



Kiara's clarification

Actor Kiara Advani dismisses the rumours that she requested the makers to tone down bold scenes in 'Toxic'

LEISURE | P2



Thailand-Cambodia row

Thailand unilaterally scraps 25-year-old agreement with Cambodia on joint energy exploration Tuesday

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Auto sales shine

Total automobile retail sales in India grows by 12.94% with a record 26,11,317 units in April

BUSINESS | P11



India on top

Three-time World Cup winners India retain the top spot in ICC T20I rankings

SPORTS | P12



GRUELING SUMMER

A white tiger quenches its thirst from a pond in its enclosure amid scorching heat at National Zoological Park in New Delhi, Tuesday

PTI PHOTO

Three choked to death at Angul Sree Metaliks

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhendipada, May 5: Exposing lack of workplace safety measures and emergency response procedures at industrial units in the state, three workers died due to suffocation at a sponge iron plant operated by Sree Metaliks Ltd in Angul district, prompting a multi-agency investigation.

The deceased were identified as Shridhar Bogen, 37, and Montu Kumar, 32, from Tiniguda village under Tangarpali block in Sundargarh district, and Mangal Majhi, 40, from Sunakhani area of Rajgangpur in Sundargarh district.

The incident occurred Monday evening at the plant under Nisha Police Station where the workers were engaged in maintenance work in a direct reduced iron (DRI) unit.

According to officials, the three workers were initially being taken to a hospital in Cuttack in two ambulances at around 9pm but later it was decided to shift them to the sub-divisional hospital in Hindol.



Angul SDPO, Labour dept officials, and inspectors from Factories and Boilers dept reached the plant and began an investigation

The doctors at Hindol hospital checked the bodies inside the ambulances and declared the trio brought dead.

The ambulance drivers reportedly put the bodies in one ambulance and fled the scene. When hospital authorities were informed about the incident, they shifted the bodies to the mortuary around noon.

Following the incident, senior police officials, including Angul sub-divisional police officer Ramakant Mahalik, along with a scientific team, Labour department officials, and inspectors from the Factories and Boilers department visited the plant and launched an investigation. Prima facie, the company

sources suggest that the workers might have suffocated after inhaling coal dust while carrying out maintenance work in the DRI unit.

The incident, however, has raised serious questions about workplace safety measures, emergency response procedures, and the handling of the situation by the company. Authorities also restricted media access to the plant premises, stating that no instructions had been issued for interaction with officials.

Angul Additional District Magistrate Pratap Pritimaya said, "If any criminal negligence is found, appropriate action will be taken."

Cabinet approval: SC strength to touch 38

NEW DELHI: The Union Cabinet Tuesday cleared a proposal to increase the strength of the Supreme Court from the present 34 judges to 38, including the Chief Justice of India (CJI). Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said at present, the apex court has 33 judges and the CJI. A Bill will be brought in the next session of Parliament to raise this strength by four. Once it is cleared by Parliament, the number of Supreme Court judges will stand at 38, including the CJI.

Defiant Mamata refuses to step down

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, May 5: TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee Tuesday ruled out stepping down as the Chief Minister, alleging that the West Bengal Assembly poll results are "not people's mandate but a conspiracy", while vowing to take the battle to the streets and strengthen the opposition INDIA bloc.

Banerjee also alleged that the TMC's contest in the polls was not against the BJP, but against the Election Commission, which "worked for the saffron party".

"The question of my resignation does not arise, as we were defeated not by a public mandate but by a conspiracy - I did not lose, I will not go to Lok Bhavan," she said at a press conference, a day after the BJP sealed a landslide win.

"Why should I resign? We have not lost. Votes have been looted. Where does the question of resignation arise?" the TMC chief asserted.

The outgoing CM alleged large-scale irregularities in counting, claiming that nearly 100 seats were "looted" and that the process was deliberately slowed to break her party's



morale. "We were not fighting the BJP; we were fighting the Election Commission which was working for BJP. I have never seen such an election in my entire political career," she said.

"A black chapter in history has been created. The Chief Election Commissioner has become the villain," Banerjee said.

The BJP secured 207 seats in the 294-member Assembly, ending TMC's uninterrupted 15-year rule in West Bengal and marking a decisive shift in the state's political landscape.

"As long as I was in the chair, I tolerated many things. Now I am a free bird, an ordinary person. I am a street fighter. I will remain on the streets and fight

BJP, TMC workers killed in post-poll violence

Kolkata: A BJP and a TMC worker were killed in separate incidents of post-poll violence in West Bengal Tuesday, police said. BJP worker Madhu Mondal died after being allegedly beaten up by TMC workers during a victory rally in New Town area in the evening. TMC worker Abir Sheikh was hacked to death allegedly by BJP activists at Nanoor in Birbhum earlier in the day, police said. Mondal was thrashed, allegedly by TMC workers following an argument, as a victory procession of the BJP was passing by in Bhalliguri area, a senior police officer said.

P9

all atrocities," she said.

Banerjee also announced the formation of a 10-member fact-finding committee to visit areas "affected by post-poll violence" and assess the ground situation.

She dismissed as baseless allegations of post-poll violence in 2021.

She also alleged that central agencies and the authorities acted in tandem, claiming that "raids, transfers and bias" skewed the playing field, and questioned the neutrality of institutions.

Banerjee, however, indicated that constitutional options remain open. "They can take action as per constitutional norms," she said, without elaborating.

Shah, Majhi Central observers for Bengal

Bhubaneswar: Senior BJP leader and Union Home Minister Amit Shah has been appointed the Central observer for the election of the Leader of the Legislature Party in West Bengal, while Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has been named Central co-observer to assist in overseeing the proceedings. According to party sources, the Legislature Party meeting is expected to be held soon, where newly elected MLAs will choose their leader under the supervision of the appointed observers. The swearing-in ceremony of the new West Bengal Chief Minister is scheduled for May 9.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Hinjilicut, May 5: A 21-year-old pregnant woman was hacked to death allegedly by her brother-in-law outside her in-laws' residence at Kharida under this police limits in Ganjam district, as she was staging a dharna demanding her marital rights, police said.

The deceased was identified as Puja Swain of Rambha area, while the accused, Litu Gouda, her husband's younger brother, has been detained, police said.

The woman's husband, Chintu Gouda, was away when his wife, Puja, along with their two-year-old daughter, was staging a dharna before their house. Chintu had abandoned Puja some days ago, for which she staged a dharna in front of her in-laws' house, demanding rights for her daughter. She was also pregnant, police said.

"Police have registered a murder case and seized the axe used in the crime. The accused has been detained for interrogation," said Hinjili police station IIC Srinibas Sethy. Puja had fallen in love with



Chintu through social media, and they eloped to Puri, where they married at a temple and stayed there. However, her in-laws had refused to accept her into the family.

Both Chintu and Puja, along with their daughter, arrived at Berhampur railway station April 17 from Puri. However, Chintu fled the railway station abandoning his pregnant wife and little daughter.

When Chintu did not turn up, she lodged a police complaint against him. As she had no backing, Puja and her daughter were facilitated to stay at a one-stop centre in Berhampur. "However, she left the place and went to stage a dharna in front of her in-laws' house," said a police officer, adding she was attacked with an axe by her brother-in-law, leading to her death. An investigation is in progress.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Eeeeeek...this is how Bengal started! Three seats in 2016

Balasore man beaten to death

POST NEWS NETWORK

Simulia, May 5: A man, who was assaulted by a girl's family members who accused him of harassing her and other family members at Birabrahmapur under this police limits in Balasore district, succumbed to the severe injuries, police said Tuesday.

They said Subash Ranjan Sutar, 40, of Purusottampur area was tied to a pole at an Anganwadi Centre and beaten up by the girl's family members Monday afternoon.

Sutar had been harassing the girl and allegedly spoiling her marriage proposals on various pretexts, they mentioned. The girl's family had repeatedly warned him over the issue. They also cited his alleged substance abuse and antisocial behaviour. When he didn't budge, the girl's family members confronted and assaulted him. Sutar was first taken to



Simulia hospital but later shifted to Bhadrak DHH, where he died.

Bhavesht Nayak, brother-in-law of the deceased, lodged a complaint with Simulia police who began an investigation. The cops also visited the girl's residence and the DHH, as part of the probe, Tuesday. A forensic team examined the crime scene, said the police.

One person has been detained in connection with the incident, they added.

Shipping pallets lifeline for Gaza carpenters

REUTERS

Gaza, May 5: As Israeli restrictions continue to curb the entry of goods into Gaza, local carpenters are turning to scrap wood and shipping pallets to make much-needed basic beds and tables in a strip battered by two years of war between Hamas and Israel.

In a workshop in southern Gaza, carpenters dismantle used pallets to make beds, cupboards and shelves for families displaced by fighting, after regular construction materials became scarce or prohibitively expensive.

Mohammed Wafi, 34, a carpenter in Khan Younis, said pallets became one of the few available sources of wood when limited aid trucks began entering Gaza.

Demand for his handiwork



WOOD CRUNCH

has grown as people living in tents seek basic furniture to get by, Wafi said. Even recycled furniture has become more costly as prices for basic components soar.

"Today people say, 'I just

need something to get by, something to get my clothes off the floor'... especially those (living) in tents," said Wafi, who has worked in carpentry for 16 years. "Due to the rats and cockroaches, they need a

IN A NUTSHELL

- Carpenters use scrap wood as construction materials remain scarce and costly
- Demand for basic furniture rises among displaced Gazans in poor living conditions
- Gazans living in tents seek beds to avoid sleeping on the floor

COGAT, the Israeli military agency that coordinates aid into Gaza, didn't respond to a request for comment. Wood is a construction material that Israel bans from entry to Gaza because it is considered a dual-use item - for civilian and also potential military use.

"We used to get a kilo of nails for 5 shekels (\$1.70). Today, a kilo of nails costs around 100 or 130 shekels," Wafi said. Hinges and other fittings have also multiplied in price.

Still, furniture made from pallets remains far cheaper than conventional bedroom sets, consisting of a bed, closet and dresser, he said. A pallet set sells for 4,000 to 5,000 shekels compared to 18,000 for a traditional set. Shortages of electricity and wood have slowed production, he added, leaving carpenters unable to guarantee delivery times.

leisure



ISA BRIONES ISSUES WARNING TO BROADWAY AUDIENCES

The Pitt star Isa Briones has issued a stark warning to theatregoers attending her Broadway show - urging them to stop yelling at her while she's performing. The 27-year-old actress shot to fame playing Dr. Trinity Santos in the hit HBO medical drama *The Pitt*.

HATHAWAY'S REVELATION ABOUT THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 2

Anne Hathaway has revealed her favourite costume from *The Devil Wears Prada 2* was removed from the final edit, despite its prominence during filming. The 43-year-old has reprised the role of Andy Sachs in the sequel directed by David Frankel, returning alongside Meryl Streep as Miranda Priestly.



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ARIES

Today, you feel free and liberated! And in that spirit, you want to travel or do things you loved doing as a child. A good time for a family outing, says Ganesha. Keeping in mind your mood, you may even make plans for the future for your near and dear.

TAURUS

You must learn to get to the root of a routine to keep things fresh today, feels Ganesha. Just learn the basic psychology of people and analyse the facts. All action and decision has a motive, you will need to understand the chain to get the most out of things, advises Ganesha.

GEMINI

You have a certain degree of equanimity when it comes to reacting to praise and criticism. Today, however, you will be emotional, and it won't be too bad. You will get appreciated at work and your liberal show of emotions will only make others like you more. Your colleagues will say three cheers for you.

CANCER

Today, Cupid will send its arrow right through your heart. You will be trembling with pain - the sweet pain of lust and love. But the overzealous Cupid may not stop at just that. Just to be completely sure, it will virtually do shooting practice at you. You can do nothing but tell your love interest how badly you have been hit.

LEO

It is good to be impulsive sometimes; but if one were to ask you today, you would be all for a meticulously planned approach to life. So much so that from now on, planning will become almost a part and parcel of your life, predicts Ganesha. So, it is expected that you plan everything to perfection today, although the execution of your plans may be a different story.

VIRGO

You will start the day by scribbling down things to do. But don't just jot them down; instead, set realistic goals and prioritise them. Items you mark highest will demand quick actions, cautions Ganesha.

LIBRA

It's a spiritual and harmonious mood that grips you today, feels Ganesha. You may want to focus on meditation, as you essentially seek peace. This may have something to do with the fact that at work, your subordinates may attempt to throw around their weight to force you to make drastic changes. But do not let it bother you too much. Just ensure that you consider all things at hand before you take any decision. Tackle things with tact, and remember to be calm. Breathe!

SCORPIO

It is more than likely that you will find yourself in a tricky situation today, says Ganesha. You may start the day feeling lonely and empty but yet, at the same time, you will have some responsibility that will prevent you from showing it. Try to keep your mind off negative thoughts. Work and friends will help you cheer up later in the day.

SAGITTARIUS

Stay stern, says Ganesha, as it might be necessary to exercise your grit to get the desired results today. Your presence may be dominating at the workplace, but your subordinates will find your manner pleasing as you hold them in awe of you. Do not get carried away by your success or the tables may turn, suggests Ganesha.

CAPRICORN

You will prioritise your needs, and the most critical would be the need to manage finances to save for the future. Also, the company you choose to keep will reflect the kind of person you are. So, beware of who you befriend, warns Ganesha.

AQUARIUS

Today, you will have a lot of fun with your siblings! Though generally well-organised and methodical, you will enjoy going with the flow of what your siblings and friends plan for you. Sometimes, spontaneity is a good thing, says Ganesha.

PISCES

There are indications you will be in hot pursuit of leisure today, says Ganesha. This will probably be in the form of a short trip to recharge your batteries, and is probably fuelled by your satisfaction in the realisation that the role you play within your organisation is consequential, satisfying as well as rewarding.

Kiara slams Toxic rumours

Chennai: KGF star Yash's upcoming gangster drama *Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups* may have faced multiple delays, but it continues to generate buzz. The latest chatter around the film directed by Geetu Mohandas was that Kiara Advani had requested changes to a romantic scene with Yash.

According to a report by Gulte, there was industry buzz suggesting that Kiara had asked the makers to tone down or shorten certain bold and intimate portions after seeing the final output. The report alleged that she had filmed a "bold romantic sequence" with Yash after being assured it would remain within her comfort zone, but later reconsidered after watching it.

The speculation went viral, with mixed reactions from fans. However, Kiara directly addressed the rumours after spotting an Instagram post by Koimoi that read, "Kiara Advani requests makers to tone down bold scenes with Yash in *Toxic*." Reposting it on her Instagram Stories, she dismissed the claims, writing, "Absolute nonsense!"

The film, a Kannada-English project, is directed by Geetu Mohandas and backed by KVN Productions and Monster Mind Creations, led by producer Venkat K Narayana and Yash. The actor plays a dual role, Raaya and Ticket, while Kiara essays the character of Nadia. The ensemble cast also includes Nayanthara, Huma Qureshi, Tara Sutaria, and Rukmini Vasanth.

Earlier, the film's promotional material had sparked criticism for its sensual tone.



Amrita's lessons from motherhood

Mumbai: Actress Amrita Rao has shared that motherhood teaches a person how to manage time. The actress spoke with this agency at a lifestyle event, and shared her thoughts on Mother's Day, as she said, "Mother's Day means time management. Motherhood teaches you how to manage time".

She also spoke about her childhood memories of celebrating the special day. She told IANS, "I remember when I was a kid, we used to draw a note for mom and say, Happy Mother's Day. But I think as you mature, the meaning of Mother's Day changes a lot. Especially when you become a mother, its meaning changes even more. You realise that motherhood is a non-stop, endless and countless responsibility. Once this responsibility starts, it lasts till the end".

Meanwhile, the actress was recently seen in *Jolly LLLB 3*. The film also starred Akshay Kumar and Arshad Warsi, bringing both lead characters from the earlier films together for the first time. Saurabh Shukla reprised his role as Justice Tripathi.

The film continues the franchise's focus on India's legal system, using courtroom proceedings as the central narrative device.



Rakul on ease of reunion

Mumbai: Actress Rakul Preet Singh has spoken about reuniting with actor Ayushmann Khurrana and director Mudassar Aziz for *Pati Patni Aur Woh* and said it's just easier when working with friends.

Rakul first worked with Ayushmann in the medical comedy-drama titled *Doctor G* in 2022. The actress worked with Aziz in the 2025 film *Mere Husband Ki Biwi*, which featured actors Arjun Kapoor and Bhumi Pednekar.

Talking about working with the two again, she explained how the comfort shaped her experience on set.

Rakul said in a statement: "I think what felt different this time reuniting was that there was an ease of working because obviously it's not your first time and you know the way an actor or a director approaches the film and their scenes and I think that comfort and ease really helps in having a good time on set so absolutely yes familiarity does change your approach of as it makes it simpler and more fun and you know you're already friendly with everybody, so I think it's just easier when you work with friends."

Alongside Rakul, the film also stars Sara Ali Khan, and Wamiqa Gabbi in key roles.



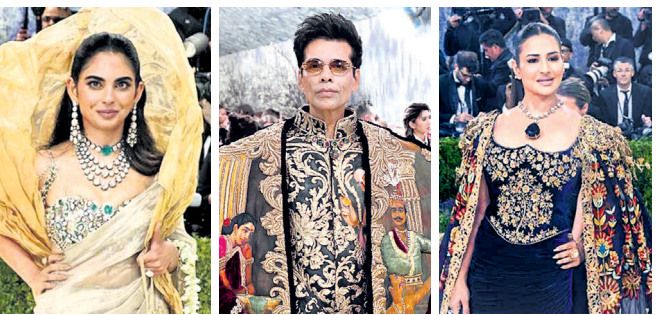
Best of Indian art, craft on display at Met Gala

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 5: Raja Ravi Varma, Ajanta cave paintings, Subodh Gupta, intricate embroidery and gemstones galore... art from the past and present and artists known and unknown came together in spectacular fashion at Met Gala 2026 where a band of Indian celebs made carefully curated style statements.

Isha Ambani wore a sari inspired outfit woven with 1,000 diamonds and 800 other precious stones, Sudha Reddy sported a USD 15 million necklace and Ananya Birla hid behind a glittering steel mask by Gupta.

With the industrialists at fashion's biggest night Monday



day was filmmaker Karan Johar in a resplendent cape replicating Varma's most famous paintings, philanthropist and entrepreneur Natasha Poonawala in an elaborate orchid inspired gown, Gauravi Kumari and Sawai Padmanabh Singh, members of Jaipur's erst-

while royal family, dressed in chiffon and velvet, and designer Manish Malhotra in a bandhgala with an ornate black and white cape.

Each outfit was literally a work of art, taking many hundreds of hours to make with scores of artisans working round the clock to achieve

the final look in accordance with the theme Costume Art and the dress code Fashion is Art. In creating the outfits, designers used traditional embroidery like ari, dabka and nakshi, kalamkari, zardozi and hand painting.

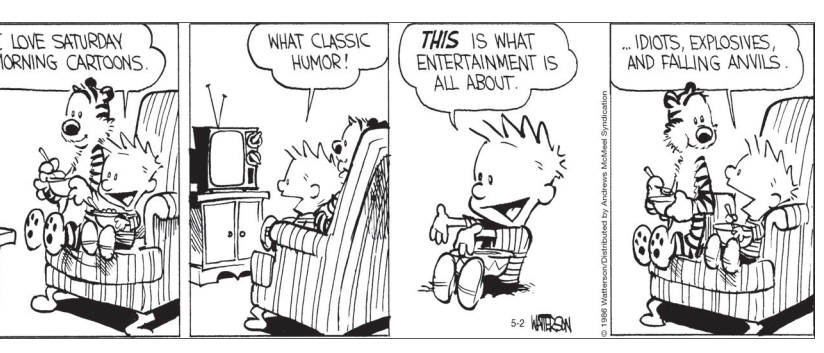
The annual event, held each May at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, was co-chaired this year by Beyonce, Venus Williams, Nicole Kidman and Anna Wintour.

The Met Gala is strictly invitation only with individual tickets reportedly costing around USD 100,000. A full table can run up to USD 350,000 or more. The seats and tables for celebrities are usually purchased by fashion houses, luxury brands and corporations.

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

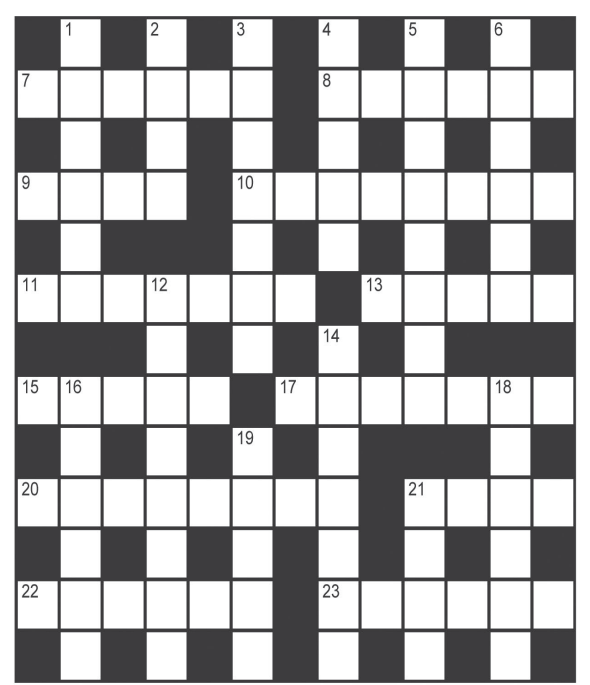


BREVITY



FUN POST

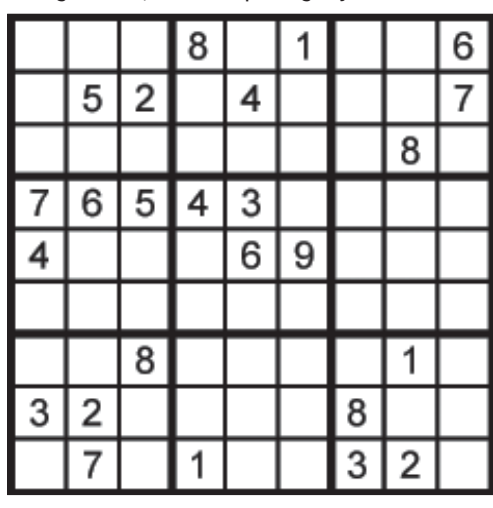
CROSSWORD



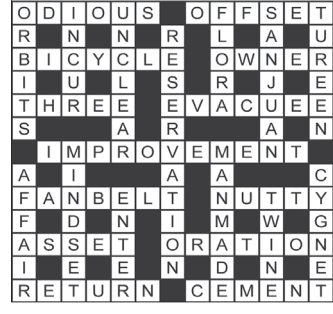
- Across**
- 7 Urban problem
 - 8 Acquire
 - 9 Ancestry
 - 10 Used car lack, at times
 - 11 Symbol of purity
 - 13 Irritation, in brief
 - 15 Come from behind
 - 17 Enthusiastic applause
 - 20 Waste
 - 21 Hearty hello
 - 22 Hearty party
 - 23 Links attendant
- Down**
- 1 Choice
 - 2 Bat's home
 - 3 Like some verse
 - 4 Fret
 - 5 Not curved
 - 6 Season
 - 12 Break down
 - 14 Ham it up
 - 16 Find not guilty
 - 18 Beginning
 - 19 Perfect
 - 21 Take cover

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Odisha set to emerge as power of east: CM



next phase of economic expansion will be stronger and more balanced with the rise of eastern India, placing Odisha at the centre of this transformation. "We are here with a clear message: Odisha is ready for the next chapter of India's industrial growth. We invite industry to explore, invest, and grow with us as we build a future-ready industrial ecosystem," he stated.

The roadshow was marked by focused engagements and two sectoral roundtables, including a Textile Round Table, and direct interactions with industry leaders, enabling meaningful dialogue on investment opportunities, policy support, and facilitation mechanisms.

The CM also chaired 26 one-on-one meetings, reflecting Odisha's commitment to responsive governance and investor-centric engagement. Discussions spanned a wide range of sectors, highlighting the state's growing capabilities across both established and emerging industries, the statement said. During sectoral interactions, particularly in textiles, the CM highlighted the deep cultural and economic connect between Odisha and Gujarat.

"We are building integrated industrial ecosystems that enable industries to invest, expand, innovate, and grow sustainably over the long term," he said, adding that Odisha's geography is a strategic advantage with a long coastline and operational ports.

Bhubaneswar, May 5: Beginning his three-day business trip to Gujarat, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Tuesday said Odisha is set to emerge as a "power" in the eastern region of the country.

Majhi said this while addressing a gathering of about 500 industry representatives from across the country at the Odisha Investors' Meet Roadshow in Ahmedabad.

He wooed the investors by asserting that Odisha has everything, from a long coastline to mineral and natural resources required for industries.

"Gujarat has powered India's west. Odisha is now ready to power India's east, offering scale, speed, and strategic access to the next frontier of growth. For industries looking ahead, Odisha presents not just an opportunity, but a long-term competitive advantage," Majhi told the industries at an event in Ahmedabad, an official release issued by the CMO said.

He emphasised that India's



OCEANIC JOURNEY: A train crosses the New Pamban Bridge at Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu, Tuesday

PTI PHOTO

PIL has become Paise Interest Litigation: SC on Sabarimala

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 5: Commenting on the misuse of PILs, the Supreme Court Tuesday remarked that Public Interest Litigation (PIL) has now become 'Private Interest Litigation', 'Publicity Interest Litigation', 'Paise Interest Litigation' and 'Political Interest Litigation'. This observation came from a nine-judge Constitution bench while they were hearing petitions regarding discrimination against women at religious sites, including the Sabarimala temple in Kerala as well as the scope of religious freedom across various faiths.

The bench comprised Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justices BV Nagarathna, MM Sundresh, Ahsanuddin Amanullah, Aravind Kumar, Augustine George Masih, Prasanna B Varale, R Mahadevan and Joymalya Bagchi.

The top court questioned the objective of the Indian Young Lawyers Association over its 2006 PIL challenging the prohibition of women aged 10 to 50 from entering the Sabarimala Temple in Kerala. Advocate Ravi Prakash Gupta, representing the Indian Young Lawyers Association, argued that the PIL



was based on four newspaper articles published in June 2006.

In response, the CJI remarked that the PIL should have been dismissed outright. "How does this article give the cause of action to file a PIL? It is easy to get articles written for the sake of filing PILs," the bench said.

CJI Kant added, "Why have you filed this PIL? Are you the chief priest of the country?" The lawyer responded that the organisation is a registered body.

Justice Nagarathna added, "We have been entertaining PILs in High Courts and in the Supreme Court for the general public who need it. Not for articles being written in newspa-

pers. Public Interest Litigation has now become Private Interest Litigation, Publicity Interest Litigation, Paise Interest Litigation and Political Interest Litigation. All are called PILs, but we entertain only real and genuine PILs," she said.

She also noted that the CJI receives hundreds of letters daily, questioning whether they could all be turned into PILs.

A five-judge Constitution bench had lifted the ban preventing women between the ages of 10 and 50 from entering the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple in a 4:1 majority verdict in September 2018, ruling that the centuries-old Hindu religious practice was illegal and unconstitutional.

New Railway Division at Rayagada

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 5: In a significant development for Odisha, a new railway division will be established at Rayagada under East Coast Railway, a move widely seen as strengthening the state's rail infrastructure.

The Ministry of Railways has also announced the creation of a new railway zone—South Coast Railway—with its headquarters at Visakhapatnam. The new zone will come into effect from June 1, 2026, following the issuance of an official gazette notification.

As part of the reorganisation, portions of the East Coast Rail-



way and South Central Railway will be merged to form the new zone.

The existing Waltair division will be bifurcated, with one part merged into the upcoming Rayagada division and the other forming the Visakhapatnam division under South Coast

Railway. Officials say the restructuring is aimed at improving operational efficiency and administrative convenience.

The proposed Rayagada division will span around 696 route kilometres, covering key stretches such as Koraput-Singapur Road, Kotavalasa-Kiran-

dul, and Gunupur-Paralakhemundi. This expansion is expected to significantly enhance rail connectivity across southern Odisha.

Additionally, jurisdictional changes will be implemented between the Khurda Road and Visakhapatnam divisions. The 53-km Palasa-Ichchapuram section will be transferred to the Visakhapatnam division, a step aimed at improving coordination and streamlining operations.

Railway authorities have also carried out further adjustments in divisional boundaries to ensure smoother and more efficient functioning of the network under the new structure.

2 Indians win Pulitzer for highlighting cyber fraud

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York, May 5: Indian journalists Anand RK and Suparna Sharma have won the prestigious Pulitzer Prize for their work highlighting digital surveillance and cyber fraud. The awards were announced Monday.

Anand and Sharma won the award in the Illustrated Reporting and Commentary category. They share the prize with Natalie Obiko Pearson of Bloomberg.

According to The Pulitzer



Prizes website, the award-winning work titled "trApped", produced for Bloomberg, narrates the "riveting account" of a neurologist in India who was held under a "digital arrest" through her phone, using a blend of "visuals and words" to

underscore the "growing global challenges of surveillance and digital scams".

The Pulitzer Prizes, administered by Columbia University, are regarded as among the highest honours in journalism, literature and music composition, recognising excellence in reporting and storytelling.

Similarly, the Minnesota Star Tribune's coverage of last year's mass shooting at a Minneapolis Catholic school took the Pulitzer Prize for breaking news.

Underpass to ease traffic at AG Square

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 5: The state government has initiated plans to address persistent traffic congestion at AG Square, one of the most sensitive and high-traffic junctions in the capital. The move comes in response to frequent disruptions caused by road closures during Assembly sessions, VVIP visits, and public protests, which often hinder access to the airport and the Capital Hospital.

A high-level review meeting chaired by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, and attended by Law and Works Minister Prithviraj Harichandan, directed the Works department to fast-track infrastructure solutions. Officials confirmed that the proposed plan includes developing a "Green Corridor" supported by the construction of multiple underpasses.

According to department sources, the stretch from Acharya Vihar to the Biju Patnaik International Airport will be widened into a six-lane road. Three underpasses are planned—one near the airport, another at Capital Hospital Square, and a third at AG Square.

The project blueprint also includes dedicated pedestrian pathways and parking facilities. The Odisha Bridge and Construction Corporation (OBCC) has been reportedly entrusted to execute the project.

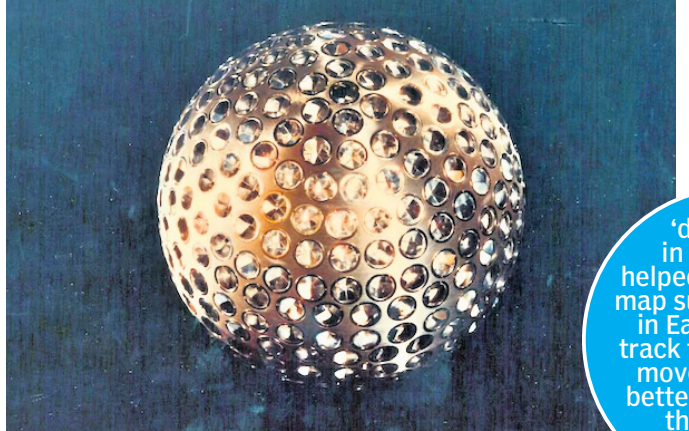
50-yr-old 'disco ball' satellite to circle Earth for millions of yrs

An unusual, glittering sphere—often likened to a 'disco ball'—launched into space by scientists more than 50 years ago is expected to keep circling Earth for millions of years. Known as AGEOS, or the Laser Geodynamic Satellite, this deceptively simple object has quietly transformed how researchers understand the planet, according to an 'India Today' report.

orbiting sphere and measure the time it takes for the light to return. These measurements allow them to calculate the satellite's distance with extraordinary precision, down to just a few millimetres.

"LAGEOS is elegantly simple—a ball covered with reflecting prisms," said Stephen Merkowitz, manager of NASA's Space Geodesy Project at the agency's Goddard Space Flight Center. "But it set a new standard for laser ranging and has provided 40 years of continuity for these measurements."

Over the past five decades, this 'disco ball' in space has helped researchers map subtle changes in Earth's shape, track tectonic plate movements, and better understand the planet's gravitational field.



It has also contributed to studies of Earth's rotation, offering insights into how mass shifts, such as melting ice sheets or earthquakes, affect the planet's spin.

Unlike most satellites, which have limited lifespans due to onboard systems failing, LAGEOS was designed for endurance. Its dense, spherical structure

minimises the effects of atmospheric drag and solar radiation, allowing it to maintain a remarkably stable orbit. It travels in a stable circular, pole-to-pole orbit more than 5,900 km above Earth's surface.

As a result, scientists expect it to remain circling Earth for millions of years.

The mission's longevity has made it one of the most reliable tools in geophysics. Data collected over decades has provided a consistent reference point, enabling long-term studies that would otherwise be

impossible.

What makes LAGEOS particularly remarkable is that its success lies in its simplicity.

In an era increasingly dominated by complex spacecraft and advanced electronics, the satellite demonstrates how elegant design can sometimes outperform cutting-edge technology.

The mission also shows the importance of sustained observation in science. While newer satellites continue to expand our capabilities, LAGEOS remains a cornerstone for understanding Earth's dynamic systems.

This 'disco ball' in space has helped researchers map subtle changes in Earth's shape, track tectonic plate movements, and better understand the planet's gravitational field

AGENCIES



AT LORD'S SERVICE: Roopakar servitors busy engraving figures on chariot parts at Rath Yard in Puri, Tuesday

PHOTO: YAGNESHWAR MOHANTY

Ensure uninterrupted power supply: Dy CM to DISCOMs

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, May 5: Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo Tuesday asked all power distribution companies (DISCOMs) to ensure uninterrupted and quality power supply across the state during the summer season.

Singh Deo chaired a high-level meeting with senior officials of the Energy department and CEOs of DISCOMs at Lok Seva Bhavan here to review preparedness for the upcoming summer season and nor'westers.

He directed officials to treat all consumer complaints on priority and resolve them within stipulated timelines.

DISCOMs were instructed to use only quality accessories and materials in maintenance and restoration work to prevent recurring faults and improve system reliability.

Stressing consumer-centric

- Officials told to treat all consumer complaints on priority and resolve them within stipulated timelines. Employees at all levels told to respond to consumers politely and proactively
- DISCOMs were instructed to use only quality accessories and materials in maintenance and restoration work to prevent recurring faults and improve system reliability
- DISCOMs, in coordination with urban local bodies, have been asked to ensure strict adherence to structural safety norms for all hoardings and billboards to prevent accidents during high winds and nor'westers

service delivery, Singh Deo said employees at all levels must respond to consumers politely and proactively. To strengthen grievance redressal, he ordered an increase in the number of dedicated teams handling consumer complaints. The Deputy CM, who holds the Energy portfolio, also reviewed public safety aspects related to electrical

infrastructure. He issued clear instructions regarding the installation of hoardings and billboards near power lines and installations.

DISCOMs, in coordination with urban local bodies, have been asked to ensure strict adherence to structural safety norms for all hoardings and billboards to prevent accidents during high winds and nor'westers.

He reiterated the state government's commitment to providing 24x7 reliable power to the people of Odisha and directed officials to remain on high alert during the summer months.

The Energy department and DISCOMs were asked to submit weekly compliance reports on the action points discussed.

The meeting was also attended by Energy department Additional Chief Secretary Vishal Kumar Dev and OPTCL Chairman-cum-Managing Director Bhaskar Jyoti Sarma.

BOYANIKA A SYMBOL OF TRUST, EXCELLENCE: MIN



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 5: Boyanika has become a symbol of trust, reliance, pride and excellence, Handlooms, Textiles and Handicrafts Minister Pradeep Bal Samanta said Tuesday.

Inaugurating the 70th Foundation Day celebrations of the Odisha State Handloom Weavers' Cooperative Society Ltd, popularly known as Boyanika, at Boyanika Exclusive here, Bal Samanta said the milestone commemorates seven decades of dedicated service in preserving the timeless legacy of Odisha handlooms and empowering weaver communities that sustain it.

FOUNDATION DAY

"Odisha's rich handloom tradition is a living reflection of our culture, heritage and identity. It provides livelihoods to thousands of weavers and strengthens the rural economy," Bal Samanta said.

He added, "Boyanika has become a symbol of trust, reliance, pride and excellence. It continues to serve as a distinguished ambassador of Odisha's handwoven heritage."

Handlooms, Textiles and Handicrafts department Commissioner-cum-Secretary Guha Poonam Tapas Kumar said that

throughout its seven-decade journey, Boyanika has established itself as a deeply trusted institution.

"To mark this special occasion and encourage wider public participation, Boyanika is offering an additional 10 per cent rebate over and above the existing 20 per cent rebate, allowing customers to avail a total benefit of 30 per cent on handloom products. This initiative not only enhances customer engagement but also directly contributes to increased earnings for the weaver community," she said.

In the financial year 2025-26, Boyanika achieved a turnover of ₹233.56 crore and has set a target of ₹280 crore for 2026-27, driven by retail expansion, digital integration and innovative marketing strategies. With a legacy rooted in tradition and a vision aligned with the future, Boyanika continues to weave a story of pride, purpose and progress, department sources said.

Director of Textiles and Handloom Somesh Kumar Upadhyay, Boyanika President Prakash Chandra Meher, Boyanika Managing Director Dr Nivedita Prusty and other senior officials were present on the occasion.

UN's Priesner meets Singh Deo, discusses cooperation

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 5: Stefan Priesner, UN Resident Coordinator in India, Tuesday called on Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo at Lok Seva Bhavan here and discussed avenues for collaboration in key sectors, including renewable energy.

During the discussions, Singh Deo, who also holds the Energy portfolio, highlighted Odisha's contribution to the country's vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', stating that the state is witnessing steady growth in agriculture, industry, and renewable energy. Singh Deo, who is also the Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment Minister, emphasised that agriculture remains a top priority, with a focus on enhancing farmers' income, promoting climate-resilient practices, and strengthening value chains.

Tourism and heritage conservation also figured prominently in the talks, with an emphasis on



developing sustainable tourism around key sites such as Ranipur-Jharial and Harishankar Temple, alongside preserving the state's rich cultural and tribal traditions.

Both sides explored opportunities for deeper collaboration between the Odisha government and the United Nations in India in areas such as renewable energy, rural livelihoods, and achieving the Sustainable

Development Goals.

Priesner appreciated Odisha's progress in agriculture and energy transition and expressed the UN's willingness to support the state through technology transfer, capacity building, and inclusive development initiatives. The meeting concluded with both sides agreeing to strengthen cooperation to make Odisha's development model more sustainable and self-reliant.

RS polls: CEO to meet BJD team over 2nd ballot paper issue

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, May 5: State's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) will meet a BJD delegation May 11 to discuss alleged irregularities in the issuance of a second ballot paper to two BJP MLAs during voting for the Rajya Sabha elections March 16, an official said Tuesday.

In a letter to BJD MP Samit Patra, Joint CEO Go-

pinath Kuan said, "I am directed to inform you that a BJD delegation may meet the CEO, Odisha, on May 11, 2026, at 11 am to discuss the issues raised in the email dated March 18, 2026. It is, therefore, requested to kindly make it convenient to attend the said meeting on the scheduled date, time and venue."

Patra had written to Chief Election Commissioner Gya-

nes Kumar alleging irregularities in the Rajya Sabha polls, including the issuance of a second ballot paper to BJP MLAs Upasna Mohapatra and Purna Chandra Sethy.

In response, Election Commission of India Under Secretary Rajendra Kumar Singh, in a communication dated April 29, requested the Odisha CEO to schedule an urgent meeting with the BJD delegation to ex-

amine the matter. Subsequently, the CEO has scheduled the meeting with the delegation for May 11.

Meanwhile, BJD president Naveen Patnaik has constituted a team, headed by BJD Legislature Party Deputy Leader Prasanna Acharya, to meet the CEO.

BJD Chief Whip and polling agent Pramilia Mallik, Deputy Chief Whip and party-author-

ised agent Pratap Deb, MLA and counting agent Arun Kumar Sahoo and MP and counting agent Sasmit Patra are the other members of the delegation.

Meanwhile, the BJD reiterated its demand for immediate statutory action on the alleged irregularities and sought a fair and transparent inquiry to uphold the sanctity of the electoral process.

CLASSIFIED AUTOMOBILE

SCHOOL BUS & WINGER AUCTION SALE

One School Bus of TATA MARCOPOLO-912 Model (2011) 41 Seater and TATA WINGER 28 NAFR 14 Seater of DAV Public School, Pokhariput, Bhubaneswar are on auction sale. All the documents of both the Vehicles are correct in all respect and in good running condition on road. Interested parties are required to verify the bus and Winger in our school premises before submission of sealed quotation. Last date for submission of quotation either through school mail or by hand in the school office on or before is 15.05.2026. If any query please contact over Mobile No. 9437518618, 9438445566, 9090005300

Thakur: RTOs must take on educator role as well

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, May 5: Expressing deep concern over the rising number of road accidents in Odisha, Transport Commissioner Amitabh Thakur Tuesday asked regional transport officers (RTOs) to not only function as regulators but also take on the role of educators to raise public awareness about road safety.

Following the direction of Commerce and Transport Minister Bibhuti Bhushan Jena, Thakur held a review meeting here with all deputy transport commissioners (DTCs), RTOs and additional RTOs on road safety.

Thakur said the increasing number of road mishaps is a matter of serious concern and that the government has directed strict measures to address the issue. "RTOs must work extensively at the ground level," he said.

"Many drivers are not following road safety rules and are driving recklessly, endangering not only their lives but also others. To prevent this, en-



forcement must be carried out in a planned manner," he said.

Thakur said special focus should be given to preventing violations such as drunk driving, carrying passengers in goods vehicles, illegal parking on highways, unauthorised vehicle modifications, and the use of mobile phones while driving.

"Additionally, district-level road safety challenges should be addressed through coordination among departments and with the support of district administrations," he said.

"RTOs should not only function as regulators but also take on the role of educators. They must create awareness among the public about traffic violations and their serious conse-

quences," Thakur said. He added that road safety should be taken up as a mass movement with public support.

The Transport Commissioner also indicated that road safety performance will play a key role in evaluating RTOs in the future.

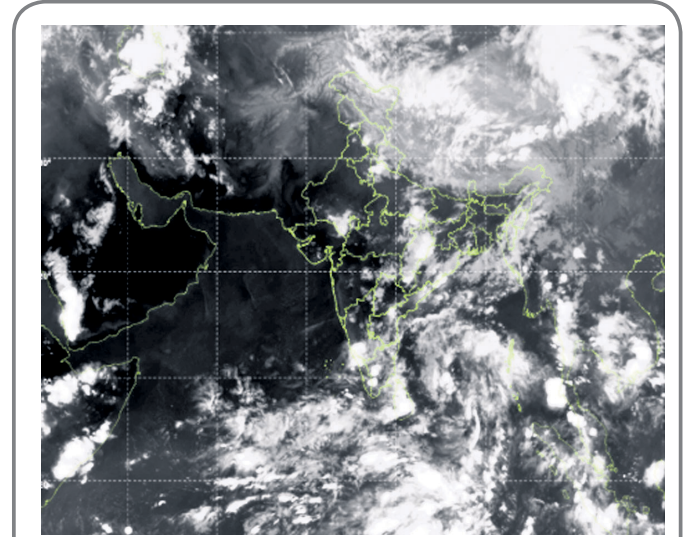
The meeting reviewed the performance of RTOs in delivering transport-related services over the past year.

Thakur also shared details about various initiatives taken by the department in road safety and transport sector reforms. Special emphasis was placed on reforms in issuing driving licenses, ensuring transparency in vehicle fitness certification, and using technology to curb reckless driving.

Special measures for pension distribution amid heatwave

Bhubaneswar: In response to the ongoing severe heatwave conditions across several districts in the state, the Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities department has issued an advisory to Madhu Babu Pension Yojana beneficiaries ahead of upcoming pension distribution scheduled for May 15. To safeguard vulnerable groups from extreme temperatures, the state government has directed authorities to implement a series of precautionary measures at all pension distribution centres. Officials have been instructed to ensure availability of adequate drinking water, ORS packets, and first-aid facilities at these locations. The department has also mandated doorstep delivery of pensions for senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and beneficiaries with pre-existing health conditions. Beneficiaries who still choose to collect their pensions in person have been advised to take necessary precautions. The advisory recommends carrying umbrellas, wearing proper footwear, and bringing water bottles. It also urges individuals to rest immediately in shaded areas if they feel unwell and to make use of heatwave relief arrangements provided at the centres.

CURRENCY			MARKET WATCH					
INDEX	VARIATION		INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION		
DOLLAR	95.36	▲ 0.02	SENSEX	77017.79	▼ 251.61	GOLD	₹150,017	▲ ₹678
EURO	111.77	▲ 0.02	NIFTY	24032.80	▼ 86.50	SILVER	₹245,385	▲ ₹1,490



WEATHER			
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	34.2°	32.8°	Light to Moderate rain or thunderstorm
Min Temp	23.8°	19.6°	
Humidity	80%	98%	
Rainfall	1.0mm	2.2mm	

Woman critical after self-immolation bid

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, May 5: A 26-year-old married woman is in critical condition after reportedly setting herself on fire in front of her father's house in Bhadrak district Tuesday afternoon, police said.

The incident took place at Padhuan village under Basudevypur block. The woman, identified as Pratima Sahu, sustained severe burn injuries and was first rushed to Basudevypur hospital. She was later shifted to Bhadrak District Headquarters Hospital and then referred to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack for specialised treatment.

Preliminary findings suggest she had been facing marital disputes following her marriage five years ago to a man from Balasore district, police said. Legal proceedings related to the marriage are currently pending in court and at a police station.

She had also reportedly been living with another married man from her native village for the past year. The woman has a child.

Family members said she had been repeatedly demanding money and jewellery from her father, who refused her demands. She reportedly returned from her partner's residence Tuesday around 1pm, demanded money again, and set herself ablaze after being denied. Police have launched an investigation into the matter.



Kangaroo court: 3 women injured in villagers' attack



POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh, May 5: Three members of a family were injured and their house was vandalised after a group of villagers allegedly held a 'kangaroo court' and attacked them in full view of police in Nayagarh district Tuesday morning, officials said.

The incident occurred in Jamusahi village under Sarankul police limits. Police said more than 30 people allegedly assaulted a woman and her two daughters following a dispute over a piece of land. The injured have been identified as Sarojini Nayak, 52, wife of Babula Nayak, their elder daughter Supriya, 33, and younger daughter Kuni, 29. Sarojini and Kuni are undergoing treatment at the district headquarters hospital.

According to police, the violence stemmed from a long-standing dispute over

land said to belong to the village deity, where the family had allegedly constructed a house. Tension escalated when villagers allegedly attacked the family, damaged their house and looted around ₹2 lakh in cash along with gold and silver ornaments.

Family members alleged that the attack took place even as police personnel were present in the village. They further claimed the mob first convened a kangaroo court and issued threats before attacking them.

Police have registered a case against 30 people and detained more than 10 villagers for questioning. Nayagarh police said further investigation is underway and appropriate legal action will be taken against those involved.

Officials added that attempts are being made to restore peace in the village, which remains tense following the incident.

Man arrested for killing sis-in-law

POST NEWS NETWORK

Muribahal, May 5: Bolangir police have solved the murder of a 42-year-old woman, Ranju Sahu, whose body was recovered from a disused well in Chitramunda village Sunday. Her brother-in-law, Bhaja Sahu, 53, has been arrested in connection with the killing.

According to police, Ranju went missing Saturday morning while working in her cotton field. Locals raised an alarm after she did not return home by evening. A search led to the discovery of her body in a well, prompting an immediate investigation by Muribahal police and a scientific team.

Police investigations revealed that the accused, motivated by unrequited love, attacked Ranju after she rejected his advances. He allegedly struck her with a stone leading to her death and disposed of the body in the well.

The suspect has been apprehended and produced before the court, said SDPO Laxmi Narayan Marandi. Police said the arrest came within hours of the body's recovery, following eyewitness accounts and local intelligence.

Jitu Munda attacked by brother over aid share

POST NEWS NETWORK

Patana, May 5: Jitu Munda, who grabbed national and global headlines after carrying his sister's skeletal remains to a bank as proof of death to withdraw money left in her bank account and subsequently received lakhs of rupees as aid, was chased and attacked by his younger brother demanding his share from the donations.

Wielding a stick, Shankara

Darpadalana wheel installed at Kotia



POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput, May 5: A wheel of Goddess Subhadra's chariot, Darpadalana, was installed Tuesday morning at the Jagannath Temple in Kotia, the locus of contention between Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, in Koraput district.

The installation was performed with traditional rituals and prayers in the presence of state Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari, state Law, Excise and Works Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan, and Pu-

ri Srimandir Chief Administrator and Additional Chief Secretary Arabinda Padhee.

Among others Koraput Collector Manoj Satyawana Mahajan, Pottangi MLA Rama Chandra Kadam, Jeypore MLA Tara Prasad Bahinipati, Koraput MLA Raghuram Machha, Zilla Parishad chairperson Sasmita Meleka, members of the Koraput Jagannath Temple Management Committee and other dignitaries were present during the event. The sacred wheel was

brought in a grand and traditional procession from Ganjeipadar village to the temple, covering a distance of nearly one kilometre. The procession featured a vibrant Kalasa Yatra, with women carrying sacred water pots on their heads. Upon reaching the temple, the wheel was installed and worshipped as per traditional rituals performed by temple priests. A large number of devotees gathered to witness the ceremony and offer their prayers.

Tehsil amin caught taking ₹15,000 bribe

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir, May 5: An amin of the Bangomunda tehsil in Bolangir district was arrested by the Vigilance department while allegedly accepting a bribe of ₹15,000 for processing land-related work.

The accused, identified as Nirmalendu Kabi, was

caught red-handed Tuesday while taking the bribe from an applicant for land partition and issuance of land patta (ROR).

According to officials, complainant Harekrushna Meher of Bhalumunda village had applied for land partition and patta at the Bangomunda tehsil office. The accused allegedly de-

manded ₹15,000 to complete the work. Meher later lodged a complaint with the Vigilance department.

Acting on the complaint, a Vigilance team laid a trap and caught the amin red-handed while he was accepting the bribe inside the tehsil office premises. The tainted cash was seized

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender No.: eT-CRW-MCS-EL-4-2026

Name of Work: HEALTH CHECK OF 1100AH, 290AH, 70AH VRLA BATTERY BANK AND REPLACEMENT OF OVERAGED BATTERY BANK WITH NEW BATTERY BANK IN AC COACHES & POWER CAR AND STRIPPING & STACKING OF ELECTRICAL EXCLUDED EQUIPMENTS FROM CONDEMNED COACHES AT CARRIAGE REPAIR WORKSHOP (CRW/MANCHESWAR (MCS)) FOR 24 MONTHS.

Advised Value: ₹ 37,09,135.06, Earnest Money: ₹ 74,200.00, Period of Completion: 24 Months.

Bidding Start Date: 08.05.2026.

Date & time of tender closing: At 1700 hrs. on 22.05.2026.

Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

Complete information including e-tender documents are available in website: www.ireps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer/ Carriage Repair Workshop/ PR-111/R/26-27

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

Sr. DCM(Co-Ord)/Chakradharpur, South Eastern Railway acting for & on behalf of the President of India invites e-Tender against Tender No. Com4-Drone-DJHR-BSPX-26 open on 21.05.2026 at 15:30 hrs. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. e-Tender Notice No.: Com4-Drone-DJHR-BSPX-26, Date: 30.04.2026. Name of the Work: Deployment of Drone service for real time surveillance, monitoring and detection of uneven loading at Deojhar (DJHR) & Banspani (BSPX) Goods Shed for a period of Two months on Open Tender basis. Departmental value: ₹ 37,55,834.56. Cost of tender form: ₹ 3,000. Earnest Money: ₹ 75,100. Date & Time for closing of e-Tender: 21.05.2026 at 15:30 hrs. The tender details can be viewed at Web site <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. The tenderer/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate in e-Tendering. (PR-120)

For and on behalf of President of India, the Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRS), South Eastern Railway, Bondamunda invites open e-Tender for the under mentioned work. Manual offers are not allowed against the tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. e-Tender Notice No.: TRS-BNDM-02-2026-27, Dated: 02.05.2026. Description of work: Cleaning of major equipments of electric locomotives for 2 years at ELS/Bondamunda. Approx. Cost of work: ₹ 2,12,47,446.60. Earnest Money: ₹ 2,56,300. Date & time for closing: e-Tender: 25.05.2026 at 17:00 hrs. Website particulars & details: <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. The complete particular of the E-Tender will be available on website. (PR-123)

SAMADHAN SAMAROH 2026
A SPECIAL LOK ADALAT
BY THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

No.18001/23/2627 : "Samadhan Samaroh 2026", a Special Lok Adalat is going to be organized on 21st, 22nd and 23rd August, 2026 at the Supreme Court of India with an aim to make justice simple, accessible and to help parties resolve their pending cases through mutual agreement and dialogue. It has commenced from 21st April, 2026 which fosters an environment for settlement of disputes only with consent of parties and is a voluntary process.

Matrimonial disputes, Accident Claim Cases, Cheque Bounce Cases, Land Acquisition Disputes, Criminal Compoundable Cases, Labour Law Disputes and other cases that are suitable for mutual agreement and settlement pending before the Supreme Court of India will be taken up in this Special Lok Adalat.

Prior to the Special Lok Adalat, there will be a Pre-Lok Adalat sitting in which an opportunity will be given to the parties for mutual discussion and after that the conditions of the settlement will be determined of which notice will be given to both the parties of a case. Physical as well as Virtual meetings will be conducted at High Court, District or Taluk level Mediation Centers for settling cases where Trained Mediators and officials of Legal Services Authority will extend necessary assistance to the parties. Interested parties having their case before the Supreme Court of India may register their request though a Google Form available at <https://www.sci.gov.in>.

All concerned are requested to participate in "Samadhan Samaroh 2026". For queries, please reach out to the nearby Legal Services Authority or dial 15100.

Member Secretary
Odisha State Legal Services Authority,
Aain Seva Bhawan, Sector-1,
CDA, Cuttack,
oslsa1997@gmail.com,
9438578586
OIPR-18001/18008/2/26-27/0011

2nd National Lok Adalat, 2026
Scheduled to be held on 09.05.2026 (2nd Saturday)
Kind Attention

- Do you have any pending litigation before a Court of Law or a dispute with anyone ?
- Then, you can take help of a Lok Adalat which provides a platform for resolution of disputes through conciliation and mutual settlement.
- The 2nd National Lok Adalat will be conducted in the premises of Hon'ble High Court of Orissa and Courts functioning at District and Taluk level on **09.05.2026 (2nd Saturday)**.
- In the aforesaid National Lok Adalat, Criminal Compoundable Offences as well as, Plea Bargaining Cases, N.I. Act cases under Section 138, Bank Recovery Cases, Motor Accident Claim cases, Compoundable Traffic Challans, Labour dispute cases, Disputes related to Public Utility Services such as Electricity & Water Bills cases etc. (excluding non-compoundable), Matrimonial Disputes (except divorce)/Family disputes, Land Acquisition cases, Service matters including Pension Cases, Revenue and other ancillary matters (pending before Hon'ble High Court of Orissa, District Courts and State/District/Taluka Authorities), IPR matters/ Consumer matters, other matters pending before any other quasi-judicial authority and other Civil Cases (rent, easementary rights, injunction suits, specific performance suits etc.) can be taken up and resolved through mutual settlement.
- Not only cases pending in the Courts but also N.I. Act cases under section 138, Money Recovery cases, Labour disputes, Disputes related to Public Utility Services (excluding non-compoundable cases), Matrimonial disputes (except divorce)/Family disputes and others at Pre-litigation stage (not pending before Courts) can be settled in the said National Lok Adalat.
- The parties settling their disputes through Lok Adalat do not have to incur any expenditure and the decision arrived at is valid, conclusive and executable.
- The parties are entitled to get back the court fees already paid; in case the matter is settled through Lok Adalat.
- The Lok Adalat provides a golden opportunity to the litigants for settlement of long-standing disputes in the Court of Law without incurring any expenditure.
- For detailed inquiry, you can contact District Legal Services Authority or Taluk Legal Services Committee.

Member Secretary
Odisha State Legal Services Authority,
'Aain Seva Bhawan', Sector-1, CDA, Cuttack
Mob.9438578586/8249542259
e-mail Id- oslsa2020@gmail.com
OIPR-18001/18008/2/26-27/0012

Armed robbers loot businessman's house

Lanjigarh: Armed miscreants looted cash and gold ornaments from the house of businessman Anand Agarwal at Jagannathpur village under Lanjigarh police station limits in Kalahandi district late Monday night. Police said five to six masked intruders broke open the main gate and entered the house. They allegedly held Agarwal and his wife Babita at knifepoint and looted around ₹9 lakh in cash, 15 tolas of gold ornaments and 50 tolas of silver jewellery. The gang also snatched four mobile phones before fleeing. The incident occurred between 2:30am and 3:30am, during which the robbers terrorised the family for nearly an hour. After managing to alert neighbours, the victim informed police. A team led by the OIC of Lanjigarh police station, Jashobant Hial, reached the spot and launched an investigation. Kalahandi SPO Sandip Majhi also visited the scene. Police have registered a case (41/2026) and began a probe.

Odisha migrant worker killed in Kerala accident

Chikiti: A migrant worker from Odisha was killed in a workplace accident at a private construction site in Kerala's Thiruvananthapuram area, officials said Tuesday. The deceased, identified as Abhimanyu Pradhan, 57, was a resident of B. Nuapada village under Chikiti block in Ganjam district. He had been working as a labourer in various cities, including Jaipur, Chennai and Hyderabad, for several years. The accident occurred Monday while Pradhan was working at a construction site in Thiruvananthapuram. A crane belt snapped while lifting a pillar frame, causing the load to fall and fatally injure him. Co-workers rushed him to a nearby government hospital, where he died during treatment. Police reached the hospital and took custody of the body. A post-mortem examination is expected to be conducted. Pradhan had returned to Kerala about 20 days ago after visiting his village for a temple event.

Chhatrapur: Month-long Thakurani Jatra begins



POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, May 5: The 33-day-long Thakurani Jatra began early Tuesday in Chhatrapur of Ganjam district with the presiding deity Maa Ramayanamma embarking on a ceremonial journey to Her paternal home, marking the start of one of the region's major religious festivals.

The festival will continue until June 5, culminating in the Chhatrapur Mahotsav during the final week. The event schedule was finalised at a recent meeting chaired by Gan-

jam Collector V. Keerthi Vasani, along with organising committee members and officials. According to tradition, the deity visits Her paternal home once every two years and tours surrounding areas accompanied by sister deities, receiving offerings from devotees along the route. The procession was carried out amid devotional chants and celebrations across the town.

Committee secretary Samarendra Senapati appealed for cooperation from the district administration, police, fire services, volunteers, media

and devotees to ensure smooth conduct of the festival. Organisers said security arrangements have been tightened, with special focus on crowd control, traffic regulation and parking management. Authorities have also prioritised drinking water, healthcare services, sanitation and uninterrupted electricity supply throughout the festival period.

As part of the celebrations, devotional songs featuring popular Odia singers Aseema Panda and Satyajit Pradhan were released on social media platforms.

The concluding Chhatrapur Mahotsav will feature cultural performances by artists and dance troupes from across Odisha and other parts of India, alongside exhibitions of handlooms, local cuisine and regional products.



“**Whatever has courage can give courage to others just as the flame of the candle can light up another**”

THE MOTHER

Systemic Harassment

The growing tendency of different state police forces to cross jurisdictional boundaries in order to arrest individuals for their opinions marks a troubling shift in India's legal and political landscape. What was once governed by established procedural safeguards now appears, in several instances, to be replaced by a more muscular, immediate form of law enforcement that prioritises coercive action over due process. The implications extend far beyond individual cases. At stake is the delicate balance between citizen and state, where dissent, considered an essential democratic right, is increasingly treated as a prosecutable offence that transcends territorial limits.

This is not an aberration confined to one political party only. Across the political spectrum, virtually all political parties in power seem eager to deploy their state machinery to pursue critics. The cumulative effect is the normalisation of a playbook that privileges intimidation over dialogue, raising uncomfortable questions about the erosion of civil liberties and the shrinking space for free speech of citizens.

The 2021 arrest of climate activist Disha Ravi offers a stark illustration. Picked up from Bangalore by Delhi Police in connection with a digital “toolkit” linked to the farmers’ protests, the operation drew immediate scrutiny from legal experts. It may be pertinent to mention here that the Delhi Police is fully controlled by the Union Home Ministry. Concerns were raised over the apparent bypassing of procedural norms, including the failure to secure a transit remand from an appropriate local court or adequate coordination with local police.

A similar pattern was visible in the 2018 arrest of a Delhi socialite Abhijit Iyer-Mitra. Following controversial remarks about the Konark Sun Temple, the Biju Janata Dal controlled Orissa Police travelled to Delhi to take him into custody. His case was however a bit different as he had applied for anticipatory bail in the Supreme Court under the pretext of his life being in danger which the Apex court rejected, thereby compelling Orissa Police to go to Delhi and fetch him. What followed was a prolonged legal ordeal involving multiple FIRs and even a breach of privilege motion by the Orissa Assembly. The episode, which ended only after an unconditional apology from Abhijit Iyer-Mitra, who was in judicial custody for over a month in Bhubaneswar’s Jharpada jail, and withdrawal of charges, highlighted how legal processes themselves can become instruments of prolonged punishment.

More recent cases suggest that the trend has not abated. In May 2025, Mamata Banerjee’s Trinamool Congress governed Kolkata Police arrested law student Sharmistha Panoli from Gurgaon Haryana over alleged communal remarks made in a video. Despite her subsequent apology and removal of the content from social media, she faced multiple charges before securing interim bail. Critics viewed the episode as disproportionate, reinforcing concerns about the criminalisation of free speech.

The attempted arrest of Congress leader Pawan Khera in April, 2026 further illustrates how such state powers can intersect with political rivalry. Acting on allegations linked to defamatory claims against BJP ruled Assam’s Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma’s wife Riniki Bhuyan Sarma, Assam Police initiated proceedings against Khera that were ultimately checked by judicial intervention. The Supreme Court’s remarks, cautioning against politically motivated arrests, served as a reminder that the power to detain must not become a tool of partisan retribution. Assam Police had reached his Delhi residence to arrest but as he was in Congress ruled Telangana at that time, it saved him from imminent harassment.

In May 2026, Congress ruled state Telangana’s Police move to pursue Doordarshan journalist Ashok Shrivastav in connection with critical remarks regarding the Congress and its leadership during his TV shows on the government channel signals that the continued readiness of states, no matter which party is in power where, to extend their reach beyond borders in matters of free speech is worrisome. A case was registered at Begumpura police station in Hyderabad based on a complaint by a member of the Youth Congress alleging that Shrivastav used “derogatory” and “insulting” comments about Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge during his programmes. Telangana Police arrived at his residence in Ghaziabad, to serve a notice and initiate legal proceedings. Reports indicate that Shrivastav, possibly due to getting tipped off earlier, could not be found at his home when the police arrived.

In most such cases, the High Courts are generally noticed siding with the state governments. Precisely to insulate the judiciary from local pressures and ensure impartiality, the policy of appointing Chief Justices of High Courts from outside their home states had emerged in the late 1970s. Following the controversial mass transfer of judges during the Emergency, the Law Commission’s 80th Report in 1979 formally recommended that High Court Chief Justices should be from outside the state. It reflected an understanding that federal structures require checks against provincial overreach. Ironically, while such safeguards sought to preserve neutrality and fairness, contemporary politically motivated policing practices risk undermining those very principles since the judiciary is constantly failing to stop government machinery from persecuting individual citizens.

The case of Ranveer Allahbadia, a podcaster and YouTuber shows another interesting aspect. For an alleged vulgar remark on a TV channel, various people were politically motivated to file cases against him at different locations across the country. It was a clear case of terrorising an individual for speaking up, vulgar or otherwise. Courts are not noticed to take initiative to club such cases which are obviously designed to harass and humiliate a helpless individual.

India’s democratic resilience has long depended on its ability to accommodate dissent within the framework of law. The increasing use of interstate police action to curb free speech threatens to invert that very framework.

ACCOUNTING FOR ATROCITY

FOCUS POLITICS

What should be done about mass murderers once the regime they served is toppled? Countries all over the world, from post-Nazi Germany to post-junta Argentina, have faced this problem. The process is always messy and riddled with hypocrisies.

Now it’s Syria’s turn to confront this question. A 40-year-old man named Amjad Youssef was recently arrested for his role in the shooting of an estimated 288 blindfolded civilians over an open pit in 2013. Unfortunately for Youssef, the killers documented the brutal deed, now known as the Tadamon massacre, after the Damascus neighbourhood where it took place, in a series of videos.

Youssef, who was a military intelligence officer under the ruthless dictatorship of Bashar al-Assad, deserves to be prosecuted, if only to give his victims’ relatives a sense that justice has been served. But that would not settle the matter. Youssef may have been involved in other atrocities.

More significantly, Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa has retained other suspected war criminals as advisers. Fadi Saqr, for example, is helping the new government negotiate with rebellious remnants of Assad’s regime. More powerful than Youssef, Saqr commanded a militia accused of taking a leading role in the Tadamon massacre.

Saqr might still be prosecuted, but the government’s stated reason for protecting him so far is a familiar one: a balance must be struck between justice and stability. Ensuring a mostly peaceful transition from dictatorship—a process that could easily devolve into sectarian violence or even civil war—depends on at least some people from the old regime being pacified, co-opted, and integrated into the new order.

This is why, after World War II, General Charles de Gaulle



Ensuring a mostly peaceful transition from dictatorship—a process that could easily devolve into sectarian violence or even civil war—depends on at least some people from the old regime being pacified, co-opted, and integrated into the new order

pretended that all French citizens had been upstanding patriots under German occupation. The trials of Nazi collaborators, many from the Vichy regime, had to be kept to a minimum.

Less than ten years after the war, West Germany’s first chancellor, Konrad Adenauer, who had never been a Nazi himself, supported releasing Nazi war criminals from prison, and even appointed some of them to his government. His rationale? “One doesn’t throw out dirty water, as long as one doesn’t have clean water.”

While clearly unjust, is such a response always unjustified? The first problem after the fall of a criminal regime is to decide who to prosecute for its crimes. In the case of Hitler’s Third Reich, hundreds of thousands—perhaps even millions—of people had been complicit in the persecution and extermination of the Jews. Not only were the torturers and murderers implicated, but so were jurists who wrote racial laws, professors who defended them, soldiers who participated in mass shootings, and even the lowly railway administrators who ensured the trains reached the death camps on time.

Prosecuting them all would have been impossible. The courts would have been overwhelmed for decades. And in a country where the judiciary itself was deeply corrupted by the criminal regime, it was not even clear which courts could legitimately have tried such cases. In any case, massive purges of elites can fracture societies into warring factions and make them ungovernable, as happened in Iraq after the fall of Saddam Hussein.

This is why, in 1945, the Allied powers decided to place only the surviving Nazi and Japanese leaders on trial for war crimes (in Nuremberg and Tokyo, respectively). Many people who had served them in the bureaucracy, the judiciary, the corporate world, and the armed forces went scot-free. Even some leaders avoided punishment: many Japanese war crimes were committed in the name of Emperor Hirohito, but the United States allowed him to remain on the throne to preserve political stability.

The Nuremberg and Tokyo war crimes trials have been accused of imposing “victor’s justice,” with some arguing that it would have been better for German and Japanese courts to try their own people. But it

is hard to see how this could have worked. As de Gaulle and Adenauer recognised, they needed the support of tainted elites to rebuild their broken societies. Regardless, the “victors” later stopped trying war criminals when their former enemies became allies against Communist powers.

In fact, German courts did try Nazi criminals, but not until the 1960s, once the Federal Republic of Germany was a relatively stable democracy. But even those trials, against the operators of death camps in Poland, achieved only partial justice. Some of the worst thugs went to prison, while the majority of the people who cooperated in less violent ways went unpunished. That was probably inevitable; perfect justice is a utopian dream.

More important than punishment is an honest appraisal of the past. The gravest insult to former victims is to forget what was done to them. But it takes time to remember. A serious reckoning with France’s Nazi collaborators began only in the 1970s, after the American historian Robert Paxton published his classic book *Vichy France: Old Guard and New Order* on Marshal Philippe Pétain’s puppet regime. Now that Spain is a democracy, the wounds of the Spanish Civil War are written about more than ever.

Syria’s new leaders should not be judged too harshly. Their first task is to prevent their country from spiraling into disorder and reaching new depths of violence and depravity. To manage this exceedingly difficult task, fuller accountability for the Assad regime’s killers, torturers, and enablers may have to wait a little longer.

The writer is the author of numerous books, most recently, Spinoza: Freedom’s Messiah (Yale University Press, 2024).

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Ian Buruma

THE FIRST PROBLEM AFTER THE FALL OF A CRIMINAL REGIME IS TO DECIDE WHO TO PROSECUTE FOR ITS CRIMES

IN JEST THIS

Squirrels are cute & harmless – or are they?

I’ve always thought of squirrels as cute, harmless creatures, but I’m beginning to wonder if they just have a very good Department of Public Relations. The department ensures that any negative stories about squirrels are drowned out by positive stories, some of them in children’s books with titles such as “The Busy Little Squirrel,” “The Kind, Generous Squirrel” and “A Squirrel’s Life: Chasing Nuts, Berries and Friendship.”

I had such a positive impression about squirrels that I found it preposterous that one member of my family — let’s use the name ‘A’ — is deathly afraid of squirrels. Unfortunately for A, squirrels are so common around our home that A, when returning from school, had to often run down our driveway at breakneck speed to avoid being attacked by them. If A ever becomes a filmmaker and creates a horror movie, it would be called “Revenge of the Rodents.”

I found A’s fear of squirrels

quite ludicrous, but that was before I read an article about the Rampaging Rodent of Rajasthan. According to news reports, a squirrel has bitten more than 18 people on the campus of an Udaipur college over the last several weeks. The squirrel has even bitten the dean at University College of Arts at Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur, raising suspicion that the squirrel was extremely unhappy about its exam scores.

College staff member Dinesh Chandra Gurjar told Bhaskar English that the squirrel bit two scholars from his department on 22 April. “The next morning, when I came to the office, the squirrel was hiding behind the curtains and suddenly jumped at me, but I managed to run away without being bitten,” he said.

Hiding behind the curtains? The squirrel may not be a student at the college, but it has evidently gained admission. Visitors to the college should not be surprised if they see a large “Beware of Squirrel!” sign.

“Fear has increased so much that people are now afraid of even normal squirrels, thinking it might be the same one,” Gurjar said.

He is suggesting, of course, that this squirrel is abnormal. Normal squirrels do not go on biting sprees, just as normal humans do not go on shooting sprees. But tell me this: when was the last time you heard of a cat or dog biting more than 18 people?

If a dog or cat does start biting people, animal control officers would be summoned to quickly take care of the problem. In the case of the squirrel, however, an Animal Aid rescue team has been unable to capture it, despite setting traps in multiple locations. Perhaps it’s time to call in reinforcements, such as a special tactical unit from the NSG (National Security Guard). They would surround the area, fire a few warning shots in the air, and force the squirrel to come out with its tail in the air.

You may be wondering why a squirrel would attack

people randomly, as it seems to be doing. One theory is that the squirrel has a nest nearby and is protecting its young from potential predators. This squirrel may be aware that humans, in many parts of the world, consider squirrel meat a delicacy of sorts. In fact, every September, in the US city of Springdale, Arkansas, hundreds of chefs gather to compete in the World Champion Squirrel Cook-Off. They create dishes such as squirrel tacos, squirrel corn dogs, and, of course, squirrel curry.

It’s worth noting that the squirrel in Udaipur is hardly the first squirrel to attack humans. Last September, for example, a squirrel reportedly attacked five people in Marin County, California, sending three of them to the emergency room. It’s believed that the squirrel was once fed by humans, had gotten used to it, and was now attacking other humans for not feeding it.

I still consider squirrels to be cute animals, but I will admire them from a distance.

WISDOM CORNER

“The degree of freedom from unwanted thoughts and the degree of concentration on a single thought are the measures to gauge spiritual progress”

RAMANA MAHARSHI

“From a certain point onward there is no longer any turning back. That is the point that must be reached”

FRANZ KAFKA

“Sometimes you are in sync with the times, sometimes you are in advance, sometimes you are late”

BERNARDO BERTOLUCCI

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1882: US President Chester A. Arthur signed the Chinese Exclusion Act, the first and only major federal legislation to explicitly suspend immigration for a specific nationality.

1915: American motion-picture actor and director Orson Welles was born in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Honour people’s will

Sir, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee’s refusal to step down after her party’s sweeping electoral decimation is deeply disgraceful. Democracy is built on the principle that power is temporary and conditional upon public trust. When voters deliver a clear rejection, clinging to office betrays that contract. Her allegations that the Election Commission and CRPF deployment orchestrated the defeat are hollow. These constitutional bodies ensure impartial elections and security for voters. Blaming them avoids responsibility and weakens faith in democratic institutions. Political parties and leaders must relearn the basic tenets of democracy: mandates shift, defeat is instructive, and accountability is non-negotiable. Respecting the ballot means accepting loss with grace. Refusing to resign after repudiation insults the electorate and sets a corrosive precedent. True leadership lies in honoring the people’s will, even when it ends one’s tenure.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

None to blame

Sir, Apropos “Shock defeats for Mamata, Stalin,” Orissa Post, May 5, I am sorry to comment that Mamata is herself responsible for her defeat. She could not cut to size some of her party leaders who showed arrogance to the public. They reportedly indulged in corruption and misused their powers with the full knowledge of Mamata. Knowing full well of the ground reality Mamata remained indifferent. The people are left with no choice but to repose faith in BJP, a party which failed to provide good governance in the country.

Arun Gupta, KOLKATA

Judicial introspection

Sir, The recent Supreme Court censure of Odisha judiciary for imposing regressive bail conditions is deeply disturbing. Directing accused persons, largely from marginalised communities, to clean police stations violates dignity and presumption of innocence. The apex court rightly termed such practices as cruel, unconstitutional and reflective of caste bias, warning that justice cannot be punitive before trial. These orders expose a colonial mindset unworthy of a modern judiciary. Bail conditions must be fair, humane and legally sound. Urgent judicial introspection, accountability and sensitisation are essential to restore faith in justice delivery. Otherwise, such aberrations will erode constitutional morality.

Sidhartha Kar Mohapatra, BARPADA

HC FREES 50 STRANDED SEAFARERS

Bombay High Court raps vessel owners for treating crew worse than pets

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 5: The Bombay High Court Tuesday directed the release of 50 seafarers stranded on three ships arrested off the Mumbai coast, slamming vessel owners for treating crew members worse than “pet animals” by providing minimal food and water for months.

“Life comes only once. We don’t believe in rebirth,” the court observed while accusing the ship owners of being “least interested in human lives” and prioritising their commercial activities over the health of the crew.



The seafarers, in their plea in HC, claimed that they were stranded with a minimum supply of food and water on the vessels, which were practically abandoned by the owners, following arrest for illegal fuel oil and bitumen transfers mid-sea, about 11 nautical miles from the city.

As many as 50 seafarers were stranded onboard MT Asphalt Star, MT Stellar Ruby and MT

Al Jafzia, and seven of them moved the high court with a habeas corpus (produce the person) petition.

The court Monday ordered the Yellow Gate police to produce all 50 seafarers before it Tuesday.

All seafarers were produced before a bench of Justices Ravindra Ghuge and Hiten Venegaonkar, and they informed that none of them wished to return to their ves-

sels as they were wrongfully detained there.

The seafarers informed the bench that they were living on the vessels with minimal food and water and were given just 300 ml of water each day.

The court pulled up the vessel owners, accusing them of being the least interested in human lives and only being concerned about their vessels and commercial activities.

“How can you (owners) give

the crew members only 300 ml of water every day? Even pet animals in our homes get more water each day. We will not allow human lives to be treated in such a manner. Life comes only once. We don’t believe in rebirth,” the court held.

Ordering the release of all 50 seafarers, the bench stated that it would take care of human lives, while the vessel owners can take care of their arrested ships.

“We are not concerned with your ship and vessels. That is not the scope of this habeas corpus petition. The owners’ conduct is such that they don’t value human lives. They only care about their commercial activities,” it said.

The court noted that with a minimum food and water supply, the health of the seafarers would take a hit, which cannot be permitted.

It directed the Yellow Gate police to complete all formalities for the 50 seafarers and release them.

Mumbai Police form SIT to probe fake birth certificate cases

MUMBAI: The Mumbai Police have constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe cases involving alleged bogus birth certificates obtained through forged documents in the city, officials said Tuesday.

The city’s civic authorities have found that more than 87,000 bogus birth certificates were allegedly issued between 2024 and 2026 by manipulating official records. Mayor Ritu Tawde separately said she has directed Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) officials to cancel 87,347 certificates issued over the past two to three years, and to initiate a police investigation into the matter.

The Mumbai crime branch earlier launched an investigation after receiving a large number of complaints suggesting fraudulent birth certificate registrations. However, given the seriousness of the issue, Mumbai Police Commissioner Deven Bharti ordered the formation of the SIT for a thorough investigation into the offences and complaints received, the official said.

The SIT will be headed by the joint commissioner of police (crime) and will include senior officers from the crime branch, special branch and detection units, he said.

UP CM asks para-teachers to adopt constructive approach



For years, you had demands, but instead of allowing them to progress naturally, they were often pursued through confrontation. We must move towards resolution through dialogue

YOGI ADITYANATH | CHIEF MINISTER, UTTAR PRADESH

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gorakhpur (UP), May 5: Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath Tuesday asked ‘shiksha mitras’ (para-teachers) to adopt a positive and constructive approach, emphasising dialogue over confrontation, and shed “trade union-style” methods while pressing their demands.

Addressing a felicitation ceremony organised in their honour in Gorakhpur, Adityanath said that while their concerns were genuine, the approach needed to be constructive.

“For years, you had demands, but instead of allowing them to progress naturally, they were often pursued through confrontation. We must move towards resolution through dialogue,” he said while addressing the ‘Siksha Mitra Samman Samaroh’.

The event was held to mark the increase in honorarium, from Rs 10,000 to Rs 18,000 per month, of all 1.43 lakh para-teachers working in the primary schools run by the Basic Education Department in the state.

Adityanath criticised previous governments for what he termed as “irregular and unlawful” attempts to grant para-teachers the status of assistant teachers without proper procedures.

“Earlier regimes violated norms and tried to accord recognition without framing the necessary rules. Such arbitrary actions led to the Supreme Court ordering termination of their services,” he said.

Referring to the crisis that followed, he added, “We faced a serious challenge - nearly 1.5 lakh families were at risk of losing their livelihood. Many had served for 18-19 years. At that stage in life, where would they go?”

The CM said his government decided against terminating their services and instead raised their honorarium significantly.

“In 2017, we increased the honorarium from Rs 3,500 to Rs 10,000. Our intention has always been to periodically improve it further,” he said, alleging that some intermediaries had exploited para-teachers in the past.

Emphasising the role of teachers in nation-building, Adityanath said a positive mindset was crucial.

“A teacher associated with education must have a positive outlook. If not, it can cause irreparable damage to society. The future of children entrusted to you by parents depends on your attitude,” he said.

He cautioned against adopting trade union-style methods, saying such approaches could harm society.

“Our nature cannot be that of trade unions. We must work with a constructive spirit. The responsibility of shaping the future of children lies with you,” he added.

“We must stay away from the trade union mentality. It will harm society, as it has caused significant harm in the past. What people say there is that ‘our demands must be met, no matter what the compulsion, meaning that demands must be met at the expense of the country,’ he said.

“This cannot happen. The country comes first, then we exist. We exist because our country exists. If we cultivate a good generation, good people will be born in every field,” he added.

He also highlighted improvements in the state’s education system, particularly in infrastructure and student welfare.

World’s first ladies special train in Mumbai turns 34

OFFICIALS SAID THE INTRODUCTION OF LADIES SPECIAL TRAINS PROVED TO BE A BOON FOR WORKING WOMEN, WHO EARLIER HAD TO STRUGGLE TO BOARD WOMEN’S COMPARTMENTS IN REGULAR SUBURBAN TRAINS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 5: The Railway Board Tuesday called 34 years of operation of the world’s first ladies special train service between Churchgate and Borivali in Mumbai a “key milestone in women-centric suburban travel”.

The service was initially operated between Churchgate and Borivali and was later extended up to Virar in 1993.

“Introduced 5 May 1992 as the world’s first Ladies Special train service, it was a response to the growing need for safe, reliable and comfortable commuting options for working women in Mumbai, particularly during peak hours,” the Board said.

Recalling the early days, veteran railway officials said that the train was flagged off by the then general manager of Western Railway in a low-key manner, far away from any political fanfare.

“The initiative was meant to

address the needs of working women. I remember the time when PV Narasimha Rao was the prime minister, CK Jaffer Sharief was the railway minister and Sudhakar Naik was the chief minister of Maharashtra. However, it was more of a railway-level event.

“The flag-off was done by the then general manager along with senior railway officials,” a veteran railway officer said.

Officials said the introduction of ladies special trains proved to be a boon for working women, who earlier had to struggle to board women’s compartments in regular suburban trains.

“Over the decades, it has evolved into a vital component of the city’s suburban rail network, reflecting both changing travel patterns and the increasing participation of women in the workforce,” a Railway Board press note said.

“Over the years, not only has the number of Ladies Special



services increased but their popularity among suburban commuters has also grown significantly. Apart from offering more space and the convenience of boarding any coach, these services have helped foster a strong sense of community among women commuters,” it added.

At present, Western Railway operates 10 ladies special services daily, evenly distributed between morning and evening peak hours in both up and down

directions. The up services include Virar-Churchgate (7.35-9.15), Borivali-Churchgate (7.40-8.46), Virar-Churchgate (8.49-10.36), Bhandara-Churchgate (9.06-10.30), Virar-Churchgate (9.47-11.09) and Vasai Road-Churchgate (10.02-11.36).

The down services include Churchgate-Borivali (17.39-18.47), Churchgate-Virar (18.13-20.02), Churchgate-Virar (18.51-20.40) and Churchgate-Virar (19.40-21.06).

“The Ladies Special ser-

vices have been introduced and expanded in phases over the years. The first two services - Churchgate-Borivali introduced 5 May 1992 and Borivali-Churchgate introduced 11 May 1992 - were extended up to Virar 1 July 1993,” the Board said.

“Subsequently, additional services were introduced, including Churchgate-Borivali 17 August 1998, and Borivali-Churchgate 6 January 2003, which was later discontinued 1 November 2005. Another service from Bandra Yard to Churchgate was introduced 25 April 2006 and later converted to Virar-Churchgate 1 November 2018,” it added.

Further additions included Borivali-Churchgate and Churchgate-Bandra Yard services introduced November 23, 2009, and Churchgate-Bandra Suburban services introduced March 29, 2013, which were later extended up to Virar September 1, 2016, officials said.

UP converts prepaid smart metres to postpaid

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, May 5: In a relief to power consumers, the Uttar Pradesh government has decided that all prepaid smart metres will now function as postpaid, enabling monthly billing with a 15-day payment window, officials said.

The decision came following directions from Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to simplify billing and ensure faster resolution of consumer grievances, Energy Minister A K Sharma said after a review meeting Monday.

“The billing cycle will remain similar to the earlier postpaid system. Consumers will receive their monthly bills via SMS and WhatsApp and will be given adequate time to make payments,” Sharma said, adding that the move will benefit lakhs of consumers statewide.

Under the revised system, electricity bills will be generated for consumption from the first to the last day of each month and will be delivered to consumers by the 10th. A payment window of 15 days from the date of billing will be provided, with the due date clearly mentioned as earlier.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No. ST-SBP-TENDER-2026-11, Dtd. 29.04.2026

Name of the work : UPGRADEMENT OF PASSENGER RESERVATION SYSTEM (PRS)-UNRESERVED TICKETING SYSTEM (UTS) NETWORK OVER SAMBALPUR (SBP) DIVISION AND PROVISION OF TELECOM INFRASTRUCTURE AT NEWLY CONSTRUCTED OFFICE OF DRM BUILDING.

Tender Value : ₹ 1,05,66,586.23. Bid Security: ₹ 2,11,300.00.

Tender closing Date & Time: At 1100 hrs. on 21.05.2026.

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against the e-tenders.

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

Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigendum issued for this tender.

Divisional Sig. & Telecom Engineer (Tele),
PR-113/R/26-27 Sambalpur

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL
SARASWATA SNATAKA MAHAVIDYALAYA,
KUMARA, MAYURBHANJ, ODISHA - 757027, Mob: 7978547142

“QUOTATION CALL NOTICE”

Q.Noice No-02-SSM/ 2026 Date - 04.05.2026

Sealed Quotations are invited from authorized Dealers / Firms having valid GST Number, PAN, latest ITR for supply and installation of **All in One Desktops, UPSs and Multi Function Printer** through Registered post / Speed Post on or before **20.05.2026**. For detail descriptions and specifications visit <https://www.ssmvkuamara.org>.

N.B.- The Authority reserves the right to accept/ reject all/any Quotations without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd./- Principal-cum-Secretary,
Saraswata Snataka Mahavidyalaya,
Kumara, Mayurbhanj

Puri Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd.
Kacheri Road, Puri-752001, Odisha, Ph. (06752) 223309, 222981
Ref. 85 Date : 05.05.2026

Corrigendum

The Puri Urban Cooperative Bank Ltd., Kacheri Road, Puri

An E-Auction Sale Notice published in the Odisha Post on May 3, 2026 (Page 7) is amended to correct the web address. The correct auction URL is <http://assets.matexauctions.com>, replacing the previously printed incorrect address <http://praveen.thevar@auctiontiger.net>

Sd./-

EAST COAST RAILWAY

INDICATIVE NOTICE

RE-ENGAGEMENT OF RETIRED LOCO PILOT RAILWAY EMPLOYEES (LEVEL-6) IN KHURDA ROAD (KUR) DIVISION, EAST COAST RAILWAY

The detailed Notification No. **DRM(P)/KUR/Staff/Re-engagement/Loco Pilot/2026** Date : **24.04.2026** is available on East Coast Railway’s website on the following Path : www.eastcoastrail.indianrailways.gov.in

→ About us → Division → Khurda Road Division → Recruitment.

PR-109/R/26-27 Divisional Railway Manager(P)/Khurda Road

Reserve Bank of India
Estate Department, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru Marg
Bhubaneswar – 751001

TENDER NOTICE

Reserve Bank of India, Bhubaneswar invites e-tender in two parts from eligible firms for **Renovation of 7 Nos of Grade A Flats (Civil works) at Bank’s Officers Quarters Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar, Odisha** at an estimated cost of ₹47,00,000/- and the work is to be completed within 105 days.

Interested firms can visit Bank’s website www.rbi.org.in or contact Estate Department, RBI, Bhubaneswar for further details. The last date of submission of tender in MSTC portal www.mstcecommerce.com/eproc is till **14:00 hrs. on May 21, 2026**.

The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Regional Director
Bhubaneswar

National Council of Educational Research and Training

No. F. A-12034/3/2025-E-III Section
Sri Aurobindo Marg, New Delhi – 110 016
www.ncert.nic.in

राष्ट्रीय शैक्षिक अनुसंधान एवं प्रशिक्षण परिषद्
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING

Vacancy Notice

Applications are invited from eligible officers for filling up the following various posts of Group 'A', 'B' and 'C' categories in NCERT Headquarters, New Delhi and its Constituent Units located across the country, on deputation basis on foreign service terms for a period of one year and extendable for further on year to year basis, the details are as under:

Sl. No.	Group	Name of the Post	Pay Scale/Level	Number of Post	Place of Posting
1	A	Chief Production Officer	PB-III, Rs.15600-39100 GP 7600/-	1	Pub. Division New Delhi
2	A	Art Officer	PB-III, Rs.15600-39100 GP 6600/-	1	Pub. Division New Delhi
3	A	Business Manager	PB-III, Rs.15600-39100 GP 6600/-	2	RPDC Ahmedabad and Guwahati
4	A	Assistant Production Officer	PB-III, Rs.15600-39100 GP 5400/-	1	Pub. Division New Delhi
5	A	Assistant Business Manager	PB-III, Rs.15600-39100 GP 5400/-	1	Pub. Division New Delhi
6	A	Senior Engineer	PB-III, Rs.15600-39100 GP 6600/-	1	CIET New Delhi
7	B	Store Officer	PB-II, Rs.9300 -34800 GP 4600/-	2	NIE New Delhi
8	B	Foreman	PB-II, Rs.9300 -34800 GP 4200/-	3	NIE New Delhi
9	B	Editorial Assistant	PB-II, Rs.9300 -34800 GP 4200/-	2	Pub. Division Post (English- 1, Hindi-1) New Delhi
10	B	Assistant Store Officer	PB-II, Rs.9300 -34800 GP 4200/-	1	NIE New Delhi
11	B	Artist Gr.-II	PB-II, Rs.9300 -34800 GP 4200/-	1	Pub. Division New Delhi
12	C	Semi Professional Assistant	PB-I, Rs.5200 -20200 GP 2800/-	4	LDD (NIE) New Delhi
13	C	Store Keeper Gr.-I	PB-I, Rs.5200 -20200 GP 2800/-	8	NIE New Delhi
14	C	Jr. Foreman	PB-I, Rs.5200 -20200 GP 2800/-	9	NIE New Delhi (DEK)
15	C	Fine Mechanic	PB-I, Rs.5200 -20200 GP 2400/-	7	NIE New Delhi (DEK)
16	C	Senior Library Attendant	PB-I, Rs.5200 -20200 GP 1900/-	1	NIE New Delhi

Age Limit: Not exceeding 56 years.

Eligible and willing officers may apply through proper channel in the prescribed format as Annexure-I along with vigilance clearance, integrity certificate, and attested copies of APARs for the last five years.

The complete application should reach to the Under Secretary, E-III Section, NCERT, Sri Aurobindo Marg, New Delhi – 110016 within 30 days from the date of publication of this advertisement in the Employment News in the enclosed proforma. Applications received after the due date or without the required documents shall not be considered and no communication shall be entertained in this regard.

Detail Advertisement & application performance for the posts, eligibility conditions, pay scales, and other terms and conditions are available on the official website of NCERT at www.ncert.nic.in >Announcements > vacancies > Non-Academic.

cbc 21104/12/0001/2627



The people of West Bengal have given power to the BJP. We have to respect that decision. It is the people's decision. Thirdly, I am of the opinion that I have been consistently saying that these so-called secular parties will not be able to stop BJP

ASADUDDIN OWAISI | AIMIM CHIEF

VIETNAMESE PREZ TO LAM VISITS BIHAR'S GAYA JI

Vietnamese President To Lam, who is on a three-day tour of India, meditated under the sacred Bodhi Tree in Gaya Ji and prayed at the Mahabodhi Temple Tuesday, officials said.



of the day uote

Mamata Banerjee committed a big mistake that she did not listen to Rahul Gandhi. Had she talked to Rahul Gandhi and held discussions (on alliance with the Congress before the Assembly polls), the results would have been different

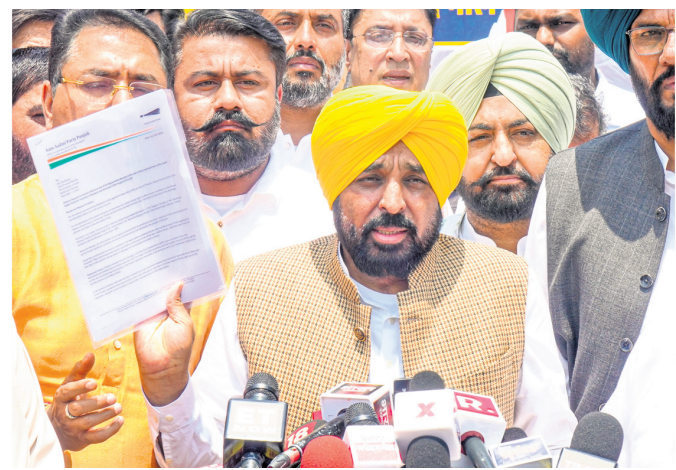
The BJP has amassed such vast resources that it now decides where, which Opposition government, and for how long it will last

New governments have been elected. May God make them do good for the people. They should remember that this country belongs to all of us, irrespective of religion and language; they should take care of that, and everyone progresses

AAP-BJP ROW

Mann urges President to cancel six MPs' RS seats

On April 24, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) suffered a massive setback when seven of its 10 Rajya Sabha members -- Raghav Chadha, Ashok Mittal, Sandeep Pathak, Harbhajan Singh, Rajendra Gupta, Vikramjit Sahney and Swati Maliwal -- quit and merged with the BJP, alleging that the party had strayed from its principles, values and core morals



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Chandigarh, May 5: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann Tuesday met President Droupadi Murmu and sought the termination of membership of six Rajya Sabha members from the state who defected to the BJP, saying their act was a "mockery" and "murder" of the Constitution.

On April 24, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) suffered a massive setback when seven of its 10 Rajya Sabha members -- Raghav Chadha, Ashok Mittal, Sandeep Pathak, Harbhajan Singh, Rajendra Gupta, Vikramjit Sahney and Swati Maliwal -- quit and merged with the BJP, alleging that the party had strayed from its principles, values and core morals.

at nearby Rail Bhawan while the meeting took place. During the meeting, Mann emphasised the need for a 'recall' provision in the Constitution, referencing Chadha's earlier calls for such a measure when representatives fail to meet public expectations.

Mann later said the President assured him that she would consult constitutional experts before responding. "I had a very good meeting." In February, Chadha had argued for the introduction of a "Right to Recall" mechanism, which would empower voters to remove elected representatives before the expiration of their five-year term if they do not perform effectively.

when we left AAP and merged with the BJP, our MPs are being systematically targeted and harassed," Chadha said after the meeting. Fellow MPs Gupta and Mittal were also part of the delegation.

He alleged that several former AAP MPs who have joined the BJP are facing intimidation and coercive actions from state agencies. Citing specific instances, Chadha claimed that former cricketer and MP Harbhajan Singh has been attacked, while industrialist and MP Gupta's business operations have allegedly been disrupted.

"Using vigilance, the Pollution Board, and the police for political revenge is a dangerous game. You may have started it, but the end will not be good. This must stop," he said.

Chadha also alleged that attempts are being made to target him next through "fabricated cases" and claimed that social media campaigns are being run to malign them.

After his meeting with the president, Mann addressed the media, describing the departure of the seven MPs as a "murder" of the Constitution.

Mann said he told the President that the BJP has only two MLA in Punjab, yet now it has six MPs in Rajya Sabha. He questioned, "How can this be possible? Isn't it a mockery of the Constitution?"

SHORT TAKES

4 killed in two road accidents in J'khand

Giridih/Godda: Four persons were killed and six injured in three road accidents in Jharkhand Tuesday, police said. In Giridih district, two elderly persons, a man and a woman, died on the spot, while another sustained injuries after a speeding pick-up van hit them from behind near Makhmargo panchayat building on Saria-Rajdanwar main road. The victims were on foot when the vehicle hit them. Two of them died on the spot. All three victims were aged between 60 to 70 years. In a separate accident in Godda district, a 17-year-old girl was killed, and four family members of the deceased were injured after their SUV collided with the divider of an overbridge.

Tiger found dead in MP's Panna reserve

Panna: A recently rescued two-year-old tiger was found dead in the buffer area of Madhya Pradesh's Panna Reserve, a forest official said Tuesday. This is the 28th tiger casualty in the state, home to nine tiger reserves, since January 7 this year. The carcass of the tiger was recovered from the Amanganj buffer area, the official said.

MoD signs ₹1,476cr contract with BEL

New Delhi: The defence ministry Tuesday signed a Rs 1,476 crore contract with Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) to procure five ground-based mobile electronic systems for the Indian Army. The mobile electronic systems are expected to boost the Army's surveillance and networking infrastructure. The ministry said the mobile electronic systems will have a minimum of 72 per cent indigenous content.

UIDAI, NFSU ink MoU

Ahmedabad: The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) and National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) have signed a five-year memorandum of understanding to collaborate on digital forensics, cybersecurity, and advanced technology research, an official said Tuesday. The collaboration will focus on six strategic pillars - academic and professional development, information security and system integrity, forensic infrastructure and lab excellence, technical support for cyber security activities, technical advisory services and research, and strategic placement and outreach, an official release stated.

Power bank catches fire in plane; all evacuated

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh/New Delhi, May 5: All passengers and the crew aboard a stationary IndiGo aircraft at the Chandigarh airport were evacuated Tuesday after the power bank of a passenger onboard the aircraft caught fire, according to a source.

In a statement, the airline said that an incident involving a customer's personal electronic equipment catching fire was reported when IndiGo flight 6E 108 from Hyderabad to Chandigarh was stationary after landing. "In the interest of safety, an immediate evacuation was carried out, and all the relevant authorities were immediately informed. All customers have been safely moved to the ter-



minal and are being attended to by the team to ensure their well-being," the statement said.

The source said that soon after the aircraft landed, there was smoke coming from one of the overhead bins and all onboard were evacuated. The smoke was due to the power bank catching fire, the source said, adding that no one sustained major injuries. A passenger onboard the flight told media that the incident took place as soon as the flight had landed. The

Nuh: 5 policemen killed in mishap on KMP Expressway

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Nuh (Haryana), May 5: Five Uttar Pradesh policemen were killed in a road mishap on Tuesday when a speeding SUV they were travelling in collided with another vehicle on the KMP Expressway in the Nuh district of Haryana, a police official said.

The five policemen killed in the incident were posted in UP's Jalaun district, the police said.

The incident took place around 10.30 a.m. near the Dhulawat toll plaza when the driver of the black SUV - coming from the direction of Palwal - tried to overtake another vehicle and lost control, leading to the collision with another vehicle in front, the police said. The SUV was badly damaged after it overturned, trapping the victims inside, the police said.

Tauru Sadar police station head Shish Ram Yadav said, "All the victims killed in the accident are jawans of Uttar Pradesh Police posted in Jalaun district. We have informed the Jalaun superintendent of police and started the process to identify the victims." An investigation into the cause of the accident has also been launched, the police said.

Govt okays ₹23,437cr railway expansion

The projects include the Nagda-Mathura, Guntakal-Wadi, and Burhwal-Sitapur third and fourth line expansions. Together, they will add around 901 km to the Indian Railways network

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 5: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday approved three projects costing about Rs 23,437 crore of the Railway Ministry.

The projects include the Nagda-Mathura, Guntakal-Wadi, and Burhwal-Sitapur third and fourth line expansions. Together, they will add around 901 km to the Indian Railways network. "The increased line capacity will significantly enhance mobility, resulting in improved operational efficiency and service reliability for Indian Railways. These multi-tracking proposals are poised to streamline operations and alleviate congestion," a government press note said.

While briefing media persons, Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said that these sections are part of high density railway network routes and these new lines will enhance operational efficiency between major cities and towns.

"The projects are in line with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of a New India which will make people of the region 'Atmanirbhar' by way of comprehensive development in the area which will enhance their employment/ self-employment opportunities," the government said.

It added, "The projects are planned on PM-Gati Shakti National Master Plan with focus on enhancing multi-modal connectivity and logistic efficiency through integrated planning and stakeholder consultations. These projects will provide seamless connectivity for movement of people, goods and services." These three projects covering 19 districts across



the states of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana will increase the existing network of Indian Railways by about 901 km.

According to the government statement, the proposed capacity enhancement will improve rail connectivity to several prominent tourist destinations across the country, including Mahakaleshwar, Ranthambore National Park, Kuno National Park, Keoladeo National Park, Mathura, Vrindavan, Mantralayam (Sri Raghavendra Swamy Mutt), Sri Nettikanti Anjaneya Swamy Vari Temple (Kasapuram), Shyamnath Temple, Naimisharanya (Neemsar) and the like.

Highlighting benefits to freight operations, it said that the proposed projects are essential routes for transportation of commodities such as coal, foodgrains, cement, POL, iron and steel, iron ore, container and fertilisers.

"The capacity augmentation works will result in additional freight traffic of magnitude 60 MTPA (million tonnes per annum)," the government press note said. Vaishnaw also emphasised the environmental benefits of the projects and said that the Railways being an environment-friendly and energy-efficient mode of transportation, will help both in achieving climate goals and minimising logistics cost of the country, reduce oil import (37 crore litres) and lower CO2 emissions (185 crore kg), which is equivalent to plantation of seven crore trees.

Nutrition aid to TB patients could save 120,000 lives yearly: Study

Researchers in collaboration with India's National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme found that food support is a cost-effective way to improve health outcomes for people with TB in 94 per cent of the study's simulations

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

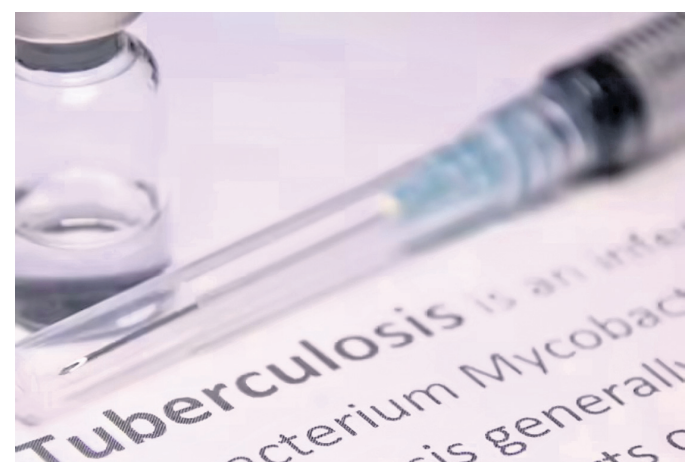
New Delhi, May 5: Providing food baskets to 2.8 million people with tuberculosis in India could avert over 120,000 deaths yearly, according to a study.

"For less than the cost of many biomedical interventions, we could prevent over 100,000 TB (tuberculosis) deaths a year," senior author Pranay Sinha, assistant professor of medicine at the US' Boston University's school of medicine and an infectious disease physician at the Boston Medical Center, said. Researchers in collaboration

with India's National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP) found that food support is a cost-effective way to improve health outcomes for people with TB in 94 per cent of the study's simulations. The findings are published in the British Medical Journal (BMJ) Global Health.

Undernutrition could be the single greatest modifiable risk factor for TB, contributing to immune suppression, treatment failure, and death, the researchers said.

"Undernutrition isn't just a complication of TB - it's one of its root causes. While we wait



for effective vaccines for TB, food is the vaccine we already have, and providing food baskets to households affected by TB could be one of the most impactful things we do for TB elimination," Urvashi Singh, former Deputy Director Gen-

eral of the NTEP, said. In 2020, the Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) was renamed as NTEP, aimed at eliminating the bacterial infectious disease in India. The study compared stan-

dard care with a household-level nutritional food-basket intervention.

The researchers also looked at previously published studies, including systematic reviews.

"Nutritional support was projected to avert 10, 470 DALYs (years of poor health) per 10,000 PWTB (persons with TB). When scaled to India's 2.8 million annual TB cases, this corresponds to approximately 120,120 TB deaths averted nationwide under full coverage," the authors wrote.

Each of the health gains would cost an estimated USD 141, which the researchers said is well below India's benchmark of USD 550 and suggests that the intervention could be a good investment.

"What this study shows is that scaling up in-kind nutritional support in India isn't just the right thing to do - it's

also an excellent investment," Sinha said.

First author Julia Gallini, a doctoral candidate in biostatistics at Boston University, said, "This work bridges the gap between clinical evidence and policy. We wanted to give NTEP and global health policymakers a clear, quantitative picture of what nutritional support could achieve nationally. The numbers make a compelling case."

An August 2023 study, published in The Lancet journal, showed that nutritional support with proteins and multivitamins reduced new TB cases by nearly half among family members of patients in India. The RATIONS trial enrolled household contacts of 2,800 patients with confirmed tuberculosis across 28 TB units of the NTEP in four districts of Jharkhand.

national



Today, democracy is threatened. In 2014, there was a wave in favour of Narendra Modi, and they kept winning elections. In February 2015, they won only three seats in Delhi. If they come to power in Punjab, they will ravage the state. BJP looted those seats from Punjab, and now we all have to work to stop them. Punjab has historically stopped foreign aggression, but this time the enemy is within; Punjabis have to stop them

ADR: 17% ASSAM MLAs FACE CRIMINAL CASES, 85% CROREPATIS

Around 17 per cent of newly elected MLAs in Assam have declared criminal cases against themselves, while a striking 85 per cent are crorepatis, according to a report released by the Association for Democratic Reforms



of the day uote

We had assured of securing the Assamese 'jati' (community) and took steps to deliver it. Assam progressed in the cultural and economic sectors. Our uncompromising stand against Bangladesh-origin Muslims also had an impact

We had earlier announced that we have extended the slot booking date for wheat procurement across the state. Wheat procurement is going on...I have been told that procurement has been smooth and normal everywhere, but I still made surprise visits to express my feelings with the farmers

The 10 years of LDF government created so many difficulties for the people...they were fed up with that government. That is why they chose the UDF for governance

POST OF THE DAY

Corruption doesn't matter Rape of women and children don't matter Education doesn't matter Pollution doesn't matter Jobs don't matter National Security doesn't matter Ecology doesn't matter Farmers don't matter What exactly do you care about, India?

Barricades outside Mamata's house partially removed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, May 5: Barricades outside the residence of outgoing West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee in south Kolkata were partially removed Tuesday, a day after the TMC lost power in the state and she was defeated from the Bhabanipur seat.

Police personnel were seen dismantling the guardrails near her 30B Harish Chatterjee Street residence in the morning. Though no official notification was issued, a Kolkata Police official present at the site said they were instructed to remove the smart barricades.

"We have acted on directions from higher authorities," he said, adding that no reason was specified. While a police kiosk remains, the heavy security presence in the area has visibly reduced.

The locality in the Bhabanipur assembly segment had been a high-security zone, with vehicle movements monitored and residents often required to show identification to access their homes. The restrictions appeared to ease significantly with the partial removal of the barricades. Security deployment outside the office of TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee on Camac Street was also withdrawn, a senior official said.

The premises have functioned as a key organisational hub for the TMC for years. Another official said a broader review of security cover for leaders of the outgoing TMC government is underway.

Bengal: BJP, TMC worker killed in post-poll violence

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, May 5: A BJP and a Trinamool Congress worker were killed in separate incidents of post-poll violence in West Bengal Tuesday, police said.

BJP worker Madhu Mondal died after being allegedly beaten up by TMC workers during a victory procession in the New Town area Tuesday evening. TMC worker Abir Sheikh was hacked to death allegedly by BJP activists at Nanoor in Birbhum earlier in the day, police said.

In New Town, Mondal was thrashed, allegedly by TMC workers following an argument, as a victory procession of the BJP was passing by in Bhalliguri area, a senior police officer said.

He was taken to hospital and declared brought dead, prompting attacks by BJP activists on residences of TMC workers in the area and a road blockade later on. The Central forces had to be deployed to bring normalcy, the officer said.

Earlier in the day, Sheikh was hacked to death in a clash in the Nanoor area.

A senior police officer said Sheikh, TMC's Nanoor Anchal Committee member, was hacked to death during an argument with "another group", at Santoshpur village under Nanoor.

Sheikh died on the spot while another person, whose identity was not known, was injured, he said, adding police reinforcements were rushed to the area where tension prevailed.



Wreckage is seen at the TMC office following the West Bengal Assembly election result, in Asansol

BJP WORKER MADHU MONDAL DIED AFTER BEING ALLEGEDLY BEATEN UP BY TMC WORKERS DURING A VICTORY PROCESSION IN THE NEW TOWN AREA TUESDAY EVENING

TMC WORKER ABIR SHEIKH WAS HACKED TO DEATH ALLEGEDLY BY BJP ACTIVISTS AT NANOOR IN BIRBHUM EARLIER IN THE DAY

chilling". In a post on X, Ghosh said, "TMC worker killed in widespread violence".

The TMC said in its official X handle, "brutal murder of our party worker in Birbhum's Nanoor. Modi's idea of poriborton begins. Deceased name Abir SK." The party in another post claimed an old woman was brutally attacked by BJP workers in Alipurduar town. "She has sustained multiple injuries on head too," the TMC said, attaching a purported image of the woman.

Meanwhile, the BJP Tuesday attacked outgoing Mamata Banerjee over her statement that she would not resign despite her party's defeat, calling the stand "anarchic" and against India's democratic traditions. The party described her refusal as "constitutional blasphemy" and accused her of undermining the principle of peaceful transfer of power.

SC judge count hike gets Cabinet nod

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 5: The Union Cabinet Tuesday cleared a proposal to increase the strength of the Supreme Court from the present 34 judges to 38, including the Chief Justice of India.

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said a bill will be brought in the next session of Parliament to raise the apex court's strength by four judges.

The sanctioned strength of the top court is 34 judges, including the CJI. At present, the apex court has two vacancies.

Once the bill is cleared by Parliament and is enacted, the sanctioned number of Supreme Court judges will stand at 38.

The strength of the Supreme Court was last increased from 30 to 33 (excluding the Chief Justice of India) in 2019.

The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act 1956, as originally enacted, provided for the maximum number of judges (excluding the chief justice of India) to be 10.

This number was increased to 13 by the Supreme Court (Number of Judges), Amendment Act, 1960, and to 17 by another amendment to the law.

The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Act, 1986, augmented the strength of the Supreme Court judges from 17 to 25, excluding the CJI. Subsequently, a fresh amendment in 2009 further augmented the strength of top court judges from 25 to 30.

The strength of the Supreme



THE SANCTIONED STRENGTH OF THE TOP COURT IS 34 JUDGES, INCLUDING THE CJI. AT PRESENT, THE APEX COURT HAS TWO VACANCIES

ONCE THE BILL IS CLEARED BY PARLIAMENT AND IS ENACTED, THE SANCTIONED NUMBER OF SUPREME COURT JUDGES WILL STAND AT 38

Court was increased to 33 (excluding the Chief Justice of India) by further amending the original law in 2019.

Article 124(3) of the Constitution states the qualifications to become a Supreme Court judge.

An Indian citizen who has either served as a high court judge for at least five years or as an advocate for 10 years, or is a distinguished jurist can be appointed to the top court.

The strength of the Supreme Court is increased based on the recommendation of the CJI, who writes to the Union Law Minister. After consulting with the Finance Ministry, the Department of Justice in the law ministry moves the Cabinet with a draft bill.

SC: Interfaith marriage no ground to oust Parsi women

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 5: The Supreme Court Tuesday observed that the practice of excommunicating Parsi women for entering into interfaith marriages is prima facie discriminatory.

A nine-judge bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant said the right of conscience under Article 25 (1) of the Constitution is a right by birth and cannot be taken away by marriage.

The bench, also comprising Justices B V Nagarathna, M M Sundresh, Ahsanuddin Amanullah, Arvind Kumar, Augustine George Masih, Prasanna B Varale, R Mahadevan and Joymalya Bagchi, was hearing petitions regarding discrimination against women at religious sites, including the Sabarimala temple in Kerala, as well as the scope of religious freedom

across various faiths. The Constitution bench is also examining the question whether the community's religious head's power to expel member(s) from religious life can coexist with the individual's right to profess and practice religion under Article 25.

During the hearing, senior advocate Darius Khambata, who was appearing for a Parsi Zoroastrian woman who married a Hindu man and faced excommunication from the Parsi community due to her interfaith marriage, said such practice is bad in law.

"I am a devotee, I have not forsaken my religion, I am a believer. Just because I have married (I have faced exclusion), that (an interfaith marriage) is not a crime," he submitted, adding that this was a man-made imposition on an otherwise progressive and great religion.



Young boys play in a pond to beat the heat on a hot summer day, at Itanda, in Birbhum district, West Bengal, Tuesday

Delhi night shelters struggle to keep cool: Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 5: A field survey of night shelters in the national capital has flagged serious gaps in heatwave preparedness under the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board's (DUSIB) Summer Action Plan, with nearly half of the cooling infrastructure found non-functional and water shortages reported across several facilities.

The assessment, conducted by the Centre for Holistic Development (CHD) -- a Delhi-based NGO -- April 24-25, covered 24 shelters across areas such as Sarai Kale Khan, Jama Masjid, Bangla Sahib, and Mori Gate. The report is titled 'Field survey report on the assessment of the DUSIB Summer Action Plan 2026-27.'

"Around 50 per cent of cooling units, including fans and desert coolers, were not working, raising concerns as temperatures continue to rise," the report states.



AT SOME LOCATIONS, HOWEVER, CONDITIONS APPEARED MORE SEVERE

A SHELTER AT LAHORI GATE REPORTED MOST OF ITS FANS AND COOLERS LYING DEFUNCT, WHILE ANOTHER AT SARAI KALE KHAN HAD NO FUNCTIONAL COOLERS

ported at multiple locations," the report states.

The report claimed two suspected heat-related deaths during the survey period and noted widespread instances of dehydration and skin infections among shelter residents amid limited medical outreach.

The report also highlighted gaps in awareness among staff, with many caretakers unaware of helpline services and mobile applications meant for emergency response and rescue of homeless people.

In a case study cited in the report, a 35-year-old man found in distress near a shelter near Bangla Sahib Gurudwara in central Delhi allegedly did not receive timely medical assistance despite repeated calls for help. He was eventually taken to the hospital only after police intervention, pointing to lapses in coordination between shelter staff and emergency services.

The organisation has urged immediate steps to repair cooling systems, ensure a reliable water supply, provide essential medical kits, and strengthen emergency response mechanisms, warning that delays could put vulnerable homeless populations at greater risk during the ongoing heat wave.

SNIPPETS

MP court orders FIR in Jabalpur boat tragedy

JABALPUR: A court in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur Tuesday took cognisance of the cruise boat tragedy that claimed the lives of 13 persons in the district's Bargi Dam reservoir last week, and directed the police to register an FIR. Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) D P Sutrar said the "failure" of the cruise boat driver and other crew members to make any effort to rescue the drowning passengers constitutes an attempt to commit culpable homicide. The court directed the Bargi police station to register the FIR within two days. The boat, operated by the state tourism department, capsized April 30, killing 13 persons, including women and children, while 28 people were rescued. The state government has ordered a probe into the incident. In its order, the court said that based on the reports published in newspapers and social media, it has learned that the cruise boat's driver was operating the vessel inappropriately, which resulted in the death of several people when it capsized.

Patanjali Research Foundation inks MoU with Southern Cross University of Australia

HARIDWAR: Patanjali Research Foundation inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Southern Cross University of Australia. The MoU signifies a strategic effort to cultivate enduring, impact-oriented and evidence-based collaborations between the two entities facilitating the integration of traditional knowledge systems with contemporary scientific progress on international scale. On this occasion, Acharya Balkrishna highlighted that Patanjali has been at the forefront towards integrating Ayurveda, naturopathy and modern scientific research. He noted that the collaboration will unite the expertise of both institutions and create a strong foundation for addressing global health challenges. Balkrishna also highlighted that Ayurveda is not merely a treatment system but a holistic science of life and its impact increases significantly when combined with modern scientific research. Professor Ben Roche, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research & Education Impact), Southern Cross University, stated that the main objective of this agreement is to foster collaboration in research, teaching and student exchange.

international



If the United States is ready to reopen Hormuz, that's great. That's what we've been asking for since the beginning
EMMANUEL MACRON | FRENCH, PRESIDENT

PAK RESUMES ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE EXPORTS

Pakistan's only locally-owned brewery has started exporting alcohol - a product that continues to remain banned for the country's majority Muslim population for nearly five decades now. Murree Brewery has started exporting its beers and other alcoholic spirits to countries which are not part of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, a bloc of 57 nations with significant Muslim populations



of the day quote

As Japan faces the most severe and complex security environment in the postwar era, it is important to establish a multilayered network of allies and like-minded countries, while expanding it and strengthening the deterrence
SHINJIRO KOIZUMI | DEFENCE MINISTER, JAPAN

Russia could cease fire at any moment, and this would stop the war and our responses. Peace is needed, and real steps are needed to achieve it. Ukraine will act in kind
VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY | PRESIDENT, UKRAINE

We will be happy to see a lady SG (Secretary General), female SG... it has been 80 years, and so if we can have a female SG, China will be very happy to see
FU CONG | PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO UN, CHINA

Blast at fireworks factory in China's Hunan kills 26

REUTERS

Hong Kong, May 5: A blast at a fireworks factory in China has killed at least 26 people and injured 61, flattening buildings and sending towering clouds of smoke into the sky, and prompting President Xi Jinping to order a thorough investigation, state media reported Tuesday.

More than 1,500 firefighters, rescuers, medical personnel and police were deployed, together with 18 drones and several robots, to search for survivors and control on-site hazards after the explosion Monday at a factory compound in Liuyang, the city in central Hunan province known as China's fireworks capital. Authorities evacuated surrounding areas because of the risk from highly combustible black powder stored in two warehouses in the complex, Xinhua reported.

The explosion happened at around 4:40 pm (0840 GMT) at Huasheng Fireworks Manufacturing and Display Company, according to reports by Xinhua and CCTV.

Social media footage showed smoke billowing up into clear blue skies against a backdrop of lush, green mountains. Reuters verified the location in the footage, which was posted on social media May 4, as Changsha, the Hunan provincial capital which is responsible for the administration of Liuyang.

A Hunan Satellite TV reporter at the scene said the area had been razed to the ground, with trees uprooted by shock waves from the blasts, and there was a strong smell of gunpowder in the air.

Xinhua video showed thick clouds of black and grey smoke rising from a large site littered with collapsed buildings and



EXPLOSION TOOK PLACE IN LIUYANG ON MONDAY AFTERNOON
VIDEOS FROM SCENE SHOW CLOUDS OF SMOKE BILLOWING INTO THE AIR, FLATTENED BUILDINGS
STATE MEDIA REPORTS HEAD OF FIREWORKS MANUFACTURER DETAINED
XI JINPING ORDERS THOROUGH INVESTIGATION, CALLS FOR STRICTER SAFETY STANDARDS

and the cause of the accident was being investigated, the government said, adding all fireworks and firecracker manufacturing companies in the city had been ordered to suspend production from Monday evening for inspections.

China's State Council set up an accident investigation team, CCTV reported in the evening, while Vice Premier Zhang Guoqing led staff to Liuyang Tuesday to guide the emergency rescue and response work.

Xi called for a speedy investigation to determine the cause of the explosion and strict accountability for the incident, the report said.

Last year, China exported \$1.14 billion worth of fireworks, more than two-thirds of global sales, data far exceeding domestic sales, data from the Observatory of Economic Complexity showed.

According to a 2025 Xinhua report, Liuyang's fireworks industry was worth 50 billion yuan, with 431 companies producing fireworks and firecrackers. The city's fireworks production accounted for 60% of China's domestic market and 70% of China's firework exports.

debris.

China is no stranger to fireworks and industrial accidents. In June last year, an explosion at a fireworks factory also in Hunan province killed nine people and injured 26.

Weeks before an explosion at a chemical plant in northeastern China killed at least five people, highlighting the risks associated with storing hazardous and flammable materials in factories or warehouses.

CHANGSHA GOVERNMENT FEELS 'EXTREMELY GUILTY'

Changsha government officials told a press conference Tuesday that on-site searches had been largely completed.

The person in charge of Huasheng had been detained

US prepared for visa sanctions on China over migrants issue

REUTERS

Washington, May 5: China is slowing its efforts to repatriate Chinese nationals who are in the US illegally, a senior Trump administration official told Reuters, warning that Washington was prepared to increase travel restrictions on the country if Beijing didn't reverse course.

The new US threat toward China comes just days before President Donald Trump's planned May 14-15 visit to Beijing, where, among other issues, he is expected to raise the deportation issue during meetings with his counterpart Xi Jinping.

The trip is an important one for Trump, who is hoping to win trade concessions from Beijing that he can present to voters ahead of November's midterm elections that polls suggest could deliver losses for the president's Republican party.

Since returning to the White House early last year, Trump has threatened tariffs and sanctions on numerous countries for failing to accept deportees, a central pillar of his campaign for the White House and hardline immigration policies.

China for years has resisted US requests to take back tens of thousands of its citizens who have overstayed or illegally entered the country. When Trump took office, China had suggested it was willing to repatriate "confirmed Chinese nationals" following verification. But Beijing has said doing so takes time.

After accepting about 3,000 deportees via charter and commercial flights in early 2025, China has scaled back cooperation in the past six months, the senior US official said. The official spoke on condition of anonymity in order to speak candidly about administration plans.

Ceasefire with Iran is not over: Hegseth

REUTERS

Washington/Cairo, May 5: Washington said Iran had not breached a fragile ceasefire in the Middle East conflict Tuesday, following an exchange of fire between the two sides the previous day as US forces attempted to force open the Strait of Hormuz.

The US military said it had destroyed six Iranian small boats, as well as cruise missiles and drones, after President Donald Trump sent the navy to escort stranded tankers through the strait in a campaign he called "Project Freedom".

US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said the operation to protect commercial ships was temporary and the four-week-old truce was not over. "We're not looking for a fight," he told a press conference. "Right now the ceasefire certainly holds,



but we're going to be watching very, very closely."

Iran fired missiles at US ships Monday and attacked the United Arab Emirates, a key regional ally of Washington, with missiles and drones. Shortly after Hegseth spoke Tuesday, the UAE's defence ministry said its air defences were again dealing with missile and drone attacks coming from Iran.

Iran's parliament speaker, Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, said breaches of the ceasefire by the US and its allies had

endangered shipping through the strait, which carries a large share of the world's oil and fertiliser supplies.

"We know well that the continuation of the current situation is unbearable for the United States, while we have not even begun yet," he said in a social media post.

ATTACKS IN THE GULF

The narrow strait has been virtually shut since the United States and Israel began attacks on Iran February 28, triggering disruptions that have pushed

up commodity prices around the world.

Hegseth said the US had successfully secured a path through the critical waterway and that hundreds of commercial ships were lining up to pass through. Several merchant ships in the Gulf reported explosions or fires Monday, and an oil port in the UAE, which hosts a large US military base, was set ablaze by Iranian missiles. The UAE reimposed flight restrictions on its airspace Tuesday.

Iran has effectively sealed off the strait by threatening to deploy mines, drones, missiles and fast attack craft. The United States has countered by blockading Iranian ports and mounting escorted transits for commercial vessels.

The US military said two US merchant ships made it through the strait, without saying when, with the support of Navy guided-missile destroyers.

India-UAE, India-US among top migration corridors: UN

THE REPORT SAID THE MEXICO-TO-UNITED STATES CORRIDOR REMAINS THE LARGEST IN THE WORLD WITH AROUND 11 MILLION PEOPLE FOLLOWED BY AFGHANISTAN TO IRAN AND SYRIA TO TURKEY CORRIDORS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

United Nations, May 5: India to the United Arab Emirates and India to the US were among the top 10 international country-to-country migration corridors in 2024, according to a report by the United Nations agency on migration.

The World Migration Report 2026, released by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Tuesday, said that globally around 304 million people lived in a country other than their country of birth as of mid-2024.

The proportion of international migrants as a share of the total global population has also increased, but only incrementally, from 2.9 per cent in 1990 to 3.7 per cent in 2024.

The report said that the

Mexico-to-United States country-to-country corridor remains the largest in the world, with around 11 million people.

The second largest is Afghanistan to Iran (more than 3.7 million migrants) followed by Syria to Turkey (over 3.5 million), comprising mainly refugees displaced by the Syrian civil war. The corridor between Russia and Ukraine takes up the fourth spot.

The India "United Arab Emirates corridor is the fifth-largest, comprising mainly migrant workers. More than 8 million international migrants lived in the United Arab Emirates (comprising 74 per cent of the population), with Indians (more than three million) being the top nationality, the report said.

The India to US migration



corridor is the sixth largest in the world, the report said. However, the India "United States of America corridor is the second largest migration corridor involving North American countries, after the Mexico "United States corridor.

The report said that around 3.2 million Indian migrants were living in the United States in 2024, the second largest foreign-born group after Mexicans. However, according to current estimates by other agencies, the Indian

diaspora in the US is about five million strong.

"The number of international migrants from India has increased continuously and significantly over the last several decades, with many arriving in the United States as highly skilled workers or international students," the IOM report said.

It added that the number of Indians in the US is followed by migrant numbers from two other Asian countries, China and the Philippines, which had nearly 2.5 million and about 2.3 million migrants, respectively, living in the United States in 2024.

The report noted that diasporas also engage in political activism, advocating for policy changes in both origin and destination countries.

"The Indian diaspora in the United States, particularly through organisations like the United States "India Political Action Committee (USIN-PAC), has influenced United States "India relations. Indian-Americans have played a role in strengthening bilateral trade agreements, defence co-operation and visa policies that benefit both countries," the UN report said.

The report noted that in Asia, the distribution of female and male migrants in the top 10 countries of destination and origin is much more varied than it is in other regions. In the top destination countries, Gulf countries including the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have a far greater share of male than female immigrants.

of the day quote

The high dependence on imported crude makes the Indian economy highly vulnerable to volatility in the hydrocarbons market

NAAGESH KUMAR | MPC MEMBER, RBI

AI-driven smart solutions with blockchain security are key to good governance. By combining facial recognition with blockchain's permanent, traceable records, we eliminate major security risks and give organizations greater control over workforce data integrity

ALOK GUPTA | FOUNDER AND CEO, CHAINCODE CONSULTING LLP

With global capability centres, IT firms and large corporates increasingly opting to lease office spaces, REITs are gaining traction by offering investors stable returns along with capital appreciation

DEEPAK PAREKH | INDUSTRY VETERAN

Auto sales on fast lane

Automobile industry posts record retail sales at 26,11,317 units in April

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 5: Total automobile retail sales in India grew by 12.94 per cent with a record 26,11,317 units in April as compared to 23,12,221 units in the same month last year, making a bright start to the new fiscal, Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations said Tuesday.

Sustained tailwinds from GST 2.0 affordability gains, RBI's supportive rate stance, healthy rural cash flows post a strong rabi cycle and an extended marriage season helped the industry post a robust performance, Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) said in a statement.



Passenger vehicles (PV) retail sales were at a record 4,07,355 units last month as compared to 3,63,028 units in April 2025, a growth of 12.21 per cent, it added.

Two-wheelers also clocked best-ever monthly numbers at 19,16,258 units in April this year as compared to 16,95,638 units in the same month a year ago, at a growth of 13.01 per cent, it added.

FADA further said three-wheeler sales stood at 1,06,908 units last month as compared to 99,741 units in April 2025, up 7.19 per cent.

Commercial vehicles also witnessed a growth of 15.02 per cent at a record 99,339 units last month as compared to 86,364 units in April 2025, it added.

"The Indian auto retail industry has opened FY 2026-27 on an exceptionally strong note, retailing 26,11,317 units in April 2026, a 12.94 per cent YoY expansion that delivers the highest-ever April in our records," FADA Vice President Sai Giridhar said.

Giridhar said in the PV segment, the defining feature

Five of the six vehicle categories, along with the total industry, registered all-time April records. This clearly underlines that the structural demand momentum which defined the second half of FY26 has carried into the new financial year

SAI GIRIDHAR | VICE PRESIDENT, FADA

was the continued "outperformance of Bharat over the metros" as rural sales grew 20.40 per cent, nearly three times the Urban pace of 7.11 per cent. PV inventory levels have moved up modestly to a range of 28-30 days, marginally above March 2026 level of 28 days but well within the healthy band that we view as constructive, he said, while urging OEMs "to maintain disciplined dispatches in the coming weeks so that channel inventory stays anchored close to FADA's recommended 21-day benchmark".

Sharing outlook for the next three months, FADA said dealer confidence remains broadly steady, with

if it (West Asia crisis) does settle on time, then I think, you know, the growth momentum should pick up. You know, we should be somewhere between 6.5 to 7 per cent. If it extends for a very, very long time, then, you know, maybe slower than 6.5 per cent

RAJIV MEMANI | PRESIDENT, CII

NSE LAUNCHES ELECTRONIC GOLD RECEIPTS

The National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) launched Electronic Gold Receipts (EGRs) as a new segment, in a bid to create a more transparent and efficient price discovery of the yellow metal. The move is expected to bridge the age-old gap between physical gold and the financial markets by offering a regulated, secure, and technologically-advanced platform for trading in the precious commodity, the exchange said in a statement



Indices sink on fresh geopolitical concerns

The rupee hitting a record low against the US dollar amid elevated crude prices also made investors cautious

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

₹ bounces back from all-time intra-day low

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 5: The rupee recovered from all-time intra-day low to settle at 95.18 against the US dollar, higher by 5 paise, Tuesday on possible RBI intervention after investors retreated from riskier assets amid renewed clashes in the Gulf and targeting of UAE infrastructure, which reignited supply chain fears.

Forex traders said Brent oil, hovering near \$110 per barrel, is maintaining pressure on oil-importing economies like India. Moreover, factors such as unabated foreign capital outflows amid rising geopolitical uncertainties dented investor sentiments further.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 95.30 against the US dollar, then lost ground and touched an all-time low of 95.44 in intra-day trade. The rupee finally settled for the day at 95.18, registering a rise of 5 paise over its previous close.

On Monday, the rupee fell 39 paise to close at an all-time low of 95.23 against the US dollar.

"We expect the rupee to trade with a negative bias on rising global crude oil prices as the Strait of Hormuz continues to remain closed. Dollar demand from importers and ongoing geopolitical tensions between the US and Iran may also pressure the rupee."

"However, RBI intervention may support the rupee at lower levels. USDINR spot price is expected to trade in a range of 95.10 to 95.55," said Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Mirrae Asset ShareKhan.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 98.47, up 0.10 per cent. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading lower by 1.57 per cent at \$112.64 per barrel in futures trade.

Foreign Institutional Investors sold equities worth Rs 3,621.58 crore Tuesday, according to exchange data.

Mumbai, May 5: Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty buckled under selling pressure Tuesday as fresh tensions flared in the Strait of Hormuz region and the ceasefire between the US and Iran came under strain.

In a volatile session, the 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 251.61 points, or 0.33 per cent, to settle at 77,017.79. During the day, it tanked 754.37 points, or 0.97 per cent, to 76,515.03.

The 50-share NSE Nifty edged lower by 86.50 points, or 0.36 per cent, to end at 24,032.80.

"Domestic equities witnessed a volatile session, closing lower as post-election optimism faded and sentiment re-aligned with global weakness amid rising geopolitical tensions."

"Elevated crude prices continued to pressure the rupee, which slipped to record lows. Despite these headwinds, the ongoing earnings season, with results slightly ahead of expectations, provided some support and triggered selective bottom-fishing," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

From the Sensex firms, ICI-CI Bank, Eternal, Tech Mahindra, Axis Bank, Bharti Airtel and Larsen & Toubro were among the major laggards.

On the other hand, Mahindra & Mahindra, UltraTech Cement, Bajaj Finserv and Bajaj Finance were top gainers.

In the broader market, the BSE MidCap Select index dipped 0.12 per cent, while the SmallCap Select index went up marginally by 0.14 per cent.

Sectorally, Realty dropped 1.38 per cent, Top 10 Banks

BSE SENSEX		TOP LOSERS	
May 5, 2026		BSE SENSEX	
%	POINTS	%	POINTS
-1.53	1251.45	-1.37	248.50
-1.37	248.50	-1.30	1451.75
-1.20	1259.75	-1.15	13426.10
-1.08	1807.25	-1.07	4056.15
-0.97	1726.00	-0.89	772.55

Q4 RESULTS

M&M profit zooms

New Delhi: Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd Tuesday reported a 48.5 per cent jump in consolidated profit after tax at Rs 5,259.91 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2026, primarily driven by its auto and farm sectors. The company had posted a consolidated profit after tax (PAT) of Rs 3,541.85 crore in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd (M&M) said in a regulatory filing. Consolidated revenue from operations in the fourth quarter stood at Rs 54,891.55 crore, as against Rs 42,585.67 crore in the year-ago period, it added.

Hero MotoCorp PAT up

New Delhi: Two-wheeler maker Hero MotoCorp Ltd Tuesday reported a 26 per cent rise in consolidated profit after tax to Rs 1,473.92 crore in the fourth quarter ended March 31, riding on robust sales volumes. The company, which had posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 1,168.75 crore in the corresponding period of the preceding fiscal, said its board has approved the re-appointment of Pawan Munjal as Executive Chairman for another term of five years with effect from October 1, 2026, subject to approval of shareholders at the ensuing 43rd AGM.

Marico profit surges

New Delhi: Homegrown FMCG firm Marico Ltd Tuesday reported an 18.26 per cent rise in consolidated net profit to Rs 408 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 31. The company had posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 345 crore in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal, Marico Ltd said in a regulatory filing. Its consolidated revenue from operations in the fourth quarter stood at Rs 3,333 crore compared to Rs 2,730 crore in the year-ago period, it added.

Shoppers Stop in red

New Delhi: Retail chain Shoppers Stop Tuesday reported a consolidated loss of 16.35 crore for the March quarter. The company had posted a net profit of Rs 1.99 crore in the January-March period a year ago, according to a regulatory filing by Shoppers Stop. The retail firm is promoted by the Raheja family. Its revenue from operations increased 13.7 per cent to Rs 1,209.79 crore in the March quarter. It was Rs 1,064 crore a year ago.

TPWODL announces National Lok Adalat for consumers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Burla, May 5: TP Western Odisha Distribution Limited (TPWODL) announced its participation in the National Lok Adalat being organized across India by NALSA/OSLSA May 9 between 10.00 AM to 5.00 PM.

This initiative is expected to provide consumers with an opportunity to resolve pending electricity theft and assessment cases in a fast, transparent, and customer-friendly manner.

To ensure smooth facilitation, TPWODL has put in place extensive arrangements across all Sub-Divisional (SDO) and Section Offices, including assistance for documentation, verification and payment support during the Lok Adalat.

Consumers with pending

cases are advised to visit their nearest SDO or Section Office at the earliest for registration and completion of required preliminary formalities, enabling them to derive maximum benefit during the Lok Adalat.

TPWODL is encouraging consumers with pending electricity theft and assessment cases to take advantage of this opportunity to settle their cases quickly, easily, and without lengthy legal procedures.

The Lok Adalat offers a simple, transparent, and consumer-friendly platform for dispute resolution. This initiative aims to promote long-pending dispute resolution, faster case closure, and an improved overall consumer experience through a fair and conciliatory process.

MIDDLE EAST CRISIS

₹18,100cr credit boost for MSMEs, airlines

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 5: The government Tuesday announced an Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) with an outlay of Rs 18,100 crore for MSMEs, airlines and other companies to help them meet working capital needs amid the challenges posed by the West Asia conflict.

The scheme -- expected to help in providing additional credit flow of Rs 2.55 lakh crore, including Rs 5,000 crore -- was approved by the Union Cabinet Tuesday.

Briefing the media on the Cabinet decisions, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the scheme, having an outlay of Rs 18,100 crore, would help



airlines as well as MSMEs impacted by the West Asia crisis.

"The scheme has been brought to address the stress in MSME and airline sectors due to the West Asia conflict," he said.

In an official release, the government said the scheme aims to enable businesses to tide over the challenges arising from the West Asia conflict.

"Additionally, this is expected to help businesses maintain

their operations, protect jobs, and sustain supply chains. The proposed credit guarantee scheme is a major step to help businesses, particularly MSMEs and airline sector, to ensure their additional working capital needs are catered by the banks and financial institutions," it said.

By providing timely liquidity, the government said the scheme would sustain the businesses and prevent job losses. It will also promote uninterrupted domestic production and maintain the resilience of the ecosystem.

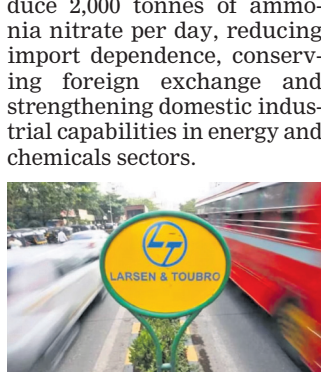
MSMEs (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) as well as airlines have been facing substantial financial headwinds due to the West Asia conflict that started in February.

L&T bags Odisha coal-to-ammonium nitrate project deal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 5: Infrastructure major Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Tuesday said it has bagged an order valued between Rs 2,500 crore to Rs 5,000 crore from the joint venture of state-owned Coal India Limited and Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited for the development of a coal-to-ammonium nitrate project in Odisha.

The project is likely to produce 2,000 tonnes of ammonia nitrate per day, reducing import dependence, conserving foreign exchange and strengthening domestic industrial capabilities in energy and chemicals sectors.



"L&T Energy Hydrocarbon Onshore has won large order from Bharat Coal Gasification and Chemicals Ltd (BCGCL), a joint venture of Coal India Ltd (CIL) and Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL)," the infrastructure firm said in a filing to BSE.

The order encompasses the development of the nitric acid and ammonium nitrate Plant, to be executed on a lump sum turnkey basis.

"Once operational, the facility will enable the conversion of coal into ammonium nitrate with a planned production capacity of 2,000 tonnes per day, supporting the growing requirements of India's mining, infrastructure and industrial sectors," the filing said.

The scope of work includes basic design, detailed engineering, procurement and construction, overall project management and final handover of the plant and its facilities.

India remains top remittance recipient

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

United Nations, May 5: India received more than 137 billion dollars in remittances in 2024, the top remittance recipient country in the world and the only nation to surpass 100 billion dollars, the UN agency on migration said.

"India consistently leads as the top recipient of remittances, followed by Mexico," the World Migration Report 2026, released by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Tuesday, said.

In 2024, India, Mexico, the Philippines and France were the top four remittance recipient countries globally.

"India, however, continued to be well above the rest, receiving more than \$137 billion, and remained the only country to surpass \$100 billion," the report said.

Since 2010, India has been the top remittance receiving



REMITTANCE DOMINANCE
2010 - \$53.48 billion
2015 - \$68.91 billion
2020 - \$83.15 billion
2024 - \$137.67 billion

country in the world, when it had received 53.48 billion dollars, which grew over the years to 68.91 billion dollars in 2015, 83.15 billion dollars in 2020 and 137.67 billion dollars in 2024.

The report said that the distribution of remittances varies across regions as well, with South Asia estimated to experience the highest growth in 2024 at 11.8 per cent, driven by continued strong inflows to India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

High-income countries are almost always the main source of international remittances. For decades, the United States of America has consistently been the top remittance-send-

ing country in the world, with a total outflow surpassing \$100 billion in 2024. It was followed by Saudi Arabia (over \$46 billion), Switzerland (around \$40 billion) and Germany (nearly \$24 billion).

The report also said that countries in Asia continue to account for the largest share of internationally mobile students. In 2022, more than one million international students came from China, the single largest origin country worldwide. India ranked second, with over 620,000 students

ICC T20I rankings: India retain No 1 position

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, May 5: Three-time World Cup winners India Tuesday retained the top spot in the ICC T20I rankings followed by England and Australia at second and third respectively.

India had created history by becoming the first team to successfully defend their T20 World Cup title and also win it for a record-extending third time in March, when they co-hosted the tournament with Sri Lanka.

"The latest rankings rate all matches played since May 2025 at 100 per cent and those of the previous two years at 50 per cent," the ICC said on its website.

"Sitting at 275 points, India see their lead over England (262 points) trimmed by merely one point, while Australia are placed closer to England at the third place with 258 points," it added.

While two-time winners England have 262 rating points, one-time champions Australia



have 258 points.

In all, there is no change in ranking for the top seven teams in the ICC T20I rankings with

New Zealand (247), South Africa (244), Pakistan (240) and the West Indies (233) remaining at the following spots.

However, Sri Lanka (221) have lost six rating points and subsequently slipped to the ninth position while Bangla-

desh (225) have moved up one place to be at eighth. Afghanistan (220) are at 10th with a close margin of gap with Sri Lanka.

Zimbabwe and Ireland are ranked 11th and 12th respectively.

"Cricket's rising force in North America, the USA have leaptfrogged two spots after gaining six points, and see themselves rise to the 13th place, overtaking Netherlands and Scotland who are at 14th and 15th ranks respectively," the ICC said.

"Namibia was unchanged at 16th place while Nepal (17th) and Oman (19th) jumped a spot each, overtaking UAE (18th) and Canada (20th) respectively."

The ICC informed that the number of teams being ranked are down from 102 to 98.

"The number of teams in the rankings is down from 102 to 98 as Fiji, Gambia, Greece and Israel didn't make the cut as they did not play the requisite eight T20Is in the past three years," the ICC said.

ARCHERY WC

Deotale shines as Indian men seal top-three finish



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shanghai, May 5: Former world champion Ojas Deotale led from the front as India's men compound team secured a top-10 finish in the qualification round of the Archery World Cup Stage 2 here Tuesday.

Deotale, who became India's first-ever male world champion in archery by winning the 2023 World Archery Championships in Berlin, was the best-placed Indian, shooting 711 points to finish seventh overall that set the tone for the team's effort.

Sahil Jadhav also logged in 711 points, taking the next

spot on X-count, while Kushal Dalal completed the trio with an overall 18th-place finish as India sealed the third seeding in the team event.

Asian Games medallist Abhishek Verma, however, endured a disappointing outing, finishing 25th with 705 points to miss out on the team combination.

He will still feature in the individual elimination rounds.

In the women's compound section, former world champion Aditi Swami finished 13th with 700 points - seven behind USA's Alexis Ruiz, who topped the qualification.

Pragati was the second-best Indian at 19th with 697 points, while multiple World Cup winner Jyothi Surekha Venman slipped to 21st, as the trio combined to give India the fifth seeding in the women's team event.

2ND YOUNGEST CHAMPION

Wu carves his name into snooker folklore

The 22-year-old Chinese edges Shaun Murphy 18-17 in classic final with dramatic 18-17 triumph

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sheffield, May 5: Wu Yize conquered the World Snooker Championship title for the first time and became the second consecutive Chinese winner as he beat Shaun Murphy 18-17 in one of the all-time great finals.

Aged 22 and 202 days, he is the second youngest ever world champion, after Stephen Hendry, who was 21 in 1990. He becomes the 25th player to hold the famous silverware at the Crucible, and for the first time there have been four consecutive maiden winners as Wu follows Luca Brecel in 2023 (age 28), Kyren Wilson in 2024 (age 32) and Zhao in 2025 (age 28).

This is Wu's second title, and he leapt from tenth to fourth in the world rankings. He had never won a match at the Crucible before this year, losing in the first round in his previous appearances in 2023 and 2025, but given his talent and composure under pressure, he was considered a true contender this year.

Victories over Lei Peifan, Mark Selby and Hossein Vafaei put him into the semi-finals where he won a thrilling battle with Mark Allen 17-16 before another classic victory against Murphy.

"I am so happy I could play like that," Wu was quoted by World Snooker. "I played for my family, for myself and for China. My parents are the true champions. Since I made the decision to drop out of school, my dad has been by my side. My mum has also been through so much over the years. They are the source of my strength, and I love them so much."

I can't thank the fans enough; no matter who you support, the love for snooker is mutual. I just want to have a good sleep! Since the second session I have been feeling nerves so right now I want to go to bed!

WU YIZE



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 5: Sanju Samson paced his unbeaten 87 off 52 balls perfectly on a tricky track as Chennai Super Kings kept themselves relevant in the Indian Premier League with an eight-wicket win over a self-destructing Delhi Capitals here Tuesday.

After opting to bat, DC's struggles with the bat at home continued as they ended with a below par 155 for seven on a pitch offering assistance to the spinners with odd ball holding up.

Samson and Kartik Sharma (41 not out off 31 balls) forged a 114-run unbroken partnership off 66 balls for the third wicket, taking CSK home in 17.3 overs for their fifth win of the season. For DC, the road to play-offs got a lot tougher with their sixth loss in 10 matches.

While the CSK spin duo of Akeal Hosein and Noor Ahmad excelled, DC's lead spinner Kuldeep Yadav conceded 34 runs in his three overs. He was hit for four sixes in those 18 balls, releasing all the pressure DC had put on the opposition by limiting them to 44 for one in the powerplay.

While skipper Axar Patel did the containing job well, Kuldeep failed to get a wicket in the middle overs to make it easier for CSK. Trump card Mitchell Starc was not able to strike early on though Lungi

TODAY'S MATCH
SRH VS PBKS
TIME: 7:30 PM
Star Sports channels & JioHotstar



BRIEF SCORES:
Delhi Capitals: 155 for 7 in 20 overs (Tristan Stubbs 38, Sameer Rizvi 40 not out; Noor Ahmed 2/22) lost to **Chennai Super Kings** 159 for two in 17.3 overs (Sanju Samson 87 not out, Kartik Sharma 41 not out) by eight wickets

Ngidi removed Ruturaj Gaikwad in his opening over.

It seemed Samson had it all figured out in his head. Having laboured to 15 off his first 17 balls, he targeted Kuldeep post the powerplay to anchor the chase for his team. His innings included half a dozen sixes.

The opener has also struck two hundreds in his debut sea-

son for the storied franchise.

Earlier, DC's free fall began with the loss of opener Pathum Nissanka who failed to clear the mid-on fielder off a slower ball from left-arm pacer Mukesh Choudhary.

Both Nissanka (19 off 15 balls) and KL Rahul (12 off 13 balls) began with crisp boundaries but did not last long. After Nissanka, Rahul attempted an inside-out hit off left-arm spinner Akeal Hosein but could not get to the pitch of the ball on the charge to be caught by opposition captain Ruturaj Gaikwad.

With DC's innings not gaining any momentum, the crowd, mostly in yellow supporting CSK and M S Dhoni, who did not even travel for the game, built more pressure on the

'home team'. Chants of 'CSK, CSK' were heard regularly during the innings.

TEAMS	P	W	L	NRR	PTS
PBKS	9	6	2	0.855	13
RCB	9	6	3	1.420	12
SRH	10	6	4	0.644	12
RR	10	6	4	0.510	12
GT	10	6	4	-0.147	12
CSK	10	5	5	0.151	10
DC	10	4	6	-0.949	8
KKR	9	3	5	-0.539	7
MI	10	3	7	-0.649	6
LSG	9	2	7	-1.076	4

BROADCASTING RIGHTS ISSUE

FIFA WC viewing in doubt for fans in India, China

The 2026 tournament kicks off June 11, leaving barely five weeks for a deal to be finalised, broadcast infrastructure to be set up and advertising inventory to be sold

REUTERS

New Delhi, May 5: Millions of football fans in the world's two most populous nations may not be able to watch the World Cup that starts next month, due to a deadlock over broadcast rights in India and no official decision in China.

In India, a Reliance-Disney joint venture has offered \$20 million for 2026 World Cup broadcast rights, a fraction of FIFA's ask, which was not acceptable to soccer's global governing body, two sources told Reuters Monday. Sony held talks but also decided not to make an offer for FIFA rights for India, a third source with direct knowledge said.

There has also been no deal announcement for China, which FIFA says accounted



for 49.8% of all hours of viewing on digital and social platforms globally during the 2022 World Cup. FIFA has concluded agreements with broadcasters in over 175 territories globally, it said in a statement to Reuters.

"Discussions in China and India regarding the sale of media rights for the FIFA World Cup 2026 are ongoing and must remain confidential at this stage," the statement said.

Reliance-Disney, a joint venture led by billionaire Mukesh

China is unusual at this stage.

In past World Cups, including 2018 and 2022, Chinese state broadcaster CCTV secured the rights well in advance and began airing promotional content and sponsor-driven advertisements weeks before the tournament.

China accounted for 17.7% and India 2.9% of the global linear TV reach of the 2022 tournament. The two countries together accounted for 22.6% of total global digital streaming reach for that World Cup.

For India, FIFA initially sought \$100 million for broadcast rights for the 2026 and 2030 World Cups, the sources said, declining to be named because the talks are private.

When the World Cup last aired in India in 2022, Reliance's then-standalone media arm secured the rights for about \$60 million, which was announced around 14 months before the event in Qatar.

Reliance and Disney have since formed a joint venture to emerge as a dominant force in India's media and streaming landscape, and the \$20 million FIFA offer underscores the negotiating power the Indian group commands.

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No 1 Sabalenka calls for boycott if players don't get bigger cut of Grand Slam revenues

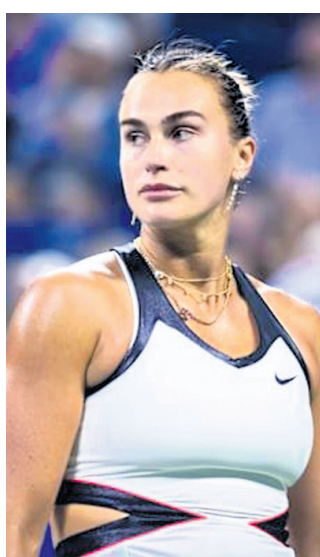
The Australian Open this year increased the players' compensation by 16%, and the US Open prize money last year went up by 20%

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rome, May 5: Top-ranked Aryna Sabalenka believes tennis players should organize a boycott if they don't start receiving a bigger share of tournament revenues at the Grand Slams.

Sabalenka and fellow No 1 Jannik Sinner were among leading players - most of them ranked in the top 10 - who issued a statement on Monday expressing "deep disappointment" over the French Open prize money.

"Without us there wouldn't be a tournament and there wouldn't be that entertainment. I feel like definitely we deserve to be paid more percentage," Sabalenka said Tuesday at the Italian Open as she celebrated



her 28th birthday.

"I think at some point we will boycott it. I feel like that's going to be the only way to fight for our rights."

The players are also seeking better representation, health options and pensions from the four Grand Slam tournaments: Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon and US Open.

French Open organizers announced last month they were

increasing overall prize money by about 10% for an overall pot of 61.7 million euros (\$72.1 million), with the total amount up 5.3 million euros from last year.

But the players' statement said "the underlying figures tell a very different story," claiming they will receive a smaller share of tournament revenues.

"Players' share of Roland Garros tournament revenue has declined from 15.5% in 2024 to 14.9% projected in 2026," the players said.

Iga Swiatek, a four-time French Open champion, said "the most important thing is to have proper communication and discussions with the governing bodies so we have some space to talk and maybe negotiate."

"Hopefully before Roland Garros there's going to be opportunity to have these type of meetings and we'll see how they go," Swiatek added. "But boycotting the tournament, it's a bit extreme kind of situation."

French Open organizers did not respond to a request for comment after the players issued their statement.