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Two leopard skins after they were seized by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), Nagpur Unit, in an operation in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh

Four killed, two injured as SUV crashes into tree, overturns

**RAJKOT:** Four persons were killed and two others seriously injured on Tuesday when an SUV carrying them rammed into a tree and overturned in Gujarat's Rajkot district, police said. The driver of the SUV lost control at the wheel near Supedi village on a national highway, following which it crashed into tree and turned turtle, a police official said. The SUV was travelling to Upleta in Rajkot district. "While four of the six occupants died on the spot, two others were shifted to a hospital in Junagadh in serious condition in the morning hours," the official said. The deceased persons were identified as Kishore Hirani (64), Vallabh Rundhani (57), Aftab Pathan (19) and Mohammad Sumra.

Seven injured in fire at cracker manufacturing unit in Odisha

**BHADRAK (ODISHA):** At least seven people, including four women and a boy were injured on Tuesday after a fire broke out at a cracker manufacturing unit in Odisha's Bhadrak district, police said. The incident happened at Haladiha bypass on Chandballi Road under the jurisdiction of Bhadrak Rural police station. Four women and the boy are among the seriously injured, the officer said. Police identified the injured as Ranjita Jena (24) of Kajimahal under the jurisdiction of Bhadrak Town police station, Sultana Bibi (45), Rato Bibi (40), Arzifa Khatoon (20), and SK Musaraf (12). They are residents of Haladiha Bypass within the limits of Puruna Bazar police station. The five seriously injured people were initially under treatment at the Bhadrak District Headquarters Hospital, a police officer said.

Six killed in lightning strikes in Bihar

**PATNA:** Six people were killed in lightning strikes in Bihar in the last 24 hours, a statement said on Tuesday evening. Three people were killed in Patna district, and one each in Gaya, Arwal and Gopalganj districts, said the statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office (CMO). Condoling the deaths, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar announced an ex-gratia of Rs 4 lakh for the next of kind of each deceased. He appealed to the people to follow advisories issued by the Disaster Management Department.

Delhi Police arrests proclaimed offender in murder case

**NEW DELHI:** The Delhi Police has arrested a man wanted in a 2023 murder case, an official said on Tuesday. The accused, identified as Deepak, had been absconding since the incident and was declared a proclaimed offender (PO) by the city court, he said. "He was wanted for his involvement in the murder of a man named Aasif, whose body was found with multiple injuries on the roadside in June 2023. Apart from this case, Deepak had been declared a PO in two other criminal cases also involving robbery and assault, all registered at Anand Parbat," said the police officer. The officer further said that acting on inputs, the accused was tracked near the Shastri Park Metro Station, where he was allegedly scouting for pick-pocketing targets, and was apprehended.

2 drown in Ganga days after clearing JEE Mains in Varanasi

**VARANASI:** Two young men who had cleared the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Mains drowned in the Ganga river here on Tuesday morning, police said. The deceased were identified as Aditya Rai (18), a resident of Madhya Pradesh, and Virat Singh (19), a native of Mirzapur, Bhelupur Station House Officer (SHO) Gopalji Kushwaha said. The duo had gone to Hanuman Ghat in Bhelupur for a bath in the Ganga along with some friends and they ventured into deep waters and drowned, Kushwaha added. Their bodies were recovered with the aid of divers and sent for post-mortem. According to the friends of the deceased, both had recently cleared the JEE Mains examination and were preparing for further studies.

3 friends killed after getting hit by speeding vehicle in Kanpur

**KANPUR:** Three men were killed after they were hit by an unidentified vehicle in Uttar Pradesh's Kanpur, the police said on Tuesday. The men, who were friends, were crossing the highway near an overbridge at Shahzadpur in Kanpur when they were hit by the speeding vehicle. The victims were identified as Shiv Singh (35), Uttam Singh Katheria (40), and Jai Singh alias Gabbar Singh (35), all residents of Shahzadpur, Akbarpur. Akbarpur SHO Satish Kumar Singh said the bodies were sent to mortuary for autopsy after completing pre-postmortem formalities. "We have launched an investigation to identify the vehicle and its driver with the help of CCTVs and are seeking information from locals about the vehicle involved," the SHO further said.

14 dead in rain-related incidents in Guj; IMD warns of more thunderstorms

**PTI, AHMEDABAD:** At least 14 persons have died in rain-related incidents as thunderstorms, along with strong winds and dust storms, battered several parts of Gujarat, officials said on Tuesday.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast thunderstorms with lightning and strong winds of up to 50-60 kmph across the state for the next few days.

As many as 168 out of 253 talukas in the state received unseasonal rains in the last 24 hours, with Kheda, Gandhinagar, Mehsana and Vadodara districts getting 25 to 40 mm rains, the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC) said in its update.

Officials said strong winds uprooted trees, hoardings, and pillars, and parts of houses collapsed in several districts, leaving



A flooded road in Gujarat

many injured.

According to the SEOC, thirteen persons died in rain-related incidents such as lightning, electrocution, and collapse of trees, houses and hoardings in Ahmedabad, Anand, Kheda, Dahod, Aravalli and Vadodara districts of Gujarat on Monday, and one person died in lightning strike in Ahmedabad's Viramgam on Sunday.

Four deaths were report-

ed in Kheda district, three in Vadodara, two each in Ahmedabad, Dahod and Aravalli, and one in Anand district, it stated.

Four persons died as trees fell on them, while two were killed after coming under hoardings. Two died due to electrocution, three due to lightning, and three others after parts of houses fell on them, the SEOC said.

More than a dozen huts

THUNDERSTORM HITS RAJASTHAN; ROUGH WEATHER LIKELY IN UDAIPUR, KOTA

**PTI, JAIPUR:** Rajasthan's Banswara district was lashed by a thunderstorm on Monday night, uprooting several trees and electric poles and disrupting the electricity supply. According to the Met department said, the thunderstorm occurred due to a circulation system. District collector Inderjeet Singh Yadav reviewed the damage and directed officials to start relief work. In the neighbouring district of Pali, four empty shipping containers fell from a moving freight train due to heavy winds. A railway police officer assured that no one was injured, and the containers were shifted to the side of the track. Meanwhile, the Met department said that light to moderate rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms was recorded in other parts of Rajasthan in the last 24 hours.

were destroyed in a fire as strong winds caused it to spread rapidly at Limkheda in Dahod district, officials said.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast thunderstorms with lightning and strong winds of up to 50-60 kmph across many parts of the

state over the next few days.

Isolated parts of Banaskantha, Kutch, Sabarkantha, Aravalli and Anand districts are likely to receive heavy rainfall in the next three days, it said.

Daytime temperatures dropped in parts of Gujarat due to unseasonal showers.

Rocket-propelled grenades, IEDs recovered in Punjab

**PTI, CHANDIGARH:** A cache of ammunition, including two rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs), two improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and five hand grenades, was recovered from Punjab's SBS Nagar district, the state police chief said.

Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav said preliminary investigation revealed that the recovered consignment was deliberately concealed by hostile operatives as part of a pre-meditated plan to disrupt public order in the state.

Probe also indicated a co-ordinated effort by Pakistan's ISI and allied terror outfits to revive dormant sleeper cells in the state, he said.

Yadav said the Punjab Police's State Special Operation Cell (SSOC) Amritsar, in a joint operation with a central agency, recovered a large cache of terrorist hardware during an intel-

ligence-led operation carried out at a secluded forest area near Tibba Nangal-Kular Road in SBS Nagar.

The recovery included two RPGs, two improvised explosive devices (IEDs), five P-86 hand grenades and one wireless communication set with accessories.

The DGP said these recoveries are part of the Punjab Police's sustained crackdown on terror modules sponsored by Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). The Punjab Police remains firmly committed to neutralising these threats and safeguarding the state's peace and security, he added.

The development came close on the heels of SSOC Amritsar recovering a consignment comprising IEDs, hand grenades, sophisticated weapons and ammunition from an area near the Indo-Pak border.

Ukraine drone attacks briefly shut down Moscow's international airports

**AP, MOSCOW:** All four international airports around Moscow temporarily suspended flights Tuesday as Russian forces intercepted more than 100 Ukrainian drones fired at almost a dozen Russian regions, the Defence Ministry in Moscow said.

Nine other regional Russian airports also temporarily stopped operating as drones struck areas along the border with Ukraine and deeper inside Russia, according to Russia's civil aviation agency, Rosaviatsia, and the Defence Ministry. It was the second straight night that the Moscow region reportedly was targeted.

The drone assault threatened a planned unilateral 72-hour ceasefire in the more than three-year war announced by President Vladimir Putin to coincide with celebrations in Moscow marking Victory Day in World War II.



A man stands as a Ukrainian fireman finishes to put out a fire at the 'Barabashovo' market following a drone strike in Kharkiv

The day celebrating Moscow's defeat of Nazi Germany in 1945 is Russia's biggest secular holiday. Chinese President Xi Jinping, Brazilian leader Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and others will gather in the Russian capital on Thursday for the 80th anniversary and watch a parade featuring thousands of troops accompanied by tanks and missiles.

Ukraine's Foreign Minis-

ters who liberated our country and all of Europe from Nazism eight decades ago," a statement on the ministry's website said.

Security is expected to be tight. Russian officials have warned that internet access could be restricted in Moscow during the celebrations and have told residents not to set off fireworks.

Putin last week declared the brief unilateral truce "on humanitarian grounds" from May 8. Ukraine has demanded a longer ceasefire.

Russia has effectively rejected a US proposal for an immediate and full 30-day halt in the fighting by insisting on far-reaching conditions. Ukraine has accepted that proposal, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy says.

US President Donald Trump said Monday that the brief truce "doesn't sound like much, but it's ... a lot if you knew where we started from."

FROM PAGE 1

GOA READY TO TAKE PART IN MOCK DRILLS TODAY

Nationwide, nearly 300 designated 'civil defence districts' — areas with sensitive installations such as nuclear plants, military bases, refineries, and hydroelectric dams — will take part in these mock drills. Activities include air-raid warning sirens, civilian training for a "hostile attack", and cleaning of bunkers and trenches.

The framework for public participation in the drills was thoroughly discussed at a high-level meeting chaired by Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, with top civil and police officers in attendance, official sources said.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has instructed all states to conduct these drills in response to "new and complex threats" that have surfaced amid rising tensions with Pakistan following the Pahalgam terror attack.

Authorities will involve students, government and private sector employees, hospital staff, railway and metro officials, and personnel from the police, paramilitary, and defence forces in the exercises.

Sources explained that 'civil defence districts' differ from regular administrative districts. A region may be designated as such if it contains key installations like can-tonments or refineries, depending on strategic needs.

"Such districts are designated by respective state authorities, and mock drills will be conducted in nearly 300 of them across the country," the sources added.

According to a communication from the Home Ministry, the drills will include the activation of air-raid warning systems, training civilians in basic civil defence tactics, and cleaning and maintaining bunkers and trenches.

Other measures involve implementing blackout protocols, camouflaging vital infrastructure, updating evacuation plans, and operationalising hotline and radio-communication links with the Indian Air Force. Control rooms and shadow control rooms will also be tested for function-ality.

"In the current geo-political scenario, new and complex threats have emerged. Therefore, it is essential that civil defence preparedness in all states and Union Territories is maintained at an optimum level," stated a letter from the Directorate General of Fire Services, Civil Defence, and Home Guards.

GOA SCHOOL BODY RAISES PITCH FOR FULL-TIME STAFF

"The reports submitted by the committees have already been accepted by the government and is now awaiting its implementation," he said.

He further pointed out that with nursery to Class II now included under the Foundation category as per the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the per the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the government should release grants-in-aid for pre-primary teachers.

Naik and principal Pandurang Nardkarni also appealed to the government to grant permission to various private institutions seeking to open new primary schools in Konkani and Marathi in the upcoming academic year. Mangesh Mantrawadi was also present at the press brief-ing.

CARDINALS MOVE INTO VATICAN, TO GO INCOMMUNICADO

The cardinals are sworn to secrecy, risking excommunication if they reveal what happens in the conclave, and are forbidden from contacting the outside world until they have a decision.

The Vatican announced late on Monday that it would cut the phone signal within the tiny city state from 3:00 pm (1300 GMT) on Wednesday until a new pope is elected — although this will not affect St Peter's Square.

Required to leave their mobile telephones behind when the voting process begins, the cardinals will let the world know their progress by burning their ballots to produce smoke — black for no decision, white for a new pope.

The staff who will support them during the election, from medics to lift operators, canteen and cleaning staff, are also bound to secrecy, and took their own oaths on Monday.

The cardinal electors — those aged under 80 — and other, older cardinals will on Tuesday morning hold the last of their near daily preparatory meetings for the conclave.

UNION BANK FACES SCRUTINY OVER RS 7 CR BOOK PURCHASE

For context, English-language books in India rarely sell beyond 10,000 copies, making Union Bank's purchase of close to 200,000 copies highly unusual, the report pointed out. The order was executed through the bank's 18 zonal offices, each assigned over 10,000 copies for further distribution.

The book, published on August 1, 2024, outlines India's roadmap to transform into a \$55 trillion economy by its centenary in 2047. Drawing from the author's own experience as India's CEA, Subramanian presents a strategic framework based on four pillars: fostering consistent macroeconomic growth, promoting inclusive development, advocating ethical wealth creation, and leveraging investment-led growth.

The book boasts of bringing together economic theory with practical policy insights, aiming to guide India on a path of sustainable and equitable prosperity over the next two decades.

Subramanian's abrupt exit from IMF

Subramanian, who served as CEA from 2018 to 2021, was appointed to the IMF role in late 2022, representing India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Bhutan. However, the Government of India abruptly recalled him via an order dated April 30, 2025, just two and a half years into his three-year term.

Initial speculation linked his exit to tensions over his criticism of the IMF datasets published in the book. The latest report suggests there may have been wrongdoing in how the book was promoted. The government may have viewed the Union Bank procurement as excessive, if not inappropriate, particularly given Subramanian's high-profile position.

Meanwhile, the IMF distanced itself from Subramanian's exit, clarifying that the decision to terminate Subramanian's tenure was made solely by the Indian govern-

ment, distancing itself from the controversy.

As of early May, his seat on the IMF Executive Board remains vacant. Subramanian has not publicly commented on the developments.

SAVE OUR FIELDS: TALEIGAO FIRE A WAKE-UP CALL

"But the lack of road access also meant fire tenders and ambulances couldn't reach us in time," he added.

Another resident, Francis Coelho, pointed fingers at years of inaction. "The Taleigao fields are shrinking. Illegal land-filling is being carried out under the guise of legitimacy, and the former MLA never intervened. Even now, with fields burning, there is no concern from our local representatives," he said.

"Every year someone sets fire to the fields, and every year residents are forced to shut their doors and windows. It's sad that neither the Taleigao nor the Panjim MLAs are taking responsibility," Coelho added.

Local activist Mariano Ferrao raised broader environmental concerns. "The biodiversity of the area is being wiped out. Taleigao is rapidly turning into a concrete jungle. On one hand, ministers talk about creating 'lungs' for the city, while on the other, they allow natural vegetation to be destroyed. This urbanisation is clearly not for Goans — it's catering to outsiders who can afford luxury flats," he said.

Another resident, speaking on the condition of anonymity, recalled the intensity of the smoke. "The fire has been put out, but the smell still lingers. Yesterday, it was so thick we couldn't even see our vehicles. Initially, we didn't know where the smoke was coming from. Once we realised, we ran down to the scene. There was a fire last year too, but not of this magnitude. Maybe the wind made it worse this time."

Meanwhile, personnel from the Forest Department visited the site and recovered five dead tortoises and two snakes from the scorched vegetation.

Forest Minister Vishwajit Rane confirmed that a departmental team had been dispatched to assess the damage and that a detailed report was awaited.

CRISTIANO'S SON NAMED IN PORTUGAL U-15s

The Seleccion Under-15s will face Japan, Greece and England at the Vlatko Markovic youth tournament in Croatia between May 13-18.

Ronaldo, Real Madrid's all-time top goal scorer and still a Portugal international himself at 40, has five children.

The striker won Euro 2016 with his country, helping them lift their first major trophy, although he came off hurt early in the final against France.

TRUMP ADMIN BLOCKS FEDERAL GRANTS TO HARVARD

She alleged that Harvard has "failed to abide by its legal obligations, its ethical and fiduciary duties, its transparency responsibilities, and any semblance of academic rigor."