



Masked revellers carry animal bones and innards as they take part in the traditional carnival of Zubieta, in the northern Spanish province of Navarre



Volunteers of a Sikh non-profit organisation distribute free meals and essential items to people impacted by the Los Angeles wildfire, in USA



Models wear creations as part of the Chanel Haute Couture Spring Summer 2025 collection, that was presented in Paris



A couple buys traditional decorations for the upcoming Lunar New Year at a market in Taipei, Taiwan

allovertheworld



Pigeons flying above a beach near the Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmad al-Sabah Causeway in Kuwait City

Nepal resumes rescue helicopter flights to Mount Everest

KATHMANDU: Nepali airlines have resumed rescue helicopter flights to the Everest region, an aviation industry official announced Tuesday, following weeks of suspension prompted by protests from locals citing environmental impact and loss of income from trekkers. Helicopters are a key means of transport and crucial for emergency rescue in many remote regions around mountainous Nepal, vast stretches of which are often inaccessible by road. But they have also been used to give mountaineering teams and tourists a shortcut over challenging terrain in the Sagarmatha National Park, home to Mount Everest, the world's highest peak.

Cash-strapped Sri Lanka ends ban on vehicle imports

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka announced the lifting of a five-year ban on vehicle imports Tuesday as the country showed further signs of emerging from its worst economic meltdown. Information Minister Nalinda Jayatissa said buses, trucks and utility vehicles will be allowed in from Saturday under a phased removal of restrictions in place since 2020. "We are moving very cautiously because we don't want a surge of imports that will deplete our foreign reserves," Jayatissa told reporters in Colombo. "Depending on the demand, we will open imports of other categories of vehicles such as cars, motorcycles and three-wheelers." He said the imports were necessary to generate much-needed tax revenue, and the government hoped to cap imports at about \$1.2 billion this year.

Swedish police report 3 blasts amid surge in explosions this year

STOCKHOLM: Swedish police have arrested two people following three explosions on Tuesday in the capital and the south of the country, which has witnessed 30 bombings already this month. It was not immediately clear if the blasts were linked to gang violence - which has surged in the Scandinavian country as rival drugs gangs settle scores - but police indicated they were treating the incidents as suspicious. Two explosions occurred in the south of Stockholm on Tuesday morning, hours after a blast outside a villa in Helsingborg, police said. No injuries were reported. Two people were detained in the vicinity of the second Stockholm blast.

Gunshots in DR Congo's Goma as protesters attack embassies

GOMA, (DR CONGO): Gunshots rang out on Tuesday through parts of the besieged DR Congo city of Goma, where Congolese soldiers have clashed with militia fighters backed by Rwandan troops, while furious protesters attacked embassies in the capital Kinshasa. The main city in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo has become a battleground since fighters from the Tutsi-led M23 armed group and Rwandan forces entered central Goma on Sunday night after a weeks-long advance through the region. The lightning offensive marks a major escalation in the vast central African country's mineral-rich east, which has been plagued by fighting between armed groups backed by regional rivals since the 1994 Rwandan genocide.

Philippines to train with US Typhon missile system next month

MANILA: A Philippine platoon will be trained on using a US mid-range missile system next month, ahead of joint drills, Manila's military said Tuesday, in a move that will likely further fuel tensions with China. The US military deployed the Typhon missile system in the northern Philippines last year as part of an annual joint exercise, but it was not removed after the war games ended. The system's presence on Philippine soil has angered Beijing, whose forces have engaged in several confrontations with Philippine vessels in recent months over disputed reefs and waters in the South China Sea.

New strain of bird flu confirmed in US

PARIS: A new strain of bird flu has been confirmed at a duck farm in California, the first time the variant has been discovered in poultry in the United States, an international agency said. A report by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), which AFP saw on Tuesday, said "highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N9" had been confirmed in a commercial duck premise in Merced County, California. "This is the first confirmed case of HPAI H5N9 in poultry in the United States," said Paris-based WOAH, which monitors animal diseases worldwide.

EAM: India sees M-E region as crucial passage to world

PTI, ABU DHABI: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Tuesday highlighted the significant expansion of India-Middle East engagement driven by strong trade, connectivity, and people-to-people linkages, saying India sees the Middle East as a crucial passage to the world beyond. Addressing the inaugural session of Raisina Middle East here, Jaishankar said the Middle East region, which India calls West Asia, is crucial to India's strategic interests. The country's trade in the Gulf region amounts to about USD 160



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar speaks during India's 76th Republic Day celebrations in Abu Dhabi, UAE

to USD 180 billion. "Our presence in the Gulf is both pervasive and crucial. More than 9 million

Indians live and work here, but the Gulf also serves as a gateway to the MENA region and the Mediterranean," Jaishankar said, adding this larger geography is a very critical connection between the Indian Ocean and the Atlantic. "And as our history underlines, there is a symbiotic relationship between us. We certainly have stakes that are continually rising; but increasingly, India also has contributions to make that would influence the direction of events," a Ministry of External Affairs statement quoted Jaishankar as saying.

"Our annual trade with the Mediterranean, incidentally, is another USD 80 billion, and the Indian diaspora there is close to half a million," the minister said, adding that India's projects in the region include airports, ports, railways, phosphates, green hydrogen, steel and submarine cables. Jaishankar said the endeavours of India and the Middle East can be projected further into Africa, Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia. "Perhaps there is no domain that has a stronger case for such plurilateral

cooperation than that of connectivity... Maritime security and safety is another issue where understandings and mechanisms will have to step in to fill global deficits. Jaishankar said the two regions, long connected by the flow of people, have a common interest in the emergence of a global workplace. Jaishankar said the Middle East is an extended neighbourhood with which India has fully reconnected, and New Delhi needs to deepen its engagement with the region.

FROM PAGE 1

ARAMBOL VILLAGER'S DEATH TRIGGERS 'OUTSIDER' ROW

"I lost my elder brother because we have allowed these outsiders to come here and dominate us. A local shack owner would not have reacted the way the person running the shack did. They would most likely have resolved the problem amicably," Yuvraj added.

According to the villagers, Amar was someone who liked to help others and enjoyed his own space.

"I saw him sitting at a table, and after a while, having an argument with a waiter that ended in a fistfight. Suddenly, he was surrounded, and arms could be seen flying around. I did not intervene because it did not seem serious," admitted a local, speaking on condition of anonymity, who had also been on a walk that fateful evening.

"Through Amar's death, the village has woken up to the reality that outsiders are moving dangerously in the village. Such an eruption was bound to happen because many of us preferred to turn a blind eye out of greed for quick money. Now, we have paid with a life. I hope the village realises this," admitted Manuel Fernandes, a local.

"Once allotted, shacks cannot be leased out. What has happened is a pity and a shame," Fernandes added.

"We saw him walking briskly from the beach, hurling abuses at some people, and all of a sudden, he collapsed behind our lifeguard tower. My boy rushed down to him, and seeing him unconscious, first tried mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and then asked for an oxygen canister," said Anthony Rodrigues, supervisor of a lifesaving agency.

"We finished one canister of oxygen, but he was not responding. There was a bruise on his left eye, but we noticed no other physical injuries on him. Since the 108 ambulance was taking time to arrive, his family took him to the hospital in a private ambulance," Rodrigues added.

"I made the guy who was running the shack sit in my jeep and drove toward the church, where the main accused was pointed out to me, hiding in a corner. Once he was apprehended, the truth began to come out. We expect to pick up more people in the coming days," disclosed Mandrem Police Inspector Sheriff Jacques.

"The three accused have been booked under Section 103 of the BNS - culpable homicide amounting to murder - and let the law take its course," affirmed Jacques.

The post-mortem report of Amar, accessed by O Herald, indicates that the victim died due to "triple vessel coronary artery disease" and that he had "simple injuries" on his body.

"It is claimed he ran on soft sand to escape those who were attacking him, which could have triggered an early heart attack. However, the autopsy clearly indicated he had severe heart problems, which explains the sudden collapse," detailed a doctor from the Toxicology Department of Goa Medical College (GMC), speaking on condition of anonymity.

"Triple vessel coronary artery disease is very serious. If detected, it can be treated. Otherwise, it is difficult to predict when it will strike, and when it does, there is little one can do," suggested Dr Francisco Colaco, one of Goa's leading cardiologists.

TWO MORE LAND IN MANDREM POLICE NET

According to the police, Thakur and Vibhishan were seen assaulting the deceased in the CCTV footage.

A case has been registered against the trio under Section 103 read with 3 (5) of BNS related to murder, group attack and mob lynching.

The incident occurred on Sunday evening when Amar Bandekar had gone for a walk on the Arambol beach. Verbal clashes broke out between Bandekar and the shack workers over shifting of few obstructing chairs placed on the beach culminated into the fatal assault on the former.

PAC, PUC MEET AFTER EXPIRY OF TERM COMES UNDER SCANNER

It remains to be seen what action Speaker Ramesh Tawadkar will initiate against the Secretary (Legislature) and CAG representatives, who participated in the meetings.

The Speaker had constituted various House Committees and notified them via Bulletin No 18 (Part 1) on January 19, 2023. The tenure of all these Committees was for the year 2023-2024. This included the panel of Presiding Members, the Business Advisory Committee (BAC), the Estimates Committee, and the two most important committees: the PAC and the PUC, each comprising seven members.

As the terms of the Public Accounts Committee and Public Undertaking Committee as well as other House Committees got over in 2024, the PAC and PUC cannot hold any meetings and prepare any reports now. The Speaker can extend the term or will have to re-constitute all the committees

- Adv Narendra Sawaikar, former MP & BJP general secretary

The PAC and PUC have faced criticism from all quarters for their failure to prepare and submit reports to the Goa Legislative Assembly. Quepem MLA D'Costa, who headed the PAC, missed an opportunity to scrutinise various CAG reports within the stipulated time and also 'ig-nored' investigating scams during the BJP government's last 10 years. PUC Chairman Alemao similarly failed to investigate the Smart City scam, illegalities in the Investment Promotion and Facilitation Board (IPB) projects, and vari-

ous other scams and irregularities.

Records from the Goa Legislature Department show that the PAC and PUC did not meet even once from January 2023 to September 2023. The PAC held only eight meetings from September 2023 onwards, with a gap of 10 months between January 2024 and October 2024. On the other hand, the PUC met on nine occasions, holding its first meeting in September, then having a gap of four months between May and August 2024.

This data contrasts sharply with the claims made by D'Costa and Alemao that the committees were meeting regularly.

When contacted, Margao MLA Digambar Kamat, who was the PAC Chairman and PUC Chairman between 2014 and 2022, informed that he had prepared the Twenty-Sixth Report of the PUC for the years 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, and 2017-18. The same was also listed in the business of January 18, 2023. "I fell ill and could not attend the session, so the reports were not tabled," he said, adding, "It is a continuous process. The new committee under Yuri Alemao can adopt my reports and table them in the Assembly. It is wrong to say that I did not pre-prepare any reports."

Former MP and BJP General Secretary Adv Narendra Sawaikar said, "Since the terms of the Public Accounts Committee and Public Undertaking Committee, as well as other House Committees, ended in 2024, the PAC and PUC cannot hold any meetings or prepare any reports now. The Speaker can extend the term or will have to reconstitute all the committees."

DECIDE IN FOUR WEEKS LAWYER'S FRESH OCI PLEA: HC TO MHA

After surrendering his Indian passport and obtaining a Surrender Certificate along with all the necessary documents, he applied for his OCI card. However, he was informed by the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) in Mumbai that the new rule required six months of residence in Goa before applying for an OCI card.

After fulfilling the six-month residency requirement, Adv Rodrigues reapplied for his OCI card on January 25, 2024. He was given an appointment for document verification on March 4 at the FRRO in Mumbai, where he successfully completed the verification and paid the requisite processing fee of Rs 15,000. However, three months later, on June 6, he received a brief email from the FRRO in Mumbai stating that his OCI application had been cancelled.

Aggrieved by this, Adv Rodrigues filed a petition with the High Court on June 20, arguing that the FRRO's decision to cancel his OCI application was arbitrary, illegal, erroneous, and contrary to law. He contended that the FRRO's one-sentence decision, issued without any reasons, violated the principles of natural justice.

STRAY DOGS ATTACK FOREIGN TOURIST AT MOBOR

Cavelossim Sarpanch Dixon Vaz rushed to the site, accompanied by panch member Jesus da Costa and local fisherman Jesus D'Costa. The injured tourist was immediately taken to the hospital, where she expressed concerns about the increasing stray dog menace, stating that it was no longer safe to walk on the beach.

"This is a serious issue, and no one is paying enough attention. It's a man-made situation; it wasn't like this before. Now, there are packs of dogs all over Goa's streets and beaches, and their numbers keep growing due to poor management," Vaz said. He warned that unchecked incidents like this could deter tourists from visiting Cavelossim, threatening the area's reputation as a safe and welcoming destination.

It is worth noting that the panchayat had previously highlighted the need for stricter regulations and better management of stray dogs. Vaz explained that some of the aggression among strays stems from irregular feeding practices by visitors. To address the problem, the panchayat has established a dedicated dog shelter in the village and implemented rules requiring individuals who wish to feed strays to register with the local body.

Despite these measures, Tuesday's attack underscores the urgency of addressing the stray dog menace comprehensively, according to the Sarpanch.

PM MODI WILL DO 'WHAT IS RIGHT' ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS: TRUMP

"Everything came up (in a phone call with Modi)," Trump told reporters when asked about the details of his call with the Prime Minister.

The prime minister's trip to the US, the first under Trump 2.0 was finalised during the call. Trump's last foreign trip as president was to India during his first term.

Trump and Modi enjoy a good friendly relationship. The two addressed thousands of people at two different rallies in Houston in September 2019 and in Ahmedabad in February 2020.

"Today, President Donald J Trump held a productive call with Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India. The two leaders discussed expanding and deepening cooperation. They also discussed a range of regional issues, including security in the Indo-Pacific, the Middle East, and Europe," it said.

"The President emphasised the importance of India increasing its procurement of American-made security equipment and moving toward a fair bilateral trading relationship," the White House said.

"The leaders discussed plans for Prime Minister Modi to visit the White House, underscoring the strength of the friendship and strategic ties between our nations," it added.

POLICE CANNOT USE WHATSAPP FOR SERVING NOTICE: SC

Serving notices via WhatsApp or other electronic modes, instead of following the normal mode of service violates the mandate.

The court passed the directions on plea related to the case of Satender Kumar Antil who was assistant provident fund commissioner at Regional Office EPFO in Noida.

He was booked under the Prevention of Corruption Act by the CBI. The court had passed a slew of directions in his case and recommended the Centre to introduce a special enactment in the nature of a "Bail Act" to streamline the grant of bail.

The top court had appointed Luthra to assist the court in the matter and submit suggestions on various issues including grant of bail, issuance of notice by police etc.

The bench further directed all high courts to hold its respective committee meetings to ensure both its past and present decisions were implemented on a monthly basis "at all levels" and monthly compliance reports were submitted by the authorities concerned.

The apex court directed the registrar generals of high courts and chief secretaries of all the states and UTs to ensure compliance within three weeks.

CHINESE AI START-UP DEEPSEEK UPSETS US TECH HEGEMONY

He spent years trying to work out how to apply AI to a number of different fields, according to an interview with Chinese investment news outlet Waves last year.

But he eventually struck gold with High-Flyer, a quantitative investing firm specialising in using AI to analyse stock market patterns.

That technique brought in tens of billions of yuan in assets managed, and made it one of China's top quantitative hedge funds.

"We just do things according to our own pace, then calculate costs and prices," Liang told Waves.

"Our principle is to not subsidise or make a huge profit." "More a geek than a boss"

For Liang, DeepSeek was always a passion project.

In 2021, the Financial Times reported, he began purchasing Nvidia graphic processing units for a side project - an account also featured in a local media report on the firm.

Associates told Waves he is "not at all like a boss and much more like a geek", with a "terrifying ability to learn".

And his passion project has now shocked industry experts and triggered a plummet in the shares of US chip-making giant Nvidia.

It also brought Liang right into the corridors of power.

Last week, he appeared in a lineup of other key business representatives meeting with China's second-ranking leader, Premier Li Qiang, at a seminar to solicit opinions on the government's economic work for the year ahead.

Footage of the meeting from Chinese state broadcaster CCTV showed a moppy-haired Liang wearing thick-rimmed glasses addressing Li, who sat listening intently from his chair opposite.

'Wake-up call'

Beijing has good reason to be pleased: DeepSeek's success called into question the vast sums of money funneled by tech giants into developing advanced generative AI, as well as the ability of Western sanctions to prevent Chinese competitors from keeping up - or even win-ning.

US President Donald Trump said it was a 'wake-up call' for Silicon Valley, and tech investor and ally Marc Andreessen declared it was "AI's Sputnik moment".

It also amplified calls for Washington to get even tougher on restricting Chinese firms from getting hold of high-tech chips.

In his interview with Waves, Liang acknowledged that the toughest obstacle has been those US curbs.

US TECH STOCKS TANK; NVIDIA SINKS NEARLY 17%

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 289 points, or 0.7%, and the majority of US stocks climbed. But anyone holding an S&P 500 index fund, which are found in many 401(k) accounts, felt the pain because of how influential those tech giants have become on indexes.

DeepSeek's disruption nevertheless rocked AI-related stocks worldwide.

In Amsterdam, Dutch chipmaking equipment company ASML slid 7%. In Tokyo, Japan's Softbank Group Corp lost 8.3% to pull closer to where it was before leaping on an announcement trumpeted by the White House that it was joining a partnership to invest up to \$500 billion in AI infrastructure.

And on Wall Street, Constellation Energy lost more than a fifth of its value, 20.8%. The company has said it would restart the shuttered Three Mile Island nuclear power plant to supply power for data centres for Microsoft.

Before Monday's drop, which was its worst since the 2020 Covid crash, Nvidia's stock had soared from less than \$20 to more than \$140 in less than two years, for example.

It was just on Friday that Meta Platforms CEO Mark Zuckerberg was saying he expects his company to invest up to \$65 billion this year and grow its AI teams significantly, while talking up a data centre in Louisiana that will be so large it could cover a significant part of Manhattan.