



## Soap storm

Karnataka government's choice to appoint Tamannaah Bhatia as Mysore Sandal Soap ambassador triggers online backlash

LEISURE | P2



## Respite for Harvard

US judge blocks Trump administration from revoking Harvard's ability to enroll foreign students

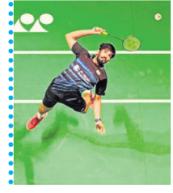
INTERNATIONAL | P10



## Trade threat

US President Donald Trump threatens a 50% tariff on all imports from EU from June 1

BUSINESS | P11



## Srikanth shines

Former world No 1 Kidambi Srikanth produces gutsy performance to book his place in semi-finals of Malaysia Masters

SPORTS | P12

## State to announce new Excise policy by June 20: Min

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 23:** The state government's new Excise policy will be announced by June 20, Excise Minister Prithviraj Harichandan said Friday.

"We are going to implement a three-year-long Excise policy in a calibrated manner. We have formed several teams to study the Excise policies of various states, and these teams have already started their visits. That is why the government is taking some time to formulate the new policy," Harichandan told reporters.

A team led by the Excise secretary is scheduled to visit Andhra Pradesh soon.

"After the team's visit, the new policy will be announced, most likely between June 15 and June 20," the minister added.

Previously, the BJD government had prepared an Excise policy for each financial year.

While the new BJP government issued a similar one last year, it now plans to implement a policy that will remain in force for three years.

Harichandan also announced that the state government will launch a large-scale anti-drug addiction campaign across Odisha.

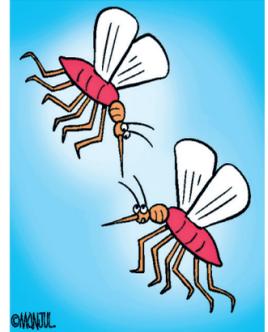
The campaign will involve students, communities, youth and women, he added.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi is scheduled to launch the campaign on World No Tobacco Day (May 31), and it will continue till International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (June 26), he said.

Harichandan added that the anti-drug addiction campaign will also witness street plays, folk arts, essay and debate competitions.

The campaign will be organised by the Excise department in association with departments like Mission Shakti, Culture, School and Mass Education, Higher Education, and others.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Be very careful these days, dear. I don't want you sucking up indoor instead of blood by mistake



**BRACING FOR RAIN:** Fishing boats anchored at Badhwar Park after the India Meteorological Department issued a yellow alert in Mumbai, Friday

PTI PHOTO

## People gambling in name of IPL: SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 23:** The Supreme Court Friday said people were betting and gambling in the garb of Indian Premier League (IPL) and sought the Centre's response on a PIL seeking to regulate betting applications.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh issued notice to the Centre on a plea filed by KA Paul, who claimed many children had died by suicide after using online betting and gambling applications.

The petitioner alleged several online influencers, actors and cricketers were promoting such online apps, luring children in the process.

Paul said in case of cigarettes, packs had pictures indicating the ill-effects of smoking, but in case of betting apps, no such caution was publicised and even former Indian team cricketers promoted the applications during the ongoing IPL.

The bench said, "In the name of IPL, a lot of people are betting and indulging in gambling. This is a serious issue."

Paul claimed of representing 'millions of parents' whose children have died in the past couple of years.

# Govt plans anti-drone system for Srimandir

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 23:** The state government Friday said it was contemplating installing an anti-drone system to bolster the security at the Shree Jagannath Temple in Puri.

Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan said the system can help detect, track and neutralise unauthorised or "potentially malicious" drones.

"We are mulling over the idea of installing an anti-drone system for added security of the Puri temple, as done by defence establishments," Harichandan told reporters here.

Funds for the proposed anti-drone apparatus will be arranged by the temple administration, he said.

The Odisha government has been contemplating installing the new system in the wake of some YouTubers and vloggers reportedly using drones to take pictures and videos of the 12th-century shrine despite a ban on such activities.

The Puri Police is also verifying allegations concerning



Jyoti Malhotra – the Haryana YouTuber arrested on suspicion of espionage – of flying a drone over the Shree Jagannath Temple during her visit to Puri in 2024.

The Odisha government has already heightened security in Puri and around the historical shrine following the Pahalgam terror attack. At least 240 police

personnel have been deployed in and around the temple, officials said.

The administration has also accelerated the process of appointing officers for the newly-raised Swatantra Shree Mandir Surakshya Vahini (SSMSV) at the temple. The SSMSV comprises 1,083 armed personnel, they said.

## 19 razed mutts to be rebuilt

The state government has announced plans to rehabilitate the mutts that were demolished during the Srimandir Parikrama project in Puri. Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan stated Friday that the rehabilitation of 19 mutts in the pilgrimage town is already underway. He explained that all the mutts will be constructed at a single location to make it convenient for devotees to visit these sacred sites. The land for the mutts has been identified, Harichandan said. "The process for rehabilitating the 19 mutts affected by the Srimandir Parikrama project has begun. We have decided to consolidate the mutts in one location for the convenience of devotees," he said. The minister stated that the issue has been examined twice with the Chief Administrator of the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA), the district Collector, and the Endowment Commissioner. Culture enthusiasts and devotees of Lord Jagannath have voiced their concerns regarding the demolition of several ancient mutts under the guise of the Srimandir Parikrama project in Puri undertaken by the previous government.

## Trump's fresh blow to 'made-in-India' iPhones

Reiterating that he doesn't want iPhones to be made in India, US president Donald Trump has threatened that Apple would have to pay a 25 per cent tariff if iPhones sold in America were not made within its borders. Apple is positioning India as an alternative manufacturing base amid Trump's tariffs on China that have raised supply-chain concerns and fears of higher iPhone prices. The iPhone maker said most of its smartphones sold in the US would originate from India in the June quarter. However, during his recent trip to the Middle East, Trump had categorically said that he doesn't want Apple to manufacture in India and had chided the company's CEO Tim Cook for moving iPhone production from China to India rather than the US.



The company now joins Amazon, Walmart and other major companies as being in the White House's crosshairs as they try to respond to the uncertainty and inflationary pressures unleashed by the import taxes being imposed by Trump.

"I have long ago informed Tim Cook of Apple that I expect their iPhones that will be sold in the United States of America will be manufactured and built in the United States, not India, or anyplace else," Trump posted on Truth Social. "If that is not the case, a Tariff of at least 25% must be paid by Apple to the US."

Apple, led by CEO Tim Cook, in response to Trump's tariffs on China was looking to shift iPhone manufacturing to India as it adjusts supply chains. That plan has become a festering source of frustration for the US president, who also brought it up last week during his Middle East trip.

AGENCIES

**Washington, May 23:** President Donald Trump Friday threatened to put a 25 per cent tariff on Apple products unless iPhones are manufactured in the United States.

The threat delivered over social media could dramatically increase the price of iPhones, potentially hurting sales and the profits of one of America's leading technology companies.

## India to oppose WB's \$20bn loan to Pakistan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 23:** The World Bank is likely to review next month its \$20 billion lending to Pakistan under the Country Partnership Framework agreed in January this year.

The funds to cash-starved Pakistan were for areas like clean energy and climate resilience for a period of 10 years beginning 2026. India will next month oppose the funding, just as it had done in case of IMF, arguing that Islamabad had used such funds in the past to procure arms and ammunitions, a government source said.

Multilateral agencies' fund-

ing to developing countries are meant for poverty alleviation and development goals, but Pakistan's track record has been to misuse them for military purposes, the source said.

"We will oppose the upcoming World Bank funding to Pakistan," the source said.

India had lobbied with IMF Chief Kristalina Georgieva and ministers of IMF board member nations against extending a \$2.3 billion assistance to Pakistan earlier this month. The funding could, however, not be blocked as the agenda had previously been circulated to all members and it was left to them to vote on extending assistance to Pakistan.

## NO MORE MYSORE PAK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jaipur, May 23:** Shakespeare may not have found much in a name but some in this Rajasthan capital could disagree as they tuck into 'Moti Shree' instead of 'Moti Pak' and 'Mysore Shree' not 'Mysore Pak' -- the sweets the same, the moniker changed in keeping with the anti-Pakistan mood of the times.

The name change is complete in at least three famous confectionaries, which have dropped 'Pak' from the entire range of their traditional sweets and replaced it with 'Shree' instead. So, 'Aam Pak' is 'Aam Shree', 'Gond Pak' is 'Gond Shree' and so on. Luxury offerings 'Swarn Bhasm Pak' and 'Chandi Bhasm Pak' have also been rechristened 'Swarn Shree' and 'Chandi Shree', a move intended as giving expression to the patriotic spirit in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack and Operation Sindoor that struck terror targets in Pakistan.

## Confectioners drop 'Pak' from sweets

Anjali Jain, the owner of Tyohaar Sweets, a premium shop known for its elaborate and festive sweet offerings in the city's Vaishali Nagar area, said their delicacies must also reflect national pride. "The spirit of patriotism shouldn't just reside at the border but in every Indian home and heart," Jain told PTI. The decision, she said, is not about linguistics but sentiment. "Customers are also appreciating the decision and are happy to see the changed names. We were also not happy after Pahalgam and Operation Sindoor," she added.



Joining the culinary rebranding movement are Bombay Misthan Bhandar, a decades-old chain of sweet shops

in the city, and Agarwal Caterers. All the sweets with the 'Pak' suffix have been renamed. "We wanted to send a clear message -- those who dare raise their eyes against India will have their names erased, and every Indian will respond in their own

way. This is our sweet, symbolic retaliation," said Bombay Misthan Bhandar general manager Vineet Trikha. The name changes have struck an appreciative chord with customers.

Pushpa Kaushik, a retired government teacher, said, "Hearing the 'Mysore Shree' name instead of 'Mysore Pak', I smiled with pride. After Operation Sindoor, this initiative feels like a sweet salute to our soldiers -- simple, symbolic, and heartfelt."

According to the Rekhta dictionary, the origins of the word 'pak' are Persian. It means 'sweetmeat or confection' as well as 'pure, clean and holy'. The Hindi dictionary shabd-kosh.com defines 'pak' as 'cooking, cooking, preparation'.

# leisure



## GELLAR WILLING TO STAR IN SCREAM 7

Hollywood actor Sarah Michelle Gellar says she wasn't called to be a part of the *Scream 7* but is willing to return to the franchise. Michelle Gellar featured in the second installment of the horror-mystery, which released in 1997. She portrayed the role of Cici Cooper.

## MICHAEL JACKSON BIOPIC DELAYED

The highly anticipated Michael Jackson biopic, directed by Antoine Fuqua and starring Jaafar Jackson, is likely to be delayed until after April 1, 2026, according to Lionsgate CEO Jon Feltheimer. The decision to move the release date aims to bolster the fiscal year 2027 slate.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com  
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**ARIES**  
The day sparkles with opportunities and pleasures, you just have to look in the right place. If you've been looking to seal a relationship, today is the day to propose, says Ganesh! Be careful while driving, and be subtle in suggestion.

**TAURUS**  
You will hear the division bell beckoning you to strike a balance between your personal and professional life. Today is an encouraging day for big business deals and new projects. In the afternoon, you may fall victim to iniquity. Safeguard your money from green-eyed monsters, advises Ganesh.

**GEMINI**  
It is highly probable that you will channel your energy constructively, instead of worrying about minor issues, predicts Ganesh. In the evening, you are likely to go on a shopping spree with your sweetheart. Don't fret, the expenditure promises handsome returns.

**CANCER**  
You will decide to expose certain unreasonable conventions and traditions, and you will be able to do so successfully, predicts Ganesh. In the afternoon, you may incur the displeasure of your bosses. In the evening, you will be able to draw pleasure from whatever you do.

**LEO**  
Your wish to be in a cocoon, protected from the vagaries of the world, will come to fruition today as you remain sensitive and protected, says Ganesh. At work, you will be filled with a sense of purpose, and a feeling of solidity. But it is the evening that you should look forward to, as you are assured of a fantastic time with your family and loved ones.

**VIRGO**  
Your professional life may just bounce up higher than ever today, predicts Ganesh. Expect incentives as well today. Executing plans to perfection will come naturally to you. In the evening, family will draw you in their unconditional love. A bright, charming day, says Ganesh.

**LIBRA**  
It's now or never for you, as today, you may finally take out time to do some sound thinking for your future goals and success. Things seem to go your way, and all your plans are beautifully executed towards the afternoon. Also, find time in the evening to be with the ones dear to you.

**SCORPIO**  
Proposals of your choice will come your way today says Ganesh. You shall probably retreat into your shell in the afternoon. But the passing hours will bring out a different you. At work, you shall greatly impress your boss with sparkling results, predicts Ganesh.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Today, you will probably emerge as the victorious gladiator in the arena of sports and games, says Ganesh. But later in the day, some hurdles may come across your path. At your desk, your bosses might just lend you a helping hand to assist you to finish off pending jobs.

**CAPRICORN**  
It's not every day that you wake up with a positive feeling, one that pushes you to make right everything that has been going wrong around and within you. Today, you may be in one of those high-spirited moods, says Ganesh.

**AQUARIUS**  
You will finally make an effort to get in touch with old friends. At work, you find your public relation skills suddenly enhanced and even your rivals salute you! Naturally, the happiest is your beloved, who appreciates all the things you say. Enjoy it while it lasts, says Ganesh.

**PISCES**  
Not the best of days for you, haunted as you will be by feelings of insecurity. However, do not be in too much of a hurry to get in the mood to grieve, for the evening brings you pleasant times in the company of your soul mate, says Ganesh.

# Tamannaah caught in 'crossfire'

**Bengaluru:** The Karnataka government has appointed actress Tamannaah Bhatia as the brand ambassador of Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited (KSDL), which manufactures Mysore Sandal Soap.

The state government's order issued Wednesday said Bhatia has been appointed as the brand ambassador for two years and two days at a cost of Rs 6.2 crore.

The decision drew flak from certain sections of society who questioned her appointment. "When local Kannada young actresses like @AshikaRanganath could be taken as brand ambassador why appoint and promote Hindi ones?" a woman questioned the decision on X.

Reacting to it, state Commerce and Industries Minister MB Patil explained that the decision was taken after much deliberation "to penetrate markets beyond Karnataka aggressively".

The KSDL has the deepest respect and regards to the Kannada film industry, Patil said, adding that some Kannada movies are giving competition to even Bollywood films.

"Mysore Sandal has a very good brand recall within Karnataka, which shall be strengthened. However the intent of Mysore Sandal is to also penetrate markets beyond Karnataka aggressively," the minister clarified.

"The pride of Karnataka is also a Jewel of the Nation. Hence it's an independent strategic decision of the PSU board after consulting various marketing experts," Patil noted.

AGENCIES



## Raghav bares his dreams

**Mumbai:** Actor and choreographer Raghav Juyal opened up about a heartfelt dream — to see his parents fly in a private jet.

He shared that giving them this once-in-a-lifetime experience is one of his biggest goals, reflecting the deep love and gratitude he holds for them. Juyal shared, "I truly want to be present in everything I do. I want to achieve my goals. I want to have all the comforts that come with it. Most importantly, I want my parents to experience flying in a private jet. That is my dream, and I am willing to work very hard to make it happen."

In terms of work, Raghav first gained widespread recognition as a finalist on Zee TV's dance reality show *Dance India Dance 3*. He later went on to mentor team in *Dance India Dance Li'l Masters 2* and *Dance Ke Superkids*, where his team clinched the title under his leadership. In 2014, Juyal debuted as an actor by playing a pivotal role in the comedy film *Sonali Cable*, co-starring Rhea Chakraborty and Ali Fazal. After appearing in a string of films, the actor earned widespread acclaim for his villainous role in the thriller *Kill*. He bagged his first-ever IIFA award for his performance in a negative role.

AGENCIES

**Chennai:** Veteran actor Kamal Haasan, one of Indian cinema's most revered and enduring stars, is set to return to the big screen in the highly anticipated film *Thug Life*. Directed by legendary filmmaker Mani Ratnam, the film is a gangster drama that is expected to have a gripping story and powerful performances.

In a recent interview, the Vikram star shared insights on handling the nerves and pressures that come with releasing a big film. Having started his acting journey at the age of three, Kamal revealed that he views every working day as a blessing. This perspective, he explained, shields him from the anxiety that often grips actors before a film's release. For him, the anticipation is not pressure, but a mix of humility, hope, and gratitude.

He reflected on the thin line between passion and perceived arrogance in filmmaking. "We want it to run, and we think it will run," he said, adding that such hope is often mistaken for hubris. He acknowledged that filmmakers invest emotionally and financially in their projects and, over time, learn to take both success and failure in stride—an outlook shaped by experience and age.

AGENCIES

## Kamal on release jitters

**Mumbai:** Bollywood actress Alaya F revealed the simple morning drink she swears by to achieve radiant skin and keep bloating at bay throughout the day.

Friday, Alaya gave a peek into her daily wellness routine with a simple yet powerful morning drink. Taking to Instagram, she revealed how this easy-to-make beverage helps her maintain clear skin, boosts metabolism, supports gut health, and reduces bloating—all in under two minutes. In her caption, the *Jawaani Jaaneman* actress emphasised how she drinks this concoction every morning on an empty stomach and swears by its benefits.

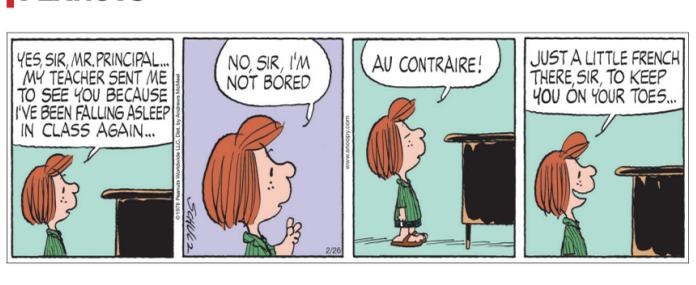
Sharing her video, Alaya wrote "What if I told you that this little morning drink helps my gut, clears my skin, boosts my metabolism, and gets rid of bloating? (And it takes less than 2 minutes to make!!) I have this drink every single morning and I swear by it!" Pooja Bedi's daughter also shared the recipe: warm water mixed with soaked chia seeds, fresh lemon juice, apple cider vinegar, and a touch of honey. She also offered useful tips — the water should be warm, not boiling, and consistency is key to achieving noticeable results.

On the professional front, Alaya made her acting debut in 2020 with the comedy film *Jawaani Jaaneman*, which also starred Saif Ali Khan and Tabu.

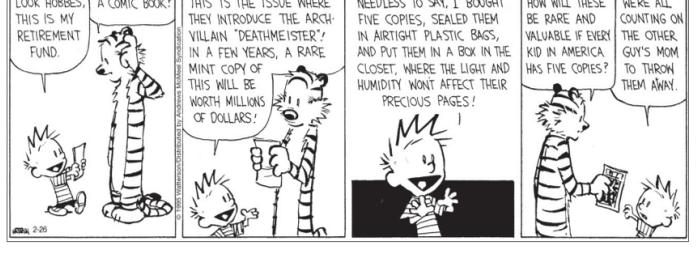
AGENCIES

## Alaya's beauty secrets

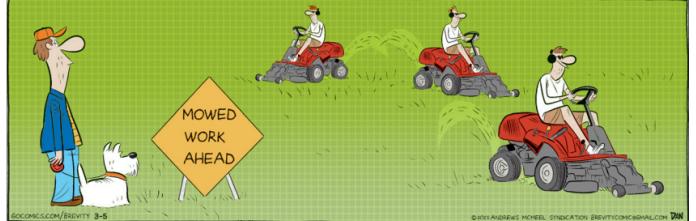
**PEANUTS**



**CALVIN AND HOBBS**

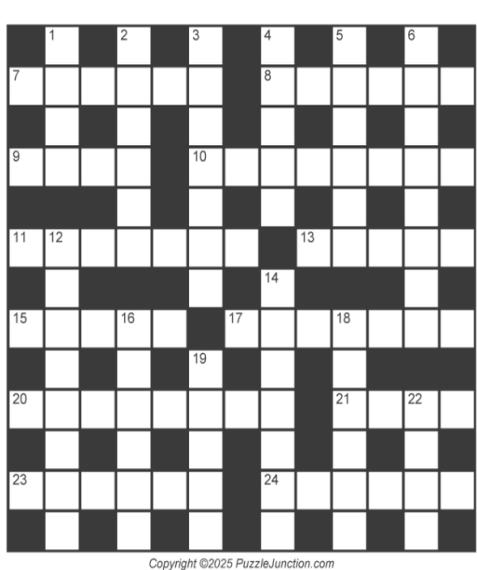


**BREVITY**



### FUN POST

### CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Tiny village
  - 8 2004 Olympics site
  - 9 Tableland
  - 10 Items of yore
  - 11 Copy
  - 13 Piquant
  - 15 Hoity-toity sorts
  - 17 Ceremonial staff
  - 20 Queensland's capital
  - 21 Caddie's offering
  - 23 Map line
  - 24 Acquire
  - 4 Coffee order
  - 5 Bank draft
  - 6 Aardvark
  - 12 Castle towers
  - 14 Level
  - 16 Kind of basket
  - 18 Sports tallies
  - 19 Pub game
  - 22 Fail to mention
- Down**
- 1 Wise guy
  - 2 Flexible
  - 3 Type of bomber

### 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.

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

### SOLUTIONS

**CROSSWORD**

M	U	T	E	A	P	E	A	I	D	A
U	A	D	A	O	M	W				
F	E	R	V	O	U	R	V	I	P	E
F	D	C	E	A	Y					
L	Y	O	U	R	S	T	R	U	L	Y
E	M	U	A	A	S					
R	O	C	E	G	G	O	N	S	E	T
S	H	N	A	D	A					
M	A	T	T	E	R	H	O	R	N	A
O	M	A	V	E	U	D				
S	O	B	E	R	C	H	E	R	U	P
L	E	Y	A	R	S	A				
O	A	R	S	O	D	E	W	E	P	T

**SUDOKU**

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Members of Odisha Medical College Teachers' Association at the 'extra ordinary general body meeting' organised at SCB Medical College and Hospital new auditorium in Cuttack, Friday



# downtown

## Monsoon: Govt gears up to plug the gaps



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 23:** Ahead of the monsoon season, the Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) department Friday asked the urban local bodies (ULBs) to follow an action plan in order to prevent water-logging and flood-like situations arising out of 'above normal rainfall' as forecast by the weatherman.

According to the action plan, ULBs would have to inspect, desilt and repair all drains and manholes to ensure free flow of stormwater.

"Special attention will be given to repairing damaged drain covers and removing encroachments that obstruct drainage channels. Bar screen and wire mesh will be installed in tertiary drains to filter solid waste and prevent blockages during heavy rains," the H&UD department told ULBs, adding local personnel will monitor these sites and carryout continuous waste removal.

Roads blocked due to fallen trees or debris following cyclonic events will be cleared promptly, with a road restoration deadline of 72 hours. "Drinking water services will be restored immediately after disruptions. The restoration work will be done by WATCO and PHEO in collaboration with ULBs," it said.

Water-logging hotspots will be identified, and pump sets along with emergency equipment will be pre-deployed. Zone-level officers will be appointed to manage real-time emergency responses, the H&UD department's action plan said.

"Existing multi-purpose cyclone shelters and designated public buildings will be prepared to serve as emergency shelters. These facilities will be equipped to ensure structural safety, clean water, sanitation, food supply, and security, with special provisions for women and vulnerable populations," it said.

Measures to control vector and water-borne diseases will

include larvicide application, fogging, and sanitation drives, conducted in collaboration with the health and sanitation departments, it said.

"All ULBs will establish monsoon-specific control rooms operating 24/7 throughout the season to address public grievances related to water-logging, road blockages, and water supply issues. Elected representatives, ward committees, local volunteers, and women self-help groups (WSHGs) will be actively engaged in preparedness and response efforts at the local level," the action plan said.

A high-level inter-departmental coordination meeting is scheduled before the first week of June 2025. Participants will include officials from fire services, the drainage division, minor irrigation, and other relevant stakeholders, aimed at streamlining efforts and ensuring resource readiness.

H&UD Minister Krushna Chandra Mahapatra said, "Our goal is to ensure that urban areas remain resilient, safe, and prepared for the challenges of an intense monsoon."

The state government urged all citizens to cooperate with local authorities, adhere to safety advisories, and promptly report emergencies to the designated ULB control rooms.



**PACT INKED:** Dignitaries during the MoU signing ceremony between Shree Jagannath Temple Administration and Oil India Limited for maintenance of electrical equipment at Srimandir in Puri, Friday

PICT: YAGNESWAR MOHANTY

## 'NRI' fraud held for duping job aspirants

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, May 23:** The Odisha Police Crime Branch arrested a 'suave NRI' conman for allegedly duping highly qualified professionals to the tune of lakhs of rupees on the pretext of helping them get well-paid jobs abroad.

DGP, Crime Branch, Vinaytosh Mishra identified the accused as Bishnu Prasad Pattnaik alias Biranchi Narayan who hails from a place under Begunia police station limits in Khordha district.

"The accused cheated a qualified aeronautical engineer, who passed out from a college in Coimbatore, to the tune of Rs 90 lakh on the pretext of providing him a job in British Airways, and thereafter, Lufthansa Airways," Mishra said Friday.

The accused even created fake offer and appointment letters to deceive the victim who is a resident of Gunupur.

Based on the complaint lodged by the victim, a case was registered at Gunupur police station of Rayagada district October 29, 2018.

The Crime Branch later took up the investigation after registering a fresh case, the DGP added.

He said in another case registered at the Gunupur police station September 24, 2018, the



### 2 held for duping City investor of ₹1.55cr

In another case, the Crime Branch officials arrested two persons for allegedly duping an investor from City of Rs 1.55 crore.

The arrested persons are from Madhya Pradesh. The accused and their associates posed as trade analysts and cheated Rs 1.55 crore from the complainant by promising high returns on his investment, said a police officer. They were arrested from Ratlam and Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh and brought to Odisha on transit remand, the officer added.

fraudster duped a woman of Rs 15 lakh by falsely promising to help her son, an Electronic and Instrumentation Engineering branch engineer, get a high-paying job in Malaysia.

The Crime Branch, during the course of investigation into both these cases, also came across the involvement of Pattnaik in another fraud case registered at the Bissamcuttack Police Station of the district April 9, 2002.

The police there have also submitted a chargesheet in the case showing Pattnaik as an absconding accused.

"It is found that Pattnaik would introduce himself as a doctor, professor and engineer to his unsuspecting victims and charmed them into believing the same. However, during the inquiry his credentials were appeared dubious and are under

investigation," said the Crime Branch in a press note.

It further added that the accused created forged offer and appointment letters of international consultancy companies.

Pattnaik also forged identity documents like address proof and driving license to conceal his identity and whereabouts.

"While the investigation was in progress, the accused fled to Cambodia and purportedly created a second passport to conceal his identity. Look-out Circular (LoC) was issued against Bishnu Prasad Pattnaik 17.01.2019 which was requested to continue in 2020 also. To evade arrest, the accused has been staying in Cambodia since 2012 and claims to have started an IT firm there which is under investigation," added the Crime Branch.

However, despite the issu-

ance of LoC, Pattnaik managed to visit Odisha often by misleading the law enforcement agencies. The cops also ascertained that Pattnaik is involved in several other cases related to job fraud in Visakhapatnam, Berhampur, Bhubaneswar and other parts of the country.

"He last came to Odisha in 2023 and his movements were kept under watch. It was found that he came to India in May, 2025 and the Crime Branch team, based on tech intelligence, kept surveillance and tracked him down on his arrival in India before arresting him from Bhubaneswar Wednesday," claimed Crime Branch.

DGP Mishra revealed that police will soon approach the court seeking remand for Pattnaik for further investigation.

## OMFED booth owner among 2 held for assaulting BMC official

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 23:** An OMFED booth owner and his associate were arrested by the Badagada police Friday for allegedly assaulting a BMC official during an eviction drive Wednesday.

### The civic body staffer had suffered arm injuries after the miscreants chased and attacked him

The civic body staffer had suffered arm injuries after the miscreants chased and attacked him, said Badagada police station Inspector-in-Charge (IIC) Trupti Ranjan Nayak.

IIC Nayak identified the miscreants as Chaturbhuj Behera, 38, a resident of Nuasahi area, and Rakesh Kumar Jena, 35, who lives in Majhi Sahi under the police station limits. Chaturbhuj runs an OMFED booth near Daya west canal road.

Nayak said the incident occurred around 12:10 pm Wednesday when BMC Enforcement Inspector Sanjay Kumar Swain, along with his colleagues, were conducting a field review of illegal establishments for eviction in the area. When Sanjay asked Chaturbhuj to produce documents of his OMFED booth, the latter teamed up with Rakesh and launched a vicious attack on the BMC team. While others managed to run to their safety, Sanjay was chased down and attacked violently by the duo. They even threatened Sanjay with dire consequences while leaving the scene, the IIC added.

The Badagada Police has booked the duo under Sections 126 (2), 115 (2), 121 (1), 132, 351 (2), and 3 (5) of BNS. They were produced before a local court Friday for remand.

## CM for boosting security of Puri Shankaracharya

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, May 23:** Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Friday asked authorities to strengthen the security of Puri Shankaracharya Swami Nischalananda Saraswati and his seat 'Govardhan Peeth' in the holy town.

Majhi issued the direction while presiding over a meeting at Lok Seva Bhawan here on the development of Puri's 'Govardhan Peeth'.

Saraswati, who enjoys 'Z' category cover, will now get enhanced security, a senior police officer said after the meeting.

The meeting, attended by Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan, Puri MP Sambit Patra and Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja among others, deliberated on development



and preservation of all structures and establishments at 'Govardhan Peeth'.

Majhi also urged the 'Govardhan Peeth' trust board members to put forth development ideas before the state government.

In a related development, Harichandan told reporters that the Odisha government has decided to rehabilitate 19 mutts (monasteries) demolished during the Srimandir Parikrama (heritage corridor) project during the previous BJD government.



**BUDDING TALENT:** Children perform Odissi during 'Debasruti' at Bhanjakala Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Friday

PICT: BIKASH NAYAK

## International conference on state's ties with SEA from today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, May 23:** The state government will host a two-day international conference on 'Kalinga and South-east Asia: The Civilisational Connect' May 24 and 25.

Aimed at exploring the deep-rooted historical, maritime and cultural ties between ancient Kalinga (modern-day Odisha) and South-east Asian (SEA) nations, the conference promises to bring global attention to Odisha's

rich civilisational legacy, a senior official said here Friday.

The conference is being jointly organised by the state government's Odia Language, Literature and Culture Department, Insti-

tute of Media Studies, Utkal University, Bhubaneswar, and the Central government.

Eminent professors, scholars, historians and researchers from the country and across Southeast Asia are scheduled to attend the con-

ference, he said.

The conference will feature multiple plenary sessions covering diverse themes such as historical connections, cultural exchanges and literary linkages.

## STF nabs key operative in gun running racket

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, May 23:** The Special Task Force (STF) of Odisha Police has apprehended the key figure behind the state's illegal arms trade from Munger in Bihar, an official claimed Friday.

The STF with the help of Munger police May 20 arrested Md Aslam, STF DIG Pinak Mishra stated.

The accused was apprehended in connection with a case of illegal firearms manufacturing in Cuttack district.

One manufacturing unit of illegal firearms operating in a house in Bada Dhuleswar village was detected by the police March 13, 2025.

During searches, a huge quantity of 7 mm pistol manufacturing materials was seized from the possession of five accused persons who were subsequently arrested.

Stating that Aslam was also involved in crimes in Bihar and Kolkata, Mishra said, "The STF will appeal to the court for remand of the accused to ascertain the other aspects of the case."

The DIG further informed that Aslam made several visits to Bada Dhaleswar village to collect half-made small firearms



from the alleged offenders.

Mishra said the police had earlier arrested five people in the case involving illegal firearms manufacturing in Cuttack district. Md Azam - referred as Budhu - and Md Abid Husain were among the arrested persons from Cuttack earlier.

"Accused Md Azam who also goes by the alias Budhu, and Md Abid Husain have made several transactions with accused Md Aslam on different dates for running illegal arms manufacturing unit located at Bada Dhuleswar village in Cuttack district," the DIG said.

Mishra said Aslam was produced before a local court in Munger and brought to Bhubaneswar on a three-day transit remand.

# Congress vows to take fight for SEBC quota to villages

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, May 23: Opposition Congress Friday ended its 24-hour dharna near Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi's residence demanding 27 per cent reservation in education and jobs for Socially and Economically Backward Classes (SEBCs) in the state.

However, the party vowed to take the fight for enhanced quota for SEBCs, or OBCs as categorised in Odisha, to the villages.

The party staged a peaceful protest at Mahatma Gandhi Marg here opposing the state government's announcement of 11.25 per cent of quota for SEBC students in higher education. The 24-hour dharna began at 11am Thursday and ended at 11am Friday.

The party also strongly condemned the government for not extending the SEBC quota to medical, engineering and technical courses in the state.

"I would like to thank all the Congress workers who staged an overnight dharna amid

heavy downpour. We have decided to fight till the end for the protection of the interests of the people belonging to SEBC category, who comprise 54 per cent of the state's population. The Congress will take the agitation to each village in the state," Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) president Bhakta Charan Das said, while wrapping up the dharna.

Das said that apart from SEBCs, the party is also committed to fight for the interests of people belonging to the Scheduled Tribe and Scheduled Caste categories.

"Altogether, STs, SCs and SEBCs comprise 94 per cent of Odisha's population," he said, alleging that tribals and Dalits are being denied their rights under the BJP government.

He said the party has already submitted a five-point charter of demands to the Governor and had plans to submit a memorandum to the Chief Minister Friday.

"However, the CM was not available... the party hopes that

the Governor would forward the Congress memorandum to Majhi," the OPCC president said.

Other Congress leaders, including Prasad Harichandan, Jaydev Jena, Srikant Jena, also came down heavily on the BJP government and dubbed it as "anti-SEBC".

"While all the states have made provisions for 27 per cent reservation for OBCs (SEBC in Odisha) in jobs and education, Odisha's BJP government is giving only 11.25 per cent quota, which is a clear discrimination against the community," Harichandan said. Meanwhile, the ruling BJP alleged that both the BJD and Congress were 'shedding crocodile tears' for SEBCs.

"What did the BJD do for the SEBCs during its 24-year rule? Within 11 months in the government, the BJP has made a provision for 11.25 per cent quota for SEBC students in higher education," BJP state president Manmohan Samal said, adding that the government will soon extend the SEBC quota to medical and engineering courses as well.



PERFORMING ART: Artistes from Seagull Theatre, Assam performing a drama 'Vyatha' at National Theatre Festival organised by Bidyakanak at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar Friday

## CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before Executive Magistrate, Basudevpur, dated - 06.05.2025. I, Sujata Kuanr, W/o - Ratikanta Kuanr, Vill - Mishrapur, P.O. - Patana Mishrapur, P.S.- Naikanidhi, Dist.- Bhadrak, declare that I have changed my daughter's name from Barsa Kuanra to Barsarani Kuanr. Henceforth, she will be known as Barsarani Kuanr for all purposes.

I, NALLA RANJIT KUMAR, S/o - DAYANIDHI NALLA, R/o - 4th LANE, RANIGUDA FARM. VTC : Rayagada, PO : Rayagada(K), Sub District : Kalyanasingpur, District : Rayagada, State : Odisha, PIN Code : 765001, have changed the name of my minor son Amita Nalla, aged 16 years he shall hereafter be known as AMIT KUMAR NALLA.

I, SURESH KUMAR PEDINA, S/o - Late PEDINA ANANTA RAO, resident of At - Dera Sahi, Gudari, Ward No. - 5, PO/PS - Gudari, Dist. - Rayagada, Odisha, PIN - 765026, Odisha declare by this Affidavit No. - 480, dated 21.05.2025 that now onwards I shall be known as SURESH KUMAR PEDINA for all future purposes.

I, Smt. SHAVUKARU BHAVANI, W/o- Sri B.Santosh Kumar, residing at Main Road, Semiliguda, Dist.- Koraput, PIN-764036, Odisha have changed my name to "Smt. BANGARAM BANDI BHAVANI" as per affidavit No.- 764 on dated 10.5.25 for all future purposes.

# 30 students embark on ISRO tour under YATS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 23: Thirty students from across Odisha, selected as winners of the prestigious Tata Steel Young Astronomer Talent Search (YATS) 2025, began their educational tour to ISRO's Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network and UR Rao Satellite Centre at Bengaluru Friday.

The initiative, jointly organised by Tata Steel and Pathani Samanta Planetarium under Science and Technology department of the state, aims to ignite scientific curiosity among school students and provide real-world exposure to space science and technology.

This is the 18th edition of YATS, which has grown steadily in scale and impact. Speaking at the flag-off ceremony, Sarvesh Kumar, Chief of Corporate Communication at Tata Steel, said, "Over the past 17 years, YATS has become a launchpad for budding scientists. Many of our past participants are now pursuing higher studies, some even abroad. This year, with support from the Government of Odisha,



we've increased the number of selected students from 20 to 30. We are overjoyed to see their dreams taking flight. Congratulations to all students - stay safe and enjoy the journey."

Welcoming the participants, Pathani Samanta Planetarium director Urmiprava Maharana said, "We're not just sending students to ISRO - we're launching dreams. YATS is a talent competition that this year received over 71,000 entries from across Odisha. The 30 selected students represent the best of young scientific minds. This planetarium is named after legendary Odia astronomer Pathani Samanta,

and we believe every student has the potential to be a modern-day Pathani Samanta when given the right exposure and encouragement."

She added, "We sincerely thank Tata Steel for its unwavering commitment to science and education, and express our gratitude to the Government of Odisha and ISRO for opening their doors to our students."

Science and Technology department principal secretary and chairperson of Pathani Samanta Planetarium Chithra Arumugam also attended the event and extended her best wishes to the students.

## SIT to probe illegal mining in Sundargarh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, May 23: Vigilance department Friday set up a special investigating team (SIT) to probe into alleged illegal mining at Hemagiri and Koinda in Sundargarh district, officials said.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has directed the department to initiate the probe in Sundargarh, "adopting a zero-tolerance policy against corruption", a release issued by the CMO said. The state government's action came after Steel and Mines Minister Bibhuti Bhushan Jena submitted a report to the CM in this regard.

"It was alleged that more than 9,843 tonnes of coal have been illegally extracted from 22 mines in Hemagiri tehsil of Sundargarh district. The estimated value of illegal mining was more than ₹2 crore," the release in Odia stated. Extraction of manganese and iron ore has been detected from "50 illegal manganese and iron ore mines in Malda, Pataweda, Sanputuli, Kolmag and Rusivenua under Koinda tehsil of Sundargarh district", it said.

"More than 20,000 metric tonnes of manganese ore and more than 1,200 metric tonnes of iron ore have been illegally extracted from these mines. The estimated value of the minerals is more than ₹37 crore," the release added.

## Pradhan welcomes Kotia panel decision

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, May 23: Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Friday welcomed the state government's decision to form a committee aimed at finding a permanent solution to the issues concerning the Kotia villages.

"Kotia is an integral part of Odisha, and our sentiments are deeply connected with the people of Kotia," Pradhan stated on his X handle.

The state government has constituted a 16-member committee, chaired by the Revenue Minister, to address the long-standing problems of Kotia villages in Koraput district. The committee will also work to ensure that the residents benefit from various Central and state government schemes.

Thanking Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi for taking this initiative, Pradhan said, "I had earlier visited Kotia with a firm resolve to safeguard the geographical and cultural integrity of Odisha."

He added that he had repeatedly written to the former chief ministers of both Andhra Pradesh and Odisha, urging a permanent and amicable resolution to Kotia issue.

"Despite numerous appeals, the previous government failed to address the matter," Pradhan stated.

With the new initiative undertaken by the state government, Pradhan expressed hope that "the local population will now benefit from multiple welfare schemes under the 'Double Engine Government'".

## Crafts Council of Odisha to host 'Master Crafters'

Bhubaneswar: The Crafts Council of Odisha (CCO) is going to organise a two-day exhibition on state's traditional crafts, created by celebrated award winning artisans, titled 'Master Crafters' from May 24 at Bhubaneswar Club from 11am to 8pm. The exhibition will feature twenty master craftspersons, including national and state award winners, showcasing a diverse range of Odisha's handicrafts. Art forms including Pattachitra, palmleaf engraving, terracotta, stone and wood carving, Applique, Golden Grass, Sabai Grass, Silver Filigree, seashell art, Dhokra casting, tribal painting, and hand woven Ikat will be on display and sale. The event aims to promote excellence in craftsmanship, provide marketing opportunities, and encourage direct interaction between the artisans and buyers. Development Commissioner-cum-Additional Chief Secretary Anu Garg will join as the chief guest and inaugurate the exhibition.

MARKET WATCH					
CURRENCY		BOURSES		COMMODITIES	
INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION	INDEX	VARIATION
DOLLAR	85.35 ↓ 0.63	SENSEX	81721.08 ↑ 769.09	GOLD	₹96,342 ↑ ₹806
EURO	97.01 ↓ 0.17	NIFTY	24853.15 ↑ 243.45	SILVER	₹97,689 ↓ ₹107

## WORLD SCHIZOPHRENIA DAY

### Experts call for compassion, early intervention

RESHMI YADAV, OP

Bhubaneswar, May 23: Schizophrenia, termed as a chronic mental disorder, affecting how a person thinks, feels, and behaves, continues to be misunderstood and stigmatised across the society, despite of increasing awareness and treatment options. Experts on mental health urge the public to treat schizophrenia like any other medical condition—one that is diagnosable, treatable, and manageable with the right support.

Consultant psychiatrist at Manipal Hospitals SA Idrees explained, "Schizophrenia doesn't appear overnight. It often develops gradually due to genetic predispositions or environmental stressors. Patients may experience hallucinations, delusions, disorganised speech, or even believe they are someone else—like a saviour or a victim of conspiracies. These are not mere eccentricities.



They are signs of a serious mental health condition."

The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that schizophrenia affects approximately 24 million people worldwide, about one person in 300. In India, the prevalence is about 0.3 per cent to 0.5 per cent of the population, which translates to over 4 million people, according to the National Mental Health Survey report.

Despite its prevalence, schizophrenia remains a taboo

topic. "The stigma is the real illness," added Idrees. "People are quick to use derogatory terms like 'mad' or 'psycho,' which isolates patients and delays their recovery. We must normalise mental health treatment, the same way we do for diabetes or hypertension," he said.

Schizophrenia typically begins between the age group of 20 and 30, and its early symptoms are often mistaken for personality quirks or result of stress. Senior consultant in Neuromedicine at Manipal Hospital Dr Pradyut Ranjan Bhuyana highlighted the biological roots of the disorder and said, "Schizophrenia can stem from genetic factors, chemical imbalances, or structural abnormalities in the brain. These can distort a patient's perception of reality and trigger severe agitation or fear."

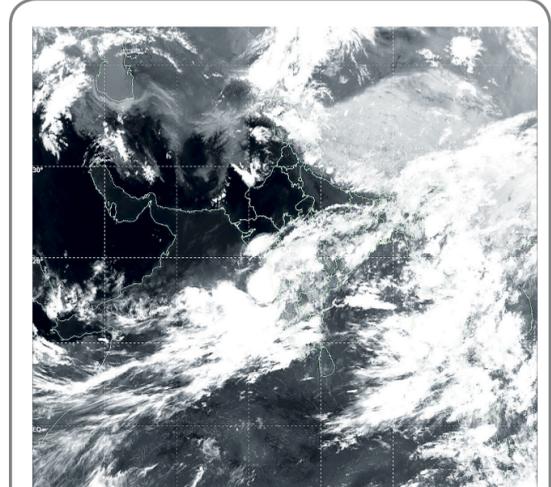
With the right care—including antipsychotic medication, cognitive behavioural therapy,

and family support—many patients live stable, fulfilling lives. "Continuous psychiatric care is crucial," quoted Bhuyana.

Experts agree that India has made significant strides in making mental healthcare accessible. Cultural awareness through several films like 'Dear Zindagi', 'Kartik Calling Kartik', and 'Chhichhore' has helped destigmatise therapy and portray mental illness with sensitivity. "Cinema, when used responsibly, can spark conversations and change attitudes," added Bhuyana.

"Let us stop labeling and start listening. Mental health issues affect children, women, professionals—everyone. Acknowledging pain, sharing stories, and encouraging treatment can make a world of difference," addressed Idrees, calling for united effort.

Experts also urge policymakers, educators, media houses, and citizens to join hands in breaking the silence.



WEATHER			
	BBSR	CTC	FORECAST
Max Temp	35.7°	34.5°	Partly cloudy sky with possibility of rain or thunderstorm
Min Temp	24.4°	23.8°	
Humidity	95%	88%	
Rainfall	NII	NII	

## FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

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

# Pollution in Brahmani raises health concerns

Among the 11 rivers tested across the state, the Brahmani displayed some of the poorest water quality indicators

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rourkela, May 23:** The Brahmani River, often referred to as the lifeline of Rourkela, is facing alarming levels of pollution posing serious health risks unless immediate corrective action is taken, environmental experts warn.

According to the latest annual report from the Odisha State Pollution Control Board (SPCB), the river's water quality has deteriorated sharply due to the discharge of untreated sewage and industrial waste. The report highlights the infiltration of chemically contaminated water into the groundwater as a major source of river pollution.

Among the 11 rivers tested across the state, the Brahmani displayed some of the poorest water quality indicators. The river's biochemical oxygen demand, or BOD, ranged from 1.8 mg per litre to as high as 39 mg per litre — far above the safe limit of 5 mg per litre. High BOD levels signal severe organic pollution and elevate the risk of waterborne diseases, the board noted.

Despite efforts by the Rourkela Municipal Corporation



(RMC), the SPCB and the Sewerage Board, implementation gaps persist. Several major drainage and sanitation projects remain stalled due to land encroachment issues, halting the completion of critical infrastructure intended to protect the river.

For fiscal year 2023-24, crores of rupees were allocated to upgrade the city's drainage system. However, much of the work remains incomplete. Many major hotels, private medical facilities and industrial units are still not connected to the main sewer network, resulting in the direct discharge of toxic waste into the Brahmani.

To curb pollution from chemicals arising out of idol immersion, a dedicated immersion ghat was built in 2023-24 at Balughat at a cost of ₹1.69 crore. Yet the ramp meant for removing residual waste remains un-

finished. The temporary mud ramp has eroded, and the ghat's drainage channels are clogged with stagnant water, creating foul odours and exacerbating pollution.

Additionally, the gallery area at the Balughat site is unplastered, and concrete layers are already peeling, further exposing lapses in project execution.

Asked about the worsening pollution in the Brahmani, Rourkela Municipal Commissioner Ashutosh Kulkarni said, "We will hold consultations with relevant departments regarding the increased pollution levels. Plans are also underway to set up a sewage treatment plant in Koel Nagar, which will significantly reduce contamination in the Koel River, a tributary of Brahmani. In addition, steps will be taken to integrate every pollution-generating establishment into the city's sewerage system, ensuring more robust drainage management."

Local environmentalists and intellectuals have stressed the urgent need for coordinated action. Cleaning the Brahmani River — the city's only major water source — is vital not only for environmental preservation but also for protecting public health.

# NIT Rourkela develops biosensor for affordable diagnosis of breast cancer

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi/Rourkela, May 23:** Researchers at National Institute of Technology (NIT), Rourkela have developed a novel semiconductor device-based biosensor that can identify breast cancer cells without the need for complicated or expensive laboratory procedures, according to officials.

The developed biosensor does not require any added chemicals to work. It is highly effective in distinguishing the cancerous cells from the healthy breast cells, offering improved accuracy compared to the existing methods of biosensing devices for breast cancer diagnosis, they said.

The research has been published in the prestigious Microsystem Technologies journal. According to Prasanna Kumar Sahu, Professor at the Department of Electrical Engineering, the rise of potentially fatal illnesses has drawn attention in recent years to the global emphasis on biomolecule evaluation and Point-of-Care (POC) testing. Among these diseases, cancer is a significant global public health concern. In this context, India has seen a significant rise in breast cancer cases in the past few decades.

"Since cancer cells often do not show any initial signs of progression, it is crucial to di-



agnose them at an early stage for prevention and cure. While several diagnostic procedures such as X-ray, mammography, Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay Test (ELISA), Ultrasonography and Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) are used to identify the disease, they require specialised equipment and trained personnel.

"Additionally, these diagnostic methods are often inaccessible to people in remote areas," Sahu said.

The COVID-19 pandemic further highlighted these challenges due to the relocation of medical resources, resulting in delayed cancer screenings and treatments, he said.

"This underscores the urgent need for simpler, faster, and more affordable diagnostic tools that do not rely on complex infrastructure," Sahu added. The NIT team has designed a novel approach that uses the physical properties of cancer

cells to detect them. Cancerous breast tissues, which hold more water and are denser than healthy tissues, interact differently with microwave radiation. These differences, known as dielectric properties, make it possible to distinguish between healthy and cancerous cells.

The research team has proposed an electronic device, Tunnel Field Effect Transistor (TFET), based on TCAD simulation results that can effectively detect breast cancer cells. TFETs are commonly used in electronics but here they have been adapted to function as a sensitive detector of biological materials. Unlike many traditional tests, this biosensor does not need any added chemicals or labels to work.

"A small cavity is etched into the transistor under the gate area and an equivalent material of biological sample of cells is placed in the cavity to check the sensitivities of the device. The

sensor then reads changes in electrical signals based on the properties of the sample, essentially 'sensing' whether the cells are cancerous or healthy.

"Because cancer cells like T47D have a higher dielectric constant than healthy ones like MCF-10A, the sensor picks up these differences quickly and with high precision," Sahu said.

The findings show that the sensor is sensitive in detecting T47D cancer cells due to their high density and permittivity. It is also highly effective in distinguishing cancerous cells from healthy breast cells, offering improved sensitivity compared to existing technologies.

Another key feature of the developed technology is its affordability.

"TFET-based biosensor is affordable compared to the conventional testing methods and other existing FET-based biosensors. The developed technology holds significant promise for future medical applications, resulting in low-cost and easy-to-use diagnostic devices that bring early breast cancer detection to clinics, mobile testing units and home settings," said research scholar Priyanka Karmakar.

As the next step, the research team is exploring potential collaborations for fabrication and scientific validation of the developed technology.

## Baripada municipality clerk in Vigilance net

**BARIPADA:** Vigilance sleuths Friday caught a senior clerk of the Establishment department of Baripada Municipality red-handed while accepting a bribe of ₹10,000. The accused, identified as Gopal Krishna Pradhan, allegedly demanded the bribe from the complainant to process a request for change in ownership of a municipal shop run by his deceased father. According to sources, Mohammed Jabhir of Purna Hatsahi in Baripada had repeatedly applied to transfer the ownership of the shop following the death of his father. Despite running from pillar to post for over two years, the request was not processed. Eventually, Pradhan allegedly demanded ₹10,000 to carry out the transfer. Unable to bear the harassment, Jabhir approached the Baripada Vigilance department. Acting on his complaint, a team led by unit in-charge Bikash Swain laid a trap at the municipality office, where Pradhan was caught red-handed while accepting the chemical laced currency notes and arrested.

## Mastermind in armed robbery case arrested

PNN & AGENCIES

**Balasure, May 23:** Police Friday arrested the alleged mastermind of an armed robbery in which a family in Soro was targeted and valuables worth over ₹10 lakh were stolen along with ₹50,000 in cash.

The accused, identified as Bapi Pani, is the leader of a nine-member gang that carried out the robbery in Dayanidhipur village within the jurisdiction of Soro police station Wednesday night.

According to police, the gang entered the residence of Rabin Nayak by breaking the main door and tied up five family members using torn window screens. The intruders physically assaulted the victims during the robbery, police said.



When two neighbours tried to help, the robbers climbed onto the roof and opened fire to scare them off. One of the neighbours sustained a bullet injury to his chest and was critically injured, police added.

Balasure SP Raj Prasad said, "Within 24 hours of the crime, we arrested the prime accused. Search is on to nab the other accused." Police recovered some gold ornaments, two guns, 20 live cartridges and one car from the accused.

According to police, Pani is involved in 19 criminal cases and was out on bail.

## Man killed, 2 injured in wild boar attack

**KENDRAPARA:** In yet another case of human-wildlife conflict, one person was killed and two others, including a woman, were critically injured following a wild boar attack in the Mahakalapara forest range of Kendrapara district. According to Santanu Dalai, ranger of the Mahakalapara forest range, Siddharth Mirdha, a resident of Jamboo village, succumbed to his injuries Thursday after being attacked by a wild boar that entered the village and went on a biting spree, spreading panic among residents. Two others — Rabin Mirdha and Ashalata Mandal — also sustained critical injuries in the attack. Siddharth Mirdha was rushed to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack but died while undergoing treatment. Forest personnel are closely monitoring the movement of the wild boar in the area. The department has announced a compensation of ₹6 lakh for the family of the deceased, according to the ranger.

**Engagement of Project / Technical Staff on Contract Basis**

Coir Board, a statutory body under the Ministry of MSME, Government of India invites applications from eligible candidates for the engagement of Project/Technical Staff (22 positions.) on a purely contractual basis for its two research institutes: Central Coir Research Institute, Alappuzha, Kerala and Central Institute of Coir Technology, Bengaluru, Karnataka.

Applicants may visit Coir Board's website ([www.coirboard.gov.in](http://www.coirboard.gov.in)) for the detailed advertisement. Applications complete in all respect should be submitted via [www.coirboard.gov.in](http://www.coirboard.gov.in) online on or before 5.30 pm on 20th June, 2025.

09.05.2025 S/d  
SECRETARY, Coir Board

## MITs Mega Food Park hailed for job creation



**Rayagada, May 23:** State Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Krushna Chandra Patra Friday praised the MITs Mega Food Park in Rayagada district, calling it a symbol of pride for the state. During his visit to the facility at Bujabal in Kolnara block, he noted that the park has helped empower the local youth by providing employment to 100 locals.

Dismissal allegations of irregularities as "completely baseless," the minister said the food park is a well-managed and progressive initiative. He visited various units including soft drink production, rice processing, and cold storage, and interacted with the employees about their experiences and how the facility has supported their journey to self-reliance.

The minister was accompanied by MITs Group Chairman Balakrushna Panda, CEO Sriram Panda, and Vice President Biswajit Panda. He later participated in a gathering with staff, students, and faculty, commending the park's contributions to regional development.

Despite in-house water systems, the park faces water shortages, hampering operations. Minister Patra assured that the state government will extend all possible support. Senior BJP leaders including Gopi Anand, Kaliram Majhi, and CV Gopinath were also part of the visit, which was well-coordinated by MITs staff and local college authorities.

**OFFICE OF THE DHENKANAL MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, DHENKANAL**

**E-Procurement Notice**

**Tender Call Notice No.1879/DKLMPLTY/Date:20.5.2025**

1. Name of the Work : Individual Civil Construction Work  
Published the [www.tenderodisha.gov.in](http://www.tenderodisha.gov.in) website

2. No. of Works put to tender : 14 Nos. individual works

3. Estimated Cost : Rs.20.0 Lakhs

4. Period of Completion : 45 days

5. Date and Time of availability of bid document in the portal : From 11.00 hours of Dt.22.05.2025 to 17.00 of Dt.03.06.2025

6. Last date/time for receipt of bids : 17.00 hours of Dt.03.06.2025

7. Date and Time of Opening of Bid : 9.00 hours of Dt.04.06.2025

8. Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid : Executive Officer, Dhenkanal Municipality, Dhenkanal  
Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal <https://tenderodisha.gov.in>.

**Sd/- Executive Officer**  
**Dhenkanal Municipality**

OIPR-13146/11/0033/2526

**ALL INDIA COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION**  
(A Statutory Body of Government of India)  
(Ministry of Education)  
Nelson Mandela Marg, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070  
Website : [www.aicte-india.org](http://www.aicte-india.org) Ph. No. 011-29581000

**ONLINE APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS ON DEPUTATION BASIS IN THE AICTE**

Sl. No.	Name of the post	Pay Scale & Grade pay as per 6th CPC	Pay Matrix & Level as per 7th CPC	No. of Posts*
1	Advisor-I (Group-A)	PB-4, Rs.37400-67000 G.P. Rs.10000	Rs.144200-218200 Level-14	01
2	Advisor-II (Group-A)	PB-4, Rs.37400-67000 G.P. Rs.8900	Rs.131100-216600 Level-13A	02
3	Director (Group-A)	PB-4, Rs.37400-67000 G.P. Rs.8700	Rs.123100-215900 Level-13	01
4	Assistant Director (Group-A)	PB-3, Rs.15600-39100 G.P. Rs.6600	Rs.67700-208700 Level-11	08

\*No. of post may increase or decrease as per the requirement of the Council.  
All other details such as eligibility criteria, qualifications, experience, procedure for online submission and general terms and conditions of appointment will be available at AICTE's website (<https://www.aicte-india.org/bulletins/advertisements>) from 26.05.2025. Interested candidates may apply online for the above post on or before 25.06.2025 by uploading the requisite supporting document. The Council reserves the right to increase or decrease the number of vacancies or to cancel the advertisement without assigning any reason thereto.  
Adv. No. Admin (Estt.)/AICTE/05/03/2025 Prof. RAJIVE KUMAR  
CBC-21300/12/0006/2526 Member Secretary, AICTE

**Bank of India** **E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE**

Bank of India **BOI** Zonal Office: Bhubaneswar Zone, 1/D, Star House, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015, Mob.: 8985368533  
E-Auction Sale Notice Under SARFAESI ACT, 2002

Where as the Bank acting through its Authorised Officer in exercise of its powers under-Section 13(4) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (SARFAESI) has decided to put up for E-auction of the following properties "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis for realization of the debts due to the Bank.

Sl. No.	BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrowers / Co-Borrower / Co-Applicant / Guarantors / Total Dues	Description of the Properties	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increment Amount
1.	<b>CHAKEISIANI BRANCH, PH.: 8895885135/</b> Borrower: Mr. Durga Sankar Parida, S/o.: Mr. Dhirendranath Parida / Co-Applicant: Mrs. Baisakhi Parida, W/o.: Mr. Durga Sankar Parida, Both are At: Meria Bazar, Near UP School, Cuttack, Odisha-753001 / Total Dues: ₹19,31,000/- (Approx.) + interest, costs and expenses, less any part amount repaid.	Residential Land & Building pertaining to Khata No.: 686/1527, Plot No.: 434/7546, Area: Ac.0.0221 Dec. i.e. 960 Sqft., having Kissam: Gharabari, Mouza: Adalia, P.S.: Cuttack Sadar Police Station, SRO/Tahasil: Cuttack, Dist.: Cuttack, Odisha, in the name of Mrs. Baisakhi Parida, W/o.: Mr. Durga Sankar Parida, Bounded by East: Sub Plot No.: 25, West: Sub Plot No.: 5, North: Plot No.: 433, South: Approach Road	₹17,06,000/- (excluding GST & other statutory dues) / ₹1,70,600/- / ₹ 50,000/-
2.	<b>CHAKEISIANI BRANCH, PH.: 8895885135/</b> Borrower: Mrs. Mandakini Parida, W/o.: Mr. Purna Chandra Parida / Co-Applicant: Mr. Romio Ranjan Parida, Both are At/P.O.: Gopalpur, P.S.: Chandabali, Dist.: Bhadrak, Odisha-756133 / Total Dues: ₹26,00,000/- (Approx.) + interest, costs and expenses, less any part amount repaid.	Residential Land & Building pertaining to Khata No.: 686/1500, Plot No.: 434/7528, Area: Ac.0.0551 Dec. i.e. 2400 sqft., having Kissam: Gharabari, Mouza: Adalia, P.S.: Cuttack Sadar Police Station, SRO/Tahasil: Cuttack, Dist.: Cuttack, Odisha, in the name of Mrs. Mandakini Parida, W/O.: Mr. Purna Chandra Parida, Bounded by East: Sub Plot No.: 6, West: Sub Plot No.: 3, North: Plot No.: 433, South: Approach Road	₹33,55,000/- (excluding GST & other statutory dues) / ₹3,35,500/- / ₹ 50,000/-
3.	<b>POKHARIPUT BRANCH, PH.: 8073713359/</b> Borrowers: 1) Mr. Satyanarayan Sahu, S/o.: Gopal Krishna Sahu, 2) Mr. Laxminarayan Sahu, S/o.: Gopal Krishna Sahu, Both are At: LIG-282, K-4, Kalinga Nagar, Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khordha-751019 / Total Dues: ₹33,06,000/- (Approx.) + interest, costs and expenses, less any part amount repaid.	Flat No.: 410, 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Type-2 BHK, Block-B having Super Built up Area: 920 sqft., Carpet Area: 589 Sqft with undivided proportionate share for the Flat Ac.0.011.2 Dec. i.e. 487.87 Sqft out of Total project Area: Ac.0.648 Dec., along with parking space in the Apartment name & Style as "ABLAZE HOMZ" bearing Khata No.: 512/256, Plot No.: 1127/2676, Kissam: Gharabari, Mouza: Ghangapatna, P.S.: Chandaka, Tahasil: Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda, Odisha-752054, Standing in the name of Mr. Satyanarayan Sahu, S/o.: Gopal Krishna Sahu, Bounded by East: Open Space, West: Flat No.: 408, North: Open Space, South: Corridor	₹30,59,000/- (excluding GST & other statutory dues) / ₹3,05,900/- / ₹ 50,000/-
4.	<b>GOPALPUR BRANCH, PH.: 9007488999/</b> 1) (For Cash Credit & Term Loan) Borrower: Mrs. Aryakanya Maharana, W/o.: Mr. Samarendra Kumar Maharana / Guarantors: 1) Mr. Samarendra Kumar Maharana, S/o.: Mr. Prafulla Kumar Maharana, S/o.: Late Krishna Chandra Maharana, All are At: Thoriasahi, Buxibazar, Cuttack-753001, 2) (For Housing Loan) Borrower: Mr. Samarendra Kumar Maharana, S/o.: Mr. Prafulla Kumar Maharana / Co-Borrower: Mrs. Aryakanya Maharana, W/o.: Mr. Samarendra Kumar Maharana / Guarantor: Mr. Prafulla Kumar Maharana, S/o.: Late Krishna Chandra Maharana, All are At: Thoriasahi, Buxibazar, Cuttack-753001 / Total Dues: ₹26,14,000/- (Approx.) + interest, costs and expenses, less any part amount repaid.	G+1 RCC Residential Building situated over Plot No.: 4, Khata No.: 37 D1, Plot Area: Ac.0.0160 Dec. i.e. 697 Sqft., Kissam: Gharabari, Mouza: Cuttack Sahar Unit No.: 22 Mirkamalpatna, P.S.: Mangalabagh, Tahasil/SRO: Cuttack, Dist.: Cuttack, Odisha, Standing in the name of Mr. Prafulla Kumar Maharana, Bounded by North: Ghasisahi Lane, South: Road, East: Mahadev Maharana (Plot No.: 1352), West: Road	₹46,17,000/- (excluding GST & other statutory dues) / ₹4,61,700/- / ₹ 50,000/-
5.	<b>GOPALPUR BRANCH, PH.: 9007488999/</b> Borrower: Mrs. Diptimayee Kar, W/o.: Mr. Suresh Kar, At: Purushottam Nagar, Kajidhi, Madhupatna, Cuttack-753010, Permanent Address: Labour Colony, Khapuria, Madhupatna, Cuttack-753010 / Total Dues: ₹13,49,000/- (Approx.) + interest, costs and expenses, less any part amount repaid.	Vacant Land on Khata No.: 118/131, Plot No.: 11/796, Plot Area: Ac.0.1840 Dec. i.e. 8015 Sqft., Kissam: Gharabari, Mouza: Manibada, P.S.: Cuttack Town, P.S. No.: 78, SRO/Tahasil: Cuttack, Tahasil No.: 283, Dist.: Cuttack, Odisha, Standing in the name of Mrs. Diptimayee Kar, W/o.: Mr. Suresh Kar, Bounded by East: Sushil Kumar Hembram, West: Saraswati Sahoo, North: Road, South: Plot No.: 12 & 13	₹18,24,000/- (excluding GST & other statutory dues) / ₹1,82,400/- / ₹ 50,000/-

**Date & Time of E-Auction: 25.06.2025 From 11.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M.** with unlimited extension of 10 (Ten) minutes each.  
**Last Date & Time for submission of EMD & Documents: 25.06.2025 upto 4.00 P.M.**

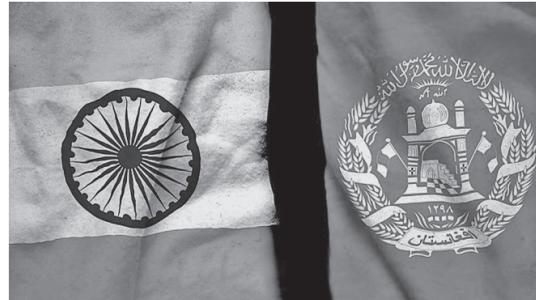
**Inspection will be provided to the prospective bidders on any working day before 24.06.2025 with prior appointment of the authorised officer**

**\*Successful Bidder to deposit 25% of the bid amount by next working day which includes EMD money. The balance amount to be paid on or before 15th Day of confirmation of sale.**

The sale shall be subject to the terms and conditions and provisions prescribed in the SARFAESI Act 2002 read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. This is also a 15/30 days sale notice to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) of the aforesaid loan account for settlement of their outstanding dues with the Bank and to participate in the public auction on the above mentioned date. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://baanknet.com>  
Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 24.05.2025 Authorised Officer, Bank of India

FOCUS INDO-AFGHAN TIES

# NEW DELHI'S PRAGMATISM



**Ideological differences, still vivid ties of some Taliban factions with Pakistani intelligence, and the presence of terrorist organizations in Afghanistan make any rapprochement need to be carefully calibrated**

gic positioning in the region. The observed trend of tightening contacts between India, Iran, and selected Taliban factions indicates the possibility of forming an informal alliance aimed at balancing the Pakistan-China axis. Iran, maintaining an extensive network of ties in Afghanistan, especially with Shiite minorities and factions hostile to ISIL, can serve as a geo-strategic link that binds this configuration. However, Iran's policy—burdened by sanctions and tensions around the nuclear program—requires India to maintain great flexibility and caution.

selected Taliban factions takes on a strategic dimension.

India, long perceiving Pakistan as the main source of regional destabilization, seeks to limit its influence in Afghanistan. The contemporary Taliban movement is not a uniform structure—internal factions differ both in their stance towards Islamabad and their approach to cooperation with external actors. Mullah Ibrahim Sadr, seen as a representative of the more independent Taliban wing, maintaining close contacts with Iran, is known for his cautious or even hostile attitude towards Pakistani interests. In the eyes of Indian strategists, he is seen as a potential partner in the policy of limiting operational space for terrorist groups linked to Pakistan.

For India, one of the security priorities remains to curb the smuggling of fighters across the Afghan border, especially in the context of the situation in Kashmir. Mullah Sadr, responsible for internal security in the Taliban gov-

ernment, is considered a key decision-maker who can influence the control of smuggling routes and the movement of armed groups. Closer ties with the more autonomous Taliban faction could bring India tangible benefits in this regard—even if the cooperation were to remain informal and behind the scenes.

An important topic of Jaisankar's conversation with Muttaqi was the possibilities of developing transport infrastructure to strengthen Indian-Afghan economic and trade cooperation. Of particular importance is India's involvement in the development of the port of Chabahar in Iran, which not only allows them access to Afghanistan and Central Asia bypassing Pakistan but also serves as a strategic tool for limiting Chinese influence.

Reports of Sadr's visit may indicate that Kabul is interested in further developing this infrastructure. This would be beneficial both for the Afghan economy and for India's strate-

It is also impossible to ignore the growing role of China in the region. Beijing, through the CPEC project and economic presence in Afghanistan, is intensifying its presence in the region, perceiving a possible rapprochement between India, Kabul, and Tehran as a threat to its own interests. India, not being part of the Belt and Road Initiative, seeks alternative routes and partnerships. If cooperation with Afghanistan and Iran gains durability, it could result in a deeper reformatting of the balance of power in South and Central Asia.

Despite signs of pragmatic rapprochement, Delhi has yet to formally recognize the Taliban government. India is gradually opening communication channels—including the functioning of the consular representation in Mumbai and ministerial-level talks—but this process is fraught with numerous risks. Ideological differences, still vivid ties of some Taliban factions with Pakistani intelligence, and the presence of terrorist organizations in Afghanistan make any rapprochement need to be carefully calibrated.

INFA

**DESPITE SIGNS OF PRAGMATIC RAPPROCHEMENT, DELHI HAS YET TO FORMALLY RECOGNIZE THE TALIBAN GOVERNMENT**



Piotr Opaliński

In mid-May, the foreign ministers of India and Afghanistan had a phone conversation, among other things, about the terrorist attack in Kashmir. This was perceived as a signal of Delhi's pragmatic approach to the Taliban government and readiness for selective cooperation. Time will tell whether it is a temporary diplomatic maneuver or the beginning of a new chapter in bilateral relations based on strategic interests.

On May 15, India's foreign minister, Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, had a phone conversation with Afghanistan's acting foreign minister, Amir Khan Muttaqi. He thanked Kabul for condemning the terrorist attack in Pahalgam and for not accepting Pakistan's narrative about tensions in Afghan-Indian relations. The conversation also touched on issues of economic, visa, and infrastructure cooperation, including the outline of further strengthening trade and transport links between India and Afghanistan through Iran's port of Chabahar—bypassing Pakistani territory.

Although this contact does not mean formal recognition of the Taliban government by India, it is a clear signal of growing pragmatism in New Delhi's approach to Afghanistan's political reality. The importance of this dialogue is further emphasized by unofficial reports of an earlier visit by Mullah Muhammad Ibrahim Sadr—the influential deputy minister of interior affairs for security—to India's capital. According to an anonymous source in Kabul, this visit took place in the first week of May, during serious Indian-Pakistani tensions after the attack in Kashmir. In this context, the possible tightening of Delhi's contacts with

Witness and stand back from Nature, that is the first step to the soul's freedom  
SRI AUROBINDO

## All Smoke, No Fire

With just days to go before acting DGP Prashant Kumar hangs up his boots on May 31, the race to lead Uttar Pradesh's police force is heating up—but so far, all smoke, no fire. The state government hasn't yet sent a shortlist to the UPSC, nor has it kickstarted the process under its newly minted DGP appointment rules, leaving the top job dangling in a curious mix of suspense and speculation. These new rules—brought in with fanfare as a way to cut through the bureaucratic red tape—introduce a state-led selection committee headed by a retired High Court judge, but observers say it's just a slick way to reduce the Centre's role and retain tighter political control over who gets the badge.

The field is wide open, with a few familiar names doing the rounds in the power corridors and grapevine chats alike. The most talked-about is Tilotama Verma, a 1990-batch officer and DG (Training), who, if chosen, would become the first woman DGP of India's most populous state—a move both symbolic and long overdue. Her CBI credentials are solid, her seniority isn't in doubt, and the buzz around her has only grown since her husband, senior IPS officer Ashish Gupta, took voluntary retirement last month, possibly clearing the decks for her elevation. Then there's Daljit Singh Chaudhary, currently at the BSF, with boots-on-ground experience in central forces; Alok Sharma, guarding the highest of the high as SPG chief; and Rajiv Krishna, steering the state's police recruitment board with a reputation for being calm and competent. But none of this matters if the government doesn't act—and soon.

Because while the rules have changed, the old concerns remain: will the appointment be based on merit, integrity, and experience, or will political convenience win the day yet again? A historic appointment is within reach, but the longer the delay, the more it starts to look like just another backroom chess match, where strategy matters more than service.

### From trees to trouble

In Telangana, weekends are not just for lazy brunches but also great for bulldozing forests when you think no one's looking. But the Supreme Court was definitely watching—and it isn't amused.

In a blistering hearing, the Court tore into the Telangana government over the felling of hundreds of trees in the Kancha Gachibowli forest, right next to Hyderabad Central University. The timing? A long weekend when the SC's forest bench was conveniently unavailable. The message? Clear and scathing: either restore the forest in two months, or the state Chief Secretary should start prepping for a stint behind bars.

Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai didn't mince words, warning the state government that it should be prepared to face contempt. He further called the operation "pre-planned" and "deliberate."

The state's defence—that the land wasn't technically forest and that only "exempted" trees were felled—was laughed out of court. No EC, no paperwork, and now, possibly, no freedom.

A report from the Court-appointed Central Empowered Committee confirms what many feared: over 100 acres were razed without approvals. The land is home to wildlife corridors and natural water bodies. Yet someone thought it was ripe for an IT park.

The SC has now drawn a line. This is about more than a patch of green—it's about state impunity and the hope that no one's watching. The Court has made it clear: weekends won't save you from consequences.

**BABUDOM BYTES**  
Dilip Cherian

### SPECTRUM COMMERCE

## The IMF is missing in action

**IMF SHOULD BE DEVSING A BLUEPRINT TO RESOLVE TODAY'S GLOBAL IMBALANCES IN A MANNER THAT DOES NOT BRING ON A GLOBAL RECESSION**

Desmond Lachman

According to the International Monetary Fund's Articles of Agreement, the Fund's main purpose is to facilitate the balanced growth of international trade and thereby promote high levels of employment and real (inflation-adjusted) income. Yet with globalization facing its greatest threat in the postwar period, and with global external economic imbalances set to rise, the IMF seems to be missing in action. Instead of pursuing an active role in reducing external imbalances, it is focusing on issues that lie beyond its remit, such as climate change and gender equality.

Why hasn't the IMF called attention to the principal reason for today's global external imbalances? Contrary to what US President Donald Trump seems to think, these imbalances result not from import tariffs or exchange-rate manipulation, but rather from inappropriate macroeconomic policies maintained by deficit and surplus countries alike. Those countries with large trade deficits follow monetary

and fiscal policies that induce them to spend more on consumption and investment than they produce. Conversely, those running large trade surpluses have macroeconomic policies that induce them to spend less on consumption and investment than they produce. Or, as John Maynard Keynes taught us, deficit countries are those where national savings fall short of investment, and surplus countries are those where national savings exceed investment.

Viewed through this lens, it is easy to understand why, despite the first Trump administration's higher import tariffs, the US external current-account deficit actually increased by some 35% (from \$480 billion to \$647 billion) between 2016 and 2020. This was because the administration's trade policies – tariffs on imports from China and on steel and aluminum – were accompanied by the 2017 Tax Cut and Jobs Act (TCJA), which reduced domestic savings by increasing the budget deficit, and increased investment by incentivizing such activity through lower

corporate tax rates.

Fast-forward to 2025. Even though the US budget deficit stands at a worrying 6% of GDP, the Trump administration is proposing another major tax cut that will increase it further. Trump aims not only to extend the TCJA, but also to eliminate income taxes on tips and overtime pay, and provide a \$4,000 tax deduction for those over 65. According to the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, these changes could add over \$5 trillion to the budget deficit over the next decade. Once again, a larger budget deficit can be expected to widen the US external trade deficit for much the same reason it widened during the first Trump administration.

So, where is the IMF? Why isn't it pounding the table about the dangers that Trump's tax cuts would pose to the world economy, if enacted? A further widening of the US trade deficit at this juncture could lead the Trump administration to double down on its retaliatory import tariff policy. And if it does, US trade partners can be expected to re-

taliante, resulting in the kind of economically destructive beggar-thy-neighbor policies that proved so disastrous in the 1930s.

Beyond warning about the likely worsening of external imbalances as a result of a wider US budget deficit, the IMF should be devising a blueprint to resolve today's global imbalances in a manner that does not bring on a global recession. Such an undertaking could include recommendations as to how the US might restore order to its public finances; how China can increase household consumption through an improved social safety net; and how Germany can stimulate European investment through substantially increased public spending.

Globalization is in real danger of breaking down, and one of its premier institutions is nowhere to be found.

*The writer is a former deputy director of the International Monetary Fund's Policy Development and Review Department.*

PROJECT SYNGICATE

### Online trolling: A chilling new normal

In an era where outrage goes viral in seconds, the internet has become a coliseum, and public servants' families are easy prey.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri recently found himself in the eye of such a storm. Not for a diplomatic misstep, but for merely doing his job. The real target? His daughter, a private citizen, was mercilessly doxxed and branded "anti-national" for studying abroad. Her photos were circulated like evidence in a trial she never signed up for.

This wasn't anonymous trolling from the digital abyss. It was vicious, orchestrated, and met with deafening silence from the government, including Misri's own ministry.

The abuse didn't stop there. A few weeks ago, Lieutenant Vinay Narwal, a newlywed naval officer, was killed in the Pahalgam terror attack. His wife, Himanshi, in an extraordinary display of grace, appealed against communalising her husband's death. For that, she too was savaged online—her grief trampled by political hate.

Civil service bodies like the Association of Diplomats and the IAS and IPS associations, as well as prominent citizens, spoke out in support of the foreign secretary and slammed the vicious online attack. So did political leaders like Akhilesh Yadav, who rightly questioned whether the Centre's silence amounts to tacit approval. Even the Supreme Court described social media trolling as "atrocious."

This isn't free speech—it's the public lynching of private grief. If we can't draw a line here, the question isn't whether we've lost our moral compass. It's whether we even want one anymore.

Share a babu experience! Follow [@dilipthecherian](https://twitter.com/dilipthecherian) on Twitter. Let's multiply the effect

### WISDOM CORNER

- The only solutions that are ever worth anything are the solutions that people find themselves.
- Man is a genius when he is dreaming.
- When we talk about self-confrontations, we are speaking about moral issues rather than social issues.

### THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1689:** The Toleration Act was passed by the British Parliament, granting freedom of worship to Nonconformists and allowing them their own places of worship and their own teachers and preachers.
- 1883:** A brilliant feat of 19th-century engineering, the Brooklyn Bridge—spanning the East River from Brooklyn to Manhattan Island in New York City—was opened, designed by civil engineer John Augustus Roebling.
- 1941:** American singer-songwriter Bob Dylan, who was hailed as the Shakespeare of his generation, was born in Duluth, Minnesota.

**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 their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: [edit@orissapost.com](mailto:edit@orissapost.com)

**OrissaPOST**  
B-15, Rasulgah Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

### SC warning

Sir, Apropos, "ED crossing all limits," Orissa POST, May 23. The Supreme Court's stern warning to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) over its investigation into the Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation (TASMAC) is a timely and necessary intervention. The ED, mandated to probe financial crimes, has increasingly come under fire for selective and politically motivated actions—focusing disproportionately on opposition-led states while turning a blind eye to similar issues in BJP-ruled regions. In the TASMAC case, the Court questioned the very basis and timing of the ED's probe, especially when the matter had already been scrutinized by state agencies. This raises serious concerns about federal overreach and misuse of central agencies to settle political scores. The pattern is hard to ignore: investigations often coincide with elections or dissent against the central government. By calling out the ED's conduct, the Supreme Court has reaffirmed the principle that investigative agencies must function independently and without bias. This warning serves not just as a rebuke to the ED but also as a reminder that rule of law cannot be bent for political expedience.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

### Benefits of data journalism

Sir, Data journalism is gaining momentum in modern day reporting. The job involves good understanding and processing information to create stories, supported by well-driven data. It might not seem like an obvious coding job, but if you have skills for data science and a passion for storytelling, it could be the perfect niche. Data journalism allows reporters to be more efficient while verifying claims, tackling more critical subjects, and providing information. Data journalism is the result of various changes in society and advances in data technology. By exploiting and analyzing data, data journalists gain access to higher levels of understanding without being experts in the field they are dealing with. The benefits of engaging in data journalism are numerous, and it is evident that it is a field that is here to stay. With so much big data available today, it is now a social science that almost every major newsroom adopts.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

# SC grills Rajasthan over surge in student suicides



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 23:** The Supreme Court Friday grilled the Rajasthan government over the surge in student suicides in the city of Kota calling the situation "serious".

A bench of Justices JB Pardiwala and R Mahadevan said 14 suicide cases were reported from the city so far this year.

"What are you doing as a state? Why are these children dying by suicide and only in Kota? Have you not given a thought as a state?" Justice Pardiwala asked the counsel representing state of Rajasthan.

The counsel said a special investigation team (SIT) was formed in the state to examine cases of suicides.

The top court was hearing a matter over the death of a 22-year-old student studying in IIT, Kharagpur. The student was found hanging in his hostel room May 4.

It was also dealing with another case of a girl, who was a NEET aspirant and was found hanging in her room in Kota where she lived with her parents. The bench learnt that an FIR was lodged in connection with the death of IIT Kharagpur's student.

The top court, however, questioned the four-day delay

**What are you doing as a state? Why are these children dying by suicide and only in Kota? Have you not given a thought as a state?**

JUSTICE JB PARDIWALA

in the FIR which was registered May 8. "Don't take these things lightly. These are very serious things," the bench said.

The bench referred to a March 24 verdict of the top court which took note of recurring cases of student suicides in higher educational institutions and formed a national task force to address the mental health concerns of students and prevent such incidents.

On Friday, the bench said a prompt filing of the FIR was necessary in such cases in line with the verdict.

"Why you took four days to lodge an FIR?" the bench asked a police officer concerned, present in court. The officer said the FIR was lodged and the investigation in the case was underway. "You continue with the investigation in accordance with law," the bench told him.

It came on record that the IIT Kharagpur authorities alerted the police soon after they learnt about the suicide.

The bench, however, was not

convinced with the explanation of the IIT Kharagpur counsel and the police officer.

"We could have taken a very strict view of the matter. We could have even proceeded for contempt against the police officer in-charge concerned of the jurisdictional police station," it said. The bench then refrained from saying "anything further" with the FIR being lodged and progressing investigation.

The investigation, it said, should be carried out expeditiously in the right direction.

In the Kota suicide case, the bench disapproved non filing of the FIR.

The state's counsel said the investigation in the case was ongoing and the SIT was aware of suicide cases in the state.

"How many young students have died so far in Kota?" the bench asked the counsel.

After the counsel said 14, the bench retorted, "Why are these students dying?"

It said the task force constituted by the apex court would take its time before giving a composite report to the court.

"You are in contempt of our judgement. Why have you not registered the FIR?" the bench asked Rajasthan's counsel.

The bench said the student was not residing in the accommodations provided by her institute, which she left in November 2024 and started living with her parents.

"However, in line with our decision, it was the duty of the police concerned to register the FIR and carry out the investigation. The officer in-charge of the concerned territorial police station has failed in his duty. He has not complied with the directions issued by this court," the bench said.

The bench, as a result, summoned the police officer concerned in the Kota case July 14 to explain the situation.



Little egrets congregate as fishermen sort after their daily catch, near the Vizhinjam International Seaport, in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

PTI PHOTO

## 'STEGANOGRAPHY' SCARE

### Advisory on cybercriminals' new deceptive techniques

*The new type of cyber attack in Rajasthan uses a technique called 'Steganography', where malicious code is secretly embedded inside a photo, video, or audio file*



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Jaipur, May 23:** The Rajasthan Police Friday issued an advisory warning citizens about cybercriminals' new deceptive techniques for hacking mobile devices and stealing sensitive information.

Under the directives of DGP, Cyber Crime, Hemant Priyadarshi, cyber commandos and cybersecurity experts at the Police Headquarters are actively working to raise public awareness and prevent online fraud.

A detailed advisory has been issued to educate citizens about a growing threat.

Mahesh Kumar, Cyber Commando at Police Headquarters, explained that the attack often uses a technique called 'Steganography', where malicious code is secretly embedded inside a photo, video, or audio file.

"This hidden data becomes active once the file is opened, allowing the attacker to forward messages and calls from your device, steal bank OTPs and withdraw money, download malicious APK files without your knowledge, gain com-

plete control of your personal data and phone functions and many more," Kumar said.

He shared that in many cases, cybercriminals send fake emails or SMS messages with enticing offers, lottery wins, or government scheme benefits. These messages contain links that lead to counterfeit websites - clones of banking sites, government portals, or e-commerce platforms.

Once you input personal details like bank account numbers, passwords, or OTPs, the data is captured and used to siphon funds or commit identity theft. "A new scam involves send-

ing users a photo of a person with a message asking them to identify. If the recipient downloads the image, it activates malicious code that gives the hacker access to the user's phone and social media accounts," it said.

The police advisory asked users to turn off auto-download of media files in WhatsApp and other messaging apps, not open or download files or click links sent by unknown or suspicious contacts, avoid sharing personal information on unverified websites or through unfamiliar messages, update device software regularly and install reliable antivirus apps.

People should report cyber incidents immediately to their nearest police station or the Cyber Crime Helpline (1930) and protect their digital identity by following these essential precautions, it said.

## Heatwave hits Rajasthan; red alert in three districts



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Jaipur, May 23:** Rajasthan continues to grapple with an intense heatwave, with large parts of the desert state experiencing scorching temperatures. However, scattered thunderstorms in a few areas have provided some relief from the relentless summer heat.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), heatwave conditions are expected to persist in 16 districts Friday, with no immediate relief in sight. A red alert has been issued for Jaisalmer, Sri Ganganagar, and Bikaner, while thundershowers are forecast in 19 districts, including Jaipur and Kota.

On Thursday, Sri Ganganagar recorded the highest maximum temperature at 47.3 degrees Celsius, which is 4.8 degrees above normal.

Jodhpur recorded the highest minimum temperature at 31.7 degrees. Seven cities in Rajasthan witnessed temperatures exceeding 45 degrees Celsius, with Ganganagar experiencing the highest temperatures for the second consecutive day, surpassing 47 degrees Celsius again.

In contrast, temperatures fell slightly in some regions. In Jaipur, the maximum temperature dropped by 2 degrees Celsius to 42.8 degrees Celsius. In Alwar, the temperature fell by 5 degrees to 40 degrees, in Chittorgarh 42.4 degrees, in Udaipur 38.3 degrees, while Bhilwara recorded 41.5 degrees Celsius.

Thursday afternoon thunderstorms brought a shift in weather across Jhalawar, Baran, Bundi, Kota, Chittorgarh, and Bhilwara. Strong winds and rain offered some relief from the scorching heat.

## With new chief in place, Kerala Congress set for major overhaul

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Thiruvananthapuram, May 23:** Less than two weeks after appointing Sunny Joseph as the new Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president, the Congress high command is preparing for a major organisational overhaul at both the state and district levels in the state.

According to sources familiar with the development, the restructuring will be guided by two key reports -- one by strategist Sunil Kanugolu and another by the AICC general secretary in charge of Kerala, Deepa Das Munshi.

Both reports highlight the Congress party's weak grassroots presence in Kerala, especially when compared to rivals CPI(M) and BJP, who have robust booth-level machinery. The reports recommend urgent corrective steps to address this structural gap.

The decision to revamp the party also stems from a shift in leadership dynamics. The once-dominant figures like K Karunakaran, AK Antony, Oommen Chandy, Vayalar Ravi, and Ramesh Chennithala no longer wield the influence they once did.



While Karunakaran and Chandy have passed away, Ravi has largely withdrawn from public life, Antony is in the twilight of his career, and Chennithala's influence declined sharply after the Congress-led UDF's unexpected defeat in the 2021 assembly polls.

A political observer, speaking on condition of anonymity, noted that the high command has asserted itself more since 2021, especially after choosing VD Satheesan as the Leader of the Opposition over Chennithala, despite the latter having greater support within the legislative party.

They also appointed Kannur strongman K Sudhakaran as KPCC chief -- who has now been replaced with Joseph.

"With Sudhakaran's exit, another round of restructuring appears imminent. Unlike earlier eras, where key posts were shared among senior leaders, this revamp will have the unmistakable stamp of the high command and could bring in many new faces," the political observer said.

The urgency is also linked to the upcoming local body elections later this year and the state assembly polls in April-May 2026.

The CPI(M)-led Left Front has already announced that the Pinarayi Vijayan government is aiming for a third consecutive term.

Observers are watching closely to see whether Congress will revert to forming jumbo committees or follow the two reports' recommendation to keep teams lean and merit-based.

All eyes will also be on K.C. Venugopal, a key figure in the AICC and currently the most influential Congress leader from Kerala, to see how much sway he will hold in shaping the new party structure.

## Kerala HC orders action against dumping waste at Sabarimala



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Kochi, May 23:** The Kerala High Court has asked the Deputy Director of the Periyar Tiger Forest Reserve to take strict action under the Wildlife (Protection) Act against those dumping waste in Sabarimala, as the entire area has been declared as a plastic-free zone.

The famed Lord Ayyappa temple is located on a hill top which is surrounded by dense forests and comes under the Periyar Tiger Reserve.

Presently, according to the temple authorities, 24 tons of waste, on an average, is generated per day in Sabarimala during the two month long season that ends in the third week of January.

The Court was told by the Deputy Director of the Periyar Tiger Forest Reserve that two elephants and a pregnant Sambar deer died after consuming the plastic waste in the area.

In his report, he had mentioned that the elephants were coming in herds to eat the waste.

The court was also told that similar things happens with monkeys (Bonnet Macaque, Nilgiri Langur, Lion Tailed Macaque), the Malabar Giant Squirrel, Sambar Deer, Mouse Deer, Barking Deer, Porcupine

and birds including endangered species of birds like Nilgiri Fly Catcher, Great Indian Hornbill, Malabar Grey Hornbill also eating from the garbage.

The court rapped the Travancore Devaswom Board -- the body that manages the Sabarimala temple for failing to do its duty for disposing waste in a scientific manner.

The temple prepares for devotees the hugely popular payasam and appam, which every devotee after visiting the temple returns with it.

A huge quantity of jaggery, coconut, various types of flour are used in the preparation of these items and the waste generated from these is the major attraction for these animals and birds, besides the food waste of the devotees all gets dumped in and around the forest area.

The court has now ordered the temple authorities to see that if any the hotels stock or dispense plastic, the first offence shall be punished with a fine of Rs 2,000, the second with fine of a Rs 5,000, while any further violation will lead to closing down the establishment.

With the court speaking tough, the temple authorities said that the solid waste at the temple town was removed, and steps were being taken to remove all other wastes.

## BANKER, BAKER, THEN MOUNTAINEER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Thiruvananthapuram, May 23:** Kannur native and a resident of Qatar, Safrina Latheef was a banker and a baker before she turned to mountaineering, a long term desire of hers, and became the first woman from Kerala to scale the over 8,000 feet Everest peak.

Latheef describes herself as a "jack of all trades" as she did a bit of banking and baking before moving on to mountaineering.

Describing the momentous feat as one of the "toughest" things she has done in her life

## Kerala woman's journey to peak of Mt Everest

till now, Latheef said that not just physical fitness, but mental strength was also very important to make the climb.

She reached the Everest base camp April 19, began the climb April 28, started the final push for the summit May 12 and reached the top May 18.

"It is a mental struggle, as we see a lot of unexpected things like avalanches, rock falls and dead bodies of climbers who tried to scale the summit with the same aspirations and dreams as us. The dead bodies shake you up. You could be the next body on the line -- that thought crosses your mind.



You have to fight all that to reach the summit," she said in a voice note shared with PTI from Nepal.

However, reaching the peak is worth all that gruelling effort because of the view from there, said Safrina Latheef, who is in her late 30s.

But, her decision to take off

her goggles to experience the view with her naked eyes proved a bit costly as she got blinded by the snow and had to make the descent with poor vision and was subsequently, briefly hospitalised for it, she said.

Earlier in the day, speaking to a news channel from Nepal, Latheef said that she did not realise the heights she was climbing while scaling the summit, but on the way down "I came to realise the enormity of it".

"I am excited with the experience and happy that I got back alive," she added.

Giving details of the effort she put in to achieve the feat,

she said that it was during the Covid-19 pandemic that she and her husband realised the importance of health and physical fitness.

"We became health conscious, joined a gym and began running. It was a long-term desire of mine to do adventure trekking. So, after we became healthier, when we had time, we climbed Mt Killimanjaro (5,895 meters) in Tanzania with some friends," she said in the voice note. Since then, her only thought was to climb the highest peak on Earth -- Mount Everest which stands at 8,849 meters.

# PUBLIC NOTICE

## JEWELLERY AUCTION CUM INVITATION NOTICE

**Registered Office : 601 & 602, Peninsula Business Park, 6th Floor, Tower A, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai - 400 013.**

# DCB BANK

The below mentioned Borrowers have been issued notices to pay the entire dues in the facilities availed by them from **DCB Bank Ltd.** against Jewellery pledged with **DCB Bank Ltd. (DCB Bank)**. We are constrained to conduct auction of the pledged Jewellery as they have failed to pay the entire dues. **DCB Bank Ltd.** has the authority to remove account(s) / change the auction date(s) without any prior notice. The auction will be conducted online through <https://gold.Samil.in> on **06.06.2025 from 12:00 Noon to 03:00 P.M.**

Sr. No.	Customer ID / No.	Customer Name	Sr. No.	Customer ID / No.	Customer Name	Sr. No.	Customer ID / No.	Customer Name	Sr. No.	Customer ID / No.	Customer Name	Sr. No.	Customer ID / No.	Customer Name
<b>Bargarh Location</b>			<b>Dharamgarh Location</b>			<b>Cuttack Location</b>			<b>Baripada Location</b>			<b>Deogarh Location</b>		
1	106621719	Sibram Kumar Sahu	112	107334699	Manjulata Bhaisal	221	106035931	Debasish Lenka	437	104775115	Ranjit Kumar Bagh	561	102883844	Dhrubacharan Mahapatra
<b>Hinjilicut Location</b>			<b>Patnagarh Location</b>			<b>Berhampur Location</b>			<b>Sundar Garh Location</b>			<b>Jaypore Location</b>		
2	101007123	Narendra Das	113	101922823	Mohan Majhi	222	102508421	Sudhir Kumar Mohanty	328	105551299	Jyoti Dugal	562	103819229	Rita Pradhan
3	104650087	Santosh Kumar Mallik	<b>Keonjhar Location</b>			<b>Jeypore Location</b>			<b>Rairangpur Location</b>			<b>Bhubaneswar Location</b>		
4	104302834	Anil Kumar Mahankuda	114	105110647	Ashish Padhan	302	106053981	Padalama Santa	413	102157665	Amit Kumar Patra	563	107573470	Ranjita Meher
5	105218877	Rabindra Dalai	115	101343214	Jasobanti Meher	303	106104043	Charchita Sethi	414	107430493	Braja Kishore Parida	564	106365420	Jagannath Meher
6	106517779	Rambha Bisshoyi	116	104700129	Narayan Bariha	304	103110173	Krupa Katali	415	104660691	Anil Sahu	565	106866550	Gita Behera
7	106792412	Narayan Sahu	117	102873044	Dolamani Bhuie	305	107591483	Babuli Sagaria	416	104373042	Arbaz Khan	566	103421681	Sujan Kumar Mahanandia
<b>Dunguripali Location</b>			118	106417118	Mausam Meher	306	105163051	M.Sravani	417	102321710	Pryari Krushna Sahu	567	104913647	Raja Kishor Deep
8	105849210	Kandula Shyamalata	119	102345141	Dhaneswar Biswal	307	106236229	Surendra Kakalpada	<b>Cuttack Location</b>			568	106940832	Purandar Urma
9	101661563	Brushakuto Setu	120	107690745	Jaga Mohan Naik	308	105799171	B Alekhiya	418	104793507	Bhajan Nandi	569	105573887	Dandua Dehuri
10	105577431	Soudamini Sahu	121	106429110	Himanshu Sekhar Nag	309	105843483	Adia Badam	419	104865059	Dayanidhi Tarai	570	102827060	Aditya Kumar Meher
11	104196366	Jayaram Tripathi	122	106659937	Gaurang Naik	310	102919132	Babita Tripathy	420	106920741	Bikram Kumar Sethi	571	105041930	Pramod Behera
12	101157936	Kandula Bhenkateswar Raou	123	105752786	Dileswar Naik	311	102885297	Padman Behera	421	104954114	Mir Kadir	572	105835858	Rinki Barik
13	103757255	Jagabandhu Pandey	124	106685191	Santhalangawalasingh Bar	312	104801005	Ghasiram Rout	422	102007956	Ranjan Pradhan	573	103798133	Deepika Behera
14	102019981	Suman Mahakur	125	105868154	Inipetara Sahoo	313	104218910	Bibhishan Kakalpada	423	102007956	Ranjan Pradhan	574	105809750	Bigyan Mendili
<b>Attabira Location</b>			126	104635354	Akash Sahu	314	102477916	Tirtharaj Dakua	424	102816524	Janera Begum	575	105242150	Sita Bagha
15	101010728	Jayanta Bhoasgar	127	107373391	Bijaya Laxmi Pradhan	315	106759626	Greycy Barik	425	105497931	Manoj Kumar Lenka	576	106942500	Sarathi Nayak
16	101522174	Ganesh Padhan	<b>Nayagarh Location</b>			316	106779990	Ramchandra Lokai	426	102620159	Kusasan Pradhan	577	107247707	Santoshini Pradhan
17	104343424	Jamboban Pradhan	128	103011081	Hulas Pradhan	317	106767441	Pramila Patra	427	104543153	Gopan Sethy	578	106838551	Anil Kumar Meher
18	101010733	Keshab Bhoasgar	129	106701684	Tamasa Moharana	318	101843938	Potnuru Narayan Rao	428	106126032	Santanu Pandab	579	104262753	Pradyumna Giri
19	107572343	Pritesh Mahakur	130	107300109	Pabitra Sahoo	319	106888121	Tapaswini Swain	429	104887624	Sunakar Chuli	580	106735482	Ashish Pradhan
20	102812651	Badam Trimurtulu	131	101097146	Sek Salim	320	106799078	Manoj Kumar Mallick	430	101893016	Jaganath Pradhan	581	107537921	Bibhuti Meher
21	107030736	Manoj Kumar Sahu	132	101739202	Sudipta Kumar Mahapatra	321	102371060	Siba Nayak	431	103349222	Sanpat Majhi	582	102796217	Rinkesh Meher
22	101347013	Dron Sahu	133	102801001	Ranjan Kumar Mohapatra	322	105963573	Dibakar Naraji	432	102937009	M D Rauf Khan	583	106119678	Chandan Kanhar
23	102114661	Sarat Chandra Rout	134	103822950	Anu Senapati	323	102899341	Harihar Khada	433	104896627	Binod Nag	584	106566508	Chain Mahakud
24	105141314	Tulasi Kumar Bag	135	107023526	Laxmidhar Barad	324	101785692	Devid Kumar Turuk	434	103397124	Narayan Agrawal	585	107285872	Alok Bhoi
25	104495275	Anita Pradhan	136	104426528	Santosh Nayak	325	105905946	Daya Harijana	435	107573366	Bishwa Deegbilaji Bissoyi	586	106103813	Soudamini Meher
26	103328767	Surendra Dip	137	105456213	Suresh Chandra Biswal	<b>Langarasi Location</b>			436	103839073	Kirtan Bhatara	587	104118782	Kshatish Naik
27	104187866	Akhe Naik	138	105932040	Minati Pal	326	107238008	Debaraj Kanhar	437	105551299	Jyoti Dugal	588	106955660	Sairendri Pradhan
28	101062955	Bideshi Nanda	<b>Ragunathpur Location</b>			327	107662012	Bidur Behera	438	103814376	Mohan Bissoyi	589	106788742	Sunasira Khamari
29	101020430	Em Durgalinibas Rao	139	104825486	Laxmipriya Sahoo	<b>Jeypore Location</b>			439	102805541	Gourang Jani	590	106321046	Santosh Kumar Sahu
<b>Jagannathpur Location</b>			140	106310952	Surjanarayan Mahapatra	<b>Jeypore Location</b>			440	103347199	Sudarsan Harijan	591	106874943	Saroj Kumar Danga
30	100999752	Tuni Gouda	141	101116403	Giridhar Behera	<b>Jeypore Location</b>			441	104693212	Pradeep Kumar Achariya	592	106541809	Mohan Meher
31	105609536	Banamali Bhuayan	142	103272390	Rajesh Kumar Mahal	<b>Jeypore Location</b>			442	104262749	Deepak Harijan	593	107207647	Bahidarani Patra
32	103325710	Bijay Laxmi Polai	143	101409732	Sujit Kumar Swain	<b>Jeypore Location</b>			443	107592954	Ganga Harijan	594	104314291	Antarijyami Behera
33	103781665	Reena Maharana	144	107695824	Sanjay Mallia	<b>Jeypore Location</b>			444	102817927	Ranjan Kumar Parida	595	104290629	Sanjay Sethy
34	102901414	Netinti Sanjay Reddy	145	101919894	Biswamitra Sahoo	<b>Jeypore Location</b>			445	102761045	Dharmendra Kumar Pradhan	596	104256909	Kusha Meher
35	102763923	Shiba Ram Gouda	146	101505913	Dillip Kumar Paikaray	<b>Jeypore Location</b>			446	104768532	Gudu Harijan	597	105549974	Keshab Bhoi
36	102066866	P Anand Reddy	147	105973197	Sasmita Satpathy	<b>Jeypore Location</b>			447	105355538	Puspanjali Nachika	598	103516011	Lili Karmi
37	101152099	Simadri Bhusan Sahu	148	103823814	Chitta Ranjan Samal	<b>Jeypore Location</b>			448	102843033	Umesh Chandra Patro	599	102858616	Jayanta Pradhan
38	103421676	Tophan Barada	149	107293874	Papuna Sahoo	<b>Jeypore Location</b>			449	107653082	Tagar Prasad Nayak	600	103355641	Sachidananda Mahanandia
39	100983033	Sakuntala Patro	<b>Balangir Location</b>			<b>Jeypore Location</b>			450	105085954	Chandra Sekhar Bhatra	601	103265335	Bhaktabandhu Karna
<b>Jarasingha Location</b>			150	105323947	Hruda Ranjan Bhuie	<b>Jeypore Location</b>			451	104818808	Manasi Sadangi	602	102818155	Birendra Bhokta
40	103228364	Pabitra Mohan Pradhan	151	106305156	Sushli Kalta	<b>Jeypore Location</b>			452	104158200	Dibakar Mohapatra	603	102819303	Saumitri Dija
41	102324436	Abhipsha Biswal	152	105812213	Nakula Nanda Panigrahi	<b>Jeypore Location</b>			453	102853158	Jyotinarayan Muduli	604	104630599	Dhananjaya Dehuri
42	106084525	Tuku Sahu	153	103682256	Biswamitra Pande	<b>Jeypore Location</b>			454	102761056	Babuli Ganda	605	104398814	Samir Kumar Gaigouria
43	105788327	Dillip Kumar Behera	<b>Bhubaneswar Location</b>			<b>Jeypore Location</b>			455	102699848	Libabati Pujari	606	106491946	Anant Dalachhtra
44	107401868	Chitaranjan Rana	154	101821107	Nisheet Kumar Singh	<b>Jeypore Location</b>			456	104188791	Jayadas Harijan	607	106401998	Kastadhari Bhokta
45	104272588	Lili Khilar	155	103492255	Md Anamul	<b>Jeypore Location</b>			457	105789937	Pratap Paik	608	102827641	Padmanabha Dehuri
46	103191880	Kalia Sethy	156	101756224	Mita Bharadia	<b>Jeypore Location</b>			458	104450013	Chandan Kumar Choudhury	609	105083207	Sanjib Kumar Ranavansa
47	107557991	Priyabrata Barik	157	101723571	Tanmaya Nayak	<b>Jeypore Location</b>			459	105769871	Hitesh Suhula	610	105361754	Basista Meher
48	101145737	Jyotsnamayee Moharana	158	101502471	Tapas Kumar Pattanayak	<b>Jeypore Location</b>			460	104175129	Pinky Acharya	611	103828922	Sarajini Pradhan
49	107120241	Abinash Singh	159	101715781	Polbudi Rabindra Senapati	<b>Jeypore Location</b>			461	105074663	Binapani Pradhan	612	102924785	Surendra Rana
50	102805356	Rajib Kumar Sahoo	160	104813172	Sahida Bibi	<b>Jeypore Location</b>			462	106299711	Sarita Bagh	613	103121022	Brajesbari Deo
51	101036492	Mahendra Kumar Prusty	161	104635352	Laxmi Biswal	<b>Jeypore Location</b>			463	106834538	Sadanam Sahu	614	104328593	Biswajit Behera
52	106255285	Diptimayee Behera	162	101759098	Arun Kumar Bharadia	<b>Jeypore Location</b>			464	106284758	Deepak Mukhi	615	104500160	Kamal Lochan Dehuri
53	104951080	Bapun Sahu	163	105673105	Mahamad Ashraf	<b>Jeypore Location</b>			465	102929463	Sumitra Meher	616	104580566	Anjan Kumar Thakur
54	104223135	Dhiren Bhutia	164	105294772	Hari Murmu	<b>Jeypore Location</b>			466	103007531	Tikeswar Naik	617	105449185	Manoj Kumar Bhokta
55	101062283	Binod Kumar Behera	165	107432822	Shreya	<b>Jeypore Location</b>			467	106321168	Sunita Mahapatra	618	104170689	Hiran Dija
56	103754667	Medhanidhi Prusty	166	105651872	Prafulla Kumar Puhan	<b>Jeypore Location</b>			468	103921672	Pratima Bhoi	619	105843295	Tiranjibi Bhoi
57	103032029	Bhagirathi Dehuri	167	102757578	Sk Hasim	<b>Jeypore Location</b>			469	102795378	Raj Kishore Pradhan	620	105122762	Bibhu Prasad Behera
58	105983434	Ranjita Behera	168	106302688	Sanjulata Das	<b>Jeypore Location</b>			470	105076400	Kumudini Patra	621	105324146	Sabita Kahnar
<b>Dhanagarh Location</b>			169	103400194	Baladeb Rath	<b>Jeypore Location</b>			471	107027482	Naba Kishor Jhankar	622	103855365	Lokanath Naik
59	103021835	Bhaskar Behera	170	101694830	Sasmita Mohapatra	<b>Jeypore Location</b>			472	104182124	Dandapani Suna	<b>Berhampur Location</b>		
60	105538996	Jochana Behera	171	106143265	Smruti Ranjan Swain	<b>Jeypore Location</b>			473	106866190	Golakh Bagh	623	103645766	Manaranjan Mali
61	106510713	Kalpna Pattnayak	172	103489750	Siddharth Sankar Paikray	<b>Jeypore Location</b>			474	106499924	Tapan Ranjit	624	102935902	Bhogi Goidar
62	102569384	Dunna Laxminarayana	173	107374801	Krushna Chandra Sahoo	<b>Jeypore Location</b>			475	106967454	Rukmini Patra	625	104466017	Giridhar Santa
63	104636639	Sankar Behera	174	102167146	Sanatan Kamliya	<b>Jeypore Location</b>			476	102917318	Tarikadhara Naik	626	103710079	Debendra Kumar Barik
64	105796110	Chatalabairagi Reddy	175	102308430	Satyabhama Jena	<b>Jeypore Location</b>			477	106416683	Prasant Meher	627	103103166	Suresh Bisol
65	102048306	Ch Santosh Kumar Achary	176	104795054	Abhilas Mahanta	<b>Jeypore Location</b>			478					



The terrorists undertook an extreme attack in Pahalgam as they selectively chose innocents, asked their religion and killed them brutally in front of their families, including women and children

AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

33 NAXALITES SURRENDER

As many as 33 Naxalites, among them 24 carrying a cumulative bounty of ₹91 lakh, surrendered before security forces in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region Friday, police said



Delhi govt issues advisory on Covid-19

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 23: The Delhi government Friday issued an advisory on Covid-19, asking hospitals to prepare for the availability of beds, oxygen, medicines and vaccine.

The advisory, issued by the Health Department, comes in the wake of several states reporting Covid cases.

The government has asked health institutions to send all positive samples for genome sequencing to Lok Nayak Hospital. "The hospitals must ensure preparedness in terms of availability of beds, oxygen, antibiotics, other drugs and vaccine. All equipment such as ventilators, Bi-PAP, oxygen concentrators and PSA (Prostate-Specific Antigen) must be in functional condition," it stated.

Daily reporting of all parameters must also be done on the Delhi State Health Data Management Portal, the advisory stated.

According to the advisory, refresher training of dedicated staff may be conducted and daily reporting of Influenza-like Illness (ILI) and Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI) cases in all health facilities (OPD/IPD) on the Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP) portal must be ensured. Confirmed influenza and Covid-19 cases may also be reported on IHIP under the L form.

All-party delegations meet top leadership

AGENCIES

Moscow/Tokyo/Abu Dhabi, May 23: Indian Parliamentary delegations Friday put across New Delhi's 'zero-tolerance' policy on terrorism to top officials in Russia, the United Arab Emirates and Japan and exchanged views on furthering cooperation in counter-terrorism and combating radicalism following Operation Sindoor.

"#TeamIndia sends a strong and united message on combating terrorism," External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, who is on a three-nation tour of Europe, said in a post on X.

India is sending out seven multi-party delegations to 33 global capitals to reach out to the international community on Pakistan's designs and India's response to terror in wake of the Pahalgam terror attack after which India launched Operation Sindoor.

In Moscow, the all-party delegation led by DMK MP Kanimozhi Karunanidhi met Deputy Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation Andrey Rudenko to sensitise the Russian side about terror emanating from Pakistan, a month after the Pahalgam attack that left 26 people dead. In Japan,



West supported military regime in Pakistan: EAM

New Delhi: No one has supported the military regime and undermined democracy in Pakistan in so many ways as much as the West, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said. He described the threat of terrorism as a major "collective challenge" facing the world alongside climate change and growing poverty.

the delegation led by JD(U) MP Sanjay Jha held a "focused and lively" press engagement held at the Indian Embassy in Tokyo where the MPs "briefed the Japanese media on India's 'New Normal' against cross-border attacks, zero tolerance for terrorism, and all parties resolve to stand united in all matters of

national interest," the Embassy said in a post on X.

In the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the delegation led by Shiv Sena MP Shrikant Shinde, sent a "strong message of harmony, tolerance and peaceful coexistence - the values shared & cherished by India and UAE," the Indian Embassy in Abu Dhabi said.

The delegation paid obeisance at the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, BAPS Hindu Temple and Guru Nanak Darbar Gurudwara, the Embassy said in a post on X.

The all party delegation met Nikolay Mladenov, Director General of Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy and "exchanged views on furthering India-UAE cooperation in counter-terrorism and combating radicalism."

SC is 'chief justice centric', needs to change: AS Oka

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 23: Justice Abhay S Oka Friday called the Supreme Court a "chief justice centric court" while advocating for a change in light of its composition of 34 judges coming from different regions of the country.

Bidding goodbye at an event organised by the Supreme Court Bar Association, Justice Oka said the Supreme Court and the High Courts have neglected the trial and district courts which were the judiciary's backbone. He said there was huge pendency in trial

courts with some cases pending for 30 years.

"High Courts function more democratically than the Supreme Court because there is an administrative committee of first five judges in place. Major decisions are taken by the administrative committee. In the last few years, I have found that the Supreme Court is Chief Justice centric court, I think we need to change that," he said.

The judge went on, "The Supreme Court is a court of 34 judges who come from different areas of the country. Therefore

the image of the Chief Justice centric court needs to be changed." "People complain about why some cases are listed the next day and why other cases are pending after so many days. We cannot have a better listing unless we reduce manual intervention to the minimum. We have Artificial Intelligence technology and other software which can help in rational listing of cases," he said.

Justice Oka revealed in his career spanning over two decades, he never delivered a dissenting judgment. The judge also clar-

fied that he would not be giving interviews immediately after the retirement and would need some time for talking to the press. "I have taken a stand that talking to the media while I am holding office is out of the question. I would never do that. I will need a cooling period of two to three months. The reason is that if I talk to the media today, my mind is full of emotions and I may end up saying something which I should not say. So I have requested them to give me some time so that I can be in a better frame of mind," Justice Oka said.

Speculation rife over possible BRS-BJP tie-up

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Hyderabad, May 23: A purported handwritten "feedback" letter by BRS leader K Kavitha to her father and former Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao has stirred political discussions in Telangana. The letter, reportedly written in Telugu and English, evaluates the BRS's recent Silver Jubilee celebrations in Warangal, mixing praise with pointed criticism.

While the authenticity of the letter remains unverified, neither Kavitha's office nor KCR's has issued a comment. Kavitha, currently in the US for her son's graduation, was unavailable for comment.

In the letter, Kavitha expressed disappointment that KCR spoke for only two minutes at the Warangal event, suggesting it led to speculation of a future alliance with the BJP. She wrote, "You should have targeted the BJP some more, Daddy," attributing her concerns to her own troubles allegedly caused by the BJP.

Kavitha criticised the omission of key issues like 42% reservation for backward classes, SC categorisation, the Waqf Amendment Act, and the lack of mention of Urdu.

She also pointed out that Telangana movement activists were not given due recognition at the event. She noted a growing perception among BRS cad-

res that the BJP is a viable alternative, partly due to BRS's decision not to contest the recent MLC elections. Kavitha urged her father to call a party plenary to gather cadre feedback and provide clear political direction.

However, she did commend KCR for his stance on "Operation Kagar" and his moment of silence for Pahalgam terror attack victims, concluding the letter with congratulations on the event's success.

BRS MLC Sravan Dasoju responded that even if Kavitha did write the letter, it was a "normal feedback" from a daughter or party leader, not indicative of internal discord. He said more pressing public concerns include paddy procurement and unemployment.

Ruling Congress MLA Beerla Ilaiah Yadav claimed Kavitha had inadvertently admitted that minorities and the Urdu language were ignored, revealing a tacit BRS-BJP understanding. He questioned her silence during the previous BRS regime regarding marginalised communities.

BJP Assembly floor leader A Maheshwar Reddy alleged in a video statement that the letter stemmed from internal family disputes within KCR's circle over wealth and power distribution.

Despite the buzz, the Opposition has not issued a formal denial of the letter's content or authenticity.

PM to chair NITI Aayog Governing Council meet today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 23: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will Saturday chair the 10th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog, which will focus on states, with a view to make India a developed nation by 2047, according to an official statement.

The theme of the Governing Council meeting is "Viksit Rajya for Viksit Bharat@2047". It will be the first major meeting of the prime minister with chief ministers of all states and Union Territories after Operation Sindoor. "In line with his commitment to take all the states together as 'Team India' for a Viksit Bharat, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will chair the 10th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog May 24, 2025. "...the Governing Council Meeting will discuss the approach on Viksit Rajya for Viksit Bharat @2047," NITI Aayog said in a statement.

According to the statement, the idea of Viksit Rajya for Viksit Bharat is a call for states to craft bold, long-term, and inclusive vision documents aligned with national priorities yet grounded in local realities. "These visions must include time-bound targets," it said. The statement said states must leverage their unique geographic and demographic advantages while focusing on human development, economic growth, sustainability, technology, and governance reforms.

The statement said the Governing Council meeting provides a platform to the Centre and states/Union Territories to deliberate on development challenges facing the nation and building consensus on how States can be the building blocks for making India a developed nation, i.e., Viksit Rajya for Viksit Bharat.

Continued from previous page PUBLIC NOTICE JEWELLERY AUCTION CUM INVITATION NOTICE Registered Office : 601 & 602, Peninsula Business Park, 6th Floor Tower A, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai - 400 013. DCB BANK





Investment, not tariffs. I expressed my expectations for productive discussion to be held, and we agreed

SHIGERU ISHIBA | PRIME MINISTER, JAPAN

PAK EXTENDS AIRSPACE BAN FOR INDIAN FLIGHT TILL JUNE 24

Pakistan Friday extended closure of its airspace for Indian flights until June 24, according to a new NOTAM (Notice to Airmen) issued by the Pakistan Airports Authority. The extension follows the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) rules that restrict such closure for a month at a time



international

of the day quote

The leaders of France, Britain and Canada of wanting to help the Palestinian militant group Hamas after they threatened to take 'concrete action' if Israel did not stop its latest offensive in Gaza

China is willing to work with Germany to open a new chapter in their all-round strategic partnership, to lead China-EU relations toward new development, and to contribute to the stable growth of the global economy

Sweden has gone from being a priority target to a legitimate target for violent Islamism globally

Judge blocks Trump's move

Boston, May 23: A US judge Friday blocked the Trump administration from revoking Harvard University's ability to enroll foreign students, a move that ratcheted up White House efforts to conform practices in academia to President Donald Trump's policies.

US District Judge Allison Burroughs' order provides temporary relief to the thousands of international students who were faced with being forced to transfer under a policy that the Ivy League school called part of the administration's broader effort to retaliate against it for refusing to 'surrender its academic independence.'

The Trump administration may appeal Burroughs' ruling. Spokespeople for the Justice Department and the Department of Homeland Security did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

In a lawsuit filed in Boston federal court earlier Friday, Harvard called the revocation a 'blatant violation' of the US Constitution and other federal laws, and had an 'immediate and devastating effect' on the university and more than 7,000 visa holders.

'Without its international students, Harvard is not Harvard,' the 389-year-old school said in the lawsuit filed in Boston federal court. Harvard enrolled nearly 6,800 international students in its current

HARVARD VISA RULING



Harvard calls revocation blatantly unconstitutional. White House accused Harvard of fostering antisemitism. Administration action would affect one-quarter of students

school year, equal to 27% of total enrollment.

The termination of Harvard's Student and Exchange Visitor Program certification, effective with the 2025-2026 academic year, was announced Thursday by Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem.

In her brief order blocking the policy for two weeks, Burroughs said Harvard had shown it could be harmed before there was an opportunity to hear the case in full. The judge, an appointee of Democratic President Barack Obama, scheduled

hearings for May 27 and May 29 to consider next steps in the case.

Trump's pressure on Harvard is part of the Republican's broader campaign to compel universities, law firms, news media, courts and other institutions that value independence from partisan politics to align with his agenda.

The campaign has included efforts to deport foreign students who participated in pro-Palestinian protests but committed no crimes, retaliate against law firms that employ

lawyers who have challenged Trump, and a suggestion by Trump to impeach a judge for an immigration ruling the president didn't like.

Harvard, based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, has pushed back hard against Trump, having previously sued to restore some \$3 billion in federal grants that had been frozen or canceled.

Some institutions have made concessions to Trump.

Columbia University agreed to reform disciplinary processes and review curricula for courses on the Middle East, after Trump pulled \$400 million in funding over allegations the Ivy League school had not done enough to combat antisemitism.

In a statement before Burroughs' ruling, White House spokesperson Abigail Jackson dismissed the lawsuit.

'If only Harvard cared this much about ending the scourge of anti-American, anti-Semitic, pro-terrorist agitators on their campus they wouldn't be in this situation to begin with,' Jackson said.

'Harvard should spend their time and resources on creating a safe campus environment instead of filing frivolous lawsuits,' she added.

HARVARD DEFENDS 'REFUSAL TO SURRENDER'

Noem said the termination was justified because of Harvard's 'fostering violence, an-

tisemitism, and coordinating with the Chinese Communist Party.'

In a letter to Harvard, which was attached to the school's complaint, Noem said the information was needed because the university had 'created a hostile learning environment for Jewish students due to Harvard's failure to condemn antisemitism.'

Noem said Thursday Harvard could restore its certification by turning over within 72 hours a raft of records about international students, including video or audio of their protest activity in the past five years.

Homeland Security's justification is 'the quintessence of arbitrariness,' Harvard said in its complaint.

In a letter to the Harvard community Friday, Garber condemned the administration's actions and said Harvard responded to Homeland Security Department requests as required by law.

'The revocation continues a series of government actions to retaliate against Harvard for our refusal to surrender our academic independence and to submit to the federal government's illegal assertion of control over our curriculum, our faculty, and our student body,' Garber wrote.

Harvard enrolled nearly 6,800 international students in its current school year, equal to 27% of total enrollment.

NK launches probe into accident during warship's launch

REUTERS

Seoul, May 23: North Korea has begun a full-scale investigation into the accident that occurred during the launch of a warship this week, state media KCNA reported Friday.

Pyeongyang has said the incident Wednesday was caused by a loss of balance while the vessel was being launched, and sections of the bottom of the warship were crushed.

An internal inspection found that there were no holes at the warship's bottom, but the starboard hull was scratched and seawater flowed into the stern section through the rescue channel, the report said.

The extent of damage was 'not serious,' the report said, adding the investigation group was ordered to find the cause of the accident and those responsible for it. The report did not mention any injuries or deaths as a result of the accident.

The isolated state's leader Kim Jong Un, who watched Wednesday's launch of the 5,000-ton destroyer at the northeastern shipyard of Chongjin, berated it as a 'criminal act' that could not be tolerated, according to state media.

The mishap likely occurred in front of a large crowd, increasing the public humiliation for Kim, military analysts said.

South Korea's military said Thursday that the ship was lying on its side in the water.

SHORT TAKES

Kardashian robbery case nears end

Paris: The Paris robbery of Kim Kardashian lasted only minutes — but its impact reverberated for nearly a decade. A court in the French capital will decide the verdict Friday in one of the most audacious celebrity heists in modern French history — the night masked men stormed the star's luxury apartment, tied her up at gunpoint and vanished into the dark with \$6 million in jewels. Nine men and a woman stand accused of carrying out or aiding the crime during the Paris Fashion Week in 2016.

3 TTP terrorists killed in Pakistan

Lahore: Three terrorists of the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) militant group were killed in Pakistan's Punjab province Friday, an official said. A Punjab Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) statement said it received information about the presence of the terrorists in the Mianwali district, about 325 kilometres from Lahore when they were planning to attack police posts near Rehmani Khel Mor. Acting on intelligence, a CTD team surrounded their hideout and asked the terrorists to surrender when they opened fire at them. 'During the exchange of fire, three terrorists were killed on the spot while six of their accomplices managed to escape,' the CTD statement said.

Record floodwaters in Australia leave 4 dead

Melbourne: Record floodwaters on Australia's east coast have left four people dead and one missing, officials said Friday as rain eased over the disaster area. Some 50,000 people have been isolated by flooding along the coast of New South Wales state north of Sydney after days of heavy rain. The low-pressure weather system that brought the deluge had moved further south to Sydney and its surrounds Friday. Four bodies have been retrieved from floodwaters in New South Wales since Wednesday.

4 dead, 17 trapped in China landslides

Beijing: Landslides in a rural area in China's southwestern Guizhou province have killed at least four people with 17 others still missing in the debris, state media said. Two bodies were found in Changshi township Thursday, and two others in nearby Qingyang village, where a landslide buried 19 people from eight households, according to state-run Xinhua News Agency.

Russia, Ukraine each free first 390 prisoners



REUTERS

Chernihiv Region, Ukraine, May 23: Russia and Ukraine each released 390 prisoners Friday and said they would free more in the coming days, in what is expected to be the biggest prisoner swap of the war so far.

The agreement to exchange 1,000 prisoners each was the only concrete step towards peace to emerge last week from two hours of talks in Istanbul, the first direct talks between the warring sides in more than three years.

They failed to agree to a ceasefire proposed by US President Donald Trump.

The Russian ministry of defence said each side had released 270 soldiers and 120 civilians Friday. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy confirmed the total of 390 each, and said more would be released Saturday and Sunday.

Earlier, Ukrainian authorities told reporters to assemble at a location in the northern Chernihiv region in anticipa-

Deal to exchange 1,000 prisoners each agreed in Istanbul. Swap expected to be biggest of war so far. Trump says 'this could lead to something big'

tion that some freed prisoners could be brought there.

Referring to the prisoner swap earlier Friday, Trump wrote on Truth Social, 'Congratulations to both sides on this negotiation. This could lead to something big???'

Hundreds of thousands of soldiers on both sides are believed to have been wounded or killed in Europe's deadliest war since World War Two, although neither side publishes accurate casualty figures. Tens of thousands of Ukrainian civilians have also died as Russian forces have besieged and bombarded Ukrainian cities.

The Russian defence ministry said those released included civilians captured in Russia's Kursk region during a Ukrainian incursion there that began last year.

YUNUS MULLS RESIGNATION

The NCP convenor said Chief Adviser Yunus expressed his fear that he would not be able to work in the current situation of the country saying, 'I won't be able to work unless the political parties can reach a common ground'

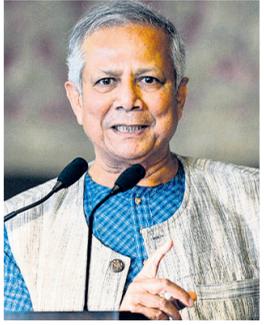
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka/New Delhi, May 23: Bangladesh's interim government chief Muhammad Yunus is mulling resignation as he is finding it difficult to work in view of political parties failing to reach a common ground to bring a change in the country, according to a media report. Student-led National Citizen

Party chief Nhid Islam was quoted by BBC Bangla Service that Yunus is apprehensive over the evolving political situation in the country and whether he will be able to carry on with his work.

'He (Yunus) said he is thinking about it (resignation). He feels that the situation is such that he cannot work,' Islam said Thursday night after he met with the 84-year-old leader. Islam said he went to meet Chief Adviser Yunus after hearing throughout the day about the speculation of his resignation.

'Sir (Yunus) said, If I can't work... I was brought here after a mass uprising to bring change and reform to the country. But in the current situation, with mounting pressure from movements and the way I'm being cornered, this isn't how I can work,' Islam told the BBC Bangla.



Another media report referring to unnamed sources close to Yunus said he actually threatened to resign if political parties do not give him their backing and expressed his desire to quit at a cabinet or advisory council meeting earlier Thursday.

It said the other advisers, effectively ministers, however,

persuaded him not to do so.

Islam told the BBC that he urged Yunus 'to stay strong for the sake of the country's security, and future and to meet the expectations of the mass uprising' (and) I hope everyone will cooperate with him'.

Islam, one of the key coordinators of the Students Against Discrimination (SAD), who previously served as one three representatives of the platform in the interim government's advisory council or cabinet, quit his office to lead the NCP that emerged in February this year visibly with Yunus's blessings.

The SAD led the July uprising last year forcing the ouster of prime minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League regime August 5, 2024.

Three days later Yunus, a Nobel Peace Prize winner for experiment of microfinance, flew from Paris to take charge.

SNIPPETS

US, Iran try to bridge chasm on nuclear enrichment

Dubai: Iranian and US negotiators resumed talks Friday in Rome to resolve a decades-long dispute over Iran's nuclear ambitions, Iranian media reported, despite Tehran warning that a new deal might not be possible amid mutually exclusive demands. The stakes are high for both sides. President Donald Trump wants to curtail Tehran's potential to produce a nuclear weapon that could trigger a regional nuclear arms race and perhaps threaten Israel. The Islamic Republic, for its part, wants to be rid of devastating sanctions on its oil-based economy. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Aragchi and Trump's Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff were expected to lead a fifth round of talks, through Omani mediators.



Israeli strikes kill Palestinians protecting Gaza aid trucks

Cairo/Jerusalem: Israeli airstrikes killed at least six Palestinians guarding aid trucks against looters, Hamas officials said Friday, underlining the problems hindering supplies from reaching hungry people in Gaza following Israel's 11-week-long blockade. The Israeli military said 107 trucks carrying flour and other foodstuffs as well as medical supplies entered the Gaza Strip from the Kerem Shalom crossing point Thursday. But getting the supplies to people sheltering in tents and other makeshift accommodation has been fitful. So far, an umbrella network of Palestinian aid groups said, 119 aid trucks have entered Gaza since Israel eased its blockade Monday in the face of an international outcry. But distribution has been hampered by looting by groups of men, some of them armed, near the city of Khan Younis, the network said.



UK to roll out chemical castration for sex offenders

The treatment been used in Germany and Denmark on a voluntary basis, and in Poland as mandatory for some offenders

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, May 23: The British government will roll out the use of medication to suppress the sex drive of sex offenders, as part of a package of measures to reduce the risk of reoffending and alleviate the pressures on the prison system, which is running out of space. Justice Secretary Shabana

Mahmood said Thursday that so-called chemical castration would be used in 20 prisons in two regions and that she was considering making it mandatory.

'Of course, it is vital that this approach is taken alongside psychological interventions that target other causes of offending, like asserting power and control,' she said in a statement to Parliament following the release of an independent sentencing review.

Though the review highlighted the treatment wouldn't be relevant for some sex offenders such as rapists driven by power and control, rather than sexual preoccupation, Mahmood said that studies show that chemical



castration can lead to a 60 per cent reduction in reoffending. It's been used in Germany

The review recommended that criminals could be released from prison earlier than they are now for good behavior, while judges could be given more flexibility to impose punishments such as driving bans

and Denmark on a voluntary basis, and in Poland as mandatory for some offenders.

The recommendation was part of a wide-ranging review led by former Justice Secretary David Gauke. As well as looking at ways to cut reoffending, Gauke recommended reforms to overhaul the prisons system, which is running at near capacity.

One of the first things Mahmood did as justice minister after Labour returned to power after 14 years last July was sanction an early-release program for prisoners to free up space. She says she inherited a judicial system that had been neglected for years by the previous Conservative government and set up the review as a means to stabilize it. 'If our prisons collapse, courts are forced to

suspend trials,' she said. 'The police must halt their arrests, crime goes unpunished, criminals run amok and chaos reigns. We face the breakdown of law and order in this country.'

The review recommended that criminals could be released from prison earlier than they are now for good behavior, while judges could be given more flexibility to impose punishments such as driving bans. It also recommended that sentences of less than 12 months would also be scrapped for tougher community sentences. It also called for the immediate deportation for foreign nationals handed a three-year sentence or less.



Three months ago, in Assam, we pledged an investment of ₹50,000 crore. Today, once again, humbled and inspired by your leadership, I announce that the Adani Group will invest an additional ₹50,000 crore across the Northeast over the next 10 years  
**GAUTAM ADANI | BUSINESSMAN**

**INDIA URGES BRICS TO REMOVE EXPORT RESTRICTION**  
India has urged member nations of BRICS group to dismantle export controls within the bloc to boost trade, an official statement said Friday. Representing India at the 15th BRICS trade ministers' meeting in Brazil, Economic Adviser in Department of Commerce Yashvir Singh emphasised the need to eliminate restrictive trade measures that disrupt critical supply chains



**of the day** **QUOTE**

**The Roadster X is a bold leap, marking our entry into the motorcycling segment. The Roadster X is designed, engineered, and built in India, for a generation that wants to ride the bike of the future**  
**BHAVISH AGGARWAL | CHAIRMAN, OLA ELECTRIC**

**BMW Group India will pass on the benefits of any price reduction in the near future on MINI 3-Door Cooper S model under a limited period offer covering cars bought from now onwards till the next 180 days**  
**VIKRAM PAWAH | CEO, BMW INDIA**

**These innovations can bridge the preparation gap, helping candidates build confidence, sharpen their skills, and truly showcase their abilities. Our goal is to empower every Indian to not just prepare better, but to believe in themselves, build confidence, and unlock meaningful career opportunities by becoming truly interview-ready**  
**NIRMIT PARIKH | FOUNDER, APNA.CO**

## Trump re-escalates trade threat

The announcement of 50% tariffs on EU post-iPhone tariff threat call has intensified the trade war. Experts believe that the decision is revengeful and inappropriate as tariff uncertainties pose growth risks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Washington, May 23:** US President Donald Trump Friday threatened a 50% tax on all imports from the European Union as well as a 25% tariff on Apple products unless iPhones are made in America.

The threats, delivered over social media, reflect Trump's ability to disrupt the global economy with a burst of typing as well as the reality that his tariffs have yet to produce the trade deals he is seeking or the return of domestic manufacturing he has promised voters.

The Republican president said he wants to charge higher import taxes on goods from the EU, a long-standing US ally, than from China, a geopolitical rival that had its tariffs cut to 30% this month so Washington and Beijing could hold negotiations. Trump was upset by the lack of progress in trade talks with the EU, which has proposed mutually cutting tariffs to zero even as the president has publicly insisted on preserving a baseline 10% tax on most imports.

"Our discussions with them are going nowhere!" Trump posted on Truth Social (social media platform) "Therefore, I am recommending a straight 50% Tariff on the European



Union, starting on June 1, 2025. There is no Tariff if the product is built or manufactured in the United States."

That post had been preceded by a threat of import taxes against Apple for its plans to continue making its iPhone in Asia.

**FINANCIAL MARKET INSIGHTS**

Stock futures sold off after Trump's postings, with the S&P 500 index futures down roughly 1.3%. The markets have developed a hair-trigger sensitivity to US president's statements, often slumping when he announces high tariffs and rallying when he retreats from those threats.

France's CAC 40 index losing 2.7%, and the threat shook the futures market for US stock indexes, which had been indicating only a modest move at the open of trading.

The core of Trump's argument against the EU is that America runs a totally unacceptable trade deficit with the 27 member states. Countries run trade deficits when they import more goods than they export.

In the bond market, Treasury yields fell after swinging back and forth a few times. The yield on the 10-year Treasury eased to 4.50% from 4.54% late Thursday. It had been running higher earlier in the week, in part on worries about how Washington's efforts to cut taxes could add trillions of dollars to the US government's debt.

From the vantage point of the EU's executive commission, trade with the US is roughly in balance if both goods and services are included. As a global centre for finance and technology, the US runs a trade surplus

## Markets rebound after sharp fall



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, May 23:** Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty rebounded sharply by nearly 1 per cent on Friday, propelled by buying in market heavyweights Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank and ITC.

Besides, hopes of a record dividend from the RBI and easing US treasury yields bolstered investor sentiment, traders said.

After a flat start, the 30-share BSE benchmark bounced back and surged 769.09 points or 0.95 per cent to settle at 81,721.08. During the day, it jumped 953.18 points or 1.17 per cent to 81,905.17. As many as 2,361 stocks advanced while 1,589 declined and 156 remained unchanged on the BSE. The NSE Nifty rallied 243.45 points or 0.99 per cent to 24,853.15.

On a weekly basis, the BSE benchmark dropped 609.51 points or 0.74 per cent and the Nifty declined 166.65 points or 0.66 per cent.

From the Sensex firms, Eternal, Power Grid, ITC, Bajaj Finserv, Nestle, Axis Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Adani Ports were among the biggest gainers.

On the other hand, Sun Pharma was the only laggard, declining nearly 2 per cent.

The company's stock fell after it reported a nearly 19 per cent drop in consolidated net profit for the quarter ended March 31, 2025. The BSE mid

cap gauge climbed 0.50 per cent and small cap index went up by 0.45 per cent.

FMCG jumped 1.49 per cent, utilities (1.02 per cent), power (1.01 per cent), financial services (0.99 per cent), bankex (0.99 per cent), oil & gas (0.94 per cent) and energy (0.82 per cent). In Asian markets, Japan's Nikkei 225 index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng settled in positive territory, while South Korea's Kospi and Shanghai's SSE Composite index ended lower.

Markets in Europe were trading higher in mid-session deals. US markets ended largely flat in overnight trade on Thursday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.23 per cent to USD 64.29 a barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) off-loaded equities worth ₹5,045.36 crore Thursday, according to exchange data.

Previously, the BSE Sensex tanked 644.64 points, or 0.79 per cent, to settle at 80,951.99. The Nifty tumbled 203.75 points, or 0.82 per cent, to 24,609.70.

"Markets quickly rebounded after a subdued opening, as short-covering helped benchmark indices stay in positive territory thereafter. The market has been volatile throughout the week, as concerns over US fiscal health due to rising debt and interest rates seen unchanged weighed on sentiment," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said.

### 179th SLBC meeting held in Bhubaneswar



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 23:** The 179th State Level Bankers' Committee meeting along with the Special SLBC on Financial Inclusion & Financial Literacy of Odisha convened May 23 at Hotel Mayfair, Bhubaneswar. The Executive Director of UCO Bank cum Chairman SLBC Odisha Vijaykumar Nivrutti Kamble informed that the State has achieved ₹1.94 lakh crore under annual credit plan for FY 2024-25, 92.61% of the target. Banks in the state have achieved 102.27%, 92.68% under agriculture and MSME respectively.

Under social security schemes, banks have achieved PMJJBY at 129.83%, PMSBY at 116.64%, APY at 110.85% and PMJDY at 106.01% along with the settlement of over 27,000 claims under PMJJBY and PMSBY. For FY 2024-25, State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, UCO Bank, LDM Puri, LDM Cuttack, and LDM Ganjam are awarded as top performers.

Additional Chief Secretary, Govt of Odisha Anu Garg informed that for the FY 2025-26 ACP target has been fixed at ₹2.52 lakh Crore and advised banks to focus on inclusive growth across the geography with special emphasis on Agri & MSME sector.

At the end, General Manager UCO Bank and Convenor SLBC Odisha, Goutam Patra discussed the performance of all banks for the financial year.

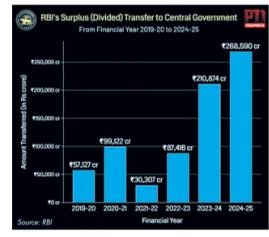
## RBI announces dividend of ₹2.69L-cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, May 23:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Friday announced a record ₹2.69 lakh crore dividend to the government for FY25, 27.4 per cent higher than 2023-24, helping the exchequer to tide over challenges posed by US tariffs and increased spending on defence due to the conflict with Pakistan.

The decision on the dividend payout was taken at the 616th meeting of the Central Board of Directors of Reserve Bank of India held here under the Chairmanship of Governor Sanjay Malhotra.

The central bank had transferred ₹2.1 lakh crore dividend to the government



for the fiscal 2023-24. The payout was ₹87,416 crore for 2022-23.

During accounting years 2018-19 to 2021-22, owing to the prevailing macroeconomic conditions and the onslaught of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Board had decided to maintain the Contingent Risk Buffer (CRB) at 5.50 per cent of the Reserve

Bank's Balance Sheet size to support growth and overall economic activity.

The CRB was increased to 6 per cent for FY2022-23 and to 6.50 per cent for FY 2023-24. Based on the revised ECF, and taking into consideration the macroeconomic assessment, the Central Board decided to further increase the CRB to 7.50 per cent, the RBI said.

"The Board thereafter approved the transfer of ₹2,68,590.07 crore as surplus to the Central Government for the accounting year 2024-25," it said. The government has estimated ₹2.56 lakh crore as dividend/surplus for FY26 from the Reserve Bank of India, nationalised banks and financial institutions.

### SHORT TAKES

#### GMR Airports posts loss

**New Delhi:** GMR Airports saw its consolidated loss widen to ₹253 crore in the three months ended March 2025 even as total income rose during the same period. The company had a loss of ₹168 crore in the year-ago period.

#### JSW Steel profit grows

**New Delhi:** JSW Steel Friday reported a 13.54 per cent rise in consolidated net profit to ₹1,501 crore in the March 2025 quarter, helped by a reduction in expenses. It had posted a net profit of ₹1,322 crore in the January-March period of the preceding fiscal, the company said in an exchange filing.

#### HPL profit jumps

**New Delhi:** HPL Electric & Power has reported a nearly three-fold jump in consolidated profit after tax at ₹37.28 crore in the quarter ended March 2025, on higher revenue. The company had reported a consolidated profit after tax (PAT) of ₹13.72 crore in the year-ago period, HPL Electric & Power said in a release.

#### Ashok Leyland profit rises

**New Delhi:** Ashok Leyland Ltd Friday reported a 33.44 per cent rise in consolidated net profit to ₹1,245.92 crore in the March quarter. The company had posted a consolidated net profit of ₹933.69 crore in the corresponding quarter of previous fiscal, said in a regulatory filing.

#### Grasim's profit surges

**New Delhi:** Grasim Industries Ltd reported a 9.23 per cent rise in its net profit to ₹2,973.26 crore for the March quarter of FY25, and revenue from operations grew 17.33 per cent to ₹44,267.26 crore, according to a regulatory filing by the company.

#### BEML profit rises

**New Delhi:** Mining equipment manufacturer BEML Friday reported an 11.9 per cent rise in consolidated profit at ₹287.55 crore.

### Sky Automobiles Arena celebrates 1st anniversary of Epic New Swift

**Cuttack:** Sky Automobiles Arena is proudly celebrating the first anniversary of the Epic New Swift that redefines sustainable mobility with advanced technology, premium design, and superior performance Friday. The ceremony was graced by Avinash Singhanian, MD, Sky Automobiles. The new Swift is designed with cutting-edge aerodynamics, equipped with advanced safety features, and powered by a refined, fuel-efficient engine. This new model represents the perfect blend of style, smart technology, and driving fun. It creates an aura of confidence, comfort, and the joy of the drive - whether one is navigating city streets or heading to the highway. From the dynamic new front grille to the sleek LED headlamps, every element of the Swift has been crafted with precision and passion. The interiors have a driver-focused cabin with a premium finish, seamless connectivity, and intelligent infotainment, all designed to enhance one's driving experience. Jagannath Prasad Sahoo, Senior Sales Manager of Sky Automobiles with Sanjay Gupta, GM, and Rashmi Rekha Mishra, manager, thanked the team, media partners, and customers for creating a memory for all.



### Maruti Suzuki Arena conducts mass delivery of Epic New Swift

**Bhubaneswar:** Maruti Suzuki India Limited (MSIL) Friday organised a mass delivery of the Epic New Swift across eight Arena dealerships in Odisha. As part of this initiative, 50 units of the Swift were handed over to customers from dealerships, celebrating the strong demand and growing popularity of the iconic hatchback in the region. Designed for every generation, Swift continues to excite customers with its sporty design and engaging driving experience. The premium hatchback has a strong fan following, establishing itself as a preferred choice in its segment. With over 3 million customers, Swift enjoys remarkable customer loyalty and their trust in the vehicle. Underscoring MSIL's commitment to offer enhanced safety for customers across all passenger vehicle segments, the Maruti Suzuki Swift is equipped with the Arena Safety Shield. Consisting of an array of safety features, the Arena Safety Shield includes six airbags, Electronic Stability Program+ (ESP), Anti-lock Braking System (ABS) with Electronic Brake force Distribution (EBD), Hill Hold Control, Reverse parking sensors, three-point seat belts and reminder, along with 3 years or 1 lakh km warranty\*.



## India's domestic air passenger traffic reaches 16.54 crore

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, May 23:** The domestic air passenger traffic reached 16.54 crore in FY25, yearly growth of 7.6 per cent and 16.8 per cent higher than the pre-Covid level of around 14.15 crore (FY20), a report showed Friday.

The international passenger traffic for Indian carriers stood at 3.38 crore in FY25, yearly growth of 14.1 per cent, higher than the pre-Covid level of 2.27 crore by 49 per cent, according to a report by ratings agency ICRA.

In April 2025 alone, domestic passenger traffic was estimated at 1.45 crore, which was 10.2 per



cent higher compared to April 2024. Airlines also increased their capacity deployment by 6.9 per cent in April 2025 over

the same month last year. The domestic aviation industry recorded a healthy passenger load factor (PLF) of

86 per cent in FY25, reflecting strong demand and efficient operations across airlines. The highest single-day domestic air traffic was reported February 23, with 5,35,343 passengers flying across the country, driven in part by increased travel around the Maha Kumbh event in Prayagraj.

Looking ahead, ICRA has maintained a 'Stable' outlook for the Indian aviation industry. Domestic passenger traffic is expected to grow by another 7-10 per cent in FY26, while international traffic may increase by 15-20 per cent.

Domestic traffic is expected to grow by another 7-10 per cent, and international pas-

senger numbers may rise by 15-20 per cent, as per the report. While some airlines have adequate liquidity and/or financial support from a strong parent supporting their credit profiles, the credit metrics and liquidity profile of others will remain under stress over the near term, despite some improvement over the last few years, according to the report.

Meanwhile, according to ICRA's earlier report, the domestic air passenger traffic for March had been estimated at 148.8 lakh, marking an 11.3 per cent increase on an annual basis and a 5.9 per cent rise compared to 140.4 lakh in February 2025.

### Hybrid vehicles: Growth bridge for EVs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 23:** Hybrid vehicles have complemented the growth of electric vehicle sales in India rather than competing with the latter, according to a report by HSBC Global Research.

Reiterating that the Indian automotive landscape will remain a multi-powertrain industry over the medium to long term, HSBC Global Research said hybrids, CNGs, and bio-fuels are practical medium- to long-term solutions, while the country moves towards eventual electrification.

In FY25, the growth in EV sales was similar to the growth in Series Hybrid Electric Vehicle (SHEV) sales, despite incentives being offered on SHEVs by Uttar Pradesh, the largest PV-selling state in India. This trend suggests that SHEV adoption is having a positive effect on BEV sales, the report pointed out.

Asserting that the perception that promoting SHEVs will hinder EV adoption is misplaced, the report said, This is not a zero-sum game, but rather an incremental opportunity where incentivising SHEVs contributes to the broader development of the clean mobility ecosystem, benefiting BEVs and advancing overall market growth.

Four-wheeler (4W) EV penetration has improved from 1.9 per cent in the first half of FY25 to 2.5 per cent in the fourth quarter of FY25 and 3.2 per cent in the first quarter of QFY26 quarter-to-date period, driven by launch on MG Windsor and M&M BEVs, the report said.

# Gill front-runner for captain

The 25-year-old Shubman Gill is a clear favourite to land the high-profile job as India embarks on a new World Test Championship cycle following the retirement of stalwarts Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma in a span of one week

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, May 23:** India's cricket selectors will set the ball rolling for the team's long transition journey in the longest format when they pick a new Test captain and finalise the squad for what is expected to be a challenging five-match series in England, here Saturday.

The 25-year-old Shubman Gill is a clear favourite to land the high-profile job as Indian embarks on a new World Test Championship cycle following the retirement of stalwarts Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma in a span of one week.

By simple logic, Jasprit Bumrah was the vice-captain on the previous tour of Australia and he should be elevated to the leadership role but question marks over his long-term fitness and workload management are likely to go against him on the discussion table.

Rishabh Pant has had a forgettable IPL but he remains a vital part of India's transition phase in the Test format. The selectors are likely to make him vice-captain.

Barring the leadership conundrum, no major shake-up is expected.

Though Rohit and Kohli's exit leaves a massive void, the likes of KL Rahul can provide much-needed experience in the batting department.

Rahul and Yashasvi Jaiswal are expected to open in the first Test beginning in Leeds on June



## Gambhir breaks silence on Ro-Ko's retirement

India head coach Gautam Gambhir has admitted that dealing with the absence of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma will be a significant challenge for the team but their Test retirement has also opened the door for others to step up and take responsibility. Kohli and Rohit bid farewell to Test cricket within a week of each other earlier this month. The announcements came ahead of the marquee five-match series in England next month, the squad for which will be announced Saturday in Mumbai. "I think, when you start the game and when you want to finish, it's a very individual decision. No one has the right. Be it the coach, the selector, be it anyone in this country has any right to tell someone when to retire and when not to retire. So it comes from within," Gautam Gambhir said. With their exit, India will not only need a new Test captain but will also be without two of their most seasoned players, a leadership and experience void, Gambhir admits, won't be easy to fill. "And yes, we've got to be without two senior players to really experience players. And sometimes I believe that it's the opportunity for some other people to put their hand up and say, 'Okay, I am ready for it.'"

20 but hot on their heels will be Sai Sudharsan, who is likely to be picked as a reserve opener.

It remains to be seen if one among Karun Nair, Sarfaraz Khan or Shreyas Iyer make it as an additional specialist batter.

Following the retirement of another stalwart, R Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja will be lead

spinner in the squad and it would be interesting to see if the selectors go with two or three spinners in English conditions.

If the number is two, then Washington Sundar may get the nod ahead of Kuldeep Yadav, who is a proven match-winner across formats.

Pant is the leading wicket-keeper batter and the choice

for a reserve too his rather straight forward with Dhruv Jurel set to be retained.

Chief selector Ajit Agarkar is expected to address the media after squad announcement and talk about the road ahead for the team undergoing a re-building process.

There is enough experience in the pace department led by Bumrah but will he last the rigours of a five-match series? There are also concerns over Mohammed Shami's fitness.

Can his ageing body recover fast enough in between a long series? Mohammed Siraj is set to be the third pacer in the squad. If the selectors decide to pick five fast bowlers then Prasidh Krishna, Akash Deep and Arshdeep Singh, who is yet to play Test cricket, will also be in the mix.

If the five wise men go for a left-arm pacer, Arshdeep will have competition from Khaleel Ahmed.

# Kishan, bowlers fashion SRH's win over RCB

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Lucknow, May 23:** Royal Challengers Bengaluru squandered a golden chance to finish inside the top two of the IPL points table, going down to Ishan Kishan-fuelled Sunrisers Hyderabad by 42 runs here Friday.

As a result of this heavy defeat, Royal Challengers (17 points) have slid down to third on the table behind Gujarat Titans (18) and Punjab Kings (17). The Net Run Rate (NRR) also took a significant beating.

Once they were asked to chase an imposing 232, which the SRH set after Kishan made a stunning unbeaten 94 off 48 balls, RCB required some calculated assault on the target.

They mounted it through Phil Salt (62, 32b, 4xx, 5x6), Virat Kohli (43, 25b, 7x4, 1x6) and Jitesh Sharma (24, 15b), but could only amass 189 before getting bundled out, and it was RCB's first defeat away from home this season.

But the beginning of RCB's chase offered a different tale, as Kohli and Salt sprinted to 80 runs in just 7 overs.

Kohli, who had recently retired from Test cricket, was

## IPL STANDINGS

TEAM	M	W	L	NRR	PTS
GT	13	9	4	0.602	18
PBKS	12	8	3	0.389	17
RCB	13	8	4	0.255	17
MI	13	8	5	1.292	16
DC	13	6	6	-0.019	13
LSG	13	6	7	-0.337	12
KKR	13	5	6	0.193	12
SRH	13	5	7	-0.737	11
RR	14	4	10	-0.549	8
CSK	13	3	10	-1.030	6

the chief aggressor, clattering pacers Harshal Patel for two fours and Eshan Malinga for a swatted six over mid-wicket.

But the veteran fell to an old nemesis — left-arm spin — for the 22nd time in his storied T20 career, this time to 22-year-old Harsh Dubey, the highest wicket-taker in 2024-25 Ranji Trophy season for champions Vidarbha.

However, Salt, who made 14 off his first 12 balls, found his depth at the right time, smashing 48 runs in the next 20 balls, and a tennis-style forehand six

off Nitish Kumar Reddy was just stunning in its execution.

Salt raced to fifty in 27 balls but cramps curtailed his movements, and soon perished to Pat Cummins.

But on a rather smooth pitch, the RCB batters kept on finding regular boundaries to keep the asking rate from escalating.

Skipper Rajat Patidar (18) and Jitesh Sharma (24) added 44 quick runs for the fourth wicket to take RCB to 173 for three in the 16th over.

But a horrible mid-pitch between them saw Patidar getting run out by a couple of miles, and in the same over Malinga jettisoned big-hitting Romario Shepherd for a first-ball duck.

Jitesh perished to Unadkat and Tim David, who appears to have suffered a hamstring injury, in the space of nine deliveries as the fight soon ebbed out of the Royal Challengers.

**Brief Scores**  
Sunrisers Hyderabad: 231/6 in 20 overs (Ishan Kishan 94 not out, Abhishek Sharma 34; Romario Shepherd 2/14) beat Royal Challengers Bengaluru: 189 all out in 19.5 overs (Phil Salt 62, Virat Kohli 43; Pat Cummins 3/28)



## SHORT TAKES

### Disappointing start for Indians in Korea

**Incheon:** Yuvraj Sandhu was the lone Indian inside the cut line after the first day at the Kolon Korea Open on the Asian Tour here, even as his compatriots disappointed. Sandhu, at 2-over 73, was tied 48th at the Dunes Course at La Vie Est Belle golf club — north-east of the capital Seoul. Starting on the 10, Sandhu opened with a birdie and then had two birdies and two bogeys in the remaining eight holes to be one-under. On his second nine, he dropped three bogeys on the fifth, seventh and the ninth to finish at 73. Jeev Milkha Singh and SSP Chawrasia had a tough time. Jeev, who recently finished in the Top-10 at a Legends event in Europe, shot 6-over 77 and was tied 110th, while Chawrasia carded 10-over 81 to be tied 137th. Qualifier Yujun Jung, 22, from Korea was the surprise first-round leader. Jung made it through a 36-hole pre-qualifier, at the same venue, earlier in the month and drew on that experience to set the pace.

### Djoko survives knee scare to enter semis

**Geneva:** Novak Djokovic celebrated his 38th birthday with hard-fought revenge at the Geneva Open. The second seed held firm for a 6-4, 6-4 victory over Matteo Arnaldi to reach the semi-finals at the clay ATP 250 event for the second consecutive year. Djokovic, who fell to Arnaldi at the ATP Masters 1000 in Madrid last month, reeled off five straight games from 1-4 in the second set to seal a one-hour, 40-minute victory. "It's great to be in the semi-finals again. Hopefully this year I can go at least a step further, that's the goal. I think I'm playing really good tennis. A straight-sets win, but it was much closer than the score indicates. I was 4-1 down in the second, but somehow I didn't lose a game," he said. Djokovic is now within two victories of claiming his 100th tour-level trophy, with which he would join Jimmy Connors (109) and Roger Federer (103) as the only men to hit the triple-digit mark in the Open Era.

## Mairaj, Ganemat top 2nd shotgun national trials

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 23:** Olympian Mairaj Ahmad Khan and Ganemat Sekhon finished on top in the men's and women's skeet finals respectively of the second shotgun national trials at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range Friday.

Mairaj shot 55 in the men's final, edging out Paris Olympian Anantjeet Singh Naruka, who scored 54, by a single shot.

Ganemat also secured victory by a one-shot margin, finishing with 53 ahead of Maheshwari Chauhan's 52 in the women's event.

Angad Vir Singh Bajwa and Parinaaz Dhaliwal finished third in the men's and women's categories, respectively.

Earlier, in the final two rounds of qualification, Bhavtegh Singh Gill shot 22 and 24 to add to his 73 from Thursday, qualifying in first place.

Mairaj totalled 118, while Smit Singh with 117, Angad with 116, and Anantjeet with 115 completed the top six qualifiers. In the



women's category, Ganemat topped the qualification round with 114 shots, followed closely by Maheshwari with 113.

Parinaaz also shot 113, while Oshmi Shrivastava, Darshana Rathore, and Mansi Raghuvanshi rounded out the top six with scores of 108, 107 (SO-3), and 107 (SO-2), respectively.

A separate selection trial was not conducted for junior athletes and as a result, Oshmi and Mansi were also placed first and second in the junior category with the same scores. Agrima Kanwar was placed third with a score of 104.

## MALAYSIA MASTERS

# Srikanth keeps India's flag flying

Shuttler enters semifinal, lone Indian left in the draw

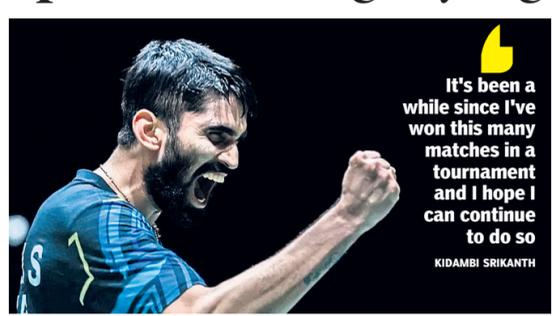
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kuala Lumpur, May 23:** Seasoned Indian shuttler Kidambi Srikanth stormed into his first semifinal in over a year with a hard-fought three-game win over higher-ranked Toma Junior Popov of France at the Malaysia Masters badminton tournament here Friday.

Ranked 65th in the world, Srikanth displayed remarkable resilience and tactical maturity to outwit world no.18 Popov 24-22, 17-21, 22-20 in a fiercely-contested quarterfinal that lasted one hour and 14 minutes.

The 32-year-old from Guntur, a 2021 World Championships silver medallist, has endured a rough patch over the past few seasons, struggling with form and fitness.

However, he battled through the qualifiers and has now



It's been a while since I've won this many matches in a tournament and I hope I can continue to do so  
KIDAMBI SRIKANTH

notched up five straight wins to reach the business end of a BWF World Tour event.

"It's been a while since I've won this many matches in a tournament and I hope I can continue to do so," said Srikanth. "I've always been trying to better myself and this win just proves that whatever I'm doing is working," added the former world no 1, who had won four titles in a stellar 2017 season and was part of India's historic Thomas Cup triumph in 2022.

Srikanth will take on Yushi

Tanaka of Japan in the last four match, which will be his first semifinal appearance in over a year.

The Japanese, who has won two Super 300 titles -- the Orleans Masters and the US Open -- beat France's Christo Popov, brother of Toma Junior, 21-18 16-21 21-6 in another men's singles quarterfinal duel on Saturday.

The other men's singles semifinal will be played between fourth seed Kodai Naraoka of Japan and second seed Li Shi Feng of China.

## Chopra finishes 2nd in Poland event

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chorzow, May 23:** Star Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra was not at his best but managed a second-place finish behind Julian Weber of Germany at the Janusz Kusocinski Memorial meet here Friday.

The 27-year-old Chopra was at third place till the penultimate round but sent his spear to a distance of 84.14m in his sixth and final attempt to move to second. He had 81.28m and 81.80m in his second and fifth throws respectively. The other three were foul attempts.

The competition was held under overcast conditions after rain at the Silesian Stadium earlier in the day.

German Julian Weber, who beat Chopra for the top spot in the Doha Diamond League May 16 in a 90m duel, again emerged victorious with his second round throw of 86.12m.

Two-time world champions Anderson Peters of Grenada was third with a best throw of 83.24m. He was third in Doha also.

# Alcaraz, Sinner rivalry takes centre stage in French Open

REUTERS

**Bangalore, May 23:** Defending champion Carlos Alcaraz and world number one Jannik Sinner resume the hottest rivalry in men's tennis at the French Open, where Novak Djokovic will fly the flag for the old guard as the claycourt Grand Slam enters the post-Rafa Nadal era.

After Nadal exited the 2024 edition of the major he won a record 14 times, Alcaraz emerged as the Spaniard's heir apparent with his first Roland Garros title.

Alcaraz has geared up for his title defence with a sparkling campaign on clay this season, with the 22-year-old capturing his first Monte Carlo crown and defeating Sinner in the Italian Open final Sunday to complete his set of elite clay-court honours.

"All eyes are on Paris now, on Roland Garros," said the world number two.

"Beating Jannik, winning Rome, both things mix together and give me great confidence going to Paris. I always say 'the final isn't about playing, the final is about winning'."

"I just repeat that approach every time I play a final."

Sinner showed little sign of rust in his first event back from a three-month ban for two doping violations, and fans will be hoping the world number one scythes through the draw to meet Alcaraz in the final.

Former Roland Garros champion Jim Courier said both players would be feeling confident after the level they showed in Rome.

"Alcaraz continues this run, four wins in a row against Sinner, which no one else is able to come close to, so that's going to give him a little extra boost," Courier said on the Tennis Channel.

"What a clay season he has had. This has been perfect for

## POST-NADAL ERA



Carlos, but also for Jannik. Re-entering (the tour) he couldn't do much better than this."

**'NEW REALITY'**  
Djokovic won the last of his

record 24 Grand Slam titles at the US Open in 2023 and is enduring one of the worst spells of his magnificent career.

The Serb unexpectedly accepted a wildcard for this

week's Geneva Open in a bid to find claycourt form after losing his opening matches at Monte Carlo and Madrid.

Djokovic celebrates his 38th birthday Thursday and while he has suddenly looked vulnerable against the hungry young stars on the tour, few will write him off completely when he returns to the venue where he won gold at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

"It's a new reality for me ... trying to win a match or two, not thinking about getting far in the tournament," Djokovic said after his Madrid exit. "It's a completely different feeling from what I had in 20-plus years of professional tennis, so it's a challenge mentally to face these kinds of sensations on the court."

While Djokovic goes in search of a 25th Grand Slam crown, Germany's Alexander Zverev continues his bid for a first after being hammered by

Sinner in the Australian Open final -- his third straight defeat in a major championship title match.

The world number three, who came close to breaking his duck at last year's French Open when he lost to Alcaraz in five sets, won in Munich last month but has gone off the boil since and is looking to find his rhythm at the Hamburg Open this week.

A host of other contenders will be in the mix in Paris, including Barcelona champion Holger Rune, Madrid winner and former French Open finalist Casper Ruud, as well as the fast-rising duo of Lorenzo Mussetti and Jack Draper.

While Nadal's name will not be etched onto the trophy this year, the 22-times major champion will return to his happiest hunting ground for a grand celebration of his achievements on the opening day of the tournament.