

DAILY PT POINTERS

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Swell waves likely to strike coastal areas over weekend: INCOIS

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD/
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) on Friday alerted the coastal States of Goa, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands, of the possibility of high-energy swell waves over the weekend.

It also urged "total suspension of operational/recreational activities at beach/nearshore regions"

on Saturday and Sunday. Fishermen and coastal populations have been advised to be cautious about a possible surge of waves, such as gushing of sea water intermittently in the nearshore or beach regions, particularly in low-lying areas.

Senior scientist and Group Director T. Balakrishnan Nair said high-period swells had started approximately 10,000 km away from the Indian coast on April 26 in the southern Atlantic Ocean. This had caused "high-energy swell



Hyderabad-based INCOIS has issued an alert to coastal States on the possibility of swell surges and rough sea conditions. FILE PHOTO

propagation" towards the Indian coastal regions which is expected to hit the southern tip of India in the early hours of Saturday. These long-period

swells combined with high tide conditions can cause coastal flooding in low-lying areas, he said.

Small vessels should not be plying nearshore and boats may be anchored at a fair distance from each other to avoid damage, he added.

Meanwhile, coastal communities in Kerala were advised to remain vigilant with State being put on red alert for high-energy swell waves. The phenomenon, known locally as 'Kallakadal' (rogue sea), is likely to last till 11.30 p.m.

on Sunday. Low-lying areas could experience 0.5 metre to 1.7-metre high swell waves.

The Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) issued directions for suspending recreational activities along the beaches. Coastal residents have also been advised to temporarily evacuate if the need arises. This is the first instance of a red alert being issued for the State in connection with the Kallakadal phenomenon, KSDMA member secretary Sekhar Kuriakose said.

- SWELL waves - A swell is the formation of long wavelength waves on the surface of the seas. These are composed of series of surface gravity waves.
- These are not generated by the local wind. Swell waves often have a long wavelength but this varies with the size of the water body
- There are three factors that influence the level of energy contained in swells. Wind velocity, wind area (fetch), and duration

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India, Indonesia agree to enhance defence industry collaboration

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India and Indonesia on Friday agreed to enhance collaboration in areas of defence industry, maritime security and multilateral cooperation at the seventh India-Indonesia Joint Defence Cooperation Committee meeting held in New Delhi. It was chaired by Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane and Secretary-General of Indonesia's Ministry of Defence Air Marshal Donny Ermawan Taufanto.

During the meeting, both sides expressed satisfaction at the expanding scope of defence cooperation between the two countries. The progress made on various bilateral initiatives deliberated in meetings of working groups on defence cooperation and defence industries cooperation was also reviewed by the co-chairs, a Defence Ministry statement said.

During the visit, Air Marshal Taufanto visited the Defence Research & Development Organisation



Giridhar Aramane and Air Marshal Donny Ermawan Taufanto in New Delhi.

New Delhi as well as the TATA Advanced Systems and Larsen & Toubro defence facilities in Pune. "He also held deliberations with other Indian defence industry partners like Bharat Forge, Mahindra Defence and Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited and discussed ways to enhance defence industrial capabilities by cooperation in research and joint production," the statement said.

Air Marshal Taufanto also called on CDS General Anil Chauhan. On his arrival in the national capital, the Indonesian military officer laid a wreath and paid homage to fallen heroes at the National War Memorial.

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- India and Indonesia have a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and have arrived at a shared vision of the Indo-Pacific. In current times, this partnership is characterised by closed cooperation in bilateral and multilateral arena, including frequent high-level interactions. Indonesia is an important partner in India's Act East Policy and the Indo-Pacific region.

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India press freedom score fell over the last year: RSF

Index looks at freedom enjoyed by journalists globally; India is one of the countries where there's a perception of authorities participating in mass disinformation, says RSF director of campaigns

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

India's score in the World Press Freedom Index fell over the last year, from 36.62 to 31.28, according to Reporters Without Borders (RSF for Reporters sans Frontières), which puts together an annual index on the freedom enjoyed by journalists in 180 jurisdictions. India's rank improved from 161 in 2023 to 159 in 2024, but this was because other countries had slipped in their rankings. The government has in the past dismissed international rankings of freedoms in India as misinformed and propaganda driven.

Norway and Denmark topped the RSF table while Eritrea was at the bottom, with Syria just ahead of it.

"Press freedom around the world is being threatened by the very people who should be its guarantors — political authorities," the RSF said, noting that press freedoms fell by



Press freedom fell by an average 7.6 points globally, according to the index put out by Reporters sans Frontières. FILE PHOTO

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The press freedom questionnaire covers five categories — political context, legal framework, economic context, sociocultural context and security. Scores for India dropped (worsened) in all but the security indicator.

"India's media has fallen into an 'unofficial state of emergency' since Narendra Modi came to power in 2014 and engineered a

text matters massively in India. I think this is one of the countries where there's a perception of authorities participating in sort of mass disinformation and propaganda," Rebecca Vincent, director of campaigns at RSF, said at a briefing organised by the Foreign Press Association in London, to launch the index.

U.S. slips in ranking

Ms. Vincent said that among the countries going to the polls this year, the U.S. was the most concerning in terms of press freedoms, including because of the global impact developments there had.

"We saw the catastrophic effects globally of the first the Trump presidency and his attitude towards media, who were labelled enemies of the state and treated as such on the campaign trail," she said. The U.S. press freedom score fell from 71.22 to 66.59 and its rank deteriorated from 45 to 55.

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HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu-Geography(GSI)



Tourists take pictures with Mount Fuji in the backdrop in the town of Fujikawaguchiko, Japan on Friday. AFP

Japan town to block Mt. Fuji view from ‘menacing’ tourists

Agence France-Presse

FUJIKAWAGUCHIKO

Work has begun in a small Japanese town to erect a barrier blocking views of the country’s most famous sight, Mount Fuji, after local people complained of bad behaviour by photo-hungry tourists.

- **Mount Fuji**, highest mountain in Japan. It rises to 12,388 feet (3,776 metres) near the Pacific Ocean coast



Indian Express-Economy (GSIII)-Page 12

S Korea to slap fines on food suppliers for 'shrinkflation'

REUTERS
SEOUL, MAY 3

SOUTH KOREA'S antitrust regulator said on Friday food makers and suppliers will be required to notify shoppers if they reduce the size of their products or face fines of up to 10 million won (\$7,300).

The Fair Trade Commission (FTC) said it has designated the practice of some businesses to cut product portions while keeping the price the same, or so-called shrinkflation, as an unfair transaction subject to penalties.

Most processed food makers and manufacturers of household supplies such as toilet paper,



A market in Seoul. Reuters file

shampoo and detergents will have to display labels for three months if they downsize their products in a way that prompts the unit price to go up.

"The change was aimed at preventing a situation where companies reduce the size, standard, weight or quantity of their products without suffi-

cient notice so that consumers unknowingly bear a substantial price increase," the FTC said in a statement.

Surging food prices and living costs were a major issue in the run up to last month's parliamentary elections in which President Yoon Suk Yeol's ruling party suffered a stinging defeat.

- Shrink inflation is when a product downsizes its quantity while keeping the price the same.
- For example, reducing the scoops of ice cream in a container or reducing the number of chips in a packet would count as shrinkflation.
- In other words, shrinkflation occurs when goods shrink in size but consumers pay the same price.
- It occurs when manufacturers downsize products to offset higher production costs but keep retail prices same.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

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WHAT IS 'ETA AQUARIID' METEOR SHOWER, SET TO LIGHT UP THE NIGHT SKY THIS WEEKEND?



The Eta Aquariids meteor shower in 2022 near San Pedro de Atacama, Chile.
Wikimedia Commons

THE ETA Aquariid meteor shower, which has been active since April 15, will peak on May 5 and 6.

Comprising burning space debris moving at speeds of around 66 km per second (2.37 lakh kmph) into Earth's atmosphere, these showers are seen in May every year, and are best visible to countries such as Indonesia and Australia in the Southern Hemisphere.

comet interacts with Earth's atmosphere.

The Eta Aquariid meteor shower is formed when Earth passes through the orbital plane of the famous Halley's Comet, which takes about 76 years to orbit the Sun once. While it was observed as early as 240 BCE, it was only in 1705 that astronomer Edmond Halley realised that the periodic appearances were re-appearances of the same comet. Last seen in 1986, Halley's comet is due to enter the

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- these showers are seen in May every year, and are best visible to countries such as Indonesia and Australia in the Southern Hemisphere.

What are comets?

Meteor showers come from comets, which are frozen leftovers from the formation of our solar system, some 4.6 billion years ago. Comets are composed of dust, rock and ice, and orbit around the Sun in highly elliptical orbits which can, in some cases, take hundreds of thousands of years to complete.

Indian Express-IR(GSII)-Page 15

India-Nigeria trade officials meet as China's Africa investments falter

RAVI DUTTA MISHRA
NEW DELHI, MAY 3

AMID AN ongoing property crisis in China that has put brakes on its investments in Africa, Indian officials held a joint Trade Committee (JTC) meeting with their Nigerian counterparts last month, the commerce and industry ministry said on Friday.

This comes after the International Monetary Fund (IMF) last year said that the ripple effects of China's slowing economy extended to sovereign lending to sub-Saharan Africa, which fell below \$1 billion last year—the lowest level in nearly two decades.

China's influence on Africa is such that a one percentage point decline in Beijing's growth rate could reduce average growth in the region by about 0.25 percentage points within a year, IMF said, adding that for oil-exporters, such as Angola and Nigeria, the loss could be 0.5 percentage points on average.

Notably, China has forged deep economic ties with countries in sub-Saharan Africa over the past 20 years, making it the



Indian officials held a Joint Trade Committee meeting with their Nigerian counterpart. PIB

Amardeep Singh Bhatia, accompanied by High Commissioner of India to the Federal Republic of Nigeria, G. Balasubramanian and Economic Adviser, Department of Commerce, Priya P. Nair held a Joint Trade Committee (JTC) meeting with their Nigerian counterparts in Abuja," the ministry said.

The official delegation from India also consisted of officials from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), EXIM Bank of India, and the National Payments

of focus for enhancing both bilateral trade as well as mutually beneficial investments. These include resolving market access issues of both sides, and cooperation in key sectors such as Crude oil and Natural Gas, Pharmaceuticals, Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Local Currency Settlement System among others, the ministry said.

Nigeria is the second-largest trading partner of India in the Africa region. Bilateral trade between India and Nigeria stood at

- Both sides agreed to the early conclusion of the Local Currency Settlement System Agreement to further strengthen bilateral economic ties
- Nigeria is the second-largest trading partner of India in the Africa region. Bilateral trade between India and Nigeria stood at \$11.8 billion in 2022-23. In the year 2023-24, the bilateral trade stands at \$7.89 billion showing a declining trend.
- With a total investment of \$27 billion, approximately 135 Indian companies are actively engaged in Nigeria's vibrant market. These investments traverse diverse sectors, encompassing infrastructure, manufacturing, consumer goods, and services.