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CBSE: Girls outshine boys again 'Lakshman Rekha' for Pak



Students and faculty of SAI International School in Bhubaneswar in a euphoric mood following publication of CBSE results Tuesday

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 13: Girls continued to outperform boys in the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) Class X and XII examinations this year, even as the state registered a pass percentage of 78.74 in Class XII and an impressive 92.40 per cent in Class X, according to the Board sources.

CBSE sources said Bhubaneswar region secured a pass percentage of 83.64 in Class XII, placing it 11th among CBSE regions across the country. In Class X, the region fared even better with a 92.64 per cent success rate, while ranking 12th nationally.

Like national level, girls in state also outperformed boys

JAJPUR: 2 KILLED,

in both the classes. Class XII results in state showed girls scoring a pass percentage of 80.77 as against boys with 77.05 per cent. In Class X, girls achieved 93.34 per cent while the success rate for boys stood

at 91.57 per cent. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi extended his congratulations to the students across the state, saying, "I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the students who have successfully passed the Class X and XII examinations conducted by the CBSE. Regardless of the outcome. I encourage everyone to move forward with positivity and strong determination. Wishing all students great success and

Number of students with above 90% dips

New Delhi: Girls continued to outshine boys in CBSE exams for Classes X and XII nationally, while the number of candidates scoring above 90 per cent in both classes recorded a dip, according to Examination Controller Sanyam Bhardwaj. In Class 12, 1,11,544 candidates scored above 90%, while 24,867 candidates scored above 95%. Last year, 1.16 lakh students scored above 90% and 24,068 above 95% in Class XII. In Class X, over 1.99 lakh candidates scored above 90% marks, while 45,516 candidates scored above 95%. **P8**

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan also praised the hard work and resilience of the students. He said, "Heartiest congratula-

tions to all my young friends and their parents. This is a moment to rejoice and cherish the fruits of hard work, dedication and perseverance. Girls have vet again outshined boys. which is a strong reflection of an emerging Bharat where aspirations of young women are turning into accomplishments." Nationally, CBSE reported an 88.39% pass rate in Class XII and 93.66% in Class X, showing consistent improvement as compared to last year.

ОР РНОТС

This year's examinations were aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, emphasising competency-based assessments and increased use of technology to improve accessibility and fairness in the evaluation process.

New Delhi, May 13: With an S-400 missile defence system in the backdrop, Prime Minister Narendra Modi sent a firm message Tuesday from Adampur Air Base to Pakistan: Not only have vou failed to harm any of India's military installations but you will be annihilated if terrorism continues from your soil.

In his first speech to the armed forces since Operation Sindoor, Modi lauded the military for humbling Pakistan in the four-day engagement that resulted in the destruction of nine terror sites and damage to eight military installations.

"Aapne jo kiva wo abhutpurva, akalpniya aur adbhut hai (What you have achieved is unprecedented, unimaginable and amazing)," he said in an over 27-minute speech which echoed the message of his address to the nation on Monday night.

But the significance of the speech was immense. It was delivered from the Adampur base, merely 100 km from the Pakistan border, which Pakistan claimed to have destroyed along with S-400 missile launchers. India had rubbished the claims and TV cameras following Modi corroborated that. "Operation Sindoor has

3 terrorists killed in J&K encounter

Srinagar: Top Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) commander Shahid Kuttay was among three terrorists killed in an encounter with security forces in Shopian district of Jammu and Kashmir Tuesday, officials said. Based on a specific input about the presence of terrorists in Shukroo Keller area of the south Kashmir district, security forces launched a cordon and search operation there. They said the search operation turned into an encounter after the terrorists fired upon the forces who retaliated. In the exchange of fire, three terrorists were killed, they said. A senior police official said the terrorists belonged to LeT. He identified the two as Shahid Kuttay and Adnan Shafi. The identity of the third one was being ascertained. Kuttay, a resident of Chotipora Heerpora area of Shopian, who had joined the terror ranks in March 2023, was a category "A" terrorist and a top commander of the outfit, the official said. He said Kuttay was involved in several terror incidents and anti-national activities, including in the killing of BJP sarpanch at Heerpora May 18, 2024.



now drawn a clear 'Lakshman Rekha' for Pakistan," he said. Modi toured the base and greeted uniformed airmen who shouted 'Bharat Mata ki jai' after he arrived there unannounced

early Tuesday morning. After interacting with the soldiers, he delivered the speech with an S-400 system in the backdrop, wearing a Western Air Command cap with its trademark trishul embroidered on it. "When our armed forces take the wind out of nuclear blackmail, our enemies understand the importance of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai'," he said.

"Bharat Mata ki Jai is not just a slogan, but our soldiers' pledge to dedicate their lives for the nation. When our drones and misofficial for espionage New Delhi: India Tuesday expelled a Pakistani official working at Paki-stan High Commission for allegedly indulging in alleged espionage. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)

MEA expels Pakistan

12 PAGE | ₹5.00

said the official was indulging in activities not in keeping with his official status in India and that he has been given 24 hours to leave the country. India also issued a demarche to Pakistani Charge d' Affaires in New Delhi on the activities of the official. "The government of India has declared a Pakistani of-ficial, working at the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi, persona non grata for indulging in activities not in keeping with his official status in India," the MEA said.

siles hit our enemies, they hear 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai'," he said.

"The tales of your valour will be etched in history forever. I salute our Army, Air Force and Navy personnel," PM Modi said. The patrons of terrorism have realised that casting an evil eye on India will only mean their destruction, the prime minister said.

Adampur is India's second-largest air base and houses Rafale and Mig-29 squadrons. It has played an important role in 1965 and 1971 wars with Pakistan as well.

NCST seeks report on girl's rape in hostel

Bhubaneswar, May 13: The

AGENCIES

1 INJURED IN BLAST PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

a bright future ahead."

Majhi said a new era of development will begin in several

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

nol, which is the normal con-



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jajpur, May 13: Two persons were killed and another was seriously injured in an explosion in Jajpur district Tuesday, police said.

The incident took place in the afternoon close to a country-made liquor shop near National Highway-16 in Chhatia in Bairi police station area, an officer said.

Two persons were on a motorcycle while the injured person was nearby when the incident occurred.

It is suspected that the duo was carrying some explosive materials on the two-wheeler which suddenly exploded, causing the death of the motorists on the spot, Jajpur Sub-divisional Police Officer Laxmidhar Swain said.

The explosion was so intense that several severed body parts of the duo were found strewn at the spot of the incident.

The identity of deceased persons has not yet been ascertained as the bodies were completely damaged in the blast, Swain said.

A forensic team went to the spot to collect evidence, he said. The injured man was shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack for treatment, said Ansubala Das. inspector-in-charge of Bairi police station.

She said it was suspected that the explosive materials were being carried for catching fish in a pond. However, the details will be known after the investigation, she added.

Barinada, May 13: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Tuesday launched development projects worth over ₹420.13 crore and pledged to set up industries worth ₹10.000 crore in Mayurbhani district.

CM unveils ₹420cr projects

On the last day of his visit to Mayurbhanj, Majhi inaugurated altogether 133 projects worth over ₹328 crore and laid the foundation stones for 52 initiatives worth ₹91 crore.

The CM also announced the establishment of a Plus II college at Bisoi block headquarters, and said the mini stadium at Bisoi would be named after the legendary freedom fighter Dharanidhar Naik and his statue would be installed there.

Stating that the new projects would help the welfare of the tribal people in the district.

places like Rairangpur, Kusumi, Bijatsala, Bahalda, Jamda, and Tiring.

He said an investment of about ₹10,000 crore in the industrial sector will also generate employment for the local youths.

Referring to the projects he launched during the day, Majhi said that these will improve rural drinking water, piped water supply, school infrastructure, banking, health centres, road construction facilities, buildings and other government infrastructure and enrich tribal culture.

The Chief Minister also said that his government, during its first 11 months in office, has been fulfilling promises made before the 2024 Lok Sabha and Assembly elections.

Chandigarh/Amritsar, May 13: At least 21 people, mostly daily wagers, died and 10 others were hospitalised after allegedly drinking spurious liquor in Majitha in Punjab's Amritsar dis-

trict, officials said on Tuesday. Ten people, including the alleged kingpin, were arrested while Deputy Superintendent of Police (Majitha) Amolak Singh and Station House Officer of Majitha police station Avtar Singh were suspended for negligence, police said. Besides, two officers of the Excise department have also been suspended.

The AAP government drew flak for the tragedy, with the Opposition demanding the resignation of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann. The state government said most of the culprits



21 die in Punjab hooch tragedy

have been arrested and vowed to ensure the strictest punishment for them. "These are not deaths, these are murders," said Mann, who visited the affected villages and consoled the families of the victims.

Probe revealed that methanol-- a chemical used in industrial products -- was procured in bulk online to prepare the toxic brew. Methanol is a light, colourless organic chemical compound which is poisonous when ingested and is illegally added to alcoholic beverages as a cheaper alternative to etha-

sumable alcohol.

Mann said his government will not spare anyone, however affluent they may be, for the heinous crime. He also announced compensation of ₹10 lakh for the family of every deceased and said that the state government will bear the entire expense of education of the children of the victim.

Two cases at police stations Majitha and Kathunangal in Amritsar Rural have been registered under sections 105 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) and 103 (murder) of the BNS and relevant sections of the Excise Act and the SC/ST Act The deaths were reported in

Bhangali, Patalpuri, Marari Kalan, Talwandi Khumman, Karnala, Bhangwan and Therewal villages, said officials.

National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) has issued a notice to the state government asking it to submit within seven davs a detailed action-taken report on the alleged rape of a tribal girl at Guneipada ST/SC Girls' Hostel in Lamtaput block of Koraput district in April this year. The NCST issued the notice based on a complaint lodged by the Opposition BJD.

The notice was issued to the state's additional chief secretary of Home department, principal secretary of the ST and SC Development and Minorities and Backward Classes Welfare department and the director general of police May 9.

Sensex tanks 1.282 pts as IT shares trip

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PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paris, May 13: Kim Kardashian said a silent prayer for her sister, her best friend, her family — as a masked man pulled her toward him in a Paris hotel room in the 2016 jewellery heist that changed her life. Nearly a decade later, she returned to Paris to face the men who robbed her at gunpoint, but this time from the witness stand. "I was certain that was the moment that he was going to rape me," she told a Paris court Tuesday. "I

absolutely did think I was go-

saw the men that police say

robbed her, she was bound at

gunpoint and left locked in a

marble bathroom while masked

assailants stole more than USD

The last time Kardashian

Her testimony marked the emotional climax of a trial that has gripped France and reignited debates about fame, privacy and what it means to live — and nearly die — in public.

The night in her suite during Fashion Week in 2016 forever altered her relationship to fame and safety. Dressed in black and wearing dark sunglasses. Kardashian stood in the packed courtroom across from her mother, Kris

Jenner. Her voice broke as she thanked French authorities for "allowing me to share my truth". She told the court that the at-

tackers arrived dressed as police officers, with the concierge in handcuffs. "I thought it was some sort of terrorist attack,' she said.

She described how they tied her hands with zip ties, dragged



her to the bathtub and pointed a gun at her temple. One robber gestured toward her ring. "He said, Ring! Ring!' and he pointed to his hand.

French prosecutors say the men who orchestrated the heist — most in their 60s and 70s — were part of a seasoned criminal ring that tracked Kardashian's movements through social media. Two of the defendants have admitted being at the scene. One claims he didn't know who she was.

Twelve suspects were originally charged. One has died. Another was excused due to illness. The French press dubbed the group les papys braqueurs "the grandpa robbers" — but prosecutors insist they were no harmless retirees.

Kardashian, who once shared nearly every moment of her life online, later acknowledged the role that visibility played. "People were watching," she said in a 2021 interview. "They knew what I had. They knew where I was.

Earlier in the trial, Kardashian's childhood friend and then-stylist Simone Harouche recalled hearing her scream from upstairs: "I have babies and I need to live.' That is what she kept on saying, Take everything. I need to live."

Harouche, who hid in a downstairs bathroom during the robbery, said she texted Kardashian's sister Kourtney and their bodyguard: "Something is very wrong." She later heard Kardashian hopping down the stairs with her ankles still bound. "She was beside herself," Harouche said. "She just was screaming.

Harouche testified that the robbery "forever" changed her friend's sense of freedom. "She now has a completely different lifestyle," she said. "In terms of security, she can't go alone, she doesn't go alone to places anymore. To lose your sense of freedom ... it's horrible."

Mumbai, May 13: Stock markets tumbled Tuesday with benchmark Sensex falling by 1,282 points due to profit-taking in IT, auto and private banking shares a day after a record rally

The 30-share BSE barometer tanked 1,281.68 points or 1.55 per cent to settle at 81,148.22 with 25 of its constituents closing with losses and five with gains During the day, it fell sharply by 1,386.21 points or 1.68 per cent to 81,043.69. The broader Nifty of NSE dropped 346.35 points or 1.39 per cent to 24,578.35.

From the Sensex firms, Infosys declined the most by 3.54% Power Grid dropped 3.4%, Eter nal by 3.38%, HCL Tech by 2.94%, TCS by 2.88% and Bharti Airtel by 2.74%. IndusInd Bank HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, NTPC Maruti, Tata Motors, and M&M were also among the laggards.



6 million in jewellery.

ing to die.'









Kardashian faces men who robbed her at gunpoint



elsure



KRAVITZ, HOULT REUNITE FOR HOW TO ROB A BANK

Zoë Kravitz is joining the cast of How To Rob A Bank, the upcoming action film from director David Leitch at Amazon MGM Studios. The project sees her reuniting with Mad Max: Fury Road co-star Nicholas Hoult, who is already attached to the film.

TRIAL BEGINS ON SEAN **'DIDDY' COMBS CASE**

The sex trafficking trial of rapper Sean 'Diddy' Combs began with jury swearing-in and opening statements. Prosecutor described Combs as a powerful figure who used his fame to rape. abuse, and assault people for decades, aided by bodyguards and employees who helped cover up his crimes.



UNE FORECAST

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Do something really exciting today – perhaps you could put on your trekking boots and explore unknown territories. Ganesha advises you to keep busy but not to go overboard. In group activities today, everybody will focus their attention on you.

TAURUS

This day you are going to be particularly conscious of your beliefs and principles. You will be very proud and sensitive, and are not likely

to brook any adverse comment or criticism. Anyone who dares to question or deride them will get a fitting response from you. Ganesha, however warns you to be more tolerant of others' views and beliefs. Intolerance, particularly in the form of sharp and acidic retorts, could alienate some important persons

GEMINI

You will be surrounded by conflicts today. However, you will come to realise within a short while the solutions required to troubleshoot your way out of your difficult circumstances. You will desire solitude and peace so much so that you will not find even your family members welcome company, says Ganesha.



involve great fun and merrymaking. Keeping this in mind, you will set about planning your day. There may be no stopping you as you go about your day having a blast at every possible moment. There will be no limit to your gregarious behaviour, says Ganesha.

LEO

You will give importance to your work and your

style of functioning to get a promotion in the office. You will also increase the amount of work you put in. While the fruits of your labour may not be immediately available to you, in a very short time you can expect to make more gains than you expected to.

VIRGO

Ganesha advises you to keep your distance from partnership ventures. You are much better off all alone and have the ability to quell the stampede. Left to yourself, you are the best manager of your sphere of work. Ganesha says today you will garner the support of people by uniting them under you for achieving greater success.

LIBRA You will be drawn towards

those of the opposite sex today says Ganesha. You will meet people who share the same wavelength that you do in the afternoon, and this will lead to a lot

SAMANTHA'S darkest phase

MUMBAI: Samantha Ruth phase as a "never-ending abyss," Samantha revealed Prabhu recently opened up about a dark phase in her life, that it was not her success but describing it as a time when her struggles that shaped her. "nothing was working" and "Now, when someone tells me she was plagued by "the worst possible thoughts." Without explicitly naming her 2021 divorce from Naga Chaitanya or her diagnosis of Myositis, the actor shared how deeply lost she felt during that period.

she

member thinking, 'I can't

do this anymore.' I had

the worst thoughts

said. Though the

thoughts were se-

vere, she admitted,

out.

"I didn't have the

courage to act

on them. You

need guts for

that. I chick-

Instead, I de-

resilience."

De

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cided to build

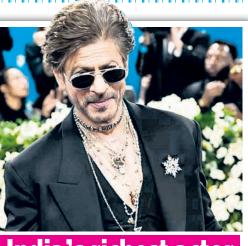
ened

imaginable,"

they're going through a hard time, I encourage them to face it. There's always something to learn. My failures and hardships taught me more than my success ever did.' Following her divorce, Sa-In a candid interview, Samantha was diagnosed with Myositis in 2022. mantha recalled hitting emotional rock bottom. "I re-

While Naga Chaitanva married Sobhita Dhulipala in December 2024, Samantha remains single, though she's rumoured ing film-

to be datmaker Raj Nidimoru.



India's richest actor

MUMBAI: Earlier this year, Esquire magazine released its annual list of the world's richest actors, and among global powerhouses like Arnold Schwarzenegger and Tom Cruise stood a familiar Indian name—Shah Rukh Khan. With an estimated net worth of \$876.5 million (around ₹7500 crore), Shah Rukh ranks as the fourth-richest actor in the world and remains the undisputed richest actor in India.

Over the last three decades, Shah Rukh has not only ruled Indian cinema but has also built a business empire that puts him well ahead of his peers. He surpasses global stars like George Clooney, Robert De Niro, and Brad Pitt in net worth, and towers over Indian contemporaries such as Hrithik Roshan (₹3100 crore), Salman Khan (₹2900 crore), Akshay Kumar (₹2500 crore) and Aamir Khan (₹1900 crore). Even senior icons like Amitabh Bachchan and Chiranjeevi lag behind.

Interestingly, the only Indian actor remotely close to SRK's wealth is Juhi Chawla—his longtime friend and business partner-whose net worth stands at ₹4600 crore, making her India's richest actress.

On the work front, Shah Rukh was last seen in Dunki, following hits Pathaan and Jawan. He is currently working on King, alongside daughter Suhana Khan, slated for a 2026 release. AGENCIES

MUMBAI: Actress Alaya F decided to push her fitness boundaries yet again as she performed a headstand on the paddleboard.

The Freddy actress nailed the headstand as she flaunted her perfect physique in a black two-piece. The diva was surrounded by water, with a beautiful backdrop, including greenery and hills.

"Someone jokingly said, "You should try a headstand on the paddleboard.'

Two minutes later, I was upside down in the middle of a river while my friends and family hyped me up from the boat.@ konkanexplorersindia. The video garnered a lot of attention from netizens who penned comments such as "That someone is always me and at

look you go effortlessly it" on "Oh god... Is there anything you can't do? "Well balance in water love you Alaya' and "Oh goodness!!

Alaya pushes her boundaries

Bless Bless Bless II Have to show Samaya this", along with others

> Alaya keeps on shelling fit ness goals with such inspiring videos on social media. Back in February this year, Alaya shared a video of a yummy yet healthy breakfast smoothie on her Instagram.

On a professional front, Alaya was last seen in

Bade Miya Chote Mivan which starred Akshay Kumar. Tiger Shroff. and Prithviraj Su kumaran in the lead. She was al so a part of Srikanth, co-starring Rajkummar Rao.

Nitanshi to make Cannes debut

MUMBAI: After representing her film Laapataa Ladies as India's official entry at the 97th Academy Awards, the breakout star Nitanshi Goel is all set to make her debut at the prestigious Cannes 2025.

Nitanshi is the youngest actor to debut at Cannes and grace the red carpet for the global beauty brand, L'Oréal Paris, the official beauty partner of Cannes for the 28th year this time.

Sharing her excitement about her Cannes debut, Nitanshi said, "I came into this industry with aspirations of making things happen for me. From the incredible journey of Laapataa Ladies to now standing on the global stage at Cannes, I am getting closer to realising them. I am that girl who is

representing every Indian

girl out there who dreams big and is ready to go and achieve them, come what may. Being able to represent those girls at a global stage is a moment of sheer happiness. By me being on the carpet, I wish to empower each female out there who is taking charge of their life, dreams, and career. It's an absolute honor."

Nitanshi gained widespread recognition with her debut movie Laapataa Ladies, co-starring Pratibha Ranta, Sparsh Shrivastava, Ravi Kishan, and Chhaya Kadam.

expand upon your knowledge of the world today and will be successful in your efforts.

SCORPIO

Keep your eyes and ears open and believe in only what you see. Remember, believing in rumours may lead to ugly situations. Your efforts to be different and stand out would pay off well, predicts Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

The day is bright and the seas are calm today. For a change, you shall spend time with your life partner and help them in household chores. Even routine jobs like cooking and cleaning will weave an intricate bond between you two.

CAPRICORN

You will be a live wire, today. With amazing exuberance you have completed mammoth tasks and have spread the energy around. It will give you tremendous job- satisfaction, foresees Ganesha. Everything seems well and good the personal front, too, Spending some quality time your spouse will relax your mind and keep you in an upbeat mood.

You are a strong-willed person, and during the toughest of times you remain focused. A constant smile on your face and positive attitude will help you win the hearts and minds of people at work as well as at home. Such a feeling of contentment and happiness motivate you to do your best.

.

PISCES

You will bump into an old friend or a distant relative today. This rendezvous may be with a person who you were close to long ago and it will warm your heart with nostalgia. You might contemplate taking a break from your daily grind to spend sometime to rekindle your childhood memories or visit your hometown. Don't let the nostalgia overwhelm you as it may make you ignore the tasks at hand and cost you heavily, suggests Ganesha.

PEANUTS

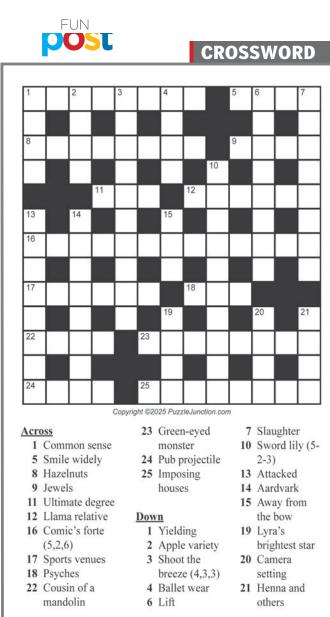


CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY





CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

SUDOKU

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

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SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

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



THAT'S A

EXCUSE!!





SUDOKU



DANCE BEATS

Artistes perform on the concluding day of The National Tribal Carnival. Parichaya, at Baliyatra Upper Ground in Cuttack Tuesdav



MOTHER'S PUBLIC SCHOOL

wntown

City schools excel in CBSE Class X and XII Board results



Post news network

Bhubaneswar, May 13: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) Tuesday announced the results of Class X and XII examinations, with Odisha registering a pass percentage of 78.74% in Class XII. and 92.40% in Class X.

Bhu-Students across baneswar delivered outstanding performances, with many City schools reporting 100% pass results and high individual scores.

Congratulating the students, Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said, "I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the students who have successfully passed the CBSE exams. Regardless of the outcome, I encourage everyone to move forward with positivity and strong determination."

Leading the achievements SAI International School (SIS) once again maintained its tradition of academic excellence. The school achieved 100% first-division results in both

Class X and XII. In Class XII, Dhiraj Dhanuka topped the Commerce stream with 98.8%. Anoushka Panda led Humanities with 98.2%, and N Shreya Amolika topped the Science stream with 98%. The school reported an average score of 88.80%, with 91.5% of students scoring above 75%, and 20.27% securing over 95%

In Class X, Aahana Parija topped with 99.2%, followed by Harsh Agarwal (98.8%) and a tie for third place between Anushka Panda, Vallabh Sairaman Agrawalla, and Swagat Mohapatro (98.6%). An impressive 93.23% of SIS students scored over 75%, while the

school average stood at 88.82%. SAI International Residential School (SIRS) also marked notable success. Nikhit Kasera and Shiksha Banka topped Commerce stream with 98%. while Nitya Sethia and Kasish Gupta led Humanities with 97%. In Science, Preeyansh Tibrewal scored the highest with 96%. The school recorded an overall Class XII average of 87.69%, and 86.41% students scored above 75%. In Class X, Archit Agarwal topped with 97.2%, followed by Shiv Agnihotri (96.6%) and Mayank

Kumar Beria (94.2%). BJEM School also produced strong results. In Class XII, Priyanshu Nanda was the Science topper with 97%, and Aditi Mohanty led Commerce with 95.4%. All 156 students of the school passed the exam, with 17 securing above 90%. In Class X, Somesh Pradhan topped with a near-perfect 99.6%, as 85 students scored above 90%, and

90% secured first division. **KIIT** International School celebrated its best-ever CBSE performance with 100% first-division results in Class XII. Trisha Rath emerged as the Humanities and regional topper with 99.4%, Hans Daruka led Science with 98.8%, and Dipti Sahu topped Commerce with 98.6%. Around 40% of the batch scored above 90%.

At Mother's Public School, Aarush Ayushman topped with 99.4%, followed by Vaishali Panda (98.8%) in class X results. Himanshu Sekhar Samal, Prachetash Sahu and Simran Das scored 98% each.

In class XII results, Amaan Kumar Nayak scored 98.20% in Science stream, while Rohnak Agarwal scored the highest of 98% in Commerce stream.

ODM School also reported impressive results with 100 percent result. Dayashankar Sahoo, Aryan Kynar Hota, and Biswajit Nayak got 99.2% and are joint school topper. 57 students scored above 95%, while 100 students scored 90%.

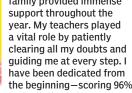
In class XII, Sandeep Kumar Sahoo got 99% in Science stream and Sidharth Mohapatra scored 99.4% in Commerce stream. 180 students scored 90% marks.

DAV unit VIII also shone, with Devanshi Jenami scored 99.4% in Class X, while Amshul Das came second with 99%.

In class XII Navneet Priyadarshi scored 96.8% in Science stream, while K Sri Sai Laasya and Rohit Agarwal scored 97.4% in Commerce.

> 'I completely focused on revision and self studies. I have secured 97% (485 out of 500), and came the school topper. My parents and teachers have guided me throughout this journey,'

"I was more busy in JEE preparation, so I am happy with whatever I got, I am now preparing for JEE advance and hope to do well." NABANEET PRIYADARSHI | DAV, UNIT VIII. 96.8% (SCIENCE)



in the half-yearly exams and 95% in the pre-boards. Moving forward, I plan to pursue Chartered Accountancy (CA) alongside a B.Com degree." DHIRAJ DHANUKA | SAI INTERNATIONAL. 98.8% (COMMERCE)

> "I had expected to score well, and I'm happy with my to 13 hours daily. My parents were incredibly supportive, and my teachers helped me a lot by resolving all my doubts

and motivating me consistently. As regards my future, I'm considering either pursuing a B.Tech or exploring a path in the humanities.' SHREYA AMOLIKA | SAI INTERNATIONAL. 98% (SCIENCE)



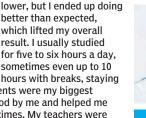
"I did expect this result because my exams went well. I studied consistently for three to four hours every day. My teachers played a crucial role - they were always available to clear our doubts, and the worksheets we received for practice

ODM PUBLIC SCHOOl

helped immensely. My parents have also struggled and supported me a lot during this I'm really grateful to both m



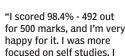
hours with breaks, staying consistent. My parents were my biggest support - they stood by me and helped me through the tough times. My teachers were always there to guide me, clearing doubts at any time. My class teacher in particular supported me a lot. My friends also played a

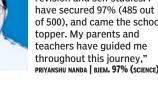


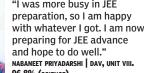
"Honestly, I didn't expect

considering pursuing a combination of the two in the future.

ANUSHKA BAISAKH I SAI INTERNATIONAL. 98.4% "I got 99.6% in my class X Board exam. I studied for 6 hours daily, and focused on revision. I have secured 498 out of 500 marks. I thank my parents and teachers for this achievement. SOMESH PRADHAN | BJEM. 99.6%

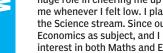






family provided immense clearing all my doubts and guiding me at every step. I have been dedicated from





and motivating me whenever I felt low. I plan to continue with the Science stream. Since our school offers Economics as subject, and I have a strong interest in both Maths and Economics, I'm



dedicated my success to my parents and teachers," SHAN DAS | BJEM**. 98.4**%

A minor girl was allegedly

"It is deeply distressing that

despite the state having a Chief

Minister from the tribal com-

munity, incidents of rape and

atrocities against tribal girls

continue to occur unabated.

These incidents are repeated-

ly reported in the media, yet

there appears to be no serious

remedial or punitive action

from the state government.

On the contrary, it seems ef-

forts are being made to shield

the perpetrators rather than

ensure justice," the BJD had

students have tragically died in

such state-run schools," it added.

"Since July, 2024, at least 26

said in the memorandum.

raped at the Guneipada ST/SC

Girls Hostel in Lamtaput block

of Koraput district in April.

"I secured 98.8% in my Board exams. I consistently studied for 12 to 13 hours a day. I scored a perfect 100 marks in Business Studies, Entrepreneurship, and Painting. My



and parents for their constant guidance and encouragement. For Class XI, I've chosen the Science stream with a focus on engineering. HARSH AGARWAL, SAI INTERNATIONAL. 98.8%

Jharsuguda hottest in state at 43° C

AGENCIES

TOPPERS SA

Bhubaneswar, May 13: Most of the places in Odisha continued to reel under hot weather conditions Tuesday, with Jharsuguda town in the western part of the state being the hottest at 43 degrees Celsius.

According to a bulletin issued by the Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre, 11 places, including Jharsuguda, witnessed maximum temperatures of 40 degrees Celsius or above Tuesday. Sambalpur recorded 42.2 degrees Celsius, followed by Titlagarh (42) and Bargarh (41.8).

Other places that registered the maximum temperature of 40 degrees Celsius or more were Bhawanipatna and Bolangir (41.5 each), Boudh (41.2), Sonepur (41), Hirakud (40.6), and Malkangiri as well as Nupada (40 each)

The weather office said the maximum temperature would rise by 2-3 degrees Celsius over the next three days and there would be no large change thereafter.

The day temperature was expected to be 40 degrees Celsius or more in some pockets of Angul, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Sundargarh, Bhawanipatna, Bolangir, Titlagarh, Malkangiri, Sonepur, Boudh, Paralakhemundi, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Dhenkanal, Bargarh, and Nuapada districts, it said. The Met Centre further said hot and humid conditions were expected in the districts of Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam, and Gajapati Wednesday.

Girl's rape in hostel: NCST asks government to file ATR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, May 13: The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) has issued a notice to the state government asking it to submit within seven days a detailed action taken report (ATR) on the alleged rape of a tribal girl at a state-run hostel in Koraput district.

The NCST issued the notice based on a complaint lodged by the Opposition BJD. The notice was issued to the state's Additional Chief Secretary of Home department, Principal Secretary of the ST and SC Development and Minorities and Backward Classes Welfare Department and the Director General of Police May 9.

"These authorities are requested to submit a detailed report on the facts and the action taken on the matter within seven days of receiving the notice. The report can be sent via post, in person, or through other communication means,' the notice said.

The notice warned that failure to respond within the stipulated time may compel the Commission to exercise its powers of a civil court under Article 338A of the Constitution and issue summons for personal or representative appearance before the commission.

Vig nets 5 Forest officers in ₹80 lakh funds fraud AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, May 13: The Odisha Vigilance Tuesday arrested five Forest officers for embezzling government funds to the tune of Rs 80 lakh allocated for compensatory afforestation in Kalahandi district, an official said.

"Based on credible inputs regarding large-scale misappropriation of government funds under compensatory afforestation scheme in Jaypatana range of Kalahandi, south Forest division, a Vigilance enquiry was taken up for verification of plantation under the above scheme, by four teams comprising 25 officers," the Odisha Vigilance said in a statement.

A thorough enumeration of plantation sites under Jaypatana range was carried out and a huge shortfall in plantation and misappropriation was found, it said.

During the enquiry, the Vigilance officials also found that the plantation funds sanctioned during the financial year 2023-24 were diverted to a number of fictitious labour accounts and withdrawn shortly thereafter, and misappropriated, a Vigi lance official said.

Following the enquiry, prima facie evidence was well established against the Forest officers including deputy ranger in-charge, two foresters, two forest guards, all of Jaypatana range, he said.

ISKCON: No role in naming Digha temple as 'Jagannath Dham'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, May 13: ISK CON Tuesday said it has no role in naming the newly built Jagannath Temple at Digha in West Bengal as a 'Dham' and its activities are confined to performing worship and rituals.

The International Society for Krishna Consciousness is just one of the 27 trustees of the Digha temple trust and does not wield much influence, a senior ISKCON official said here.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee inaugurated the temple in Digha April 30 and described it as a 'Jagannath Dham', sparking a controversy. The Odisha government and two Shankaracharyas have stated that only the 12th-century Jagannath temple in Puri can be called a Dham and no other shrine else.

The titular king of Puri, Gajapati Maharaja Dibyasingha Deb, who is the chairman of the Shree Jagannath Temple Managing Committee (SJTMC) in Puri May 7 wrote to Shree Goverdhan Das Prabhu, chair man of ISKCON Governing Body Commission, Mayapur, requesting him to remove the term 'Dham' from the temple in Digha.

Deb is also the first servitor of Lord Jagannath in Puri. Stating that ISKCON re-



ceived the letter from Gajapati Maharaja, its director of communication, Premananda Das, said, "We have clarified that ISKCON's role is very limited."

ISKCON has been entrusted solely with the puja and related rituals at the Digha temple, he said. "Of the 27 trustees of the Jagannath Dham Trust in Digha, only one is from ISK-CON. The Trust comprises representatives from various communities, as well as officials nominated by the West Bengal government," Das said.

The ISKCON official said that the 'Jagannath Dham Trust' in Digha was established more than three years ago, much ahead of the construction of the temple at the coastal town.

'We were added as a member much later. We are just one of the trust board members and do not wield much influence." Das said, expressing helplessness about removing 'Dham' from the Digha Jagannath Temple.

"Let the governments of the two states discuss and resolve the issue between them. The ISKCON has nothing to do with it," he told reporters at at Lok Seva Bhavan here.

An ISKCON delegation went there to seek permission from the Odisha government to un dertake 'prasad' distribution during the Rath Yatra festi val in Puri. The organisation planned to distribute 'prasad' to about 7 lakh to 8 lakh devotees from June 25 to July 7 in Puri.

"We will have our own kitch en and distribute prasad among devotees in busy places like bus stands, railway stations, sea beach and other places during the Rath Yatra," Das said.













OrissaPOST

WEDNESDAY | MAY 14, 2025 | BHUBANESWAR

owntown



Ahuja orders urgent steps on water crisis



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 13: Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja chaired a secretary-level meeting at Kharavela Bhavan Tuesday to assess and discuss the implementation of various state government schemes for the fiscal year 2025-26. During the meeting, he directed officials to prioritise addressing the ongoing drinking water crisis, particularly in districts severely affected by the heatwave.

With temperatures soaring across the state, the Chief Secretary emphasised the urgent need for ensuring the effective operation of water kiosks in Bhubaneswar and other regions.

He instructed concerned departments to act swiftly in response to media reports highlighting the growing concerns over water shortages and to take immediate corrective measures.

The meeting also addressed the status of staff vacancies across various departments, with a strong recommendation for regular evaluations and prompt recruitment to ensure

Man sets water stations for animals

MANOJ KUMAR JENA, OP

Bhubaneswar, May 13: As the City grapples with intense heat, Pratap Sahoo, a dedicated social worker, has taken it upon himself to install water stations across various parts of Bhubaneswar to help quench the thirst of birds and animals.

For over three decades, Sahoo has been setting up food and water stations for animals throughout the City. During the scorching summer months, he makes it a point to monitor and refill these stations regularly to ensure that wildlife has access to water



smooth functioning.

In a bid to improve retirement-related services for government employees, a new feature has been integrated into the Janasunani Portal, enabling employees to access pen-

sion and benefits services with greater ease. Departments were also tasked with identifying and addressing any challenges users might face in navigating the portal and to provide the necessary support to resolve these issues.

In terms of long-term development, Ahuja urged greater interdepartmental collaboration to align efforts with the state's vision of a "Developed Odisha by 2036" and a "Developed India by 2047"

He underscored the critical role of collective decision-making and prompt action in realising these ambitious goals.

Additional Chief Secretary and Development Commissioner Anu Garg gave an update on district visits by senior officials, discussing their outcomes and follow-up actions. Notable progress was reported in the completion of infrastruc-

ture projects such as sports complexes, health centres, and hostels. Recognising the increasing

importance of data-driven decision-making, the Chief Secretary instructed all departments to appoint Data Officers and provide necessary training.

Further, the Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has placed emphasis on expanding the role of Civil Defence Volunteers in disaster and emergency management. Additional Chief Secretary Satyabrata Sahu presented a status report on the deployment of these volunteers, recommending their increased participation in 12 high-risk districts, including those with dense industrial

activity and high population concentrations. The meeting also included updates on the preparations for the much-anticipated Puri Rath Yatra, with Shree Jagannath Temple Chief Administrator and Principal Secretary Ara-

vind Kumar Padhee providing

detailed insights into the logis-

tics and arrangements for the

DPS Kalinga tops CBSE results

festival.



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 13: Delhi Public School (DPS) Kalinga celebrated a remarkable academic achievement with 100 per cent results in the AISSE Class X CBSE Board Exams 2025.

Javaditva Pratihari emerged as the Class X topper with 98.4 per cent, followed by Kunal Mishra with 98 per cent and Tanishka Mohta with 97.6 per cent. Several students scored a perfect 100 in subjects like Mathematics, General Science, Social Science, (97.2 per cent). Sanskrit, Hindi, Odia, French,



In the Science stream, Snehasis Das topped with 97.4 per cent, followed by Lakshya Khandelwal (96.6 per cent) and Ritesh Parija (96 per cent).

In Commerce, Samarth Khator led with 97 per cent, with Radhika Fogla (96.6 per cent) and Diya Sethi (96.2 per cent) in second and third positions respectively. In Humanities, Anindita Panda secured the top spot with 97.6 per cent, followed by Nysa Patro (97.4 per cent) and Ritika Mohapatra



CAPTIVATING SHOW: Artistes perform Odissi during 17th Anand Utsav organised at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

Trio arrested for assault in Pahala



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 13: Three men were arrested by Pahala Police Tuesday for allegedly assaulting a family in Pahala after their demands for a financial tip were refused. The accused, identified as Gouranga Samal (33) and brothers Jitendra Samal (25) and Lingaraj Samal (31), all history-sheeters with multiple criminal cases, are residents of

The Police have booked the trio under Sections 333, 109 (1), 351 (2), and 3 (5) of BNS

According to Pahala Police Inspector-in-Charge Aswini Kumar Jena, the incident occurred after an altercation between the trio and the complainant, Laxmi Moharana, when she declined their request for money. The men reportedly threatened her and, Monday at around 11:20am, forcibly entered her home, assaulting her husband and father-in-law. When Laxmi objected, they physically assaulted her, pulling her hair and using obscene language before leaving. Laxmi later filed a complaint with Pahala Police. The Police have booked the trio under Sections 333, 109 (1), 351 (2), and 3 (5) of BNS.

Seva Diwas marks Gurudev's birthday

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, May 13: Sri Sri University, located at Bidyadharpur-Godisahi, marked the 69th birthday of spiritual leader and humanitarian Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar Tuesday by observing it as Seva Diwas.

The celebration was filled with meaningful service activities carried out by students and staff to honour his teachings of compassion and selflessness.

As part of the initiative, members of the Rover and Ranger units, along with students' welfare department, distributed cooling drinks like pana and lemon sherbet to pedestrians, shopkeepers, and au-

to-rickshaw drivers. Students from the Sri Sri College of Nursing provided shaded water tents for passers-by to rest and cool off amid the summer heat. In surrounding villages,

the department of Health and

Wellness offered osteopathy

services, while the depart-

ment of Agriculture distrib-

uted food at local old-age

homes. A plastic-free drive

by the university's Internal

Quality Assurance Cell led to

a thorough cleanup of plastic

A major health camp was al-

so held in Dhurusia village un-

der Athagarh block by the Sri

Sri College of Ayurvedic Sci-

ence and Research Hospital in

waste across campus.

Delhi. The camp, focused on the TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyan, saw participation from over 50 pa tients. Local officials including BDO Akash Panda and ABDO Nava Katakia were present.

association with NCISM, New

Essential supplies were distributed at the Anganwadi centre in Sandapur village and drinking water was made available at multiple locations for animals and birds.

All activities were conduct ed under the guidance of Swami Satyachaitanya, director of Human Resources, with enthusiastic participation from all departments, making Seva Diwas a meaningful tribute to Gurudev.

City Manipal Hospitals saves elderly man from Aneurysm

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 13: A 60-year-old man from Balasore, Charan Mishra (name changed), survived a potentially fatal Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) after receiving timely treatment at Manipal Hospitals, Bhubaneswar. While enjoying his post-re-

tirement life, Charan experienced sudden back and ab-

dangerous condition in which the main artery enlarges like a balloon and risks bursting, often leading to sudden death if untreated.

Despite having no known comorbidities, the aneurysm posed a serious threat. The medical team promptly performed an advanced, minimally invasive procedure called Endovascular Aortic Repair (EVAR). This technique insaid Behera. "The patient re sponded well and was stable after the procedure." He also thanked Biswajeet Mohapa tra, Subhashree Samantray, Rajeshree, Vivek Chowdhry and the CATH Lab and CCU teams for their support. Hospital director Saktima-

ya Mohapatra noted that the case reflects the hospital's expertise in handling complex cardiac conditions in elderly patients with precision and care The patient was discharged on February 8 and is recovering well. Manipal Hospitals continues to lead in delivering advanced, timely cardiac care in the region.



"This heat is unbearable for humans, but for animals, it's even worse. Birds and animals struggle to find water as many natural sources dry up in the heat," said Sahoo. "I have personally installed hanging water stations and other types of water dispensers at about 40 locations around the City.'

Sahoo continues, 'Every morning, I visit these stations to refill them, and when storms or strong winds damage the stations, I repair them mvself."

He emphasised the importance of compassion towards animals, pointing out that they cannot express their pain. Sahoo urged citizens to step up and help in any way they can-whether by feeding birds or stray animals. "Animals are an integral part of our nature, and it's our responsibility to care for them," he added.

Pro Vice-Chairperson Mala and Information Technology. Mishra, Principal Suvabra-The school also excelled in ta Mukherjee, and Executive the Class XII CBSE Board Ex-Trustee Sunaina Patro congratams across all three streams ulated the students for their Science, Commerce, and outstanding performance and hard work.

dominal pain accompanied by fever. As symptoms worsened, he was referred to Manipal Hospitals on January 26 for specialised care. Consultant in Interventional Cardiology Dibya Ranjan Behera diagnosed him with an AAA—a

volves placing a covered stent graft across the aneurysm to divert blood flow and prevent rupture.

This case highlights the importance of early detection and the availability of life-saving procedures like EVAR,"

State bar council serves notice on Archana Nag

POST NEWS NETWORK

Humanities.

Bhubaneswar, May 13: The Odisha State Bar Council has issued a show-cause notice to Archana Nag for allegedly concealing details of pending criminal cases in her application for a lawyer's license-a move that raises serious concerns about the integrity

of her enrollment process. Official sources revealed that Nag received her license May 10, 2025, under Enrollment No. O-184-2025. However, it was later found that she had marked "NO" in the section of the application form that inquires about ongoing criminal cases, despite several cases being active against her at the time.

The discrepancy came to light during a routine verifi-



cation of her application, originally submitted September 2. 2024. In the notice, Bar Council Secretary JK Samantasinghar stated that Nag had "intentionally suppressed the fact with regard to the pendency of criminal cases.

"You are hereby put to notice to show cause as to why appropriate action shall not be initiated against you in accordance with the law." the letter

read, warning that failure to respond within seven days of receipt will result in ex-parte proceedings. Sources within the Bar Council indicated that strict disciplinary action could follow if Nag fails to offer a satisfactory explanation. Legal experts note that suppression of such material facts could not only lead to revocation of her license but may also result in criminal proceedings

Archana Nag, a controversial figure in Odisha, has been previously embroiled in high-profile legal cases, including allegations of blackmail and involvement in a honey trap scandal. This latest development could deal a severe blow to her legal career before it has even properlv started.

TEACHERS' TRANSFER MPs, MLAs empowered

The one-time provision allows lawmakers to recommend teacher transfers to the district collector applicable only for the current educational year

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, May 13: The state government Tuesday said the MPs and MLAs of the state can recommend up to 15 most deserving cases of transfer of teachers belonging to elementary and secondary schools in their constituencies.

This provision is a one-time measure, which is applicable only for the current educational year.

The lawmakers will recommend transfers to the district collector, who will forward them to the District Level Transfer

Committee (DLTC) for processing, according to an official letter sent to the Directors of Secondary and Elementary Education. However, the legislators have

to follow certain conditions, such as the recommendations cannot violate the principle of rationalisation, priority should be given to the teachers with urgent need, no teacher should be transferred from rural to urban areas, and this discretion is applicable for intra-district transfers only. In cases where the parlia-

mentary constituency covers more than one district, the proposals will be submitted to the Nodal Collector (Returning Officer of that constituency), the official said. "All the proposals should be submitted and disposed of during this transfer session (May 15 to June 15) only," the letter said.

WEATHER							
	BBSR	СТС					
Max Temp	40.4°	40.0°					
Min Temp	27.2°	25.4°					
Humidity	72%	74%					
Rainfall	Nil	Nil					
FORECAST partly cloudy a light wind	-	×					

N	IARKI	ET WAT	CH	A
11	NDEX	VARIATI	ON	
RSES	SENSEX	81,148.22	•	1281.68
BOU	NIFTY	24,578.35	¥	346.35
ENCY	DOLLAR	85.13	4	0.27
CURR	EURO	95.31	4	1.20
SES	GOLD	₹ 93,782	4	₹834
BOUR	SILVER	₹ 96,750	•	₹1350

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











state



CS visits Nagada villages, asks admin to gear up development

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, May 13: State chief secretary Manoj Ahuja visited Nagada village in Jajpur district and talked to Juang tribal families to know about the progress of the development initiatives undertaken by the government in the area, officials said Tuesday.

Reports said Nagada is a cluster of hilly villages comprising Tala Nagada, Majhi Nagada and Upar Nagada villages under Chingudipal panchayat of Sukinda block in Jajpur district.

The existence of the village came to public knowledge after the media highlighted the death of over 20 children due to malnutrition in April 2016. Ahuja, then as the nodal officer of a task force, had visited the village. The visit of the Chief Secretary assumes significance as the cluster of hilly villages under Sukinda block of this district still paints a picture of neglect with the lifestyle of Juang tribals remaining unchanged even after so many years of the incident where many children died due to malnutrition

Accompanied by senior officials from various departments, including Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water secretary Girish SN and Jajpur district collector P Anvesha Reddy, the chief secretary visited the village Monday and talked to villagers and inspected key development initiatives.

Though a lot of development has been achieved since 2016.

still a lot many needs urgent attention, an official accompanying Ahuja said. He added that the chief secretary has issued directions to the district administration to expedite completion of house construction under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

"As only sixty per cent of the houses were completed in a span of three years, Ahuja issued directions to concerned officials to ensure early completion of the housing units," an official statement said. The state Information and Public Relations department in a post on X said: "Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja, during his visit to Jajpur district, visited Nagada under Sukinda block to review the actual situation and developmental works.

He inspected the under-construction houses in Centre sponsored Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, healthcare services, women and child development, and drinking water supply projects. He visited the Upper Nagada Anganwadi centre and reviewed

SINDOOR

PNN & AGENCIES

During interactions with beneficiaries of the 'Mamata Yojana' (a programme for pregnant and lactating women), the chief secretary asked officials to include all eligible individuals who were previously left out. The chief secretary also inspected drinking water tanks and found their poor maintenance and asked the officials to stress on water conservation for the use of villagers during the summer. Ahuja also asked the officials

the ground zero situation."

to expedite empowering farmers by allocating land ownership certificates under the Forest Rights Act. Similarly, he found very few students attending schools and asked the officials to improve student attendance rates.

The chief secretary during the visit found the village's tribal hostel closed for the last three years. He asked the District Welfare Officer (DWO) to make immediate arrangements for its reopening.

OPERATION Wife of jawan, who rushed to border.

Block chairman among three held for vandalism, abusing Banspal BDO POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, May 13: The district police Tuesday arrested three persons, including the chairman of the Banspal block in Keonjhar district, on charge of abusing the BDO and ransacking and locking up the block office.

The accused were identified as Manas Dehuri, 38, block chairman and a resident of Khajurimundi village, Sukadev Mahakur, 50, of Kumundi (B) village and Padmalochan Arukh, 40, of Kanjipani village. All three have been produced in court, and further investigations are underway, according to a press release issued by Sa dar SDPO Sudarshan Gangoi.

The incident occurred May 5 afternoon. when Banspal BDO Raja Ranjit Pratap Bal was holding a discussion with officials regarding the birth anniversary celebration of revolutionary leader late Dharanidhar Naik. During the meeting, block chairman Manas Dehuri along with Sukadev and Padmalochan allegedly barged inside the office and hurled abuses at the BDO.

The trio reportedly used abusive language, forced employees to vacate the premises through the rear gate after they locked up the main gate and vandalized furniture and glass partitions. Later, they fled the scene. The BDO later filed a complaint at the Nayakote police station.

Police registered a case-67/25 and launched an investigation led by Sub-Inspector Phuljames Tiga. A car (OD 09 D 7999) used by the accused was also seized.

38 criminals have been arrested in last 10 days as part of a crime-free **Ganjam drive:** Southern Range IG

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, May 13: In the on-going anti-crime operation, the Ganjam district police have arrested 20 individuals allegedly involved in criminal activities and illegal possession of firearms. Authorities also seized eight pistols, 31 rounds of live ammunition, and 12 maga zines from the arrested accused The special drive is being led

by Ganjam Superintendent of Police Suvendu Kumar Patra. Over the past 10 days, a total of 38 people have been taken into custody under the initiative which aims to make the district crime-free, according to Southern Range Inspector General (IG) Niti Shekhar.

During a press briefing at the district police headquarters in

Chhatrapur Tuesday, the IG hailed the efforts of local police and confirmed that the special operation will continue.

Ganjam police arrest 20, recover 8 pistols

He said the arrested individuals are involved in multiple cases registered across several police stations, with some wanted by police in other parts of the country. One suspect, Raiu Jena, had been on the run in connection with a case under Sarathana police in Surat, Gujarat. Another arrestee, Krushna Chandra Behera, was wanted by Rourkela police, he added. Teams from Kotinada, Aska,

Polasara and Hinjilicut police stations led the operations during the drive. Kotinada police arrested eight suspects and recovered four pistols. 18 live rounds, eight magazines, a car, a motorbike and nine mobile phones.

Among the suspects are Ramachandra Gouda from Jugudi village. Pintu Gouda from Lathi village, Raju Jena from Chhachina. Santosh Behera from Khandadeuli, Ganesh Nahak from Sodaka, Pintu Behera from Bhetanai, Rajesh Maharana from Upper Basti, and Pratap Kumar Jena from Pattanayak

Colony. Police confirmed the suspects face multiple criminal charges, including murder.

Aska police arrested five men suspected of planning a robbery at a gold jewellery shop, seizing one pistol, seven live rounds, two magazines, two motorbikes and seven mobile phones. The accused hailed from Purushottampur Kodala, Kabisuryanagar, Aska and Krushnaprasad in Puri district. All have criminal records, police said.

In Hinjilicut, five people were arrested in connection with an attempted ATM heist at Pital Chowk. Officers re covered two pistols, three live rounds, two magazines and four mobile phones from their possession. The suspects are from Hinjilicut, Belgaon, Gangapur and Dharakote.

Polasara police arrested two men and seized a pistol and three live rounds. One of the suspects, Krushna Chandra Behera, was wanted in a case filed in Rourkela.

Cases have been registered under relevant sections of the Bharativa Nvava Sanhita (BNS) and the Arms Act.

2 killed, 15 hurt as van overturns in Ganjam

Bhanjanagar/Belaguntha: In a tragic mishap, two persons including a mino were killed and 15 others injured when a Tata Ace van overturned near Kulangi village on the Sorada-Bhanjanagar main road in Ganjam district Tuesday. The de ceased were identified as Badal Gouda. 15, of Baghalingi village and a woman Chandrama Gouda, 27, from Kesharpatna village. According to sources, the vehicle was carrying more than 17 mem bers of a family from Baghalingi village. They were on their way to Sanaborasing Thakurani temple to offer a ritual feast as part of a religious yow. The accident occurred around 10am when the speed ing vehicle lost control and hit a culvert near Kulangi under the Gangapur police limits, causing it to overturn. Police and local residents rushed to the scene upon receiving the news. RTO Shubhendu Ranjan Ray reached the site with ambulances and ensured the injured were transported to Bhanjanagar hospital for treatment. Doctors at the hospital declared Badal and Chandrama dead or arrival. Four critically injured individuals were referred to MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur for advanced care, while others are being treated at Bhanjanagar and nearby health centres. Sub-Collector Uma Shankar Behera visited Bhanjanagar hospital and instructed officials to provide proper medical care to all victims. Later in the day, Sorada MLA Nilamani Bisoi also visited the hospital to meet the injured persons and offer support to the affected families.



for post-delivery complications following the birth to her child. The 15-day girl child is now with her extended family in Jharsuguda district as arrangements were being made to bring the newborn's father back from the India-Bhutan

border in Arunachal Pradesh. "I express my condolence over the sad demise of the jawan's wife. We are making all arrangements to bring back the jawan so that he can attend the funeral of his wife," state Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari told reporters here.



28. Soon after giving birth to the girl child, her condition became critical and she remained unconscious for the last 15 days, doctors said, adding she died due to multi-organ failure.

The minister said arrange ments were being made to shift Lipi to Bhubaneswar on an air ambulance but she died Monday night.

"We have all sympathy for the jawan and his family," the minister said.

Pujari said that Debaraj has been informed and he is returning to Odisha.

FMU to host 2-day lit fest POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, May 13: Fakir Mohan University (FMU), known for its contributions to the promotion and development of language and literature in Odisha, is set to host a twoday literary festival from May 16 to 17 on its campus here.

The festival is being organised under the leadership of Vice Chancellor Santosh Kumar Tripathy, with active support from Bhaskar Behera, chairman of the Post Graduate Council. and Registrar Kukumina Das. Debashis Patra, head of the Department of Language and Literature, will serve as the coordinator.

The event will bring together more than 30 literary figures from diverse linguistic backgrounds, including Odia, Bengali, Assamese, Sanskrit, Urdu, Santali, and English. Writers, scholars, and researchers from Odisha, Assam, Jharkhand, West Ben**AN INVESTOR EDUCATION AND AWARENESS INITIATIVE**

Do join us to learn more about Mutual Funds. Date and Venue:

Saturday, 17th May 2025; 6:30 pm onwards. at Hotel Radhika Regency, Bisra Road, Rourkela - 769 001, Odisha. For registration, please contact: Raniit Mallik, Mobile: 99370 88035 Registration is compulsory. The registration time will be from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m No walk-ins will be allowed.



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Visit https://www.hdlrdfund.com/information/key-know-how to know more about the process to complete a one-time Know You Customer (KYC) requirement to invest in Mulual Funds. Investors should only deal with register Mulual Funds, details of which can be verified on the SEB1 website (www.seb1;our/informediaries hum). For any queries, compaints & givenance refressa investors may reach out to the AMCs and / or Investor Relations Officers. Additionally, Investors may also lodge complaints directly with the AMCs. If they are not satisfied with the resolutions given by AMCs, they may raise complaint through SCORES portal on https://scores.gov.in. SCORES portal facilitates investors to lodge complaint online with SEB subsequently view its status. In case the investor is not satisfied with the resolution of the complaints raised directly with the AM or through the SCORES portal, they may file any complaint on the Smart ODR on https://smartodr.in/login Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully



as Lipi Gand, 28, wife of Debaraj Gand, a jawan serving with the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB). The jawan is from Tengnamal village in Lakhanpur block of

The deceased was identified

Jharsuguda district.

Though the jawan was by his wife's side when she delivered the baby, he had to leave for duty a day after his daughter was born, after getting a call from the SSB, family members

"He will come to Guwahati from Arunachal Pradesh and take a flight to Kolkata and from there, come down to Jharsuguda. We expect him to reach Jharsuguda by 7pm Tuesday," the minister said.

gal, and Thailand will participate in discussions and deliberations on a range of themes in literature and language studies.

Sessions and panel discussions will cover topics such as 'The Present and Future of Short Stories'. 'Perspectives and Philosophy of Translation', 'Poetry: Essence and Possibilities', 'Lord Jagannath and Global Consciousness', 'Agricultural Themes in Literature', 'The Body of Literature and the Illusion of Cinema', and 'My Language and the Future of My Literature'.

More than 30 prominent literary personalities from across the country are expected to participate.

The university has begun preparations and logistical arrangements for the event. It has extended an open invitation to writers, storytellers, scholars, and researchers to take part and help make the festival a success.

Central Hindi Directorate Ministry of Education

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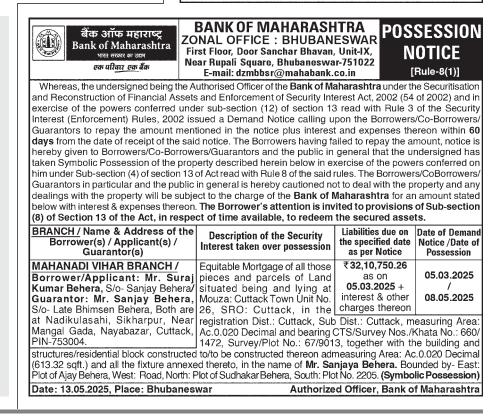
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Two more trained sniffer dogs deployed in Similipal

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, May 13: Two more newly trained sniffer dogs were deployed Sunday in the Similipal National Park to strengthen wildlife protection efforts.

The Forest Department has inducted these canines to the special units to aid in tracking poachers and seizing illegal hunting equipment, according to Similipal South Division Deputy Director Samrat Gouda.

The sniffer dogs, named Nanta (male) and Annika (female), recently completed their advanced training in Secunderabad, and have now joined the park's security operations. With this, the total number of sniffer dogs deployed in Similipal over the last three years has reached seven

These dogs are part of a broader strategy to increase surveillance and law enforcement in sensitive and remote regions of the sanctuary, which has been under growing threat from poaching activities. The Forest Department has expressed confidence that their deployment will reinforce Similipal's anti-poaching operations.

Since Similipal was declared a national park, the government has implemented strict protection measures. Regular patrolling has been intensified, particularly in areas known to be hotspots for poaching. Similipal is a matter of pride for both



Mayurbhanj district and the state, as it is home to rare black tigers and elephants. Its ecological significance has earned it global recognition.

The National Tiger Conservation Authority has acknowledged Similipal as an ideal site for tiger population recovery. Consequently, tourism in the area has seen an increase. prompting more comprehensive security arrangements. To safeguard the park from poachers,

ards, the number of sniffer dogs continues to grow. These dogs play a crucial role during forest raids by helping

timber smugglers, and fire haz-

forest officials swiftly locate suspects. In 2021, two German Shepherds - Drona (male) and Maya (female) - were deployed in Similipal. Following their

successful integration, three more dogs were added in 2024: Leo (male) - a Belgian Shepherd; Khairi (female) - also a Belgian Shepherd; and Honey (female) a German Shepherd.

Encouraged by the effectiveness of these units, the Forest department added Nanta and Annika Sunday. Both belong to the Belgian Malinois breed, known for their sharp tracking abilities and training in detecting wildlife contraband. These

following scent trails and tracking the smell of hunting gear. Annika, in particular, has received specialised training in locating animal carcasses.

dogs can identify poachers by

The dogs are trained independently and later supervised by guide handlers. Their heightened sense of smell enables them to track human scent trails, locate dead wildlife, and uncover hidden hunting equip ment. However, officials noted that scent detection becomes especially difficult during the monsoon due to heavy rains.

In the park's most inaccessible areas, patrolling is possible only on elephants. Conservationists believe that effective collaboration between Forest officials and sniffer dog squads can significantly reduce poaching.

The Central and state governments have given high priority to the protection of the tiger reserves in both the northern and southern divisions of Similipal. A year-round "Poacher-Free Similipal Operation" remains in effect.

Various protective measures – including watchtowers, an independent tiger protection force, deployment of retired army personnel, field staff, security assistants, dog squads, police officers, and a task force of Forest personnel - continue to ensure the sanctuary remains safe and secure.

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power post

FOCUS GEOPOLITICS

In our defeated hearts God's strength survives.

SRI AUROBINDO

Sound & Fury

he outcome of any war between two unequal forces could be predictable – maybe the stronger side wins and the weaker side loses. But, when two mighty forces clash, the result does not show any decisive winner or loser. Hence, the way US President Donald Trump could bully Ukraine in the war with Russia, he could ill afford to use the same tactic in the trade war against mighty China. Hence, after slapping an impossible tariff of 145 per cent on Chinese goods, he was forced to climb down for a 30 per cent hike and a truce on 11 May for 90 days. Likewise, China had to lower its retaliatory hike of 125 per cent on US goods. But, before the ceasefire in the tariff war between the US and China was declared, international business and economy had already suffered such a dislocation that stakeholders across the globe are viewing the truce with great deal of circumspection. That itself shows the quixotic nature of Trump's trade war.

America may call the temporary truce in the US-China trade war a victory, but financial markets seem to think it is a capitulation. Stocks were up and bond yields were higher after the US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent's announcement in Geneva, where he had been holding talks with China. As things stand, the US is not reverting to the status quo before Trump entered the White House for his second term. Instead, tariffs on Chinese goods will be cut from 145 per cent to 30 per cent initially for a 90-day period. In return, China has cut its own tariffs on US imports to 10 per cent, from the 125 per cent it had imposed in retaliation. That still means a big shift in the terms of trade between the two countries till Trump came to power, but falls far short of what was in effect a trade embargo.

The two sides have agreed to continue their parleys. The statement issued after the truce hailed "the importance of a sustainable, longterm and mutually beneficial economic and trade relationship." The language sounds far more innocuous than Trump's "Liberation Day" speech when he charged that the US was being "looted, pillaged, raped and plundered by nations near and far." This only shows the President has been jittery. One of the reasons could be the dire warnings he was reportedly getting from retailers about empty shelves. This was bolstered by data showing shipments into US ports were collapsing.

Before that Trump was so confident of winning in his tariff war that he glibly ignored warnings of a shortage of toys. He even told reporters that children should be happy with "two dolls, instead of 30 dolls" and that they might "cost a couple of bucks more" than usual. But, dolls are one thing and shortage of essential goods is another. A situation was developing evoking a CoVID like shortage of key goods in the world's largest economy. It appears the White House thought a tactical retreat would be a far better option.

The change of stance also raises hope that if Trump adopts a conciliatory tone with Beijing, some of the other aggressive aspects of his trade policy may be negotiable. But Bessent and his Chinese counterparts are still not able to remove the fear of uncertainty that has gripped investors across the global trading community since the declaration of new tariffs

As for China, it has only temporarily slashed its tariffs leaving many other countries wondering how negotiations on their tariff levels will show up after the 90-day pause. On the other hand, companies throughout the global trading system have no clue yet as to what part of the policy is likely to remain and how prudent it would be to continue working around the US

Bessent's words at the Press conference after the US-China tariff war pause are significant. Asked whether the trade war was at all necessary since negotiations with China had shown things could be sorted out through talks, he replied otherwise the process would have been too tortuous without substantial gains. There could be a method in this madness

WISDOM CORNER

To practice five things under all circumstances constitutes perfect virtue; these five are gravity, generosity of soul, sincerity, earnestness, and kindness.

N-TALKS WITH IRAN

egotiators from the United States and Iran have just convened in Oman for their fourth round of nuclear talks. The two sides remain far apart on fundamental questions, they have diverging expectations, and they are running out of time. But for the first time in years, there is cause for optimism. What distinguishes this moment is not a sudden convergence of positions but a shared recognition that diplomacy is preferable to confrontation.



Ian Bremmer

ENRICHMENT

HAVE EXPANDED

SIGNIFICANTLY

SINCE DONALD

ACTIVITIES

IRAN'S

TRUMP

IN 2018

WITHDREW

THE US FROM

THE 2015 JOINT

COMPREHENSIVE

PLAN OF ACTION

tween one and two years). For much of the West, this situation is unacceptable. Without diplomatic progress by the end of June, the US will be compelled to trigger a "snapback" of United Nations sanctions. But that would destroy what remains of the diplomatic track, prompt Iran to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and escalate the risk of a military conflict.

Trump wants a comprehensive deal that goes beyond the JCPOA in curtailing enrichment, restraining missile development, and modifying Iran's regional behaviour. But this is a fantasy. Iran will not agree to a full rollback of its nuclear programme, let alone dismantle its regional alliances - and especially not in the next few weeks. Nor will it give up enrichment or ballistic missile capabilities that are central to its deterrence posture.

Yet even in this constrained environment, a diplomatic path remains open. Both sides have incentives to accept a more limited agreement to avoid



If negotiations collapse and the US or Israel attacks Iran's nuclear facilities, Iran will retaliate against US military targets in the region and move to weaponize its nuclear programme

military confrontation. Trump, for all his fire and fury, is disinclined to start new wars. His recent removal of National Security Adviser Michael Waltz, an Iran hawk, was telling. So was his announcement, on 6 May, of a ceasefire with the Houthi rebels in Yemen.

Trump prefers a negotiated outcome, as do his Gulf allies, and he believes that there has never been a better time to get one, now that Iran has been so substantially weakened. With his administration's efforts to broker a Russian-Ukrainian ceasefire faltering, the Iran file offers his best - and perhaps only - chance for a major diplomatic success before the end of the year. Although Iran initially rejected formal engagement, its hard-liners ultimately approved indirect talks via Oman, indicating a willingness to engage in direct negotiations if progress is made there. This shift reflects the Iranian regime's recognition that continued economic and diplomatic isolation carries increasing costs. Iranian officials view sanctions relief as essential to reversing the slow collapse of the economy and containing risks to the regime from social unrest.

While the Iranians regard Trump as a hostile actor, some see his desire to secure diplomatic "wins" - and his reluctance to launch new wars - as an opportunity to obtain a reprieve without offering major concessions. Though Iran does not directly control the Houthis, it did reportedly press them to agree to the ceasefire, which addressed a key US concern -Iran's support for regional proxies - and improved the mood for nuclear talks.

The sticking point is Iran's enrichment capability. It has rejected US Secretary of State Marco Rubio's suggestion that it rely on imported uranium for its civilian nuclear programme, rather than enriching domestically. The Islamic Republic views enrichment as a non-negotiable sovereign right. Still, it remains open to a more limited deal that would cap enrichment, ensure verification by the International Atomic Energy Agency, and provide credible assurances that it is

not building a nuclear weapon. Recent statements from the White House have also shown greater flexibility. On 4 May, Trump said his main goal is to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon, not to eliminate its civilian nuclear capacity. And on 7 May, Vice President JD Vance reiterated that Iran "can have civil nuclear power," but not an enrichment programme that brings it close to a weapons capability. This distinction - between civilian use under strict limits and weaponization potential - could allow for a narrow agreement aimed at keeping diplomacy alive past the summer.

This is not America's preferred outcome, of course. Trump is notoriously impatient and will be skeptical of a deal that appears designed to string him along. But a comprehensive agreement

between parties that deeply mistrust each other cannot be negotiated in two and a half months. With Trump having already threatened to bomb Iran if talks fail, a more modest deal is the only viable alternative to military confrontation. Fortunately, Trump has always shown a willingness to shift away from maximalist positions when he can claim a political victory.

If progress is made, the US would defer the sanctions snapback, either informally, by pressuring its European allies, or by seeking a new UN Security Council resolution to extend the deadline. US allies in Europe, and even Russia and China, could support such a move if it is framed as a way to avoid a crisis. This approach would preserve the option of a snapback, while keeping the diplomatic track open and holding off immediate escalation. The military option would remain on the table. The US has expanded deployments in the region, and B-2 stealth bombers capable of carrying munitions designed to penetrate hardened targets - such as Iran's enrichment facilities at Fordow and Natanz – are in place. These deployments serve both as negotiating leverage and as preparation for potential air strikes in case the talks fail.

There is no guarantee of success. Iran may reject US terms or overplay its hand, dragging its feet in the hope of extracting further concessions. Trump may decide that the concessions are insufficient and shift course toward a snapback, or worse. If negotiations collapse and the US or Israel attacks Iran's nuclear facilities, Iran will retaliate against US military targets in the region and move to weaponize its nuclear programme.

These are all realistic scenarios. But despite these risks, the current round of diplomacy represents the most serious opportunity for nuclear de-escalation since the collapse of the JCPOA seven years ago.

The writer is a member of the Executive Committee of the UN High-level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

IN JEST THIS

Put your country first & rake in the dough

do: put their countries first by

making as much money as pos-

sible while in office. The possi-

bilities are endless. If Trump

Trump is a businessman,

but he has always considered

himself a celebrity. And many

celebrities, including actors,

musicians and athletes, are

not averse to making money in

a variety of ways, beyond their

chosen careers. On the website

Cameo.com, for example, you

can pay a celebrity to record

a personalised video message

for a birthday, anniversary or

other occasion. If your wife is

a big fan of Rituparna Sen-

gupta, you can get a person-

can do it, why not others?

try. Full stop.'

CONFUCIUS

Winning is not a sometime thing; it's an all the time thing. You don't win once in a while... you don't do things right once in a while... you do them right all the time. Winning is habit.

VINCE LOMBARD

There are two kinds of people one can call reasonable: those who serve God with all their heart because they know him, and those who seek him with all their heart because they do not know him.

BLAISE PASCAL

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1643: Four-vear-old Louis XIV ascended the throne of France. 1771: Robert Owen, a manufacturer turned reformer who was one of the most influential utopian socialists of the early 19th century, was born in Newtown, Wales.
- **1796:** The first smallpox vaccination is administered. The British physician, Edward Jenner, successfully inoculated an 8-year-old smallpox patient using material from a cowpox lesion. The word "vaccine" is derived from the Latin word for cow (vacca).
- **1948:** Israel becomes an independent state. The announcement by Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion, triggered a 10-month armed conflict known as the Arab-Israeli War of 1948. It started the day after the proclamation as troops of Egypt, Syria, Transjordan and Iraq invaded the young nation.
- **1955:** The Warsaw Pact is established. Eight communist bloc countries signed the mutual defense treaty, which played an important role during the Cold War as an antagonist of NATO.
- **1973:** Skylab blasts off into orbit. The United States' first space station crashed back to Earth on July 11, 1979, four years ahead of schedule. In its six years of service, the laboratory was used for many biomedical and technological experiments.
- **1998:** The last episode of the television situation comedy Seinfeld aired; ostensibly a show about nothing, it was a landmark of American popular culture.

L(0)

CALMING THE BABY

In the supermarket was a man pushing a cart which contained a screaming, bellowing baby. The gentleman kept repeating softly, "Don't get excited, Albert; don't scream, Albert;



don't vell, Albert; keep calm, Albert." A woman standing next to

him said, "You certainly are to be commended for trying to soothe your son, Albert.' The man looked at her and said, "Lady, I'm Albert.'



ow much would you pay to have dinner with the leader of a country and get a tour of the leader's official residence?

Most leaders, once they've been sworn into office, would consider it unseemly and unethical to offer such opportunities. But Donald Trump is no ordinary leader. That's why the leading buyers of his cryptocurrency will get a private dinner with him, while the very top bidders will get a tour of the White House. And who knows, if they slip him an envelope filled with cash, they may get to spend a night in the Lincoln Bedroom. Another envelope might get them a bedtime story from Trump. A third envelope might get them a presidential snuggle, but that would be pushing the envelope.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt defended Trump's actions, saying at a press conference: "I can

Drawing a line

Sir, It really hurts that India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and his family have recently become the centre of a troubling online storm for announcing the ceasefire agreement between India and Pakistan, which was made on behalf of the Indian government. The incident has raised important questions about the growing trend of targeting not just public officials, but also their families, in the digital age. It is important to remember that civil servants like Vikram Misri operate within the framework set by elected leaders. They are tasked with implementing and communicating decisions, and not making policy decisions on their own. Criticising government actions is a democratic right, but targeting individuals and their families crosses a line. The outpouring of support for Misri shows that many Indians value dignity, professionalism, and respect in public life. However, the incident also highlights the urgent need for stronger action against online harassment and for a broader conversation about digital civility. As society, we must draw a clear line between holding officials accountable and engaging in harmful, personal abuses

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

assure you the president acts alised birthday greeting from Rituparna for \$500 (about Rs. with only the interests of the 42,000). Some celebrities put a American public in mind. lot of effort into these videos, putting our country first and doing what's best for our counmaking the recipient feel really special. One day, you're It's really fortunate for just an ordinary person, one Americans that Trump always in eight billion roaming the does what's best for America. earth; the next day, Rituparna This is what all leaders should

knows you exist. Of course, if you're really wealthy, you can get celebrities to appear at birthday parties and weddings, as the Ambanis have done. You can even get former leaders like Bill Clinton and Boris Johnson to show up at your wedding and act like they're your

dad's buddies from college. Trump is just acting like a celebrity, but with the added benefit of putting America first. So maybe British Prime Minister Keir Starmer can auction off the opportunity to sit beside him as he watches his favourite Premier League football club, Arsenal, lose to Liverpool. The highest bidder would get a special tour of 10 Downing Street. (Please don't blame former occupant Rishi Sunak for any curry smell. Starmer loves Indian food too.)

But wouldn't this be considered a form of corruption? Not if you put your country first, like Donald Trump is doing. You may think that Trump is just enriching himself, making billions of dollars from his meme coin and other schemes, but what he's really doing is raising the average income of all Americans.

You may think that Trump would be beholden to the highest bidders, that they'd get special favours from him. But do you really believe that if Microsoft's Satya Nadella spends \$1 million on Trump's meme coin, but Google's Sundar Pichai declines to make a bid, Trump would display Microsoft's logo on the wall of the White House? No way.

That would cost a lot more than \$1 million

Stern message

Sir, This refers to "PM: Won't tolerate nuclear blackmail," Orissa Post, May 13. PM Modi's words — "Terror and talks cannot go together, terror and trade cannot go together, and water and blood cannot flow together" - were aimed not just at Pakistan but also at the international community. India will no longer play by the old rules where diplomacy coexisted with terrorism, or where international pressure blurred accountability. India's restraint in avoiding civilian targets, even while dismantling a fifth of Pakistan's air infrastructure, speaks volumes. This was not mindless retaliation: it was calibrated justice. By calling out Pakistan for holding state funerals for slain terrorists, the Prime Minister made one thing clear: India's only agenda with Islamabad is the end of terror and the return of PoK. Also, Modi said the ceasefire came at Pakistan's request, not under international pressure, effectively silencing voices claiming third-party mediation (read US President Trump).

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGÂLORE



columns (between 600-1000 10 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

Melvin Durai

TRUMP IS JUST

ACTING LIKE

A CELEBRITY,

BUT WITH THE

OF PUTTING

ADDED BENEFIT

AMERICA FIRST

OrissaPOST

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TWO STATES



Maha approves policy to promote artificial sand

Under the approved policy, aimed at reducing the ecological impact of natural sand mining, 50 M-Sand (artificial sand) units per district will be encouraged with industrial incentives

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 13: Acknowledging the harmful impact of excessive natural sand excavation on the environment, the Maharashtra cabinet Tuesday approved the artificial sand (M-sand) Policy to provide a sustainable and alternative resource for the construction sector.

This decision is expected to bring significant transformation to the construction sector.

Under the approved policy, aimed at reducing the ecological impact of natural sand mining, 50 M-Sand (artificial sand) units per district will be encouraged with industrial incentives, a statement from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) stated.

Each unit will receive a ₹200 per brass subsidy to promote sand production, the statement said. To address the environmental crisis caused by excessive excavation of natural sand and to provide a sustainable

Dombivli teen passes SSC after father's death in Pahalgam attack

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thane, May 13: It was a bittersweet moment for Dhruv Hemant Joshi (16) when he scored an impressive 80 per cent marks in his Class 10 examination as the result came days after he lost his father in the Pahalgam terrorist attack.

The results of the examination conducted by the Maharashtra State Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education were announced earlier in the day.

Hemant Joshi, Sanjay Lele and Atul Mone, residents of Dombivli near Mumbai, were among the 26 persons shot dead by terrorists in Pahalgam

April 22 Dhruv, a student of Omkar International School, was witness to the massacre. "He and his family feel very sad that his father is not there to see his success," said a relative.



and alternative resource for the construction sector, the state cabinet has approved a policy for the production and use of artificial sand (M-Sand) in a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, the CMO said.

The policy promotes the use of artificial sand in public construction projects. Currently, a royalty of ₹600

per brass is charged for natural sand. Instead, a concessional rovaltv rate of ₹200 per brass has been approved for M-Sand

to encourage its production and use, the CMO stated. The government believes that artificial sand, manufactured from quarry waste and stones obtained through hill excavation using crushers, can be an alternative to natural sand.

The policy allows M-Sand units to operate with the permis-

sion of the district administration and the forest department. These units will have to comply with environmental regulations.

The CMO further said that government, semi-government, and public sector bodies have been directed to prioritise the use of M-Sand in their construc tion projects.

The government allows the use of only quality-certified M-Sand that meets the Bureau of Indian Standards (IS 383:2016) norms. The policy states that 50 individuals/institutions in each district will receive incentives from the industries department to set up M-Sand units. A concessional royalty rate of ₹200 per brass will be offered to M-Sand producing units.

The government believes that M-Sand units will generate local employment opportunities, re duce dependence on natural sand, and encourage environ-

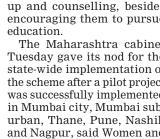
mental conservation. These units will be monitored by new district-level committees. An independent monitoring system will ensure strict

enforcement of the policy. To encourage investment in M-Sand, the government will offer industrial promotion subsidies, interest concessions. waivers on electricity charges and stamp duty, and subsidies on electricity tariffs, the state ment said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



istration. District Collector Manju has also imposed a ban on the use of Pakistani SIM cards across the district to curb cross-border communication threats. She has further withdrawn the order regarding holiday in government, non-government schools, colleges,



"Denying street children their basic rights to education and health is social injustice. The 'Mobile Squad' initiative provides children with access to education, nutrition, medical care and social security, the minister told PTI.

counselling to street children and their parents, enrol children in school and admit orphans and single-parent children into child care institutions.



Students hail armed forces personnel for Operation Sindoor, in Bikaner, Rajasthan, Tuesday

Maha to introduce mobile vans to help street children

Mobile squads will offer counselling to street children and their parents, enrol children in school and admit orphans and single-parent children into child care institutions

Mumbai, May 13: The Ma harashtra government would soon roll out mobile vans with teams of social workers to rehabilitate street children in cities by offering them facilities, such as medical checkup and counselling, besides encouraging them to pursue

The Maharashtra cabinet Tuesday gave its nod for the state-wide implementation of the scheme after a pilot project was successfully implemented in Mumbai city, Mumbai suburban, Thane, Pune, Nashik and Nagpur, said Women and Child Development Minister Aditi Tatkare.

Mobile squads will offer

districts we covered, including 37,000 in Mumbai alone. We reached 12,000 children, and 3,813 of them were provided with mobile van services including medical check-ups, Aadhaar enrolment, motivation towards education, school admissions and placement in anganwadi or residential schools as well as admission of orphaned children to children's homes," said Tatkare. The cabinet Tuesday ap-

The cabinet Tuesday approved deployment

vans will be equipped with GPS tracking and CCTV cameras Social investigation reports

PAK SIM CARDS BANNED IN SRI GANGANAGAR Schools reopen across several districts in Raj INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE



Bikaner, Barmer, and Sri Gan-However, educational instipart of a voluntary blackout appeal by the district admintutions in Jaisalmer remain closed. In Sri Ganganagar,

He wants to take admission in the science stream and wants to become a doctor, said his maternal uncle Mohit Bhave.

Rain. storm to likely to reduce in Raiasthan



ESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, May 13: Storm accompanied by light rain was recorded at several places in Rajasthan in the last 24 hours due to the effect of western disturbance, a Met department spokesperson said.

Light to moderate rain was recorded with thunder at some places in the state Tuesday, including Sikar where 37 mm rainfall was recorded till 8.30 am.

The highest maximum temperature was recorded at Bikaner at 42.5 degrees Celsius.

The Met department also said the storm and rain activities is likely to decrease in some parts of western Rajasthan from Tuesday. The temperature may increase by 2-3 degrees Celsius, they said.

At the same time, in the border areas of Jodhpur in Bikaner division, the maximum temperature is likely to hit 44-45 degrees from May 14 and a new phase of 'heat wave' is likely to start at some places, the Met office said.

Singh University (Bikaner) has announced that its exams, previously postponed from May 9, will resume from May 15.

while institutions reopened and

the blackout was lifted, parents

and students were confused

early in the morning due to

the last-minute announcement.

noticeably lower than usual.

Meanwhile. Maharaja Ganga

Attendance in schools was

ganagar.

Examination Controller Rajaram Choval confirmed that the revised schedule is available on the university's website. Further, as public life in Jodhpur appears normal with

bustling markets and reopened institutions. Air India has cancelled all flights to and from Jodhpur Airport for May 13. In contrast, IndiGo Airlines has confirmed that its services to Delhi, Mumbai, Pune, Ahmedabad. Indore. and Bengaluru will continue as scheduled. In Sri Ganganagar, markets

were shut by 7 pm Monday as

universities, private coaching institutes and Anganwadi centres late at night.

According to the new order, all types of educational institutions in the district will be able to conduct regular educational activities from May 13.

Meanwhile, locals reported suspicious aerial activity in Jhunjhunu district Monday night. District Collector Ramavatar Meena confirmed that, as a precautionary measure, a blackout was enforced in select areas. "The administration is fully alert. There is no need for anyone to panic." he assured. urging residents to remain calm and cooperate with safety protocols.

The teams will also arrange medical screening and treatment, offer support for de-addiction, help children suffering from malnutrition or those with physical challenges, facilitate rehabilitation through local NGOs and professionals, make available therapy and vocational services for adolescents, and help children get access to various government schemes.

"During the pilot phase, the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) conducted a survey, which showed there were 70,000 street children in the six

proved deployment of 31 mobile vans across 29 municipal corporations with a total budget of ₹8.06 crore. Out of 31 vans, three will be moving in Mumbai, the minister said.

In the next phase, the initiative will be extended to municipal councils and pilgrimage sites, she said, adding the

of 31 mobile vans across 29 municipal corporations with a total budget of ₹8.06 crore

scheme provides an opportunity to transform street children's lives through education and rehabilitation.

A statement from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said the services will be delivered through child-friendly vans managed by selected NGOs. Each van will include a counsellor, teacher, female staff and driver/caregiver. The will be prepared for each child followed by a personalised re habilitation plan. Children will be enrolled

in anganwadis or schools as per their age. Health check ups, vaccinations, nutritional support, medical care, hygiene education and de-addiction ef forts will also be included.

It is mandatory for NGOs under the scheme to ensure at least 20 per cent of identified children are enrolled in school every month.

Funds will be disbursed quarterly, with regular monitoring by District Women and Child Development Officers, the statement said.

Baiting may make tigers less afraid of humans, experts warn

Once a private game reserve of the royal House of Jaipur, Ranthambore National Park and Tiger Reserve is one of the world's best known wilderness areas

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, May 13: Wildlife experts have raised alarms after a forest ranger was fatally attacked by a tiger in Rajasthan's Ranthambore Tiger Reserve Sunday. The incident took place near Jogi Mahal, close to Zone-3, an area where authorities had been placing bait to support Tigress Arrowhead and her three cubs, as she was reportedly unable to hunt.

has now Experts fear this practice been mitted to the may have reduced the cubs' natural fear of humans. Reforest departpeated baiting from vehicles is ment, and aubelieved to have conditioned the young tigers to associate humans with food. Preliminary findings suggest that one of Ar-

Despite earlier recommendations to relocate the cubs to a non-tourism zone af-

April 16.

attack, no

action was

taken. A

report on

the latest

sub-

incident

the Trinetra Ganesh Temple

Repeated ter the first baiting from vehicles is believed to have conditioned the young tigers to associate humans with food

thorities are awaiting further instructions. Wildlife expert Dinesh Ver-

ma Durani emphasized the importance of identifying the specific animal involved before taking relocation steps. "Only the tiger proven to be responsi-

RANTHAMBORE ATTACK

warden Balendu Singh cautioned against excessive human interference in tiger habitats. "To a tiger, a walking human can resemble prey. People are generally safe inside vehicles. but stepping out increases risk," he explained. Singh also recommended limiting artificial waterholes and human-provided prey bases, stating that tigers have thrived for centuries without them

He added that as the cubs

mature, they will naturally

disperse and form their own

territories, which could help

ease tiger density in the core

cancellations in the area.

Currently, around 15 tigers-including cubs-roam the 57 sq km zone around Jogi Mahal. Overall, Ranthambore is home to 72 tigers, making it one of India's most prominent tiger habitats.

Situated 14 km from Sawai Madhopur, Ranthambore was once a royal hunting ground. Now a leading national park, it is known for tiger sightings against a backdrop of ancient ruins, forests, and lakes. In addition to tigers, the reserve hosts sloth bears, leopards, hye nas, jackals, and other wildlife

tourism zones of the park. Tourism in the park is a ma-In response to the incidents, jor draw, especially for tiger safaris, which operate from October to June. The recent at tacks, however, have reignited the debate on balancing conservation, tourism, and safety in India's premier tiger reserve.

safaris have been suspended in two of Ranthambore's ten zones, and public access to the Trinetra Ganesh Temple has been halted. The events have led to a wave of hotel booking



Former honorary wildlife



rowhead's 20-month-old cubs

may be responsible for both the

recent fatality and the earlier

killing of a 7-year-old boy near





ble should be moved," he said.

According to official sources,

the cub suspected in both at-



national



The Delhi Assembly building, originally established as the seat of the Imperial **Legislative Council, stands** as a significant symbol of India's political evolution VIJENDER GUPTA | DELHI ASSEMBLY SPEAKER

PM MODI URGES GREATER **PUBLIC ROLE TO ELIMINATE TB**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday called for strengthening people's participation to drive a "whole-ofgovernment" and "whole-of-society " approach to eliminate tuberculosis



of the day **Number of students with above 90% dips**

They (Congress MPs) did not get votes for their popularity, but due to fear (among the mi-

nority community). An artificial fear is instilled in their mind that they will be attacked and their mosques and madrassas will be burnt if the BJP wins. So, they vote for the Congress HIMANTA BISWA SARMA ASSAM CM

Heartiest

congratulations to all my dear students who have successfully cleared the CBSE Standard X and Standard XII examinations this year. May your future endeavours be filled with even greater achievements

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM

We are continuously working to make the youth of the state self-reliant, empowered and happy by giving them adequate employment opportunities

BHAJANLAL SHARMA RAJASTHAN CM

SHORT TAKES

India expels Pakistani official at Pak mission

New Delhi: India Tuesday expelled a Pakistani official working at the Pakistan high commission for indulging in activities not in keeping with his official status. The external affairs ministry said the official has been given 24 hours to leave India. The action came amid heightened tension between the two countries following their fourday military confrontation. India also issued a demarche to Pakistani Charge d' Affaires in New Delhi on the activities of the official.

Bomb scare at Kolkata airport

Kolkata: An IndiGo airlines flight, which was sent to the isolation bay at the Kolkata airport following a bomb scare, eft for Mumba

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 13: Girls continued to outshine boys in CBSE board exams for Classes X and XII, while the number of candidates scoring above 90 per cent in both classes recorded a dip, according to Examination Controller Sanyam Bhardwaj.

The pass percentage in both classes witnessed a marginal increase. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) board exam results for the two classes were announced Tuesday.

In Class XII, 88.39 per cent of candidates cleared the exam, a marginal rise from last year's 87.98 per cent. The pass percentage in Class X stood at 93.66, marginally up from last year's 93.60 per cent. Girls edged past boys in Class 12 by a margin of 5.94 percentage points, while the margin in Class X pass percentage stood at 2.37.

Transgenders' pass percentage was 100 in class 12 as against previous year's 50. In Class 10, the pass percentage of transgenders was 95 against last year's 91.30. The board, however, did not divulge the number of transgender candidates who appeared for the exam in both classes.

CBSE officials attributed the rise in pass percentage to an increase in the number of competency-based questions this year.

POLLACHI SEXUAL

ASSAULT CASE

life term to nine

Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu),

May 13: A Mahila Court here

Tuesday convicted and sen-

tenced nine men to "life im-

prisonment till death" in the

sensational Pollachi sexual as-

sault case, six years after the

incident came to light and sent

shockwaves over the audacity

of the perpetrators that had

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

"In 2025, CBSE introduced 50 pc competency-based questions in the examinations. To help the students for better preparation of the examinations, CBSE had taken vari-



The pass percentage in both classes In Class XII, 88.39 per cent witnessed a marginal increase The Central Board of Secondary

Education (CBSE) board exam results for the two classes were announced Tuesday

of candidates cleared the exam. a marginal rise from last year's 87.98 per cent. The pass percentage in Class X stood at 93.66. marginally up from last year's 93.60 per cent

Girls edged past boys in Class 12 by a margin of 5.94 percentage points, while the margin in Class X pass percentage stood at 2.37

ous measures including early release of the datesheet. sample papers and model questions. All efforts have yielded results in the form of improving the results," Bhardwaj said.

In class 12, a total of 1,11,544 candidates scored above 90 per cent marks, while 24,867 candidates scored above 95 per cent. Last year, 1.16 lakh students scored above 90 per cent and 24,068

above 95 per cent in class 12. Among the students who scored above 90 per cent, 290 were children with special needs (CSWN). Fifty-five students from this category scored above 95 per cent. In class 10, over 1.99 lakh candi-

dates scored above 90 per cent marks, while 45,516 candidates scored above 95 per cent.

Last year, 47,000 students scored above 95 per cent and over 2.12 lakh above 90 per cent marks in class 10. Among the students who scored above 90 per cent in class 10, 411 were CSWN. Sixty-six students from

this category scored above 95 per cent. The CBSE has announced that there will be no merit list to "avoid unhealthy competition."

Officials said the board has also scrapped awarding first, second, and third divisions based on scores. The 2025 board exams for classes 10 and 12 began on February 15, and concluded in 33 and 49 days.

More than 1.41 lakh candidates have been placed in the supplementary category or compartment in class 10, while the figure for class 12 is more than 1.29 lakh. The number is marginally up for both the classes

In class 10, Trivandrum and Vijayawada regions recorded the highest pass percentage, 99.79, while Guwahati region the lowest, 84.14. In class 12, Vijayawada region recorded the highest pass percentage at 99.60, followed by Trivandrum, 99.32 per cent. Prayagraj region reported the lowest pass percentage at 79.53.

In both the classes, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas recorded the highest pass percentage. Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated the students on the results and said one exam cannot define them and their strengths go far beyond the marksheet.

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan also congratulated the students. asking them to cherish the fruits of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. The supplementary exams for classes 10 and 12 will be conducted in July.

Bhardwaj said class 12 students will be allowed to improve their performance in one subject in the supplementary examination. Class 10 students will be allowed to improve their performance in two subjects.

The official said, "Three categories of students will be eligible to appear in the supplementary examinations -- Class 10 students who were unable to pass two subjects and Class 12 students unable to pass one subject and were placed in compartment category."

MUNDRA DRUG HAUL Apex court junks bail plea of accused

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 13: The Supreme Court Tuesday called NIA's terror financing allegation against a Delhi-based businessman held in the Rs 21,000 crore Gujarat's Mundra Port drug haul case as "premature" and "speculative" even as it rejected his bail plea. A bench of Justices Surya

Kant and N Kotiswar Singh said while the National Investigation Agency (NIA) invoked the stringent anti-terror law UAPA and broadly linked the smuggling enterprise to trans-national syndicates with suspected affiliations, there was "no compelling reason" to currently link Harpreet Singh Talwar alias Kabir Talwar and the proscribed terror outfits

within or outside the country. "We deem it necessary to clarify that, at this stage, it would be premature and speculative to extend the allegations against the appellant to the domain of terror financing. While the prosecution has invoked provisions of the UAPA and has broadly linked the smuggling enterprise to trans-national syndicates with suspected affiliations, there is no compelling reason to currently link the appellant and proscribed terrorist organisations, either within or outside the country," it said. The evidentiary foundation to sustain such a grave allegation



must be clear and compelling - something that can be seen only after a substantial portion of evidence is led by both the parties, the court added.

The NIA, on the other hand was ordered to submit to the special court an additional list of witnesses who, in its assessment, were sensitive or material, in other words, whose testimony could have a direct bearing on the role of the appellant or co-accused in the case.

"The special court is directed to list the matter twice in a month and record the state ments of prosecution witnesses on a continuous and uninterrupted basis," it directed. The bench said if the presiding officer of the special court was not designated so far, the Gujarat High Court chief justice would "do the needful" within a week. The top court clarified its order was not on merits of the case and without prejudice to the trial proceedings.

Ceasefire: Cong slams Trump for claiming credit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA **TN court awards**

New Delhi, May 13: With US President Donald Trump reiterating his claims about having "successfully brokered" a "ceasefire" between India and Pakistan, the Congress Tuesday said he was not only hyphenating the two countries but also comparing Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his Pakistani

counterpart Shehbaz Sharif The Congress' media and publicity department head Pawan Khera shared a clip of Trump's latest comments during an event in Saudi



the caption. He asked if such a comparison was acceptable to the PMO.

Professionals' Congress and Data Analytics chairman Praveen Chakravartv took

MP Karti Chidambaram also shared Trump's remarks in Saudi Arabia on X and took a dig at the government.

"This narrative wasn't part of the syllabus," he said. Trump once again claimed his administration "successfully brokered a historic ceasefire' to stop the escalating violence between India and Pakistan. 'As I said in my inaugural address, my greatest hope is to be a peacemaker and to be a unifier. I don't like war. We have the greatest military, by the way, in the history of the world," Trump said while speaking at

in New Delhi have maintained the directors general of military operations (DGMOs) of India and Pakistan reached an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea and that no third party was involved.

Trump had announced India and Pakistan agreed to a "full and immediate ceasefire" and claimed that it happened after a long night of talks "mediated by the United States" Later, in a post on Truth So-

cial, he offered to work with

India and Pakistan for a "solu-

tion" on Kashmir while cred-

to sources. Naidu said he chaired a review meeting with all airlines and senior officials. Airlines have also been asked to resume their normal schedules from May 15 across all 32 airports for which the NOTAMs (Notice to Airmen) were earlier issued.



New Delhi/ Mumbai, May

13: Civil Aviation Minister K

Rammohan Naidu, along with

senior officials, held a meeting

with airlines' representatives

Tuesday, and discussed about

flight disruptions due to airport

closures, lowering tax on jet fu-

el and other issues, according

four hours, officials said. The bomb scare was prompted by a remark of a passenger during the step ladder point check, a secondary-level security procedure under which airline staff frisk passengers and their hand luggage just before boarding, an official said. The 26-year-old passenger from Manipur, who had told an airline security personnel that he was carrying a bomb, was detained, initially by the CISF which later handed him over to the police.

4 killed in AP road accident

Sivapuram (Andhra Pradesh): Four people died in a collision involving two vehicles in Palnadu district Tuesday, police said. Narasaraopeta sub-divisional police officer K Nageshwar Rao said the accident occurred in the morning when an empty vehicle, which was on its way to pick up papayas, collided with a truck laden with coconuts. The truck was travelling from Rajahmundry to Ballari in Karnataka.

Bharati Cement ED held in liquor scam

Amaravati: Executive Director of Bharati Cement Pvt Ltd, Balaji Govindappa has been arrested by a SIT of the Andhra Pradesh police probing the Rs 3,200 crore liquor scam that had allegedly taken place during the previous YSRCP regime, an official said Tuesday. Govindappa is one of the several accused in the case and was picked up from Mysuru in neighbouring Karnataka. "Govindappa has been arrested in Mysore today," the official confirmed to PTI.

prompted widespread calls for justice to the victims.

The court ruling archrivals DMK and AIAD-MK hit out at each other over women's safety during their respective rules. Judge R Nandhini Devi, who pronounced the quantum of punishment. ordered an overall compensation of Rs 85 lakh to the eight women victims.

The nine accused-- Rishwanth alias N Sabarirajan, K Thirunavukkarasu. M Sathish. T Vasanthakumar, R Manivannan alias Mani, P Babu alias 'Bike' Babu, K Arulanantham, T Haronimus Paul. and M Arunkumar - all aged between 30 and 39 - were brought to the court from the Salem Central Prison earlier in the day amidst tight security. The AIADMK was in the ruling saddle when the incident happened. The nine men were accused of criminal conspiracy, sexual harassment, rape, gang rape, and extortion, in the series of incidents including blackmail that happened between 2016 and 2018.

Arabia. "US president says it saw

again: 'I used trade to make a deal between them, and they agreed'. Not only is Donald Trump hyphenating India with Pakistan, he is comparing Prime Minister Modi with Shehbaz Sharif," he said in

a swipe at the government, saying, "'Pakistan's Prime Minister and India's Prime Minister are equal. Pakistan and India are equal powers'. Who is saying this? Prime Minister Modi's 'good friend' President Trump." Congress

a Saudi-US investment forum in the Saudi capital.

India and Pakistan reached an understanding May 10 to end the conflict after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes

Indian government sources

iting Washington for helping the two nations arrive at the "historic and heroic decision" of stopping the conflict.

India maintains the Kashmir issue to be a bilateral matter and that there is no space for any third party.

Duplicate voter card number resolved, cases miniscule: EC

New Delhi: The Election Commission has resolved the issue of voter cards having similar numbers and those with such cards have been issued fresh ones with new numbers, sources said Tuesday. The number of similar electoral photo identity card or EPIC numbers found were "miniscule", averaging to around one in four polling stations, they said. During the field-level verification, it was found that holders of such similar EPIC numbers were genuine electors in different assembly constituencies and different polling stations, the sources said Every voter's name is in the electoral roll of the polling station, where he or she is an ordinary resident. Having had an EPIC of similar number never enabled any such person to vote at any other polling station.

"All airlines responded positively to this suggestion. the minister said in a post on X. At the meeting, which came in the backdrop of dis ruptions in flight operations in recent days in the wake of the military conflict between India and Pakistan, the minister also asked the airlines to look at ways of acknowledging the contributions made by the armed forces, including through in-flight announcements, the sources said.

The sources also said that some airlines mentioned the loss of Viability Gap Funding (VGF) during the days of the closure of the airports. Some airlines also told the minister and officials that travel sen timent seems to be weak as there have been cancellations especially with the peak summer travel season around the corner, as per the sources

ECI protests case: Court grants bail to O'Brien, Sagarika Ghose, others

New Delhi: A Delhi court Tuesday granted bail to 10 TMC leaders, including Derek O'Brien, Sagarika Ghose and Saket Gokhale, in a case registered against them for their protest in April last year in front of the Election Commission of India despite a prohibitory order being in place. Additional chief judicial magistrate Neha Mittal also granted relief to TMC leaders Santanu Sen. Dola Sen. Nadimul Hague, Vivek Gupta, Arpita Ghosh, Abir Ranian Biswas and Sudip Raha, on an application moved by their lawyer. While nine TMC leaders were physically present in court. Vivek Gupta appeared virtually. The court granted bail to MPs O'Brien. Hague, Gokhale, Sagarika, Arpita and Bishwas on a personal bond of Rs 10.000 each. The rest were granted bail on a personal bond of Rs 10.000 along with a surety of like amount.

NIA arrests two for woman's killing in Manipur's Jiribam

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested two persons belonging to banned militant groups for their alleged involvement in the brutal killing of a woman in ethnic violence-hit Manipur's Jiribam district last year, officials said Tuesday. The 31-year-old tribal woman. who was killed November 7, was subjected to third-degree torture and suffered 99 per cent burns. according to her autopsy report. Several body parts and limbs of the victim were missing and visceras for chemical analysis could not be collected as most were charred and unrecognisable, according to the report. "Right upper limb and parts of both lower limbs and the facial structure found missing," it stated.

'Truth deficit' in legal profession bothers me: Outgoing CJI evolves.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 13: Outgoing Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna Tuesdav voiced concern over "truth deficit" in the legal profession and emphasised the role of the Bar and the Bench in earning public trust.

Justice Khanna made these

remarks on his last day in office while presiding over the ceremonial bench in the apex court and at a farewell function. The job of the judge is neither to dominate the courtroom nor to surrender. he said.

At an informal media interaction, Justice Khanna also

said though he wasn't going to accept any post-retirement official assignments, he would continue his innings in the legal profession.

"I will like to speak about something that bothers me. Truth deficit in our profession. As a judge above all is the seeker of truth. Mahatma Gandhi believed that truth is God and an ideal to strive for. Yet, we come across cases of concealment and deliberate misstatement of facts.

"I believe, this stems from a mistaken belief that unless some padding is done in evidence a case would not succeed.



This mindset is not only wrong it does not work. It makes the job of court harder," Justice Khanna said while speaking



Justice Khanna, who concluded a brief yet eventful sixmonth long tenure, said legal profession is witnessing a sea change and asked the Bar to focus on becoming domain experts and explore forum of alternate resolution mechanism like mediation. He was elevated to the top court on January 18, 2019 and appointed as the CJI November 11, 2024.

Justice Khanna, whose career as a lawyer and judge spanned 42 years after he enrolled as an advocate with the Bar Council of Delhi in 1983, said the day is not far when mediation will be chosen over litigation as a default mode of dispute resolution.

Justice Khanna said the Bar should also make a conscious effort to explore forum of alternate resolution mechanism like mediation.

Justice B R Gavai, who will succeed Justice Khanna on Wednesday, said his predecessor's tenure was not about making a spectacle or noise for the sake of attention but it was about encouraging changes within the judiciary, so that the system not only changes but it

Overwhelmed by the rich accolades on his last day in office, Justice Khanna said he was certain his successor would uphold values of the Supreme Court, fundamental rights and the basic constitutional doc trines. The ceremonial bench comprised the outgoing CJI, Justice Gavai, and Justice Sanjay Kumar, showcasing a rare moment of reflection, cel ebration, and reverence, not just for Justice Khanna's contributions, but the legacy of his uncle, a former Supreme Court judge Justice H R Khanna, he took forward.













P9 OrissaPOST Wednesday | May 14, 2025 | Bhubaneswar

OPERATION

op special

Military officer briefs foreign attaches

Defence attaches of several major countries who are part of many international groupings, as also of several Islamic countries attended the briefing

AGENCIES

New Delhi, May 13: A top officer of the Indian military Tuesday briefed defence attaches or their representatives from a large number of countries on the "successful conduct of Operation Sindoor", officials said.

The briefing held at Manekshaw Centre in Delhi Cantonment, was done by Lt Gen D S Rana, Director General, Defence Intelligence Agency, and lasted about 30 minutes.

Defence attaches of several major countries who are part of many international groupings, as also of several Islamic countries attended the briefing, sources said. Defence attaches from Sweden, Nepal, the Philippines, Egypt, among other countries, also attended it. The Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff in a post on X, said, 'Lt Gen DS Rana, Director General Defence Intelligence Agency #DG DIA briefed the Foreign Service Attaches of 70 nations on the successful



multi-domain operations was

also highlighted during the

tion through jointness and in-

tegration achieved in #OpSin-

door with demonstrated battle

effectiveness of indigenous

kinetic force multipliers was

showcased to the #FSAs, while

highlighting Technological Su-

periority of the Indian armed

forces in niche non-kinetic

domains of space, cyber and

electronic warfare." the Head-

quarters Integrated Defence

'Synergised Force applica-

briefing, they said.

conduct of #OperationSindoor
that has set #NewNormals
in India-Pakistan relations,
highlighting India's demonstrated strength and national
resolve through military superiority in the new-age warfare."

Lt Gen Rana elaborated on "deliberate planning process" for selection of targets with "confirmed terror linkages", officials said. The integrated, precise and prompt response by the Indian armed forces to achieve the stated objectives, executed through intense

Rajnath reviews security situation

New Delhi: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Tuesday carried out a comprehensive review of the national security scenario along the frontier with Pakistan with the top military brass. The meeting was attended by Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan, Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi, Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, **Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar** Singh and Vice Chief of the Air Staff Air Marshal Narmdeshwar Tiwari. The meeting reviewed the security situation along the Western frontier and related issues, officials said. It is learnt that Singh asked the military to maintain a high level of combat readiness to deal with any Pakistani military misadventure.

Staff said in its post. The DG, DIA also placed "credible record of the relentless anti-India misinformation campaign conducted by the adversary and its ramifications on regional peace and stability," it said, using hashtags–"#OpSindoor #JusticeIsServed #ZeroToleranceForTerror".

Many other foreign defence attaches PTI spoke to after the briefing echoed similar views. India launched Operation Sindoor May 7 to destroy nine terror infrastructures in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied-Kashmir in retaliation to the Pahalgam terror attack

Cong seeks Kargil-style review from Modi govt

PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 13: The Congress Tuesday asked if the Narendra Modi government would undertake an exercise on the Pahalgam terror attack similar to the one the Vajpayee government undertook by setting up a review committee immediately after the Kargil War.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh also took a swipe at External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, saying the normally "unquiet" minister's silence on what US Secretary of State Marco Rubio stated on "US mediation" and on a "neutral site" for India-Pakistan talks was "very deafening".

"The Indian who has spent the maximum time with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio is our dapper external affairs minister. Much was made in the media over the fact that he was the very first to meet Mr Rubio Jan 21, 2025, -- just a day after President Trump's inauguration," Ramesh said on X.

Earlier, Ramesh said the party's repeated demands for a Prime Minister Narendra



Modi-chaired all-party meeting and a special session of Parliament assumed even greater urgency and importance in light of the statements from Washington DC.

"Three days after the Kargil War ended, the Vajpayee government set up the Kargil Review Committee July 29, 1999. Its report was tabled in Parliament February 23, 2000, although sections of it have remained classified -- as indeed they must," he said.

"Will the Modi government now conduct a similar exercise on Pahalgam, notwithstanding the NIA (National Investigation Agency) probe?" Ramesh asked. "Given the statements from Washington DC, the INC's (Indian National Congress) repeated demands for an all-party meeting TO BE CHAIRED BY THE PM himself and for a special session of Parliament --which is now scheduled to meet at least two and a half months from now - assume even greater urgency and importance," he said.

Ramesh's remarks came a day after Trump reiterated his claim that his administration stopped a "nuclear conflict" between India and Pakistan, telling the south Asian neighbours that America would do a "lot of trade" with them if they ended hostilities.

"On Saturday (May 10), my administration helped broker a full and immediate ceasefire, I think, a permanent one between India and Pakistan, ending a dangerous conflict of two nations with lots of nuclear weapons," Trump said at the start of a press conference in the White House Monday. He started the briefing by describing the events that took place over the previous few days in the Indian subcontinent.

Tiranga yatras held across multiple states

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 13: Tiranga yatras were taken out in different parts of the country under the aegis of the BJP to mark the success of Operation Sindoor carried out by the Indian armed forces in Pakistan and galvan-

ise people against terrorism. The 11-day long nationwide 'tiranga yatra' was launched after top BJP leaders, including Union ministers Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh and J P Nadda, who is also the party's national president, had deliberations on the issue Sunday.



the 'yatra' was attended by the schoolchildren, who turned up in uniforms, the NCC cadets and civil defence volunteers. The procession witnessed the rallyists calling for Pakistan's "purna sanhaar" or extirpation and played patriotic songs.

"Sena ke samman mein, desh ka har nagrik maidan mein (In honour of army, every citizen of the country is on ground," Delhi BJP said on X, posting a picture of the rally.

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini led a 'tiranga yatra' in Panchkula which saw participation of thousands of people, including women and children. Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu led a 'tiranga yatra' in Walong, a remote town in Anjaw district, to mark the success of the Indian armed forces in Operation Sindoor. Joined by his Cabinet colleagues, local leaders and the army personnel, Khandu hailed the courage and determination of the Indian forces involved in Operation Sindoor. The 'yatra' showcased national pride and support for the armed forces' unwavering commitment to safeguarding the country's borders and sovereignty. Bihar BJP president Dilip Jaiswal Tuesday said the party will launch a statewide 'tiranga yatra' Wednesday to celebrate the success of Operation Sindoor. Speaking to reporters in Patna, the BJP leader said it will be held across all divisions of the state Thursday and it will be organised at the block level from Friday.



A family member of BSF constable Deepak Chingakham, who was martyred in the line of duty, mourns as his mortal remains are taken to his hometown in Imphal, Assam



NCC cadets take part in the Tiranga Shaurya Samman Yatra from Kartavya Path to the National War Memorial in New Delhi



Was

Nadda held meetings with BJP general secretaries, including Tarun Chugh, Vinod Tawde and Dushyant Gautam, Monday to finalise the exercise. Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, joined by her Cabinet colleagues, led a 'Shaurya Samman Yatra' down the Kartavya Path in the national capital to laud the armed forces for the success of Operation Sindoor. Besides the BJP workers.

A farm worker at a field, in Jammu. Normal activities were resumed in the area following a bilateral understanding between India and Pakistan



Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini takes part in the 'Tiranga Yatra', in Panchkula, Haryana PI PHOTOS

LIFE RETURNS TO NORMAL

Schools to reopen in all border districts today

Chandigarh: Schools in five Punjab districts bordering Pakistan will reopen Wednesday, officials said. Punjab shares a 553-kilometre border with Pakistan, spanning the districts of Amritsar, Tarn Taran, Pathankot, Fazilka, Ferozepur and Gurdaspur. While schools in Gurdaspur reopened Tuesday, authorities in the other five border districts said academic institutions would reopen Wednesday. The state government May 8 ordered the closure of academic institutions for three days as a military standoff between India and Pakistan soared. While schools in most districts reopened Monday, they remained shut in the six border districts and Sangrur. The district authorities in Pathankot, Tarn Taran and Amritsar Tuesday said all schools would reopen Wednesday. "Schools will open tomorrow (Wednesday) from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm," the Amritsar district administration said.

Srinagar back to routine after 6 days of unrest

Srinagar: Life in Srinagar city and elsewhere in the Kashmir Valley returned to normal as schools, colleges, universities, markets, transport, and other businesses started functioning normally Tuesday with the first flight landing at Srinagar airport after May 7, when the airfield was taken over by the Air Force. Except for the border areas of Uri, Tangdhar, Karnal and Gurez, schools opened normally throughout the Valley as the hustle and bustle of life returned to markets after six days of uncertainty. The suspended Haj flights are being resumed, and the pilgrims going to Saudi Arabia have been asked to report at the Haj House in the Bemina area of Srinagar at 6 a.m. Wednesday.

The collaboration between the government and private sector entities in India's defence sector has driven advancements in arms and ammunition, aerospace, electronics, and naval technologies

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, May 13: India's annual defence budget has increased 2.6 times from Rs 2.53 lakh crore in 2013-14 to Rs 6.81 lakh crore in 2025-26 which reflects India's steadfast commitment to enhancing national security, modernising its armed forces and bolstering military infrastructure, according to a Ministry of Defence statement. "Strategic reforms, private

sector participation and innovation have boosted indigenous manufacturing, making India self-reliant and a globally trusted defence exporter while strengthening national security and economic growth," the statement added. The collaboration between

The collaboration between the government and private sector entities in India's de-



fence sector has driven advancements in arms and ammunition, aerospace, electronics, and naval technologies. This collaboration has been supported by policies such as 'Make in India' and liberalised FDI norms, which have enhanced domestic manufacturing capabilities, attracted international investments in defence innovation and driven notable growth in exports of military equipment, the report points out. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Monday

India doubles defence budget in 11 yrs to boost armed forces

that the effectiveness of Made in India defence equipment was decisively proven during Operation Sindoor against Pakistan, in which terrorist hubs were wiped out with precision strikes and heavy damage was also caused to airbases deep inside enemy territory.

"The world is now witnessing the arrival of Made in India defence systems as a formidable force in 21st-century warfare, PM Modi said in his address to the nation.

He highlighted how this aggression exposed Pakistan's vulnerabilities, as its drones and missiles crumbled like straw before India's advanced air defence systems, which neutralised them in the sky.

PM Modi pointed out that Indian drones and missiles executed highly accurate strikes, severely damaging Pakistani airbases that it had long boasted about. Within the first three days of India's response, Pakistan suffered destruction far beyond its expectations.

Following India's aggressive countermeasures, Pakistan began seeking ways to de-escalate, appealing to the global community for relief from rising tensions, he added.

PM Modi said Operation Sindoor has added a new dimension to the nation's military prowess, highlighting India's remarkable capability in both desert and mountainous warfare while also establishing superiority in New Age Warfare.

The Prime Minister was referring to the India-made Brahmos missiles that were used to destroy airbases and air defence systems in the heart of Pakistan.

The strength of India's air defence ecosystem, built over the past 11 years, was effective in neutralising a wave of drone and missile attacks by Pakistan.











international



through unity and cooperation can countries safeguard global peace and stability and promote worldwide development and prosperity XI JINPING PRESIDENT, CHINA

KIM FORGIVES PARIS HEIST ACCUSED

Reality TV star Kim Kardashian told the alleged mastermind of a jewel heist in which she thought she was going to die that she forgives him, but that this took away none of the trauma from being held at gunpoint in her Paris hotel room in 2016





We want to make sure congressio nal equities are respected and protected in this

JOHN THUNE | MAJORITY LEADER OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE

Francois Philippe Champagne

retains his iob as finance minister. while Dominic LeBlanc remains minister of US trade and intergovernmental trade at a time of

trade war between Canada and the **United States**

MARK CARNEY | PRIME MINISTER, CANADA

Explained to me it was a moment to celebrate an even from the past. We cannot rewrite the history, and

(we) fully understand that Serbia celebrates (its) liberation by Soviet troops

ANTONIO COSTA EUROPEAN COUNCIL PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

Two Indian students killed in car accident

New York: Two Indian students have been killed in an accident in Pennsylvania after their car crashed into a tree and struck a bridge, officials said. Another passenger in the front seat of the vehicle was injured in the accident early Saturday morning and rushed to a local hospital, they said. "Deeply saddened to learn about the unfortunate road accident in which two Indian students from Cleveland State University, Manav Patel (20) and Saurav Prabhakar (23) lost their lives," the Consulate General of India in New York said in a post on X Monday.

Germany bans largest

'Reich citizen' group

Berlin: The German government has banned the largest "Reich citizen" group, an extremist far-right organisation that calls itself



REUTERS

Riyadh, May 13: US President Donald Trump secured a \$600 billion commitment from Saudi Arabia Tuesdav to invest in the United States after the oil power rolled out the red carpet for him at the start of a tour of Gulf states.

Trump punched the air as he emerged from Air Force One to be greeted by Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who later signed an agreement with the president in Riyadh on energy, defence, mining and other

areas. Saudi Arabia's investment commitment includes what the US described as the largest defence sales agreement between the allies, worth nearly \$142 billion.

Reuters reported in April the US was poised to offer the kingdom an arms package worth well over \$100 billion.

"I really believe we like each other a lot." Trump said during a meeting with the crown prince. Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler.

The US and Saudi Arabia had discussed Riyadh's potential purchase of Lockheed F-35 iets, two sources briefed on discussions told Reuters, referring to a military aircraft that the kingdom is long thought to

have been interested in. It was not immediately clear whether those aircraft were covered in the deal announced Tuesday.

Trump, who is accompanied by US business leaders including billionaire Elon Musk, will go on from Riyadh to Qatar Wednesday and the United Ar-



- Trump touring Saudi Arabia, Qatar and United Arab Emirates

- Major investment expected from Gulf states
- Trip comes amid global geopolitical tensions

Trump is not visiting Israel during the trip

- Trump has more leverage after Iran was weakened by Gaza war

ab Emirates Thursday. He has not scheduled a stop in Israel, a decision that has raised questions about where the close ally stands in Washington's priorities, and the focus of the trip is on investment rather than security matters in the Middle East.

"While energy remains a cornerstone of our relationship, the investments and business opportunities in the kingdom have expanded and multiplied many, many times over," Saudi Investment Minister Khalid al-Falih told a US-Saudi investment forum.

"As a result ... when Saudis and Americans join forces very good things happen, more often than not great things happen when those joint ventures happen," he said before Trump's arrival.

Trump called the Saudi crown prince a friend and said they have a good relationship, according to a pool report from the Wall Street Journal, adding that Saudi investment would help create jobs in the US.

BIG INVESTMENTS

At an investment forum, business leaders like Black-Rock's Larry Fink, Blackstone's Stephen Schwartzman, and Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent attended. Elon Musk and Sam Altman joined Trump for lunch with Crown Prince MbS, who is leading Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030—a reform plan featuring mega-projects like NEOM. Despite oil generating 62% of revenue last year, falling prices have forced the kingdom to scale back. The longstanding U.S.-Saudi alliance continues, trading oil for American security guarantees

Balochistan appoints first Hindu woman **Assistant Commissioner**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Karachi, May 13: Kashish Chaudhary, a 25-year-old Pakistani Hindu woman, has made history by becoming the first female from the minority community in Balochistan to be appointed as Assistant Commissioner in the restive province.

Kashish, who hails from the remote town of Noshki in district Chagai in the province, qualified Balochistan Public Service Commission (BPSC) examination.

Kashish, accompanied by her father Girdhari Lal, met Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfaraz Bugti in Quetta Monday and told him that she would work for the empowerment of women and minorities, and the overall development of the province.

"It is a matter of great pride for me that my daughter has become an assistant commissioner due to her hard work and commitment," Lal told the media.

Lal, a mid-level trader, said his daughter had always dreamed of studying and doing something for her women.

Chief Minister Bugti said it was a matter of pride for the nation when members of the minority communities got to key positions due to their hard work and effort.

"Kashish is a symbol of pride for the nation and Balochistan." he said



UN body finds Russia responsible for downing MH17 over Ukraine

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Melbourne, May 13: The Council of the International Civil Aviation Organisation Tuesday found Russia responsible for shooting down Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 over Ukraine with the loss of 298 lives more than a decade ago, in a ruling that raises the prospect of victims' families being paid compensation.

Russia has rejected the findings.

A Dutch-led international investigation concluded in 2016 that the Amsterdam-to-Kuala Lumpur airliner was shot down July 17, 2014, from Ukrainian territory held by separatist rebels using a Buk missile system delivered from Russia. Moscow denies any involvement in the MH17 tragedy.

The Netherlands and Australian governments brought the case against Moscow before the Montreal-based global aviation agency in 2022, and Tuesday welcomed the verdict.

The council found that Russia had violated the Convention on International Civil Aviation, known as the Chicago Convention, which requires that states "refrain from resorting to the use of weapons against civil aircraft in flight.'

It's the first time that the council, which represents 193 member states, has decided a dispute between governments. Dutch Foreign Minister Caspar Veldkamp said that the council would consider the question of reparations within weeks.

"In that context, the Netherlands and Australia are requesting that the ICAO Council





order the Russian Federation to enter into negotiations with the Netherlands and Australia, and that the Council facilitate this process." Veldkamp said in a statement.

"The latter is important in order to ensure that the nego tiations are conducted in good faith and according to specific timelines, and that they will yield actual results," he added

Dutch father Thomas Schans man, who lost his son in the disaster, said the ICAO decision makes it clear Russia was re sponsible for the tragedy and could lead to compensation, but that he and other relatives mostly want the country to acknowledge its culpability.

"Money cannot buy anything back," he told The Associated Press

Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong urged the council to move swiftly to "determine remedies.'

"We call on Russia to finally face up to its responsibility for its horrific act of violence and make reparations for its egregious conduct, as required under international law," Wong said in a statement.

Singapore health authorities monitor rising COVID–19 cases

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Singapore, May 13: Health authorities in Singapore said Tuesday they are monitoring the recent rise in COVID-19 infections, and there was no indication that variants of the virus circulating locally are more transmissible compared to the previous ones. COVID-19 cases are estimated to have increased to 14,200 in the week of April 27 to May 3. 2025, compared to 11,100 cas es in the previous week, the Ministry of Health (MOH) and Communicable Diseases Agen cy (CDA) said in a statement. During the same period, aver age daily COVID-19 hospitalisa tions rose from 102 to 133, but the average daily cases in the Intensive Care Unit fell from three to two cases, the health authorities said, adding that hospitals are currently able to manage the increase in cases "The Ministry of Health (MOH) and Communicable Diseases Agency (CDA) are monitoring a recent increase in COVID-19 infections in Singapore. There is no indication that the variants circulating locally are more transmissible or cause more severe disease compared to previously circulating variants," the statement said. The authorities said that the increase in COVID-19 infections could be due to several factors, including waning population immunity, and expect periodic waves of the viral infection throughout the year, similar to other endemic re spiratory diseases. At present, 'LF.7' and 'NB.1.8 -- both descendants of the 'JN.1 variant -- are the main variants of the COVID-19-causing virus circulating in Singapore. The variants together account for over two-thirds of the locally sequenced cases, the health authorities said.



including Shein and Temu, follows a deal between Beijing and Washington to unwind most of the duties imposed on each other's goods since early April, after weekend talks in Geneva.

the "Kingdom of Germany and seeks to undermine the country's democratic order. Four of its leaders were arrested. Since early Tuesday morning, hundreds of security forces in several states have been searching the association's properties and the homes of leading members. "The members of this association have created a "counter-state" in our country and built up economic criminal structures," Interior Minister Alexander Dobrindt said, adding that the members of the group underpinned their supposed claim to power with antisemitic conspiracy narratives - a behaviour that the country cannot tolerate.

Militia infighting rocks

Libya's capital; 7 killed

Cairo: Clashes between heavily armed militias rocked the Libyan capital, with gunfire and explosions heard across the city following the killing of a powerful warlord. officials said. At least six people were killed, they said. The hourslong clashes, which involved heavy weapons, took place Monday evening into the early hours of Tuesday and centred in Tripoli's southern neighbourhood of Abu Salim, the officials said. The fighting stemmed from the killing of Abdel-Ghani al-Kikli, commander of the Stabilisation Support Authority, SSA, Monday by another rival militia, a senior government and health official said. The SSA is an umbrella group of militias that rose to become one of the most powerful groups in western Libya, which has a history of atrocities and rights abuses during the country's long-running conflict.



REUTERS

Hong Kong/Shanghai, May 13: The United States will cut the "de minimis" tariff for low-value items imported from China, a White House executive order said Monday, further de-escalating a potentially damaging trade war between the world's two largest economies

The tariff relief, which affects big Chinese e-commerce players

While their joint statement in Geneva didn't mention the de minimis duties, the White House order released later said the levies will be reduced to 54% from 120% for items valued at up to \$800 sent from China via postal services, with a flat fee of \$100 to remain, starting from May 14. Carriers can pay either the

54% or the \$100 fee per package, industry experts said. The logistics companies or freight forwarders collect those tariff fees from sellers in China in advance.

The de minimis exemption allowed items valued at up to \$800 and sent from China via postal service to previously enter the United States duty free and with minimal inspections.



The full moon sets behind the St. Isaac's Cathedral in St. Petersburg, Russia, early Tuesday

Gaza population faces critical risk of famine

REUTERS

Beirut, May 13: Half a million people in the Gaza Strip face starvation, a global hunger monitor said Monday, saying the Israeli-blockaded enclave still confronts a critical risk of famine with a high risk of one occurring by the end of September.

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)'s latest report cited a significant deterioration in the situation since its last one in October, reflecting warnings from international agencies of an unfolding catastrophe in the small. densely populated Palestinian territory.

It forecast that 2.1 million people across Gaza - roughly the entire population - would likely experience high levels of acute food insecurity by the end of September, with 469,500



of them projected to likely hit "catastrophic" levels

Israel has sealed off the Gaza Strip since early March when it resumed its devastating military campaign against militant group Hamas following the collapse of a ceasefire deal, during which thousands of aid trucks entered the enclave.

IPC sees 'high risk' of famine occurring by end of September

Israeli spokesperson savs there's no famine as Israel had sought to get more aid in. blames 'engineered crisis' on Hamas

FAO's Bechdol highlights dramatic deterioration in Gaza's food security

meant for civilians, and had "engineered the humanitari an crisis'

Hamas denies these accusations and has in turn accused Israel of using starvation as a weapon of war.

The IPC report said that Israeli plans for large-scale military operations in Gaza, along with aid agencies' "persistent inability" to deliver essential goods and services, meant that

there was a "high risk" of famine in the projection period from May 11 to September 30.

РТІ РНОТО

Israeli President Isaac Herzog Monday called on the international community to help with a new plan to distribute aid directly to the people of Gaza and cut Hamas out of the process

The IPC report said the Israeli authorities' plan for delivering aid was "estimated to be highly insufficient to meet the population's essential needs for food, water, shelter and medicine'

"Moreover, the proposed distribution mechanisms are likely to create significant access barriers for large segments of the population," it said.

"Immediate action is essential to prevent further deaths, starvation and acute malnutrition, and a descent into famine.













Israeli government spokes-

person David Mencer said

Monday the IPC had "con-

stantly talked about famine;

famine has never happened

because of Israel's efforts to

Mencer reiterated Israel's

accusation that Hamas had

caused hunger by stealing aid

get more aid in."





Business



IFFCO has invested around ₹2.000 crore since 2017 on its two new innovative products - nano liquid urea and nano liquid DAP, hopeful that farmers will adopt these key nutrients in a big way over the next 2-3 years

₹ ENDS FLAT AGAINST \$

INR reversed early gains to settle flat at 85.36 against the US dollar Tuesday, as rising crude oil prices prompted importers to rise hedging amid weakness in Asian currencies. At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened at 84.70 and moved between the intra-day high of 84.62 and the low of 85.48 against the greenback. The unit ended the session flat at 85.36.





Retail inflation hits 6-yr low

Custom agreement with Russia provides huge opportunities to boost bilateral trade,

currently valued at USD 11 billion across sectors like petroleum, gold, automotive, pharmaceuticals, and chemicals.We are aiming to increase the bilateral trade and make it little balanced by facilitating more exports from India

SC RALHAN | FIEO PRESIDENT

Smartworld will oversee development. construction, and customer service, while Tribeca

leads design, marketing, sales, and quality control. The phenomenal response to Trump Residences is a testament to the aspiration for world-class living in India PANKAJ BANSAL | FOUNDER, SMARTWORLD DEVELOPER



Washington are exploring a broader free trade agreement, and this retaliation could cast a shadow over negotiations

AJAY SRIVASTAVA | FOUNDER, GTRI

SHORT TAKES

ABCL profit drops

New Delhi: Aditya Birla Capital Ltd (ABCL) Tuesday reported an over 30 per cent decline in consolidated net profit at ₹865 crore for three months ended March 31, 2025 The company had posted a net profit of ₹1.245.41 crore in the same quarter of the preceding fiscal year, said in a regulatory filing.

TML profit declines

New Delhi: Tata Motors Tuesday reported a 51 per cent decline in consolidated net profit to ₹8.5 56 crore in the

Goyal to lead US trade talks

With inflation now at its lowest, India has not only reinforced macroeconomic stability, but also created an enabling environment for sustainable growth

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 13: India's retail inflation, measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) recorded six-year low of 3.16 per cent in April mainly due to subdued prices of vegetables, fruits, pulses, and other protein-rich items, creating enough room for the Reserve Bank to go for another round of rate cut in the June monetary policy review. Earlier, CPI based inflation was 3.34 per cent in March and 4.83 per cent in April 2024. It was 3.15 per cent in July 2019.

NSO data showed a sharp decline of 91 basis points in food inflation in April 2025 in comparison to March 2025. The food inflation in April 2025 is the lowest since October 2021.

Food inflation in April was 1.78 per cent, lower than 2.69 per cent in the preceding month and 8.7 per cent in the year-ago month, showed data released by the National Statistics Office (NSO) Tuesday.

The Reserve Bank, which has been mandated to ensure inflation remains at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on either side, has slashed the key interest rate by 50 basis points in two tranches (February and April) as the price situation improved.

The central bank has projected the CPI inflation for the financial year 2025-26 at 4 per cent, with Q1 at 3.6 per cent; Q2 at 3.9 per cent; Q3 at 3.8 per

cent; and Q4 at 4.4 per cent. "The significant decline in headline inflation and food inflation during the month of April 2025 is mainly attributed to decline in inflation of vegetables, pulses and products, fruits, meat and fish, personal care and effects and cereals and products," NSO said.

There was a deflation in potato (12.7 per cent), tomato

Trump order may impact

Indian generics: Experts



Urban Inflation: Headline inflation in urban areas saw a marginal rise to 3.43% in

March, up from 3.32% in February. However, food inflation declined significantly from 3.15% to 2.48%

Housing Inflation: For the urban sector, housing inflation rose slightly to 3.03% in March 2025 from 2.91% in February

(33.21 per cent), chicken (6.78 per cent), arhar a variety in pulses (14.27) per cent, and cum-

in seeds (20.79 per

and geopolitical environment in the June 2025 monetary policy review. The cumulative rate cut in FY26 would depend on

> inflation-growth dynamics PARAS JASRAI AD, INDIA

RATINGS AND RESEARCH

clined marginally from 3.43 per cent in March 2025 to 3.36 per cent in April. According to the data, the

highest inflation was in Kerala at 5.94 per cent while the lowest

this category rebounded to 1.48% in March from -1.33% in February, covering both rural and urban areas Education Inflation: A noted in education-related inflation, rising to 3.98% from 3.83% the previous

Fuel & Light: Inflation in

was in Telangana at 1.26 per cent. Commenting on inflation data, Aditi Nayar, Chief

> Economist, ICRA Limited, said that average inflation is at 3.5 per cent in FY2026, with the prints for Q2 and Q3 sharply trailing the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) projections for these quarters, allowing for an additional 75 bps of rate cuts in this

calendar year. "A 25 bps rate

cut appears forthcoming in the

June 2025 policy, followed by easing of 25 bps each in the August and October 2025 policy reviews.

"If the GDP growth prints for Q4 FY2025 does not report acHealth Inflation: Prices in the health segment saw a mild rise, with inflation at 4.26% in March, up from 4.12% in February

- **Transport & Communication** Inflation in this category increased to 3.30% in March 2025 compared to 2.93% in Februarv
- Items with Highest Inflation: In March 2025, the top five items with the highest year-on-year inflation were coconut oil (56.81%), coconut silver (31.57%), and grapes (25.55%)
- Items with Lowest Inflation: The items witnessing the steepest decline in prices were ginger (-38.11%), tomato (-34.96%), cauliflower (-25.99%), jeera (-25.86%), and garlic (-25.22%)

celeration from the 6.2% seen for Q3 FY2025, the MPC may consider frontloading the rate easing, with a 50 bps cut in the upcoming review," Nayar said. Yearly fuel and light inflation rate for April was 2.92 per cent as against 1.42 per cent in March.

On the other side, Inflation in 'Transport and Communication' segment was higher at 3.73 per cent in April compared to 3.36 per cent in March.

Paras Jasrai, Associate Director at India ratings and research said the latest data points to low inflation intensity as this was the third successive month where inflation has been lower than the target of 4 per cent.

The price data are collected from selected 1,114 urban markets and 1,181 villages covering all states/UTs by field staff of NSO, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

Stocks slump over 1%; Sensex tanks 1,282 pts

NSE NIFTY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 13: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal will lead a team of senior Indian officials to Washington starting May 17 for discussions with their US counterparts on the proposed bilateral trade agreement (BTA), an official said Tuesday.

During the visit, Goyal will hold meetings with US Trade Representative (USTR) Jamieson Greer and US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick on the agreement.

The four-day talks (May 17-20) come against the backdrop of both countries exploring the possibility of an interim trade arrangement in goods to secure "early mutual wins" ahead of finalising the first phase of the trade agreement by fall (September-October) this year.

The chief negotiators of both countries will hold meetings from May 19-22 to discuss main issues that will figure in the negotiations include market access, rules of origin, and non-tariff barriers.

These discussions, aim to take advantage of the 90 day tariff pause window to advance the talks. US has suspended the additional 26 per cent tariffs on India till July 9. It was announced on April 2 to bridge the widening trade deficit. However, the 10 per cent baseline tariff imposed on the countries will continue to remain in place.

To give impetus to the talks, India's Chief Negotiator for BTA Rajesh Agrawal, special secretary in the Department of Commerce, and Assistant US Trade Representative for South and Central Asia Brendan Lynch had last month held three-day talks in Washington.

To boost bilateral trade, India is seeking duty concessions for labour-intensive sectors like textiles, gems and jewellery, leather goods, garments, plastics, chemicals, shrimp, oil seeds, chemicals, grapes, and bananas in the proposed pact with America.

On the other hand, the US



for the BTA have been finalised by India and US, which include around 19 chapters covering issues like tariffs, goods, ser vices, rules of origin, non-tariff barriers, and customs facilitation.

It is evident that US remained India's largest trading partner for the fourth consecutive year in 2024-25, with bilateral trade valued at USD 131.84 billion. US accounts for about 18 per cent of India's total goods exports, 6.22 per cent in imports, and 10.73 per cent in the country's total merchandise trade.

With America, India had a trade surplus (the difference between imports and exports) of \$41.18 billion in goods in 2024 25. It was \$35.32 billion in 2023 24, \$27.7 billion in 2022-23, \$32.85 billion in 2021-22 and \$22.73 bil lion in 2020-21.

According to the 2025 National Trade Estimate (NTE) report on foreign trade barriers of US India maintains various forms of non-tariff barriers such as banned or prohibited items that are denied entry into India (ex ample tallow, fat, and oils of animal origin); items that require a non-automatic import licence (example certain livestock products, pharmaceuticals, certain chemicals. certain IT products); and items that are importable only by government trading monopolies and are subject to cabinet approv al regarding import timing and quantity (example corn under a tariff-rate quota).

Gems, jewellery exports dip by 4.62%: GJEPC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

cent) during April on annual basis. During April, inflation in museconomic tard oil was at 19.6 per cent, refined oil (sunflower, soyabean) at 23.75 per

cent, apple at 17 per cent, and onion at the pace of decline in The rural inflainflation and evolving tion was at 2.92 per cent in April 2025

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

We expect the RBI to opt in for a 25 bp cut in policy rates in view of the fragile global

month

March guarter. The auto major had posted a consolidated net profit of ₹17.528 crore in the same quarter last fiscal year, said in a regulatory filing.

Cipla profit rises

New Delhi: Drug major Cipla Tuesday reported 30 per cent increase in net profit; stands at 1,222 crore in the fourth guarter ended March 31, 2025 on account of higher sales in India, the US and Africa. The firm had reported a net profit of ₹939 crore for the January-March period a year ago. Total revenue from operations rose to ₹6,730 crore in the period under review as per regulatory filing.

TCIL profit surges

New Delhi: Thomas Cook India Ltd has reported a 13.5 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at ₹66 crore for the fourth guarter ended March 31. 2025, mainly on account of growth in travel-related services. The company reported a net profit of ₹58.17 crore, in the year-ago period. Its income from operations rose to ₹2.022 crore during the quarter is under review.

. 📕 Bharti Airtel profit up

New Delhi: Bharti Airtel posted about fivefold jump in consolidated net profit to ₹11,022 crore in the March quarter; the company had posted net profit of ₹2,071.6 crore in the same period a year ago. The declared revenue from operations grew 27 per cent to ₹47,876.2 crore during the quarter under review from ₹37,599.1 crore in the March 2024 quarter, said in a regulatory filing.

mestic generic drug makers are unlikely to be impacted by the US announcement of a 30 day deadline for companies to lower the cost of prescription medicines, industry experts say.

New Delhi, May 13: The do-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The executive order inked by US President Donald Trump, which entails US health department to broker new prices for prescription drugs, is, however, likely to have an adverse impact on the innovator drug firms.

"The generics industry is unlikely to be impacted, as it operates on razor-thin margins. In US, the generics industry represents 90 per cent of prescription volumes while accounting for only 13 per cent of the market value," IPA Secretary General Sudarshan Jain said in a statement. The generics industry plays a pivotal role in ensuring medicines remain affordable and accessible, and further details on implementation mechanisms will bring more clarity, he added. The order emphasises that the cost of the

expected to be affected, with a 30-day window to align their US prices with Most-Favoured-Nation (MFN) pricing," he added.

2.94 per cent.

compared to 3.25

per cent in the pre-

ceding month 2025.

Urban inflation de-

He further stated that the executive order seeks to balance innovation, access and overall healthcare costs. Research and development in life sciences demands long-term commitment, substantial investment, and

innovation should be shared eq-

uitably among all stakeholders.

"Innovator companies are

carries high risk. The IPA is a network of 23 leading Indian drug makers, most of whom are major exporters to US. India is the largest supplier of generic medicines with a 20 per cent share in the global supply by manufacturing 60.000 different generic brands across 60 therapeutic categories. As per the fiscal year 2022 re-

port on State of Pharmaceutical Quality published by USFDA, India boasts of more than 600 USFDA registered manufacturing sites, constituting nearly 12.5 per cent of all registered manufacturing sites operating outside US.

1,282 points due to profit-taking in IT and FMCG shares a day after a record rally.

Mumbai, May 13: Stock mar-

kets tumbled Tuesday with

benchmark Sensex falling by

The 30-share BSE barometer tanked 1,281.68 points or 1.55 per cent to settle at 81.148.22 with 25 of its constituents closing with losses and five with gains. During the day, it fell sharply by 1,386.21 points or 1.68 per cent to 81.043.69.

The broader Nifty of NSE dropped 346.35 points or 1.39 per cent to 24,578.35. From the Sensex firms, Infosys declined by 3.54 per cent. Power Grid, Eternal, HCL Tech, Tata Consultancy Services. Bharti Airtel, IndusInd Bank, NTPC and HDFC Bank were the losers.

Whereas, Sun Pharma, Adani Ports, Bajaj Finance, State Bank of India and Tech Mahindra were the gainers.

"The domestic market witnessed profit booking today, following yesterday's sharp rally. The relief-driven surge—fuelled by easing global and domestic risks, including a reduction in



CHANGE: -346.35 (-1.39%)

MAY 13, 2025

trade war tensions and Indo-Pak geopolitical stress-appears to be taking a breather," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

Between ups and downs, Defence stocks continue to surge Tuesday, with Bharat Dynamics surging over 11 per cent. Shares of Bharat Dynamics zoomed 11.16 per cent, Axiscades Technologies surged 5 per cent, Data Patterns soared 4.05 per cent, Bharat Electronics jumped 4.01 per cent on the BSE.

HAL climbed 3.81 per cent,

Mumbai, May 13: India's overall gems and jewellery exports dipped by 4.62 per cent to \$ 2,037.06 million in April, as compared to the same month of the previous financial year, according to the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) data.

The country's total gems and jewellery exports stood at \$2,135.7 million in the same month of the previous year The overall export of cut and polished diamonds declined by 6.12 per cent to \$1,108.74 million in April, compared to \$1,180.99 million last year. The total shipment of gold jewel lery witnessed a dip of 5.41 per cent at \$684.51 million during the month under review, as compared to \$723.63 million for the same period of the previous year.

Gross export of 'Polished

Gold surges ₹950 despite global stress

Trade talks push investors towards precious yellow metal worldwide; rising value by 1.3%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 13: Gold price rallied by ₹950 to ₹97.500 per 10 gram in the national capital Tuesday amid firm trend in overseas markets, according to the All India Sarafa Association. The precious metal of 99.5 per cent purity jumped ₹1,000 to ₹97,100 per 10 gram. Monday, gold of 99.9 per cent



and 99.5 per cent fell sharply by ₹3,400 each to ₹96,550 and ₹96,100 per 10 grams, respectively. Meanwhile, silver depreciated

₹250 to ₹99,450 per kg against the previous close of ₹99,700 per kg

"Gold prices have risen again

after a sharp correction, as safe-haven demand eased following a pause in the US-China trade war," Abans Financial Services' Chief Executive Officer Chintan Mehta said.

The US agreed to cut tariffs on Chinese imports to 30 per cent from 145 per cent, while China reduced duties on US goods to 10 per cent from 125 per cent. This tariff relief brought some calm to global markets, leading to a rally in equities and a pullback in gold over the past two days, Mehta added.

"Gold fell over 3 per cent Monday, lowest closing in nearly two weeks. However, the metal rebounded slightly on Tuesday, edging above USD 3,240 per ounce," Kaynat Chainwala, AVP of Commodity Research at Kotak Securities, said.

Mishra Dhatu Nigam rallied

3.44 per cent, Paras Defence and

Space Technologies went up by

2.84 per cent and DCX Systems

ers Ideaforge surged 9.26 per

cent and Droneacharya Aerial

Innovations rallied 4.99 per

cent. Defence-related stocks

are in focus after days of intense

conflict between India and Pa-

kistan following Indian strikes

on terror sites in Pakistan May

7. Defence stocks ended higher

Monday and Friday as well.

Stocks of drone manufactur-

gained 2.81 per cent.

The safe-haven demand emerged amid reports of Israeli airstrikes on Houthi rebel positions in Yemen, she said.

Jateen Trivedi, VP research analyst, LKP Securities, said market participants are closely awaiting the US Consumer Price Index (CPI) data later in the day. The inflation print could influence the US Federal Reserve's interest rate outlook and, in turn, affect gold's trajectory, Triveni added.

Lab Grown Diamonds' in April was almost flat with a growth of just 0.41 per cent at \$110.74 million, over \$110.29 million in the same month of FY25. Silver jewellery ex ports in April also declined by 12.03 per cent at \$38.3 million Meanwhile, exports of 'Co loured Gemstones' witnessed a growth of 11.95 per cent at \$27.76 million, compared to \$24.8 million in the same pe riod of the previous year.

















SPORTS

WEDNESDAY | MAY 14, 2025 | BHUBANESWAR **Foreign players likely to return** RECORDS SHATTERED AS

New Delhi, May 13: The BC-CI and IPL franchises have ramped up pressure on foreign boards to ensure that their players return for the league's resumption May 17 despite some lingering safety concerns in the wake of India-Pakistan military hostilities.

OrissaPOS

The BCCI top brass has instructed IPL COO Hemang Amin to individually speak to the likes of Cricket Australia (CA) and England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) to allav the concerns that the players may have about returning to India.

All the 10 teams are involved in a lot of back and forth with their overseas recruits over their arrival plans in India a day after the IPL announced the revised schedule following necessary security clearances from the government.

The world's biggest T20 league was suspended May 9 due to an India-Pakistan military showdown, triggered by the April 22 terrorist attack in Pahalgam, south Kashmir. A day after its suspension, a ceasefire between the two countries was announced, paving the way for IPL's resumption.

"We have been speaking to the foreign boards individually while teams are directly dealing with their players.

We expect majority of them to return," a BCCI official told PTI Tuesday.

CA has left it on the players to decide on their participation and in matters like these, the players' association has a role to play as well.

Team officials, on the other hand, told PTI that some of the foreign players remain anxious to return but majority of them should come back before the tournament resumes.

The world's biggest T20 league was suspended May 9 due to an India-Pakistan military showdown, triggered by the April 22 terrorist attack in Pahalgam, south Kashmir. A day after its suspension, a ceasefire between the two countries was announced, paving the way for IPL's L.B resumption.



Sam Curran, Jamie Overton, Noor Ahmad and Matheesha Pathirana.

Afghanistan's Ahmad and Pathirana from Sri Lanka are set to join the team while there are doubts over the availability of their New Zealand players. Stoinis unlikely to return;

The team is on course to reach its first playoff since 2014.

Ponting has already walked the talk by de-boarding from a home-bound plane after the ceasefire announcement last week. The team's support staff, including Brad Haddin and

James Hopes, never left India. The players of Punjab Kings and Delhi Capitals made a rather anxious road and train journey from Dharamsala to Delhi after the May 8 game in the picturesque town was called off midway due to the air raid alerts in neighbouring border areas.

"The foreign players were scared at that time and understandably. So the BCCI showed the safety of the players is paramount by ensuring they all got back home safely."

"Now the situation has got better, the players should return. However, some of them still remain on the edge," said an IPL official.

Like CSK, Sun Risers Hyderabad are also eliminated from the competition but the franchise is expecting captain Pat Cummins and marauding batter Travis Head to return for the remaining three league games.

"We are confident that majority of foreign players will return including the captain,' said a team official.

Delhi Capitals, who remain in contention for a top-four spot, contacted their overseas players Tuesday morning and are waiting to hear back from them. Australian pacer Mitchell Starc is among DC's key players.

"We hope that all of them return. We will know more by tomorrow," said a team official.

The IPL final originally scheduled for May 25 has been pushed back to June 3.

The World Test Championship final between Australia and South Africa is scheduled from June 11 at the Lord's, leaving very little turnaround time for the Australians and South Africans who decide to take part in the IPL play-offs.

RUNNERS, LIFTERS DAZZLE

Sprinter Aditya Pisal, 400m runner Kadir Khan set records

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, May 13: Sprinter Aditya Pisal emerged the fastest athlete, clocking a record time, as Maharashtra continued to lead the medal tally at the Khelo India Youth Games here Tuesday.

On another sweltering day, Pisal clocked 10.62 seconds in 100m to erase the previous meet record of 10.63 seconds set by Sadanand Kumar in Panchkula in 2022.

Uttar Pradesh's Kadir Khan broke the 400m record twice inside 24 hours as KIYG saw a spate of good performances at the Patliputra Sports Complex.

Pisal ran a blistering race to win the showpiece event with Bihar's Prince Kumar, who timed 10.64 seconds to finish a close second while Maharashtra's Rudra Sachin Shini (10.78 seconds) won the bronze.

In his maiden KIYG, Kadir improved upon his 400m record of 47.67 seconds set on Monday on his way to winning gold in 47.34 seconds. Bihar's Piyush Raj (47.43) won the silver while Karnataka's Sayed Sabeer (47.50) took the bronze.

"I did not expect I would run so well. This was my first Khelo India Youth Games. Now my effort will be to improve upon my record in the next edition of the Games. I am happy that I achieved my personal best here," said Kadir.

In the boys' 1500m event, UP's Bablu Kumar won the gold in 3:56.36 seconds.

In the weightlifting competition in Rajgir, Uttar Pradesh's Tushar Chaudhary broke both the clean and jerk and total lift records held by Goldi Khan of

KHELO INDIA

Himachal Pradesh set during the National Championships in Nagercoil in 2023.

Despite stiff competition from Tamil Nadu's R Kishore, who improved the snatch record twice and the overall lift record once, Chaudhary remained unperturbed and produced a superb performance to clinch gold. Chaudhary lifted 126kg in snatch and 163kg in clean and jerk, which was a 10kg improvement in his weight category. It was 7kg more than Goldi's

overall total. In girls' hockey, Odisha defeated Jharkhand 3-1 in shootout to win the gold after the match had ended in a 1-1 stalemate. Madhya Pradesh won the bronze medal.

In the men's hockey final, Harvana beat Uttar Pradesh 1-0. Punjab won the bronze medal. Rajasthan cyclists won five of the six medals on offer in the 30km boys and 20km girls

Time Trial. Ramavatar Chhimpa from Nokha, Bikaner, who trains at the National Centre of Excellence Patiala, and Manju Choudhary, a farmer's daughter who moved from Barmer to Bikaner to pursue cycling, won the boys' and girls' gold med als, respectively. In badminton, Uttarakhand's Anish Negi beat teammate Nishcal Chandan 21-10, 17-21, 21-16 for the boys singles gold. The girls' singles gold went to Tanoo Chandra of Chhattisgarh.

Tanoo defeated Rishika Nan di of Delhi 21-17, 21-9. The boys doubles gold went to Charan Ram Tippanna and Hari Krishan of Andhra Pradesh, while the girls' doubles title went to Gayatri Rawat and Mansa Rawat of Uttarakhand.

Haryana dominated the wrestling competitions in both U-17 boys and girls' categories win ning four of the seven gold med als on offer on Tuesday. Naina successfully defending her 49kg KIYG crown. Her compatriots Rovind (65kg Greco-Roman), Harsh (51kg) and Arjun Ruhil (92kg) took home the yellow metal.

Uttar Pradesh's Shilpi and Aditya Gupta took home the gold in the girls' 61kg and boys 55kg Greco-Roman categories. respectively. Maharashtra's Param Laxman emerged champion in the boys' 80kg Greco-Roman category.

SHORT TAKES

Dilbag Singh finishes 9th

Jiangshan: Indian weightlifter Dilbag Singh delivered a below-par performance, finishing ninth in the men's 96kg category at the Asian Championships here Tuesday. The 20-year-old from Puniab registered a total lift of 339kg -- 147kg in snatch and 192kg in clean and ierk, Dilbag, the reigning National Games champion, began with a solid 147kg lift in snatch but failed in his next two attempts at 152kg.

Kirti Patel beats Dhairva Yadav

Mumbai: Woman Candidate



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



R PRAGGNANANDHAA

Karthikeyan also drew with an- haa was subjected to some ini-

Mannepalli, Ira qualify for Thailand Open main draw

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangkok, May 13: Indian shuttlers Tharun Mannepalli and Ira Sharma Tuesday qualified for the main draw of the Thailand Open even as stalwart Kidambi Srikanth bowed out of the Super 500 badminton tournament, here.

Mannepalli, 23, defeated Chinese-Taipei's Kuo Kuan Lin 17-21, 21-19, 21-17 in the men's singles round-of-16 before overcoming Srikanth 21-6, 21-19 in 40 minutes in the quarterfinals in the Qualifiers.

Specialist vs serial runner-up today

Milan takes on Bologna in the Italian Cup final

job.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Milan, May 13: A cup specialist will take on a serial runner-up when AC Milan plays Bologna in the Italian Cup final Wednesday.

And both teams will be looking to get their hands on the trophy for the first time in decades.

League — or any European competition. Winning the Italian Cup would earn Milan a spot in the Europa League and go

some way toward salvag

ing a season where the Ros

soneri were never compet

itive in Serie A or Europe,

having been dumped out of

the Champions League by

Feyenoord in the knockout

about my future," Conceição

said. "Now we're only think-

ing about this final, against a

"It's not the moment to talk

playoff round.

in Conceição's five months in

charge, it might not be enough

to save the Portuguese coach's

Milan is eighth in Serie A

with two rounds remaining and only has a slim chance of

qualifying for the Champions

Srija, Praggnanandhaa maintain joint lead

Master (WCM) Kirti Patel gave a commanding performance to beat Dhairya Yadav in the All India Chess Masters FIDE Rating tournament here Tuesday. In other matches, Chris Isaiah outplayed Janhavi Soneji in a well-contested tie, while Darsh Shetty and Yash Kapadi won convincingly against Parv Hakani and Dhruv Patel respectively.

PCB sacks Waqar, Misbah

Lahore: Pakistan Cricket Board Tuesday sacked all five mentors who were appointed with domestic teams during the inaugural edition of its Champions One-Day Cup, including former captains Wagar Younis and Misbah Ul Hag. Former skipper Sarfaraz Ahmed, Shoaib Malik and Saglain Mushtag were the other mentors who were assigned to each of the five competing teams in the 50-overs competition.

Al Ain/ Bucharest, May 13: Overnight sole leader Woman Grandmaster Srija Seshadri made sure she did not slip too much as she earned a hardfought draw against the highest-ranked Indian woman player Vantika Agrawal to remain in joint lead after the seventh round of the Asian continental women's chess championship

here Tuesday. With her second draw in seven games, Srija took her tally to six points and is now sharing the lead with Mongolian Mungunzul Bat-Erdene, who put it across PV Nandhidhaa. In the 'Open' section, things

did not change much as the leader, Bardiya Daneshvar was held to a draw by Ivan Zemlyanskii of Russia, while the second-placed Indian Murali

AGENICES

her living room.

other Russian Sergei Lobanov. It is strange why the Russians are playing in the Asian event for the first time but the decision seems to have likely been taken because they can no longer participate in European tournaments due to the conflict with Ukraine.

With two more rounds to come, the competition is wide open in the women's section. while Daneshvar seems to be on course for a gold medal triumph.

Superbet Chess Classics

Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa played out a draw with Poland's Duda Jan-Krzysztof to maintain joint lead with 3.5 points after the sixth round of Superbet Chess Classics, a part of the grand chess tour. Plaving the black side of an

English opening, Praggnanand-

tial tactics by Duda but the Indian was quite up to task in not giving any free-way to the Polish opponent.

Duda showed his intent with a queen sacrifice for a rook and minor piece in the middle game and Praggnanandhaa was quick to realise that his chances were slim. The draw was the best result possible as neither player could make much progress.

Meanwhile, USA's Fabiano Caruana was seen trying hard to break through with a piece sacrifice against local hero Deac Bogdan-Daniel but it looked though he would have to settle for a draw as well.

The other overnight leader Maxime Vachier-Lagrave could do little with his white pieces either as drew very quickly with Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan.

Ayush Shetty, 20, ranked 40th in the world, thrashed lower-ranked Finland shuttler Joakim Oldorff 21-10, 21-11 in just 29 minutes in the round-of-16 before going down to Malaysia's Justin Hoh, ranked 45th, 21-14, 22-20 in 39 minutes

Ira Sharma defeated her opponents from Myanmar and Thailand in women's singles to advance to the main draw.

The 25-vear-old defeated Myanmar's Thet Htar Thuzar 18-21, 21-12, 21-8 in 46 minutes in the round of 16 before thrashing local player Thamonwan Nithiittikrai 21-12, 21-18 in just 34 minutes.

Men's singles player Sathish Karunakaran lost in the opening round of qualifiers, going down to Malaysia's Aidil Sholeh 17-21, 21-12, 12-21.

Bologna hasn't won the Italian Cup since 1974, which was its last major trophy.

Milan has won plenty of trophies since then, but last lifted the Italian Cup 22 years ago — losing two finals in the intervening years.

This time, however, the Rossoneri are led by a cup specialist in coach Sérgio Conceição.

Indeed, Conceição has already steered Milan to a trophy this season — winning the Italian Super Cup in January just a week after being appointed as coach.

That was the 50-year-old's 12th trophy as coach, with nine coming in cup competitions.

Conceição also lifted seven cup trophies as a player, with Porto and Lazio.

However, even if Milan ends the season with two trophies

difficult team to face. "I have my character and my personality, I've changed things and vou need time but at Milan you don't have time. ... At Mi lan, what counts is winning tro phies and Wednesday we have a great chance.'

In contrast to Conceição, Bologna coach Vincenzo Italiano has not fared well in finals.

Duo Bopanna-Pavlasek out of Rome Masters

Rome: India's Rohan Bopanna and his Czech partner Adam Pavlasek bowed out of the men's doubles event at the Rome Masters with a straight-set defeat against the British team of Joe Salisbury and Neal Skupski, here Tuesday. Bopanna and Pavlasek lost the pre-guarterfinal 3-6 3-6 in one hour and eight minutes. With Bopanna's defeat, India's challenge has ended in the elite clay-court tournament.

Lungi Ngidi returns to SA

Johannesburg: Fast bowler Lungi Ngidi returned to the squad for the first time since October last year as South Africa named a 15-member squad for the World Test Championship final against Australia, beginning at Lord's June 11

me to Gymnastics"

Aavya's name means the first New Delhi, May 13: Aavya rays of the sun, and her mother Anan of Bihar, the youngest believes that her daughter will shine on the Indian gymnastics gymnast at the Khelo India firmament someday. A class 4 Youth Games 2025, Bihar, decided to turn things, quite litstudent, she has been training erally, upside down. Aavya's for just 18 months at the Rising journey in gymnastics began Youth Gymnastics Academy with this peculiar habit: the in Patna, under the watchful little girl loved standing on eves of coach Roshan Yadav. her head, legs in the air, flip-She won two gold medals and ping and arching with joy in a silver medal in the 2025 State Championships. It is interesting to hear the

"This is my first Khelo India Games and I'm keen on giving my best. I'm not thinking about defeating others, but I'm just focused on giving my best and not being nervous. If I don't win a medal now, I'll win the next time," Aavya said with the quiet confidence of a mature athlete. She is competing in Artistic

Standing upside-down from childhood brings Aavya into spotlight

Gymnastics events here.

Coach Roshan Yadav, a former gymnast, believes she's a prodigy. "She is very talented, and her body structure is

This is my first Khelo ndia Games and I'm een on giving my oest. I'm not think ing about defeating others, but I'm just focused on giving my best and not being nervous. If I don't win a medal now, I'll win the next time

AAVYA ANAN | GYMNAST

experienced gymnasts a run for their money.

determination is Her matched by the unwavering support of her parents, who stand out in a region where sports are often overlooked in favour of academics. "If my family hadn't supported me, I wouldn't be here. Many girls don't get this chance. But

my mom and dad told me. 'Do what you like. Make your own name," Aavya added.

Roshan is himself a product of the Khelo India Scheme and has been a trainee at the SAI National Centre of Excellence in Kolkata. He has now re turned to Bihar and opened a Gymnastics centre. "I wanted to raise the standard of Gvmnastics in Bihar. My name is Roshan, and with Aavya, Bihar will shine brighter in Gymnas-

tics.' At the moment, the nineyear-old is paving a path for every little girl who dares to stand on her head and look at the world differently. Aavya's dream is simple yet powerful: "I want to be known as a Gymnastics girl! Not just in Bihar, but all over India.

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youngest Khelo India gymnast

speak about finding her calling.

"I didn't know Gymnastics is a

sport," Aavya giggles. "I just

liked staying upside down. My

parents saw me doing arches

and flips while I used to watch

dance shows on television at

home, and decided to introduce







built for gymnastics. She picks

things up really quickly, trains

long hours with great endur-

ance," he said. "Despite being

so young, she will give the more

EX



