

AWARDEES

- LOKANATH DASH**
Care Hospitals
- MANSUR BAKSH**
MSB Automotive Pvt Ltd
- MANOJ KUMAR SAHOO**
Dion Group
- RAJESH GADODIA**
Scan Steels Limited
- SANJEEB KUMAR SAHOO**
Zaveri Gems & Jewellers
- PRAHLAD PALLAI**
Swomen Agarbati
- SAILENDRA NARAYAN SENAPATI**
Rabindra Lifeline Pvt Ltd
- JAYANTA KUMAR LENKA**
M/s. Leotronics Power Systems
- SHYAM SUNDAR SONTALIA**
S Square Marketing Pvt Ltd
- KRISHNA MOHAN TATA**
Gitanjali Awards
- AMBARISH DASH**
Yuvodaya Institutions
- PAWAN KUMAR SULTANIA**
Infinity Ventures
- PRADEEP KUMAR THACKER**
Essen Group
- DEBASISH PATNAIK**
Transform Furniture
- BRIJESH MEHER**
Minerva Group
- YUGABRATA KAR**
Desia Ecotourism
- SAI SIBANI KAR**
Kar & Brothers
- NEHA AGARWALLA**
Vinayak Cashews
- SHAMSHER SINGH HURA**
Jas Motors
- BIBHU PRASAD RATH**
Kanccha Lannka

BUSINESS EMINENCE AWARDS 2025

Collective efforts needed to propel growth: Singh Deo



GROWTH MANTRA: Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo delivers his speech during the fifth edition of Business Eminence Awards organised by Dharitri and Orissa POST at Swosti Premium in Bhubaneswar, Saturday, as the newspapers' Editor Taghata Satpathy and Biggies Burger Founder Biraja Prasad Rout look on

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 5: Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo emphasised the need for collective efforts by entrepreneurs and people to take the state forward.

"There is still much work to be done to make Odisha the No. 1 state in the country. With the right direction and support, this goal can be achieved," Singh Deo said while speaking as the Chief Guest at the fifth edition of the Business Eminence Awards, organised by Dharitri and Orissa POST, at Swosti Premium here, Saturday.

Conveying Ashoka Ashtami greetings to the winners and the audience, Singh Deo said the initiative by the twin publications in recognising and honouring budding entrepreneurs from the state would go a long way in the advancement of business environment in the state.

He specifically heaped praises on Biggies Burger Founder Biraja Prasad Rout, who attended the event as Chief Speaker, for making Odisha proud with his epoch-making achievement in successfully leading the operations of a pan-India restaurant chain of over 150 outlets. Singh Deo said the young Odia entrepreneur's feat is worth emulating. **Contd...P3**

Couple killed as car hits bike

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, April 5: A couple was killed while their four-year-old son had a narrow escape after the motorcycle on which they were travelling was hit by an unidentified car in Jajpur district Saturday, police said.

The deceased were identified as Sukanta Mallick and his wife Jhunu Mallick of Solabandi village under Asanjhara panchayat in Korai police limits. The mishap took place near a tollgate on NH-16 under Panikoili police limits when the couple and their son were travelling towards Panikoili around 8:30am, a police officer said. A car rammed into their motorcycle and sped away, he said. While the woman reportedly died on the spot, the man sustained critical injuries and succumbed at a hospital.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Al might threaten every profession—except politics. Lying is an art it can never master!

Is Naveen secular, asks Samantaray

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, April 5: Stepping up his protest against the dramatic turn of events within the party ahead of the voting on Waqf (Amendment) Bill in the Upper House of the Parliament, BJD Rajya Sabha MP Debashish Samantaray Saturday demanded party president Naveen Patnaik to clear the air over his secular credentials.

"Naveen should open up and give a statement that he is still secular. This is because he often says every bone in his body is secular. He should also say our Parliamentary Party leader Sasmit (Patra) misunderstood him," Samantaray told Orissa POST.

He said the party's stand on the Bill will cast its shadow on minority votes. "Minority population is significantly higher in 28 coastal constituencies of the state. In some of these seats, the number of minority voters ranges between 30,000 and 40,000. The party is likely to lose these seats," Samantaray said. He, however, chose not to blame Patra.

"Sasmit is not the villain here. He does not take decisions, he merely follows instructions. The real power lies elsewhere, with the 'chief advisor'," Samantaray said while not naming the close aide of



Patnaik. "Everybody knows who he is," he said. Ostensibly he was hinting at bureaucrat-turned-politician VK Pandian, whose proximity to the former CM is an open secret.

The BJD MP also hinted at a 'big deal' between the 'chief advisor' and the BJP.

"There has been a big deal. The chief advisor has made some kind of arrangement with the BJP. A bureaucrat, who has recently taken voluntary retirement, may be part of this deal. You all know who has recently taken VRS. I leave it to your understanding," Samantaray said.

Senior Odisha cadre IAS officer Sujata R Karthikeyan, the wife of Pandian, recently took voluntary retirement from government service. Karthikeyan, a 2000-batch officer, was serving as the special secretary in Finance department.

Patra is in the eye of the storm after revealing that he had voted in favour of the contentious

Bill. After BJD announced it would oppose the Bill, and even party MP Muzibulla Khan spoke against it in the Rajya Sabha April 3, Patra put out a post on X before voting, stating that party MPs could vote as per their conscience and that there was no whip issued to them.

This led to confusion among the lawmakers, and many senior leaders have raised questions about whether Patra could change the decision of Naveen, who apart from being the BJD president, was also chairman of the Parliamentary Party. "I abstained from voting due to confusion... the party had earlier decided to oppose the Bill and at the last moment, we were asked to vote as per our conscience," Samantaray added.

Meanwhile, party spokesperson Lenin Mohanty said, "Ours' is a secular party. Our party constitution clearly reflects this. Whatever action we have taken during the last 24 years of BJD regime, now and in future, it has been and will be purely on lines of secularism. Our party has always been with minorities."

He also said that BJD is the first party to have nominated a minority member Muzibulla Khan (Munna Khan) to Rajya Sabha. **More P3**

Prez nod to Waqf Bill | P8

Anant Ambani walks the talk

AGENCIES

Jamnagar, April 5: In India, where padayatras are an intrinsic element of the country's civilisational heritage, a scion of the country's wealthiest family has embarked on a walking pilgrimage redolent of this very Indian way of seeking union with the divine.

Anant Ambani, 29, is on a 170-kilometre padayatra from Jamnagar, his ancestral hometown and karmabhoomi, to Dwarka, one of India's holiest cities. After setting out March 29, he has been covering about 20 kilometres daily, walking for about seven hours each night. He will reach Dwarka, a city that is etched in India's religious and spiritual lore, April 8—a day before his 30th birthday.

Along the way, Ambani has encountered an attitude of reverence and goodwill—some have walked along with him a part of the way in solidarity,



others have given his pictures of the presiding deity Lord Dwarkadhish and still others have come over with their horses to get their pictures taken.

Ambani's padayatra is also remarkable for the fact that the strenuous journey has been undertaken surmounting the debility caused by Cushing's Syndrome—a rare hormonal disorder—and morbid obesity, as well as asthma and a severe lung disease.

Along this spiritual padayatra, Anant has been chanting

the Hanuman Chalisa, the Sundarkand and the Devi Stotra on his way to Dwarka.

The younger son of Reliance Industries' Mukesh Ambani is a devout Sanatani who wears his spiritual passion on his sleeve. Some of India's most iconic religious destinations are his regular haunts and the beneficiaries of his munificence—Badrinath, Kedarnath, Kamakhya, Nathdwara, Kailash and the Kumbh Mela, to name just few. **Contd...P3**

Elderly woman killed during robbery bid

AGENCIES

Jajpur, April 5: An elderly woman was killed and her daughter injured after they were attacked by miscreants who tried to rob their house in Jajpur district, police said Saturday.

The incident took place at Tigiria village under Balichandrapur police limits in Jajpur district Friday night. The deceased woman has been identified as Kausalya Pati, 77. Her daughter Mamata Pati, 55, an ASHA work-

Meitei, Kuki meet for first time

AGENCIES

New Delhi, April 5: For the first time since ethnic violence started in Manipur nearly two years ago, the representatives of the warring Meitei and Kuki communities met face-to-face Saturday as the Centre intensified efforts to restore peace and bring back normalcy in the northeastern state.

The meeting, which was held here at the aegis of the Union Home Ministry, discussed various aspects of the ongoing conflict and decided to continue their dialogue to find an amicable solution acceptable to people of the state, sources privy to the meeting said.

The sources said the meeting, which lasted for about five hours, was held as part of the Central government's initiatives to resolve the ongoing conflict between the two communities, which began in May 2023 and had worsened ethnic tensions.

The meeting was aimed at enhancing trust and cooperation between the Meiteis and Kukis and finding a roadmap to restore peace and normalcy in Manipur, they said. The discussions also stressed on maintaining law and order and facilitating reconciliation between the two communities, the sources said.

Sahara, once green, was home to mysterious human lineage

REUTERS

Cairo, April 5: The Sahara Desert is one of the Earth's most arid and desolate places, stretching across a swathe of North Africa that spans parts of 11 countries and covers an area comparable to China or the United States. But it has not always been so inhospitable.

During a period from about 14,500 to 5,000 years ago, it was a lush green savannah rich in bodies of water and teeming with life. And, according to DNA obtained from the remains of two individuals who lived about 7,000 years ago in what is now Libya, it was home to a mysterious lineage of people isolated from the outside world.



Researchers analysed the first genomes from people who lived in what is called the 'Green Sahara.' They obtained DNA from the bones of two females buried at a rock shelter called Takarkori in remote southwestern Libya. They were naturally mummified, representing the oldest-known mummified human remains.

"At the time, Takarkori was a lush savannah with a nearby lake, unlike today's arid desert landscape," said archaeogeneticist Johannes Krause of the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, one of the authors of the study published this week in the journal Nature.

The genomes reveal that the Takarkori individuals were

part of a distinct and previously unidentified human lineage that lived separated from sub-Saharan and Eurasian populations for thousands of years.

"Intriguingly, the Takarkori people show no significant genetic influence from sub-Saharan populations to the south or Near Eastern and prehistoric European groups to the north.

This suggests they remained genetically isolated despite practicing animal husbandry - a cultural innovation that originated outside Africa," Krause said.

Archaeological evidence indicates that these people were pastoralists, herding domesticated animals. Artefacts found at the site include tools made of stone, wood and animal bones, pottery, woven baskets and carved figurines.

The ancestry of the two Takarkori individuals was found to have derived from a North African lineage that separated from sub-Saharan populations around 50,000 years ago. That roughly coincides with when other human lineages spread beyond the continent and into

the Middle East, Europe and Asia - becoming the ancestors of all people outside Africa."

"The Takarkori lineage likely represents a remnant of the genetic diversity present in northern Africa between 50,000 and 20,000 years ago," Krause said.

"From 20,000 years ago onward, genetic evidence shows an influx of groups from the Eastern Mediterranean, followed by migrations from Iberia and Sicily around 8,000 years ago. However, for reasons still unknown, the Takarkori lineage persisted in isolation for much longer than expected. Since the Sahara only became habitable about 15,000 years ago, their original homeland remains uncertain," Krause said.

leisure

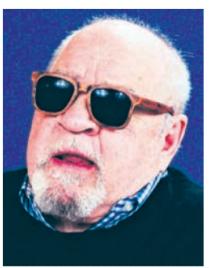


LILY ALLEN AUDITIONED FOR THE WHITE LOTUS

Singer-songwriter Lily Allen revealed she attempted to land a role in Mike White's TV anthology series *The White Lotus* by sending in a self-tape audition but was not successful. The 39-year-old singer was recently split from her second husband, *Stranger Things* actor David Harbour.

TAXI DRIVER WRITER PAUL SCHRADER ACCUSED OF SEXUAL HARRASSMENT

Screenwriter Paul Schrader, whose credits include *Taxi Driver* and *Raging Bull*, has been slapped with a lawsuit. He has been accused in a legal filing of sexually harassing his former assistant, and of backing out of an agreement to pay her a settlement.



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshaSpeaks.com accuracy • reliability • trust FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
With your substantial inter-personal abilities, you will accomplish a great deal today, says Ganesha. Your power of expression will impress many people. Financial rewards are on the cards, but be cautious about minor accidents and illnesses.

TAURUS
You have a very pleasant day ahead. Though you are, by nature, restless and excitable you will be very steady and focused in whatever you do today. So says Ganesha. Later you will desire to enjoy the company of your friends and will call them over to chat and gossip with them. The evening will provide you lots of fun and laughter. You should be ending the day on a happy, contented note.

GEMINI
You will be lost in the memories of the past today. You will be in a nostalgic frame of mind. Intellectual pursuits will attract you. Do not let your past lay a shadow upon your present and your future, says Ganesha.

CANCER
In all likelihood, this is going to be a fairly easy day for you, says Ganesha. The only tough part of the day would be how to spend it. There will be hardly anything to do, anyone to talk to. Ideally, this is what you would call a perfect day. But not today. Today, you'll miss people. You will find yourself more at peace with the unbearable chaos of the outer world than the deafening calm of your solitude.

LEO
A lot of people will sing your praises, however you will not be satisfied with whatever is occurring. The answers to some questions that have been bothering you will remain elusive. You may become emotional owing to feelings of personal loss. You will also be bothered about the near future, says Ganesha.

VIRGO
Family affairs will predominate today. They will even control your thoughts to the exclusion of everything else. Things will look up on the business front. You may spend time relaxing in the evening. Ganesha says a trip to a place of worship is on the cards.

LIBRA
Health is always a key issue, and today, you may have to pay some special attention to the same. It may be some elderly person in the family, or even you. Take the time to give it your full attention in order to avoid any further complications. You may do well to undergo a physical examination yourself.

SCORPIO
A cloud of emotions surrounds you today and you would like to spend the entire day in introspection and self-analysis. You will try to raise your bar at professional level. Your far sightedness and capability to understand human psychology promises a leader in you, says Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS
Variety is the spice of life. Add variety of activities to your daily schedule and nothing would seem boring any more, foretells Ganesha. Indulge in creative activities like writing, cooking, gardening or even reading. Catch up with friends and memories of old times; have a blast!

CAPRICORN
You'll have apparently no time for anything else, as partnerships and projects will keep you on your toes. You communication skills and diplomacy will fetch you accolades in meetings, and also enable you to judge a person or a situation correctly, and form the right opinion. The efforts you have in the past may come to fruition today, feels Ganesha.

AQUARIUS
You will be able to strike a balance between the emotional and rational side of your personality. You will find pleasure in your work and may successfully mix your personal life into your professional life. Financially, there are no major issues, but negligible matters may keep your mind occupied, feels Ganesha.

PISCES
You could find yourself re-establishing contact with long lost friends abroad, possibly on matters of business. You will also likely find yourself attending social events. There is a possibility that those who are unmarried, may find their match in these social settings. Long term personal or business relationships will likely be established today, says Ganesha.

'Katrina wasn't a natural dancer'

MUMBAI: Katrina Kaif has established herself as a top dancer in Bollywood with hits like *Chikni Chameli*, *Sheila Ki Jawani*, and *Afghan Jalebi*. However, she wasn't a natural dancer from the start. In a recent interview, choreographer Terence Lewis revealed that when Katrina debuted in 2003, she lacked rhythm but has since undergone an impressive transformation.

In an interview with an entertainment portal, Terence recalled Katrina's early struggles with dance. He said, "I remember her coming to my studio way back when Boom had just released. She was doing a diamond jewellery show. We

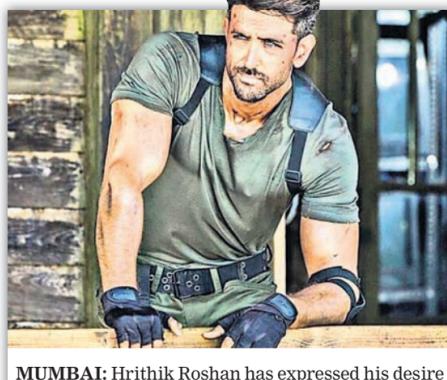


were trying to teach her. She was also very young, fresh to India, very like 'What am I supposed to do?' And it wasn't very Bollywood, we kept it more Western, but still, she was struggling with the dance steps. Rhythm was not there."

However, when Terence saw Katrina's impressive moves in *Zara Zara Touch Me* from *Race* (2008), he was shocked. He couldn't believe she was the same girl he had met years ago.

Terence added, "After Boom, I did a show with her. She didn't have that figure. And she couldn't dance the way... When she did *Zara Zara Touch Me*, I called up Bosco (Martis, choreographer) and said, 'Is this the same girl, with that figure?'"

One of the most hardworking actors, Katrina Kaif. Because she was not a dancer. She wasn't trained as a dancer. And she was very tall and statuesque, a big built. How she's worked on her body! How she's worked on her dance! Commendable."



MUMBAI: Hrithik Roshan has expressed his desire to work with British American director Christopher Nolan. While on a USA Tour in Atlanta to mark his 25 years in the Indian Entertainment Industry, the *Ko...Mil Gaya* actor opened up about his wish.

Calling the Academy Award winning director as 'one of his favourites,' Hrithik spoke about his admiration for Christopher Nolan's work. He is celebrated for his films like *Mem-mo* (2000), *The Dark Knight Trilogy* (2005-2012), *Inception* (2010), *Interstellar* (2014) and his most recent work

Oppenheimer (2023) which won the Academy Award for Best Director and Best Picture.

When asked about his dream director whom he would like to work with, Hrithik quipped, "Rakesh Roshan - that dream happened right in the beginning," alluding to his debut film *Kaho... Naa Pyaar Hai*. Adding further, he stated, "Now, I'd actually like to work with Christopher Nolan. He is one of my favourite directors."

The audience of Atlanta applauded Hrithik's answer. The *Kaho Na Pyar Hai* actor who is immensely popular overseas for his films like *Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham*, *Dhoom 2*, *Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara* and *War*, to name a few, embarked on a USA Tour after nearly two decades. The tour witnessed an audience of nearly 5,000 in its very first location - Atlanta.

Nushratt on casual sexism in showbiz

MUMBAI: Nushratt Bharucha is returning to horror with *Chhorii 2*. The first film won praise from critics and audiences alike, particularly for blending horror with social evils in the 21st century. Ahead of the sequel's release, Nushratt talks to a news portal about the film and its real-life parallels.

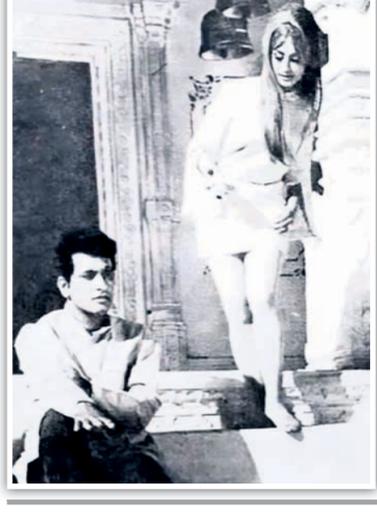
A big motif in the *Chhorii* franchise is how it highlights patriarchy and misogyny as the driving forces of evil in the films, blending horror with social commentary. Nushratt says that she sees real-world parallels of the sexism shown in the film, "I can't even pick up the big issues because those are very predominantly there and underlined. The

ones that bug me are the ones that we normalise. We have made it ok to say things to a woman or to treat a girl that way. We have made it ok to tell a girl 'you won't get it' or 'your opinion doesn't matter'. I don't just like the people who say that but there are five that say but 500 to agree. For me, the everyday problems, the casual sexism is what bothers me."

The actor says that due to the normalisation of casual sexism, she has been forced to learn to be ok with it. "I don't have a choice but to take it. That is the new oppression. To raise a voice against the old practices, there are agitations and movements. But I can't even voice my opinion against these things," says Nushratt.



Saira looks back at her time working with Manoj



MUMBAI: Veteran actress Saira Banu remembered her late co-star Manoj Kumar with a heartfelt post where she shared some fond memories of working with the legendary actor.

Talking about what it was like working with the *Kranti* star, she wrote, "Soon after my very first film, I began receiving numerous offers. Among them was *Shaadi*, a film that holds a special place in my heart. It was here that I was paired opposite Manoj ji for the very first time. I was such a shy and reserved young girl back then, and I had this peculiar habit of being extremely awkward on set, especially during romantic scenes. But Manoj ji, with his quiet understanding and immense grace, would simply walk away from the set whenever my solo shots were being filmed just so I could feel at ease. We were both people of few words, but there was a quiet comfort in our working relationship that required no explanation."

Reflecting on Manoj's bond with her

late husband Dilip Kumar, Saira Banu added, "Manoj ji had the deepest admiration for our Sahib. The bond they shared was beautiful cooking together, trying out new versions of omelettes, flying kites, and engaging in sher-o-shayari for hours."

She revealed that during the shoot of the film *Aadmi*, Manoj Kumar, started to imitate Dilip Kumar's mannerisms.

"There is a most endearing memory I often recall with great affection during the making of *Aadmi*, Manoj ji, quite unknowingly, began imitating Sahib's mannerisms. Sahib, with a twinkle in his eye, gently said to him, 'Yaar tu meri tarah shots kar le, main kuch aur tareeka nikaalta hoon!'" Oh, how we all laughed it was a moment filled with such warmth and camaraderie," she shared.

Saira Banu further disclosed that Manoj Kumar had decided to shelve his film *Purab Aur Paschim* in case Dilip Kumar had not allowed her to work on it.

PEANUTS



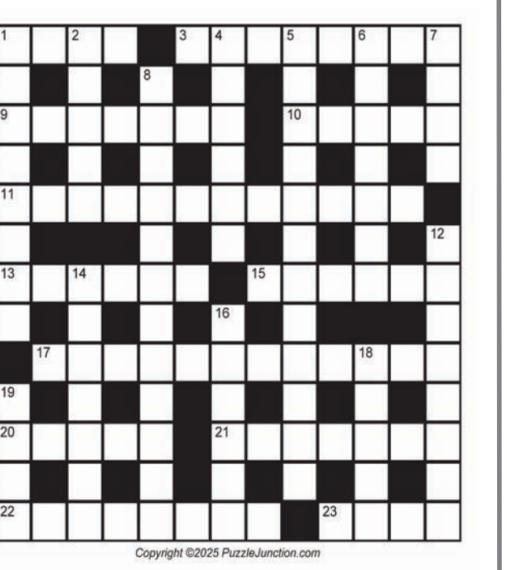
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



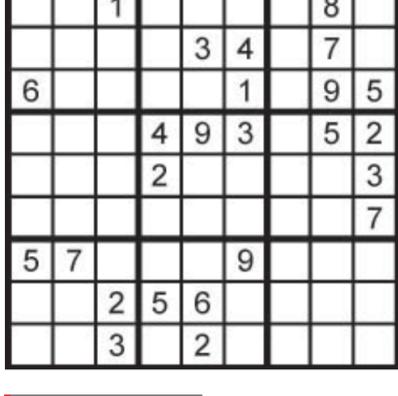
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Allergic reaction
 - 3 Showed up
 - 9 Testimonial
 - 10 Land on the Red Sea
 - 11 Christian holy day (6,6)
 - 13 Levy
 - 15 Move up
 - 17 Across-the-board (3-9)
 - 20 "Rigoletto" composer
 - 21 Punctured
 - 22 Firebug
 - 23 Strait-laced
 - Down**
 - 1 Fearless
 - 2 Blubbers
 - 4 Anxious
 - 5 Tabloid topic (6,6)
 - 6 Liken
 - 7 Have supper
 - 8 Irrational belief
 - 12 Postscript
 - 14 Brightest star in Ursa Minor
 - 16 Rifle attachments
 - 18 Bring upon oneself
 - 19 Eye part

SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

BJD leaders demand action against Patra



At least two senior BJD leaders -- Prafulla Samal and Pratap Jena -- have written letters to Patnaik demanding

action against Patra for 'going against the party stand by voting in support of Waqf Bill'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 5: With BJD's flip-flop on Waqf (Amendment) Bill has already laid bare the party's internal rift, a section of its senior leaders Saturday demanded strong action against Sasmit Patra for 'creating confusion' among lawmakers ahead of the voting on the Bill.

At least two senior BJD leaders -- Prafulla Samal and Pratap Jena -- have written letters to party supremo Naveen Patnaik demanding action against Patra for 'going against the party's stand by voting in support of Waqf Bill'.

Also, Ganeswar Behera, the sitting MLA of Muslim-dominated Kendrapara Assembly segment, criticised Patra, questioning, "Who gave Patra the authority to change the party president's decision?"

"He has committed a mistake for which he is liable to action. Only BJD president has the authority to change the decision of the Parliamentary Party and nobody else," he told reporters, adding that this amounts

to gross indiscipline. Both Samal and Jena, in their letters to Patnaik, stated that the BJD continues to fight for the socio-economic development of minority communities including Muslims.

Jena expressed displeasure over Patra's action and termed the move 'anti-party' and 'shocking'.

"Patra's recent social media posts reflect a mindset that contradicts the BJD's ideological position," Jena said.

Jena also raised suspicion over Patra's behaviour and demanded a thorough inquiry into the matter.

"We must investigate who is behind this conspiracy and people responsible for this should be held accountable," he said, demanding disciplinary action against Patra.

BJD MLA and former minister Badri Narayan Patra said, "This situation is a result of a deliberate mischief. How could Sasmit Patra dare to defy the BJD president's decision and announce on his X handle regarding the change of stand? He has put the entire party in a fix

and this calls for action."

A senior BJD leader, on condition of anonymity, said party leaders representing Muslim-dominated constituencies are worried following the party's change of stand on the Bill.

"The Muslims, who constitute over 2.17% of the state's population, have all along supported the BJD. Now, they may change their political affiliation to the Congress. The present situation has given a wrong message to the Muslim community," he said.

Though a section of senior BJD leaders met Patnaik and held discussions on the matter Friday, the BJD president was yet to give any remark on the prevailing political situation.

Patra could not be contacted as he was on a tour to Tashkent from April 5 to 9 as part of the delegation of the 150th Assembly of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

Reacting to the developments, Odisha BJP spokesperson Anil Biswal said, "The recent developments indicate that Patnaik has lost control over his party MPs. He could not impose a whip on them because he does not have command of the party."

On allegations about a 'deal' between BJD and BJP over the Waqf Bill, Samal said, "We do not do deals. Nation is first for us. People worried about the rights of poor Muslims have supported the Bill. The seven BJD MPs have been divided into three categories: one who supported the Bill, those who opposed it and one who abstained from voting. There is no unanimity in the BJD."

Growth needs united efforts: Singh Deo

FROM PAGE 1

Sharing his inspiring story, Rout, in his address, said he started his entrepreneurial journey in 2011 with a meagre ₹20,000 savings, without imagining he would go on to build India's largest homegrown burger chain. "Platforms like the Business Eminence Awards, which honour the hard work and resilience of entrepreneurs, give a morale boost to rise further in career," Rout said.

He also remarked on how the entrepreneurial landscape in Odisha and India has evolved over the years, with entrepreneurship now being recognised as a vital driver of economic growth.

Dharitri and Orissa POST Editor Tathagata Satpathy said the twin publications had initiated the awards in 2021, when the entire country was reeling under the grip of the dangerous Delta wave of Covid-19.

"The primary motive was to honour entrepreneurs who persisted through the challenges of running businesses in tough times," he said.

Sharing his view on the business environment in the state, Satpathy said surviving as an entrepreneur in Odisha is particularly difficult, given the state's complex business environment, which is not always favourable for trade and commerce. "If an entrepreneur can succeed in Odisha, s/he can

thrive anywhere else," he said.

He, however, pointed out that the overall atmosphere for entrepreneurship in the state has shifted, of late. "Now, there's more encouragement for businesses to grow, and the support of both the government and the people is crucial for fostering this change," Satpathy said, expressing his belief that supporting entrepreneurship is vital to making Odisha a prominent state in India's economic landscape.

Calling Rout a 'symbol of youth power in Odisha', Satpathy showered praises on the young entrepreneur for his success and leadership. He concluded his address by emphasising that entrepreneurs

teach people the values of taking risks in life and making difficult decisions. "These are the lessons that are essential for anyone looking forward to succeed in business," he added.

Earlier, in her welcome address, the newspapers' Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy acknowledged the hardships of entrepreneurship and the resilience of business houses to continue their journey with commitment and conviction despite all challenges.

She said the Business Eminence Awards was established in 2021 to honour entrepreneurs, who overcome obstacles, create jobs, and contribute to the state's and the country's economic development.

Inter-school Declamation Contest held at Loyola

Bhubaneswar: As part of its silver jubilee celebrations, Loyola School organised an Inter-school Declamation Competition titled 'Echoes of Thought' here Saturday. The event brought together 36 students from Classes IX to XII, representing 12 leading schools from Bhubaneswar and Cuttack. The young participants showcased impressive oratory skills, addressing a range of thought-provoking topics with clarity and passion. The competition was judged by a distinguished panel comprising Prachi Tara, Odisha's leading storyteller, Gourav Mohanty, bestselling author of Sons of Darkness, and Sujit Mahapatra, founder of the Bakul Foundation. Rector FR Augustine Ezhakunnel, SJ and Principal FR A Amaladoss, SJ graced the occasion, inspiring students with their encouraging words. In the junior category (Classes IX-X), DAV Unit VIII secured first place, followed by St. Joseph School and Loyola School. In the senior category (Classes XI-XII), DAV Unit VIII once again took first and third positions, while Loyola School claimed second.

Ayushman Bharat launch set for April 11 by Nadda

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, April 5: Union Health Minister JP Nadda is scheduled to launch Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana in Odisha April 11, state Health Minister Mukesh Mahaling said here Saturday.

Briefing reporters, Mahaling said, "Nadda will launch the central scheme along with 'Ayushman Vayo-Vandana Yojana' and the state's Gopabandhu Jan Arogya Yojana (GJAY) in presence of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi in a special event at Cuttack."

Three union ministers - Jual Oram, Dharmendra Pradhan and Ashwini Vaishnav - would also attend the event, he said.

State's 1,405 PHCs will participate in the event through videoconferencing.

The BJP government has decided to implement the

GJAY replacing the existing Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) launched by the previous BJD government.

Mahaling said nearly 3.50 crore people of 1.3 crore families in Odisha will benefit from the two schemes. The beneficiaries will get free cash-less treatment in 29,000 registered private and government hospitals across the country. Earlier, the facility was available in only 900 hospitals, he said.

Similarly, he said, each beneficiary will get one card using which he/she can avail benefits of both schemes. Earlier, cards were provided to each family.

In addition, the central scheme 'Ayushman Vayo-Vandana Yojana' will also be implemented in Odisha for all persons aged 70 years and above, irrespective of their economic status, he added.

Anant Ambani walks the talk

FROM PAGE 1

There is also a business to run—he oversees the world's largest refinery and directs the country's biggest new energy transformation projects. And then there is the Vantara animal refuge he has founded and which was inaugurated by no less a person than Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

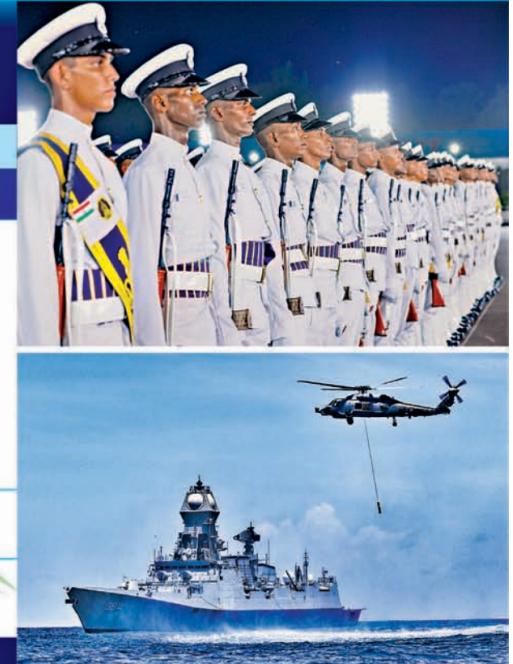
Ambani is showing that he can walk in the footsteps of a hoary spiritual tradition while also creating the future in the world of business.

Rukuna Rath Yatra kicks off

BHUBANESWAR: The annual Rukuna Rath Yatra of Lord Lingaraj began Saturday with thousands of devotees pulling the chariot in Bhubaneswar's Old Town amid heavy security. The chariot could not reach the Mausima Temple before sunset and will resume its journey Sunday morning, temple priests said. Earlier, rituals like Mangala Alati, Abakasha Niti, and Sahanamela were performed. In a vibrant Pahandi procession, the bronze idols of Chandrasekhar, Devi Rukuna, and Ananta Basudev were brought to the chariot with chants, drumbeats, and conch sounds. The return journey, Bahuda Yatra, is scheduled for April 9 and 10, during which the seating arrangement of the deities will be changed.



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THE MOTHER

Trade & Diplomacy

How do trade wars end? To answer that we have to ask ourselves, how do wars end? The answer is that once begun they are not easy to end. Most of the time, trade and diplomacy are conducted outside of the public view. This is not only because of secrecy but also the fact that the details are too boring to interest news debates. What tariff a country charges another on dairy, soya and auto spare parts, and what it should be charging instead is not exciting material. Similarly, the spectacle of 'summit' meetings between leaders, though ultimately insubstantial, steal the show over the more meaningful but more boring meetings over details that diplomats have to resolve disputes.

Disagreements may remain after these meetings but the option of keeping the status quo is the one that is most frequently resorted to. Escalation towards violence is rare.

But when it does come, it is not easy to control. The reasons are that the side that begins it is not the only one that has agency. The other nation's response, its timing, its intensity and its effectiveness are impossible to predict. As boxer Mike Tyson elegantly put it: 'Everyone has a plan until they get punched in the face.'

Wars end either when both sides have had enough, meaning their nations have suffered damage and are unwilling to suffer more. Or they end when one side is strong enough to compel the other one to submit. Much like a school fight between a large child and a smaller one. The little fellow has no option but to give up.

Unlike this example, wars and trade wars have another element which is why they are difficult to control and escalation is impossible to predict. This is national pride and national survival. This is why trade and diplomacy work when they are done outside the public view. When they become part of the popular conversation and the public become participants, driven to anger by their leaders' rhetoric on being ripped off by the other side, everything changes.

The American president says he is punishing China with tariffs and then warns it not to retaliate because he will apply further punishment. The Chinese response is to immediately inflict the same punishment on the US. Some will argue, correctly, that the tariff mostly punishes the country imposing it because its consumers will pay the import duty.

That is not the point. It is called a trade war because it is war minus the shooting. The effects are real in the sense that one side is trying to actively and materially damage the other and the other is compelled to respond.

After he put tariffs on Canada, Trump posted this: "Please explain to Governor Trudeau, of Canada, that when he puts on a Retaliatory Tariff on the US, our Reciprocal Tariff will immediately increase by a like amount!"

Canada did respond and now so has China. The options are for Trump to either do what he said he would, that is to add further tariffs on them, or to back down. If he does the former, it escalates and he has no control, if he does not act, then he is seen as losing and his credibility is shot. This is why wars are difficult to end once they are begun.

This is why this trade war will remain with us for some time. And this should concern us in India. You see, between 2004 and 2014, India grew quickly in large measure because its merchandise exports went from about \$50 billion a year to about \$320 billion a year in that decade. This was largely because of global trade rising in that period and when trade flattened after the global financial crisis, our growth tapered off as well. Today, another 10 years later merchandise exports are at \$400 billion or so, meaning that the rapid rate of growth is gone. The moral is that rising global trade is good for India and trade wars are terrible for us. For this reason it is important that India take on some leadership in at least attempting to resolve this.

There are some reasons to be optimistic. Democracies usually tend to be self-correcting, and the United States even more so. Its parliament is run by legislators who have to face elections every two years. If the tariffs are particularly disruptive in the next few weeks and months, and the public is restless, those up for election in November 2026 will begin to pressure their president to reduce the turbulence he has created. Even if his plan shows like it may work over the long term, this pressure could undo it.

There is an exception to this self-correction rule and that is for war. The history of the United States shows that it will continue doing the wrong thing and prosecuting war even though it is itself damaged. Vietnam and Iraq show this. In Afghanistan, the US continued doing the wrong thing, learning no lessons, punishing itself and its opponents, for 20 years before surrendering. The American public was okay with suffering through this continuation, losing citizens and treasure, perhaps because they thought it was in their national interest.

We can only hope this is not as true for the Trump trade war as it is for real war.



Aakar Patel

This is called a trade war because it is war minus the shooting. The effects are real in the sense that one side is trying to actively and materially damage the other and the other is compelled to respond

PROTECTING ENCRYPTION

FOCUS DATA PRIVACY



Apple recently made global headlines by resisting a demand by the British government to access encrypted private data stored on the company's servers. In other words, instead of asking for information, governments want the power to take it - without giving citizens a chance to say no



Jessica Dickinson Goodman & Ezequiel Passeron Kitroser

THE MILLIONS OF PARENTS WHO RELY ON ENCRYPTED APPS LIKE WHATSAPP EVERY DAY ARE CERTAINLY NOT CRIMINALS

Imagine that some strange man wants a picture of your child. If it were the year 1750, he might commission an artist, who would then knock on your door and ask to paint a portrait. You could say no.

If it were 1850, he might hire a daguerreotypist who would ask your child to sit still while light and mercury vapor etched their image into a brilliantly polished, silvered copper plate. Again, you could say no.

And if it were 1950, the man might buy a Polaroid camera, knock on your door, and ask to snap a photo of your child - and you could still refuse.

Why should today's parents or children have less privacy than their predecessors? Should spies, hackers, or even police officers be able to access a photo of your child without your permission? Of course not.

Yet, that is what is at stake if the United States, the United Kingdom, and the European Union align with China and Russia's efforts to undermine encryption. Apple recently made global headlines by resisting a demand by the British government to access encrypted private data stored on the company's servers. In other words, instead of asking for information, governments want the power to take it - without giving citizens a chance to say no.

If these efforts succeed, governments will wield unprecedented surveillance power. Although often justified as necessary to combat child abuse, there is little evidence to suggest that children will be safer if government agencies gain unlimited access to their photos, conversations, and location data. In fact, as Washington Post reporters Jessica Contrera, Jenn Abelson, and John D. Harden showed in their investigation of child

sexual abuse by US police officers, the opposite may be the case.

To convince the public that breaking encryption is necessary, governments often rely on technical jargon and emotionally charged anecdotes, framing encryption as something only bad actors use. For example, some US legislators are trying to exploit parents' fears to push for policies that would weaken privacy protections for children.

The millions of parents who rely on encrypted apps like WhatsApp every day are certainly not criminals. They are simply trying to protect their privacy and that of their families. Still, frightened people are susceptible to the message that the only solution is to allow more government access to their personal lives.

To be fair, some of the governments currently seeking to weaken encryption are trying to address real problems, such as the spread of child pornography, terrorist recruitment, and online scams. But it is crucial to understand the role encryption does - and does not - play in facilitating these

activities.

Researchers at the University of Barcelona have offered valuable insights into the relationship between technology and social harm. As Paula Sibilia observes, technologies like encryption are not inherently good or bad, but they are also far from neutral. They emerge within specific historical contexts and are shaped by the values, interests, and norms of their time. These forces, in turn, affect how people see themselves and their role in society. To understand encryption, then, we must first understand the world that created it.

At the same time, technologies are more than neutral tools whose value depends solely on how they are being used. As Mariana Moyano notes, a shoe can be used to hammer a nail or hit someone, but that is not what it was designed for. Behind every technology lies a set of intentions - political and otherwise. We must therefore ask what a given technology was developed to do and whose interests are embedded in its design.

Lastly, as Donna Haraway

argues, we must rethink our relationship with technology, cultivating new ways of connecting with the machines and systems that shape our lives.

At its core, encryption is a tool that allows us to say "no" to those who would take our data without consent. It is also the foundation of the internet as a place where privacy is respected and the freedom to learn is limitless. Every person should feel empowered to use tools that protect their privacy. They may choose not to use them, but they must have the right to make that choice.

Britain's anti-encryption efforts represent a serious threat to this essential freedom. UK residents already have fewer privacy tools than people in many other countries, thanks to their government's aggressive efforts to undermine encryption. If Apple or other major tech companies give in to government pressure, a dangerous global precedent will have been set, and the consequences might not be limited to the UK's 68 million people.

When policymakers in Washington and London start to resemble their counterparts in Beijing and Moscow in their approach to privacy, it is time for serious self-reflection. But it's not too late to change course. Those of us who care about online privacy must speak up, contact our representatives, and demand that they protect encryption from efforts to undermine it, thereby preserving the freedoms that previous generations once took for granted.

Jessica Dickinson Goodman is a former board president of the Internet Society's San Francisco Bay Area Chapter. Ezequiel Passeron Kitroser is an associate professor at the University of Barcelona.

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SPECTRUM STATE

Every day is Utkal Divas

As the echoes of Odisha Day celebrations fade, the focus must shift from promises to action, ensuring meaningful outcomes that elevate the state and its people. Odisha has the potential to achieve double-digit economic growth and emerge as a developed economy. However, without strategic planning and execution, it risks succumbing to the "Resource Curse," a phenomenon where resource-rich regions fail to achieve sustainable development.

Resource-rich nations like Venezuela, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Angola highlight the consequences of economic stagnation and inequality when wealth is mismanaged. Odisha, with its abundant reserves of bauxite, chromite, and gold, must ensure the equitable distribution of benefits to foster long-term prosperity. While Prime Minister Modi has championed Odisha's equitable growth, the state itself must prioritise efficient implementation and governance.

Odisha's cultural richness and natural beauty hold immense promise for tourism. Collaborative efforts with extraction companies can bolster the creation of cultural hubs in every district. Renovating existing facilities and hosting large-scale programmes, such as international music concerts, could elevate Odisha on the global tourism map.

Iconic sites like the Sun Temple at Konark need focused attention. Despite being a UNESCO World Heritage Site, basic civic standards on its surroundings fall short of global expectations. Drawing inspiration from cities like Barcelona and Dubrovnik, which seamlessly merge heritage and coastal charm, Konark could be transformed into a global destination. The Tourism Department's under-spendence emphasises that the bottleneck lies not in funds but in planning and execution.

Rapid urbanisation and economic growth necessitate robust urban planning. By 2030, Bhubaneswar alone will need approximately 500,000 housing units across income categories. Municipal bodies and urban local authorities must collaborate with experts to create well-planned neighbourhoods that can accommodate this surge sustainably. Public-private partnerships are essential to bridge housing gaps, particularly in Tier II towns seeing a swell in the number of settlers due to resource-based economic activities. Despite allocated budgets, Odisha's Housing and Urban Development Department has struggled to execute plans. Filling vacancies and creating specialised posts could enhance efficiency and expedite project completion.

Odisha's youth represent its greatest potential, yet many skilled workers seek opportunities outside the state. Programmes like "Skilled-in-Odisha" must pivot towards creating jobs within Odisha itself, focusing on sectors like mining, fisheries, and tourism. Supporting entrepreneurship and fostering startups are essential for a thriving ecosystem. The state must assess its contributions to India's startup growth and demographic divi-

dend in quantitative terms to ensure progress aligns with national goals.

Effective policies are already in place, but implementation remains the key challenge. The Chief Minister's Office/Chief Secretary's Office should establish task forces of subject experts to monitor and execute key initiatives. Civil society should shun its insipid, passivity and play a crucial role in ensuring accountability and fostering collaborative progress.

As Odisha looks ahead to 2026, showcasing tangible achievements in cultural preservation, tourism, housing, and employment should become a priority. Now is the time to transition from rhetoric to action, empowering the state to balance economic growth with cultural preservation and social equity. Civil society, the responsibility lies with you - action, not blame game, will shape Odisha's future.

Every day is Utkal Divas.

The writer is a thinker and author.



Charudutta Panigrahi

ODISHA, WITH ITS ABUNDANT RESERVES OF BAUXITE, CHROMITE, AND GOLD, MUST ENSURE THE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF BENEFITS TO FOSTER LONG-TERM PROSPERITY

WISDOM CORNER

- What we wish, we readily believe, and what we ourselves think, we imagine others think also
JULIUS CAESAR
- As far as we can discern, the sole purpose of human existence is to kindle a light in the darkness of mere being
CARL JUNG
- Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired, and success achieved
HELEN KELLER

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1868: The Japanese emperor Meiji issued the Charter Oath, which served to modernize the country during the Meiji Restoration.
- 1909: American explorer Robert Edwin Peary led the first expedition to the North Pole.
- 1917: The United States declared war on Germany, thus entering World War I three years after the conflict began.
- 1974: Swedish Euro-pop group ABBA had their international breakthrough as they captured the top prize at the Eurovision Song Contest with Waterloo.
- 1980: The American company 3M began selling Post-it Notes in U.S. stores; the small pieces of paper with adhesive strips became hugely popular.

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa Post are most welcome to contribute letters (100 words), articles and columns (between 600-1000 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

OrissaPOST
 B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Health is wealth

Sir, World Health Day is celebrated this year on the 7th of April 2025 and serves as a global reminder of the importance of maintaining good health. It encourages individuals worldwide to prioritize their well-being. The campaign, titled "Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures," will urge governments and the health community to ramp up efforts to end preventable maternal and newborn deaths. It will also prioritize women's longer-term health and well-being. On the occasion of World Health Day, we aim to emphasize the role of a healthy immune system in maintaining overall well-being. Maintaining a robust immune system is essential for overall health and well-being. Regular physical activities, including moderate exercise, enhance immune surveillance and reduce inflammation. Adequate sleep is crucial for immune regulation and the production of infection-fighting antibodies. Chronic stress can suppress immune function; incorporating relaxation techniques like meditation and deep breathing can help manage stress.

Jayanthi Subramaniam, MUMBAI

Hug shrugged

Sir, It is fitting that Prime Minister Modi did not resort to his customary hug when he recently met Md. Yunus, Bangladesh's interim Chief Adviser. There is incontrovertible evidence of the mindless destruction of property belonging to Hindus, the brutal and premeditated assaults on them, and the purposeful targeting of their places of worship. Minority Hindus have been living at the mercy of the majority Muslim population in Bangladesh since the dramatic ouster of Sheikh Hasina last August. So far, Md. Yunus has only dismissed India's concerns about the safety of Hindus in Bangladesh. Far from giving India the much-needed assurance about the safety of Hindus in Bangladesh, Yunus has retorted with tongue-in-cheek rhetoric, blaming India for sheltering Sheikh Hasina. Under Yunus, Bangladesh has been keen to debunk the stellar role played by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in the liberation of Bangladesh and is trying to script a "new" history without his legacy. Such a leader can only be trusted at our own peril. Truth be told, Modi was kind enough to offer a handshake to Md. Yunus.

Avinash Godbole, DEWAS (MP)



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4-laning of Poondiyankuppam - Sattanathapuram Section of NH-32
4-laning of Cholapuram - Thanjavur Section of NH-36



Wider roads ensure smooth traffic flow, shorter travel time, and lower fuel costs



Strengthens linkages between major ports and key coastal districts

Flagging off of

New Train between Rameswaram and Tambaram (Chennai)



Improved connectivity in Delta region of Tamil Nadu, uplifting local economies



Enhances accessibility to religious and tourist destinations

Laying of Foundation Stone for

4-laning of Walajahpet/Ranipet– Tamil Nadu/Andhra Pradesh Border Section of NH-40



Faster road connectivity between spiritual and metropolitan hubs



Direct travel option for pilgrims, tourists and daily commuters

Dedication to the Nation and Foundation Stone Laying of Projects worth Rs. 8500 crore

by

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

In the august presence of

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Governor, Tamil Nadu

M.K. Stalin

Chief Minister, Tamil Nadu

Nitin Jairam Gadkari

Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways

Ashwini Vaishnaw

Union Minister of Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology

Dr. L. Murugan

Union Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs

Thangam Thennarasu

Minister of Finance and Environment Climate Change, Govt. of Tamil Nadu

R. S. Rajakannappan

Minister of Milk and Dairy Development Govt. of Tamil Nadu



Sunday, 6th April, 2025



Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu

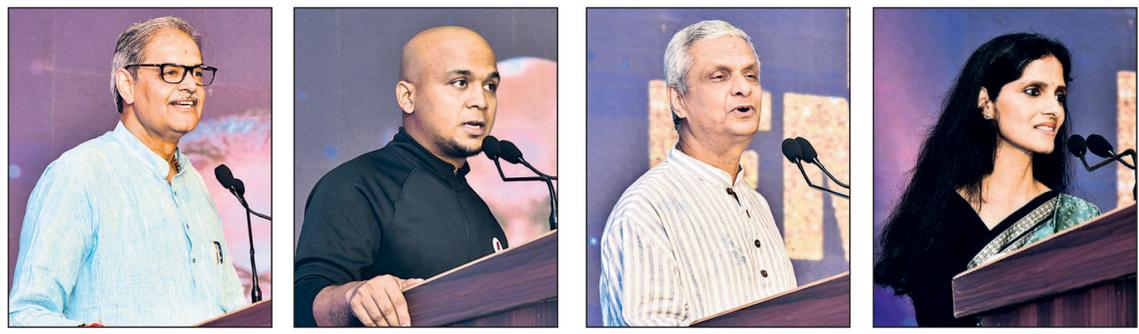


12.45 PM



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We warned that if the Waqf Bill is passed, the Church Bill will follow
PINARAYI VIJAYAN | KERALA CM

WOMAN DIES AFTER FALLING OFF ROLLER COASTER AT PARK

A 24-year-old woman died after allegedly falling from a roller coaster ride at an amusement park in southwest Delhi's Kapashera area, an official said Saturday. The deceased, identified as Priyanka, fell off from a ride at the amusement park Thursday evening, police said in a statement



of the day quote

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tn cm
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Before 2014, the governments of the northeastern states had no power but the Prime Minister has given us so much power that the eight Ashtalakshi states will be one of the most developed states of the country

India, SL ink major defence pact 'Cash row judge sworn-in secretly'

Following talks between PM Modi and Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake, the two sides firmed up a total of seven pacts, including one on developing Trincomalee as an energy hub under a trilateral framework, also involving the United Arab Emirates and another agreement on power grid connectivity



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, April 5: Signalling an upswing in their strategic ties nearly four decades after the IPKF episode, India and Sri Lanka Saturday inked a defence pact to institutionalise military cooperation with Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserting that security of both the nations is interlinked and dependent on each other. Following talks between PM Modi and Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake, the two sides firmed up a total of seven pacts, including one on developing Trincomalee as an energy hub under a trilateral framework, also involving the United Arab Emirates and another agreement on power grid connectivity. While Modi reaffirmed that New Delhi will always stand with the people of the island

nation, Dissanayake said Sri Lanka will not allow its territory to be used in any manner inimical to security interests of India as well as the region. In the meeting, the prime minister pitched for resolving the vexed fishermen issue between the two countries with a "humane approach" and hoped that Colombo will fulfil the aspirations of the Tamil people and conduct provincial council elections. In his media statement, Modi said India converted loans worth more than \$100 million into grants in the last six months, alone to help Sri Lanka and announced reducing interest rates for loans given to the island nation. Apart from the seven pacts, India also firmed up a debt restructuring agreement as part of its economic assistance for Colombo with Modi saying it will facilitate immediate assistance and relief to the people

of Sri Lanka. Modi also announced a support package of approximately 2.4 billion Sri Lankan rupees for social and economic development of the Eastern provinces of Sri Lanka. In reflection of the importance Colombo has attached to Modi's visit, the prime minister was accorded a ceremonial welcome at the historic Independence Square and was conferred Sri Lanka's highest civilian honour, the Mithra Vibhushana. Though the Modi-Dissanayake talks produced over 10 concrete outcomes, the defence cooperation pact emerged as the centerpiece as it signalled an upward trajectory in defence relations leaving behind the bitter chapter of India pulling out the Indian Peace Keeping Forces (IPKF) from the island nation around 35 years ago. "We believe that we have shared security interests. The

security of both countries is interconnected and co-dependent," Modi said. "I am grateful to President Dissanayake for his sensitivity towards India's interests. We welcome the important agreements made in the area of defence cooperation," he said. In his comments, the Sri Lankan leader said, "We also discussed in detail about furthering our collaboration in the already excellent defence cooperation between the two countries." "I reaffirmed Sri Lanka's stance that it will not permit its territory to be used in any manner inimical to the security of India as well as regional stability." Modi said India is proud to have fulfilled its duties as a "true friendly neighbour." "Whether it was the terrorist attack of 2019, the COVID pandemic, or the recent economic crisis, we have stood firmly with the people of Sri Lanka during every difficulty," he said. PM Modi also placed a wreath at the IPKF memorial in Colombo, paying tributes to the Indian soldiers who made supreme sacrifices during the intervention. To a question on defence pact, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said at a media briefing that it is an umbrella framework that will make existing defence cooperation initiatives "more structured" even as he talked about "close convergence" in the narratives from both sides on "completely interlinked" nature of the national security.

Prayagraj (UP), April 5: Justice Yashwant Varma, who was transferred from the Delhi High Court to the Allahabad High Court amid cash-at-home allegations, was administered the oath in a "clandestine" manner Saturday, the High Court Bar Association (HCBA) here claimed while condemning the move. The lawyers' body, which had opposed the repatriation of the judge, questioned why "this oath was not notified to the Bar" and alleged that it has once again eroded the trust of people in the judicial system. An in-house inquiry was ordered by the Chief Justice of India (CJI) after the recovery of "four to five semi-burnt sacks" of Indian currency notes from the residence of Justice Varma following a fire incident last month. Justice Varma has maintained that neither he nor his family was aware of the money. In a letter dated April 5 addressed to Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court Arun Bhansali, the secretary of HCBA, Allahabad, Vikrant Pandey, contended that "legally and traditionally, the oath administered to Justice Varma is fallacious and unacceptable" and urged the Chief Justice not to assign any administrative and judicial work to the judge. "The entire Bar Association is at pains to learn about the clandestine manner in which Justice Yashwant Varma has been administered the oath of his office at Allahabad," the letter said. "In due deference to our remonstrations against the repatriation of Justice Yashwant Varma to Allahabad High Court, the Hon'ble CJI had met the members of the Bar and assured that appropriate steps be taken to maintain the dignity of the judicial system," Pandey said. "We are given to understand that the system is taking every step in a fair and transparent manner, but why this oath is not notified to the Bar, is a question which again eroded the trust of people in the judicial system," he said in the letter. "We unequivocally condemn the manner in which Justice Yashwant Varma was administered the oath behind our backs," he said. There was no official word from the high court on the swearing-in of the judge. The incident of cash recovery has reignited debate over the issue of judicial accountability and there have been calls from various quarters for stringent action in the matter to set a precedent and restore faith in the judiciary.

SHORT TAKES

Protests over BJP cadre's death

Bangalore/Kodagu: BJP Saturday staged a protest in Kodagu district's Kushalnagar, demanding the naming of two Congress MLAs in the FIR, in connection with the alleged suicide of a saffron party worker, even as Chief Minister Siddaramaiah accused them of doing politics over death. Protests were also held in a few other places by the BJP.

Five killed after mini bus rams into truck

Kalaburagi (Karnataka): Five people, including a 13-year-old girl, died and 11 others were injured after a mini bus they were travelling in allegedly rammed into a parked truck near Nelogi Cross in Jewargi taluk of this district in the wee hours of Saturday, police said.

Truck mows down couple

Jhansi: A 35-year-old man and his wife died after their motorcycle was allegedly run over by a truck in the Baragaon area of this Uttar Pradesh district, police said Saturday. Raju Yadav and his wife Ram Devi (30), who ran a small snack shop along the Jhansi-Khajuraho highway and lived in the Kochhabhanwar area, were crushed under the truck while returning home.

India winner in US tariff hikes: Sources

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 5: India has emerged a "winner" in the recent US tariff hikes, as its exporters are better positioned to absorb the impact compared to competitor countries that are facing higher import duties in America, sources said Saturday. They added that sectors that could get impacted like marine need to explore new markets such as the European Union to push their shipments. India has protected its dairy sector in all the free trade agreements and it will continue to do so and safeguard them, they said, adding that if the US goes ahead with imposing higher tariffs on pharmaceuticals also, it will have a small impact on India. "India has emerged as a winner in the reciprocal tariffs imposed by the US. India has

the first mover advantage as it is negotiating a bilateral trade agreement with America," one of the sources said. In a trade pact, two countries either significantly reduce or eliminate import duties on the maximum number of goods traded between them. So in this case, both nations could look at cutting taxes for each other. While the US has imposed an additional 26 per cent import duty on India, its competitor Vietnam is facing 46 per cent tariff, Bangladesh 37 per cent, China 34 per cent, Indonesia 32 per cent, and Thailand 36 per cent. On top of 34 per cent, imports from China to the US face previously announced 20 per cent tariffs. Now as China has retaliated to reciprocal tariffs, President Donald Trump is expected to increase duties further as he had announced.

Waqf Bill gets Prez's assent

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 5: President Droupadi Murmu Saturday gave her assent to the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025, which was passed by Parliament earlier this week. Murmu also gave her assent to the Mussalman Wakf (Repeal) Bill, 2025. "The following Act of Parliament received the assent of the president April 5, 2025, and is hereby published for general information: The Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025," the government said in a notification. Parliament early Friday approved the Bill after the Rajya Sabha gave its nod to the contentious legislation following an over 13-hour debate. The discussion witnessed staunch objections from opposition parties, which termed the Bill "anti-Muslim" as well as "unconstitutional", while the government responded that the



"historic reform" would benefit the minority community. The Bill was passed in the Rajya Sabha with 128 members voting in favour and 95 opposing it. It was passed in the Lok Sabha early Thursday, with 288 members supporting it and 232 against it. Parliament had also approved the Mussalman Wakf (Repeal) Bill, with the Rajya Sabha giving its nod. The Lok Sabha had already given its assent to the Bill. After the president gave her assent, it has also become a law. Congress MP Mohammad Jawed and All India Majlis-e-It-

tehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) president Asaduddin Owaisi Friday challenged the validity of the Waqf (Amendment) Bill in the Supreme Court, saying it violated constitutional provisions. The petition, filed through advocate Anas Tanwir, said it discriminated against the Muslim community by "imposing restrictions that are not present in the governance of other religious endowments". Jawed, the Lok Sabha MP from Kishanganj in Bihar, was a member of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Bill and alleged in his plea that it "introduces restrictions on the creation of Waqfs based on the duration of one's religious practice". In his separate plea, Owaisi said the Bill took away from Waqfs various protections accorded to Waqfs and Hindu, Jain and Sikh religious and charitable endowments alike.

Kerala firm accused of 'torturing' employees

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, April 5: A private marketing firm here has been accused of subjecting its underperforming employees to degrading treatment, including making them walk on their knees like chained dogs and lick coins from the floor. The state Labour department has ordered a probe into the alleged inhuman workplace harassment after the disturbing visuals were aired by local television channels. As the issue came to the light, state Labour Minister V Sivankutty ordered an inquiry into the undated incident and instructed the district labour officer to submit an immediate report on the incident. Later, some employees told a TV channel that those who fail to achieve targets were subjected to such punishments by the management of the firm.

India's glory unfolds through the Pamban bridge

K ANNAMALAI

When a nation is led by strong leadership with a visionary approach, new milestones are achieved. Such monumental accomplishments fill the country with pride, instill a deep sense of honour in every citizen, and motivate them to give their best for the nation's progress. India, too, is blessed with a strong and far-sighted leader in Shri Narendra Modi. Under his visionary leadership, the nation has soared to new heights over the past 10 years, with Indian Railways—the lifeline of the country—setting new benchmarks for excellence. The trio of Vande Bharat, Amrit Bharat, and Namoo Bharat has transformed the nation's railways, ushering in a new era of efficiency and

connectivity. The construction of the Chenab and Anji bridges, enabling direct train connectivity to Kashmir, has further strengthened India's stature. In the same vein, the newly built Pamban Bridge, connecting Rameswaram to mainland India, has given Indian infrastructure a new identity. The successful completion of major projects aimed at strengthening infrastructure has proven that the nation's development trajectory is moving in the right direction. Constructing a bridge over the sea—overcoming the challenges posed by ocean waves—is considered an extremely difficult task. Such projects typically take decades to complete, significantly increasing costs. However, Prime Minister Modi's clear vision—that "he inaugurates the projects he lays the



foundation"—has motivated the country's bureaucracy and technocracy to complete projects within set timelines. Prime Minister Modi laid the foundation stone for the Pamban Bridge in 2019, and in just five years, the new bridge over the sea, connecting Rameswaram and the Indian mainland, is ready. Now, Modi himself is

set to inaugurate this bridge, creating a wave of excitement across the country. Spanning 2.08 kilometres, the bridge boasts several unique features. It consists of 99 spans of 18.3 metres each and a 72.5-metre vertical lift span. It stands three metres higher than the old bridge, facilitating the passage of larger ships with

ease. The substructure comprises 333 piles, ensuring stability and longevity. Designed for long-term durability, the bridge incorporates anti-corrosion technology, polysiloxane paint, high-quality stainless steel, and fiber-reinforced plastic, making it highly resilient. The construction of the Pamban Bridge has established India's superiority in design and certification technology. The world now acknowledges that institutions like IIT Chennai and IIT Bombay are fully capable of handling the challenging task of designing sea bridges with precision and efficiency. Rameswaram Island is an integral part of India's cultural, religious, and spiritual heritage. The establishment of the sacred Rameswaram Lingam dates back to the Ramayana era when Lord Ram in-

stalled it before embarking on his journey to Lanka in search of Mata Sita. The Shivaling and Rameswaram Temple hold deep significance for millions of Indians. Every year, lakhs of devotees visit Rameswaram for pilgrimage. With the construction of the new Pamban Bridge, direct rail connectivity to Rameswaram from across the country has been re-established, greatly benefiting pilgrims. This will also boost economic activities in Rameswaram, creating new employment opportunities for locals. In essence, the new Pamban Bridge, which simultaneously represents India's progress, innovation, and heritage, has become a symbol of the nation's engineering excellence and strong leadership.

The writer is ex-IPS and TN BJP president

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AP developing projects on govt land in disputed Kotia

POST NEWS NETWORK

Pottangi, April 5: The responsibility of protecting government land in villages along the Odisha-Andhra Pradesh border lies with the Revenue department. However, due to the alleged negligence of the concerned officers, Andhra Pradesh is reportedly carrying out various development works on government land in order to win over the local population.



these areas and carrying out development works.

The local intelligentsia and observers have raised serious concern questioning how Andhra is executing these projects, and with whose permission.

Moreover, the Supreme Court had directed both the states to maintain the status quo and form a parliamentary committee to resolve the border dispute. However, reports suggest that Andhra Pradesh continues to stray into the villages along the border in regular intervals and carry out various programmes and implement developmental works. Many plots of government land lie within the border villages of Kotia panchayat under Pottangi block in Koraput district. Officials and workers from Andhra Pradesh are allegedly entering

Andhra authorities have undertaken several developmental works in villages like Tadibalsa, Dhulipadar and other villages under Kotia panchayat. They reportedly identified government land, built a permanent school, and have been providing education to the local children.

Due to the inaction of state's Revenue department, Andhra has even completed construction of a 20,000-litre water tank in Dhulipadar village. The silence from Odisha's side has become a growing concern for both district administration and planning officials.

There are five Revenue Inspector (RI) circles under the Pottangi tehsil out of which only

three have permanent revenue inspectors. Kotia panchayat does not have a permanent RI assigned; only one assistant RI is currently managing operations. The RI of Pottangi circle is said to be handling additional responsibilities for Kotia.

To address the ongoing dispute in Kotia panchayat, local leaders stress the need for a dedicated RI and a full-time administrative officer from the Revenue department to monitor the situation. Without this, they warn, the conflict will persist and Andhra Pradesh will continue advancing its interests in the region.

Zilla Parishad member Tikai Gemel stated that if no permanent administrative mechanism is put in place, Andhra will leave no stone unturned in furthering its claims on the disputed land.

When contacted, tehsildar Devendra Bahadur Singh Dharua said there are no land records, plot numbers, or khata available for the 21 disputed villages under Kotia panchayat. As a result, no official action has been initiated by the Odisha government. He added that the department only acts based on instructions from higher authorities.



HEIGHTENED SECURITY: Police and sniffer dogs conduct inspection on the eve of Ram Navami and for upcoming Hanuman Jayanti celebrations at Sunapali in Sambalpur Saturday

FIR lodged as Sambalpur MLA abuses IIC

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 5: An FIR has been registered against BJP MLA Jayanarayan Mishra for allegedly abusing a police officer and threatening to set the police station on fire in Sambalpur.

As per the complaint, Town police station Inspector in Charge (IIC) Subrat Kumar Meher received a phone call April 3, while he was discussing the arrangements for upcoming Hanuman Jayanti with other officers. The caller allegedly identified himself as Jayanarayan Mishra and started abusing Meher. He also threatened to burn down the police station over the seizure of some swords the day before.

Meher recorded the entire conversation in his mobile phone for evidence and registered an FIR against Sambalpur



MLA Jayanarayan Mishra.

According to reports, some people organised Jhanda Yatra from Dalaipada to Peerbaba Chowk via Kunjelpada Chowk in Sambalpur town April 2 without any prior permission from respective authority. They allegedly exhibited swords in the name of culture and tradition in a rash and negligent manner

which may endanger human life. In this connection, a case was registered under sections 189(2)/189(4)/190/125 of BNS r/w section 25 of Arms Act and two swords were seized.

BJD spokesperson Lenin Mohanty during a presser slammed the state government alleging inaction against MLA Jayanarayan Mishra and said, "Law and order situation is deteriorating day by day in Odisha. Now, the police have to file an FIR to make them safe from BJP. Jayanarayan Mishra is openly threatening the police yet no action has been taken against him. Previously, he had also hit a woman police officer and now this incident proves the BJP is scared to take any action against Mishra. Even the ruling party ministers are avoiding commenting on this matter. We condemn this incident."

Crime Branch team inspects Raja Chakra's farmhouse in Keonjhar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, April 5: A team from the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the state Crime Branch (CB) Saturday inspected the farmhouse of Biju Janata Dal (BJD) leader Raja Chakra, who has been arrested in connection with financial irregularities at the Gandhamardan Loading Agency at Suakati in Keonjhar district.

The inspection was carried out in the presence of Revenue and Forest department officials at the Gopalpur farmhouse of Chakra.

Sources said that the team measured the property to assess potential encroachments and verify land records. Although the land is officially recorded as leasehold, there have been allegations that a portion of the land has been encroached upon illegally.

Chakra was arrested recently on charges of financial misconduct involving agency operations.

ALL-INDIA TIGER CENSUS 2026

Counting to begin in October: Gogineni

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, April 5: Preparations have begun for the All-India Tiger Census 2026 in Similipal, the second largest biosphere reserve in Asia. A preparatory meeting involving experts from the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and Forest department officials was recently held at the office of the Field Director, Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) here.

The pan-India tiger census, conducted every four years, will be carried out over a period of six months. The preliminary phase of the census will commence in October, following the monsoon, and camera-based monitoring will be conducted from December.

"The final data will be submitted to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) by March 2026 and the census report is expected to be published in 2027," said Prakash Chand Gogineni, Field Director of STR.

Man drowns after falling from boat

Nandapur: A man drowned after accidentally falling from a boat while crossing the Patalganga river at the Gangaguda ghat under this block in Koraput district Saturday. The deceased was identified as Uddharba Hantala, 44, of Gangaguda village in Goulur panchayat under Nandapur block. According to reports, Uddharba was rowing a boat across the river by himself for some work when he accidentally fell into the water. Labourers and staff working on a nearby bridge construction site witnessed the incident and rushed to rescue him. However, Uddharba had already died by the time they pulled him out of the river. On being informed, Padua ASI Ramachandra Madkani and Revenue Inspector Kailash Majhi arrived at the spot. The police conducted a post-mortem of the body before handing it over to the family members. Uddharba is survived by his wife Kumari, 38, two daughters-Purni, 21, and Namita, 11 and a 5-year-old son. His wife is now deeply worried about the future of their three children. Samiti member Laxmi Matam and social worker Biranchi Matam have appealed for assistance to support the grieving family. The panchayat has extended help through the Harishchandra Yojana.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, April 5: As many as 40 families from the Satabhaya region in Rajnagar block of Kendrapara district staged a demonstration outside the district Collectorate Saturday demanding relocation from their coastal village, which is under severe threat due to sea erosion.

The families alleged they were excluded from a previous relocation drive that moved 571 households to a rehabilitation colony at Bagapatia, ap-

proximately 12km away. They claimed their applications for relocation were submitted at the time but were overlooked by the district administration.

Dharanidhar Nayak, a resident of Satabhaya, said, "While 571 families were relocated to a resettlement site in Bagapatia in 2018, the 40 families which remained behind are now facing increasing danger as the sea continues to encroach land. "The sea, which was around 3km away three decades ago, is now just a few metres from our



homes," he said. "The sea has swallowed our farmland. There's a shortage of fodder for our cattle and feed for poultry, and the drinking water

has turned saline," Amita Malik, another villager, said voicing fears over the destruction of both lives and livelihoods. "We will survive only if the administration helps us relocate immediately."

Another villager Jiban Malik said several revenue villages under the Satabhaya panchayat—Gobindpur, Mohanpur, Chintamanipur, Badagahirmatha, Sanagahirmatha, Kharikul, and Kanhpur—have already been wiped out by the advancing sea. "The sea has also

gobbled up the nearby Panchubarahi temple and Barahipurpada village," he added.

"Cyclonic storms are now a constant threat. The sea is claiming more land rapidly. We urge the district administration to address the relocation issue with urgency," Malik said.

When contacted, Additional District Magistrate (ADM) Nilu Mahapatra confirmed the receipt of applications and said the administrative process to relocate the remaining families is currently underway.

40 Satabhaya families stage sit-in demanding relocation

Manipal Foundation, SLS Trust to give vocational edu to tribal students



Bangalore: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between Manipal Foundation and SLS Trust to launch the Aspire and Achieve Scholarship Programme, aimed at providing vocational education opportunities to tribal students from Mayurbhanj district. Under the initiative, 20 students from economically backward tribal backgrounds will receive scholarships covering tuition fees and accommodation for courses in Allied Health Sciences, Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA), Bachelor of Computer Applications (BCA), and Bachelor of Science (BSc). Manipal Foundation is the philanthropic arm of the Manipal Education and Medical Group. SLS Trust has long been working in remote areas of Mayurbhanj and neighbouring regions, focusing on the uplift of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, and other marginalised communities. Through its education centres, the trust identifies and nurtures talented students from underprivileged backgrounds. Ranjan R Pai, trustee of Manipal Foundation, said, "Manipal Foundation is committed to empowering society through holistic and sustained initiatives. By making quality education accessible to underserved students, we aim to create meaningful change and empower them to uplift their families and communities." "We aim to spark curiosity and instill core values among students through education. Our goal has always been to train and empower the youth of this region so they can contribute meaningfully to local development," said Itishree Murmu, chairperson of SLS Trust. Subodh Kumar, development coordinator of SLS Trust, expressed gratitude for the partnership, stating, "We are thankful to Manipal Foundation for this collaboration. This initiative will not only transform the lives of these 20 students and their families but also inspire many others in the community."

Ram Navami: Police hold flag marches across cities

Bhubaneswar: The personnel of Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) and Odisha Police Saturday held flag marches at various places across the state on the eve of the Ram Navami celebration, police said. Police have made extensive security arrangements in Sambalpur, Cuttack, Balasore, Bhadrak and some other places keeping in view the sensitivity of the places and their past records, police said. Sambalpur, which witnessed a communal clash in 2023, turned into a fortress with deployment of as many as 15 platoons of police, BSF and CRPF personnel. As many as 113 CCTV cameras and drones are being used to avoid any untoward incident in the city, said Sambalpur Additional SP Ajay Mishra. Security has also been tightened in Cuttack city where 25 platoons of police force have been deployed to maintain peace, said Cuttack DCP Khilari Rishikesh Dnyandeo. He said the police are in touch with different puja committees and all measures are being taken for the smooth celebration of Ram Navami. Similarly, the police have also taken adequate measures in Balasore and Bhadrak districts where Ram Navami festival is being celebrated in a big way. Apart from Odisha police, the personnel of CRPF, BSF, and Rapid Action Force (RAF), have been deployed. While 26 platoons of force are deployed in Bhadrak district, similar arrangements have been made in Balasore.

NOTICE

This is to inform to all local people of Tensa Block-Koira, Sundargarh, that Tantra Iron ore Mines of M/s Korp Resources Pvt. Ltd., Vill-Tantra, Tensa, Sundargarh, received enhanced Environmental clearance from MOEF&CC, from 0.12 MTPA to 0.24 MTPA & IMTPA beneficiation of mineral.

Ec Identification No. - ECZ3B0000R529359N
 File No - 455618/02-MIN/12-2023
 Clearance Type - From EC
 Category - BI

1(a) Mining of minerals. 2(b) Mineral beneficiation expansion of Tantra Iron ore mine (ML Area 72.56oha) for enhancement in Iron ore Production Capacity from 0.12 MTPA to 0.24 MTPA along with establishment of 1.0 MTPA through put Beneficiation Plant in village Tantra & Tensa, Tahasil Koira, Sundargarh, Odisha.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

E-AUCTION OF PAY & USE TOILETS
 Station & Locations: (1) NIRAOKARPUR (Pre-Fabricated) (in Circulating area), (2) NERGUNDI (Pre-Fabricated) (in Circulating area), (3) NAYAGARH TOWN (Pre-Fabricated) (in Circulating area).
 Auction Start Date & Time: 17.04.2025 at 1300 hrs. (for all nos.).
 Auction End Date & Time: 17.04.2025 at 1330 hrs. (for sl. no. 1), 1340 hrs. (for sl. no. 2) & 1350 hrs. (for sl. no. 3).
 Note: Prospective bidders are advised to visit the www.ireps.gov.in and check the upcoming e-auctions leading tab to get all required information regarding this e-auction.
 Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/ PR-1154/P/25-26 Khurda Road

EAST COAST RAILWAY

E-AUCTION OF PAY & USE TOILETS
 Tender Notice No. 02/ET/SBP/ ENGG/2025-26, Date: 03.04.2025
 e-Tender No. 03-eT-DENE-SBP-25
Name of the Work: SUPPLY OF WATER BY 5000 LITRE CAPACITY WATER TANKERS TO SAMBALPUR CITY RAILWAY STATION FOR A PERIOD OF 120 DAYS FOR COACH WATERING.
 Approx cost of the Work : ₹ 37,35,744/-
 Bid Security: ₹ 74,800/-, Completion period for the work: 120 Days.
 Tender closing date & time : at 1500 hrs. of 21.04.2025.
 No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.
 Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website www.ireps.gov.in
 The tenders/bidders must have Class-III digital signature certificate and must be registered on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering. All relevant paper must have to be uploaded at the time of participating on e-tendering as per instruction.
 Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 07 (Seven) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender.
 Divisional Railway Manager (Engg), PR-8/Q/25-26 Sambalpur

EAST COAST RAILWAY

E-AUCTION OF PAY & USE TOILETS
 Tender Notice No. 01-SBP-TRD-OT-2025-26, Date: 01.04.2025
Name of the Work: TRD RELATED WORK IN CONNECTION WITH THE WORK OF PWAY AND OTHER ALLIED WORKS IN CONNECTION WITH REMOVAL OF PERMANENT SPEED RESTRICTION (PSR) ON CURVE NO.36 UP AT KM 75/1-23 AND CURVE NO.37 DN AT KM 75/24-2 IN JUJUMURA-KEREJANGA SECTION OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION.
 Approx cost : ₹ 61,69,986.30, EMD: ₹ 1,23,400/-, Completion period: 12 months.
 Tender closing date & time : at 1530 hrs. of 23.04.2025.
 No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.
 Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website www.ireps.gov.in
 The tenders/bidders must have Class-III digital signature certificate and must be registered on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering. All relevant paper must have to be uploaded at the time of participating on e-tendering as per instruction.
 Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender.
 Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), PR-8/Q/25-26 Sambalpur

Indian Bank इलाहाबाद ALLAHABAD		ZONAL OFFICE : SAMBALPUR Shyam Arcade, Khetrapur, Sambalpur-768003		APPENDIX-IV [Rule-8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (For immovable property)	
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Indian Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 8 and 9 of the Security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a Demand Notice calling upon Borrower(s)/Mortgagor(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/Mortgagor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken SYMBOLIC POSSESSION of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said rules. The Borrower(s)/Mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank, Sambalpur Branch for an amount mentioned herein below with interest & other expenses thereon. The Borrower's/Mortgagor's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.					
SAMBALPUR BRANCH / Name & Address of the Borrower(s) / A/c. No.		Amount Payable as on specified date	Date of Demand / Possession Notice	Description of the immovable property	
Borrowers: 1) M/s Mamta Garments, Gujrati Colony, Near Ashapali School, Sambalpur, PIN-768001, 2) Mr. Dipak Kumar Murjani, S/o- Late Ramesh Chandra Murjani, 3) Mr. Ajay Murjani, S/o- Late Ramesh Chandra Murjani, 4) Mr. Hitesh Kumar Murjani, S/o- Prem Murjani, 5) Mr. Prem Murjani, S/o- Late Ramesh Chandra Murjani, All are at Mamata Bhawan, LIC Office, Budharaja, Sambalpur, PIN-768004 / A/c. No.: 6713823239 & 7171317615.		₹ 2,21,04,317.00 as on 19.01.2025 plus interest & cost thereon	20.01.2025 / 03.04.2025	The repayment of the said loans are secured by mortgage/hypothecation of property recorded in the name of Mr. Ajay Murjani, S/o- Late Ramesh Chandra Murjani, Mr. Prem Murjani, S/o- Late Ramesh Chandra Murjani & Mr. Hitesh Kumar Murjani, S/o- Prem Murjani at Mouza: Sambalpur Town Unit No. 5 (Sakhigopinath), Khata No.: 644/786 having Plot No.: 1498/3815 with Area: Ac.0.080 dec., Kسام: Gharabari-III, PS: Sambalpur, Dist.: Sambalpur. Bounded by- North: Road, South: Plot No. 1498, East: Plot No. 1503, West: Road.	
Date: 05.04.2025, Place: Sambalpur		Authorised Officer, Indian Bank			

international



My Administration has been working very hard on a Deal to SAVE TIKTOK, and we have made tremendous progress. The Deal requires more work to ensure all necessary approvals are signed, which is why I am signing an Executive Order to keep TikTok up and running for an additional 75 days

DONALD TRUMP | PRESIDENT, US

300 AFGHANS ROUNDED UP FOR REPATRIATION

Authorities in Karachi have so far rounded up around 300 illegal Afghans to move them to a holding camp after it launched an operation to repatriate them to their country



of the day quote

You should never let a good crisis go to waste. We want to make sure that we, in terms of our representations, put forward how we see it in the medium to long term as a win-win situation for both Pakistan and the US



MUHAMMAD AURANZEB | FINANCE MINISTER, PAKISTAN

I would like to take this opportunity to make it clear that the Cambodian government led by the Cambodian People's Party has no intention, in the past or today or in the future, of violating its Constitution by allowing any country's troops to establish exclusive bases on Cambodian territory



HUN MANET | PRIME MINISTER, CAMBODIA

We have prioritised epidemic preparedness and rapid response as part of our broader health security agenda



MUHAMMAD ALI PATE | HEALTH MINISTER, NIGERIA

SEX TOYS AND EXPLODING COSMETICS

REUTERS

Warsaw, April 5: Fake cosmetics, massage pillows and sex toys. Crude homemade explosives. A Russian known as Warrior. A code word: Mary. These are among the key elements of a suspected Russian-run sabotage plot that led to three parcels being detonated at courier depots in Britain, Germany and Poland last summer, a person with knowledge of the Polish investigation told Reuters.

The pillows, packed into the parcels with the cosmetics and sex toys, contained hidden incendiary devices made of a cocktail of chemicals including highly reactive mag-

Anatomy of a 'hybrid war' on the West

nesium, according to the person familiar with the case who provided the most granular account yet of the alleged plot.

The chemicals were ignited by pre-timed detonators adapted from cheap Chinese electronic gadgets used to track items like lost keys, with the effect enhanced by the tubes of what looked like cosmetics but in fact contained a gel made of flammable compounds including nitromethane, according to the source.

"The proceedings in this case concern criminal activities inspired by Russia's GRU," this person said, referring to Moscow's foreign military intelligence agency.

European security chiefs made the parcel fires public in



October, describing them as part of a "hybrid war" being waged by Russia to destabilize the functioning of countries that support Ukraine, involving tactics like arson and cyberattacks.

They said the parcels - which caught alight in warehouses, causing fires but not hurting anyone - were a dry run for a

Reuters reveals details of probe into parcel fires

European officials say Russia is waging 'hybrid war'

Kremlin decries allegations as 'blind Russophobia'

future Russian plot to detonate similar packages in midair on cargo flights to the United States and Canada.

"With the war in Ukraine, these attacks have intensified, they became more frequent, more assertive," said Nicu Popescu, Moldova's deputy prime minister and foreign secretary until early last year and now distinguished policy fellow at the European Council on For-

eign Relations think-tank.

"Of course, this poses a risk to people, to citizens across the European Union."

The Kremlin rejected the accusation of Russia having a hand in the fires. "We know nothing about it," spokesman Dmitry Peskov told Reuters. "We do not rule out that this is just more fake news or a manifestation of blind Russophobia."

The Kremlin said European allegations of a Russian sabotage or hybrid campaign were wholly unsubstantiated. The package detonations took place July 19, 20 and 21 in the British city Birmingham, Leipzig in Germany and near the Polish capital Warsaw.

'Hands Off!' protests against Trump, Musk planned across US



REUTERS

Washington, April 5: Some 1,200 demonstrations are planned across the US Saturday in what organizers expect to be the largest single day of protest against President Donald Trump and his billionaire ally Elon Musk since the administration launched its rapid-fire effort to put a conservative stamp on government.

The "Hands Off!" protests will give Trump opponents an opportunity to demonstrate their displeasure en masse in response to Trump's sweeping makeover of US foreign and domestic policy through executive orders.

"This is an enormous demonstration that is sending a very clear message to Musk and Trump and congressional Republicans and all the goose-stepping allies of MAGA that we don't want their hands on our democracy, on our communities, on our schools and our freedoms," said Ezra Levin, co-founder of Indivisible, one of the groups organizing Saturday's events.

Some 150 activist groups have signed up to participate, according to the event's website.

Events are planned in all 50 states plus Canada, Britain, France, Germany, Mexico and Portugal. One of the biggest rallies is expected on Washington's National Mall.

Trump returned to office January 20 with a stream of executive orders and other measures critics say are aligned with an agenda outlined by Project 2025, a deeply conservative political initiative to reshape government and consolidate presidential authority. His supporters have applauded Trump's audacity as necessary to disrupt entrenched liberal interests.

White House assistant press secretary Liz Huston disputed the protesters' charge that Trump aimed to cut Social Security and Medicaid.

US starts collecting Trump's 10% tariff

REUTERS

Washington, April 5: US customs agents began collecting President Donald Trump's unilateral 10% tariff on all imports from many countries Saturday, with higher levies on goods from 57 larger trading partners due to start next week.

The initial 10% "baseline" tariff took effect at US seaports, airports and customs warehouses at 12:01 am, ushering in Trump's full rejection of the post-World War Two system of mutually agreed tariff rates.

"This is the single biggest trade action of our lifetime," said Kelly Ann Shaw, a trade lawyer at Hogan Lovells and former White House trade adviser during Trump's first term.

Shaw told a Brookings Institution event Thursday that she expected the tariffs to evolve over time as countries seek to negotiate lower rates. "But this is huge. This is a pretty seismic and significant shift in the way that we trade with every country on earth," she added.

Trump's Wednesday tariff announcement shook global stock markets to their core, wiping out \$5 trillion in stock market value for S&P 500 companies by Friday's close, a record two-day decline. Prices for



- Trump's tariffs impact global markets, causing \$5 trillion loss in S&P 500 value
- Countries like Australia, Britain, and Saudi Arabia face immediate 10% tariff
- Exemptions include crude oil, pharmaceuticals, and semiconductors from tariffs

oil and commodities plunged, while investors fled to the safety of government bonds.

Among the countries first hit with the 10% tariff are Australia, Britain, Colombia, Argentina, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. A US Customs and Border Protection bulletin to shippers indicates no grace period for cargoes on the water at midnight Saturday.

But a US Customs and Bor-

der Protection bulletin did provide a 51-day grace period for cargoes loaded onto vessels or planes and in transit to the US before 12:01 am Saturday. These cargoes need arrive by 12:01 am May 27 to avoid the 10% duty.

At the same hour Wednesday, Trump's higher "reciprocal" tariff rates of 11% to 50% are due to take effect. European Union imports will be hit with a 20% tariff, while Chinese goods will be hit with a 34% tariff, bringing Trump's total new levies on China to 54%.

Vietnam, which benefited from the shift of US supply chains away from China after Trump's first-term trade war with Beijing, will be hit with a 46% tariff and agreed Friday to discuss a deal with Trump.

UN urges relief efforts in Myanmar

Quake death toll reaches 3,354

REUTERS

Bangkok, April 5: The United Nations called for the world to rally behind quake-hit Myanmar Saturday as the death toll rose to 3,354, while a former US-AID official said a US aid team had received notice they were losing their jobs after arriving in the disaster zone.

In addition to those killed by the March 28 earthquake, 4,850 people were injured and another 220 are missing, state media said.

During a visit to Myanmar's second-biggest city, Mandalay, which was near the epicentre of the 7.7 magnitude quake, United Nations aid chief Tom Fletcher appealed for international support.

"The destruction is staggering. Lives lost. Homes

destroyed. Livelihoods shattered. But the resilience is incredible," he said in a post on X. "The world must rally behind the people of Myanmar."

Myanmar's neighbours, such as China, India and Southeast Asian nations, are among those that dispatched relief supplies and rescuers to aid the recovery effort in quake-hit areas that are home to about 28 million people over the past week.

The United States, which was until recently the world's top humanitarian donor, had pledged at least \$9 million to Myanmar to support earthquake-affected communities, but current and former US officials say the dismantling of its foreign aid program has affected its response. Three US Agency for International Development workers who had travelled to Myanmar after the quake were told they were being let go, Marcia Wong, a former senior US-AID official, told Reuters.



SNIPPETS

NK leader Kim visits military training base

Seoul: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un Friday visited the military training base of the special operation units of the Korean People's Army, state media reported Saturday. Kim mounted the observation post to watch the general tactical training and small-arms shooting contest conducted by combatants of various special operation units under the training program, KCNA state news agency said. "Strengthening of the special operation forces constitutes a major component of the army-building strategy at present," KCNA quoted Kim as saying. Kim said that strengthening special operations forces is a key part of the current military strategy, and he outlined a series of major tasks aimed at enhancing their operational capabilities. KCNA does not provide details of major tasks. Kim also conducted the test-fire of a sniper rifle, to be newly supplied to special operation units, and learned about its results, expressing satisfaction over the performance and power of the sniper rifle developed by North Korean technology.

Russia kills 19 in Kryvyi Rih

Kryvyi Rih: A Russian attack killed at least 19 people including nine children in the Ukrainian city of Kryvyi Rih Friday, local officials said, but Russia's Defence Ministry said it targeted a military gathering there. The Ukrainian military denounced the Russian statement as misinformation. Serhiy Lysak, the regional governor, wrote on the Telegram messaging app that a missile hit residential areas, killing 18, and sparked fires. Later, Russian drones attacked homes and killed one person, Oleksandr Vilkul, the city's military administrator, said. Pictures posted online showed bodies of the dead and wounded lying on the pavement as grey smoke rose into the sky. Russia's Defence Ministry, in a post on Telegram, said a "high-precision strike" had targeted "a meeting of unit commanders and Western instructors" in a restaurant.

SHORT TAKES

India extends helping hand to Myanmar

Mandalay (Myanmar): India Saturday delivered a large consignment of food aid to quake-hit Myanmar at Thilawa Port in the southern coastal area to the Yangon region's chief minister as part of its ongoing Operation Brahma. A massive 7.7 magnitude earthquake struck Myanmar, with an epicentre near here, March 28 and left over 3,100 dead. India launched Operation Brahma to provide necessary support, including Search and Rescue (SAR), humanitarian aid, disaster relief and medical assistance, following the devastating earthquake. India delivered the first tranche of Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief (HADR) material to Myanmar in less than 24 hours.

Indian stabbed to death in Canada

Ottawa: An Indian national was stabbed to death near Canada's Ottawa city and police have taken one suspect in custody, the Indian mission in the country said. The High Commission of India in Ottawa, the capital of Canada, said the incident happened in Rockland. It did not identify the victim. "We are deeply saddened by the tragic death of an Indian national in Rockland near Ottawa due to a stabbing. Police have stated a suspect has been taken into custody," The High Commission posted on X Friday. "We are in close contact through a local community association to provide all possible assistance to the bereaved kin," it said.

Awami League leader arrested in Bangladesh

Dhaka: An Awami League leader was arrested in Meherpur city of Bangladesh early Saturday, police said. MA Khalek, the Awami League party's general secretary in Meherpur district and former chairman of Gangni upazila parishad, is being interrogated on various matters, said Bani Israel, the Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Gangni Police Station. However, the specific reason for his arrest will be disclosed later, Daily Star Bangladesh quoted the official as saying. Khalek was removed from the post of UP chairman August 5. Khalek was arrested by Rapid Action Battalion members October 24 last year as he was a prime accused in a case related to the anti-discrimination student movement. He was later released on bail, the official said.



People gather during a demonstration to protest high housing costs in Barcelona, Spain, Saturday

PTI PHOTO

Iran's currency falls to record low against dollar

The exchange rate had plunged to over 1 million rials during the Persian New Year, Nowruz, as currency shops closed and only informal trading took place on the streets, creating additional pressure on the market

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tehran, April 5: Iran's rial currency traded Saturday at a record low against the US dollar as the country returned to work after a long holiday, cost-

ing over 1 million rials for a single greenback as tensions between Tehran and Washington likely will push it even lower.

The exchange rate had plunged to over 1 million rials during the Persian New Year, Nowruz, as currency shops closed and only informal trading took place on the streets, creating additional pressure on the market. But as traders resumed work Saturday, the rate fell even further to 1,043,000 to the dollar, signalling the new low appeared here to stay.

On Ferdowsi Street in Iran's capital, Tehran, the heart of the country's money exchanges, some traders even switched off their electronic signs showing



the going rate as uncertainty loomed over how much further the rial could drop.

"We turn it off since we are not sure about the successive changes of the rate," said Reza

Sharifi, who works at one exchange.

TENSIONS WITH US SQUEEZE THE RIAL Iran's economy has been severely affected by international

sanctions, particularly after US President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew America from Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers in 2018.

At the time of the 2015 deal, which saw Iran drastically limit its enrichment and stockpiling of uranium in exchange for lifting of international sanctions, the rial traded at 32,000 to the dollar.

After Trump returned to the White House for his second term in January, he restarted his so-called "maximum pressure" campaign targeting Tehran with sanctions.

He again went after firms trading Iranian crude oil, including those selling at a dis-

count in China.

Trump meanwhile has written to Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, trying to jumpstart direct talks between Tehran and Washington. So far, Iran has maintained it is willing for indirect talks, but such discussions under the Biden administration failed to make headway.

Meanwhile, Trump is continuing an intense airstrike campaign targeting the Iranian-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen, the last force in Tehran's self-described "Axis of Resistance" able to attack Israel after other militant groups were mauled by Israel during its war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

Business



What we need are smart engineers who roll up our sleeves and get it done. Keep in mind the vitamins and cancer cure argument - sequencing how we pay for our big tech ambition is very much part of the engineering problem that smart engineers must solve! We can do this
SIDHAR VEMBA | ZOHO FOUNDER

AI TURF WAR

As the artificial intelligence (AI) turf war escalates, Elon Musk-owned Grok and Chinese DeepSeek models now stand at the forefront of AI capability -- one optimised for accessibility and efficiency and the other for brute-force scale -- despite the vast disparity in training resources, a report showed Saturday.



of the day quote

In the last few months, I have met a few deep-tech companies that have absolutely blown me away. From AI and space tech to material science, Indian entrepreneurs are ready to take on the world. But capital and the ecosystem for growth and commercialisation are severely lacking,
ANUPAM MITTAL | FOUNDER OF SHAADI.COM

Paytm sandbox has been featured in small shops. Now we are talking about large shops who want muted soundboxes. It will allow us to go to large malls, shopping complexes where customers make high value purchases and make payment by phone
VIJAY SHEKHAR SHARMA | PAYTM FOUNDER AND CEO

We remain committed to creating welcoming spaces where friends and families can gather, celebrate special moments, and enjoy the consistent quality and service that have defined McDonald's globally for decades
SAURABH KALRA | MANAGING DIRECTOR, MCDONALD'S INDIA (WEST AND SOUTH)

US TARIFF HIKE

India steps up vigil on cheap Chinese imports

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, April 5: India has stepped up vigil to prevent the dumping of cheap Chinese imports in the country after the steep US tariff hike on the goods exported by the Communist country.

Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal is reported to have held a number of meetings to take stock of the situation. Government officials are also in touch with industry to get a wider view of the ground reality and formulate a strategy to protect the Indian economy.

The Commerce Ministry has already been keeping a close watch on goods such as steel from China which was hurting industry after the earlier round of tariff hike by the US. Now the vigil has been widened to other goods as well, a senior official confirmed.

While the US has hiked tariffs for all countries, China is the worst hit as the additional tariff of 34 per cent announced by President Donald Trump has ramped up the total duty to 54 per cent.

China has retaliated against the US tariff hike by increasing duties on all American goods by 34 per cent and placing export curbs on essential rare earth metals required for the vital electronics and defence industries.

China has also imposed restrictions on several US com-



panies, especially those in defence-related industries, in a tit-for-tat move.

India's exports to the US constitute only 4 per cent of its GDP, so the 27 per cent hike in tariffs on Indian goods announced by President Trump will have only a 'limited' impact, according to an SBI Research report.

The tariffs levied on India are the lowest among its Asian peers, compared to 34 per cent on China, 36 per cent on Thailand, 32 per cent on Indonesia, and 46 per cent on Vietnam. This is expected to give India a comparative advantage over these countries and result in an increase in exports in some sectors over the long term, the report states.

The higher tariff on textile export-oriented countries like

Bangladesh, China, and Vietnam may lead to lower demand due to inflationary pressures. However, in the long term, India stands to benefit as it endeavours to corner a larger share of the market. India's export to the USA on textile products is around \$7 billion during April-December, FY25. So, this sector may be impacted negatively in the short run but may have a positive impact in the long run, according to the report.

In electronics, China has a tariff of 54 per cent to 79 per cent, so India has a better position compared to the key electronics exporting countries. India's exports of electronics to the US were worth around \$9 billion during April-December of FY25, which holds the highest share of 15 per cent in total exports.

IT firms brace for tariff impact

REUTERS

Bangalore, April 5: India's \$283-billion IT sector should brace for a rough year ahead as tariffs are likely to stoke inflation in its key U.S. market and force clients to cut spending, analysts said.

Although President Donald Trump did not impose direct tariffs on IT services, Indian firms are expected to feel the heat as clients, especially in manufacturing, logistics and retail sectors, adjust to the new levies.

That could slow deal cycles, delay existing projects and hurt revenue growth, analysts said. Bernstein and ICICI Securities rushed to cut their ratings on the Indian IT sector soon after the tariff announcement.

The tariffs come at a time the sector was counting on Trump to revive client confidence and discretionary spending after years of weak revenue growth.

The U.S. accounts for more than half of India's \$190 billion software exports, making the sector sensitive to shifts in spending confidence among businesses in the world's larg-

est economy. J.P.Morgan on Friday lifted global and U.S. recession odds to 60% after Trump's tariff announcement.

"With a rising risk of U.S. recession and uncertain decision-making, we think chances of fiscal 2026 being a complete washout are rising," J.P. Morgan said in a note Friday, without giving specific numbers.

At least six analysts expect Indian IT firms to issue a "conservative" annual revenue growth forecast when quarterly results start next week.

Companies with a greater exposure to discretionary spending are expected to bear the brunt of any tariff-fueled slowdown.

"Discretionary IT spend will likely see an impact across the industry verticals. Companies to get impacted will typically be the high-growth companies in the large caps and some of the mid-caps where the exposure usually is much higher on the discretionary side," BNP Paribas analyst Kumar Rakesh said.

He added the impact of a potential slowdown could be apparent by the September quarter.



NPS corpus shoots up to ₹14.4L-crore



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, April 5: The National Pension System (NPS) has emerged as a cornerstone of India's pension sector with an accumulated corpus of ₹14.4 lakh crore and 8.4 crore subscribers under NPS and the Atal Pension Yojana (APY), according to PFRDA chairman Deepak Mohanty.

Speaking at the first International Research Conference on Pension 2025 here, Mohanty said the focus of the pension system remains on expanding coverage, ensuring financial sustainability, and building a pension-inclusive society for future generations.

The two-day event was organised by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA), to mark a historic milestone in India's journey toward robust old-age income security.

Minister of State for Finance, Pankaj Chaudhary, said India's demographic landscape is rapidly changing and with 19 per cent of the population projected to be elderly by the mid-century, securing financial independence through inclusive pension schemes is not merely a goal, but a vital need for the country.

"Pension for All" must become a national priority, requiring policy action to ensure a dignified and secure future for our aging population, he added. Nagaraju Maddirala, Secretary, Department of Financial Services, highlighted that India's pension framework stands at a pivotal moment of transformation and through the launch of the Unified Pension System and efforts to broaden coverage, the government is creating a robust foundation for secure retirement.

UPS provides an assured pension of 50 per cent of the average basic pay drawn over the last 12 months prior to superannuation. India's pension assets, constituting roughly 17 per cent of GDP, fall far short of the OECD average, where they typically exceed 80 per cent, revealing a stark disparity in retirement readiness.

Experts also held discussions at the conference to explore strategies adopted by various countries for enhanced pension coverage, building a sustainable pension system and challenges faced in inclusion of informal sector and gig economy workers. This was followed by the session titled 'Global Lessons on New and Innovative Investment Practices in the Pension Industry,' which showcased innovative investment methods, approaches for the product design and sharing of international success stories to inspire India's pension sector.

SHORT TAKES

Trent's revenue up 28.2% to ₹4,334 cr

New Delhi: Tata Group retail firm Trent Ltd standalone revenue for the March quarter rose 28.2 per cent to ₹4,334 crore, as per a quarterly update filed by the company Saturday. For the financial year that ended on March 31, 2025, Trent's standalone revenue rose 39 per cent to ₹17,624 crore. It was at ₹12,669 crore a year ago in FY24. Trent's standalone revenue for the year-ago period was at ₹3,381 crore, according to a regulatory filing from the company, which operates retail stores under the brand names as Westside, Zudio, and Star.

Delhivery to acquire Ecom Express

New Delhi: Logistics services provider Delhivery Ltd Saturday announced acquisition of Ecom Express Ltd for a cash consideration of about ₹1,400 crore to scale up its business. In a regulatory filing, the company said it has "signed a definitive agreement to acquire a controlling stake in Ecom Express Ltd for a cash consideration of around ₹1,400 crore from its shareholders". The company's board approved the "acquisition of shares equivalent to at least 99.4 per cent of the issued and paid up share capital, on a fully diluted basis, of Ecom Express Ltd for a purchase consideration not exceeding ₹1,407 crore."

Tata Capital files draft papers for IPO

New Delhi: Tata Group financial services firm Tata Capital has filed draft papers with markets regulator Sebi for a USD 2 billion initial public offering (IPO) through a confidential pre-filing route. At this size, the company is expected to be valued around USD 11 billion, according to sources. In a stock exchange filing, Tata Capital said, "The company has filed the Pre-filed Draft Red Herring Prospectus dated April 4, 2025, under the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2018, with Sebi, BSE, and NSE in connection with its Initial Public Offering of equity shares of face value of ₹10 each."

'Financial system has become more resilient'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, April 5: India's financial system has become more resilient and diverse, driven by rapid economic growth, and regulatory framework in securities markets has been enhanced in line with international practice to manage and prevent emerging risks, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) said on Saturday, citing a latest IMF-Financial System Stability Assessment (FSSA) report.

The markets regulator said, in a statement, that the financial sector in India has shown recovery from various distress episodes of the 2010s and withstood the pandemic well.

"In terms of evolution of the financial sector landscape, the Non-Banking Financial Intermediaries (NBFI) sector has become diverse but more interconnected. Banks and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) have sufficient aggregate capital to support moderate lending even in severe macro-financial scenarios," the SEBI said, citing the

IMF report findings.

On regulation and supervision of NBFCs, the IMF acknowledged India's systematic approach for prudential requirements of NBFCs with scale based regulatory framework.

The IMF also appreciated India's approach on introduction of bank-like Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) for large NBFCs.

For supervision of banks, the IMF suggested strengthening credit risk management through "IFSR 9 adoption and upgrading supervision over individual loans, collateral valuation, connected borrower groups, large exposure limits, and related-party transactions".

The report further stated that notable improvements include establishing the Corporate Debt Market Development Fund (CD-MDF), introducing swing pricing, and liquidity requirements for bond mutual funds.

The regulatory scope has also been expanded over emerging areas such as sustainability and investor protection measures for fast-growing equity derivatives products, according to the IMF-FSSA report.

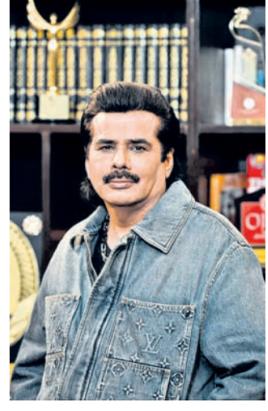
'Strike gold' with smart buying during corrections: Hans

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, April 5: As gold prices continue their upward march, hitting new record highs regularly amid global uncertainties, buying the yellow metal - whether it be in the form of jewellery or as an investment asset - seems to have become an increasingly tricky proposition, according to bullion experts.

However, at a time when gold has breached the ₹93,000 (per 10 grams) mark in India, Lalchnd Jewellers founder chairman Sunjoy Hans, a long-time observer of the gold industry, says "time and timing" are of the essence for jewellery buyers and gold investors in the current volatile scenario.

Noting that the current gold price has already taken into consideration the US Federal Reserve's interest rate cuts, central bank buying and the cross-sectoral global impact of US President Donald Trump's tariff, in ad-



dition to the fact that the precious metal has touched its year-end target long before it was earlier expected to, Hans reckons that the gold market is overheated and a correction is imminent. Many industry experts across the world agree that gold rate will fluctuate considerably in the coming days. "I think here's where

timing is important. From now onwards, over the next month or two, whenever there is a price correction, buyers and investors will do well to use every opportunity they get to buy gold," Hans advises.

While also suggesting that gold investors may currently hedge their bets by booking profits and investing those in silver, what with the white metal being widely deemed an extremely attractive investment these days thanks to heavy demand and limited supply, Hans points out that the outlook for gold is "no less".

"The way the world is in these times, there is really no limit to the upside of gold. The corrections, no matter how deep, will be temporary as they have always been historically. But the price rise has been permanent when you look at the timeline. It won't be too long before you see gold rate hovering around ₹1,35,000 (per 10 grams)," Hans asserts.

Trump tariffs wipe \$5 trillion off Wall Street

REUTERS

Orlando, April 5: One of the most pivotal weeks in years - even decades - for the global economy closed Friday to the sound of the Nasdaq crashing into a bear market as investors fear U.S. President Donald Trump's trade war will tip the world into recession.

Less than 48 hours after Trump raised tariff barriers to the highest in over a century, China Friday said it would slap additional 34% duties on all U.S. imports, escalating the global trade war to new, dangerous heights.

Any hopes investors had of Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell coming to the rescue by signaling a readiness to cut interest rates - as Trump had appeared to pressure him into

doing in a social media post earlier in the day - were dashed, as Powell stressed the "elevated risks" to both growth and inflation.

This 'wait and see' approach rattled Wall Street further - the S&P 500's 6% slump meant the index's market cap plunged \$5 trillion in just two days.

The Fed is in a real bind, faced with the rapidly rising risk of recession and soaring price pressures. Treasuries may have been caught between these two stools on Friday, but it is crystal clear where rates traders are putting their money - four rate cuts are fully priced in for this year, starting in June.

However, given the ferocity of the equity market selloff, collapse in confidence and extraordinarily uncertain



outlook, it wouldn't be a total shock if the Fed cut rates at its May 6-7 meeting. Indeed, could an inter-meeting move be ruled out if the market rout continues next week?

This is the heaviest slide across global stocks since the pandemic in 2020. But unlike

that crash and the Global Financial Crisis in 2008, the current turmoil on Wall Street is a result of clear-headed policy choices made by a government that would have known this kind of outcome was distinctly possible, if not highly likely.

Many analysts reckon this

hasn't been seen before. Some of the economic and market numbers that have been seared into investors' consciousness this week haven't been seen for a long time either.

Economists at Barclays now reckon U.S. inflation will exceed 4% this year while GDP will contract in the fourth quarter, a move "consistent with recession".

The rest of the world won't escape the pain. Economists at Citi say up to one percentage point will be knocked off euro zone growth this year, pushing the bloc to the brink of recession, while China could suffer a similar blow to its GDP growth, which they say was already slowing to sub-5%.

With global demand set to suddenly slow, if not contract, oil prices Friday slumped more

than 6% for a second straight day. Brent crude futures hit a four-year low near \$62 a barrel, and are now down 26% from a year ago.

And last, but by no means least, for a brief moment on Friday the benchmark two-year Swiss government bond yield fell below zero. Granted, it is Switzerland, where official rates are just 0.25%. But there aren't many clearer signs that investors are worried.

Markets will be closed at the weekend but the lines of communication between policymakers around the world will very much be open, as governments frantically try to de-escalate the global trade war and central bankers weigh up their policy response. Monday promises to be another rocky ride.

DC break 15-yr jinx at Chepauk

Rahul-inspired Delhi Capitals crush Chennai Super Kings by 25 runs, become new table toppers



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, April 5: Delhi Capitals maintained their unbeaten run in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 with a 25-run win over five-time champions Chennai Super Kings at the MA Chidambaram Stadium here Saturday. DC are the new table toppers of the ongoing tournament by winning a game in Chepauk for the first time after 2010.

DC's win was set up by KL Rahul slamming a superb 77 as an opener, after Faf du Plessis was unfit to play, and propelled them to post 183/6. In reply, CSK suffered yet another poor batting power-play as DC were

bang on with their plans. With the pitch not being conducive for hitting boundaries freely, it meant they could only make 158/5, with Vijay Shankar making 69 not out off 54 balls. For DC, Vipraj Nigam took 2-27, while bowlers, barring Mohit Sharma and Axar Patel, took a wicket each.

DC's defence of 183 began on a bright note as Rachin Ravindra tried to flick off Mukesh Kumar, but the leading edge was caught by the bowler in his follow-through, and the batter was dismissed for three.

Ruturaj Gaikwad fell into Mitchell Starc's short-ball trap as his short-arm jab went into

TODAY'S MATCH

Indian Premier League

VS

Time: 07:30 pm

Telecast: Star Sports Network
Stream: JioHotstar

the hands of a deep backward square leg, and he was out for five. It was Nigam's time to strike as Devon Conway's leading edge off a googly was caught by cover, and the power-play ended at 46/3.

With the pitch slowing down,

DC were successful in keeping Shankar and Shivam Dube on a tight leash. The ploy of stifling the run-flow worked well as Dube holed out to long-on off Nigam for 18, and was followed by Kuldeep Yadav using his googly to trap Ravindra Jadeja lbw for two.

Shankar dropped on 18 and 27 apart from surviving a run-out and DC not going for a plumb lbw appeal, broke CSK's 28-ball boundary drought by pulling Mohit for four, before swivelling and punching Kuldeep for a brace of boundaries.

Even though Shankar reached his fifty off 43 balls and MS Dhoni brought out some big hits after overcoming

SCORECARD

Delhi Capitals: Jake Fraser-McGurk c Ashwin b Khaleel 0, KL Rahul c Dhoni b Pathirana 77, Abhishek Porel c Pathirana b Jadeja 33, Axar Patel b Noor 21, Sameer Rizvi c Jadeja b Khaleel 20, Tristan Stubbs not out 24, Ashutosh Sharma run out (Dhoni/Jadeja) 1, Vipraj Nigam not out 1.
Extras: 6 (lb-1, w-5); **Total:** 183/6 in 20 overs; Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-54, 3-90, 4-146, 5-179, 6-180;
Bowling: Khaleel Ahmed 4-0-25-2, Mukesh Choudhary 4-0-50-0, Ravichandran Ashwin 3-0-21-0, Ravindra Jadeja 2-0-19-1, Noor Ahmad 3-0-36-1, Matheesha Pathirana 4-0-31-1.

Chennai Super Kings: Rachin Ravindra c&b Mukesh 3, Devon Conway c Axar b Nigam 13, Ruturaj Gaikwad c Fraser-McGurk b Starc 5, Vijay Shankar not out 69, Shivam Dube c Stubbs b Nigam 18, Ravindra Jadeja lbw b Kuldeep 2, MS Dhoni not out 30.
Extras: 18 (lb-6, nb-2, w-10); **Total:** 158/5 in 20 overs; Fall of wickets: 1-14, 2-20, 3-41, 4-65, 5-74; **Bowling:** Mitchell Starc 4-0-27-1, Mukesh Kumar 4-0-36-1, Mohit Sharma 3-0-27-0, Vipraj Nigam 4-0-27-2, Kuldeep Yadav 4-0-30-1, Axar Patel 1-0-5-0.

IPL POINT TABLE

TEAM	M	W	L	NRR	PTS
DC	3	3	0	1.257	6
RCB	3	2	1	1.149	4
GT	3	2	1	0.807	4
PBKS	3	2	1	0.074	4
KKR	4	2	2	0.070	4
LSG	4	2	2	0.048	4
RR	4	2	2	-0.185	4
MI	4	1	3	0.108	2
CSK	4	1	3	-0.891	2
SRH	4	1	3	-1.612	2

a slow start, especially doing that in front of his parents, wife, and daughter, to be not out on 30 off 26 balls, it wasn't enough to prevent a second straight home loss for a struggling CSK in IPL 2025.

Rajasthan Royals spoil Punjab's homecoming

Archer, Sharma, and Theekshana shine as Rajasthan hand Punjab Kings 50-run defeat



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mullanpur, April 5: Rising star Yashasvi Jaiswal's timely return to form with a sparkling fifty and fiery blows from Jofra Archer spoiled Punjab Kings' homecoming as Rajasthan Royals' secured a handsome 50-run win in the IPL here Saturday.

Once Rajasthan built a tall 205 for four around Jaiswal's stroke-filled 67, it was never going to be easy for Punjab and they were limited to 155 for 9. Nehal Wadhwa played a lone hand with a 41-ball 62 for them.

Archer (3/25), seamer Sandeep Sharma (2/21) and spinner Maheesh Theekshana (2/26) also bowled with precision, while Kumar Kartikeya and Wanindu Hasaranga provided fine support.

In fact, Punjab's chase never got the desired lift-off. Archer set the tone for target-defence with a ripping start, dismissing Priyansh Arya (0) and the in-form Shreyas Iyer (10) in successive overs -- just when the latter looked threatening while slamming two terrific shots off the English pacer.

Arya went for a big swing but got it all wrong, exposing his stumps to be castled emphatically. The in-form Iyer, who was yet to be dismissed in the tournament with scores of 97* and 52* from two innings, looked in sublime touch. He crunched a drive over

extra cover and followed it up with another gorgeous shot through the off-side. But Archer had the last laugh, hurrying Iyer with sheer pace as the batter's effort to get inside-out resulted in him getting bowled.

From a precarious 43/4 after the Power Play, Punjab Kings' hopes were revived through a fighting 88-run fifth-wicket partnership between Wadhwa and Glenn Maxwell (30 off 21) that came off just 52 balls.

Earlier, the 23-year-old Jaiswal, who had endured a lean patch in the opening three games with scores of 1, 29 and 4, roared back to form with a fluent 40-ball fifty (3x4, 5x6) just when the spotlight on him was shifting off the field following his surprise move from Ranji heavyweights Mumbai to minnows Goa.

Shutting the noise around him, Jaiswal and skipper Sanju Samson (38 off 26 balls) gave RR their best start of the season with an opening stand of 89 after PBKS skipper Iyer opted to bowl.

Brief scores: Rajasthan Royals 205 for 4 in 20 overs (Yashasvi Jaiswal 67, Sanju Samson 38, Riyan Parag 43 not out; Lockie Ferguson 2/37) beat Punjab Kings 155 for 9 in 20 overs (Nehal Wadhwa 62, Glenn Maxwell 40; Jofra Archer 3/25, Sandeep Sharma 2/21, Maheesh Theekshana 2/26)

SHORT TAKES

NZ whitewash Pak

Mount Maunganui: Stand-in skipper Michael Bracewell hailed a complete team performance as New Zealand wrapped up a clinical 43-run win over Pakistan in the third and final ODI at Mount Maunganui Saturday to complete a 3-0 series whitewash. In a rain-curtailed contest at the Bay Oval, the Black Caps showcased their depth and discipline once again, capping off the home summer on a high. Asked to bat first in the 42-over-per-side game, New Zealand posted a competitive 264/8, thanks to Bracewell's fireworks and a composed half-century from youngster Rhy Mariu in only his second ODI. Though the conditions had been challenging following heavy rain, the skipper credited the groundsmen for producing a quality pitch.

Verstappen takes pole

Suzuka: Max Verstappen of Red Bull will start from pole position in the Japanese Grand Prix after turning in the top time in qualifying Saturday in his final attempt. Lando Norris of McLaren will start alongside Sunday with teammate Oscar Piastri on the second row with Charles Leclerc of Ferrari. Verstappen claimed the pole on his final lap, setting a lap-record for the Japanese circuit of 1 minute 26.983 seconds. It was his 41st pole. Verstappen was asked how this ranked among his many accomplishments in F1.

Pant, Digvesh penalised

Lucknow: Lucknow Super Giants skipper Rishabh Pant copped a fine of Rs 12 lakh for maintaining slow over-rate during their 12-run victory over Mumbai Indians in an IPL match here Saturday. The stipulated time for a bowling team to finish 20 overs is 90 minutes and Pant's LSG were running short after the 19th over due to which, they were forced to keep one fielder less outside the 30-yard circle. Meanwhile, LSG's trump card Digvesh Rathi has now been fined 50 percent of his match fees for the second successive time after breaching Level-1 code of conduct of IPL. Rathi was also docked half of his match fees for his over the top wicket-taking celebration against Punjab Kings.

Clinical Jamwal storms into World Boxing final

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 5: Abhinash Jamwal delivered a near-perfect performance against Italy's Gianluigi Malanga to storm into the 65kg final of the World Boxing Cup Brazil 2025 at Foz Do Iguacu Friday.

The 22-year-old Indian used his tall frame and athleticism to stay clear of Malanga's reach but was quick enough to pounce when his opponent's guard was down to earn a 5:0 unanimous verdict.

Four of the five judges awarded Jamwal a perfect 30, with all the five judges awarding the first and third rounds to the Indian unanimously. Malanga had to even face a countdown in the first round itself, putting him on the back foot for the rest of the bout. Earlier, Hitesh became the first Indian to reach the World Boxing Cup final after defeating French Olympian Makan Traore in the 70kg weight category.

The Indian pugilist adopted a cautious approach at the start against Olympian Traore but was always on the lookout for the counterattack.



The strategy allowed Hitesh to control the pace of the bout and though he received a penalty in the third and final round, the end result was never in doubt.

While Hitesh will take on England's Odel Kamara, Jamwal will face off against local favourite Yuri Reis in the final. However, Manish Rathore's campaign in the 55kg category ended at the semifinal stage, as he went down 0:5 to Kazakhstan's Nursultan Altynbek.

This is the first global elite boxing event organised by World Boxing in which Indian boxers are participating, and the 10-member contingent has once again showcased its ability to challenge the world's best, with two reaching the final and four others making it to the last four rounds.

SHOOTING WORLD CUP

Sift wins India's first gold, Esha bags silver

India now have one medal of each colour at the ongoing ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun, after Chain Singh had won bronze in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions (3P) and Sift Kaur Samra, gold in women's 3P

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, April 5: Indian shooter Sift Kaur Samra produced a sensational come-from-behind performance to win her first individual ISSF World Cup gold in the women's 50m rifle 3-positions final, while Esha Singh bagged a second individual World Cup silver in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The 23-year-old Sift from Faridkot thus earned India its first gold of the season-opening World Cup stage event at the Tiro Federal Argentino de Buenos Aires shooting range late Friday.

The world record holder was



a huge 7.2 points behind Anita Mangold of the Germany after 15-shots in the first kneeling position. However, she staged a dream comeback in the second Prone and final Standing positions to win by a canter in the end.

Sift finished with 458.6 points at the end of the 45-shot final, while Mangold ended 3.3 points behind on 455.3.

Junior World Championship medallist Arina Altukhova of Kazakhstan was third, bowing out after the 44th shot with a tally of 445.9.

India now have three medals

-- a gold, a silver and a bronze won earlier in the men's 3P by Chain Singh -- in the competition.

Sift did extremely well to qualify in top spot with a strong 590, when the likes of reigning Olympic champion Chiara Leone and former Olympic champion Nina Christen, both from Switzerland, could not make the top eight.

A host of Olympic medallists like Alexandria Le of Kazakhstan and Mary Tucker of the US, also could not cross the qualifying hurdle.

Air Pistol Mixed Team world

champion Esha tallied 35 in the women's 25m pistol final to finish behind China's Sun Yujie, who won gold with 38 hits after the 10th and final five-shot series.

Sun's compatriot Feng Sixun won bronze. Double Olympic medallist Manu Bhaker, who also made the final, finished sixth eventually.

Indian shooters had to first qualify for the final-eight early Saturday morning, and Manu, who was fourth overnight, returned a fine 294 in the second rapid-fire round to qualify in third spot, with a total of 585.

Muller to leave Bayern Munich after 25 glorious years

The midfielder made his Bayern debut under Jürgen Klinsmann in 2008. He joined the club's academy at age 10 in the summer of 2000

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Munich, April 5: Thomas Muller will end his "incredible journey" with Bayern Munich this summer after 25 years at his boyhood club.

The 35-year-old midfielder, whose contract is set to expire after the season, made the announcement Saturday in a joint statement with Bayern.

Muller has helped Bayern win a record 12 Bundesliga titles and two Champions League crowns -- 33 trophies in total, the team said. But his playing time has been limited recently.

"It's clear that today is not like any other day for me," Muller said. "My 25 years as an FC Bayern Munich player will come to an end in the summer. It's been an incredible journey, shaped by unique experiences, great encounters and unforgettable triumphs.

Muller made his Bayern de-



but under Jürgen Klinsmann in 2008 and his breakthrough came under Louis van Gaal the

following season. He joined the club's academy at age 10 in the summer of 2000.

I feel immense gratitude and joy that I got to make this career with my beloved club. The special connection to the club and our fantastic fans will always remain. What I want as a farewell should be clear: titles we can celebrate together, and moments we'll remember fondly for a long time

THOMAS MULLER

He's scored 247 goals and has made a club-record number of appearances with 743 matches.

There could be more titles to come. Bayern leads the Bundesliga and faces Inter Milan in

the Champions League quarter-finals. "We're going to give our all in the coming weeks to bring the league title back to Munich and reach our coveted Finale Dahoam! Let's do it together!"

The team said Muller's final game with Bayern will be at the FIFA Club World Cup in the United States in June and July.

"Thomas Muller is the definition of a Bavarian fairy-tale career; he grew in Bavaria and with Bayern," club president Herbert Hainer said. "Nobody has won more Bundesliga titles, and 33 trophies in total so far speak volumes. He ranks among the most outstanding personalities in FC Bayern history."