



Czech President Petr Pavel arrives for a meeting at the European Council headquarters in Brussels



Bulgaria's President Rumen Radev attends a joint press announcement following the Japan-Bulgaria summit meeting in Tokyo, Japan



Qatar's Energy Minister Saad Sherida al-Kaabi speaks at the Qatar Economic Forum in Doha



Prez of Rassemblement National parliamentary group Marine Le Pen gestures as she walks inside the Palais Bourbon, in Paris

allovertheworld



US actress Adria Arjona poses for the film "Splitsville" at the 78th edition of the Cannes Film Festival in Cannes

Sharp sea level rise likely even in a 1.5C world: study

PARIS: Rising seas will severely test humanity's resilience in the second half of the 21st century and beyond, even if nations defy the odds and cap global warming at the ambitious 1.5 degrees Celsius target, researchers said Tuesday. The pace at which global oceans are rising has doubled in three decades, and on current trends will double again by 2100 to about one centimetre per year, they reported in a study. "Limiting global warming to 1.5C would be a major achievement" and avoid many dire climate impacts, lead author Chris Stokes, a professor at Durham University in England, told AFP.

Vietnamese beauty queen arrested for fibre gummy fraud

HANOI: Vietnamese authorities have arrested a beauty queen and influencer for fraud after she promoted gummies she claimed were rich in fibre on her social media channels, the Public Security Newspaper reported. Police said Monday that Nguyen Thuc Thuy Tien was aware the fibre content of the candy was low, at just 0.955 percent. A former winner of the Thailand-based Miss Grand International beauty competition, Tien is a popular beauty queen in Vietnam who received a certificate of merit from the prime minister. Tien promoted Kera Supergreens Gummies along with fellow social media influencers Pham Quang Linh and Hang Du Muc.

Forget China's navy, Chinese small boats landings on Taiwan a new source of concern

TAIPEI: China has long sought to intimidate Taiwan with its massive navy, air force and the world's largest standing army, but it's mere dinghies that are now causing the most consternation. Taiwan's coast guard has documented five cases totalling 38 Chinese citizens crossing the 160-kilometre (100-mile) wide Taiwan Strait separating the self-governing island democracy from the authoritarian Chinese mainland, according to the body's deputy director-general Hsieh Ching-chin. That includes at least one case posted to Douyin, the Chinese version of TikTok, in which a man speaking with a strong mainland Chinese accent is seen planting a Chinese flag on what he says is a Taiwanese beach.

Indonesian volcano erupts with kilometre-high ash cloud

JAKARTA: A volcano in eastern Indonesia erupted Monday, spewing an ash cloud more than a kilometre high after authorities raised the country's highest alert level. Mount Lewotobi Laki-Laki on the tourist island of Flores erupted shortly after midnight, sending an ash cloud 1.2 kilometres (0.7 miles) above its peak, Indonesia's volcanology agency reported. The volcano erupted once more at 09:36 am (01:36 GMT), the agency said. The latest rumblings follow authorities on Sunday evening raising the alert level of the 1,584-metre (5,197-foot) twin-peaked volcano to the highest in the country's four-tiered system.

Germany reports 40% jump in politically motivated crime

BERLIN: Germany saw a 40 percent jump in politically motivated crime last year, official data showed Tuesday, with the federal police chief warning of a growing "radicalisation in society". The number of such offences, which range from hate speech to acts of physical violence, reached a record high of 84,172, almost half of them motivated by far-right ideology. Interior Minister Alexander Dobrindt said political tensions were heightened in 2024 amid European and regional elections, including one in which the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) topped a state vote for the first time.

Young Cameroonians face prospect of new bid by 92-year-old leader

CAMEROON: Young Cameroonian voters hoping for change in this year's elections still face the possibility that 92-year-old President Paul Biya could announce a bid to extend his more than four decades in power. Biya, who took the reins in 1982, has remained tight-lipped on whether he plans to stand again in October. But with just a month to go before candidates have to officially register, some of the party faithful have been calling for him to do so. Younger voters who have never known another leader in their lifetimes are sceptical about another mandate for the man who is already the world's oldest head of state.

# Iran's supreme leader rejects US stance on uranium enrichment

AP, TEHRAN: Iran's supreme leader on Tuesday pushed back against US criticism of the country's nuclear programme, saying that Tehran won't seek permission from anyone to enrich uranium and calling American statements "nonsense". "They say, We won't allow Iran to enrich uranium. That's way out of line," Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said during a memorial for late President Ebrahim Raisi, who died in a helicopter crash last year. "No one in Iran is waiting for their permission. The Islamic Republic has its own policies and direction - and it will stick to them." Khamenei's remarks came as indirect talks be-



tween Iran and the US reportedly continue, though he expressed doubt about their outcome. "Yes, indirect negotiations were held during Raisi's time too, just like now," he said. "But they didn't go anywhere - and we don't expect much from the current ones either. Who knows what will happen." His comments reflect Tehran's growing frustration with the stalled nuclear discussions, as well as the broader tensions that have defined US-Iran relations in recent years. Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei told the state-run IRNA news agency that "no definitive decision has been made about the next round of ne-

No one in Iran is waiting for their permission. The Islamic Republic has its own policies and direction and it will stick to them — Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader

gotiations", adding that "the Islamic Republic of Iran is reviewing the matter while considering the US side's contradictory and constantly changing positions". RNA also reported that Kazem Gharibabadi, the deputy foreign minister, said that Tehran had received a proposal regarding the next round of indirect talks with Washington and was currently reviewing it.

## Indonesia landslide death toll rises to 9

AFP, JAKARTA: The death toll in a landslide near a gold mine in eastern Indonesia rose to 9 people as rescuers recovered three bodies on Tuesday, an official said. Intense rains had triggered the landslide and floods in a remote area of West Papua province on Friday evening. "Eleven (people) are still being searched for. Nine have been found dead," Yefri Sabaruddin, head of a local search and rescue agency, told AFP. The three victims found on Tuesday, all men, were pulled from under piles of wood and mud near a river, he said, adding that the bodies were transferred to a police hospital in the provincial capital of Manokwari.

### FROM PAGE 1 AND 2

#### GOA'S FIRST RAINS WASH AWAY GOVT'S PREPAREDNESS CLAIMS

"Even trees haven't been pruned as they should have been." In Mapusa and Bicholim, low-lying markets were inundated, causing heavy losses to vendors. Flash floods in parts of Mapusa left business owners scrambling to save their stock. Margao too wasn't spared — areas around the Kadamba Bus Stand, Old Station Road, Pajifond, Colmorod, and Arlem Highway saw widespread flooding. Roads became impassable, and daily life ground to a halt. Despite the showers being moderate in volume, the city's outdated drainage infrastructure was clearly overwhelmed. In many places, clogged drains and poor runoff systems resulted in waterlogging severe enough to trap vehicles and force pedestrians — especially the elderly — to wade through knee-deep water. Shops in low-lying areas of the Old Market and Borda in Margao experienced minor flooding, damaging goods and forcing temporary closures. Two-wheeler riders and pedestrians bore the brunt of the deluge, many slipping or getting stranded in murky water. In Fatorda, garbage-choked drains at the KTC bus stand led to severe waterlogging. The Madopa-Navelim and Moddi roads also saw water accumulation, making travel hazardous. Across Salcete taluka — including Navelim, Benaulim, and Varca — inner roads and fields were flooded. Residents, already frustrated by years of neglect, said the authorities had ignored repeated calls for timely desilting and pre-monsoon preparations.

"It's the same story every year. They wait for the city to flood before starting the clean-up. What were they doing all summer?" questioned Rodney Fernandes from Navelim. In Canacona, flood-like conditions developed at the Ravindra Bhavan library, where water seeped through the ceiling and damaged books. Staff were seen mopping up the mess as rainfall continued. Roads were submerged in other areas like Valpoi and Dharagol, worsening mobility. At the iconic Purnamentache Fest, traditional dry fish vendors suffered losses as the rain kept customers away. Stalls remained stocked with unsold goods.

According to the IMD Goa, rainfall recorded between 8:30 am and 5:30 pm on May 20 was significant in several regions: Pernem (6.33 inches), Mapusa (6.18 inches), Panjim (3.1 inches), Mormugao (2.9 inches), Valpoi (1.69 inches), Sanguem (1.65 inches), Quepem (1.5 inches), and Ponda (1.1 inches).

The IMD has issued an orange alert for May 21, warning of very heavy to heavy rainfall at isolated locations across North and South Goa, along with thunderstorms and winds gusting up to 50-60 kmph.

With the official monsoon still ahead, Tuesday's showers have raised urgent concerns about the state's readiness to face sustained rainfall. If this early downpour is any indication, Goa's citizens could be in for a long and difficult monsoon season.

#### ASTROPHYSICIST JAYANT NARLIKAR DIES AT 87

Born on July 19, 1938, Dr Narlikar completed his early education on the campus of Banaras Hindu University (BHU), where his father, Vishnu Vasudeva Narlikar, was a professor and Head of the Mathematics Department.

He migrated to Cambridge for higher studies, becoming a Wrangler and Tyson Medallist in the Mathematical Tripos.

While in the United Kingdom, he and his doctoral adviser Fred Hoyle developed the famous Hoyle-Narlikar theory of gravity.

He returned to India to join the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (1972-1989), where, under his charge, the Theoretical Astrophysics Group expanded and acquired international standing.

In 1988, the UGC invited Dr Narlikar to set up the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics as its Founder Director.

He held the directorship of IUCAA until his retirement in 2003. Under his direction, IUCAA has acquired a worldwide reputation as a centre of excellence in teaching and research in astronomy and astrophysics. He was an Emeritus Professor at IUCAA.

Besides his scientific research, Dr Narlikar was well-known as a science communicator through his books, articles, and radio/TV programmes.

Dr Narlikar was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1965 at the young age of 26.

In 2004, he was awarded the Padma Vibhushan, and the Maharashtra government honoured him with the state's highest civilian award, Maharashtra Bhushan, in 2011.

In 2014, the Sahitya Akademi, the premier literary body in India, selected his autobiography for its highest prize in

regional language (Marathi) writing.

In a statement, IUCAA said that Dr Narlikar's passing marks the end of an extraordinary chapter in Indian science.

"Over the course of a remarkable career, he made groundbreaking contributions to cosmology, challenged prevailing scientific orthodoxy, and dedicated himself to making science accessible to the broader public.

"He was best known for co-developing the Hoyle-Narlikar theory of gravity- an alternative to Einstein's general relativity- and for championing the steady-state theory of the universe, a bold counterpoint to the widely accepted Big Bang model," said the statement.

IUCAA said his vision for the institute, dubbed the "Eightfold Way", emphasised excellence in astronomy research. It also emphasised outreach to the University faculty, guidance to PhD students, access to the latest observational facilities for Indian astronomers as well as science outreach and education for school children and the wider public, it said.

Tributes poured in for Dr Narlikar from various sections of society. President Droupadi Murmu said Dr. Narlikar has left an indelible mark through his body of work, which will inspire generations to come.

"His passion for popularising science helped in educating a large number of people, especially the youth. I extend my condolences to members of his family, friends and admirers," Murmu said in a post on X.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi termed Narlikar's passing a "monumental loss to the scientific community."

"He was a luminary, especially in the field of astrophysics. His pioneering works, especially key theoretical frameworks, will be valued by generations of researchers. He made a mark as an institution builder, grooming centres of learning and innovation for young minds. His writings have also gone a long way in making science accessible to common citizens," Modi said on X.

The scientific community remembered Dr Narlikar as the common man's scientist who "democratised" and popularised science in India while inspiring students to pursue high-quality research in astronomy and astrophysics.

Former ISRO chairman Dr S Somanath said the country has lost a "visionary astrophysicist and science communicator who inspired my generation with his popular works such as 'The lighter side of gravity' and 'Seven wonders of the cosmos'."

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh called Narlikar "one of the world's greatest astrophysicists".

#### CLAIM: 99% WORK COMPLETE REALITY: CITY FAR FROM SMART

"In some places, raw sewage is being discharged into stormwater drains and then into the Mandovi River. This sewage should be treated at the Tonca STP, with the final processed sludge used for agriculture. Instead, we have a public health hazard in the making. An urgent sludge audit is the need of the hour," he said.

The failure to complete core infrastructure components, residents argue, exposes the lack of long-term planning and accountability at IPSCDL.

Piyush Panchal, who had earlier moved the Bombay High Court at Goa over the dust pollution caused by Smart City works, urged citizens to stay alert and observant.

"People in Panjim have lived through this debacle. While one spell of rain may not prove everything, we've all seen how the project has disrupted daily life. Let's wait for the full monsoon — that will reveal the actual impact of these so-called developments. After that, it's up to the people of Panjim to assess whether any of this was worth it."

Despite repeated promises and polished presentations from IPSCDL, Panjimites are left grappling with half-finished roads, incomplete utilities, and a cityscape in disarray. For many, the "Smart City" brand has come to symbolise a vision imposed without citizen input — a city being rebuilt without regard for those who live in it.

#### SOUTH GOA MP TO BOYCOTT VP'S MORMUGAO PORT EVENT

The MP criticised the lack of public consultation and environmental safeguards in the implementation of MPA's projects.

"As the elected representative of South Goa, I cannot participate in an event that celebrates the destruction of my constituency and my beloved state," Capt Fernandes declared, confirming his decision to skip the event scheduled for Wednesday.

Backing Fernandes, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) State President Adv Amit Palekar also voiced strong opposition to the coal infrastructure. Palekar said, "We are with the people opposing the coal transportation. Ultimately, the Mor-

mugao Port will become a hub for coal which is not good for the environment. Anybody who loves Goa should not be a part of it."

"What is happening at the MPA is to benefit Adani and there are fears that the MPA will be taken over by Adani. Slowly and steadily Goans working in the MPA are sidelined and not given promotions. These are all plans to destroy MPA and hand it over to the private company. The government should take the Vice President to see Smart City works, renovation of Kala Academy and the leaking Ravindra Bhavan at Canacona," Palekar added.

#### FOCUS SHIFTS TO PANJIM'S BIG CONCERN — WASTE MANAGEMENT

Panjim earned the 18th spot among a pool of 100 cities in the CITIIS 2.0 Challenge by the Union ministry for urban development with its proposal titled 'AmchiSwachhPanaji - Ensuring Zero Landfill for a Thriving Panaji'.

Last month, a high-level international delegation—comprising officials from the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), the German Development Bank (KfW), the European Union (EU), and the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)—visited Panjim to conduct a comprehensive review of the ongoing implementation of the CITIIS 2.0 programme.

#### NEED STRONG, GLARING CASE FOR INTERIM RELIEF: SC TO PETITIONERS

Sibal described the law as a "complete departure from historical legal and constitutional principles" and a means to "capture waqf through a non-judicial process".

Centre's Solicitor General Tushar Mehta had urged the bench to confine the hearing on pleas to three issues.

One of the issues is the power to denotify properties declared as waqf by courts, waqf-by-user or waqf by deed.

The second issue relates to the composition of state waqf boards and the Central Waqf Council, where they contend only Muslims should operate except ex-officio members whereas the last one is over the provision stipulating a waqf property won't be treated as a waqf when the collector conducts an inquiry to ascertain if the property is government land.

Mehta's submission was vehemently opposed by senior advocates Sibal and Abhishek M Singhvi, appearing for those challenging the provisions of the 2025 law, that there cannot be any piecemeal hearing.

"This is a case about the systematic capture of waqf properties. The government cannot dictate what issues can be raised," Sibal said.

Sibal said the amended law enables a systematic expropriation of waqf properties through executive means, bypassing due judicial process and moreover, waqf properties can become non-waqf ones that too by an executive order denying the right to access courts by the aggrieved parties.

"Waqf is the dedication of properties to 'Allah' by the waqif and the concept that once a waqf always a waqf is jeopardised by the 2025 law," he said. Earlier laws on the subject, he added, safeguarded the properties and the present one intended to take them away.

He said the law as a "complete departure from historical legal and constitutional principles". Sibal said the law provides for "creeping acquisition" of waqf properties and undermines concept of waqf, a permanent endowment for religious or charitable purposes under Islamic law.

#### CLASSIFIED CONTENT FROM PAGE 8

#### THANKSGIVING

POWERFUL NOVENA PRAYER TO THE HOLY CHILD JESUS  
O, Jesus, who has said, ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened to you, through the intercession of Mary, Thy most Holy Mother, I knock, I seek and I ask that my prayer may be granted. (Name it).  
O, Jesus, who has said, all that you ask of the Father in my name. He will grant you through the intercession of Mary, Thy most Holy Mother. I humbly and urgently ask Thy Father in Thy Name, that my prayer be granted. (Name it).  
O, Jesus, who said, "Heaven and Earth shall pass away, but my word shall not pass," through the intercession of Mary, Thy most Holy Mother, I feel confident that my prayer will be granted. (Name it).  
K.N.  
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#### TOURS & TRAVELS

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