

The DIG said the man was yet to be identified.

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES
No matter what you do, today you are not going to have your way. The times when you have been selfish are finished. Besides, you are likely to solicit trouble today. It may actually turn out to be good for you, says Ganesha, provided you change the focus of your actions.

TAURUS
Today you are likely to remain in an uncertain, indecisive frame of mind. You could, early morning, have an irresistible urge to take a holiday and go off on a long vacation with your friends and family members. After contacting everyone and getting them interested, you could have a change of mind and decide to get back to office and attend to the work in hand.

GEMINI
It is not too bright a day for reaping the rewards of your hard work. A deeply buried desire as well as your sentimental nature will be the cause for some mood swings today. You will be subject to mental stress on account of this.

CANCER
With Ganesha's grace you will reap an unexpected gain, and help, joy and excitement on the home front. You will be affectionate towards family members. Yet in afternoon, you may have mood change. Ganesha counsels you to be calm, or else you will lose peace of mind.

LEO
Whether you are an entrepreneur or an employee, you will spend more time at the office as compared to home. This is primarily because you will be full of energy and enthusiasm towards your work. Events will conspire to draw your attention towards work as well. You need to guard against taking financial risks, says Ganesha.

VIRGO
Like a goose mother, you will be intensely over-protective and will desire to be in seclusion. Matters of the heart will come to fruition faster than you could have imagined. Ganesha says you will at last overcome your tendency for procrastination, and it will be a fulfilling day.

LIBRA
Ganesha says today is a good day to start out with new ventures. You shall be interested in fine arts like drawing, classical music, dance etc as the artistic streak in your nature comes to the fore, and their pursuit shall make you happy.

SCORPIO
You are the man who keeps his promises and that's rare. Besides fulfilling your seniors' expectations at work, you also manage to fulfil the desires of your family. Work while you work and play while you play, a neat line between the two will result in a happy life, says Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS
A typical trait, you are possessive about your belongings today, says Ganesha. You are easily able to meet your deadlines at work and submit the things on time. This will keep your energy levels intact. In a nutshell, a bright and beautiful day in store for you.

CAPRICORN
You are an idol for those who find it difficult to maintain a balance between personal and professional life. During the day, you will give importance to work rather than focusing on your passion, says Ganesha. You will, however, take some small breaks here and there to freshen up your mood.

AQUARIUS
The day promises to be filled with freshness. You will apply your mind and find solution to some of the complicated questions. You will now get the clarity about your paths and directions. Try to meet as many people as you can and build new relations, so that you can add a fresh perspective to your life.

PISCES
There is a high chance that you will get closer to someone who has hitherto only been an acquaintance. There is also a distinct possibility of love at first sight and yet at the same time Ganesha advises you to take one wary step at a time and not let the fast pace of relationships overwhelm you.



'I DON'T CONSIDER MYSELF AN ICON'

Singer-songwriter Janet Jackson, who has been honoured with the Icon Award at the 2025 American Music Awards after performing on television for the first time in seven years, said that she doesn't consider herself an "icon". The star performed a medley ahead of receiving the night's special award.

JLO ANNOUNCES NEW LAS VEGAS RESIDENCY

Jennifer Lopez is set to return to Las Vegas as she has announced her new residency at The Colosseum at Caesars Palace. Her show, entitled *Jennifer Lopez: Up All Night Live in Las Vegas*, opens the week of New Year's Eve with four shows December 30, December 31, January 2 and January 3.



Urvashi hits back at influencer

Mumbai: Actress Urvashi Rautela has found herself at the center of a controversy at the Cannes Film Festival 2025, but the actress isn't staying silent. After being accused by anonymous fashion critic Diet Sabya of blocking a staircase at the prestigious event, Urvashi has hit back, calling the claims "cowardly lies." The actress firmly denied the allegations and addressed the issue head-on, setting the record straight with her side of the story. Tuesday, Urvashi took to her Instagram and released a statement wherein she firmly denied the allegation and clarified that her team had official permission to shoot at a specific staircase—just like many others did—while strictly following all Cannes regulations. The *Sanam Re* actress also expressed her respect for Cannes and emphasised her commitment to following its rules. Urvashi also criticises Diet Sabya directly, calling the page an unoriginal copy of the international fashion critique account Diet Prada. She accuses Diet Sabya of targeting hardworking outsiders

like herself, suggesting the page survives by spreading negativity about people trying to make a mark. Urvashi Rautela found herself at the receiving end of heavy trolling following her recent appearance at the Cannes Film Festival. After drawing attention for her quirky accessories, the actress once again went viral—this time for a video showing her posing on a grand staircase at her hotel. IANS



Samantha's priority

Mumbai: Samantha Ruth Prabhu looked stunning as she attended an event where she was lauded for her entrepreneurial vision and contributions to the wellness space. Speaking at the event, the actress said that for her, wellness and health has been a "strong focus." The actress, who was dressed in a custom Kresha Bajaj ensemble, said "Last night was meaningful in so many ways - from receiving love for the work I do as an artist and an entrepreneur to having my friend Kresha be a part of it all through." She added: Wellness and health have been such a strong focus for me, making any choice I make - even as an entrepreneur - deeply personal. And getting recognised as 'Mindful Maverick' for our honest efforts across the wellness sphere felt truly humbling." What made last night extra special for Samantha was having "Kresha not just design my outfit but also walking the red carpet with me, albeit reluctantly. I've always believed in Kresha's vision as an artist and I know that she will always make the look work for me and never the other way around," she said. Samantha was last seen on the big screen in the 2023 film *Kushi*, which also stars Vijay Deverakonda. IANS

Las Vegas: Global sensation Nora Fatehi made a dazzling debut at the prestigious American Music Awards (AMAs), turning heads with her powerful presence and bold fashion choices. Representing India and the broader South Asian diaspora, Nora walked the red carpet in a custom Tom Ford ensemble, marking a significant milestone in her journey as a global icon. Sharing the moment on social media, she captioned, "Making my American Music Awards red carpet debut wearing custom @tomford @amas."

Nora's dazzling debut at AMAs



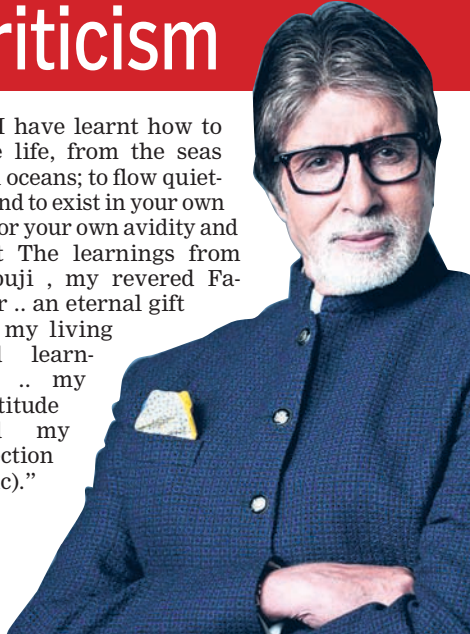
Nora's appearance at one of the world's most influential music events signals her rising influence in the global entertainment industry. Following the massive success of her hit single *Snake* with Jason Derulo—topping the BBC Asian Music Charts and earning over 130 million views—she continues to break new ground for South Asian representation in international pop culture. Her growing popularity has led to high-profile features on platforms like *The Kelly Clarkson Show*, *MTV UK*, *BBC Asian Network*, and *Live with Kelly and Mark*. She also made a glamorous appearance at the *Vanity Fair Oscars Afterparty* and was recently featured in *Allure* magazine and on the Billboard US cover. From award shows to international stages, Nora Fatehi is redefining global crossover success—and the world is watching. IANS

Big B on constant criticism

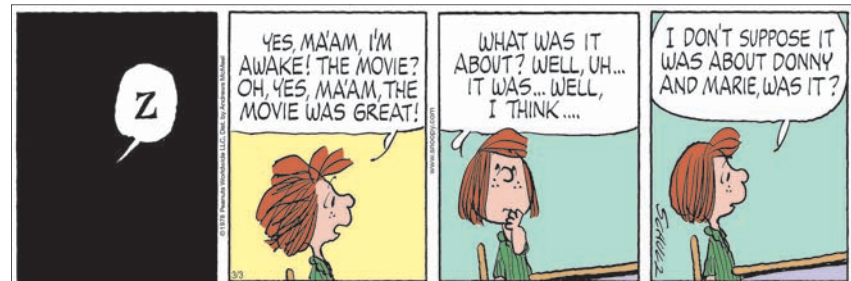
Mumbai: Mega-star Amitabh Bachchan, who maintained a notable silence on platforms like X and his blog in recent days, has finally broken it and expressed frustration over constant criticism. Big B took to his blog after a long time and wrote: "And they tell

me to change my signature .. to not put dots in it .. to not put curved lines .. to wear this to wear that .. to not visit here or there .. to not talk here, to not talk there .. when you talk they say why do you talk .. when you do not talk they say why you do not talk. (sic)" He shared a few lines from his late legendary father Harivansh Rai Bachchan's poetry and wrote: "I may be carefree for myself; but I care for all ... I know that there is no value within me; but even then I keep a valued relationship, a proximity, with some."

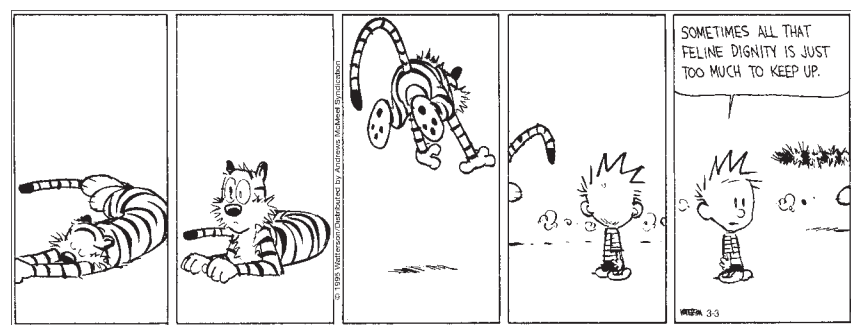
"I have learnt how to live life, from the seas and oceans; to flow quietly and to exist in your own ardor your own avidity and zest The learnings from Babuji, my revered Father .. an eternal gift for my living and learning .. my gratitude and my affection ..(sic)." IANS



PEANUTS



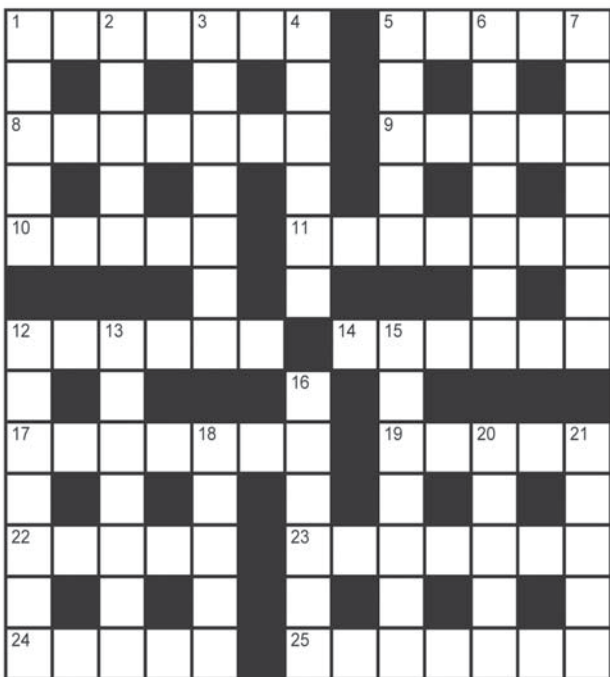
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



CROSSWORD



- Across**

1 Gable roof

5 Rapsallion

8 Storm leftovers

9 Seating request

10 Divvy up

11 Eagles and hawks, e.g.

12 Movie genre

14 Repaired

17 Purplish-red

19 All thumbs

22 Cupcake topper

23 Sinister

24 Aswan High Dam locale

25 Bacon slices
- Down**

1 Stares

2 Award

3 Akin

4 Shine

5 Slough

6 Flee with the loot

7 Delighted

12 Blend

13 Exaggerate

15 Potions

16 Enjoy to the max

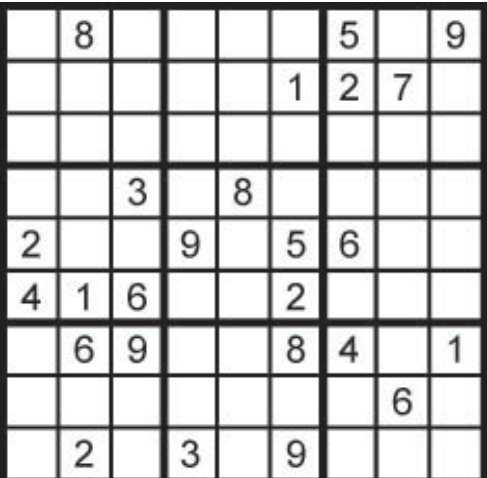
18 Dusk to dawn

20 Irregularly notched

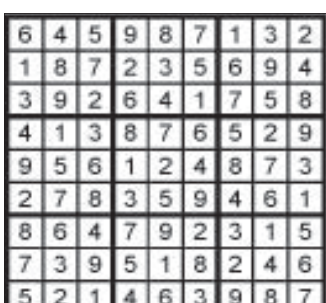
21 To-do list items

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Railway ‘negligence’ led to Boudh tunnel collapse: Das



Congress slams railways over Boudh tunnel collapse, cites poor oversight despite ₹500 crore allocation

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, May 27: Odisha Congress president Bhakta Charan Das on Tuesday alleged that the soil cave-in at a tunnel under the Khurda-Bolangir project in Boudh district was caused by railway negligence. The incident happened in Adenigarh area of Harabhanga block in Boudh district Monday afternoon. However, no one was injured in the mishap.

Railway authorities said the incident happened due to loose soil formation and continuous rainfall in the area. A delegation of the Odisha Congress led by Das visited the tunnel site Tuesday. Speaking to reporters, he alleged that the incident happened because of negligence by railways as they had taken the project very casually. “The government has allocated ₹500 crore to ensure smooth construction of the tunnel, but it collapsed after just 1.5 km was built,” he said. “It’s a major lapse on the part of the railways. I hold

Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and the officials concerned responsible for not assessing the soil quality,” he alleged. “The Railway minister is responsible because many such accidents have taken place throughout the country after Vaishnaw took charge of the ministry,” the Congress leader said. Fortunately, no one was working there when the mishap happened, Das said. Stating that the railways is competent to handle such kind of situation, Das said, “The Indian railway has built underwater tunnels and bridges over rivers. But the tunnel incident is negligence from the railway side as no one has looked after such a minimal thing.” “We don’t want to make it a political issue. It is a technical problem and the Railway minister should make necessary steps while executing projects on such type of soil,” he added. Das said that the Khurda-Bolangir railway line is a prestigious project as it will connect Bhubaneswar with Bolangir, Bargarh, Boudh, Sonepur and Kandhamal.



Speaker Padhy launches book on Assembly history

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 27: The book A Brief History of Odisha Legislative Assembly, published by the Assembly’s Research Wing, was inaugurated Tuesday by Speaker Surama Padhy, who said the book holds great significance for all.

At the launch event, Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo, Deputy Speaker Bhabani Shankar Bhoi, BJP Chief Whip Saroj

Kumar Pradhan, Deputy Chief Whip Gobinda Chandra Das, and several MLAs were in attendance. Other dignitaries present at the launch included Revenue and Disaster Management additional chief secretary Deoranjana Kumar Singh, Assembly Secretary Satyabrata Rout, Research Wing director Tribikram Pradhan, and research officers Jayakrishna Pradhan, Prashant Das, and Amulya Kumar Swain. Speaking at the event, Padhy

expressed hope the book will benefit legislators, researchers, intellectuals, students, and the general public alike. “This publication is both timely and meaningful,” she noted. The book chronicles the historical journey of the Odisha Legislative Assembly, tracing its roots to April 1, 1936, when Odisha was formed as a separate province on a linguistic basis under British rule. It captures key developments from the first legislative assembly of pre-independence Odisha

to the ongoing 17th Assembly. Comprehensive details such as the roles of the Governor, Speaker, Chief Minister, Leader of the Opposition (LoP), Deputy Speaker, and the Assembly Secretariat across different tenures, formation of various cabinets, general and by-elections, and the evolution of party structures have been included. The book provides valuable insights into the functioning and transformation of Odisha’s legislative system over the decades.

OPCC marks Nehru’s 61st death anniversary in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 27: The Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) Tuesday observed the 61st death anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, India’s first prime minister, at Congress Bhawan here. Senior Congress leaders paid floral tributes at Nehru’s statue in Nehru Park near Master Canteen Square in the City. Later, they also offered homage at his statue on the Congress Bhawan premises. The event saw the presence of Odisha Congress in-charge Ajay Kumar Lallu, PCC president Bhakta Charan Das, former PCC presidents Prasad Harichandan and Jaydev Jena, along with several other senior party leaders. The commemoration served as a tribute to Nehru’s legacy and a reaffirmation of the party’s commitment to his vision of democracy, secularism, and inclusive development.

PM, Shah invited to govt’s first anniversary June 12

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, May 27: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah to a June 12 event marking the BJP government’s first anniversary in the state, a minister said. The CM also invited them to Lord Jagannath’s Rath Yatra in Puri June 27, Deputy Chief Minister Pravatī Parida said. “The CM has invited PM Modi, HM Amit Shah, and others to attend the BJP government’s first anniversary event in Odisha,” Parida said after returning from New Delhi Monday. She said Majhi was in Delhi

on a four-day tour during which he met several leaders and invited them to attend the functions to be held on special occasions in Odisha next month. Parida said, “The PM may consider Odisha’s invitation, and we are waiting for a response from the PMO. PM always has a very busy schedule.” Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan said Majhi has also invited the chief ministers of NDA-ruled states to attend the BJP government’s first-anniversary programme in Odisha and witness Lord Jagannath’s Rath Yatra. BJP’s key national functionaries have also been invited, he said.

The state government has planned a three-day grand celebration from June 11 to June 13 to mark the completion of one year of the BJP government. A series of events will be organised from the block to the state levels, officials said. The BJP government in Odisha will present its report card to the people who voted the party to power, Parida said. The deputy CM, who had attended the NDA chief ministers’ conclave following the recent NITI Aayog meeting in New Delhi, said that PM Modi explained to them how the ‘double engine’ government helps the developments of a state and improves the life of people.

AISF protests, demands free travel for students

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 27: The All India Students’ Federation (AISF) staged a protest Tuesday at Master Canteen square demanding free transportation for students on government buses and a 50 per cent fare concession on private buses across Odisha. Led by AISF state secretary Kahnū Charan Parida, the demonstration saw participation from numerous students representing various academic institutions statewide. The protesters urged the government to provide free travel facilities for college and university students, including those preparing for competitive exams. The Odisha State Council of AISF formally submitted their demands to the state government and education department,



ment, seeking affordable and accessible transportation for all students in Odisha. AISF also called on the government to utilise Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds from companies to operate dedicated bus services for government colleges and universities near their operations. They proposed allocating at least one bus per 1,000

students, ensuring CSR funds serve public welfare effectively. AISF state president Sanghamitra Jena emphasised the need for government support, pointing out many poor students cannot afford transportation and must be assisted to continue their education smoothly. Jena also criticised the National Education Policy (NEP 2020), stating that although education is the backbone of a nation, the quality of education is declining under the current policy. She highlighted that economic and social challenges remain major causes of student dropout. Even after 76 years of independence, many students are still denied their right to education, reflecting government negligence and failure in policy implementation.

MENSTRUAL HYGIENE DAY

Breaking myths, taboos around menstruation

RESHMI YADAV, OP

Bhubaneswar, May 27: As the world marks Menstrual Hygiene Day May 28, health experts, advocates, and social workers in Bhubaneswar are joining hands to break myths and taboos surrounding menstruation, including the stigma around sex during periods. This year’s theme, “Together for #PeriodFriendlyWorld,” focuses on spreading awareness and empowering women through accurate information on menstrual health. Harpreet Kaur, Senior Consultant in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Manipal Hospitals, Bhubaneswar, emphasised the importance of busting menstrual myths. “A widespread misconception is that menstrual blood is ‘impure’—which is completely untrue. Menstruation is a natural biological process,” she said. “Another harmful belief is that women should avoid exercise during menstruation, when in fact, physical activity can ease cramps and discomfort,” she explained. Kaur also spoke about the stigma surrounding sex during menstruation. “Though not harmful, menstrual blood can



serve as a medium for bacterial growth, which may increase the risk of infection during intercourse. Maintaining hygiene is essential,” she noted. “Alternatively, regular physical activity is a safer and effective way to manage cramps,” she said. Sweta Agarwal, a social worker from Unmukt Foundation, emphasised the importance of awareness and sensitisation for young girls. “Many girls face confusion, embarrassment, and isolation when they get their periods without prior knowledge. They’re suddenly expected to follow restrictions—like bathing at odd hours or avoiding

certain spaces—and it becomes overwhelming,” she said. Agarwal also highlighted superstitions prevalent in Odisha, such as the practice of bathing with cow dung for ‘purity’. “Imagine the mental stress on a 13-year-old girl being told to do this,” she added. Agarwal stressed the need to educate not just girls, but boys as well. “Men must be aware of what women go through—so they can support them instead of making fun. If a boy in school sees a period stain and knows what it means, he can help rather than tease.” Sarojini Sadangi, retired gynaecologist and former pro-

Experts are pushing to end menstrual taboos, stressing the importance of hygiene, awareness, and busting myths

Social workers highlight the need for educating both girls and boys to combat stigma, with calls to end harmful practices and superstitions

fessor at SCB Medical College, Cuttack, discussed Polycystic Ovarian Disease (PCOD) and its impact on adolescent girls. “PCOD causes hormonal imbalance, irregular periods, weight gain, excess body hair, and sometimes heavy bleeding. It needs proper medical care, diet, and lifestyle adjustments,” she said. Echoing these views, Sunit Pattnaik, a postgraduate student, said, “Women’s struggles begin with their own bodies. We men may not feel the pain, but by understanding and supporting them, we can help make it easier.” As Odisha joins the global movement on Menstrual Hygiene Day, the message is clear: It’s time to end the silence, break taboos, and build a society where women can manage their periods with dignity, without fear or shame.

CURRENCY

INDEX

VARIATION

DOLLAR

85.39

▲ 0.27

EURO

96.86

▼ 0.05

BOURSES

INDEX

VARIATION

SENSEX

81551.63

▼ 624.82

NIFTY

24826.20

▼ 174.95

COMMODITIES

INDEX

VARIATION

GOLD

₹95,200

▼ ₹737

SILVER

₹97,174

▼ ₹829

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	34.0°	34.8°	mostly cloudy sky and Heavy Thunderstorm
Min Temp	26.6°	25.0°	
Humidity	75%	84%	
Rainfall	0.2mm	1.4mm	

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Rushikulya river water turns saline, sparks concern in Ganjam



POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, May 27: The Rushikulya river, which is known as the lifeline of Ganjam district, is facing an ecological crisis, a report said.

Residents have raised concerns that the river water, supplied through various mega pipeline drinking water projects, has turned increasingly saline.

Locals alleged that tidal waves from the sea are pushing saltwater upstream into the riverbed, contaminating the freshwater. A persistent issue of blockage at the river mouth has slowed down proper water discharge, allowing the salty water to seep into the soil and contaminate the groundwater, they claimed.

Ajit Pradhan, Executive Engineer of the state’s Water Re-

sources Department, said that two scientists from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in New Delhi recently visited coastal regions of Ganjam and confirmed salinity intrusion in the Rushikulya river. A detailed report from the visiting experts is awaited, and will be submitted to the state government upon receipt.

The scientists were invited by the Water Resources department to study coastal erosion in Podampeta under Ganjam block, and Arjyapalli under Chhatrapur block. They observed that indiscriminate sand mining using heavy equipment like excavators has deepened the riverbed, creating channels for seawater to leak into underground aquifers. This has rendered the water unfit for drinking, their initial findings suggested.

The situation, experts warn, could worsen in the coming days, casting doubt on the viability of the ₹183 crore mega drinking water project dependent on this river.

However, there is hope that the upcoming monsoon could replenish the river with fresh water and dilute its salinity.

Currently, drinking water is supplied to over 2.83 lakh people in 60 villages of Ganjam block, and 92 villages of Krushnaprasad block in Puri district, via pipelines connected to intake wells near Barada in Malada panchayat of Ganjam block, and near the Rushikulya river in Krushnaprasad block.

Despite this, over hundreds of villagers in three villages under Jainchapur panchayat of Ganjam block are reportedly consuming saline water from the pipeline. Locals have submitted a memorandum to the block development officer (BDO) in Ganjam, urging immediate action to resolve the crisis.

Earlier, the state Forest department had engaged a Delhi-based organisation, comprising national and international experts, to conduct a coastal erosion survey. Though a detailed report was submitted to the state government highlighting damage to the shoreline and possible remedies, no significant action has been taken on their recommendations, sources added.



YOGA FOR HEALTH: Central Reserve Police Force personnel performing Surya Namaskar at a Yoga camp held at their group centre at Goshala in Sambalpur district Tuesday

OP PHOTO

Lawyer arrested for raping woman on pretext of marriage

POST NEWS NETWORK

Deogarh, May 27: The Deogarh police Tuesday arrested a lawyer who allegedly raped a woman on multiple occasions on the pretext of marriage following a relationship that began over an Odia matrimonial site.

The accused was identified as Rohit Kumar Pradhan of Balita village under the jurisdiction of Barkote Police Station. He practices at the Deogarh District Court.

An officer from Deogarh police station said that the victim, who lives in Deogarh municipality area, became acquainted with Rohit February 19, 2021, through an Odia matrimonial site. “Their relationship soon progressed through social media and phone conversations, eventually turning romantic,” the officer added.

In her complain, the victim alleged that Rohit used to visit her home frequently. On June 29, 2021, he took her to Chikini Ghat and, despite her protests, established physical relationship with her in a car.

Though the woman later married another person July 14, 2021, Rohit allegedly continued to contact her and threatened to leak photos of their intimate moments.

“He coerced her into abandoning her husband, promising once again to marry her if she filed for divorce. The victim, under

pressure, left her husband and returned to her parental home,” the officer said.

The accused is said to have taken the victim to multiple places and continued physical relationship with her under repeated assurances of marriage. However, when she insisted on formalising their relationship, Rohit allegedly delayed the matter indefinitely and avoided further commitment, the officer said.

Matters escalated when the victim visited Jagannath Enterprises, a shop owned by the accused in Barkote, where she was allegedly assaulted by Rohit and his parents. Following the incident, she filed a complaint at Deogarh police station November 24, 2024. Based on her statement, a case (No. 564/24) was registered against Rohit and his parents under various penal Sections.

Police said Rohit went underground following the registration of the case, and had also filed for anticipatory bail in the High Court. However, the court rejected his plea April 16 and directed him to surrender before a lower court within 21 days. Despite this, he continued to evade arrest. A police team led by SI Rudra Narayan Pradhan arrested Rohit from a place in Forest Park area of Bhubaneswar, before formally arresting him Tuesday. He was produced before a court which remanded him to judicial custody.



Journalist assault case: Prime accused arrested

Bhubaneswar: Police Tuesday arrested the prime accused in the alleged assault of a journalist in Bolangir district, an officer said. According to police, Bijoy Pradhan, a reporter with a local TV channel, had visited Kulthipali village Saturday to report on alleged irregularities in the construction of a guard wall when the accused persons allegedly snatched his mobile phone, boom and other equipment. They also tied his hands and assaulted him in front of villagers. A video of the incident went viral on social media. Gajendra Dalai, the prime accused and the contractor engaged in construction of the guard wall, has been arrested, a senior police officer said. The police had arrested Monday four other accused persons, including a juvenile, for their alleged involvement in the incident. Based on Pradhan’s complaint at Puintala police station and video evidence, the police registered a case and arrested the accused, Bolangir SP Abhilash G said.

Malkangiri MLA opposes renaming of villages, submits memo to CM

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, May 27: Chitrakonda MLA Mangu Khil, and Dandakaranya Liberation Organisation president Lalit Madkani, have submitted a memorandum to Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and Revenue Minister Suresh Pujari opposing the proposed renaming and grant of revenue village status to Bengali-inhabited settlements in the district.

The proposal to rename 220 villages classified as MV (Malkangiri Village) and MPV (Malkangiri Potteru Village) villages, and grant revenue village status to them was introduced during gram sabha meetings held across various panchayats.

However, the move has sparked strong resistance from the tribal dominated Adivasi Samaj Mahasangh and 14 tribal

outfits in the district. The issue took a curious turn after various tribal communities opposed the move, while the Bengali communities remained steadfast to their demands.

Citing Section 5 of Article 244 of the Constitution, the tribal bodies argued that there is no legal provision to alter the identity of villages designated for scheduled castes (SCs) and scheduled tribes (STs) under the governor’s special directive. They have called for a halt to any further gram sabha meetings over the issue.

Of the 220 affected villages, 136 are MV-designated, and 84 are MPV-designated. All tribal associations have unanimously rejected the name change and revenue status proposal, urging the government to discontinue the ongoing gram sabha proceedings related to these villages.

Protest in Bhadrak over stillbirth blamed on wrong report

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, May 27: Hundreds of irate locals blocked the Bhadrak bypass Tuesday morning protesting against the alleged misdiagnosed ultrasound report prepared by a private clinic in the area that caused the death of a newborn Monday night, and left the mother struggling for life.

The protest began around 7:30am. The demonstrators burnt tyres on the busy Bhadrak-Chandbali road,

bringing traffic to a grinding halt for over five hours. Police, led by Bhadrak Town Station Officer Prabhanshu Mishra, were deployed to control the situation.

According to police, the incident stemmed from an alleged erroneous report prepared by a private clinic near the bypass. On Sunday, Prafulla Giri of Dolasahi, under Tihidi police limits, had taken his pregnant wife, Basanti Rout, to the clinic, for the test. However, the clinic gave them an incorrect report,



police added.

Basanti was admitted to the district headquarters hospital (DHH) Monday after experiencing abdominal pain. Doctors performed surgery that evening and took out a stillborn baby.

Doctors allegedly informed

the family that the foetus was likely to have died two-to-three days earlier and had begun decomposing. Meanwhile, Basanti’s condition became critical.

Late Monday night, the grieving family staged a sit-in with the child’s body outside the clinic, which was found locked and unmanned. The failure of the clinic management to come out with a response only worsened the situation, and the protest escalated Tuesday morning, police said.

Meanwhile, the blockade

caused major traffic disruption. Senior officials, including Additional Superintendent of Police Sambit Majhi, Chief District Medical Officer Sudhanshu Shekhar Bal, and Deputy Collector Kartik Nath Mandal, arrived at the scene to defuse the situation. Following their assurance of investigation and action, the demonstration was called off.

Majhi said a task force would be formed to crack down on unauthorised nursing homes and ultrasound centres operating in Bhadrak.

ZSI, Gopalpur scientists identify 2 rare deep-sea eel species

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, May 27: Scientists at the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) at Gopalpur have recorded two rare deep-sea eel species for the first time in Indian waters, marking a significant addition to the country’s marine biodiversity.

The specimen of the two rare eel species, Coloconger scholesi and Ophichthus erabo, were collected off the Kollam coast in Kerala during commercial bottom trawling by fisherman Sunil Raj. The discovery was made by a team of researchers at Estuarine Biology Regional Centre at Gopalpur in collaboration with Marine Biology Regional Centre in Chennai.

Dr Anil Mohapatra, a scientist at ZSI, explained that Coloconger scholesi belongs to the

rarely reported eel genus Coloconger, which had only one species (Coloconger raniceps) previously recorded in Indian waters.

The newly identified Coloconger scholesi species exhibits a uniformly blackish-brown body, with the colour remaining consistent even after preservation. The fins, tongue, palatine region, peritoneum, and stomach are also black, and its tube-like cephalic sensory canals and lateral line pores are distinctly dark.

Regarding Ophichthus erabo, Mohapatra said this species of blotched snake-eel had never before been documented along the Indian coast. “It is distinguishable from its close relative, Ophichthus polyophthalmus, by the presence of numerous dark brown semicir-

cular blotches that are smaller and denser on the head and gradually become larger along the body and tail,” he said.

The eel features a brownish olive to pale yellow dorsal surface and a white underside. Its

dorsal fin has oblong markings that match the body pattern, while the anal fin is fully white and the pectoral fins bear scattered small spots, he added.

Previously, Ophichthus erabo was known from regions



such as South Africa, Japan, Ogasawara Island, the Ryukyu Islands, Taiwan, and Vietnam.

The research was conducted by a team including Dr Mohapatra, Dr KK Bineesh, Dr Swaroop Ranjan Mohanty, Rajesh Kumar Behera, Sweta Beura, Moumita Das, Praveen Rosario, and Smrutirekha Acharya.

Detailed descriptions of Coloconger scholesi have been published in the Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom, while the study on Ophichthus erabo appeared in National Academy Science Letters.

Mohapatra said the discovery not only enhances India’s ichthyological records but also contributes to a deeper understanding of the distribution and biodiversity of deep-sea fish in the Indian Ocean region.



STEEL AUTHORITY OF INDIA LIMITED
Rourkela Steel Plant
Rourkela - 769 011, Odisha, India

Ref. No.: CSR/2025-26/78**Date: 13.05.2025**

NOTICE

In order to provide a dignified, healthy, secure and good quality life to the separated employees of SAIL/Rourkela Steel Plant and their spouses Rourkela Steel Plant has set up a Senior Citizen Care home “Sakshyam” in Rourkela. Applications are invited from senior citizens having the following eligibility criteria:

- The applicant must be:**
 - An ex-employee or spouse of ex-employee of RSP or other units of SAIL.
 - Must have completed 60 years of age. Widows of ex-employees must have completed 55 years of age.
 - The applicant(s) must have physical/mental self-sufficiency.
 - The applicant must not be suffering from any contagious/ communicable/infectious disease.
 - If selected, the applicant shall not occupy any alternate place of residence (rented, owned, leased, as licensee etc.) in & around Rourkela. In case the applicants have alternate residence at present (i.e before the occupation of the rooms at Sakshyam, they shall submit the required declaration as per existing rules.
- Documents to be submitted:**
 - Application Form duly signed by applicant.
 - Undertaking to be signed (provided with application form set).
 - Self-attested copies of service certificate/ Superannuation Order.
 - Self-attested copies of Valid Medical Cards. Aadhaar Card & Mediclaim Policy of self and spouse along with the application form.
 - Two nos. of passport size photo of the applicant.
 - Affidavit (containing Point No. 11, 12 & 14 of latest Rules and Regulations)
 - Declaration for point ‘1.v’ above to be given along with application.

Application form, Guidelines, Rules & Regulations shall be available at office of GM I/c (CSR), IPD Building, Sector-20, Rourkela-769005/ RSP Portal/Sampark Portal/ SAIL website. Contact No: **8895500038, 8895504367 and 9861075575**, E-Mail ID: adityanayaran.pati@sail.in

The applications should reach to the office of GM I/c (CSR), IPD Building, Sector-20, Rourkela-769005 on or before 45 days from the date of publication of advertisement.

GM I/c (CSR)

Registered Office: Ispat Bhawan, Lodi Road, New Delhi 110 003
Corporate Identity Number: L27109DL1973GOI006454, Website: www.sail.co.in

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GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, KANDHAMAL

“e” Procurement Notice
BID IDENTIFICATION NO.03/2025-26
Letter No.1579, Dt.23.05.2025

Name of Work	: Improvement to MI Projects, Check Dam in Chakapad Block under Kandhamal O Gajapati Bikash Yojana for 2024-25
No. of Works	: 03 (Three) Nos.
Estimated Cost	: Rs. 16.90 lakh to Rs. 16.94 lakh Approximately
Tender Paper Cost	: Rs.6000.00 (Non-refundable)
Period of Completion	: 30 (Thirty) days only
Availability of Bid documents	: From 10.00 AM of 29.05.2025 to 17.30 hrs. of 06.6.2025 in website (www.tendersodisha.gov.in)
Time of receipt of bid through: online	: From 10.00 AM of 29.5.2025 to 17.30 hrs. of 06.6.2025 through online
Date of opening of bid documents	: At 11.00 hrs. of 09.6.2025 in the O/o S.E., M.I.Division, Kandhamal, Phulbani
Digital Signature certificate	: The bidder must possess compatible digital signature certificate (DSC) of class II or Class-III


The detail tender call notice can also be seen in the DOWR website <http://dowr.orissa.gov.in>.
Name and address of the OIT: Superintending Engineer, M.I. Division, Kandhamal, Ph No.06842-253634, Fax:- 06842-253816, E-mail: kmidplb@gmail.com
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement market place, <http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>.

Sd./- (Er. Surjya Narayana Panigrahi)
Superintending Engineer,
M.I. Division, Kandhamal

OIPR-32040/11/0011/2526

CBC 40109/12/0001/2526

Care not for time and success.
Act out thy part, whether it be to fail or to prosper.



SRI AUROBINDO

Bangla Power Struggle

The way things are moving in Bangladesh, especially during the past few days after a closed-door meeting between the country’s interim leader and Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus and the chiefs of the country’s three armed forces on 20 May, indicate a fierce power struggle has broken out. Reports emanating from the country suggest a triangular contest is on to capture power with the protagonists being the army, the students’ leaders forming the core group of the interim government and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) led by Khaleda Zia. The interim government seems to be keen on continuing beyond the previously agreed timeline of holding elections by December. The army appears to be concerned about some moves by the forces running the government to remove the army chief General Waker-Uz-Zaman. On the other hand, the BNP is reportedly calculating that if the elections are held by December, it can capture power with a favourable Election Commission overseeing the polls. The current tension and chaos are a far cry from the show of unity by BNP, the students opposed to the previous government of Sheikh Hasina, fundamentalist forces and the army whose sole agenda was to drive Hasina out of power and hunt down activists and supporters of her party, the Awami League. That such unity can come under strain leading to the reported wish of Yunus to step down in just nine months after Hasina was forced to flee the country in August, 2024 and take refuge in India is, indeed, baffling.

Portrayed in social and mainstream media in Bangladesh as a “cold war” between the armed forces and the interim administration, these tensions now threaten the future of Yunus’ role. Significantly, the meeting between Yunus and the army chiefs came amid rumours that Yunus was considering stepping down. However, following another cabinet meeting the next day the acting head of the planning ministry, Wahiduddin Mahmud, asserted that “the chief adviser is staying with us – he hasn’t said he’ll resign.” Analysts, however, say, the standoff is not over yet and a clearer picture is expected to emerge in the next few days.

However, it became clear that all is not well when on 21 May General Waker-Uz-Zaman, publicly urged that national elections be held by December, warning that prolonged deployment of the army for civil duties could compromise the country’s defences. He is reported to have told a high-level gathering at Dhaka Cantonment that Bangladesh needs political stability which, he insisted, is only possible through an elected government, not by unelected decision-makers. The comments came during a rare address in which he delivered a 30-minute speech, followed by more than an hour of questions and answers. Officers from across the country and at Bangladeshi UN missions reportedly joined the event, both physically and virtually, in full combat uniform – a show of unity and resolve.

What strikes analysts most is the fact that the army chief has started singing a different tune when he said the army is meant for defending the nation, not for policing and that the soldiers “must return to barracks after elections.” His remarks indicate a difference of opinion with the Yunus administration’s stated intention of holding elections not earlier than mid-2026, to allow time for political and electoral reforms first, in order to ensure a fair election. He is also said to be strongly opposed to key initiatives being considered by the interim government, including the potential foreign management of Chittagong Port, Bangladesh’s main seaport, and the launch of Starlink, Elon Musk’s satellite internet service. These, he said, could compromise national security. Also, he is opposed to a plan to construct a humanitarian corridor into Myanmar’s Rakhine state, which in his opinion could drag Bangladesh into a dangerous proxy conflict. “Only a political government elected by the people can make such decisions,” he said.

On the other hand, the BNP has grown increasingly suspicious of the political ambition of the students who are part of the interim government and have formed a political party the National Citizen Party (NCP). It seems to fear the NCP may use its clout in the administration to influence the polls if it is allowed to continue beyond December.

Hasina may be having the last laugh. But, Bangladesh is lurching from one crisis to another in such a precipitous way that the spectre of a military takeover is looming large. That would be a sad day for democracy, whatever it is worth in the country.

WISDOM CORNER

The fishermen know that the sea is dangerous and the storm terrible, but they have never found these dangers sufficient reason for remaining ashore.

VINCENT VAN GOGH

There are only two kinds of men: the righteous who think they are sinners and the sinners who think they are righteous.

BLAISE PASCAL

What a wee little part of a person's life are his acts and his words! His real life is led in his head, and is known to none but himself.

MARK TWAIN

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1291: Crusader rule in the Holy Land came to an end as the Mamluks took the city of Acre, the last stronghold of the kingdom of Jerusalem.

1804: Napoleon proclaimed the establishment of the French Empire.

1830: The Indian Removal Act was passed, allowing U.S. President Andrew Jackson to grant Native American tribes unsettled western prairie land in exchange for their settlements within the borders of extant U.S. states, thereby clearing the way for further white settlement.

1934: The Dionne quintuplets, the first set of documented quintuplets to survive, were born near Callander, Ontario, Canada, to Oliva and Elzire Dionne.

1937: The German automaker Volkswagen was founded to mass-produce a low-priced “people’s car”; the company was originally operated by a Nazi organization.

1961: Amnesty International founded. Dedicated to informing public opinion about human rights and to securing the release of political prisoners, Amnesty International was founded in London on this day in 1961 and won the 1977 Nobel Peace Prize.

1987: Mathias Rust lands on the Red Square in Moscow. The 19-year old West German amateur pilot illegally landed his Cessna in the heart of the Russian capital at the height of the Cold War.

1999: After some two decades of restoration work, Leonardo da Vinci’s Last Supper was reopened to public view in Santa Maria delle Grazie, Milan, Italy.



Ana Palacio

TRUMP IS CONSTRAINING AMERICANS’ ABILITY TO ANALYSE, LEARN, IMPROVE, AND ENGAGE IN THE KIND OF OPEN AND INFORMED DISCOURSE THAT A WELL-FUNCTIONING DEMOCRACY REQUIRES

Some 2,500 years ago, Confucius was reportedly asked what he would do first if granted absolute power. “I would rectify the names of things,” he replied. Changing the language used, he suggested, would enable him to guide “affairs” and ensure that “punishments and rewards” were “appropriate.” Confucius understood that language is not merely descriptive, but prescriptive: by shaping thought and discourse, it determines actions and outcomes.

Now, US President Donald Trump is attempting to leverage language to his own ends. Since his return to the White House, he has issued a wave of executive orders aimed at “rectifying” the language of governance in America. This includes barring the federal government from using terms like “diversity,” “equity,” “inclusion,” “climate crisis,” “gender identity,” and other terms related to sexual and racial identity, which he argues perpetuate a damaging “woke” ideology.

With these Orwellian orders, Trump is directing outcomes by reshaping narratives, shifting priorities, erasing inconvenient truths. Banning the term “sustainability” banishes environmental concerns. Prohibiting all mention of “diversity” obscures systemic inequities.

While some of Trump’s decrees align with public opinion – for example, a 2023 survey showed that a majority of Americans reject the idea that there are more than two genders – the overall impact is to undermine, politicize, and discredit existing concepts and valuable lines of intellectual and scientific inquiry. In other words, Trump is constraining Americans’ ability to analyse, learn, improve, and engage in the kind of open and informed discourse that a well-functioning democracy requires.

Already, Trump’s linguistic crackdown has enabled the Department of Government Efficiency, led by Elon Musk, to terminate 85 government contracts, collectively worth an estimated \$1 billion, tied to di-



The English language is a shared tool, but it bends to America’s political will, which means that Trump’s linguistic warfare threatens the entire international community, which must preserve the integrity of essential concepts

versity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), as well as accessibility, often on the basis of AI-conducted word searches. All references to climate change have been purged from government websites. Research grants that mention “climate” or “racial disparities” have been frozen. Museums that promote inclusive narratives, such as the Smithsonian, have been threatened with funding cuts.

As Confucius predicted, these changes are having ripple effects. Corporations like Walmart, Meta, and McDonald’s have scaled back DEI programs, fearing retaliation from the Trump administration.

BlackRock CEO Larry Fink used to be a vocal advocate for incorporating environmental, social, and governance (ESG) considerations into investments. In his 2020 letter to investors, he stated that “climate risk is investment risk,” noting that “sustainability- and climate-integrated portfolios can provide better risk-adjusted returns to investors.” In 2021, he mentioned ESG four times, highlighting the “sustainability premium” enjoyed by companies with “better ESG profiles.” But Fink’s recently published letter to investors included nothing about ESG or sustainability, focusing instead on “energy pragmatism.”

This mirrors a broader trend: major banks and funds, from Goldman Sachs to JP Morgan, have distanced

themselves from sustainability commitments, wary of the political and legal backlash. The Dow Jones Sustainability Index – which long set a global standard for corporate environmental and social responsibility – has been rebranded by its owner, S&P Global, as the “Best-in-Class Index.”

These changes are not merely cosmetic; they signal to investors that sustainability is no longer a priority. And their impact is likely to reverberate well beyond the US, affecting institutions, corporations, and academic research worldwide. After all, America’s economic dominance grants it outsize power to influence linguistic norms in English, the lingua franca of global discourse.

Already, Europe’s extreme right – exemplified by Germany’s Alternative für Deutschland (AfD), France’s National Rally, and Spain’s Vox – is echoing Trump’s rhetoric, disparaging “woke” concepts like diversity and sustainability. The AfD is known for dismissing sustainability policies as symptoms of a “hysteria” that is burdening German industry – a sentiment that resonates with its growing base.

Trump’s linguistic campaign may also influence European companies and research as a result of direct pressure. US embassies across Europe sent letters to firms and other entities that do business with the US government, demand-

ing that they certify that they are not running DEI programs.

The English language is a shared tool, but it bends to America’s political will, which means that Trump’s linguistic warfare threatens the entire international community, which must preserve the integrity of essential concepts. The key is not to find new ways to discuss them, but rather to reclaim their names and position them as universal ideas whose meanings transcend partisan political agendas.

The European Union – which loves nothing if not naming things – is the obvious candidate to take the lead. But the European Commission has remained silent so far. Not a single high-ranking EU official has issued a strong response to Trump’s attacks on language. This is a major missed opportunity for Europe to show principled global leadership at a time when it is seeking to bolster its “strategic autonomy,” and to ensure that the concepts it is defending are not empty.

As its seemingly endless proclamations on “green transitions” and “inclusive growth” attest, the EU talks often and effusively about sustainability and inclusion. But it often lacks the resolve needed to turn talk into action. To reclaim the words that Trump is trying to erase requires substantive policies, such as a binding EU sustainability framework that enforces corporate ESG compliance.

Just as Trump’s lack of commitment to NATO has prompted a long-overdue political awakening in Europe, his attacks on the language of sustainability and inclusion should catalyze Europe’s efforts in both areas – and its assertion of global leadership more broadly. The alternative – allowing Europe’s future to be shaped by internal populist forces and external manipulation – is a formula for deepening vulnerability and greater fragmentation. After all, when words lose their meaning, they lose their power to inspire and unite.

The writer is a former foreign minister of Spain.

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IN JEST THIS

Don’t flick off another person’s pet



Melvin Durai

IT DOESN’T SURPRISE ME THAT SOME PEOPLE KEEP COCKROACHES AS PETS. AFTER ALL, IF YOU CAN’T GET RID OF THEM, YOU MIGHT AS WELL BEFRIEND THEM

There’s an old saying that “one man’s trash is another man’s treasure.” Another version of this saying is just as true: “One man’s pest is another man’s pet.”

Nothing illustrates this more than a video that went viral recently. Taken in Thailand, it shows a male tourist standing in a marketplace, wearing a ski mask. A woman passing by spots a large cockroach on the man’s head and decides to do him a favor by flicking the insect away. The man jumps up and down in anger, pulls off his mask and shouts, “That’s my pet!” He finds the cockroach on the ground, bends down and allows it to climb onto his hand.

It doesn’t surprise me that some people keep cockroaches as pets. After all, if you can’t get rid of them, you might as well befriend them. But even if you’ve grown attached to a cockroach, adopted it and given

it a name, why would you feel the need to take it for a walk?

If I had a cockroach as a pet, I would never take it for a walk, unless I was carrying it in a small container. If my pet cockroach were perched on my head, I’d be extremely worried that we might run into a man with a lizard perched on his head. Next thing you know, with a flick of a tongue, my pet would be lunch. As another saying goes, “One man’s pet is another man’s pet food.”

I would never have a cockroach for a pet, of course, mostly for three reasons: (1) I can’t stand them; (2) I hate them; and (3) I want them all dead. Okay, perhaps that’s a little strong. If you have a cockroach as a pet, I don’t want it dead. I wish your pet a long and happy life — as far away from me as possible.

I don’t really want cockroaches to go extinct. I want them to continue to exist, as

long as the vast majority of them are on a different continent from me. I believe that all the countries in the world should work together to move every living species of cockroach to a single country: Russia. I have already received confirmation that most countries in Europe are willing to participate in CRP (Cockroaches to Russia Program).

It would be impossible to eliminate cockroaches in other countries, of course, but like eliminating poverty, we should never stop trying.

Cockroaches are among a long list of creatures that give me the heebie-jeebies. In case you aren’t familiar with this term, Wikipedia describes it as “a feeling of anxiety, apprehension, depression or illness.” The creatures that give me the heebie-jeebies include several insects; most reptiles; and all but a few members of the Trump Cabinet.

According to the website KeepingInsects.com, there are 4,500 species of cockroach in the world, and the most popular kind for pets is the Madagascar Hissing Cockroach. If you spot one of these roaches on someone’s head, do not flick it off — and do not flip off its owner either. Instead, try to be kind by giving the owner a compliment.

You: “Cute pet! What’s her name?”

Owner: “He’s a boy!”

You: “Sorry, I didn’t know. How can you tell?”

Owner: “When you’re watching football, the males stop hissing.”

You: “You watch football with your cockroach?”

Owner: “Yes, I always watch football with Marco.”

You: “You named him after Marco Rubio, the US Secretary of State?”

Owner: “No, I named him after Marco Polo. He likes to explore my apartment.”

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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



Stigma has to go

Sir, Schizophrenia is a crippling brain disorder that affects the cognitive abilities of an individual. Hallucinations and delusions are common characteristics, and patients may be unable to clearly recollect the names of their kith and kin as the condition progresses. Behind the gradual deterioration of the mental faculties of the patients lie the underlying psychiatric conditions that require care and compassion. Genetic factors and neurobiological anomalies may push a healthy person to schizophrenia. While no age is immune to the condition, “late teens to early thirties” are typically described to harbor the mental disorder. As in several psychiatric disorders, medication and behavioral therapy form the cornerstones of treatment. However, more than “treatment,” patients have to be “managed.” Stigma attached to schizophrenia should go, and family support has to cushion the affected individuals.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

SC plays mediator

Sir, This refers to “SC: Much can happen over a cup of coffee,” **Orissa POST**, May 27. The apex court has shown its human face to a couple engaged in divorce proceedings to iron out their grievances over a cup of coffee. The court by its prudence has rightly understood that the differences of opinion among the couple in question are not so grave beyond repair. If sincere efforts are made the relation could not only be restored, but also could save the ordeal of a three-year-old child. This positive approach of the apex court shall be an eye opener for all married couple seeking separation on flimsy grounds.

Arun Gupta, KOLKATA

Nuanced speech

Sir, Shashi Tharoor’s recent speech in the US deserves recognition for its clarity and conviction. In an era dominated by rhetoric, his address presents India’s foreign policy concerns with intellectual depth and dignity. He challenges outdated geopolitical narratives and firmly asserts that India, as the world’s largest democracy, expects nuanced, fair diplomacy from global powers—particularly the US. Rather than pandering to Cold War-style balancing acts, Tharoor calls for respect, principle-based engagement, and historical understanding. His measured tone and sharp articulation elevate India’s voice in global forums and remind the world that diplomatic dialogue should be informed and balanced.

Gopalaswamy J, CHENNAI

Heavy rains disrupt normal life in Kerala

According to railway sources, many trains, including Thiruvananthapuram bound Vande Bharat and Parasuram Express, were running late



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, May 27: Continuing heavy rains threw normal life out of gear in Kerala Tuesday, disrupting rail and road traffic in many places, flooding low-lying areas and causing crores of rupees worth destruction of agricultural crops.

Incessant downpour, accompanied by gusty winds, for the last four days took a great toll on hectares of agricultural land

across the state, especially in the high ranges.

In Wayanad, 242.74 hectares of farmland have been destroyed due to rains, flooding and strong winds, while agricultural crops in 101.47 hectares of land have been lost in neighbouring Kozhikode district, authorities said.

The falling of uprooted trees on railway tracks has caused great concern in northern districts since last night.

An electric line fell upon the

track in the Kozhikode-Areekode route following the uprooting of a huge tree, authorities said. It took a few hours for the authorities to clear the track and restore the normal train traffic on the route.

According to railway sources, many trains, including Thiruvananthapuram-bound Vande Bharat Express and Parasuram Express, reached their destinations late.

Water levels in rivers have been steadily increasing, and a

large number of houses located in low-lying areas were flooded in the northern Wayanad district, where there has been no respite from heavy rains for the last several days.

In many inundated areas, it could be seen that people were using fibre boats to reach safer places. Hundreds of people, including those from isolated tribal hamlets, were shifted to relief camps, authorities said.

Reports of destruction of houses and loss of agricultural

Kolkata, south Bengal receive rainfall for second day

KOLKATA: Different parts of South Bengal, including Kolkata, for the second consecutive day Tuesday received rainfall under the impact of the low pressure formed in the Bay of Bengal, an IMD official said here. Kolkata received 35.1 mm of rainfall till 11.30 am in the past 24 hours, the official said. He said a low-pressure area was formed over Bay of Bengal off Odisha coast and is likely to move slowly northwards and become more marked during the next 48 hours. Under its influence “heavy to very heavy rainfall” is likely to occur in isolated pockets of some districts of West Bengal in the next 24 hours, he said quoting a bulletin issued by the IMD. “Heavy to very heavy rainfall (7-11 cm) is likely to occur at one or two places in South 24 Parganas district of south Bengal,” he said. “Heavy to very heavy rainfall (7-20 cm) rainfall is also likely to occur at one or two places over Kalimpong, Coochbehar and Alipurduar districts in the next 24 hours, the IMD said. Apart from “heavy to very heavy rainfall in one or two pockets”, light to moderate rainfall accompanied by lightning and 30-40 km per hour wind speed is forecast across Kolkata, Howrah, North-South 24 Parganas, Hooghly, Paschim Bardhaman, Murshidabad, Purba Medinipur, Bankura, Jhargram districts in the afternoon hours, the spokesperson said. Intermittent showers disrupted vehicular traffic movement during peak office hours and caused traffic snarl-ups in important thoroughfares.



Kerala college students lead grassroots anti-drug campaign Bengal to build awareness among youth on harmful effects of child marriage

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, May 27: Revathy, a first-year BSc student from Malayinkeezhu Madhava Kavi Smaraka Government Arts and Science College (MMSC), walks down a narrow village lane with a group of fellow NSS volunteers. They're on a mission—not just to collect data, but to create change. At each doorstep, they conduct a household survey, politely asking families questions about drug use and awareness.

This is part of a unique anti-drug initiative launched in the Kattakada Assembly constituency in Thiruvananthapuram. Spearheaded by local MLA I.B. Sathesh, the project covers six panchayats and aims to identify, prevent, and help those affected by drug abuse—especially the growing menace of synthetic drugs.

What sets the project apart is its immersive approach. Student volunteers stay in households for three days, engaging with the community, observing living conditions, and looking for signs of drug use. “The experience was excellent,” says Revathy. “It helped us understand the realities of these families and their surroundings.”

Beyond awareness, the programme fosters a deeper connection between students and the community. “It's about social integration as much as it is about drug prevention,” Revathy adds.

MLA Sathesh says the scale of drug abuse uncov-



ered was far greater than anticipated. “This might be the first time in India such a grassroots-level effort is being attempted,” he says. “Students staying with unfamiliar families helps them learn about community dynamics while educating parents—especially mothers—on the warning signs of drug use.”

Teachers and parents are increasingly supportive. “This initiative starts change within the family,” says Geetha, a teacher at the local government boys' high school. “Parents are now more alert and responsive.”

Typically, student groups of five to ten stay in each selected household. In addition to the survey, they organise interactive sessions to spread awareness about the dangers of drug abuse. “They aren't just guests—they become part of the household for three days, constantly engaging with both parents and children,” explains Abhilash, the NSS programme coordinator at MMSC.

The information collected

is submitted to the Kerala government's Survey and Statistics Department, enabling targeted support from social workers and counsellors. “We aim to reach every household in the constituency,” Abhilash adds. “These students are committed and effective in shifting people's mindset.”

Fellow student Ashtami, who joined one of the awareness drives, agrees. “It's making a difference. Children and parents are now more aware of how drug use leads to crime and societal issues.”

This programme also complements Kerala's wider campaign, Operation D Hunt, which was launched in response to rising drug-related crimes. So far, over 2.1 lakh individuals have been checked, leading to more than 14,600 registered cases and over 15,000 arrests.

Thanks to this pioneering effort in Kattakada, communities are becoming more vigilant, families are being empowered, and students are proving that real change begins at home.

The state reported more than 41 per cent of girls getting married underage in the National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS) released in 2020-21

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, May 27: West Bengal Minister Shashi Panja said the state government will emphasise building awareness among girls and boys about the harmful effects of child marriage.

Panja, the minister for women and child development and social welfare, said it is not just girls alone, boys also have to be educated about the ill effects of early marriage.

“They should be demotivated from marrying before their legal age of marriage too,” Panja said Monday at a ‘State Level Consultation on Adolescent Empowerment’ attended by government officials from various departments working together to end child marriage.

She urged the officials assembled in the programme to share their experiences in fighting the menace since the launch of the District Action Plan three years ago, and later the Child Marriage Reporting and Tracking Mechanism.

The state reported more than 41 per cent of girls getting married underage in the National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS) released in 2020-21.

“Building awareness in society is the key to stopping this. Also include men and



boys more in the meetings on child marriage with girls and women,” Panja told officials after releasing ‘Guidelines for Implementation of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006 in West Bengal’.

The state government, in collaboration with UNICEF, prepared a District Action Plan in 2022 to counter child marriage.

Panja, women and child development department's principal secretary Sanghamitra Ghosh, Dr Monjur Hossain, chief of UNICEF in West Bengal and other officials listened to the successes and challenges faced by the district officials, UNICEF said in a press release.

The minister asked the officials from the departments of health and family welfare, school education, panchayat

and rural development, technical education, training and skill development to deal with the problem more empathetically as present-day adolescents are exposed to many lures and distractions, including online and social media platforms on mobile phones, according to the release.

Panja also emphasised that ‘Kanyashree Prakalpa’ has now been empowering adolescent girls on online safety, besides motivating them to remain in school and not get married.

In NFHS-5, the maximum child marriages were reported from Purba Medinipur (57 per cent) followed by Purba Bardhaman (50 per cent) and Jalpaiguri being the lowest at 18 per cent.

The state government, with

the help of UNICEF, launched the Child Marriage Reporting and Tracking Mechanism in 2023 to collect data from the districts and portray the real-time situation, Ghosh said, urging the officials to use the resources regularly.

Describing this consultation as “A renewed call to action”, Hossain said the holistic development of adolescents requires concerted, coordinated and multi-sectoral actions by all stakeholders concerned.

“The involvement of key community influencers, panchayat members, SHGs, religious leaders, teachers, students, youths and adolescents is necessary to challenge harmful norms and support girls’ and boys’ empowerment,” he added.

ER urges bloggers, YouTubers not to film at railway stations

KOLKATA: The Eastern Railway has urged bloggers and YouTubers not to take any detailed photograph or videography of stations under its jurisdiction for the interest of national security, an official said Tuesday. The authorities concerned will enhance surveillance and ensure that no one can take detailed photos of important stations, which serve as connecting links, he said. The appeal from the Eastern Railway authorities comes days after a Haryana-based YouTuber Jyoti Malhotra was arrested on the charge of passing on sensitive information to Pakistani intelligence operatives. “Restrictions on taking photos or videos of station premises and platforms are in place. Now, we have decided to step up surveillance with emerging situations and security alerts across the country,” the ER spokesperson said.

FROM CAKE ARTIST TO EVEREST CONQUEROR

Safrina becomes first Kerala woman to climb Mount Everest

‘Not just physically exhausting, but emotionally harrowing too’

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, May 26: In a powerful story of courage, sacrifice, and transformation, Safrina Latheef has become the first woman from Kerala to summit Mount Everest. But her journey wasn't just about climbing a mountain—it was about redefining herself.

Safrina's path began far from the world of high altitudes. A banker and award-winning cake artist, she never imagined she would one day stand at 8,848 metres. “It was a gradual trans-

formation,” she recalls. “But the pivotal moment came when I realised life is too short to not pursue what truly excites you.”

Her earlier careers weren't unrelated to her mountaineering journey. “Discipline, focus, and precision—whether managing clients or designing cakes—all of it prepared me for this.”

The emotional toll of the climb became real when she received a letter from the expedition company asking what should be done with her body if she didn't return. “Signing it made death very real,” she says quietly.

Her support system kept her going. “My husband was my rock. My mother, though scared, never stopped calling. And my Sherpa, Anoop



Gurung, helped me overcome my fear of the Khumbu Icefall. Once I crossed that during the rotation, I knew I could do it again.”

The climb came at a steep financial cost—her family sold their apartment to fund the

expedition. But Safrina has no regrets. “We never lived in that apartment. What mattered was the journey. We trained as a family. Every milestone—from gear prep to base camp—was a shared victory. When my husband was injured, he still

pushed me to continue. This summit belongs to all of us.”

Above Camp 3, reality struck hard. “I walked through a graveyard. Three bodies from this season alone. One was near the Hillary Step. That moment shook me—I promised myself I'd return alive.”

Even survival required constant awareness. A brief removal of her goggles led to snow blindness. “You're not accessorising; your gear is your lifeline. We spent years building our Everest kit—Kilimanjaro, Elbrus, and Aconcagua were part of our training. I may still lose the tip of a finger to frostbite, but I made it back.”

She stresses the importance of choosing credible partners. “We climbed with

Elite Exped for their safety record. Trust your Sherpa—they're your lifeline. And remember, the summit is only halfway. Most accidents happen on the way down.”

More than a personal triumph, her climb is a message to dreamers—especially women. “Don't wait. Chase your dreams now. Even if you give everything to your family, don't forget your own passions. Happiness is your responsibility.”

Having trained under mountaineering legends like NimsDai, Mingma David, and Anoop Gurung, Safrina's message from the rooftop of the world is clear: “Your dreams are valid. With determination and the right support, nothing is impossible.”

of the day

quote

I am pleased to establish this scholarship at IIMA in honour of Professor Jaswant G Krishnayya's enduring legacy and significant contributions to IIMA. This also serves as a testament to Professor Krishnayya's pivotal role in shaping my early life and career



NARAYANA MURTHY | FOUNDER OF INFOSYS

TDP played a key role in many decisions taken by the central governments (at different times). What AP thinks today India thinks tomorrow, it has been proven several times



N CHANDRABABU NAIDU | CHIEF MINISTER, ANDHRA PRADESH

Through the excuse of management, the BJP and its associates are gradually taking indirect control of prominent temples



AKHLESH YADAV | SAMAJWADI PARTY PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

■ BJP expels two MLAs in K'taka

Bangalore: The BJP Tuesday expelled two of its MLAs in Karnataka, S T Somashekar and A Shivaram Hebbar, for six years for their alleged "anti-party activities," party's state president B Y Vijayendra said. The party high command took a decision after long deliberations, he told reporters here.

■ Rajasthan: 6 dead in separate accidents

Jaipur: Six people, including two women, died and 29 got injured in two separate road accidents in Rajasthan Tuesday, police said. Two brothers among three were killed and two others were injured when a car they were travelling in collided with a truck on Manoharpur-Dausa highway in Jaipur district, they said.

■ Car falls into ditch; 4 killed

New Tehri: Four elderly people died when a car fell into a ditch on the Kirtinagar-Badhiyargarh road in Tehri district of Uttarakhand Monday, officials said. All four people were returning to a village after attending a religious function organised in Badhiyargarh, they said.

■ HRF condemns Andhra police

Tenali: The Human Rights Forum (HRF) Tuesday condemned the Tenali police for publicly beating three men accused of attacking a police constable after being confronted over marijuana possession. John Victor, Karimulla, and Rakesh were accused of attacking police constable K Chiranjeevi. One more accused is said to be absconding. Condemning the incident, YSRCP leader YS Jagan Mohan Reddy wrote on "X" that such acts reflect a systemic collapse.

■ Actor Unni Mukundan booked for assault

Kochi: Noted Malayalam actor Unni Mukundan has been booked for allegedly assaulting a man who claims to be his professional manager, police said here Tuesday. In his complaint, Vipin Kumar alleged that the actor slapped him in the face for recording a review of a film featuring another actor Meanwhile, Mukundan has denied the allegations against him. The incident allegedly occurred in the basement parking area of an apartment complex in Kakkanaad Monday, police said.



He (Palaniswami) has nothing to find fault with my government, so he is harping on the same thing. I don't want to lower my standards by answering him

MK STALIN | CHIEF MINISTER, TAMIL NADU

LIGHTNING KILLS OVER 100 LIVESTOCK

Over 100 sheep and goats belonging to nomadic families were killed after they were struck by lightning in the Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said Tuesday



Embassy warns students heading to US

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 27: The US Embassy in India Tuesday warned international students studying in the US that if they "drop out, skip classes, or leave your programme of study" without informing the school, then their student visas may be revoked.

The Embassy, in a post on X, also urged students to adhere to the terms of visas and "maintain your student status" to avoid any issues.

"If you drop out, skip classes, or leave your program of study without informing your school, your student visa may be revoked, and you may lose eligibility for future US visas. Always adhere to the terms of your visa and maintain your student status to avoid any issues," it said.

American universities attract a large number of Indian students. In 2023, the US



consular team in India issued over 1,40,000 student visas -- more than any other country -- setting a record for the third year in a row.

The same year, the US Mission in India processed a record 1.4 million visas. The F-1 Visa (Academic Student) allows individuals to enter the United States as a full-time student at an accredited college, university, academic high school or other academic

institution.

The J visas are nonimmigrant visas for individuals approved to participate in exchange visitor programmes in the US. In April, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said that Indian missions in the US are in touch with Indian students facing issues relating to the revocation of visas and extending possible support to them. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal had

Won't be intimidated by terror: Omar Abdullah

The Chief Minister, in his first press conference after the April 22 terror attack at Baisaran meadows in Pahalgam, began by expressing gratitude to people for unequivocally condemning terror violence

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pahalgam, May 27: Tourism should be conflict neutral and should not be a barometer to project normalcy, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said Tuesday after a special cabinet meeting here to give a clear message that the government will not be "intimidated by cowardly acts of terror".

The Chief Minister, in his first press conference after the April 22 terror attack at Baisaran meadows in Pahalgam, began by expressing gratitude to people for unequivocally condemning terror violence.

"I want to thank the people of Kashmir especially those of Pahalgam who condemned and stood in one voice against the April 22 terror strike on tourists. For this, I thank them and salute them," he said.

The chief minister also said that steps are being taken to support the tourism sector by his administration and the Centre especially Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who held a high-level meeting of stakeholders last week.

"I was in Delhi recently where I had a chance to meet the prime minister on the sidelines of the NITI Aayog meeting. I have apprised him about the condition of the tourism industry in Jammu and Kashmir and he has assured of complete support," Abdullah said, adding



that last week's meeting at the central level had discussed the broad contours for the revival of tourism.

After the special cabinet meeting Tuesday, the chief minister's office posted on X pictures of the meeting held at the Pahalgam Club.

"The cabinet met here and discussed the government agenda but the meeting in cabinet was to demonstrate that the people will not be cowed down by terrorist violence and our resolve for development of Jammu and Kashmir will continue," he said in his first press conference after the April 22 terror attack in which 26 people, mainly tourists, were gunned down.

In a message on 'X', his office posted that it was not just a routine administrative exercise, but a clear message "we are not intimidated by cowardly acts of terror."

"The enemies of peace will never dictate our resolve. Jammu & Kashmir stands firm, strong, and unafraid," it said.

This is the first time the cabinet meeting took place outside the usual summer capital, Srinagar, or winter capital, Jammu, during Abdullah's government's tenure.

To a question on the revival of tourism in Jammu and Kash-

mir and the closure of various tourist destinations following the April 22 terror attack

in Baisaran meadows in Pahalgam, he said the government is taking "one step at a time". The choice of Pahalgam aims to show solidarity with the residents of the tourist town, which has experienced a sharp decline in tourist footfall since the devastating April 22 terror attack.

Officials stressed that the gathering's significance lies more in its direct message to anti-national and anti-social elements that violence has no place in Jammu and Kashmir.

Abdullah, during his first stint as the Chief Minister of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir from 2009-14, had held cabinet meetings in remote areas like Gurez, Machil, Tangdhar areas of north Kashmir and Rajouri and Poonch areas of Jammu region.

The decision to hold a special cabinet meeting also comes three days after Abdullah proposed a dual approach to resuscitate the Jammu and Kashmir tourism sector, severely impacted by the Pahalgam terror attack, urging the Centre to mandate PSUs to hold meetings in Kashmir and to convene parliamentary committee meetings there.

UDF launches campaign for Nilambur bypoll

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Malappuram (Kerala), May 27: As the opposition UDF launched its campaign Tuesday for the upcoming bypoll in the Nilambur Assembly constituency, local leaders of Trinamool Congress (TMC) which is unhappy over UDF's candidate selection, now feel that Congress-led front should let their party in.

TMC cadres told reporters that their party should be included in the UDF within two days or the party state convenor P V Anvar will contest in the Nilambur bypoll. When reporters asked him if he would contest in the Nilambur, Anvar refused to answer.

Amid the protest raised by Anvar over UDF's choice of candidate, Aryadan Shoukath, for this constituency, a cloud of uncertainty looms over the Congress-led front. As the political drama continued in Nilambur, Anvar met former Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) chief K Sudhakaran.

HC grants bail to student held over Op Sindoor post

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 27: The Bombay High Court Tuesday granted bail to a 19-year-old Pune student arrested for a social media post concerning Indo-Pak hostilities, sharply criticising the Maharashtra government for its "absolutely shocking" and "radical" response to her actions.

The court ordered her immediate release, allowing her to appear for her ongoing college examinations.

A vacation bench of Justices Gauri Godse and Somasekhar Sundaresan stated it was "absolutely shocking" that the student had been treated like a "hard-core criminal" and questioned whether the police were "bent upon ruining the girl's life."

The court emphasised that her arrest should not have occurred, especially since she had promptly deleted the post, expressed remorse, and apologised.

"This is not a case where the girl has to remain in custody anymore," the bench said, directing her release from Yerawada Central Jail Tuesday itself to enable her to appear for her college exams.

In a rebuke to both the state and her educational institution, the court also suspended the rustication order issued by the Sinhgad Academy of Engineering, and instructed the college to provide her with a hall ticket.

Cautioning the student to act responsibly in the future and refrain from uploading such posts, the court passed its sternest remarks for the state's handling of the situation.

The rustication order was issued hurriedly without giving the student an opportunity to give her explanation, it said.

The student was arrested earlier this month for her social media post criticising the Indian government during the Indo-Pak hostilities amid Operation Sindoor. She is presently in judicial custody.

While the girl had initially moved the HC challenging the decision taken by her college rusticating her, her lawyer Farhana Shah Tuesday also filed a



The court emphasised that her arrest should not have occurred, especially since she had promptly deleted the post, expressed remorse, and apologised

petition seeking quashing of the FIR and release on bail. The court questioned the conduct of the government and the college.

"Someone is expressing their opinion, and this is how you ruin their life? A student's life has been ruined," it said. Additional government pleader P P Kakade said the girl's post was against the national interest.

The court, however, said national interest would not suffer because of a post uploaded by a student who has realised her mistake and apologised.

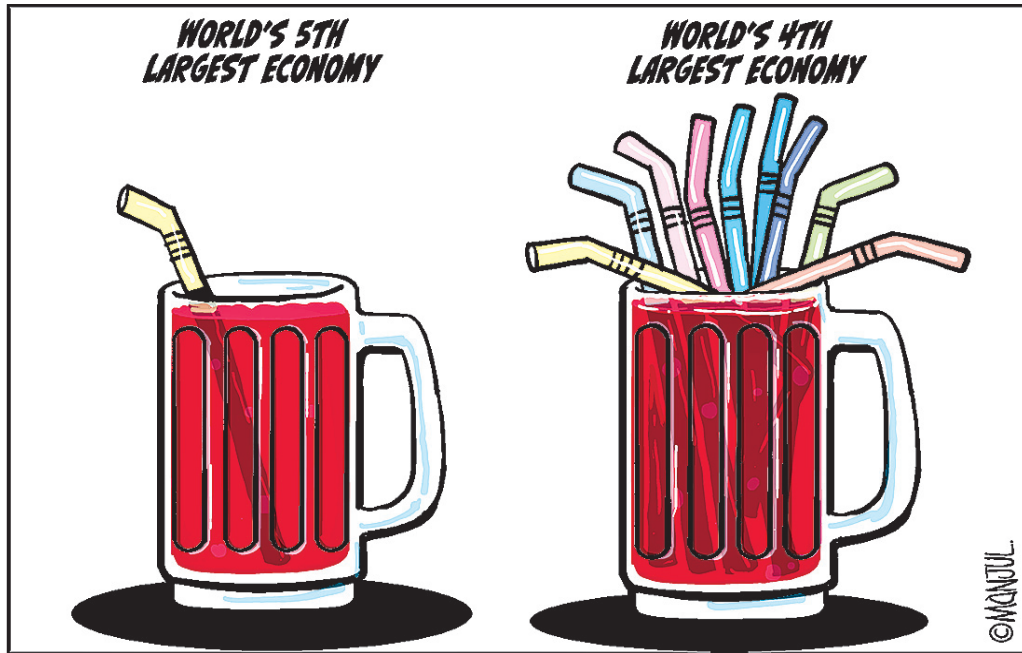
On May 7, the girl reposted a post on Instagram from an account called 'Reformistan', which criticised the Indian government for 'provoking a war' against Pakistan.

Within two hours, she realised her mistake and deleted the post after receiving a barrage of threats.

In its May 9 rustication letter, the college stated that since the girl had brought disrepute to the institution, it was justified to preserve the institution's ethos. It further said the petitioner had anti-national sentiments and posed a risk to the campus community and society. The girl had to be escorted out of college due to protests against her, and she was arrested the same day by the Kondhwa police after an FIR was registered against her.

She is currently lodged in the Yerwada Prison in Pune after a local court rejected her bail plea.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Study links warmer climate to rising cancer rates in women

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 27: Global warming could be making cancer in women more common and deadly, according to a study conducted in the Middle East and North Africa.

The region is predicted to reach three to four degrees Celsius of warming about three decades earlier than the rest of the world.

Summers in Middle Eastern nations, such as the United Arab Emirates, are characterised by extremely high temperatures - sometimes touching 50 degrees Celsius - while North Africa sees temperatures in the range of 40-50 degrees Celsius.

Analysing prevalence and deaths due to cancer with temperatures between 1998 and 2019, researchers, including

those from The American University in Cairo, Egypt, found a "small, but statistically significant" rise in prevalence and death rates of breast, ovarian, uterine, and cervical cancers.

For an increase in temperature by a degree Celsius, prevalence of the cancers was found to rise by 173-280 cases per one lakh people -- cases of ovarian cancer rose the most, and those of breast cancer the least.

Death rates increased by 171-332 per one lakh people for each degree of temperature rise, with the biggest rise in ovarian cancer cases and the smallest in cervical cancer.

Findings, published in the journal Frontiers in Public Health, suggest that an increased ambient temperature is probably a risk factor for breast, ovarian, uterine, and cervical



cancers.

"As temperatures rise, cancer mortality among women also rises -- particularly for ovarian and breast cancers," first author Wafa Abuelkheir Mataria of The American University in Cairo, said.

"Although the increases per degree of temperature rise are modest, their cumulative pub-

lic health impact is substantial," Mataria said. Studies have shown that conditions driven by climate change - rising temperatures, compromised food and water security, and poor air quality - increase the risk of disease and death worldwide.

In the context of cancer, people are potentially exposed more to risk factors like environmen-

A 1°C temperature rise was linked to 173-280 more cancer cases per 100,000 people, with ovarian cancer increasing the most and breast cancer the least

Deaths rose by 171-332 per 100,000, highest for ovarian cancer and lowest for cervical cancer

tal toxins and are less likely to receive a prompt diagnosis and treatment -- and women are especially physiologically vulnerable, the researchers said.

The health risks are "compounded by inequalities that limit access to healthcare. Marginalised women face a multiplied risk because they are more exposed to environmental hazards and less able to access early screening and treatment

services," co-author Sungsoo Chun, of The American University in Cairo, said.

The researchers added that the higher number of cancer cases observed in the study could also reflect improvements in cancer screening.


However, an improved screening would be expected to result in fewer deaths, as early-stage cancer is easier to treat, they said. But both death rates and prevalence rose, suggesting that the driving factor is exposure to risk factors, the team said.

"Our analysis indicates a significant correlation between prolonged exposure to high ambient temperatures and all four cancer types studied. Notably, the prevalence of breast, ovarian, and cervical cancers is markedly influenced by temperature increases," the authors wrote.

of the day

quote

That competent authority may be the governor, the DGP or the security advisor... whoever that is should politely admit the mistake to the people before any further damage is done




OKRAM IBObI SINGH | SENIOR MANIPUR CONGRESS LEADER

Let me make it clear - if Uddhav, Aaditya and Sanjay Raut continue to criticise our leaders, we will take severe action



NARAYAN RANE | BJP LEADER

Inaugurated the Solar power systems in 7 Government schools across Goa under NetApp CSR initiative, the Shine On - Embracing Solar Energy for Our Schools initiative



PRAMOD SAWANT | CHIEF MINISTER, GOA

X POST OF THE DAY



Niti Aayog CEO BVR Subrahmanyam claimed that India had surpassed Japan & become the 4th largest economy. "We are a \$4 trn economy, & this is not my data—it's IMF data," he said. But IMF data shows that India is still at no. 5. | @ditipujara

@zoo_bear

SHORT TAKES

Two Armymen designed logo of Operation Sindoor

New Delhi: The simple yet symbolic logo of India's Operation Sindoor which has captured the imagination of millions of people across the country, was designed by two Armymen. India decimated nine terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied-Kashmir with precision strikes early May 7 in response to the dastardly April 22 Pahalgam massacre.

Court raps Delhi cops in Kapil Mishra case

New Delhi: A Delhi court has pulled up Delhi Police for its "casual attitude" in following its directions in a case against Delhi minister Kapil Mishra for his "objectionable statements" in connection with the 2020 Delhi legislative assembly elections. Additional chief judicial magistrate Vaibhav Chaurasiya said he was constrained to bring it to the notice of the Commissioner of Police on the state of affairs and non-adequate explanation on the part of the investigating agency.

Rana moves court

New Delhi: Jailed 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks accused Tahawwur Hussain Rana Tuesday moved a court here seeking permission to speak to his family. The application, moved through Rana's counsel, is likely to be taken up Wednesday before Special Judge Chander Jit Singh. The 64-year-old Pakistani-origin Canadian businessman is currently in judicial custody. Rana, a close associate of 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks main conspirator David Coleman Headley alias Daoud Gilani, a US citizen, was brought to India after the American Supreme Court on April 4 dismissed his review plea against his extradition. Senior advocate Dayan Krishnan and Special Public Prosecutor Narendar Mann represented the NIA. Before the proceedings, the judge asked Rana if he had a lawyer.

The act of scaling the peak is not only a matter of serious concern but also a violation of both the prevailing legal provisions and the deeply held religious beliefs of the people of Sikkim



PREM SINGH TAMANG | CHIEF MINISTER, SIKKIM

AKSHAY KUMAR: COURT WILL DECIDE PARESH RAWAL DISPUTE

Bollywood star Akshay Kumar Tuesday said that the on-going controversy over the exit of his co-star Paresh Rawal from "Hera Pheri 3" is a "serious matter", which is being "handled by the court"



Govt restarts visa service for Afghan nationals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 27: India has restarted the visa service for Afghanistan nationals wishing to visit the country for business, education and medical treatment and they can now apply online.

After the Taliban seized power in August 2021, India withdrew officials from its embassy in Kabul and suspended visa services. According to a notice put up on the government of India's official visa portal <indianvisaonline.gov.in>, the visas will be given in the categories of business, student, medical, medical attendant, entry and UN diplomat.

Each applicant will have to upload online the Afghan National Identity Card (Tazkira) containing personal details like name, date of birth, nationality, expiry date etc.

The documents required for completing the visa application are indicated against each type of visa.

All documents including business cards, invitation letters etc. must be in English language, failing which the application would be liable for rejection, the notice said.

Biometric details of the applicant will be mandatorily captured at the Immigration on arrival in India.

Applicants should carry a copy of Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) at the time of travel. They should travel only when the ETA status is shown as 'GRANTED' on the official visa portal prior to the commencement of the journey. Applicants can track the status of their application online by clicking visa status.

MHA: NGOs getting foreign funds can't publish newsletters



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 27: The Centre has asserted that the NGOs engaged in publication-related activities and receiving foreign contribution, will not be able to publish any newsletter and must get a certificate from the Registrar of the Newspaper for India that it does not circulate any news content.

The new rules will have to be abided by the NGOs seeking registration under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, it said. In a notification, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said it has amended the rules made under the FCRA and henceforth, NGOs which are seeking permission to get foreign funding must give an undertaking that it will adhere to the Good Practice Guidelines of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the global watchdog for terror financing and money laundering.

The MHA said such bodies or NGOs, which are seeking registration must enclose financial statements and audit reports of the last three financial years, including the statement of assets and liabilities, receipts and payments account, and income and expenditure account. If the audit reports and financial statements do not contain

activity-wise expenditure for the last three financial years, a chartered accountant's certificate specifying the activity-wise amount spent by the association, duly reconciled with the income and expenditure account and the receipt and payment account must be submitted. In case the association or the NGO is engaged in publication-related activities or if publication activities are among its aims and objectives as stated in the Memorandum of Association or trust deed, an undertaking from the chief functionary regarding compliance with the FCRA, 2010, must be given. The MHA said if the publication of the association is registered with the Registrar of Newspaper for India, a "Not a Newspaper" certificate from the Registrar of the Newspaper for India must be submitted.

If the NGO was previously registered under the FCRA, it will be required to submit an affidavit regarding receipt and utilisation of foreign contribution after expiry or cancellation of registration certificate.

If the expenditure on aims and objects is less than Rs 15 lakh in the last three financial years, an affidavit regarding the inclusion of capital investments must be submitted, it said.

TMC MPs write to PM Modi demanding special session of Parl

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 27: Trinamool Congress MPs Tuesday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging him to hold a special session of Parliament to inform the people about the steps taken to combat terrorism in the wake of the Pahalgam attack and Operation Sindoor.

TMC members from the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha met in the Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan, the old Parliament building. According to a party source, 28 MPs attended the meeting while the remaining 13 MPs have "digitally" signed the letter.

"We have all signed a letter to the prime minister requesting that a special session of Parliament be held after the MPs' delegations return home from their travels June 5," deputy leader of the party in the Rajya Sabha Sagarika Ghose said after the meeting.

She said while the TMC has supported the multi-party delegations sent abroad to convey India's message against terrorism, the people of the country also deserve to know about the government's steps.

"All India Trinamool Congress Chairperson and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has stated that while we have fully cooperated with the Government of India in sending participants in the delegations abroad that have gone to speak about India's resolve against Pakistan-based terrorism, our leader has said it is time to convene a special session of Parliament because citizens of India also need to know about the government's steps in combating Pakistan based terrorism," Ghose said.

The MPs also observed a minute of silence at the meeting as a mark of respect to those who lost their lives in the Pahalgam attack and subsequent action.

The source added that a resolution was also adopted endorsing Trinamool Congress parliamentary party chairperson Mamata Banerjee's stand on calling a special session of Parliament.

OPERATION SINDOOR STILL ON

BSF warns of possible infiltration attempts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, May 27: BSF Inspector General, Jammu Frontier, Shashank Anand Tuesday said the border force has not let its guard down along the International Border and that Operation Sindoor remains ongoing as Pakistan cannot be trusted. Expressing apprehension about infiltration attempts along the border, the IG asserted that the Border Security Force (BSF) remains on high alert.

"We cannot let our guard down even for a second. We are maintaining the highest possible vigil along the border," Anand said in a press conference addressing Operation Sindoor here.

He was replying to a question about the possibility of terrorist infiltration along the IB under the cover of Pakistani shelling and the security measures taken post Operation Sindoor.

The officer assured that a high degree of operational preparedness has been maintained along the border.

"There were inputs that the enemy may plan to conduct some kind of mischief, cross-border firing, or stage infiltration. We are ready and vigilant," he said.

Stating that Pakistan cannot be trusted, the officer informed that the BSF is putting up robust surveillance systems to maintain high vigilance along the border. "We are rapidly upgrading our surveillance



equipment and systems. We are deploying technology that gives us advance information on any infiltration movement from across the border," he said, expressing confidence in the BSF to handle such situations.

On the issue of terrorists possibly infiltrating under the cover of shelling, the IG said, "Some foreign terrorists infiltrated in the past. This poses a serious challenge to security forces in both Jammu and Kashmir regions. The Army, BSF, other paramilitary forces, and police are jointly committed to eliminating terrorism."

He also shared that all information about possible terror infiltrations is being verified. "It is difficult to confirm anything at this stage. Our job is to assess and act on these inputs along with other agencies."

Expressing that infiltration

remains a challenge for the BSF, the officer said, "Over the past decade, there have been both successful and foiled attempts. We have infused technology and upgraded systems along the border, but the adversary keeps trying new methods. "We are relying not just on technology but also on manpower. Our forces are stationed just 250 meters apart, and this human surveillance is proving very effective alongside technological tools." When asked about the presence of Pakistani Army personnel along with the Rangers, he confirmed, "Yes, regular army troops were part of the build-up." Conveying his concern about terror tunnels being possibly used for infiltration, the IG said, "Some areas on the Pakistani side are left uncultivated, and due to dense bushes, the visibility is poor.

SNIPPETS

CPI (Maoist) commander killed in gunfight with security forces

Mediningar (Jharkhand): A commander of the banned CPI (Maoist) was killed in a gunfight with security forces in Jharkhand's Palamu district, a senior police official said Tuesday. Another red rebel, who is carrying a bounty of Rs 15 lakh, has been injured in the encounter, he said. Several weapons, including a self-loading rifle, were recovered during the search operation after the gunfight, police said. The encounter between security forces and Maoists broke out between Barwahi and Naiya villages in Hussainabad Monday, police said.

More than 91% students pass J'khand Class 10 board exams

Ranchi: Girls performed better than boys in the annual Class 10 board examinations, the results of which were declared by the Jharkhand Academic Council (JAC) Tuesday. A total of 91.71 per cent of students passed the examinations. Girls outperformed boys. The overall pass percentage of girls was 92.38 per cent, while it was 90.96 per cent for boys, the School Education and Literacy Department Secretary Uma Shankar Singh said. Gitanjali, a student of Indira Gandhi Balika High School, Hazaribag, emerged as the state topper obtaining 493 out of 500 marks.

Four workers die from toxic fumes in septic tank

Jaipur: Four men who entered a septic tank in Sitapura Industrial Area here to retrieve gold and silver particles died of toxic fumes, police said Tuesday. The incident occurred late Monday night in a jewel factory in G-Block of the Jewellery Zone. The deceased were identified as Sanjeev Pal, Himanshu Singh, Rohit Pal, and Arpit Yadav, police said. Two more workers, Ajay Chauhan and Rajpal, were rushed in critical condition to the Mahatma Gandhi Hospital, while two others, Amit Pal and Suraj Pal, were discharged after primary medical care. The workers had gone down a 10-foot-deep tank after which they allegedly lost consciousness.

IIT Delhi revamps curriculum after 12 years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 27: The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi has completely revamped its curriculum after 12 years with concerns about burden on students and changing industry demands being among the major reasons behind the massive exercise, according to Director Rangan Banerjee.

In an interview to PTI Tuesday, Banerjee informed that the last curriculum revision was done in 2013.

"The industry demands are rapidly changing... there is a whole new emergence of AI and focus on sustainability. The exercise for this revamp began in 2022. Over the last few years we have taken extensive stakeholder feedback. We have been talking to our alumni, students... our faculty are involved with industry and society. We have tried to incorporate flexibility to make the curriculum more exciting for students," he said.

Banerjee explained that the reduced class size for first



two semesters will now be 150 instead of 300 to ensure more personalised attention.

An honours programme has been introduced as an add-on to the BTech degree. Additionally, an undergraduate student can now petition for an MTech degree in any available MTech programme at IIT Delhi at the end of their third year. This will allow a student to graduate with both bachelor's and master's degrees in five years.

"One of the important changes that has been introduced in the curriculum is in

programming education by integrating AI-based code generators into the introductory course on programming. Students from all BTech streams will have to undergo mandatory training on how to use AI responsibly and ethically to future proof them," he said.

The 15-member curriculum revamp panel extensively studied the syllabus being taught at eight institutions -- Stanford University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge University, Harvey Mudd College, Californ-

nia; Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Indiana; besides IIT Bombay, Gandhinagar and Hyderabad.

"The revised curriculum has a strong focus on hands-on learning. Students will be given an early exposure to the department.. in the first year itself. Laboratory and tutorial components in most departmental courses allow students to engage with faculty in a deep and meaningful manner. Modules related to environment, sustainability, creative expression, and ethical reasoning have

AN HONOURS PROGRAMME HAS BEEN INTRODUCED AS AN ADD-ON TO THE BTech DEGREE

ADDITIONALLY, AN UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CAN NOW PETITION FOR AN MTECH DEGREE IN ANY AVAILABLE MTECH PROGRAMME AT IIT DELHI AT THE END OF THEIR THIRD YEAR

THIS WILL ALLOW A STUDENT TO GRADUATE WITH BOTH BACHELOR'S AND MASTER'S DEGREES IN FIVE YEARS.

been built into many courses to ready young engineers for current global challenges," he added.

The institute is also launching three new courses from 2025 academic session - BTech in Design, Bachelor of Science in Chemistry and MTech in photonics.

"The MTech-MS (Research) curriculum has a rationalised, outcomes-based programme structure, with an emphasis on industry connect and project-based learning. Two mandatory components -- one capstone project emphasising problem-solving through teamwork and a summer internship emphasising external-connect in the new curriculum - will make our students industry-ready," he said.

"Flexibility is built into the revised curriculum, allowing students to explore courses outside their core academic unit. Flexibility to undertake the master's thesis in an industry is also facilitated in various programmes," Banerjee said.



President Droupadi Murmu confers the Padma Bhushan on Sadhvi Ritambhara in the field of social work during the Civil Investiture Ceremony-II at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi

PTI PHOTO

of the day

quote

We are in a situation where the head of the US administration, the president, is now a person who feels no emotions, in whose head there is only deal-making ... To say the things he says, to say Ukraine shouldn't have started this war. Have they been keeping this man in the dark for the last years? Does he know anything? Has he read anything?

MUSTAFA DZHEMILEV | CRIMEAN TATAR LEADER

These mountains are sacred, and it is our shared duty to protect them. Now is the time to protect these mountains with wisdom, care, and respect

BADRI PRASAD PANDEY | NEPAL MINISTER FOR CULTURE

I am confident that ASEAN, the GCC, and China can draw upon our unique attributes and shape a future that is more connected, more resilient, and more prosperous

ANWAR IBRAHIM | MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

NPR sues Trump admin

Washington: National Public Radio and three local stations filed a lawsuit Tuesday against President Donald Trump, arguing that an executive order aimed at cutting federal funding for the organisation is illegal. The lawsuit, filed in federal court in Washington by NPR, Colorado Public Radio, Aspen Public Radio and KUTE, Inc argues that Trump's executive order to slash public subsidies to PBS and NPR violates the First Amendment. Trump issued the executive order earlier this month that instructs the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and other federal agencies "to cease Federal funding for NPR and PBS" and requires that they work to root out indirect sources of public financing for the news organisations. Trump issued the order after alleging there is "bias" in the broadcasters' reporting.

5 killed in China factory explosion

Beijing: Five people were killed and six others reported missing after an explosion rocked one of the largest chemical plants in China Tuesday, generating a huge fireball and sending plumes of smoke hundreds of feet into the air. The explosion took place at the state-owned Shandong Youdao Chemical, the world's largest producer of the pesticide chlorpyrifos, located in Shandong province, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported. Five people were killed and six others missing after the blast, it said. The plant, established in 2019 in Gaomi city, produces around 11,000 tonnes of pesticide a year and has a workforce of over 300 people.

2 killed in US park shooting

Philadelphia: Two people were killed and nine others, including three teenagers, were injured in a shooting at a Philadelphia park, police said Tuesday. A man and a woman died in the Monday night shooting in Fairmount Park, police Commissioner Kevin Bethel said at a briefing. Those injured in the Memorial Day shooting were listed in stable condition, he said. The shooting occurred despite officers' presence in the park, Bethel said. "We try to manage the crowds as they unfold, but at the same token, it is a challenge when individuals decide that they're going to fire into a crowd," Bethel said.

75 nations face \$22bn debt repayment to China

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, May 27: China will turn from a capital provider to a debt collector of 75 developing countries, including the world's poorest and most vulnerable, this year as they are due to pay back a record USD 22 billion loans owed to Beijing, according to data released by an Australian think tank.

China has become the leading debt collector of developing countries, shifting from a net capital provider, "as bills coming due from its Belt and Road lending surge in the 2010s now far outstrip new loan disbursements", the latest research report of the Australian think tank, the Lowy Institute, said.

In 2025, about 75 of the world's poorest and most vulnerable countries will make "record high debt repayments" totalling USD 22 billion to China as a result of peaks in new loan commitments made from 2012 to 2018, the report said.

China faces a dilemma and growing diplomatic pressure to restructure unsustainable debt besides mounting domestic pressure, particularly from its quasi-commercial institutions, to recover outstanding debts, according to the report



China faces a dilemma and growing diplomatic pressure to restructure unsustainable debt besides mounting domestic pressure

prepared by Riley Duke.

Duke said that the research was being published now because China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) lending spree peaked in the mid-2010s, and those grace periods began expiring in the early 2020s – a

likely "crunch period" for developing-country repayments to China.

How China's shift to chief debt collector will impact its reputation as a development partner remains to be seen, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post quoted Duke as saying.

On Tuesday, the Chinese Foreign Ministry sought to play down the report, saying that a handful of countries are spreading rumours against Chinese loan assistance to developing countries.

China's investment and financing cooperation with the developing countries is

in line with the international common practices, the market principles and the principle of debt sustainability, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning told a media briefing here while commenting on the report.

A handful of countries are spreading the rumours, citing China threat, but they don't talk about the fact that multilateral institutions are the major creditors of developing countries and the source of the debt repayment, she said.

Under its influential BRI initiative, the signature initiative of President Xi Jinping, China has doled out billions of dollars of loans to dozens of infrastructure projects in developing countries to further its global influence.

However, the investments attracted criticism of being debt traps after China acquired Sri Lanka's Hambantota port for a 99-year lease as a debt swap.

Several recipient countries struggled to pay back the loans for the projects, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant economic crisis and poor viability of the undertakings.

In 54 of 120 developing countries with available data, debt-service payments to Chi-

na now exceed the combined repayments owed to the Paris Club – a bloc that includes all major Western bilateral lenders, the report said.

The research showed that China remains the largest bilateral lender in seven of its nine land neighbours: Laos, Pakistan, Mongolia, Myanmar, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

"A majority have received new Chinese loan commitments since 2019 and together account for a quarter of all disbursements since China's lending downturn began in 2018," Duke added.

Last year, China became the largest creditor of Pakistan, Beijing's all-weather ally, with almost USD 29 billion in loans, according to a World Bank report.

China had the single largest share of debt to Pakistan with 22pc share (about USD 28.786bn), followed by the World Bank's 18pc share (USD 23.55bn) and the Asian Development Bank's 15pc share (USD 19.63bn), it said.

This year, Pakistan is expected to have significant debt rollover and repayment needs, with estimates ranging from USD 22 billion to over USD 30 billion in external debt maturing.

French MPs back law to allow assisted dying

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, May 27: France's lower house of parliament adopted a bill Tuesday to allow adults with incurable illness to take lethal medication, as public demands grow across Europe for legal end-of-life options.

The National Assembly vote is a key legislative step on the long-debated issue.

"I'm thinking of all the patients and their loved ones. There are days, you know, you will never forget. I will never forget this day," said Olivier Falorni, the general rapporteur of the bill, amid applause from fellow lawmakers.

The bill received 305 votes in favour and 199 against. It will be sent to the Senate for further debate. A definitive vote on the measure could take months to be scheduled amid France's long and complex process. The National Assembly has final say over the Senate.

The proposed measure on lethal medication defines assisted dying as allowing people to use it under certain conditions so that they may take it themselves. Only those whose physical condition doesn't allow them to do it alone would be able to get help from a doctor or a nurse.

Russia seizes border villages in Ukraine

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kyiv, May 27: Russian forces have taken four border villages in Ukraine's northeastern Sumy region, a local official said Tuesday, days after Russian President Vladimir Putin said he had issued an order to establish a buffer zone along the border.

Sumy borders Russia's Kursk region, where a surprise Ukrainian incursion last year captured a pocket of land in the first occupation of Russian territory since World War II.

Creating a buffer zone could help Russia prevent further Ukrainian cross-border attacks there.

Meanwhile, a Russian bombing campaign that had escalated in recent days slowed overnight as far fewer Russian drones targeted Ukrainian towns and cities.

Moscow's invasion has shown no signs of stopping despite months of intense US-led efforts to secure a ceasefire and get traction for peace talks. Since Russian and Ukrainian delegations met in Turkiye earlier this month for their first direct talks in three years, a large prisoner exchange has been the only tangible outcome, but negotiations have brought no significant breakthrough.

Between Friday and Sunday, Russia launched around 900 drones at Ukraine, officials said, amid a spate of large-scale bombardments. On Sunday night, Russia launched its biggest drone attack of the three-year war against Ukraine, firing 355 drones.

From Monday to Tuesday, Russia fired 60 drones at Ukraine, the Ukrainian

air force said Tuesday. Russia's Ministry of Defence claimed its air defences downed 99 Ukrainian drones overnight over seven Russian regions.

The weekend surge in Russia's bombardments of Ukraine drew a rebuke from US President Donald Trump, who said Putin had gone "crazy". That comment prompted a sharp Kremlin reaction on Monday, with spokesman Dmitry Peskov criticising "emotional reactions" to events.

Peskov adopted a milder tone Tuesday, hailing US peace efforts and saying that "the Americans and President Trump have taken a quite balanced approach".

In Sumy, Russian forces are trying to advance deeper after capturing villages, Oleh Hryhorov, head of the Sumy regional military administration, said in a statement.

Ukrainian forces are endeavouring to hold the line, he said. Residents of the captured villages were evacuated earlier, and there is no immediate threat to civilians, Hryhorov said.

Putin visited the Kursk region last week for the first time since Moscow claimed last month that it drove Ukrainian forces out of the area where they captured land last August. Kyiv officials have denied the claim.

The long border remains vulnerable to Ukrainian incursions, Putin said. He said he told the Russian military to create a "security buffer zone" along the border but provided no public details of where the proposed zone would be or how far it would stretch.



Israeli soldiers take position as they step out an armoured vehicle during a military raid in the West Bank city of Nablus, Tuesday.

AP PHOTO

Gunmen kill cop guarding polio vax team in Pak

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, May 27: Unidentified gunmen shot dead a police personnel guarding a polio vaccination team in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province Tuesday before escaping from the scene, officials said.

The incident occurred in the Noshki area, where polio workers were giving anti-polio vaccines to children under five years of age as part of the nationwide drive to vaccinate more than 43 million children.

Noshki Deputy Commissioner Amjad Soomro confirmed the incident, identifying the killed

policeman as Waheed Ahmed.

"Police have set up checkpoints in the area to arrest the attackers," he said. According to the police, the polio workers were unharmed in the incident. The policeman killed in the incident was a resident of Noshki, they said. Both provincial and federal officials have condemned the incident, calling it intolerable and beyond comprehension.

President Asif Ali Zardari condemned the attack and offered heartfelt condolences to the family of the bereaved, the newspaper said. He noted that the courage and sacrifice of polio officials "[inspires] us all to

save our children from this crippling disease".

The president reiterated Pakistan's commitment to fully eradicating polio. "We have the tools, the will, and the support of our global partners to make this vision a reality. I call on parents to open their doors to vaccinators, ensuring every child receives the life-saving polio drops. I urge teachers, religious leaders, and community elders to champion this noble cause, dispelling myths and building trust. I appeal to the media to amplify the truth: the polio vaccine is safe, effective, and our best weapon," Zardari said in a statement.

Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said the attack on those safeguarding children's future is beyond comprehension and cannot be tolerated.

Balochistan government spokesperson Shahid Rind, in a statement, said, "The polio campaign is a national duty, and any attack on it is intolerable."

Pakistan is one of the last two countries in the world, besides Afghanistan, where polio remains endemic. Despite global efforts to eradicate the virus, challenges such as safety issues, vaccine hesitancy, and misinformation remain in eliminating the virus.

Backlash against Musk: Tesla sales nosedive in Europe

The numbers are the latest indication of how much the Tesla brand is suffering because of the backlash against billionaire CEO Elon Musk over his far-right views

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, May 27: Tesla sales across Europe plunged by half last month even as growth in the electric car market picked up pace, according to data released Tuesday.

The numbers are the latest indication of how much the Tesla brand is suffering because of the backlash against billionaire CEO Elon Musk over his far-

right views.

Sales of Tesla vehicles in 32 European countries tumbled 49 per cent to 7,261 in April from 14,228 in the same month the previous year, according to the figures released by the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association, or ACEA.

At the same time, sales of battery-electric vehicles by all manufacturers rose about 28 per cent. Meanwhile, sales of



gasoline and diesel powered cars slumped.

The figures, which cover the European Union's 27 member

countries and five other nations outside the bloc, back up early data from Sweden, the Netherlands and Denmark released earlier this month that had pointed to a sales collapse.

Tesla has been reeling from protests and boycotts over Musk wading into politics, but it also faces other factors including an aging model lineup and intensifying competition from rival electric vehicle brands, particularly from China.

In one sign that Tesla appears to be losing ground to cut-price Chinese brands, sales at China's SAIC zoomed up 54

per cent in April, according to the ACEA figures. SAIC owns a slew of auto brands including UK-based MG, known for its low-cost EV models.

Tesla is also suffering because it had to shut down factories for several weeks this year while upgrading its best selling Model Y sport utility vehicle, pinching supply.

For the first four months of the year, Tesla's European sales fell roughly 39 per cent to 61,320 while the continent's auto market as a whole showed little change during the same period, according to the data.



NEPALESE SCALES EVEREST FOR RECORD 31ST TIME

Famed Nepalese Sherpa guide Kami Rita Tuesday scaled Mount Everest for the 31st time, breaking his own record for the most successful ascents of the world's highest mountain

I will prefer spending my entire life grinding in a prison cell than bowing before fironiati and yaziidiati (tyranny and oppression). The rule of law is the central goal of my movement that will end the law of the jungle in Pakistan

IMRAN KHAN | FORMER PAKISTAN PRIME MINISTER

of the day

quote

We want to maximise adoption of battery electric vehicles (BEVs) in the country. When we re-searched the reasons for low adoption of EVs, one of the major hurdles in the minds of the customers was confidence in after-sales support

RAHUL BHARTI | SENIOR EXECUTIVE, MSI

We are committed to making investing simple, accessible, and inclusive for every Indian. I am confident that JioBlackRock Asset Management will play a transformative role in shaping the future of financial empowerment in India

ISHA AMBANI | DIRECTOR, JFSL

India is not just a market for us, it's a priority. We see a powerful wave of innovation emerging from tier-1 cities to remote corners of the country, led by founders who understand real problems on the ground

ASHUTOSH KUMAR | PARTNER, EXPERT DOJO

Q4 RESULTS

BSNL posts profit

New Delhi: BSNL reported a profit of ₹280 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2025, marking its second consecutive quarterly profit, the company said Tuesday. The company had posted a loss of ₹849 crore in the same period a year ago.

NMDC profit grows

New Delhi: State-run NMDC Tuesday reported a 5 per cent growth in consolidated net profit to ₹1,483.18 crore in the March quarter, driven by higher iron ore and pellets sales revenue. It had posted a net profit of ₹1,415.62 crore in the fourth quarter of 2023-24, the company said in an exchange filing.

P&G profit up

New Delhi: Procter & Gamble Hygiene and Health Care Ltd Tuesday reported an increase of 1.1 per cent in profit after tax at ₹156.10 crore for the quarter ended March 31, 2025. The company, which follows the July-June financial year, had reported a profit after tax of ₹154.37.69 crore in the corresponding quarter a year ago.

LIC net profit jumps

New Delhi: Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) Tuesday posted a 38 per cent increase in net profit to ₹19,013 crore in the fourth quarter ended March 2025. The insurer had earned a profit of ₹13,763 crore in the corresponding quarter a year earlier, LIC said in a regulatory filing.

Bosch profit dips

New Delhi: Bosch Tuesday said its consolidated profit after tax declined 2 per cent to ₹554 crore in the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2025, amid challenging business environment. The company reported PAT of ₹564 crore for the January-March period of 2023-24 fiscal year. Revenue from operations rose to ₹4,911 crore from ₹4,233 crore a year ago, Bosch said in a regulatory filing.

RCF profit drops

New Delhi: Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilisers Ltd (RCF) Tuesday posted a 24 per cent drop in consolidated net profit to ₹72.46 crore in fourth quarter of the 2024-25 fiscal year on lower sales.



There is no reason why India should not be the data capital of the world. The prime minister has very clearly said that if this is India's century, and it truly is India's century, India has grown in one decade from the 11th largest economy in the world to the 5th largest economy in the world

JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA | UNION MINISTER

INDIA'S GOODS, SERVICES EXPORTS MAY REACH \$1TN

The country's overall goods and services exports are expected to reach \$1 trillion during 2025-26, according to apex exporters' body FIEO. In 2024-25, the exports were aggregated at \$825 billion. Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) President S C Ralhan said merchandise exports will increase from \$437 billion to \$525-535 billion in 2025-26



FDI inflows plummet to \$9.34bn

India's net FDI declines in the first quarter, driven by significant repatriation of funds. On the contrary, Indian government is speeding up overseas investments hence the gross inward FDI, saw a robust 13.7% increase

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 27: Foreign direct investment (FDI) in India fell 24.5 per cent yearly to \$9.34 billion in the January-March quarter of 2024-25 but grew 13 per cent at \$50 billion during the entire previous financial year, according to the government data released Tuesday.

FDI inflows during January-March 2023-24 stood at \$12.38 billion. These were \$44.42 billion in the full 2023-24 fiscal.

During the October-December quarter of 2024-25 also, the inflows were contracted by 5.6 per cent yearly to \$10.9 billion due to global economic uncertainties.

Total FDI, which includes equity inflows, reinvested earnings and other capital, grew by 14 per cent to \$81.04 billion during the last financial year. It is the highest in the last three years. The same stood at \$71.3 billion in 2023-24.

During 2024-25, Singapore emerged as the largest source of FDI with \$14.94 billion inflows. It was followed by Mauritius (\$8.34 billion against \$8.34 billion), US (\$5.45 billion), the Netherlands (\$4.62 billion), UAE (\$3.12 billion), Japan (\$2.47 billion), Cyprus (\$1.2 billion), UK (\$795 million), Germany (\$469 million), and Cayman Islands (\$371 million).



However, the data showed that when compared to 2023-24, the inflows had declined from the Netherlands, Japan, UK, and Germany.

Singapore accounts for 30 per cent share, Mauritius (17 per cent) and US (11 per cent).

On sector basis, inflows rose in services, trading, telecommunication, automobile, construction development, non-conventional energy and chemicals. However, it has contracted in computer software and hardware, construction (infrastructure activities), and pharmaceuticals.

FDI in services has increased to \$9.34 billion during 2024-25 as against \$6.64 billion in 2023-24. As per the data, FDI inflows in non-conventional energy stood at \$4 billion as against \$3.76 billion in 2023-24.

The data also showed that Maharashtra received the highest inflow of \$19.6 billion during the last fiscal. It was followed by Karnataka (\$6.61 billion), Delhi (\$6 billion), Gujarat (about \$5.7 billion), Tamil Nadu (\$3.68 billion), Haryana (\$3.14 billion), and Telangana (\$2.99 billion).

Maharashtra accounted for the highest share (39 per cent) of total FDI equity inflows, Karnataka (13 per cent) and Delhi (12 per cent).

The government has put in place an investor-friendly FDI policy, under which most sectors are open for 100 per cent overseas inflows through the automatic route attracted 18 per cent in 2024-25 to \$19.04 billion compared to \$16.12 billion in 2023-24.

This constitutes nearly 70

Instamart drops 'Swiggy'



Instamart has unveiled a fresh logo, which contains the Swiggy 'S-Pin' icon as "a subtle tribute to the brand's origins

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 27: Quick commerce platform Instamart has dropped parent Swiggy from its name, in a strategic move aimed at carving a standalone brand identity.

The move comes days after rival Zomato, also owns Blinkit, rebranded as Eternal on the stock exchanges, with quick commerce becoming a significant driver for the firms beyond their food delivery businesses.

At multiple instances, Swiggy Group CEO Sriharsha Majety has spoken about how the company expects Instamart to surpass food delivery in terms of both penetration and scale.

"Integrated within the main Swiggy app, Instamart also launched a standalone app earlier this year. As Instamart

enters this next phase, its refreshed identity reflects the brand's identity while remaining true to the Swiggy values that make it so loved," Swiggy said in a statement.

Instamart has unveiled a fresh logo, which contains the Swiggy 'S-Pin' icon as "a subtle tribute to the brand's origins", the company informed.

"This rebrand is not just a visual shift, it's a declaration: Instamart has grown beyond its origins, while still being backed by the trust of Swiggy. The new identity reflects Instamart as a standalone brand, one that is innovating across speed, selection, and daily convenience. The new identity will roll out across the app, packaging, delivery bags, communication, and campaigns over the coming weeks." Mayur Hola, Head of Brand at Swiggy, said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 27: Snapping the two-day gaining streak, benchmark Sensex tumbled nearly 625 points Tuesday due to profit-taking in banking, IT and auto shares.

The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 624.82 points or 0.76 per cent to settle at 81,551.63 in a volatile session. During the day, the barometer tanked 1,054.75 points or 1.28 per cent to 81,121.70. As many as 25 Sensex shares declined while five advanced.

The 50-issue NSE Nifty declined 174.95 points or 0.70 per cent to 24,826.20. The barometer saw sharp swings, but sustained profit-taking in heavyweight stocks dragged the index down. Key indices Sensex and Nifty had advanced around 1.5 per cent in the past two sessions.

Analysts said investors turned cautious ahead of the release of industrial and manufacturing production data for April Wednesday and the first quarter GDP numbers, scheduled to be announced later this week.

From the Sensex firms, UltraTech Cement fell the most by 2.21 per cent, followed by ITC which declined 2.01 per cent. Tata Motors, NTPC, Axis Bank, HCL Tech, Mahindra & Mahindra, HDFC Bank, ICICI

'Made in India' auto gains traction in Japan

INDO- ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, May 27: Maruti Suzuki and Honda Cars India have clocked a robust increase in exports to the Japanese market, reflecting the improving quality and acceptance of India-made cars in developed markets.

According to figures compiled by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), India's car exports to Japan jumped to \$616.45 million in the first nine months (April-December) of 2024-25, which represents a close to 3-fold jump over the \$220.62 million worth exports in full financial year of 2023-24.

The Maruti Suzuki India is the biggest exporter its off-roader sport utility vehicle (SUV) Jimny(Jimny Nomade) to Japan. Mexico, Australia,



and South Africa are currently the top four export markets for this car.

This is the second SUV after the Fronx that the company is exporting to its parent company in Japan. The company exports its Fronx SUVs to Japan

from its Gujarat plant with the consignments being shipped out from the Pipavav Port in the state.

Maruti launched the Jimny in India in June 2023 and started exporting it to various countries in Latin America, the



Bank and Eternal were among the laggards.

IndusInd Bank, Sun Pharma, Adani Ports, Nestle and Asian Paints were the gainers.

Mid- and small-cap segments remained relatively resilient, supported by better-than-estimated Q4 earnings and moderation in premium valuation, Nair added.

The BSE smallcap gauge went up by 0.19 per cent and midcap index climbed 0.18 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, FMCG dropped 0.79 per cent, IT declined 0.71 per cent, BSE Focused IT by 0.68 per cent, auto by 0.66 per cent, bankex by 0.60 per cent, utilities by 0.57 per cent and metal by 0.52 per cent.

Healthcare, industrials, tele-

communication, capital goods, realty and consumer durables were the gainers. In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi and Shanghai's SSE Composite index settled in the negative territory while Japan's Nikkei 225 index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng ended higher. Markets in Europe were trading in the green. US markets were shut on Monday for Memorial Day.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth ₹135.98 crore Monday, according to exchange data.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.51 per cent to USD 65.07 a barrel.

BSE Sensex jumped 455.37 points or 0.56 per cent to settle at 82,176.45 Monday. Nifty climbed 148 points or 0.60 per cent to 25,001.15.

Alcatel re-enters India after 7 yrs

lower. This reflects India's potential as auto manufacturing hub even for the advanced countries.

Overall, India's car exports rose 15 per cent to 7,70,364 vehicles in FY23, outpacing the 2 per cent growth in domestic sales. Compact SUVs now constitute over 25 per cent of exports, with mid-sized passenger cars and utility vehicles also seeing strong demand. Industry players aim to increase the export share to 30 per cent within five years, according to a SIAM report.

This was the best ever annual performance driven by demand for global models being manufactured in India. With manufacturing quality improving, some companies have also commenced exporting to developed markets, according to a SIAM statement.

ITR due date extends

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 27: The Income Tax department Tuesday extended the due date for filing ITRs for Assessment Year (AY) 2025-26 to September 15 from July 31.

The extension applies to individuals, HUFs, and entities who do not need to get their accounts audited. They can now file their tax return for income earned in the 2024-25 (April-March) fiscal by September 15.

In a statement, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said the extension was necessitated to prepare Income Tax systems to incorporate changes in ITR forms and roll out the utilities.

This year, ITR forms for AY26 were notified in late April and early May against the previous year's practice of notifying them in January or February.

The notified ITRs for AY2025-26 have undergone structural and content revisions aimed at simplifying compliance, enhancing transparency and enabling accurate reporting. These changes have necessitated additional time for system development, integration and testing of the corresponding utilities, CBDT said.

Furthermore, credits arising from TDS statements, due for filing by May 31, are expected to begin reflecting in early June, limiting the effective window for return filing in the absence of such an extension. The government has notified the income tax return forms 1 and 4, filed by individuals, HUFs and



entities with total income up to ₹50 lakh annually with no account audit for the assessment year 2025-26 on April 29.

Now, entities with long-term capital gains of up to ₹1.25 lakh from listed equities can show such income in ITR 1 and 4. Earlier, they were required to file ITR-2.

The government has also made certain changes in the form, with regard to deductions claimed under 80C, 80GG and other sections and has provided a drop-down menu in the utility for tax filers to select from. Also, assesseees will have to furnish in the ITR section-wise details with regard to TDS deductions.

Under the I-T law, LTCG of up to ₹1.25 lakh from the sale of listed shares and mutual funds are exempt from tax. Gains exceeding ₹1.25 lakh annually are subject to 12.5 per cent tax.

Not usual, this year, the ITR forms and the filing utility got delayed as revenue department officials were preoccupied with the new Income Tax Bill, introduced in February.

FUTURECON 2025 highlights PCOS mgmt

Bhubaneswar, May 25: FUTURECON 2025, organised by Future fertility Pvt Ltd Bhubaneswar is a one-day scientific session dedicated to Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS), was held at Lemon Tree Premier here with leading experts from across the state. The event opened with a welcome address by Dr Babita Panda and brought together over 50 eminent speakers and panelists. In the event, 300 gynaecologists from the state have participated. Key discussions included diagnostic challenges, adolescent PCOS, fertility enhancement, and pregnancy outcomes. A panel discussion on ovulation induction moderated by Dr Charmila Ayyavoo and a debate on treatment approaches such as Metformin use, LOD, and progesterone therapy. Guest speaker Dr Purna Chandra Mahapatra delivered an engaging talk on conception science, while the event's inauguration saw dignitaries like Dr Sindhu Nandini Tripathy and Dr Surjya Narayan Dash lighting the ceremonial lamp. A postgraduate quiz, expert-led sessions, and a lucky draw marked a fitting close to the academic gathering. FUTURECON 2025 successfully emphasised collaborative learning and the evolving landscape of PCOS care.

Alcatel re-enters India after 7 yrs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 27: French technology brand Alcatel, after a seven-year hiatus, has re-entered India's smartphone market and looks to become one of the top three smartphone brands in the country within the next three years, a senior company official said.

Alcatel Tuesday launched its V3 lineup of smartphones in India through Nxtcell India, which holds exclusive brand authorization for Alcatel in India and select international markets.

"India is a big market with multiple consumer segments. Our long-term goal for India is to be among the top three players in terms of market share in the next three years. Not only in smartphones, but we will also be building an integrated consumer tech ecosystem in India." Nxtcell India Chief Business Officer Atul Vivek said.

NxtCell India has partnered with Padget Electronics, a subsidiary of Dixon Technologies, to begin local production of Alcatel-branded devices in India. NxtCell has committed an initial investment of \$30 million (about ₹260 crore) to re-establish the French tech brand in the competitive Indian mobile phone market. "Nxtcell India will soon commence in-house manufacturing, reinforcing our commitment to local innovation and aligning with the government's 'Made in India' initiative,"

RCB seal qualifier place

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, May 27: Stand-in skipper Jitesh Sharma conjured up a sensational unbeaten 85 to help Royal Challengers Bengaluru trump Rishabh Pant's exceptional 118 and seal the team's place in the IPL Qualifier 1 with a sensational six-wicket win over Lucknow Super Giants, here Tuesday.

The Royal Challengers will now face Punjab Kings in the Qualifier 1 at Mullanpur Thursday.

The RCB finished second on the table with 19 points, same as Punjab but finished behind them on net run rate — +0.30 against PBKS +0.37.

The RCB started in a hurry chasing an imposing 228, as Virat Kohli (54, 30b, 10x4) and Phil Salt (30, 19b) added 61 runs in a mere 5.4 overs before Jitesh (85) and Mayank Agarwal (41) taking them home, making 107 runs for the impressive unbroken fifth wicket stand.

They eventually made 230/4 in 18.4 overs.

But it started with Kohli and Salt playing risk-free cricket even in the Power Play, hammering 12 fours in that phase before Salt getting dismissed by pacer Akash Khan. But Kohli continued to pierce the field for boundaries even after the Power Play, and a back foot punch that raced to the fence for a four off Akash was a treat to watch.

The shot also carried Kohli past the fifty-run mark off just 27 balls, but he could not convert that into something bigger.

The senior batter tried to punt pacer Avesh Khan over long-off but could not clear Ayush Badoni in that position.

The Royal Challengers were 123 for four in 11.4 overs at that stage after losing out-of-form skipper Rajat Patidar and Liam Livingstone,



who came in for injured Tim David, in the eighth over to pacer Will O'Rourke.

The RCB were still 103 runs away from victory and the asking rate was touching almost 13.

But Jitesh, who was saved by Digvesh Rathi's back-foot no-ball on 49, and Agarwal pulverised LSG bowlers in their own style to take RCB home.

Jitesh, who had another slice of luck when Pant withdrew an appeal for run-out off Rathi when the batter was on 57, targeted the 'V' down the ground and the fine leg area through sweeps. Agarwal, on the other hand, unboxed his trusted cut shots past the point fielder and covers to garner his boundaries with minimum risk.

The Karnataka batter was the aggressor in the beginning but settled into a far easier rhythm seeing the touch of his partner, also the stand-in captain as Patidar was used as an Impact Sub. Fittingly, Jitesh brought curtains officially to the match, spanking O'Rourke for a hat-trick of sixes in the 18th over.

Earlier, Pant made a marvelous hundred (118 not out, 61b,

11x4, 8x6) and added 152 runs with Mitchell Marsh (67, 37b) for the second wicket to guide LSG to a massive 227 for three.

Throughout this season, Pant struggled to find his range, striking at a mere 107.

But Pant rewrote the script on the night, hitting the ball with the required amount of power and his strike-rate was hovering around 200. Once he refrained from over-hitting the ball, timing too returned to Pant's batting automatically.

The left-hander started the carnage by clattering Yash Dayal for 18 runs in the fourth over that included a sequence of 6, 4, 4. Pant only grew in confidence from that point, and it rubbed on his partner Marsh.

The Aussie batter made 19 off his first 16 balls but from there 'Bison' took his batting to a different level, starting with a pulled six off Romario Shepherd. Pant soon reached his fifty off 29 balls, hitting leg-spinner Suyash Sharma for two successive fours.

Marsh, who crossed 600 runs for his finest IPL season in a decade, went past his fifty in 31

IPL STANDINGS						
TEAM	M	W	L	NRR	PTS	
PBKS	14	9	4	0.372	19	
RCB	14	9	4	0.301	19	
GT	14	9	5	0.254	18	
MI	14	8	6	1.142	16	
DC	14	7	6	0.011	15	
SRH	14	6	7	-0.241	13	
LSG	14	6	8	-0.376	12	
KKR	14	5	7	-0.305	12	
RR	14	4	10	-0.549	8	
CSK	14	4	10	-0.647	8	

balls with a six off Suyash.

However, Marsh could not go further as he snicked Bhuvneshwar Kumar to stumper and stand-in captain Jitesh Sharma.

But that had not much effect on Pant as he motored on and brought up his first hundred of the season, and second overall in seven years, in 54 balls with a boundary off Bhuvneshwar.

It was a special way to get to a landmark too, carving an outside off-stump delivery over covers for a four. Pant celebrated in style too — a beaming style followed by an acrobatic somersault. It was the quintessential Pant shot that carried all his idiosyncrasies in an innings in which he generally stuck to conventional ways of batting, as he later added 49 runs for the third wicket with Nicholas Pooran.

Brief scores:

Lucknow Super Giants: 227/3 in 20 overs (Rishabh Pant 118 not out, Mitchell Marsh 67; Nuwan Thushara 1-26, Bhuvneshwar Kumar 1-44) lost to **Royal Challengers Bengaluru:** 230/4 in 18.4 overs (Virat Kohli 54, Jitesh Sharma 85 not out, Mayank Agarwal 41 not out; Will O'Rourke 2-74) by six wickets.

Pak player shows unsportsmanlike behaviour after loss

AGENCIES

New Delhi, May 27: A viral video from India's recent victory over Pakistan in the U16 Davis Cup has sparked outrage, as it showed a Pakistani player displaying aggressive and unsportsmanlike behaviour towards an Indian opponent.

India defeated Pakistan 2-0 in the 11th-place playoff match at the Asia-Oceania Junior Davis Cup (U-16) tournament in Shymkent, Kazakhstan, Saturday. Prkaash Sarraan and Tavish Pahwa secured straight-sets wins in their singles matches, sealing India's position in the final standings.

However, three days after the encounter, a video surfaced on social media showing a Pakistani player making an aggressive gesture toward his Indian counterpart, repeating the act, and then dismissively shrugging him off — a move widely condemned as disrespectful and against the spirit of the sport.

The clip triggered sharp criticism online, with many users on X (formerly Twitter) applauding the Indian player for keeping his composure and upholding the dignity of the game. India's win over Pakistan followed a narrow 1-2 loss to New Zealand in the 9th-12th place playoff, where the Indian duo lost a tense super tie-break (9-11) in the doubles rubber.

The untoward incident happened amid heightened tensions between India and Pakistan following the April 22 terrorist attack in Pahalgam, which claimed 26 lives, most of them tourists. In response, India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7, targeting nine terrorist bases deep inside Pakistan.

The situation further escalated into a full-fledged conflict between the two neighbours, including drone interceptions by Indian Air Defence forces, widespread blackouts, and red alerts across Jammu and Kashmir. A ceasefire was eventually agreed, restoring a tentative calm. These tensions also briefly disrupted the 2025 season of the Indian Premier League, which resumed following the ceasefire. IPL Chairman Arun Dhimal confirmed to IANS on Tuesday that all three service chiefs of the Indian Armed Forces have been invited to attend the IPL final on June 3 in Ahmedabad, under the theme of honouring the heroes of Operation Sindoor.

SINGAPORE OPEN SUPER 750

Sindhu, Prannoy cruise into second round

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Singapore, May 27: Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu and HS Prannoy provided rare positives for India on an otherwise disappointing opening day at the Singapore Open Super 750 badminton tournament Tuesday. Sindhu emerged as the lone bright spark among the women while Prannoy kept India's hopes alive in the men's singles by outclassing Denmark's Rasmus Gemke to advance to the second round.

Sindhu cruised into the second round with a commanding straight-game win over Canada's Wen Yu Zhang. The 29-year-old made short work of Zhang with a dominant 21-14, 21-9 win in just 31 minutes. The Indian ace was in control throughout, mixing aggression with precision as she outplayed her Canadian opponent in both rallies and net exchanges.

The win, however, sets up a tough second-round clash for Sindhu, as she is scheduled to face Tokyo Olympics gold medallist and current world No 5 Chen Yu Fei of China - a rival she has had



a chequered history.

In men's singles, Prannoy got the better of his Danish opponent in an hour and 12-minute clash. After going down in the opening game 19-21, the Indian shuttler made a strong comeback to keep himself alive in the tournament after clinching the remaining two games 21-16 and 21-14.

Prannoy will next take on France's Christo Popov in the second round Wednesday.



Barring Sindhu and Prannoy, the rest of the Indian contingent suffered early exits. Malvika Bansod and Priyanshu Rajawat both began promisingly, winning their first games, but could not sustain the momentum. Malvika went down 21-14, 18-21, 11-21 against Thailand's eighth seed Supanida Katethong in a 58-minute battle.

Priyanshu also succumbed to a similar fate, losing 21-14, 10-21, 14-21 to Japan's sev-

enth-seeded Kodai Naraoka in a match that stretched beyond the hour mark.

Youngster Anmol Kharb showed grit against China's formidable Chen Yu Fei but eventually lost 11-21, 22-24, narrowly missing out on forcing a decider in the second game.

Kiran George, who had impressed earlier this year with a quarterfinal appearance at the India Open, failed to carry forward that momentum. He was edged out by China's Weng Hong Yang in straight games, 19-21, 17-21.

R Santhosh Ramraj couldn't pose much of a challenge, losing 14-21, 8-21 to South Korea's Kim Ga Eun.

The doubles events didn't bring any relief either. In mixed doubles, the Indian pair of Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto lost 18-21, 13-21 to the Chinese duo of Cheng Xing and Zhang Chi. Another Indian mixed pair, Ashith Surya and Amrutha Parmuthesh, were also shown the door after an 11-21, 17-21 defeat to Japan's Yuichi Shimogami and Sayaka Hobara.

Liverpool FC: A club with identity woven in trophies, tragedies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, May 27: The somber-looking home page of Liverpool FC Tuesday reflected the mood of a club still in shock after a man plowed a car into a crowd of fans who were celebrating the team's latest Premier League title, injuring 47 people.

Under a statement sending thoughts and prayers to those affected were references to two deadly stadium disasters involving Liverpool fans in the 1980s that had a profound impact on the club and its identity.

Below that was a digital visualisation of all the trophies won by Liverpool FC in its 133-year history that make it one of the most decorated men's teams in world soccer.

It was a moving reminder that with all the silverware and success has come pain and tragedy for a club synonymous

with the anthem "You'll Never Walk Alone."

Here is a closer look at those two stadium disasters referenced by the club.

HeyselIn May 29, 1985, Liverpool played Italian team Juventus in the European Cup final at Heysel Stadium in Brussels.

Crowd disorder before kick-off culminated in a surge by Liverpool fans into an adjacent stand containing mostly Juventus supporters. In the ensuing chaos, some were trampled or suffocated to death as they tried to flee the violence and others died when a retaining wall collapsed. A total of 39 people — 32 from Italy, four from Belgium, two from France and one from Northern Ireland — died and around 600 were injured.

Liverpool fans were largely blamed for the violence. Twenty-six of them were arrested and charged with manslaughter, 14 of whom



were found guilty and given 3-year prison sentences.

Many also attributed the disorder to the dilapidated condition of Heysel, a 55,000-capacity structure with outdated standing-room only stands, flimsy fences and crumbling walls inside and outside the stadium, as well as poor organisation from police and UEFA, European soccer's governing body.

ASIAN ATHLETICS C'SHIP

GULVEER CLINCHES GOLD

POST NEWS NETWORK

Gumi (South Korea), May 27: National record holder Gulveer Singh snared India's first gold with a top finish in the men's 10,000m event while Servin Sebastian clinched the 20km race walk bronze on a reasonably good opening day for the country at the 27th Asian Athletics Championships here Tuesday.

The 26-year-old Gulveer, a bronze-medallist at the 2023 Hangzhou Asian Games and a pre-race favourite, clocked 28 minute 38.63 seconds to win his maiden Asian Championships gold.

Japan's Mebuki Suzuki (28:43.84) took the silver while Bahrain's Albert Kibichi Rop (28:46.82) won the bronze. Another Indian in the fray, Sawan Barwal finished fourth with a time of 28:50.53.

At the end of the opening day, India stood at second place with one gold and one bronze, behind China (5 gold, 2 silver) and above Japan (3 silver, 2 bronze).

Gulveer was elated to pocket gold at the continental championships, though the warm weather at the time of his 25-lap race denied him a better timing.

"Irrespective of the time, the main goal was to finish first. I am happy to have successfully implemented my race strategy," Gulveer said here.

"The gold medal will certainly enhance my world ranking and brighten chances to win a ticket to Tokyo World Athletics Championships in September."

The automatic qualification in the men's 10,000m is 27 minute. Due to warm weather conditions, the local organising committee set up a water station during the 10,000m track race.

"I surged ahead in the last lap and shifted top gear at the 200m mark of the race. Had someone pushed me I could have gone fast-



er as I wasn't tired after crossing the finish line," Gulveer said. Earlier in the day, Sebastian claimed India's first medal with a bronze in the men's 20km race walk event, clocking 1 hour 21 minute and 13.60 seconds.

There was disappointment, though, in women's javelin throw with Asian Games gold medallist and national record holder Annu Rani finishing fourth with a below-par effort of 58.30m. Born to a farmer father at Sirsa village of Atrauli Tehsil in Aligarh district of Uttar Pradesh, Gulveer has been on a national record breaking spree, the last one being the 27:00.22 in 10000m earlier this year.

Gulveer is the third Indian to win the 10000m gold after Hari Chand (1975) and G Lakshman-

Ancelotti turns down Neymar



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rio de Janeiro, May 27: Carlo Ancelotti's first day as Brazil coach included saying "No" to Neymar and a promise to find more improvement from his former Real Madrid striker Vinicius Junior.

Ancelotti was introduced Monday at a packed press conference in a Rio de Janeiro hotel, and just to ensure he was under no illusions as to his primary task, he was welcomed by Brazil's last two World Cup-winning coaches, 1994's Carlos Alberto Parreira and 2002's Luiz Felipe Scolari.

Scolari gave Ancelotti a national team jacket and told the first foreigner in a century to coach Brazil full-time, "Just be you, the person you always were, and you will win with Brazil. We all wish you well

an (2017). Sebastian's timing was just shy of his personal best of 1:21:23sec, set earlier this year for a gold at the Uttarakhand National Games in February. Amit, the other Indian in the field, finished fifth with a time of 1:22:14.30. All the three medal winners in the men's 20km race walk event bettered the championships record of 1:24:42 set by Japanese Yutaro Murayama at the previous edition of the continental meet in 2023 in Bangkok.

Sebastian stayed with the leading pack of seven athletes for a major part of the gruelling 20km event. "I made efforts to narrow the gap but ended up in third place," Sebastian said.

"It was a good race. I am happy to be among the medal winners in my first race at the continental event."

In men's high jump, Sarvesh Anil Kushare qualified for the final after finishing fourth in qualification group B with an effort of 2.10m.

TJ on top in Decathlon

National record holder decathlete Tejaswin Shankar was at the top in the nine-man field after the completion of five events out of 10 Tuesday.

In men's 400m, Vishal TK made it to the final round after finishing third in semifinal heat 2 with a personal best time of 46.05 seconds. His women counterparts Rupal Chaudhary and Vithya Ramraj also made it to the women's 400m finals.

Chaudhary won heat number one with a time of 53 seconds while Ramraj was second in heat number two, clocking 53.32 seconds.

Yoonus Shah also qualified for the men's 1500m finals after finishing second in the qualification round, clocking 3 minutes and 46.96 seconds.

with Brazil, we will always support you."

The Italian, contracted to the end of the 2026 World Cup in the United States, Canada and Mexico, announced his first squad for World Cup qualifiers next week against Ecuador and Paraguay.

Neymar returned to Santos only last week from a muscular injury, and that was too late for the new coach.

"Unfortunately, we have a lot of players who suffered injuries and cannot be in the national team, like Neymar," Ancelotti said. "Brazil has many talented players, and in Neymar's specific case we are counting on him. He came back to Brazil to play and prepare for the World Cup. I spoke to him this morning to explain that to him, and he is totally in agreement."

treated victims on the field.

With hoooliganism rife in English soccer throughout the 1980s and the events of Heysel still fresh in the memory, there were immediate attempts to assign blame on the Liverpool fans and defend policing at the match. A false narrative that blamed drunken, ticketless and rowdy Liverpool fans was created by police.

It took decades of campaigning for Liverpool supporters to prove there was a cover-up by authorities.

In 2016, a jury found that police and emergency services were to blame for the Hillsborough disaster and exonerated the behavior of Liverpool fans, saying the victims were "unlawfully killed."

The reference to Hillsborough on Liverpool's website displayed the number "97" with the date of the match and the words "Never Forgotten."