

### Rajnath launches BrahMos unit

**Lucknow:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Sunday virtually inaugurated the BrahMos Aerospace Integration and Testing Facility at the Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor here. The ₹300 crore facility is a key part of the Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor and represents India's commitment to self-reliant defence manufacturing, the Ministry of Defence said. "It includes not only missile production but also testing, integration, and a materials complex for aerospace-grade components. A major leap toward #AtmanirbharBharat and a strategic boost to regional industrial growth," the Ministry of Defence said on X. **P7**

### Ramakrushna suspended over Digha temple row

**Puri:** In a significant move, Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) Sunday suspended Daitapati servitor of the 12th century shrine here, Ramakrushna Dasmohapatra, for his involvement in consecration of Digha Jagannath Temple in West Bengal last month. According to an official order, Ramakrushna has been barred from performing any rituals or entering Puri Srimandir during the suspension period of 30 days. The suspension was imposed due to actions deemed damaging to the image of Srimandir, as stated by the SJTA Chief in a press release. The order further stipulates that Ramakrushna must not attempt to intimidate members of his Nijog or others involved in the incident, nor interfere with the rituals of the temple. **P3**

## 40 Pak military personnel killed in combat: Forces

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 11:** India has inflicted tremendous losses to the Pakistan military, including downing a few of its fighter jets featuring latest technologies and damaging key military installations close to even capital Islamabad, during the three-day confrontation between the two sides, the Indian military said Sunday.

Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai said 35-40 Pakistani military personnel were killed in the combat and New Delhi achieved its desired objectives and that Pakistan will have to pay a very heavy price if it resorts to any more misadventure. The Indian military also acknowledged suffering some losses but declined to provide the details as the operations are going on. "We are in a combat scenario. Losses are a part

of combat. The question to be asked is, have we achieved our objectives of decimating the terrorist camps? The answer is a thumping yes," Director General Air Operations Air Marshal AK Bharti said at a media briefing here.

"All I can say is that we have achieved our objectives that we selected and all our pilots are back home," he said. Director General of Naval Operations Vice Admiral AN Pramod said the forward deployment of the Indian Navy compelled Pakistani naval and air units to be in a defensive posture, mostly inside harbours or very close to their coast.

Lt Gen Ghai said over 100 terrorists, including high-value targets such as Yusuf Azhar, Abdul Malik Rauf and Mudasir Ahmed who were involved in the hijacking of IC-814 and the Pulwama blast, were eliminated during Operation Sindoor early May 7.

## No mediation on Kashmir: India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 11:** India will never accept mediation in the Kashmir issue and the only matter to discuss is Pakistan returning the territory which is under its illegal occupation, government sources said Sunday.

"The only matter related to Kashmir to discuss is Pakistan returning territory under its illegal occupation," they asserted.

Stating that Operation Sindoor is not concluded and there is a 'new normal' in India's response to cross-border terrorism, sources said India has called Pakistan's nuclear bluff with the operation and sent a psychological message to state-sponsored terrorists: nobody is untouchable and no place in Pakistan is safe for you.

The sources also emphasised that the confrontation never reached the stage of a nuclear conflict which has been the greatest fear and threat used by Pakistan, whose military is vastly smaller than India's.

However, the nuclear deterrence has given it some amount of parity, they said.

"We have called their nuclear deterrence bluff. We take the nuclear threat seriously, but it cannot serve as cover for Pakistan to come and do terrorism in our country," said a senior source.

"The new normal is that the Line of Control will not protect you; the international border will not protect you; the nuclear threat will not protect you," the source said.

"The message that has been sent is that no matter where you are in Pakistan, we will hit you. On this occasion, we have gone after the head of the snake and not foot soldiers," it said. The sources said Indian action demonstrated its new approach to kill terrorists within Pakistan.



**TENSE HOURS:** People wait in a hilly terrain of Baramulla district in J&K after the authorities directed the border villages, who were evacuated to safer places in view of cross border shelling by Pakistan, not to rush back to homes until the areas are sanitised, Sunday

PTI PHOTO

DSPL-61

Centenary Celebration of Olchiki Script Invention and 120th Birth Anniversary of Guru Gomkey Pt.Raghunath Murmu

Meeting

Chief Guest

Shri Mohan Charan Majhi, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Odisha

In Cordial Presence Of

Dr. Krushna Chandra Mahapatra, Minister, Housing & Urban Development, Public Enterprises.

Shri Suryabanshi Suraj, Minister, Higher Education, Sports & Youth Services, Odia Language, Literature & Culture.

Shri Ganesh Ram Singkhuntia, Minister, Forest, Environment & Climate Change, Labour & Employees' State Insurance.

Smt.Mamata Mohanta, Mp (Rajya Sabha), Mayurbhanj

Shri Naba Charan Majhi, Mp (Lok Sabha), Mayurbhanj

Shri Pratap Sarangi, Mp (Lok Sabha), Balasore,

Shri Ananta Nayak, Mp (Lok Sabha), Keonjhar,

Shri Jalen Naik, Mla, Rairangpur,

Shri Bhadav Hansdah, Mla, Saraskana,

Shri Padma Charan Haiburu, Mla, Karanjia,

Shri Bhaskar Madhei, Mla, Udala,

Shri Prakash Soren, Mla, Baripada,

Shri Sanatan Bijuli, Mla, Badasahi,

Sushree Sanjali Murmu, Mla, Bangriposi,

Smt.Bharati Hansdah, President, Zilla Parishad, Mayurbhanj

12TH TO 14TH MAY, 2025 MAHULDIHA, DANDBOSE, RAIRANGPUR

• AT 11.00AM GARLANDING ON THE SAMADHI PITHA OF PANDIT RAGHUNATH MURMU BY CHIEF MINISTER, ODISHA, SHRI MOHAN CHARAN MAJHI,

• AT 11.30AM OBSERVATION ON INVENTION OF OLCHIKI SCRIPT & CONTRIBUTION TO THE SOCIETY BY PANDIT RAGHUNATH MURMU.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND THE PROGRAMME.

COURTESY:- ODIA LANGUAGE, LITERATURE & CULTURE DEPARTMENT, DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MAYURBHANJ

OIPR-03029/13/0052/2526

## Oppn demands special session

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 11:** Some Opposition parties Sunday demanded a special session of Parliament to discuss the Pahalgam attack and Operation Sindoor, and questioned the government if it was open to third-party mediation on Kashmir after the US made announcements on behalf of India and Pakistan.

The Congress, RJD, Shiv Sena (UBT) and the Left also demanded an all-party meeting to discuss the situation in wake of the hostilities with Pakistan.

Some parties questioned the US role in announcing the cessation of the military standoff. The Congress demanded answers on whether the government had

accepted third-party mediation on Kashmir after the US made announcements on behalf of India and Pakistan. It also slammed attempts to 'internationalise' the issue and 'hyphenate' the two countries.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh posed several questions to the government, including if New Delhi had opened the doors to third-party intervention. The demands came after India and Pakistan Saturday reached an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes. There were violations of the agreement as Pakistan resorted to cross-border firing within hours of its announcement.

### Canons for bullets: PM

India has set a 'new normal' in response to Pakistan-backed cross-border terrorism through Operation Sindoor and Prime Minister Narendra Modi directed the armed forces that Indian retaliation to any action by the Pakistani military should be 'bigger and stronger', government sources said. "Wahan se goli chalegi, toh yahan se gola chalega (If they fire bullets, we will respond with cannons)," one of the sources quoted PM Modi as saying following the Pakistani actions. Operation Sindoor is not concluded yet and the cost of cross-border terrorism will be raised as Pakistan can't continue with terrorism while expecting cooperation in areas of its choosing, the sources said. When asked whether Operation Sindoor managed to fulfil the Prime Minister's instructions, a senior government source said, "Markaz ko mitti mei mila diya hai; age ka bhi dekhenge". He was referring to precision strikes on nine terrorist training sites and headquarters on the early morning of May 7.

of Military Operations (DGMOs). There is no other issue to discuss, the sources said.

DADLS-22

ପଞ୍ଚିତ ରଘୁନାଥ ମୁର୍ମୁ ଜୟନ୍ତୀ ଅବସରରେ ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ବାର୍ତ୍ତା

ଗୁରୁ ଗୁମ୍ଫାଙ୍କେ ପଞ୍ଚିତ ରଘୁନାଥ ମୁର୍ମୁଙ୍କ ପବିତ୍ର ଜୟନ୍ତୀ ଅବସରରେ ତାଙ୍କ ପ୍ରତି ମୋର ଗଭୀର ଶ୍ରଦ୍ଧାଞ୍ଜଳି ଅର୍ପଣ କରୁଛି । ସାତାଳୀ ଭାଷାର ଲିପି 'ଅଲ୍ ଚିକ୍' ସୃଷ୍ଟି କରି ସେ ଦେଶ ଓ ବିଦେଶର ଏକ ବିଶାଳ ସମ୍ପ୍ରଦାୟର ଭାଷା, ସାହିତ୍ୟ ଓ ଶିକ୍ଷାର ବିକାଶ କ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ନିଜର ଅମୂଲ୍ୟ ଅବଦାନ ରଖିଯାଇଛନ୍ତି । ଏହି ଅବସରରେ ମୁଁ ସମଗ୍ର ସାତାଳୀ ସମାଜକୁ ମୋର ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଜଣାଉଛି ଓ ସେମାନଙ୍କର ସର୍ବାଙ୍ଗୀନ ଉନ୍ନତି କାମନା କରୁଛି ।

ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ (ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀ) ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

OIPR-15001/13/0653/2526



# leisure

## FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181\*

**ARIES**  
If you get a chance to display your presentation skills, don't lose it, says Ganesha. Your eloquence may receive wide acclaim. Your children too may give you reason to be proud. Do remember to take time out for the elderly in your family.

**TAURUS**  
You may feel that you woke up on the wrong side of the bed today, says Ganesha. The day is filled with a fair share of jittery moments and lingering worry. Stand firm and remember that every night has a dawn. The law of averages will make your evening more enjoyable. You may discuss certain intimate issues with your sweetheart for the betterment of your relationship.

**GEMINI**  
Your day will be spent indulging in activities that appeal to you. You may go out shopping with your family members, or go out to dinner with friends. A lesiurely, entertainment filled, fun day awaits you, says Ganesha.

**CANCER**  
You may face unwanted events and circumstances. As a result you will feel sad, yet you will wriggle out of it with your efficiency. Put in efforts in studies, says Ganesha. remember that in success destiny is one per cent and effort 99 per cent.

**LEO**  
One way to assure success is by believing in oneself and one's abilities. Let this confidence and your high spirits take you to newer heights today, says Ganesha. Remain cheerful all day long, and you will see your hardships disappear as you tackle them with consummate skill. But more importantly, Ganesha foresees the day leading you to a fulfilling evening. Enjoy!

**VIRGO**  
A medley of good and bad awaits you today. Emotional people will find you immature and inconsistent. But your bag of jokes is never empty, and you remain the jester as always. Ganesha advises you to meditate and engage in spiritually rich activities to channel and focus all your talents.

**LIBRA**  
There is no end to work, so buckle up, as it is highly probable that work pressure will take up most of your time today. This leaves precious little for your family, but as always, they fully understand. Ganesha expects you to be both hard-working and conscientious today.

**SCORPIO**  
The spectre of financial instability will keep haunting you. But there can be a brighter side to life too,says Ganesha. Long overdue payments might get en-cashed today. And those blind bluffs you call sometimes in business might pay handsome rewards, predicts Ganesha.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
You may have women swooning over you today; such is your charm and way with them, says Ganesha. But friends are highly valuable to you, and you shall spend much time with them cherishing their company and reliving amazing times spent together.

**CAPRICORN**  
It may seem to be an unusual combination, but you will experience pain and pleasure in equal measure today, says Ganesha. The errands you may have to run for at home will leave you exhausted, so conserve some energy for the rest of the day. Your wit can get you whatever you want, but it's important that you use it in the right way and not just to meet your selfish interests.

**AQUARIUS**  
Good news may hit home today. Promotion, profit, scholarship, anything you've been working for will probably materialise. You are ingenious, and will crack the toughest of problems with consummate ease. Ganesha sees money lenders and brokers doing well.

**PISCES**  
Being a friend in need is what today will be about, says Ganesha. Making new acquaintances and associations is also on the cards. Try not to let jealousy mar your better judgement while you are at it.

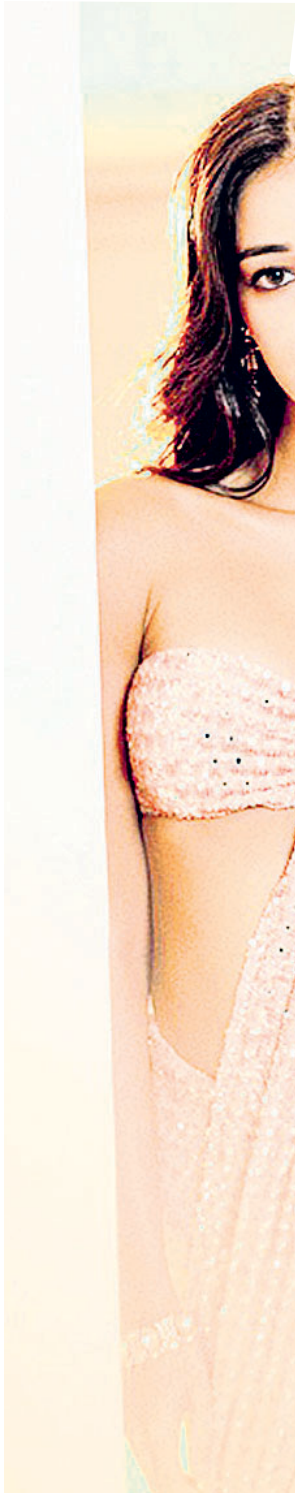


## DOM HETRAKUL TO STAR IN DEBT SENTENCE

Actor Dom Hetrakul, best known for *The White Lotus*, is set to star in a Thai crime-horror film, titled *Debt Sentence*. According to the entertainment news outlet *Variety*, the upcoming project is based on the viral short film *How to Run Away From Your Debt*.

## BLAKE LIVELY LOSES ANOTHER FRIEND AMID LEGAL DRAMA

Blake Lively faces more Hollywood fallout amid legal drama with *It Ends With Us* co-star and director Justin Baldoni. Just when the reports of Taylor Swift's "feeling used" surfaced on the internet, Gigi Hadid, the American supermodel and Lively's long-time best friend, has broken the ties with the actress.



## Ananya on red flags in relationships

**MUMBAI:** In a candid interview, actress Ananya Panday opened up about her perspective on relationships, highlighting the red flags she refuses to ignore. Honesty, she said, is non-negotiable. "Dishonesty is a major red flag for me because I'm a very honest person. If you ask me something, I'll tell you exactly what it is," Ananya shared, adding that she expects the same level of transparency from her partner.

Respect is equally important to her, especially in how someone behaves in public. "If someone is nice to you at home but acts differently around others, that changing behavior is a big, big red flag," she noted, emphasising the need for consistency in how a person treats you.

When asked whether it's easier to date someone from the film industry or outside of it, Ananya admitted that both have their pros and cons. "Actors understand the lifestyle—the fame, the travel, the constant attention. It's normal for them," she explained. "But sometimes, it's refreshing when someone doesn't know who you are. It feels more real."

As for infidelity, Ananya was firm: "Never. I would die of guilt." Her reflections reveal a desire for genuine, grounded connections beyond the spotlight.



## KRITI'S BIGGEST CRITIC

**MUMBAI:** Bollywood actress Kriti Sanon, who was recently seen in the streaming film, *Do Patti* celebrated Mother's Day.

The actress took to her Instagram, and shared a heartfelt video featuring her mother Geeta Sanon. She called her mom her biggest supporter and her biggest critic.

She wrote in the caption, "Happy Mother's Day Mumma. To our sunshine of happiness and our pillar of strength. My Biggest supporter and the biggest critic! The problem solver and the drama-queen! The mother as well as the baby of our house. We love you more than you know. Happy Mother's day to all moms out there".

Prior to this, Kriti gave a sneak peek into her March diaries, and shared how she 'March-ed into April'. One of the photos in her post was of her chilling at her home, followed by an image of enjoying a wholesome home-cooked meal.

We could also see her having a blast with *Tere Ishk Mein* director Anand L Rai on the sets of her next. From some self-care during downtime at home to traveling, to satisfying her sweet tooth, to creating some fond memories with friends, Kriti's March looked like a perfect balance of work and fun.

ANS

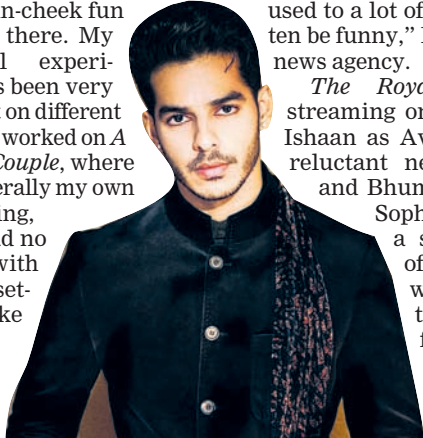
AGENCIES

## ‘Actors should have some discretion’

**MUMBAI:** Actor Ishaan Khatter has a balanced perspective on the discourse around the entourage accompanying actors, saying that he is neither in favour or against the idea of working with a support staff -- it should be up to the artists. Ishaan's latest web series, *The Royals*, delivers a tongue-in-cheek take on the rising costs of actor entourages, which often add extra burden on film budgets.

"No one person should have enough people to burden an entire setup. There's a good bit of

tongue-in-cheek fun to have there. My personal experience has been very different on different sets. I've worked on *A Perfect Couple*, where I was literally my own everything, and I had no person with me. In set-ups like these, you've a lot of ...we're

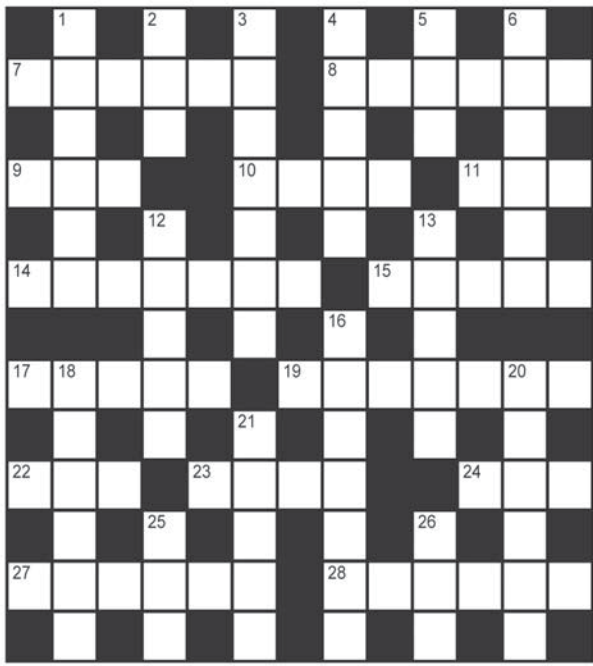


used to a lot of help. It can often be funny," Ishaan told this news agency.

*The Royals*, currently streaming on Netflix, stars Ishaan as Aviraaj Singh, a reluctant new-age prince, and Bhumi Pednekar as Sophia Shekhar, a self-made CEO of a start-up, who team up to transform the former's haveli into a luxury B&B experience.

FUN  
post

## CROSSWORD



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### Across

- 7 Vow
- 8 Groove
- 9 Wetland
- 10 Arduous journey
- 11 Camp sack
- 14 Aquatic bird (3,4)
- 15 Ladder parts
- 17 Use a broom
- 19 Percussion instrument

### Down

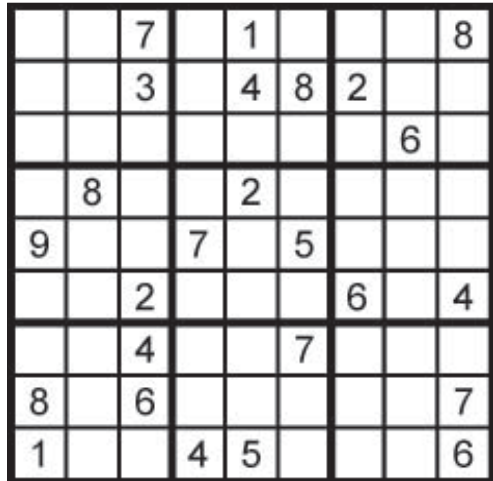
- 1 Breakfast nook
- 2 Offbeat
- 22 Caribou kin
- 23 Highlands hillside
- 24 Doctor's charge
- 27 French Riviera principality
- 28 Collared

### 3

- Turtle
- 4 Frequently
- 5 Jimmy
- 6 Chinese tea
- 12 Fiends
- 13 Type of jet
- 16 Bars
- 18 Deciduous tree
- 20 Mismatched
- 21 Sag
- 25 Cave dweller
- 26 Flow's partner

## SUDOKU

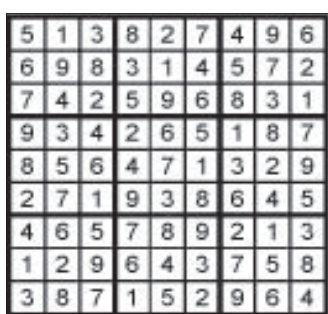
To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



## SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



# downtown

## 11 held for shooting at bar bouncer in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 11:** A day after a bouncer in a bar at Chandrasekharpur here suffered bullet injuries during a fracas with some miscreants, the Commissionerate Police Sunday arrested 11 persons in connection with the incident.

“The condition of injured bouncer Surjyakanta Pradhan, who is recuperating at a private hospital here, is stable,” said Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Jagmohan Meena.

Addressing a presser, the DCP said the arrested were identified as Badal Swain, 21, Chinmay Kumar Dey, 21, Sahil Das, 23, Omkar Patra, 29, Ranjit Kumar Sahoo, 31, Alok Kumar Sahoo, 29, Achyutananda Lenka, 25, Jagrat Panda, 32, Babru Pradhan, 25, Asit Patra, 32, and Rajesh Nayak, 24. Among them, Rajesh Nayak was earlier booked by Badagada police and Airport police, while Badal Swain has been booked by Badagada police.

The arrests came following raids in Puri, Dhenkanal, An-

gul and Cuttack. A manhunt is underway to apprehend the remaining culprits involved in the case, Meena said.

Elaborating further, Meena said Surjyakanta, who lives in Salia Sahi slum, works as a bouncer at Cosmos Bar in Chandrasekharpur area.

It was around 1am Saturday when Surjyakanta asked the miscreants to leave the bar as it was time for closure for the day. This led to a heated exchange between them. Eventually, the men ganged up and assaulted Surjyakanta, said Meena. They also pelted stones on the bar. The miscreants exited the bar but did not leave the area.

Meena said around 4:30am, when Surjyakanta stepped out to check on the miscreants, the latter sprayed five rounds of bullets at him before escaping the scene.

Chandrasekharpur police has booked the 11 miscreants under Sections 126 (2), 109 (1), and 3 (5) of BNS, alongside Sections 25 and 27 of Arms Act. They were produced before a local court Sunday for remand.

### COURTESY VISIT

Orissa High Court judge Justice Sangam Kumar Sahoo pays courtesy visit to Utkal Balashram at Khapuria in Cuttack Sunday



**SCORCHING HEAT:** The Grand Road in Puri wears a deserted look as mercury soars in the Pilgrim City Sunday

OP PHOTO

### DIGHA TEMPLE ROW

# Ramakrushna faces 30-day suspension

PNN & AGENCIES

**Puri, May 11:** In a significant move, Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) Sunday suspended Daitapati servitor of the 12th century shrine here, Ramakrushna Dasmohapatra, for his involvement in consecration of Digha Jagannath Temple in West Bengal last month.

According to an official order, Ramakrushna has been barred from performing any rituals or entering Puri Srimandir during the suspension period of 30 days. The suspension was imposed due to actions deemed damaging to the image of Srimandir, as stated by the SJTA Chief in a press release.

The order further stipulates that Ramakrushna must not attempt to intimidate members of his Nijog or others involved in the incident, nor interfere with the rituals of the temple. Any violation of these terms will result in an extended suspension and stricter disciplinary actions.

Security personnel and supervisors of the temple have been directed to closely monitor Ramakrushna's behavior and report any violations to the administration. Should he act against the interests of Srimandir or disobey the chief administrator's directives, any pending payments for past services may be withheld or forfeited.

Previously, the SJTA had issued two show-cause notices to Ramakrushna. The first, dated May 4, questioned his claim—publicly made in the media—that the idols (Bigrahas) for the Digha Jagannath temple were carved from surplus sacred wood left over from 2015 Na-



bakalebar ceremony of Lord Jagannath and his siblings. This statement reportedly shocked devotees and stirred emotional unrest, tarnishing the sanctity of the Puri temple.

Ramakrushna was asked to respond within seven days.

The second notice, issued May 9, asked why he, as a servitor of Srimandir, participated in the consecration ceremony of a temple named “Jagannath Dham-Digha”. He was also directed to clarify whether he had raised any objection to the temple being named as such.

SJTA Chief Administrator Arabinda Padhee said these disciplinary actions are part of an effort to restore order and reverence within the temple institution.

“It is our duty to shun pride and greed, and to uphold the glorious traditions of Srimandir. That is the highest form of service to Mahaprabhu Sri Jagannath,” he stated, warning that indiscipline will not be tolerated.

The controversy erupted following an interview given by Ramakrushna, secretary of the Daita Nijog, to a Bengali television channel. In the interview, he reportedly claimed to have brought the Bigrahas of Lord Jagannath, Balabhadra, Subhadra, and Mahalaxmi to Digha, using leftover sacred Daru wood from the 2015 Nabakalebar ritual.

He consecrated these idols at Digha temple in West Bengal April 30, coinciding with the auspicious occasion of Akshaya Tritiya. The temple was inaugurated the same day by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

The interview quickly went viral on social media, sparking outrage within the servitor community and among devotees. Amid mounting backlash, Ramakrushna convened a press conference where he retracted his earlier statement, claiming that only ordinary Neem wood—not sacred Daru—was used.

Given the intensity of the backlash, the SJTA Chief Administrator convened a meeting with office bearers (presidents and secretaries) of the Chhatisha Nijog to discuss the alleged unauthorised use of sacred Daru wood.

The four Biswakarmas—traditional temple carpenters who sculpted the idols during the 2015 Nabakalebar—were also questioned regarding the disposal of leftover Daru wood.

In the sacred Nabakalebar ritual, the deities receive newly carved bodies from specially chosen neem trees, and the Brahma (soul essence) is transferred from the old idols to the new ones in a secret midnight ceremony.

## ‘Join civil defence units as volunteers’

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, May 11:** Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi appealed to youths Sunday to join civil defence organisations as volunteers to serve the country.

The youths represent hope, strength, and trust of the nation, he said, and urged them to come forward to join the civil defence organisations with the spirit of nationalism.

In a video message, Majhi said, “The security of the lives and property of the common people of the country is the responsibility of all of us. Security and service are our top responsibilities. Therefore, I appeal to all people, especially youths, to join civil defence organisations as volunteers.”

Interested youths can apply to the District Collectors to join the civil defence organisations, he said, adding that the Collectors are the controllers of civil



defence at the district level.

Majhi said training will be provided to the volunteers, and if needed, they will be mobilised to serve the public with the spirit of nationalism.

At present, civil defence units are functioning at 12 places in the state.

“I have instructed officials to establish new such units as per requirement,” the Chief Minister said.

**The CM said training will be provided to the volunteers, and if needed, they will be mobilised to serve the public with the spirit of nationalism**

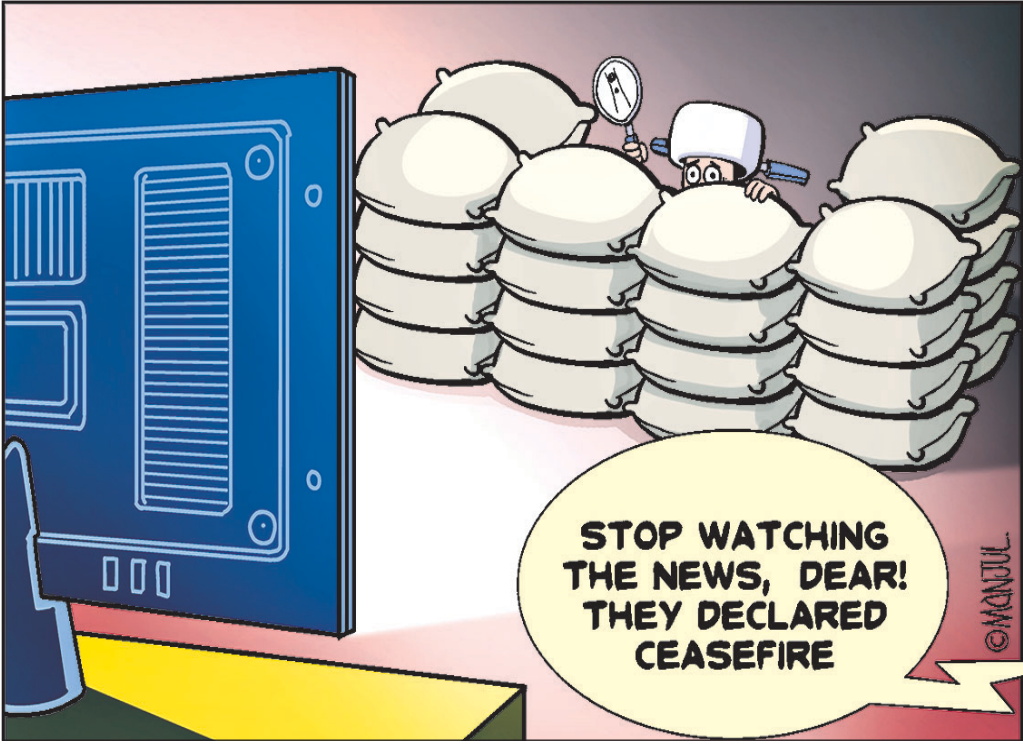
visionary leadership continues to propel India towards #AtmanirbharBharat in defence and beyond,” Mjahi wrote on X.

Deputy Chief Minister Pravatiparida too congratulated the Defence Minister for the inauguration of the BrahMos Missile manufacturing facility in Lucknow, terming it a significant step towards Atmanirbhar Bharat in defence.

“Congratulations to @DefenceMinIndia on the inauguration of the #BrahMosMissile manufacturing facility in Lucknow, marking a significant step towards #atmanirbharbharat in Defence,” she posted on X. “PM Shri @narendramodiji's vision and Union Defence Minister Shri @rajnathsinghji's efforts are driving India towards self-sufficiency in Defence Production,” she wrote.

The deputy CM also said that ‘Operation Sindoor’ is a symbol of India's political, social and military willpower.

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



## CM greets all moms on Mother's Day

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, May 11:** Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Sunday extended his greetings to all mothers on the occasion of Mother's Day.

He said mothers are pillars of strength, love and sacrifice.

In a post on X, Majhi said “On this Mother's Day, I extend heartfelt gratitude to all mothers—the pillars of strength, love and sacrifice. Let us honour their unwavering spirit and commitment in shaping a better future for our families and society. #MothersDay.”

Deputy Chief Minister Pravatiparida also extended warm wishes and congratulated all mothers on Mother's Day.

Parida, who is in charge of Women and Child Development department, had launched a ‘selfie with mother’ contest for Mother's Day. The top three contestants will be rewarded by the department Sunday, officials said.

## Neglect shadows Boudh's glorious Buddhist heritage

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Boudh, May 11:** Once a flourishing centre of Buddhist religion, Boudh district—named after Lord Buddha himself, is dotted with ancient Buddhist relics that stand as proud witnesses to its illustrious past. Despite the historical and cultural significance, many of these sites today lie neglected and forgotten.

Once known as the ancient Buddhist Gadajat, the remnants include rare architectural marvels built thousands of years ago. These relics, not only offer a glimpse into Boudh's glorious heritage, but also hold immense potential for development of

heritage and cultural tourism.

The banks of River Mahanadi, flowing through the district, hold many significant Buddhist sites. Notable sites, such as the grand statue of Lord Buddha at Rajbati in town, and ancient relics found at Shyam Sundarpur and Paragalpur in Harabhanga block are some of the important historical evidences.

Lord Buddha symbolises the essence of Buddhism as a religion—its culture, philosophy, and non-violent path. His teachings of truth and non-violence have deeply influenced the social and spiritual life of the region. Local traditions, spiritual practices, and the ideals,



followed by monks and saints in the district, are all rooted in the values preached by the Enlightened One.

A remarkable 6 ft X 9 inch idol of Lord Buddha, seated on a lotus in the Bhumisparsha mudra, is a sight of rejoice at Rajbati. Historians believe that the statue was once part of a

grand Buddhist temple, built during the reign of emperor Ashoka. However, the condition of the shrine housing the statue is now in a pitiful state.

Interestingly, people from the district regard the statue as a sacred place and offers prayers before beginning any auspicious cultural, social, or wedding ceremonies in the town—a testament to the continued spiritual significance the place holds. Locals also believe that taking the blessings of Lord Buddha before beginning any work becomes propitious.

In earlier times, people even worshipped Lord Buddha as 'Budha Raja', meaning the old king.

Former Boudh Collector Lalatendu Mishra had taken commendable steps to restore Boudh's identity as a Buddhist hub by installing Lord Buddha's statues at key entry points in the district—including Madhapur in Harabhanga block, Manamunda in Kantamal block, the Bridge Square in Boudh town, Mahanadi Park, and Baghaguda Square.

Many of these statues are now wallowing in neglect and in immediate need of maintenance and renovation. Many of these sites are also in a state of abandonment, sparking concern among local intellectuals and heritage lovers.

## Severe heatwave grips state; Sambalpur hottest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, May 11:** Odisha continued to sizzle under extreme heat Sunday, with 19 places recording a maximum temperature of 40 degrees Celsius and above, officials said.

According to the evening bulletin of the Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre, Sambalpur was the hottest place of the state Sunday, recording a maximum temperature of 43.2 degrees Celsius, followed by Titilagarh (42.5 degrees Celsius) and Bolangir (42 degrees Celsius).

Other places registering temperatures in excess of 40 degrees Celsius include Sundargarh (41.8 degrees C), Angul (41.7 degrees C), Jharsuguda and Hirkud (41.6 degrees C each), it said.

State capital Bhubaneswar recorded a high of 40.7 degrees Celsius.

Hot and humid conditions are expected to prevail in the districts like Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam, Gajapati, Mayurbhanj and Keonjhar Monday, the weatherman said.



# Trump’s ceasefire call stirs political debate



Odisha leaders raise questions on US President Donald Trump’s intervention

MANOJ KUMAR JENA, OP

**Bhubaneswar, May 11:** US President Donald Trump’s announcement of a “full and immediate ceasefire” between India and Pakistan Saturday has sparked confusion, with political leaders questioning the intervention. The ceasefire was declared after three days of military escalation between the two countries.

However, hours after the announcement, Pakistan reportedly violated the ceasefire agreement along the International Border and Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir, including Srinagar, as well as parts of Punjab and Rajasthan. This raised doubts about Pakistan’s commitment

to the agreement.

Despite accusations of violations from both sides, the ceasefire appeared to hold Sunday. During a press briefing, the Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) of the Indian military confirmed that the ceasefire was being followed.

They also stated that Operation Sindoor remains active, and if Pakistan again violates the ceasefire, the Indian armed forces will respond with equal intensity.

The political response to Trump’s intervention as a mediator has been mixed.

Pottangi MLA and Odisha Congress Legislature Party chief Ramachandra Kadam expressed skepticism about Trump’s role. “Everyone cannot be like Indira Gandhi,” Kadam said, referring to the 1971 Indo-Pakistan war.

“We appreciate the ceasefire decision, but the intervention by the US President seems confusing. It clearly indicates that no leader can handle the situ-

ation like Indira Gandhi did,” he said.

Kadam continued, “Our Indian army was in a strong position and fighting with all might. We will always be grateful to them. The Centre should clarify to all political parties about the developments leading to the ceasefire agreement.”

CPI (M) state secretary Suresh Chandra Panigrahy, also questioned Trump’s intervention. “Nobody wants war, and the ceasefire is welcome, but India, being a powerful nation, did not need Donald Trump’s involvement in our affairs. The Indian government should convene an all-party meeting to clarify the circumstances surrounding the USA’s intervention.”

Nayagarh BJD MLA Arun Kumar Sahoo added, “All political parties, including the opposition, have supported the Central government’s actions against Pakistan’s terrorist attacks. However, Pakistan’s violation of the ceasefire immediately after the announcement is causing confusion about the ceasefire’s status. We urge the Centre to engage with the opposition and explain the developments clearly.”

Kasturi Mishra, BJP state secretary, defended the decision, stating, “The opposition has every right to ask questions. PM Modi might have taken the ceasefire call after analysing the current diplomatic situation. This decision is appropriate and will yield positive results in the coming days.”

Mishra emphasised, “While the war situation has boosted the morale of every countryman, we must also be cautious as war comes with a heavy price. Peace remains our priority, and the Centre’s decision will have long-term benefits.”



A Bronze-winged Jacana spotted with chicks at Kanjia Lake in Nandankanan Zoological Park on the outskirts of City, Sunday

OP PHOTO

## H&UD Principal Secy reviews urban projects

Focus on sustainable development, better drainage, and improved housing conditions

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 11:** Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) department Principal Secretary Usha Padhee conducted a review of major urban projects across the City Sunday, with a focus on sustainable development and citizen-centric infrastructure.

Her visit began at Nicco Park, where she assessed the current condition of the park and discussed long-term development plans. A key focus



was on Drain No. 10, which runs through the park. Padhee, along with officials, reviewed existing challenges and recent revitalisation efforts. Emphasis was laid on developing a sustainable and revenue-generating model

that balances ecological goals with economic viability.

Padhee also inspected the ongoing restoration of Blue Ways along Drain No. 4 near Vani Vihar. Officials from the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) and

Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) briefed her on the project’s master plan and progress. She stressed the need to preserve existing trees and ensure proper drainage slopes to aid water runoff and groundwater recharge.

Later, she visited the Affordable Housing Project (AHP) at Buddha Vihar, Chandrasekharpur, where she interacted with residents and reviewed basic infrastructure. The focus was on enhancing sanitation and improving overall living conditions within the colony.

BMC Commissioner Rajesh Prabhakar Patil and BDA vice-chairman N Thirumala Naik accompanied her during the inspections, along with senior departmental officials.

## Odisha to get 5 fast-track courts

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, May 11:** The Odisha government will soon set up five fast-track courts across the state to expedite cases involving crimes against women, including domestic violence, sexual assault, and abuse, Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan announced recently.

The Minister said these special courts aim to deliver justice within one month, ensuring swift redressal for women victims. He was speaking at the 43rd Annual Conference of the Medico-Legal Society of Odisha (MLSO), a state chapter of the Indian Academy of Forensic Medicine (IAFM).

Harichandan underlined the growing importance of forensic medicine in ensuring justice for women and stressed the need for police investigators to be well-versed in medico-legal procedures. He also lauded IMS and SUM Hospital for hosting the conference and contributing to medico-legal education.

SOA University vice-chancellor Pradipta Kumar Nanda, attending as guest of honour, praised the hospital’s efforts in research and said the conference would further strengthen the university’s academic initiatives.

## Suryabanshi applauds Ojha’s role in sports

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 11:** A courtesy meeting was held between cricketer Pragyan Ojha and Sports and Youth Services Minister Suryabanshi Suraj here Sunday.

“During the interaction, we expressed our heartfelt appreciation for his achievements on the field, including his memorable performances in international cricket, particularly in test matches. His dedication, discipline, and sportsmanship have set a benchmark for aspiring cricketers and reflect the rich sporting talent that Odisha has to offer,” the minister said.

As someone who has transitioned from an international



player to a mentor and advocate for sports development, we are confident that Ojha will continue to play a vital role in nurturing the next generation

of athletes, the minister added. “His vast experience and insights into the game are invaluable assets, and we hope he will actively engage with the

state’s sports ecosystem—be it through coaching, mentoring, or advisory roles,” Suryabanshi stated.

Lauding Ojha’s contribution, the minister said, “We look forward to Pragyan Ojha’s continued involvement in the development of sports infrastructure, talent identification, and training programmes in Odisha. His contributions will undoubtedly strengthen our collective efforts to make Odisha a hub of sporting excellence in the country.”

Born and raised in Odisha, Pragyan Ojha has not only represented the nation at the highest levels of the sport but has also served as an inspiration for countless young athletes across the state and country.

## Forgotten mothers remembered

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 11:** As the country marked Mother’s Day with flowers, gifts, and warm embraces, a quieter but deeply touching celebration unfolded at a rehabilitation centre in Bhubaneswar — far from cozy homes, within the walls of Odisha Patita Udhar Samiti (OPUS).

Here, elderly women, abandoned by their own children, found comfort and companionship. Organised by OPUS at its Andharua centre, the event offered cake, songs, small gifts, and heartfelt conversations — a brief return of the love they once gave so freely.

“These women were once the strength of their families,” said OPUS coordinator Matrumayee Priyadarshini. “We can’t give



them back their children, but we can offer them love, laughter, and a little happiness.”

Many of these mothers were rescued from the streets. On this day, their smiles returned as volunteers stepped in as the children who never came back. Wrinkled faces lit up, stories flowed, and long-forgotten joy found its way back into tired hearts. The poignant celebration served as both a tribute to a mother’s resilience and a reminder: honouring our elders shouldn’t be reserved for just one day a year — it’s a duty we all share, every day.

## Swipe culture sparks mixed reactions among youth

As digital dating apps gain popularity in City, young adults navigate the shifting landscape of relationships, sparking both excitement and skepticism

RESHMI YADAV, OP

**Bhubaneswar, May 11:** The digital dating wave sweeping across India has firmly reached Bhubaneswar, with a growing number of young adults exploring apps like Tinder, Bumble, Hinge, and OkCupid. As smartphones and internet access become increasingly affordable, Odisha’s Capital city is witnessing a noticeable cultural shift—one that’s both embraced and criticised.

India’s dating app landscape has exploded in recent years. With over 1,700 platforms now active, ranging from casual flings to serious relationships and even matrimonial-style matchmaking, youth in cities like Bhubaneswar are navigating a world their parents never

imagined.

According to Forbes India, homegrown apps have seen a meteoric rise, growing from under 10 per cent market share in the early 2010s to nearly 50 per cent today. Their edge lies in understanding Indian sentiments—something international apps often miss.

But in Bhubaneswar, opinions are divided.

“People used to say matches are made in heaven. Now, it’s done through an algorithm,” said Subham Bhagat, an MBA student at DRIEMS University.

“To be honest, most people are just looking for a time-pass. Only a handful might find something real,” he observed.

Local universities, from Utkal to Ravenshaw, are buzzing with debates over dating apps. Traditional platforms like Shaadi.com and Jeevansathi.com still hold ground, but even they are updating their approach to attract the app-savvy generation.

Dharitri Das, a post-graduate in Journalism from Rama Devi Women’s University, shared, “I tried a few apps because they’re everywhere—on Instagram, YouTube, even in local ads. Initially, it was exciting. But soon, it just felt hollow. You never really know who’s on the other side.”

Not everyone is dismissive, though.

“Apps can help people find

common interests,” noted Ranjan Kumar Behera, a Philosophy postgraduate from Utkal University. “But too many options lead to confusion. Earlier, relationships were deep and meaningful. Now, it’s like shopping—you keep swiping until you feel satisfied, and even then, you’re unsure.”

Some students have never even downloaded these apps. Ananya Dash, a Journalism PG student at Ravenshaw University, said, “It feels too fake. I believe in meeting people organically. There’s something unsettling about digital matchmaking.”

common interests,” noted Ranjan Kumar Behera, a Philosophy postgraduate from Utkal University. “But too many options lead to confusion. Earlier, relationships were deep and meaningful. Now, it’s like shopping—you keep swiping until you feel satisfied, and even then, you’re unsure.”

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BA English student from Sri Sri University, Suparn Mishra echoed the same feeling. “Most profiles are edited or misleading. People rarely show their real side. Hookups are common, and genuine connections are rare. Honestly, dating apps are an escape for people who don’t want to face the complexities of real-world relationships.”

Experts in the City are noticing the shift too.

Sidharth Mishra, a research scholar in Clinical Psychology based in Bhubaneswar, said, “Swipe culture mimics addiction cycles. Many young people

seek constant dopamine highs through endless swiping. It’s not about connection anymore—it’s about validation.”

A Bhubaneswar-based lawyer and state head of the Mediators Council of India, Sangita Majhi said, “Dating apps are both a blessing and a curse. They give young people freedom, but also expose them to manipulation and cybercrime.”

“These platforms must be used responsibly. Our traditional relationship values are being challenged, and that’s not necessarily a bad thing—but it does demand awareness and balance,” she added.

WEATHER

BBSR

CTC

Max Temp

40.2°

39.4°

Min Temp

26.5°

25.8°

Humidity

64%

77%

Rainfall

Nil

Nil

FORECAST

Mainly clear sky

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

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



# NHRC seeks ATR from CS on condition of Dongria Kondhs



Even after seven years and at least 20 directives from both the NHRC and the Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC), the state and district administrations have yet to ensure basic human rights for the affected villagers

PNN & AGENCIES

**Kendrapara, May 11:** The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sought an Action Taken Report (ATR) from the Chief Secretary regarding the precarious living conditions of over 10,000 families belonging to the Dongria Kondh community, a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG). This action follows a petition filed by rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy, which highlighted the persistent deprivation of basic human rights—including healthcare, education, and essential amenities—faced by the Dongria Kondh community and other

villagers in Kalahandi and Rayagada districts. Despite repeated NHRC directives over the past five years, the Odisha government has reportedly failed to implement essential welfare measures such as all-weather roads, access to potable water, healthcare services, and education in these remote tribal areas. This ongoing neglect has resulted in severe human rights violations. In his petition, Tripathy stated, “Despite the intervention of the NHRC, no progress report has been submitted. Ground verification reveals that no substantial steps have been taken to address the issues raised.” He further emphasised that even after seven years and at least 20 directives from both the NHRC and the Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC), the state and district administrations have yet to ensure basic human rights for the affected villagers. Tripathy alleged that the reports submitted by state authorities consist merely of statistical data, serving as an eyewash to conceal administrative inefficiency and corruption. He stressed the need

for an in-depth, independent, and impartial investigation into the funds allocated for development, especially since the region is covered with dense hills and forests, making such verification crucial. Villages such as Kesarpadi and Serkapadi in Rayagada district were among the 12 locations identified by the state government for India’s first environmental referendum, following a Supreme Court judgment. Despite this significance, the Dongria Kondh—an endangered tribal community living in areas like Kunakadu, Palberi, Phuldumera, and Tadijhola (a forest hamlet in Kalahandi)—continue to be deprived of basic necessities. Similarly, residents of Kesarpadi, Jarapa, Batudi, Lamba, and Lakhpadar villages in Rayagada district lack access to essential amenities. Tripathy also pointed out that the government has failed to adequately assess how factors such as road connectivity, parental employment, proximity to schools, and children’s rights to education impact the Dongria Kondh community in these districts. He urged the NHRC to intervene and ensure the provision of basic services, including education, healthcare, livelihood opportunities, and other essential needs. Acknowledging the gravity of the petition and the consistent negligence by authorities, the NHRC stated in its order: “The commission is of the considered view that the allegations raised in the complaint represent serious violations of the human rights of the victims.”

## Man killed, 2 others hurt in road mishap

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Umerkote, May 11:** In a major accident near Burja Chhak on the Umerkote-Raighar road in Nabarangpur district, a head-on collision between a motorcycle and a pickup van resulted in the death of one person and left two others critically injured. According to reports, the pickup van was travelling from Raighar towards Umerkote to collect goods. At around 6am, three individuals on a motorcycle were headed in the opposite direction. The two vehicles collided head-on near Burja Chhak. Following the impact, the pickup van overturned on the roadside. Parshu Gouda, a resident of Sandasa village under Chitabeda panchayat in Jharigaon block, died on the spot. The other two pillion riders, identified as Andhu Bhatra and Ravi Panka, sustained critical injuries and were admitted to the Umerkote Sub-Divisional Hospital. The pickup van driver fled the scene following the incident. The accident caused tension in the area. Police have seized the pickup van and taken it into custody. The body of the deceased was sent for post-mortem examination, following which it was handed over to the family.

# Man confined in room for 20 yrs without aid

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Titilagarh, May 11:** For the past 20 years, 40-year-old Rabindra Patra has lived in confinement, locked inside a small room at his family home in Nilachakra Nagar in this town. Once a cheerful child, Rabindra, who is unable to move his limbs or speak, survives only with the care of his elder brother and sister-in-law as his parents have since long passed away. Rabindra lost his mental stability as an infant. In 1984, when he was just six months old, the then chief minister Janaki Ballabh Patnaik had visited Titilagarh. Out of excitement, Rabindra’s parents had carried their baby to witness the former CM’s helicopter landing. According to the family, the loud noise startled the infant so severely that he lost consciousness. When he regained it, his mental faculties had deteriorated. Despite consulting multiple doctors at various hospitals and trying multiple treatments, his condition never improved. As Rabindra grew older, life continued to deal cruel blows. At the age of 20, he collapsed



**Out of excitement, Rabindra’s parents had carried their baby to witness a former CM’s helicopter landing**  
**According to the family, the loud noise startled the infant so severely that he lost consciousness and mental balance thereafter**

and broke a leg, a fracture that never healed properly despite repeated medical consultations. With both physical and mental disabilities, his condition became dire. His parents eventually passed away in despair, leaving Rabindra in the care of his elder brother, Jeetendra Patra, and sister-in-law Priyanka Patra. Jeetendra works as a daily labourer at a private factory outside Titilagarh, returning home every day to care for his brother. At home, Priyanka manages not only her two young children but also all of Rabindra’s daily needs like feeding, bathing, and tending to him like a child. Despite their tireless devotion, the family has received no significant government as-

sistance or specialised treatment for Rabindra. Recently, Rabindra was granted a disability certificate after 40 long years of waiting. But he still lacks an Aadhaar card, voter ID, and any disability pension. Every application for an Aadhaar card has been rejected for unclear reasons, making him ineligible for various social welfare schemes. “Without an Aadhaar card, even basic banking transaction is not possible,” said his visibly frustrated elder brother Jeetendra Patra. “We’ve knocked on every door, and all we have left is hope that the government will finally help.” Rabindra, once joyful in his parents’ arms, now lies silent, forgotten by the system, surviving solely on the compassion of his family.

# Tribals earn pittance from tamarind sale as TDCC ‘backs out’

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhawanipatna, May 11:** The collection and procurement of tamarind in Kalahandi district has taken a hit due to alleged lack of institutional support and incentives from the Tribal Development Cooperative Corporation (TDCC), and the state government. As a result, farmers and collectors have to rely heavily on middlemen and traders which often lead to distress sale of their products, reports stated. Despite expectations that TDCC would lead efforts to procure tamarind from local gatherers, their limited involvement has left tribal communities dependent on outside traders and middlemen, reports said. These middlemen often ex-

plot the situation, offering much lower than fair prices to marginalised communities, especially tribals who rely on tamarind collection and their sale for livelihood. As a result, tribals who are into this practice since generations continue to be fleeced by middlemen and outside traders. TDCC is reportedly offering ₹3,600 per quintal of tamarind, but in remote and rural areas, setting and maintaining a fair market price per quintal procurement is proving difficult. As a result, some tribals are forced to offload their produce at prices as low as ₹1,000 per quintal, while others struggle to sell at competitive rates by vending in marketplaces. Currently, market prices for tamarind range between ₹40 and ₹50 per kilogram, but TDCC



has not procuring the produce this season. TDCC officials confirmed that not even a single kilogram has been purchased so far this year. Last year, TDCC procured tamarind through local women self-help groups (WSHGs), which collected it directly from

gatherers and handed it over to TDCC. In return, these WSHG volunteers received ₹72 per quintal as commission, while TDCC paid gatherers ₹3,600 per quintal. In 2024, TDCC reportedly procured 966.74 quintals of tamarind in Kalahandi, dis-

bursing ₹34,80,264 in payments. Demand for tamarind remains particularly high in blocks such as Lanjigarh, Thuamul Rampur and Madanpur Rampur. However, without access to proper pricing and support mechanisms, forest dwellers collecting tamarind are often forced to sell their collection to middlemen and traders at reduced rates, missing out on their rightful earnings.

Except for Lanjigarh, Madanpur Rampur, Thuamul Rampur, Bhawanipatna, and Kalampur, the TDCC has made no efforts to collect tamarind from other blocks in Kalahandi district, according to local residents. Although tamarind collection is also carried out in Kokasara, the TDCC has largely ignored these operations, they alleged.

Last year, middlemen allegedly purchased tamarind at rates as low as ₹15 per kilogram, and ₹800 per 50-kg sack, raising concerns about exploitation. While 32 WSHGs are active in five blocks under the TDCC last year, it has shown little interest this season. It is estimated that up to 10,000 quintals of tamarind would be collected from the district this year. However, a lack of cold storage facilities has led to the produce being transported to the facilities in Sambalpur for preservation. Tamarind is being sold in online market places. Observers believe that if cold storage facilities were developed locally and more beneficiaries were linked to the TDCC, it could significantly boost income for tribal communities.



**ALL FOR A LIVING:** Braving blistering heat, an elderly man selling ice apple on the roadside awaits customers, near Police Line Square in Balasore town, Sunday

# Fake notes with face value of ₹10,000 seized; man arrested

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhadrak, May 11:** Police arrested one person in connection with the circulation of counterfeit currency and seized fake Indian currency notes (FICN) with a face value of ₹10,000 from his possession, a police officer said Sunday. The incident came to light Saturday afternoon when two youths allegedly attempted to purchase goods using the fake notes at the Anand Bazaar under Bhadrak rural police station limits, the officer said. According to an eyewitness, the two suspects, residents of Deopal village near Anand Bazaar, purchased groceries using ₹200 notes. When one of the

youths attempted to exchange another ₹200 currency note, the shopkeeper grew suspicious due to its texture and print. “I sensed something was wrong when I touched the note. I showed it to other shopkeepers nearby, and we quickly realised it was a fake one. When confronted, the youth tried to flee, but locals caught them and alerted the police,” said Utkalmani Panda, the shopkeeper. One of the accused managed to escape the spot, while the other was caught by residents and handed over to police. The Bhadrak rural police conducted a search and recovered counterfeit currency amounting to ₹10,000 in de-

nominations of ₹100, ₹200, and ₹500, the police officer said. Preliminary investigation suggests the accused were targeting small shops where the chances of detection of counterfeit currency notes are lower, the police officer. The police suspect that the detained person may be part of a larger counterfeit currency racket. “We have registered a case, and the seized currency has been sent for forensic examination,” the Inspector-in-Charge (IIC) of Bhadrak rural police station, Dayanidhi Das, said. A manhunt is on to track the absconding youth and uncover the network behind this racket, he said.

## Wrong injection by quack leads to minor girl’s death

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Basudevpur, May 11:** In a shocking incident, a five-year-old girl from Badagapuru village under Padmapur panchayat died Saturday afternoon allegedly after being administered a wrong injection by an unlicensed practitioner, who operates a private clinic at Edatal Chhak here in Bhadrak district.



According to reports, the child, identified as Sukanya Majhi, daughter of Kat Majhi and Sabitri Majhi, had been suffering from cold and fever. Around 5pm Saturday, her parents took her to the accused’s clinic at Edatal Chhak. The practitioner reportedly gave her preliminary treatment,

including an injection and a syrup. Within 10 to 15 minutes of receiving the injection, the child became unresponsive and collapsed. Alarmed, her parents rushed her back to the same clinic, but by then, she showed no signs of life. On realising the girl had died, the practitioner allegedly returned the ₹500 taken for treatment and took back the prescription and syrup bottle in an apparent attempt to cover his tracks, locals said. Later that evening, the family took the child to the Basudevpur hospital, where doctors officially declared her dead. The incident sparked outrage in the community with locals calling for a full investigation and strict action against the practitioner. The child’s body has been sent to the Bhadrak District Headquarters Hospital for a post-mortem examination by Basudevpur police. Concerns over unqualified medical practitioners, commonly referred to as ‘quacks’, are rising in several panchayats of Basudevpur block in Bhadrak district. Despite the growing danger, the Health department and district administration have allegedly remained passive, allowing life-threatening malpractice to continue unchecked.

## Man hacked to death by uncle

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Lahunipada, May 11:** A man was hacked to death by his maternal uncle over past enmity at Sanajal village in Haladi Kudar panchayat and this block in Sundargarh district late Saturday night. The victim was identified as Dola Dehuri, 40, and the accused as Shuka Dehuri, 60, both residents of the village. Mahulapada police arrested the accused Sunday, and will produce him in the court Monday, IIC Suresh Chandra Pradhan said. A case was registered in this connection and further investigations are on. Police said the accused and the victim often used to fight over some issues. This infuriated Shuka as he nursed a grudge against Dola and started looking for an opportune moment to settle his scores. The incident occurred when Shuka spotted Dola alone and hacked him to death with a sharp-edged weapon late Saturday night. Profusely bleeding, Dola died on the spot.

EAST COAST RAILWAY	
Tender No. e-T-M-CD-BBS-LW-Gr1-23-25	
NAME OF WORK : MECHANISED WASHING OF BEDROLL OF TRAIN NO. 12819/20, 12823/30, 12297/98, 20895/96, 18447/49, 18463/64, 20837/38 & 22833/34 AND WASHING OF CURTAINS OF ALL TRAINS OF COACHING DEPOT, BHUBANESWAR FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS.	
Advertised Value (₹) : 10,22,43,031.06, EMD (₹) : 6,61,200/-, Tender Document Cost (₹) : 11,800/-, Period of Completion : 24 Months.	
Bidding Start Date : 13.05.2025 Closing Date & Time : At 1300 hrs. of 27.05.2025.	
Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">http://www.ireps.gov.in</a>	
Coaching Depot Officer, Bhubaneswar	
PR-116/Q/25-26	

EAST COAST RAILWAY	
Tender No. 03-KUR-TRD-OT-2025-26	
NAME OF WORK : EXECUTION OF OHE MODIFICATION WORK IN CONNECTION WITH CONSTRUCTION OF THE PROPOSED ROAD OVER BRIDGE AT RLY.KM.432/32-34 IN LIEU OF LEVEL CROSSING NO. JB-07 AT GHANTIKHAL, NIDHIPUR, YARD ON BARANG - RAJ ATGHAR SECTION OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.	
Advertised Value (₹) : 9,46,018.79, EMD (₹) : 18,900.00, Period of Completion : 180 Days.	
Bidding Start Date : 15.05.2025, Date and Time of Closing of Tender : At 1300 Hrs. of 29.05.2025.	
Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Complete details and Tender documents will be available at website <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">http://www.ireps.gov.in</a>	
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), Khurda Road	
PR-115/Q/25-26	

EAST COAST RAILWAY	
Tender Notice No.: SBP-ELECT-2025-T-245	
NAME OF WORK : ILLUMINATION OF PATHWAY FOR DOUBLE DIAMOND FORMATION PURPOSE AT CHARMAL STATION.	
Approx. cost of the work : ₹ 36,59,828.68, EMD : ₹ 73,200.00, Completion Period of the Work : Six Months from the date of issue of LOA.	
Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1530 hrs. of 28.05.2025.	
No manual offers sent by Post / Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be rejected summarily without any consideration. Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>	
<b>Note :</b> The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website fifteen (15) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender. The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering.	
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G)/ Sambalpur	
PR-111/Q/25-26	



Material things are not to be despised - without them there can be no manifestation in the material world.

SRI AUROBINDO



## Dangerous Liaisons

India and Pakistan have halted military actions for now, a day after Pakistan breached a ceasefire initially announced to the world by US President Donald Trump on 10th May 2025. This comes after intense cross-border drone and missile strikes that brought both nuclear-powered nations close to the brink of a full-scale war. US President Donald Trump took the world by surprise by announcing that a night of talks mediated by Washington helped secure the ceasefire deal. Trump also offered to work with both countries for a 'solution' on the Kashmir issue. India has said it will not accept any third party intervention in the talks. On the other hand, Pakistan has for decades been clamouring for third party mediation in the Kashmir tangle.

India has to learn that it cannot trust the US vis-a-vis Pakistan, as our western neighbour has been a strategic partner of America for decades. Also, Pakistan as a 'rouge state', as referred to by the US in the past, remains crucial to keep running America's own military-industrial complex. That is why, the timing of disbursement of \$1 billion by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to Pakistan at this critical juncture of conflict with India shows the real intent of the United States, without whose approval, IMF cannot possibly disburse funds. This huge sum of money is certainly not going to be spent by Pakistan on education or healthcare but to go shopping for military equipment to fuel its war efforts against India.

It is important to note that six out of the world's top ten defence companies are American. Where ever there is a point of conflict in the world, there is a surge in weapons sales. The French company Dassault Aviation which makes the Rafale fighter jets has seen its share prices surge by ten per cent in the two weeks of Indo-Pak tensions since the Pahalgam terrorist attack.

On the other hand, the coverage of this whole escalation between India and Pakistan in the aftermath of the Pahalgam massacre by the international media has not been pro-India. It won't be wrong to say that India has to fight this narrative war that is being waged against it. Also, the parallels that are being deliberately drawn between Palestine and Kashmir in the global media and the likening of India to Israel as the 'aggressor' are certainly harming India's interests in this narrative war.

Coming to China, our eastern neighbour has predictably and clearly sided with Pakistan and would be happy to pick the tab in this proxy war against India. In this situation, Indians seem to have become quite vocal against Turkey and Azerbaijan for those countries' support to Pakistan and are calling for economic boycott against these countries. While that is a welcome sign, we often forget that India's big enemy is China and it is the dragon we should be mainly focusing on for when we talk of economic boycott. In 2024 alone, India's imports from China were valued at \$126.96 billion. The huge money that India pays to China for its products is used against India's interests. India must work on its China strategy immediately. Not wait for any future trigger of conflict with Pakistan.

### WISDOM CORNER

Joy can only be real if people look upon their life as a service and have a definite object in life outside themselves and their personal happiness.

LEO TOLSTOY

The secret of happiness is this: let your interests be as wide as possible, and let your reactions to the things and persons that interest you be as far as possible friendly rather than hostile.

BERTRAND RUSSELL

Look up at the stars and not down at your feet. Try to make sense of what you see, and wonder about what makes the universe exist. Be curious.

STEPHEN HAWKING

### THIS DAY IN HISTORY

**1780:** During the American Revolution, Major General Benjamin Lincoln of the Continental Army was forced to surrender with 7,000 troops at Charleston, South Carolina.

**1820:** English nurse Florence Nightingale, who founded trained nursing as a profession for women, was born in Florence, Italy; International Nurses Day is celebrated on her birthday.

**1926:** Aboard the semirigid airship Norge, Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen, American scientist Lincoln Ellsworth, and Italian engineer Umberto Nobile made the first undisputed flight over the North Pole on this day in 1926.

**1941:** The world's first programmable, fully automatic computer is presented. The Z3 was designed by German inventor, Konrad Zuse. The original machine was destroyed in an air raid. A replica can be seen at the Deutsches Museum in Munich.

**1949:** The Soviet Union lifted its blockade of Berlin.

**1972:** The British rock group the Rolling Stones released Exile on Main Street, a double album that is considered one of their defining works.

**1982:** A Spanish priest attempts to assassinate Pope John Paul II. Juan María Fernández y Krohn opposed the reforms initiated by the Second Vatican Council and believed that the Pope was a Communist agent. John Paul II escaped with minor injuries.

### LOL

#### HORSE OR CHICKEN

A retiring farmer in preparation for selling his land, needed to rid his farm of animals. So he went to every house in his town.

To the houses where the man is the boss, he gave a horse. To the houses where the woman is the boss, a chicken was given.

He got toward the end of the street and saw a couple outside gardening. "Who's the boss around here?" he asked.

"I am," said the man. "I have a black horse and a brown horse," the farmer said, "which one



would you like?" The man thought for a minute and said, "The black one." "No, no, no, get the brown one." the man's wife said. "Here's your chicken." said the farmer.

# MIDDLE POWERS IN TRADE WAR

FOCUS GEOPOLITICS



At a minimum, cooperative multilateralism by middle powers would ensure peaceful global governance as the international order transitions from a unipolar world to a multipolar world

As US tariffs begin to reshape global trade flows, many countries are worried that a tsunami of discounted Chinese goods, originally destined for America, will hit their shores. To keep them out, especially as recessionary pressures mount, some may be inclined to impose their own tariffs on Chinese imports. In that case, China would be cut off entirely from international trade, delivering an unexpected victory for US President Donald Trump, who would undoubtedly claim credit for this new Great Wall.



Wing Thye Woo

AS ASEAN ECONOMIES CATCH UP WITH THOSE IN THE GLOBAL NORTH, THEIR COMBINED GDP COULD EQUAL THAT OF THE EU AND THE UK BY 2045

China harbors no illusions that it will be the twenty-first century's hegemon. India will inevitably become a superpower by mid-century. Europe might join their ranks, too, as Trump's might-is-right worldview seems poised to accelerate and deepen European integration.

The current Sino-American standoff seemingly reflects a shared understanding that avoiding the Thucydides Trap – when tensions between an incumbent hegemon and a rising power lead to conflict – will require an eventual agreement on respective spheres of influence. Both sides' defensive efforts to expand their global reach have devolved into a crude form of imperialism. Trump has designs on Canada, Greenland, Panama, and Gaza, while China's territorial claims in the South China Sea have brought its maritime border to the doorstep of several Southeast Asian countries.

But it remains to be seen how the trade war will factor into this contest. The tariffs

that the US and China imposed against one another have effectively decoupled their trade. Will countries hit by his “reciprocal” tariffs be cowed into joining the US sphere of influence as part of bilateral trade deals?

The answer is no, so long as China respects its trade partners' right to befriend all superpowers. In such a scenario, the benefits of trading with China remain too large to forgo. But to take advantage of these benefits and maintain their autonomy, middle powers will need to pursue multilateral cooperation.

As a first step, middle powers must convince China that it is in its long-term interest to stop the potential fire sale of goods intended for the US market, which means voluntary export restraints.

The escalating US-China trade war, and the competing technological standards that stem from deeper geopolitical fragmentation, will cause substantial damage to middle

powers. Being forced into a sphere of influence would erode these countries' sovereignty and limit their export markets. To avoid becoming pawns in a proxy war, middle powers should form a union of independent buffer states based on the same principles as the United Nations and the World Trade Organization.

Members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), together with Japan and South Korea, should propose an Atlantic-Pacific Sustainability Pact to the European Union and the United Kingdom. Practicing open regionalism, AP-SP would have three main tasks. The first would be to create a free-trade area that is open to all countries, with an eye to building the biggest possible integrated market. ASEAN members, Japan, and South Korea could then merge the main Asia-Pacific trade agreements under the economic umbrella of APSP. The second task would be to

institute a nonpartisan peace caucus in the UN and other global and regional forums to prevent tensions between the US and China (as well as Russia) from impeding international coordination on shared global problems such as climate change and pandemics. Lastly, APSP would do well to establish a development agency whereby richer members could provide technical and financial support to poorer members' efforts to achieve net-zero greenhouse-gas emissions, protect their biodiversity, and accelerate economic growth. This would offset the assistance that competing superpowers use to influence poor countries.

As ASEAN economies catch up with those in the Global North, their combined GDP could equal that of the EU and the UK by 2045. In such a scenario, APSP's economic might would be so great that the US and China would have to join the trade partnership or else risk defeat from self-isolation.

Cooperative multilateralism is middle powers' best hope for mitigating the fallout from the Sino-American cold war; and it might even eventually crowd out this conflict. At a minimum, cooperative multilateralism by middle powers would ensure peaceful global governance as the international order transitions from a unipolar world to a multipolar world.

The writer is Professor Emeritus of Economics at the University of California, Davis.

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SPECTRUM

SOCIETY

## Sporting heritage as survival kit

When Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi declared indigenous sports to be “not just physical contests but an integral part of our communities, our traditions, and our identity,” he articulated a profound truth that resonates across India's diverse cultural landscape. In an era marked by escalating climate disasters and increasing social fragmentation, our traditional games - from Kabaddi to Kalaripayattu - are emerging as unexpected but powerful tools for building community resilience. These living traditions, often dismissed as mere cultural artefacts, contain generations of accumulated wisdom that can help us navigate the challenges of the 21st century.



Bhagirathi Jena

THE PLAYGROUNDS WHERE GENERATIONS HAVE HONED THEIR SKILLS HOLD TIMELESS LESSONS FOR SURVIVING CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES

The evidence from Odisha's experience with Cyclone Fani in 2019 is particularly compelling. Villages with active indigenous sports programmes demonstrated remarkable crisis response capabilities that went beyond official disaster protocols. Kabaddi players, accustomed to making split-second decisions under physical stress, naturally assumed leadership roles in relief distribution. Mallakhamb practitioners navigated floodwaters with extraordinary balance, their bodies conditioned by years of training. These weren't isolated incidents but manifestations of what anthropologists term “embodied knowledge” - physical competencies developed through generations of play that prove vital in emergencies.

Scientific research substantiates these observations with compelling data. Studies across Odisha's coastal districts reveal that adolescents practicing traditional pole gymnastics develop 31% better grip strength and 27% superior balance compared to their peers - attributes that prove invaluable when evacuating through floodwaters or climbing to safety. Communities maintaining boat-racing traditions recorded faster evacuation times during cyclones, demonstrating how culturally rooted physical literacy enhances disaster preparedness. These findings align perfectly with the United Nations Sendai Framework's emphasis on community-based risk reduction.

The psychological benefits are equally significant. Traditional sports create what experts call “muscular memory of resilience” - the ability to remain effective during crises because the body remembers performing under stress. Research indicates that communities with strong indigenous sports traditions report lower incidence of post-traumatic stress disorder following disasters, suggesting these activities provide natural psychological armor.

What makes this approach revolutionary is its organic adoption. Unlike imported preparedness programmes that often face implementation challenges, traditional games enjoy immediate community acceptance because they're already woven into the social fabric. In Odisha's tribal areas, children mastering gendi

(stick hockey) unknowingly develop flood survival skills - their improved reflexes, balance and spatial awareness becoming life-saving assets during emergencies.

Odisha's policy innovations demonstrate how a strategic government support can amplify this potential. The state's initiative to integrate indigenous sports into school curricula has created a generation equally fluent in academic knowledge and embodied survival skills. Economically, the case is compelling - every rupee invested in traditional sports infrastructure yields Rs 4.20 in risk reduction benefits, outperforming conventional disaster management expenditures.

The global implications are profound. From Japan's sumo-wrestling communities demonstrating enhanced tsunami response to Native American lacrosse players excelling in wildfire prevention, similar patterns exist worldwide. Odisha's systematic approach offers a replicable blueprint for climate-vulnerable regions.

As climate disasters grow in frequency and intensity, we urgently need solutions that are both effective and culturally sustainable. Odisha's experience shows how a village Kabaddi ground can be as crucial to community survival as any satellite warning system. By revitalising indigenous sports, we're activating a pre-existing network of resilience that operates independently when formal systems fail. When Kerala revived Kalar-

ipayattu training after the 2018 floods, communities reported not just better emergency response but improved mental health and social unity.

The path forward requires key steps like repositioning indigenous sports as critical infrastructure in national disaster plans, creating international knowledge-exchange platforms and developing standardised metrics to quantify resilience benefits for funding purposes. This approach can transform how traditional practices are valued and utilised.

As we face an uncertain climate future, the answers may lie not in expensive technological fixes alone but in reconnecting with our physical heritage. The playgrounds where generations have honed their skills hold timeless lessons for surviving contemporary challenges. Odisha teaches us that sometimes resilience means remembering rather than inventing - recognising that our ancestors often developed precisely the skills we need today.

In village squares across India, where children still play ancient games, we're witnessing the emergence of a new paradigm - one that values cultural wisdom as highly as technological advancement. The time has come to view indigenous sports not as relics but as living bridges between our heritage and our destiny.

The writer is a senior officer working at the Parliament of India.

### No more restraint

Sir, This refers to “Future terror acts will be ‘act of war’: India,” Orissa POST, May 11. India has shifted the rules of engagement with a clear and unambiguous warning—any act of terror emanating from Pakistani soil will be treated as an act of war. No more restraint, no more tolerance for proxy tactics. This policy marks a decisive turn in India's strategic posture, signalling zero patience for cross-border terrorism masquerading under plausible deniability. Pakistan's long history of harbouring and supporting terror networks has been met with decades of diplomatic restraint. That era is over. India's new stance, born out of repeated betrayals and bloodshed, places the onus squarely on Pakistan: rein in terror, or face full-spectrum retaliation. The message is simple—terrorism will no longer be compartmentalised as a “non-state” issue. There will be no separation between the perpetrator and its protector. Whether it's a lone strike or a coordinated attack, India's response will be swift, direct, and military in nature. This doctrine is not a threat—it's a policy. The cost of terror just skyrocketed. Pakistan has been warned: peace is a choice, and so is war. India will not wait for another provocation to act—it now acts to prevent the next one.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

### Eliminate terrorists

Sir, This refers to “Pak Army violates ceasefire,” Orissa POST, May 11. There will be no exaggeration if Pakistan is called a “Traitor Country” that does not go by logic and has no respect for humanity. They seldom consider the consequences prior to attacking civilians. They have made their soil a breeding ground for terrorists and the Indian government and its Army were determined to eliminate terrorists and the outcome was near breakdown of war. The US government intervened and wanted peace to be restored, but Pakistan after agreeing to ceasefire suddenly showed its volte face. Now the Government of India has to decide whether to face terrorism from time to time or to eliminate terrorists from Indian soil. India needs no mediator.

Arun Gupta, KOLKATA

## Letters

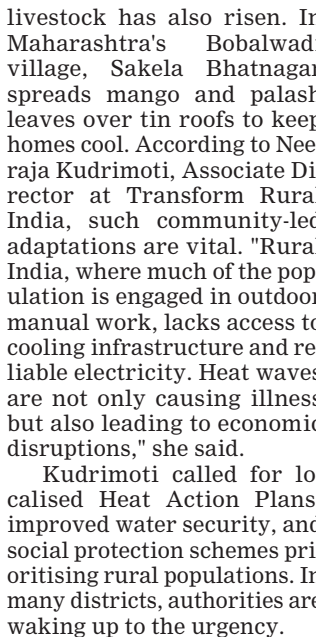
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OrissaPOST  
B-15, Rasulgari Industrial Estate,  
Bhubaneswar-751010





West Bengal Chief Secretary Manoj Pant Sunday directed the district magistrates and SPs to remain alert and keep a check on any attempt to disrupt law and order in the state. In the meeting, the district administrations were also ordered to stockpile essential food items for the next three months till August, a senior official said. Speaking to PTI, Pant said the meeting was held to direct the DMs and SPs to remain alert in the backdrop of the India-Pakistan military conflict







Family members of Rajouri's Additional District Development Commissioner Raj Kumar Thapa, who succumbed after an artillery shell hit his official residence, mourn during his funeral, in Jammu



Security personnel keep vigil a day after India and Pakistan reached a bilateral understanding, in Srinagar, Sunday



BSF personnel carry the mortal remains of BSF Sub-Inspector Mohammed Imteyaz, who was martyred in the line of duty, in Jammu



Tailors work as normal activities resume, a day after India and Pakistan reached a bilateral understanding, at Uri in Baramulla district of J&K



People shop at a market area as normalcy returns after ceasefire in Srinagar



In this image released by @adgpi May 10, Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi during a meeting with the Army Commanders of the western borders to review the security situation



Several gates of the Salal dam on the Chenab river seen open following ceasefire, in Reasi district of J&K. Earlier, the sluice gates of the dam were closed



A Pakistani reads a morning newspaper at a stall, a day after the ceasefire, in Peshawar



# Fear of war sparks widespread anxiety

The escalating military tension between the two nations, a deluge of information, and the inability to sift through fake and real news can significantly affect the psychological well-being of individuals, said mental health experts

For seven-year-old Hazel, Pakistan was just a name—until earlier this week. Now, every knock on the door fills her with dread. “She says, ‘Pakistan will attack us and everyone will die,’” said her mother Annu Mathew from Trivandrum, Kerala. Hazel’s fears were sparked by an awareness session at school, followed by alarming conversations among classmates.

Hazel isn’t alone. In Delhi, 36-year-old Mahendra Awasthi finds himself doomscrolling through social media, overwhelmed by the flood of information and unable to sleep. “I keep feeling I’ll miss essential news. What if Delhi is next?” he said, visibly shaken. Despite reports of a ceasefire between India and Pakistan, fresh reports of violations have kept tensions high.

The current anxiety stems from Operation Sindoor—an Indian military response to the April 22 Pahalgalam attack that killed 26 people. Since the operation began on the night of May 6-7, border areas have witnessed explosions and blackouts, sparking nationwide fear.

Mental health professionals say preparedness can be a double-edged sword. “It may provide a sense of control, but also intensify anxiety,” said senior family therapist Maitri Chand. She described the current state as a “tightrope” where people are trying to balance awareness and fear.



Pakistan and India agreed to step off the escalatory ladder of war Saturday evening and US President Donald Trump said the two countries had reached a ceasefire

The relief quickly gave way to renewed anxiety when reports came in of Pakistan violating that understanding with sounds of explosions and blackouts in many border areas

our stress regulation systems.”

Children are particularly vulnerable. “War talk can instill fear, reinforce stereotypes, and disrupt their sense of safety,” Sharma added. She emphasized the importance of explaining situations to children in age-appropriate ways and reassuring them of their safety.

Mathew has found a simple way to calm Hazel. “I take her to the balcony and ask her to point out where the explosions are. When she sees nothing, she feels reassured,” she said.

In Jaipur, Aniket Singh (name changed) has stocked up on rations, power banks, medicines, and cash, but still feels “anxious and unprepared.” After the Pahalgalam attack, he began preparing for a possible emergency but admits the sense of dread remains.

Mental health experts say preparedness can be a double-edged sword. “It may provide a sense of control, but also intensify anxiety,” said senior family therapist Maitri Chand. She described the current state as a “tightrope” where people are trying to balance awareness and fear.

# CALM PREVAILS IN PUNJAB

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, May 11: Calm prevailed in Punjab, especially in the border areas, Sunday, following an understanding between India and Pakistan to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea.

Authorities have asked people to resume their normal activities and maintain calm. At around 8:30 am, the district administration in Amritsar asked people to resume their normal routine. The Jalandhar district administration also said there was nothing to worry about and work may resume as usual.

“All is well here in Jalandhar. According to the information received, there is nothing to worry and work may resume as usual. Forces are on a constant vigil,” Jalandhar Deputy Commissioner Himanshu Aggarwal said.

However, the district authorities have requested people not to burst firecrackers or fly drones. “We will take immediate action and inform you in time if there is any information of any threat in the area,” the DC said.

In Amritsar, Deputy Commissioner Sakshi Sawhney along with Police Commissioner Gur-



preet Singh Bhullar took a round of the city and its markets.

“Thank you to the brave and resilient people of Amritsar. We are incredibly proud of how each one of you responded with bravery, patience, and trust in one another and in the administration. Wishing you a pleasant day-Enjoy your Sunday,” DC Sawhney posted on X.

Many locals said that during the recent escalation in tension between India and Pakistan, Amritsar, which remains packed with tourists, had seen

a decline in tourist footfall. Punjab, which shares a 553-km border with Pakistan, various routine day-to-day activities were back to normal.

Morning walkers, especially in border districts like Amritsar, Pathankot and Ferozepur, thanked the country’s armed forces. “It is because of our forces that you see us here today without any fear. Over the past

Many locals said that during the recent escalation in tension between India and Pakistan, Amritsar, which remains packed with tourists, had seen a decline in tourist footfall

Punjab, which shares a 553-km border with Pakistan, various routine day-to-day activities were back to normal

few days, we saw how Pakistan carried out drone attacks targeting several parts of Punjab and some other states,’ said Amarjit Singh, a resident of Amritsar.”

Another Amritsar resident, Pawan Kumar, said after days of tension, things are back to normal. “Over the last few days Amritsar saw a decline in tourist footfalls because of the tense situation. Now, hopefully, peace shall prevail,” he said.

An elderly resident from Ferozepur was out on a morning walk with a group of friends.

In Chandigarh and adjoining Panchkula in Haryana and in many other towns in Haryana, morning walkers were heard discussing the current situation and shared similar sentiments. Earlier, in view of the prevailing situation, authorities had put in place a blackout and other measures in several Punjab districts, including Amritsar, Ferozepur, Hoshiarpur, Fazilka and Pathankot.

# Stay safe, don’t rush back: J&K police warns village residents

More than two lakh residents of villages close to the Line of Control (LoC) and International Border were evacuated to safer places amid intense Pakistani artillery and mortar shelling from May 7 onwards owing to vulnerability of their habitations in both divisions of Kashmir and Jammu

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar/Jammu, May 11: The authorities in Jammu and Kashmir Sunday asked border villages residents, who were evacuated to safer places in view of cross border shelling by Pakistan, not to rush back to homes as they are yet to sanitise and clear these areas of any unexploded shells.

Bomb disposal squads will be sent to the affected areas to sanitise and clear the villages of any unexploded shells, which can lead to loss of human lives, it said. “As many as 41 lives were lost in explosions of left-over shells near the LoC in 2023 alone,” the advisory read, highlighting the dangers of civilians



rushing back to villages.

In Jammu region, the police vehicles fitted with a public address system were seen making rounds in the worst-hit Poonch district and asking people not to touch any suspicious object lying at their residential houses, compounds or open fields.

“People returning to their homes are advised to be cautious and immediately inform police or the nearest security camp about any suspicious object, which could be dangerous to human life,” the police said. The Poonch district accounted for the highest 20 of the total 27 fatalities with over

50 others injured since Wednesday, shortly after India carried out Operation Sindoor, striking nine terror infrastructures in Pakistan and PoK to avenge the April 22 Pahalgalam attack that left 26 people dead. India and Pakistan Saturday reached an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea with immediate effect after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes. However, hours later New Delhi accused Islamabad of breaching it. In a late night media briefing, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri called upon Pakistan to take appropriate steps to address these violations and deal with the situation with “seriousness and responsibility.”

# Victory of Indian armed forces, diplomacy: Experts

India and Pakistan Saturday reached an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea with immediate effect after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 11: As India and Pakistan reached an understanding to halt all military actions, defence experts termed it

a “victory of the Indian armed forces” and hoped Pakistan will “not open another chapter” after the agreement.

India and Pakistan Saturday reached an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea with immediate effect after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes that brought the two countries teetering on the edge of a full-scale war.

Making the announcement, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said the director generals of military operations of India and Pakistan agreed on the understanding during a call Saturday afternoon, and the next talks are scheduled at 12 noon May 12.



The announcement came shortly after US President Donald Trump in a surprise social media post claimed that the talks between the two sides were “mediated” by the US. Strategic affairs expert

Maj Gen P K Sehgal (retd) called the understanding to halt military actions a “very good beginning” for both the nations, as both countries suffered as a result of the escalating tensions.

“As far as Pakistan is concerned, we have broken the back of terrorism. India showed that there is a very strong and decisive leadership in place. “Over the last 11 years, India spent a lot of money to strengthen air defence, and increase the capabilities, competence and professionalism of the Army in a very big way,” he told PTI.

The government has given all the “wherewithal and force multipliers” to them that are essential to win a modern war, he said. Also, the integration and coordination applied by the three services were “absolutely immaculate”, the strategic affairs expert said, terming the cohesion displayed by the

ministries of defence, external affairs and home affairs “absolutely outstanding”.

“You cannot win a modern war without all the forces working in synergy,” he said. He also said the actions prior to the Operation Sindoor May 7 “completely isolated Pakistan, and as the entire world stood behind India, the country stood behind the armed forces”.

Speaking to PTI Videos, Col Anil Bhat (retd) from Mumbai said the understanding between the two sides might have stemmed from an agreement that “Pakistan will not support terrorist groups, and ensure they are not again sent into India”.

## Blackout imposed in Rajasthan’s border areas

Jaipur: Blackout was imposed in Jaisalmer, Barmer and other border areas in Rajasthan on Sunday night as a precautionary measure in the wake of yesterday’s violation by Pakistan of an understanding reached with India following four days of military confrontation. The measure was put in place in Barmer at 8 pm, while it started at 7.30 pm in Jaisalmer. Sometime after the blackout, there were reports that some red lights, suspected to be of drones, were spotted in the sky in Barmer. However, there is no official confirmation regarding it. The security forces remain alert, though. Last night, panic was triggered in the border areas after the terms of an understanding between India and Pakistan to stop all military actions were violated by the neighbouring country. However, normal activities resumed Sunday, with markets reopening.

# Last rites of Pak shelling victims performed with full honours

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu/Muzaffarnagar/Kallithanda, May 11: Emotional scenes were witnessed across the country as the last rites of those killed in shelling by Pakistan during the recent military conflict with India were performed Sunday.

The Jammu division, which bore the brunt of heavy Pakistani firing and shelling, suffered the most casualties, including civilians. Rifleman Sunil Kumar (25), who was posted with 4 J-K Light Infantry regiment, was given a tearful adieu with hundreds of mourners joining his last rites at his native village Triva in the Arnia sector.

Kumar was critically injured in cross-border shelling along the International Border in the RS Pura sector early Saturday. He succumbed to his injuries later. The 25-year-old came

from a military background -- his two elder brothers currently serve in the armed forces, while his father is an ex-serviceman. Kumar’s relatives said he was inspired to join the army and serve the nation from a young age.

In another incident of cross-border shelling in the same sector, Mohammed Imteyaz, a BSF sub-inspector, lost his life. J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary joined the wreath-laying ceremony for Imteyaz Sunday.

Minister Satish Sharma and senior BSF and police officers also paid floral tributes to the BSF sub-inspector. A native of Bihar, Imteyaz was killed when a mortar shell from Pakistan exploded near his post along the International Border. Seven of his colleagues were also injured in the attack.



J&K LG Manoj Sinha pays tribute to BSF Sub-Inspector Mohammed Imteyaz, who was martyred in the line of duty, in Jammu

The J&K government, meanwhile, paid rich tributes to Raj Kumar Thapa, the additional district development commissioner in Rajouri, who was killed after a mortar shell landed on his residential compound. Thapa’s mortal remains were brought to his Roop Nagar residence on the outskirts of Jammu in a police vehicle. Later, he was cremated at a nearby cremation ground.

Lt Governor Sinha also visited the bereaved family to offer his condolences.

In Andhra Pradesh, soldier Mudavath Murali Naik’s body reached his native district Sri Sathyasai Sunday. Naik laid down his life in the cross-border shelling in Poonch district. Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, IT minister Nara Lokesh and other ministers paid tributes to the slain soldier. Kalyan also announced

a ₹25 lakh ex-gratia from his side, and expressed solidarity with the family.

The mortal remains of soldier Surendra Kumar, who was martyred in Udhampur, were consigned to flames with full military honours at his native village in Rajasthan’s Jhunjhunu district Sunday. A large number of mourners gathered at the cremation ground to bid farewell to the brave soldier.

In Himachal Pradesh’s Kangra district, Subedar Major Pawan Kumar, who was killed in Pakistani shelling in Jammu and Kashmir’s Poonch, was cremated with full state honours at his native village Sunday.

Emotional scenes were witnessed as his son lit the funeral pyre, with a large number of mourners bidding him a tearful adieu with “Subedar Major Pawan Kumar Amar Rahe” and “Pakistan Murdabad” chants.



of the day

Quote

A very good meeting today with China, in Switzerland. Many things discussed, much agreed to. A total reset negotiated in a friendly, but constructive, manner

DONALD TRUMP | PRESIDENT, US

I do not believe that this conflict can be permanently resolved by military means. Nevertheless, it is urgently necessary that Hamas is disarmed and that it can no longer have military control over Gaza

JOHANN WADEPHUL | FOREIGN MINISTER, GERMANY

We think we will have some or a lot of announcements very, very shortly, which we hope will yield progress by next year

STEVE WITKOFF | MIDDLE EAST ENVOY, US

SHORT TAKES

Iran, US conclude 4th round of N-talks

**Dubai:** Iran and the United States held a fourth round of talks Sunday over Tehran's rapidly advancing nuclear programme, with a US official describing American negotiators as being "encouraged" by the discussions. The talks took place in Muscat, Oman, again mediated by Omani officials. Iran similarly described the talks as wrapping up after several hours. "Agreement was reached to move forward with the talks to continue working through technical elements," the US official said, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the closed-door negotiations. "We are encouraged by today's outcome and look forward to our next meeting, which will happen in the near future. Iran insisted they only took place indirectly — possibly over internal political pressures within the Islamic Republic.

Israeli strikes kill 11, mostly women, kids

**Deir Al-Balah:** Israeli strikes overnight and into Sunday killed 11 people in the Gaza Strip, mostly women and children, according to local health officials. Two of the strikes hit tents in the southern city of Khan Younis, each killing two children and their parents. Other strikes killed a child and a man riding a bicycle, according to Nasser Hospital, which received the bodies. In northern Gaza, an Israeli strike killed a 16-year-old boy, according to the Indonesian Hospital. The Israeli military says it only targets militants and tries to avoid harming civilians. It blames Hamas for civilian deaths in the 19-month-old war because the militants are embedded in densely populated areas. There was no immediate Israeli comment on the latest strikes.

Higher currency limit for Indian tourists

**Kathmandu:** A prominent Nepali business organisation Sunday urged the government to allow Indian tourists arriving via land route to carry up to the equivalent of \$5,000 in Indian rupees, an increase from the current limit of ₹25,000, to boost tourism in the country.\$5,000 equates to approximately ₹4,25,000. The current provision of allowing Indian tourists entering Nepal via land route to carry only up to ₹25,000 is insufficient if the country aims to promote Indian tourism, said Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) president Chandra Prasad Dhakal.

Trump praises India, Pak for ceasefire

The two nuclear-armed neighbours agreed to a ceasefire along the Line of Control and International Border Saturday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New York, May 11:** US President Donald Trump Sunday praised the "strong and unwaveringly powerful" leadership of India and Pakistan for reaching a ceasefire, saying their legacy is greatly enhanced by their brave actions.

"I will work with you both to see if, after a "thousand years," a solution can be arrived at concerning Kashmir. God Bless the leadership of India and Pakistan on a job well done!!!" Trump said in a post on Truth Social.

India and Pakistan agreed to a ceasefire along the Line of Control and International Border Saturday.

"I am very proud of the strong and unwaveringly powerful leadership of India and Pakistan for having the strength, wisdom, and fortitude to fully know and understand that it was time to stop the current aggression that could have lead (ed) to the death and destruction of so many, and so much," he said.

"Millions of good and innocent people could have died! Your legacy is greatly enhanced by your brave actions. I am proud that the USA was able to help you arrive at this historic and heroic decision," Trump said.

He went on to say that even though this has not been discussed, he is going to "increase trade substantially with both of these great Nations."

Trump Saturday announced that India and Pakistan had agreed to a "full and immediate" ceasefire after a "long



People share cake as they celebrates following India and Pakistan have reached a ceasefire deal, during a demonstration, in Hyderabad, Pakistan

Millions of good and innocent people could have died! Your legacy is greatly enhanced by your brave actions. I am proud that the USA was able to help you arrive at this historic and heroic decision

DONALD TRUMP | US PRESIDENT

night" of talks mediated by Washington.

Soon after Trump, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri announced that the directors general of military operations (DGMOs) of India and Pakistan have agreed to stop all firings and military action on land, air and sea with effect from 5 pm Saturday.

Tensions between India and Pakistan soared after the Indian Armed Forces hit terror launchpads in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) last week in response to the Pahalgam terror attack.

Awami League rejects ban by Bangladesh interim govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Dhaka, May 11:** Bangladesh's deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League Sunday rejected with disgust the interim government's decision to ban the party and vowed to continue its operations despite the restriction.

The Muhammad Yunus-led interim government's Council of Advisers or the Cabinet Saturday night slapped a ban on "all activities of Awami League", including in cyberspace, under an anti-terrorism law.

Reacting to the move, in a strongly worded statement posted on X, the Awami League said, "We are rejecting and protesting the fascist autocrat Yunus government's decision with disgust....Awami League will carry on its activities in an appropriate course, defying the decision of the fascist Yunus government."

The party regretted that "today's independent Bangladesh" had to witness the ban on Awami League activities by an "undemocratic fascist" government that now runs the country "without people's



mandate", while the country "earned independence and sovereignty under its (Awami League's) leadership".

The statement said the ban is meant to "exile the spirit, ideals, and core values of the Liberation War and to empower the vulgar resurgence of anti-independence elements" and "only an anti-state and anti-independence evil force alone".

"We strongly believe that the people of Bangladesh will deliver a resounding response to this reckless decision by the fascist Yunus regime. We call upon all leaders and activists of Awami League to stand shoulder to shoulder with the people and build a total resistance against this incoherent and anti-people decision," it said.



No more war!  
Today's world is living through the dramatic scenario of a Third World War being fought piecemeal

POPE LEO XIV | CATHOLIC CHURCH LEADER

MOUNTAINEERS CONQUER KANCHENJUNGA

A team of 10 mountaineers comprising five Nepalese and five foreign climbers have successfully climbed 8,586-metre-high Mt Kanchenjunga, the world's third-highest peak. The feat achieved Saturday marks the first ascent of the peak this climbing season



POLITICAL TURMOIL

SK's former PM Han drops presidential bid

REUTERS

**Seoul, May 11:** South Korea's former prime minister and acting president Han Duck-soo ended a short, ill-fated attempt to win the conservative party's presidential nomination Sunday after days of internecine disputes just days out from the election.

Rival Kim Moon-soo was chosen as nominee for the People Power Party after party members voted Saturday to retain him over Han, whose late entry into the race derailed the consensus over its candidate for the June 3 presidential vote.

Han Sunday said he "humbly accepts everything" and hopes Kim wins the snap election, which was triggered by the impeachment of the country's former president.

Kim formally registered as a PPP candidate Sunday morning, and is now South Korea's conservative hopeful against frontrunner Lee Jae-myung of the opposition Democratic Party.

Han and Kim struggled for unity in the past week and had held a series of failed talks to discuss how to unite their conservative campaigns to avoid splitting the vote.

Lee has been a clear frontrunner to replace conservative former President Yoon Suk Yeol, who was removed from office in April for violating his duties when he declared a short-lived martial law in December.

Kim, who was selected as the conservatives' candidate in a party convention a week ago, resisted pressure from the party to step aside in favour of the more popular Han, who had declined to participate in the nomination process while he was still serving as prime minister.

Zelenskyy hopes for ceasefire with Russia

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Kyiv, May 11:** Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said he is hoping for a full and temporary ceasefire with Russia starting Monday, adding he would be in Turkiye to negotiate with Russian President Vladimir Putin 'personally.'

His comments came after US President Donald Trump insisted Ukraine accept Russia's latest offer of holding direct talks in Turkiye Thursday.

Ukraine, along with European allies, had demanded Russia accept an unconditional 30-day ceasefire starting Monday before holding talks, but Moscow effectively rejected the proposal and called for direct negotiations instead. It was not clear if Zelenskyy was conditioning his presence in Turkiye on the Monday ceasefire holding.

"We await a full and lasting ceasefire, starting from tomorrow, to provide the necessary basis for diplomacy. There is no point in prolonging the killings. And I will be waiting for Putin in Turkiye on Thursday. Personally. I hope that this time the Russians will not look for excuses," he wrote on X.

Trump said in a social media



post Sunday that Ukraine should agree to Putin's peace talks proposal 'IMMEDIATELY.'

"At least they will be able to determine whether or not a deal is possible, and if it is not, European leaders, and the US, will know where everything stands, and can proceed accordingly!" Trump wrote, adding: "HAVE THE MEETING, NOW!!!"

Zelenskyy, writing on X Sunday, said it was a "positive sign that the Russians have finally begun to consider ending the war" and said that 'the entire world has been waiting for this for a very long time.'

He added, however, that "the

very first step in truly ending any war is a ceasefire," in a reference to his proposal to start a 30-day unconditional truce Monday.

Putin in remarks to the media overnight effectively rejected that ceasefire offer and proposed restarting direct talks with Ukraine in Istanbul on Thursday instead "without preconditions.'

He said a ceasefire might be agreed on during the negotiations — but stressed that the Kremlin needs a truce that would lead to a 'lasting peace' instead of one that would allow Ukraine to rearm and mobilize

and money laundering.

Veliaj and Berisha deny wrongdoing.

Rama has spent the last week reiterating his promise to join the EU by the end of the decade, although some experts doubt that timeline will be possible given the reforms required to join the bloc, including eradicating graft.

Berisha also backs Albania's EU aspirations and has promised to fight corruption and increase wages.

"It's going to be a new summer day for Albanians," Berisha told Reuters after voting.

Albania votes as PM seeks fourth term, promising EU integration

REUTERS

**Tirana, May 11:** Albanians started voting in parliamentary elections Sunday with prime minister Edi Rama seeking an unprecedented fourth term in office after a campaign dominated by promises to join the European Union and accusations of widespread graft.

Polling stations opened at 7 am (0500 GMT) and will close at 7 pm Results are expected Monday and exit polls will be released after ballot boxes are sealed Sunday.

Rama, in power as head of

Rama's campaign focuses on EU membership and economic growth

Opposition intensifies amid corruption scandals and opposition crackdown

Eradicating graft a key requirement for EU integration

Young voters disillusioned, some seek to emigrate for better opportunities

the Socialist Party (PS) since 2013, is favourite to win against his old rival, former prime minister Sali Berisha of the Democratic Party (PD), bolstered in part by an influential network



Today the Albanian people will decide to push very strongly forward and to give us all the strength we need to make Albania the next European member state

EDI RAMA | PM, ALBANIA

built over 12 years in power, a recent period of healthy economic growth and a largely popular image abroad.

But opposition to Rama has intensified in the past year over a perceived crack-

down on the opposition, including Berisha, while Rama weathered a series of scandals of his own. These include the arrest of his ally, the mayor of Tirana Erion Veliaj, this year on allegations of corruption

"Vote, vote, vote."

Opinion polls show Rama winning up to 50% of the vote and Berisha up to 35%. Rama may need help from smaller parties to maintain a slim four-seat majority in the 140-seat house.

Many young voters especially are tired of the likes of Berisha and Rama who have run the country in various roles since the fall of communism in 1990. They point to Albania's stark income inequality that sees many people drive expensive Range Rovers around the capital Tirana while others live in cramped Soviet-era housing.







The Indian Premier League is likely to resume May 16 or 17, final could be moved out of Kolkata

# IPL RESTART LOOMS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 11:** Suspended due to the India-Pakistan military conflict, the Indian Premier League (IPL) is set to resume either May 16 or 17 with the possibility of the final being moved out of Kolkata.

The announcement of ceasefire Saturday paved the way for resumption of the league that was suspended May 9 for one week.

The IPL Governing Council members and the BCCI officials discussed the resumption plan Sunday.

BCCI vice-president Rajeev Shukla said the board is still working on creating a suitable schedule.

"As of now there is no decision on IPL. BCCI officials are working out on the solutions. BCCI secretary, IPL Chairman are in talks with franchises and everyone, so very soon we will know about the decision, efforts are being made to resume the tournament early," said Shukla.

An IPL source said the league will resume with the match between Lucknow Super Giants and Royal Challengers Bengaluru in Lucknow -- the game which was supposed to be played on May 9.

"All the teams have been asked to call back their players, the tournament will resume either on May 16 or 17 in Lucknow. The final schedule will be shared tomorrow (Monday)," a source told PTI.

"Most likely the matches will be held at four venues and Delhi and Dharamsala won't get to host more matches. All the equipment has already been removed from these venues," added the source.

The source also said that there won't be any change in the venue for Qualifier 1 and

The announcement of ceasefire paved the way for resumption of the league that was suspended May 9 for one week

If only four venues are chosen to host the remaining 16 games then DC, RR and MI will miss out on their home games

The remainder of the tournament is likely to be restricted to Hyderabad, Chennai, Kolkata, Bangalore and Lucknow



Eliminator that Hyderabad was supposed to host but Kolkata may miss out on hosting the final, most likely on June 1, due to rain forecast on that day in the city.

"As of now there is no change in venues for the play-off stage but it seems rain can affect the final in Kolkata. In that case the final could be played in Ahmedabad," said the source.

Speaking to PTI, BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia added: "In the next few days, we will begin consultations with the franchises, broadcasters, sponsors and the state associations slated to host the remaining matches before crystallizing to a decision on the league's resumption.

"Given that the importance of IPL at this juncture, it will also be prudent and necessary to take the nod of the Govern-

ment of India before finalising the time for its restart."

Given that the importance of IPL at this juncture, it will also be prudent and necessary to take the nod of the Government of India before finalising the time for its restart

DEVAJIT SAKIA | SECRETARY, BCCI

The abandoned game between PBKS and DC

It is possible that the two teams will be awarded a point each. Punjab Kings had raced to 122 for 1 in 10.1 overs when the game in Dharamsala had to be stopped due to heightened tension between India and Pakistan.

The players were ferried in bus to Jalandhar in Punjab

from where they travelled to Delhi by train.

If only four venues are chosen to host the remaining 16 games then Delhi Capitals, Rajasthan Royals and Mumbai Indians will miss out on their home games.

It means the remainder of the tournament will be restricted to Hyderabad, Chennai, Kolkata, Bangalore and Lucknow.

CSK, RR and SRH are already out of the reckoning and the battle for sealing the four play-offs spots is among seven teams.

Gujarat Titans as of now are leading the table with 16 points and superior NRR of 0.793, followed by Royal Challengers Bengaluru (16 points, 0.482), Punjab Kings (15), Mumbai Indians (14), Delhi Capitals (13), Kolkata Knight Riders (11) and Lucknow Super Giants (10).

## SHORT TAKES

### Sinner triumphs

**Rome:** After a wait of more than 100 days, Jannik Sinner still knows how to win a tennis match. The top-ranked player made a solid return from his three-month doping ban by beating 99th-ranked Mariano Navone 6-3, 6-4 before an adoring home crowd at the Italian Open. It was Sinner's first match since he won his third Grand Slam title at the Australian Open in January. He said it took him all of three games to get his competitive focus back. "Amazing feeling. I have waited quite long for this moment," Sinner said. "I am very happy to be back. There weren't too many signs of rust and it didn't take long for Sinner to start crushing his groundstrokes on or near the lines. When the Italian broke for 3-1 in the first set, the crowd inside Campo Centrale sang "Ole, ole, ole, Sin-ner, Sin-ner."

### Man City stumble

**London:** The long-awaited return of Erling Haaland couldn't stop Manchester City from tumbling to another poor result in a season to forget for the deposed Premier League champion. Indeed, after a dire 0-0 draw at already-relegated Southampton, even qualification for the lucrative Champions League -- something taken for granted by City for so many seasons -- is still far from certain with two games left. Failing to beat the Premier League's last-placed team, and one of the worst to ever play in England's top flight, threw City's ambitions of a top-five finish back into doubt. Even more so with Aston Villa, one of a raft of clubs battling with City to get into the Champions League, beating Bournemouth 1-0 thanks to Ollie Watkins' first-half goal.

### Bhatia slips to tied-16th

**Flourtown:** Akshay Bhatia slipped from top-five to tied 16th after the third and penultimate round of the Truist Championship here. In blustery conditions, Bhatia shot 71 after the first two rounds of 63-70 for a total card of 6-under. Austrian Sepp Straka shot a 4-under 66 and Irishman Shane Lowry had a 67 to share the lead heading into the final round. Straka started the round two strokes behind and on the third round he offset his only bogey with five birdies. Two of those came in the final four holes and he had a clutch par putt from 16 and a half feet at the 18th on the Philadelphia Cricket Club's Wissahickon Course to finish at 14 under.

# Women in Blue win Women's Tri-Nation ODI tournament

## Clinical India crush Sri Lanka by 97 runs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Colombo, May 11:** India displayed absolute dominance to crush Sri Lanka by 97 runs and earn a well-deserved title triumph in the Women's Tri-Nation ODI series after vice-captain Smriti Mandhana's sublime century and the bowlers' collective effort in the title clash here Sunday.

After Mandhana rose to the occasion to power India to a commanding 342 for seven, the bowlers completed the task by bundling out Sri Lanka for 245, with Sneha Rana (4/38) and Amanjot Kaur (3/54) doing the bulk of the damage.

Skipper Chamari Athapaththu (51 off 66 balls) and Nilakshika Silva (48 off 58) were the chief contributors for the hosts.

Earlier, battling cramps in humid conditions, elegant left-hander Mandhana, who had returned to form with a fifty in India's last match against South Africa, struck a majestic 116 off 101 balls to lay the foundation for India's imposing total after skipper Harmanpreet Kaur opted to bat.

Her knock was laced with 15



fours and two sixes, including four successive boundaries off Athapaththu to bring up her 11th ODI hundred in style.

After the early dismissal of Pratika Rawal for 30, Mandhana shifted gears smoothly.

The stylish Mandhana made Sri Lanka pay for dropping her on 21 as was involved in two big partnerships - 70 for the first wicket with Pratika and 120 for the second with Harleen Deol.

She brought up her 32nd ODI fifty with a stylish sweep

behind square.

The left-hander added 120 runs in 106 balls with Harleen (47 off 56; 4x4) for the second wicket to steady the innings before falling while attempting a lofted cover drive.

But her dismissal set the stage for a strong finish as Jemimah Rodrigues, coming off a career-best 123 against South Africa, smashed a quick-fire 44 off 29 balls (4x4), while Harmanpreet contributed a brisk 41 off 30 (4x4, 1x6) as India piled on 90 runs in the last 10 overs.

There was a brief phase where India looked to have lost steam in the final overs, but cameos from Deepti Sharma (20 not out off 14) and Amanjot Kaur (18 off 12) helped them surge past 340.

**Brief Scores:** India 342/7 in 50 overs (Smriti Mandhana 116, Harleen Deol 47, Jemimah Rodrigues 44, Harmanpreet Kaur 41; Sugandika Kumari 2/59, Dewmi Vihanga 2/69, Malki Madara 2/74) beat Sri Lanka 245 all out in 48.2 overs (Vishmi Gunaratne 36, Chamari Athapaththu 51, Nilakshika Silva 48; Amanjot Kaur 3/54, Sneha Rana 4/38)

# Kane tastes first title as champions Bayern bid farewell to Mueller

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

**Berlin, May 11:** Harry Kane opened the scoring ahead of lifting his first career silverware as Bayern Munich beat Borussia Moenchengladbach 2-0, with veteran Thomas Mueller playing his last home game for the club. Bayern officially won the title Sunday when defending champions Bayer Leverkusen were held to a 2-2 draw at Freiburg, but were presented with the Bundesliga shield in front of their home fans at full-time.

Dripping wet after being showered with beer by teammates, Kane said the title win was "an incredible feeling," and hoped it would be "the first of many".

Kane opened the scoring 31 minutes in, heading in a curl-

ing Michael Olise shot for his 25th goal of the league campaign.

With Bayern lacking their usual energy, Gladbach had several chances to equalise but were let down by poor finishing. Olise tapped in from close range to score a goal of his own in the final minute, sealing the occasion.

In his 750th game in all competitions for the club, Mueller -- who will leave Bayern after 25 years in the summer -- went close to scoring but had his shot saved in the 57th minute.

The 35-year-old was subbed off with seven minutes remaining, hugging his teammates as reserves and members of staff rushed to form a guard of honour. Mueller won a record 13 Bundesliga titles and two Champions Leagues at Bayern.



Speaking with Sky Germany, Mueller said: "I can't really work it through in my mind at the moment," but said he was touched by "75,000 hearts which were beating just a little bit for me".

## ARCHERY WORLD CUP STAGE 2

# India finish with 7 medals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Shanghai, May 11:** India's most decorated archer, Deepika Kumari, salvaged her pride with a hard-earned bronze medal after a semifinal heartbreak, while Parth Salunkhe also finished on the podium for the first time as India wrapped up their campaign at the Archery World Cup Stage 2 with seven medals, here Sunday.

A day after compound archers put up a dominating show with five medals, Deepika and Salunkhe added two more from the recurve section to end India's campaign on a high.

Exactly a year after the 21-year-old reigning Olympic champion Lim Sihyeon had knocked Deepika out at the same stage of the Yecheon World Cup, the Indian was undone again by the Korean in the semifinal, losing 1-7 in a largely one-sided women's recurve individual contest.

The 30-year-old four-time Olympian, though, bounced back strongly to defeat another Korean, Kang Chae Young, 7-3 in the bronze medal playoff and return with a consolation podium finish.

Deepika's win took India's overall medal tally to six at the event, with five coming from the compound section Saturday that included a remarkable triple-medal haul by comeback archer Madhura Dhamangankar.

In the bronze medal playoff, Deepika showed greater composure and tactical clarity than her defeat to Lim in the semis.

The opening set ended in a 27-all tie, but Deepika edged ahead with a solid 28 in the second to take a 3-1 lead.

Kang, a former world champion who had beaten Deepika in the Berlin World Cup quarter-finals back in 2017, fought back in the third, scoring a flawless 30 to Deepika's 27 to make it

## Deepika, Salunkhe win bronze



three-all.

The Indian responded with her best shooting under pressure, firing three perfect arrows for 30 in the fourth set to again take a 5-3 lead.

Needing just a draw in the final set to secure victory, Deepika delivered once more, shooting 29 to Kang's 28, to bag the bronze.

Earlier, Deepika began nervously in the semifinal, losing the first set 26-27 despite hitting two 9s.

The second set saw both archers shoot 28, but Lim held steady to force a split and deny Deepika any rhythm.

The world No 1 then shifted into top gear, drilling in a perfect 30 in the third set while Deepika managed 28. With momentum fully on her side, Lim wrapped up the match in the fourth with a 29, as Deepika managed a 28.

It was a repeat of their 2023 clash, though Deepika had managed to take two set points back then.

In the men's section, 21-year-old Salunkhe, who qualified lowly at 60th place, impressed with his resilience after a 1-7 loss to top seed and Korean legend Kim Woojin in the semifinals.

# Barcelona rallies to beat Real Madrid 4-3



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Madrid, May 11:** Barcelona took a huge step Sunday to securing the Spanish league title with a 4-3 win over Real Madrid -- despite Kylian Mbappé's hat trick in a mesmerising "clásico" -- and opened a seven-point lead over its second-placed rival with three matches remaining.

Raphinha scored twice, and Lamine Yamal and Eric García added a goal each for Barcelona, which trailed 2-0 after Mbappé scored in the fifth and 14th minutes at Montjuic stadium. The hosts evened the match just over the half-hour mark, and went on to lead 4-2 at halftime in a sensational recovery.

Mbappé completed his hat trick in the 70th but Madrid

wasn't able to come back in a likely fatal blow to its hopes of successfully defending its title.

Mbappé became the league's leading scorer with 27 goals, two more than Barcelona's Robert Lewandowski, who did not start Sunday.

It was another thrilling match involving Barcelona, which Tuesday was eliminated by Inter Milan in extra time in the semifinals of the Champions League. Barcelona lost to the Italians 7-6 on aggregate.

The Catalan club has won every match against Madrid this season. It had already won 4-0 at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium in the first league match in October, 5-2 in the Spanish Super Cup final in January, and 3-2 in the Copa del Rey final last month.

It's been lot of hard work, a lot of sacrifice in between, for moments like this -- to enjoy it with the fans, enjoy it with minute

HARRY KANE

the summer, was also given a send-off before the match.

Leipzig 'disappointed', Bochum and Kiel relegated

RB Leipzig's top-four hopes were dashed with a goalless draw at Werder Bremen as Holstein Kiel and Bochum were relegated from the Bundesliga after both fell to home defeats.

Leipzig had only missed the