



Rashmika Mantra

Actor Rashmika Mandanna shares what she does while going through the lowest phase of her life

LEISURE | **P2**



Hungry Gazans

Palestinians in Gaza Strip block and offload dozens of food trucks, the UN World Food Programme says

INTERNATIONAL | **P10**



Trump revises steel tariffs

US President Donald Trump announces 50 per cent tariff on steel and aluminium imports to protect their industry

BUSINESS | **P11**



Classic Karun

Karun Nair's double century helps India A set a massive total of 557 in the first innings against England Lions on Day 2 of the unofficial Test

SPORTS | **P12**

SHORT TAKES

Import duty on crude edible oil cut to 10%

New Delhi: The Centre has reduced the basic custom duty on crude palm oil, crude soyabean oil and crude sunflower oil to 10 per cent, a move aimed at bringing down the retail prices of cooking oils and protecting domestic processors. Earlier, the duty on these three crude edible oils was 20 per cent. India imports more than 50 per cent of its domestic edible oil requirement. India imported 159.6 lakh tonnes of edible oils during the 2023-24 oil marketing year (November to October), valuing ₹1.32 lakh crore.

P11

One killed as Baloch militants storm Pak city

Islamabad: A senior Pakistani government official was killed when Baloch militants briefly seized control of a city in the restive Balochistan province, torching properties and looting a bank, authorities said Saturday. ilitants belonging to the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) stormed Sorab city in the Khuzdar district late Friday. They ransacked government offices, looted a commercial bank and set fire to the residences of several government officials, according to Balochistan government spokesperson Shahid Rind.

Chief engineer held on last day of service

Bhubaneswar: Vigilance sleuths Saturday arrested Baikuntha Nath Sarangi – Chief Engineer, Plan Roads, Rural Works department – on the last day of his service for amassing disproportionate assets (DA) to the tune of 483 per cent of his known sources of income, official sources said. The arrest comes a day after recovery of ₹2.56 crore in cash and detection of huge assets during search operations by the Vigilance on the premises linked to the engineer, an official said.

P3

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

I've got a startup idea... tail the agencies and hang around the windows of the houses they're raiding



ON TOP OF THE WORLD: Opal Suchata of Thailand reacts after she was crowned Miss World, in Hyderabad, Saturday

PTI PHOTO

Op Sindoor: India lost jets

In the first direct acknowledgement to date that came amid weeks of speculations, claims and counterclaims, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan Saturday confirmed that India lost an unspecified number of combat jets during Operation Sindoor due to 'tactical errors'. However, he dismissed as 'absolutely incorrect' Islamabad's claim of downing six Indian jets, and added that the situation was quickly corrected and combat operations resumed within 48 hours. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri had stated, in a press briefing, that he would respond at the right time, while IAF Air Marshal AK Bharti, during a press briefing at the height of the operation, had said that losses are a part of a combat scenario.

Singapore/New Delhi, May 31: Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Gen Anil Chauhan Saturday acknowledged losses of aircraft in India's recent military hostilities with Pakistan but dismissed as 'absolutely incorrect' Islamabad's claim of downing



six Indian fighter jets. Gen Chauhan, in an interview to Bloomberg TV, asserted it is more important to find out why the aircraft were lost and that the Indian military hit back after rectifying the issues. The CDS declined to specify the losses in terms of numbers but clearly pointed out to the fact that the Indian military carried out high-precision strikes deep inside Pakistani territory. The comments by the top military officer are the Indian military's first clear acknowledgement of losses in the four-

getting at long range," he said. "Absolutely incorrect," he said when asked about Pakistan's claim of shooting down six Indian jets during Operation Sindoor. "I think what is important is not the jets being downed but why they were being downed," added Gen Chauhan who played a key role in mounting India's massive offensive against Pakistan. Indian Air Force's Director General of Air Operations, Air Marshal AK Bharti, had acknowledged that 'losses are a part of combat' and said all IAF pilots returned 'home safely'. He made the remarks at a media briefing May 11 in responding to a question on Pakistan's claim of downing Indian jets. India launched Operation Sindoor May 7, targeting terrorist infrastructure in territories controlled by Pakistan using long-range weapons such as the Brahmos cruise missile in response to the Pahalgam terror attack. The strikes triggered four days of intense clashes that ended with an understanding on stopping the military actions on May 10. **P8**

Forester's charred body found; wife, son suspects

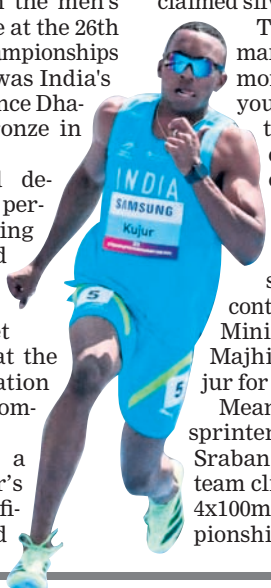
Nayagarh, May 31: A 55-year-old forester with the Pancharida range under the Nayagarh Forest Division was allegedly murdered Friday night, and his body set ablaze in an apparent attempt to pass it off as a suicide, police said. The charred body of Shishir Sahu was found on a bed in the master bedroom of his home in Barmasi Tanda, Nayagarh town. He was in uniform, with one leg on the floor and the other on the bed. His wife, Namita, 48, and son, Abhishek, 26, were home at the time. Police grew suspicious after finding blood-stained rocks near the house, a dead, tied-up dog, and signs of a possible struggle. Initial claims of an electrical short circuit were dismissed following a forensic inspection. During questioning, Abhishek allegedly told police his mother poured petrol and set the fire. However, Namita, currently hospitalised with minor injuries, has yet to be formally questioned.



The incident came to light after neighbors saw flames and helped douse the blaze with fire-fighters. A window air conditioner, scooter, and sewing machine were also damaged in the fire. Shishir's brother, Shara-ta Sahu, filed a complaint, prompting police to register a murder case (231/25). The body has been sent to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack for autopsy. Police said no concrete evidence has yet emerged regarding a suspected extramarital affair as a motive, though family disputes are being probed. Additional SP Subash Chandra Panda confirmed the case is being treated as homicide, and the investigation is ongoing.

Kujur wins India's 1st men's sprint medal in a decade

Gumi (South Korea), May 31: Odisha's ace sprinter Animesh Kujur ended a decade-long wait for the country in the men's 200m with a bronze at the 26th Asian Athletics Championships here Saturday. It was India's first in the event since Dharambir Singh's bronze in the 2015 edition. The 21-year-old delivered a standout performance, clocking a national record of 20.32 seconds, bettering his own mark of 20.40s set earlier this year at the National Federation Senior Athletics Competition. Racing against a strong field, Kujur's late surge in the final stretch ensured



Country that made smoking fashionable now quits

Paris, May 31: Brigitte Bardot lounged barefoot on a Saint-Tropez beach, drawing languorous puffs from her cigarette. Another actor, Jean-Paul Belmondo, swaggered down the Champs-Elysees with smoke curling from his defiant lips, capturing a generation's restless rebellion. In France, cigarettes were never just cigarettes — they were cinematic statements, flirtations and rebellions wrapped in rolling paper. Yet beginning July 1, if Bardot and Belmondo's iconic film scenes were repeated in real life, they would be subject to up to 135 euros (USD 153) in fines. After glamorising tobacco for decades, France is preparing for its most sweeping smoking ban yet. The new restrictions, announced by Health Minister Catherine Vautrin, will out-

law smoking in virtually all outdoor public areas where children may gather, including beaches, parks, gardens, playgrounds, sports venues, school entrances and bus stops. "Tobacco must disappear where there are children," Vautrin told French media. The freedom to smoke "stops where children's right to breathe clean air starts". If Vautrin's law reflects public health priorities, it also signals a deeper cultural shift. Smoking has defined identity, fashion and cinema here for so long that the new measure feels like a quiet French revolution in a country whose relationship with tobacco is famously complex. According to France's League Against Cancer, over 90 per cent of French films from 2015 to 2019 featured smoking scenes — more than double the rate in Hollywood productions. Each French movie averaged near-



ly three minutes of on-screen smoking, effectively the same exposure as six 30-second television ads. Cinema has been particularly influential. Belmondo's rebellious smoker in Jean-Luc Godard's 'Breathless' became shorthand for youthful defiance worldwide. Bardot's cigarette smoke wafted through 'And

God Created Woman', symbolising unbridled sensuality. Yet this glamorisation has consequences. According to France's public health authorities, around 75,000 people die from tobacco-related illnesses each year. Although smoking rates have dipped recently — fewer than 25 per cent of French adults now

smoke daily, a historic low — the habit remains stubbornly embedded, especially among young people and the urban banic. France's relationship with tobacco has long been fraught with contradiction. Air France did not ban smoking on all its flights until 2000, years after major US carriers began phasing it out in the late 1980s and early '90s. The delay reflected a country slower to sever its cultural romance with cigarettes, even at 35,000 feet. France's new law mirrors broader European trends. Britain, Spain and Sweden have all implemented significant smoking bans in public spaces. Sweden outlawed smoking in outdoor restaurant terraces, bus stops and schoolyards back in 2019. Spain extended its bans to cafe terraces, spaces still exempt in France — at least for now.

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You are in a position to affect other peoples' lives. Since you are very compassionate and caring, people will look up to you whether as a peer or a superior. Make good use of this excess energy to solve prickly issues. Ganesha encourages large-scale projects.

TAURUS
It will be a thought-provoking day with titbits of success and rewards scattered here and there, says Ganesha. If you feel you got the short end of the stick, do not let it affect your morale. Every sunrise comes with a different promise and today is not the end of the world. There are strong indications that planetary movements will change things for the better from tomorrow, says Ganesha.

GEMINI
Your family members and your friends will have much higher expectations from you today, and trying to fulfill the same will make you irritable. However, you will figure out creative ways to juggle the many demands made upon you and come out on top at the end of it all, says Ganesha.

CANCER
A wondrous beginning of the day! A unique vibrations in romantic life. Ties with life partner will be cordial. Blissful moments of married life are indicated. Peace and happiness prevail in the family. The whole day will be blooming and jovial, says Ganesha.

LEO
People involved in Sales and Marketing related jobs will attend productive meetings and will make effective presentations. However, delays in journeying are a possibility. It is a good time to recognise your inherent capabilities. You will be able to prove your worth in the next 2-3 days, says Ganesha.

VIRGO
Ganesha suggests that you take a much-needed break from the daily rigmarole. Introduce an element of the exotic in order to replace all the mundane work that fills up your day. You may attend private and social get-togethers, and Ganesha advises you to mingle with other people to keep your spirits high.

LIBRA
Ganesha says you shall pay more attention to your family and family issues. You will want to renovate and change the interior of your house or go in for purchasing new gadgets and décor for the home. You will spend time today with your family members. Ganesha says his best wishes are with you always.

SCORPIO
Just another mundane day in store for you. At work, pressure may mount and lead to a hectic and tedious day. You may even feel irritated at times. Thus, feeling the need to unwind, you may invite your sweetheart for the cup of coffee and spend quality time together.

SAGITTARIUS
For you, appreciation and recognition for the efforts you put in may be delayed, but it's not denied. There's no point losing heart and getting disappointed. This may only affect your work, instead, wait for a better tomorrow, Ganesha says giving you hope.

CAPRICORN
You will feel little lost in the maze of problems and tricky situations. You will, however, find a way out, feels Ganesha. You like to be in a commanding position at work where you guide others and call the shots. But, it has a flip side, too. While you will be appreciated for the achievements, you will also have to bear the brunt if anything goes wrong.

AQUARIUS
Flash warning signals to your arch rivals as you will be in a mood to prove you metal and give them a run for their money. Doubts and inhibitions – all will vanish in the air and you will be determined to make your mark, feels Ganesha. While on your path to success you will win the hearts of one and many.

PISCES
You will be inspired to travel to a far off place or to a foreign land because of a very warm invitation. Some old friend or relative residing in a foreign land will get in touch and please you today. Ganesha says that today is a good day for those wishing to go abroad for some specialized study or work.



NORTHERN EXPOSURE ACTRESS VALERIE MAHAFFEY DEAD AT 71

Emmy-winning American actress Valerie Mahaffey - best known for her roles in *Northern Exposure* and *Big Sky* - has died at the age of 71. Her husband Joseph Kell told *Variety*: "I have lost the love of my life, and America has lost one of its most endearing actresses. She will be missed."

CARDI B BLASTS EX-HUBBY ON HIS CONTROVERSIAL REMARK

American rapper Cardi B is furious at her ex-husband Offset after he made a nasty remark against her during a chat show. The rapper hopes that Offset will "die slow" after he requested spousal support in their divorce, reports *Female First UK*.



Secret behind Rakul's pan-India appeal

Mumbai: Rakul Preet Singh embodies a truly pan-Indian identity, shaped not only by her multilingual filmography but by a childhood steeped in movement and diversity. Born into an Army family, Rakul attended ten different schools across India due to her father's postings. This nomadic lifestyle, she says, taught her adaptability and kept her grounded.

Reflecting on her journey, she shares, "I've moved across states my whole life. Even now, if I have to shoot in villages — in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, or the South — I feel no discomfort. There's a sense of pride and familiarity. That pride of being Indian."

Her diverse upbringing allows Rakul to authentically portray characters across linguistic and cultural backgrounds. More than just performing in different languages, she resonates deeply with each region's essence. "When someone asks me where I'm from, I can't name just one place," she says. "Each school, each city has contributed something to who I am."

In a world that often ties identity to geography, Rakul offers a broader perspective — one that sees belonging as layered, dynamic, and deeply rooted in experience. On screen and off, she reflects the spirit of India — resilient, inclusive, and proud. A true Indian at heart.

AGENCIES



Rashmika's resilience mantra

Chennai: Actress Rashmika Mandanna's compassionate and practical reply to a dejected fan seeking advice on how to deal with "everything going wrong" is now fast winning hearts online.

A fan tweeted to Rashmika saying, "What do you do when you hit the lowest phase of your life...how to deal with everything going wrong??? Not willing to live... just feeling worthless. Suggestions please!"

Responding to the fan's tweet, Rashmika Saturday said, "You just breathe, surround yourself with people you trust-have faith that this day will pass- and you do the same thing tomorrow- and day after and before you know it, you'll see that you are feeling better-and you'll be so proud of yourself for going and growing through it."

Rashmika's reply is now coming in for appreciation from a lot of her fans who seem to find her advice practical. It may be recalled that the actress, who shares a close bond with her fans, had also gone to the aid of the director of her upcoming film *The Girlfriend* recently.

Rashmika, who plays the lead in *The Girlfriend*, came to the aid of her director Rahul Ravindran on the social media platform X after her fans, who were unhappy about the makers not releasing enough updates about the film, began trending the topic #ReleaseTheGirlfriend.

IAN S



Sam: Clarity doesn't come before action

Chennai: Sharing tips on working out along with lessons she had learnt from life, actress and producer Samantha Saturday said that discomfort had a way of showing one how much they are capable of.

The actress, who is known for sharing her takeaways from life's experiences on social media in the hope that it will help her followers, took to her Instagram page to put

out a video of her lifting a bar of 90 kgs.

The actress wrote, "Everytime, I've moved beyond what felt safe or familiar, I've discovered something new about myself."

She further said, "It's not easy, but discomfort has a way of showing you just how much you're capable of. Today, it looked like lifting 90 kgs-- something I never thought I could do, until I

did."

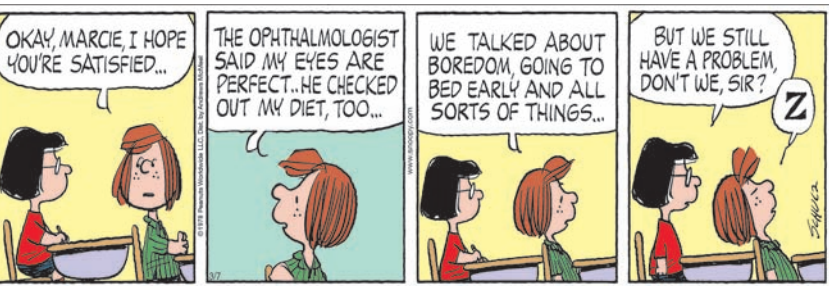
The actress pointed out, "Strength builds quietly -- until one day, you're lifting 100. Not bad for someone who once struggled with jar lids."

The actress also shared a quote of Rumi that read, "As you start to walk on the way, the way appears." She added, "Clarity doesn't come before action. It comes from action."

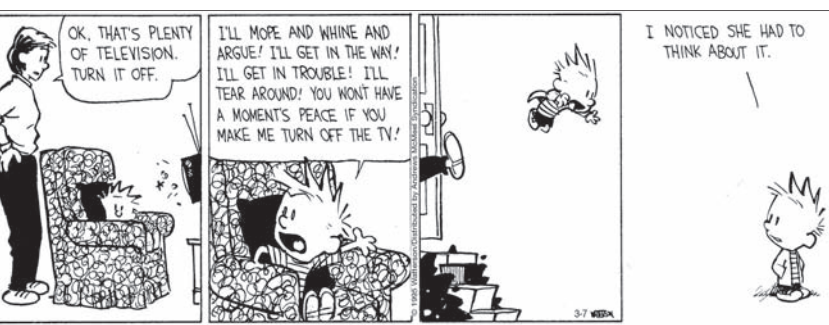
IAN S



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN
post

CROSSWORD

1	2			3	4	5	6	7
			8					
9						10		
11					12			
								13
14		15				16	17	
				18				
	19			20			21	22
23								
24						25		
26								27

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Across

1 Wise one
3 Bedtime drink
9 Helsinki locale
10 Odour
11 Beach souvenir
12 Floating nest builders
14 Place of business
16 Three sheets to the wind

Down

19 Uncivilised
21 Tropical fruit
24 Safari sight
25 Kettledrum
26 Goes before
27 Trifling

Across

5 Undue speed
6 Balmy
7 Trapper's prize
8 Aromatic bulb
13 Sing
15 Breakable
17 Protein source
18 Small sofa
20 Dwelling
22 Taper off
23 Snare

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

SHIRSHOTAR SADHU MEHER 'O' SARBOTTAM UTTAM

Screening of restored Odia classic *Abhilasha*

The incredibly popular number 'Ei Jhuma Jhuma Golapi Belare' from the movie, sung by Hariharan and Arati Mukherjee, remains one of the most-listened-to tracks even today

Dignitaries releasing a booklet on Odia classic *Abhilasha*

Bhubaneswar: Despite the Odia film industry losing two legends, Sadhu Meher and Uttam Mohanty, in quick succession, their works continue to captivate the hearts of millions of fans. After *Abhiman* and *Aparichita*, the duo came together one last time for *Abhilasha*, released in 1984. However, due to poor print conditions over the years, few fans had the chance to watch this timeless hit on screen. The incredibly popular number *Ei Jhuma Jhuma Golapi Belare* from the movie, sung by Hariharan and Arati Mukherjee, remains one of the most-listened-to tracks even today.

Recently, the National Film Archive of India, in collaboration with the state government and the Film Journalists' Forum (FJF), restored the movie and screened it Saturday here at Soochana Bhawan for film enthusiasts under FJF's 22nd Smrutichhaya programme. The event, titled *Shirshotar Sadhu Meher O Sarvottam Uttam*, was sponsored by Paradeep Phosphates Limited and attended by prominent figures from the industry.

Actors from three genera-

tions—Prashanta Nanda, Sid-dhant Mohapatra, and Anu Choudhury—shared their thoughts on the contributions of Sadhu and Uttam ahead of the screening. An Abhilash booklet was released during the event, and mementos were presented to the cast and crew associated with the film. Among those present were

A screengrab from the movie

actors Aparajita, Jayaswami, Ramdurai, Pitambar Puhana, Kirtan Patra, Nandita Jena, Ramesh Kumar Singh, Jaydev Jena, sound recordist Nagen Barik, writer and lyricist Ramesh Mohanty, and makeup artist Banchhanidhi Patnaik.

Former Culture Secretary Manoranjan Panigrahi presided over the programme. Senior journalist Amitabh Khillar delivered the vote of thanks, while lyricist Bijay Malla curated the event.

OP DESK

CM honours Ahilyabai on 300th birth anniversary

CM Mohan Charan Majhi hails Ahilyabai Holkar as visionary and social reformer inspiring governance and women's empowerment in Odisha



PIC: BIKASH NAYAK

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 31: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi participated in the grand 300th state-level birth anniversary celebration of Rajmata Ahilyabai Holkar here Saturday, joining senior leaders and dignitaries in honoring the life and legacy of one of India's most respected female rulers and social reformers.

The event was attended by Assembly Speaker Surama Padhy, Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida, Odia Language, Literature and Culture and Higher Education Minister Suryabanshi Suraj, Housing and Urban Development Minister Krushna Chandra Mahapatra, among other notable figures. Their presence underscored the importance of Ahilyabai Holkar's enduring influence on governance and social progress.

A significant highlight of the celebration was the launch of an Odia-language book titled

Karmajogini Punyashloka Ahilyabai Holkar. This publication offers an in-depth look at Ahilyabai's life, her visionary leadership, and her tireless dedication to public welfare. The Chief Minister and other dignitaries formally unveiled the book, emphasising its role in inspiring future generations.

In his address, CM Majhi described Ahilyabai Holkar as "more than a ruler; she was a social reformer whose principles continue to inspire governance and women's empowerment in Odisha." He praised her unwavering commitment to justice, courage, and public welfare, stating that her life serves as a beacon of good governance and selfless service.

Majhi drew parallels between Ahilyabai's vision and the Odisha government's current priorities, such as rural development, education, women's empowerment, and healthcare. He highlighted the flagship Subhadra Yojana, a scheme designed to

economically empower women and foster self-reliance, reflecting Ahilyabai's enduring legacy of uplifting society's most vulnerable.

Referring to the broader national context, the Chief Minister noted Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's recent acknowledgment of women's significant role in Operation Sindoor, describing the mission as a testament to women's strength and resilience.

He also spoke about the cultural significance of the Odia festival Savitri Osha, linking it to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to upholding women's dignity symbolised by the sindoor. Majhi warned that anyone disrespecting this sacred symbol would face divine retribution, reinforcing his belief that "India is in safe hands under Modi's leadership."

Speaker Surama Padhy called Ahilyabai an enduring symbol of justice and courage, while Deputy CM Pravati Parida urged Odisha to embrace her ideals to achieve transformative governance and social upliftment. Minister Suryabanshi Suraj described her as a guiding light for contemporary society.

The event celebrated Ahilyabai's timeless contributions and reaffirmed her lasting impact on governance, women's empowerment, and social justice in Odisha and beyond.



IN ACTION: Maharana servitors busy constructing the 'Danda' and 'Chaupata' of the chariots at Rath Yard in Puri, Saturday

OP PHOTO

NSUI seeks free bus travel for students

NSUI seeks fare relief for students across Odisha urging government to act; warns of statewide agitation if demands are ignored by June 10

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 31: The Odisha unit of the National Students' Union of India (NSUI) Saturday urged the state government to provide free transportation facilities for students in government-run services



and a 50 per cent fare concession in private transport.

The demand was raised during a press conference here at Congress Bhawan, attended by NSUI state president Udit Pradhan, Syed Yasir Nawaz, former OPCC general secretary

Manoj Biswal, and state Youth Congress general secretary Nihar Ranjan Behera.

Pradhan said the existing transport system places a heavy burden on students, especially those from poor and middle-class families. "Transport

is essential, but for many students, it's become a major hurdle. They spend large sums just to attend classes or exams," he stated. He added that students commuting daily from rural to urban areas are particularly affected, with transportation costs becoming unmanageable for those from economically weaker sections.

The NSUI reiterated its demand for immediate action, giving the state government a deadline of June 10 to implement the policy, warning of state-wide protests if the demand is unmet.

Data interpretation training for agri officers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 31: To strengthen the involvement of officers from the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment (A&FE) and other stakeholders in agricultural policy-making and sectoral planning, the second phase of a capacity-building training on 'Data Interpretation and Economic Impact Analysis' was jointly organised by the department and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) here.

The two-day training programme was inaugurated by the department's additional secretary Subhransu Mishra. "Use of data for planning and evaluation has already started yielding tangible results in the agriculture sector of Odisha,



and such training is very important to sustain this momentum," Mishra said.

Agriculture deputy director Sangram Keshari Patnaik and assistant director Nagan Kumar Mallick also participated

in the training and said that strengthening internal data capacity is very important to promote innovation, accountability and responsiveness in service delivery to farmers.

The session was attended by

around fifty participants, including representatives from leading organisations like PRADAN, Samagra, ACCESS Development Services, Centre for Sustainable Markets, WAS-SAN, Niruthi and the Indian School of Business (ISB).

The second phase of the training shared concepts in data analysis, visualisation and agricultural policy evaluation using datasets like NSSO, Census of Agriculture, and PLFS and tools like Excel, STATA, R, and Python, and its practical applications.

The training, led by experts from the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) said, "The programme was not just about conceptual clarity but also encouraged the officials to apply what they have learned in their own fields."

Lab-grown sperm: A new hope for male fertility

Imagine a future where a diagnosis of untreatable male infertility is no longer the end of the road – because science has developed a way to produce human sperm from lab-engineered testicular tissue.

This possibility, once considered science fiction, is now at the heart of groundbreaking research led by a team at the University of Limerick (UL). Their mission: to make the production of human sperm from lab-grown testicular tissue a reality. If successful, this innovation could redefine fertility treatment and bring renewed hope to millions affected by male infertility across the globe.

The urgency is clear. Male reproductive health is in sharp decline, and the statistics are alarming. Over the last 70 years, sperm counts have plummeted, while conditions such as testicular cancer, hormone



imbalances, and genital malformations – all of which can impact sperm production – are on the rise.

While the exact causes remain debated, genetics alone cannot explain the widespread drop in male fertility. Increasingly, researchers are pointing to environmental factors – particularly endocrine-disrupting chemicals.

Found in everyday items like plastics, pesticides, cosmetics,

and some medications, these substances can interfere with hormone function.

Evidence suggests that exposure to them during fetal development may raise the risk of testicular cancer, reduce sperm quality, and contribute to infertility later in life. Some fertility issues can be addressed through lifestyle changes, hormone therapy, or surgical correction. However, a large pro-

portion of male infertility cases are unexplained – a condition known as idiopathic infertility.

For these men, the only available treatment is surgical sperm retrieval (SSR), a procedure that involves surgically opening the testicles in search of viable sperm for use in assisted reproductive technologies like IVF. Yet the procedure's success is uncertain; in some instances, the chances of retrieving even a single usable sperm cell are as low as 40 per cent.

Beyond its physical and emotional toll, SSR places the burden of treatment on female partners, who must undergo the majority of the medical interventions. Moreover, the procedure does little to address the broader health concerns associated with male infertility, including increased risks of illness and early mortality. If SSR fails, couples often face the difficult decision of turning to donor sperm.

To truly address male infertility, scientists must go beyond temporary solutions and develop treatments that restore natural fertility. Because ethical and biological constraints limit experimentation on humans, researchers have turned to preclinical models – including human and animal tissue studied outside the body, lab-grown human testicular cells, and animal models.

However, since human sperm production is far less efficient and more complex than in other mammals, traditional animal models often fall short.

One of the greatest challenges in this field is creating a preclinical model that accurately replicates human testicular function. Although researchers have successfully produced sperm in mice using lab-grown testicular tissue, the same achievement has not yet been reached in humans.

(THE CONVERSATION)

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	36.2°	35.1°	Partly cloudy sky with possibility of development of lightning/thunder-storm
Min Temp	26.1°	24.8°	
Humidity	74%	80%	
Rainfall	NII	NII	

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PM Vishwakarma scheme goes haywire in Rayagada



More than 5,000 applications left in limbo

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada, May 31: Implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Yojana appears to have gone haywire in Rayagada district, leaving more than 5,000 applicants uncertain about the future of their applications and the scheme's direction.

Launched September 17, 2023, the Centre-sponsored scheme aims to enhance the skills of individuals involved in traditional crafts, cottage industries, and rural trades. The scheme covers 18 artisan categories, yet several key professions including tailoring, masonry, and carpentry have reportedly been excluded during the latest phase of verification.

This exclusion has led to confusion and concern among thousands who had already applied under these trades. As a result, persons involved in these trades have stopped applying.

According to the District Industries Centre (DIC), as of

May 2025, a total of 5,982 people had applied for benefits under the scheme in Rayagada district. However, official data put up on the scheme's website show that only 12 applications have been uploaded and processed. Twelve more candidates have been short-listed for three rounds of verification, the DIC sources said.

The application process involves several steps including initial registration through the Common Service Centre (CSC) portal, verification at the gram panchayat level by sarpanches and municipal executive officers via the Gram Swaraj portal. The second round involves further verification at the DIC, and final approval from the Central authority.

Of the 5,982 applications submitted, only 2,132 were forwarded to the DIC after initial verification by sarpanches. The status of the remaining 3,825 applications is currently not visible on the website, with officials claiming that those records are available only in offline format. This lack of transparency has sparked frustration among applicants, particularly in rural areas.

Some local stakeholders argue that the scheme has lost direction in Rayagada. Appli-

cants who have been waiting for over a year said they have received no communication from the authorities about the status of their applications.

With the majority of applicants in the tailoring and masonry trades, there is growing public demand to reinstate these categories under the scheme and restart the verification process to ensure inclusion and fairness.

Renu Mishra, an applicant from JK Pur, said she had applied under the Vishwakarma Yojana to receive training in tailoring. However, even after a year, there has been no communication regarding either the training or access to financial assistance. "No information is being provided," she lamented adding, "With support or training through this scheme, I could help support my family."

When contacted, Bijay Kumar Sahu, general manager of the DIC in Rayagada, acknowledged that there are multiple gaps in the scheme's execution. He stated that a list of such concerns was submitted to the state government a few months ago. He added that many applicants' details are not reflected on the official website, which has stalled the beneficiary selection process.

"The website is managed by the Central authorities, and in many cases, local sarpanches fail to verify and forward the applications of eligible beneficiaries," Sahu said. As a result, many applicants' files are not being processed further.

Responding to questions about the absence of new applications in trades like tailoring, carpentry, and masonry, Sahu mentioned that these occupations might have been removed from the scheme by the government.



VIBRANT CARNIVAL: Women applying turmeric paste to each other as part of 'Haldi Niti' rituals of deity Sri Sri Lokanath Baba at Jhaduapada in Sambalpur on the occasion of Sital Sasthi Jatra, Saturday

OP PHOTO

Sea invades Siali beach amid high tide

POST NEWS NETWORK

Erasama, May 31: High tidal waves breached the shoreline near Siali beach under the Erasama block of Jagatsinghpur district late Friday night, flooding parts of the coastal village and leaving residents and tourists panicked.

Sea water surged inland from the site of the Siali beach festival stage up to a vehicle parking zone, submerging temporary stalls, roadside eateries, and parts of the Odisha Tourism Development Corporation (OTDC) guesthouse.

The tidal intrusion intensified Saturday morning, pushing past the beach area into temporary shops and lodging facilities. OTDC's guesthouse boundary wall was also impacted.

The intrusion has sparked fear among locals from nearby



villages such as Siali, Kalabedi, Ramtara, Shankha, and Nolia-sahi under Padmapur panchayat.

Residents of other coastal panchayats like Gadabishuni-pur, Gadaharishpur, and Ambiki also expressed concern about the sea's sudden unpredictable behaviour.

Notably, a low-pressure system has caused incessant rainfall across the region since May 22, likely triggering unrest in the sea.

Siali beach, a shallow coastal stretch known for its natural

beauty, was added to the state tourism map in 2014. It draws tourists throughout the year from across Odisha and beyond. In response, OTDC constructed a tourist guesthouse near the beach. However, locals lament that no permanent coastal protection measure has been implemented to safeguard the area from high tides or seawater intrusion.

Temporary barriers made up of wooden poles and fishing nets had previously been installed as a stop-gap measure, but these were eventually swept away by strong tides. A watchtower that had become structurally unsafe due to tidal erosion was also dismantled by the administration last year. Additionally, the main stage of the Siali beach festival was reportedly swallowed by the sea during the latest tide.

Despite repeated demands

from local stakeholders for effective coastal protection, residents allege that no tangible progress has been made. The proposed stone embankment under the Sagarmala project remains on paper, Pranata Giri, a resident of Padmapur panchayat said expressing his frustration over the inaction.

When contacted, Erasama Block Development Officer (BDO) Dasharatha Jena stated that the matter has been discussed with the District Collector and promised that necessary steps will be taken soon.

Local Sarpanch Pratibharani Patra noted that a natural sand dune once acted as a buffer, shielding the coastline. However, it has since eroded, allowing even moderate tides to breach the shore. She urged the government to provide a permanent solution to ensure the region's safety.

Couple ends life leaving behind 5-month-old girl

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, May 31: A couple committed suicide by hanging following a fight in a forest near Jogimatha, Mundasahi village under Padmapur panchayat and Sadar police limits in Keonjhar district, police said Saturday.

The deceased were identified as Raibu Munda, 22, and his wife Gouri Munda, 20. The exact cause of death has not been officially confirmed. Preliminary investigation, however, suggests that the couple ended their lives following ongoing domestic disputes leaving behind their girl child who was born five months back.

Police said that the couple had been married for about one and a half years. Gouri, originally from Pandapada area, had recently given birth



to a baby girl five months ago. Sources indicate that the couple frequently argued, reportedly over suspicions of infidelity and phone conversations, which led to growing mistrust.

Recently, Gouri had been staying with her brother at Jogimatha, Munda Sahi area along with the infant daughter.

er, suspicions have risen with both the bodies hanging from a single tree. Police recovered the bodies and sent them for post-mortem to the district headquarters hospital in Keonjhar before handing those over to family members.

Sadar police registered a case (38/2025) based on a complaint filed by Raibu's younger brother, Rajuka Munda, IIC Amit Kumar Bhuyan said. While the deaths appear to be a result of a domestic dispute, the final determination will depend on the post-mortem report, he added.

No formal complaint has been filed by the woman's family as of yet. Meanwhile, the couple's five-month-old daughter has been orphaned. Local residents have appealed to the district administration to take steps for the child's care.

Man gets life term for rape, murder of minor

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jajpur, May 31: A court in Jajpur district Saturday sentenced a man to life imprisonment for raping and murdering a minor girl nine years ago.

Additional District and Sessions Judge (Fast Track Special Court-II), Jajpur, Bijay Kumar Jena pronounced the jail sentence and slapped the convict Sheik Mohit with ₹10,000 fine for raping and killing a 5-year-old tribal girl.

The court pronounced the verdict on the testimony of 35 witnesses. The court also directed the District Legal Service Authority (DLSA) to provide ₹5 lakh compensation to the deceased girl's mother.

Sheik Mohit was found guilty

of raping and brutally murdering the minor girl, a government lawyer said.

According to prosecution, Sheikh Mohit, a resident of Balasore had a scrap shop near Ferro Chrome Plant in Jajpur Road in 2016. The 5-year-old girl from a tribal community had visited the scrap shop owned by Mohit to sell some glass bottles. Finding her alone, Mohit raped the girl and strangled her to death to destroy evidence. Later, he stuffed the body in a sack and dumped it on the railway track near the Jajpur Road Railway Station.

Based on the complaint filed by the family of the deceased, the Jajpur Road police investigated the case and arrested the accused.

Principal Secretary reviews projects in Keonjhar district



POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, May 31: On the directive of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Principal Secretary of Urban Development and Housing, and Commerce and Transport departments, Usha Padhi visited Keonjhar district Saturday to review key urban and transport projects.

Padhi began her visit with an inspection of Sponge Colony in Ward 9 of Keonjhar Municipality, where residents have long faced waterlogging and drainage issues. Accompanied by officials from WATCO and the district administration, she assessed the problems and

discussed engineering and administrative solutions. She also interacted with residents and assured them of timely redressal.

Later, she visited the government and municipal bus stands operated by the Odisha State Road Transport Corporation. She reviewed commuter facilities, identified infrastructure gaps, and met with OSRTC managers and transport officers to address operational concerns.

Padhi then chaired a review meeting with the District Collector, Project Director of the District Urban Development Authority, and executive officers of all Urban Local Bodies. She reviewed the progress of various ongoing urban and transport projects.

With the monsoon approaching, she instructed officials to resolve drainage and waterlogging issues on priority basis to prevent inconvenience to the public. Padhi emphasised the government's focus on accelerating infrastructure development and improving public transport systems across the district.

Tusker electrocuted; 2 killed in jumbo attack



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bantala/Chhendipada/Joda, May 31: A tusker was electrocuted while two persons were killed in elephant attack in separate incidents in Angul and Keonjhar district, Forest officials said Saturday.

In the first incident, a tusker was electrocuted after it came in contact with the solar fencing of a farmer's farm house at Talasira village under Pampasara forest section and Bantala forest range in Angul forest division, late Friday night.

After reports surfaced, Forest officials arrested the farmer Ranjan Kumar Sahu holding him responsible for the animal's death. The animal, aged about 30, was electrocuted

when it had come to feed on mangoes in the village, Bantala forester Prasanna Kumar Sahu said.

Reports said that elephant herds frequently stray into the villages under Bantala forest range due to food shortage in the forests.

In the second incident, an elderly man Prasanna Nayak was trampled to death when he was collecting mangoes from an orchard at Kanalo, Bhagamunda village under Chhendipada forest range in Angul district. On seeing the elephant, Prasanna tried to run away but the animal picked him on its tusk and battered him to death.

The incident sparked tension in the area as forest ranger Subhara Suchismita Sahu

and other officials reached the spot and held talks with the irate villagers. They relented after the ranger assured the bereaved family of compensation and other benefits.

Similarly, a 60-year-old man Rabi Mohanta was killed in tusker attack at Jalpaposhi village under Bamebari police limits in Keonjhar district Friday night when he was returning home from Neklapalai village. The tusker has killed three persons in the area during the last 10 days, sources said.

Forester Rajendra Jena and elephant squad members were injured and admitted to hospital for treatment after locals beat them when they visited the spot.

20 yrs RI for murder

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, May 31: A local court Saturday sentenced a 22-year-old youth to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment (RI) in connection with a 2022 murder case in Dudhiapada under Burla police limits of Sambalpur district.

Suraj Kisan, a native of Nikitimala village in Kuchinda and a resident of Dudhiapada for work, was convicted under Section 302 of the Indian Penal Code by Sambalpur Additional District and POCOS Court Judge Abhilash Senapati. He was also fined ₹50,000, with an additional year of RI in case of non-payment.

The court examined 16 witnesses and 12 pieces of evidence during the trial. As per Section 428 of the IPC, time already served in custody will be counted as part of the sentence.

On July 22, 2022, Vinod Oram of Dudhiapada went missing after borrowing ₹500 from his mother. His brother later found him critically injured near a drain. He died at VIMSAR Hospital at Burla. Based on a police complaint, Kisan was arrested July 24. The motive of murder remains unclear. Special Public Prosecutor Santosh Kumar Panda led the prosecution.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

e-Tender No. 11-SBP-TRD-OT-2025-26, Date : 27.05.2025

NAME OF WORK: TRD RELATED WORK IN CONNECTION WITH THE WORK OF "PWAY AND OTHER ALLIED WORKS IN CONNECTION WITH REMOVAL OF PERMANENT SPEED RESTRICTION (PSR) ON CURVE NO. 36 UP AT KM. 751+23 AND CURVE NO. 37 DN AT KM. 752+2 IN JUJUMURA-KEREJANGA SECTION OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION."

Approx. Cost ₹ 61,69,986.30, EMD : ₹ 1,23,400/-, Completion Period : 12 Months.

Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1530 Hrs. on 18.06.2025.

No manual offers sent by Post / Courier / Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

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

Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to visit 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-II Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), PR-185/Q/25-26 | Sambalpur

IN THE DEBTS RECOVERY APPELLATE TRIBUNAL AT, KOLKATA

9, Old Post Office Street, 7th Floor, Kolkata - 700 001, Appeal No. 63 of 2016

M/s. Siddhi Vinayak Casting Pvt. Ltd & Ors. Appellants Vs. State Bank of India & Anr. Respondents

To,
1. M/s. Sarala Automobiles
Represented by its proprietor Sri Pravat Kishore Swain, residing at Qtr. No. CM - 5, Basanti Colony, Uditnagar, Rourkela - 769012, Odisha. **(Respondents No. f).**

SUMMONS
1. Whereas the appellant has filled an appeal U/S 18 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 against the order passed by the Ld. Presiding Officer, DRT Cuttack and other reliefs. You are hereby summoned to appear and file written statement before this Tribunal at 10.30 a.m. or at such time immediately thereafter according to the convenience of Tribunal on **02.07.2025** to answer the claim.
2. If you intend to file any documents, you may file the same with a list along with the written statement.
3. You should file your registered address and a memo of appearance when you enter appearance before the Tribunal either in person or by a pleader/ Advocate duly instructed.
4. Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day mentioned herein before, the proceeding will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this 20th day of May 2025.
Sd/- Registrar
Debts Recovery Appellate Tribunal Kolkata

A VIABLE GROWTH STRATEGY



Even if the growth miracles of China, South Korea, and Taiwan can no longer be fully replicated, the traditional strategy of focusing on unskilled, labour-intensive manufacturing exports remains a promising path

global demand and promoting efficiency – its biggest drawback is that only a minuscule fraction of the workforce can directly benefit from it. Even India – the posterchild for this strategy among developing countries – employed less than 2.5% of its workforce in the sectors that could be considered skill-intensive and tradable in 2024. For most poor countries, where skilled labour is scarce, such a strategy is simply not viable. And even where it is, pursuing it risks exacerbating inequality rather than fostering economic inclusion.

The second strategy, proposed by Dani Rodrik and Rohan Sandhu, contends that the window for labour-intensive exports has narrowed dramatically, and that emerging technologies like AI and automation will further erode manufacturing’s ability to generate new jobs. In response, they advocate focusing on productivity gains in non-tradable services. Since the bulk of economic activity and employment in developing countries is concentrated in these sectors, this approach has the potential to foster more inclusive growth. The limitations of such a strategy are twofold. For starters, new technologies are just as likely to displace workers in non-tradable service sectors as they are in manufacturing. Moreover, as we have shown in previous research, non-trad-

able services are not uniformly low-skilled. Some sectors – such as telecommunications, finance, and real estate – are highly skilled and productive. By contrast, sectors like retail trade and caregiving are more accessible to unskilled workers but tend to have limited potential for productivity growth.

This dynamic, famously captured by the so-called Baumol effect, means that non-tradable services are unlikely to become engines of sustained, inclusive economic growth in the way that manufacturing once did. To be sure, there may be some exceptions: construction and tourism, for example, are labour-intensive sectors that could become more productive. But these gains typically depend on adopting new technologies that are inherently labour-displacing, thereby limiting their capacity to drive inclusive development.

So, where does this leave developing countries? Surprisingly, while the traditional manufacturing-led strategy is not as effective as it once was, it remains a viable path for today’s poor countries – provided that middle-income countries vacate the export space they currently dominate.

Simple arithmetic helps illustrate this point. For example, Brazil, China, South Korea, Taiwan, and Mexico account for about two-thirds of low and mid-skilled manufac-

turing exports, which amounted to about \$5.3 trillion in 2023. Over the coming decade, rising wages and geopolitical shifts – especially growing anti-China sentiment – will likely push these countries to move up the value chain or reduce their reliance on exports altogether.

Such a shift could open up space for low-income countries to step in. If they were able to capture even half of the vacated export markets, along with a share of China’s growing domestic demand, which we estimate to be at least a half-trillion dollars, they could more than double their current exports to \$2-2.5 trillion.

Admittedly, the path has become more challenging – particularly for countries that rely heavily on the United States as a trading partner. But that does not make the manufacturing-led growth model obsolete. Instead, it underscores the need for strategic adaptation. Poor countries must diversify their trade relationships and engage more with middle-income economies to nudge them to vacate the export markets that low-income economies could enter.

Deglobalisation and technological change have accelerated the search for viable alternatives to export-led development. But a sober assessment reveals a difficult trade-off: high-skilled exportable services may offer dynamism or durability but not broad inclusion, while non-tradable services offer inclusion but limited dynamism. Even if the growth miracles of China, South Korea, and Taiwan can no longer be fully replicated, the traditional strategy of focusing on unskilled, labour-intensive manufacturing exports remains a promising path – and may still offer the best chance of achieving shared prosperity in the world’s poorest regions.

Amrit Amirapu is Senior Lecturer in Economics at the University of Kent. Arvind Subramanian is former Chief Economic Adviser to the Indian government.

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Amrit Amirapu & Arvind Subramanian

DEGLOBALISATION AND TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE HAVE ACCELERATED THE SEARCH FOR VIABLE ALTERNATIVES TO EXPORT-LED DEVELOPMENT

With the spectre of deglobalisation looming large, developing economies are scrambling to devise new growth strategies. The most effective path to development in recent history – specialising in export-oriented, unskilled labour-intensive manufacturing – now appears to be blocked. The model that once propelled the economies of South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, China, and Vietnam is becoming less accessible for countries in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.

What made the traditional development model so successful was its reliance on exports, which enabled countries like South Korea to tap into virtually unlimited global demand, freeing them from the constraints implied by narrow domestic markets. Exporting also fueled supply-side efficiency, and reliance on unskilled labour meant that the benefits of growth were widely shared.

Another key strength of the manufacturing-led growth model was that it ensured productivity gains were aligned with available labour resources, largely owing to the learning-by-doing dynamic that enabled countries to boost efficiency within existing sectors while gradually moving up the value chain. Economies could start with low-productivity exports and, as the workforce became more educated, shift to more skill-intensive and sophisticated export sectors. Consequently, growth was both rapid and inclusive, and thus more sustainable.

But those days are long gone, or so it seems. As the world braces for an era of protectionism and deglobalisation, two alternative development strategies have come to the fore. The first, proposed by Rohit Lamba and Raghuram G. Rajan, suggests that developing countries – India in particular – should focus on skill-intensive exportable services. While Lamba and Rajan’s proposal retains some of the advantages of the old manufacturing-led model – tapping into

Gaza Genocide

On 9 February 2022, the government was asked in the Rajya Sabha the following question: “Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether it is a fact that India ratified the Genocide Convention (1948) passed by the UN General Assembly (UNGA); (b) if so, whether Government have enacted any laws regarding Genocide.”

The Modi government answered: “India signed the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, 1948 on 29th November, 1949 and ratified the Convention on 27th August, 1959 and thereby recognized genocide as an international crime. The principles embodied in the Convention are part of general international law and therefore already part of common law of India. The provisions of Indian Penal Code including the procedural law (Criminal Procedure Code) provide effective penalties for persons guilty of such category of crime and take cognizance of the acts which may otherwise be taken to be in the nature of genocide, as culpable offences.”

Genocide is a crime under international law, whether committed in times of peace or armed conflict. It is prohibited and criminalised under the Genocide Convention, which Israel ratified in 1950, and the Rome Statute. Five specific acts constitute genocide: killing members of the group; causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; and forcibly transferring children of the group to another group. However, to constitute the crime of genocide, these acts must also be committed “with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group.” This specific intent is what distinguishes genocide from other crimes under international law.

Regardless of whether individual Palestinians are citizens of Israel living in Israel, are living under Israeli military rule in the Occupied Palestinian Territory or are Palestinian refugees, they overwhelmingly identify as Palestinian and have deep and shared political, ethnic, social and cultural ties. Palestinians share a common language and have similar customs and cultural practices, despite having different religions. They, therefore, constitute a distinct national, ethnic and racial group protected under the Genocide Convention.

Since October 2023, Israel has carried out a military offensive in the occupied Gaza strip of unprecedented magnitude, scale and duration. Since then, it has carried out relentless aerial and ground attacks, many of them with large explosive weapons, which have caused massive damage and flattened entire neighbourhoods and cities across Gaza, along with their life-supporting infrastructure, agricultural land, and cultural and religious sites and symbols deeply engrained in Palestinians’ collective memory. Israel’s military offensive has killed and seriously injured tens of thousands of Palestinians, including thousands of children, many of them in direct or indiscriminate attacks, often wiping out entire multigenerational families. Israel has forcibly displaced more than 90 per cent of Gaza’s 22 lakh inhabitants, many of them multiple times, into ever-shrinking, ever-changing pockets of land that lacked basic infrastructure, forcing people to live in conditions that exposed them to a slow and calculated death. It has deliberately obstructed or denied the import and delivery of life-saving goods and humanitarian aid. It has restricted power supplies that, together with damage and destruction, led to the collapse of the water, sanitation and healthcare systems. It has subjected hundreds and likely thousands, of Palestinians from Gaza to incommunicado detention and acts of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment leading to the death of many.

Is what Israel is doing to the Palestinians genocide? Yes. That is the finding of many groups, including Amnesty International. An intent to destroy a group “in part” is sufficient to establish the requisite specific intent for the crime of genocide. In determining what constitutes part of the group, international jurisprudence has adopted a requirement of substantiality rather than a specific numeric threshold. This standard requires that the perpetrator must intend to destroy at least a “substantial part” of the group in question, which must be significant enough to have an impact on the group as a whole. In applying it to Israel’s war, Amnesty International considers that Palestinians in Gaza constitute a substantial part of the whole group of Palestinians. In 2023, Palestinians living in Gaza comprised approximately 40 per cent of the nearly 55 lakh Palestinians living in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Importantly, the perpetrator does not need to succeed in destroying the targeted group, either in whole or in part, for genocide to be established. International jurisprudence recognises that “the term ‘in whole or in part’ refers to the intent, as opposed to the actual destruction.” Equally important, finding or inferring specific intent does not require finding a single or sole intent. A state’s actions can serve the dual goal of achieving a military result and destroying a group as such. Genocide can also be the means for achieving a military result. In other words, a finding of genocide may be drawn when the state intends to pursue the destruction of a protected group in order to achieve a certain military result, as a means to an end, or until it has achieved it.

What is happening in Gaza to the Palestinians is genocide. India recognises it as an international crime and India has signed the convention to prevent and punish genocide. India must speak out and act against this crime that continues daily before our eyes.



Aakar Patel

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN GAZA TO THE PALESTINIANS IS GENOCIDE. INDIA RECOGNISES IT AS AN INTERNATIONAL CRIME AND INDIA HAS SIGNED THE CONVENTION TO PREVENT AND PUNISH GENOCIDE. INDIA MUST SPEAK OUT AND ACT AGAINST THIS CRIME THAT CONTINUES DAILY BEFORE OUR EYES



Shivaji Mohinta

DARK PATTERNS NOT ONLY DECEIVE USERS BUT ALSO ERODE TRUST IN ONLINE PLATFORMS

As a regular online shopper, I have generally found digital commerce to be convenient and reliable. However, over the past three months, I encountered a disturbing pattern while ordering medicines from a well-known online pharmacy. In one instance, along with medicines I had ordered, I received a large bottle of protein powder that I never selected. Assuming it was an error on my part, I disregarded it. However, in a subsequent order, a waist belt was included—again, an item I did not choose. Both products were listed on the invoice, yet there was no record of me adding them to my cart. The pattern remains same. After the items are ordered and payment is done some of the items are substituted with lower cost medicines and a refund SMS is sent. Sometimes the platform will suggest generic lower priced medicines highlighting a high savings. During that process, extra items are deliberately added to minimise the refund amount. Concerned by this recurring issue, I ceased using the platform. This experience aligns with

a deceptive practice in digital commerce known as “Dark Patterns” which tricks consumers to take some action which they would not have taken otherwise.

A term coined by Harry Brignull in 2010, specifically, it appears to be a combination of “Basket Sneaking cum Bait & Switch” where additional items are added to a consumer’s cart without explicit consent by utilising the saved amount. Such practices are designed to manipulate consumer behaviour, leading to unintended purchases.

Recognising the growing prevalence of such deceptive practices, the Government of India has issued notices to 11 ecommerce companies for deploying dark patterns to influence consumers. On 28 May, during a high-level stakeholder meeting in New Delhi, Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Pralhad Joshi emphasised the importance of responsible industry behaviour and urged all companies to comply with the Guidelines for Prevention and Regulation of Dark Patterns,

2023, issued by the Central Consumer Protection Authority.

Several deceptive practices which are indulged in are: i) False Urgency: Creating a false rush to trigger immediate purchases; ii) Basket Sneaking: Adding items to the cart without user consent; iii) Confirm Shaming: Guilt-tripping users into opting in; iv) Subscription Trap: Making it difficult to cancel subscriptions; v) Drip Pricing: Revealing additional charges at the final payment stage; vi) Bait & Switch: The portal will suggest lower cost alternatives indicating a significant savings thereby modifying the actual order; and vii) Anchoring: High MRP-high discount items to magnify savings or a sweet deal.

The government has mandated that all major e-commerce platforms conduct regular internal audits to identify and eliminate dark patterns from their interfaces. To empower consumers, the Department of Consumer Affairs, in collaboration with IIT BHU, has developed tools such as the Jagriti App and the Jago Grahak- Jago App. These applications allow users to re-

port instances of dark patterns and access real-time safety scores of e-commerce platforms.

While these initiatives are commendable, effective enforcement remains a challenge. The Indian e-commerce market, valued at approximately \$70 billion, is projected to grow at an annual rate of 18-20% over next few years. To ensure consumer trust and fair trade practices, it is imperative to establish a dedicated regulatory body with the authority to monitor, investigate, and penalise violations related to dark patterns, in a quick, time-bound manner.

My personal experience underscores a broader issue affecting countless consumers in the digital marketplace. Dark patterns not only deceive users but also erode trust in online platforms. It is crucial for both the government and industry stakeholders to collaborate in creating a transparent, ethical, and consumer-friendly e-commerce environment.

The writer is a business consultant.

WISDOM CORNER

Be thankful for what you have; you'll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don't have, you will never, ever have enough.

OPRAH WINFREY

We all live with the objective of being happy; our lives are all different and yet the same.

ANNE FRANK

Love recognizes no barriers. It jumps hurdles, leaps fences, penetrates walls to arrive at its destination full of hope.

MAYA ANGELOU

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Disturbing revelations

Sir, A recent report commissioned by the Calcutta High Court, probing the communal unrest in Murshidabad, has unfurled a tapestry of disturbing revelations. What initially appeared as a spontaneous conflagration over the Waqf (Amendment) Act now emerges as a tragedy deepened by grievous administrative lapses. The committee’s findings speak of a chilling dereliction of duty by the police and go so far as to imply the possible orchestration of the violence by a local leader affiliated with the ruling Trinamool Congress. The committee’s painstaking attempt to reconstruct the chronology of events and to ascribe responsibility marks a commendable beginning. Yet, a far more pressing inquiry looms large: what now? A report, no matter how damning or detailed, is but a parchment gathering dust unless it inspires decisive action. The onus now lies with the West Bengal government—to demonstrate whether it possesses the resolve to act upon these revelations, or whether this report too shall be relegated to the ever-growing archive of inquiries that made ripples, only to be quietly forgotten. In times of communal strife, perceptions diverge—shaped by faith, fear, and festering wounds. This is not unexpected. But we inhabit an age where the pursuit of truth need not be clouded by ambiguity. Surveillance cameras watch from street corners, mobile data trails every movement, forensic science unravels deception. The machinery to discern the truth exists in abundance. What remains wanting is the political and institutional will to wield it—particularly when that truth threatens the comfort of power.

Amarjeet Kumar, HAZARIBAGH

Contempt of court

Sir, This refers to “Top court initiates contempt proceedings against YouTubers,” **Orissa POST**, May 31. It is a matter of concern that YouTubers are not sparing even the apex court judges and have started defaming them as if they are empowered by law. They must know that freedom of expression is subject to some reasonable restrictions. The court has therefore rightly drawn suo motu contempt proceedings against YouTubers, which has also been endorsed by the Solicitor General of India. **Arun Gupta, KOLKATA**

Incessant rains wreak havoc in NE



The northeastern states have been experiencing torrential rain since Friday, triggering landslides and rockfalls at several places

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, May 31: Five persons have been killed in landslides in Assam in the last 24 hours as incessant rain has led to floods in six districts, affecting over 10,000 people, an official bulletin said Saturday.

The Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) said all five deaths have been reported from the Kamrup Metropolitan district.

Urban Affairs Minister Jayanta Malla Baruah had on Friday said that three women were killed in a landslide in Bonda area on the outskirts of Guwahati.

He had said that several agencies were working to provide relief and rescue to affected people as massive waterlogging was reported from most localities in the city Friday.

The ASDMA bulletin said floods in urban areas have

been reported in five revenue circles of three districts – Kamrup Metropolitan, Kamrup and Cachar.

Floods in urban areas have also been reported in eight revenue circles of three districts, Dhemaaji, Lakhimpur and Golaghat, the bulletin said.

Nearly 2,000 people have been affected, though no camps or relief distribution centres are operational in the flood-hit urban areas till now. One 'ring bandh' (a type of dyke) has been breached under the North Lakhimpur revenue circle.

NDRF and SDRF personnel have been evacuating people in different affected parts, the bulletin added.

As per the Regional Meteorological Department data Friday, Chirang, Baksa, Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Bajali, Tamulpur, Darrang and Udalguri are on

Heavy rainfall has also been recorded in Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya, aggravating the situation in Assam, especially in Guwahati, which has been hit by massive waterlogging

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | CM, ASSAM

'red alert' for Saturday.

A 'red alert' was sounded for as many as 18 districts Friday, with the state facing an 'abnormal situation' due to incessant downpours caused by massive cloud cover over several parts of the northeast, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had said.

'Red alert' implies 'warning/take action', and the districts with such a warning may witness heavy to very heavy rainfall at a few places, with extremely heavy rainfall at isolated places, and squally winds with speed reaching 40-50 kmph gusting to 60 kmph.

Special casual leave has been announced for government employees of Kamrup and Kamrup Metropolitan districts Saturday, who have to commute some distance to reach their offices.

Educational institutions

Flash floods kill nine in Arunachal

Itanagar: At least nine people have been killed in flash floods and landslides in Arunachal Pradesh after heavy rainfall in the past few days, officials said Saturday. Seven members of two families lost their lives after their vehicle was swept off the road by a landslide late Friday night along the Bana-Seppa stretch of National Highway 13 in East Kameng district, police said. The vehicle was en route to Seppa from Bana in Bichom district when a sudden landslide triggered by heavy rainfall pushed it into a deep gorge, said East Kameng Superintendent of Police (SP) Kamdam Sikom. "All the victims were residents of Kitchang village in Bana," he said. Rescue efforts began immediately but were severely hampered by torrential rain, fresh landslides, and extremely poor visibility through the night. Despite these challenges, police and rescue teams continued their efforts. At least 117 houses, along with several vital infrastructure



in the district, were affected due to inclement weather conditions. Citizens have been warned against venturing into water bodies for fishing or hunting and advised to evacuate immediately in case of flash floods or landslides. Landslides have also been reported from Kurung Kumey, Kamle, and Lower Subansiri districts, where authorities are working to clear blockades and restore traffic movement.

Meanwhile, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast widespread rainfall due to a depression over Bangladesh. Light to moderate rain is expected in most areas, with heavy to very heavy rainfall likely in several regions. Isolated places may experience extremely heavy rainfall, thunderstorms, and lightning, increasing the risk of floods and landslides in vulnerable locations.

Landslides crumble houses in Mizoram

Aizawl: Four persons, including three Myanmar refugees were killed and one injured when their houses collapsed due to landslides triggered by heavy rain in Mizoram Saturday, taking the toll in the current monsoon to five, officials said. Three persons aged between 34 and 71 years from a Myanmar family have died and another was injured when a massive landslide struck and buried their rented house at Vaphai village in east Mizoram's Champhai district near the Myanmar border early Saturday, they said. The family has been taking shelter in the village since 2021 following the military coup in the neighbouring country, they said. Mizoram has been experiencing heavy rain since Friday, triggering landslides and rockfalls at several places. An IMD report said Lawngtlai district received 205 mm of rainfall Saturday followed by Khawzawl district 184 mm, Hnahthial district 130 and Aizawl received 91 mm of rainfall. At least 56 houses were damaged in 147 landslides across the state Saturday. Sixty-three families were also evacuated to safer places due to landslides and floods, it said.

have also been closed in the two districts Saturday. Flight services at Guwahati airport

were affected Friday due to heavy rain and gusty winds, the officials said.

1,500 tourists stranded

Gangtok: Nearly 1,500 tourists were stranded in various parts of north Sikkim Saturday as the main road was blocked due to landslides triggered by incessant rains, officials said. On the other side, the search for the missing eight tourists was disrupted by heavy rains, and it was finally suspended after the water level in the Teesta river increased, they said. One person was killed, two injured, and eight others went missing when a vehicle in which 11 tourists were travelling plunged into the Teesta river in Mangan district on Thursday night. The vehicle plunged more than 1,000 feet into the river near Munstithang along the Lachen-Lachung highway.

TN plans bus fare hike, seeks public feedback

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, May 31: The Tamil Nadu government has proposed a revision in bus fares across the state and has initiated a process to gather public opinion before finalising the move.

The proposed fare hike comes as part of a larger effort to address rising operational costs and modernise the public transport system. The public has been encouraged to submit their suggestions and objections regarding the fare hike either in person or by post to the office of the Transport and Road Safety Commissioner at Guindy, Chennai, said the officials.

The government has assured that feedback from commuters will be taken into serious consideration before a final decision is made.

The move to seek public opinion underscores the significance of bus transport in Tamil Nadu, where state-run buses remain the primary mode of travel for a vast majority of people, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas.

With lakhs of commuters depending on government buses for their daily travel, any change in fare structure is expected to have a direct impact on household expenses and overall cost of living.

Transport department officials stated that the fare revision was long overdue, with the last fare hike implemented in 2018. Over the years, the Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation has faced growing financial burdens due to rising fuel prices, maintenance costs, and employee wages.

Officials argue that a moderate hike in fares is essential to keep the transport system running efficiently without compromising service quality or frequency. While the government has not disclosed the exact percentage of the proposed increase, sources indicate that the hike will be implemented in a phased manner to minimise the burden on regular commuters.

Unique cave fish species found in Meghalaya

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, May 31: A new species of cave-dwelling loach from Meghalaya has been discovered by researchers of Gauhati University and Lady Keane College of Shillong, making it the sixth discovery of unique cave fish species in the northeastern state.

These discoveries are a testament of the state's unique biodiversity, Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma said.

Announcing the discovery in a post on X on Friday, Gauhati University said, "Dr Kangkan Sarma and his team from #GauhatiUniversity have dis-

covered Schistura densiclava, a new species of cave-dwelling loach from #Meghalaya, marking their ninth such discovery."

The discovery has been featured by a prominent foreign news outlet, bringing international recognition to northeast region's rich ecological heritage, it maintained.

"Hon CM of Meghalaya, Shri @SangmaConrad has congratulated the team, lauding their commitment to advancing scientific knowledge and exploration," the GU post added. He said it is the sixth discovery of unique cave fish species in Meghalaya.

Drones to boost wildlife monitoring in TN

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, May 31: In a major technological upgrade, the Tamil Nadu Forest Department is introducing advanced drones to strengthen its operations in wildlife monitoring, forest fire control, and anti-poaching efforts.

The initiative, supported by the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project Climate Change Response (TBGPCCR), will see the deployment of these drones across 13 territorial forest cir-

cles in the state.

I Anwardeen, Chief Project Director of TBGPCCR, said the newly procured drones are equipped with cutting-edge features, including a 48-megapixel wide-angle camera, a thermal sensor with zoom capability, and GPS integration, making them highly effective for both daytime and night-time operations.

One of the primary objectives of this drone deployment is the real-time tracking of elephants. By monitoring their movements, the drones can



help alert nearby villages when elephants stray close to human settlements, reducing the risk of human-wildlife conflict.

The GPS functionality enables precise and timely alerts,

enhancing response time for forest officials. The drones will also be instrumental in tackling forest fires. Their thermal sensors can identify the origin of fires, determine the spread, and as-

sess whether the affected areas are accessible to ground teams.

Post-fire surveys conducted using aerial footage will provide critical insights into damage sustained by tree species, wildlife, and small mammals, aiding in effective restoration and rehabilitation strategies.

Beyond surveillance, the drones support various add-ons such as searchlights, loudspeakers, and laser range finders—tools that significantly enhance their utility in complex terrains and emergency scenarios.

CITIZENSHIP CRACKDOWN

Former teacher ‘deported to Bangladesh’ returns home

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Morigaon, May 31: A former school teacher, who was detained by Assam Police on the charges of being a foreigner and allegedly deported to Bangladesh, returned to his home in Morigaon district Saturday, an officer said.

Khairul Islam and eight others were picked up from different parts of the district May 24 but family members claimed they were not told about their whereabouts.

Islam's family had claimed that they saw him in a video purportedly showing him being taken to Bangladesh. They claimed he was "shot at" at the India-Bangladesh border in South Salmara Mankachar district.

Islam's family members claimed that the police brought him home Saturday morning.

An officer of the Assam Border Police said that his medical check-up was conducted and he was found to be physically fit.

The officer, however, refused to divulge details on where he was detained. The other eight persons who were picked up along with Islam have been shifted to a detention centre at Matia in Goalpara district, police said.



Their family members claimed that their appeals were pending before either the Supreme Court or the Gauhati High Court.

Islam's wife Rita Khanam had said Friday that her husband is a former school teacher and a law-abiding citizen.

She claimed that policemen had come to their residence at night, and took him away, saying they have some questions to ask and he can return home after that but since then the family was not given any information about his whereabouts till the video surfaced.

Islam, along with his three siblings, was declared a foreigner by the Foreigner Tribunals in 2016, against which he had approached the Gauhati High Court. The High Court had upheld the FT decision, leading to

Islam's detention in 2018.

He was set free in 2020 following a Supreme Court general order for releasing all detainees who have spent more than two years there.

Khanam claimed that her husband's appeal against the FT decision is pending before the Supreme Court.

Islam's mother Jahanara was a member of the village panchayat in the last term and all members of the family, including the former school teacher, had voted in the just concluded rural polls in the state, the family claimed.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had asserted that the detection of foreigners in the state will be expedited and action against Declared Foreign Nationals (DFN) will be taken as per the law.

The chief minister had said that the course open to those who have been declared foreigners by the Tribunal is to appeal to the High Court.

If some say that they have appeals pending before the Supreme Court or High Court, then no action will be taken against them but those who have not appealed in the higher judiciary, will be pushed back, he said.

All 7 NCP MLAs join NDPP, give CM Rio absolute majority

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kohima, May 31: All seven NCP MLAs in Nagaland joined the ruling Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP) Saturday.

The merger gives the CM Neiphiu Rio-led NDPP an absolute majority in the 60-member assembly, increasing its tally from 25 to 32.

The NCP's Nagaland unit had sided with the Ajit Pawar-led faction after the party split.

NCP emerged as the third-largest party in the state in the 2023 assembly elections, after NDPP and its ally BJP, which won 12 seats.

According to an order issued by Speaker Sharingain Longkumer, the seven MLAs presented themselves and submitted formal letters, stating their decision to merge with the NDPP.

These MLAs are Namri Nchang of Tening, Picto Shohe of Atoizu, Y Mhonbemo Huntsoe of Wokha Town, Y Mankhao Konyak of Mon Town, A Pongshi Phom of Longleng, P Longon of Noklak, and S Toiho Yephtho of Suruhoto.

In line with the Members of Nagaland Legislative Assembly (Disqualification on Ground of Defection) Rules, 2019, the speaker approved the merger and directed the assembly secretariat to update party affiliation records accordingly, the order said.

FROM KERALA COAST TO TAMIL NADU

Debris from sunken cargo vessel affects 22 villages

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, May 31: At least 22 coastal villages in Tamil Nadu's Kanyakumari district have reported being affected by debris from the sunken Liberian-flagged cargo vessel, MSC ELSA-3, which went down off the Kerala coast May 24.

The wreckage, including plastic pellets, wooden logs, and even a container, has been steadily washing ashore in the villages of Killiyoor and Kalkulam taluks over the past three days.

The vessel was reportedly carrying 640 containers, including 13 with hazardous cargo and 12 with calcium carbide.

In addition, it had 84.44 metric tonnes of diesel and



367.1 metric tonnes of furnace oil on board.

While the immediate aftermath of the sinking was felt along the Kerala coastline, debris is now turning up further southeast in Tamil Nadu.

Kanyakumari district has a total of 42 coastal villages — 16 in Killiyoor taluk, 13 in Kalkulam taluk, and 13 in Agasteeswaram taluk. Among these,

12 villages in Killiyoor and 10 in Kalkulam have reported incidents of debris washing ashore.

Wooden logs have been recovered from the shore at Vallavilai, while a cargo container washed up at Vaniyakudi.

In Midalam, residents discovered bags of cashew nuts and iron rods. Upon receiving information about the container at Vaniyakudi, authorities quickly responded.

In the meantime, local conservancy workers, aided by NGO volunteers, have been working tirelessly to clean the beaches of debris. To streamline response efforts, the Kanyakumari district administration has set up a 24x7 control room for the public to report sightings of debris.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

FOREST, ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, ANGUL FOREST DIVISION- 759122

E-mail ID: dfoangul@gmail.com, dfo.angul@odisha.gov.in, Phone No-9938022883

Office Order No.216/1F, Dated, Angul the 30th May, 2025

Corrigendum to Tender Call Notice

Bid Identification No.DFO/ANG-01/2025-26, Dated 22.05.2025

No MM-68. With reference to the Tender Notice published for the Procurement of Different Planting Materials for the Planting Season 2025-26 under the aforementioned Bid Identification Number, the items and specifications have been modified and certain additions have been made. These modifications form an integral part of the ongoing tender process and are to be read in conjunction with the original tender document. Bidders are requested to consider the revised specifications and newly added items as detailed below for the purpose of bid submission.

Sl.No	Items	Modification Details	Remarks
06	NPL Fertilizer (Chemical)	20/20/0.18	
09	Virgin Green HDPE Mesh for Garden fencing or tree guard	GSM- (350 & above)	
13	Drip	• With 40 mm & 50 mm Agri PVC Pipe (6 KG) • Onlines 16mm pipe Network with all accessories • Control Valve and Flush Valve 40 mm • Header & Filter Unit 20/25 Cum • With Drippers 4 LPH	

Others can see the details from Notice inviting Tenders, available in website <https://angul.odisha.gov.in>, <https://odishaforest.in>. Corrigendum if any, shall only be published in the above website. All other terms and conditions will remain same as published in the above referred tender notice. Inconvenience, if any is highly regretted.

OIPR-0802711/0025/2526

Sd./- Divisional Forest Officer, Angul Forest Division

of the day **quote**

Government employees should not take the benefit of the Ladki Bahin Yojana for women

CHANDRASHEKHAR BAWANKULE | REVENUE MINISTER, MAHARASHTRA

If you hear the conversation with IC Liton Halder, you will feel disgusted that such words can be uttered by a senior politician of the ruling party in the state. But it shows how the Trinamool Congress actually looks down on women

SUVENDU ADHIKARI | SENIOR BJP LEADER

As many as 6,767 cases were registered in 2023 and 4,188 cases in 2024. So far this year, 1,793 cases have been registered. DCs and SP should take effective steps to curb drug trafficking in the districts

SIDDARAMIAIH | CHIEF MINISTER, KARNATAKA

SHORT TAKES

3 Naxalites with ₹21L bounty held

Sukma: Three Naxalites, carrying a collective reward of Rs 21 lakh on their heads, have been arrested in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district, police said Saturday. The trio was allegedly involved in the murder of a Shiksha Doot (temporary visiting teacher) in the district last year, they said. The cadres, identified as Dodi Podia (36), Dodi Pandu (18) and Dodi Nandu (28), were apprehended by a joint team of Central Reserve Police Force's 165th battalion and local police from their native place Gondpalli under Jagargunda police station limits, a police official here said.

Water metro boat hits Ro-Ro vessel

Kochi: A water metro boat hit a Ro-Ro vessel behind it near the Vypin jetty here Saturday, but no one was injured and neither of the boats were damaged, Kochi Metro Rail Corporation (KMRL) said. The incident occurred when the water metro boat from Kerala High Court to Vypin was pushed back slightly by the strong water currents while approaching the jetty and hit the Ro-Ro vessel behind it, the KMRL, which manages the water metro services, said in a statement.

₹5L compensation for rain related deaths

Mangaluru (Karnataka): Dakshina Kannada district in-charge Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao Saturday announced a compensation of Rs 5 lakh each to the families of those who were killed in rain-related incidents in the coastal region over the past week. Addressing a press conference here after visiting rain affected places, the minister said that seven people had lost their lives due to landslides, house collapses, and accidents in rough seas amid continuous heavy rainfall.

Delhi experiences gusty winds

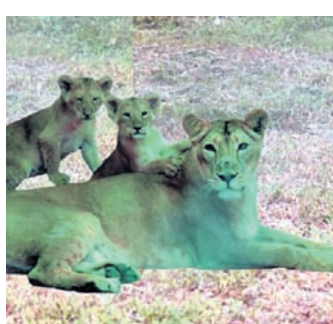
New Delhi: Several parts of Delhi witnessed gusty winds Saturday evening, with speeds reaching up to 40 and 70 kilometres per hour. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said wind speeds were recorded at 46 kmph in Najafgarh, 41 kmph in Narayana, 31 kmph in Pitampura, 56 kmph in Palam and 48 kmph in Pragati Maidan, mostly between 4:15 pm and 4:30 pm.

The PDP will continue to raise its voice for peace and channel the sentiments of people. Jammu and Kashmir should be a bridge of understanding, friendship and co-operation, not a theatre of war

MEHBOOBA MUFTI | PDP PRESIDENT

LION CUBS MAKE THEIR DEBUT AT JAMBU ZOO

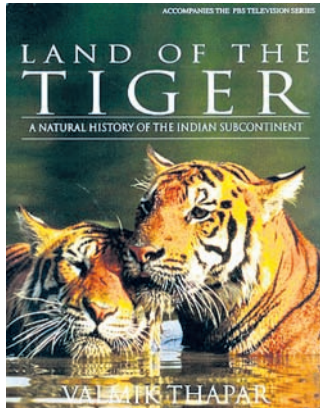
Kutki and Bhunki, the first lion cubs of the Jambu Zoo here, were exhibited to the public almost three months after they were born, a zoo official said. The three-month old Asiatic Lion cubs, born March 5 to their parents brought from Gujarat after the inauguration of the zoo, were displayed two days back at an event marking its second anniversary



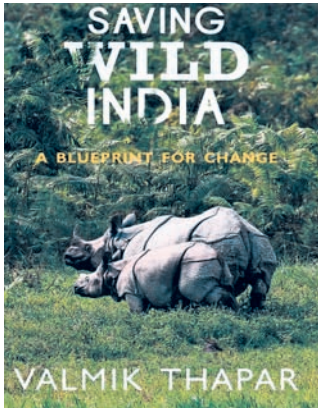
Tiger conservation pioneer Valmik Thapar dies at 73

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 31: Valmik Thapar, one of India's foremost wildlife conservationists and a leading authority on tigers, passed away Saturday morning at the age of 73. He had been diagnosed with cancer in 2024. Born in New Delhi in 1952, Thapar dedicated over five decades to the protection of wild tigers, particularly in Rajasthan's Ranthambore National Park. He was a relentless advocate for stronger anti-poaching laws and preserving tiger habitats, and his death triggered a wave of tributes from conservationists, political leaders, and admirers. Thapar co-founded the Ranthambhore Foundation in 1988 to promote community-led conservation. He served on more than 150 government panels and task forces, including the



National Board for Wildlife. In 2005, he was appointed to the Tiger Task Force formed after tigers vanished from Sariska Tiger Reserve. Though part of the team, he submitted a dissent note, warning that the report was overly optimistic about tiger-human coexistence. Thapar insisted some habitats



should remain entirely free from human presence for long-term tiger survival. Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge described him as "one of India's most respected wildlife experts" and a tireless campaigner for conservation. "India lost a leading voice for its tigers," he posted on X.



Congress leaders Jairam Ramesh and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also paid rich tributes. Ramesh said Thapar was a constant source of advice during his tenure as Environment Minister. "Ranthambore today is a testament to his commitment and zeal," he wrote. Priyanka Gandhi remem-

bered him as "a force of nature," adding, "He lived by his own rules, spoke fearlessly, and fought courageously for what he believed in."

Thapar was mentored by Fateh Singh Rathore, a legendary conservationist and key figure in Project Tiger. A gold medalist in sociology from St. Stephen's College and an alumnus of The Doon School, Thapar came from a family steeped in intellectual tradition—his father Romesh Thapar was a journalist, his aunt is historian Romila Thapar, and his cousin is journalist Karan Thapar.

He was married to theatre personality Sanjana Kapoor, daughter of actor Shashi Ka-

poor, and they have a son.

Thapar authored or edited more than 30 books, including Land of the Tiger and Tiger Fire. He was also a well-known wildlife filmmaker and presented several acclaimed documentaries, including the BBC series Land of the Tiger. Most recently, in 2024, he appeared in the documentary My Tiger Family, chronicling his 50-year journey observing wild tigers in Ranthambore. He also voiced strong opposition to Project Cheetah, criticizing the reintroduction of African cheetahs into India due to lack of suitable habitat and prey.



CDS' REMARKS ON LOSSES IN OPERATION SINDOOR

Reveal truth to country: Cong to govt

Gen Chauhan denied Pakistan's claims of downing six Indian jets as 'absolutely incorrect,' he did confirm Indian aircraft losses, sparking renewed political questions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 31: The Congress Saturday demanded a special session of Parliament and an independent review of India's defence preparedness after Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Gen Anil Chauhan acknowledged aircraft losses during India's military operation against Pakistan earlier this month. Speaking at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore, Gen Chauhan said India had flown all its jets again for long-range strikes after understanding the tactical reasons behind earlier losses. While dismissing Pakistan's claim of shooting down six Indian aircraft as "absolutely incorrect," he made the first official admission of Indian losses in the four-day conflict. The admission prompted a strong reaction from the Congress, which accused the Modi government of misleading the nation on the true cost of Operation Sindoor — India's response to the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam that killed



It is extraordinary that the nation is informed of Operation Sindoor through the CDS's interview in Singapore instead of Parliament. Couldn't opposition leaders have been taken into confidence earlier?

JAIRAM RAMESH | CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY

26 people. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the fog of war was lifting and demanded immediate transparency from the government. "In light of the CDS's statement, a special session of Parliament must be convened. The Modi government has misled the nation. The people of India deserve the truth," Kharge said in a post on X.

He also called for a comprehensive review of defence preparedness by an independent panel, similar to the Kargil Review Committee set up in 1999. "We salute the courage and commitment of our armed forces, but a strategic review is necessary to ensure lessons



are learned and preparedness is strengthened." Kharge also questioned repeated claims by former US President Donald Trump that he brokered a ceasefire between India and Pakistan after the clashes. "What were the conditions of this so-called ceasefire? This challenges the sanctity of the Shimla Agreement. The prime minister must clarify," he said. Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh echoed the demand for transparency. "The nation should not learn about major military operations from interviews abroad. Why were opposition leaders not taken into confidence? The Vajpayee government set up the Kargil Review Committee just three days after the war ended. Will the Modi government do the same now?" Congress MP and former Indian Air Force pilot Uttam Kumar Reddy alleged that a Rafale fighter jet was likely downed in the conflict. "The CDS has clearly acknowledged aircraft losses. The government

must stop denying this. Even Air Marshal Awadesh Kumar Bharti earlier said that losses are part of combat and all pilots returned safely," Reddy said. He urged the government to be honest with the public, stating that transparency is a hallmark of a democratic state. "We are not politicising this. We are proud of our forces' victory. But for future preparedness, we must know what went wrong." Reddy, who served on the Parliamentary Defence Committee, said the panel had already raised concerns about equipment shortages and manpower gaps in the armed forces. "There is a 10 per cent shortfall in sanctioned strength, and the IAF chief has flagged delays in jet procurement and weapon systems." He said the CDS's admission and satellite evidence suggest a lack of transparency from the government. "We want to know how many Indian and Pakistani aircraft were brought down. Why are we being kept in the dark?" Reddy also expressed concern that most of the firing in the conflict happened from within national borders, yet aircraft were lost. "That indicates a need to reassess our technology, tactics, and preparedness. Lessons must be learned." In his interview, Gen Chauhan emphasized that understanding why jets were downed was more important than simply acknowledging the losses. He said once tactical errors were corrected, India hit back with precision and depth.



Amritsar: Civil defence exercise 'Operation Shield' being conducted in Amritsar, Saturday, PTI PHOTO

'OPERATION SHIELD'
Mock drills held across 6 border states, UTs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh/Srinagar/Jaipur, May 31: Mock drills were conducted Saturday across states and Union Territories along India's western border—from Jammu and Kashmir to Gujarat—to enhance emergency preparedness amid ongoing tensions with Pakistan, officials said. Under 'Operation Shield', exercises simulating air raids, drone attacks, and other wartime scenarios were carried out in Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Haryana, and Chandigarh. The aim was to test civil defence and emergency response mechanisms in real-time. Originally scheduled for May 29, the drills were postponed by the Union Home Ministry. This was the second national-level civil defence exercise, following the first held May 7, coinciding with Operation Sindoor, in which Indian forces struck terror camps at nine sites in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir after the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26.

The drills were aimed at evaluating and enhancing the efficacy of emergency response mechanisms in real-time situations

Saturday's drills involved coordination between multiple agencies including fire, police, health services, disaster management, and around 10,000 Civil Defence volunteers, along with National Cadet Corps (NCC), National Service Scheme (NSS), Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), and Home Guards. In Punjab and Haryana, full-scale drills were held across districts, with volunteers simulating injuries, firefighters dousing flames, and blackout rehearsals conducted in multiple cities. In border district Fazilka, a blackout was carried out at 9 pm for 30 minutes. Chandigarh simulated a drone swarm attack at the Air Force Station, prompting civil administration assistance in

evacuating families. A similar scenario was enacted in Hoshiarpur, Punjab. In Rajasthan, emergency teams conducted rescue drills at a school in Jaipur's Khattipura area under a simulated airstrike. Volunteers acted as injured and trapped victims, and cranes were used for rooftop evacuations. In Kashmir, a 15-minute blackout from 8 to 8:15 pm was observed. Lights were turned off at homes, businesses, and government buildings, including Srinagar's iconic Lal Chowk. Movement and activities paused briefly as a precautionary measure. Gujarat saw drills in 18 districts, including Rajkot, Kutch, Patan, and Banaskantha. In Ahmedabad, the mock drill at Sadar Bazar Cantonment involved air raid simulations, communication testing, volunteer mobilisation, a blood donation camp, and evacuation drills. Officials said the exercises aimed to evaluate preparedness and coordination among civil agencies during wartime emergencies, especially in border regions, and strengthen response capacities.

Active Covid cases in India rise to 3,395

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 31: The number of active COVID-19 cases in India has crossed 3,000, with Kerala accounting for the highest at 1,336, followed by Maharashtra and Delhi, Union health ministry data released Saturday showed. According to the data, four deaths — one each in Delhi, Kerala, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh — have been reported in the country in the last 24 hours. Official sources said the COVID-19 situation in India is being closely monitored. The severity of infections is low, with most of the patients under home care. There is no reason to worry, the sources said. There were 257 active cases in the country May 22. The figure rose to 1,010 by May 26 and reached 3,395 Saturday. In the last 24 hours, 685 new cases have been reported and four people have died, according to the data. Kerala has 1,336 active cases, Maharashtra 467, Delhi 375, Gujarat 265, Karnataka 234, West Bengal 205, Tamil Nadu 185 and Uttar Pradesh 117.

of the day

quote

Ahilyabai blended nationalism and spiritualism. She spent her entire life preserving 'desh' (country) and 'dharm' (religion). Despite suffering personal losses, she considered her subjects her family and dedicated her life to the restoration of temples and ghats across the country

DEVENDRA FADNAVIS | CHIEF MINISTER, MAHARASHTRA

DoNER Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia has been making efforts for private investments in the Northeast. The Rising Northeast Investment Summit held on May 23 and 24 in Delhi attracted unprecedented investment proposals of USD 4.3 million

MANIK SAHA | CHIEF MINISTER, TRIPURA

Delighted to share that @IndiGo6E will commence a non-stop flight between Delhi and Jorhat starting mid-September 2025

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CHIEF MINISTER

POST OF THE DAY



Govt is offering 6,500 to people in Kashmir whose houses were damaged in Pakistani shelling. Meanwhile, the same Govt is spending Thousands of Crores on MPs Foreign Vacations & Modi's Sindoor PR. This is utterly Shameful & Inhumane

SHORT TAKES

8 Maoists surrender in Telangana

Hyderabad: Eight members of the outlawed CPI (Maoists) surrendered before police in Mulugu district of Telangana Saturday, police said. The eight Maoists including one divisional committee member (DVCM), two area committee members (ACM) from Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh, gave up arms and surrendered before Mulugu District Superintendent of Police Shabarish P, an official release said. As many as 355 Maoists have surrendered before the Telangana police including 68 before Mulugu District Police from January this year.

Wrestler-turned-arms dealer nabbed by police

New Delhi: The Delhi Police has arrested a 32-year-old national-level wrestler-turned arms dealer, alleged to be involved in several serious crimes, an officer said Saturday. Sonu Langada alias Pahalwan, police said, turned to supplying illegal arms to criminals after a road accident led to the amputation of his leg. He was nabbed after being on the run for nearly eight years. Sonu Langada was captured May 29 from his native village in Uttar Pradesh's Baghpat, the officer said.

5 killed in road accident in UP

Hardoi (UP): Five persons, including a six-year-old child, were killed when the car in which they were travelling fell into a ditch in the Hardoi district of Uttar Pradesh, a police official said Saturday. Shahabad Circle Officer Anuj Mishra said, "A speeding car lost control, overturned and fell into a ditch on Alamnagar road in which 11 persons were seriously injured. All the injured persons were immediately brought to a community health centre, where doctors declared five people dead, including a child. The injured have been referred to the district hospital after being administered first-aid."



Pakistan's surrender is proof of the strength of our Army and the leadership capacity of Prime Minister Modi

JP NADDA | BJP NATIONAL PRESIDENT

ANTI-DRONE SYSTEM DEPLOYED FOR TAJ MAHAL'S SECURITY

An anti-drone system has been installed at the Taj Mahal, securing a 500-metre radius by disabling unauthorized drones entering the airspace, enhancing monument safety, police confirmed Friday



Bengali Muslims targeted: CPI-M

The Left party alleged that in the 'aftermath of the Pahalgam terrorist attack, BJP-led state governments and the central government are targeting particularly Bengali-speaking Muslims and without any verification, pushed them to Bangladesh'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 31: The Communist Party of India (Marxist) Saturday alleged that Bengali-speaking Muslims are being targeted without any verification and demanded that the government should deal with those who have entered the country illegally according to laid-out procedures.

In a statement, the Politburo of CPI(M) said it condemns the "inhuman 'push-back' and deportation of suspected Bangladeshi citizens".

"The government should deal with those who have entered the country illegally according to the well-laid out procedures," it said.

The Left party alleged that in the "aftermath of the Pahalgam terrorist attack, BJP-led state governments and the central government are targeting particularly Bengali-speaking Muslims and without any verification, pushed them to Bangladesh".

According to reports, some genuine Indian citizens too are arrested and pushed into Bangladesh, it alleged.

"Even those citizens who were declared foreign nationals by the foreigners tribunals, but whose appeals are still pending before the high court in Assam



and the Supreme Court, have been forcibly pushed back. This should not be allowed," it said. The CPI-M added that the

BJP-led Assam government is "aggressively pursuing its communal policies and has now even decided to arm the

'indigenous people'".

"This is a dangerous decision with far reaching ramifications. It is the duty of the government to maintain law and order and also prevent infiltration. Pushing them back and arming communally selected sections of the people are not the solutions," it said.

The CPI(M) demanded that the government should not to use religion to identify illegal migrants.

"Those who have entered the country through illegal means should be allowed access to a fair trial. Poor and undocumented migrants, who enter the country without any mala fide intentions should be treated with dignity and dealt according to the laid out procedures," the party said.

CPI(M) seeks rehab for Madras camp residents

The CPI(M) has alleged non-compliance of court-mandated rehabilitation guidelines for the residents of Madras Camp, a Jhuggi cluster in south Delhi where a demolition drive is to begin Sunday. In a statement issued Saturday, the CPI(M)'s Delhi unit said the flats allotted to some of the displaced families in Narela were in a "deplorable" condition and lacked essential facilities like water, electricity, doors, and windows. The CPI(M) cited the Delhi High Court's May 9 order that directed concerned authorities to ensure proper rehabilitation of affected residents before carrying out the demolition along the Barapullah drain. The order asked agencies like the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) to ensure that basic amenities, including fixtures and fittings, were available in the allotted flats by May 20. The party said that 215 of the total 350 households were given allotments, "but the infrastructure was unfit for habitation, especially during Delhi's extreme weather." "Residents cannot be expected to move into housing that is still underprepared and unsafe," said the party, adding that this could potentially create law and order issues if demolition begins as per schedule June 1. The PWD has reportedly put up notices announcing demolition from 7.30 am Sunday, the party said. It also criticised government agencies for what it described as a failure to implement the court's directive to ensure smooth relocation, including school admissions for children before the academic session begins in July. The party said it would continue to oppose such demolitions and support affected residents. The Jhuggi cluster which has been in existence for around 60 years houses more than 400 working class families, many of which were served eviction notices last month. The issue has also drawn emotional appeals from residents.

Delhi CM highlights policy push, integrity in governance



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 31: "We can't make false promises," said Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta Saturday while underlining that public welfare and structural reforms have been prioritised by her government which has completed 100 days.

Speaking at a public programme at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here to mark the BJP's 100 days in power, she emphasised that her administration has put focus on policy formulation and accused the previous government of neglecting civic facilities in the national capital.

"My government spent 100 days in making policies and working for the betterment of Delhi," she said, adding, "We can't make false promises. We are working honestly to solve issues like the cleaning of the Yamuna and removal of garbage dumps."

Making Delhi clean, beautiful and healthy is the Delhi government's priority, the chief minister said in a conversation with film actor Anupam Kher during the programme.

While detailing the BJP government's achievements in the past 100 days, Gupta accused the previous AAP dispensation of neglecting health infrastructure, education and Yamuna pollution, among other sectors.

"They sat in their Sheeshmahal with lavish curtains, tuning into only the news they liked. While they decorated their halls with corruption, we have rebuilt Delhi with honesty."

Though the 100 days may be few, they have been transformative for Delhi, Gupta asserted.

"While previous governments only focused on publicity, we approved the Delhi School Education (Transparency in Fixation & Regulation of Fees) Bill, 2025, to end the arbitrariness of private schools," she said.

The chief minister highlighted that her government would bring an ordinance to regulate fees charged by private schools.

Gupta also asserted that no slums will be demolished and no one will be displaced unless provided with permanent houses. The government has allocated Rs 700 crore for providing facilities in the slums, she said.

100 DAYS OF BJP GOVT

Pak violating Indus Water Treaty through terrorism

The three-day UN conference on glaciers, which ends Saturday, aims to highlight the important role of glaciers in maintaining global ecological balance and addressing water-related challenges

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 31: India has said that Pakistan should stop blaming it for the breach of the Indus Water Treaty, as the unrelenting cross-border terrorism from its soil is interfering with the treaty's implementation.

Addressing the plenary session of the first UN conference on glaciers in Tajikistan's Dushanbe Friday, Minister of State for Environment Kirti Vardhan Singh said that Pakistan itself was violating the treaty through terrorism.

"We are appalled at the attempt by Pakistan to misuse the forum and to bring in unwarranted references to issues which do not fall within the purview of the forum. We strongly condemned such an attempt," he said.

Singh said it is an undeniable fact that there have been fundamental changes in circumstances since the Indus Waters Treat-



We are appalled at the attempt by Pakistan to misuse the forum and to bring in unwarranted references to issues which do not fall within the purview of the forum. We strongly condemned such an attempt

KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH | MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENVIRONMENT

ty was signed, which requires a reassessment of the treaty's obligations.

These changes include technological advancements, demographic changes, climate change and the ongoing threat of cross-border terrorism, he said.

The minister said that the treaty's preamble states it was concluded in the spirit of goodwill and friendship, and that honouring the treaty in good faith is essential.

"However, the unrelenting cross border terrorism from Pakistan interferes with an ability to exploit the treaty as per its provisions. Pakistan, which itself is in violation of the treaty, should desist from putting the blame of the breach of the treaty on India," he said.

SNIPPETS

Insta influencer nabbed over post on Op Sindoor

Gurugram/Kolkata: Kolkata police has arrested a 22-year-old female Instagram influencer, who allegedly uploaded a video with communal comments, claiming Bollywood actors were silent Operation Sindoor, a source said Saturday. The woman, a resident of Kolkata's Anandapur area, enrolled in Pune's Law University, was arrested in Gurugram Friday night. She was produced at a court in Kolkata Saturday which sent her to judicial custody till June 13 after her bail petition was rejected. The accused woman has been booked under relevant sections for promoting enmity between different groups, malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings, apart from intentional insult, provoking breach of peace, a Kolkata Police officer said.

Kuki groups demand maintaining buffer zones

New Delhi: Kuki groups Saturday demanded that buffer zones should be maintained in Manipur as a "protective measure" unless a comprehensive political solution such as a Union territory with legislature is achieved. At a press conference here, co-convenor of Kuki Zo Women Forum Chong Haokip reiterated the demand for carving out a Union territory with legislature from Manipur and said, "This is not against any community, this is a step required to ensure safety and right to existence of Kuki people." She said that this demand should not be seen from a political angle, but as one required for safety and peace. "Kuki-Zo tribals have been chased out of Imphal, killed like animals. We were treated like enemies. We were killed because of our identity and the security forces didn't intervene in time. Government could have saved us, but they didn't do anything," Haokip alleged.

Nilmabur bypoll: Minor conflict between LDF, UDF

Malappuram (Kerala): The campaign for the Nilambur bypoll Saturday saw the LDF according a grand welcome to its candidate, the UDF nominee filing his nomination and a brief clash between supporters of both sides when their respective roadshows passed by each other. Congress-led UDF candidate Aryadan Shoukath led a huge roadshow, atop an open-roof vehicle along with other senior party leaders, through the Nilambur city to the taluk office where he filed his nomination papers in the afternoon. Hundreds of UDF supporters, including Kerala Student Union (KSU) activists, were part of the roadshow, carrying flags of the party and holding up placards of Shoukath's picture. On the other side, the CPI(M)-led LDF accorded a grand welcome to its candidate -- M Swaraj -- when he arrived here close to noon.

DEFAMATION CASE Court rejects Rahul's plea on Savarkar kin's lineage

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, May 31: A court here Saturday rejected Rahul Gandhi's application seeking details of the maternal lineage of Satyaki Savarkar, the grand-nephew of V D Savarkar, over his defamation complaint filed against the Congress leader for his alleged objectionable remarks against the Hindutva ideology.

Judicial Magistrate (First Class) Amol Shinde dismissed the application, observing that the case pertains to an alleged defamatory speech made by Gandhi in London and not to the family tree of late Himani Ashok Savarkar, the mother of Satyaki Savarkar.

Himani Savarkar was the daughter of Gopal Vinayak Godse, the younger brother of Mahatma Gandhi's assassin Nathuram Godse.

Gandhi, through his counsel Milind Pawar, had submitted that while the complainant had provided details of his paternal ancestry while filing the complaint, his maternal lineage had not been disclosed. The defence argued that this information was crucial for the hearing.

"The case is not related to or disputed on the family tree of late Himani Ashok Savarkar. Therefore, this court does not find any merit in the application of the accused. There is also no need to send the matter for further investigation," the court said in its order.

Punjab Police plans GPS-enabled anklets for drug smugglers out on bail

Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav cited the example of the Jammu and Kashmir Police, which uses the wearable device for UAPA (Unlawful Activities Prevention Act) accused to monitor them

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, May 31: The Punjab Police is planning to introduce GPS-enabled anklets for drug smugglers out on bail to track their movements, the state's top cop said Saturday.

Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav cited the example of the Jammu and Kashmir Police, which uses the wearable device for UAPA (Unlawful Activities Prevention Act) accused to monitor them.

Addressing the media here, Yadav said, "In J&K, GPS tracking anklets were started for UAPA persons who are bailed out. We are examining the proposal from a legal point of view."

When an accused is released on bail, there are some conditions, Yadav said, adding that after taking orders from competent courts, GPS anklets will be put on notorious smugglers out on bail to track their movements.



Yadav said it will be done on a case-by-case basis, and the right to privacy will be kept in mind. The DGP asserted that

small-time drug users should not be targeted and instead be sent to drug de-addiction centres.

He said the police would also focus on such drug users who have been released on bail.

"We have devised a system of monitoring their activities by taking village elders and panchayats into confidence. Our objective is to integrate these into the mainstream. They (drug users) will be motivated to go to OAAAT (Outpatient Opioid Assisted Treatment) clinics and drug de-addiction centres," he said.

The station house officers will call such people to police stations, and a self-declaration will be taken from them that they will neither consume drugs nor peddle them, said the DGP.

However, he said police will take action against repeat offenders.

The DGP said an artificial intelligence software will be developed to upload information regarding arrested drug smugglers in districts into centralised data for forward and backwards linkages.

He further said drug de-addiction centres will be started in jails for drug users, who are put behind bars.

Replying to a question on deploying an anti-drone system to check smuggling of drugs and weapons, Yadav said the order for the system has been placed, and they are expected to be delivered by July and August.

international

of the day quote

Normally they do it through bullets. We do it through trade. So I'm very proud of that. Nobody talks about it but we had a very nasty potential war going on between Pakistan and India. And now, if you look, they're doing fine

DONALD TRUMP | US PRESIDENT

We are not going to sugarcoat it – the threat China poses is real. And it could be imminent

PETE HEGSETH | US DEFENCE SECRETARY

We can agree that someone's economic necessity alone cannot be grounds for legal migration. If we did accept that, (Europe) should prepare to receive hundreds of millions

MAKIS VORIDIS | GREECE MIGRATION MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

151 dead in Nigeria floods

Abuja: At least 151 people have now been confirmed dead after heavy rainfall unleashed flooding in a market town in north-central Nigeria, the local emergency services told The Associated Press Saturday. More than 3,000 people were displaced in the flooding in the town of Mokwa in Niger state, more than 300 kilometres west of Abuja, the capital of Africa's most populous nation, Niger state emergency agency spokesman Ibrahim Audu Hussein said. At least 500 households across three communities were affected in the predawn rain Friday, leaving roofs barely visible and residents waist-deep in water, Hussein added.

Plane crashes into terrace; two killed

Berlin: A small plane crashed into the terrace of a residential building in western Germany Saturday and two people were killed, police said. The crash happened in Korschbroich, near the city of Monchengladbach and not far from the Dutch border. The plane hit the terrace of the building and a fire broke out. Police said two people died and one of them was probably the plane's pilot, German news agency dpa reported. It wasn't immediately clear whether the other person had been on the plane or on the ground.

Indonesia quarry collapse toll 17

Cirebon: The death toll from the collapse of a stone quarry in Indonesia's West Java province has risen to at least 17, with eight people still missing, officials said Saturday. The victims were trapped in the rubble when the Gunung Kuda quarry in Cirebon district collapsed Friday. A dozen survivors were found by rescuers. By Saturday afternoon, rescuers had retrieved 16 bodies, while one of the survivors died in the hospital, said local police chief Sumarni. She said rescuers are searching for eight people still believed to be trapped "The search operation has been hampered by bad weather, unstable soil and rugged terrain," said Sumarni who goes by a single name like many Indonesians. She said the cause of the collapse is still under investigation, and police have been questioning six people, including the owner of the quarry.



The time for non-alignment has undoubtedly passed, but the time for coalitions of action has come and requires that countries capable of acting together give themselves every means to do so

EMMANUEL MACRON | FRENCH PRESIDENT

UN SEEKS 20% CUT IN STAFF

More than 60 United Nations offices, agencies and operations have been ordered to submit proposals by mid-June to cut 20% of their staff, as part of a major reform effort to consolidate operations in the face of a critical funding crunch.



Trump, Putin hint at US-Russia trade revival



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Moscow, May 31: Hundreds of foreign companies left Russia after the 2022 invasion of Ukraine, including major US firms like Coca-Cola, Nike, Starbucks, ExxonMobil and Ford Motor Co.

But after more than three years of war, President Donald Trump has held out the prospect of restoring US-Russia trade if there's ever a peace settlement. And Russian President Vladimir Putin has said foreign companies could come back under some circumstances.

"Russia wants to do large scale TRADE with the United States when this catastrophic bloodbath' is over, and I agree," Trump said in a statement after a phone call with Putin. "There is a tremendous opportunity for Russia to create massive amounts of jobs and wealth. Its potential is UNLIMITED."

The president then shifted his tone toward Putin after heavy drone and missile attacks on Kyiv, saying Putin "has gone absolutely crazy" and threatening new sanctions. Recent comments from Putin warning Western companies against reclaiming their former stakes seemed to reflect reality more accurately — that it's not going to be a smooth process for businesses going back into Russia. That's because Russia's business environment has massively changed since 2022. And not in ways that favor foreign companies.

And with Putin escalating attacks and holding on to territory demands Ukraine likely

isn't going to accept, a peace deal seems distant indeed.

Here are factors that could deter U.S. companies from ever going back.

Russian law classifies Ukraine's allies as "unfriendly states" and imposes severe restrictions on businesses from more than 50 countries. Those include limits on withdrawing money and equipment as well as allowing the Russian government to take control of companies deemed important. Foreign owners' votes on boards of directors can be legally disregarded. Companies that left were required to sell their businesses for 50% or less of their assessed worth, or simply wrote them off while Kremlin-friendly business groups snapped up their assets on the cheap. Under a 2023 presidential decree the Russian government took control of Finnish energy company Fortum, German power company Unipro, France's dairy company Danone and Danish brewer Carlsberg. Even if a peace deal removed the US from the list of unfriendlies, and if the massive Western sanctions restricting business in Russia were dropped, the track record of losses would remain vivid. And there's little sign any of that is going to happen.

While the Russian government has talked in general about companies coming back, "there's no specific evidence of any one company saying that they are ready to come back," said Chris Weafer, CEO of Macro-Advisory Ltd. consultancy.

Hungry Gazans block, offload UN food trucks

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tel Aviv, May 31: Palestinians in the Gaza Strip blocked and offloaded dozens of food trucks, the UN World Food Programme said Saturday, as desperation mounts following Israel's months-long blockade and airstrikes while talks of a ceasefire inch forward.

The WFP said that 77 trucks carrying aid, mostly flour, were stopped by hungry people who took the food before the trucks were able to reach their destination.

A nearly three-month Israeli blockade on Gaza has pushed the population to the brink of famine. While the pressure slightly eased in recent days as Israel allowed some aid to enter, organisations say there still isn't nearly enough food getting in.

Hamas Friday said it was reviewing a US proposal for a temporary ceasefire. US President Donald Trump said that negotiators were nearing a deal.

A ceasefire would pause the fighting for 60 days, release



some of the 58 hostages still held in Gaza in exchange for Palestinian prisoners and much needed food aid and other assistance, according to Hamas and Egyptian officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to talk to the media.

The WFP said the fear of starvation in Gaza is high despite the food aid that's entering now. "We need to flood communities with food for the next few days

to calm anxieties and rebuild the trust with communities that more food is coming," said agency said in a statement.

A witness in the southern city of Khan Younis told The Associated Press the UN convoy was stopped at a makeshift roadblock and offloaded by desperate civilians in their thousands. Most people carried bags of flour on their backs or heads.

He said at one point a forklift was used to offload pallets



Participants celebrate after finishing first in their dragon boat race during the Dragon Boat Festival held along the northern section of the Grand Canal in Tongzhou, outskirts of Beijing, Saturday

AP PHOTO

'Iran ups near weapons-grade uranium stockpile'

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vienna, May 31: Iran has further increased its stockpile of uranium enriched to near weapons-grade levels, a confidential report by the UN nuclear watchdog said Saturday and called on Tehran to urgently change course and comply with the agency's probe.

The report comes at a sensitive time as Tehran and Washington have been holding several rounds of talks in the past weeks over a possible nuclear deal that US President Donald Trump is trying to reach.

The report by the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency — which was seen by The Associated Press — says that as of May 17, Iran has amassed 408.6 kilogrammes of uranium enriched up to 60



per cent. That's an increase of 133.8 kilogrammes — or almost 50 per cent — since the IAEA's last report in February.

The 60 per cent enriched material is a short, technical step away from weapons-grade levels of 90 per cent. A report in February put this stockpile level at 274.8 kilogrammes.

There was no immediate

comment from Tehran on the new IAEA report.

The IAEA report raised a stern warning, saying that Iran is now "the only non-nuclear-weapon state to produce such material" — something the agency said was of "serious concern".

Approximately 42 kilogrammes of 60 per cent enriched uranium is theoretically enough

to produce one atomic bomb, if enriched further to 90 per cent, according to the watchdog. The IAEA report, a quarterly, also estimated that as of May 17, Iran's overall stockpile of enriched uranium — which includes uranium enriched to lower levels — stood at 9,247.6 kilogrammes. That's an increase of 953.2 kilogrammes since February's report.

Iran has maintained its nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes only, but the IAEA chief, Rafael Mariano Grossi, has warned that Tehran has enough uranium enriched to near-weapons-grade levels to make "several" nuclear bombs if it chose to do so.

Iranian officials have increasingly suggested that Tehran could pursue an atomic bomb.

Poland set to hold presidential runoff

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Warsaw, May 31: Poland is set to hold a presidential runoff election Sunday between two candidates offering starkly different visions for the country's future.

The winner will succeed President Andrzej Duda, a conservative who is finishing his second and final term. The outcome will determine whether Poland embraces a nationalist populist trajectory or pivots more fully toward liberal, pro-European policies. An exit poll by Ipsos will be released when polls close on Sunday at 9 pm local time, with a margin of error of plus or minus 2 percentage points. Final results

are expected Monday.

Whoever wins can be expected to either help or hinder the agenda of the centrist government of Prime Minister Donald Tusk thanks to the presidential power to veto laws.

The vote comes amid heightened regional tensions driven by Russia's war in neighbouring Ukraine, security concerns across Europe and internal debates about the rule of law.

It follows a first round on May 18, in which Warsaw Mayor Rafal Trzaskowski won more than 31% of the vote and Karol Nawrocki, a conservative historian, earned nearly 30%. Eleven other candidates were eliminated.

CAN CHINA CHOKe BRAHMAPUTRA'S FLOW?

As India re-evaluates its water diplomacy with Pakistan, China has entered the discussion with a subtle warning. Victor Zhikhai Gao, a senior Chinese policy advisor, cautioned, "Don't do unto others what you don't want done to you," suggesting that Beijing holds strategic influence over the Brahmaputra, a river vital to India's water security.

This warning, which comes on the heels of India suspending the Indus Water Treaty after the Pahalgam terror attack, highlights increasing concerns about China's influence upstream and its potential effects on the region's delicate water balance. Central to this geopolitical tension is the Brahmapu-

tra River, which begins at the Angsi Glacier in Tibet, flows through India, and eventually reaches Bangladesh. In China, it is referred to as the Yarlung Tsangpo, while in Arunachal Pradesh, it is known as the Siang. The river is famous for its breathtaking natural bend around Namcha Barwa before it descends into India.

What transforms this river from a geographical wonder into a geopolitical hotspot is Beijing's ambitious plan: a \$137 billion hydropower mega-project in Tibet's Medog County. With an expected output of 60 GW—three times that of the Three Gorges Dam—this facility would become the most powerful hydroelectric project in history. Its proximity, just 30



km from the Indian border, has raised alarms in New Delhi. The risk of disaster is not merely theoretical. Experts caution that if the dam were to fail—due to seismic events, struc-

tural issues, or sabotage—the resulting flood could devastate Arunachal Pradesh and Assam within minutes. Furthermore, even under normal operations, China's control over water flow

could cause significant disruption downstream. By releasing excess water during the monsoon season, Beijing could exacerbate the already severe flooding in India's northeastern states, where 40% of the land is susceptible to flooding.

The Brahmaputra basin is vast, spanning 580,000 square kilometers across China, India, Bhutan, and Bangladesh. India accounts for 33.6% of the river's length, and it plays a crucial role in supporting millions of people through agriculture, drinking water, and hydropower. With an average discharge of 700,000 cubic feet per second in India and frequent floods caused by monsoons, the situation is critical. Unlike the Indus Water Treaty with Pa-

kistan, India lacks a binding agreement with China regarding the Brahmaputra. While there are some data-sharing memorandums of understanding, China's position upstream allows it to make decisions independently. This absence of a formal treaty increases uncertainty and raises concerns about the potential use of water as a geopolitical weapon. Additionally, the dynamics are complicated by Bangladesh's growing friendship with China.

Under these circumstances, Gao's remark serves as a warning. In the intricate landscape of upstream and downstream politics, water could emerge as the next battleground in Asia's competition among major powers.

Stellar show at Asian Athletics

India signs off with 24 medals including 8 gold, 10 silver, and 6 bronze

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gumi, May 31: A new national record, a string of personal bests, and six final-day medals capped India's campaign at the 26th Asian Athletics Championships with the country signing off with a total haul of 24 medals here Saturday.

While gold proved elusive on the final day, Indian athletes delivered a series of gritty performances to secure three silver and as many bronze medals.

Parul Chaudhary claimed her second silver of the meet with a strong run in the women's 5000m, clocking 15:15.33s to finish second, adding to the silver she had earlier won in the 3000m steeplechase.

While javelin thrower Sachin Yadav earned his silver with a personal best effort, the women's 4x100m relay team, featuring Abinaya Rajarajan, Sneha SS, Srabani Nanda, and Nithya Gandhe, clocked a season-best 43.86s to bag India's final silver.

Sprinter Animesh Kujur blazed to a national record of 20.32s to clinch a a bronze in the men's 200m for India. Middle distance runner Pooja recorded a personal best to take bronze in the women's 800m, while Asian Games medallist Vithya Ramraj secured the third place in the women's 400m hurdles.

India thus wrapped up the championships with 8 gold, 10 silver, and 6 bronze medals.

While the overall count fell short of the 27 medals won in the previous edition, the contingent has improved on the gold tally, increasing it from 6 to 8. **Personal bests for Sachin, Yashvir**

In the absence of two-time Olympic medallist Neeraj Chopra, both the Indian javelin throwers produced personal best efforts.



Rising star Sachin sent his spear to 85.16m in his last attempt to finish behind Pakistan's reigning Olympic champion Arshad Nadeem, who was appearing in his first competition since the Paris Games last year. The Pakistani fetched the gold with a 86.40m throw.

Competing in his maiden major international meet, Sachin narrowly missed the World Championships qualification mark of 85.50m, and blamed his twin injuries -- to the ankle and shoulder -- for the shortfall.

"I'm not satisfied, but yes, I'll go back with a medal and a personal best," said the 25-year-old, who had a previous personal best of 84.39m. Fellow Indian Yashvir Singh also impressed with a personal best of 82.57m for a fifth-place finish.



Bronze for Vithya, Pooja

Asian Games medallist bronze Vithya sailed smoothly over the women's 400m hurdles to finish on the third step of the podium. The 26-year-old Tamil Nadu athlete clocked 56.46s to finish on the podium.

China's Mo Jiadie clinched gold in 55.31s, edging out Bahrain's Oluwakemi Adekoya, who finished second in 55.32s.

India finished second in the medal tally behind China (19 gold, 9 silver, 4 bronze), marking the country's best performance since the 2017 edition in Bhubaneswar, where it topped the standings with 29 medals (10 gold, 6 silver, 13 bronze). Japan finished third with 5 gold, 11 silver and 12 bronze

Anu Raghavan, the other Indian in the race, was placed seventh with 57.46s. Pooja grabbed India's third bronze of the day as she finished the women's 800m with a personal best of 2:01.89s.

In the women's 200m final, Jyoti Yarraji finished fifth with a time of 23.47s, while Nithya Gandhe came seventh in 23.90s. Yarraji had won gold in the women's 100m hurdles earlier in the week. In the men's 800m, Krishan Kumar and Anu Kumar finished seventh and eight respectively.

CM congratulates Srabani

BHUBANESWAR: Odisha's Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has congratulated ace sprinter Srabani Nanda for her achievement in the Asian Athletics Championships-2025. "Congratulations to ace sprinter Srabani Nanda and team for winning Silver in the 4X100 metre relay at the Asian Athletics Championships-2025 at Gumi in South Korea. Nanda's achievement is matter of pride for Odisha. Her efforts as well as love for sports will inspire many others in our state," said the Chief Minister in social media post. Nanda, a native of Odisha's Kandhamal district, was the member of an Indian team that had won Bronze in women's 4X100 metre relay event at the 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi. She had also represented India in the women's 200m category in Rio Olympics in 2016.



GLORIES IN GUMI

GOLD MEDALLISTS

Men's 10,000m: Gulveer Singh
Mixed 4x400m relay: Rupal Chaudhary, Santosh Kumar, Vishal TK and Subha Venkatesan
Men's 3000m Steeplechase: Avinash Sable
Women's 100m hurdles: Jyothi Yarraji
Women's 4x400m Relay: Jisna Mathew, Rupal Chaudhary, Kunja Rajitha and Subha Venkatesan
Men's 5000m: Gulveer Singh
Women's High Jump: Pooja
Heptathlon: Nandini Agasara

SILVER MEDALLISTS

Women's 400m: Rupal Chaudhary
Women's 1500m: Pooja
Decathlon: Tejaswin Shankar
Men's Triple Jump: Praveen Chithravel
Men's 4x400m Relay: Jay Kumar, Dharmveer Choudhary, Manu Thekkinalil Saji and Vishal TK
Women's Long Jump: Ancy Soja
Women's 3000m Steeplechase: Parul Chaudhary
Men's Javelin Throw: Sachin Yadav
Women's 5000m: Parul Chaudhary
Women's 4x100m Relay: Srabani Nanda, Abhinaya Rajarajan, Sneha SS, and Nithya Gandhe

BRONZE MEDALLISTS

Men's 20km race walk: Servin Sebastian
Men's 1500m: Yoonus Shah
Women's Long Jump: Shaili Singh
Men's 200m: Animesh Kujur
Women's 400m hurdles: Vithya Ramraj
Women's 800m: Pooja

Karun slams stunning double century in Eng

The forgotten star's stellar 204 anchors India A's mammoth 557 vs England Lions



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Canterbury, May 31: Karun Nair's (204) double century, alongside almost-hundreds by Sarfaraz Khan (92) and Dhruv Jurel (94), helped India A set a massive total of 557 in the first innings against England Lions on Day 2 of the unofficial Test at the St Lawrence Ground here Saturday.

For the bowling side, Josh Hull and Zaman Akhter claimed three wickets each.

Earlier on day one, India 'A' captain Abhimanyu Easwaran (8) was trapped plumb by left-arm fast bowler Josh Hull. Shortly after, Yashasvi Jaiswal (24) was also on his way to the pavilion while attempting to hoick across the line and was caught behind on the bowling of Eddie Jack.

But from there, India took the fight to the inexperienced English bowlers. Nair took his time to adjust to the conditions and the seaming Duke's ball before showcasing brilliant shots on both sides of the wicket.

Nair shared a 181-run third-wicket partnership with Sarfaraz, who was comfortable in hitting 92 off 119 balls. He also shared a 195-run partnership with vice-captain Dhruv Jurel, who hit 94 off 120 balls, before the wicket-keeper batter fell to

pacer Ajeet Singh Dale on day two on Saturday.

Nitish Kumar Reddy (5) failed to make an impact as he nicked a short delivery while trying to drive it through off and was Jack's second wicket of the innings.

Nair, who resumed from 186 not out, swivel-pulled Eddie Jack through the leg-side to bring up his fourth First-Class double century, which is also his first 200-plus score for India 'A'. It was his fourth double-century in First-Class cricket. He departed soon after as his inside edge, off Zaman Akhter, clipped the ball, and James Rew made no mistake in latching onto it.

Shardul Thakur, who has produced memorable moments in England before, struck a quick-fire 27, with four boundaries to his name, before he too fell to Akhter. Harsh Dubey (32) and Anshul Kamboj (23) pushed India's score to 533 for 7 at lunch, before the former edged Josh Hull to James Rew.

BRIEF SCORES:

India A 557 all out in 125.1 overs (Karun Nair 204, Dhruv Jurel 94, Sarfaraz Khan 92; Josh Hull 3-72, Zaman Akhter 3-73) vs England Lions: 75/1 in 18 overs (Emilio Gay 28 batting, Tom Haines 25 batting)

SHORT TAKES

Deaf Cricket tour: India seal historic series win

New Delhi: In a landmark moment for inclusive sports, the Indian Deaf Cricket Team, led by the Indian Deaf Cricket Association (IDCA), has triumphed in the historic 5-match International Deaf Cricket Series 2025 against Trinidad & Tobago. Hosted from May 23 to 29 across iconic venues in Trinidad & Tobago, the series marked a pioneering milestone as the Caribbean nation hosted India's deaf cricket team for the first time. Team India clinched the series 3-2, showcasing resilience, tactical brilliance, and team spirit. Notably, India registered a thumping 132-run win in the 2nd ODI match held at the National Cricket Centre. All-rounder Pradeep received the 'Player of the Match' award for his explosive 84-run knock and match-winning 4-wicket haul. The team's T20 performance remained consistent, with India winning all 3 T20 matches against Trinidad & Tobago (India 3 – Trinidad & Tobago 0), while also winning 1 ODI (India 1 – Trinidad & Tobago 0).

Balaji, Reyes-Varela bow out in French Open

Paris: India's N Sriram Balaji and his Mexican partner Miguel Reyes-Varela's French Open journey came to an end with the second round defeat against fourth seed Italians Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassori, here Saturday. Balaji and Reyes-Varela lost 3-6 4-6 in the second round match that lasted one hour and 24 minutes at Court 7. Reaching the pre-quarterfinals of the Clay Court major last year remains Balaji's best show at Grand Slams. India's other contenders are still alive in the competition with Yuki Bhambri and Rohan Bopanna reaching the pre-quarterfinals.

Shuttlers lose in semis

Singapore: Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty's gritty run at the Singapore Open Super 750 came to an end in the men's doubles semifinals, as the Indian pair went down fighting in a tense three-game contest against Malaysia's Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik. The former world number one Indian pair squandered the advantage of an opening game win but saved as many as seven match points before losing 21-19, 10-21, 18-21 in a high-intensity 64-minute clash. It was their third semifinal finish this year, including the last four finish at India Open and Malaysia Open earlier in the year.

S N I P P E T S

Powerlifting triumph: 56-yr-old wins 3 gold



just five years ago and follows a strict vegetarian diet. "Age and diet are no barriers to success," said Patel. Over the years, Patel has bagged 16 district-level, 18 state-level and 12 national-level medals. With this international feat, he now plans to guide young athletes and explore competitive bodybuilding.

Ahmedabad: Lalit Patel, a 56-year-old powerlifter from Gujarat, won three gold medals at the IBBF World Powerlifting Championship held in Pattaya, Thailand. Competing in the Master Two category (83-93kg), Patel topped the podium in the bench press, deadlift and squat events in the competition held between May 10 and 12. Patel has been training intensively for the past eight months to prepare for the global event. He took up powerlifting

Cricket going global: Shah meets UEFA prez

New Delhi: Continuing cricket's global outreach, ICC chairman Jay Shah met UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin in Munich ahead of Saturday's Champions League final between Inter Milan and Paris Saint-Germain, which will be played at the Allianz Arena. Shah, the former BCCI secretary, met Ceferin Friday. "Honoured to represent cricket in Munich ahead of the @championsleague Final and have discussions with UEFA President Aleksander Ceferin. It's always valuable to spend time with other sporting leaders as the @ICC expands our sport's global reach" Shah posted on X Saturday. Shah had earlier this year met former International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Thomas Bach in Lausanne ahead of the IOC Session. Los Angeles 2028 Olympics will see the return of cricket to the Games programme.



PHF threatens to seek Asia Cup relocation



Lahore: The Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) has said it will seek the relocation of the upcoming Asia Cup from India if visas are not guaranteed for its national team. The continental tournament is scheduled to be held in India between late August and early September, with the winner earning a direct qualification spot for next year's World Cup in Europe. A PHF spokesperson said the federation would consider sending its team to the tournament only if the Asian Hockey Federation and local organisers provided written assurance of visa issuance. "Despite the strained relations between both countries if visas are guaranteed we will approach our government for clearance to play in India," he said. "Whatever directions are given by our government we will follow them but Pakistan's policy has always been to keep sports and politics apart."

OLYMPICS CONTROVERSY

Khelif to take sex test for World Boxing fights

The boxing body's decision is the latest development in a tumultuous period in Olympic sex eligibility policy. The issue of transgender participation in sports has become an international flashpoint, with US President Donald Trump and other conservative world leaders repeatedly weighing in

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, May 31: Olympic boxing champion Imane Khelif must undergo genetic sex screening to participate in upcoming events with the sport's new governing body.

World Boxing announced mandatory sex testing for all athletes Friday. The governing body specifically mentioned Khelif when announcing the policy, saying the Algerian gold medal winner must be screened before she will be approved to fight at any upcoming events, including the Eindhoven Box Cup next month in the Netherlands.

"The introduction of mandatory testing will be part of a new policy on Sex, Age and Weight' to ensure the safety of all participants and deliver a

competitive level playing field for men and women," World Boxing wrote in a statement. The fighters' national federations will be responsible for administering the tests and providing the results to World Boxing.

Khelif won a gold medal at the Paris Olympics last summer amid international scrutiny on her and Taiwan's Lin Yu-ting, another gold medal winner. The previous governing body for Olympic boxing, the Russian-dominated International Boxing Association, disqualified both fighters from its 2023 world championships after claiming they had failed an unspecified eligibility test.

The IOC ran the past two Olympic boxing tournaments after the banishment of the IBA for decades of misdeeds



and controversy, and it applied the sex eligibility rules used in previous Olympics. Khelif and Lin were eligible to compete under those standards.

Khelif intends to return to international competition next month in Eindhoven as

part of her plan to defend her gold medal at the Los Angeles Olympics, but some boxers and their federations had already spoken out to protest her inclusion.

Chromosome testing was common in Olympic sports during the 20th century, but was largely abandoned in the 1990s because of numerous ambiguities that couldn't be easily resolved by the tests, collectively known as differences in sex development (DSD). Many sports switched to hormone testing to determine sex eligibility, but those tests require governing bodies to make difficult decisions on the eligibility of women with naturally high testosterone levels.

Three months ago, World Athletics — the governing

body for track and field — became the first Olympic sport to reintroduce chromosome testing, requiring athletes who compete in the women's events to submit to the test once in their careers.

World Boxing has been provisionally approved to replace the IBA as the governing body at the Los Angeles Games, but it has faced significant pressure from boxers and their federations to create sex eligibility standards.

World Boxing announced that all athletes over 18 years old in its competitions must undergo a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) genetic test to determine their sex at birth. The PCR test detects chromosomal material through a mouth swab, saliva or blood.

If an athlete intending to

compete in the women's categories is determined to have male chromosomal material, "initial screenings will be referred to independent clinical specialists for genetic screening, hormonal profiles, anatomical examination or other valuation of endocrine profiles by medical specialists," World Boxing wrote. The policy also includes an appeals process.

Earlier this year, World Athletics also proposed recommendations that would apply strict rules to athletes who were born female but had what the organization describes as naturally occurring testosterone levels in the typical male range. In 2023, World Athletics banned transgender athletes who had transitioned male to female and gone through male puberty.

WORLD BOXING MAKES SEX TESTING MANDATORY