

allovertheworld



Australian actor Josh Heuston attends the Los Angeles premiere of "Dangerous Animals" at the Egyptian theatre in Hollywood, California

Japan urges universities to accept students hit by US block

TOKYO, JAPAN: The Japanese government has asked local universities to consider accepting students at US universities as President Donald Trump seeks to force Harvard to submit to unprecedented oversight. The Trump administration moved last week to block Harvard from enrolling foreign students, but on Friday a judge suspended the order pending a hearing. Trump is furious at Harvard for rejecting Washington's oversight on admissions and hiring, amid his claims the school is a hotbed of anti-Semitism and "woke" liberal ideology. Japanese Education Minister Toshiko Abe said on Tuesday that her ministry has asked Japanese universities to do what they can to help those affected. "We have asked universities to consider possible support measures such as accepting international students enrolled in US universities so that the students can continue their studies," she told a news conference.

Spain denies power grid 'experiment' caused giant blackout

MADRID, SPAIN: Spain's government on Wednesday denied a press report that an "experiment" on the national power grid caused a huge blackout that crippled the Iberian Peninsula one month ago. Authorities have been scrambling to find answers after the April 28 outage cut telecommunications, halted transport and plunged cities into darkness across Spain and Portugal. Conservative British daily newspaper The Telegraph reported Friday, citing unnamed sources in Brussels, that Spanish authorities "were conducting an experiment before the system crashed, probing how far they could push reliance on renewables in preparation for Spain's rushed phase-out of nuclear reactors from 2027". "The government seems to have pushed the pace recklessly, before making the necessary investments in a sophisticated 21st-century smart grid capable of handling it," it added.

5 people wounded in shooting at Connecticut mall: Police

WATERBURY: A gunman shot and wounded five people at a Connecticut mall on Tuesday, prompting an evacuation and a massive police response, with officials saying they are still searching for the suspect. Waterbury police chief Fernando Spagnolo said officers responded to the Brass Mill Centre for reports of a disturbance at around 4:40 pm (local time). He said all the victims were being treated at local hospitals, though he declined to elaborate on the extent of their injuries. Spagnolo said police believe the shooter is a man in his 20s who used a semiautomatic pistol. He said the suspect knew the victims and that the shooting was preceded by a dispute that quickly escalated. "We do not believe this was a random act of violence," Spagnolo said at a briefing outside the mall, adding that there is no further threat to the public.

1 killed after Thai, Cambodian soldiers briefly clash in disputed border area

BANGKOK: Cambodian soldier was killed when Thai and Cambodian troops briefly fired at each other in their disputed border area Wednesday, officials said. Cambodian army spokesperson Mao Phalla said the Cambodian troops were conducting a routine patrol along the border when the Thai side opened fire. The Thai army's statement said the Cambodian soldiers entered a disputed area and Thai soldiers approached the area to negotiate but due to misunderstanding, the Cambodian side opened fire and the Thai soldiers then retaliated. Cambodia said one of its soldiers was killed during the fight, and the body has been transported from the border for a funeral. The Thai army said it had no casualties. Thai Defence Minister Phumtham Wechayachai said the situation has been resolved and that both sides did not intend to open fire at each other.

Australia approves 40-year extension for contentious gas plant

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA: Australia on Wednesday approved a 40-year extension to a major liquified gas plant, brushing off protests from Pacific island neighbours fearful it will inflame climate damage. The North West Shelf is a sprawling industrial complex of offshore rigs, undersea pipelines and processing factories pumping out more than 10 million tonnes of liquified gas and petroleum each year. Run by resources giant Woodside, it is one of the world's largest producers of liquified natural gas – and one of Australia's biggest polluters. Originally slated to close in five years' time, Environment Minister Murray Watt on Friday approved an extension to keep it running until 2070. Watt said he approved the extension "subject to strict conditions" designed to limit the impact of its emissions. Leaders in neighbouring Pacific islands, already seeing coastlines eaten away by rising seas, had urged Australia to shut the plant down.

1 killed, 48 wounded when crowd fired upon at chaotic Gaza aid site

AP, DEIR AL-BALAH

(GAZA STRIP): At least one Palestinian was killed and 48 others wounded when a crowd was fired upon while overrunning a new aid distribution site in the Gaza Strip set up by an Israeli and US-backed foundation, Gaza's Health Ministry said Wednesday.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu meanwhile said Israel killed senior Hamas leader Mohammed Sinwar, apparently confirming his death in a recent airstrike in Gaza.

Speaking before parliament, Netanyahu included Sinwar in a list of Hamas leaders killed in Israeli strikes. Mohammed is the brother of Yahya Sinwar, one of the masterminds of Hamas' October 7, 2023 attack, who was killed by Israeli forces last year.

Crowds of Palestinians on Tuesday broke through fences around the distribution site where thousands had massed. An Associated Press journalist heard Israeli tank and gun fire, and saw a military helicopter firing flares. It was not yet known



The border with the Gaza Strip, shows smoke billowing above destroyed buildings during Israeli bombardment in the besieged Palestinian territory

whether the death and injuries were caused by Israeli forces, private contractors or others. The foundation said its military contractors had not fired on the crowd but "fell back" before resuming aid operations. Israel said its troops nearby had fired warning shots.

In a separate development, Israel carried out air

strikes Wednesday on the international airport in Yemen's capital, Sanaa, destroying the last plane belonging to the country's flagship carrier. The strikes came after Iran-backed Houthi rebels fired several missiles at Israel in recent days, without causing casualties.

The Israeli military said it destroyed aircraft used

by the rebels. It was not immediately clear if anyone was killed or wounded in the strikes.

The distribution hub outside Gaza's southernmost city of Rafah was opened the day before by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, which has been slated by Israel to take over aid operations.

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EMBARRASSMENT FOR CONGRESS AS KHARGE EVENT SCRAPPED

"As a pre-poll ally and part of the INDIA bloc, there was no communication about this event. I can only wish them well in living up to the expectations of the people as the principal opposition," Sardesai added.

The cancellation of what was to be Kharge's first public address in Goa has once again spotlighted the Congress party's waning organisational strength in the State. Critics argue that if the party cannot manage its own internal event, its credibility as a challenger to the BJP machinery in Goa remains deeply in question.

GAUDE'S VOLTE FACE FAILS TO CONVINCE PARTY LEADERSHIP

Reacting to Gaude's meeting with the CM, Naik said, "Of course he has the right to meet the Chief Minister — he is part of the Council of Ministers. But he should have raised his concerns internally, not aired them in public."

Naik also revealed that senior BJP leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, were in the loop. "They are in touch with me and have extended full support. They have advised me to take whatever steps are necessary in the interest of the party."

Sources suggest that Gaude may soon be issued a show cause notice asking him to explain why disciplinary action should not be taken against him for his remarks against the State government.

HAMAS GAZA CHIEF SINWAR ELIMINATED: NETANYAHU

Sinwar's older brother Yahya, accused by Israel of masterminding Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack that triggered the war in Gaza, was killed in the south of the territory in October 2024.

Experts say it is likely that Mohammed Sinwar took over as the head of the armed wing of Hamas, the Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades, after its leader Mohammed Deif was killed.

Following the deaths of several Hamas leaders since October 7, Mohammed Sinwar was considered to be at the heart of decisions on indirect negotiations with Israel, the issue of hostages and the management of Hamas's armed wing.

Hamas is designated a terrorist organisation by the United States and the European Union, among others.

US HALTS STUDENT VISA APPOINTMENTS GLOBALLY

Asked about the suspension at a briefing Tuesday, State Department spokesperson Tammy Bruce said the US uses every available resource to vet people applying for visas.

"We will continue to use every tool we can to assess who it is that's coming here, whether they are students or otherwise," Bruce said.

The move, first reported by Politico, is the latest in the Donald Trump administration's crackdown on international students.

Last week, the Trump administration revoked Harvard University's ability to enroll international students, removing the college from the programme that allows schools to sponsor foreign students for visas.

That effort was quickly challenged in court and for now is blocked by a federal judge.

This spring, the administration also revoked the legal status of thousands of international students already in the country, leading some to leave the US out of fear of deportation.

After many students filed successful legal challenges, the administration said it was restoring the students' legal status. But the government also expanded the grounds for terminating international students' legal status going forward.

Trump's previous administration stepped up scrutiny of all visa applicants, introducing reviews of their social media accounts. The policy remained during former president Joe Biden's administration.

An extended pause in scheduling student visas could lead to delays that may disrupt college, boarding-school or exchange students' plans to enroll in summer and fall terms.

A downturn in enrolment of international students could hurt university budgets. To make up for cuts in federal research funding, some colleges shifted to enrolling more international students, who often pay full tuition.

FORMER INDUSIND BANK MD KATHPALIA, 4

others banned from securities market "During the preliminary examination conducted by SEBI, on the basis of the evidence collected so far, it is prima facie seen that all noticees traded in the scrip being aware of the UPSI related to the discrepancies and averted/avoided huge losses," the regulator said in its 32-page order.

The case originated from a Master Direction issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which had a significant operational and financial impact on IndusInd Bank.

SEBI noted that the internal team of the bank was aware of the financial implications due to discrepancies in the derivative portfolio and had already begun calculating the impact internally.

A preliminary examination revealed that an email dated November 30, 2023, was sent by the Head, Accounts, of the bank to certain employees. This communication cited a figure of Rs 1,749.98 crore as the estimated impact of discrepancies in the derivative portfolio.

Further, during the preliminary examination, it is prima facie seen that members of the senior management of IBL including noticees (five officials) were aware of the UPSI related to discrepancies and they had kept constant supervision upon the same.

The evidence analysed during the preliminary examination revealed that Noticees traded in the scrip of IBL while being insider, SEBI said.

SEBI noted that emails dated December 6, 7, and 8, 2023, referenced a discrepancy of around Rs 1,362 crore, with the final figure of Rs 1,572 crore communicated to certain employees on December 11, 2023.

The examination also revealed that figures regarding the discrepancies were not only being tracked internally but were also being prepared for submission to the RBI. Emails circulated on December 16, 2023, March 6, 2024, and May 5, 2024, indicated discrepancy figures of Rs 1,572 crore, Rs 1,776.49 crore, and Rs 2,361.69 crore for the quarters ended September 2023, December 2023, and March 2024, respectively.

However, this information was only disclosed to the public via stock exchange filings on March 10, 2025, SEBI noted.

It was also noted that senior management insisted on getting these figures validated externally. Accordingly, KPMG was appointed in January 2024, to review the discrepancies identified by the internal team. The preliminary examination revealed that KPMG submitted a figure of Rs 2,093 crore as the negative impact from the discrepancies, covering data till December 31, 2023.

In its order, SEBI noted that noticee nos. 1 to 5 (five officials) traded in the scrip of IBL while being insider and accordingly barred them "from buying, selling or dealing in securities, either directly or indirectly, in any manner whatsoever, until further orders."

On April 29, CEO Kathpalia and Deputy CEO Khurana resigned from the bank. Following their exit, the IndusInd Bank Board appointed a Committee of Executives to oversee daily operations until a new MD & CEO takes charge or for a period of three months, whichever is earlier.

The fraud-hit private sector lender earlier this month reported a Rs 2,329 crore loss for the March quarter, its worst performance ever, as the interim management opted to go for a deep-clean exercise beyond recognising the impact of wrong accounting practices.

In the March quarter, the bank took impact of all the irregularities brought to the notice, including a Rs 1,960 crore hit from incorrect recognition of derivative trades, cumulative interest income reversal of Rs 674 crore due to incorrect accounting, disclosed a Rs 172 crore fraud where employees had led it to incorrectly classify the amount as fee income under the microfinance business, set off Rs 595 crore of incorrect manual entries posted as "Other Assets" and "Other Liabilities" in the past, and also recognized the higher slippages.

The internal audit report of the bank revealed "involvement of senior Bank officials, including former Key Management Personnel (KMP), in overriding key internal controls". The bank reported the likely involvement of senior management in the accounting fraud to the Central Government.

ORANGUTAN CALLS OFFER CLUES TO ORIGINS OF HUMAN SPEECH

The shared roots of language Returning to those alarm calls echoing through the Indonesian forest, one can now hear them with new ears.

Western Nepal hit by three earthquakes

PTI, KATHMANDU: Western Nepal was hit by three earthquakes at different places on Wednesday. However, there was no immediate report about any damage caused by the earthquakes.

An earthquake of magnitude 4.4 occurred around Phulibang area of Kaski district at 11.56 am, according to the National Earthquake Monitoring and Research Centre.

Earlier, an earthquake of magnitude 4.1 was recorded around Annapurna II area of Kaski district at 12.50 am the centre said.

Similarly, a 4.2 magnitude tremor occurred around Mashdev of Bajhang district at 6.27 pm, according to the centre.

The tremors were also felt in neighbouring districts.

On May 26, an earthquake measuring 4.3 magnitude occurred with its epicentre around Ramidanda in the Jarkot district.

With the help of statistical tools, what sounded like random noise now takes on a clear structure – a rhythmic pattern of calls grouped into regular bouts and repeated in sequences.

Each layer follows a steady rhythm, like the ticking of a metronome.

Until recently, many scientists believed only humans could build layered vocal structures. This belief helped reinforce the idea of a divide between us and other animals.

But the new discovery adds to a growing body of research showing this divide may not be so clear-cut.

Studies on great apes and other animals such as lemurs, whales and dolphins have revealed they are capable of rhythmic structuring, vocal learning, combining signals and sounds to make new ones, and even using vowels and consonants. These findings suggest the roots of language may lie in shared evolutionary mechanisms.

Human language is unique in many ways. But it probably did not appear suddenly.

Even the most striking traits in life evolve by reshaping what already exists, through the slow work of variation and natural selection. The new body of work suggests the brain systems needed to build recursive patterns were present in our ancestors millions of years ago.

The evolution of language

The study wanted to take the investigation a step further and ask why recursive patterns evolved. So, an experiment was designed in which wild orangutans were exposed to different predator models, some posing a more realistic threat than others.

This involved a person walking on all fours under different-coloured blankets. One had tiger stripes (tigers are orangutan predators). The other blankets were blue, white or multi-coloured.

It was found that more structured, regular and faster orangutan alarm sequences were made in response to tiger stripes. When the predator seemed less convincing, the vocalisations lost that regularity and slowed down. So, rhythm may help listeners gauge the seriousness of a situation.

These patterns in orangutan calls give some important hints about how language might have started. But it's possible that other animals have similar ways of communicating that haven't been discovered yet.

To really understand how things like evolution, social life and the environment shape these interesting communication skills, there is need to keep studying many different animals.

Perhaps the most surprising lesson is this: complexity doesn't always need words.

The rhythms, patterns and structures we have uncovered in orangutan alarms remind us that meaningful communication can emerge in many forms – and that the roots of our language may lie not just in what is said, but how it is expressed. (The Conversation)

AIDED SCHOOLS BLAME GOVT FOR STAFF SHORTAGE

Now they are over 40 and no longer eligible for government jobs or retirement benefits. They are being treated unfairly," said Pandurang Nadkarni, a speaker at the event.

The meeting also emphasised the need to retain the Balrath school bus scheme, which provides vital transport for students, particularly in rural areas. "This scheme was not demanded by private managements, but it is a good initiative. If it is discontinued, school attendance may be adversely affected," Naik cautioned.

Rising concerns about the unchecked entry of private universities in Goa were also raised. Naik warned that institutions like Parul University in South Goa and MIT University in the North could threaten the survival of existing State colleges if they replicate courses already being offered. "There's no issue if they offer unique courses. But if they begin offering courses already taught in state colleges, it could threaten the existence of those institutions," he said.

Another pressing issue raised was the lack of pre-primary education facilities in many areas. The Association urged the government to allow private managements to start pre-primary schools, arguing it would improve both access and quality.

"In areas where such facilities are missing, children are forced to travel far. Allowing private pre-primary schools will improve access and quality," Naik noted.

The forum concluded with a unanimous decision to follow up with authorities on these critical issues.

