different walks of life including BJP leaders paid tribute. His last rites will take place at Swargadwar in Puri, party sources said.

# Cuttack: 44-year-old man tests positive for Covid-19

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, May 30: A 44-year-old man tested positive for Covid-19 at a private clinic in Cuttack Friday, Health department officials said.

Chief District Medical Officer (CDMO) Dr Prashanta Kumar Hota said that the patient. from Thoriasahi area, had visited a private hospital in the City for treatment due to illness. Based on his symptoms, doctors advised a Covid test, which returned a positive result. He is currently in home quarantine.

After the patient was identified, a Health department team was sent for further investigation. "It has been confirmed that the infected person did not travel from any other state, and his condition is stable," said Dr. Hota.

Sources said that after Bhubaneswar, Covid has now started to reappear in Cuttack. Commenting on the development, Hota said Covid is being monitored in the Millennium City. He appealed citizens to maintain awareness and follow precautions in order not to get infected.

# Dedicated BMC squad to monitor dengue cases

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 30: In the wake of the early arrival of monsoon this year, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has decided to form a dedicated squad to monitor and contain dengue cases in the civic area.

"If any dengue patient is identified, special attention will be given to their house and surrounding areas. Those experiencing fever are advised to consult a doctor and get their blood tested immediately," Mayor Sulochana Das said. Speaking at the 31st General Council meeting of the civic body here Friday,

Das said the BMC will intensify dengue awareness

campaigns in its region wherein emphasis will be placed on raising public vigilance and reducing the number of dengue cases.

Deputy Mayor Manjulata Kanhar, BMC Commissioner Rajesh Prabhakar Patil, chairpersons of all Standing Committees, all corporators, representatives from various line departments, and all sub-divisional officers of BMC were present at the meeting,. Dengue blood sample testing is being done at Capital Hospital, Patia Community Health Centre, IRC Village PHC, RMRC, and AIIMS.

### A visionary reformer, cultural patron and a leader!

The reign of Lokmata Ahilyabai Holkar was an epitome of justice and service. She turned her rule into a means for public benefit - prioritizing social harmony, women empowerment, and cultural rejuvenation. Her vision of administration continues to be an inspiring ideal for policy and a model for good governance framework to this day



SATURDAY | MAY 31, 2025 | BHUBANESWAR

# downtown

#### **Rath Yatra: Onus on bus owners for fair charges** Extra chair car coach for ECoR ready to tackle Puri–Bangiriposi Express rain-related incidents

BHUBANESWAR: In view of the increasing passengers load and to ensure travel safety. Indian Railways has announced temporary augmentation of one second class chair car coach in 12892/12891 Puri-Bangiriposi-Puri Express, The train will operate from Puri with 15 coaches from June 1 to 30, 2025. In return direction, the additional coach will be attached starting from Bangiriposi June 2. continuing till July 1. 2025. This move comes after a detailed assessment of passenger traffic and is intended to meet the rising travel demand. particularly from the aspirational districts served by this route.

### CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, RAJNI AGRAWAL, Aged about 50 years, W/O. Pankaj Kumar Agrawal, Resident of Club Road, P.O./PS/ DIST.- BOLANGIR, PIN-767001, ODISHA, Do hereby declare by this AFFIDAVIT No.1958 Dtd.26.03.2025 that now onwards I shall be known as RAJANI AGRAWAL for all future purposes.

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Executive Magistrate, Bargarh, dated-28.05.2025, I, Rajesh Agrawal, At/Po-Ghens, Dist.-Bargarh, Pin-768034, need the correction my name in my Passport (N3876972) from Agrawala Rajesh Kumar to Rajesh Agrawal also DOB-21.06.1984 to 21.09.1984 as mentioned my Aadhaar Card No.- XXXX XXXX 5374. Henceforth, I shall be known as Rajesh Agrawal for all purposes.

By virtue of an affidavit No.- 3372, Date- 30.05.2025. The **Excutive Magistrate** Angul. I am Kumari Dehury (70) W/o-Durga Charan Dehury, Vill/ P.O.- Pokatunga, P.S.-Bantala, Dist.- Angul hereby declaration have changed my name from "Kumari Dehury" to "Kumari Devi". I shall be known as "Kumari Devi" for all purposes. I, Mohammed Roshan Anwar, S/o- Mohammad Khursheed Anwar LP/451 Prasanti vihar OSHB Colony, Bhubaneswar, PIN-751024 declare by this affidavit No.- 30101, Dated- 27.05.2025, That now onwards, I, shall be known as Md Roshan Anwar for all future purposes. I, Shaikh Heday Tullah, Son of Shaikh Shafiqullah, Residence of Plot No.-1363, Satyanagar, Bharatpur, Bhubaneswar, Khorda, Odisha, PIN-751003, Aadhaar Card No.XXXX XXXX 3448, Declare by this Affidavit No.-247/2025, 28.05.2025 that onwards I shall be known as Sk Heday Tullah for all future purpose.

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, May 30: In a bid to ensure smooth and harassment-free transportation of pilgrims during the upcoming Rath Yatra, a coordination meeting organised by State Transport Authority (STA) here Fridav took a host of decisions including fixing of responsibilities on bus owners' association for any kind of exorbitant fares imposed on passengers.

The meeting held at the STA headquarters was chaired by State Transport Commissioner Amitabh Thakur and attended by officials from National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), police, and bus owners association.

Key focus areas included traffic regulation, commuter safety, transport affordability, and public convenience.

As in previous years, special permits will be granted to outstation vehicles entering Puri during the annual Rath Yatra. The application process and approval mechanism for interest-



Puri.

ed bus owners were discussed during the meeting. Special emphasis will be laid on running more buses from

Cuttack and Bhubaneswar to Puri Thakur instructed the bus owners' association to ensure

that no bus charges fares higher than the prescribed rates. "All buses and autos plying to and within Puri will display fare-related information. Strict monitoring by Puri Police and RTO will be done to prevent passenger harassment due to overcharging," he added.

Isha Foundation to integrate

mental wellness and addiction

support into its tobacco cessa-

tion efforts. The free 'Miracle

of Mind' app by Isha Founda-

tion offers guided meditations.

streak tracking, and motiva-

en times more likely to develop

oral cancer. We urge everyone

over the age of 30, especial-

ly tobacco users, to undergo

screening," said ACC Bhu-

baneswar Surgical Oncologist

The programme also includes

#CutTheCost' campaign, rais-

over ₹1.1 lakh more on health-

health—it's about your family's

future," said Hemato-Oncologist

Dr Pritish Chandra Patra.

Dr Prashant Chandra Dash.

"Tobacco users are six to sev-

tional rewards.

# ACC launches #OraLife for early oral cancer detection



#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 30: On the eve of 'World No Tobacco Day', Apollo Cancer Centres (ACC) launched '#OraLife'. a national screening programme for early detection of oral cancer, at Apollo Hospitals here Friday. With India accounting for nearly one-third of global oral cancer cases, the initiative aims to curb the alarming rise in oral cancer—especially among tobacco users, alcohol consumers, and underserved

populations. "Oral cancer is one of the few cancers that can be deing awareness about the finantected early through a simple cial and emotional burden of toexamination. Our goal is to bacco use. "Tobacco users spend examine it before it's too late,' said Apollo Hospitals Medical care in their lifetime compared Services COO and director Dr to others. It's not just about Alok Srivastava.

As part of the programme. ACC has also partnered with



Basic facilities including

temporary shelters will be ar-

ranged at bus stands. Safety of

passengers at bus stops will be

a priority, and antisocial ele-

ments will be kept under strict

surveillance. CCTVs will also

be installed at Talabania in

Similarly, dedicated teams

will monitor facilities at bus

stands in Puri, Bhubaneswar,

The meeting decided that all

Cuttack, and other cities.

Bhubaneswar, May 30: Opposition BJD Friday urged the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) to direct the authorities concerned to arrest the accused in the alleged rape of a tribal girl in Koraput district.

A delegation of the party submitted a memorandum to the NCST through its regional office in Bhubaneswar and highlighted that a case was registered at the Mahila Police Station, Jeypore, concerning the alleged rape of the minor.

The victim has allegedly been raped and subsequently, she became pregnant, the party claimed.

According to the complaint filed by the victim's mother, the accused has been identified as the son of a representative of the local MLA.

"The accused raped the girl for two years, promising that she would marry her. They met first time at a wedding party. The incident came to light when the girl was found to be five months pregnant," a BJD leader said, quoting the complaint.

# **NATIONAL ADOPTION CONCLAVE 2025** Every child deserves a loving home: Dy CM

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, May 30: Every child deserves a loving home and a nurturing family, stated Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida at 'National Adoption Conclave 2025' oraganised by Women and Child Development (W&CD) department in partnership with Union Ministry of Women and Child Development here Friday.

ed by STA. A 24x7 control room

will be operated by the RTO in

Arrangements for vehicle

repair in coordination with

various companies, along with

cranes and ambulance services,

Special attention will be

given to streamlined traffic

management. Critical points

on national highways prone

to congestion will be managed

by dedicated teams. Separate

traffic restrictions will be put

in place on Konark-Puri route.

All departments, vehicle own-

ers, and staff will work togeth

er to provide the best service to

the public, said the Transport

The administration will ar-

range 100 auto-rickshaws for

free transportation of pilgrims

from Talabania to Puri District

the SP of Puri, DCP of Cuttack,

DCP (Traffic), officials from

NHAI, representatives of the

bus owners' association, and

senior officials from the Trans-

The meeting was attended by

Commissioner.

High School.

port department.

Puri during Ratha Yatra.

will also be provided.

Joining the conclave as chief guest, Parida appreciated the state's progress in adoption reforms and highlighted Odisha's commitment to family-based care at the conclave.

The two-day event convened policymakers, legal experts, district administrators, and development partners to share innovations, align policies under the Juvenile Justice Act. and highlighted international care reforms. Notable contributions came from states like Tamil Nadu. Karnataka. and Maharashtra, showcasing scalable adoption models.

District Collectors, addition-

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 30: With early onset of southwest monsoon this year, the East Coast Railway (ECoR) has ramped up its preparedness measures to ensure uninterrupted train services and passenger safety across flood-prone and vulnerable regions.

As part of Indian Railways annual monsoon preparedness exercise, ECoR has taken up a range of safety measures including drainage management, real-time weather coordination, and intensified patrolling.

ECoR General Manager Parmeshwar Funkwal has reviewed the preparedness strategy, instructing round-the-clock vigilance and swift response protocols. Some of the crucial steps taken to combat rain-related incidents include removal of silt and vegetation from catch water and side drains to facilitate smooth water flow, clearing waterways of bridges, marking of high-visibility dan-

al district magistrates, child

welfare committee chairper-

sons, and district child pro-

tection officers participated in

learning exchanges focused on

reducing institutional care and

enhancing grassroots adoption

Senior officials, including

W&CD principal secretary

Shubha Sarma, CARA CEO

Bhavna Saxena and ICDS Di-

rector Monisha Banerjee joined

The conclave marked a sig-

nificant step toward reinforc-

ing Odisha's leadership in child-centric governance, with

a strong emphasis on ensuring

every child's right to a loving

family, identity, and belonging.

systems.

the event.

ger levels on bridge piers. In vulnerable routes like Kottavalasa-Kirandul (KK) and Koraput-Rayagada (KR), protective netting, geological inspections, and monitoring systems have been deployed to prevent

landslides and rockfalls. Patrolmen and sectional gangmen are stationed in high risk areas while engineering relief vans and essential mate rials (boulders, sand, ballast) have been pre-positioned to meet any kind of eventuality.

ECoR's Control Office and Disaster Management Cell are alert 24x7 for quick response to any monsoon-related incidents

The Railways is also coor dinating with the Irrigation departments of the states and Regional Meteorological Centres to stay ahead of weather developments and manage dam water releases effectively.

These comprehensive mea sures underline ECoR's commit ment to safe, efficient, and resilient rail operations throughout the monsoon season.

### City students shine at SOF Olympiad

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 30: Abhik Tripathy, a fifth-grade student from Sai International School and Padmesh Sahoo, a ninthgrade student from Prabhu jee English Medium School secured top ranks in the SOF Olympiad Exam 2024-25 held recently.

Tripathy claimed first rank in the International Social Studies Olympiad and received the gold medal and merit certificate whereas Sahoo achieved the second rank in the Interna tional Science Olympiad, earning silver medal and a merit certificate.

SOF organised a felicitation ceremony at Dr Ambedkar International Centre in Delhi to recognise and felicitate the winners and teachers. Around 750 students and teachers from different parts of the country attended the ceremony. The occasion was graced by Supreme Court judge Justice JK Mahesh

wari as the chief guest



#### WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY TODAY

**MARKET WATCH** 

# Long-term impact of tobacco devastating: Experts

#### RESHMI YADAV, OP

Bhubaneswar, May 30: Use of tobacco-through smoking, chewing, or modern forms like vaping-remains one of the gravest public health challenges in India, fuelling an alarming rise in cancer cases across all age groups. On the eve of World No Tbacco Day, experts warn that nicotine triggers dopamine release, creating a false sense of heightened alertness and happiness. Over time, this leads to dependence, cravings, and severe health consequences.

"Nicotine addiction tricks the brain by creating a temporary high, but the long-term effects are devastating," said Utkal Hospital's Radiation Oncology and BMT director and senior consultant Dr Sanjaya



Kumar Mishra. 'We see 30-40 per cent of patients quit tobacco out of fear when they learn about the consequences, but still some per cent continues despite counselling. One should adopt healthy lifestyle choices, like promoting cycling, healthy diets, and breaking away from addiction-supporting social cir-

cles," said Mishra. Tobacco consumption is directly linked to over 15 types of cancer, including lung, oral, and bowel cancers. India, alarmingly, is becoming the global capital for head and neck cancers, with around 2 lakh new cases diagnosed annually. Lip and oral cavity cancers account for 65 per cent of these cases, and tragically, nearly 70 per cent of patients are diagnosed at an advanced stage.

reducing survival rates. "Oral cancer is rising at an alarming rate due to ignorance of early signs like white patches and non-healing ulcers," said SCB Dental College department of Conservative Dentistry and Endodontics associate profes-

sor Subasish Behera "Tobacco chewing accounts for over 99 per cent of these



cancers cases. We need stronger laws, heavy taxation, and a complete ban on surrogate advertising by celebrities to curb this menace." he added



#### NITISH RANJAN ACHARYA

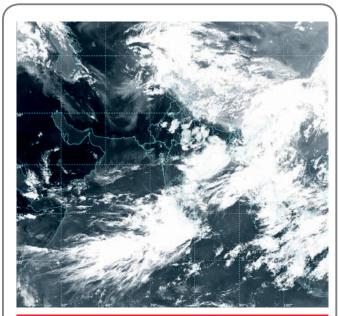
The situation is compounded due to lack of awareness, delayed diagnoses, and limited access to timely treatment. Manipal Hospitals's Surgical Oncology senior consultant Nitish Ranjan Acharya stressed, 'While some patients quit tobacco after being diagnosed with cancer, others struggle with willpower. We recommend nicotine replacement therapy like gums, but ultimately, it's a battle. The government has done much, but stricter enforcement, especially on public smoking, can save lives,' Acharya said.

Some of the personal sto ries underscore the devastating effects of consumption of tobacco. Hari Sahu, a daily wage worker, shares, "After witnessing my father's suffering due to tobacco-related illness, I understood the health risks. It's not just a personal loss but a financial and emotional burden on the entire family

Experts emphasise early detection through self-examination as the key to survival. A simple two-minute monthly check-looking for white or red patches, ulcers, or unusual lumps in the mouth-can lead to early diagnosis and better outcomes

Tobacco-related deaths are slow and painful. People need to realise this before it's too late. Let's act now for a cancer-free India," appealed Mishra.

CL	JRRENCY		BOURSES	COMM	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	<b>85.69 ▲</b> 0.05	SENSEX	81451.01 🕈 182.01	GOLD	₹ <b>94,646                                  </b>
EURO	<b>97.21</b> ▲ 0.41	NIFTY	<b>24750.70 </b> 82.90	SILVER	R ₹ <b>97,128 ♦</b> ₹698



#### WEATHER

	BBSR	СТС	FORECAST
Max Temp	35.8°	35.2°	Partly cloudy sky
Min Temp	27.0°	26.0°	with development of lightning/
Humidity	69%	85%	thunderstorm
Rainfall	Nil	2.0	Ä

#### FOR SSIFIED ADV TACI OUR BOOKING STAT CON CL ISEM -51

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











# Orissapos SATURDAY | MAY 31, 2025 | BHUBANESWAR

# state



Man gets life term for

beheading nephew as

sacrifice for good yield

Nuapada, May 30: Pronounce

ing the verdict in a sensation-

al case of sacrificial murder

a local court here Friday sen-

tenced a man to life imprison-

ment for beheading his minor

nephew in 2019 as part of a

black magic ritual for better

Additional District and Ses

sions Judge Sunil Kumar Das

also imposed a fine of ₹10.000 on

the convict identified as Chinta

mani Majhi of Jadamunda vil

lage under Komna police limits

of the penalty amount, he will

have to serve an additional

three months in prison, the

According to the case diary

the crime took place August 8

2019, when Majhi lured his neph

ew, Dhanasingh Majhi, to a farm

land under the pretext of felling

a tree. Once he reached there

Maihi attacked the boy from be

hind with a sharp-edged weapon

Sources said Majhi had pre-

viously conducted black magic

rituals on the same farmland for

better crop yields and then com

mitted the murder as a 'sacrifice'

murder case was registered

against Majhi at Komna police

station. He was arrested short

ly thereafter and remanded to

The judgment came after tes

timonies from 23 witnesses and

a detailed review of the police

investigation report, Additional

Public Prosecutor Kartikeswar

judicial custody.

Maharana said.

Following the incident, a

beheading him on the spot.

In case of default in payment

Apart from the life sentence,

POST NEWS NETWORK

paddy yield.

judge said.

### **MISTAKEN IDENTITY**

# Man accidentally shot dead by fellow hunter

#### OST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh, May 30: A hunting expedition in the Gochha reserved forest under the Nayagarh forest division turned tragic Thursday night when a man was accidentally shot and killed by a fellow hunter, police said.

The deceased was identified as Suryamani Pradhan, 42, of Gochha village under the jurisdiction of the Sarankul police station.

According to police and local sources, Pradhan was unintentionally shot in the head by one of his companions during the trip. The two other hunters Santosh Kumar Sahu and Mitu Pradhan of Badhisahi in Kajalaipalli panchayat — had allegedly persuaded Suryamani to join them, despite his initial reluctance.

The group reportedly hunted and consumed a wild animal before moving deeper into the forest. While tracking another animal, they split up. Santosh, mistaking rustling near a tree for a wild animal, allegedly fired his weapon, fatally striking Survamani in the head.



Realising their mistake, the two men reportedly panicked and attempted to cremate the body deep inside the forest with the help of local villagers, in an apparent effort to cover up the incident.

Sarankul police were alerted to the suspicious cremation and arrived at the site Friday while the last rites were underway. Officers seized the partially burnt body and sent it to Nayagarh district headquarters hospital for a post-mortem examination. Ten individuals involved in the attempted cover-up were detained for questioning.

Initial investigation suggests

that an offer of four acres of land and ₹2 lakh was made to silence the deceased's family. A formal case (93/22) was registered following a complaint by Pradhan's wife, and both hunters remain at large.

Sarankul SDPO and IIC Paramananda Dalei confirmed the incident is under active investigation.

"We have received different versions of the incident. While it appears to be a shooting, whether it was intentional or accidental will be determined after a thorough inquiry and the post-mortem report," Dalei said.

### Police nab 3 for pelting stones at moving trains

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Balasore, May 30: Three persons, including two juveniles from West Bengal, were arrested by the Railway Protection Force (RPF) Friday for allegedly pelting stones at two moving trains in Kharagpur division of South Eastern Railways, officials said.

The accused include Satyanarayan Sahu (26), a resident of Haldipada under Basta police station in this district, and two minors from West Bengal. According to officials, they pelted stones at the Vande Bharat Express and Dhauli Express while the trains were operating on the Howrah-Puri route and vice versa. Sahu was booked under Section 153 of the Railway Act 1989.

The RPF said he confessed to being a habitual offender, engaging in theft and mobile phone snatching from passengers standing near train footboards. His modus operandi allegedly involved striking victims with a stick or stone to disorient them before stealing their belongings.

The two juveniles were caught near Hijli station in West Bengal by RPF personnel.

They too confessed before their parents that they were involved in pelting stones at running trains. They have been forwarded to the juvenile board, a statement by the South Eastern Railways said.

# Some looted explosives recovered following gunfight with Maoists



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

#### Bhubaneswar/Rourkela,

May 30: Security personnel Friday recovered a substantial amount of the explosives recently looted by Maoists in Sundargarh district following a fierce gun-battle with the Red rebels, police said.

Around 200 packets of explosives, mostly gelatin sticks, were looted by Maoists at gunpoint in K Balang police station area three days ago while those were being transported to a stone quarry for blasting rocks.

The police had launched a search operation to locate the looted items.

The joint efforts of nine teams of jawans belonging to Odisha Police's SOG and CRPF finally located the explosive materials in a dense forest in Jharkhand, around 3 km from the Odisha border.

"We have recovered a sub stantial amount of the explosive materials looted from K Balang area," Rourkela Superintendent of Police Nitesh Wadhwani told PTI over the phone, adding that some other incriminating materials were also seized.

The SP said there was no injury to any member of the search teams.

Sources said that the explosives were found at Tirilposh, located close to Saranda forest, on the Odisha-Jharkhand interstate boundary.

The Odisha Police had earlier confirmed that Maoists from Jharkhand were involved in looting the explosives from a truck Tuesday.

According to the police, around 30 armed Maoists from Jharkhand hijacked the gelatin sticks-laden truck by holding the driver of the vehicle at gunpoint.

A day after the looting, DGP YB Khurania and other senior police officers visited the spot and an NIA team started investigating the matter.

Security forces from Odisha and Jharkhand, along with the CRPF personnel, immediately launched a massive search operation to retrieve the stolen explosives.

Odisha Police have also constituted an SIT (Special Investigation Team) to probe the incident.

Meanwhile, police sources said that the gunfight was underway between security personnel and Red rebels in the dense forest along the Odisha-Jharkhand interstate boundary.

# Man gets life imprisonment for raping minor daughter

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, May 30: A court Friday sentenced a man to life imprisonment for raping his minor daughter in Ganjam district in 2023.

Pranati Pattnaik, the Additional District Judge-cum-Judge of the POCSO court here also imposed a fine of ₹10,000 on the convict.

He will undergo jail term for another year if he fails to pay the fine amount, said Special Public Prosecutor Naravan Panda. The court also directed the

district legal service authorities (DLSA) to pay ₹10.50 lakh to the victim, he said.

tect her from any such sexual harassment from anybody else. In spite of that, he committed rape on his minor daughter repeatedly," the court observed.

"In the above circumstances.

he does not deserve any leniency. However, considering the entire facts, I hold that this is ishment like imprisonment for life, which shall mean imprisonment for the remainder of his natural life," the judge said.

is the daughter of the convict's first wife, who had died in 2021.

#### 'The accused is none other a fit case in which the convict than the father of the minor is liable to get the extreme punvictim who is supposed to pro-

Police sources said the victim

Fire detected on Falaknuma Exp, doused immediately DSPL-86 at Kantapada railway station in Balasore district spotted smoke



Balasore, May 30: A major accident was averted on 12704 Secunderabad-Howrah Falaknuma

Express Friday as fire was detected in the last bogie and doused before any harm was caused, a railway official said. The gateman

emanating from the last bogie of the stationary train and immediately informed the station master. The train was detained at Kantapada railway station for about

45 minutes to douse the blaze. The minor fire was caused due to some fault in the brake system of the train wheel, the official said. The train later moved towards its destination, the official added.





Bhubaneswar: Hindalco Industries Limited, an Aditya Birla Group company, has recently launched Project Basudha in 16 villages of Hirakud in Sambalpur district, bringing a transformation in their livelihoods. This is a comprehensive



rural development programme which focuses on sustainable agriculture, livestock promotion and income generation of the farmers. Implemented in collaboration with the BAIF Institute for Sustainable Livelihoods and Development (BISLD), the project is already making significant strides towards improving the lives of farmers across Sambalpur district. Emphasising the company's commitment to inclusive community growth, Debasish Malik, Unit Head of Hindalco Hirakud Complex, said, "We are not only working in areas like health, education, and rural infrastructure, but we are also deeply invested in agricultural development. Our goal is to ensure the sustainable

and holistic progress of the community." "This project, rooted in a holistic development approach, seeks to uplift farmers by promoting improved agricultural practices, crop diversification, and scientific livestock management, while ensuring access to government schemes and strengthening community participation," Malik added.

# NIT Rourkela develops sunlight-powered concrete beads for wastewater treatment

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, May 30: A team of researchers at the National Institute of Technology, Rourkela has developed a reusable photocatalyst system that uses natural sunlight to treat industrial wastewater, offering a cost-effective and sustainable solution especially suited for rural and resource-constrained regions.

The system features iron-doped nano-titania combined with graphene oxide, immobilised on spherical beads made from green concrete. These beads are produced using coal fly ash-derived zeolite, a repurposed industrial byproduct that contributes high mechanical strength, porosity and absorption capacity to the material. This combination enables the photocatalyst to break down toxic pollutants in wastewater effectively using only sunlight.

The research findings have been published in the Journal of Water Processing Engineering, co-authored by Prof Subhankar Paul of the Department of Biotechnology and Medical Engineering, along with research graduate



Dr Sohel Das and research scholar Uma Sankar Mondal.

Two patents have been filed for the technology. The first, titled 'Titania and Graphene Oxide-Based Photo-Fenton Catalyst and Use Thereof', is registered under patent application number 202331071180 and has been filed and published. The second, titled 'Development of Green Concrete Beads Coated With Metal-Doped Nano-Titania and Silica Conjugate as Photocatalyst and Use Thereof', is filed under application number 202431083867 and has reached the stage of publication and issuance of the First Examination Report.

According to Prof Paul, the system achieved a reduction of over 82 per cent in Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD), a key measure of water quality, when tested on simulated wastewater under sunlight. The photocatalyst also retained more than 90 per cent of its efficiency after 15 cycles of reuse, underlining its durability and potential for real-world applications.

The beads can be easily introduced into wastewater reservoirs exposed to sunlight and removed after treatment, making the system highly practical for decentralised treatment setups. Unlike conventional photocatalysts that require ultraviolet light sources and are not easily reusable, this technology operates solely with sunlight, significantly reducing operational costs and complexity.

The innovation presents a timely response to the global problem of industrial water pollution, with potential applications in treating effluents from textiles, leather, paints, pharmaceuticals and metal processing industries, as well as municipal waste water and contaminated natural water sources.

ଅଥନୈତିକ ଓ ଅନ୍ୟାନ୍ୟ ପାରିପାଶ୍ଧିକ କ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ଅଗ୍ରଗତି ଅନେକ ମାତ୍ରାରେ ପ୍ରଭାବିତ ହେଉଅଛି । ଏଣୁ ତମାଖୁ ସେବନରୁ ନିବୃତ୍ତ ରହିବାପାଇଁ ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ଓ ଭବିଷ୍ୟତ ବଂଶଧରମାନଙ୍କୁ ସତର୍କ ଓ ସଚେତନ କରିବା ଜରୁରୀ ଅଟେ ।

# ଧୂମପାନ ବା ତମାଖୁ ବ୍ୟବହାରର କୁପରିଣାମ :

- ପାଟି, ମୁଖ ଗହ୍ୱର, ସ୍ୱରଯନ୍ତ୍ର, ଫୁସ୍ଫୁସ୍, ମୁତ୍ରାଶୟ ଇତ୍ୟାଦିରେ କର୍କଟ ରୋଗ ହୋଇଥାଏ ।
- ହୃଦ୍ଘାତ, ଯକ୍ଷ୍ମା ଓ ଫୁସ୍ଫୁସ୍ ରୋଗର କାରଣ ହୋଇଥାଏ ।
- ନଫୁସକତା, ପ୍ରକନନ ଶକ୍ତି ହ୍ରାସ ଓ ଅକାଳ ବାର୍ଦ୍ଧକ୍ୟ ଦେଖାଦେଇଥାଏ ।
- ଗର୍ଭାବସ୍ଥାରେ ତମାଖୁ ସେବନ କଲେ ଶିଶୁ ନିର୍ଦ୍ଧାରିତ ସମୟ ପ୍ରର୍ବରୁ ଜନ୍ଭ ନିଏ ଓ କମ୍ ଓଜନର ହୋଇଥାଏ ।
- ଧୂମପାନ କରୁଥିବା ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି ପାଖରେ ଚଳପ୍ରଚଳ ହେଉଥିବା ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିମାନେ ଯେଉଁମାନେ କି ଧୂମପାନ କରନ୍ତି ନାହିଁ, ସେମାନଙ୍କର ମଧ୍ୟ ପରୋକ୍ଷ ଧୂମପାନ ଦ୍ୱାରା ହୃଦ୍ଘାତ ଓ ଫୁସ୍ଫୁସ୍ କର୍କଟରେ ଆକ୍ରାନ୍ତ ହେବାର ଅଧିକ ସମ୍ଭାବନା 1018
- ପରୋକ୍ଷ ଧୂମପାନ ଯୋଗୁଁ ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କର ଆକ୍ମା, ଶ୍ୱାସନଳୀକନିତ ତୀବ୍ର ଅସୁସ୍ତ୍ରତା ଏବଂ ଅନ୍ୟାନ୍ୟ ରୋଗ ମଧ୍ୟ ଦେଖାଯାଇଥାଏ ।

ଆମ ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ପ୍ରତି ବିପଜନକ

### ତମାଖୁ ଓ ତମାଖୁ ଉତ୍ପାଦ ବିକ୍ରିବୃଦ୍ଧି ଅପକୌଶଳର ପର୍ଦାଫାଶ କରିବା, ଜନ ଆବେଦନର ଶୁଣାଣି କରିବା

ଆସନ୍ତୁ, ଏକ ତମାଖୁ ମୁକ୍ତ ଓ ସ୍ୱଚ୍ଛ ପରିବେଶ ଗଠନରେ ସମୟେ ସାମିଲ୍ ହୋଇ ସୁସ୍ଥ ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ସ୍ୱପ୍ମକୁ ସାକାର କରିବା

ତମାଖୁ ବର୍ଚ୍ଚନ, ସୁସ୍ଥ ଜୀବନ

ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ଓ ପରିବାର କଲ୍ୟାଣ ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର



# power post



### FOCUS AMERICA

Grant, O Lord, may my heart be before Thee like a pure crystal, so that all of it may reflect Thee



# Shift In Tone

ollowing the Pahalgam terror attack and the armed hostilities with Pakistan, India's foreign policy messaging hasn't exactly been ringing out with clarity. The External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, usually a sharp and assertive voice, has been strangely muted, especially in the government-mounted global outreach aimed at cornering Pakistan on the issue of sponsoring terrorism in India. Whether that's strategic restraint or just a case of diplomatic laryngitis is up for debate. The proverbial cat may have got the EAM's tongue, but the government wasn't waiting around for a narrative vacuum to suck up the headlines. Instead, it's gone full-on PR offensive — and this time, the talking heads aren't all from the South Block.

Enter seven teams — a mixed bag of MPs and retired mandarins dispatched across global capitals to explain, defend, and promote the official line. One team includes Rajya Sabha MPs Bhubaneswar Kalita and Milind Deora, along with Lok Sabha members Shashank Mani Tripathi and Ganti Harish Madhur, have been deployed. And leading this unusual diplomatic is Shashi Tharoor — the flamboyant orator and foreign policy wonk, reminding the world that diplomacy can still be suave, sharp, and grammatically correct.

Tharoor's handling of the situation starkly contrasted to the studied silences of EAM S. Jaishankar, Where Jaishankar's style lately feels more cloistered, Tharoor has been making deliberate, articulate interventions — sending the message that India is not retreating from engagement, but rather, recalibrating its voice. And let's not forget the presence of ex-US ambassador Taranjit Singh Sandhu in the mix — a seasoned hand with serious Washington clout.

This hybrid diplomatic offensive — part old-guard gravitas, part new-age outreach — suggests India is hedging its bets. If the traditional MEA megaphone isn't enough, why not tap into Parliament's polyglots and the retired IAS-IFS alumni club? One thing's clear: the government is serious about controlling the narrative, even if it means letting a Congress MP like Tharoor steal the diplomatic spotlight.

#### **Patent office shuffle**

So, the DPIIT's recent move to shuffle some patent office officers has stirred up a bit of noise, but this is your classic office squabble, not a full-blown crisis. According to insiders, this isn't some



dramatic transfer saga but more like an administrative reshuffle, the kind of thing that happens when teams try to juggle resources and responsibilities.

Sure, some folks aren't thrilled about the changes. Nobody loves sudden moves, especially when you're settled in and comfortable. But let's not blow it out of proportion. This isn't a "transfer," per se - it's more a strategic reallocation to keep things running smoothly. Think of it like a minor skirmish in the daily grind of bureaucracy, not a battleground clash.

What's interesting, though, is how these little administrative moves can reveal the human side of government work — the frustrations, the adjustments, the tug-of-war between individual preferences and organizational needs. Isn't that the story everywhere?

In the grand scheme, this episode is more of a ripple than a wave. The patent office continues to function, innovation keeps flowing. and the real battles — like patent law reforms or speeding up approvals — remain the bigger issues worth watching. So, no need to sound the alarms just yet; this shuffle is just another day at the office.

#### Himachal's high-drama meltdown

What's going on in Himachal Pradesh's top cop circles feels less like law enforcement and more like a political thriller. The state's police brass is locked in a public slugfest—and it all started with a suspicious death.

Vimal Negi, a senior HPPCL official, was found dead in Govind Sagar Lake in March. The case, handled by Shimla SP Sanjeev Gandhi, came under fire from the Himachal Pradesh High Court for going nowhere fast. Cue the CBI takeover. But things truly blew up when SP Gandhi went rogue, accusing DGP Atul Verma of obstructing the probe, fudging court updates, and having staffers linked to a drug gang. Yes, seriously. The DGP's counter? Recommend Gandhi's immediate suspension for "gross misconduct" and insubordination. Letters were fired off to top babus, complete with video evidence of Gandhi's press outburst. This isn't a mere turf war—it's a collapse of institutional trust. When senior officers go public with allegations and countercharges, it reeks of dysfunction. And when that dysfunction involves a sensitive death investigation, it's the public's trust in justice that takes the hit. Chief Minister Sukhu has welcomed the CBI probe, wisely keeping politics out, for now. But the damage is done. This episode calls for more than disciplinary action; it needs a hard look at how power, politics, and policing have gotten so tangled.

# **TECH EROSION**

rom Sputnik in the 1950s to Japan's electronics boom in the 1980s, Americans have repeatedly feared losing their technological edge to foreign rivals. Each time, though, the US responded by doubling down on its strengths - attracting global talent, investing in cutting-edge research, enforcing competition (antitrust) law - and ultimately emerged stronger.Today, however, the gravest threat to America's tech leadership isn't another Sputnik or Sony; it's the internal erosion of core advantages. President Donald Trump's policies almost seem designed to dismantle the very pillars of US innovation. The first pillar is Ameri-

ca's research institutions.

During the Cold War, a bipar-

tisan consensus supported

ambitious programs such as

the Apollo program and the

Defense Advanced Research

Projects Agency. Research-

ers and investigators enjoyed

considerable intellectual au-

tonomy. Seminal precursors

to the modern internet – J. C.

R. Licklider's concept of "in-

teractive computing" and the

ARPANET packet-switching

network - originated within

a deliberately loose federal/

university lattice linking

Stanford, MIT, the University

of California at Berkeley, Co-

lumbia, and other campuses.

tion's spending cuts have un-

dermined this model: the bud-

gets for the National Science

Foundation, NASA's science

directorate, and the National

Institutes of Health face re-

ductions of 56%, nearly 50%.

and about 40%, respectively.

Such deep cuts, together with

political litmus tests for re-

search grants, will suffocate

the ecosystem on which break-

The second, closely related

pillar is talent. For more than

two centuries, America's

greatest advantage has been

its ability to attract people

from around the world. In the

through discoveries depend.

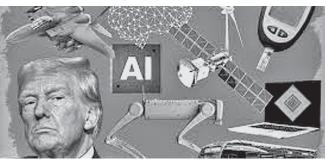
But the Trump administra-



Carl Benedikt Frey

THE ONLY **CONSOLATION IS THAT AMERICA'S** MAIN **COMPETITOR**, **CHINA, ALSO FACES BIG** INTERNAL

**CHALLENGES** 



Under the Trump administration, America's historical advantages are deteriorating rapidly. Sustaining innovation -the source of America's prosperity -requires actively defending institutions, not protecting industries

nineteenth century, Samuel Slater brought critical British industrial know-how to US mills. More recently, Hungarian-born biochemist Katalin Karikó spent decades in American labs laying the groundwork for lifesaving mRNA vaccines. Yet Trump's visa crackdowns, bans on international students, and hostility toward universities have made the US less appealing to global talent. European research institutions now celebrate attracting top scientists from the US. America's historic "brain gain" is dangerously close to becoming a brain drain.

The third pillar is competition. America's tech revolution didn't come from protected industries; it came from companies that had to compete with challengers, both domestically and abroad. Unlike Japan, where lax competition policy favored established conglomerates and stifled innovation, America's robust antitrust regime consistently targeted monopolies, thereby promoting entrepreneurship.

But America's commitment to vigorous competition has been weakening for decades. Industry concentration is rising, fewer startups are launching, and productivity growth is sluggish. And as if these trends weren't bad enough, Trump's tariff wall will accelerate the slide, shielding entrenched firms from foreign challengers and - through an opaque waiver system - turning trade policy into a cash-forfavors bazaar.

Hence, lobbying outlays tied to tariff exemptions – rewarding political proximity rather than performance -skyrocketed by277% year on year in the first quarter of 2025. This politicized waiver system signals a drift toward crony capitalism, and away from the open, competitive marketplace that once powered US innovation.

But this engine is now sputtering. Trump's tax cuts will widen the fiscal deficit, forcing the Treasury to borrow more, and likely pushing up interest rates. Higher borrowing costs will hit startups just as tariff-driven market volatility is already sapping investors' risk appetite. Recent reports warn that tariffs and uncertainty have darkened the prospects for venture funding and initial public offerings, threatening the foundations of America's startup economy

The fourth pillar is an impartial state. America learned during the Gilded Age that unchecked monopolies and political corruption threaten growth Congress responded with pro-competition reforms: the Pendleton Act of 1883 replaced patronage with a merit-based civil service, and the Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890 curbed anti-competitive practices.

Today, these institutional safeguards are weakening. Trump's proposed "Schedule F" rule change would purge thousands of career government experts and replace them with loyalists, mirroring President Xi Jinping's approach in China (where loyalty is often prized over competence).

Similarly, the Department of Government Efficiency spearheaded by Elon Musk risks producing a less capable and more politically compromised civil service. Agencies like the Internal Revenue Service have massive staffs primarily because the US tax code is overly complicated and filled with loopholes. Without regulatory simplification, bureaucracy cannot be meaningfully reduced, nor can rules be effectively enforced.

The only consolation is that America's main competitor, China, also faces big internal challenges

Meanwhile, firms lacking strong political patrons operate in a legal grey zone, and the state's tight grip on critical information technologies invites ever-tighter oversight that throttles grassroots experimentation. Xi's "divideand-rule" strategy may secure political control, but it erodes the provincial decentralization that powered China's post-1980s rise.

Yet liberal democracies are not guaranteed continuous technological progress, either. Innovation depends on openness, impartial rules, and vigorous competition. Under the Trump administration. America's historical advantages are deteriorating rapidly. Sustaining innovation -the source of America's prosperity -requires actively defending institutions, not protecting industries.

> The writer is Associate Professor of AI & Work at the Oxford Internet Institute ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

#### **ECONOMY** SPECTRUM

# India's rural consumption crisis

ising urban demand, stock market surges. Land optimistic GDP

fast-moving consumer goods (FMCGs) have dropped noticeably. Hindustan Unilever

tee Act (MGNREGA), a crucial fallback for rural households.

Reviving rural consumption will require more than token schemes. It demands robust policy focus: expanding MGN-REGA, improving rural credit access, supporting non-farm enterprises, and investing in rural infrastructure like irrigation, roads, and internet connectivity. Rural India must not be seen as a beneficiary of growth, but as its essential pillar. India's growth story cannot be written in metros alone. The rural slowdown is not just an economic issue — it is a social and developmental one. If rural households tighten their belts any further, the consequences will be felt not only in declining GDP figures but in rising inequality, urban migration, and long-term instability. As we chase global growth rankings, we must remember: no nation truly rises when its villages are left behind.

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### WISDOM CORNER

The hottest love has the coolest end.

SOCRATES

The world is the great gymnasium where we come to make ourselves strong.

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA

War does not determine who is right - only who is left.

BERTRAND RUSSELL

### THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- **1889:** Considered one of the worst natural disasters in American history, a flood ravaged Johnstown, Pennsylvania, causing more than 2,200 deaths.
- 1921: The Tulsa race massacre began in Oklahoma as mobs of both African Americans and whites descended on the courthouse where a Black man. who was accused of assaulting a white woman, was being held; in the ensuing violence, Tulsa's prosperous Black neighbourhood of Greenwood was destroyed and as many as 300 people were killed, mostly African Americans
- 1930: Iconic American actor and director Clint Eastwood Jr. (famous for his role in The Good, the bad and the Ugly) was born in San Francisco.
- **1962:** The State of Israel hanged German official Adolf Eichmann, who had escaped from a prison camp in 1946 and spent some 14 years in hiding, for his part in the Nazi extermination of Jews during World War II.



**NO NATION TRULY RISES** WHEN ITS VILLAGES ARE **LEFT BEHIND**  projections are now the dominant ways to celebrate India's post-COVID economic recovery. However, beneath this optimism lies an unfortunate paradox: rural India, home to almost two-thirds of the population, is suffering from a consumption slowdown that threatens the very base of national prosperity. This is not a temporary or cyclical slowdown, but rather a sign of deep structural distress. According to the Centre for Monitoring the Indian Economy (CMIE), rural unemployment in March 2024 was 7.4% — a stark indication of the suffering in the countryside. Simultaneously, data from the Labour Bureau show that between 2014 and 2022, real rural earnings for agricultural workers grew at a rate of less than 1% per annum. These incomes have not kept pace with inflation, which has eroded purchasing power.

The fallout is visible on the ground. Sales of everyday reported a 4% decline in rural sales in Q3 FY24, while Dabur India registered a sharper 6.4% fall. Rural households, facing financial uncertainty. are cutting back even on essential items. Inflation has worsened this trend: rural consumer price inflation stood at 5.76% in April 2024, driven by food and fuel costs, further reducing disposable income. Agricultural distress is a key factor. The erratic monsoon of 2023 led to a 15% drop in kharif crop output. Combined with the rising cost of inputs like fertilizers and diesel, farm profitability has taken a hit, especially for small and marginal farmers. Agriculture still employs over 45% of India's workforce, yet it contributes less than 18% to GDP — a longstanding imbalance that has worsened post-COVID.

Government support mechanisms are also faltering. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guaran-

has seen its budget reduced to ₹60,000 crore in FY2024–25 significantly lower than pandemic-era levels. In real terms, this marks a sharp decline, even as demand for work under the scheme remains high. Delayed wage payments and fund shortages have further eroded its impact. Meanwhile, over 60% of rural workers continue to be engaged in informal. insecure jobs, which offer little protection during shocks. The combination of low income, rising costs, and inadequate safety nets is choking rural demand at a time when India needs broad-based consumption to sustain growth. This should worry policymakers.

Rural demand accounts for nearly 36–40% of India's total consumption and plays a critical stabilizing role during economic downturns. If this engine continues to sputter, the effects will ripple into sectors like manufacturing, retail, and services — undermining the \$5 trillion economy target.

The writer is PhD Scholar, Department for Studies in Economics and Planning, Central University of Gujarat.

#### A wake-up call

Sir, The IAF Chief's recent concern over the non-completion of a single major defence project is a troubling reflection of systemic inefficiencies. Operation Sindoor-a fourday conflict with Pakistan-exposed serious gaps in our preparedness for a two-front war. While precision strikes on nine terror camps showcased the IAF's capability, the lack of timely access to advanced weaponry remains a critical issue. Despite decades of effort, key projects like Tejas Mark 2 and critical missile systems face chronic delays. As per parliamentary reports, over 50% of defence projects are behind schedule. This breeds complacency and hampers operational planning. India's defence budget is growing, but effectiveness depends on timely execution, not mere allocations. Responsible agencies must commit to realistic timelines and be held accountable. Our armed forces are ready-but they need the right tools, on time. The time for excuses is over; India must act before it's forced to react.

RS Narula, PATIALA

#### Kamal's controversial claim

Sir, Kamal Haasan's controversial claim that Kannada is "born out of Tamil" is not only factually incorrect but deeply provocative. His justification that it was said out of "love" is nothing more than a diversion, revealing a stubborn refusal to apologise. No credible history supports such a claim, and it undermines the rich, independent legacy of the Kannada language. Making such a statement is not just misleading but insulting to the Kannada-speaking community. As a multilingual, nationally admired actor, Haasan should have known better. His insensitive remark has rightly angered Kannadigas, leading to widespread backlash and calls to boycott his film-a response that could significantly hurt its success. Respect for all Indian languages is non-negotiable, especially from public figures. Veteran status does not grant immunity from accountability. If Haasan truly values his diverse fan base, he must show humility and offer a sincere apology. Until then, his statement remains a needless insult that could have-and should have—been avoided.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE



etters

10 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: dit@orissapost.com



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TWO STATES

In Thrissur, Kannur and Kasaragod districts, there were reports of several homes getting flooded due to the heavy rains, forcing people to move to relief camps

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, May **30:** Houses in low lying areas of Kerala were flooded in the heavy rains, while the accompanying strong winds uprooted trees, damaged homes and caused power disruptions, throwing normal way of life into disarray across the state.

In Thrissur, Kannur and Kasaragod districts, there were reports of several homes getting flooded due to the heavy rains, forcing people to move to relief camps.

Not just homes, but many roads in these districts and other parts of the state were in-



undated due to the heavy rains. In Pathanamthitta, Kottayam and Idukki districts, the heavy rains and strong winds uprooted trees and damaged electricity poles and transformers, leading to partial and complete destruction of hundreds of homes and power disruptions for hours, according to the authorities.

It will be a holiday for educational institutions in Kottayam district Saturday, district

authorities said. In Kollam, uprooted trees and falling branches, due to the rains and strong winds, caused damage to several homes and private vehicles in the district and a few persons were reportedly injured.

An 85-year-old woman, who worked as an MGNREGA worker in Ernakulam district, died when an uprooted tree fell on top of her while returning home Thursday evening.

The Ernakulam district authorities also reported a rise in the water level of the Muvattupuzha River above the flood warning markers, leading to the opening of three shutters of the Malankara Dam by 20 centimetres (cm). Train services were also affected with some. including the Mangaluru-Thiruvananthapuram Vande Bharat Expres, being diverted due to fallen trees on the tracks, while others were rescheduled or delayed due to the heavy rains. authorities said.

Amidst the widespread damage in the state due to the heavy rains and strong winds, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a red alert in Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha, Kottayam, Ernakulam, Idukki Thrissur, Kannur and Kasaragod and an orange alert in the remaining six districts of the state for the day.

A red alert by IMD indicates heavy to extremely heavy rain of over 20 cm in 24 hours, while an orange alert means very

heavy rain of 11 cm to 20 cm and a yellow alert means heavy rainfall between 6 cm and 11 cm. State Revenue Minister K Rajan said that the heavy rains have caused widespread damage in the state and advised people to be cautious.

Speaking to reporters at a press conference in Thrissur, Rajan further said that as the westerly winds are expected to continue over Kerala for the next five days and due to the possibility of widespread rainfall, caution should be exercised by everyone. He advised the public to avoid unnecessary trips, especially to hilly areas and said that those living in dangerous places should move to safer locations or relief camps.

Rajan said there are 66 camps functioning in the state currently and 1,894 people are living there.

Around 4,000 camps are ready to be opened to accommodate about six lakh people. The public should not be averse to moving there, he added.

# Centre, J&K to formulate agriculture roadmap for the region: Shivraj Chouhan

Orissapo

SATURDAY | MAY 31, 2025 | BHUBANESWAR

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, May 30: The Centre and the Jammu and Kashmir government will formulate a comprehensive roadmap on agriculture for the region soon, Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said Friday.

Chouhan was speaking at a mega 'Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan' at a farmers' convention in the border belt of RS Pura in Jammu

"I will be coming back to Jammu and Kashmir on the 17th and 18th. During that visit, we will hold the agreement meeting and finalize a comprehensive agricultural roadmap for the UT," he told reporters here.

Highlighting new opportunities, he said, "Lavender cultivation is a new and promising opportunity here. Production has increased. The Centre and the Jammu and Kashmir government will sit together to discuss how to strengthen the

region's agriculture roadmap - so that yields increase, costs drop, and the area under cultivation expands.

India's highest-altitude Kri shi Vigyan Kendra at Nyoma in the Union Territory of Ladakh is part of the nationwide cam paign, which has begun across the country to empower farm ers with knowledge and tools for the Kharif cropping season

The high-altitude KVK Nyo ma is involved in the Abhiyar in coordination with 731 Kri shi Vigyan Kendras across the country and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), the officials said.

#### J&K Police's counter insurgency **SHIPWRECK** wing raids multiple locations Tharoor urges swift action

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Fhiruvananthapuram, May 30: Congress leader and Thiruvananthapuram MP Shashi Tharoor has urged the Union government to take immediate containment and monitoring measures to safeguard the coastal communities and ecosystems in the wake of the shipwreck that occurred off Alappuzha coast May 25.

In letters addressed to Union Fisheries Minister Rajiv Ranjan to provide compensation to Singh, Environment Minister the Kerala government to cover Bhupendra Yaday, and Ports the substantial costs incurred and Shipping Minister Sarbain emergency operations, envinanda Sonowal, Tharoor sought ronmental clean-up and longcentral assistance to Kerala in term ecological restoration managing the crisis and supand support to the fishermen porting the coastal community. community

#### Tharoor, who is abroad as part of a central delegation to foreign countries, posted the letter on 'X' Friday. He requested that expert disaster response and environmental monitoring teams be deployed to support Kerala's efforts in managing and mitigating the environmental

munity to compensate for the

Tharoor wanted the Centre

loss of livelihood and income.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, May 30: The Jammu and Kashmir Police's Counter Insurgency Kashmir wing Friday carried out raids at multiple locations across the valley and seized SIM cards, mobile phones and other digital devices that may have damage. He also sought financial been used for terror activities, relief to the affected fishing comofficials said.

The raids were carried out in Budgam, Pulwama, Awantipora, Kupwara, Shopian and Srinagar districts, a spokesperson of the CIK said in a statement.

The spokesperson said that during the investigation, some suspects were allegedly found using a specific encrypted messaging application which is used by terrorists and their handlers from

OFFICE OF THE PANCHAYAT SAMITI, KUNDRA

NOTICE

Memo No. 1848/2025

across the border for coordinating and executing terrorist-related activities including recruitment into

the searches were meticulously planned and conducted," he said.

The spokesperson said incrimicards, mobile phones, tablets and other digital devices, having bearing on the investigation of the case,

#### EAST COAST RAILWAY E-Tender No.CMSSBPLP252701

Dt: 29.05.2025 on of Work: "RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF (A) MEDICINES, (B) SURGICAL ITEMS & (C) CONSUMABLES, A GAINST DAY TO DAY LOCAL PURCHASE FOR DIVISIONAL RAILWAY HOSPITAL, SAMBALPUR FOR A PERIOD OF 02 (TWO) YEARS FROM THE DATE OF COMMENCEMENT OF THE CONTRACT. RATE OF DISCOUNT IN PERCENTAGE OR AGAINST RUPEE 01 TO BE QUOTED FOR EACH GROUP SEPARATELY BY THE

Approximate procurement value ouring the year 2024-25 (per year): ₹ 9,60,000/-, EMD: ₹ 38,400/-, Period of contract: 02

#### A-12039/04/2022-Estt.III **Government of India Ministry of Science & Technology Department of Science & Technology** ADVT. No. DST/01/2025-Estt.III

Applications are invited for filling up the '01' (One) Post of Senior Adviser (in Pay level 15 o the 7th CPC) in the Department of Science & Technology on Deputation (including short-term contract (ISTC)) basis failing which by Direct Recruitment basis. According to their eligibility interested candidates can apply for the post under modes of recruitment: (i) Deputation (ISTC basis; or (ii) Direct Recruitment basis; or (iii) either Deputation (ISTC) or Direct Recruitmen basis. However, recruitment to the said post of Senior Adviser in the Department of Science and Technology shall be made on Deputation (ISTC) basis failing which by Direct Recruitment basis as per the availability of the applicants. Eligible candidtes are required to fill the application online, through the online portal https://recruitment.dst.gov.in/ using a valid email ID. This online portal for applying shall be available for a period of 45 days from the date of publication o the advertisement in Employment News/Rozgar Samachar. In case of applying on "Deputation (ISTC) basis" or on "either Deputation (ISTC) or Direct Recruitment basis", the printou of the successfully submitted online application form duly signed by the candidate along with attested copies of ACRs/APARs for the last five years shall be forwarded through prope channel so as to reach this Department by Registered Post or by Speed Post within 30 days (45 days for remote areas i.e. those in Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura, Sikkim, Ladakh, Lahaul and Spiti District and Pangi Sub Divisior of Chamba District of Himanchal Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep from the date of closure of online portal. Applicants (otherwise eligible to apply) working in organisations/institutes that do not have the system of recording APARs/ACRs need to furnish their work profiles and gradings of the last 05 years duly certified by their Head of Organisations Institute along with the applications through proper channel so as to reach this Department by **Registered Post or by Speed Post** within 30 days (45 days for remote areas) from the date of closure of online portal. For the application process and other general conditions and requirements, please visit the Recruitment Cell webpage under the Administration & Finance section of DST's website (www.dst.gov.in). Sd./- (Vinod Kumar Sharma)

CBC-36101/11/0001/2526

**Centre for Development of Advanced Computing** 

Government of India

Ministry of Electronics and Informa

**WE ARE HIRING** 

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India

No. i-132: On prevailing of untoward situation the date o opening is postponed to 06.06.2025 tender call notice Bio Identification No. 04/2025 & Notice No. 1614 dated 20.05.2025 BIDDER." of Block Development Officer, Kundra instead of 30.05.2025.

Dated: 29.05.2025

Sd./- Block Development Officer, Kundra OIPR-19138/11/0004/2526

J&K admin issues advisory on artificial fruit ripening



terrorist ranks. 'These users are suspected to be in touch with suspicious entities across the border. As such, maintaining the element of surprise,

nating material in the form of SIM

were recovered and seized.



#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, May 30: The Jammu and Kashmir administration has issued an advisory on the artificial ripening of fruits, warning food business operators against using banned calcium carbide for this process in the Union Territory.

Consumers are also advised to remain vigilant in the market and purchase fruits only from known vendors who declare that the fruits sold have not been ripened using harmful and banned chemicals.

We advise the food business operators (FBOs) dealing with storage, packaging, distribution, and sale of fruits and vegetables to strictly adhere to the prescribed guidelines during and after artificial ripening treatment to ensure safe and compliant ripening practices. Failing this, penal action shall be initiated,' the Drug and Food Control Organisation (D&FCO) said in an advisory issued here.

It warned FBOs against applying banned calcium carbide in the artificial ripening of fruits.

"Considering the issue of the use of banned calcium carbide and the non-availability of alternative ripening agents, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has permitted the use of ethylene gas for ripening of fruits in India, subject to adherence to the SOPs by the FBOs," it added.

The organisation said that artificial ripening with calcium carbide, popularly known as 'Masala', has been strictly banned due to its potential health hazards. The organisation has specifically issued an advisory for the ripening of climacteric fruits — fruits which are harvested at full maturity and can be further ripened during transit or storage, like banana, guava, avocado, mango, apple, pear, apricot, peach, tomato, etc. It said a detailed SOP for the use of ethylene gas for artificial ripening has been notified by FSSAI.

"Ethylene gas, ethanol, ethephon, etc, can be used on fruits to trigger the ripening process under controlled conditions of humidity, temperature, and exposure time," the organisation said. However, any source of ethylene gas coming in direct contact with fruits is not permitted. Further, only approved sources of ethylene gas are allowed to be procured and used, besides ensuring the authenticity and purity of the sachets containing ethephon in powdered form and other components, it added. "Only those sachets must be used that are properly labelled, mentioning details of the manufacturer, composition, instructions for use, etc. Use of ethylene gas for artificial ripening can be done up to the concentration of 100 ppm (100  $\mu$ L) only,' the organisation further advised.



OIPR-13115/11/0034/2526 Keonjhargarh Municipality

#### E-Tender Closing Date & Time: at 1500 hrs. of 19.06.2025. Note: The prospective vendors/drug stores are advised to register in IREPS and visit the tender section on IREPS for detail information. Website: www.ireps.gov.in Additional Chief Medical Superintendent/Store/ Sambalpur



ENGG/2025-26. Dated : 26.05.2025 (1) e-Tender No.03-eT-SETT-SBP-25 NAMEOFWORK: EXECUTION OF CIVIL ZONAL WORKS FOR RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS IN SAMBALPUR FOR THE DERIOD ENDING 30.06.2026 UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER/ SETTLEMENT/ Approximate Cost of the Work ₹ 2,25,87,808.88, Bid Security: ₹ 2,63,000/ (2) e-Tender No.04-eT-SETT-SBP-25



to manual offers sent by Post / Courier / Fax of in person shall be accepted against such e-tende even if these are submitted on firm's letter head an received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summaril without any consideration.

Complete information including e-tende documents of the above e-tender is available in website : www.ireps.gov.in

Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigenda issued for this tender. The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/ bidder can participate on e-tendering. Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.)/



**JOIN US** 

**Project Manager Project Delivery Manager Programme Manager Knowledge Partner** (min. 9 yrs. of experience)

#### Qualification

**Project Associate** 

**Project Engineer** 

1. BE/B.Tech. or equivalent degree 2. Post Graduate degree in Science/ Computer Application/MBA 3. ME/M.Tech or equivalent degree 4. Ph.D.

### **Non-Technical Positions**

Project Support Staff / Project Officer (min. 0 - 3 years experience based on educational qualification)

1.Graduate 2.Post Graduate 3.CA/LLM/CMA/Inter CA 4.Two Years MBA/ Post Graduate in relevant field professional qualification

#### Location: Across India

LAST DATE TO APPLY - 20th June 2025 FOR DETAILED ADVERTISEMENT AND FOR APPLYING VISIT "CAREER" PAGE OF WWW.CDAC.IN

#### ADVT.NO.CORP/JIT/03/2025 Advancing Technology for National Development CORPORATE HRD



CBC-06132/12/0001/2526







PR-182/Q/25-26

Sambalpur

Qualification



# national



Punjab has the highest number of illegal colonies in the country BHAGWANT MANN PUNJAB CM

### **AAP SLAMS BJP'S 100-DAY CLAIMS**

The Rekha Gupta government has failed the people of Delhi in its first 100 days, the AAP's city unit chief Saurabh Bharadwaj said Friday while terming the dispensation's report card "false" and "misleading"





Our people are simple, dignified, and resilient. Even when all they have is hal a rupee, they

save it carefully, adding to it bit by bit, until they can buy a single gold bead. Not for show. Not for luxury. But for emergencies-moments when there is no one else to turn to. This is not ornamental gold. It is their shield against life's uncertainties

M K STALIN | TAMIL NADU CM



collective efforts to strengthen the education sector with new advancements, NEP 2020 have vielded this result PRAMOD SAWANT | GOA CM

When Pakistan responded to our anti-terro operations by attacking ou borders and

civilian areas, it was the BSF jawans of the Jammu Frontier who retaliated by destroying and damaging over 118 posts AMIT SHAH UNION HOME MINISTER

### SHORT TAKES

#### Embraer sets up subsidiary in India

New Delhi: Embraer has set up a subsidiary in India as the Brazilian major seeks to strengthen its presence in defence, commercial aviation, services and support, and urban air mobility space in the country. The aerospace and defence major has a significant presence with around 50 Embraer planes and 11 aircraft types currently operating in India. In a release Friday, Embraer said its growth in the country also underscores the strengthening of ties between Brazil and India.

### K'taka: Torrential rains. landslides leave 5 dead

Mangalore (Karnataka):

# **DEFAMATORY REMARKS AGAINST JUDGES** Top court initiates contempt proceedings against YouTuber PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

likely to bring disrepute to the New Delhi, May 30: The Supreme Court Friday initiat-

ed suo motu contempt proceed-

ings against Chandigarh-based

Ajay Shukla for his "scandal-

ous", defamatory and contemp-

tuous remarks against a few

apex court judges in a video

A bench comprising Chief

Justice B R Gavai and Justices

Augustine George Masih and

AS Chandurkar also directed

that the offending video be im-

mediately taken down and re-

strained the YouTube channel

from republishing it or similar

content. It also issued a notice

to Shukla, the editor-in-chief of

Solicitor General Tushar

Mehta described the remarks

as "very serious" and expressed

his gratitude to the bench for

taking up suo motu cognisance

of the issue. "Such scandalous

allegations widely published are

Varprad Media

uploaded on his channel.

YouTuber

journalist and

august institution of the judiciary. No doubt the Constitution guarantees freedom of speech. But this freedom is subject to reasonable restrictions.

"A person cannot be permitted to make allegations which are in the nature of defaming a judge of this Court and also contemptuous in nature, which attempts to bring disrepute to the institution of the judiciary," the CJI said. "We direct the registry to register the case as a suo motu contempt against Ajay Shukla. The YouTube channel shall be made a party respondent. The Attorney General (R Venkataramani) and the Solicitor General (Tushar Mehta) are requested to assist the court,' it ordered. The bench said by an interim order. it restrains the YouTube channel to stop publication of the video and forthwith take it down. Shukla recently posted a video making remarks against retired judge



A boy takes a dip in 'sarovar' on the occasion of the martyrdom day of fifth Guru of Sikhs Guru Arjan Dev, at the Golden Temple in Amritsar PT PHOTO

# Shah: BSF destroyed 118 Pak posts, surveillance system

Concluding his two-day tour of the Jammu region to review the security situation, preparation for the Amarnath Yatra and to interact with victims of shelling, Shah commended the Border Security Force (BSF) for its resolute response to Pakistani aggression during the four days of conflict earlier this month

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Poonch (J&K), May 30: More than 118 Pakistani forward posts and their surveillance system were completely destroyed by the BSF during Operation Sindoor, dealing a major blow to the neighbouring country, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said Friday

of the Jammu region to review the security situation, preparation for the Amarnath Yatra and to interact with victims of shelling, Shah commended the Border Security Force (BSF) for its resolute response to Pakistani aggression during the four days of conflict



tive action. "This proves that even during peacetime, you kept a vigilant eye... Based on

# **PM Modi launches** ₹47,600 crore projects in Kanpur

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kanpur (UP), May 30: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for 15 mega development projects worth over Rs 47,600 crore in Kanpur.

Modi inaugurated the new underground section of the Kanpur metro rail project worth over Rs 2,120 crore from Chunniganj to Kanpur Central. This section includes five new underground stations --Chunniganj, Bada Chauraha, Naveen Market, Nayaganj and Kanpur Central.

It will include 14 planned stations with five new underground stations integrating key city landmarks and commercial hubs into the metro network.

Additionally, he also inaugurated road widening and strengthening work of GT Road. With this extension, important city landmarks such as Lal Imli, Z Square Mall, Green Park Stadium, Parade Ground,

# Pak will face ire of Indian Navy this time: Rajnath



#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 30: Pakistan should hand over UN designated terrorists Hafiz Saeed and Masood Azhar to India if it is serious about talks between the two countries, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said Friday. In an interaction with the naval warriors onboard aircraft

The defence minister, high lighting the Indian Navy's role during Operation Sindoor, said it succeeded in keeping the Pakistani military tied down.

When the Indian Air Force destroyed terror bases on Pakistani soil, the Indian Navy's aggressive deployment in Arabian Sea confined Pakistani Navy to its own shores, he said Singh used his brief speech



Concluding his two-day tour

jawans. But they never pause to consider where the boundary lies." Shah said, Reflecting on his travel to Poonch despite inclement weather, the Union minister said he was determined to meet the jawans personally.

# Bela M Trivedi.a

across Karnataka's coastal Dakshina Kannada district have claimed five lives, officials said Friday, A landslide struck a home at Montepadavu Kodi near here Thursday night, trapping five people under debris, they said. According to officials, a woman and her child were pulled from the debris and hospitalised in critical condition. However, another child of the woman was found dead.

#### Delhi court sentences ex-MLA to 6 months jail

. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

New Delhi: A Delhi court Friday sentenced former Madhya Pradesh MLA Kishore Samrite to six months in jail for threatening to blow up Parliament in September 2022 over his 'unfulfilled demands'. Special Judge Vikas Dhull noted that the threatening letter and the suspicious substance were sent to Parliament "which is the temple of Indian democracy". It is equally pertinent that the convict is not just an ordinary citizen, but a former MLA from Lanji in Madhya Pradesh's Balaghat district, the judge said.

#### Five killed after bus hits divider

Jaunpur (UP): Five people were killed and over a dozen passengers injured when a private bus overturned after hitting a divider in Uttar Pradesh's Jaunpur Friday, police said. The accident occurred near Kulhanamau village in the Baksha area. The driver lost control of the vehicle on the Lucknow-Varanasi National Highway, Superintendent of Police Dr Kaustubh said.

earlier this month.

Damaging and destroying so many posts in such a short period is a remarkable achievement, he said, adding that dismantling the enemy's surveillance network is a significant blow and it would take Pakistan years to rebuild the system. "During Operation Sindoor, the BSF destroyed more than 118 Pakistani posts," he said

during his first visit to Jammu and Kashmir after Operation Sindoor.

"When Pakistan responded to our anti-terror operations by attacking our borders and civilian areas, it was the BSF jawans of the Jammu Frontier who retaliated by destroying and damaging over 118 posts.

Praising the BSF's readiness even during times of relative peace. Shah said their intelligence enabled precise pre-emp-

your accurate intelligence, a precise counter-strategy was prepared well in advance. When the opportunity arose, you implemented it with success.' Terming the feat a reflection of immense patriotism and sacrifice, Shah added, "Such bravery only emerges when there is pride in the nation, a sense of patriotism in the heart, and a passion for supreme sacrifice. That is when such outcomes are possible." He emphasised the BSF

continues to serve as India's first line of defence, operating across deserts, mountains, forests, and rugged terrains with unwavering dedication. 'Whenever there is any kind

of attack on India's borders -- organised or unorganised. covert or overt -- the first to bear the brunt are our BSF

"I came to Poonch to visit and share the grief of the damage done to gurudwaras, temples, mosques, and civilian populations. I was told the weather was not favourable. Still. I decided that I would go by road and return only after meeting the jawans posted at the border. "God was gracious. The weather cleared up, and I had the opportunity to meet you." he told the troopers. The Union home minister expressed gratitude to the BSF troopers on behalf of the government and the citizens of India. "The cheer for BSF is as loud as for the Army, and that is a matter of great pride for all of us.

Book Market and Somdutt Plaza will be directly connected via metro

Currently, nine stations are operational from IIT Kanpur to Motifheel. The new section will make metro travel in the city more convenient, faster and safer, according to a statement.

The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone and inaugurated multiple development projects aimed at boosting the region's infrastructure and connectivity.

In order to boost power generation capacity in the region, multiple projects will be undertaken. Modi laid the foundation stone of a 220 kV substation in Sector 28 at Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YE-IDA), Gautam Buddh Nagar to meet the growing energy demands of the region.

carrier INS Vikrant off Goa. Singh said if Pakistan resorts to anything "evil or unethical" against India, it will face the firepower and ire of the Indian Navy this time.

If Pakistan tries to cast an evil eye, the opening of New Delhi's response will be at the hands of the Indian Navy, he said in a clear message to Islamabad.

Pakistan needs to understand that the time is up for the "dangerous game" of terrorism it has been playing since Independence and India will use every method to root out the menace, Singh said.

Anti-India activities are being carried out openly from Pakistani soil and India is "completely free" to carry out every kind of operation against terrorists on both sides of the border and the sea, he said.

to the naval personnel to send a stern warning to Pakistan as he asserted that Operation Sindoor is not just a military action but India's frontal assault against terrorism.

The defence minister said it would be in Pakistan's inter est to "uproot the nurseries" of terrorism operating on its soil "with its own hands"

"It should start by handing over terrorists like Hafiz Saeed and Masood Azhar to India. Both of them are not only on the list of 'Most Wanted Terrorists' in India but are also on the UN's list of designated terror ists." he said. Azhar, the head of Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mo hammad terror group, is want ed in India for the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, 2016 Pathankot airbase attacks and the 2019 Pulwama strike.

# Blood type mismatch key factor for kidney transplants

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 30: Blood group 'ABO' incompatibility could be a major factor driving kidney exchange transplants in India, where living donor transplants face numerous challenges, a study published in The Lancet Regional Health Southeast Asia journal has found.

ABO incompatibility occurs when when a donor's blood group differs from that of a recipient, leading the recipient's immune system to reject the transplanted organ.

The study conducted by researchers, including those from Smt G R Doshi and Smt KM Mehta Institute of Kid-

ney Diseases and Research Center (IKDRC), Ahmedabad,



noted that a third of healthy and willing living donors in India are incompatible with their intended recipients, largely due to blood group mismatches.

The team said that no largescale data is available on kidnev or liver exchange transplants in low- and middle-income countries, including India. Kidney exchange transplants involve two or more donor-recipient pairs swapping donors to snable recipients to receive compatible kidneys.

The IKDRC's website explains, a donor of one pair of donor-recipient could donate a kidney to a recipient of a second pair while the donor of

**ABO incompatibility** occurs when when a donor's blood group differs from that of a recipient, leading the recipient's immune system to reject the transplanted organ

the second pair could donate to the recipient of the first pair. The exchange allows two ABO incompatible recipients to receive healthy, more compatible kidneys.

The study analysed 1,839 kidney exchanges from 65 centres across India, revealing that ABO incompatibility was the main reason for entering such

exchanges in 1,610 (87 per cent) of the cases.

The remaining exchanges were due to compatible pairs 126 (seven per cent) and sensitisation 103 (six per cent), according to the authors of the study. A notable gender imbalance

was found, with more men (82 per cent) being recipients in kidney exchanges, and more women (80 per cent) being donors. The researchers also looked at 259 liver exchange transplants from seven centres across India

"The majority of (liver exchange transplants) were 2-way swaps (125 two-way versus 3 three-way swaps), predominately involving male recipients (222 male versus 37 females) and for ABO incompatibility, the authors wrote.

#### Delhi: Bomb hoax at Udyog, Nirman Bhawan

NEW DELHI: Threats via e-mails to blow up two government buildings in central Delhi -- Udyog Bhawan and Nirman Bhawan -- prompted security agencies to carry out an extensive sanitisation exercise. The threat later turned out to be a hoax The threat, sent via email at 6.49 an to senior officials at the two centra government complexes, claimed that "ammonium sulfur-based Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) have been twinned" within the premises and warned, "Evacuate All by 3.15 pm." The "suicide IEDs" threat was issued through identical e-mails sent at 6.49 am to the top officials of the ministries housed in the two facilities. Udyog Bhawan houses offices of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry along with the Ministry of Heavy Industries, while Nirman Bhawan is home to the Union Health and Housing and Urban Affairs ministries.











national



The life of Lord Parshuram Ji teaches us that only the balance of knowledge and strength can lead society in the right direction NAYAB SINGH SAINI HARYANA CM

### **INDIA WILL NEVER GIVE IN TO** NUCLEAR BLACKMAIL: JAISHANKAR

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Friday asserted that India will never give in to nuclear blackmail, and those who "sponsor, nurture and utilize" terrorism should be made to pay a heavy price



# First batch of 17 women cadets graduates from NDA uote 77

I will be coming back to Jammu and Kashmir on the 17th and 18th. During that visit, we will hold the

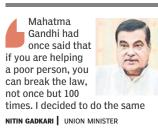
of the day

agreement meeting and finalize a comprehensive agricultural roadmap for the UT

SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN UNION AGRICULTURE MINISTER

Now, so many years have passed since the BJP's rule, yet they are inaugurating the work done by the SP

AKHILESH YADAV SP CHIEF







which won't be investigated till Modi is the PM In the past, Only Rahul Gandhi Ji

@shaandelhite

### SHORT TAKES

#### Teenage girl found dead

New Delhi: A 13-year-old girl was found dead under mysterious circumstances at her residence in the Dwarka area here, an official said Friday. The incident came to light after a PCR call was received at the Dabri police station around 1:45 pm Thursday, following which the local police and senior officers PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, May 30: The prestigious National Defence Academy Friday witnessed history as the first batch of 17 female cadets marched alongside more than 300 male counterparts towards the 'Antim Pag' in a spectacular display of integration.

A flypast by three majestic

Su-30 aircraft was a fitting ac-

companiment to the occasion

as the cadets of the tri-services

training academy's first co-ed

batch went past the 'Antim

Pag' at the Khetrapal Parade

Ground on their way to bring

more laurels to an institution

widely hailed as the "cradle of

leadership". The first batch

of women cadets joined the

NDA's 148th course in 2022 after the Union Public Service Commission allowed women to apply to the defence academy following a Supreme Court direction in 2021

"Every moment, every difficulty we went through, each emotion in all these three years we spent at the academy is worth it," said Divisional Cadet Captain Harsimran Kaur, whose parents were beaming with joy and pride at their

daughter's feat. It was a rollercoaster of emotions as the parade moved towards the 'Antim Pag' as all the memories from the past three years got vivid, said Battalion Cadet Captain Shriti Daksh. adding that she was now fully



ready to make her mark at the Indian Military Academy (IMA) in Dehradun.

Shital, another cadet who was flanked by her proud parents, said, "It is a great feeling. There are more emotions and less words. As we approached the Antim Pag, the feeling was that yes we have done it."

The NDA had changed her '180 degrees" and had made her mentally and physically strong, said Shital, who will be joining the IMA. Her father Ashok Mahalen said all the 17 female cadets are "not just our daughters but the daughters of

the entire nation".

Cadet Shristi Singh, while thanking her instructors and Squadron Commander of India Squadron, remarked that the legendary saying associated with the academy of "jitna ragda, utna tagda" (the more gruelling the training, the stronger the cadet) is absolutely true.

Singh, who is the first female cadet to pass out from India Squadron, aspires to join the Indian Naval Academy.

Gen V K Singh (retired), former Army Chief and current governor of Mizoram, who was the reviewing officer of the Passing Out Parade, called it a uniquely significant day in the history of the academy.

**Top Maha prison** official shifted to Home Guards

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 30: Special Inspector General of Police Jalindar Supekar, whose name had cropped up in the Vaishnavi Hagawane dow ry harassment-suicide case was Friday transferred from the prisons department to the Home Guards as deputy commandant general.

The transfer comes a day after the state government relieved him of additional responsibilities as deputy inspector general of prisons of Nashik, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar and Nagpur divisions.

> PUNE DOWRY HARASSMENT-SUICIDE CASE

Vaishnavi Hagawane alleged ly committed suicide in Pune's Bavdhan area May 16, with her kin alleging that her in-laws and others had tortured her for dowry.

Her father-in-law Rajendra Hagawane was subsequently expelled from the NCP after the case hit national headlines.

Supekar is the uncle of Vaishnavi's husband Shashank. Incidentally, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis had asked the ADG Prisons to probe allegations that Supekar was trying to shield the accused in the dowry harassment and suicide case.

The order of Thursday un der which he was relieved of additional responsibilities as deputy inspector general of prisons of Nashik, Chhatrapa ti Sambhajinagar and Nagpur divisions claimed the post of DIG in the prisons department is "important" and full of "responsibilities".

# ANKITA BHANDARI MURDER CASE **Resort operator among 3 get rigorous life term**

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kotdwar, May 30: A court here Friday sentenced a resort operator and his two employees to rigorous life imprisonment in the 2022 Ankita Bhandari murder case.

Bhandari (19), who worked as a receptionist at Vanantra Resort located in Yamkeshwar of Pauri district, was murdered September 18, 2022 by resort operator Pulkit Arya and his two employees Saurabh Bhaskar and Ankit Gupta.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Reena Negi also imposed a fine of Rs 72,000 on Arya and Rs 62,000 on each of the other two accused, Special Public Prosecutor Avnish Negi. According to the prosecution, Bhandari and Arya had a dispute over something after which the three pushed the woman into the Cheela canal

in Rishikesh After her body was found from the canal, the police arrested all three. Pulkit Arya is the son of former BJP leader Vinod Arva. As soon as the matter came to light, the party showed the door to Vinod Arya.

The court convicted Arya under Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections 302 (murder), 201 (causing disappearance of evidence/



lasted for two years and eight months and during this period 47 witnesses were examined. A large number of police force was deployed in the court in view of the verdict in the case. The court premises were cordoned off by more than 450 policemen.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said justice has been ensured for the daughter of Uttarakhand. The state government had resolved to provide justice to Ankita and took all steps in that direction.

# Tharoor disappointed over Colombia's condolences to Pak

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bogota, May 30: Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, leading an all-party delegation, has voiced his deep disappointment over Colombia offering condolences for the loss of lives in Pakistan following Indian strikes in response to the Pahalgam terror attack.

Tharoor is leading the delegation to Colombia as part of India's global outreach to expose Pakistan's support for cross-border terrorist activities and India's policy of zero-tolerance for terrorism. At a media briefing in this Colombian capital city Thursday, Tharoor elaborated India's position on terrorism, spoke about Operation Sindoor and expressed disappointment over Colombia's response to the Pahalgam ter-

#### **OP SINDOOR**

ror attack. Tharoor "reaffirmed India's stance on terrorism and expressed disappointment over Colombia's response which has offered condolences for the loss of lives in Pakistan, rather than sympathizing with the victims of terrorism in India," said BJP parliamentarian Tejasvi Surya. 'There can be no equivalence between those who attack and those who defend," he said in a social media post. Surya said India, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi will continue to deliver strong responses to terrorism.

The BJP Lok Sabha MP is part of the nine-member delegation that already travelled to Guyana and Panama before arriving in Colombia Thursday. Other members of the del-

egation include Bhubaneswar Kalita (BJP), Milind Deora (Shiv Sena), Shambhavi (LJP), GM Harish Balayogi (TDP) and former ambassador of India to US Taranjit Singh Sandhu. The delegation called on for-

mer president Cesar Gaviria. the head of the Liberal Party - the largest single party in the Colombian Assembly - at his residence on Bogota. "He was strongly supportive of India's fight against terrorism and undertook to say so publicly as well," Tharoor said in a post on X. During their stay in Bogota, the delegation will interact with Members of Congress, ministers and other key interlocutors in think tanks. From Colombia, the delegation would travel to Brazil. It will be in the United States in the last leg of

its five-nation trip.



Important revelation by BJP leader Subramanian Swamy — India lost 5 jets

- Rafale is not upto the mark as per India's needs - Corruption happened in Rafale

raised the corruption in Rafale.





rushed to the spot. The family has raised suspicion on the landlord as he was present at the residence when the girl's body was found, a police source said.

#### Haryana to conduct civil defence exercise

Chandigarh: The Haryana government will conduct a major statewide Civil Defence Exercise, "Operation Shield", May 31, across all 22 districts to enhance the state's emergency preparedness and response capabilities. Scheduled to begin at 5 pm. this comprehensive drill is being organised under the guidance of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, to simulate critical incidents such as air raids, drone attacks, and other wartime scenarios in the light of current national security concerns, an official statement said here Friday.

Two men end life by

jumping into Yamuna

New Delhi: Two men allegedly

ended their lives by jumping

into the Yamuna River in different parts of Delhi in

a span of 48 hours, police

said Friday. A 46-year-old

man, Vicky Kapoor, from

Krishna Nagar, allegedly

jumped into the river near

due to domestic disputes

Wednesday, a senior police

officer said. Eyewitnesses

river and immediately alerted

the police. Teams from the

Delhi Fire Services, the East

Delhi Boat Club, and police

and rescue operation upon

receiving information.

personnel launched a search

saw Kapoor leap into the

the east Delhi Boat Club area

#### giving false information), 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty) and Section 5(1) D of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act (ITPA), he said.

Negi said that Bhaskar and Gupta were convicted IPC sections 302, 201 and Section 5(1) d of the ITPA. Negi said that the court has also ordered the government to pay Rs 4 lakh as compensation to Ankita's parents.

The murder had triggered protests by locals following which the state government formed a special investigation team to probe it.

Police were immediately instructed to arrest the accused and an SIT was formed under the chairmanship of a woman IPS officer who investigated all the angles and collected evidence, he said. Dhami said the case was ef-

fectively pleaded in the court and as a result the accused could not even get bail. During this period, the administration kept in constant communication with Ankita's

family and they were given financial help. Welcoming the court's decision, the CM Dhami said that it further strengthens the confidence of the people in the judicial system.

Members of Kannada Rakshana Vedike burn an effigy during a protest against actor Kamal Haasan over his "Tamil gave birth to Kannada" remarks, in Bangalore, Karnataka

# WBSSC notice for recruitment of 35,726 school teachers

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, May 30: The West Bengal School Service Commission (WBSSC) has issued a notification for the recruitment of 35,726 assistant teachers in Classes 9-10 and 11-12 in state-aided and government-sponsored schools, in adherence to the Supreme Court's directive to initiate the process

by May 31. According to the notice uploaded late Thursday night on the official WBSSC website, the recruitment will include 23.212 posts for Classes 9-10 and 12,514 posts for Classes 11-12. In a significant clause, the notice stipulated the age limit from 21 to 40 years.

Online applications will be accepted from June 16 to July 14, with the written examination scheduled for the first week of September. "Upper age limit is, however, relaxable by 5 years for scheduled caste/ scheduled tribe candidates, 3

years for backward class candidates and 8 years for physically handicapped candidates," the notice said.

Candidates will be given carbon copies of OMR (Optical Mark Recognition) sheets, while the WBSSC will preserve scanned images of OMR sheets for 10 years. Merit panels will be prepared subject-wise, medium-wise, gender-wise, category-wise on the basis of marks obtained in the written test, oral interview and lecture demonstration. It will be published on the official website, the notice said.

Referring to the April 3 verdict of the SC and the subsequent order April 17, the SSC said. "the commission and government of West Bengal have already applied for review of the said judgment and order and this exercise is strictly subject to the outcome of the review petition and guidelines of the Hon'ble court to be followed by the commission and



#### the government.'

The entire process is being carried out strictly without prejudice in rights and contention of the state, commission and the Board in their pending review petitions in the SC and without intending to create any empathy or right to any party who may choose to participate

in the process, it added. "The commission reserves its right to cancel, withdraw, rescind or amend the selection process or the terms and conditions thereof at any time hereafter without assigning any reason," the notice said, alluding to any future development on the legal front before the exams.

ACCORDING TO THE NOTICE UPLOADED LATE THURSDAY NIGHT ON THE OFFICIAL WBSSC WEBSITE, THE RECRUITMENT WILL INCLUDE 23,212 POSTS FOR CLASSES 9-10 AND 12,514 POSTS FOR CLASSES 11-12

#### IN A SIGNIFICANT CLAUSE, THE NOTICE STIPULATED THE AGE LIMIT FROM 21 TO 40 YEARS

Despite the announcement, protestors under the Deserving Teachers Rights Forum, whose appointments were cancelled. have vowed to continue their agitation.

"This notice offers nothing new. Preparing for a fresh exam at such short notice is unrealistic. We are not ready to go through this trauma again," said forum spokesperson Mehboob Mandal. Another forum leader Chinmoy Mondal said, "Our protests will continue and intensify in the coming days." A bench comprising Chief

Justice of India Sanjiv Khan-

na and Justice Sanjay Kumar had April 3 upheld the Calcutta High Court verdict of April 22, 2024, invalidating the appointment of teachers and staffers in the state-run and aided schools terming the entire selection process "vitiated and tainted".

The top court April 17 extended till December 31 the services of the terminated teachers found untainted by the Central Bureau of Investi gation (CBI), after taking note of the state secondary board's submissions that the mass terminations have adversely im pacted teaching in the schools

The Supreme Court had ear lier said the advertisement for fresh recruitment will be published on or before May 31, and the entire process, including the examination, will be com pleted by December 31.

The court asked the state government to file a compliance affidavit on the initiation of the recruitment process on or before May 31.















I would like to confirm our genuine interest in the earliest resumption of the work within the format of the troika ---Russia, India, China -- which was established many years ago on the initiative of (ex-Russian prime minister) Yevgeny Primakov SERGEY LAVROV | FOREIGN MINISTER, RUSSIA

### . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

#### **PEACEKEEPERS HONOURED**

Two Indian peacekeepers, Brigadier General Amitabh Jha and Havildar Saniav Singh, who lost their lives while serving under the UN flag last year, were honoured posthumously by the United Nations on International Day of UN Peacekeepers



# uote 77 Pakistan enacts law to curb child marriages

First of all. because In dia is a very important troop and police contributing country. It's also a very import-

of the day

ant supporter of peacekeeping. bevond the important contribution of men and women from India, but also in terms of supporting various efforts

JEAN-PIERRE LACROIX UNDER-SECRETARY GENERAL FOR PEACE OPERATIONS, UN

We seek no conflict with anybody. including the Communist Chinese We will stay strong for our interests

PETE HEGSETH | DEFENSE SECRETARY, US

We have always said that Israel had a right to defend itself. Unfortunately, Israel's response has gone too far and its actions have caused terrible humanitarian disaster and the restrictions imposed on the delivery of humanitarian supplies are completely unacceptable

LAWRENCE WONG | PRIME MINISTER, SINGAPORE

### SHORT TAKES

# Russia accuses ally

Belgrade: Russia Thursday accused Serbia of exporting arms to Ukraine, saying it's a stab in the back by its longtime Slavic Balkan ally. "Serbian defence enterprises, contrary to the neutrality declared by Belgrade, continue to supply ammunition to Kyiv," the Russian foreign intelligence service, SVR, said in a statement. The statement alleged that the export of Serbian arms to Ukraine are going through NATO intermediaries, "primarily the Czech Republic, Poland and Bulgaria. Recently, exotic options involving African states have also been used for this purpose".

#### Football celebrations: **Driver injures 80**

London: A driver who injured

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, May 30: Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari Friday signed into law a bill fixing the minimum age for marriage at 18 years to curb child marriages despite opposition from right-wing clerics.

The Islamabad Capital Territory Child Marriage Restraint Bill, seeking to protect the rights of children and eventually eradicate marriages of children under the age of 18, was sent to the president's approval May 27 after sailing through both houses of Parliament.

Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Senator Sherry Rehman shared on X a presidential notification

Jerusalem, May 30: Israel

has accepted a new US proposal

for a temporary ceasefire with

Hamas, the White House said

US President Donald Trump's



related to the approval of the legislation. "The Islamabad Capital

Territory Child Marriage Restraint Bill, 2025 is assented to, as passed by the Parliament.<sup>3</sup> the notification read.

Zardari accented to the bill despite strong opposition from

This bill is not just a law, it is a commitment that our girls have the right to education, health and a prosperous life SHERRY REHMAN | SENATOR, PAKISTAN PEOPLES PARTY

Council of Islamic Ideology (CII), a constitutional body tasked to offer counsel on legal issues, in a ruling said that classifying marriage under the age of 18 as rape did not conform with Islamic law.

Rehman said that the approval of the bill was successful despite resistance from various sections, adding that President Zardari signed the bill despite pressure

"The signing of the Child

Marriage Restraint Bill is a symbol of a new era of reforms in Pakistan," she said.

She hailed the approval as a victory for the protection of the rights of women and children, adding, "This law was possible after a long and dif-

ficult struggle. She thanked PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, party leaders, other political parties and representatives of the opposition and the public for their support to the bill.

Earlier, CII member Maulana Jalaludin, who belongs to the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F), said President Zardari should prevent anarchy in society by not signing the bill.

mediation group with dozens of countries PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

China forms new global

Hong Kong, May 30: Dozens of countries joined China on Friday in establishing an international mediation-based dispute resolution group.

Representatives of more than 30 other countries, from Pakistan and Indonesia to Belarus and Cuba, signed the Convention on the Establish ment of the International Or ganization for Mediation in Hong Kong to become found ing members of the global organisation, following Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

The support of developing countries signaled Beijing's rising influence in the glob al south amid heightened geopolitical tensions, part ly exacerbated by US President Donald Trump's trade tariffs

At a ceremony, Wang said China has long advocated for handling differences with a spirit of mutual understand ing and consensus-building through dialogue, while aiming to provide "Chinese wisdom' for resolving conflicts between nations.

"The establishment of the International Organisation for Mediation helps to move beyond the zero-sum mindset of you lose and I win," he said.

The body, headquartered in Hong Kong, aims to help promote the amicable resolution of international disputes and build more harmonious global relations, he said.

# **GAZA CEASEFIRE Israel accepts US proposal**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thursday

# Serbia of betrayal

special envoy, Steve Witkoff, expressed optimism earlier this week about brokering an agreement to halt the Israel-Hamas war and return more of the hostages captured in the attack that ignited it. White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt told reporters that Israel "backed and sup-

> ported" the new proposal. Hamas officials gave the Israeli-approved draft a cool response, but said they wanted to study the proposal more closely before giving a formal answer.

"The Zionist response, in essence, means perpetuating the occupation and continuing the killing and famine," Bassem Naim, a top Hamas official, told The Associated Press. He said it "does not respond to any of our people's demands, foremost among which is stopping the war and famine."

Nonetheless, he said the group would study the proposal "with all national responsibility. tional law Hamas had previously said it had agreed with Witkoff on a "general framework" of an agreement that would lead to a lasting ceasefire, a full Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, an in-

Hamas officials gave the Israeli-approved draft a cool response. but said they wanted to study the proposal more closely before

giving a formal answer

flux of aid, and a transfer of power from the militant group to a politically independent committee of Palestinians.

Here's what's known about the emerging negotiations that aim to bring about an extended truce in the war in exchange for hostages that remain in captivity:

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has refused to end the war until all the hostages are released and Hamas is either destroyed or disarmed and sent into exile. He has said Israel will control Gaza indefinitely and facilitate what he refers to as the voluntary emigration of much of its population.

Palestinians and most of the international community have rejected plans to resettle Gaza's population, a move experts say would likely violate interna-

Zaki wins 2025 Scripps **National Spelling Bee** PRESS TRUST OF INDIA New York. May 30: Faizan Zaki, a 13-year-old Indian-Amer-

**Indian-American Faizan** 

ican student from Texas, has won the Scripps National Spelling Bee after he spelt "éclaircissement correctly, maintaining the dominance of the children from the community in the prestigious US competition.



# Sharif rakes up India's abeyance of IWT at international platform

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, May 30: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Fri-day rejected the "weaponisation of water" and warned that Pakistan would not allow India to cross the red line by holding the Indus Waters Treaty in abevance and endangering millions of lives for narrow political gains.

Sharif was addressing a three-day International Conference on Glaciers' Preservation in Tajikistan's capital Dushanbe when he raked up the issue of India-Pakistan bilateral Indus Water Treaty (IWT).



also touched upon all relevant issues, including glacial preservation, Pakistan's climate vulnerability, the 2022 floods in Pakistan, global climate action and responsibility, scientific projections on glacial melt, weaponisation of water and call to protect nature and humanity's shared destiny.

"The world today bears fresh scars from the use of conventional weapons in Gaza that have left deep wounds. As if that were not enough, we are now witnessing an alarming new low-the weaponisation of water," the prime minister observed He added that Pakistan, being home to over 13.000 glaciers, was the most concerned as glaciers contributed nearly half of the annual flows in the Indus river system — "the life line of our civilisation, culture and economy".



This satellite image provided by Maxar Technologies shows the village of Blatten after suffering a mudslide, in Switzerland

## "Pakistan has reached a milestone in the enactment of important legislation against child marriages," she said.

religious groups and even the

агіу во ре car rammed into a crowd of Liverpool soccer fans celebrating their team's Premier League championship was charged Thursday with intentionally causing grievous bodily harm and six other serious counts, a prosecutor said. Paul Doyle, 53, was also charged with dangerous driving and five other counts alleging different variations of causing or attempting to cause grievous bodily harm Prosecutor Sarah Hammond said. The charges carry a maximum sentence of life in prison if convicted.

#### IS' first attack on Svria after Assad's fall

Beirut: The Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for two attacks in southern Syria, including one on government forces that an opposition war monitor described as the first on the Svrian army to be adopted by the extremists since the fall of Bashar Assad. In two separate statements issued late Thursday. IS said that in the first attack. a bomb was detonated targeting a "vehicle of the apostate regime." leaving seven soldiers dead or wounded.

#### Nigeria deluge: At least 88 dies

Abuja: At least 88 people have been confirmed dead after floods submerged Mokwa, a market town in Nigeria's Niger State, Thursday, an official said. Husseini Isah of the National **Emergency Management State** said that many more are still at risk, with rescue efforts underway Friday.

Hamas has said it will only release the remaining hostages – its only bargaining chip in return for more Palestinian prisoners, a lasting ceasefire and a full Israeli withdrawal.





Zaki bested Sarvadnva Kadam to win the 2025 Scripps National Spelling Bee Thursday night

A 7th-grade student at C M Rice Middle School, Zaki finished second in 2024 in a spelloff to another Indian-American Bruhat Soma

This was Zaki's fourth time participating in the Scripps National Spelling Bee. This was Zaki's fourth time participating in the Scripps National Spelling Bee. He outlasted eight other accomplished spellers to win the title Thursday night.

"India's unilateral and illegal decision to hold in abevance the Indus Waters Treaty. which governs the sharing of the Indus Basin's water, is deeply regrettable," Dawn reported quoting Sharif.

"Millions of lives must not be held hostage to narrow political gains, and Pakistan will not allow this. We will never allow the red line to be crossed," the prime minister told the conference attended by over 2,500 delegates from 80 UN member states and 70 international organisations. The event is being hosted by

US academic partnership with China faces biggest threat

the Tajikistan government in collaboration with the United Nations, UNESCO, World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), the Asian Development Bank, and other key partners as a historic moment for climate ambition, glacier preservation, and international cooperation.

Sharif's remarks came after India, soon after the April 22 terrorist attack in Pahalgam, announced abevance of the IWT among other punitive measures. The IWT was signed in 1960 by the two countries to address the water dispute between them and to share the waters of the six main rivers of the Indus basin.

"The five great rivers that shape our geographical landscape-Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, and Sutlej-all depend on the stability of glacial systems. This makes Pakistan one of the most vulner able countries to any climatic changes that impact glaciers, he continued.

According to Dawn, Sharif

#### STRAINED RELATIONS

**American colleges** host more than 275,000 students from China

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, May 30: Frayed by tariff wars and political battles, the academic ties between the US and China are now facing their greatest threat yet as the Trump administration promises to revoke visas for an unknown

number of Chinese students and tighten future visa screening. In a brief statement on Wednesday, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the US will "aggressively" revoke visas of Chinese students, including those with ties to the Chinese Community Party or studying "critical fields"

Rubio's statement threatened to widen a chasm between the two nations, building on a yearslong Republican campaign to rid US campuses of Chinese influence and insulate America's research from its strongest economic and military competitor.

Rubio's announcement has rattled Chinese students and drawn swift condemnation from the Chinese government and some US lawmakers.

It also raised alarm on US campuses that host more than 275,000 students from China and benefit from their tuition payments.

Chinese graduate student Kesong Cao, 26, decided to abandon his studies in the US because of Trump's policies.

"I do not feel welcome anymore," said Cao, a student of cognitive psychology at the



University of Wisconsin, who was waiting at Seattle's airport Thursday to board a flight home to China.

Cao spent eight years in the US and once dreamed of staying as a professor.

"Now it seems like that dream

is falling apart. It's a good time to jump ship and think about what I can give back to my own country," he said.

The scope of the visa crackdown wasn't immediately clear, with no explanation on what would constitute ties to

the Communist Party. But the impact could be significant if the government goes after any student with family members in the party, said Sun Yun, director of the China programme at the Washington-based thinktank Stimson Center.

Academic leaders in the US have spent years trying to tamp down growing hostility against Chinese students and scholars, saving the benefits of the relationship outweigh the risks.

Collaboration between the countries produces tens of thousands of scientific papers a year, yielding major advancements in fields from earthquake prediction to disease treatment.

The academic alliance has been built up over decades since both sides resumed diplomatic ties in the 1970s. Chinese researchers are the most frequent international co-authors

for US researchers in science and engineering journal arti cles. Both sides are research powerhouses

Any move that prevents the US from welcoming the smartest people in the world is an "extremely bad idea", said I Rafael Reif, a former president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who pushed back against anti-China sentiment during President Donald Trump's first term.

"This administration will be known historically as the one that began the decline of the US by completely failing to understand the importance of science and technology -- and the importance of gathering the most talented human capital from the world to work together towards a thriving United States," Reif said in a statement to The Associated Press.















Leading this organisation from its formative days has been an honour, and I take immense satisfaction in the foundations we've built for future success. I am confident that. under Venu's capable leadership, LTIMindtree will continue to thrive and reach new milestones DEBASHIS CHATTERJEE | MD, LTMINDTREE

### **EXCEL UTILITY FOR ITR-1, AND ITR-4**

The Income Tax department Friday said it has made available the excel utility for ITR-1 and ITR-4 for AY 2025-26, which will enable taxpayers to file their income tax returns. With the enabling of these utilities, taxpayers can start filing their ITRs for income earned in 2024-25



# uote

India is not iust a market of scale but a market of aspiration. It is where the

next 500 million middle-income travellers will emerge and their disposable income, coupled with global travel ambitions, will position India very differently within the country and across the globe PUNEET CHHATWAL | MD, IHCL

By being the first vehicle (Thar ROXX) in the world to feature **Dolby Atmos** featuring 4

channels of immersive audio integrated into the premium 9-speaker Harman Kardon Branded Audio system, we are redefining the driving experience

VELUSAMY R M&M PRESIDENT (AUTOMOTIVE)

India's hospitali ty sector continues to demonstrate exceptional

resilience and growth potential, with Q1 2025 showing remarkable **RevPAR growth across** major markets, particularly **Bengaluru's impressive 38.3** per cent increase. The robust pipeline of 79 new hotel signings representing 9,478 keys this quarter reflects strong investor confidence in India's hospitality fundamentals

## SHORT TAKES

JAIDEEP DANG | MD, JLL INDIA

#### Ola Electric shares fall

New Delhi: Shares of Ola Electric Friday ended over 4 per cent lower after the firm reported a consolidated net loss of ₹870 crore in the fourth guarter ended March 31, 2025. The stock dropped 4.26 per cent to settle at ₹50.97 on the BSE. During the day, it tanked 9.71 per cent to ₹48.07. At the NSE, shares of the firm ended at ₹50.85. down 4.48 per cent. During the day it tumbled 9.72 per cent to ₹48.06. Ola Electric Thursday reported a consolidated net loss of ₹870 crore in the fourth quarter ended March 2025, while noting that it is targeting profitability in the current fiscal. The company had reported a net loss of ₹416 crore in the January-March guarter of 2023-24. The revenue from operations declined to ₹611 crore compared to ₹1.598 crore in the year-ago period. Ola Electric said in a regulatory filing. For FY25, the company reported a net loss of ₹2.276 crore against ₹1.584 crore in 2023-24. Its revenue from operations declined to ₹4.514 crore against ₹5.010 crore in FY24.

# **Fiscal deficit touches 4.8% of GDP for FY25**

Central government has announced the fiscal deficit 4.8 per cent of GDP for FY25, slightly below the **budgeted** estimate of 4.9 per cent

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 30: The central government managed to meet the fiscal deficit target of 4.8 per cent of the GDP for 2024-25, according to the provisional data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) Friday.

In the revised estimates (RE) presented to Parliament in February, the government had pegged the fiscal deficit or gap between expenditure and revenue at ₹15,69,527 crore or 4.8 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP).

The CGA data showed that the fiscal deficit in actual terms was ₹15.77.270 crore, or 100.5 per cent. of the RE. The economic growth in nominal terms for the fiscal 2024-25 is estimated at ₹3,30,68,145 crore, according to the GDP data released earlier in the day.

The government received ₹30.78 lakh crore or 97.8 per cent of RE 2024-25 of total receipts during 2024-25. This comprised ₹24.99 lakh crore tax revenue (net to Centre). ₹5.37 lakh crore of non-tax revenue and ₹41.818 crore of non-debt data. ICRA Chief Economist



Whereas, the non-debt capital receipt consist recovery of loans (₹24,616 crore), and mis-

cellaneous capital receipts of (₹17,202 crore). According to the CGA data, ₹12.86.885 crore has been transferred to state governments as devolution of share of taxes by

the government up to March 2025, which is ₹1,57,391 crore higher than the previous year. The total expenditure incurred by the Centre is ₹46.55 lakh crore (98.7 per cent of corresponding RE 2024-25), out of

which ₹36.03 lakh crore is on revenue account and ₹10.52 lakh crore is on capital account. Out of the total revenue expenditure, ₹11.16 lakh crore is on account of interest payments, and ₹3.88 lakh crore is on account of major subsidies. Commenting on the CGA

Aditi Nayar said the fiscal deficit marginally exceeded the RE for FY2025, albeit led by a welcome overshooting in capital expenditure amid a less palatable miss on the receipts side being largely offset by considerable savings in revenue expenditure in the fiscal.

"The upward revision in the FY2025 nominal GDP number also augurs well for meeting the deficit and debt to GDP targets for FY2026," she said.

Meanwhile, the CGA said the fiscal deficit during April 2025 was ₹1.86 lakh crore or 11.9 per cent of the budget estimates (BE) for 2025-26. The revenue receipts in April stood at ₹2.56 lakh crore or 7.5 per cent of the BE. The expenditure was ₹4.65 lakh crore or 9.2 per cent of the BE. The government expects the fiscal deficit at ₹15.68 lakh crore during 2025-26 or 4.4 per cent of the GDP.

# **ENDS LOWER**

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 30: Stock markets closed lower in a rangebound trade Friday following losses in IT shares and sluggish trends in Asian markets due to trade uncertainty after a US appeals court temporarily reinstated reciprocal tariffs.

The 30-share BSE Sensex de clined by 182.01 points or 0.22 per cent to settle at 81,451.01 as 24 of its constituents retreated and six advanced. During the day, it dropped 346.57 points or 0.42 per cent to 81,286.45.

The NSE Nifty dipped 82.90 points or 0.33 per cent to 24,750.70. Metals, IT, and auto sector shares declined while banking shares gained. Investors were cautious ahead of the release of domestic GDP data post-market hours, analysts said.

Among Sensex firms, Tech Mahindra fell the most by 1.73 per cent. HCL Tech, Asian Paints, NTPC, Infosys, Nestle, Sun Pharma, and Tata Steel also closed lower. Eternal, State Bank of India, HDFC Bank, Larsen & Toubro Reliance Industries and Bajaj Finserv were the gainers.

A range-bound movement continued in the market, with the temporary reinstatement of US tariffs by the appeal court influencing investors to stay on the sideline

Meanwhile, FII inflows continued due to the volatility in the US 10-year yield and an expectation of solid domestic Q4 GDP data later today and a rate cut by RBI.

The BSE midcap gauge declined 0.39 per cent while smallcap index went up by 0.17 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, metal dropped the most by 1.68 per cent, followed by BSE Focused IT (1.14 per cent), commodities (1.14 per cent), utilities (1.09 per cent), teck (0.99 per cent), auto (0.91 per cent) and tele communication (0.79 per cent)

# STOCK MARKET SEBI bars Arshad Warsi and others from capital market



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 30: Security Exchange Board of India (SE-BI) has barred Bollywood actor Arshad Warsi, his wife Maria Goretti, and 57 other entities from the securities markets for 1-5 years in a case related to misleading videos on YouTube channels recommending investors to buy shares of Sadhna Broadcast.

The regulator imposed a

fine of ₹5 lakh each on Warsi

and his wife Maria. The couple

was restrained by the markets

watchdog from the securities

market for 1 year, as per an or-

der passed by SEBI Thursday.

₹5 lakh to ₹5 crore on 57 other

entities, including promoters

of Sadhna Broadcast (now

Crystal Business System Ltd).

Apart from the debarment.

the accussed were directed to

disgorge total unlawful gains

worth ₹58.01 crore along with

12 per cent interest per annum

jointly and severally from the

end of the investigation period

till the date of actual payment.

made a profit of ₹41.70 lakh

and his wife earned a profit of

In the final order, the ex-

change has found that the

whole operation were Gaurav

Gupta, Rakesh Kumar Gupta

and Manish Mishra. Subhash

Aggarwal, who also happened

to be a director of the RTA of Sadhna Broadcast Ltd (SBL),

acted as the go between Manish

Mishra and the promoters, the

order stated. These individuals

were the central characters

behind this

₹50.35 lakh.

masterminds

SEBI noted that Arshad had

It has also levied penalties of

retail investors, and finally, a coordinated sell-off by the

ASHWANI BHATIA | DIRECTOR, SEBI

promoters

signs or were in it to make a quick buck, the order said.

The overall conduct

of the noticees has

revealed a classic

pump-and-dump

scheme. The price was sys-

tematically pushed upward

followed by aggressive pro-

motional activity to draw in

through collusive trading,

In page order, the authority confirms that the noticees (entities) have acted as information carriers or assisted in placing the manipulative trades, but not traded in the scrip from their own accounts.

SEBI said the structured scheme executed in two coordinated phases. In the first phase connected and promoter-linked entities executed trades among themselves to steadily inflate the price of the scrip and create a false appearance of market interest.

These trades though often small in volume had a disproportionate impact on price due to low liquidity, allowing the perpetrators to push the scrip upward with relatively mini mal trading outlay. In the second phase of the scheme, misleading and promotional videos were disseminated across You-Tube channels such as Money wise, The Advisor, and Profit Yatra, all operated by Manish

Mishra, the order said. These videos presented SBL as a promising investment

# IndiGo to end pact with Turkish Airlines

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai. May 30: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) Friday granted a one-time final extension of three months to IndiGo on damp leasing of two Boeing 777 aircraft from Turkish Airlines till August 31 to avoid sudden the previous FY (2023-2024). flight disruptions that will IFFCO recorded a turnover cause inconvenience to passenof ₹41,244 crore during the gers but directed the airline to FY 24-25 Dileep Sanghani, Chairman, terminate the lease within the IFFCO said that IFFCO is rethree-month period. IndiGo has also been directalising the dream of "Sahkar Se Samriddhi". He informed ed by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) not that the society has registered a profit of more than ₹3000 cr to seek any further extension. The development also comes for three consecutive finanagainst the backdrop of Turcial years and has rewarded kiye backing Pakistan and its members with a 20 per cent condemning India's strikes on dividend on the paid-up share terror camps in the neighbourcapital. Dr US Awasthi, MD, IFFCO ing country earlier this month. stated that IFFCO will be also launching Nano NPK fertiliz-

New Delhi, May 30: IFFCO announces ₹3,811 cr as profit before tax for the FY24-25 along with 47 per cent increase in the sales of nano fertilisers. This FY, 365.09 Lakh bottles of Nano-Fertilizers were sold as compared to 248.95 lakh bottles sold in

श्री दिलीप संघाणी

# Stellar performance by IFFCO in FY25

POST NEWS NETOWRK

#### Suzion shares surge

New Delhi: Shares of Suzlon Energy Friday ended over 9 per cent higher after the firm reported a nearly fivefold jump in consolidated net profit for the March quarter. The stock surged 9.23 per cent to settle at ₹71.46 on the BSE. During the day, it jumped 13.57 per cent to ₹74.30 on both BSE and NSE. Shares of the firm ended at ₹71.35, climbing 9 per cent on the NSE. The company's market valuation surged by ₹8,244.02 crore to ₹97,534.94 crore. Suzlon Energy Thursday reported a nearly fivefold jump in consolidated net profit at ₹1,181 crore for the March guarter, mainly on the back of higher revenues. The company reported a consolidated net profit of ₹254 crore in the guarter ended March 2024, a BSE filing said. Total income rose to ₹3,825.19 crore in the quarter from ₹2,207.43 crore a year ago. During 2024-25, the profit rose to ₹2,072 crore from ₹660 crore in the previous financial year.



प्रेस वार्ता

PRESS CONFERENCE

er in Granular form for soil application in basal dose. Nano NPK fertilizer is enriched with Magnesium. Sulphur. Zinc and Copper which would help in increasing the crop productivity & would minimize nutrient losses.

IFFCO honoured two eminent cooperators with 'IFFCO



डॉ उदय शंकर अवस्थी

who planned and executed the manipulative scheme.

Further, the regulator observed that Peeyush Agarwal and Lokesh Shah facilitated accounts controlled by them to be used for the manipulative designs of Manish Mishra and the promoters of SBL. The former was a dealer at Choice and the latter is the owner of Delhi franchise of stockbroker. They were both vital cogs who facilitated large scale manipulation in the scrip.

Similarly, Jatin Shah played a leading role in operationalising the scheme, while other entities facilitated the manipulative deopportunity and were timed to coincide with and amplify artificial market activity, it added. Accordingly, these 59 entities violated the provisions of PFUTP (Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices) rules.

In addition, the authority said that no monetary penalty is being imposed on Varun Media Pvt Ltd, a promoter entity, due to pending insolvency proceedings. However, the direction for disgorgement will remain applicable and proceedings against the company will be decided through a separate order.

# Centre curbs e-sales of wireless telegraphy

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 30: The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) Friday released comprehensive guidelines to prevent the illegal listing and sale of radio equipment, includ-

ing walkie-talkies, on e-commerce platforms. The new framework aims to check the sale of walkie-talkies

without proper frequency disclosure, licensing information, or Equipment Type Approval (ETA), practices that violate the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.

The guidelines were developed after extensive inter-ministerial consultations with the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). Key regulatory and security considerations from both departments have been incorporated to ensure a coordinated approach.

"It was observed that walkie-talkies are being sold on e-commerce platforms without mandatory and clear disclo-

sures regarding the requirement of a wireless operating license or compliance with applicable laws," the CCPA said in a statement.

Product listings for walkie-talkies currently fail to specify whether devices require licences from concerned authorities. Critical details such as frequency ranges, licensing obligations under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, the Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933, and the Use of Low Power, Very Low Power Short Range Radio Frequency Devices (Exemption from Licensing Requirement) Rules, 2018, are often omitted.

This lack of disclosure misleads consumers into believing the devices can be freely operated by the general public, the CCPA noted. The new guidelines mandate that only authorised and compliant walkie-talkie devices operating on permitted frequencies be listed for sale on online platforms. Product listings must specify



frequency ranges and technical parameters, and include proof of regulatory approval through Equipment Type Approval.

E-commerce entities are required to undertake due diligence and verify regulatory compliance, including licensing where applicable. Listings lacking frequency information or necessary certification must be removed

The guidelines also prohibit misleading advertisements or product descriptions that may misinform consumers about legal usage of such devices. Plus sellers must ensure equipment listed for sale does not operate on frequencies that require frequency assignment and authorisation by DoT. Frequency bands must be clearly labelled in product descriptions.

The framework outlines penalties and enforcement mechanisms for violations in accordance with the Consum er Protection Act, 2019, aims to ensure due diligence by plat forms before listing products mandate verification of seller credentials and certification, introduce automated monitor ing and takedown mechanisms for unauthorised listings.

The CCPA had earlier is sued 13 notices against 16,970 product listings for listing and selling walkie-talkies without proper frequency disclosure licensing information, or equip ment type approval. These plat forms remain under constant monitoring and examination alongside the notification of the new guidelines.





On May 15, Bureau of Civil

Aviation Security (BCAS) re-

voked the security clearance

for Turkish company Celebi

Airport Services India Pvt

Ltd in the interest of national

security. Some online travel

portals and associations have

also issued advisories asking

Currently, IndiGo is oper-

ating two B777-300 ER aircraft

under damp lease from Turkish

Airlines and the current lease

is to expire on May 31. These

planes are used by IndiGo to op-

erate direct flights from Delhi

The development also

comes against the backdrop of

Turkiye backing Pakistan and

condemning India's strikes

on terror camps in the neigh-

bouring country earlier this

month.

and Mumbai to Istanbul.

people not to visit Turkiye.









# SPORTS

# **Gold rush continues** Satwik-Chirag sail into Singapore Open semis



**Orissa**POS

SATURDAY | MAY 31, 2025 | BHUBANESWAR

India's overall tally swells to 18, including eight gold, seven silver and three bronze medals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gumi (South Korea), May 30: Long-distance runner Gulveer Singh shattered a decade-old meet record, high-jumper Pooja Singh delivered a personal best show, while heptathlete Nandini Agasara rose to the occasion after a setback as the trio added three more gold medals to India's kitty on the penultimate day of the 26th Asian Athletics

Championships here Friday. The country's overall tally swelled to 18, including eight gold, seven silver and three bronze medals. India look well on course to match or better the 27 medals won in the 2023 edition, having already surpassed the gold haul of six medals in that year.

Gulveer etched his name among the greats of Indian

#### long-distance running by winning a tightly-contested men's 5000m final to add to his 10,000m gold won on the opening day of the competition. The national-record-holding

runner clocked 13:24.77sec to edge past Thailand's Kieran Tuntivate, who finished close behind at 13:24.97sec, while Japan's Nagiya Mori took bronze in 13:25.06sec

The previous championship record belonged to Qatar's Mohamed Al-Garni, who had clocked 13:34.47sec in the 2015 edition. Later, 18-year-old Pooja jumped to a personal best of 1.89m in her penultimate attempt to finish ahead of Uzbekistan's Safina Sadullaeva (1.86m).

The Haryana teen, whose father is a construction worker, has been doing well at the continental level, having earlier collected a gold at the Asian Under-23 Championships in 2023. Nandini then became only the third Indian heptathlete

edition. The 26-year-old from Atrauli in Uttar Pradesh had also won a bronze in the 2023 edition. to win an Asian gold after Swapna Barman (2017) and disappointment in the women's Soma Biswas (2005). Agasara 3000m steeplechase, where de-

collected 5941 points to bag the

hary had to settle for silver. She clocked 9:12.46sec and was bested by Kazakhstan's Norah Jeruto Tanui (9:10.46sec). The bronze also went to a Kazakh, Daisy Jepkemei (9:27.51sec).

#### 4x100m men's relay team disqualified

Earlier, India's 4x100m men's relay team was disqualified during the preliminary round after a faulty baton exchange but Sachin Yaday and Yashvir Singh made the men's javelin throw finals alongside reigning Olympic champion Arshad Nadeem of Pakistan.

The quartet of Pranav Pramod Gaurav, Ragul Kumar Ganesh. Manikanta Hoblidhar and Amlan Borgohain was knocked out of the competition after being found guilty of baton exchange outside the takeover zone, violating World Athletics' Technical Rule 24.7.

The Malaysian team was also disqualified for a similar violation. However, there was good

news for the Indian contingent elsewhere as Sachin and Yashvir entered the 12-man javelin throw final.

While Sachin covered 79.62m to be placed fifth, Yashvir qualified for Saturday's finale with a throw of 76.67m.

At the top was Nadeem, who is appearing in his first competition since the gold-winning monstrous throw of 92.97m in the Paris Olympics last year. He came up with an effort of 86.34m in the qualifying round. In other events, women's

100m hurdles gold-winner Jyothi Yarraji and Nithya Gandhe advanced to the 200m finals after clocking 23.74sec and 23.77sec respectively in their heats

In the men's 200m event, Animesh Kujur entered the finals after clocking 20.81sec in the semifinal race.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Singapore, May 30: India's top men's doubles pair of Satwiktomorrow now. sairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty stayed on course for

their maiden title of the season, storming into the Singapore Open semifinals with a straightgame win over world No 1 Malaysian duo of Goh Sze Fei and Nur Izzuddin here Friday.

Making a comeback after battling fitness issues for the last few weeks, the Indian pair displayed rock-solid defence and controlled the front court with precision to register a 21-17, 21-15 win in a 39-minute quarterfinal clash at the Super 750 badminton tournament.

"Yeah, it's a big victory. Because we are world number 27 right now. Last year when we played Singapore, we were world number one. So, yeah, it feels really good that we could beat Goh and Izzuddin. Because we lost to them at the start of the year in the semi-finals of India Open. So, sweet victory," Chirag said.

"Really happy with the way we played over the past couple of days. And looking forward to

Satwik and Chirag will next face third-seeds Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik of Malaysia.

"We have played them before many times. We couldn't capitalise in the India Open. But, we were well-prepared. We are more focusing on our strategy than the opponent's strategy. We wanted to play our A game and see what they come up with," said Satwik, who was down with health issues in April and had to miss the Sudirman Cup.

"We are not just thinking too much about the opponents. We are preparing ourselves every point in each and every point. We are supporting each other and it's been a quiet two-month journey. So, really happy with the way we played and looking forward for more.'

This is their third semifinal appearance of the season, having reached the last-four stage at both the Malaysia and India

Open earlier this year. The last time the two played was in March at the All En-

gland Championships which ended with Chirag aggravating his back injury and the duo was forced to withdraw in the second round.

Chirag, the 27-year-old from Mumbai, said he had doubts if he would be able to play in Singapore.

"Every day I'm getting bet ter. We didn't really know how and if we will be able to play at Singapore because, frankly speaking, we just trained for 10 days in a span of two months, he said.

"And for me, I had a lot of doubts whether I will be able to play because with my back condition, I didn't really know how it will go. But I think it's really amazing that we could play the way we are.'

The former world No 1 Indians held a 6-2 head-to-head record against the Malaysians going into the match, although they had lost their most recent meeting at the India Open.

# Karun makes statement with 186 not out, Sarfaraz misses ton in India A's 409

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Canterbury, May 30: Karun Nair was elegance personified while serving a timely reminder to the Gautam Gambhir-led team management with a classy unbeaten 186 as India A cruised to 409 for 3 against a below-par England Lions on the opening day of the first 'Unofficial' Test here Friday.

While Nair is known to bat either at No. 4 or below in firstclass cricket, he looked at ease during his unbeaten 246-ball knock which made the Lions bowlers, including their Test star Rehan Ahmed, look completely pedestrian. His innings had 24 fours and one six but it couldn't have come at a more opportune time as Gambhir frets over his batting combination for the opening Test against England at Leeds, starting June 20. Sarfaraz Khan (92 off 119 balls) blended a bit of muscle and a lot of cheekiness but missed out on a three-figure mark after doing all the hard work. The duo added 181 runs for the third wicket stand and then Dhruv Jurel (82 batting, 104 balls) made merry during another 177-run stand for the unbroken fourth wicket alliance. Brief scores: India A: 409/3 in 90 overs (Karun Nair 186 batting; Sarfaraz Khan 92, Dhruv Jurel 82 batting; Josh Hull 2/51).

# **HIGH-SCORING CONTEST NORWAY CHESS** MI hold nerve in Eliminator to enter Qualifier 2 Gukesh wins thriller,



top honours, making a strong

comeback to win the 800m race

after a poor javelin throw per-

China's Liu Jingyi, who led

Agasara after winning javelin

throw, claimed the silver with

The win completed a re-

markable double for Gulveer,

who had earlier bagged gold

in the 10,000m competition on

the opening day with a timing

With this performance, Gul-

veer joined an elite group of

Indian athletes to have won

gold in the men's 5000m event

of the continental meet -- the

other three being Gopal Saini

(1981), Bahadur Prasad (1993),

and G Lakshmanan (2017). He

matched Lakshmanan in win-

ning gold in both the 10,000m

and 5000m events in the same

However, there was mild

fending champion Parul Chaud-

formance of 34.18m.

5869 points.

Gulveer the great

of 28:38.63sec.

needing 24 runs and he bowled three immaculate deliveries to ensure victory before hobbling out due to hamstring issue.

In fact, Suryakumar Yadav, the vice-captain was marshalling resources in the final over and it was a brave punt to bring Gleeson in for three deliveries knowing that he is in considerable discomfort. Earlier, on a surface which had less grass compared to the one used on Thursday, Mumbai Indians





PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mullanpur, May 30: The mighty Mumbai Indians handled the nerves better on the big stage to outlast Gujarat Titans by 20 runs in a high-scoring IPL Eliminator despite a classy effort from Sai Sudharsan here Friday.

Rohit Sharma (81 off 50) rode his luck to play a fine knock after Jonny Bairstow (47 off 22) made instant impact on his Mumbai Indians debut to push them to an imposing 228 five in 20 overs.

Titans, who were sloppy in the field and with the ball, were able to take the game down to

the wire with sensational batting from Sudharsan (80 off 49) before falling short at 208 for six to exit the tournament. In the end, it was Mumbai Indians who won the key moments to advance in the competition. The victory took them to Qualifier 2 in Ahmedabad Sunday when they take on Punjab Kings.

Despite heavy dew, overcoming a such a steep target in a knock-out game needed a special effort which came from Sudharsan who put his team on course for an improbable chase until his dismissal in the 16th over. Bumrah removed Washington Sundar (48 off 24) with

his trademark yorker before Sudharsan missed scoop against Richard Gleeson to see his stumps dislodged, bringing Mumbai Indians back into the game.

While it lasted, it was a delight to see Sudharsan go about his business. In a game of pure muscle, Sudharsan was a picture of elegance and found gaps all around the park with pinpoint precision.

The equation came down to 36 from 12 balls with two lefthanders Rahul Tewatia and Sherfane Rutherford in the middle. Mumbai Indians debutant Richard Gleeson bowled the final over with Titans decided to bat first and the batters ensured the team goes into the break with an upper-hand. Titans dropped three crucial catches -- two of Rohit (81 off 50 ) and one of Survakumar Yaday (33 off 20) - and produced another ordinary effort with the ball in the knock-out fixture.

Rohit was dropped twice in the powerplay before veteran made the opposition pay dearly for their on-field errors. On the first occasion, Gerald Coetzee dropped him in the deep and Kusal Mendis' GT debut went all awry when he bungled a regulation take behind stumps off Mohammed Siraj.

It was Bairstow (47 off 22), who gave Mumbai Indians the momentum in the powerplay with some sublime hitting.

For third innings in a row, the opposition team was able to amass against a total in excess of 225 against the Titans, contributing their downfall.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Stavanger (Norway), May

**30:** Reigning world champion D Gukesh emerged the winner in a thrilling Armageddon tie-break against American Grandmaster Fabiano Caruana but Arjun Erigaisi succumbed to Magnus Carlsen's intuitive skills on a mixed day for the Indians in the 'Open' category of Norway Chess here.

World No 3 Caruana enjoyed a pawn advantage for most part of the Round 4 game against his Indian opponent, who turned 19 Thursday, but the American could not convert it into a significant advantage in over four hours of engrossing chess thanks to Gukesh's superb defensive skills.

The Armageddon tie-break was applied to break the stalemate. Both Gukesh and Erigaisi are now tied fourth in the six-payer field with 4.5 points apiece, while Carlsen is the sole leader with 8 points, followed by Caruana on 7 and American GM Hikaru Nakamura on 5.5.

With Gukesh, playing with white pieces and having a huge three-minute advantage in Arma geddon - white gets 10 minutes and black seven - after coming out of a tricky situation during the Classical slugfest less than 15 minutes earlier, the Indian over powered Caruana on the clock to take 1.5 points from the game.

A win in the Classical format earns the players in this double-round robin format tourna ment three points, while a draw fetches them one point each. However, the players have to immediately play the Armageddon tie-break to break the deadlock

# **ARGENTINE COURT DECLARES MISTRIAL** IN CASE OVER DEATH OF MARADONA

#### ASSOCIATED PRESS

Buenos Aires, May 30: An Argentine court Thursday declared a mistrial in the case of seven health professionals accused of negligence in the death of soccer legend Diego Maradona, the latest dramatic twist in a trial that has captivated the nation and the soccer world for more than two months.

The whiplash decision comes after one of the three judges overseeing the trial stepped down over criticism surrounding her participation in a forthcoming documentary about the case.

withdrawal

Her controversial compelled the court to either appoint a new judge in her place or to retry the entire

case from scratch. On Thursday, the judges decided the latter, effectively turning the clock back on all proceedings in the case that accuses Maradona's medical team of failing to provide adequate care for the soccer star in his final days. The judges ruled there would be a new trial,

without specifying when. Julieta Makintach said that she had "no choice" but to re-



documentary, Divine Justice, which traces the aftermath of Maradona's death at the age of 60 to the start of the trail, clearly featuring Makintach as a main protagonist.

Maradona, who led Argentina to the World Cup title in 1986, died November 25, 2020 on the outskirts of Buenos Aires, days after undergoing surgery for a hematoma that formed between his skull and brain.

### **Eves lose against Chile in shootout**

New Delhi: India suffered a 1-3 defeat in shootout against Chile after the regulation time ended in a 2-2 stalemate in the four-nations junior women's friendly hockey tournament in Rosario, Argentina. Sukhveer Kaur (35') and Kanika Siwach (47') were the scorers for India, while Jacinta Solari (27') and captain Laura Muller (42') struck for Chile over four quarters. Chile opened the scoring in the second quarter, with Jacinta Solari converted a penalty corner in the 27th minute. India will next face Uruguay in their fifth match of the tournament June 1.

# Swiatek, Sabalenka reach fourth round

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paris, May 30: Defending women's champion Iga Swiatek joined No.1-ranked Aryna Sabalenka in the fourth round of the French Open Friday and neither player has dropped a set so far.

Sabalenka, a three-time Grand Slam winner who has only once reached the semifinals at the French Open, beat Olga Danilovic 6-2, 6-3 on Court Philippe-Chatrier, where Friday's hot weather contrasted with previous days.

'The ball flies much faster," Sabalenka said. "The bounces are much higher.' Swiatek, who has won four

#### **FRENCH OPEN**

of her five major titles at Ro-

land-Garros, defeated Jaque-

line Cristian 6-2, 7-5 on Court

Suzanne-Lenglen to extend her

French Open winning streak

to 23 matches. But a second

set lasting 1 hour, 16 minutes tested the 23-year-old Polish player, who yelled in relief after winning on her second match point.

"She used her chances and just went for it," said Swiatek, who enjoyed temperatures which reached 29 degrees Cel sius (84 Fahrenheit). "For sure I don't mind. On clay it gives the balls the extra bounce.

Sabalenka and Swiatek, who had 20 winners and 21 unforced errors in her win, have been in contrasting form.

The 27-year-old Sabalenka has reached six singles finals this year, the most for a woman entering Roland Garros since Serena Williams in 2013.

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