



## Samantha's perception

Actor Samantha Ruth Prabhu believes that Indian film industries, mostly male-dominated, need more female voices

LEISURE | P2



## Israel's new Gaza plan

Benjamin Netanyahu's security cabinet votes to scale up offensive in Gaza to the point of seizing the entire enclave

INTERNATIONAL | P10



## Auto sales up 2.95%

Federation of Automotive Dealers' Associations says the overall automobile retail sales in India grew a modest 2.95 % in April

BUSINESS | P11



## Trophy drought ends

Harry Kane can finally celebrate his first career title after Bayern Munich becomes Bundesliga champion

SPORTS | P12

# ₹1,155cr investment boost for Keonjhar



tourist destination with parks. A guest house in Bhubaneswar named after Dharanidhar was also announced.

During the ceremony, Majhi inaugurated 104 projects worth ₹87 crore, laid foundation stones for 214 projects at ₹449 crore, and announced 22 new projects worth ₹620 crore – totaling 340 projects worth ₹1,155 crore. He paid tributes to Dharanidhar, calling him a revolutionary and spiritual symbol whose legacy inspires the youth.

He highlighted Keonjhar's development, noting JSW's upcoming mega steel plant with a ₹35,000-crore investment and 30 projects worth ₹1,29,800 crore that are expected to create 30,000-35,000 jobs. He emphasised progress in education, healthcare, transportation, and irrigation to address the region's historical neglect.

Dignitaries, including Culture Minister Suryabanshi Suraj, Keonjhar MP Ananta Nayak, and MLAs Fakir Mohan Naik, Akhila Chandra Naik, and Sanatan Mahakud, spoke at the event. Keonjhar Collector Vishal Singh delivered the welcome address while Kalakar Naik, a descendant of Dharanidhar, attended the ceremony. Kangali Charan Naik received 'Dharani Samman'. **MORE P3**



**RETRIBUTION:** Baglihar Dam, seen a day after India cut the flow of water through the dam on the Chenab River, following suspension of Indus Waters Treaty in the aftermath of April 22 Pahalgam terror attack in J&K

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, May 5:** Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Monday announced, inaugurated and laid foundation stones for projects worth around ₹1,155 crore for Keonjhar district. This was revealed during the state-level birth anniversary celebration of legendary freedom fighter Dharanidhar Naik at Kusumita under Sadar block of this district. Majhi graced the event as the chief guest.

The CM announced a memorial museum and interpretation centre at Kusumita in honour of Dharanidhar on his birth anniversary. The project, costing ₹50 lakh, will preserve the freedom fighter's ancestral home and belongings on two acres, aiming to become a

## Trump for 100% tariff on foreign-made films

**New York:** In a post Sunday night on his Truth Social platform, US President Donald Trump said he has authorised the Department of Commerce and the Office of the US Trade Representative to slap a 100% tariff "on any and all movies coming into our country that are produced in foreign lands." "The Movie Industry in America is DYING a very fast death," he wrote, complaining that other countries "are offering all sorts of incentives to draw" filmmakers and studios away from the US. **MORE P11**

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Rest assured! You are completely safe under our regime

# Russia stands with India

*Amid two weeks of continued hostility and aggressive posturing by India and Pakistan following the April 22 Pahalgam carnage by Pak-backed terrorists, Russian President Vladimir Putin Monday assured Prime Minister Narendra Modi of his country's 'full support' for India's commitment to hunt down the perpetrators. While the US stand over support to India, vis-a-vis Pakistan, has so far been measured and non-committal, and China leaving no opportunity to add to the escalation of tension by shadowing Pakistan's involvement in multiple international forums for obvious reasons, the statement from Moscow came as a vindication of the unwavering support India has been enjoying from the old ally over decades. Meanwhile, India got a shot in the arm from Japan as the country's Defence Minister Gen Nakatani expressed 'full support' to India in its fight against terrorism*

PNN & AGENCIES

**New Delhi, May 5:** Russian President Vladimir Putin Monday conveyed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a phone call

## NATIONWIDE MOCK DRILLS MAY 7

**New Delhi:** Union Home Ministry has asked all the states and Union Territories to conduct nationwide Civil Defense mock drills May 7 amid rising tensions with Pakistan following Pahalgam terror attack, government sources said Monday. The measures to be taken during the drill include operationalisation of air raid warning sirens and training of civilians on civil defence aspects to protect themselves in the event of a "hostile attack", they said. The other measures are provisions of crash blackout measures, early camouflaging of vital plants and installations and update of evacuation plans and their rehearsal. A mock drill is a kind of a practice operation designed to prepare individuals for potential emergencies or critical situations. The last such drill was held in 1971, the same year India and Pakistan went to war on two fronts, said sources.



that Russia fully backs India's fight against terrorism and that the perpetrators of the Pahalgam terror attack must be brought to justice.

A Russian embassy readout said Putin described the terror attack as "barbaric" and that both the leaders emphasised the need for an "uncompromising fight" against terrorism in all its manifestations.

It also said that President Putin accepted the PM's invitation for the annual India-Rus-

sia summit to be held in India this year.

During the conversation with Modi, Putin "strongly condemned the terror attack in Pahalgam" and conveyed condolences at the loss of innocent lives, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in a social media post.

The Russian president was among the first world leaders to condemn the April 22 terror attack that killed 26 civilians. Putin conveyed "deepest con-

dolences" on the loss of innocent lives and expressed "full support" to India in the fight against terrorism, Jaiswal said.

"He emphasised that the perpetrators of the heinous attack and their supporters must be brought to justice," the MEA spokesperson added.

Both leaders reiterated their commitment to deepen the special and privileged strategic partnership between India and Russia. Modi conveyed his greetings to Putin for the 80th anniversary of the Victory Day and invited him for the annual India-Russia summit to be held in India later this year, Jaiswal said.

Meanwhile, India and Japan Monday pitched for united global efforts to confront terrorism in the wake of Pahalgam terror attack with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh condemning Pakistan's policy of "cross-border" terrorist activities targeting India.

The Japanese Defence Minister expressed his condolences on the death of 26 civilians in the terror attack and offered "full support" to India, the ministry said.

# No sacred wood used in Digha temple: Min

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, May 5:** Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan Monday said that according to an interim investigation report, no sacred wood from Puri Srimandir was used to make the idols installed at a temple in Digha in West Bengal, as alleged by various quarters.

The titular king of Puri, Gajapati Maharaja Dibyasingha Deb, and the Odisha government also urged the West Bengal authorities to refrain from using 'dham' with newly-built Jagannath temple at Digha and stop projecting the sea there as 'Mahodadhi' (the great ocean).

Though both seas at Digha and Puri are same, the Bay of Bengal, the one at Puri is called 'Mahodadhi' as the Odisha town with the 12th-century Jagannath shrine is considered a sacred place of pilgrimage.

The minister also threatened to take legal steps against the Bengal government, if it does not stop referring to the Digha temple as a 'Jagannath Dham'. Following allegations of theft and use of sacred wood from



Puri temple in crafting idols of the shrine at Digha, the minister had May 2 asked the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) to investigate the matter.

"I have received the interim report from SJTA chief administrator and the Law department secretary. It was found that the senior Daitapati servitor (Ramakrushna Dasmohapatra) had crafted the idols of Lord Balabhadra, Devi Subhadra and Lord Jagannath in Odisha and taken them to Digha," Harichandan said. Those idols were made by a carpenter in Bhubaneswar by using neem wood and not the sacred wood stored in Daru Gruha of Srimandir, as alleged, the minister mentioned. **MORE P3**

# SC JUNKS WOMAN'S PLEA FOR RED FORT POSSESSION

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 5:** The Supreme Court Monday rejected the plea of a woman, who claimed to be the widow of great-grandson of Mughal emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar-II, seeking possession of the Red Fort here on account of being the legal 'heir'.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar termed the plea as "misconceived" and "meritless" at the outset and refused to entertain the petition filed against the Delhi High Court order. "The writ petition filed initially was misconceived and meritless. It cannot be entertained," the CJJ said.

The bench did not allow the

counsel for petitioner Sultana Begum to withdraw the plea.

"The petitioner is the family member of the first freedom fighter of the country," the counsel said.

The CJJ said if the arguments are considered then "why only Red Fort then why not forts at Agra, Fatehpuri Sikri etc".

A division bench of the Delhi High Court, December 13, last year, had dismissed the appeal by Begum against the December 2021 decision of a HC single judge, noting the challenge was filed after a delay of over two-and-a-half years, which could not be condoned.

Begum said she could not file the appeal owing to her bad health and passing away of her daughter.

# After 22 yrs, Skype rings for the last time

AGENCIES

**Luxembourg, May 5:** Skype, launched in 2003 by Skype Technologies in Luxembourg, was a trailblazer in Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP). Offering free computer-to-computer calls and low-cost rates for landline and mobile calls at a time when international calls were pricey, Skype fast became a global sensation. The phrase "Skype me" entered everyday vernacular, akin to "Google it".

By 2008, the platform had over 400 million registered users. It was so influential that it caught the attention of tech giants. eBay acquired it in 2005 for \$2.5 billion but later sold it. Eventually, in 2011, Microsoft bought it for \$8.5 billion.



## Fall of Skype

Microsoft integrated the platform across Windows PCs, smartphones, and even Xbox consoles. The aim was to reach 1 billion daily users, as then Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Tony Bates famously declared. However, it tumbled. Frequent interface changes and bloated updates made it clunky. It became more frustrating to use.

Meanwhile, competition surged with the advent of new apps. WhatsApp, Facebook

Messenger, Apple FaceTime, and newer apps like Signal all began offering free P2P (peer-to-peer) calls. In the business world, Slack and Microsoft's very own Teams came out as convenient communication tools. Skype's once-loyal base began migrating elsewhere.

## Covid-19: A failed opportunity

The Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, which forced the world indoors and online, should have been Skype's moment to shine. But instead of leading the virtual

meeting revolution, it was Zoom that took over. Zoom's ease won users over, while Skype continued to struggle with glitches and complicated interfaces.

Seeing this, Microsoft invested its energy into Teams. As Teams took off, Skype was forgotten. Even the brief uptick in users during the early pandemic wasn't enough to save it.

Microsoft wants to focus fully on Teams, the preferred platform for enterprise users. The only part of Skype that will remain is Skype for Business, a feature already tied closely to the Teams ecosystem.

In 2025, Skype dwindled to about 23 million monthly users, down from its 150 million in 2011, and far from the 400 million registered users it once claimed.

# SC to hear Waqf Act plea May 15

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 5:** The Supreme Court Monday said the pleas challenging Waqf (Amendment) Act's constitutional validity will now be taken up by a bench headed by Chief Justice of India-designate Justice BR Gavai May 15 as the incumbent CJJ will be demitting office May 13.

"There are certain aspects which you (Centre) dealt with, but that require clarification. I do not want to reserve any judgement or order at this interim stage. This matter will have to be heard on a reasonably early date and this will not be before me," the CJJ said while hearing the matter.

# leisure

## FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com  
accuracy • reliability • trust  
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181\*

**ARIES**  
Today, you will focus your lens on the one you've taken a fancy to. You are high on energy, but low on commitment to work. It won't be surprising if your bosses are miffed. But still, says Ganesh, it's a day of flowers and love notes.

**TAURUS**  
There ain't no mountain high enough and there ain't no valley deep. Today, you will find yourself on an invincible run. You might be your own worst enemy today if you waste your effort and energy on unproductive purposes. Overall, it is smooth sailing today, and Ganesh advises you to stay focused.

**GEMINI**  
You will be dressed to kill today. People around you may or may not comment, but they will definitely notice you. Your sense of style and taste will bowl everyone over. People would scramble for a glimpse of you. You will be a celebrity. Most probably, your beloved will share the limelight with you.

**CANCER**  
You are at your industrious best today. You will be able to think the unthinkable, achieve the unachievable, and impress an emotionally impregnable boss. Your confidence level will be sky-high; in fact, it will make overconfidence wallow in self-doubt. Your colleagues will be awestruck, considering themselves lucky to see you in action.

**LEO**  
The thing with skills is that they are not static; they are as dynamic as anything else. It is akin to being on a treadmill – you need to continuously keep moving just to stay in the same place, says Ganesh. So keep refreshing yourself by learning new things in order to sustain your progress. What you need is passion to help you shine in your profession, according to Ganesh.

**VIRGO**  
One scale weighs work and the other weighs personal matters. But you, Leos, will keep both in check. Revel in stag debauchery and tonnes of merrymaking today. The desire to succeed will be fuelled even more today as you cut yourself loose, says Ganesh.

**LIBRA**  
If one were to put an earnest spirit and a frank attitude together, the result would be a Leo; it's like your hallmark. And with qualities like these in your kitty, don't be surprised if you happen to reach a milestone or two today. So, is it marital bliss or career success? That may be the question to ask; but no matter what, be assured that your societal standing gets a heady boost today, says Ganesh.

**SCORPIO**  
A shadow of foreboding grows large in your mind today. Your senses are at the highest alert, feels Ganesh. Keep your eyes and ears open to avoid troubles both at home and work.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Your dedication to work is set to shift to the top gear. Find yourself swamped by an excess of workload in the forenoon. Things, however, will lighten as the afternoon progresses. Expect a fun-filled, exciting evening.

**CAPRICORN**  
Opportunities are rare, and good opportunities rarer still. Today, you will run to grab an opportunity and will make the most of it, says Ganesh. This move will yield instant results and place you better in comparison with your opponents. Rivals, in fact, will try to do you down but will fail miserably in their attempt. Your social standing, on the other hand, will grow manifold and all because of your extraordinary traits.

**AQUARIUS**  
You roar with absolute bliss today! Simplicity is your new avatar, and naturally, friends and acquaintances are mystified. You may wish to commune with the higher spirit and will seek solace in a quiet temple. Ganesh approves and predicts peace in plenty.

**PISCES**  
Staying afloat needs about as much effort as swimming. Cryptic as this may sound, what it means is you need to constantly reinvent yourself if you wish to keep going. You will shine in your profession only if it is also your passion, says Ganesh.

# Sam for more female voices in Indian films

**NEW DELHI:** Actress-producer Samantha Ruth Prabhu said that her identity as a woman naturally drives her to champion such narratives and emphasized the need for more female voices in Indian cinema.

Asked if as a producer, she is consciously trying to create more space for layered female narratives in Indian cinema, Samantha told this agency: "My identity as a woman will naturally influence all of my creative choices and I'm proud of that."

The *Yashoda* actress went on to add, "I believe that our industry needs more of the female perspective. It's still incredibly male-dominated. I'm not saying that as a bad thing."

She stressed that there is a need for more women filmmakers and storytellers to come to the forefront. "It's just important to remember that women make up half the population and we need more women producers, directors, storytellers, bringing their voices and experiences to the forefront," the actress said.

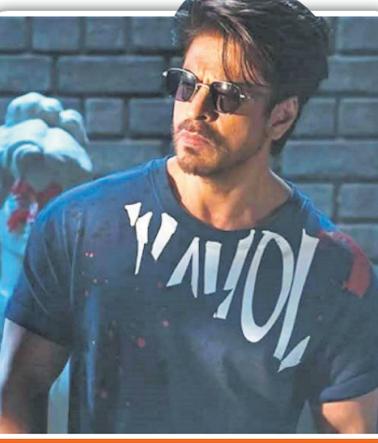
Samantha's maiden production *Subham* is all set to light up the silver screen May 9. The actress said that she does want to make stories that resonate with modern women.

Samantha was last seen on the big screen in the 2023 film *Kushi*, which also stars Vijay Deverakonda.



## BOMB PLOT FOILED AT LADY GAGA CONCERT

Brazilian police thwarted a bomb attack planned for a Lady Gaga concert Saturday. The chart-topping pop icon's spokesperson has issued a statement after police thwarted a plot to attack her concert in Rio de Janeiro.



## SRK TO MAKE MET GALA DEBUT

**NEW DELHI:** Top star Shah Rukh Khan is set to make his debut on the red carpet of the 2025 edition of the Met Gala in an ensemble crafted by fashion designer Sabyasachi.

There were reports that the actor has opted for designs by the celebrity favourite designer for the annual fundraising fashion gala in New York but the collaboration was confirmed by Pooja Dadlani, Shah Rukh's manager, Monday morning.

She shared two Instagram Stories with the logo of Sabyasachi's label with 'King Khan' and 'King Khan. Bengal Tiger' as captions.

Sabyasachi's official Instagram page later shared the same posts. The brand's Instagram page Sunday posted a Story with the caption: "Namaste New York."

Videos of Shah Rukh arriving in New York Saturday along with Pooja were doing the rounds on social media. Besides the superstar, Indian actors Diljit Dosanjh and Kiara Advani will also debut at this year's Met Gala.

## CAGE TALKS ABOUT CHILDHOOD FEARS

Hollywood star Nicolas Cage, who stars in the new psychological thriller film *The Surfer*, revealed how the movie relates to his own childhood. "I was quite young, but I knew that I wasn't going to be able to get past the group that was surfing. It was quite intimidating," Cage told *Extra*.



# Lauren's take on Indian, US and UK movie businesses

**NEW DELHI:** Dancer-actress Lauren Gottlieb said that Bollywood is vibrant and fueled by natural talent and passion for dance, while Hollywood is highly professional. She finds the UK dance scene a 'gritty mix' of both, offering its own raw and powerful energy.

Asked about the key differences she has experienced in the dance and film industries of Bollywood and Hollywood, Lauren told this agency: "I've had the chance to work across Hollywood, Bollywood, and also in London. In India, there's so much raw, natural talent, and song and dance are such a central part of the culture."

"The second I land in Mumbai, I can literally feel the energy—like the whole city is running on Bollywood (and Cricket)."

The industry is just so alive and buzzing, with endless events, shoots, and creativity happening all the time. It's colorful, vibrant, and my personal favorite," said Lauren, who has performed with globally known artists such as Rihanna, Mariah Carey, Shakira and Enrique Iglesias to name a few.

Talking about Hollywood, where she has worked with Tom Cruise, Katie Holmes, and Tobey Maguire, Lauren said: "Hollywood, on the other hand, is much more structured. If something starts at 9 AM, it starts at 9 AM!"

For her, the UK feels like a mix of both. "Each industry has its own flavor, and I feel really lucky to have moved through all three," said the actress-dancer, who stepped into Bollywood with the 2013 film *ABCD: Any Body Can Dance* by Remo D'Souza.



# Australia Odia Samaj hosts Kalinga Utsav with splendor

**PERTH:** The Australia Odia Samaj (Orioz Inc.) recently hosted Kalinga Utsav, a three-day event showcasing Odisha's art, culture, and tradition, here at Point Walters Recreation Centre. The 11th edition of the Odia biennial gathering was attended by hundreds of Orioz members from all over Australia, celebrating the close bonds and strong brotherhood of the Odia community.

On the occasion, distinguished guests, including Indian Consul General in Perth Naresh Kumar and President of the Indian Society of Western Australia (ISWA) Deepak Sharma, praised the significant role played by Orioz in strengthening Australia's multicultural society. Orioz President Dr. Manoj



Nayak, while appreciating the hard work of the members, released 'Smaranika: Kalinga Utsav - 2025.' The souvenir was compiled by Secretary Shantanu Swain and designed by IT Secretary Jay Behera. Vice-President Hara Patro briefed the audience

about the projects undertaken by the organization.

The cultural extravaganza, coordinated by Mahesh Sahu, was the main attraction of the event. It featured Odissi and folk dances, music recitals, and fashion parades. The summit also included a

thrilling T20 cricket match on the second day, coordinated by Sambit Das, Shantanu Swain, and Anjali Patra. Authentic Odia cuisine, expertly prepared under the supervision of Ambit Hota, was served throughout the three-day convention.

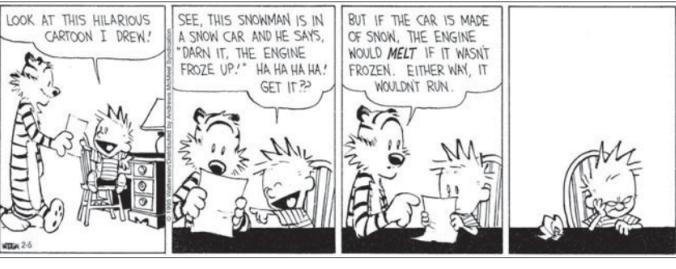
Ace anchors Ambit Hota, Khushnuma Nausheen, Biswanath Swain, and Saismita Nath conducted the proceedings of the programmes seamlessly.

The organizing team consisted of Bighnaraj Mohanty, Shantanu Swain, Mahesh Sahu, Mustaque Pilot, Ambit Hota, Ranjan Singh, Kunmit Patra, Amit Panigrahy, Lambodar Moharana, Biswanath Swain, Dev Chakravarty, Deepak Rayguru, Swati Patra, and Radhika Swain.

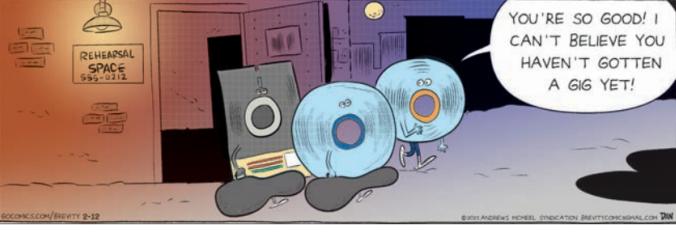
## PEANUTS



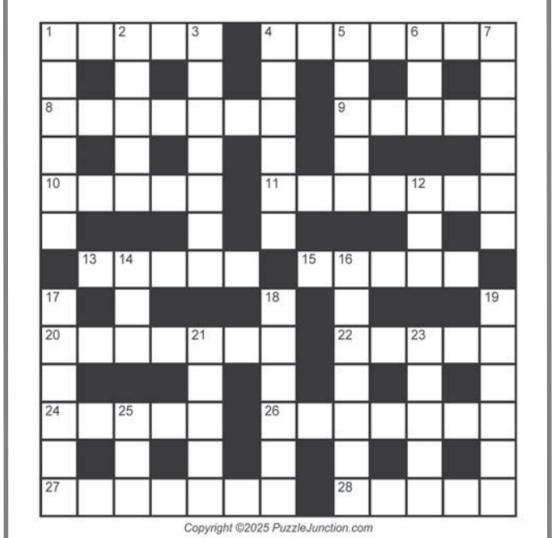
## CALVIN AND HOBBS



## BREVITY



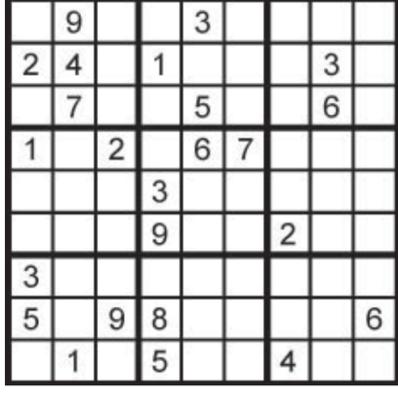
## FUN POST CROSSWORD



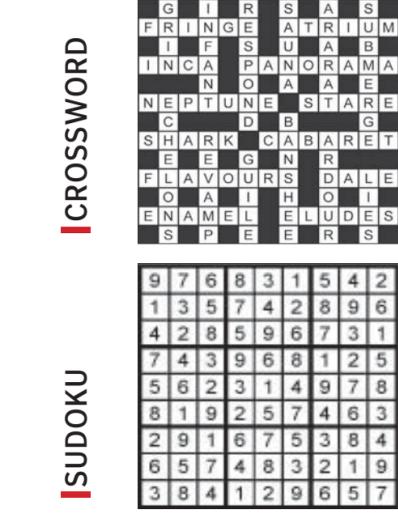
- Copyright ©2025 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 Town square
  - 4 Ghastly
  - 8 Fruit-growing grove
  - 9 Weasel relative
  - 10 Small-minded
  - 11 Fires up
  - 13 Goes for the gold?
  - 15 Elbowroom
  - 20 Word of farewell
  - 22 Museum piece
  - 24 Bouquet
  - 26 Nipper, in Italy
  - 27 King of Israel noted for his wisdom
  - 28 Inhabit
  - Down**
  - 1 Punctual
  - 2 Fancy tie
  - 3 Dissect
  - 4 Spanish capital
  - 5 Circus performer
  - 6 Cricket club
  - 7 Means of escape
  - 12 Personal quirk
  - 14 Swelling reducer
  - 16 Egyptian landmark
  - 17 Leftovers
  - 18 Sweet thing
  - 19 Fish group
  - 21 Domain
  - 23 River of Orleans
  - 25 Furnace fuel

## 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

Padma Shri sculptor Adwaita Gadaniyak meets Speaker Surama Padhy in Bhubaneswar, Monday



# downtown

## Advanced trauma care facilities in all mining districts soon: CM

Majhi inaugurates in-patient service, trauma care centre at Dharanidhar Medical College and Hospital in Keonjhar



strengthened. Doctors and health workers are being appointed. After the new government came to power, 4,000 posts of doctors and health workers have been filled. In the coming days, 5,000 posts of doctors will be filled. Along with this, new ambulances are also being provided," the CM said.

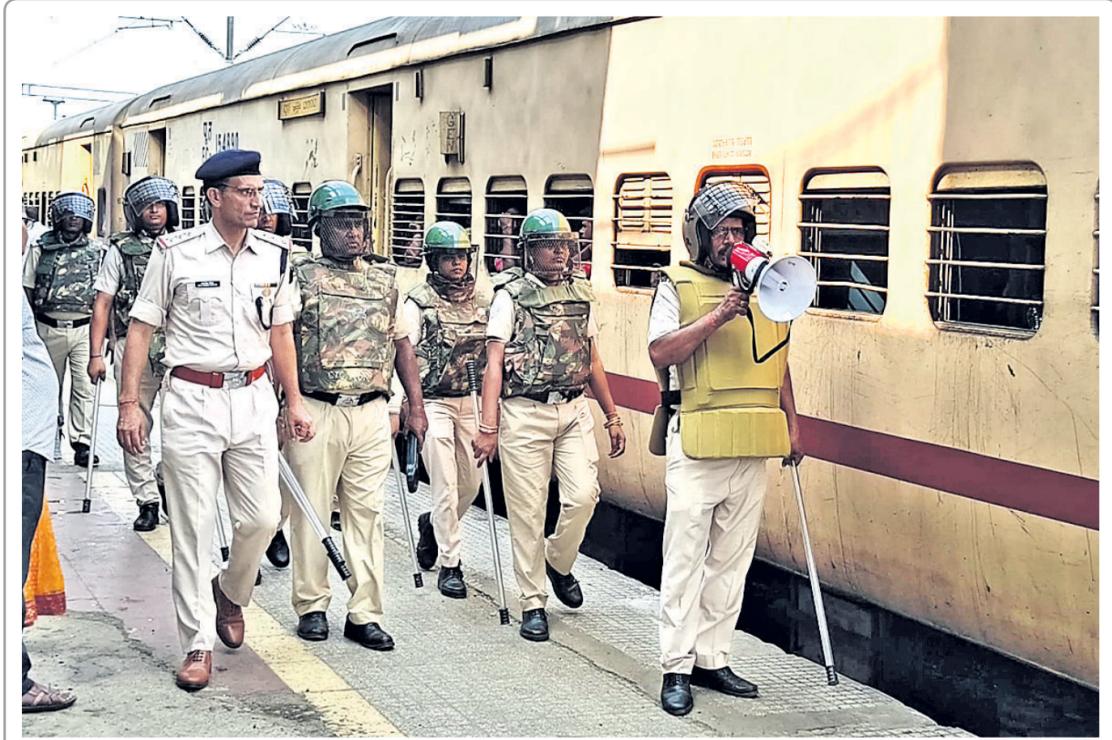
He added that Odisha will be a leading state in the health sector. "Odisha will also be a leading state in reducing deaths due to accidents," the CM pointed out.

The CM said Bhadrak, Jagatsinghpur, Dhenkanal and Nabarangpur will soon have new medical colleges. Gradually, medical colleges will be established in all the districts of the state. The Centre is providing 60 per cent of the funds for this, while the state government will provide 40 per cent.

He said for the development of health sector, Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana has been implemented in the state along with Gopabandhu Jan Arogya Yojana. "Through this, common people will be able to get medical facilities in 29,000 government and private hospitals across the country. Those above 70 years of age have been included in Ayushman Vay Vandana Yojana," Majhi added.

Addressing doctors, the CM said, "You should take healthcare as a mission in life. Service attitude along with professional skills is very important. This will help Odisha improve in various health indicators as well."

Among others, Higher Education, Odia Language, Literature and Culture Minister Suryabanshi Suraj, Anandpur MLA Abhimanyu Sethi, Ghasipura MLA Badri Narayan Patra, Telkoi MLA Fakir Mohan Nayak, Patna MLA Akhila Chandra Naik, Champua MLA Sanatan Mahakud were present.



**SAFETY FIRST:** RPF personnel spread rail safety awareness at Cuttack railway station, Monday

PICT: RAJKISHORE MOHANTY

### NAVEEN REVAMPS BJD

## Political affairs committee returns

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, May 5:** After assuming the charge of the party president ninth time in a row, BJD president and former chief minister Naveen Patnaik Monday revamped the regional party and brought back political affairs committee (PAC).

Though the BJD initially had the PAC, the highest decision-making body of the party, it later became defunct.

The PAC was brought back after the party lost power after ruling the state for 24 years in a row from 2000, a senior BJD leader said.

While Naveen himself will lead the PAC, senior leaders like Bikram Keshari Arukha, Pramila Mallick, Niranjan Pujari, Sanjay Kumar Dasburma, Pranab Prakash Das, Sudam Marndi, Tikuni Sahu, Sasmit



Patra and Sanrupt Mishra are made the members of the panel.

This apart, Naveen also appointed new state-level office-bearers for the regional party and the number of the new team members is 71, the BJD said.

The party will have seven senior vice presidents, eight vice presidents, 20 senior general secretaries, 31 general secretaries and one treasurer in Patnaik's new team.

The seven senior vice pres-

idents include veterans like Debi Prasad Mishra, Pramila Mallick and Usha Devi, while senior leaders Pranab Prakash Das and Sarada Prasad Nayak have been appointed as vice presidents. Cuttack Mayor Subash Singh has been appointed as treasurer while Tikuni Sahu, Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo, Tusarkanti Behera, Sulochana Das are among the senior general secretaries and general secretaries. The regional party has also announced members to lead

its different frontal wings and cells. Those include Prasanna Acharya (Biju Krushak Janata Dal), Ananga Udaya Singh Deo (BJD Regional Development Cell), Ranendra Pratap Swain (BJD Co-operative Cell) and Debashish Samantaray (BJD Senior Citizen Cell).

In addition, the party has announced the formation of a five-member Minority Cell having Dilip Tirkey (Convenor) Rizwana Begum (Co-convenor), Muzibulla Khan (Co-ordinator, South Zone), Ayub Khan (Co-ordinator, Western Zone) and Sk. Nizamuddin (Coordinator, Central Zone).

The BJD president had dissolved all organisational committees of the party soon after its defeat in the 2024 simultaneous Assembly and Lok Sabha elections in Odisha.

## 2 nabbed from Bengal for ₹6cr fraud in Odisha

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 5:** The Crime Branch (CB) of Odisha Police has arrested two persons, including a woman, from West Bengal on charges of duping a man to the tune of ₹6.04 crore by promising him hefty returns on investment in share market, official sources said Monday.

The accused were identified as Ashok Nanda, 53, of Siliguri in Darjeeling district and Jayarani Basak, 38, of Sodepur in North 24 Parganas district, both in West Bengal.

According to CB sources, the accused lured the victim into investing ₹6,04,53,000 in share market. "Accordingly, the victim transferred the amount to 22 bank accounts given by the crooks in multiple tranches within 3.5 months. The victim, however, realised the fraud when he failed to withdraw the amount and the accused remained incommunicado. It prompted the hapless victim to approach the CB in January this year," they said.

The CB registered a case (2/2025) January 13 under Sections 318(4), 319(2), 336(2), 336(3),



338, 340(2), 61(2) and 3(5) of BNS and 66C and 66D of the IT Act, 2000 and launched a probe.

During investigation, the agency ascertained that the scammers withdrew the money through cheques and ATM.

They also transferred some amount to other bank accounts.

"Ashok, who was arrested from Himalayan Orchid Apartment in Siliguri May 1, was produced before the local magistrate for transit remand. He is the first layer account holder, and ₹1.11 crore has been directly deposited in his account by the victim.

A mobile phone, SIM card, Aadhaar card and PAN card were recovered from his possession,"

a CB statement said.

"Jayarani, on the other hand, was taken into custody from 377, Bakimpally under Khardah police limits in North 24 Parganas, May 4 and produced before the local magistrate for transit remand. She is the second layer account holder and RS 6 lakh has been deposited in her account. A mobile phone, SIM card, Aadhaar and PAN cards were recovered from her possession," it added.

The accused were produced before the SDJM in Bhubaneswar Monday for remand, the CB said.

## Centre nod for airport in Puri

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, May 5:** The Ministry of Civil Aviation Monday granted in-principle approval for a greenfield airport in Puri.

"The decision to establish an airport in Puri will provide a major boost to religious tourism, regional development and the overall connectivity in the region," the ministry said in a release.

"This decision marks an important milestone for Puri and Odisha and is in line with the government's commitment to strengthening last-mile air connectivity and making air travel

accessible to all," it added.

The ministry also gave in-principle approval for a greenfield airport in Rajasthan's Kota. "The proposed airport will not only serve Kota city, known as a major educational and industrial hub, but will also cater to the growing population and economic activity in the Hadoti region," it said.

Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu has granted the in-principle approval for the establishment of the greenfield airports, the release said.

Notably, India is one of the world's fastest-growing civil aviation markets and has more than 150 operational airports.

## 'Jagannath Dham' reignites old tension between neighbours

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, May 5:** A cultural and religious row has reignited tensions between Odisha and West Bengal after the Mamata Banerjee-led Bengal government referred to a newly-built Jagannath temple in Digha as Jagannath Dham. The title, deeply revered in Odisha, is traditionally and spiritually associated with the world-famous Srimandir in Puri, which is one of the sacred Char (four) Dhams in Hinduism.

The move has sparked a political and public outcry in Odisha, with leaders, scholars, and temple authorities condemning the usage of the term. They argue that the sanctity and heritage of Jagannath Dham cannot be duplicated or casually attributed to other temples, regardless of their intent or popularity.

The controversy gathered steam on social media after Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader Riju Dutta defended the nomenclature in a provocative post on

X. "Much of Odisha's economy depends on Bengali tourists. Around five lakh devotees visited Digha's Jagannath Dham during its inauguration. It's natural to be angry... but you shouldn't oppose Narayan himself... Joy Jagannath," Dutta posted, stirring further debate.

His comments drew sharp responses from Odisha politicians. BJD MP Amar Patnaik called the statement insensitive and reductive. "Temples are not tourist spots. Jagannath Dham isn't a weekend getaway—it is a spiritual anchor for Hindus globally. Lord Jagannath belongs to all, but the sanctity of Puri's Dham must be respected," he asserted.

BJD spokesperson Lenin Mohanty also weighed in, calling West Bengal's move a 'delusion'. He stated emphatically, "There is only one Jagannath Dham in the world—and it is in Puri."

As the row deepened, a section of social media users in West Bengal began trending the hashtag #BoycottOdisha,



calling for a halt in tourism and economic ties with the neighbouring state.

Odisha scholar Niranjan Mohapatra emphasised the spiritual difference between Puri and Digha. "The Digha temple may serve devotional and cultural functions, but it cannot be equated with the original Jagannath Dham in Puri. Digha is a tourist spot, not a pilgrimage site," he remarked.

In a press statement Monday, Gajapati Dibyasingha



Deb asserted that the original and only Peeth (sacred seat) of Lord Jagannath is Purushottama Kshetra, also known as Shree Kshetra, located in Puri, Odisha.

"We came to know from various media reports that the newly-constructed Jagannath Temple in Digha, East Medinipur, West Bengal, has been named as 'Jagannath Dham' or 'Jagannath Dham Cultural Centre'. The matter was referred to the Mukti Mandap Pandit Sabha,

the apex religious advisory body in Puri, through a letter dated May 3, 2025. A formal response was received May 4. In its reply, the Mukti Mandap Pandit Sabha reiterated that while deities of the Chaturdha Murti (the four principal deities of Jagannath tradition) may be consecrated elsewhere, no place other than Puri can be designated as Jagannath Dham, Shree Purushottama Kshetra, Shree Kshetra, or Neelachal Dham," the Gajapati asserted.

Based on the religious opinion, the Gajapati categorically stated that the temple in Digha cannot be referred to by any of these sacred titles. Meanwhile, amid allegations that sacred wood from Srimandir had been used to make idols installed at the Digha temple, Odisha's Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan Monday said that an interim investigation has ruled out such possibilities. Harichandan also warned legal actions against the West Bengal government if it didn't stop re-

ferring to the Digha temple as 'Jagannath Dham'.

Earlier in the day, Mamata Banerjee, speaking for the first time after the controversy erupted, tried to stick to her government's stand and said, "We respect the temple in Puri, and we also respect Jagannath Dham. Kaali Temples and Gurdwaras are found throughout the country. Temples exist in all areas. Why is there so much anger on this issue?"

Nevertheless, clashes between the neighbouring states is not a new phenomenon, as the two have previously been at odds over matters ranging from demarcation of borders, language, origin of Rasagolla, to potato sometime back. Experts said the latest attempt by the West Bengal government to diminish the highest symbol of Odia pride by undermining the sanctity of Srimandir and its pilgrimage significance reeks of a desperate move by the TMC to stir up religious sentiments ahead of Assembly elections in that state.

## Nepal for dialogue with India to probe student's death in KIIT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kathmandu, May 5:** Nepal's Parliament Monday directed the government to hold diplomatic dialogue with Indian authorities to ascertain the facts surrounding the death of Nepalese student Prinsa Sah at KIIT in Odisha.

Speaker of the House of Representatives (HoR) Devraj Ghimire issued the ruling to the government after lawmakers raised this issue in the HoR Sunday. "My attention was drawn toward the death of Prinsa raised by the lawmakers in the House meeting," Ghimire said.

"The death of students going abroad for their bright future is a serious issue. I would like to direct the government to find the facts concerning Prinsa's death through diplomatic initiatives," he said.

Sah, a student from Parsa district, allegedly died by suicide May 1 at KIIT. Her death is the second such incident in recent months. In February, another Nepalese student of the same institute died by suicide.

**WEATHER**

BBSR	CTC
Max Temp 34.2°	33.6°
Min Temp 25.0°	24.0°
Humidity 72%	76%
Rainfall Nil	Nil

**FORECAST**  
Partly sunny

# Odisha braces for monsoon floods

State government focuses on embankments, drainage and emergency drills

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 5:** With the 2025 monsoon season approaching, the Odisha government has initiated early flood preparedness measures to reduce potential damage. Development Commissioner-cum-Additional Chief Secretary of Water Resources department Anu Garg chaired a high-level review meeting in Bhubaneswar Monday to assess the state's readiness.

The meeting included senior officials such as the Engineer-in-Chief (Water Resources), Engineer-in-Chief-cum-Special Secretary, Engineer-in-Chief (Procurement), and Chief Engineers from various regions.

The session focused on reviewing flood-prone areas, strengthening embankments, desilting drains, and enhancing coordination among departments.



## MENTAL HEALTH SUMMIT MAY 7

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 5:** The Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida will be the chief guest at the Illness to Wellness Awareness Summit on Mental Health & Wellness here Wednesday. Organised by the Illness to Wellness Foundation, the summit aims to promote healthy living and raise awareness on mental and brain health. Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja will also address the gathering, which will feature medical professionals, educators, industry leaders, social workers, and students.

A key highlight of the summit will be a panel discussion titled 'Elevating Minds: Strengthening Awareness of Mental and Brain Health'. The session will focus on addressing the mental health crisis in India, particularly among students and youth. Topics will include breaking the stigma around mental health, promoting open conversations, and effective strategies to manage stress, anxiety, and depression. Mental health issues are becoming a growing concern, with alarming statistics indicating that one student dies by suicide every hour in India.

# 'Odisha must harness minerals for growth'

RESHMI YADAV, OP

**Bhubaneswar, May 5:** A new whitepaper released by AIDENT emphasises the need for Odisha to leverage its rich mineral resources to drive inclusive growth and industrial transformation. Titled 'Mining Odisha's Potential: Powering India's Journey to Atmanirbharta and Prosperity', the whitepaper was unveiled at a press conference here at Bhubaneswar Club Monday.

The whitepaper stresses that Odisha is at a crucial crossroads, urging policymakers to focus on people-centred growth. Jayaved Sarangi, IAS (Retd.), former Secretary to Delhi and Goa, said, "This is a now-or-never moment for Odisha. With the right leadership under CM Mohan Charan Majhi, there is a real chance for inclusive industrialisation and regional upliftment."

The paper highlights Odisha's vast mineral wealth—35 per cent of India's iron ore, 59 per cent of bauxite, and large coal reserves—but points out the under-utilisation, inter-state wealth outflow, and policy bottlenecks hindering progress. A phased approach is pro-

posed, focusing on regulatory reforms, mineral corridors, and the creation of green manufacturing hubs.

State programme Manager of AIDENT Sanjeev K Singh noted that the document provides a blueprint for generational change. The whitepaper predicts that unlocking the state's bauxite potential could generate

2.4 million jobs, empower 10,000 SMEs, and attract multi-billion-dollar investments. Furthermore, the report advocates the effective use of the ₹12,000 crore DMF fund to improve social conditions in regions like Rayagada and Kalahandi. As Sarangi concluded, "Odisha doesn't need more minerals—it needs smarter policies."

# Contractors threaten stir over govt inaction



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 5:** The All Odisha Contractors Welfare Association (AOCWA) Monday issued a one-month ultimatum to the state government, warning of a statewide agitation if their long-pending demands remain unresolved.

Addressing the media here, AOCWA president Jagadish Patra accused the government of failing to act on promises made by senior ministers. "We are demanding fairness, not favours. If ignored, we will launch a historic protest," he said.

The association recalled that over 500 contractors staged a peaceful protest in March at WATCO and PHEO



**IN MEMORIAM:** Assembly Speaker Surama Padhy, Rural Development Minister Rabi Narayan Naik, and I&PR Principal Secretary Sanjay Kumar Singh among dignitaries paying tribute to revolutionary leader Dharanaidhar Nayak (Bhuiyan) on his birth anniversary near the Assembly in Bhubaneswar, Monday

# ALOs inspect new SCB building in Cuttack

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, May 5:** Amid rising heatwave concerns, Assistant Labour Officers (ALOs) Rashmi Ranjan Baral and Deepankar Dikshit conducted an inspection of the construction site for the new SCB Medical College building in Cuttack Monday. The visit was part of ongoing efforts to protect workers from extreme heat exposure.

During the inspection, no construction work was observed between 11am and 3pm, adhering to the state government's revised guidelines to

limit workers' exposure to high temperatures. Over 1 lakh ORS packets were available on-site for distribution, and workers were seen using the necessary PPE safety gear.

The officials also confirmed that 120 construction workers (Nirman Shramikas) are currently registered under the Odisha Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board (OB&OCWW), with efforts underway to register more.

This inspection aligns with the state government's heatwave mitigation mea-



sures issued earlier this year, which include rescheduling labour-intensive work during

peak heat hours (from April to June 15), without wage deductions. Employers are also mandated to provide essential services such as drinking water, shaded rest areas, and medical assistance.

In addition, authorities have ramped up awareness campaigns and instructed health officials across the state to remain vigilant and prepared to manage heat-related illnesses.

These initiatives aim to protect workers' health while ensuring the continuity of construction projects during the intense summer months.

# Sri Sri University's prez Rajita Kulkarni honoured



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, May 5:** Sri Sri University (SSU), Cuttack president Rajita Kulkarni has been honoured with the prestigious 'Women Achievers Award 2.0' at a grand ceremony held recently in Mumbai. The award was presented by Secret Sauce Communications, a leading public relations and communications agency.

This recognition celebrates Rajita's outstanding leadership in education, her visionary contributions to institutional growth, and her lifelong commitment to empowering individuals across the globe.

Rajita now joins an elite group of awardees that includes former captain of the Indian women's cricket team Padma Shri Diana Edulji, renowned author Nandita Om Puri, and acclaimed actors Divya Dutta and Tilottama Shome, among other exceptional women changemakers from diverse fields.

The faculty, staff, and students of Sri Sri University expressed immense pride in Kulkarni's achievement, calling it a moment of honour for the entire institution. Her recognition, they said, stands as a powerful testament to SSU's mission of nurturing future global leaders and changemakers.

# BJD flags safety of tribal girls in schools

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, May 5:** Opposition BJD in Odisha Monday alleged that minor tribal girls were unsafe in state-run residential schools, and sought the intervention of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes.

A delegation of the party also submitted a memorandum at the regional office of the commission at Nayapalli here.

"It is deeply distressing that despite the state having a chief minister from the tribal community, incidents of rape and atrocities against tribal girls continue to occur unabated. These incidents are repeatedly reported in the media, yet there appears to be no serious remedial or punitive action from the

state government. On the contrary, it seems efforts are being made to shield the perpetrators rather than ensure justice," the BJD said in the memorandum.

It pointed out that since July, 2024, at least 26 students have tragically died in such state-run schools.

Referring to the alleged rape of an eight-year-old girl at Gunneiguda ST & SC Girls' Hostel in Koraput district, the BJD said its team visited the site of the incident May 3.

"Recognising the gravity of the situation, the team met with the victim and her family, conveyed their heartfelt condolences, and assured them of the party's commitment to ensuring that justice is served swiftly and effectively," it said.

**FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS**

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur-9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech- Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-909090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jayved Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemann-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

# Rayagada's lone flyover in tatters

Inaugurated in 1999, the structure now poses serious risks for commuters, with gaping potholes and crumbling guardrails owing to years of neglect and poor maintenance



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rayagada, May 5:** The only flyover in Rayagada town, which sits on National Highway 326 and serves as a crucial lifeline connecting the district with neighbouring states like Andhra Pradesh, is in a dilapidated condition due to lack of proper upkeep.

Inaugurated in 1999 by then Chief Minister Giridhar Gamang, the flyover initially remained under the jurisdiction of the Works department before being transferred to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) in 2018. While a minor repair was carried out in 2019 at a cost of ₹21 lakh—including maintenance of the flyover and the nearby Nagavali river bridge in JK Pur—no regular maintenance has been taken up ever since.

The structure is now in a precarious condition. Large cracks and potholes have formed on both sides of the road, and the guardrails are either damaged

or missing altogether. There have been instances in the past when cement blocks from the railings have fallen from the flyover near Sarala Square, narrowly missing people using the underpass below.

The central part of the flyover has developed a hazardous bulge, causing heavy vehicles to lose balance and topple over. Accidents involving motorbikes and cars have also become more frequent on the flyover due to these issues. In a fresh reminder of the risks, an oil tanker lost balance and toppled off the flyover after damaging the sidewall Sunday. The roadside stalls, which have come up under the flyover, were crushed under the oil tanker. Fortunately, no casu-

alties were reported.

Despite frequent use of this route by administrative officials and VIPs, no serious attention has been given to its maintenance. Rayagada MLA Kadraka Appala Swamy expressed frustration, stating that repeated complaints to the NHAI have fallen on deaf ears. "They always cite reasons like pending Detailed Project Reports or tender processes, but no real work has begun," he said.

Kadraka has also raised the matter in the state Assembly, comparing the condition of Rayagada's flyover with those in Bhubaneswar—which have been built around the same time but are maintained regularly. He questioned why Ray-

agada's infrastructure is being neglected.

In response, Works department Minister Pritiranjan Gharai claimed regular maintenance is being conducted and a proposal for major repairs has been sent to the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. The flyover will be repaired through a tender process once approval is granted.

Meanwhile, locals, intellectuals and political leaders have united in demanding immediate repairs and restoration of the flyover. According to National Highways Executive Engineer Sarmajita Sethi, ₹3 crore has already been sanctioned for repairing both the flyover and the Nagavali river bridge. However, three separate tenders failed to attract contractors.

"There are no major local contractors in the area, and none from outside have applied," she said, adding that a fresh tender will be issued soon.

In a positive development, ₹35 crore has also been approved for building a new bridge over the Nagavali river. A tender for this project will be floated shortly, she added.

However, questions remain whether the flyover and the bridge will be repaired in time or continue to be neglected to the point of collapse.

# Decomposed body of woman found; kin cry rape, murder

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Angul, May 5:** A highly decomposed body of a 25-year-old woman was found in an agricultural field in this district Monday, police said.

The body, found near Kuspangi village, was identified from the woman's dress and other belongings by her family members, who alleged she was gangraped and burnt to death. "Their claim can be confirmed only after autopsy. A scientific team and a dog squad were deployed to collect evidence," a police officer said.

The deceased, who worked in a private company in Bhubaneswar, left home April 26 to go to the state capital and boarded an autorickshaw for Talcher Road railway station. Her family members last spoke with her at 3.10pm, April 26.

When their attempts to connect with her failed later, they lodged a missing persons complaint at Kaniha police station April 30, following which police launched a search for her. Her body was found in Banarpal police station area.

# Rape accused jumps off terrace, critical

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rourkela, May 5:** A rape accused sustained critical injuries after he jumped off the terrace of a building in a bid to escape after raping an 8-year old girl under Plant Site police limits in Rourkela Sunday evening.

The accused was identified as Md. Saddam Hussain, 27, a resident of old RDA building along Mahatab Road in the city. He reportedly fractured his legs and sustained critical injuries on his waist. Locals and police overpowered and admitted him to the Rourkela Government Hospital (RGH) for treatment.

Action will be taken against him after he recovers from his injuries, Zone-2 DSP Amarendra Sandha said. Police registered a case and launched an investigation after the survivor's family lodged a complaint at the police station Monday, the DSP said.



Police said that the survivor was taking tuition from the sister of the accused. The incident occurred when the minor visited the accused's house Sunday. However, her tuition teacher was not present at home.

Finding the girl alone, the accused allegedly raped her. When neighbours rushed to the spot after hearing the girl's screams, the accused left the girl and jumped off the terrace in a bid to escape. On being informed, police reached the spot and detained the accused.

# Interstate robbery gang busted; 3 held

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Baliguda, May 5:** Police at Sarangada in Kandhamal district Sunday arrested three members of an interstate robbery gang and seized multiple weapons, including a Mauser pistol, an air gun and sharp-edged weapons, during a routine motor vehicle check on the Phulbani-Baliguda road. Two other suspects, including the mastermind, managed to flee the scene and remain at large.

The three arrested individuals have been identified as Mohammad Arif Ansari, 23, Shahab Shah, 18, and Sheikh Mustafa, 18, all residents of Maharashtra. Police have registered a case under



Sarangada police station and have launched a manhunt to apprehend the remaining two suspects.

According to police, the incident unfolded when a suspicious Alto car carrying five individuals was stopped by Sarangada police officers.

Upon searching the vehicle, police recovered a Mauser

pistol, an air gun, a machete, two knives, and some cash. During questioning, the suspects failed to provide credible explanations regarding their activities and possessions leading to their arrest.

G Udayagiri SDPO Vijay Kumar Bishi confirmed the arrests and stated that further investigation is ongoing.

# 2-yr-old boy dies after falling into water container

**Padia:** A 2-year-old boy tragically died after accidentally falling into a water container in Kerigada village under Undhrukunda panchayat and Kalimela police limits in Malkangiri district Monday. The deceased was identified as Mahesh Madhi, son of Dule and Unga Madhi in the village. The incident occurred when the child's father, Unga had gone to the forest to collect firewood while his mother, Dule, had gone nearby to relieve herself. During this time, the child was playing near the house and accidentally fell into a plastic container filled with water for washing utensils. When Dule returned, she found the child partially submerged and unresponsive. She immediately pulled him out of the water but the child had already died. Kalimela police registered a case of unnatural death and sent the body to the Kalimela community health centre for post-mortem.

# Absence of HRCE approval delays reconstruction of Vedavyas shrine

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rourkela, May 5:** Absence of necessary legal approval is causing inordinate delay in the restoration of various temples at Rourkela's Vedavyas shrine though several peripheral works have been completed.

According to sources, the delay is on account of the lack of permission under the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HRCE) Act, 1951 – necessary for the demolition of the old temples. Without approval, the main reconstruction activities have been stalled and getting delayed, sources added.

The Roads and Buildings (R&B) department had sanctioned ₹14.15 crore for the development of Vedavyas shrine in the 2024-25 financial year. Construction was initially scheduled to be completed by February 24, 2025. However, even after 14 months, progress has been limited to the construction of stalls, kirtan,



prayer and fire altar halls, and an idol of lord Shiva at the main Vedavyas intersection, along with a small worship pavilion. The core task of demolishing the existing temples is yet to begin.

Officials said that although the necessary applications for legal permission have been submitted, the approval process is still pending. Before undertaking the demolition of the temples, the responsibility of safeguarding all the wealth and assets within the temple will rest with Vedavyas Trust Chairman and Sundargarh District Collector Manoj Mahananda, as well as Vice Chairman and Rourkela Additional

District Magistrate Ashutosh Kulkarni, officials said.

The Vedavyas shrine is home to a Mahadev temple along with several other temples dedicated to various deities. Concerns have also been raised over ensuring no damage to the 'Shivling', and idols of various deities, before any demolition takes place.

When contacted, Alok Kumar Nayak, regional head of Rourkela Roads and Buildings (R&B) department, said that significant work such as beautification projects, construction of a 'mandap', and installation of stalls - has been completed to develop Vedavyas shrine into a religious tourism destination.

"However, the legal approval required for the reconstruction of various temples at Vedavyas has not yet been obtained," he said. He, however, hoped that the necessary approval is expected within the next seven months, after which construction work will be completed.

# Two detained for supplying goods to foreign ships sans Customs clearance

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Paradip, May 5:** The Marine police station in Paradip detained two persons for supplying goods to foreign ships anchored in deep sea without Customs clearance, an officer said Monday.

The goods are generally supplied to foreign ships after getting clearance from the Customs department officials posted at Paradip Port.

However, some people using small boats were taking these ma-



terials to foreign ships anchored in deep sea without getting customs clearance thus incurring revenue

loss for the country, said Paradip Marine police station in-charge officer Babita Dehuri.

The personnel of the Marine police station Sunday nabbed two people and seized some materials which were being transported to mid-sea through a small boat. Goods, including large quantities of industrial pipes and motors, were being secretly loaded onto fishing boats and delivered mid-sea to the ships, the police said.

**Central Bank of India**  
Regional Office: Plot No.: 108-B, 1st Floor, Unit - VII, Surya Nagar, Near Gopabandhu Square, Bhubaneswar-751003

**POSSESSION NOTICE**  
(For Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the **Authorised Officer of the Central Bank of India** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices calling upon the following Borrower(s)/Director(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said Notices. The Borrower(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/Director(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **possession** of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned below. The Borrower(s)/Director(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the **Central Bank of India** for an amount stated and interest thereon. **The Borrower's/Guarantor's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.**

BRANCH / Name of the Account / Borrowers/Directors & Address	Name and Address of Guarantors/Mortgagors	Amount demanded in Securitisation Notice	Date of Securitisation Notice/Date of Possession	Description of Mortgaged / Charged Properties
<b>CDA BRANCH /</b> Borrower: M/s. 1ST AIM Traders Private Limited/ Directors: 1) Shibaji Mishra, 2) Sushama Mishra, 3) Swati Nayak, All are at Plot No.: 81/L/F/9, Sector-8, CDA, Cuttack, PO.: Bidanasi, P.S.: Markat Nagar, Cuttack-753014	Guarantors: 1) Lalaji Mishra, 2) Papaji Mishra / Mortgagor: Shibaji Mishra, All are at Plot No.: 81/L/F/9, Sector-8, CDA, Cuttack, PO.: Bidanasi, P.S.: Markat Nagar, Cuttack-753014	₹51,99,821/- as on 25.12.2024 + interest thereon & other expenses etc.	26.12.2024 / 30.04.2025	All that part & parcel of the Property in the name of Shibaji Mishra, situated over Khata No.: 553/1123, Plot No.: 151/4096, Area: Ac.0.015 Dec, Plot No.: 149/4097, Area: Ac.0.060 Dec, <b>Total Area:</b>
<b>CDA BRANCH /</b> Borrowers: 1) Sushama Mishra, W/o.: Kelucharana Mishra, 2) Master Lalaji Mishra, S/o.: Kelucharana Mishra, Both are at Plot No.: 81/L/F/9, Sector-8, CDA, Cuttack, PO.: Bidanasi, P.S.: Markat Nagar, Cuttack-753014	Mortgagor: Sushama Mishra, W/o.: Kelucharana Mishra, Plot No.: 81/L/F/9, Sector-8, CDA, Cuttack, PO.: Bidanasi, P.S.: Markat Nagar, Cuttack-753014	₹25,94,582/- as on 02.01.2025 + interest thereon & other expenses etc.	03.01.2025 / 30.04.2025	All that part & parcel of the Property in the name of Sushama Mishra, situated over Mouza: Banamalipur, P.S.: Choudwar, Tahasil: Tangi-Choudwar, Dist.: Cuttack, Khata No.: 58/266, Plot No.: 113/524, Area: Ac.0.210 Dec, Bounded by East: Rest Land of Plot No.: 113, West: Rest Land of Plot No.: 113, South: Plot No.: 239, North: 20ft Wide Road of Plot No.: 113
<b>CUTTACK PURI ROAD BRANCH /</b> Borrowers: 1) Santosh Parida, 2) Laxmidhar Parida, Both are At: Terabatia, PO.: Laxminarayanpur, Balipatna, Khurda, PIN-752100	Mortgagor: Laxmidhar Parida, At: Terabatia, PO.: Laxminarayanpur, Balipatna, Khurda, PIN-752100	₹14,77,027/- as on 24.12.2024 + interest thereon & other expenses etc.	26.12.2024 / 02.05.2025	All that part & parcel of the Property in the name of Laxmidhar Parida, situated over Mouza: Jhiente Sasan, P.S.: Balipatna, Tahasil: Balianta, Dist.: Khurda, Khata No.: 1361, Plot No.: 1870, Area: Ac.0.0700 Dec, Bounded by East: Rasi Parida, West: Dinabandhu Parida, South: Kasinath Parida, North: Road

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 05.05.2025

Authorised Officer, Central Bank of India

**UCO Bank**

**Zonal Office, Sambalpur, 18/1, Ainthapali Road, Sambalpur, Odisha-768004**

**VEHICLE AUCTION / SALE NOTICE**

Sealed Tenders are invited from interested parties along with EMD (Earnest Money Deposit) in shape of Demand Draft / Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Respective Branch of **UCO Bank**, payable to the **Respective Branch** for the below mentioned vehicles under **Auction Sale**. Sealed Tenders should reach at the concerned Branch by **20.05.2025** before **4.00 PM**.

Sl. No.	Branch / Name of the Borrower	Type of Vehicle / Year of Make	Registration No.	Reserve Price/ EMD	Name of the Branch Manager / Contact No.	Stockyard Address of the Vehicle
1.	<b>Rourkela Main Branch / Jnanaranjan Sethi</b>	HYUNDAI CRETA SX - CAR Year of Make-2022	OD02CE 5228	₹ 8,35,000/- / ₹ 83,500/-	Satish Ranjan Pradhan Mob-9051830402	Subham Stock Yard, Opposite of Tarkera Pump, House, Rourkela-769004, Mob-9337630999

**Date & Time of Tender opening : 21.05.2025 at 11.30 A.M., Venue: UCo Bank, Rourkela Main Branch, Bank Colony, Sector-9, Rouorkela, Odisha-769005**

**Terms & Conditions of Auction:**  
"Quotation for purchase of Vehicle No. ...." The received sealed tenders will be opened on **21.05.2025** at **11.30 A.M** at the above mentioned **Respective Branch**. Intending bidders may inspect the vehicle before **20.05.2025** during any working days on their own expenses with prior intimation to the Respective Branch Manager. The highest bidder will possess the vehicle from the stock yard on "AS IS WHAT IS" AND "AS IS WHERE IS" basis. The successful bidder shall have to pay **25% of the bid amount (including EMD)** immediately on closure of Auction Sale proceedings and the balance with applicable GST on perused goods as per GST Act 2017 shall have to be paid to the Respective Branch **within 7 days** in shape of Bank Draft / Bankers cheque in favour of the **Respective Branch**. Bank Draft/Bankers cheque of Nationalized Banks will be acceptable only. If the bid amount will not be deposited within the stipulated time the amount deposited by the bidder along with EMD amount will be forfeited. The successful bidder shall bear the charges for ownership transfer/statutory dues/other incidental expenses if any. The vehicle will be auctioned on "AS IS WHAT IS" AND "AS IS WHERE IS" basis. The Bank reserves the right to accept/cancel/postpone the auction of any vehicle and or all Vehicles without assigning any reason thereof and for that the Bank cannot be answerable to anyone.  
The Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor are hereby informed by this notice to repay their all dues before the auction date otherwise the vehicle will be sold by public auction. After the auction, balance amount if any, will be recovered from them as per rules.

Place : Sambalpur, Date : 05.05.2025

Authorised Officer, UCO Bank

**Bank of Baroda**

**REGIONAL OFFICE, SAMBALPUR,**  
1st Floor, At: Christianpada, G.M. College Chhak, Dist.: Sambalpur, PIN-768001, Mob.: 7752050804

**VEHICLE AUCTION SALE NOTICE**

Applications are invited from interested bidders for purchase of following vehicles, seized by the Bank on "As is where is basis" as per terms and conditions listed below. This public notice will be treated as a notice to the borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors of the loans. They are hereby advised to be present at the auction venue on the auction date and are free to liquidate their entire dues before the auction date, failing which the vehicles will be auctioned and balance dues, if any will be recovered from them with interest and cost.

Sl. No.	BRANCH / Contact Number	Name of the Borrower/ Loan A/c. No.	Vehicle No. / Chassis No. / Engine No.	Make & Model	Month/ Year of Mfg.	Reserve Price / Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) / Bid Increase Amount	EMD deposit Account No. / IFSC Code
1.	<b>BINIKA BRANCH, SUBARNAPUR / 7752050829</b>	Mrs. Sanjukta Dandasena, W/o- Mr. Prasanta Chandra Dandasena / 5137060000617	OD-15Y-6046 / MBHHWB13SRA651209/ K12NP7421514	Car - Maruti Suzuki Baleno Zeta (Maruti Suzuki)	January, 2024	₹ 6,00,000/- / ₹ 60,000/- / ₹ 2,000/-	51370015181219 / BARBOBINIKA

**Parking Yard Address: Naxapali, Sambalpur**

- Vehicles Inspection Date: **10.06.2025** Time: **01.00 PM**
- Last date of submission of online EMD: **11.06.2025** latest by **02.30 PM**
- The schedule date of auction to be held on: **12.06.2025** from **11.00 AM to 01.00 PM**
- Bid and declaration form along with self-attested Aadhar, PAN, EMD deposit with UTR number to be submitted to Authorised officer on or before **11.06.2025** for getting user id & password from Auction tiger. (Help Desk No. 9265562821 / 9265562819)

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS:** 1) Applications accompanied by ID/address proof copy (originals to be verified) and EMD of 10% of Reserve price as applicable for each vehicle in shape of Banker's cheque/Draft drawn in favour of **Bank of Baroda**, payable at **Concerned Branch** should reach on or before **11.06.2025 upto 2.30 PM**. 2) However the bank reserves the right to accept/reject/cancel the auction process of any/all vehicles at its own discretion at any point of time without assigning any reason whatsoever. 3) Bid amount does not include any statutory tax pending and applicable RTA fees. All these cost are additional and must be borne by the successfully bidder. 4) Dispute pertaining to year of manufacture, documents, condition of vehicle/assets, etc. will not be considered after successful bid. 5) Entry to the event is strictly restricted to the registered bidder only. 6) The refund of EMD will be made immediately after the closure of the bidding process to the unsuccessful bidders. 7) Successful Highest bidder has to deposit a minimum amount of 25% of the bid amount inclusive EMD on the same day, failing which the bid taken will not be considered as EMD amount will be forfeited without further intimation. 8) The balance should be paid by the successful bidder within next **15 days** from the date of auction. 9) Delayed interest @18%p.a. will be charged against any amount due and payable by the successful bidder beyond **15 days** from the date of the event, subject to a maximum waiting period of **22 days** from the date of auction. 10) Default in payment beyond the stipulated 22 days, will lead to deal cancellation and forfeiture of EMD paid and the vehicle/equipment/machinery will be resold without further information. Acceptance of payment on later date will be sole discretion of Bank. 11) Successful Bidders are fully responsible for taking delivery of all vehicles or equipment from Stockyard after full payment is made. 12) Successful bidders must remove the vehicles/ equipments within **7 days** from the date of release order along with RC Transfer in to their name.

Place: Sambalpur, Date: 05.05.2025

Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda

FOCUS BIG FOOD

# FIGHT AGAINST SUGAR



The free ride that these food giants have had, enriching themselves and their shareholders at the cost of ordinary people, must end

with a weak if not dysfunctional Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) system that brings all the problems of lack of capacity, transparency, oversight and a host of other challenges leading to poor enforcement. The size of the Indian opportunity in itself is a problem because brands will do anything to dig in for the prize and usually find success if their time horizons are not too short. Combine this with the relative lack of awareness of Indian consumers (until recently) and the challenges of holding brands to account not only for the ingredients but also for what is said on packaging and in advertising – with claims of delivering healthier, sharper, smarter outcomes, or some variant thereof, quite routinely thrown in. A lot of this work feeds into marketing literature – of how a brand succeeded against “odds” or how a “strategy” failed and was turned, thus marking down the moral dimension of the issues at stake and celebrating instead the limited and narrow playbook of marketing.

A big challenge to the food companies in America, led by an overconfident, overzealous administration, bulldozing change in the face of powerful food lobbies that will not bow easily, will hopefully bring in a new era of honest food with companies being made to pay dearly for feeding sugar to sell more. There should be no space for flavour, colour, dyes or other additives to food. Salt should be in check. Sugar can be taxed. The free ride that these food giants have had, enriching themselves and their shareholders at the cost of ordinary people, must end. If the Trump administration helps deliver even a bit of this that will be one good outcome to celebrate in an era that otherwise looks rather dark.

The writer is a journalist and faculty member at SPJIMR.

©THE BILLION PRESS

The wild run of the Donald Trump brigade in the United States is already bringing negative fallout: the US economy contracted in the first quarter of 2025, tourist arrivals are reported dramatically down, and Elon Musk’s chainsaw has effectively crippled many wings of the US government as more departments are downsized or eliminated. But amid this whirlwind not seen in 100 years, something good appears to have emerged from the controversial US Secretary of Health and Human Services, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. Last fortnight, Kennedy uttered three simple words: “sugar is poison.” And he set out his agenda to check its use in products sold by big food companies. “Four years from now, we are going to have most of these products off the market, or you will know about them when you go to the grocery store,” the Health Secretary said.

This is a dramatic and significant change, wholly positive and clearly the right step but it comes from a “wrong” person – one who is otherwise a conspiracy theorist, is known for anti-scientific beliefs and rants against vaccines. Kennedy also has a large and positive agenda against ‘Big Food’ (and ‘Big Pharma’) companies selling sodas and sweetened packaged products that are known to be addictive and responsible for the obesity and diabetes epidemic in America, where 38% of children, he says, are already diabetic or pre-diabetic.

There are many aspects to this change, but the notable one is that most of the sugar infusion in food stuff has spread across the globe and certainly into India, from its roots in American food design, packaging and marketing. If globalisation brought manufacturing jobs to China and a software services boom to India, it also brought to these populations a new push on sug-

ar and high fructose corn syrup loaded sodas, chips, cupcakes and a host of packaged food that along with other claimed lifestyle conveniences have become the ticking time bomb on health. It is notable that RFK Jr. talks of “food and food-like substances” because it can be argued that much of what is sold as packaged food is food-like but not food at all.

We have seen this happen over and over again in India, where new awareness and some activism against the giants is finding root.

Consider this: soon after the Indian economy was liberalised, a global foods giant launched cornflakes as the breakfast they said should be preferred by Indians. The introduction was supported by a heavy spend of advertising dollars, with promos that invited Indians to reject traditional hot breakfasts like kulchas, samosas or idlis, and switch to the new launch, an alternative presented as simple to use, tasty and healthful. The same company soon introduced many variants of its breakfast cereals, in shapes, shades and colours, sprinkled with frosty dust, attractively presented as red, blue and brown – all with levels of sugar and colour that would be considered anything but healthy. Habits were sought to be changed from hot Indian

food to unhealthy packaged products. The example here is just one of the many food product companies that have pushed sugar, artificial colour and an assortment of additives into their products, then pressed on the marketing pedal and over time succeeded in building businesses at the cost of the health of ordinary Indians, many among the target audience being children. One multinational giant, among the oldest operating in the country, once tried to introduce jam as “brain food,” till it was stopped by a regulator from making that fanciful claim.

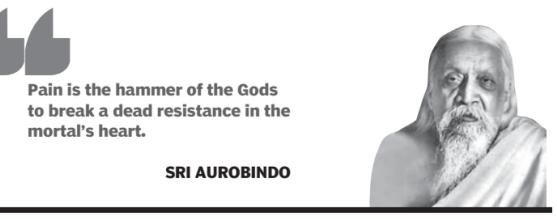
Even today, many prominent food and drink brands in India carry ingredients suspect in themselves, and often in quantities that would not be allowed in several developed economies. Many Indian brands are huge violators but reputed, globally recognised and heavily marketed international brands can be worse, given their scale and reach. Social media campaigns have highlighted many of these ‘India’ versus the ‘Rest of the World’ match-up list of ingredients, and it often is a case of brands getting away with more sugar and various and sometimes dangerous chemicalised inputs in India while steering clear of these in other markets.

A part of the problem is lax regulations in India, combined



Jagdish Rattanani

THERE SHOULD BE NO SPACE FOR FLAVOUR, COLOUR, DYES OR OTHER ADDITIVES TO FOOD



Pain is the hammer of the Gods to break a dead resistance in the mortal's heart.

SRI AUROBINDO

## (Anti)-Trump Card

First it was Canada, and now Australia and Singapore: the anti-Trump factor appears to be benefiting parties that are perceived as the best option to counter the US President’s antics. Australia’s Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, 62, secured a second term with a decisive victory over the Opposition, whose Right-wing leader, Peter Dutton, struggled to distance himself from comparisons to Donald Trump and ultimately lost his own seat. Defying the so-called “incumbency curse,” Albanese’s Center-Left Labor Party achieved an unexpectedly comfortable win on 3 May, following a five-week election campaign focused on the cost of living crisis and the global economic uncertainty stemming from Trump’s tariff policies. Albanese is now the first Australian prime minister to serve consecutive terms since 2004.

Similar to Canada, Australia’s Opposition conservative party, the Coalition, appeared poised for victory even before Trump’s return to office, driven by public frustration over the cost of living crisis and soaring home prices. However, it has since seen a decline in voter support, as concerns grow about the government’s approach to Trump. Additionally, Dutton’s campaign has been criticized by commentators as one of the weakest in Australian political history, and the former police detective found it challenging to distance himself from certain Trump-like rhetoric and policies.

In Canada, a few months ago, it appeared almost certain that Pierre Poilievre would become the country’s next prime minister. His Conservative Party held a double-digit lead in the polls over the ruling Liberals, and Poilievre effectively tapped into the growing frustrations of voters weary from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s disastrous decade in office. However, the most significant factor influencing the political landscape was the shadow of Trump. His aggressive trade war with Canada and his repeated claims that Canada would be better off as America’s “51st state” reshaped the political equations. Mark Carney’s Liberals took advantage of the nationalism fuelled by Trump’s rhetoric, while Poilievre’s Right-wing, populist image suffered due to its association with Trump.

A similar pattern was observed in Australia, where a poll by the public broadcaster ABC revealed that over 70 per cent of Australians believed Trump’s actions would negatively impact their financial condition. Additionally, a majority no longer considered the US a dependable security ally. Three months into Trump’s second term, 66 per cent of Australians felt their country could no longer rely on the US and needed to enhance its own military capabilities. This figure was below 40 per cent the previous June. This change in public attitude had a direct bearing on the election.

Just like the Center-Left Canadian government, the Australian government too associated its political rivals with Trump’s administration and the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) led by billionaire Elon Musk. During the five-week election campaign, Australia faced 10 per cent tariffs on exports to the US, despite having traded at a deficit with its bilateral free trade partner for decades. The Opposition leader was mockingly referred to as “DOGE-y Dutton,” while Labor cautioned that a Dutton-led government would cut public sector services to finance seven government-funded nuclear power plants.

In the case of Singapore, again there was a Trumpian backlash in its 3 May election. Voters overwhelmingly cast their ballots for the ruling People’s Action Party (PAP). This helped Prime Minister Lawrence Wong defeat the Opposition Workers Party which appeared poised to win a larger share of votes and seats than in the last election. The PAP also was under public scrutiny for the cost of living crisis, low growth, and unavailable housing. But the PAP reversed the trend as the voters thought the incumbent was best positioned to handle the turmoil and uncertainty caused by Trump’s policies. Singapore feels particularly vulnerable for the size of its economy and exposure to international forces. The PAP has been able to convince the electorate of its seriousness to undertake a larger social welfare system and mitigate the hardships of the people reeling under a severe lack of affordable housing.

The upshot of the electoral battles in the three countries is that Trump is unwittingly helping people in different countries to rally behind parties and leaders opposed to his trade war and other policies even though they would have chosen a better party had they got the option.

### WISDOM CORNER

Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired, and success achieved.

HELEN KELLER

The most intense conflicts, if overcome, leave behind a sense of security and calm that is not easily disturbed. It is just these intense conflicts and their conflagration which are needed to produce valuable and lasting results.

CARL JUNG

Only one who devotes himself to a cause with his whole strength and soul can be a true master. For this reason mastery demands all of a person.

ALBERT EINSTEIN

### THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1882: U.S. President Chester A. Arthur signed the Chinese Exclusion Act, the first and only major federal legislation to explicitly suspend immigration for a specific nationality.

1937: The Hindenburg zeppelin filled with hydrogen goes up in flames. The footage showing a colossal fireball engulfing the German airship during a landing attempt in Lakehurst, NJ, has become iconic for the end of the zeppelin era. 35 lives were lost in the crash.

1954: Roger Bannister of Britain became the first athlete to run a mile in less than four minutes.

1976: A massive earthquake hits northeast Italy. 939 people died and 157,000 were left homeless in Italy’s worst earthquake, which measured 6.5 on the Richter scale.

1998: Steve Jobs introduced Apple’s first iMac, a personal computer that became hugely successful and helped revive the struggling company.

2002: South African-born American entrepreneur Elon Musk founded the aerospace company SpaceX, which helped usher in the era of commercial spaceflight.

### SPECTRUM RESOURCES

## The scramble for critical minerals

The clean-energy transition has fueled the global race for critical minerals, transforming elements like lithium, cobalt, and rare earths into strategic assets. At the center of this emerging resource war is the escalating rivalry between China and the US, both of which are keenly aware that controlling mineral supply chains is essential to technological dominance.

Critical minerals – especially lithium, nickel, cobalt, manganese, and graphite – are essential to sectors like semiconductors, electric-vehicle batteries, renewable energy, and defense. Rare earths, for example, are vital for the permanent magnets used in wind turbines and EV motors, while the power grids that sustain modern economies rely on huge quantities of aluminum and copper. The geopolitical importance of critical minerals has surged in recent years, driven not only by their role in the green transition but also by the increasing fragility of concentrated supply chains. China currently dominates global mineral processing, refining more than 60% of the world’s lithium, 85% of its rare-earth elements, and 95% of its manganese.

This dominance has created new strategic vulnerabilities.

A prime example is China’s recent export restrictions on gallium and germanium, which show how critical inputs can be weaponized by great powers to gain a technological edge.

Ultimately, the green transition’s trajectory will depend not only on where mineral deposits are located but also on how governments adapt. As countries shift away from fossil fuels, they risk replacing one form of resource insecurity with another unless they confront the complex dynamics of mineral supply and demand. Yet much of the current debate focuses on expanding supply, overlooking potential efficiency gains, as well as advances in recycling and material substitution.

While the US maintains a competitive edge in advanced semiconductor design and manufacturing equipment, China dominates clean-energy supply chains, from solar panels to batteries. But the US remains fully import-dependent for 15 critical minerals – including gallium and rare earths – and more than 50% dependent for another 34. Given that China is the primary supplier of nearly half of these minerals, it is clear that America’s resource dependence poses a strategic threat

to key sectors, including semiconductor production, defense, and clean energy. Recognizing these growing vulnerabilities, former US President Joe Biden signed the 2022 CHIPS and Science Act to boost semiconductor manufacturing. President Donald Trump’s administration is currently pursuing an even more domestically oriented approach aimed at accelerating the extraction of critical minerals while streamlining the permitting process for mining projects on federal land.

But mineral security cannot be achieved through domestic production alone, which is why the Biden administration joined allies like Australia, Canada, and the European Union to establish the Minerals Security Partnership – an initiative aimed at “friendshoring” mineral production. Trump, by contrast, has adopted a more assertive approach, threatening to acquire Greenland “one way or another” and attempting to pressure Ukraine into a critical-mineral deal. The scramble for critical minerals could have profound geopolitical implications, as resource-rich developing countries find themselves courted by both the US and China. At the same time, glob-

al industries face the prospect of fragmented supply chains divided along geopolitical lines.

Africa, home to roughly 30% of known mineral reserves – including 85% of the world’s manganese and 80% of its platinum and chromium – has emerged as a focal point of resource competition. This is especially true for countries like DRC, which holds an estimated 70% of global cobalt reserves, and platinum-rich South Africa. Yet the disconnect between Africa’s vast resource wealth and its limited economic development remains striking.

Encouragingly, the US has signaled its willingness to engage with mineral-rich Sub-Saharan countries. But the limited presence of US private-sector mining operations in the region, together with the rapidly shifting geopolitical landscape, underscores the need for an innovative, strategic approach focused on long-term value creation and mutually beneficial partnerships.

Otaviano Canuto is a former vice president and executive director of the World Bank. Sabine Emran is an economist at the Policy Center for the New South. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE



Otaviano Canuto & Sabine Emran

THE SCRAMBLE FOR CRITICAL MINERALS COULD HAVE PROFOUND GEOPOLITICAL IMPLICATIONS, AS RESOURCE-RICH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FIND THEMSELVES COURTED BY BOTH THE US AND CHINA

## 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](mailto:edit@orissapost.com)



### Political masterstroke

Sir, Apropos, “Mandal-Kamandal 2.0,” Orissa Post, May 5. The BJP has strategically turned the tables on the Opposition by co-opting the caste census demand—long the core plank of socialist and regional parties. Once dismissive of caste enumeration, the BJP now uses it as a political weapon, disrupting the INDIA bloc’s social justice narrative and reasserting control over the discourse. By backing caste-based data collection in states like Bihar and hinting at broader implementation, the BJP has blurred the ideological lines. In doing so, it reawakens the politics of the 1990s—where the Mandal-Kamandal binary shaped Indian politics. Back then, Mandal politics, driven by caste empowerment, clashed with BJP’s Kamandal or Hindutva push. Today, the BJP fuses both—championing OBC empowerment while anchoring itself in Hindu identity. This synthesis allows the BJP to neutralize caste-based opposition while reinforcing its pro-poor, nationalist credentials. As regional parties struggle to reclaim space, the BJP’s caste census move is more than data collection—it’s a masterstroke.

N Sathasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

### Breathing challenge

Sir, Breathing, the most fundamental act of life, remains a daily challenge for millions living with asthma—a condition that claimed over 455,000 lives in 2019 alone. Despite the availability of proven, inhaled medications, a staggering 96% of these deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries, where access to treatment remains limited or unaffordable. On World Asthma Day 6 May, the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) calls for action with the theme: “Make Inhaled Treatments Accessible for ALL.” This isn’t just about medicine—it’s about equity, awareness, and dignity for those silently suffering. In India, where asthma continues to burden countless families, there is an urgent need to expand both access and understanding. Many still go undiagnosed, misuse inhalers, or bear the stigma of chronic illness. We must move beyond token gestures and ensure early diagnosis, better education for caregivers, and policies that prioritize affordable care. This World Asthma Day, let our commitment to health be as clear and vital as the air we all deserve to breathe.

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD

# Work starts on hydro projects

## INDUS TREATY SUSPENSION



flowing through India for much of its irrigation and hydropower, but it could eventually be affected if other dams launch similar efforts.

There are more than half a dozen such projects in the region. India did not inform Pakistan about the work at the Salal and Baglihar projects, which is being done for the first time since they were built in 1987 and 2008-09, respectively, as the treaty had blocked such work, the sources added.

They spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorised to talk to the media.

India's NHPC and the two governments did not reply to emails from Reuters seeking comment.

Since independence from British colonial rule in 1947,

India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir, in addition to numerous short conflicts.

The flushing operation ran for three days from May 1, the sources said.

This is the first time such an exercise has taken place and will help in more efficient power generation and prevent damage to turbines, one of the sources told Reuters.

"We were also asked to open the adjustable gates for cleaning, which we did from May 1," the source said, adding that the effort aimed to free dam operations from any restrictions.

People living on the banks of the Chenab River on the Indian side of Kashmir said they noticed water had been released from both Salal and

Baglihar dams from Thursday to Saturday. Videos shared by locals show some sections of the river in full flow while others were partly blocked by massive sediment deposits.

### 'FREE WILL'

The flushing of hydropower projects requires nearly emptying a reservoir to force out sediment, the build-up of which is a major cause of declining output. For example, two of the sources said, power delivered by the 690-megawatt Salal project was far below its capacity, because Pakistan had prevented such flushing, while silt build-up also affected output at the 900-MW Baglihar project.

Flushing is not a common thing because it leads to a lot of water wastage, said one of the sources. Downstream countries are expected to be informed in case it leads to any inundation.

Building both projects had required extensive back and forth with Pakistan, which worries about losing out on its share of water.

Under the 1960 treaty, which split the Indus and its tributaries between the neighbours, India had also shared data such as hydrological flows at various spots on the rivers flowing through India and issued flood warnings.

India's water minister vowed last month to ensure no drop of the Indus River's water reaches Pakistan. Government officials and experts on both sides say India cannot stop water flows immediately, however, as the treaty has allowed it only to build so-called run-of-river hydropower plants, which do not require significant storage dams, on the three rivers allocated to Pakistan.

# Police warn public against crossing Chenab on foot



People visit after a decrease in the water level of the Chenab river, in Akhnoor sector of Jammu, Monday PTI PHOTO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jammu, May 5:** The Jammu and Kashmir Police Monday warned people against crossing the Chenab on foot in Jammu's Akhnoor sector after the river recorded its lowest water discharge and attracted hundreds of villagers, some of whom were seen searching for gold and silver ornaments and coins.

The drop in water level was attributed to the river's flow being restricted through the Baglihar and the Salal dams in Ramban and Reasi districts, officials said.

The Centre announced the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty, which has governed the use of the Indus River and its tributaries between India and

Pakistan since 1960, in wake of the April 22 Pahalgam attack.

After conducting a desilting operation last week, the gates of the Baglihar and the Salal dams were closed Monday to refill the reservoirs, leading to a considerable drop in the Chenab downstream, especially in the Akhnoor sector.

The reduced flow led to hundreds of people thronging the river to take videos while crossing the Chenab on foot at many places.

Many curious locals also started looking for gold and silver ornaments and coins in the river's ankle-deep water.

Sensing danger, police parties led by officers fanned out to clear the people as the water

level started rising again late afternoon.

Police personnel were seen using the public address system, warning people against crossing the river on foot.

There has been rain in the catchment area and a sudden water-level increase is expected, a police officer said, requesting the people to clear out.

Local villagers said they had never witnessed the water flow decline to such a level.

"The treaty's suspension allowed the government to initiate this flood- and drought-like cycle to teach Pakistan a lesson. They should know that they cannot run away after murdering innocents every time," said a local, Ankur Sharma.

## 8-YEAR LEGAL BATTLE

# Indore man gets licence to carry sharp weapon

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Indore, May 5:** A technical education facilitator from Indore has been granted a licence to keep a sharp-edged weapon by the district administration after an eight-year-long legal battle, in what is being claimed as the first such case in the country.

The licensee, Subhash Singh Tomar (57), clarified that his aim was not to carry weapons for personal use but to highlight the plight of tribal communities against whom criminal cases are registered unfairly for possessing such weapons even for farming purposes.

"I came to know that several criminal cases were registered under the Arms Act against tribals in western MP for possessing sharp weapons. They use such weapons for farming and cutting grass," he said.

"I want to tell people that a license for sharp weapons can also be obtained legally," he added.

Initially, Tomar's application was rejected without stated reasons, but he continued his legal pursuit by filing petitions before the Madhya Pradesh High Court. "Some of-

officials even mocked me, questioning whether such a licence could even be issued," he recalled. Tomar's lawyer, Vishal Srivastava, termed the case a "historic development in the legal domain," adding that the administration issued the licence only after a contempt petition was filed for non-compliance with the court's order.

He said the case highlights a lack of public awareness regarding the legal process for obtaining licences for sharp-edged weapons and urged the government to introduce a clear policy to address this gap.

area," Tomar told PTI.

He clarified that his aim was not to carry weapons for personal use but to highlight the plight of tribal communities against whom criminal cases are registered unfairly for possessing such weapons even for farming purposes.

"I came to know that several criminal cases were registered under the Arms Act against tribals in western MP for possessing sharp weapons. They use such weapons for farming and cutting grass," he said.

"I want to tell people that a license for sharp weapons can also be obtained legally," he added.

Initially, Tomar's application was rejected without stated reasons, but he continued his legal pursuit by filing petitions before the Madhya Pradesh High Court. "Some of-

officials even mocked me, questioning whether such a licence could even be issued," he recalled. Tomar's lawyer, Vishal Srivastava, termed the case a "historic development in the legal domain," adding that the administration issued the licence only after a contempt petition was filed for non-compliance with the court's order.

He said the case highlights a lack of public awareness regarding the legal process for obtaining licences for sharp-edged weapons and urged the government to introduce a clear policy to address this gap.



# MP Police forms SIT, meets NWC members

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bhopal, May 5:** Recognising the alarming rise in cases of forced conversion through coercion and deception in Madhya Pradesh, the state government has taken decisive action by constituting a Special Investigation Team (SIT) with the authority to investigate these cases thoroughly.

Director General of Police Kailash Makwana has led the initiative, tasking the SIT with investigating such incidents across the state.

Leadership of this task force has been assigned to Inspector General Abhay Singh of Bhopal Rural, supported by Additional Police Commissioner Pankaj Srivastava and three senior of-

# Rani Durgavati's 'Maqbara' mention in exam question triggers row in MP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Jabalpur, May 5:** A contentious matter has arisen in the academic circles of Madhya Pradesh, as a question posed in a Bachelor of Science examination at Rani Durgavati University in Jabalpur has incited considerable uproar.

The question -- "Where is Rani Durgavati's 'Maqbara' located?" -- appeared as Question 42 in the second-year BSc examination, conducted May 3. The multiple-choice question presented four options -- Barela, Bamhani, Charguan, and Dandai, all situated within Jabalpur -- yet its very phrasing has provoked indignation among scholars and social organisations alike.

The usage of the term 'Maqbara', the literal meaning of mausoleum or tomb, in reference to the illustrious 'Hindu queen' has been decried as an affront to her legacy. Members of the National Students' Union of India (NSUI) at the university have called for immediate corrective action, condemning the question's inclusion as a grave error.

"It is utterly shocking that such an erroneous question was formulated by the university's faculty. The administration must issue a formal apology, and those responsible should face removal from their posts," stated Sachin Rajak, NSUI's district president.

Professor Rashmi Tandan, the university's examination coordinator, acknowledged the controversy, affirming that

## BHOPAL RAPE-BLACKMAIL CASE

ficers from Police Headquarters.

A criminal group in Bhopal is accused of administering drugs to multiple female students, subjecting them to sexual assault, and recording the incidents on film. They then allegedly used these recordings as a means of coercion and blackmail.

The authorities formally registered a case April 25 after five students from a private college stepped forward one after the other to report the crimes.

The police have apprehended the key accused of the gang, Farhan Ali, but he was shot while trying to snatch a service revolver from a police officer who took him to an investigation



spot. Farhan is in the hospital under treatment. His accomplices, Saad, Sahil and Nabeel have also been arrested.

Meanwhile, the National Commission for Women has also stepped in to address the

troubling reports of rape, blackmail, and exploitation involving "Hindu girl students" at a private college in Bhopal.

On Sunday, the Women's Commission met with the investigation team to discuss the case in detail.

The SIT officials have been summoned to aid in the inquiry, and discussions between the Women's Commission and the investigators took place.

On Saturday, representatives from the National Commission for Women visited Bagh Sewania police station, Bhopal, as part of their ongoing efforts.

The commission's team will remain in Bhopal for the next

three days, during which they will meet all relevant parties and may also engage directly with victims and their families to understand their plight.

An official statement from the Police Headquarters has confirmed the presence of criminal activities targeting socially vulnerable women and girls in various districts.

Reports suggest these victims were manipulated through deceit, pressure, or threats, subjected to mental, physical, and social exploitation, and forced conversion.

The police emphasise that such incidents not only violate legal norms but also pose a serious challenge to women's dignity, freedom, and safety.

# TERRORIST HIDEOUT BUSTED IN POONCH

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Jammu, May 5:** Five improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and two wireless sets were recovered after a terrorist hideout was busted in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, officials said Monday.

Officials said that five ready-to-use IEDs, weighing between half a kg and five kgs, were destroyed in a controlled explosion on the spot, thereby thwarting terrorist plans to set off explosions in the border district.

"The hideout was busted during a joint search operation by the Army and the Special Operations Group (SOG) of J&K Police at Surankote late

Sunday evening," said officials.

Two IEDs were found planted inside steel buckets and three others were packed in tiffin boxes. In addition, two wireless sets, five packets containing urea, one five-litre gas cylinder, one pair of binoculars, three woollen caps, three blankets and some trousers and utensils were recovered from the hideout, the officials further said.

After the Pahalgam terror attack April 22, in which 26 civilians, including 25 tourists and a local, were killed in Baisaran meadow, security forces have started massive crackdowns in the Valley and the Jammu division against terrorists, their underground workers (OGWs) and sympathisers.

# Student wins US scholarship, to receive \$10K for tuition

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jammu, May 5:** An Indian student, Japteg Singh Bamrah, has secured the prestigious USA's 'HonorsGrandU 2025 Scholarship', winning the "Build a Better Future" award along with a \$10,000 grant and an additional \$5000 grant for his groundbreaking Solar Mech Engine project, an official release said Sunday.

Mentored by a senior scientist at CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM) Jammu, Na-

sir Ul Rasheed, under the Jigyasa Hackathon initiative, the innovation of Bamrah, a Class XII student of Dalhousie Public School, stood out among thousands of global applicants, earning him one of the five coveted scholarships awarded worldwide this year, according to the statement.

The HonorsGradU Scholarship, organised by Honors Graduation—a non-profit initiative supporting students in sustainability and innovation—selects only five

exceptional projects globally, each receiving \$10,000 for college tuition in the United States.

The top technology among these winners is granted an additional \$ 5000 to refine and scale the innovation.

Bamrah's Solar Mech Engine, a sustainable energy solution, not only won the scholarship but also claimed the highest honour, making it a landmark achievement for India in global student innovation, the statement said,

adding since 2012, he has been the only student from India to top the list among thousands of applications every year.

This innovation was earlier declared winner of CSIR Jigyasa Hackathon 2024. It features a low resistance generator that uses electromagnetic induction for direct mechanical to electrical energy conversion, the statement said, adding the USP of demonstrated technology is its functionality as a reversible heat pump.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA  
OFFICE OF THE BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, BHAPUR  
P.R & D.W DEPARTMENT  
E-Mail : ori-bhapur@nic.in  
"e" Procurement Tender Call Notice for Building works  
Tender Call Notice No. / 01 / 2025-26 & Bid Identification No. -Online Tender-01/2025-26  
Letter No. : 2161 / Date : 02.05.2025  
1. Name of the work : Building work. 2. Total Number of works : 6 Nos. 3. Approx. Estimated cost : Rs.13.31 lakh to Rs.26.15 lakh. 4. Class of Contractor : B, C & D Class of Contractor. 5. Period of Completion : 6 months. 6. Other details :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender On-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Date and time of opening of Tender
		From	To		
1 Block development Officer, Bhapur	2 Online Tender / 01/2025-26	3 Dt.08.05.2025 at 10.00 A.M.	4 Dt.17.05.2025 up to 5.00 P.M.	5 Dt.17.05.2025 up to 1.00 P.M.	6 Dt.19.05.2025 at 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the website [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in)  
OIPR-19361/11/0003/2526  
Sd./- Block development Officer Bhapur

of the day quote

I am glad that it is open for people because it will be very convenient for them, and I believe there is also a mobile system that goes into more remote areas, which I think is a great idea



PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA | CONGRESS LEADER

Agriculture is our lifeline, but forests are equally crucial—they regulate climate, buffer disasters, and support livelihoods, especially for the poor and marginalized



JAGDEEP DHANKHAR | VICE-PRESIDENT

It is imperative that the governments of India and Sri Lanka engage in constructive and sustained dialogue to address these concerns in a spirit of cooperation



PAWAN KALYAN | DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER, ANDHRA PRADESH

SHORT TAKES

Pak national apprehended

Gurdaspur: The Border Security Force (BSF) has apprehended a Pakistani national who intruded into the Indian territory, officials said Monday. The BSF troops on duty in the area of Border Out Post (BOP) Sahapur May 3 night, a flanking BOP of Dariya Mansoor, observed suspicious movement near Falgu Nala ahead of the border fence and approximately 250 metres inside the Indian territory. An unidentified individual, later identified as a Pakistani national, was seen hiding in the bushes and wild growth, the officials said.

ED arrests 'absconding' ex-Haryana Cong MLA

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate has arrested "absconding" former Haryana Congress MLA Dharam Singh Chhoker, official sources said Monday. The 61-year-old ex-legislator is understood to have been taken into custody from a hotel in Delhi Sunday. He will be produced before a court in Gurugram Monday. Chhoker is a former MLA from the Samalkha assembly seat in Panipat district. He lost the Haryana Assembly polls last year after his party gave him the ticket to contest from the same seat again.

PG forensic student at AIIMS ends life

Raipur: A 26-year-old post-graduate student of forensic science at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Raipur allegedly committed suicide at his rented flat here, police said Monday. A suicide note, purportedly written by him, was found in the flat and it contained four words - 'work pressure, insomnia and sorry' -- they said. The MBBS doctor, A Ravi Kumar, was found hanging from the ceiling of his room at his rented apartment in Kabir Nagar in the Chhattisgarh capital Saturday afternoon, a police official said.

₹7.6 cr 'digital arrest' scam: 2 more held

New Delhi: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested two more members of a syndicate operating a "digital arrest" scam, through which they allegedly extorted ₹7.67 crore from a victim, officials said Monday. The central investigating agency arrested four members of the gang last month during "Operation Chakra V", they said.

Telangana's financial position is not in good shape. We are not able to raise loans. Nobody is willing to come forward and offer loans. Bankers are looking at Telangana representatives as thieves



A REVANTH REDDY | CHIEF MINISTER, TELANGANA

India has successfully test-fired an advanced underwater naval mine designed to enhance the Navy's capabilities against modern stealth ships and submarines. The development came amid increasing tensions between India and Pakistan over the Pahalgam terror attack



SC summons Samay Raina, others for 'ridiculing' disabled

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 5: The Supreme Court Monday directed five social media influencers, including "India's Got Latent" host Samay Raina, to appear before it or face coercive action after a plea alleged that they ridiculed persons having a rare disorder Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) and those suffering from disability on their show.

The court termed the influencers' conduct as "damaging" and "demoralizing" and said some serious remedial and punitive action was needed so that these things don't happen again.

Observing that the fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression is not absolute, a bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh said no one can be allowed to demean anybody under the garb of the right and mulled framing guidelines on social media content concerning the disabled and people with rare disorders.

The bench asked the Mumbai Commissioner of Police to serve notice on the five influencers to ensure their presence in the court, failing which coercive action will be taken.

Justice Surya Kant said that though after this order a lot of people raising the issue of fundamental rights will start writing articles but the court knows how to deal with these issues. Earlier this year, Raina was booked by Maharashtra and Assam police over derogatory



Observing that the fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression is not absolute, a bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh said no one can be allowed to demean anybody under the garb of the right and mulled framing guidelines on social media content concerning the disabled and people with rare disorders.

The bench asked the Mumbai Commissioner of Police to serve notice on the five influencers to ensure their presence in the court, failing which coercive action will be taken.

ry comments on his YouTube show "India's Got Latent" along with podcaster Ranveer Allahbadia.

The top court granted interim protection from arrest to Allahbadia February 18 while calling his comments "vulgar" and saying he had "dirty mind" which

put society to shame. Aside from Allahbadia and Raina, others named in the case in Assam are comics Ashish Chanchani, Jaspreet Singh and Apoorva Makhija.

The apex court order Monday came on a plea of an NGO alleging that the influencers have ridiculed persons having a rare disorder SMA and those suffering from disability on their show.

"The Commissioner of Police, Mumbai is directed to serve notice on respondent nos.6 to 10 and ensure their presence in court on the next date of hearing, failing which coercive steps will be taken against them to secure their presence," the bench ordered.

The bench also sought the assistance of Attorney General R Venkataramani on the PIL of NGO 'Cure SMA Foundation of India' for direction on regulating social media content concerning disabled people and persons with rare disorders.

COURT CORNER

SC seeks fresh Manipur report on Biren Singh audio clips

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Monday perused a forensic report on authenticity of leaked audio clips alleging role of former Manipur chief minister N Biren Singh in the ethnic violence and asked the state government to file a fresh report pertaining to the probe. A bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar opened the sealed cover report of the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) submitted by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta and asked the law officer to seek instruction from the state officers with regard to investigation in the matter.

SC seeks Centre's reply on '4 PM' YouTube block plea

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Monday sought responses from the Centre and others on a petition seeking quashing of the order blocking YouTube channel '4 PM'. A bench of Justices BR Gavai and KV Viswanathan agreed to hear the plea and issued notices to the Centre and others seeking their responses on the petition. The plea, filed by Sanjay Sharma who runs the YouTube channel, has sought a direction to the Centre to produce the blocking order with reasons and records, if any, for blocking the channel. It has also sought a direction to quash the blocking order after calling upon the Centre to produce the blocking order with reasons and records.

Pahalgam attack: SC trashes tourist safety PIL, rebukes petitioner

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Monday dismissed a PIL seeking safety of tourists in remote hilly areas of Jammu and Kashmir in view of the recent Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 people lost their lives. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh pulled up advocate Vishal Tiwari for filing the PIL and said it is only meant for publicity without any public cause. "Why have you filed this kind of PIL? What is your real motive? Don't you understand the sensitivity of the issue? I think you are inviting some exemplary cost for filing this PIL," Justice Surya Kant told Tiwari. The petitioner lawyer said this was the first time that tourists in Jammu and Kashmir were targeted, and hence, he was seeking directions for their safety.

Excise case: Not seeking Kejriwal's bail cancellation yet, ED tells HC

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate Monday told the Delhi High Court that it was not seeking at this stage the cancellation of the bail granted by the trial court to former chief minister Arvind Kejriwal in the excise policy-linked money laundering case. The counsel for the Enforcement Directorate (ED) told Justice Ravinder Dedeja that since the former chief minister was on interim bail granted by the Supreme Court after certain questions of law were referred to a larger bench, the hearing on its plea challenging trial court order of bail should be deferred.

Ayurvedic solution to conquer microplastic induced lung damages

AGENCIES

Haridwar, May 5: Today, the world is grappling with serious health issues caused by plastic pollution. Microplastics are micro-sized plastic particles generated through environmental plastic pollution and have been detected in the air, the water, and the food. Unknowingly, we are constantly exposed to these harmful particles daily.



When these particles enter into the human body, particularly the lungs, these can cause health issues such as inflammation, irritation, and cellular damage. This exposure could lead to severe conditions such as Lung Inflammation and Airway Hyper-Responsiveness.

Patanjali's scientists have conducted advanced research on mice, confirming that the Ayurvedic formulation Bronchom can significantly mitigate lung infections caused by microplastic exposure. The pioneer study found that Bronchom reduced inflammatory markers such as cytokine release and re-

duced airway hyper-responsiveness caused by microplastics.

This groundbreaking research has been published in the prestigious Elsevier publication research journal, Biomedicine & Pharmacotherapy.

On this occasion, AcharyaBalkrishna said that the mission of Patanjali has been to scientifically validate Ayurveda and provide solutions to concurrent global health challenges.

This research stands as the robust evidence that through ancient wisdom, focused scientific exploration, and evidence-based Ayurvedic medicines, it is indeed possible to tackle complex diseases stemming from environmental pollutants.

Dr AnuragVarshney, Vice President and Chief Scientist of Patanjali Research Foundation, further stated that this extraordinary confluence of ancient wisdom and modern science holds immense potential to make the entire world disease-free. We aim to present this ancient Ayurvedic knowledge with scientific validation.

PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACK

Defence secy meets Modi

The prime minister's meetings with Navy Chief Admiral Tripathi, Air Chief Marshal AP Singh and Defence Secretary Singh came amid speculations about India's possible military strikes against Pakistan to avenge the dastardly attack

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, May 5: Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh Monday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and is understood to have briefed him about the combat readiness of the armed forces against the backdrop of increasing tensions between India and Pakistan over the Pahalgam terror attack.

The meeting came a day after Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal AP Singh met Prime Minister Modi.

Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi had Saturday apprised the prime minister on the overall situation in the critical sea lanes in the Arabian Sea.

While the Indian Navy is maintaining a high alert in the Arabian Sea in view of Pakistan's naval drills, the front-line fighter jets of the Indian Air Force have been carrying out long-range sorties.

There is no official word on the prime minister's meeting with the defence secretary.



Citing "cross-border linkages" to the April 22 Pahalgam attack that killed 26 civilians, India has promised severe punishment to those involved in the strike.

The prime minister's meetings with Navy Chief Admiral Tripathi, Air Chief Marshal AP Singh and Defence Secretary Singh came amid speculations about India's possible military strikes against Pakistan to avenge the dastardly attack.

In a high-level meeting with the top defence brass, Prime Minister Modi on April 29 gave the armed forces "complete operational freedom" to decide on the mode, targets and timing of the response to the Pahalgam terror attack.

Modi also emphasised the national resolve to deal a "crushing blow to terrorism".

Amid the escalating tensions between the two sides, the Pakistan military has been resorting to "unprovoked firings" using small arms from their

posts across the LoC in the last few days.

The Pakistan Army resorted to unprovoked firings Sunday night as well. "During the night of May 4 and 5, Pakistan Army posts resorted to unprovoked small arms fire across the LoC in areas opposite Kupwara, Baramulla, Poonch, Rajauri, Mendhar, Naushera, Sunderbani, and Akhnour in Jammu and Kashmir," said a Indian military source.

India April 23 announced a raft of punitive measures against Pakistan including suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty, shutting down of the only operation land border crossing at Attari and downgrading of diplomatic ties in view of cross-border links to the attack.

In response, Pakistan shut its airspace to Indian airliners and suspended all trade with India, including through third countries. Pakistan rejected India's suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty and said any move to stop the flow of water will be seen as an "act of war".

Border dwellers in Jammu demand urgent repair of bunkers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

R S Pura, May 5: With tensions escalating along the Indo-Pak border and fears of a war looming large, border villagers of Jammu are urgently appealing for the repair and completion of pending construction work of border bunkers that serve as their only shield during cross-border shelling.

The recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam, which claimed 26 lives of tourists, has shattered the fragile peace brought about by the 2021 ceasefire agreement.

As anxiety surges in border villages, residents say the "deteriorating state" of bunkers has left them vulnerable.

Located just 500 metres from Pakistani posts, villages like Chandu Chak — which has previously endured shelling in 2020, 2018, and 2014 — have a handful of bunkers, many of which are incomplete or unusable.

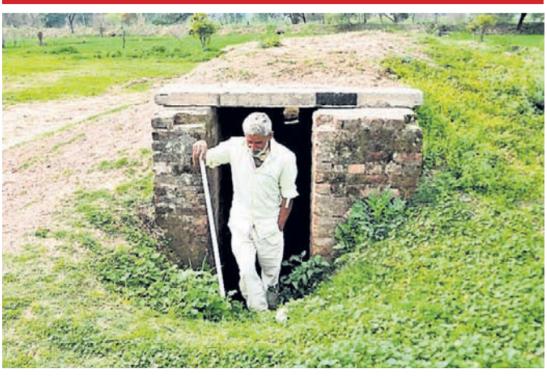
"Most bunkers are in ruins. There is no electricity, no water, no toilets — some even lack roofs," said Suchet Singh, a resident of Chandu Chak.

"They were left unfinished two years ago. We don't know why the work stopped," he added. Built under the Narendra Modi government's initiative to provide safety for border dwellers, many bunkers have fallen into disrepair due to poor maintenance and oversight. Singh added, "These bunkers have saved lives before, but in their current condition, they can barely protect anyone."

Paramjeet Kour (56) pointed to a half-built bunker in her village and asked, "Where will we take our children and livestock if shelling starts again? We are poor. The government must complete this bunker immediately."

Young residents share the same fear, seeking intervention of Prime Minister Naren-

FEARS OF WAR



dra Modi. Manjoot Choudhary, a class six student, said, "Modi ji should fix our bunker's roof. I have seen the shelling before — it is very scary."

The psychological toll is evident too among border dwellers as they fear that a war is immi-

Army boosting cybersecurity after website breaches

New Delhi: Amid attempts to hack and compromise multiple websites, including of Army Welfare Education Society-linked institutions, in the past few days, the army is taking "appropriate and necessary" measures to bolster cybersecurity infrastructure and strengthen digital defence mechanisms, sources said Monday. At least two members of the senior management categorically dismissed social media claims that the website of Delhi-based think-tank Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses had been "hacked". Cyberattacks targeting several Indian websites, especially of academic institutions, have been reported in recent days, particularly after the April 22 Pahalgam attack.

another villager. Many villages along the International Border — including Jorafarm, Mahashe-de-Kothe, Bulla Chak, Mangu Chak, Abdullian, Korotana Kalan, Pindi,

Army boosting cybersecurity after website breaches

New Delhi: Amid attempts to hack and compromise multiple websites, including of Army Welfare Education Society-linked institutions, in the past few days, the army is taking "appropriate and necessary" measures to bolster cybersecurity infrastructure and strengthen digital defence mechanisms, sources said Monday. At least two members of the senior management categorically dismissed social media claims that the website of Delhi-based think-tank Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses had been "hacked". Cyberattacks targeting several Indian websites, especially of academic institutions, have been reported in recent days, particularly after the April 22 Pahalgam attack.

another villager. Many villages along the International Border — including Jorafarm, Mahashe-de-Kothe, Bulla Chak, Mangu Chak, Abdullian, Korotana Kalan, Pindi,

Kotli Shah Doula, Pindi Charakan, Sai, and Treva — are raising similar concerns, urging the government to expedite bunker repairs.

According to officials, 7,923 bunkers (6,964 individual and 959 community) have been completed so far in Jammu division. Work is still ongoing on 9,905 more bunkers under various stages of construction. The sanctioned number includes 13,029 individual and 1,431 community bunkers, designed to shelter eight and forty people, respectively.

In some areas like Arnia, residents have taken preparedness into their own hands. Located five kilometers from the International Border (IB), Arnia town, with a population of over 18,500, resembled a ghost town in 2020 and 2018 with only a few people and some policemen left in its adjoining hamlets to take care of animals and guard houses following heavy shelling.

# national



The fact that the chief minister makes this statement at a political rally during the ongoing panchayat elections marks a new low for the political discourse in Assam

THOUSANDS OF STUDENT VISA SLOTS OPEN: US EMBASSY The US Embassy here Monday said "thousands of student visa appointments" are available across its Mission in India.



## of the day quote

There is nothing left in the Congress. Nobody is heading to Sharad Pawar's party, and everybody has forgotten Uddhav Thackeray. If they can't handle their party, what should we do? If the people from their party are leaving, what should I do

A young man has committed an inappropriate act at the Annapurna Devi temple in Paud village. This incident is extremely disgusting and infuriating. No sensitive person can possibly tolerate such behavior

Today 140 crore people of the country are united and want that Pakistan should get a befitting reply. Without losing time, the government should gather all its resources and take action. Because now it has been proved that Pakistan does not want peace in our country

# Japan offers 'full support' to India

The Pahalgam terror attack of April 22 figured prominently in talks between Singh and his visiting counterpart Gen Nakatani that largely focused on boosting India-Japan defence ties in new areas including tank engines and aero engines

## PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACK



state policy of cross-border terrorism against India, perpetrated through state and non-state actors," the defence ministry said in a readout. "He stated that such attacks destabilise regional peace and security. Rajnath Singh called for a unified stand against terrorism and the state-sponsored actions that perpetuate it," it said.

Minister Nakatani condemned the terrorist attack in Pahalgam and expressed solidarity with India in the fight against terrorism. "India shares a Special, Strategic and Global partnership with Japan. During the bilateral meeting we discussed defence cooperation and regional security," Singh said in a social media post.

Press Trust of India New Delhi, May 5: India and Japan Monday pitched for united global efforts to confront terrorism in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh condemning Pakistan's policy of "cross-border" terrorist activities targeting India.

The Pahalgam terror attack of April 22 figured prominently in talks between Singh and his visiting counterpart Gen Nakatani that largely focused on boosting India-Japan defence ties in new areas including tank engines and aero engines.

## Bitcoin trading refined way of Hawala biz: SC

New Delhi, May 5: The Supreme Court Monday said trading in Bitcoin in India is like "dealing with a refined way of Hawala business" as it lamented that the Centre has till now not come out with a clear regime on regulating virtual currency.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh made the remarks while dealing with a bail application of Shailesh Babulal Bhatt who was arrested by the police for alleged illegal Bitcoin trade. The bench said that two years back while dealing with a case related to Bitcoin trade it had asked the Centre to apprise the court about the policy regime on the trade of virtual currency but till now it has not received any response.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Bhatt, submitted that trading in Bitcoin is not illegal in India after the apex court quashed a circular of the Reserve Bank of India and therefore his client was wrongly arrested. Justice Surya Kant told Rohatgi that though he personally does not understand much about Bitcoin, but the court has been telling the Centre that if there is a regulatory regime, there will not be any problem.



Workers travel in a tempo amid pre-monsoon showers, in Chikkamagaluru, Karnataka, Monday

## POST OF THE DAY

BJP made a Ghibli image of Himanshi and her slain husband to exploit the terror attack and tragedy. The moment they realised she doesn't promote hatred, Bhakts started abusing her and character assassination. Because anyone who doesn't promote hatred is against their existence

## SHORT TAKES

4 killed, 6 injured in road accident

Bhind (MP): Four persons were killed and six others injured when a car overturned after hitting a motorcycle in Madhya Pradesh's Bind district in the early hours of Monday, a police official said. The incident took place around 1 am near Piodora village, he said. A car on its way from Porsa to Bind hit a motorcycle at a turn, killing all three persons on the two-wheeler at the scene, Barohi police station in-charge Atul Bhadoria said. The car then overturned, leaving one of its occupants dead and six others injured, he said.

Rain, thunderstorm likely in parts of Raj

Jaipur: Rainfall and thunderstorm is expected to continue in several parts of Rajasthan this week due to the impact of a western disturbance, a meteorological department spokesperson said Monday. He said strong thunderstorm and rain activity is likely in southern and eastern parts of the state over the next four to five days, providing relief from prevailing heatwave conditions.

Smoke scare again at Kozhikode Med College

Kozhikode (Kerala): A fresh smoke scare was reported Monday at a block of the Government Medical College Hospital here, officials said. This is the second such incident at the hospital in recent days. According to officials, smoke was seen coming from the sixth floor of the hospital, and patients were quickly moved out of the block as a safety measure. Firefighters arrived at the scene and brought the situation under control.

# 'Punjab won't give single drop of water to Haryana'

Chandigarh, May 5: The Punjab Assembly Monday unanimously passed a resolution, vowing not to spare even a single drop of water from its share to Haryana.

job will not allow the release of even a single drop of water to Haryana, saying his state does not have surplus water to spare.

Earlier, Water Resources Minister Barinder Kumar Goyal moved the resolution during a special session of the Assembly, after which it was taken up for discussion.

Reading out the resolution, Goyal accused the BJP of trying to take away the rights of Punjab through its governments in Haryana, at the Centre, and



through the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB). "By calling a BBMB meeting unconstitutionally and illegally, an attempt is being made to forcefully provide Punjab's rightful water to Haryana. Haryana used its share of water by March 31. Now the BJP wants to give water from Punjab's share to Haryana," the resolution said.

ter by March 31. Now the BJP wants to give water from Punjab's share to Haryana," the resolution said.

In the last three years, the Punjab government has tried to bring canal water to every farm in Punjab, it said.

"A network of canals and water courses has been built on a very large scale. Until 2021, only 22 per cent of Punjab's fields received canal water. But today, around 60 per cent of the fields are getting canal water.

This is why every single drop of Punjab's water has become very precious for the state. Punjab no longer has any spare water to give to any other state," the resolution said.

"After Haryana April 6 requested Punjab that it needed water for drinking purposes, Punjab showed a big heart and gave 4,000 cusecs of water to the state because our 'gurus' have taught us that giving water to a thirsty person is a great virtue," it said.

# You can't use an old map to explore a new world

Opportunities are never lost; someone will take the ones you miss. Even if they emerge on the back of a gruesome tragedy.

Imagine what would be the history of Indian politics if the nine railway policemen who failed to board the Sabarmati Express February 27, 2002, had actually done so. Their failure changed the course of history, besides leaving them groveling for their jobs with the Gujarat High Court dismissing their pleas for reinstatement May 2, 2025. Earlier, following an inquiry these nine personnel were first suspended and then 'removed from service' by the Gujarat government in 2005 for negligence in their duties. They subsequently challenged the government order in the High Court but to no avail.

pelting mob killing 59 passengers on their way back from Ayodhya. The incident occurred in the morning of February 27, 2002 triggering a chain of events in Gujarat and sparked extended statewide communal violence. The cops in question were dismissed from service for negligence, carelessness and dereliction of duty.

The repercussions not only engulfed law and order issues but let loose an orgy of violence that acquired communal overtones and affected the body fabric of the state. Communal polarization thereafter became a political leit motif, a calling card of sorts that acquired a short cut to power.

The 100 page High Court judgement by Ms Justice Vaibhavi D Nanavati May 2 categorically states "if the petitioners (policemen in question) departed on the Sabarmati Express train itself to reach Ahmedabad, the incident that occurred at Godhra could have been prevented. The petitioner showed negligence and carelessness towards their duty". Their pleas for reinstatement were dismissed by the High Court.

The order clearly states that the petitioners are all police staffs and are duty bound to travel in the Sa-



barmati Express leaving from Dahod as per the duty assigned to them February 27, 2002. The petitioners made bogus entries in the register and return in Ahmedabad by Shanti Express. If the petitioners had departed in Sabarmati Express, the incidents that had occurred at Godhra could have been prevented.

Interestingly, the plea taken on behalf of the policemen was that it was normal practice for GRP personnel to switch trains if the assigned train is running inordinately late. However the government countered the argument pointing out that apart from not boarding the assigned train, they had also made a false entry at Dahod station outpost claiming they are departing by Sabarmati express giving a wrong signal to the control room that the train had been secured.

Whatever may be the final out-

come of the legal battle between the dismissed policemen and the authorities, the fact remains that the outcome of the Sabarmati express train carnage and the communal violence that followed affected every strata of popular life.

The Nanavati-Mehta Commission appointed by the state government in the aftermath of the event concluded in 2008 that the burning was planned act of arson. In contrast, the Bannerjee Commission instituted in 2004 by the ministry of Railways termed the fire as an accident in its report. However the findings of the report were quashed by the Gujarat High Court after being termed unconstitutional.

The immediate political fallout of the incident was the rising demand for elections in Gujarat after the violence with chief minister Narendra Modi taking out a statewide 'Gujarat Gaurav' yatra which marked the first veiled attack on the minority community while taking pot-shots at Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf. The yatra also singled out Congress president Sonia Gandhi and the then Chief Election Commissioner James Michael Lyngdoh. The 2002 state Assembly elections that followed

brought the BJP to power with a sweeping mandate and installed Modi to power.

In fact his victory in the 2002 state Assembly elections not only cemented his chief ministerial position but also laid the groundwork for positioning himself as the "Hindu Friday Samrat" (Hindu heartthrob) and therefrom as the longest serving chief minister of the state. It was from here that he moved on to take-over as the Prime Minister of BJP ruled India in 2014 and is now into his third term.

Though it is for the first time that Modi who had not even contested a village panchayat election before he became chief minister and has ruled as Prime Minister with pluck and gusto, finds himself on relatively shaky ground. His BJP-led government, for the first time, stands on the twin-stilts of Chandra babu Naidu's Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and Nityash Kumar's Janata Dal(United). For the first time, eye-brows are also being raised over the handling of the Pahalgam killings of tourists in Kashmir. It is no longer as plain-sailing as in previous times.

You can't use an old map to explore a new world.



China would always support Pakistan to secure peace and stability in South Asia

ROYALS TO ATTEND V-DAY PARADE

Britain's King Charles and other senior royals are due to join veterans and crowds to watch a grand military parade and flypast at the start of four days of commemorations marking the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day.



of the day quote

Well she's so afraid of the cartels she can't walk, so you know that's the reason. The president of Mexico is a lovely woman, but she is so afraid of the cartels that she can't even think straight

The Yemeni people, out of their human feelings and religious solidarity with the Palestinians, and also to defend themselves in the face of continuous aggression by America, have taken some measures

India's culture, diversity, and growing global influence make it a key focus and growth market for us at STB. Together with my team and our partners, I look forward to building on the strong foundation we have established and bringing Singapore closer to Indian travelers

India's culture, diversity, and growing global influence make it a key focus and growth market for us at STB.

INDUS WATER TREATY SUSPENSION

Pak warns of N-response

Relations between the nuclear-armed neighbours have nosedived since gunmen killed 26 people April 22 in an attack targeting Hindu tourists in Indian Kashmir, the worst such assault on civilians in India in nearly two decades



Any attempt to usurp the water of the lower riparian, or to stop it, or to divert it would be an act of war against Pakistan and would be responded to with full force, including nuclear

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Moscow, May 5: Pakistan will respond with "full spectrum of force", including nuclear, if it is attacked or its vital water flow disrupted, Pakistan's ambassador here has warned amid tensions between New Delhi and Islamabad after the Pahalgam terror attack.

Muhammad Khalid Jamali made the comments during an interview with Russia's state-run TASS news agency Sunday.

Warning that Pakistan was prepared to respond to any aggression, the ambassador said, "We in Pakistan will use the full spectrum of force, both conventional and nuclear."

Ties between India and Pakistan plummeted following the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir that killed 26 people, mostly tourists.

Jajamali reiterated Islamabad's position regarding the Indus Water Treaty, a key agreement between India and Pakistan, which New Delhi suspended last week as a part of its diplomatic response to the terror attack.

"Any attempt to usurp the water of the lower riparian, or to stop it, or to divert it would be an act of war against Paki-

stan and would be responded to with full force, including nuclear," he said.

The envoy, however, urged de-escalation, noting the potential danger given that both countries possess nuclear weapons.

"As the two countries are nuclear powers, there is all the more need to de-escalate the tensions," he said.

Pakistan earlier called for "neutral and credible investigations" into the Kashmir attack. "I think the role of the international community comes in. And in this regard, we expect that powers like China and Russia can participate in those investigations," Jajamali said.

"I believe that the root cause of the problem in Jammu and

Kashmir is the right to self-determination for the Kashmiri people, which was promised to them by the international community through various UN Security Council resolutions," he claimed.

"This needs to be addressed for a permanent, sustainable and durable peace," he added.

When asked whether Pakistan was preparing a formal appeal to Russia to take part in the investigation into the terrorist attack, the ambassador said, "We are open [to it]. We want this investigation to be conducted and this blame game to stop. There are incidents from time to time, and without addressing the root causes, Pakistan is blamed for this."

He said Moscow has pointed at the need to address the "root causes" in the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

"Similarly, when political disputes fester for a long time, resentment arises and such incidents are likely to occur. It's always very easy to blame and make someone a scapegoat," he said.

Following the Pahalgam attack, India, among other punitive actions, announced the suspension of the 1960 Indus Accord, which governs water sharing between the two countries.

Earlier April 24, Prime Minister Narendra Modi vowed to punish the terrorists involved in the terror attack and their backers. In a high-level meeting with the top defence brass April 29, Modi asserted that the armed forces have "complete operational freedom" to decide on the mode, targets and timing of India's response to the terror attack, according to government sources.

Pak parl passes resolution condemning Indian govt's 'mala fide campaign' to malign country

Pakistan's parliament Monday unanimously passed a resolution, condemning the Indian government's "mala fide campaign" to malign Pakistan in the aftermath of Pahalgam terror attack.

Pakistan tests another missile in 3 days

Pakistan carried out a second missile test in three days Monday after saying it was preparing for an incursion by India.

UN chief asks India, Pak to step back from brink

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres Monday voiced concern over tensions between India and Pakistan being at "their highest in years" and called for "maximum restraint and stepping back from the brink".

SHORT TAKES

UN dismisses Sudan's genocide case vs UAE

The Hague: The top United Nations court Monday dismissed a case brought by Sudan accusing the United Arab Emirates of breaching the genocide convention by arming and funding the rebel paramilitary Rapid Support Forces in Sudan's deadly civil war.

PIO student held in US

New York: A 21-year-old Indian student has been arrested in the US after trying to scam a 78-year-old woman from North Carolina by posing as a law enforcement officer.

US offers \$1,000 stipend to migrants who self-deport

WASHINGTON, May 5: The Trump administration will offer a \$1,000 stipend and travel assistance to migrants who elect to voluntarily "self-deport" from the US, the Department of Homeland Security said Monday.

The stipend and potential airfare for migrants who voluntarily depart would cost less than an actual deportation, the agency said. The average cost of arresting, detaining and deporting someone without legal status is currently about \$17,000, according to DHS.

President Donald Trump, a Republican, took office in January pledging to deport millions of people but so far has trailed deportations under his Democratic predecessor Joe Biden.

The Trump administration has deported 152,000 people since January 20, according to DHS, lower than the 195,000 deported from February-April last year under Biden.



Trump trails Biden in deportation numbers, DHS reports

Stipend aims to reduce deportation costs, DHS says

Average deportation costs \$17,000, DHS estimates

Trump's administration has tried to encourage migrants to leave voluntarily by threatening steep fines, trying to strip away legal status, and deporting migrants to notorious prisons in Guantanamo Bay and El Salvador.

"If you are here illegally, self-deportation is the best, safest and most cost-effective way to leave the United States to avoid arrest," Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said in a statement.

Israel plans to seize entire Gaza

Israeli leadership votes to expand Gaza ground offensive

REUTERS

Jerusalem, May 5: Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's security cabinet voted to scale up the offensive against Palestinian militant group Hamas in Gaza to the point of seizing the entire enclave and holding its territories, an Israeli official said Monday.

A report by Israel's public broadcaster Kan, citing officials with knowledge of the details, said the new plan was gradual and would take months, with forces focusing first on one area of the battered enclave.

Such a timeline could leave the door open for a ceasefire and hostage release deal talks ahead of a visit by US President Donald Trump to the region next week, according to security cabinet minister Zeev Elkin.

"There is still a window of opportunity until President Trump concludes his visit to the Middle East, if Hamas understands we are serious," Elkin told Kan Monday.



Door open for ceasefire talks as Trump heads to region

Military will hold territories it seizes, Israeli officials say

Blockade remains on aid, for now

Tens of thousands of reservists will be called up

Humanitarian agencies condemn Israel's new aid plans

A clear vision for post-war Gaza as it faces international pressure to end a campaign that has displaced most of Gaza's 2.3 million population and left it depending on aid supplies that

B'desh court orders detained Hindu leader's arrest in murder case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, May 5: A Bangladesh court Monday ordered the detained Hindu leader Chinmoy Krishna Das' arrest in connection with the murder of a lawyer, who was hacked to death outside a Chattogram court in November last year.

A former ISKCON leader, Das was arrested at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka on November 25 last year in a sedition case over alleged defamation of the national flag. He was taken to a Chattogram court, which rejected his bail petition and sent him to jail the next day.

His arrest sparked widespread protests, with his followers demonstrating in Dhaka and other places. In Chattogram, the protest turned violent when assistant government prosecutor Saiful Islam Alif was hacked to death.

"He was shown arrested in the murder case of Advocate Saiful Islam Alif under a court order," Chattogram Additional Deputy Commissioner Mafiz Uddin told reporters after the virtual hearing Monday due to security concerns.

The Chattogram Metropolitan Sessions Judge Court's public prosecutor, Mofizul Haque Bhuiyan, said police submitted applications seeking orders to show him arrested in four cases while the court accepted one of the petitions related to the lawyer's murder.

On April 30, a High Court bench ordered Das' release on bail. The court's decision was challenged before the Appellate Division's chamber judge Justice Rezaul Haque, who stayed the ruling.

Who will be next pope? Even cardinals don't know

REUTERS

Vatican City, May 5: Catholic cardinals entering a conclave Wednesday to pick a new pope do not yet have a clear idea of who will emerge as Pope Francis' successor, several said, and speeches by individual clerics in meetings this week may be decisive.

The 133 cardinals are holding near daily meetings to discuss issues facing the 1.4-billion-member Catholic Church before the conclave, when they will be sequestered in a hotel and barred from contact with the outside world.

While there are a few cardinals seen as front-runners to succeed Pope Francis - two often mentioned are Italian Cardinal Pietro Parolin and Filipino Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle - many of the clerics who will vote have not made up



their minds. "My list is changing, and I think it will continue to change over the next few days," British Cardinal Vincent Nichols, participating in his first conclave, told Reuters. "It's a process which for me is far from concluded, far from concluded."

Secret conclave to elect new pope starts Wednesday

Cardinals are discussing future of Church in meetings

this week in what are called "general congregations," individual clerics can offer speeches to give their vision for the future of the global faith.

During the 2013 conclave, it was in this period that Argentine Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio gave a speech that, by many accounts, deeply impressed his peers. Days later, he was elected as Francis.

Nichols, the highest-ranking Church official in England and Wales, said the speeches this time have again been pivotal in helping form opinions about who could be the next pope. "There'll be these moments when like a stone is dropped into a pond and the ripples will go

out and I'll sit there thinking, 'Ah, yeah, that's important,'" said the cardinal.

Asked about whether there are cardinal front-runners who are more likely to become pope, Nichols replied: "I came with a few ideas ... (and) they have changed."

Cardinal William Goh Seng Chye, the archbishop of Singapore, told Il Messaggero newspaper that he also did not know who the next pope might be. "It may seem strange, but we really do not yet know," he said. "We have not yet begun to vote, so we don't know. The game is still going on."

The cardinals are meeting for two pre-conclave sessions Monday and are expected to have at least one more Tuesday. The conclave itself begins Wednesday morning with the celebration of a special Mass in St Peter's Basilica.

Iran unveils latest solid-fueled missile

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tehran, May 5: Iran's defense ministry Sunday unveiled the country's latest solid-fueled ballistic missile, state TV reported, against a backdrop of threats from the United States over its nuclear program.

TV showed the "Qassem Basir" ballistic missile during an interview with Defense Minister Gen Aziz Nasirzadeh. He said it includes improvements in both guidance and maneuverability to overcome layers of defense and easily bypass anti-ballistic defense systems.

The missile was most recently tested April 17. The media described the missile as having at least a 1,200-kilometer (745-mile) range. It also said the missile



can identify and strike a designated target among multiple ones without GPS guidance and with pinpoint accuracy.

In reaction to a May 1 comment by Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth on the platform X, in which he warns Iran about its support for the Houthis in Yemen, Nasirzadeh said if war is initiated by the US or Israel, Iran will strike their interests, bases and forces "wherever they are and whenever necessary."



**Brent prices fell below USD 59 per barrel... This led to buying momentum in shares of oil marketing and other crude-derivative companies with Nifty oil and gas index gaining 1.7 %**  
SIDDHARTHA KHEMKA | HEAD - MOTILAL OSWAL FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD

## MOODY'S ON INDO-PAK TENSIONS

Moody's Ratings Monday said sustained escalation of tensions between India and Pakistan will not have any major economic disruption in the country, but will be a setback for Islamabad as its forex reserves could come under pressure and weigh on growth. In its commentary titled 'Escalating Pakistan-India tensions would weigh on Pakistan's growth', Moody's said it does not expect major disruptions to India's economic activity because it has minimal economic relations with Pakistan (less than 0.5% of India's total exports in 2024).



## of the day quote

"India's digital infrastructure is undergoing a fundamental rebuild. The next four to five years are hyper-active for us because we want to ensure we're deeply embedded in this transformation"

SANJEEV VERMA | WHOLE-TIME DIRECTOR AT BLACK BOX

We... welcome Errol Musk to the Servotech Renewable family. His vast experience, profound global insights, and unwavering passion for groundbreaking innovation will be invaluable as we accelerate our mission to forge a greener, smarter future for India and beyond

RAMAN BHATIA | MANAGING DIRECTOR, SERVOTECH

We're thinking of it as primarily a PV plant, but we would need provision maybe for some other elements of our business to come in as we start conceptualising and seeing what kind of investment subsidies we get in different states as we plan for the future

RAJESH JEJURIKAR | CEO MAHINDRA AND MAHINDRA LTD

# Automobile retail sales up 2.95% in April: FADA



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 5:** The Federation of Automotive Dealers Associations said the overall automobile retail sales in India grew a modest 2.95 % in April this year to 22,87,952 units with completion of purchases by customers around Chaitra Navratri, Akshay Tritiya, Bengali New Year, Baisakhi and Vishu helping April end on a positive note.

Total automobile sales in India in April 2024 stood at 22,22,463 units. All categories except commercial vehicles (CV) closed in the green, with two-wheelers, three-wheelers, passenger vehicles (PV) and tractor up 2.25%, 24.5%, 1.5 %, and 7.5 %, respectively, while CVs declined 1%, FADA said.

Two-wheeler retail sales in April this year stood at 16,86,774 units as against 16,49,591 units in the same month last year, up 2.25%. PV retail last month stood at 3,49,939 units as compared to 3,44,594 units in April 2024, up 1.55%.

"With the tariff war paused, stock markets staged a sharp pullback -- alleviating investor concerns -- and customers thus leveraged Chaitra Navratri, Akshay Tritiya, Bengali New Year, Baisakhi and Vishu to complete purchases, helping

April end on a positive note," said FADA President C S Vigneshwar

He also mentions two-wheeler retail volumes demonstrated a resilient up-cycle -- growing 2.25 per cent year-on-year and accelerating 11.84 per cent month-on-month, underscoring a stable demand environment amid mixed headwinds.

Vigneshwar highlighted urban demand remained robust, supported by new-model introductions, although elevated financing costs and new emission norm 'OBD2B'-linked price adjustments posed isolated bottlenecks.

Dealers reported buoyant enquiry growth in rural areas post-Rabi harvest, driven by strong crop yields, healthy reservoir levels and a favourable monsoon outlook, while wedding-season tailwinds sustained rural offtake.

The PV segment, despite limited model introductions, registered a 1.55 per cent year-on-year increase alongside a marginal 0.19 per cent month-on-month decline, Vigneshwar said, adding, "this performance reflects a discount-led market and elevated inventories -- approximately a 50-day supply -- amid cautious consumer sentiment that tempered enquiry-to-sale conversions".

On the contrary, sustained SUV demand underpinned volumes even as entry-level customers remained cautious, underscoring the need for OEMs to recalibrate production and reduce stock levels to mitigate deeper discounts and carrying costs at dealership.

He mentioned that FADA continues to advocate a 21-day inventory norm at dealerships to enhance market responsiveness and cost efficiency. CV retail sales last month declined 1.05 % to 90,558 units as against 91,516 units in April 2024. On the other hand, tractor retail grew 7.56% to 60,915 units, compared to 56,635 units in the year-ago month.

Three-wheeler segment witnessed a robust 24.51% rise at 99,766 units last month as compared to 80,127 units in April 2024.

On the outlook, FADA said dealer feedback paints a nuanced picture for May across all segments with PV retails expected to hold steady but muted, as buyers await new-model roll-outs and contend with elevated financing costs.

In two-wheelers, FADA said, "Marriage-season and post-harvest demand should underpin enquiries, yet financiers are tightening customer-level credit criteria -- higher CIBIL requirements and down-payment mandates -- despite broader banking-system liquidity. Summer heat and school holidays may further suppress showroom visits though IMD predicts that it may not be as bad as last year."

It added that CVs are likely to trade flat, weighed down by a high-base effect, slower e-commerce activity and intensifying competition from electric three-wheelers; targeted OEM incentive schemes and forthcoming infrastructure projects offer some offset.

## Adani aides meet Trump team to end bribery case



REUTERS

**New Delhi, May 5:** Representatives for billionaire Gautam Adani met officials from US President Donald Trump's administration to seek dismissal of criminal charges in an overseas bribery probe, with a resolution possible in a month, Bloomberg News reported.

In November, US authorities indicted Adani and his nephew, Sagar Adani, alleging they paid bribes to secure power supply contracts, and misled US investors during fund raises there.

The US financial regulator summoned the duo, alleging they misled investors on compliance during a \$750 million Adani Green bond sale in the United States.

The billionaire's aides are trying to make the case that his prosecution does not align with Trump's priorities and should be reconsidered, Bloomberg News reported Sunday, citing sources familiar with the matter. The discussions began earlier this year and have picked up in recent weeks, with a resolution possible within a month if the momentum continues, the report said.

Adani Green, in a statement Monday, reiterated it was not part of any proceedings, but it did not directly comment on the report about the meetings.

## Adani group stocks surge

**New Delhi:** All listed Adani group stocks ended sharply higher Monday amid reports that Gautam Adani's representatives met with US administration officials to seek the dismissal of criminal charges in a bribery probe. The stock of Adani Total Gas zoomed 11.01 per cent. Adani Enterprises jumped 6.96 per cent. Adani Green Energy rallied 6.61 per cent. Adani Ports surged 6.29 per cent and Adani Power climbed 5.96 per cent on the BSE. Shares of NDTV advanced 4.74 per cent, Adani Energy went up by 3.30 per cent, AWL Agri Business Ltd (1.99 per cent), Ambuja Cements (1.76 per cent), ACC (1.04 per cent) and Sanghi Industries (0.72 per cent). The combined market valuation of all Adani group firms surged by ₹13.33 lakh crore.

It had recently said its review of the indictment found no non-compliance or irregularities.

The Justice Department and White House declined comment to Bloomberg on the report and did not respond to Reuters for comment outside business hours.

Adani Enterprises, the group's flagship firm, also did not respond to a request for comment. The group has previously denied any wrongdoing.

The indictment has erased about \$13 billion in market value from Adani Group's nine listed firms.

## Markets end higher on foreign fund inflows

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, May 5:** Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty closed higher Monday, supported by sustained foreign fund inflows and a sharp correction in global crude oil prices. The 30-share BSE benchmark climbed 294.85 points or 0.37 per cent to settle at 80,796.84, extending its previous day's rally. During the day, it jumped 547.04 points or 0.67 per cent to 81,049.03. The NSE Nifty rose 114.45 points or 0.47 per cent to 24,461.15.

From the Sensex firms, Adani Ports jumped 6.29 per cent amid reports that Gautam Adani's representatives met with US administration officials to seek the dismissal of criminal charges in a bribery probe.

All other listed Adani group stocks, including Adani Enterprises, Adani Ports, Adani Power and Adani Green Energy, ended with a sharp rally. From the 30-share pack, Bajaj Finserv, Mahindra & Mahindra, Eternal, Power Grid, ITC, Tata Motors, Asian Paints and Hindustan Unilever were among the gainers. Among the laggards, Kotak Mahindra Bank tanked 4.57 per cent after the firm reported a 7.57 per cent decline in consolidated net profit to ₹4,933 crore for the March quarter of FY25, primarily due to elevated stress in the microlending book.

State Bank of India, Axis Bank, Titan and IndusInd Bank were among the other losers.

State Bank of India dipped over 1 per cent after it reported an 8.34 per cent decline in consolidated net profit to ₹19,600 crore for the January-March quarter compared to ₹21,384 crore a year ago, impacted by a decline in net interest margins.

## ₹ jumps 27 paise to close at 84.30

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, May 5:** The rupee surged 27 paise to settle at 84.30 against the US dollar Monday, supported by a sharp decline in crude oil prices and a positive trend in domestic equities.

Robust equity inflows reflect continued foreign investor interest in Indian assets, forex traders said, adding that global uncertainties capped the rupee's gains. At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened at 84.45 and moved between the intra-day high of 84.10 and the low of 84.47 against the greenback. The unit ended the session at 84.30, registering a gain of 27 paise over its previous closing level.

Friday, the rupee witnessed high volatility as it hit a seven-month high and rose past the 84 per dollar level but pared all gains to settle 3 paise lower at 84.57 against the greenback.

Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst - Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities, said sustained FII inflows continued to support the domestic currency.

"Additionally, a sharp decline in crude oil prices down over 20 per cent year-to-date has provided a further cushion, easing India's import bill and supporting macro fundamentals. Going ahead, the rupee is expected to trade in a range of 84.00 to 84.75, with continued global risk sentiment and commodity movements guiding intraday volatility," he said.

## Boyanika celebrates 69th Foundation Day



**Bhubaneswar:** The timeless beauty and intricate artistry of Indian handlooms have always held a place of pride at global stage. Among these, Odisha's handwoven traditions stand out as a luminous thread in the rich tapestry of Indian culture—imbued with heritage, resilience, and identity. Boyanika, the apex marketing organisation of Odisha's Handloom sector, celebrated its 69th Foundation Day, Monday—a remarkable milestone in its journey of empowering weavers and preserving handloom traditions. The day was

marked as "Foundation Day Special Exhibition-cum-Sale" centrally inaugurated at Boyanika Exclusive, Boyan Bhanwan, Bhubaneswar, by Guha Poonam Tapas Kumar, IAS, Commissioner-cum-Secretary to Government of Odisha. The foundation day was graced by the august presence of Prem Chandra Chaudhary, IAS, Director of Textiles & Handloom, Odisha, Prakash Chandra Meher, President, Boyanika, Pradati Chhotray, IAS, Managing Director, Boyanika, and other senior officials of the department and Boyanika.

## TPNODL HoTT centres transform skill devpt

**Balasure:** TP Northern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPNODL), a joint venture between Tata Power and the Government of Odisha, is driving impactful change through its five Hands-on Technical Training (HoTT) Centres across Baleswar, Betnoti, Joda, Bhadrak, and Jajpur. These advanced centres have trained over 4,190 individuals—mainly TPNODL and Business Associate (BA) employees—in critical skills like operations, maintenance, and safety. In Baleswar alone, 3,396 employees have been trained, with significant contributions from Betnoti (561) and Joda (233). While the Bhadrak and Jajpur centres were commissioned toward the end of the last financial year, they have already commenced training for Government ITI students under a strategic MoU with the state. This initiative has also brought remarkable benefits to local youth, particularly students from Government ITIs. A total of 351 Electrician Trade students—including 115 young women—have completed a structured 19-day hands-on skill development course, gaining exposure to live electrical systems and equipment in a safe, supervised environment. This not only enhances their employability but also builds confidence to pursue careers in the power sector. Beyond technical training, the centres also promote a culture of safety and innovation, incorporating modules on SCADA, GIS, and automation. TPNODL aims to evolve with new technologies and growing energy demands, these centres will remain at the heart of its people-first strategy—ensuring that its workforce is equipped, empowered and future-ready.



## UCO Bank organises MSME & Agriculture Carnival



UCO Bank and Convenor, SLBC Odisha Goutam Patra said: "It is an honor to stand before you today as we reaffirm our commitment to the development and prosperity of Odisha." Chief guest Dr. Pragyansmita Sahoo, IES, Director, Institutional Finance, Govt. of Odisha addressed attendees, highlighting new initiatives aimed at bolstering agricultural and small business sectors along with various govt. sponsored schemes launched for needy people.

**Bhubaneswar:** UCO Bank, Bhubaneswar Zone organised Transformative Resources, MSME & Agriculture Carnival Monday at Hindu Institute International, Bhubaneswar. It is a dynamic event designed to empower entrepreneurs, MSMEs, and agricultural professionals with essential financial tools, schemes, and industry insights. The carnival witnessed enthusiastic participation from existing as well as prospective customers, reinforcing UCO Bank's commitment to driving economic growth and financial inclusion in Odisha. At the outset, the new DGM & Zonal Head of UCO Bank, Bhubaneswar Zone Bhagwat Singh Bhakuni welcomed all participants. Bhakuni highlighted the performance of banks in Odisha in MSME & agriculture sector and commitment of UCO Bank for building of a "Viksit Odisha." The event featured engaging sessions on specialised financial schemes, loan assistance programmes, and MSME development strategies, complemented by inspiring success stories from entrepreneurs who have benefited from UCO Bank's support. General Manager UCO Bank and Convenor, SLBC Odisha Goutam Patra said: "It is an honor to stand before you today as we reaffirm our commitment to the development and prosperity of Odisha." Chief guest Dr. Pragyansmita Sahoo, IES, Director, Institutional Finance, Govt. of Odisha addressed attendees, highlighting new initiatives aimed at bolstering agricultural and small business sectors along with various govt. sponsored schemes launched for needy people.

# Trump's 100% tariff to roil global entertainment industry

REUTERS

**Los Angeles, May 5:** American media stocks fell Monday after President Donald Trump unveiled a 100% tariff on all movies produced outside the U.S., in his latest levies that could sharply raise costs for Hollywood studios and roil the global entertainment industry. Trump's announcement was light on details. It did not say whether the duties will apply to films on streaming platforms as well as theatrical releases, nor did it detail whether tariffs would be based on production costs or box of-

rice revenue.

"There is too much uncertainty, and this latest move raises more questions than answers," said PP Foresight analyst Paolo Pescatore. "It doesn't feel like something that will happen in the short term as everyone will be grappling to understand the whole process. Inevitably costs will be passed on to consumers."

The move dashed hopes that Trump was backing away from his aggressive trade agenda, which has rattled business confidence, clouded the outlook for U.S. assets and dented economic growth.



The tariffs could particularly hit Netflix as the streaming pioneer relies on its global production network to pro-

duce content for international audiences. Its shares tumbled 2.5% in early trading.

Disney, Warner Bros Discovery and Universal-owner Comcast fell between 0.7% and 1.7%. Stocks of theater operators such as Cinemark and IMAX were down 5.4% and 5.9%, respectively.

Imax declined to comment, while others did not respond to requests for comment.

Despite Los Angeles' historic reputation as the hub of cinema, studios have over the years shifted production overseas to locations such as the UK, Canada and Australia to

take advantage of generous tax credits and lower labor costs.

Most of this year's Oscar best picture nominees were filmed outside the U.S. and a survey among studio executives over their preferred production locations for 2025 to 2026 by ProdPro showed that the top five choices were all overseas.

Forcing a return to U.S. soil would drive up production budgets and disrupt a global production supply chain that now includes shooting in Europe, post-production in Canada and visual effects work in Southeast Asia.

Harry Kane wins his first career title as Bayern Munich becomes Bundesliga champion

# Kane 'curse' lifted

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Berlin, May 5:** Harry Kane can finally celebrate his first career title after Bayern Munich became Bundesliga champion with a little help from Freiburg Sunday.

Freiburg drew with second-placed Bayer Leverkusen 2-2 to leave Bayern an unsailable eight points clear of the 2024 champion with two rounds of the German league remaining.

The 31-year-old Kane had never won a title in a career of runner-up finishes and defeats in finals with Bayern, Tottenham and England, leading some to speak of a "curse" against a player considered one of the world's best forwards.

Kane's arrival as Bayern's record signing in 2023 was followed by the club's first trophy less season since 2012.

Kane had to endure a long wait after a career of runner-up finishes and defeats in finals with Bayern, Tottenham and England. It seemed like an anomaly for a player considered among the world's best forwards never to have won a trophy.

Bayern's 11 Bundesliga wins in a row must have factored in Kane's decision to join the German team from Tottenham in 2023, but his first season in Bavaria coincided with Bayern's first trophyless year since 2012.

Kane's first chance of winning a title came in 2015 when Tottenham played Chelsea in the English League Cup final, but his team lost 2-0. Tottenham lost another League Cup final in 2021 against Manchester City. Kane lost the Champions League final with Tottenham to Liverpool in 2019, and finished runner-up with Tottenham in the Premier League in 2017.

As England captain, Kane lost the European Championship final to Italy in 2020, then again



It just feels sweet to win the title and the first one of my career  
HARRY KANE

last year when Spain defeated his team 2-1 in the 2024 final.

Kane was ready to celebrate Saturday when Bayern looked set to win 3-2 in Leipzig. But Yussuf Poulsen equalized with the last kick of the game for Leipzig to draw 3-3 and postpone Bayern's party.

"Next week, Harry!" teammate Thomas Müller wrote on Instagram. He didn't have to wait that long.

Leverkusen played without conviction in Freiburg, knowing that second place was already secured and that it only had a mathematical chance of defending its title with Bayern having a far superior goal difference.

Maximilian Eggstein fired the home team ahead before the break and an own-goal from Piero Hincapie after it put Freiburg firmly in control.

Leverkusen had to wait till the 82nd minute for Florian Wirtz to pull one back with his team's first shot on target. Jonathan Tah equalized with the next in stoppage time, but it made no difference for the new league champion.

"We are the champions!" Kane sang with teammates in a Munich restaurant, where he and Joshua Kimmich were doused in beer or champagne as they sang Bob Marley's "Three Little Birds."

It's Bayern's record-extending 34th German championship including the first for the club in 1932. Every other title came after the Bundesliga's formation in 1963.

Bayern will be presented with the trophy after its home game against Borussia Mönchengladbach next weekend, when Müller will be given what's sure to be an emotional send-off after 25 years at the club. "He's going as a legend," Germany coach Julian Nagelsmann said of Müller's 13 Bundesliga titles.

RAIN PLAYS SPOILSPORT; TEAMS SHARE POINTS

## SRH crash out of play-off race



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Hyderabad, May 5:** Sunrisers Hyderabad were eliminated from the play-offs race after their Indian Premier League fixture against Delhi Capitals was called off due to heavy rain following the first innings here Monday.

Pat Cummins-led SRH pace attack ran through the DC batting line-up to limit the visitors to 133/7 before rain dashed the slim hopes of the home team. Both teams shared a point each for the abandoned game.

With 13 points from 11 games, DC remain in contention for a top-four spot.

After reaching the final last year, it was a season to forget for SRH who could not replicate their ballistic run of 2024 with the bat. Having collected only seven points from 11 matches, SRH will now be playing for pride. Chennai Super Kings and Rajasthan Royals were already eliminated from the competition.

Before rain lashed the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium, the hosts put up a clinical effort with the ball and were on course for only their fourth win of the season until rain arrived, creating large puddles of water on the outfield. The match officials decided to call off the game at

11.10 pm local time.

The shot selection of Delhi Capitals' batters contributed to their downfall after being put in to bat.

They were left reeling at 29 for five in 7.1 overs with captain Cummins causing the maximum damage.

Cummins had Karun Nair caught behind on the very first ball of the match with a good length ball around the off-stump. It was a rather loose shot from the DC batter first up.

Faf du Plessis departed in Cummins' following over, a failed attempt to put the relentless Australian away for a boundary. Not getting any loose ball from Cummins, the South Africa went for a pull on the charge only to be caught by the wicket-keeper.

Cummins' third victim was Abhishek Porel who was caught after mistiming a flick. Harshal Patel and Jaydev Unadkat then got into the act by dismissing Axar Patel and KL Rahul respectively. The in-form Rahul went for a drive on the up but ended up edging it to Ishan Kishan behind the stumps.

It was one way traffic until Tristan Stubbs (41 not out off 36) and impact player Ashutosh Sharma (41 off 26) combined to take DC to a respectable total. They shared a 66-run stand off 45 balls.

Sharma was able to break the shackles by depositing leg-spinner Zeeshan Ansari for a couple of sixes over long-on in the 15th over.

Stubbs did not look as comfortable as Sharma in the middle but managed to provide much needed support to the latter. The South African could find only four boundaries with the last one coming off the final ball of the innings.

### Brief scores:

**Delhi Capitals:** 133/7 in 20 overs (Ashutosh Sharma 41, Tristan Stubbs 41 not out; Pat Cummins 3/19, Jaydev Unadkat 1/13) vs **Sunrisers Hyderabad:** Match abandoned

### IPL STANDINGS

TEAM	M	W	L	NRR	PTS
RCB	11	8	3	0.482	16
PBKS	11	7	3	0.376	15
MI	11	7	4	1.274	14
GT	10	7	3	0.867	14
DC	11	6	4	0.362	13
KKR	11	5	5	0.249	11
LSG	11	5	6	-0.469	10
SRH	11	3	7	-1.192	7
RR	12	3	9	-0.718	6
CSK	11	2	9	-1.117	4

### SHORT TAKES

#### MBSG banned from registering new players

**New Delhi:** Indian Super League winners Mohun Bagan Super Giant have been handed a national ban on registration of new players due to a "technical error" linked to the transfer of Australian striker Jason Cummings. The development came into light following an official communication from the Director of FIFA Judicial Bodies to the All India Football Federation (AIFF). "The (FIFA) communication states to impose a ban on Club Mohun Bagan Super Giant (FIFA ID-14AKC2C) from registering new players at a national level immediately. For your reference, please find enclosed the correspondence from Director of the FIFA Judicial Bodies with regards to Notification of the grounds of the Decision Ref. FDD-23868. This is for your information and necessary action," the AIFF said in a correspondence to Mohun Bagan SG.

#### India extend dominance

**Dubai:** India retained their top position in the ODIs and T20Is to extend their dominance in the white-ball formats but slipped a place to fourth spot in the Test format, in which Australia reigned supreme, in the latest ICC annual men's ranking update issued Monday. The latest rankings rate all matches played since May 2024 at 100 per cent and those of the previous two years at 50 per cent. In the ODI rankings, 2023 World Cup finalists India have strengthened their grip at the top on the back of a victorious ICC Champions Trophy campaign, improving their rating points from 122 to 124. Coming in second place are the runners-up at the Champions Trophy, New Zealand, overtaking their Trans-Tasman rivals Australia, who now occupy the third spot.

#### 3rd straight F1 victory

**Miami Gardens:** The first time Oscar Piastri arrived at the Miami Grand Prix as a Formula 1 driver he was in the slowest car in the field and only narrowly avoided finishing last. Fast-forward two years and Piastri and McLaren Racing have come full circle. Piastri maintained his advantage in the F1 championship fight by winning at Miami Sunday for his fourth win through six races this season.

## Odisha Athletics Association launches three-week summer coaching camp



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, May 5:** The Odisha Athletics Association has officially launched a three-week summer coaching camp at the iconic Barabati Stadium, Cuttack, beginning May 5. This special initiative brings together young athletes from various districts of Odisha, all fuelled by passion, discipline, and the dream of representing their state at national and international levels.

This grassroots-level coaching programme is designed to provide focused training, skill development, and motivation. Over the next three weeks, experienced and veteran coaches will not only provide professional training but also share their personal journeys of struggle, perseverance, and success—offering valuable life lessons that go beyond the track.

The camp was inaugurated by Dr Bibekananda Tripathy, International Marathon Runner and Dr Asirbad Behera is the driving force behind this initiative, whose continued support for youth sports development has been deeply impactful.

The event was graced by the presence of notable sports figures and mentors like Dr Bibekananda Tripathi, international marathon runner, Arundhati Biswal, Olympian Bhakta Balabh Das, Treasurer, Football Association of Odisha and veteran footballer.

Avijit Paul, Secretary of Odisha Athletics Association initiated the coaching camp and welcomed the guests and senior coaches from across Odisha.

This summer coaching camp stands as a testament to Odisha's commitment to nurturing young athletic talent with the vision of long-term excellence.

# Lakra scripts powerful comeback story

## The 24-year-old defender from Sundargarh makes his return to senior hockey national camp

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, May 5:** For Pratap Lakra, the path to the Indian senior men's hockey camp has been anything but linear. The 24-year-old defender from Sundargarh, Odisha - a district known for producing hockey stalwarts - has scripted a powerful comeback story after his career derailed during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Lakra is only one of the two new faces in the ongoing senior

national camp, which is a testament to his grit and resurgence. The call-up follows a standout performance at the 15th Hockey India Senior Men National Championship 2025, where he played a key role in taking Madhya Pradesh to a Silver-medal finish.

"It was not easy to come back after the lockdown," Lakra reflects. "I lost fitness and momentum. For a while, it felt like everything I'd worked for was slipping away. But I didn't give up - I kept training, kept showing up."

Lakra's journey began like many young boys in Sundargarh - with a hockey stick in hand, playing barefoot in the village fields. His father, who also played hockey in his village, and his elder sister Preeti,



who represented Odisha at the national level, laid the foundation for his love of the game. "We are a family of farmers, but hockey runs deep in our roots," Lakra says. "My sister joined a sports hostel first and inspired me to take the sport seriously." Also, the financial struggles in his early years didn't deter him — in fact, they shaped him. "There was a time when

### MADRID OPEN

## Ruud bags maiden Masters 1000 title

The 13-time tour champion is the first Norwegian to lift a Masters 1000 trophy since the series was introduced in 1990

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Madrid, May 5:** Casper Ruud became the first Norwegian to win a Masters 1000 title after beating Jack Draper 7-5, 3-6, 6-4 in the Madrid Open final Sunday.

The former second-ranked Ruud rallied from 5-3 down in the first set and sealed the victory after capitalizing on his lone break at 2-2 in the third.

The 26-year-old Ruud yelled and thrust both arms into the air after clinching the win on his first match point on the Caja Magica clay court.

"It's been a long time coming," Ruud said. "(This was) one of the really big goals I dreamed about when I was young, so it's an incredible feeling to accomplish it. Also the way I did it today, it was a great match. I



Luckily, I played really well. This is a really big boost for me, and I would like to keep it going  
CASPER RUUD

knew Jack had been playing unbelievable all year, and especially in this tournament, so I knew that if I didn't bring my A-plus game, I was going to be whooped around the court."

The 15th-ranked Ruud will

return to the top 10 thanks to his campaign in Madrid, reaching No. 7 in the rankings on Monday.

The 13-time tour champion is the first Norwegian to lift a Masters 1000 trophy since the series was introduced in 1990, according to the ATP. It was Ruud's third such final after losing to Stefanos Tsitsipas in Monte Carlo last year and to Carlo Alcaraz in Miami in 2022.

Ruud has more titles (12) on clay than any other player since the start of 2020, according to the ATP.

### DOMINANT RUN

## Advani bags title in CCI Billiards Classic

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Mumbai, May 5:** Indian cue sport legend Pankaj Advani completed a triple once again by prevailing over Dhruv Sitwala 5-2 in the final of the CCI Billiards Classic 2025. Sitwala described Advani as a strong character at the table, noting that he was "at it" throughout the final.

In a pulsating contest that ended late Sunday, Advani — winner of 28 World Championship titles across cue sports — was far from his best in the first three frames.

However, the champion cueist seized his opportunity when Sitwala, on a strong break of 94, faltered. Advani capitalised with a visit of 145 to take the fourth frame and level the match at 2-2.

After the break, Advani found the ball rolling his way and his rhythm took control of the match and won the next three frames in a row to seal the title and the top prize of Rs. 2.5 lakh. Sitwala, for his efforts, took home Rs. 1.5 lakh.

The scoreline reflects the high-intensity contest played at the Wilson Jones Billiards Hall of the Cricket Club of India (CCI). While there were several misses from both players, Advani ultimately showed he meant business.

Having won both the CCI's snooker and billiards titles in 2023 and 2024, he repeated the feat again this year. This win is special to me," said a visibly happy Advani, holding the trophy. After his semifinal win against Rayan Razmi, Advani had remarked that he was "cueing well" — a significant admission in the world of billiards and snooker.

