



Deepika's journey

Deepika Padukone, during a candid conversation, reflects on her personal journey and experiences in cinema

LEISURE | P2



Pressure tactics

Pak PM Shehbaz Sharif urges brotherly countries to impress upon India to de-escalate after Pahalgam terror attack

INTERNATIONAL | P10



S&P cuts GDP forecast

S&P Global Ratings cuts India's growth projections by 0.2 percentage points to 6.3 per cent for the current fiscal year

BUSINESS | P11



Pickleball recognised

Indian Pickleball Association now officially recognised by the government to act as the national sports federation

SPORTS | P12

State govt approves industrial projects worth ₹3,898 crore

Bhubaneswar, May 2: The state government Friday approved 19 projects worth ₹3,898 crore, which are expected to generate employment for over 7,400 people.

According to an official statement, the State Level Single Window Clearance Authority (SLSWCA) meeting, chaired by Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja, has given its nod to the proposals spanning various sectors such as steel, iron & ferro alloys, industrial gases, logistics, food and beverage, agro-processing, tourism and hospitality, chemicals, metal downstream, and apparel and textile.

The projects are proposed to be grounded in Angul, Balasore, Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Ganjam, Jajpur, Keonjhar, Khurda, Koraput, Sambalpur and Sundargarh districts, it said.

The state has approved the proposal of Sree Metaliks Limited to expand its integrated steel plant in Keonjhar with an investment of ₹885 crore, it said.

The proposal of Tata Steel to enhance its crude steel capacity from the proposed 6.5 million tonne per annum (MTPA) to 7.1 MTPA with an additional investment of ₹700 crore was also green-lighted by the panel.

Lal Baba Seamless Tubes Pvt Ltd proposed to establish a precision tube manufacturing facility in Cuttack with an investment of ₹200 crore while Surlon India Ltd will set up a railway component manufacturing unit in Sundargarh for ₹55 crore.

Both projects were approved by the Odisha government, the statement said. Among others, the SLSWCA also approved the proposals of Linde India Ltd (₹425 crore), Bhuvaneshwari Foods & Beverages Pvt Ltd (₹300 crore), ACME Clean Energy Pvt Ltd (₹366.50 crore), and Vasanth Vihar Constructions (₹134.50 crore).

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Notebandi stopped terrorism, women's reservation brought equality - caste census will bring social justice too



NATURE'S FURY: Roads closed as large waves batter the Wellington coastline in New Zealand, Friday

AP/PTI PHOTO

Kharge: No strategy from govt after Pahalgam attack

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 2: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge Friday said the government had not come out with any clear strategy to deal with the situation arising out of the Pahalgam terror attack, even as he asserted that the entire opposition was with the Centre on the issue.

In his remarks at the Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting at the party's 24, Akbar Road office, Kharge also said the government had accepted the party's demand for a caste survey but the timing 'surprised' him. He, however, raised doubts over the government's intentions and asked party leaders to remain alert to take the caste survey to a logical conclusion.

The Congress president credited former party chief Rahul Gandhi for the government's decision to conduct a caste survey, saying the Opposition leader in the Lok Sabha had again proved that if "we raise the issues of the people with honesty, the government has to bow down."

Noting that the party had extended all possible support to the Centre in the fight against terrorism at the last CWC meeting, Kharge said no clear strategy had come from the government even several days after the Pahalgam attack.

Puri: The only Jagannath Dham

West Bengal's naming of a newly-built Jagannath temple at Digha as 'Jagannath Dham' has come in for severe flak from devotees, priests and researchers, who have called for the removal of this 'self-styled' title as it hurts the sentiments of millions of devotees of Lord Jagannath across the world. They assert that only Puri should be referred to as 'Jagannath Dham' as is mentioned in scriptures and has been the practice over centuries. Scholars contend that it was Adi Shankaracharya who established four 'Dhams' in four corners of India - Puri in east, Dwarka in west, Badrinath in north and Rameswaram in south - and renaming any other temple as 'Dham' goes against the tradition and tenets of Hindu beliefs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 2: Amid a row over the West Bengal government's portrayal of the newly inaugurated Digha temple as 'Jagannath Dham' and alleged use of surplus wood of the Puri shrine in the construction of idols there, state Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan Friday asked the Shree Jagannath

Temple Administration (SJTA) to inquire into the matter.

The state government's move came after local media reported that some Puri servitors had attended the consecration ceremony at the Digha temple and used leftover 'neem' wood from the 2015 'Nabakalebara' to make the idols for the shrine in the neighbouring state.

Devotees, priests, scholars and pundits have demanded the removal of the 'Jagannath Dham' label from the Digha temple. Keeping in view the statewide outrage over the twin issues, Harichandan wrote a letter to SJTA Chief Administrator Arabinda Padhee and asked him to conduct an internal investigation into the entire incident and make arrangements to bring the truth to the public. "If anyone is found guilty in this incident or is knowingly causing such an incident, the temple's chief administrator may take steps to punish them with the permission of the state government," the minister said in the letter.

Harichandan said that the recent incidents have hurt the religious sentiments of devotees and the 4.5 crore people of Odisha.

An accusing finger is being



pointed at Ramakrushna Dasmohapatra, the secretary of 'Daitapati Nijog', a group of servitors who serve the Lord during Rath Yatra. He rejected the charge.

"I had attended the consecration ceremony at Digha temple following an invitation from my disciple Mamata Banerjee. I have monitored the entire procedure. But I never said that the wood from the Puri temple was used for idol making at Digha," Dasmohapatra said.

Addressing a press conference at Puri, Dasmohapatra admitted that he had taken wooden idols from Puri, but not used the leftover 'neem' wood of Puri temple. "I have also not talked

about it to any television channel in the Bengali language. I have also not told anything regarding the installation of 'Brahma'," he clarified. Local television channels showed Dasmohapatra speaking to a Bengali news channel that he had used leftover neem wood from the 2015 Nabakalebara to make the idols at the Digha temple.

Deputy Chief Minister KV Singh Deo said Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi is aware of the development, but urged everyone to "not jump the gun."

"I know there are four Shankaracharyas in four Dhams. I have limited knowledge and am not as wise as her (Banerjee). I know there are four Dhams in India. Let her justify why she called the Digha temple a 'Dham'," he said. There can be several Jagannath temples in the country, but Puri is the only Jagannath 'Dham', the deputy CM asserted.

The issue gradually snowballed into a major controversy after many priests, researchers, servitors and scholars reject calling the Digha temple a 'Dham'. While most critics welcomed the establishment of the temple in Digha, they opposed linking the term 'Dham' with it.

96% students clear Class X board exams

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cuttack, May 2: More than 96 per cent of the students who appeared for the Matriculation (Class-10) examinations-2025 under the Odisha Board of Secondary Education (BSE) cleared the exams, School Mass Education Minister Nityananda Gond said Friday.

The 10th Board examinations in Odisha are conducted under three streams - the High School Certificate Examination for Regular students, Madhyama Examination for Sanskrit students, and the State Open School Certificate (SOSC) examination for school dropouts.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi congratulated the students who passed the High School Certificate Examination. In an X post, he also said, "I advise the children who have not got promising results not to get discouraged and to continue working hard with strong willpower and self-confidence regardless of the results. I wish everyone a bright future and further success."

Expressing satisfaction over the conduct of the examinations and the timely publication of the results, Gond congratulated the successful students for registering better grades than those in previous years.

"More students have passed securing higher grades," the minister said, adding that all candidates in 3,273 schools cleared the exams and not a single institute has the dubious distinction of registering not a single pass among the candidates. In all three streams of examination, a total of 5,19,728 students had filled up their application forms this year to appear for the tests. Of them, 5,10,925 students appeared for the tests in all the subjects, of which 5,10,925 students (96.27 per cent) passed.

Among regular students, 1812 passed in A1 grade, securing more than 90 per cent. While 12,200 students passed in A2 grade, getting between 80 and 89 per cent marks, 38,831 students passed in B1 grade (between 70 and 79 per cent), and 84,971 students passed in B2 grade, securing marks between 60 and 69 per cent.

Failed launch to Venus: Soviet-era spacecraft to fall to Earth

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cape Canaveral, May 2: A Soviet-era spacecraft meant to land on Venus in the 1970s is expected to soon plunge uncontrolled back to Earth, possibly within the first two weeks of May.

It's too early to know where the half-tonne mass of metal might come down or how much of it will survive reentry, according to space debris-tracking experts.

Dutch scientist Marco Langbroek predicts the failed spacecraft will reenter around May 10. He estimates it will come crashing in at 242 kph, if it remains intact.

"While not without risk, we should not be too worried," Langbroek said in an email. The object is relatively small

and, even if it doesn't break apart, "the risk is similar to that of a random meteorite fall, several of which happen each year. You run a bigger risk of getting hit by lightning in your lifetime," he said.

The chance of the spacecraft actually hitting someone or something is small, he added. "But it cannot be completely excluded."

The Soviet Union launched the spacecraft known as Kosmos 482 in 1972, one of a series of Venus missions. But it never made it out of Earth orbit because of a rocket malfunction.

Most of it came tumbling down within a decade. But Langbroek and others believe the landing capsule itself — a spherical object about 1 metre in diameter — has been circling the world in a highly elliptical



This file photo provided by researcher Jane Greaves shows the planet Venus, seen from the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency's Akatsuki probe

The Soviet Union launched Kosmos 482 in 1972. But it never made it out of Earth's orbit because of a rocket malfunction

It is expected to soon plunge uncontrolled back to Earth, possibly within the first two weeks of May

orbit for the past 53 years, gradually dropping in altitude.

It's quite possible that the nearly 500-kg spacecraft will survive reentry. It was built to withstand a descent through the carbon dioxide-thick atmosphere of Venus, said Langbroek of Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands.

Experts doubt the parachute system would work after so many

years. The heat shield may also be compromised after so long in orbit.

It would be better if the heat shield fails, which would cause the spacecraft to burn up during its dive through the atmosphere, the Harvard-Smithsonian Centre for Astrophysics' Jonathan McDowell said in an email. But if the heat shield holds, "it'll reenter intact and you have a half-ton metal object falling from the sky."

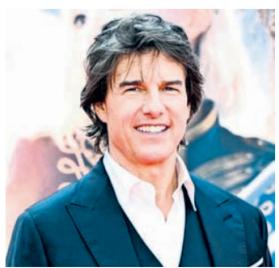
The spacecraft could reenter anywhere between 51.7 degrees north and south latitude, or as far north as London and Edmonton in Alberta, Canada, almost all the way down to South America's Cape Horn. But since most of the planet is water, "chances are good it will indeed end up in some ocean," Langbroek said.

India blocks Pak PM's YouTube channel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi: Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's YouTube channel was blocked in India Friday amid ongoing tension between the two countries following the deadly terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam. "The content is currently unavailable in this country because of an order from the government related to national security or public order. For more details about government removal requests, please visit the Google Transparency Report," read a message on the blocked channel. The government had earlier this week blocked 16 Pakistani YouTube channels for allegedly disseminating "false, provocative and communally sensitive content" about India and has also strongly objected to the BBC's reportage on the Pahalgam attack. The government's move follows recommendations from the Ministry of Home Affairs in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack.

leisure



TOM CRUISE'S SECRET TO PREPARING FOR STUNTS

Hollywood action legend Tom Cruise shared his secret to preparing for thrilling aerial stunts – a ‘massive breakfast.’ The action legend hanged off a military plane in the opening scene of *Mission: Impossible - Rogue Nation*, and has done numerous nail-biting aerial sequences in the film series.

JEREMY RENNER ON WHY HE TURNED DOWN HAWKEYE 2

Jeremy Renner declined doing *Hawkeye 2* because he was offered lower pay after his fatal snow plough accident. In an interview, the actor claimed he was offered “half” of his salary from the first season of the Disney+ series in which he starred as the titular character.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You have ideas aplenty! And you want to roll them out to anyone who will hear them. You are also in a mood to love and give. Are you thinking of taking your grandmother to the beauty parlour for a makeover? Ganesha approves.

TAURUS
Today is the day of showing care and concern to all family members, says Ganesha. There is a possibility that you may feel estranged from your spouse and your relationship might be in danger of hitting the dead end. Stay calm and avoid escalating the tension, for the sake of your family, if nothing else, advises Ganesha.

GEMINI
Today is an auspicious and fruitful day for you. You will become excited by every very small accomplishments. You will need to fulfill the demands made upon you by your family and friends. You will probably find yourself balancing the cheque book at home, or buying appliances for the house, says Ganesha.

CANCER
A lot can happen over a cup of coffee, and today a lot will. Things will be moving quite swiftly today; a little too swiftly to your liking. You will get a lot of authority at the workplace, and you will use it to the point of abuse. Your prime focus, however, will be your family.

LEO
You will receive extremely good news from your friends today. You will have co-operation and the support of your spouse. You will feel emotional today. Your understanding nature will make everything easy however. You are likely to be in a state of sensitivity with regards to feelings today, says Ganesha.

VIRGO
Look before you leap. Ganesha warns that there may be trouble brewing for you and it may catch you unawares. You will be very upbeat at work, and you realise that your high spirits benefit your colleagues too. You may reserve the evening for a quiet time with your family, reminiscing the happy times spent together in the past.

LIBRA
Some things are always remembered with fondness. Today may be one of those days when you tend to get wistful and nostalgic. Let this emotion spur you on and later in the day, you may strive hard to reconnect with your near and dear ones. Listen to your heart. You can do nothing wrong today, as your charisma will be overwhelming.

SCORPIO
Get your family together today and spend most of the time with them, says Ganesha. If being practical is important, then have your close friends over at your place too. Romantic dinner with your beloved is on the cards today.

SAGITTARIUS
All said and done, today Ganesha foresees you striking a fine balance between your profession and passion. Profession will win the hand during the course of the day. Your fitting in social circles is slated to take a back-seat as you tend to focus more on your work.

CAPRICORN
Today, you'll open a mix bag of surprises, opportunities, challenges, and not-so good fall of events. You'll have a tendency of letting the noticeable details fall between the cracks at home, however, it will not harm you much.

AQUARIUS
It's time for some family bonding! You realise that you've neglected your near and dear. Now, you need to do something substantial to win back your family's approval. However, your sincerity alone will melt their hearts. Holding your sweet heart's hand at dinner is a perfect way to end the day, says Ganesha.

PISCES
Contemplating on the source which triggered problems for you recently will be the order of the day. Identifying the source is half the work done; eliminating it is just a matter of initiative and courage, says Ganesha.

Deepika on her early days in showbiz

Mumbai: At the Waves Summit 2025, Deepika Padukone, Shah Rukh Khan, and Karan Johar came together for a powerful discussion on India's evolving media and entertainment landscape. The two-day event aims to elevate the industry through global collaboration. During the session, Deepika and Shah Rukh shared a candid and heartfelt conversation, reflecting on their personal journeys and experiences in cinema.

When the topic turned to nepotism and the ongoing insider-outsider debate, Deepika offered her perspective. She noted that such terms are more commonly used today than when she began her career.

“When I started, it was just a new world. I was a 17-year-old girl from Bangalore,” she said.

Deepika recalled her early days, highlighting how Farah Khan cast her in *Om Shanti Om* without an audition. At the time, SRK was shooting *Chak De! India* in Australia, and she was simply told she would meet him upon his return. Deepika, who began as a model, acknowledged that her previous work helped, but emphasised that passion, dedication, and hard

work were what truly mattered. She also remembered the warmth she received from Shah Rukh on set. SRK, in turn, praised Deepika, especially as she embraces her new role as a mother.

AGENCIES



Bhumi in her romance era

Mumbai: Actress Bhumi Pednekar is currently in her ‘romance era’ and she’s radiating all the love and positivity that comes with it.

Taking to Instagram, the Bhakshak actress posted a graceful video of herself walking in a beautiful saree near a swimming pool, capturing the essence of elegance and charm. In the clip, Bhumi is seen striking different poses looking at the camera. She also added the trending track Hua Main x Finding Her by Shubhadip Dey to the clip. For the caption,

Pednekar wrote, “Because I’m in my romance era Are you feeling the love?!”

The actress exuded grace in a gold handwoven Ekaya Banaras saree paired with bold statement jewelry. This was her look from the recently concluded Wave Summit India 2025.

The *Mere Husband Ki Biwi* actress also shared videos of herself delivering a speech at the Wave Summit India 2025. She captioned one of the posts, “Had the opportunity to speak in front of our Hon. Prime Minister today for the Waves Summit 2025. The emergence of this platform is truly going to be disruptive for creator industry.”

IANS

Kareena's Hollywood plans

Mumbai: Kareena Kapoor Khan made a striking appearance at the WAVES 2025 Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit Friday, May 2.

In a candid conversation with Karan Johar, the actress reflected on her journey in Hindi cinema and her views on venturing into Hollywood.

Karan playfully reminded her of her old re-

mark on Koffee With Karan, where she had quipped, “*Sab bus pakad pakadke Hollywood jaa rahe hai*,” referring to Indian stars like Priyanka Chopra and Deepika Padukone pursuing international projects.

When asked about her own Hollywood plans, Kareena responded with trademark wit and pride, saying, “I’m right here. I’m very happy with my Indian movies and acting. I really enjoy it. I love dancing to our Hindi film songs. I really enjoy delivering Hindi dialogues. I’m a Sikhni from Bhatinda.” She emphasised her love for Indian cinema, its music, and the power of Hindi dialogue.

Karan also recalled her famous line from *Jab We Met*, “Main apni favourite hoon.” Kareena responded with warmth, saying the dialogue is more than iconic—it’s empowering. “Every woman should say it—I’m my own favourite.” It’s a reminder to love and value yourself, always.”

AGENCIES



Curtains down on 3-day Swarangini at OUAT



Bhubaneswar: The College of Agriculture under Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT) celebrated its three-day annual cultural festival ‘Swarangini’, organised by its dramatic committee ‘Chirantani’.

The valedictory evening was graced Friday by the Hon’ble Vice-Chancellor of OUAT, Prof. Pravat Kumar Roul as the Chief guest who commended the students’ creative talents and underlined the integral connection between agriculture and culture in shaping society.

The event also featured a special appearance by celebrated Odia film personality, noted comedian Pragyan Ranjan Khatua. He entertained the audience with his trademark humour and recollected the memories of his college days.

Prof. Hrushikesh Patro, who chaired the session, emphasised the role of cultural events in holistic student development. The Dramatic Committee advisor Dr. Chakradhar Patra, in his welcome address, introduced the guests and highlighted the objectives of Swarangini.

Sarthak Raut, Chairman of the dramatic committee presented the annual report and discussed future plans for the organisation’s growth. Co-Chairman Soumya Ranjan Dash delivered the vote of thanks, acknowledging the contributions of guests and volunteers.

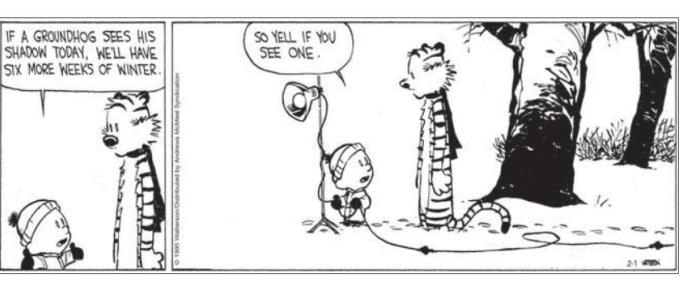
Awards were presented to students who excelled in various competitions during the event. The concluding and prize distribution ceremony was anchored by third-year student Abhinash Nayak.

PNN

PEANUTS



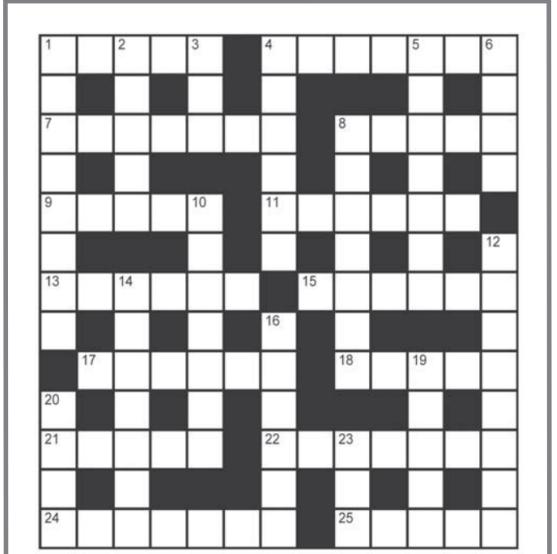
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



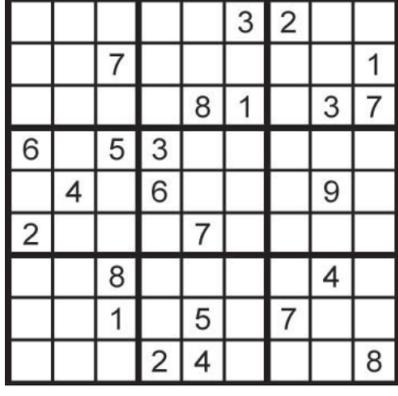
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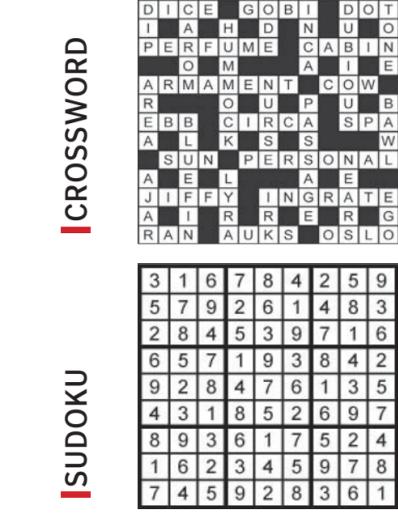
- Across**
- 1 Ward off
 - 4 An arc above
 - 7 Diapers
 - 8 Europe’s longest river
 - 9 Kind of stare
 - 11 Docket
 - 13 Modernise
 - 15 Poser
 - 17 To the rear, at sea
 - 18 Coffee shop order
 - 21 Out of whack
 - 22 Hot spot
 - 24 Shake
 - 25 Rock bottom
 - 6 Watered-down locale
 - 8 Haiphong
 - 10 Some litter members
 - 12 Lover
 - 14 Really, really dislike
 - 16 Inveigle
 - 19 Healed
 - 20 Can of worms?
 - 23 Summer cooler
- Down**
- 1 Small motorboat
 - 2 ___ New Guinea
 - 3 Luau souvenir
 - 4 Rapscaillon
 - 5 Sturdy thickset canine

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

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha government Friday appointed senior IPS officer Susanta Kumar Nath as the Director General (DG) of Prisons and Correctional Service after he returned to the state from the Central deputation, a notification issued by the Home department said. A 1993-batch officer, Nath joined the Home department after repatriation from the Centre. He replaced Arun Ray, who retired last month. The state government also effected a small reshuffle in the police cadre. Dayal Gangwar, an IPS officer of 1998-batch, who was serving as ADGP, Headquarters, has been appointed Additional DG, Communication. Prateek Mohanty, an IPS officer of 2000-batch, who joined the Home department after repatriation from the Centre, has been posted as ADGP, Headquarters. Narayan Nayak, OPS(S), AIG of Police, Marine & Coastal Security, has been transferred and posted as SP, Sonepur, another notification said.

downtown

State govt inks pacts with 4 corporations for agri devt



PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, May 2: The Odisha government Friday signed MoUs with four corporations for the development of agriculture and support to farmers for the 2025-26 financial year. The MoUs were signed by the Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment department with Odisha Agro-Industrial Corporation (OAIC), Agriculture Promotion and Capital Investment Corporation Limited (APICOL), Odisha State Seed Corporation Limited (OSSC) and Odisha State Cashew Development Corporation Limited (OSCDCL) in the presence of Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo. The partnership with OSSC aims to strengthen the seed production and supply chain.

The Agriculture department will further strengthen farmers by ensuring a timely supply of certified seeds, an official said. Under the collaboration, both parties will work together to promote seed replacement and varietal improvement through a coordinated farmer awareness campaign. For this, a turnover target of ₹56 crore has been set, the official said. Similarly, OAIC has set a target of purchasing 45,000-tonne fertiliser, ₹20 crore worth pesticides, 7,000 tractors, 1,000 power tillers and other agricultural machinery. The corporation will set up 5,200 electric-powered small lift irrigation projects, 4,800 solar-powered water tanks, and 1,000 shallow tube well projects. It will also spend ₹30 crore

for construction work for the current financial year, and a total turnover of ₹1,000 crore has been targeted for the corporation, the official said. The MoU with APICOL was signed to create 6,500 business enterprises and provide subsidies worth ₹250 crore, of which ₹200 crore is meant for Mukhyamantri Krushi Udyog Yojana (MKUY) and ₹50 crore for a cold storage support scheme, he said. Similarly, in the 2025-26 financial year, the OSDCL will take up 500-hectare of hybrid cashew replanting programme and maintenance of trees over 1336.22-hectare to strengthen the cultivation in Odisha, the official said. In addition, it has a target to produce 35-lakh hybrid cashew grafts from its existing 20 nurseries, he said. During the programme, Singh Deo felicitated the managing directors of OAIC and APICOL for their outstanding performance in the last financial year. Presenting the letter of appreciation, the Deputy CM said that all the affiliated corporations have shown excellent performance, and the path of progress should continue further. The Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment department is one of the prominent departments that has spent 94.7 per cent of the approved budget, Singh Deo said. "We are fully committed to the progress and development of farmers," he added.



COURTESY CALL: AIIMS-Bhubaneswar President Shailesh Kumar and Executive Director Ashutosh Biswas meet Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi at Lok Seva Bhawan in City, Friday

Metro rail to run till SCB in Cuttack: Min

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, May 2: State Housing and Urban Development minister Krishna Chandra Mohapatra has said that the metro rail project will be extended up to SCB Medical College and Hospital (SCB-MCH) in Cuttack with support from the Centre. Speaking to media persons Thursday, Mohapatra said the previous BJD government

had planned to roll out metro rail from Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA) in Bhubaneswar to Trisulia, a square in between Cuttack and Bhubaneswar. "What will people do after arriving at Trisulia?" he asked. "So, we have decided to expand it to Cuttack covering the bus terminal and SCB Medical College and Hospital where a large number of people are visiting daily," he said.

A special committee of top officials including Principal Secretary Usha Padhee and experts has been formed to study the best possible route for the extension, Mohapatra said. Based on their findings, a new Detailed Project Report (DPR) is being prepared to include the expanded metro line, he said. The minister said the Central government will now also help fund the project. He assured that the new state gov-

ernment, led by CM Mohan Majhi, will execute the project on a priority basis. The previous BJD government had planned to take up the phase-I metro project of the 26-km-long stretch between BPIA in Bhubaneswar to Trisulia at a cost of ₹6,225 crore. Work on the Bhubaneswar Metro project officially began November 20, 2023. The first phase was targeted to be completed by 2027.

Greenfield airport to come up at Paradip; heliports in 14 dists

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, May 2: In a bid to strengthen aviation infrastructure in the state, the Odisha government has decided to establish a Greenfield airport at the port town of Paradip, expedite the development of the Shree Jagannath International Airport in Puri, and construct heliports in 14 districts. These decisions were taken during an 'Aviation and Network Construction Management' meeting chaired by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi here Thursday. In addition to discussions on expediting the proposed Shree Jagannath International Airport (SJIA) in Puri and the upgrade of Rourkela Airport, the meeting resolved to proceed with the establishment of a Greenfield airport at Paradip, according to an official release issued by the Chief Minister's Office (CMO). The meeting also focused on the development of key regional airports across the state, including those at Jeypore, Dandbose, Rangelunda, Gautama, Satibhatta, Raisuan, Tushara, Jamadaripali, Malkangiri, Amarda Road, and Utkela, aiming to enhance regional connectivity. "The state government also discussed the construction of heliports in 15 districts and the development of Biju Patnaik Aviation Centre (BPAC) at the airstrip at Birashol in Dhenkanal.

WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY 2025

'AI has its advantages, but human touch still vital in journalism'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 2: The advent and adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has redefined newsroom dynamics, and emerged as a major force reshaping reporting style and content presentation. As the world marks the World Press Freedom Day - celebrated globally to underscore the evolving relationship between technology and journalism - May 3, the spotlight this year falls on the timely and complex theme: 'Reporting in the Brave New World: The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Press Freedom and the Media'. **Orissa POST** spoke to a cross-section of journalists to explore how AI's growing influence is affecting journalistic practices, and the freedom of press at large. "Print journalism is unlikely to be significantly affected by AI," opined veteran journalist Pradip Das. Explaining, Das said while AI can enhance storytelling, it cannot generate story ideas or determine the news value of an event. "Human empathy, intelligence, and ethical judgment are essential. The core principles of journalism—neutrality, an unbiased approach, and a sense of responsibility toward people and society—cannot be upheld by machines," he said.



Congress leader Suresh Routray at the state-level photo exhibition organised at Soochana Bhawan in Bhubaneswar on the eve of World Press Freedom Day 2025, Friday

Prakash Panda, another media professional, took a more balanced view. "AI has its own specialty. If used correctly, it can be a tool for journalists to enhance productivity and efficiency," he noted. Laxmikant Dash, known as 'Nabin' in the state's digital journalism circle, acknowledged AI's fluency and speed, but highlighted its limitations. "AI has certainly made an im-

pact in news writing, but it still lacks the emotional depth and nuanced understanding needed for storytelling. After all, it is a machine," he said. Meanwhile, a state-level photo exhibition on the theme, 'Press for Planet', on the eve of World Press Freedom Day 2025 was organised at Soochana Bhawan where different environment-related photographs clicked by photo journalists

were put on display. World Press Freedom Day, proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1993, is a time to reflect on the principles of press freedom, evaluate its global status, and pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives in the line of duty. The day also calls on governments to uphold their commitment to an independent and free press.

FRESH STUDENT SUICIDE AT KIIT

Nepal launches diplomatic initiatives to probe death

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, May 2: Concerned about the safety of Nepalese students at KIIT in Odisha, the government of the neighbouring country Friday initiated diplomatic efforts to ensure a high-level probe into the death of the 18-year-old girl studying here, a day after she was found hanging in the technology institute. The body of the BTech computer science student, Prisa Sah, was recovered from her hostel room at Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) Thursday evening, police said. The incident comes 74 days after Prakriti Lamsal, another Nepalese student of the same institute, died by suicide February 16. There are around 1,000 Nepalese students in KIIT, according to officials. The Nepal Embassy also took up the matter with Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja, who assured them of all kinds of safety and security for students from the neighbouring country. The embassy also contacted officials of KIIT, a statement issued by the Nepal government said. In New Delhi, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said it was 'deeply saddened' over Prisa's death. MEA said it has been in constant touch with the Odi-

sha government since it learnt about the 'tragic incident'. The ministry said the state government had extended full support to the family of the deceased, and a thorough inquiry is currently being conducted by Odisha Police. "We extend our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family during this difficult time," the ministry said. While the Odisha government described the incident as "unfortunate", the KIIT, in a post on X, said, "We deeply mourn the untimely demise of our beloved student, Ms Prisa Sah. Today, all senior functionaries of KIIT gathered, expressed their heartfelt condolences and stood in solidarity with her family, friends and the student community. May her soul rest in peace."

ID liquor packaged at City 'water bottling unit'; 4 held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 2: In a major crackdown, the Bhubaneswar Excise Department sleuths raided an illegal country liquor (ID liquor) storage and distribution unit operating clandestinely under the guise of a water bottling and packaging factory in the forest area of Mund jungle near Daruthenga village on the outskirts of the Capital City, Friday. Deputy Superintendent Raj Sekhar Swain, who led the raiding team, said four persons were arrested and 9,510 litres of ID liquor, esti-

mated to be of ₹19 lakh, were seized from the illegal unit. The sleuths also recovered around 28,000 plastic bottles, 7,000 empty pouches, one sealing machine, along with three four-wheelers, and a two-wheeler used for transporting the contraband, Swain said. He identified the arrested accused as Sukanta Sahoo, Bharat Sahoo, Pankaj Mansingh, and Sunil Kumar Swain. However, the fifth accused in the case managed to escape as he ran away minutes before the raid. Giving details, the Deputy



Superintendent said the raid was conducted early in the morning following receipt of confidential information that illegal country liquor production was carried out inside the water bottling and

packing factory. He said the miscreants ran the illicit facility in the isolated place in a bid to escape surveillance. During interrogation, the arrested accused allegedly disclosed that they sourced the liquor from Athargarh area, and later stored them in plastic bottles for distribution. Efforts are underway to arrest the main supplier from Athargarh in connection with the case, he added. Swain said the four men were booked under Section 52 (b) of Excise Act, and produced before a local court Friday for remand.

Pathan seeks Shah's intervention over 'attacks' on Bengal workers in Odisha

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, May 2: TMC MP Yusuf Pathan has written to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, seeking urgent intervention into alleged attacks on migrant workers from West Bengal in Odisha, particularly those hailing from Murshidabad district. In a strongly-worded letter, Pathan claimed that several labourers in Odisha's Berhampur and nearby areas have fled the BJP-ruled state fearing for their lives, following a spate of 'brutal attacks, intimidation, looting, and threats to vacate

their workplaces'. "I write to you with grave concern regarding the alarming rise in incidents of violence against migrant workers from West Bengal, particularly those hailing from my constituency Baharampur, Murshidabad and surrounding districts, who have recently returned from Odisha after being subjected to targeted attacks," the letter dated April 27 stated. Citing multiple reports, the TMC MP alleged that the attacks began after the formation of the BJP-led government in Odisha,

with 'several organised groups' launching 'systematic assaults' on labourers from Bengal. "Many have been assaulted at night, robbed of their mobile phones and earnings, had their Aadhaar cards destroyed, and forcibly evicted from their accommodations," Pathan said. "Disturbingly, similar incidents occurred in August-September 2024 as well." The letter also flagged concerns over the targeting of Bengali workers based on regional identity, with Pathan claiming that Muslims were being particularly singled out.

Stewart School students shine in ICSE & ISC

Cuttack: Students of Stewart School, Cuttack have excelled in ICSE and ISC exams, with Tanisha Nayak securing the highest mark in the school in ICSE with 98.4 per cent.

Sahajog to link urban poor with govt schemes

A mobile app will soon be developed to connect eligible beneficiaries directly to the schemes, says H&UD Minister KC Mahapatra



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 2: The state government Thursday launched Sahajog, a first-of-its-kind initiative aimed at facilitating access to various government welfare schemes for the urban poor.

Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) Minister Krushna Chandra Mahapatra officially launched the programme in Bhubaneswar. Designed to ensure last-mile delivery, Sahajog focuses on identifying eligible beneficiaries in urban poor communities and connecting them to appropriate schemes through mass awareness, doorstep delivery of services, and strengthened implementation mechanisms at the urban local body (ULB) and district levels, officials said.

Officials said housing support under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) would serve as the entry point for delivering other benefits to eligible families. Launching the initiative, Mahapatra said the programme will run in campaign mode from May 1 to June 20, turning the effort into a mass movement. He added that eight District Collectors have been directed to form coordination committees and that a mobile app will soon be developed to connect eligible beneficiaries directly to the schemes.

He said after covering urban areas, the initiative will be extended to rural beneficiaries. The minister said that at present, over 15 lakh people across 44 ULBs in eight districts are included in the programme's first phase. The districts are: Khurda, Cuttack, Ganjam, Sundargarh, Sambalpur, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj and Bhadrak. The initiative will initially focus on 14 priority schemes, including Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) ration cards under NFSA, Ayushman Bharat card, Labour and E-Shram cards, Subhadra Yojana, PM Vishwakarma Yojana, Madhubabu Pension Yojana, Sukanya Samridhi Yojana, Pipe Water Supply, PM Suraksha Bima Yojana, Garima Scheme, and others. Housing benefits under PMAY (U) will act as the entry point, with other schemes being layered in to ensure comprehensive benefit delivery. H&UD principal secretary Usha Padhee said, "We are taking initiatives for the weaker sections of society. As land, house, water, electricity are the basic needs of economically weaker sections, the department will function as the nodal agency of the initiative."



SAFETY AT STAKE: Damaged shade of a traffic post in front of Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar leans towards the road, posing threat to commuters, Friday

NHRC: Take steps to protect the vulnerable from heatwave

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 2: In view of soaring temperatures in several parts of the country, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has asked 11 states, including Odisha, to take "immediate preemptive measures" to protect the vulnerable sections of society, who are at a risk of suffering heat-related illnesses. The apex rights body, in a statement issued Thursday, highlighted data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) about the "reported death of 3,798 persons between 2018 to 2022 due to heat and sun strokes", and emphasised the urgent need for "integrated and inclusive measures". The NHRC, in its letter sent

to chief secretaries of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan, called for provisioning of shelters, supply of relief material, amendment of working hours and availability of standard procedures for treating heat-related illnesses. These states have been asked to "submit action-taken reports" to protect the lives of those vulnerable to heatwaves, especially the economically weaker ones, as per the existing SOPs or guidelines issued by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to mitigate the impact of heatwaves, it said. In view of the heatwaves during summer, particularly in

the northern, central and western parts of the country, the NHRC has asked the 11 states to take immediate preemptive measures to protect the outdoor workers, the elderly, children and the homeless, who are at risk due to lack of adequate shelter and resources. In its communication to the states, the rights panel has reiterated the guidelines of the NDMA to mitigate the impacts of heatwaves. These guidelines include establishing and implementing SOPs for treating heat-related ailments and treatment protocols; activating public spaces such as schools, Anganwadi centres, and community halls with adequate ventilation, fans, drinking water, and basic medical supplies.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, Shrashti Gupta, W/o-Pankaj Gupta, R/o-Sohela, Dist.-Bargarh-768033 declare by this affidavit No.- 869 dated 10th April, 2025 that now onwards, I shall be known as Shrishti Jainarayan Gupta for all future purposes. Shrishti Jainarayan Gupta

By virtue of an Affidavit sworn before The Executive Magistrate, Bhopur, Dated : 25.04.2025, I, Joginath Mallik, S/o - Ainth Mallik, Address : At - Karabar, P.O. - Karabar, PS - Fategarh, Dist. : Cuttack-752063, declare that I have changed my name from Bhikari Mallik to Joginath Mallik. Henceforth, I shall be known as Joginath Mallik for all purposes. Joginath Mallik

By virtue of an Affidavit sworn before The Executive Magistrate, Badamba, Dated : 11.03.2025, I, Kasturi Dei, W/o - Gopinath Nayak, Address : At - Gopinathpur, P.O. - Singhanathpitha, P.S. - Badamba, Dist. : Cuttack-754031, declare that I have changed my name from Kasturi Nayak to Kasturi Dei. Henceforth, I shall be known as Kasturi Dei for all purposes. Kasturi Dei

By virtue of an affidavit before Executive Magistrate, Jajpur Road vide no.374/25. I have changed my daughters name from Sai Aradhya Gudi to Sai Aradhya Gudi. Hence she will be named as Sai Aradhya Gudi for all purposes from this day of declaration. S/d. Ramesh Chandra Gudi

LOST

I Sukanti Sahoo, W/o. Sunyabasi Sahoo, R/o. Village - Rengalipanchu, P.O. - Sahebi, P.S. - Naktideul, Dist. : Sambalpur have lost somewhere the Sale Deed bearing No. 1641800323 dated 5.10.2018. In spite of my thorough search I could not traced out the same.

NAREDCO Mahi hosts Bhubaneswar Meet

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 2: National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO) Mahi, in collaboration with ICC National Women's Entrepreneurship Council (INWEC), Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and MSME development and facilitation office (DFO), Cuttack hosted Bhubaneswar Meet on the third day of the INWEC National Women Business Mela 2.0 at the exhibition ground here Friday.

Aimed at empowering women and integrating them into mainstream business and the real estate ecosystem, the mela saw enthusiastic participation from entrepreneurs, industrialists, and startup founders across the state and beyond. Assembly Speaker Surama Padhy graced the occasion as chief guest and formally inaugurated the event. "Women today aspire to be self-reliant and empowered.

Business serves as a powerful platform for them to grow, innovate, and contribute meaningfully to national progress," she stated, praising NAREDCO Mahi for its efforts towards promoting women's participation in the real estate sector. Cuttack-Barabati MLA Sophia Firdous and MSME Deputy Director Nitisha Maan attended the event as guests of honour. Firdous noted the impressive growth of the event, and said, "From its humble beginning in 2022, the fair has grown significantly, reflecting the strength of women supporting women and building community-based employment." NAREDCO Mahi chairperson Ananta S Raghubanshi highlighted the broader vision of the initiative, and stated, "This movement is now spearheading a transformation in the real estate sector. Our focus areas include promoting women in business, encouraging water conservation, and fostering the startup ecosystem."

CM unveils two waiting centres

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, May 2: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Thursday inaugurated two waiting centres for labourers here and announced that more such facilities would be opened across the state for the welfare of workers.

During the state-level International Workers' Day-2025 function here, he unveiled the two waiting centres at Dumduma and Kalpana areas in the City.

Each centre has facilities like drinking water, toilets and parks for workers.

The Chief Minister announced that such centres will soon come up in Cuttack, Rourkela, Sambalpur, Keonjhar, and Berhampur cities.

He also felicitated functionaries of various trade unions and distributed assistance under the Construction Workers Welfare Scheme for education, marriage, maternity, death, and funeral assistance.

"Since our government came



to power, more than 4 lakh construction workers have been newly registered and an assistance of Rs 370 crore has been provided. Today, on the occasion of Labour Day, around 3,000 identity cards have been issued to eligible construction workers across the state and more than Rs 40 crore has been provided to eligible beneficiaries in various forms of assistance," Majhi said. Claiming that the state government has been working diligently towards the legal rights and social security of workers employed in various sectors, Majhi said the BJP government, as promised before the elections, has raised

the assistance provided under the Construction Workers Welfare Board from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 3 lakh in case of normal death and from Rs 4 lakh to Rs 6 lakh in case of accidental death. He said around 47 lakh construction workers have been registered under the scheme, and more than Rs 3,951 crore has been provided for various assistance.

The CM launched 'Odisha Sramik Sathi' mobile app to bring various services of the Construction Workers Welfare Board to the fingertips of workers.

The app will enable workers to access services like online registration and renewal, and help them apply for assistance.

He said the daily wage of different categories of workers has been raised during the last 10 months.

Labour Minister Ganesh Ram Singh Khuntia said workers are an important part of the country's development, and their hard work is the foundation of the development.

Bengal woman found dead in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 2: The body of a 28-year-old woman was found hanging from the ceiling of her rented accommodation near Utkal Vatika under Laxmisagar police station here Thursday night.

According to Laxmisagar inspector-in-charge (IIC) P Shyam Sundar Rao, "The deceased has been identified as Sarina Khatoon, a native of Siliguri in West Bengal. The woman was residing along with her younger sister."

The reason behind Sarina taking the extreme step is yet unclear as no suicide note was found from the spot. Sarina's younger sister found the body hanging from the ceiling of the apartment when she returned from shopping around 9pm, and alerted the cops, Rao said.

He added that Sarina had parted ways with her husband a few years ago, and is survived by her six-year-old daughter. A UD case has been registered, and the body sent to Capital Hospital for post-mortem.

Oppn claims credit; BJP says not under pressure

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, May 2: The ruling BJP in Odisha has firmly rejected allegations that it acted under pressure from Opposition parties like BJD and Congress in approving the inclusion of caste enumeration in the upcoming national census. In separate press conferences, leaders from both the BJD and Congress claimed that the Centre's decision was the result of their longstanding demands.

Congress workers, led by OPCC president Bhakta Charan Das, celebrated the development with a 'Vijay Utsav' at the party's state headquarters Thursday evening.

Both parties took credit for Wednesday's decision by the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs (CCPA) to include a caste survey in the next census. They maintained that the Cen-

tre had "bowed to pressure".

"Our leader Rahul Gandhi has been advocating for the caste-based census since a long time, both in Parliament and outside. They (BJP) criticised our leader and dismissed his arguments. But, now they have been forced to accept our demand," OPCC president Bhakta Charan Das said.

He criticised the NDA for taking a decade to take the decision. Das also took aim at the previous BJD government, which remained in power in Odisha for 24 years.

He noted that although the OBC population in the state is around 54 per cent, they receive only 11.27 per cent reservation in government recruitment.

He further expressed concern over the lack of OBC reservation in the education sector.

In a separate presser, BJD leaders Sanjay Das Burma, Arun

CASTE CENSUS



Kumar Sahoo, and Snehangini Chhuria emphasised that former Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had been demanding a caste-based census since 2010.

"The recent decision of the Centre to go for caste enumeration is a result of our leader's consistent efforts," the BJD said in an official statement.

BJD MLA and former minister Arun Kumar Sahoo said Patnaik had first envisioned the idea of conducting a caste

enumeration in the country. "The Centre was finally forced to go for caste enumeration only because of the pressure mounted on them," Sahoo said. Chhuria said, "Although the Central government has agreed for the caste-based census, it should not be used as an election stunt. Everyone knows that the Union government had opposed it earlier. Now that it is announced, there should be sincere steps to use it to ensure

social justice for all sections."

She said a caste-based census can ensure proper reservation not just for SCs and STs, but also for OBCs, thereby helping establish social justice in the country.

However, senior BJP leader and Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi rejected the allegations of the Congress and the BJD. "There is no pressure on Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Everybody knows that the BJP government does not work under pressure from anybody. The decision to go for a caste enumeration is taken at the appropriate time," Sarangi said.

Addressing questions about the timing of the announcement ahead of the Bihar elections, Sarangi said, "There's nothing political about the timing. Look at it positively. If elections were the motive, the BJP could have made this move before the 2019 or 2024 general elections."

WEATHER table with columns for BBSR, CTC, Max Temp, Min Temp, Humidity, Rainfall, and FORECAST.

MARKET WATCH table with columns for INDEX, VARIATION, and various financial indices like SENSEX, NIFTY, DOLLAR, EURO, GOLD, SILVER.

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No headway in creation of ESZ around Similipal

More than 50 unauthorised stone crusher units and over 100 illegal quarries are reportedly operating between Thakurmunda on the foothills of Similipal and Bangiriposhi in Mayurbhanj district



A draft notification was issued proposing the declaration of 1,765.29 sq km area around Similipal and Hadagarh wildlife sanctuaries as eco-sensitive zone in January 2019. The draft suggested a boundary ranging from 0-10 km from the protected areas. However, after legal challenges were raised in the Orissa High Court, the proposed ESZ was scaled back to an area of 0.5 km radius.

Local residents had filed a petition in the Supreme Court seeking to restrict activity within 0-1 km radius around the area in question. In response, the previous state government had submitted documents to the court proposing that the area be declared as an ESZ. The Supreme Court, however, sought clarification on why this specific zone should be declared eco-sensitive.

As the case remains sub-judice, reports suggest that illegal stone quarries and crushers continue to operate in the proposed eco-sensitive areas around Similipal. More than 50 unauthorised stone crusher units and over 100 illegal quarries are reportedly operating between Thakurmunda on the foothills of Similipal and Bangiriposhi in Mayurbhanj district.

Forest officials said that the proposal to declare the area as ESZ was aimed at limiting illegal activities such as mining, stone quarrying, and the establishment of polluting industries. The Forest department's intent was to use this declaration to help curb unlawful practices, given the region's ecological sensitivity.

However, a few individuals and groups with vested interest have opposed the initiative. Moreover, no final notification has been issued even after six years.

The MoEF&CC has indicated that it is awaiting a final and clear response from the state government. Environmental experts have expressed concern over the continued delay.

Moreover, the proposed ESZ declaration does not involve the displacement or relocation of local communities. Agricultural activities in the region will also remain unaffected.

When contacted, former wildlife warden and independent director of the Odisha Forest Development Corporation, Bhanumitra Acharya, said that a prompt clarification from the state government to the Supreme Court would help establish the ESZ as a protective shield for Similipal.

2 held for murder of 17-year-old girl

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, May 2: Police Friday arrested two persons for the murder of a 17-year-old girl in Ganjam district, an official said.

The accused were identified as Muna Khan (20) of Antarabatia village, near Gopalpur, and a 16-year-old boy from Khurda district, police said.

The deceased, a student of the Industrial Training Institute (ITI), Berhampur, was in a relationship with Khan for the past few years, which ended recently for unspecified reasons, according to police.

On Thursday morning, both the accused went to the victim's house in Karapalli, under the jurisdiction of Gopalpur police station, while she was alone. An argument broke out between Khan and the girl.

During the confrontation, Khan allegedly threatened to harm himself if she did not agree to rekindle their relationship, police said.

"He then cut his hand with a blade. The girl attempted to intervene and tried to take the blade from him. She also tried to call her father. Khan then attempted to snatch the phone from her, leading to a struggle," police added.

At that point, the juvenile allegedly struck the girl on the head with a crowbar, causing her to collapse, police said, adding that Khan then cut the girl's hand before fleeing the scene.

Police recovered a crowbar, two razor blades, a motorcycle, and two mobile phones used in the crime.

The accused were apprehended while trying to flee from Berhampur, said Berhampur SP Saravana Vivek M.

Minor girl molested at SSD hostel in Koraput

POST NEWS NETWORK



Nandapur/Lamtaput, May 2: A serious allegation of molestation has surfaced from a girls' hostel run by the Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes Development department in Lamtaput block under Nandapur police sub-division in Koraput district.

According to reports, an unidentified youth entered the hostel and allegedly molested an 8-year-old girl student April 13 night. The incident came to light 17 days later, April 30, when the student was sent back home by the hostel authorities.

Observing her deteriorating health, her family questioned her and learned about the alleged incident. They subsequently lodged a complaint at the Machkund police station.

The incident has stirred political unrest in Lamtaput block. Superintendent of Police Rohit Verma, SDPO Debendra Mallik, and a special investigation team visited the hostel in Guneipada Thursday to probe the matter.

Machkund police have registered a case (33/2025), and Sub-Inspector Sukra Madhi has begun the investigation. The victim underwent medical examination, and her statement was recorded before a magistrate.

Despite the gravity of the incident, no arrest has been made so far. Public anger has intensified due to the delay in action and the lack of accountability on part of the hostel superintendent, who allegedly failed to report or act on the matter during the 17-day period.

The victim's family, accompanied by local political leaders and activists, staged a protest march to the Lamtaput police outpost Friday evening. They submitted a memorandum to Officer-in-Charge Srikant Ghosh, demanding the immediate arrest of the accused and strict action against the hostel authorities.

Due to the sensitivity of the case, SDPO Debendra Mallik declined to provide further comments regarding the ongoing investigation. Meanwhile, a few

local youths were detained for questioning as part of the inquiry.

Under the direction of the SP, police personnel from Nandapur, Padua, Baipariguda, Jeypore, and Koraput headquarters have joined the investigation and were seen examining the hostel premises Friday.

While the hostel superintendent has not issued any statement, District Welfare Officer Sunil Kumar Tandi confirmed that an internal departmental probe was underway.

According to Tandi, Assistant District Welfare Officer Arjun Nayak has already visited the hostel, assessed the situation, and held discussions with the victim's family. The student is currently receiving medical treatment, and further action will be taken once the medical report is received.

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POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, May 2: Uncertainty continues over the proposal to declare areas surrounding the Similipal National Park in Mayurbhanj district as an eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) despite repeated efforts by the Forest department to move the process forward under provisions of the Environment Protection Act, 1986.

Although the Baripada forest division had submitted a proposal to declare an area of 0.5 km radius around the protected forest as a restricted zone, it remains stalled due to a lack of response from the state government. Sources said the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has directed the state government to clarify details regarding the buffer zone of the Similipal sanctuary, but no formal communication has yet been made.

As a result, unregulated settlements and illegal activities are reportedly on the rise in the areas meant to be environmentally protected. Forest officials said the aim is to curb human activities that may harm the ecosystem and protect the biodiversity in and around the national park.

Labourer thrashed to death on Labour Day

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jajpur, May 2: A 22-year-old labourer identified as Arijit Jena from Jaraka village, died on Labour Day after allegedly being thrashed and tortured by the owner and staff of a private stone crusher unit in Jajpur district.

According to the complaint filed by Arijit's father, the incident occurred at Padmabati Crusher in Rahadpur under Jenapur police limits. Arijit, who had been working there for past three months, went missing April 27. His family traced him to the crusher unit owner's residence, where they found him chained and severely injured.

Arijit had suffered burn wounds from hot iron rods and multiple blows to his chest and groin area. His captors allegedly recorded videos of the torture and threatened his family. Despite being taken to a hospital later that morning, Arijit succumbed to his injuries at 3:30am May 1.

Bhadrak, May 2: The Forest department rescued three live cobras which were used in a dance performance during a wedding procession, an official said.

The incident took place at Chhedak village under Dhamra police station limits late Wednesday night.

A snake charmer and two performers - a man and a woman - entertained wedding guests (baraatis) by dancing to a popular 'Nagin' song as they were walking along Dhamra-Chandbali road.

The performers danced to the tune of drum beats and other musical instruments while carrying the snakes inside baskets or holding them in their hands.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of the Bhadrak Wildlife Division intercepted the procession and rescued the snakes.



"We have seized the snakes and are trying to identify the snake charmer involved. The Special Task Force (STF) has been asked to assist in the investigation," said Soubhagya Kumar Sahu, Divisional Forest Officer (Wildlife).

However, nobody has been arrested in this connection, the DFO added.

The use of wild animals like cobra is a punishable offence under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jajpur, May 2: A government officer has lodged a police complaint alleging that BJD MLA Biswa Ranjan Mallick slapped him and also made a casteist slur against him.

Mallick, the MLA of Bari Assembly constituency, rejected the allegation levelled by Junior Revenue Assistant Amar Ranjan Nayak.

Police said they have started an investigation into the allegations.

In the complaint, the officer said that the MLA called him to the Bari block office at 12.45pm Monday.

"When I reached, MLA Mallick was sitting there along with the chairman and vice chairman of the block and some of his supporters. The MLA enquired about a specific file and then slapped me, besides abusing me about my caste," he alleged.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No. ST-SBP-TENDER-2025-11, Dt.: 26.04.2025
NAME OF WORK: REPLACEMENT OF NON-RD50 MAKE FIRE ALARM WITH RD50 APPROVED FIRE ALARM SYSTEM OVER SAMBALPUR DIVISION.
Tender Value: ₹ 1,56,73,690.20, Bid Security: ₹ 2,28,400/-
Tender Closing Date and Time: At 1100 hrs. on 19.05.2025.
No manual offers sent by Post/ Courier/ Fax or in person accepted against such e-tenders. Even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and receipt 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
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.
Div. Signal & Telecom Engineer (Signal), Sambalpur, PR-83/Q/25-26

Central Power Research Institute (A Govt. of India Society, Ministry of Power)
Post Box No.8066, Prof. Sir. C.V. Raman Road Sadashivanagar Post Office, Bangalore - 560080
ADVERTISEMENT No. CPRI/06/2025
CPRI invites applications to fill the following posts through Direct Recruitment:
Name of the posts No. of posts Pay Level in the 7th CPC Pay Matrix Upper Age Limit
Scientific Assistant 4 Level-6 35
Engineering Assistant 8 Level-6 35
Technician Gr. 1 6 Level-2 28
Junior Hindi Translator 1 Level-6 30
Assistant Gr. II 23 Level-4 30
Assistant Librarian 2 Level-4 30
The interested candidates may refer to CPRI website https://cpri.res.in career page for the detailed advertisement for further details regarding eligibility criteria, educational qualification, reservation, experience, application format, important instructions etc.
cbc 34104/12/0004/2526 Chief Administrative Officer

ICMAI THE INSTITUTE OF COST ACCOUNTANTS OF INDIA
Headquarters: CMA Bhawan, 3, Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110003
Date : 26th April, 2025
PUBLIC NOTICE
Sub : Gazette Notification dated 25.04.2025 - Amendment to Regulation 89 of the Cost and Works Accountants Regulations, 1959. This is to inform all concerned that the Cost and Works Accountants (Amendment) Regulations, 2025 have been notified in the Official Gazette of India and have come into force with effect from 25th April, 2025. Pursuant to the said amendment to Regulation 89 of the Cost and Works Accountants Regulations, 1959, the Headquarters of the Institute has been shifted to Delhi.
All stakeholders of the Institute are hereby requested to take note of this amendment and update the address of the Headquarters of the Institute in their official records, as follows:
The Institute of Cost Accountants of India
CMA Bhawan, 3, Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003
The Gazette Notification is available for reference on the official website of the Institute at: https://icmai.in/upload/Institute/Updates/Gazette250425.pdf.
Sd./- CMA (Dr.) D.P. Nandy
Secretary (Officiating)
CBC-07107/12/0001/2526

SHRI LAL BHADUR SHASTRI NATIONAL SANSKRIT UNIVERSITY (CENTRAL UNIVERSITY),
B-4, QUTUB INSTITUTIONAL AREA, NEW DELHI-110016
Advt. No. 02/2025
Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for recruitment to the teaching posts through online mode. For viewing the eligibility criteria, payment of application fees, last date for submission of applications along with detailed terms and conditions of recruitment, the candidates are required to go through the website www.slbsrsv.ac.in of the University and Chayan Portal of UGC (https://curec.samarth.ac.in/index.php/search/site/index).
cbc 21371/12/0002/2526 REGISTRAR(I/C)

Indian Bank
Zonal Office, Indian Bank Building, B-2 (East), Sahid Nagar, Bhubaneswar- 751007
DEMAND NOTICE
Demand Notice 13(2) of the securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 issued by the Indian Bank as secured creditor against the following borrower(s)/guarantor(s) of our Branch:
JAGATSinghpur BRANCH
Name & Address of Borrower(s) Guarantor(s) & Loan A/C No. Loan Amount Outstanding Amount as on 24.04.2025 Notice Date/ NPA Date
(1) M/s Orchid Mart (Borrower-Partnership Firm), At: Central Market, PO/Dist: Jagatsinghpur, Pin- 754103, (2) Mr Mohammed Jamil (Managing Partner /Mortgagor), S/o: Mohd Kasim, Ohala, Jagatsinghpur-754103, (3) Mr Shaikh Amin Sajadeen (Partner /Mortgagor), S/o: Mohammed Skwaiz, Ohala, Jagatsinghpur-754103, (4) Mr Shaikh Majhar Ali (Partner), S/o: Sheikh Athar Ali, At: Piteipur, Jagatsinghpur, Pin- 754106 . Loan A/C No.: OCC-6479309033, GECLS-7307031781 .
Details of Mortgaged Properties
Property No. -1: Plot No.187/2086, Khata No.525/784, Mouza: Deuligramswar, Jagatsinghpur, Area: Ac. 0.60 dec. belonging to Mr Mohammed Jamil, the property is surrounded by - North: Plot No.1568, South: Road and Umesh Chandra Parida, East: Plot No.187/1994 (Diptirani Kanungo), West : Village Road . Property No. -2: (i) Plot No.495, 496/1284, Khata No. 258/622 . Area: Ac.0.045 dec. . Mouza: Madhapur, Jagatsinghpur belonging to Mr Mohammed Jamil, surrounded by: North - Own Plot No. 496, South- Road and Plot No.494,East- Plot No. 499, West- Plot No. 492. (ii) Plot No.496, Khata No. 258/620, Area: 0.045 dec. . Mouza: Madhapur, Jagatsinghpur belonging to Mr Mohammed Jamil, surrounded by: North- Plot No. 497, South- Plot No. 495, 496/1284(Md Jamil), East- Plot No. 499, West- Plot No. 492 . Property No. - 3: Plot No.595, Khata No.231/203, Mouza: Ohala, Jagatsinghpur, Area: Ac.0.040 dec. belonging to Mr Mohammed Jamil, The property is surrounded by- North: Guru Charan Behera, South: Road, East: Nilofere Yajedin, West: Plot No.1209. Property No. - 4: Plot No.644/4492, Khata No. 494/1435, Mouza: Paranga, Angul, Area: Ac.0.13 dec. belonging to Mr Mohammed Jamil, The property is surrounded by: North- Own Plot(Plot No.643), South- Kandarpa Sahoo, East- Seula Patra, West- Deba Singh . Property No. - 5: Plot No.596/1596, Khata No. 231/219, Mouza: Ohala, Jagatsinghpur, Area: Ac. 0.08 dec. belonging to Mr Shaikh Amin Sajadeen, property is surrounded by- North: Guru Charan Behera, South: Road, West: Shaikh Ainuj Yajedin, East: Nilofere Yajedin .
You have committed default in repayment of outstanding loan amount mentioned above with further interest at the agreed rate availed from our Branch as mentioned above . The Bank has issued notice under the said Act to you to repay the outstanding amount in the above mentioned table . Due to irregularity in repayment of outstanding dues, the debt has been classified as Non-Performing Asset on above mentioned date . By this notice you are hereby called upon to discharge the entire liabilities as on date with future interest thereon in the above account to us as Secured Creditor, within 60 days from the date of this notice failing which Bank will be constrained to exercise all or any of our rights conferred under section 13(4) and other provision of the above Security Interest Act, 2002 . You are required to note that in terms of Sec. 13(13) of the said Security Interest Act, you shall not, after receipt of the notice, transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, any of the secured assets above referred to without prior written consent of our Bank . This notice is issued without prejudice to any other right/remedy available to the Bank including initiation of legal action .
Place : Bhubaneswar, Date : 02.05.2025 Authorised Officer, Indian Bank

AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
(SCHEDULE- 'A' MINI RATNA - CATEGORY- 1 PUBLIC SECTOR ENTERPRISE)
RAJIV GANDHI BHAWAN, SAFDARJUNG AIRPORT, NEW DELHI-110003
RECRUITMENT OF JUNIOR EXECUTIVES (AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL) IN AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA UNDER ADVERTISEMENT No. 02/2025/CHQ
Airports Authority of India invites applications from eligible candidates to apply Online through AAI website www.aai.aero for the following post:
(NO APPLICATION THROUGH ANY OTHER MODE WILL BE ACCEPTED)
Name of Post Number of vacancies and reservation (Included vacancies) (Total UR EWS OBC (NCL) SC ST PwBD (A) (B) (C) (D & E)
Junior Executive (Air Traffic Control) 309 125 30 72 55 27 00 00 07 00
The number of vacancies is tentative and may increase or decrease at sole discretion of AAI.
Abbreviations used:
UR=Unreserved, EWS Economically Weaker Section, OBC(NCL) Other Backward Classes (Non-Creamy Layer), SC=Scheduled Caste, ST= Scheduled Tribe, PwBD=Persons with Benchmark Disability, PwBD Category (A), (B), (C), (D) & (E): Please refer Suitable categories of Benchmark Disabilities against respective post code in detailed advertisement
EVENT DATE
Opening date for On-line Applications 25.04.2025
Closing date for On-line Application 24.05.2025
Tentative Date of Computer Based Test Will be announced on AAI Website www.aai.aero
For details, please refer AAI's website www.aai.aero under Careers Section and Employment News/Rozgar Samachar dated 10.05.2025
cbc 03111/12/0001/2526 Executive Director (HR)

FOCUS TRUMP'S 100 DAYS

GLOBAL CHAOS

We are barely 100 days into US President Donald Trump's second term, but much is already clear. Trump 2.0 is starkly different: more confident and surrounded by a team determined to implement a far more sweeping agenda. Those staffing the administration – amplifiers more than restrainers, enablers more than guardrails – spent the past four years preparing for this moment.



Trump, who boasted during his campaign that all he needed was a day to end the war, which he regularly blames on Biden and Zelenskyy, is now talking about walking away from diplomacy to end the war entirely

policy fails to give Putin any incentive to compromise or Zelenskyy the confidence to do so. The agreement to establish a US-Ukraine Reconstruction Investment Fund should help, but, to achieve a cessation of hostilities, much more will need to be done to assist Ukraine.

Iran's worsening economy, all of which makes backing away from its nuclear program to avoid military attack and secure sanctions relief particularly attractive. If the Trump administration is willing to allow Iran limited uranium enrichment – a concession that may be required to secure a deal – it can expect criticism from some in the US and Israel. But Trump is strong enough to weather the pushback if it comes.

Europe and America's other traditional allies receive no special treatment, either. This is certainly the case with tariffs, which tellingly spared Russia but severely hit Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan. Vice President JD Vance traveled to Munich in February to ignite a cultural clash with Europeans, while Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth openly raised doubts about the US commitment to Europe at NATO headquarters. This has spurred European preparations to support Ukraine if American assistance wanes and to achieve strategic self-sufficiency more broadly.

Otherwise, the Trump administration has essentially given Israel's government a free hand to do what it wants in both Gaza and the West Bank. It seems to have lost interest in extending the Hamas-Israeli ceasefire, as this would put it at odds with Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, who appears to prioritize his coalition's survival, through continuing military operations in Gaza, over freeing the remaining hostages.

In the Middle East, the administration launched what could well prove to be a promising negotiation with Iran. The stage was set by Israeli military action against Iran and its proxies, the fall of the Assad regime in Syria, and

The most unexpected dimension of US foreign policy, one neither previewed in Trump's first term nor during the campaign, has been the focus on the Western Hemisphere. Canada and Mexico were sin-

gled out for early tariffs over alleged failures to control their borders. There were also heavy-handed calls to assert US sovereignty over the Panama Canal, Greenland, and Canada. More than anything else, these goals have triggered an anti-American backlash – even flipping the outcome of Canada's recent federal election.

The biggest foreign-policy uncertainty remains China. On one hand, Trump granted TikTok waivers that allowed it to remain on Americans' phones, despite uncertainty about whether he has the authority to do so. He continues to speak highly of Chinese President Xi Jinping and expresses confidence that the US and China will reach a deal.

But the massive tariffs he has levied on China mean that the US and Chinese economies will increasingly separate, if not actually decouple. Whether the tariffs are an attempt to gain bargaining leverage or are ends in themselves remain perhaps the biggest question in Sino-US relations.

Overall, Trump 2.0's foreign policy is more unilateralist than isolationist. This will remain the case. Less clear is the extent to which Trump will move to reduce tariffs, rethink his pro-Russian stance on Ukraine, and press Israel to modify its approach to Gaza and the West Bank – policies that could revive US and global economic growth and bring peace to two regions that have known little of it. Much will depend on the choices of a man who, for better or worse, is already among the most consequential of US presidents.

The writer is a senior counselor at Centerville Partners, Distinguished University Scholar at New York University.

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Richard Haas

THE MOST UNEXPECTED DIMENSION OF US FOREIGN POLICY HAS BEEN THE FOCUS ON THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Foreign policy is also substantially changed. The US has shifted from being a steadfast supporter of Ukraine to tilting decidedly in Russia's favor. The shift appears to be motivated by a clear dislike for Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and an embrace of Russian President Vladimir Putin for reasons unknown.

Trump, who boasted during his campaign that all he needed was a day to end the war, which he regularly blames on Biden and Zelenskyy, is now talking about walking away from diplomacy to end the war entirely. He is finding it difficult to make good on his campaign promise, in no small part because his pro-Russia

Clock's Ticking

Seven years ago, the NSE International Exchange (NSE IX) was launched with much fanfare at GIFT City—India's glittering bet on becoming the next Singapore or London in global finance. Fast forward to today, and it's safe to say the hype hasn't quite matched the hustle. Despite a carefully crafted framework and political will, NSE IX has slowly taken off. Enter Neeraj Kumar Gupta.

The former Union Finance Secretary and disinvestment czar has now become Chairman and Public Interest Director of NSE IX. With his decades of bureaucratic battle-hardened experience, from handling PSUs and equity ETFs to shepherding big-ticket policy reforms, Gupta's appointment is considered a make-or-break moment for NSE IX.

What's holding the exchange back? For starters, Indian companies still look outward—Singapore, London, New York—when it comes to raising capital. Global investors don't see enough reason to shift their gaze inward. And GIFT City's "unified regulator," IFSCA, hasn't yet lived up to the promise of being a true one-stop shop. It still leans heavily on the older regulatory machinery of SEBI and RBI, and frankly, that's not going to cut it.

If NSE IX is to become the financial magnet it was meant to be, it must offer transactional ease that beats Singapore, not just mimics it. That means faster approvals, lighter compliance, and a smarter, investor-first playbook. Gupta knows how to break silos and get regulators to speak the same language—now's the time to prove he can do just that. The clock is ticking.

CPC's snail pace

It has been almost four months since the government initially approved the establishment of the 8th Central Pay Commission (CPC), and there have been no updates since then. Now, whispers are emerging that the gears are finally turning. But even those seem more like the creaking of bureaucracy than the hum of decisive action.

The government is inching toward finalising the terms of reference and picking the chairperson and members. That's right—we're still talking about forming the team. Not drafting a report. Not consultations. Just assembling the crew.

The usual 10-year ritual of reviewing salaries and pensions of Central government employees is supposed to factor in cost of living, economic conditions, and inflation. Fair enough. But when you consider that this affects nearly 50 lakh Central employees and 60 lakh pensioners, you'd think urgency would be baked into the process.

Instead, we get the classic slow burn. An internal circular last week invited applications to fill 35 posts on a deputation basis—so yes, the office is still under construction.

If all goes well (and that's a big if), the 8th CPC will submit its report by mid-2026. Retroactive salary and pension adjustments may follow in 2027-28. That's a full decade since the last revision in 2016. And with inflation nibbling away at paychecks, that's a long time to ask people to wait. Do remember that people don't spend "in principle". They pay in reality. Time to pick up the pace.



BABUDOM BYTES
Dilip Cherian

Loud signal

Few blink when the government shuffles its babus. It's like musical chairs—routine, rhythmic, and mostly unremarkable. But now and then, a tune changes. And this time, it did.

The latest round of administrative reshuffles has given us more than just a list of who's where. It's given us a clear frontrunner: the IAS batch of 1994. In an unusually bold sweep, nine officers from this cohort have been elevated from Additional Secretary to Secretary, and two more named Special Secretaries. That's eleven heavy-hitters from the same batch, now occupying the highest bureaucratic perches in India.

It matters because this isn't just paperwork. It's a power play. Many of these officers have previously served in high-trust zones like the Prime Minister's Office and the Cabinet Secretariat—roles that tend to groom officers not just in governance but also in the government's thinking. Arvind Srivastava, now Revenue Secretary, was with the PMO until recently. Anuradha Thakur, the incoming Economic Affairs Secretary, has spent time in the Cabinet Secretariat. Their current postings put them at the heart of India's financial and economic policy engine.

The rise of this batch signals more than seniority or coincidence. It suggests consolidation, perhaps even calibration, of administrative leadership around a cohort closely aligned with the Centre's priorities.

It's not unprecedented for a batch to rise together. But the scale and the strategic positioning make this one worth watching. The batch of '94 isn't just stepping up—they're stepping in, shaping what comes next.

Share a babu experience! Follow [dilipthecherian@twitter.com](https://twitter.com/dilipthecherian). Let's multiply the effect

WISDOM CORNER

The only solutions that are ever worth anything are the solutions that people find themselves.

SATYAJIT RAY

In a mad world, only the mad are sane.

AKIRA KUROSAWA

A story starts before we encounter it and concludes long after we have turned away.

ABBAS KIAROSTAMI

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1494: European explorer Christopher Columbus encountered the island of Jamaica, which he named Santiago.
- 1815: The Congress Kingdom of Poland was created by the Congress of Vienna as part of the political settlement at the end of the Napoleonic Wars.
- 1952: The Kentucky Derby, the most prestigious American horse race, was televised nationally in the United States for the first time; the winning horse was Hill Gail, ridden by jockey Eddie Arcaro.
- 1979: Margaret Thatcher of the Conservative Party was elected British prime minister, becoming the first woman in Europe to hold that post; she later became the longest continuously serving British premier since 1827.
- 1996: At the first formal review of the 1980 Geneva Convention on Inhumane Weapons, the signatories agreed to curtail the use of land mines over the next decade.

SPECTRUM TERRORISM

Pahalgam & Pakistan: Connecting the dots

In a conference in Hyderabad on 24 and 25 April, I was asked by a fellow academic from Japan, if India was going to retaliate against Pakistan. I asked her a counter-question if some innocent tourists were killed anywhere in Japan by terrorists, what would have Tokyo done? She was evasive. But she seemed to persuade me that New Delhi should not take military action against Pakistan. That apart, to attack or not attack is the question I would like to evaluate here.

The issue of military confrontation is engaging the thinking of the Indian strategists, observers, onlookers and world leaders. The last segment of stakeholders is concerned mainly because of the perilous prospect of use of nuclear weapons possessed by both countries. Let us evaluate this option or threat already issued by Pakistani media and leadership.

Since the Hiroshima and Nagasaki episodes, nukes have not been used by any country for over seven decades. Use of nukes spells disasters for the entire world including those who unleash

it. So, nukes were conceived as deterrents, not for actual use in years. Now, since the applicability of nukes is the remotest, even the deterrent effect is minimal. But one cannot rule it out by megalomaniacs, autocrats, rogue states and suicidal and self-destructive forces. One could rely on the collective wisdom of the world leadership, at least in their self-interest, to prevail upon the nuclear powers to desist from its use. If, in this case, the world leaders fail to prevent their client states, and allies, may God save this planet.

That said, what should New Delhi do? Should it take on Pakistan! But let us refine this formulation and make it politically correct. That is, India is not declaring a war on Pakistan. India has never invaded any country.

Many may contest the parallel between the 22 April massacre at Pahalgam and 7 October mayhem by Hamas in Israel. It is just because of the history of the controversial conflict between Israel and Palestine. But if you look only at these two pathetic events, the action-reaction continu-

um in both cases is comparable. New Delhi has the right and legitimacy to hunt down the terrorist manufacturing agencies and infrastructure in Pakistan.

Unless the Pakistani army dismantles the terrorist infrastructure and transparently delinks from terrorism, Pakistan is a target. India has been impressing upon the world that Pakistan should be pressed to stop breeding and harbouring terrorists. But the world leadership has not responded as they should have asked no country could be immune to this menace. On the contrary, vested interests like China have shielded Pakistan and its terrorists.

So, what should New Delhi do? India sits on a high moral ground, uses an ethical compass to navigate in global geopolitics. That will still be intact if it goes after terrorists who spill innocent blood. So, it is time the elephant shows its wild side to terrorism.

Having said that, like Lord Krishna advised in Mahabharata, that the war should be the last resort. One should try all avenues prior

to lifting the gun.

The Indian public is more understanding and accommodative. This agitation will subside if Pakistan is brought around. Pakistan should be made to forget Kashmir and return POK. This is indeed a big ask. But this is the only way to peace and stability in the region.

Admittedly, Pakistan will not give away POK. And Pakistan does not exist without lighting and stoking the fire in Kashmir. Pakistani leadership vows 5,000 years of conflict with India on Kashmir. So, India is back to square one. Make diplomatic moves to counter and isolate Pakistan. Tried, tested and exhausted. There will always be leaders like Xi Jinping and Erdogan who will prop up a failed state like Pakistan. So, India has to carry its own cross. Cowing down Pakistan to stop its nefarious actions against India is New Delhi's call. It is the call of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

The writer is Professor of Practice, NIIS Group of Institutions

INFA

COWING DOWN PAKISTAN TO STOP ITS NEFARIOUS ACTIONS AGAINST INDIA IS NEW DELHI'S CALL



DK Giri

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



Turn of fortune

Sir, Rohit Sharma's resurgence in IPL 2025 was pivotal for Mumbai Indians' playoff qualification. After a sluggish start—scoring just 56 runs in his first five matches—Rohit found his rhythm in the sixth game, delivering an unbeaten 76 against CSK, followed by a commanding 70 off 46 balls against Sunrisers Hyderabad. His form continued with a 53-run knock against Rajasthan Royals, contributing to MI's formidable total of 217/2. This late bloom in form not only stabilized MI's top order but also provided the aggressive impetus needed during the powerplay overs. Rohit's partnership with Suryakumar Yadav, particularly their 63-run opening stand against CSK, exemplified this renewed vigor. The return of Hardik Pandya and Jasprit Bumrah further bolstered the team's performance. Pandya's leadership and Bumrah's bowling prowess reinvigorated the squad. Strategic changes, including promoting SKY in the batting order and integrating emerging talents like Ashwani Kumar and Vignesh Puthur, added depth and versatility to the team. This blend of seasoned leadership and emerging talent propelled Mumbai Indians back into playoff contention, reaffirming their status as IPL stalwarts.

Gopaldaswamy J, CHENNAI

Bloody business

Sir, talks are circulating about possible retaliatory military action by India against Pakistan following the spine-chilling terror attack at Pahalgam, in which 26 innocent lives were lost. Given the hostile relations between India and Pakistan, which have further escalated after the tragedy, there is a need for great caution and restraint from political leaders, the media, and the public to avoid any possibility of war breaking out between the two neighboring nations. Nationally and internationally, all possible efforts should be made to re-emphasize the need for de-escalation and to avoid war at any cost and under any circumstances. Reckless rumor-mongering and media irresponsibility, which can increase tensions and the possibility of war, should be dealt with sternly. Wars crush humanity, and as history teaches us, from the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings in 1945, wars are at once pointless, relentless, and endless. War is, after all, a bloody business.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Pawar's retort to Oppn's criticism on promises

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 2: Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar Friday suggested he was not the one who gave any farm loan waiver assurance before the polls, comments coming after the Congress accused the Mahayuti government of reneging on the promise of providing debt relief to farmers.

The Mahayuti alliance of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena and Ajit Pawar's Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) registered a landslide victory in the November 2024 Maharashtra assembly elections by winning 230 out of the 288 seats.

Talking to reporters, senior Congress leader Balasaheb Thorat accused the Mahayuti government of not fulfilling the promises it made ahead of the elections.

"Farmers are going through difficult times and it is the responsibility of the state government to provide some relief to farmers. Ahead of the elections, the government made



The government is spending on some sectors like anything but has taken no decision on farmers' loan waiver. It is unfortunate to see that this state government is not keen on offering any relief to farmers

BALASAHEB THORAT | SENIOR CONGRESS LEADER

several promises and assurances but after coming to power it is not doing anything on it. So people feel that they have been cheated," he said.

"The government is spending on some sectors like anything but has taken no decision on farmers' loan waiver. It is unfortunate to see that this

state government is not keen on offering any relief to farmers," the former state minister said.

Later during the day, when reporters asked Pawar, who holds the finance portfolio, about Thorat's criticism, he refused to give a direct answer. "Did I give the assurance of

loan waiver ahead of the elections?" he asked in response to the question.

When it was pointed out that the assurance was made by the Mahayuti alliance, Pawar reiterated, "Did I give the assurance? Did I?" Soon afterwards he left the venue without speaking further.

Farmer leader Raju Shetti has also voiced his discontent and criticised the government for what he described as neglect of farmers' issues, including low market prices for key crops such as soybean and cotton.

In March this year, Ajit Pawar, while speaking at an event in hometown Baramati in Pune, had said the current financial situation of the state does not allow for a crop loan waiver and asked farmers to pay instalments in time rather than wait for an announcement in this regard.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis had defended Pawar over the remark saying the latter had stated the "government's position".

Corbett tiger finds new home in Rajaji

The tiger was tranquilised and captured Wednesday from the Bijrani range of Corbett Tiger Reserve (CTR) for translocation to RTR to boost the tiger population there

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rishikesh, May 2: A five-year-old male tiger captured from the Corbett Tiger Reserve after being sedated was translocated to the Rajaji Tiger Reserve Thursday, officials said.

"The tiger has been kept in an enclosure in the Motichur range of Rajaji Tiger Reserve (RTR) for acclimatisation. Once he adapts to his new habitat, the tiger will be released into the wild," Chief Wildlife Warden Ranjan Kumar Mishra told PTI.

The health parameters of the tiger are alright and the



radio collar worn by it is functioning properly, Mishra said.

The tiger was tranquilised and captured Wednesday from the Bijrani range of Corbett Tiger Reserve (CTR) for translocation to RTR to boost the tiger population there, officials said.

Earlier, four tigers were successfully translocated from the Corbett to the Rajaji Tiger Reserve. With the addition of the new tiger, there will be five tigers in the forests between Motichur and Chilla ranges now, two males and three females, RTR Director Saket Badola said.

1,375 investors duped through car rental scheme: Official

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thane, May 2: Police in Maharashtra's Thane district have busted a car rental racket, through which at least 1,375 investors were duped of Rs 20 crore, with the arrest of two persons, an official said Friday.

The Mira-Bhayandar Vasai-Virar (MBVV) police have also recovered 246 vehicles be-

THANE POLICE RECOVER 246 VEHICLES



longing to investors in multiple states that were being used by the fraudsters, Commissioner Madhukar Pandey told reporters.

The scam unravelled after the MBVV police registered a case April 20 and launched a probe, he said.

Pandey said the prime accused, Sandeep Suresh Kandalkar, alias Raju Rajiv Joshi, persuaded investors to purchase pickup tempos and four-wheelers and promised to pay monthly returns of Rs 55,000 to Rs 75,000 if they allowed them to use the vehicles for rental purposes.

The accused told the investors that the vehicles bought in their names would be deployed at airports and the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust for commercial use, said Pandey.

"The agreements were executed on Rs 100 stamp papers and the payments were collected online. Initially, Kandalkar made the promised payments, but later defaulted, leading to the exposure of the scam," said the IPS officer.

Kandalkar, a native of Pisai village near Dapoli in Ratnagiri district, was arrested April 25, a day after his accomplice, Sachin Sunil Tetrege, also from Dapoli, was taken into custody, the official said. At least seven more persons are part of this racket, he said.

So far, 246 vehicles, valued at approximately Rs 25 crore, have been recovered, said Pandey. Kandalkar and his associates have cheated 1,375 investors of about Rs 20 crore after luring them with high returns through the scheme, he said.

Another official said that since the vehicles were deployed at specific locations like the airport and JNPT, it was easier for the police to recover so many of them in a short span.

"The main accused has a criminal history, with 13 cheating and misappropriation cases registered against him across Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Pune, Nashik, and Bharuch in Gujarat. Provisions related to organised crime have also been added in this case," Pandey said.

Efforts are being made to apprehend the other accused, he added.

CLASHES AFTER RAPE OF MINOR

HC asks authorities to curb tension in Nainital

Communal tension broke out in Nainital after the girl was allegedly sexually assaulted by the 60-year-old man hailing from the minority community

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Nainital, May 2: Taking suo motu cognizance of the tension prevailing here after the alleged rape of a 12-year-old girl by an elderly man, the Uttarakhand High Court has directed the police to maintain law and order, prevent gathering of crowds and conduct checking of vehicles.

A division bench of the high court comprising senior Justice Manoj Kumar Tiwari and Justice Vivek Bharti Sharma Thursday also asked authorities to monitor the internet to check rumour-mongering.

Communal tension broke out in Nainital after the girl was allegedly sexually assaulted by the 60-year-old man hailing from the minority community. The accused Osman, who is a contractor has been arrested.

The court further said that in order to maintain peace and order, the police should issue appeals to people and intensify patrolling to ensure that a violent situation like the one in Haldwani's Banbhoolpura area does not arise in Nainital.



Several incidents of violence took place in Banbhoolpura area in February last year after a madrasa was demolished.

Deputy Advocate General JS Virk informed the court that a large police force has been deployed to maintain peace and order in Nainital, and vehicles coming towards Nainital from Haldwani, Kaladhungi, and Bhimtal are being checked.

Following the directions of the court, District Magistrate Vandana Singh and Senior Superintendent of Police Prahalad Meena issued a series of directions and public appeals in order to maintain peace.

Some shops owned by members of the Muslim community were vandalised and stones were hurled also towards a nearby mosque

Members of some Hindu outfits Thursday staged demonstrations outside the police station demanding stern action against the accused Wednesday. Some shops owned by members of the Muslim community were vandalised and stones were hurled also towards a nearby mosque. The protesters also demanded that the accused be hanged.



Kedarnath temple doors open for devotees

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, May 2: After months of anticipation, the sacred portals of Baba Kedarnath were opened for public darshan Friday. With this, the Char Dham Yatra has officially commenced, allowing devotees to embark on the spiritual journey to the Himalayan shrines for the next six months.

The doors of Kedarnath Dham were opened amid grand religious ceremonies and the chanting of Vedic hymns in the presence of thousands of devotees. The auspicious moment was marked by a festive and devotional atmosphere as pilgrims gathered to witness the spiritually significant event.

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, who

has been actively monitoring the pilgrimage preparations, expressed his commitment to ensuring smooth travel and registration for the devotees.

Speaking on the occasion, he said, "I visited Rishikesh, the first halt of the Yatra, to review the arrangements. We've held discussions with stakeholders and directed officials to maintain active communication with pilgrims throughout the journey."

He further added, "We wait for the doors of Baba Kedarnath to open each year with great devotion. This year, the Char Dham Yatra began on April 30 on the auspicious occasion of Akshaya Tritiya. I had the good fortune of being present at the opening of the Ganga shrine in Gangotri and

The doors of Kedarnath Dham were opened amid grand religious ceremonies and the chanting of Vedic hymns in the presence of thousands of devotees

feel blessed to be part of these divine moments. Two days from now, the doors of Badrinath Dham will also open."

Highlighting the efforts of local contributors, the Chief Minister appreciated the team handling logistics and transportation, particularly noting the contribution of

Himanshu Chamoli and his team. "I appreciate the efforts of Himanshu Chamoli and his entire team for ensuring good transportation and proper arrangements at the stations during the journey," he said.

"The traders along the pilgrimage routes are vital to the Yatra as it forms the backbone of their livelihood. Their role is invaluable to the state and region." This year, Kedarnath Temple has been adorned like never before. The Pushp Samiti from Rishikesh and Gujarat has decked the temple with a breathtaking 108 quintals of vibrant flowers. The colourful blooms have added an aura of divine beauty and fragrance to the already majestic shrine, leaving devotees mesmerised.

Pony ride operators were first to help: Pahalgam attack survivor

Patil, who underwent treatment at the army hospital in Pahalgam, returned to his home in Kamothe in Navi Mumbai Thursday night along with his wife

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 2: Pony ride operators were the first to help him after he was injured by a terrorist's bullet during the April 22 attack on tourists in Pahalgam, 60-year-old Subodh Patil said Friday.

Patil, who underwent treatment at the army hospital in Pahalgam, returned to his home

in Kamothe in Navi Mumbai Thursday night along with his wife.

Speaking to reporters, he became emotional recounting the incidents of that day, and thanked the pony ride operators who helped the injured after the attack.

"I was unconscious due to a bullet injury in the neck. When I regained consciousness, I found dead bodies around me. After seeing me moving, a group of pony ride operators came up and offered me water," said Patil.

"The pony ride operator we had hired was among them. He said I should not worry about my wife, she was safe."

"Another man helped me stand up, offering me his shoulder for support, and asked if I could walk," Patil recalled, adding they kept telling him not to



be scared.

The pony ride operators took him outside the compound and gave him a cot to sit on.

"After some time they brought a vehicle, and took me to the medical facility of the Indian Army. From there I was flown out in a helicopter and shifted to the army hospital,"



Patil said.

Narrating how the attack unfolded, he said the terrorists asked all the Hindu tourists, including him, to stand in a line.

Some of them pleaded with the terrorists, but to no avail. Whoever tried to resist was shot immediately.

A bullet grazed his neck, caus-

ing an injury.

Patil also remembered Desale, a resident of the nearby New Panvel township, who was one of the six Maharashtra tourists killed in the attack that day.

"We both had arrived at the site together," he said.

Desale opted for a ropeway ride, and he and his wife also had their pictures taken in the traditional Kashmiri attire, Patil recalled. When the terrorists opened fire, Patil and others in his group did not take notice immediately. "After some time the sound of gunfire increased, and we turned back and saw people were running to save their lives," he said.

Everything happened in a span of five minutes but he would never be able to forget those five minutes, said Patil.

Maha govt starts second phase of land title updating

Mumbai: The Maharashtra government has launched the second phase of its 'Jivat 7/12' campaign to update land records, Revenue Minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule said Friday. The first phase of the exercise, including training of officials, was conducted earlier this year. "We have initiated the second phase of the Jivat 7/12 campaign" to ensure that farmers do not face any difficulties due to obsolete entries in land records. The government has issued an order to replace such entries with accurate, up-to-date information," Bawankule said. Outdated remarks, repaid agricultural loans, bonding encumbrances, mortgages, private moneylender loans, land acquisition disputes, non-agricultural orders, substandard land areas and women's inheritance claims will be removed (if they have become irrelevant)," the minister said.

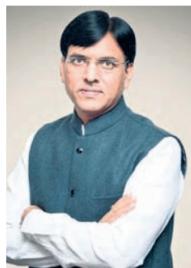
ZILLA PARISHAD, KANDHAMAL
(Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water Department)
TCN NO. 1745/2025-26/XLVIII-13/2025 Dated. 30.04.2025

TENDER CALL NOTICE

No.CAD-273 : Sealed tender(Percentage Rate) are invited from the interested "B", "C" & "D" Class Contractors in respected to each works, registered with the Govt. for execution of civil works under Zilla Parishad, Kandhamal, Phulbani. The detail notification is available at official website kandhamal.Odisha.gov.in . Interested Contractors fulfilling the eligibility criteria may submit their proposal(s) with EMD, Tender Paper Cost and document as per tender call notice. The bidder(s) have to submit their complete proposal(s) in all respect through Registered Post/Speed Post at the Zilla Parishad, Kandhamal, Phulbani should reach the undersigned on or before 19-05-2025 at 01.30 P.M. The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/- C.D.O.-cum-E.O.,
Zilla Parishad, Kandhamal,
Phulbani

OIPR-19273/11/0002/2526



Our youth are full of energy, talent, and determination. Their natural agility, stamina, and discipline, especially among our tribal communities, have led to remarkable achievements in boxing, martial arts (taekwondo, wushu), and athletics at both national and international levels

MANSUKH L MANDAVIYA | UNION MINISTER

IAF: AIR MARSHAL N TIWARI TAKES CHARGE AS VICE CHIEF OF AIR STAFF

Air Marshal Narmadeshwar Tiwari, a distinguished fighter pilot with more than 3,600 hours of flying experience, Friday took charge as the new Vice Chief of the Air Staff. He succeeds Air Marshal S P Dharkar, who superannuated April 30



of the day uote

Pakistani terrorists came and killed innocent people, but some among us are saying 'Pakistan zindabad'. We have arrested a number of them, and if anyone raises 'Pakistan zindabad', we will break his legs



HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CM

The poor are not getting any benefits from government schemes. They are forced to run to Lucknow for assistance but return empty-handed



AKHILESH YADAV | SP PRESIDENT

Today, MoUs were signed with the University of Western Australia and University of York to set up their campuses in Edacity



DEVENDRA FADNIS | MAHARASHTRA CM

SC protects family facing deportation to Pakistan

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh without fixing any specific timeline asked the authorities to verify the identity documents such as passports, Aadhaar card, pan card, etc., of the family and other relevant facts, which are brought to their notice

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 2: The Supreme Court Friday directed authorities not to deport to Pakistan six members of a family, who allegedly overstayed their visa, till their citizenship claim is verified.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh without fixing any specific timeline asked the authorities to verify the identity documents such as passports, Aadhaar card, pan card, etc., of the family and other relevant facts, which are brought to their notice.

"In the peculiar facts and circumstances of this case, authorities may not take coercive action till an appropriate decision is taken. If petitioners are dissatisfied by the final decision, they can approach J&K&L HC. Order not to be treated as precedent," the bench said.

The family, which lives in Kashmir and whose sons work in Bengaluru, faced deportation to Pakistan following the Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 people lost their lives. Observing that the issue involves a human angle, the bench gave the family the liberty to approach the Jam-



mu and Kashmir high court in case they are aggrieved by the document verification order.

Advocate Nanda Kishore, appearing for the family, claimed they had valid passports and Aadhaar cards. He said the family members in Srinagar were bundled into a jeep and ferried the Wagah border and now were at the "threshold of being

thrown out of the country".

The bench while directing the authorities to verify all the documents said that a decision be taken at the earliest, though no time limit was fixed.

Justice Kant asked the petitioner's counsel, "How did the father come to India? You have said he was in Pakistan." Kishore said he came to India

in 1987 on a valid visa and surrendered the Pakistani passport at the border.

One of the sons, who was appearing virtually, claimed the father came to India from Muzaffarabad, from the other side of Kashmir. Solicitor general Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, said it would be appropriate that the petitioners approach the authorities concerned first so that their claims were verified.

"Let them approach the authorities," Mehta said while assuring the bench that no coercive action would be taken against them till a decision was arrived at on the documents. "It was a case, where these people have overstayed the visa," he submitted.

The bench, however, said the oral undertaking might pave way to uncertainties.

PM launches projects worth ₹58K-cr in AP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Amaravati (Andhra Pradesh), May 2: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday inaugurated and laid the foundation for projects worth Rs 58,000 crore here that included relaunching the construction of the greenfield capital city of Amaravati, which he said was not a mere city but a dream come true.

Further, Amaravati is not just a town but a Shakti to transform Andhra Pradesh into a developed state, he said and assured full cooperation for the development of the southern state, helmed by the TDP-led NDA.

The N Chandrababu Naidu-led Telugu Desam Party (TDP) is a key ally of the ruling BJP at the Centre.

The establishment of Amaravati as a capital city is touted to be Naidu's dream project, following the bifurcation of the state in 2014 when Hyderabad, capital of the then united AP, became the capital for the newly carved Telangana.

Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation for 94 projects, including capital city institutions, national highways, railway upgrades and defence-related installations.

Congress asks PM to teach lesson to Pak

Calling for national unity and resolve, the Congress also pressed for "time-bound accountability" into the "serious lapses" in security and intelligence in one of the most heavily-guarded regions of the country

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 2: The Congress Friday urged the Centre to act with firmness and clarity to penalise Pakistan for its continued export of terror to India, asserting that the neighbouring country must be taught a lesson.

The assertion was made in a resolution passed unanimously at the meeting of the Congress Working Committee (CWC), the highest decision-making body of the party. The Congress also said the government should initiate a process for conducting a caste survey in a time-bound manner.

The CWC chaired by party chief Mallikarjun Kharge was attended by the top Congress leadership, including former party presidents Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, and party general secretaries Jairam Ramesh, K C Venugopal and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, among others. "This is the time for demonstrating our collective will as a nation to teach Pakistan a lesson and curb terrorism decisively. The masterminds and perpetrators of the cowardly attack (in Pahalgam) must face full consequences for their actions," the CWC resolution said. The Congress urged the Centre to act with "firmness, strategic clarity and international coordination to isolate and penalise Pakistan for its continued export of terror into our territory", the resolution said. "The entire country



awaits accountability, answers and justice. In the face of such an unforgivable provocation, the Congress believes this is not a time for politics but a moment that calls for unity, strength and national resolve," the resolution added.

In another resolution, the party demanded time-bound and transparent implementation of a caste survey, hoping it doesn't end up like another BJP "jumla" and meet the same fate like the Women's Reservation Bill. The Congress raised the demand after the Narendra Modi government Wednesday announced that caste enumeration will be included in the next census exercise in a "transparent" manner.

The resolution also pointed out that no details have been provided as to what the government intends to do, while no financial allocations have been made either for conducting the caste survey. The CWC asked the government to announce a "clear timeline" for every stage of the caste survey and reiterated its demand for removing the "arbitrary ceiling" of 50 per cent on reservations for SCs, STs and OBCs.

The Congress also demand-

ed the urgent implementation of Article 15(5) of the Constitution, which enables the provision of reservations for OBCs, Dalits and tribals in private educational institutions. "After 11 years of continued opposition and stubborn refusal, the Modi government has finally conceded to the demand of the Congress to collect caste-wise population data, as part of the next census. For 11 years, the prime minister attacked the Congress leadership for raising this demand," the CWC said in the resolution.

"All political parties must be taken into full confidence and Parliament must immediately have a debate on this issue. The government must immediately allocate the necessary funds and announce a clear timeline for every stage of the census, from the preparation of the questionnaire and methodology to the actual enumeration, classification and eventual publication of the data," it said.

It added that the collected data should serve as the basis for a wide-ranging review of public policy, especially in the areas of reservations, welfare schemes, educational access and employment opportunities.

WATER SHARING WITH HARYANA

Punjab parties put up united show

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, May 2: Amid escalating tensions between Punjab and Haryana over sharing of water, an all-party meeting called by the Aam Aadmi Party government in Punjab here Friday saw parties putting up a united stand on the issue.

A fresh row had erupted over the issue of water sharing between the two neighbours, with the Punjab government refusing to release more water to the BJP-ruled Haryana. While the Bhagwant Mann government has convened a special Vidhan Sabha session Monday on the issue, it was mullied during the all-party meeting that the parties could meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the coming days.

Representatives from various parties including AAP, Congress, BJP, SAD, CPM and BSP took part in the meeting, which was chaired by Mann. Among other leaders who took part in the meeting included Punjab minister and AAP state chief Aman Arora, Punjab

BJP chief Sunil Jakhar, BJP senior leader Manoranjan Kalia, Congress's Tript Rajinder Singh Bajwa and Rana K P Singh, Shiromani Akali Dal's Daljit Singh Cheema and Balwinder Singh Bhunder, Punjab BSP chief Avtar Singh Karimpuri and party MLA Nachhatar Pal.

Addressing a press conference after the all-party meet, Mann said, "The meeting was held for nearly two hours and all parties gave their views on water issue."

Some BBMB officials were also changed overnight, he said. During all-party meeting, we condemned this. We are already giving 4,000 cusecs to Haryana on humanitarian grounds. Rather than thanking us, they took the issue somewhere else, said Mann.

A few suggestions were also given by the parties which included that we should meet prime minister on the issue, said Mann, while adding Monday, "we will be holding a special session and agendas for the same are being firmed up".

SHORT TAKES

Bandh in most parts of Dakshina Kannada

Mangalore/Bangalore: The Dakshina Kannada district Friday witnessed a shutdown in most parts, following a bandh call given by the VHP and the prohibitory order clamped by the district administration after a Hindu activist's murder. Suhas Shetty, a known rowdy sheeter and Hindutva activist, was murdered by an unidentified group late Thursday within the Bajpe police station limits in Mangaluru City. The BJP has demanded a NIA probe into the killing of Shetty whose last rites were conducted today at his native in Buntwal in the presence of large number of Hindu activists, locals and BJP leaders.

Man stabbed to death; 6 arrested

New Delhi: Three men who allegedly stabbed a man to death in the Sultanpuri area of outer Delhi have been arrested, police said Friday. Six men in all were have been arrested in connection with the killing, they said. Ritik, 19, Rahul, 23, and Nikhil, 19, all of them with a history of violent crimes, were arrested near a big drain in the area. Akhil, 30, Karan, 27, and Anurag, 23 -- all three connected with the Bhola gang -- were arrested Thursday from near Japanese Park in Rohini.

Delhi CM flags off 400 battery buses

New Delhi: Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta Friday inaugurated 400 new electric buses under the Delhi Electric Vehicle Initiative (DEVI). Speaking at the launch, Gupta said, "This is the power of a triple-engine government. All three arms are working together tirelessly." She said that 2,080 more electric buses will be added by the end of this year.

IAF begins landing drills on Ganga Expressway

Shahjahanpur: The IAF Friday commenced its much-anticipated "land and go" drill on the 3.5-km stretch of the Ganga Expressway in Uttar Pradesh's Shahjahanpur district, marking a significant milestone in the country's defence preparedness. What sets this expressway stretch apart is its unique capability to facilitate both day and night landings of fighter jets, making it the first such airstrip in the country. Until now, similar emergency landing drills were carried out on the Lucknow-Agra and Purvanchal expressways, but those were limited to daytime operations.

ASSAM PANCHAYAT POLLS

Over 56 per cent voter turnout till 3.30 pm

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, May 2: An estimated 56.41 per cent of the 89.59 lakh electorate exercised their franchise till 3.30 pm in the first phase of the Assam panchayat polls Friday, amidst reports of sporadic incidents of violence in some places, officials said.

Voting began at 7.30 am and concluded at 4.30 pm in 14 districts of the state. However, those who are in the queue even after the scheduled time of close, are entitled to vote, they said. The exact voting percentage at the end of polling was yet to come, but 56.41 per cent of the electorate had exercised their franchise till 3:30 pm, the officials said. In the first phase, over 89.59 lakh people, including 44.66 lakh males and 44.93 females, are eligible to cast their votes at 12,916 polling booths.

35K lives lost to extreme temperatures during 2001-19: Study

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 2: At least 35,000 lives were lost in India due to exposure to extreme hot and cold temperatures between 2001 and 2019, a new study has found.

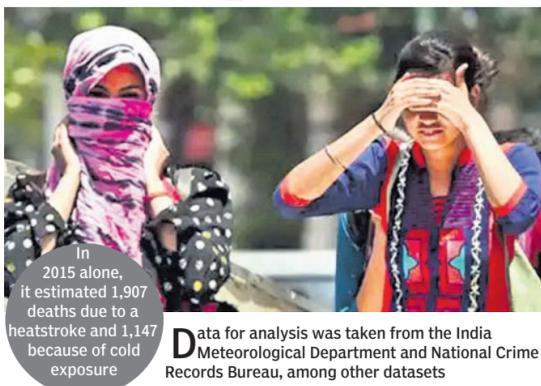
In 2015 alone, it estimated 1,907 deaths due to a heatstroke and 1,147 because of cold exposure. Data for analysis was taken from the India Meteorological Department and National Crime Records Bureau, among other datasets.

Findings, published in the journal Temperature, show an upward-moving, increasing trend in deaths due to a heatstroke and exposure to cold temperatures. Lead author Pradeep Guin from O P Jindal

Global University, Haryana, said that deaths due to exposure to extreme temperatures are avoidable and that measures to mitigate health impacts need to be put in place.

"With an intense heatwave forecast to hit most of the country this summer and extreme weather events becoming more frequent around the globe as the world warms, there is no time to be lost in raising awareness about the dangers of extreme temperatures and putting in place measures to reduce their impact," Guin said.

He added, "Support systems exist, but more needs to be done." Deaths due to extreme temperatures were found to be more common among men of working age. During



In 2015 alone, it estimated 1,907 deaths due to a heatstroke and 1,147 because of cold exposure

Data for analysis was taken from the India Meteorological Department and National Crime Records Bureau, among other datasets

the study period of 2001-2019, deaths due to extreme heat were three to five times higher

among men, while those due to extreme cold were four to seven times higher, compared to

women, the researchers said. State-wise, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Punjab were found to record the most deaths due to a heatstroke, whereas the most deaths due to exposure to extreme cold came from Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, and Bihar.

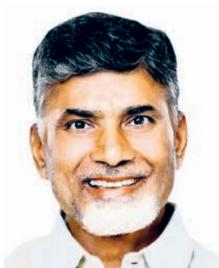
The authors wrote, "Between 2001 and 2019, India reported 19,693 and 15,197 deaths due to heatstroke and cold exposure, respectively." Guin said, "Deaths due to heatstroke is more significant, compared to deaths due to cold exposure, albeit recording an upward trend."

Co-author Nandita Bhan from the school of public health and human development at O P Jindal Global University, said the results highlight the urgent need of heat and cold action

plans for vulnerable states.

Previous studies have largely looked at health impacts of extreme temperatures in developed countries and one-off events, such as a heatwave, rather than looking at low- and middle-income countries, the researchers said. They added that with India experiencing temperature extremes each year, it is important to know places most at risk, which can help in designing measures to keep population safe.

A recently published study in the journal Nature Communications showed that 'rapid flips' in temperatures - a switch between hot and cold extremes in a relatively short time - have increased in 60 per cent of the world's areas over the past 60 years.



We are pledging that we will stand by PM Modi and the central government's every move to crackdown on terrorism

ULLU APP REMOVES AJAZ KHAN'S REALITY SHOW

Actor Ajaz Khan's reality show 'House Arrest' has been pulled down from streaming platform Ullu after a snow-balling controversy over its sexually explicit content.



of the day quote

If Delhi doesn't see planned development, such management issues will continue to arise. But today, the entire administration is on its toes to address these challenges

Cleaning the Yamuna is both our commitment and responsibility. IIT Kanpur is working on AI-driven solutions to clean the Yamuna and tackle air pollution

In that case, the mission of self-respect and dignity initiated by Babasaheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar would have seen real success

Heavy rains kill seven across north India; flights delayed



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The unexpected downpour was caused by moisture and wind convergence over the region, fed by both the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal

New Delhi/Gurugram/Chandigarh/Lucknow/Shimla, May 2: Torrential rain lashed north India, including the Delhi-NCR region, early Friday, killing at least seven people, uprooting over 100 trees, and delaying more than 200 flights.

The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway was blocked after the rain caused a landslide. A 28-year-old woman and her three children were killed when their house in southwest Delhi's Najafgarh area collapsed after a tree fell on it.

Police and fire department officers pulled the family out of the rubble and rushed them to a nearby hospital in Jaffarpur Kalan, where four of them were declared dead, an officer said. In Uttar Pradesh, three people were killed and several injured in lightning strikes.

A mix of weather systems created conditions for thunderstorms. Roads in Delhi, Gurugram, Faridabad, and Mathura were inundated with water as commuters remained stuck in slow-moving traffic for hours.

In Faridabad, people were seen trying to pull out a half-submerged car stuck in waterlogged areas. Rows of vehicles were caught in a traffic jam in Ghaziabad. Delhi's Minto Bridge, ITO, Major Somnath Marg in RK Puram, and Khanpur were flooded with rainwater, causing heavy traffic jams in the areas.

Delhi received 77 mm of rain in just three hours beginning around 5 am. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a red alert for the city, urging people to remain vigilant. Three flights were diverted and more than 200 flights were delayed at the Delhi airport as thunderstorms and gusty winds disrupted operations.

airport were diverted to Jaipur and one to Ahmedabad. Delhi Fire Services received around 100 calls of rain-related incidents during the 3-4 hours of storm and heavy showers.

In the Lutyns' Delhi area, at least 25 tree fall cases and 12 complaints related to waterlogging were received. Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited (TPDDL) spokesperson said it received 22 power cut complaints, which were restored within a few minutes to one hour.

Distribution Company BSES said that in a few low-lying and waterlogged areas, the electricity supply had to be cut temporarily as a precautionary measure. The majority of Gurugram, a hub of scores of multinationals housed in swanky skyscrapers, was waterlogged.

The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway was closed after the rain triggered mudslides in the Union Territory's Ramban district, a traffic police officer said. Flash floods were triggered in the Chenab River, prompting the authorities in the Reasi and Akhnour sectors to issue warnings against venturing near the riverbank.

UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath directed officials to visit affected areas, assess damage to crops and livestock, and ensure that relief is distributed immediately to those affected by lightning strikes, and rain or storm-related accidents.

According to the IMD, west Uttar Pradesh is likely to witness rain and thundershowers at a few places May 3 and 4, accompanied by strong surface winds of 25-35 km/hr and gusty winds reaching 40-50 km/hr at isolated locations.

In east Uttar Pradesh, isolated rains are expected May 3 and more widespread showers May 4.

Thunderstorms with lightning and gusty winds (30-50 km/hr) are also likely during this period. Himachal Pradesh capital Shimla and the surrounding area of Jubbarhatti were lashed by a hailstorm and rain, the weather office said.

The Tutikandi-ISBT Road was blocked for a few hours in Shimla after trees fell on three parked vehicles.



Students celebrate after Class X exam results were declared, at a school at Bolpur, in Birbhum. A high 86.57 per cent out of 9,69,425 candidates passed this year's Class X Madhaymik examination, the West Bengal Board of Secondary Education announced Friday morning

Hailstorm in Shimla, surrounding areas

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, May 2: Himachal Pradesh capital Shimla and its surrounding area of Jubbarhatti were lashed by a hailstorm, and other several places by heavy rain, the weather office said Friday.

The Tutikandi-ISBT road was blocked for a few hours in Shimla after trees fell on three parked vehicles, making it difficult for the students to commute in the morning. Two rooms of a slate-roofed house were completely razed and a property burned down in a lightning strike in Khandera village of the Hamirpur district Thursday night.

Kuldeep Singh and his wife, who were sleeping inside the house, when the fire blazed were saved by the locals, officials said.

Kufri, Bilaspur, Reckong Peo, Bajura, Narkanada, and Tabo were smitten by gusty winds, while thunderstorms lashed Shimla, Jubbarhatti, Sundernagar, Jot, Bhunter, Murari Devi, Kufri, and Kangra, the Met said.

The Met has issued an orange alert of hailstorms at isolated places in the state Friday, and orange and yellow warnings of thunderstorms, lightning, and gusty winds with a speed of up to 30-50 kmph till next Thursday.

NATIONAL HERALD CASE

Court issues notice to Sonia, Rahul Gandhi



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 2: A Delhi court Friday issued notices to former Congress president Sonia Gandhi and leader of opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi in the National Herald money laundering case.

Special judge Vishal Gogne said their "right to be heard" was available at the time of cognisance of the chargesheet. "Right to be heard at any stage breathes life into fair trial," the judge said, posting the matter May 8. The judge also issued notice to Congress leader Sam Pitroda and Suman Dubey, and "Young Indian", Dotex Merchandise Pvt Ltd and Sunil Bhandari.

The chargesheet was filed under Sections 3 (money laundering) and 4 (punishment for money laundering) of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

In a 14-page order, the judge observed the "prosecuting agency ED does not come to any detriment if the accused is permitted to make submissions on the question of cognisance". "In this adherence to the principles of fair hearing, the right to be heard is not inconsistent with any of the powers vested in the ED for investigation or the presumptions as well as burden of proof stipulated under the PMLA," the order said.

During a brief hearing, additional solicitor general S V Raju, representing the ED, said the probe agency was "not opposing such a notice precisely because it is votary of fair trial". The court further said, "Besides, the proviso to

Section 223 of BNSS (Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita) is a salutary provision in furtherance of the right to be heard, as a part of fair trial. It is designed to protect accused persons against improper implication by permitting them to make submissions prior to the court taking cognisance of the offences in question."

The BNSS, the court noted, was therefore a progressive legislation and recorded among its objectives and reasons a "citizens centric criminal procedure" being the "need of the hour". Section 223 of BNSS grants an accused the right to be heard on the aspect of cognisance.

This "benevolent intent" of the BNSS should be read in favour of accused persons rather than the investigation agencies when a right to be heard is to be accorded at any stage of the proceedings, the court added.

"To summarise, the court finds that notice is required to be issued to the proposed accused persons for hearing on the question of cognisance upon the present complaint in terms of the proviso to section 223 BNSS. It is thus directed that notice be issued to the proposed accused persons in order that they may be heard on the question of cognisance upon the present complaint," the judge said.

The ED, which filed its chargesheet recently, began its probe in 2021 after a magistrate court took cognisance of a private complaint filed by BJP leader Subramanian Swamy June 26, 2014.

POST OF THE DAY

Arrived in Vietnam leading the high-level Indian delegation with the Sacred Relics of Lord Buddha. Grand ceremonial reception was accorded by the Govt of Vietnam & Vietnam Buddhist Sanghas. The Holy Relics will be in Vietnam from 2nd-21st May 2025 for UN Vesak Day celebrations

SHORT TAKES

4 killed as vehicle overturns in MP

Vidisha (MP): Four persons, including a woman, were killed and 13 others injured after a vehicle carrying a marriage party overturned in Madhya Pradesh's Vidisha district in the early hours of Friday, an official said. The incident took place around 3 am near Lateri town when a jeep carrying the marriage party was returning to Sironj from Indore, said Collector Anshul Gupta. One of the injured persons, who was in serious condition, was referred to Bhopal, while the rest are being treated in hospitals in Vidisha and Lateri.

Security tightened in Manipur

Imphal: Security has been tightened across Manipur as a precautionary measure ahead of the second anniversary of the start of the ethnic strife in the state May 3, 2023, officials said Friday. Police have intensified frisking and vehicle checks at key locations in Imphal, Churachandpur and Kangpokpi district headquarters to monitor the movement of anti-social elements. Security has also been beefed up in and around Khuman Lampak in Imphal, where the Manipur People's Convention is scheduled.

Fake doctor held

Dimapur: The police have arrested a man from Nagaland's Dimapur on the charge of practising medicine without the necessary qualifications or registration. The accused, a resident of NST Colony, was found to be posing as a doctor in the commercial hub of Nagaland, Dimapur, the police said in a statement. The arrest followed a formal complaint filed by the Nagaland Medical Council against him, a release issued by Commissioner of Police, Dimapur, said here Friday.

'India asks IMF to review loans, grants to Pakistan'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 2: India will be asking global multilateral agencies, including the IMF, to have a relook at funds and loans provided to Pakistan, as New Delhi seeks to corner the neighbouring state diplomatically following the dastardly terror attack in Pahalgam last month which killed 26 tourists.

Authorities have identified five terrorists — including three Pakistani nationals — behind the massacre in Pahalgam. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Thursday termed Pakistan a rogue state that has been fuelling global terrorism. Meanwhile, Home



Minister Amit Shah said the terrorists who carried out the 'cowardly' Pahalgam terror attack would not be spared. The IMF Executive Board is scheduled to meet Pakistan officials on May 9 for first review of the extended funding facility, and

request for an arrangement under the resilience and sustainability facility. The IMF Board will evaluate fresh \$1.3 billion arrangement for Pakistan under its climate resilience loan programme. It will also assess an ongoing \$7

billion bailout package. As of December 31, 2024, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has committed 764 public sector loans, grants, and technical assistance totalling \$43.4 billion to Pakistan. ADB's current sovereign portfolio in Pakistan includes 53 loans and 3 grants worth \$9.13 billion.

ADB committed a \$320 million loan for the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Rural Roads Development Project to upgrade around 900 kilometers of flood-susceptible rural roads in the province.

In January 2025, the World Bank approved \$20 billion lending package to Pakistan for the cash-strapped country to overcome its challenges.

Law aids vigilant, not those who sleep over their rights: SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 2: The law aids the vigilant, not those who sleep over their rights, the Supreme Court Friday said and upheld a high court verdict over a property-related dispute in Bengaluru.

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and R Mahadevan was hearing the issue over the forfeiture of ₹20 lakh paid as the first tranche of the total sale consideration of a property.

The bench, which elaborated on "earnest money" and "advance money" for being relevant to the matter, said the Karnataka High Court denied the relief of refund of advance

money to the appellant as he did not seek an alternative prayer for a refund in the suit.

The top court said it was a settled position of the law that the plaintiff might be amended at any stage of the proceedings to enable the plaintiff to seek an alternative relief, including that of the refund of earnest money, and the courts were vested with wide judicial discretion to permit such amendments.

It referred to a provision of the Specific Relief Act, 1963 and said the courts couldn't grant such relief suo motu. The provision of the Act, the bench said, was adequately broad and flexible to allow the appellant to seek an amendment of the



plaint for the said relief, even at the appellate stage.

The top court went on, "Here, it would be redundant to state that the law aids the vigilant, not those who sleep over their rights." The apex court deliv-

ered its verdict on an appeal challenging the high court's August 2021 order.

The bench noted the dispute arose from a claim for specific performance of a July 2007 agreement of sale with respect

The bench noted the dispute arose from a claim for specific performance of a July 2007 agreement of sale with respect to a property for a total sale consideration of ₹55.50 lakh

It noted ₹20 lakh was paid towards part payment and the agreement stipulated that the sale transaction would be completed with the payment of the balance amount within four months

to a property for a total sale consideration of ₹55.50 lakh. It noted ₹20 lakh was paid towards part payment and the agreement stipulated that the sale transaction would be completed with the payment of the

balance amount within four months. The appellant before the apex court first moved a trial court seeking a direction to the original owner to execute the sale deed and deliver the possession of the suit property. The trial court dismissed the suit following which he moved high court, which affirmed the trial court verdict observing the appellant failed to pay the balance sale consideration within the stipulated four months.

In its verdict, the top court said the only question that fell for its consideration was whether the appellant was entitled to refund of ₹20 lakh purportedly paid as "advance money".



I hope every single one of you, you guys in front me, feel a sense of pride, because these are the products that actually make America work

QUAKE STRIKES OFF SOUTHERN COASTS OF CHILE, ARGENTINA

A 7.4 magnitude earthquake struck off the southern coasts of Chile and Argentina Friday, the United States Geological Survey said. No damage or casualties have been reported. Chilean authorities issued an evacuation alert for the entire coastal section of the Strait of Magellan, in the far south of the country



of the day quote

In the wake of the world aiming to reach net zero by 2050, there has been a return to realism where it is globally accepted that nuclear technology has a huge role to play in the energy mix as a key source to ensure countries achieve their energy security, energy sovereignty, and energy justice in the transition



DR. KGOSIENTSHO RAMOKGOPA | MINISTER FOR ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY, SOUTH AFRICA

The people of Colombia want to vote for their fundamental rights, for their dignity



GUSTAVO PETRO | PRESIDENT, COLOMBIA

I've determined to find what I can do for the future of the Republic of Korea that I love and for all of us



HAN DUCK-SOO | FORMER PRIME MINISTER, SOUTH KOREA

PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACK

Pak seeks pressure on India

The series of meetings with brotherly countries took place amid heightened tension between India and Pakistan after terrorists killed 26 people, mostly tourists, in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam April 22



The term brotherly countries is frequently used for Muslim countries, such as Saudi Arabia, UAE and Turkiye, with which Pakistan is having good credentials

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, May 2: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Friday urged brotherly countries, including Saudi Arabia, to impress upon India to de-escalate and defuse tensions heightened after the Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people.

Sharif separately met Saudi Ambassador Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Maliki, UAE Ambassador Hamad Obaid Al-Zaabi and Kuwait Ambassador Nasser Abdulrahman Jasser in Islamabad when the Prime Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's desire for peace and stability in South Asia, state-run media said here.

The series of meetings with brotherly countries took place amid heightened tension between India and Pakistan after terrorists killed 26 people, mostly tourists, in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam April 22.

The term brotherly countries is frequently used for Muslim countries, such as Saudi Arabia, UAE and Turkiye, with which Pakistan is having good credentials.

Radio Pakistan reported that while talking with Ambassador Nawaf, "The Prime Minister outrightly rejected baseless Indian accusations linking Pakistan to the Pahalgam incident without any evidence and reiterated his call for a transparent and neutral international investigation into the incident."

While sharing Pakistan's perspective on recent developments in South Asia after the Pahalgam incident, Shehbaz Sharif said, "Pakistan con-

demns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations".

He also highlighted the government's complete focus on consolidating the hard-earned economic gains of the past 15 months, with the support of friendly countries, including Saudi Arabia.

He added that it is inconceivable for Pakistan to act in an irresponsible manner to jeopardise its achievements and derail the country from the path of economic progress.

In another meeting, Sharif thanked the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Ambassador Hamad Obaid Al-Zaabi for unwavering support to Pakistan.

He categorically rejected "the baseless accusations leveled by India in its desperate attempts to link Pakistan to the Pahalgam incident, without any evidence" and instead shared how Pakistan has been a victim of terrorism over the last few decades.

Trump threatens to strip Harvard's tax-exempt status

REUTERS

Washington, May 2: President Donald Trump said Friday he planned to strip Harvard University of its tax-exempt status, setting up another potential legal fight with the Ivy League school amid his wider crackdown on elite universities and the US education system.

"We are going to be taking away Harvard's Tax Exempt Status. It's what they deserve!" Trump said in a post on his social media platform, without specifying when he might take action.

Representatives for the Internal Revenue Service did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Trump's post and whether it was revoking the university's tax-exempt status.

Harvard, in a statement, said the move would be unlawful and unprecedented.

"There is no legal basis to rescind Harvard's tax-exempt status," the Boston-area school said. "The unlawful use of this instrument more broadly would have grave consequences for the future of higher education in America."

It would also cut money available for student scholarships, medical research and technological advancements that drive economic growth, Harvard added.

Since taking office in January, Trump has targeted major US universities by freezing fed-



Harvard says unlawful move would be unprecedented

No immediate comment from IRS

Trump's statement latest salvo against universities

eral funding, launching investigations, revoking student visas and making other demands. He has said higher education has been gripped by antisemitic, anti-American, Marxist and radical left ideologies.

Under federal law, the president cannot request that the IRS, which determines whether an organization can have or maintain tax-exempt status, investigate organizations.

Most universities are exempt from federal income tax under the US tax code because they are deemed to be operated exclusively for public educational purposes.

Trump's administration has escalated its fight against Harvard in recent weeks, probing its nearly \$9 billion in federal funding, seeking details on its foreign ties and threatening its ability to enroll foreign students.

China 'evaluating' US offer to negotiate tariffs



REUTERS

Beijing, May 2: Beijing is "evaluating" an offer from Washington to hold talks over US President Donald Trump's crippling tariffs, China's Commerce Ministry said Friday, signalling a potential de-escalation in the trade war that has roiled global markets.

The United States has approached China to seek talks over Trump's 145% tariffs and Beijing's door was open for discussions, the commerce ministry said.

The US should be prepared to take action in "correcting erroneous practices" and cancel unilateral tariffs, the commerce ministry said in a statement, adding that Washington needed to show "sincerity" in negotiations.

"The US has recently taken the initiative on many occasions to convey information to China through relevant parties, saying it hopes to talk with China," the statement said, adding that Beijing was "evaluating this".

"Attempting to use talks as a pretext to engage in coercion and extortion would not work," it added.

China has repeatedly denied it is seeking to negotiate a way out of the tariffs with the United States, appearing instead to be betting that Washington makes the first move.

Trump's decision to single Beijing out for import duties of 145% comes at a particularly difficult time for China, which is struggling with deflation due to sluggish economic growth and a prolonged property crisis.

Beijing has expressed its anger at the tariffs, which it says are tantamount to bullying and cannot stop the rise of the world's second-largest economy.

Alongside leveraging its propaganda machine to hit back at the duties, China has quietly created a list of U.S.-made products it will exempt from its retaliatory 125% tariffs - including select pharmaceuticals, microchips and jet engines - Reuters has reported.

Israel strikes near Syria's presidential palace

REUTERS

Damascus/Sweida, Syria, May 2: Israel bombed an area near the presidential palace in Damascus early Friday in its clearest signal yet of hostility toward the Islamist-led Syrian authorities and a preparedness to ramp up military action in the name of Syria's Druze minority.

Israel has escalated military operations in Syria since rebels ousted Bashar al-Assad in December, with bombings across the country and ground forces entering its southwest, while calling for Syria to remain decentralised and isolated.

It has framed its stance around its suspicion toward interim President Ahmed al-Sharaa, who once headed a branch of al Qaeda, and the desire to protect the Druze, a minority sect that is an offshoot of Islam with followers in Syria, Lebanon and Israel.

Early Friday, Israel's military said it struck an area "adjacent" to Sharaa's palace in Damascus, without further details. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

The strike was "a clear message to the Syrian regime: We will not allow (Syrian) forces to deploy south of Damascus or



Israel has stepped up military action in Syria since Islamist rebels overthrew President Assad in December

Israel's Netanyahu and Katz: Latest strike is message against threats to Druze community in Syria

US calls for inclusive Syrian government, condemns recent violence against Druze

Nor does it care for the groups it purportedly protects by bombing others," Syrian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Razan Saffour wrote on X, adding Israel had never bombed near the palace when Assad was in power.

This week's fighting posed the latest challenge for Sharaa, who has repeatedly vowed to unite all of Syria's armed forces under one structure and govern the country, fractured by 14 years of civil war until Assad's overthrow, in an inclusive way.

But incidents of sectarian violence, notably the killing of hundreds of pro-Assad Alawites in March, have hardened fears among minority groups about the now-dominant Islamists and sparked condemnation from global powers.

any threat to the Druze community", Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defence Minister Israel Katz said in a joint statement.

Syria's presidency condemned what it described as a "bombardment on the presidential palace" and said it marked a "dangerous escalation".

"Israel doesn't want peace.

Farage's Reform UK Party wins mayoral, parliamentary post

REUTERS

Widnes, England, May 2: Britain's right-wing Reform UK party won a vacant parliamentary seat, a mayoralty and control of three councils Friday in early results from elections that its leader Nigel Farage said proved it was now the real opposition.

The populist Reform, led by the veteran campaigner for Brexit, hopes Thursday's local elections in England will mark the breakdown of a century of domination of British politics by the governing Labour Party and Opposition Conservatives.

In the most closely watched contest, for the vacant parliamentary seat of Runcorn and Helsby, Reform won by just six votes after a full recount giving Farage's party its fifth seat in the House of Commons. Labour had won the seat in last year's national election with a majority of almost 15,000.

"It's been a huge night for Reform," Farage told reporters. "This is heartland Labour Party, their vote has collapsed and much of it has come to us." The Conservatives - historically one of the most successful parties of any modern democracy - were now "toast", he said.

"You're witnessing the end of a party that's been around since 1832."

Andrea Jenkens, a former Conservative minister who defected to Reform after losing her seat last year, became mayor of Greater Lincolnshire, which covers about a million people, making her the party's most powerful elected politician yet.

Reform also took control of Staffordshire county council, winning 32 seats, and Durham county council.

It was leading all parties in the initial tally of councillors elected, with nearly half of the more than 1,600 seats up for grabs on local authorities declared.



NEVER ARGUE 115-year-old British woman gives recipe to long life

Caterham, who is 115, became the world's oldest living person, according to the Gerontology Research Group, after Sister Inah Canabarro, a Brazilian nun and teacher, died Wednesday at the tender age of 116

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, May 2: For Ethel Caterham, the trick to a long life — and in her case, it really has been — is not to argue.

Caterham, who is 115, became the world's oldest living person, according to the Gerontology Research Group, after Sister Inah Canabarro,

a Brazilian nun and teacher, died Wednesday at the tender age of 116.

"Never arguing with anyone, I listen and I do what I like," she said from her nursing home in Surrey, southwest of London, on the secret to her longevity.

She was born August 21, 1909, in the village of Shipton Bellinger in the south of England,



five years before the outbreak of World War I. She was the sec-

ond youngest of eight siblings. Travel has been in her blood, it's clear. In 1927, at the age of 18, Ethel embarked on a journey to India, working as a nanny for a British family, where she stayed for three years before returning to England, according to the GRG.

She met her husband Norman, who was a major in the British army, at a dinner party in 1931, and they were stationed in Hong Kong and Gibraltar, the GRG said. They had two daughters whom they raised in the UK. Norman died in 1976.

Hallmark Lakeview Luxury Care Home in Camberley,

where Ethel is a resident, posted pictures of her cutting a cake and wearing a "115" tiara on a Facebook post Thursday.

"Huge congratulations to Lakeview resident, Ethel on becoming the oldest person in the world! What an incredible milestone and a true testament to a life well-lived," it said in an accompanying statement. "Your strength, spirit, and wisdom are an inspiration to us all. Here's to celebrating your remarkable journey!"

The title of the oldest person ever is held by French woman Jeanne Calment, who lived to 122 years 164 days, according to Guinness World Records.



For the June quarter, we do expect the majority of iPhones sold in the US will have India as their country of origin, and Vietnam to be the country of origin for almost all iPad, Mac, Apple Watch, and AirPods products also sold in the US

TIM COOK | CEO, APPLE

OYO DELAYS THIRD IPO BID

Budget hotel chain Oyo is delaying its third IPO attempt amid opposition from largest shareholder SoftBank and market volatility, aiming to now list by March 2026 at a valuation of \$7 billion



of the day quote

For centuries, India has gifted the world its wisdom, its beauty and its soul, but somewhere along the way our voice softened. But now, it is rising again. We are the very cradle of civilisation, a cultural force whose time has come once again



NITA AMBANI | CHAIRPERSON, JIOSTAR

It is important to revise the MSP of sugar and ethanol prices to align them with the prevailing cost of production in the interest of farmers, consumers, the ethanol programme, and financial institutions who have also invested heavily in the sugar industry



PRAFUL VITHALANI | CHAIRMAN, AISTA

Bolt fits into the way people live today. You're hungry, you want something now, and you don't want to compromise. We built Bolt for that moment. Seeing it scale to 500-plus cities in just a few months has been incredible. And this is just the beginning



ROHIT KAPOOR | CEO, SWIGGY FOOD MARKETPLACE

TARIFF UNCERTAINTY

S&P cuts India's FY26 GDP growth forecast

The INR/USD pair is witnessing significant fluctuations since the US tariff announcement and the rupee is currently hovering at 84-level against the greenback

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 2: S&P Global Ratings Friday cut India's growth projections by 0.2 percentage points to 6.3 per cent for the current fiscal year citing uncertainty over the US tariff policy and downside risks from its spillover to the economy.

In its report titled "Global Macro Update: Seismic Shift In US Trade Policy Will Slow World Growth", S&P Global Ratings said "we reiterate that there are no winners in a scenario of escalating protectionist policies."

S&P said among Asia-Pacific's major economies, China is expected to see its growth drop by 0.7 percentage points in 2025 to 3.5 per cent and in 2026 to 3 per cent.

S&P projected India's GDP growth to be 6.3 per cent in 2025-26 and 6.5 per cent in 2026-27 fiscal year.

In March, S&P had lowered the FY'26 GDP growth forecast to 6.5 per cent, from 6.7 per cent.

"The risks to our baseline remain firmly on the downside in the form of a stronger-than-anticipated spillover from the tariff shock to the real economy. The longer-term configuration of the global economy, including the role of the US, is also less certain," S&P said. With regard to exchange



S&P projected India's GDP growth to be 6.3% in 2025-26 and 6.5% in 2026-27 fiscal year

In March, S&P had lowered the FY'26 GDP growth forecast to 6.5%, from 6.7%

rate fluctuations, S&P projected INR/USD exchange rate to be 88 by 2025-end from 86.64 in 2024.

The INR/USD pair is witnessing significant fluctuations since the US tariff announcement and the rupee is currently hovering at 84-level against the greenback.

According to S&P, the US economy is expected to grow 1.5 per cent this year and 1.7 per cent in the next.

The global rating agency said the US tariff policy will fall into three buckets - China will be an individual case, reflecting the ongoing geo-

political rivalry, including long-standing tensions around the bilateral trade imbalance and "unfair competition."

Trade relations with the EU are likely to be complex, while Canada looks to take a firm stance on trade talks with the US.

"We expect most remaining countries will try to negotiate a settlement rather than retaliate," S&P said.

So far, the economic fallout from the tariff shock has been limited to drops in confidence indices and declines in nominal variables such as financial asset prices. It has yet to affect the real economy other than some front-running of imports to beat the tariffs.

That may be starting to change, as goods shipments from China have recently begun to decline, S&P noted.

Forex kitty jumps to \$688.13 billion

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 2: India's forex reserves increased \$1.983 billion to \$688.129 billion during the week ended April 25, the RBI said Friday.

This is the eighth consecutive week of a rise in the kitty, which had jumped 8.31 billion to \$686.145 in the previous reporting week.

The forex reserves had touched an all-time high of \$704.885 billion in end-September 2024.

For the week ended April 25, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, increased \$2.168 billion to \$580.663 billion, the data released on Friday showed.



Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

Gold reserves decreased \$207 million to \$84.365 billion during the week, the Reserve Bank of India said.

The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were up \$21 million to \$18.589 billion, the apex bank said.

India's reserve position with the IMF was also up \$2 million to \$4.512 billion in the reporting week, the apex bank data showed.

Manufacturing growth touches 10-month high

New business from abroad grew to the greatest degree in over 14 years at the start of the 2025-26 fiscal year

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 2: The growth momentum in the Indian manufacturing sector improved in April, with output increasing at the fastest pace since June 2024, on the back of another strong expansion in order books, a monthly survey said Friday.

The seasonally adjusted HS-BC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) rose from 58.1 in March to 58.2 in April, indicating the strongest improvement in the health of the sector for ten months.

In PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

A key factor contributing to the latest improvement in output growth was a sharp rise in new business. The manufacturing sector's rate of expansion was supported by better domestic and international demand.

According to the survey, the total sales were supported by a sharp rise in international orders.

New business from abroad grew to the greatest degree in over 14 years at the start of the 2025-26 fiscal year and this demand was led by Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and the Americas, the survey participants said. This positive trend was accompanied by notable rises in employment and purchasing activity.

"Manufacturers continued to enhance their staffing levels in April to meet growing output requirements. Exactly 9



The notable increase in new export orders in April may indicate a potential shift in production to India, as businesses adapt to the evolving trade landscape and US tariff announcements

PRANJUL BHANDARI | CHIEF INDIA ECONOMIST, HSBC

per cent of survey participants took on extra workers, with a combination of permanent and temporary contracts reportedly being offered," the survey said.

Purchasing activity rose in tandem with new business growth, and the latest sharp expansion in input buying was also partly attributed to stock-building initiatives.

"Manufacturing output growth strengthened to a ten-month high on robust orders. Input prices increased slightly faster, but the impact on margins could be more than offset by the much-faster rise in output prices, of which the index jumped to the highest level since October 2013," Pranjul Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC, said.

Q4 RESULTS

Godrej Properties profit dips 19%

New Delhi: Realty firm Godrej Properties Friday reported a 19 per cent decline in its consolidated net profit to ₹381.99 crore for the latest March quarter despite higher income. Its net profit stood at ₹471.26 crore in the year-ago period. Total income increased to ₹2,681.06 crore in the fourth quarter of the last fiscal year from ₹1,914.82 crore in the corresponding period of the preceding year, according to a regulatory filing. During the full 2024-25 fiscal, the company's net profit rose to ₹1,399.89 crore from ₹725.27 crore in the preceding fiscal.

IOB profit soars 30%

New Delhi: State-owned Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) Friday reported a 30 per cent rise in net profit to ₹1,051 crore for the March quarter, helped by a decline in bad loans and a rise in interest income. The Chennai-based lender had earned a net profit of ₹808 crore in the year-ago period. During the quarter, the bank's total income increased to ₹9,215 crore, as against ₹9,106 crore a year ago, Indian Overseas Bank said in a regulatory filing. Interest income grew to ₹7,634 crore during the period under review, from ₹6,629 crore in the corresponding quarter a year ago. On the asset quality front, the bank's gross Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) moderated to 2.14 per cent of gross advances, as compared to 3.10 per cent by the end of March 2024.

Marico profit surges

New Delhi: Homegrown FMCG firm Marico Ltd Friday reported a 7.81 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at ₹345 crore in the March quarter, driven by volume and revenue growth in India, along with robust international business. The company had posted a consolidated net profit of ₹320 crore in the same period of the previous fiscal year. Marico Ltd said in a regulatory filing. Consolidated revenue from operations during the quarter under review stood at ₹2,730 crore as against ₹2,278 crore in the same period a year ago, it added.

SEBI accuses Adani nephew in insider trading case

REUTERS

Mumbai, May 2: India's markets regulator has alleged Pranav Adani, director of several Adani group companies and the nephew of the billionaire founder, shared price sensitive information and breached regulations aimed at preventing insider trading, according to a document reviewed by Reuters.

Adani, the nephew of Gautam Adani, was sent a notice by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) last year which alleged he shared information about Adani Green's 2021 acquisition of SoftBank-backed SB Energy Holdings with his brother-in-law before the deal was announced, according to a source and the document.

The matter has not been previously reported. In an e-mailed response sent to Reuters, Pranav Adani said he was seeking to settle the charges "to put an end to the matter, without admission or denial of the allegations" and that "he has not violated any securities law".

Settlement terms were being discussed, said the source with direct knowledge of the matter, who declined to be named as the matter is confidential.

The scrutiny is the latest challenge for the Adani group. US authorities last year indicted Gautam Adani and two Adani Green executives for allegedly paying bribes to secure Indian power supply contracts and misleading US investors. The group has denied the charges and called them "baseless".

Pranav Adani "communicated UPSI (unpublished price sensitive information) pertaining to the SB Energy acquisition" to his brother-in-law Kunal Shah and violated norms related to insider trading rules in 2021, said the SE-



BI document, which showed call records and trading patterns were reviewed in the investigation.

Kunal Shah and his brother, Nrupal Shah, then traded in shares of Adani Green and made "ill-gotten gains" of 9 million rupees (\$108,000), the document added.

The Shah brothers said in a statement sent by their law firm that the trades were not executed with the "knowledge of any unpublished price sensitive information nor with any mala fide intent."

"The information in question was already generally available in the public domain," the statement said.

SEBI did not respond to Reuters requests for comment.

Adani Green's acquisition of SB energy May 17, 2021 at an enterprise value of \$3.5 billion is the largest acquisition in the renewable energy sector in India so far.

Pranav Adani became aware of the impending acquisition two-three days prior to May 16, 2021, when the deal was finalised, SEBI said.

SEBI had proposed that Kunal and Nrupal Shah also settle, but the brothers chose to contest the allegations as they found the terms too onerous, the source added.

Pranav Adani's settlement plea would be taken up after SEBI's ongoing review of its settlement process is over.

VOLATILE SESSION

Indices end higher on FII buying

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, May 2: BSE benchmark index Sensex ended 260 points higher Friday buoyed by optimism surrounding a potential India-US trade deal, record high GST collection in April, and continuous foreign fund inflows.

Moreover, a firm trend in global markets also added to the positive momentum in domestic equities.

After a sharp rally in intra-day trade the 30-share BSE benchmark gauge later trimmed most of the gains and settled 259.75 points or 0.32 per cent higher at 80,501.99. During the day, the benchmark jumped 935.69 points or 1.16 per cent to 81,177.93.

In a volatile trade, the NSE Nifty eked out a marginal gain of 12.50 points or 0.05 per cent to settle at 24,346.70.

"The Nifty-50 surged over 1 per cent during today's session, hitting a high of 24,589 - its highest level in CY25. However, profit-booking set in, causing the index to pare gains and close marginally higher. Optimism prevails in market sentiments over potential India-US trade deal, sustained



foreign fund inflows and record high GST collection in April," Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Research, Wealth Management, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said.

From the Sensex firms, Adani Ports jumped over 4 per cent after the firm reported a 50 per cent jump in its March quarter net profit and issued a higher year-on-year revenue growth forecast for the current fiscal, citing strong growth in port volumes and a robust rise in the logistics business.

Bajaj Finance, IndusInd Bank, State Bank of India,

Maruti, Tata Motors, ITC, Tata Steel and Reliance Industries were also among the gainers.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth ₹50.57 crore Wednesday, according to exchange data.

On the weekly front, the BSE benchmark jumped 1,289.46 points or 1.62%, and the Nifty climbed 307.35 points or 1.27%.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.82 per cent to \$61.62 a barrel.

Equity markets were closed Thursday for 'Maharashtra Day'.

ITR-3 form simplified for AY 2025-26

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 2: The Income Tax department has notified ITR form 3 to be filed by individuals and HUFs having income from business or profession.

The tax department in a post on X late Thursday night said ITR-3 for Assessment Year 2025-26 has been notified April 30. ITR-3 is filed by individuals and HUFs having income from profits and gains of business or profession.

The threshold for reporting assets and liabilities under 'Schedule AL' has been raised from ₹50 lakh to ₹1 crore, thus reducing the disclosure burden on middle-income taxpayers.

In Schedule Capital Gains



of the ITR, capital gains must now be split based on whether they arose before or after July 23, 2024.

In the Budget presented on July 24, 2024, the government had proposed to lower long-term capital gains tax on real

estate to 12.5 per cent without indexation benefit, from 20 per cent with indexation.

Indexation benefit allows taxpayers to arrive at the cost price of the property after adjusting for inflation.

With this, individuals or HUFs who purchased houses before July 23, 2024, can opt to pay Long Term Capital Gain (LTCG) tax under the new scheme at the rate of 12.5 per cent without indexation or claim the indexation benefit and pay 20 per cent tax.

Tax consultancy firm AKM Global, Partner-Tax, Sandeep Sehgal said the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has made key updates to ITR Form 3 for AY 2025-26, easing compliance for individuals

and HUFs with business or professional income.

"Dropdowns for deductions like Section 80C and section-wise TDS reporting have also been introduced, enhancing transparency, accuracy, and ease of filing. Overall, these changes reflect the CBDT's ongoing efforts to promote ease of compliance, improve data accuracy, and align reporting with emerging policy developments," Sehgal added.

Earlier April 29, the government had notified the income tax return (ITR) forms 1 and 4 for assessment year 2025-26, and made it easier for individuals with long term capital gains of up to ₹1.25 lakh from listed equities to file returns.

Bhaskuni new Zonal Head of UCO Bank

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, May 2: Bhagwat Singh Bhaskuni, DGM has taken over as the new Zonal Head of the Bhubaneswar Zone, UCO Bank. Prior to this appointment, he served as Branch Head at the Flazshio Corporate Centre in New Delhi.



Joining UCO Bank as a Probationary Officer in 2006, Bhaskuni has gained extensive experience working across various regions, including Uttarakhand, New Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, and Chandigarh. With over a decade of experience as a Branch Head, he has successfully managed branches of varying sizes. As an accomplished banker, Bhaskuni has a strong interest in credit, forex and international trade. In his new role as Zonal Manager, he is expected to focus on large credit, medium credit, agriculture, retail, MSME loans and CASA, tailored to the specific needs of the Bhubaneswar zone.

Soumya, Subhasish get top accolades



AIFF AWARDS 2025

- Men's Player of the Year:** Subhasish Bose
- Women's Player of the Year:** Soumya Guguloth
- Promising Men's Player of the Year:** Brison Fernandes
- Promising Women's Player of the Year:** Toijam Thoibisana Chanu
- Best Men's Goalkeeper:** Vishal Kaith
- Best Women's Goalkeeper:** Elangbam Panthoi Chanu
- Men's Coach of the Year:** Khalid Jamil
- Women's Coach of the Year:** Sujata Kar

Devi (Best Female Referee), Vairamuthu P (Best Male Assistant Referee), and Riiohlang Dhar (Best Female Assistant Referee). Subhasish Bose became only the seventh defender to win the

this great occasion of the AIFF Awards. I remember in 2002 when Mr Priya Ranjan Das-munsi was the AIFF President, we revived the Kalinga Football Cup, which was started by the late Shri Biju Patnaik. During my discussion with Kalyan, we agreed that we'll do something about it, and I'm happy to say that what has been done with the Kalinga Super Cup is a great service, not only to the state of Odisha, but also the sport of football." Apart from Bose and Guguloth, the other individual award winners were Khalid Jamil (Best Men's Coach), Sujata Kar (Best Women's Coach), Vishal Kaith (Best Men's Goalkeeper), Elangbam Panthoi Chanu (Best Women's Goalkeeper), Brison Fernandes (Promising Men's Player), Toijam Thoibisana Chanu (Promising Women's Player), Venkatesh R (Best Male Referee), Tekcham Ranjita

AIFF Men's Player of the Year Award after Sandesh Jhingam (2021), Syed Rahim Nabi (2012), Gouramangi Singh (2010), Surkumar Singh (2006), Deepak Mondal (2002) and VP Sathyan (1995). Bose captained Mohun Bagan Super Giant in a sensational season, winning both the ISL Shield and Cup, while breaking the record for most clean sheets in an ISL season. The 29-year-old also scored six goals for the Mariners. Bose became the first player from West Bengal to win the award since Nabi in 2012. Soumya Guguloth became the first player from Telangana to win the AIFF Women's Player of the Year Award. The 23-year-old winger was the Indian top scorer of the IWL this season, netting nine goals to help her side, East Bengal FC, win the title. Vishal Kaith was named the Best Men's Goalkeeper after a historic and record-breaking campaign between the sticks for

Mohun Bagan SG. He won his second ISL Golden Glove after amassing 15 clean sheets this season, and also became the first goalkeeper to reach a half-century of clean sheets in ISL history. Kaith marked his return to the national team starting line-up after seven years with two clean sheets against Maldives and Bangladesh. The Best Women's Goalkeeper was awarded to Elangbam Panthoi Chanu. The 29-year-old kept seven clean sheets in East Bengal's IWL-winning campaign. Panthoi, who won the Promising Women's Player Award in 2017, played five matches for India in the past year. Midfielder Brison Fernandes picked up the Promising Men's Player of the Year Award. The 24-year-old had a breakthrough season for FC Goa, scoring seven goals and providing two assists in the ISL. Fernandes made his senior India debut in March 2025 against Bangladesh.

GT get campaign back on track with big win

SRH ALL BUT OUT OF PLAYOFFS RACE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, May 2: Gujarat Titans roared back to winning ways with a 38-run mauling of Sunrisers Hyderabad after Prasadidh Krishna's outstanding bowling complemented Shubman Gill and Jos Buttler's explosive half-centuries in the Indian Premier League here Friday.

The result meant SRH are all but out of the playoffs race, even as GT boosted their prospects.

The trio of Gill, Buttler and Sai Sudharsan fired in unison to propel GT to 224 for six.

In reply, SRH were off to a good start too but could not sustain for long and were stopped at 186 for six. Abhishek Sharma top-scored for SRH with 74 off 41 balls.

This was after Gill blazed away to a 38-ball 76, and Sudharsan chipped in with a breezy 23-ball 48 while forging an opening stand of 87 runs in just 6.5 overs, following which Buttler took GT past 200 with his 64 off 37 deliveries.

Prasadidh once again excelled with the ball for GT, finishing with excellent figures of 2/19 in 4 overs. The only cause of concern for GT this evening came when Ishant limped off the ground after failing to complete the final over.

SRH, though, meant business at the start of their innings as Mohammed Siraj (2/33) went for 22 runs in his first two overs, while Ishant Sharma conceded 20 in his first two.

However, a spectacular catch in the deep by Rashid Khan ended Travis Head's innings after he covered a lot of ground to reach the ball, having run from deep square leg and then change his direction to judge it to perfection.

Ishan Kishan got out for 13 after consuming 17 balls, as the required rate went over 14.

Despite the presence of Abhishek and Heinrich in the middle for SRH, the match was already in GT's bag thanks to the asking rate that gone past 16. Meanwhile, an upset Gill en-

IPL STANDINGS

TEAM	M	W	L	NRR	PTS
MI	11	7	4	1.274	14
GT	10	7	3	0.867	14
RCB	10	7	3	0.521	14
PBKS	10	6	3	0.199	13
DC	10	6	4	0.362	12
LSG	10	5	5	-0.325	10
KKR	10	4	5	0.271	9
RR	11	3	8	-0.780	6
SRH	10	3	7	-1.192	6
CSK	10	2	8	-1.211	4

gaged in an animated chat with the two umpires over a review call involving Abhishek, who was seen trying to calm the GT captain.

Sent in to bat, Gujarat Titans skipper Gill got the innings underway with a flick off a loose Mohammed Shami delivery for a six.

Having conceded 11 runs in the first over, Shami looked off-colour as Sudharsan dispatched the seamer for five boundaries, including four on the trot.

SRH captain Pat Cummins brought himself into the attack, but the carnage continued as Gill launched into his opposite number, first greeting him with a cover drive and then playing an even better shot through the gap between mid-off and cover.

It was a forgettable start for Cummins as Gill smoked the Australian speedster for a maximum over deep mid-wicket to collect 17 from that over.

The best part of their game was that both Gill and Sudharsan were tussling with the SRH bowlers without taking any risks and instead relied on class to get the runs.

Brief Scores:
Gujarat Titans: 224 for 6 in 20 overs (Shubman Gill 76, Jos Buttler 64; Jaydev Nadkarni 3/35) beat Sunrisers Hyderabad: 186 for 6 in 20 overs (Abhishek Sharma 74; Mohammed Siraj 2/33, Prasadidh Krishna 2/19)



ECB BARS TRANSGENDERS FROM WOMEN'S CRICKET

The ECB's decision came less than 24 hours after the Football Association took a similar resolution Thursday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, May 2: The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Friday banned transgenders from competing in women's and girls' matches with immediate effect, complying with a recent Supreme Court ruling that excludes them from the legal definition of women.

The ECB's decision came less than 24 hours after the Football Association (FA) took a similar resolution. A statement issued by ECB said that it is announcing a change to its regulations on the eligibility of transgender players after an "updated legal position" following the recent Supreme Court ruling.

"With immediate effect, only those whose biological sex is female will be eligible to play in women's cricket and girls' cricket matches. Transgender women

and girls can continue playing in open and mixed cricket," the ECB statement said. The ECB said while it was all for inclusivity in sports, the Supreme Court decision has prompted it to formulate new rules for women's and girls' cricket. "Our regulations for recreational cricket have always aimed at ensuring that cricket remains as inclusive a sport as possible. These included measures to manage disparities, irrespective of someone's gender, and safeguard the enjoyment of all players. However, given the new advice received about the impact of the Supreme Court ruling, we believe the changes announced today are necessary."

India's apex body for pickleball receives official govt recognition

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, May 2: The Indian Pickleball Association (IPA) has now been officially recognised by the Government of India via the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports to act as the national sports federation in the country. It has been entrusted with the responsibility to govern, promote, and develop pickleball across the country.

This landmark recognition validates IPA as the sole apex body for the sport in India and marks a turning point in its national and global journey.

With systematic and painstaking groundwork laid by the members of IPA and a fast-growing community behind it, IPA is ready to drive the next chapter building a nationwide ecosystem of access, excellence, and opportunity. This includes embedding pickleball in schools, communities, and elite training programs, and preparing Indian athletes for the global stage.

The Indian Pickleball Association envisions a robust and inclusive sporting ecosystem built on the following pillars: 100,000 active registered players regularly participating in events and National-level competitions across all age groups. A comprehensive grassroots de-



This recognition is a historic milestone – but more importantly, it is a mandate to act. We are committed to building a world-class sporting structure for pickleball in India

SURYAVEER SINGH BHULLAR | PRESIDENT, IPA

velopment programme and the establishment of more National High-Performance Centres for elite training, in addition to existing Centres, are also part of the programme.

A key priority for the IPA

is youth player development, training and officiating, and professional pathways and events. To this end, the association is actively working to the rollout of pickleball in schools, through alignment with programmes like Khelo India Women's Pickleball Cup expansion, championing gender inclusion and hosting international coaches conferences to facilitate knowledge exchange and nationwide certification programmes for referees and coaches, creating employment and structure.

Liverpool title celebration shook Earth

THE SEISMOMETER RECORDED ACTIVITY INSIDE THE STADIUM FROM THE CROWD OF 60,415 – MOST NOTABLY ITS REACTION TO THE SIX GOALS SCORED DURING THE GAME

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Liverpool, May 2: Liverpool's clinching of the Premier League title on Sunday produced an actual seismic event, scientific data shows. Arne Slot's side secured the club's 20th top-flight championship on an unforgettable day at Anfield when they beat Tottenham Hotspur 5-1.

With the help of the University of Liverpool, the club was able to install a seismometer – an instrument that measures ground movement – in the Main Stand for the historic occasion in L4.

The seismometer recorded activity inside the stadium from the crowd of 60,415 – most notably its reaction to the six goals scored during the game. It shows Alexis Mac Allister's stunning strike in the 24th minute that put the Reds 2-1



ahead produced a peak magnitude 1.74 on the Richter scale.

The second-biggest tremor within Anfield was caused by the goal Mohamed Salah scored in front of the Kop in the second half at a magnitude of 1.60. Cody Gakpo's effort

measured in at 1.03, the own goal from Destiny Udogie 1.35 and Luis Diaz's initially disallowed equaliser 0.64.

The data was processed and analysed inside the laboratory of the university's department of Earth, Ocean and Ecologi-

cal Sciences by research associates Dr Antoine Septier and Dr Farnaz Kamranzad.

Explaining the science behind the experiment, Ben Edwards, professor of engineering seismology at the University of Liverpool, said, "This experiment gave us a unique opportunity to use seismology to capture a scientific record of the magnitude of Liverpool's historic title-clinching win."

"Using state-of-the-art, seismic-monitoring equipment – normally deployed in earthquake zones like Chile and Italy – we recorded the incredible energy released both at the surface and below. Much like natural seismic events, these goals produced bursts of ground-shaking, triggered by the sheer passion of Liverpool fans. Their enthusiasm was literally powerful enough to move the Earth."