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Polluted Kanke dam being cleaned during a cleanliness drive, in Ranchi, Jharkhand

Three children drown in Amua dam

SATNA (MP): Three boys drowned in Amua dam while bathing in Madhya Pradesh's Satna district on Saturday, police said. The incident occurred when Abhijeet Rawat (8), Abhi Rawat (7), and Prince Rawat (9) went into deep waters in the afternoon. A police official said people present at the spot in Kandela village, around 60 km from the Satna district headquarters, raised an alarm following which locals rushed to the site. "By the time, villagers pulled out the children from the water, they had died," said Dharkundi police station in-charge Shailendra Patel. Majhganwan Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Sumesh Dwivedi disbursed financial help to the families of the deceased.

Nagaland Police issues advisory against misinformation campaigns

KOHIMA: In the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack, the Nagaland Police has issued a public advisory alerting citizens about a coordinated effort by anti-national forces to spread misinformation and sow discord through social media. The advisory issued by police headquarters here on Saturday underscored the increasing use of digital platforms by hostile elements to destabilise internal peace and provoke unrest in various parts of India, including Nagaland. According to inputs from reliable intelligence sources, there is credible evidence that these anti-social and anti-national groups are leveraging technology, particularly artificial intelligence (AI), to craft and disseminate false narratives to disturb communal harmony, fuel emotional unrest, and create a wedge between communities by manipulating public sentiment, it cautioned.

Risk assessment conducted for glacial Rani Lake in Arunachal

ITANAGAR: A comprehensive risk assessment of Rani Lake, a Category-B glacial lake identified by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) for its potential to trigger Glacial Lake Outburst Floods, was conducted by a team from the Centre for Earth Sciences and Himalayan Studies (CESHS), officials said on Saturday. Rani lake is situated at Gorichen Peak in Arunachal Pradesh's Tawang district. The team collaborated with the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) in Goa, the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences, and the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati.

Three women of a family killed in road accident in J'khand's Chatra

CHATRA: Three women of a family were killed, and six others were injured when their vehicle hit a roadside tree in Jharkhand's Chatra district on Saturday, police said. The incident occurred near Gandharia village, within the Sadar police station limits. Sadar police station in-charge Bipin Kumar said that the family of Amardeep Prasad, a JMM leader from Rakhed village was travelling in a four-wheeler to worship at the Mata Bhadrakali temple in the Itkhori block. "While returning from the temple around 2 pm, the driver dozed off and the vehicle hit a tree near Gandharia village," he said.

Dress code introduced for govt school teachers in Chandigarh

CHANDIGARH: Chandigarh Education Department has ordained a dress code for teachers in the government schools of the city - formals, salwar-kameez, for men, women. "The uniform specifications of the dress outlines that female employees will don sarees, salwar kameez, while male employees will wear formal shirts and trousers," the department said in an official release issued on Saturday. "This change is aimed at unifying the appearance of educators, fostering a sense of professionalism, and creating an environment conducive to learning," it said. With the dress code for teachers, Chandigarh becomes the first state or Union Territory to implement this in government schools, it said.

UP court gives man life term for killing labourer

BAREILLY (UP): A court here sentenced to life a 55-year-old man for killing his worker 20 years ago for asking for his wages. District Government Advocate (Crime) Reet Ram Rajput said District Sessions Judge Sudhir Kumar convicted Chandrasen alias Shekhar and also fined him Rs 20,000. According to the prosecution, the incident took place on October 17, 2005. Naresh Pal, a native of Gotha Khandua village under Aonia Police Station, lived with his wife Seema in a rented house in Kandharpur (Cantonment Police Station area). He used to work as a labourer. Chandrasen had taken Naresh's service, but did not pay him the wages. Seema Devi alleged that when her husband demanded his wages, Shekhar dragged him out of the house and shot him. He died 18 days later during treatment.

Elderly man trampled to death by elephant in Tanil Nadu

ERODE (TN): A 79-year-old man was trampled to death by a wild elephant in the Anthiyur forest area in the district on Saturday. According to forest officials, the incident occurred when Angappan (79) and his friend Murugesan (60), both residents of Ennamangalam Errenkattur village located near the Anthiyur forest, had entered the Chennampatti forest area this morning to collect firewood.

Gaza rescuers say Israeli strikes kill 17, while 20 victims trapped beneath rubble

AFP, GAZA CITY: Gaza's civil defence agency said Israeli strikes on Saturday killed at least 17 people across the territory, while more trapped under the rubble after a family home was hit.

Israel resumed its military campaign in the Gaza Strip on March 18, ending a two-month truce that had largely halted the fighting.

"Israeli air strikes in several areas killed 17 people since dawn," civil defence official Mohammed Al-Mughayyir told AFP.

A strike on the house of Al-Khour family in Gaza City's Sabra neighbourhood killed 10 people, Mughayyir said, with witnesses reporting an estimated 20 victims



Palestinians assess the damage inside the house of the Al-Khour family after it was hit by an Israeli strike in Gaza City's Sabra neighbourhood

trapped beneath the rubble. Mahmud Bassal, spokesman for the civil defence agency, had earlier said that about 30 people were missing under the rubble.

Umm Walid al-Khour, who survived the attack, said that "everyone was sleeping with their children" when the strike hit. "The house collapsed on

top of us," she told AFP. "Those who survived cried for help but nobody came... Most of the deceased were children."

AFP footage showed rescuers searching under the rubble as a wounded man was pulled out from the debris.

Elsewhere in the city, three people were killed in Israeli shelling of a house in the Al-Shati refugee camp, Mughayyir said.

More strikes across the Gaza Strip killed four others.

There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military.

According to figures released Friday by the health ministry in Ha-

mas-run Gaza, the renewed Israeli campaign since last month had killed at least 2,062 Palestinians, taking the overall war death toll in the territory to 51,439 people since the war began.

The Hamas attack on October 7, 2023 that triggered the war resulted in the deaths of 1,218 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on official Israeli figures.

Militants also abducted 251 people, 58 of whom are still held in Gaza, including 34 the Israeli military says are dead.

Israel says the renewed military campaign aims to force Hamas to free the remaining captives.

Two-year-old US girl deported to Honduras: Judge

AFP, WASHINGTON: A two-year-old US girl has been deported with her undocumented mother to Honduras, a federal judge in Louisiana has said, but the administration of President Donald Trump contends the woman asked for her child to be sent with her.

The case is the latest to pit the US judiciary against Trump's hard-line immigration policies, as the administration pursues mass expulsions of undocumented migrants from US soil.

Federal District Judge Terry Doughty has set a May 16 hearing in the case "in the interest of dispelling our strong suspicion that the government just deported a US citizen with no meaningful process," according to a court order dated Friday.

Over 450 Indians leave Pakistan for home via Wagah border

PTI, LAHORE: More than 450 Indians have left Pakistan for their home via the Wagah border over the last three days after they were forced to cut short their visits because of cancellation of visas in the wake of developments following the Pahalgam terror attack.

PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACK

Among those who left on Saturday were 23 Indians, who were part of a broadcast company of PSL 2025, officials said here.

The actual number of In-

dians crossing over on Saturday will be known later.

Around 300 Indians returned home on Friday and 100-odd on Thursday via the same route, the officials added. At the same time, 200 Pakistani nationals have returned home from India, they said.

Terrorists opened fire in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam on April 22, killing 26 people, in the deadliest attack in the Valley since the Pulwama strike in 2019.

The Resistance Front (TRF), a proxy of the banned Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), claimed responsibility for the attack.

Massive explosion at Iranian port linked to missile fuel shipment kills 5, injures over 700

AP, MUSCAT: A massive explosion and fire rocked a port Saturday in southern Iran purportedly linked to a shipment of a chemical ingredient used to make missile propellant, killing five people and injuring more than 700 others.

Mehrdad Hasanzadeh, a provincial disaster management official, gave the updated casualty figure in an interview on state television. The previous toll was four dead and more than 500 others injured.

The blast at the Shahid Rajaei port happened as Iran and the United States met Saturday in Oman for the third round of negotiations



ISNA, a helicopter drops water on the fire after a massive explosion rocked a port near the southern port city of Bandar Abbas, Iran

over Tehran's rapidly advancing nuclear programme.

While no one in Iran outright suggested that the explosion came from an

attack, even Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, who led the talks, on Wednesday acknowledged that "our security servic-

es are on high alert given past instances of attempted sabotage and assassination operations designed to provoke a legitimate response."

Port reportedly received chemical for missile fuel. For hours, authorities in Iran offered no clear explanation for what caused the blast at the port, which is just outside of Bandar Abbas, though they did deny that the explosion had anything to do with the country's oil industry.

"The fire was reportedly the result of improper handling of a shipment of solid fuel intended for use in Iranian ballistic missiles," Ambrey said.

The faithful fill Vatican and Rome streets to witness historic funeral

AFP, VATICAN CITY: Catholic faithful and admirers of Pope Francis flooded St Peter's Square and the streets of Rome on Saturday in full force to give the pontiff an emotional send-off with a human touch.

People came from around the globe to witness the funeral outside St Peter's Basilica at the Vatican. Others lined the streets as Francis's casket was driven through Rome to its final resting place.

Whether pilgrims, scouts, tourists or non-believers, the surge attested to the popularity of the pope who died Monday age 88.

Being in a wheelchair after an injury did not stop teacher Laura Rivelli, 49, from travelling to Rome from the Adriatic city of Pescara for Francis.

"It was really worth it to come, despite the difficulties. He deserved us being here, he was a great pope," Rivelli told AFP following the funeral.

"He was the pope of the people, the pope of the humble. He filled my life with blessing," she said.

Many young pilgrims came out with flags and banners draped over their shoulders. Some were pressed against barricades, with others sat in circles near the majestic colonnades of Gian Lorenzo Bernini in St Peter's Square. Argentine Romina Cac-



Cardinal Camerlengo Kevin Joseph Farrell seals the zinc cover of the casket containing the body of late Pope Francis in St Peter's Basilica at the Vatican



People wait in St. Peter's Square to pay their respects to the late Pope Francis, lying in state at St. Peter's Basilica for the final day, at the Vatican

ciatore, 48, said Francis's death and funeral left her feeling "anguish, emotion, pride".

"He ended up turning the church into something more normal, more human," she said, adding that Francis was "a being of

light, he radiated peace."

A mad scramble followed the opening of the plaza to the public at 6.00 am, with the most nimble running to grab one of the available seats.

19 states sue Trump admin over push to end diversity programmes in public schools

AP, CONCORD: Nineteen states that refused to comply with a Trump administration directive aimed at eliminating diversity, equity and inclusion programmes in public schools

went a step further on Friday, filing a federal lawsuit challenging what they consider an illegal threat to cut federal funding. The lawsuit filed in Massachusetts by Democratic attorneys general seeks to block the Department of Education from withholding money based on its April 3 directive ordering states to certify their compliance with civil rights laws, including the rejection of what

the federal government calls "illegal DEI practices". States also were told to gather signatures from local school systems certifying their compliance by April 24.

Instead, the plaintiffs informed the government that they stand by their prior certifications of compliance with the law but refuse to abandon policies that promote equal access to education.

"Diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives are legal efforts that help students feel safe, supported and respected. The Trump administration's threats to withhold critical education

funding due to the use of these initiatives are not only unlawful, but harmful to our children, families, and schools," said Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell.

The new lawsuit comes a day after judges in three states ruled against the Trump administration in separate but related cases.

A Maryland judge post-pa1l three lawsuits argue that the guidance limits academic freedom and is so vague that it leaves schools and educators in limbo about what they may do, such as whether voluntary student groups for minority students are still allowed.

Pak Defence Minister seeks stronger ties with Bangladesh

PTI, ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif has said he looked forward to "deepening" engagement in various sectors with Bangladesh and said both Islamabad and Dhaka are keenly working for furthering economic, political, and cultural cooperation. Asif was speaking at a reception to celebrate the 54th National and Independence Day of Bangladesh as the chief guest on Friday, Geo

News said here on Saturday. The event, hosted by Bangladesh High Commissioner Muhammad Iqbal Hussain Khan, came days after Bangladesh and Pakistan held a foreign secretary-level Foreign Office Consultation (FOC) in Dhaka after a gap of nearly 15 years.

Asif, referring to the cordial ties between the two countries, said that both capitals were keenly working for furthering economic, political, and cultural co-

operation, Geo News said. "We value our relations with Bangladesh and look forward to deepening our engagement in various sectors," he said as he extended greetings to the government and people of Bangladesh.

High Commissioner Hussain Khan emphasised the desire of his country for maintaining strong and friendly ties with Pakistan, Geo News said, adding, he also stressed the need for enhanced cooperation and mutual understanding.

Class-11 girl floats NGO with friends to create eye care awareness among underprivileged

PTI, NEW DELHI: Moved by a fifth grade girl from Uttar Pradesh's Firozabad struggling to read what's written on a blackboard at a Delhi event due to her poor eyesight, a 16-year-old school girl was inspired to float an NGO along with her friends to create eye care awareness among the underprivileged sections of society. "In a country where millions struggle silently with undiagnosed or untreated vision problems, I want to light their way," said Sanjana Chauhan, a Class-11 student in Noida

and founder of the NGO, Drishti.

The incident of the Firozabad girl prompted Sanjana to discuss the issue with her friends and do some research on vision impairment among the weaker sections.

They visited one of the most affected groups of industrial workers -- the bangle manufacturers of Firozabad.

There was a reason why they picked Firozabad. Sanjana had come across a chapter in her textbook about the bangle industry of Firozabad and the adverse effects of polishing



Sanjana Chauhan, (2nd L), interacts with an eye patient at an eyecare camp organised in Firozabad, Uttar Pradesh

bangles. "Here, intense heat, sparks from machinery, and particulate matter wreak

havoc on workers' eyesight," she said.

"A 2022 study on Firozabad's glass industry workers revealed that more than 35 per cent staff suffered from refractive errors while 15 per cent experienced chronic eye dryness, with symptoms ranging from redness and burning to a constant sensation of grit in their eyes," Saloni, a student and a volunteer for Drishti, said.

Sanjana realised that the problem wasn't just medical but social, economic and systemic.

"I discussed the issue

with my friends and professionals and decided to float an NGO named Drishti," she said.

Referring to data from the World Health Organization and the Government of India, the volunteers of Drishti said that over 408 million Indians suffer from some form of vision impairment.

Sanjana was also surprised to know that in 80 per cent of these cases, the condition is either preventable or treatable -- if only for right awareness and care.